

# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 185 | Gangtok | Saturday | 14 July 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## Bhanu Jayanti celebrated in Gangtok

**CM ANNOUNCES CONSTRUCTION OF BHANU BHAWAN IN GANGTOK**

**NITESH R PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

In a move aimed to give further impetus to the lingua franca of the state, Nepali language, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today announced that from this year the state government has appointed Nepali Graduate Teachers and from next year Primary Teachers for Nepali will also be appointed so that students do not have to opt for Hindi after class 10.

The CM announced this at the state level Bhanu Jayanti celebrations held in the capital today where he was the chief guest and Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha was the guest of honor. The theme for this year's Bhanu Jayanti was "Jatiya



Sadbhavana".

He also announced that a Bhanu Bhawan will be built in the capital and asked concerned stakeholders to look for suitable land.

"This will be a symbol of Sikkimese Nepalis," he stated.

The CM elucidated

various measures meant for the upliftment of the language and stated that his government will take initiatives to further develop the Nepali language.

"In my long tenure as the CM I have extensively used the Nepali language delivering speeches for

many hours," he said while highlighting the need to use the language in different levels of communications.

He also advocated that Nepali literature should be simple for easy access by common citizens and the youth.

The CM also

expressed sadness on citizens ignoring institutions like Bhanu Udayan Kendra, Gyalshing and appealed to all Nepali speakers to conserve such collective resource.

Further the CM said that the State has been reaping rich democratic

dividends with unique initiatives that link our traditions and belief with economy and tourism.

He highlighted Char Dham, Namchi, Siddhi Vinayak temple, Rhenock and upcoming Parshuram Dham and Asta Chiranjeevi Dham, Namthang as such initiatives.

"We Sikkimese can say it proudly that it's we who have built Char Dham and twelve Jyotirlingas in one place," he said.

Addressing the identity crisis Indian Nepalese in general face, he said that people from outside always link the Indian Nepal to the country of Nepal which is disrespectful to the community.

The Chief Minister asked the community members not to be dependent on others for conducting research about the community and take ownership.

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## Footballer Karishma Rai in Team India for BRICS Games

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

Footballer Karishma Rai has been selected in Team India U-17 Women's Football Team to represent Country in the forthcoming BRICS Games to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, informs a press release from Sikkim Football Association (SFA).

She hails from Rabongla, South Sikkim, and was earlier shortlisted by AIFF to undergo a 15-day coaching camp at SAI, New Delhi. She will fly to Johannesburg, the capital of South Africa from New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport on 14 July, the release

mentions.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging economies of the world viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Karishma will get an opportunity to play with the teams of these countries.

While speaking from Delhi after her selection, Karishma thanked SFA for giving her such a golden opportunity and assured to give hundred percent to bring laurels to Sikkim in particular and India in general.

President, SFA has congratulated Ms. Karishma Rai for her selection and wished her best of luck.

## Assam to get its first transgender judge

**GUWAHATI, JUL 13 (PTI):**

Assam's first transgender judge will begin work at the lok adalat here from tomorrow making the north eastern state the third one in the country, after West Bengal and Maharashtra to have one such.

Swati Bidhan Roy said today that she will begin her stint in court number 25 in the Kamrup district and sessions court on after being appointed to the post by the Kamrup(metro) district legal services.

"My appointment as a judge in the lok adalat is



a very positive message for the society and will help create awareness on discrimination against transgenders," she told reporters here.

"The capacity and capability of

transgenders must be recognised and they must be provided with ample opportunities to ensure that they can lead a dignified life. I hope that I am able to

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## DRI seizes over 10 kg smuggled gold in Siliguri

**NEW DELHI, JUL 13 (PTI):**

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has seized more than 10 kg gold smuggled into India from Myanmar and arrested four people from a hotel in West Bengal's Siliguri, the agency said today.

A total of 23 gold bars, collectively weighing 10.49 kg, were being smuggled by the four via the Indo-Myanmar border at Champai in Mizoram when they were arrested on Wednesday, the DRI said in a statement.

The accused are native of Mizoram, it said, adding that they

travelled by bus to Siliguri and were headed for Kolkata.

Last week, the agency seized 10 kg gold smuggled into India from Bhutan via the Jaigaon-Phuentsholing border.

That seizure was also made in Siliguri.

In June, 32 kg gold was seized near Siliguri. The gold was smuggled from China through the Nathu La border.

In the financial year 2017-2018, the DRI seized close to 430 kg gold and gold jewellery in the east and northeast region collectively valued at more than Rs 110 crore.

## Footballer Nirmal Chettri to head ad hoc FPAS committee

**SAGAR CHHETRI**

**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

An adhoc committee of the recently formed Football Players Association of Sikkim [FPAS] has been constituted during a meeting here at Tathangchen on Thursday. The meeting was attended by around 150 footballers of Sikkim including U-14 players, women and active footballers.

It may be mentioned that FPAS was officially formed on 08 July by and for footballers of Sikkim.

The adhoc committee is led by Nirmal Chettri as the president. The committee has Sanju Pradhan as vice-president [South Sikkim], Bikash Jaiu as vice-president [West], Mayal Dok Lepcha as vice-president [North], Sonam Gyaltsen Tenzing as vice-president [East] and Anuradha Chettri as vice-president [women's football].



The committee also has Nim Tshering Lepcha as general secretary and Tenzing Wangchuk and Ugen Gyatso as treasurers. Likewise, Robin Gurung, Kunzang Lachungpa, Sahinsha Ansari, Ashish Chettri, Mobin Rai, Pawan Chettri, Chunku Bhutia, Sunny Rai, Sagar Rai,

Pema Norden Lachungpa, Anup Subba and Jigme Singye have been appointed as executive members. The club has also appointed Nim Tshering Lepcha, MD Lepcha and Sonam Gyaltsen Tenzing as coordinators.

The club has appointed an former Indian international

footballer, HT Basi popularly known as Jerry Basi as the FPAS advisor.

Addressing a press conference here today, FPAS president, Nirmal Chettri said that the association was the need of the hour for footballers

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## Inauguration of school building marks Bhanu Jayanti in Rhenock



**RHENOCK, 13 JUL (IPR):** On the occasion of the 204th celebration of Bhanu Jayanti, Member of Parliament (MP), PD Rai inaugurated a newly constructed two storied school building consisting of four rooms of Pacheykhani Government Secondary School today. Mr. Rai was present as the chief guest and area MLA, Hemendra Adhikari was the guest of honour.

The Rhenock Constituency Level Bhanu Jayanti celebration was organized by Pacheykhani Bhanu Jayanti Celebration Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, MP, Mr. Rai said, "Celebration of Bhanu Jayanti extends beyond people of all caste, class or any geographical boundary. This day unites the people of various communities into one identity and it showcases the unity of the Sikkimese people. We must all work together with active literary participation and give our support in building up a knowledge based society."

He appreciated people of Pacheykhani for organizing Bhanu Jayanti at Pacheykhani Government Secondary School and asked the gathering to imbibe in life the values taught by the great poet. He exhorted everyone to respect culture, language and rich traditions.

Every individual has to be responsible to teach

languages, culture and traditions to the young, Mr Rai added.

The MP mentioned that the state government has already built Bhanu Bhakta study center at Gyalshing and requested people to visit the study center and place suggestions for further improvement.

Earlier, area MLA, Mr. Adhikari highlighted the contribution of Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta and urged the people to work collectively in unity and harmony for the development of society.

"We need to increase the power of unity with the people so that we can continue to walk on the right path," he added.

The chief guest and guest of honor distributed prizes and certificates to the winners of inter school and open poem recitation competition and Ramayan Path competition.

The school building was constructed by Ideal Cures Private Limited (ICPL) under CSR fund of the company.

The programme also featured folk cultural performances by different school students. The organizing committee also felicitated School Managing Committee and school topper CBSE Class X Board exam.

Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, officials from HRDD and Managing Director of ICPL, Suresh Parik were present on the occasion.



## SAATHI conducts 8th offsite training camp

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

**S**ikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India (SAATHI), a project initiative under Chief Minister's Youth Empowerment Mission, 2013 conducted their 8th offsite training camp for the year 2018-2019, informs a press release.

Seventy-one students from Government Junior High School, Arithang, Government Secondary School, Lower Syari and Government Secondary School Majhitar. The camp was held from 10 to 13 July, 2018.

As an ongoing endeavor to

curb drug abuse issues amongst school age children, SAATHI conducts these residential camps at the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE) in Chemchey, South Sikkim. The students are accompanied by the Teacher Coordinators of the respective schools and also the SAATHI Project Team.

Over the three days of the camp, various motivational and technical sessions on drugs along with learning based fun and physical activities are conducted with the students.

The session on the Basics of

Counseling was taken by Pragyana Subba [Psychologist from Namchi], the session on the Medical aspects of Drugs was taken by Reshma Subba [Psychologist from Namchi District Hospital], the session on Life skills was taken by Manorath Dahal [teacher coordinator from Rumtek Senior Secondary School], and a session on the social stigma and discrimination associated to substance abuse and addiction was taken by KC Nima [a Counselor from Freedom Facilities, Gangtok].

The other activities included team building sessions, planning sessions, meditation, nature walk/ physical training and talent hunt.

## Bhanu Jayanti celebration in Namchi

**NAMCHI, 13 JUL (IPR):**

The 204th birth anniversary of Aadi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya was observed amidst much gaiety at Community Hall, Namchi today. The celebration was organized by South Sikkim Sahitya Sammelan in collaboration with District Administration, South.

The chief guest for the occasion was Chairperson Power and Energy Department, Gagan Rai. Also present were DC (South), Prabhakar Verma, SDM (HQ), Hemant Rai, president (South Sikkim Sahitya Sammelan), Dr. Nayan Rai, NMC Vice Chairperson, Dikila Bhutia, HoDs, Sahityakars, Kathakars,



local gentry and students at large.

The program began with an offering of garland and prayers to the statue of Aadi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya at Bhanu Park, Namchi. Thereafter, shova yatra took off from Bhanu Park till Community Hall wherein the celebration program commenced.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest, Mr Rai spoke in detail about the significance of celebrating Bhanu Jayanti and underlined that Aadi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya is considered as one of the most prominent and revered literary figures in the history of Nepali literature. Mr. Rai spoke about how Bhanu Bhakta Acharya wrote immensely on Nepali literature and laid emphasis on the many topics covered by the literary figure ranging from human tragedies to various social issues.

He highlighted that through the writings of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya, a gateway for Nepali literature has been exposed, comprehended, understood and appreciated globally. Additionally, he urged the students present to inculcate a habit of reading various kinds of Nepali literature to further promote the status of Nepali literature in the state and world.

President, South Sikkim Sahitya Sammelan, Dr. Nayan Rai presented a brief overview about the life and the achievements of Aadi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya. He urged the attendees to draw inspiration from Aadi Kavi's work as well as from other prolific Nepali writers whose contributions to the Nepali literature is immense.

This year Shiv Kumar Rai Smriti Purashkar was presented to litterateur,

Harish Moktan and poet Agam Singh Tamang. The Pratibha Purashkar was handed to artist, Paras Rai. The program also saw the release of the book titled 'Prerna' by the chief guest and the dignitaries.

The day's event saw students from various schools participating in Ramayan Path, Kavita Path and Nepali Lok Nritya. Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School, New Secondary School and Namchi Senior Secondary School, stood first, second and third in the ramayan path competition. Similarly, in Kavita Path, the first position was secured by Mithila Rai from Namchi Senior Secondary School followed by Eliza Rai from Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School and Sudeep Chettri and Swarnim Kiran Chettri from Namchi Public School in second and third positions respectively.

He also addressed the Bhutia Lepcha community and credited them for forming the identity of Sikkim.

However the CM rued that after the merger with the Indian Union it's the Sikkimese Nepalese who have been most ignored when it comes to the historical rights they enjoyed as the recognized three ethnic communities of Sikkim prior to merger.

He blamed the past

government for such historical blunders like not granting tribal status to all Sikkimese despite the willingness of the Centre.

"Now we are not looking for criteria, we are demanding that our lost rights be reinstated and all Sikkimese Nepalese be granted tribal status," he said. He asked the Sikkimese to shun caste, community and religion based politics and sincerely work towards the development goals.

## Shanti Nagar celebrates 204th Bhanu Jayanti



**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 13 JUL:**

The 204th birthday of Aadi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya (Bhanu Jayanti) was celebrated here at the school ground Achirgos Preparatory Academy by the Shanti Nagar Sudhar Samity, today.

Earlier, in the morning, Area MLA cum Agriculture Minister, Som Nath Poudyal attended the short function at Bhanu Park, Singtam. He was accompanied by Municipal Executive Officer, Himmat Rai along with the President and councillor of Singtam Nagar Panchayat and party workers.

The function at Shanti Nagar started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and offering khadas on the portrait of Bhanu Bhakta which was painted by Sudharshan Subba (a member of KASS). The function today had a special feature where the Samity offered khadas to the senior citizens of the Gaon.

Further, a daylong function was organized by the Shanti Nagar Sudhar Samity attended

by Principal Singtam SS School, KB Chettri as chief guest, PI Singtam PS, Roshan Rai, Councillors Singtam Nagar Panchayat, AEO Khamdong and locals.

The function today had a song presented by the students of Sikkim Music Academy, Remanti Music Academy and local kids. Ramayan path, poetry and other cultural presentations by students and members from Singtam SS School, Sirwani Sec School, Sumin Lingchey Sec School, Little Angel Academy and Tinek Kalyan Samaj were also part of the function today.

During the function, it was announced that on 28 July, Nodal Officer for Mental Health (DHS), Dr Satish Rasaily and Arjun Subba a local youth are organising an awareness program on mental health and substance abuse at Singtam bazaar.

The function wrapped up with the distribution of certificates and mementos to all the participants by the chief guest and the Samity members.

## Assam to get its first transgender judge

**contd from pg01**

maintain the principle of natural justice as a judge as lok adalats deal with settlement outside the court through arbitration, conciliation and mediation," she added.

Speaking on the problems faced by transgenders in Assam, she said their current one is getting their names registered in the National Register of Citizens(NRC) as most of them are disowned by their families during their childhood and do not possess any document to prove their citizenship.

"We have documented the list of transgenders in the state and will soon appeal to the Supreme

Court to ensure that they are included in the NRC and not labelled as foreigners", she said.

There are also several unresolved cases against transgenders in the courts which she hoped will be resolved soon.

Roy said she has plans to initiate mass sensitisation to end discrimination against transgenders and ensure that they get proper opportunities to lead a life of dignity.

Joyita Mondal of North Dinajpur in West Bengal is the country's first transgender judge and Vidya Kamble from Nagpur in Maharashtra the second. Mondal assumed office in July last year and Kamble in February this year.

## Footballer Nirmal Chettri to head...

**contd from pg01**

of Sikkim. He mentioned that the FPAS has been formed for and by footballers of Sikkim.

"The association will start its membership drive soon to register all footballers of the State and will immediately start the process for affiliation with the Football Players Association of India [FPAI]," he informed.

A delegation of FPAS is also scheduled to meet the Secretary of the Sports & Youth Affairs Department and officials of Sikkim Football Association within a week to inform them about the aims and objectives of FPAS and to discuss various issues regarding the development of football and welfare of footballers in the State. FPAS is also scheduled to meet the owners and management of different football clubs of the State.

Another Indian international, Sanju Pradhan, who is FPAS vice-president for South District, stated that FPAS hopes to work for the

safeguard and welfare of footballers registered with the FPAS.

"The Association will take all issues of local footballers to the concerned authorities for their welfare and benefit," he said. The association will also work towards bringing professionalism in Sikkim football and work in the interest of local footballers, he added.

Mr Pradhan stressed upon the need for insurance and a proper season contract for local footballers. He stated that professionalism in football will create more employment opportunities for local footballers.

Responding to media queries, Mr Chettri mentioned that FPAS will submit inputs to SFA for improving the State Leagues, women's football league, age group football tournaments and other proposals for the development of football.

He added that FPAS will also work to arrange friendly exposure matches for a team of around 25 local players

with different clubs outside the State from time to time.

"Exposure of local players outside the State would help players to get spotted by different clubs in these friendly matches which could further help them in their football career," he said.

Mr Pradhan stated that another focus of the FPAS will be football development at the grassroot level. The association will organise coaching and exposure activities for young players at the grassroot level in every corner of the State.

Likewise, national player and FPAS vice-president, MD Lepcha stated that a well organised league in the State is needed for the betterment of football and footballers in the State.

Sikkim has lots of talented footballers and well-organised State league for at least six months every year will help to bring professionalism in Sikkim football and a better State team for national championships, he added.

**contd from pg01**

He also stated that there should be unanimity in addressing the Indian Nepali community with no confusion in the term used for the Nepali speaking people of India.

"We are lost in our own selves," he added.

He asked the community to take ownership as equal citizens of India and contribute as was done by Indian Nepalese throughout our history.

He blamed the past

government for such historical blunders like not granting tribal status to all Sikkimese despite the willingness of the Centre.

"Now we are not looking for criteria, we are demanding that our lost rights be reinstated and all Sikkimese Nepalese be granted tribal status," he said.

He asked the Sikkimese to shun caste, community and religion based politics and sincerely work towards the development goals.

He blamed the past







# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Forests Cannot be Compensated

*Because, saplings cannot replace full-grown trees*

The Supreme Court, hearing a challenge to proposed chopping down of trees by the thousands in the National Capital Region of Delhi, questioned how saplings could replace full grown trees. This wondering aloud was in response to the Delhi Government's claim that the removal of trees will be redressed through compensatory afforestation. This is not the first time that the Supreme Court has questioned the concept and practicality of the compensatory afforestation concept. And not without reason either, because most times, this dodge has not even delivered as a fig leaf to the recklessness with which development bulldozes environment and rides roughshod over such niceties as conservation and nurture.

To begin with, compensatory afforestation is not a very scientific option. It does not take a degree in forestry or environmental sciences to deduce that a forest lost cannot be recreated elsewhere as compensatory afforestation seeks to achieve. Frighteningly, even though based on such dodgy logic, even this fig leaf has not been painted with any seriousness in our country. For a nation that has frequent non-forestry needs for forest tracts and has diverted these substantially since the 1950's, the babudom and political combine stand exposed for their short-sightedness and disinterest in the fact that the Supreme Court had to intervene first in the year 2001 after it noticed that even though hundreds of crores were received for compensatory afforestation, there was no appropriate scheme for the disbursement of these funds, no codified guidelines on how compensatory afforestation should be directed. Given how even very specific environmental safeguards are routinely co-opted, it is anybody's guess what our country received by way of compensatory afforestation till the Supreme Court was invoked and the free-for-all stalled.

To get an idea of how incomprehensibly compensatory afforestation funds were utilized, environmental activists from neighbouring Darjeeling point out how the West Bengal government diverted forest lands in Kalimpong sub-division and undertook compensatory afforestation in the plains of Jalpaiguri district!

Back in 2001, the Supreme Court had specified the guidelines and stipulated the checks and balances on how this fund should be utilized. The apex court has also stipulated scrutiny by CAG auditors. At least someone was taking environmental concerns seriously. What is necessary to understand is that compensatory afforestation is a very imperfect science, one that is necessitated by the still disoriented approach to development which looks at 'exploiting' resources instead of harnessing assets. Worse still for the ecological balance of the country, decades of lethargy in the planning process have led to a situation where environmental concerns will be forced to take a back-seat [despite whatever the MoEF claims] in the face of energy shortfalls that cannot be compensated if environmental prudence takes prominence. The Supreme Court observations are thus welcome in that at least the tokenisms will be delivered in full, and in some cases, maybe even effectively. But the question which still hangs unaddressed is how saplings in a different location can replace full grown trees in locations where they obviously thrived?

JOHN COLARUSSO  
*theconversation.com*

Donald Trump will soon travel to Helsinki to have his first summit with Vladimir Putin. Apart from satisfying the American president's insatiable need for attention, there is no obvious reason for this meeting, no pressing issues that can be settled to the advantage of the United States.

One could assume that Putin is hoping for a meeting much like the one enjoyed by Kim Jong Un — Trump will make dramatic concessions for no reason other than the compulsion to sound grand.

By seeking to meet with Putin while still under the cloud of Russian involvement in the U.S. election, Trump is feeding into suspicions about Russian influence on his presidency.

The intelligence community has concluded Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, a finding endorsed by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Special counsel Robert Mueller has issued indictments and hints at more to come, but legal matters must be done carefully and are therefore slow. But what we know already is sufficient to give us insight into Putin's subversive actions against the United States.

As an expert in U.S.-Russia relations who advised the Bill Clinton White House, I know a bit about subversion. And Putin's actions, to me, are as plain as the nose on your face.

Russian use of social media to manipulate American opinion has been well documented. But what's happened since the election is just as problematic. There are those who believe Trump continues to be compromised by Russia and that he is, in effect, a "stooge" for Putin.

### HOW TO THWART DEMOCRACY

What could Mueller be looking for as he examines whether Trump might have ties to Russia? And could such a scenario really be possible — that the president of the United States is beholden to Russia? Based on my experience in watching how Russian espionage works, a few things would need to play out for such a scenario to exist.

First you have to "buy" your

# Is Trump Putin's 'stooge'?



stooge. You must make him an offer that he cannot refuse. This might mean cash, threats of compromising material and promises of future advantage, such as a big fancy hotel project in Moscow.

The trickier part is the payoff. This must be done through a conduit, someone discreet and conniving at the same time. If you were dealing with the Mafia, your natural conduit would be the consigliere, a lawyer-like adviser. (Think Robert Duvall in the Godfather movies). Such an individual would have unwavering loyalty to the target and also look clean enough not to attract too much suspicion.

Any payoff must be carefully passed on to crucial members of the stooge's party so their election platform conforms to your interests and so your investment is protected after he is elected.

And then there is the media. Facebook and other social media platforms are now known to have been used as tools, but television is still a dominant medium. A propaganda organ would be necessary to protect your investment as well.

Finally, Mueller would be looking for others who might either directly help a stooge or at least help maintain the social chaos essential to his survival.

For example, if there are any other prominent organizations in the target country that might have strong appeal to those who have voted your stooge into power, such as associations and some influential industries, then a little money to them would be money wisely spent.

### MUELLER KEEPS US GUESSING

Mueller's investigation has shown us a bit of the sordid network in which Trump is embedded, but the slow pace has left most of us guessing.

I have not named names. But it should be easy for anyone who has been following the Trump debacle to plug in names if allegations prove true that he is, in fact, compromised by the Russians: The conduit, those who control Republican party finances and the legislators who have acted to enable Trump.

Has Trump been a useful idiot, as the Russians call their stooges?

Domestically he has sowed chaos and hate on a daily basis, while his supine party has allowed him to discredit not only their conservative ideals, but the very United States itself.

Trump is a man who confuses cruelty with strength, and as such could have potentially been an ideal agent for Putin's needs to marginalize the U.S. Indeed, by initiating trade wars and affronting the G7 (now, in essence, the G6), Trump has weakened the entire West.

It was the most effective way of doing so, since outright warfare is impractical. As Trump went first to NATO before his meeting with Putin, there were concerns the president would do to NATO what he did to the G7 — thereby weakening the only alliance that has a prospect of deterring any Russian future military moves. True to form, he maligned NATO allies and criticized Germany for its reliance on Russian energy before demanding they double their military spending commitments.

European diplomats have been

worried about continued U.S. support for NATO. But even as Trump hit allies, he also signed on to efforts to strengthen the alliance against the Kremlin and other rivals, as well as a statement that the alliance does not accept Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

At the summit with Putin, Trump could recognize Crimea as part of Russia and hand to Putin a formal victory in Syria.

### A DARING DE-TRUMP PROPOSAL

What happens next? The Democrats may carry the day in the November mid-term elections and initiate

proceedings against Trump. Mueller may reveal more corruption and collusion, forcing Trump to resign. Both prospects are far enough ahead that Trump will have done much more damage by then.

Because it's clear Russia corrupted the 2016 election, the entire process was therefore tainted and not legitimate. The conclusions are simple. There are mounting allegations that Trump is not a legitimate president (something recently suggested, reluctantly, by former Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper) and is a strategic danger to the nation (something put forward by retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the most decorated living American general).

Trump's status as 45th president must be cancelled and everything he has done must be annulled: Tariffs, ensuing trade wars, judiciary appointments starting from the Supreme Court on down, tax changes, separation of children from their parents and anything else that owes its inception to his bogus authority.

This may sound quite drastic to many, but the logic is simple and the circumstances dire. Julius Caesar once said that "all bad precedents begin as justifiable measures." The U.S. now finds itself in a Roman-like predicament: Something must now be done to stop the damage that Trump is doing to his country and to the world.

*[the writer is Professor of Languages and Linguistics and Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, McMaster University]*

AIDAN MCGARRY  
*theconversation.com*

An inflatable "baby" Donald Trump is expected to be the star attraction in London as protesters take to the streets to register their dissatisfaction with the visit of the US president on July 13. Protestors have much to motivate their mobilisation against Trump: from the controversial separation of families at the US-Mexican border, to his misogyny, nepotism, and travel ban. Tens of thousands are expected to attend a "Stop Trump" rally in what organisers have described as a "carnival of resistance".

Humour, in the forms of chants, performances, satire, cartoons, theatre, jokes, memes and puns has a long tradition in protest movements. It acts as a vehicle to communicate ideas as well as to foster a sense of community — it can cut across linguistic barriers, and increase the resonance of the message.

All protests have a target, something or someone to galvanise others to action. The goal of the crowdfunded inflatable is to annoy the famously thin-skinned president. The six-metre tall balloon depicts Trump as a snarling baby in a nappy with tiny hands and moobs. Its purpose is not to change laws or policies, nor to influence his decisions. It is meant to mock and to undermine, suggesting the president is infantile, full of hot air, cartoonish and ridiculous.

Humour is empowering because it establishes those who are in on the joke and those who are the object of it. The balloon signifies an attempt to take back control and to undermine Trump. Whether he is aware of the balloon — and surely this media-obsessed president will be — is neither here nor there because mocking Trump is not just about annoying him. It fosters a sense of belonging between protestors and invites others to join.

# Trump baby balloon: why humour is such a powerful form of protest

### CATHARSIS

The use of ridicule in this way confirms the public's relative weakness vis-à-vis governments, multinational corporations and world leaders. But satire and humour foster a sense of solidarity in the face of adversity. For those of us exasperated by the actions of the Trump administration appearing in our daily news feed, mocking Trump is not just a sneer — it gives us a sense of power, at least for a moment.

Mocking strongman leaders is a cathartic exercise and one favoured by protestors around the world, particularly in authoritarian regimes. In response to Vladimir Putin's repressive treatment of LGBTIQ people in Russia, including the notorious anti-gay propaganda law of 2013, a neon Warholesque image of Putin in full make-up replete with lipstick was widely shared across social media.

The image became so ubiquitous that Kremlin officials worried that the Russian president's sexual orientation would be called into question and in 2017, the Russian justice ministry banned the image. However, Kremlin-approved images of the masculine Russian leader shirtless on horseback remain in circulation.

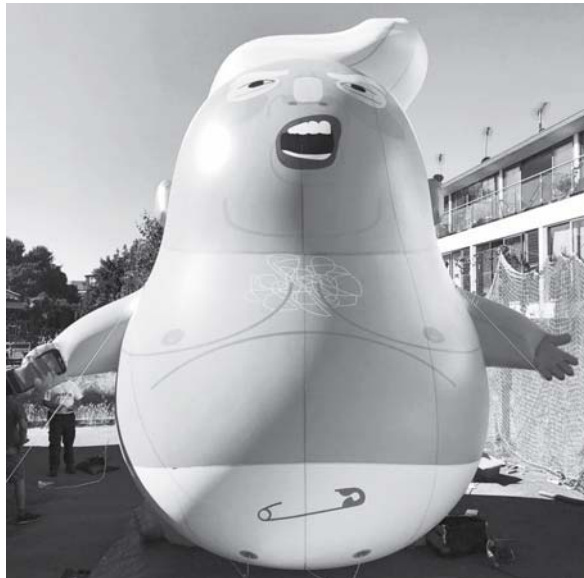
### THE AESTHETICS OF PROTEST

As I have argued in my work on the aesthetics of protest, protestors make aesthetic choices when communicating their ideas and this is bound up with the visual framing or staging of protests. Protest aesthetics are the visual and performative elements of protest, such as images, symbols, graffiti, art, humour, as well as the choreography of actions in public spaces. Protestors employ artistic forms which often retain a creative and handmade quality, frequently enlisting popular culture tropes such as the V for Vendetta mask of Guy Fawkes which has become emblematic of the Occupy and Anonymous protests.

While conventional forms of democracy, such as political party membership or voting, have declined around the world, political voices are

now increasingly being expressed and performed through a variety of textual, visual and graphic forms. We're witnessing an opening up of a public space for dissent, facilitated by protest movements and social media, which expands the range of voices which can be heard by those in positions of power. So humour, democratically conceived and expressed in ways such as a giant Trump balloon, allows our voice to be heard.

*[the writer is Reader in International Politics, Loughborough University]*





# Tibuk Ward Development Society office inaugurated on Bhanu Jayanti

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**MANGAN, 13 JUL:**

The Ward Development Society office of Tibuk ward under Sikkim State Rural Livelihood Mission for Mangshila-Tibuk GPU of North Sikkim was inaugurated today on the auspicious occasion of 204th Bhanu Jayanti celebration by Zilla member, Zomin Limboo who attended the function as chief guest.

The chief guest and other guests paid homage to the portrait of Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta.

The representatives of the SHGs like Jyoti, Disha, Orchid and Almirah shared their experiences and highlighted about the activities of their SHGs. Likewise, the Block Resource Person, Bal Kumari Limboo talked about the active participation of the SHGs.

Also in the function, newly elected Ward Development Society members



were offered garlands.

The Block Project Manager, Youl

Lepcha in his address highlighted about the role and responsibilities

of Ward Development Society and its members. He further urged the members of WDS to conduct monthly meetings and also informed about WDS fund and its utilisation.

The SHG members also presented a cultural programme and play on the role of SHG.

Addressing the function, the chief guest stated that women are the pillars of the society and play important role in molding the family. He also urged all the women of the area to contemplate the betterment of the society and also stressed that if any support is needed from the Zilla Panchayat he is ready to cooperate.

Also present were Panchayat President, Meena Limboo, Panchayat Vice President, Dilliram Limboo, Karma Dawa Tamang, MIS, Community Organiser, Tashi Tongden, SHGs members and the Panchayat members.



## Centre to reconsider package for early Bru returnees: CM

**AIZAWL, JUL 13 (PTI):**

Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla today said that the Centre would reconsider extending uniform rehabilitation package to the Bru families who had already returned to Mizoram from Tripura relief camps and those to be repatriated soon.

Addressing Congress workers here, the state PCC chief said that he had raised the issue during his meeting with the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Tripura Chief Minister in Delhi on July two.

"I had said that it would not be fair to leave out those who obeyed the government and returned to Mizoram if the Centre gives better package to those who stubbornly refused to be repatriated till date despite government's efforts to bring them back," he said.

The union minister had said that as the agreement was already reached, the proposed repatriation and rehabilitation would be undertaken as decided while the matter of giving the same rehabilitation package would be reconsidered later, he

said. The Centre had convened a meeting of chief ministers of Mizoram and Tripura on July two in which it was agreed that the repatriation of all the 32,876 Brus belonging to 5,407 families lodged in the six relief camps should be completed by September 30.

The Centre would deposit Rs four lakh in the bank account of each family which could be withdrawn after three years and a housing assistance of Rs 1.5 lakh would be disbursed to each family.

Each family would also be provided with monthly assistance of Rs 5,000 for two years and free ration for the same period.

Thousands of Brus have been lodged with the Tripura relief camps since late 1997 in the wake of a communal tension.

Though some Bru families had already returned to Mizoram during a number of repatriation processes and on their own will, many of them continued to refuse to leave Tripura despite many attempts, officials said.

## CME on advances in Nephrology held at SMIMS

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

Continuing Medical Education (CME) on Nephrology was organised by the Department of Medicine, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) here today, a press release informs.

This CME was supported by Dr Ramdas Pai and Mrs Vasanthi Pai Endowment Fund.

The chief guest for the occasion was Dean SMIMS, Dr GS Joneja. The guest of honour was Medical Superintendent, Central Referral Hospital, Dr Gautam Dey. The Organising Chairperson was Dr Bidita Khandelwal [Head of Department,

Department of Medicine, SMIMS] and the Organising Secretary was Dr. Dheeraj Khatri [Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, SMIMS].

The resource persons were Dr Dilip Pahari [Senior Consultant, Nephrology, Medica Institute of Kidney Diseases, Kolkata], and Dr Surjit Tarafdar [Specialist in Nephrology from Medical Assessment Unit and Nephrology Blacktown Hospital, Sydney, Australia].

Nephrology is a specialty of medicine concerned with kidney physiology, kidney disease, the treatment of kidney problems

and renal replacement therapy. Systemic conditions that affect the kidneys (e.g. diabetes and autoimmune disease) and systemic problems that occur as a result of kidney problems (e.g. metabolic bone disease and hypertension) are also studied in nephrology.

The subject of the CME had been chosen with due thought so as to provide doctors and health-care workers information on the latest medical development in diagnosis and treatment of kidney-related diseases in Sikkim, which has been on a rise lately in the State, the release mentions.



## Sikkim-BJP celebrates Bhanu Jayanti in Singtam

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

Haratiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh celebrated the 205th birth anniversary of Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya at its Singtam Office on Friday with BJP East District president, YT Lepcha, as the chief guest.

The celebration was attended by leaders and members of the BJP state unit.

A BJP press release

informs that since the Sikkim-BJP president, DB Chauhan, had to attend another function at Jitlang, he handed over the chief guest responsibilities to Mr Lepcha.

In his address, Mr Lepcha stressed that the youth should take responsibility for the preservation and development of Nepali language, literature and traditions.

## Safai Abhiyan by Gangtok Church Youth Fellowship

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 13 JUL:**

Today the Gangtok Church Youth Fellowship (GCYF), the youth of Evangelical Presbyterian church of Sikkim, Gangtok carried out a Safai Abhiyan at the Church compounds and the surroundings, informs a press release.

The surroundings include the street that starts below Tourism Department from Cherry Electrical's till the Church Road.

The Safai Abhiyan was carried out by 20 youths wherein they collected Bottles/Plastics/Garbage and dumped them at the garbage station of the Church.

The youth have



decided to maintain their social activities and the society, the release cleanliness as a part of contribution towards mentions.

## North celebrates Bhanu Jayanti

**contd from pg03**

program, ADC North, Somnath Poudyal spoke about the significance of the day. He said that Adi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta is considered as one of the pillars of Nepali literature and is revered for his contribution in simplifying the epic Ramayana and bringing it to the common people.

MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, while addressing the occasion said that Bhanu Jayanti shows the enormity and unity in diversity of the Sikkimese Society. Communal harmony, gender sensitivity, non-discrimination, secularism are the hall mark of our society and the future generations have to maintain it.

He also shared some of the important policies and budget allocations made during the recent Assembly session. He shared that the Government has made a decision to provide grants in aid to

sports clubs and literary clubs and people should make use of it.

He also appealed to the youths to take advantage of the Chief Minister's Start up Scheme wherein 35% subsidy is provided for entrepreneurs. He said that 800 individuals will be disbursed with start-up cheques next month.

A poetry and Ramayan recitation competition was held which saw the participation of students from the various schools of the district. A cultural programme of all the communities of Sikkim was also presented on the occasion.

Mangan Senior Secondary School stood first in the Ramayan Recitation Competition, whereas North Sikkim Academy was adjudged second and Ringhim Secondary School secured third position. Gyalmo Tamang secured first rank in the poem recitation competition.

Apart from students, Hem Kumar Bishwakarma and Pooja Thapa also recited poems which were deeply appreciated by the guests. A colorful cultural program was also presented by the students of Mangan Senior Secondary School, Ringhim School, North Sikkim Academy, Pakshap Club and students of Little Flower School from Mangan.

Mementos and tokens of appreciation to all participants were presented by the chief guest and the vote of thanks was offered by the Principal Mangan Senior Secondary School.

The program was also attended by Zilla Adhakshya, Namdey Lepcha, Upadhakshya, Themey Bhutia, ADC/Dev, Sr. SP North, Joint Director Education, SDM Hqt, Principals and teachers of various schools and other guests and students.





# It's been like a dream so far: Das

**PHILEM DIPAK SINGH**  
**NEW DELHI, JUL 13 (PTI):** "I am living a dream", said Hima Das as she tried to put in words her remarkable journey from being a stubborn footballer in a nondescript Assam village to becoming the first Indian woman world champion in athletics.

The 18-year-old Das, daughter of farmer parents at Kandhulimari village at Nagaon district, has become the toast of the nation after she won a gold at the IAAF World U-20 Athletics Championships in Finland yesterday.

She is also the first Indian -- male or female -- to have won a gold in a track event at the world level.

She joined Neeraj Chopra who won a gold in javelin -- a field event -- in the IAAF World U-20 Championships in the last edition in 2016 in Poland.

Her father Ronjit Das has a 2 bigha (0.4 acres) plot of land and her mother Junali is a housewife. The small piece of land was the only source of income for a family of six.

"I know my family's condition and how we struggled. But the Almighty has something for everybody. I am a positive person and I want to

look ahead in life and do something for my parents and for the country," Das told PTI from Tampere in Finland today.

"But it has been like a dream so far. I am now a world junior champion," she added.

Das is the eldest of four siblings. She has three younger sisters and a younger brother. One younger sister is in class 10 while the twins -- a boy and a girl -- are in class III. Hima herself is in class XII at a college in Dhing, just one and a half kilometers from her village.

"She is very stubborn, if she wants to do something she will not listen to anybody but she will do it with aplomb. She is a strong girl and that is why she is coming up to achieve something. I hope she will do something for the country," her father Ronjit said from his village in Assam.



"Physically also, she is very strong. She can kick football like any of us. I told her not to play football with the boys but she did not listen to us," her cousin Joy Das said.

It is a tough life for her parents given the meagre

income but at this moment, they can't stop celebrating.

"...we are happy that she chose sports and she is doing well. Our dream is for Hima to win medals in Asian Games and Olympic Games. Since this morning, the whole village is celebrating her gold medal. A lot of our relatives have dropped in to our place and we are distributing sweets."

Das, though, is not thinking too far ahead and wants to just run faster.

"I don't go out on the track thinking that I will win a medal. What I think is about running faster and faster and I believe that will translate into medals," she said.

"I don't have any target as of now, like I will win a medal in Asian Games or Olympics. I am just happy that I am doing something, bringing laurels to the country."

Das' rise has been nothing short of meteoric. One of her village school teachers saw her pace while she was playing football on a muddy field at his village.

He told her to take up athletics. Soon, the teenager was spotted by Nipon Das, an athletics coach with the Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare during an inter-district meet late in 2016.

Nipon asked her to shift to Guwahati, 150 km from her village, and convinced the youngster that she had a future in athletics. Her parents were initially reluctant but later relented.

Das trained at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium at the Sarusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati. Then, she won gold in the 400m race of the Federation Cup in Patiala in March to qualify for the Commonwealth Games.

She finished sixth in the Commonwealth Games' 400m finals and then lowered the Indian U-20 record in 400m to 51.13 seconds while winning gold in the recent National Inter-State Championships in Guwahati to qualify for the upcoming Asian Games in Indonesia.



## Soccer headers may lead to balance problems: Study

**WASHINGTON, JUL 13 (PTI):** Soccer players who head the ball often are more likely to have balance problems than those who do not head the ball as often, according to a study.

"Soccer headers are repetitive subconcussive head impacts that may be associated with problems with thinking and memory skills and structural changes in the white matter of the brain," said John Jeka from the University of Delaware in the US.

"But the effect of headers on balance control has not been studied," Jeka said. For the study, 20 soccer players recruited from the community in Newark in the US took a balance test where they walked along a foam walkway with their eyes closed under two conditions: with galvanic vestibular stimulation (GVS) and without GVS.

For GVS, electrodes placed behind each ear stimulate the nerves that send messages from the balance system in the inner ear to the brain. The stimulator can make you feel like you are moving when you are not. In this case, it made participants feel like they were falling sideways, researchers said.

The soccer players, who had an average age of 22, also completed questionnaires about how many times they had headed the ball during the past year.

The number of headers over a year for each participant ranged from 16 to 2,100, with an average of 451 headers.

Those numbers were calculated by asking participants for the average number of headers during a practice and game, the average number of practices and games per week, and the average number of months per year that the player participated.

Researchers found for every 500 headers, foot placement response increased about nine millimetres and hip adduction response increased about 0.2 degrees.

# We might be tempted to play Kuldeep, Chahal in Tests too: Kohli

**NOTTINGHAM, JUL 13 (PTI):** India captain Virat Kohli is tempted to play his 'key weapons' Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in the upcoming five-Test series against England, considering the wrists spinners' stellar performance in the ongoing limited overs leg of the tour.

While Kuldeep has already played two Tests, Chahal is yet to earn the coveted cap in the longest version of the game.

"Anything is possible with the selections for Tests and there might be a few surprises. Kuldeep is making a strong case for himself and so is Chahal. And looking at the way, the English batsmen have struggled against them, we might be tempted to do it," said Kohli after India's emphatic win in the opening ODI yesterday.

"But the focus now is winning the next



two games. Especially the next game, looking at it from the series perspective. The weather has been lovely. It has been very welcoming. The crowd support has been brilliant. The tour is really long and there is some tough cricket ahead of us which we are looking forward to," the skipper added.

Kuldeep especially has been lethal both in the T20s and now ODIs.

In the opening ODI, he set up a comprehensive win with a career-best six for 25. The English batsmen have failed to pick him and he has already amassed 18 wickets on the tour including the two T20s against Ireland.

Both Kuldeep and Chahal have grabbed the opportunities with both hands ever since they were preferred over the experience duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the shorter formats of the game.

As Kohli hinted, the wrist-spinners might get a go in the five-day format as well, starting with the England series.

Kohli praised Kuldeep as well as vice-captain Rohit Sharma, who scored an unbeaten 137.

"Those wrist spinners in the middle overs are going to be tricky. Given

more overs and more time in the middle, they become even more lethal. Kuldeep was outstanding. To give away 25 runs and pick up 6 wickets on that kind of a wicket, I don't think I have seen a better spell of bowling in ODIs of late.

"After that, Rohit batted very long and finished the game for us. We made a tactical decision (at Bristol) looking at the dimensions of the ground and the breeze flowing into the shorter boundary.

"When it comes to longer game, you need players to make an impact. These two wrist spinners have been making the difference since they have come in. They did it in South Africa in the middle overs. They remain as our key weapons," Kohli added.

England captain Eoin Morgan said his team will have to improve against Indian spinners if it has to bounce back in the series.

"Playing spin against India is one challenge that hopefully we will keep improving upon. But today we were well off the mark. I think both the games there has been more turn than on the grounds that we have played on and that is one thing probably that we have identified," said Morgan.

"I think Lord's (second ODI) will be different as it won't offer a great deal of turn. But certainly he (Kuldeep) extracted more turn out of this than any other spinner. We need to improve as a side. The seamers on this wicket come on to the bat and hence the high scoring nature of the ground. We need to expose our areas of weakness before the World Cup and this seems to be one of them," he added.



## Mamata hails Hima Das' achievement

**KOLKATA, JUL 13 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today hailed sprinter Hima Das, who became the first Indian woman to clinch a gold medal at a global event the World Under-20 Championships in Finland.

Banerjee said that Das' achievement would surely inspire other girls to believe in themselves.

"Hima Das the nation is so proud of you. My congratulations to you for your Under20 win in Finland. Your historic achievement of winning India's first ever track athletics world title will inspire girls to believe that nothing is impossible," Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle today.

Das has clinched the top spot in the women's 400m final race at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships held in Tampere, Finland yesterday.

# India eyes series win, England face 'Kuldeep conundrum'

**CHETAN NARULA**  
**LONDON, JULY 13 (PTI):** A high-on-confidence India look set to wrap up another series on the UK tour unless England find a way to tackle the marauding Kuldeep Yadav when the two teams clash in the second and penultimate ODI at Lord's here tomorrow.

It is a short turn-around from the first ODI at Trent Bridge, as also from the T20I series that finished 2-1 in India's favour Sunday.

Perhaps the game was scheduled for Saturday, keeping in mind the FIFA World Cup final on Sunday.

But, with only a day's gap between the two matches, it hasn't worked out in England's favour who have their task cut out once again after going down by eight wickets in the series opener.

In conditions resembling those in Manchester, in terms of a dry pitch, the English batsmen failed to comprehend Kuldeep's wrist spin. Like at Old Trafford, he was also helped by the breeze blowing across the



ground and gained drift, bamboozling the batsmen to pick his best figures in ODI cricket.

Unlike in the T20I series, England do not have the option of battling this phenomenon with a practice outing against the spin-bowling machine, Merlyn. With both teams travelling to London on Friday, there might not even be enough time to sit down for some video analysis. In that light, the English batsmen will have

to contend mentally with how to play Yadav tomorrow.

It will be easier said than done. Some of it is down to shot selection. At 70-odd for no loss after 10 overs, Jason Roy didn't need to play the two reverse sweeps in two overs against the wrist spinners, the second resulting in his dismissal. Skipper Eoin Morgan didn't play the best shot against Yuzvendra Chahal either. Yadav outfoxed both Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root,

with the latter in particular looking all at sea.

It has been a poor ten days for Root, and England's prime batsman for the summer is looking bereft of any confidence. This was the third time in three innings that he was out to wrist spin, falling to googlies in the two T20Is he played. A sharp leg break did the job at Trent Bridge, in what is quickly becoming a problem for Root.

A school of thought suggests that Jos Buttler

could be elevated in the batting order once again. He looked the most composed amongst English batsmen and extended his good run of form to get another half-century under his belt, albeit batting too low at number six.

With the wrist spinners deployed in tandem, Morgan had admitted that batting against the new ball was their best chance to deny India. This could inspire a promotion for Buttler to number three tomorrow.

Pitch, apart from mental preparation, will also be key for England. After going 1-0 down in the T20Is, the next two wickets in Cardiff and Bristol had a top layering of grass on them.

Despite the grass, there wasn't much swing available in either game, yet this move did just enough to blunt the wrist spinners. So much so, that the green top in the third T20I bluffed the Indian team management into dropping Yadav for that series' deciding game, albeit the wicket turned out to be a

batting beauty.

It remains to be seen if the wicket at Lord's and Headingley (Leeds) thereafter will have any green on the surface. The domestic T20 competition here in England began on July 4; so word is that pitch at Lord's would reflect that, never mind the green tops in Cardiff and Bristol.

Middlesex had hosted Surrey here on July 5 for their first T20 game of the season, and Ireland's off-break bowling all-rounder Paul Stirling picked up 3-26. The two teams scored at 8-plus per over.

In team news, Alex Hales has now been ruled out of the entire ODI series owing to a side strain. He had earlier been ruled out of the first ODI, with the team management keeping an eye on his recovery for the remaining two games. Middlesex batsman Dawid Malan will stay with the England squad for the second ODI.

India, meanwhile, are unbeaten in bilateral

ODI series since the tour of Australia in January 2016. They have won nine successive contests thereafter, with the 2017 Champions Trophy the only tournament wherein they failed to return with a trophy.

Barring any unforeseen fitness issues, the same playing eleven could feature at Lord's. Bhuvneshwar Kumar was seen bowling at Trent Bridge ahead of the first ODI, albeit the team management might not want to rush him back in view of sterner challenges ahead.

It will be a comfortable bus journey from Nottingham to London for the Men in Blue. In the knowledge that just six days after drawing first blood on this long tour, they now have a chance to register another serious blow to England.

Wrapping up the ODIs with a 2-0 unassailable will also close the gap between the two sides in the ICC rankings. More importantly, it will hand over bragging rights to India ahead of the five-Test series.



# UN chief supports Zeid's call for human rights probe in Kashmir

**YOSHITA SINGH**

United Nations, Jul 13 (PTI): UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has voiced support for the UN human rights chief's call for an independent international investigation into the human rights situation in Kashmir, saying his action "represents the voice of the UN" on the issue.

"As you can imagine, all the action of the Human Rights High Commissioner is an action that represents the voice of the UN in relation to that issue," Guterres told reporters at a press conference here yesterday.

He was responding to questions whether he supports an independent international probe into the human rights situation in Kashmir as recommended by High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein in his report on Kashmir last month.

India has rejected Al Hussein's report in which he had called for a commission of inquiry by the Human Rights Council to conduct an independent international investigation into the human rights situation in Kashmir.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tanmaya Lal said this week that the so-called report reflects the "clear bias of an official who was acting without any mandate whatsoever and relied on unverified sources of information."

Lal had said the report was not even found fit to be considered by the



membership of the forum where it was submitted.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, responding to the Secretary General's remarks, said the Human Rights chief's report was not followed up by anyone in the Human Rights Council.

"That the High Commissioner for Human Rights represents the UN Secretariat on the issue of human rights is a factual issue. But that his report was not followed up by anyone is also a reality that no one sees it as something they are ready to support. So referring to the report is like flogging a dead

horse," Akbaruddin told PTI.

Guterres was asked by PTI about India's assertion that Al Hussein was acting without any mandate and that Kashmir is a bilateral issue that needs to be resolved between India and Pakistan.

He said, one thing is the definition of the mechanism for a political solution of a situation in a country. The other thing is the general mandate of human rights instruments in relation to human rights everywhere."

And so what the Human Rights High Commissioner did was the use of its own competencies and capacities, as it does in

all other parts of the world, to report on what he considered to be relevant human rights violations.

"It doesn't mean that there is in that a preference for any kind of methodology for a political solution. They are two completely different things, and the same applies in relation to the other report, he said, referring to his report on children and armed conflict.

India has also expressed its disappointment that the Secretary General's report on children and armed conflict included situations that do not meet the definition of armed conflict or of threat to international peace and security.

The report had mentioned the Indian states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir, saying children continued to be affected by incidents of violence between armed groups and the government, particularly in the three states.

Noting "grave violations", the report had said three incidents of the recruitment and use of children were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in the context of clashes with national security forces.

One case was attributed to Jaish-e-Mohammed and two to Hizbul Mujahideen, the report said, adding that "unverified" reports also indicate the use of children as informants and spies by national security forces.

The report added that the United Nations also continued to receive reports of the recruitment and use of children,

including by the Naxalites, particularly in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

The other report is a report about situations in which the rights of children have been put into question, Guterres said.

When asked if he has made any attempt to bring about dialogue between India and Pakistan, Guterres said, "It is clear for me that only political solutions can address political problems."

He added that whenever he meets the leaders of both India and Pakistan, he always offers his good offices, and I hope that the future will be able to create the mechanisms of dialogue that will allow for this problem to find also an adequate political solution that the people can benefit from.

Participating in a Security Council debate on Children and Armed Conflict this week, Lal had said that the UNSC Resolution 1379 requests the Secretary General to report on situations that are on the agenda of the Security Council or that may be brought to the attention of the Security Council by the Secretary General, which in his opinion threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

In spite of the clear mandate provided under the UNSC Resolution 1379, we are disappointed that the Report of the Secretary General includes situations, which do not meet the definition of armed conflict or of threat to maintenance of international peace and security, Lal had said.

## Court in Lanka orders release of 16 TN fishermen

**RAMESWARAM (TN), JUL 13 (PTI):** A court in Sri Lanka today ordered the release of 16 Tamil Nadu fishermen arrested by the island nation's navy recently for crossing its territorial waters, a fishermen association leader said here.

According to State fishermen association president, N Devadoss, the judge imposed certain conditions including one that if the released fishermen were found and caught by the Lankan navy in their territory again within five years they would be detained in prison for one to two years.

They would be brought back after all the formalities were completed, he added.

Regarding the release of three boats of the fishermen, he said the owners have been directed to appear in court on July 28 with relevant documents adding if they failed to do so the boats would be nationalised.

The 16 fishermen were arrested by the Lankan Navy on separate occasions on July 5 and July 8 on charges of crossing the international maritime boundary line (IMBL) and poaching in the island nation's waters.

Twelve fishermen were from Rameswaram and the rest from nearby Mandapam.

## Five killed, 37 injured as bomb blast targets Islamist party leader's convoy in Pak

**PESHAWAR, JUL 13 (PTI):** A senior leader of an Islamist party escaped an assassination attempt when a bomb attack targeted his convoy in northwest Pakistan, killing five people and injuring 37 others in the third terror attack on a political rally ahead of the July 25 general elections.

Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) central leader Akram Durrani received minor injuries in the blast in Bannu district bordering the restive north Waziristan tribal district.

The bomb was planted in a motorcycle which exploded close to the vehicle of Durrani, who is the candidate of Muttahida Majlis e Amal (MMA), a political alliance consisting of conservative, Islamist, religious, and far-right parties of Pakistan.

Durrani was heading



back from an election rally near North Waziristan when the attack took place.

The blast took place around 40 metres away from the venue of a public meeting, regional police officer Bannu Karim Khan said.

The injured have been shifted to a local hospital where five are stated to be in critical

condition.

Durrani is contesting against cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan in the July 25 election.

"Strongly condemn the terrorist attack on Akram Durrani and his convoy," Khan, chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, tweeted after the attack.

"There seems to be a conspiracy to sabotage the 25 July elections but

the people of Pakistan will not allow any design intended to target these historic elections to succeed," he said.

This is the third terrorist attack on an election rally in Pakistan ahead of the general elections.

On July 10, senior secular leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) Haroon Bilour and

19 others were killed when a Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up in an election rally in Pakistan's northwestern Peshawar city.

Earlier this month, seven people including a candidate of the MMA were injured in an explosion during an election rally near Takhtikhel in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.



## Blast at Chinese chemical plant kills 19

**BEIJING, JUL 13 (AFP):** An explosion at a chemical plant in southwest China left 19 dead and injured another 12, authorities said today, the latest industrial accident in a country where lax regulations often lead to tragedy.

The blast occurred at 6.30 pm last night at an industrial park in Sichuan province's Yibin city, according to a statement on the website of the local work safety administration.

The injured had been taken to hospital and were in stable condition, county officials said, adding that the resulting fire had been put out.

Photos on a local news site showed what appeared to be the burned out shell of a building surrounded by rubble. The company that owns the building where the fire occurred is a chemical manufacturer

named Hengda, according to the official Xinhua news service.

China has been rocked by several industrial accidents in recent years. A septic tank explosion last November destroyed a wide swathe of a light industrial area in Ningbo, just south of Shanghai.

In 2015, giant chemical blasts in a container storage facility killed at least 165 people in the northern port city of Tianjin. The explosions caused more than 1 billion in damage and sparked widespread anger at a perceived lack of transparency over the accident's causes and its environmental impact.

A government inquiry eventually recommended 123 people be punished. Tianjin's mayor at the time of the accident was sentenced to 12 years in prison for graft in September.

## India hopeful of resolving both Iranian and Russian sanctions issue: Indian ambassador to US

**LALIT K JHA**

**WASHINGTON, JUL 13 (PTI):** The Indian Ambassador to the US has exuded confidence that the two major issues of Iranian and Russian sanctions that have become an irritant in the Indo-US relationship would be sorted out soon.

Referring to a series of recent topics, including the Iranian sanctions under which India is required to stop its import of oil from Iran by November 4, Navtej Singh Sarna said none of these were issues over which one can lose sleep.

"This (the Indo-US) relationship has been through far more fundamental differences. I remember being in Washington three months after the nuclear tests in May '98 and those were differences," Sarna said yesterday at the inaugural Annual Leadership summit of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum.

Asserting that the relationship between the two countries has seen a "steady upward graph", he expressed hope that both sides would find a way to resolve the thorny issues.



"India and the US have been down this road in the past and we have handled it in the past," he said, underlining that the South Asian nation was dependent on several countries for its oil and energy needs.

Pointing out the development of Chabahar port by India in Iran -- which is crucial for its developmental role in Afghanistan -- the top Indian diplomat said the US would have an interest in having that port open. That factor has been recognised

said India was not the target of the federal law and it should not become collateral damage of it. The administration has to find a way in which they can find a waiver for the partner on this particular thorny issue, he said.

"We are hopeful that given the broad understanding on this issue on the Hill as well as the administrations enthusiasm behind it, he added.

several times, including during the meeting between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last June, Sarna said.

Acknowledging that there are going to be questions on resolving this issue about sanctions and India's energy needs, Sarna said it was far too early to predict where this needle would stop. "But I can share with you that these conversations are already ongoing and we'll see more of this in the coming weeks," the Indian ambassador said.

Responding to a question on CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), Sarna said India was not the target of the federal law and it should not become collateral damage of it. The administration has to find a way in which they can find a waiver for the partner on this particular thorny issue, he said.

"We are hopeful that given the broad understanding on this issue on the Hill as well as the administrations enthusiasm behind it, he added.

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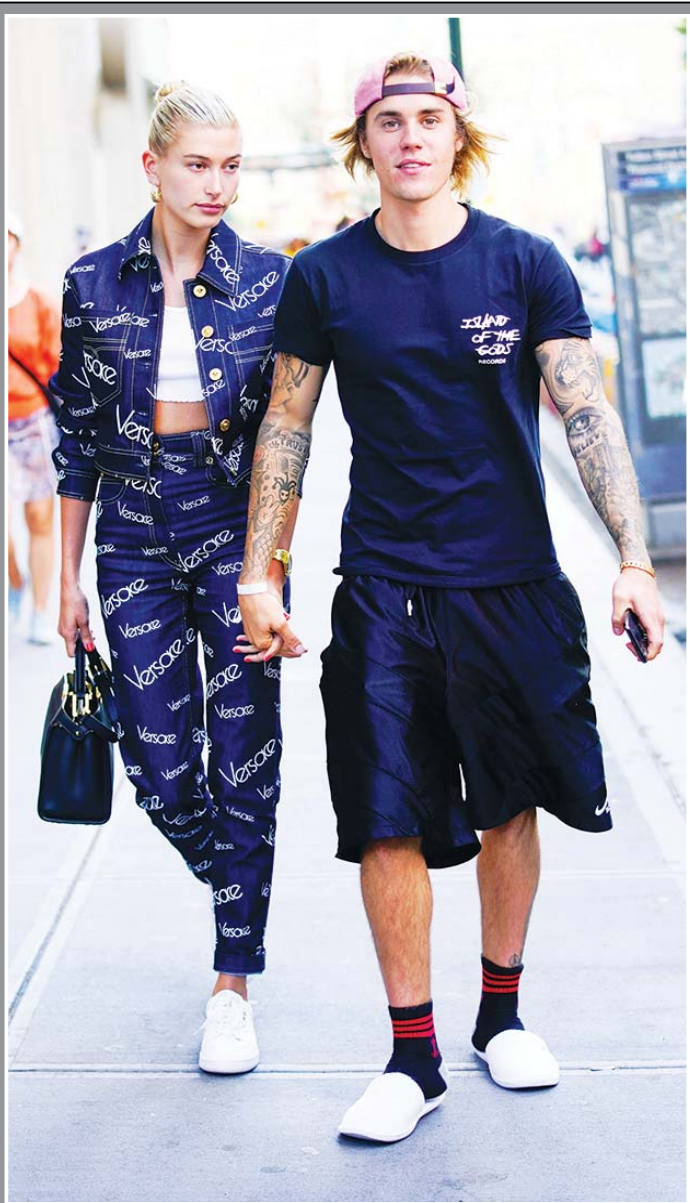
**times.com**

### ARGHU



The **Arghu (Anthyesthi Kriya)** of **Late Man Bahadur Gurung, World War II veteran** who left for heavenly abode on 27th June 2018 falls on **17th July 2018 [Tuesday]**. All relatives, family, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Forest Colony Road, Baluwakhani, Gangtok**. We also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.  
**R.K Gurung (Retd. Secy.) Son: 9434409231**  
**Beena Gurung / Rita Gurung (Daughters in law) 9434117702 / 7063305164**  
**Rabina (Grand daughter), H.N Pradhan (Grandson in law)**  
**Sudeep, Sandeep, Aditya, Abhishek, Anurag (Grandsons)**





**JUSTIN BIEBER'S JEWELER REVEALS SECRET OF THE ENGAGEMENT RING:** Before it was time for Justin Bieber to pop the question to Hailey Baldwin, he needed a diamond to put on her finger. His manager Scooter Braun knew just the jeweler to call. Braun suggested Jack Solow of Solow & Co. Inc. Diamond Jewelers and Bieber's journey to an engagement ring for his future bride began. "I was very genuinely excited for him and I had heard that he was with somebody very, very special and that they had bonded over personal things and I was just very, very happy like I would be for any young man who's on that next stop of his life, but for Justin, of course, it's that much more special and that much more visible for everybody," Solow explained to E! News exclusively.

## Neill Blomkamp to direct 'RoboCop' sequel for MGM

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 13 9 (PTI):** Neill Blomkamp, known for films such as "District 9" and "Chappie", has been hired by MGM Studios to direct the sequel to "RoboCop".

The sequel, titled "RoboCop Return", comes four years after Joel Kinnaman played the title character in the reboot of the franchise. However, the new will ignore the previous entries and 2014 reboot,



according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"Terminator" screenwriter Justin Rhodes will be penning the script for the sequel.

Writers Ed Neumeier and

Michael Miner, wrote the Paul Verhoeven's 1987 "RoboCop" are producing and executive producing the new project.

The Verhoeven's film featured Peter Weller as a badly wounded cop on death's doorstep who is turned into a cyborg law enforcement officer tasked with wiping out crime in an out of control Detroit, but who is plagued by submerged memories of his previous married life.

**ARIES:** Whatever skills or talents you're using to accomplish your present goals may seem blocked, Aries. This could give rise to a sense of frustration if you let it, but don't fall into this trap. If you can't get motivated, focus on something else, perhaps an activity you've never tried before. This could get your mind going again while allowing your other skills to pick up steam.

**TAURUS:** You might feel creative, artistic, and full of ideas for new projects. However, Taurus, other responsibilities could keep you from starting on them. At the same time, your mind could be so focused on them that your other work takes longer than it should. Write down your ideas before they escape, then concentrate on the tasks at hand. Finish those and then you can pursue what you really want.

**GEMINI:** Spiritual matters could be very much on your mind, Gemini. You may want to delve into metaphysical studies and meditation, but work or family responsibilities could interfere with making those desires a reality. Don't let this get you down. Instead, stay focused on the mundane chores and finish them. Then you can move on to the really fascinating matters.

**CANCER:** A friend may seem in a dark and gloomy mood and unwilling to talk about it. Don't force the issue. This probably has more to do with your friend's circumstances than with you, Cancer. It's best if you continue to pursue your cherished goals. Not only could you advance your interests but you might also inspire your friend and bring him or her out of the dumps. Go for the gold.

**LEO:** Professional interests might temporarily interfere with your social life, Leo. This might cause a little friction between you and a close friend or romantic partner. Your friend is more apt to want to brood than discuss it with you. Don't worry. This person will come out of the funk and be more understanding. Explain the situation the best you can and then continue with your work.

**VIRGO:** Responsibilities to work, family, or both could temporarily delay plans for a much-needed vacation. This could be a bit depressing, Virgo, but don't let it get you down. Take care of your responsibilities as quickly as you can and then move ahead with your plans. All signs are that this trip is important to you and should go ahead as scheduled.

**LIBRA:** Your financial situation

should continue to expand now, Libra. Believe in yourself. Don't worry if you hear rumors that make the future seem rather grim. This is probably misinformation coming from unreliable sources. Continue to work toward your goals. Meanwhile, check out the rumors and find the real facts. You will probably discover that all is far better than the gossipers claim.

**SCORPIO:** Today it may seem like home and family responsibilities are interfering with your social life, Scorpio, including a get-together you really want to attend. Don't worry. All signs are that something unexpected will occur at the last minute that makes it possible for you to proceed with your plans. Try to take care of your duties as efficiently as you can so you can enjoy the evening.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may wake up

feeling strong and energetic, but as the day wanes, stress could cause you to feel tired and worn out. Be careful, Sagittarius. You could become short-tempered around others. This won't happen if you avoid the temptation to go like a house afire first thing in the morning. Pace yourself and your relations with others should remain excellent throughout the entire day.

**CAPRICORN:** A temporary lack of funds might interfere with creative projects or your ability to have fun, Capricorn. You might encounter an apparent coolness from a close friend or romantic partner that you might not understand. Don't make too much of it. This probably relates more to the person's general mood than to anything you've said or done. Your friend should be back to normal in a few days.

**AQUARIUS:** If you spend the day at home, Aquarius, the walls may seem to close in around you. Squabbles over nothing could erupt between you and other household members, and a lack of energy could plague you. This is a good day to get some exercise. Take a walk, ride a bike, or take a cardio class. This should work off your frustrations while creating more physical energy.

**PISCES:** Today you might be waiting for a letter or call from a close friend or love partner, Pisces. Its delay could cause a powerful feeling of gloom. Don't let it spoil your day. The communication will come, and if not today, then within a few days. Meanwhile, this is a great time to try your hand at writing or music. Be creative while you wait. You might also call another friend.

# Audience prefers to see me in serious roles, says Taapsee Pannu

After cementing her place in Bollywood with hard-hitting films such as "Pink" and "Naam Shabana", Taapsee Pannu feels the audience prefers to see her in "serious roles", even though she debuted in Hindi movies with a light-hearted "Chashme Baddoor".

The 30-year-old actor says she is waiting to "shift gears" into a massy, commercial cinema with a film like "Judwaa 2", in which she starred opposite Varun Dhawan last year.

"I have been busy doing other films, my calender was so full. Also, I think audience have loved me so much in this type (referring to serious) of a role that they are not ok seeing me there.

"I am like, let me do it for my breathing space. I don't know if I should feel good or bad about it. But I am still waiting and struggling to get a film like 'Judwaa 2' again to shift gears," Pannu told PTI.

The actor, who made her cinematic debut in 2010's Telugu film "Jhummandi Naadam", said she can afford to take the risks in the South film industry as she has "build a certain rapport with people there".

For example, Pannu says, she did not charge any fee for her last Telugu film as she wanted to help the producers to keep the budget in check. She, however, asked for a share in film's profits.

"I shared the profit with my producers as that film had no hero but the concept was brilliant. I understand the plight of the producer when there is no hero. I



know the budget will not be more and so I did not charge from my side but I asked for a profit share," she says.

But the actor believes she has a long way to go in commanding a piece of the profit pie when it comes to Bollywood.

"I have worked for about eight years in South Indian cinema. I can take that risk over there. I am newer to Hindi cinema.

"But, I might do that (profit sharing) in the future. The audience here knows me but not as prominently as it is there. The day the audiences know me well here too, and come to watch my films I will do that," she adds.

Pannu's next release is "Soorma", in which she plays the role of a hockey

player, Harpreet.

The film is an inspirational story of former Indian hockey skipper, Sandeep Singh, who was paralysed after he was hit by an accidental gunshot on a train in 2006 but he did not give up and came back stronger.

The actor says the movie is more about Singh's life than the sport of hockey.

"In 'Soorma', the focus is on his life and the people in his life, the incident that happened and hockey is a part of it."

It features Diljit Dosanjh in the lead, with Angad Bedi and Siddharth Shukla in key roles.

The Shaad Ali-directed film released Friday.

## Danai Gurira in early talks for 'Godzilla Vs. Kong'

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 13 (PTI):** "Black Panther" star Danai Gurira is in negotiations to star in "Godzilla vs Kong".

If finalised, the actor will join Van Marten, Ziyi Zhang and "Deadpool 2" star Julian Dennison in the fourth installment of the MonsterVerse project, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The film, to be produced by Legendary Pictures and Warner Bros, will be directed by "Death Note" filmmaker Adam Wingard.

The first installment for the MonsterVerse was 2014's "Godzilla," followed by "Kong: Skull Island" (2017), which grossed more than USD 565 million worldwide.

"Godzilla vs Kong" has a



A sequel to "Godzilla," titled "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," starring Vera Farmiga, Millie Bobby Brown and Kyle Chandler, is currently in production.

"Godzilla vs Kong" has a

release date of May 22, 2020.

Gurira most recently featured in "Avengers: Infinity War" where she reprised her "Black Panther" role of African warrior princess Okoye.

## 'Black Widow' standalone to be directed by Cate Shortland

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 13 (PTI):** Marvel Studios have announced Cate Shortland as the director of its highly anticipated "Black Widow" standalone movie.

The film will star Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff aka Black Widow, an agent of the fictional spy agency S.H.I.E.L.D and a member of the superhero team the Avengers.

Shortland, 49, is best known for the Nazi drama "Lore" and most recently directed Teresa Palmer-starrer "The Berlin Syndrome".

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the studio met with over 70 directors to find the



right person to helm the project.

Its hunt narrowed down to Amma Asante, Maggie Betts, Shortland, Melanie Laurent and Kimberly Peirce.

Shortland, who had a promising meeting with Johansson, later bagged

the project.

In January, the studio had announced that Jac Schaeffer will be penning the script for the standalone.

Johansson has till now appeared as the character in seven films, including this summer's smash hit "Avengers: Infinity War".