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Summit **T**IMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Army airlifts stranded people out of Chungthang

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 16 SEPT:**

A total of 75 stranded patients (two of them critical), tourists, local civilians and army personnel were airlifted today from Chungthang by an army helicopter ferry. Chungthang and beyond, it may be recalled has been cut off by a slew of landslides along North Sikkim Highway.

The initiative, in this time of emergency, has been coordinated by North District Administration and Chungthang Sub-Divisional adminis-

tration, police, Air Force, Army (Colonel Sabrinath and Lt. Colonel Jaspreet) and the ITBPF.

The 112 Mountain Brigade of the Indian Army posted in North Sikkim and the Air-Force carried out the helicopter services for stranded tourists and local public.

Five helicopters did several sorties from 6.30 am in the morning. An Advanced light Helicopter (ALH), two Cheetah helicopters, two Mi7 helicopters were pressed into service. The sorties were coordinated by SDM Chungthang and CDPO Chungthang.

All the 30 tourists who were stranded were evacuated from North Sikkim.

Also today, seven locals, including a pregnant woman and a child, were flown to Chungthang from Mangan.

The helicopters remain the only access to Chungthang, Lachung and Lachen as the Chungthang Sub division has been cut off by several landslides owing to incessant rain of the last few days.

With the weather holding steady today, the district administration carried out the task of restoration of essential services in the district. The Energy

and Power Department has finished the task of restoration of the damaged electricity connections in the district. The Engineers and Field staff of the department restored the supply in record time, an official communiqué informs.

Water supply to most parts of Mangan has been restored by the PHE Department and the department aims to finish the restoration by tomorrow after spare parts arrive from Siliguri.

The Quick Response Team and Forest Department has finished clearing all the danger posing trees in Mangan town.

LTVC all-party meeting on seats issue resolves to call Sikkim Bandh for 25 Sept

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:**

The meeting called by Limboo-Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] here at Chokasum today unanimously decided to call for a Sikkim Bandh on 25 September.

The meeting, which was called mainly to discuss the Limboo and Tamang seats reservation issue, was attended by representatives from different political parties and organisations of Sikkim.

Speaking to media persons after the meeting, LTVC president, Yehang Tshong, confirmed that the meeting unanimously decided to call a Sikkim Bandh on 25 September in very peaceful manner.

He mentioned that the Sikkim Bandh was the most important from among the four proposals passed at today's meeting.

The other proposals include the demand that the State government

pass a Bill on the seat reservation for Limboos and Tamangs in the State Assembly within 15 days, reservation of LT seats in the State Assembly before 2019 elections and LT seat reservation Bill in the upcoming Monsoon session of the Parliament.

Mr Tshong mentioned that the decision to call a Sikkim Bandh was to put pressure on the State and the Centre on these demands.

He added that the bandh has been in light of the State visit of the Prime Minister on 23 September to send a message to the Centre.

He warned that if LT seat reservation issue is not placed in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament, then the LTVC would take a strong action and the Sikkim government would be responsible for the same. He asserted for a permanent solution of the issue irrespective of any formula.

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Slides trouble Dzongu

**SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 15 SEPT:**

A flash-flood caused by incessant rainfall damaged two houses (belonging to Neyzing Lepcha and Tempa Lepcha) here at Passingdang, Dzongu, at around 10 PM on Friday night.

The situation was brought under control by local youth and villagers and the family members were evacuated to the PHC. The urgent need for immediate restoration of roads from both sides is now being deeply felt in the area.



The landslide also damaged some houses at Kazor ward under Singhik-Sentam GPU.

The two more landslides occurred on Satur-

day morning at 4th Mile Lower Mangshila disrupting traffic along the Dikchu-Rangrang axis.

However, commuters plying to Mangan from

Gangtok are travelling via the Phodong road till Rangrang where transshipment is required. Meanwhile, the Man-

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Chamling interacts with constituency youth in Namchi

**SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 16 SEPT:**

SDF party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, attended a youth meeting organised by the party youth of Namchi Singithang constituency, on the theme, 'empowering youth transforming lives making a difference', on Saturday at Namchi Public School auditorium hall.

Addressing the meet-



ing, Mr Chamling shared that he was in office on the will of the people and that of the people of Sikkim found a good leader

to replace him, he himself would advocate him and follow the decision of Sikkimese people.

Governments are

formed for the people and not for individuals, he stressed and remarked that the future leader of Sikkim must not indulge in conditional politics because that would make the future bleak for the State.

The Opposition's call for "Parivartan", he contended was based on unethical and undemocratic principals and lamented

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Book donation drive to get the young reading

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 16 SEPT:**

Aiming to encourage and inspire reading-habit among students in the 6-16 age group, a book donation campaign was held here at the Rangpo Bazar today by the Cluster Resource Centre of Namphing Secondary School, South Sikkim.

This is the second such book donation campaign with the earlier one held at Singtam last year.

The concept was mooted by Deputy Director HRDD, Namchi, DB Subba, and supported by Government Primary School, Rekap, South Sikkim, Government JHS Mangley Simchuthang Secondary School and class X batch of 1994-95 of Bermoik Tokal Senior Secondary School.

Rangpo Nagar Panchayat president, Maya Chintury, was present as chief guest today accompanied by Mr DB Subba as special guest,



Principal Mr Rival of Bermoik Tokal SSS, AEO HRDD, Headmasters and Principals from various school who also donated books.

A total of 60 people donated books at today's event.

The donated books will be sorted and distributed to all the school of Bermoik and Namphing area, informs Arjun Chettri, Headmaster, Rekap Primary School.

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Biswakarma Puja greeting from SKM

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], has conveyed his best wishes to the entire driver community and workers of different industries on the occasion of Biswakarma Puja.

He has wished for the protection of workers and their families and for the establishment of peace, brotherhood and prosperity.

And SKM press release states that SKM party has always worked to provide justice to drivers and workers and has been dedicated to continuously work in the interest of driver and workers.

Chamling interacts...

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that those arguments were challenging the will of the people for the past 25 years.

"The youth are the pioneers of our state but our younger generation does not face the challenges as the people of Sikkim did before SDF government came to office so they are not accepting the reality. And the day will come when they will have to take the responsibility of our State but it should be in safe hands so that the march of development does not falter. Our youth must be ready to take this responsibility and try to be good politicians so that Sikkim is always in safe hands," Mr Chamling stressed.

On unemployment, he said that the meaning and definition of unemployment for the youth of Sikkim is not getting a government jobs but they remain unaware of opportunities existing outside government service. There as more than 3 lakh people from outside working in Sikkim, he pointed out as evidence of ample jobs being available for those who wished to work.

On the occasion, youth representatives from different wards addressed the function and placed several demands and aired grievances which Mr Chamling assured to address.

Slides trouble Dzongu

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gan-Passingdang road was restored Saturday afternoon.

Road connectivity in North district has snapped at various places beyond Mangan till Chungthang while the Chungthang-Lachen road was also blocked at Munsithang on Saturday.

Several landslides have been reported from Lingdong-Barfok GPU of Dzongu damaging private homes, standing crop and cowsheds.

Inspection to the affected areas remains a challenge due to the litter of slides and disrupted roads even as officials from the concerned Sub Divisions have been deployed.

Rains cannot dampen Namok-Tibuk's Gandhi Jayanti zeal

SUMMIT REPORT NAMOK, 15 SEPT:

Despite the dampener of incessant rain over the past one week, the zeal to organise a grand Gandhi Jayanti remains bright among the people of the small Limboo hamlet of Namok Tibuk here.

With a view to bring the people and younger generation closer to the

idea of India, the youth here began celebrations here on Saturday leading up to Gandhi Jayanti coming up on 02 Oct.

The celebration was inaugurated by Shyam Pradhan, MLA Arithang.

While addressing the inaugural function, Mr Pradhan detailed the government initiatives to improve education, connectivity and health

sector in Sikkim.

He also highlighted the various schemes like free education and establishment of a degree college at Mangshila and other efforts to bring elite educational institutions to the doorstep of the people.

He assured to raise the people's demands in the right forum.

The Tibuk Junior High School,

established in the 1985 as Primary School, was upgraded to Junior High School level two years ago. The school, however, has yet to receive a full-fledged Headmaster and is currently running a JHS from a two storied four-room building.

The people of the area have demanded better road connectivity and proper school building.

Meanwhile, a 17-day long football tournament is being organised in the school premises leading upto to Gandhi Jayanti when the final match is scheduled. As part of the inaugural function, the students presented various folk dances.

In the opening match, Jusing Yakthung Boys out-played Tibuk 06 goals to 03.



Minister inaugurates Swachchata hi Sewa prog at Ranipool School

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 SEPT:

Human Resource Development Department Minister RB Subba today inaugurated the flagship programme of the Government of India, Swachchata hi Sewa, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The programme started today and will conclude on Gandhi Jayanti, 02 October, and thereafter other programmes will begin which will conclude on 02 October, 2019 to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

During the function held at Brihaspati Prasai Sr Sec School, Ranipool, the Minister addressed the morning assembly of the school and spoke about

the importance of cleanliness in our daily lives and the society.

He also spoke about the Gandhian concept of cleanliness and philosophy of life. He further advised the students to lead a life where social and personal relationships are meaningful.

The school Principal, BD Adhikari, presented a report on Swachchata Pakhwada which had started on 01 September and concluded today in which concepts like Swachchata Sapath Day, Swachchata Awareness Day, Swachch Water Day, Look Around, Walk Around, Breathe Clean Air and Don't Litter the Ground were observed.

The Minister thereafter took a round of the school and interacted with the teachers and students.



6 CMHRM homes inaugurated

GELLING, 16 SEPT (IPR): Health Minister Arjun Kumar Ghatani inaugurated six houses constructed under Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission (Phase 1) at Samsing Pipaley and Gelling Baiguney Gram Panchayat Units, West Sikkim, today.

The Minister, who is also the area MLA, handed over newly inaugurated CMHRM homes to the beneficiaries - Pabitra Rai, Dalu Ram Sharma,

Kabita Sharma from Samsing Pipaley GPU and Raghu Bir Chettri, Dhan Raj Subba and Magita Rai from Gelling Baiguney GPU.

During the series of house inaugurations, Mr Ghatani also interacted with the public and members of beneficiary families and further informed about the vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to uplift the socioeconomic status of the people.



Creative Mathematics workshop at Lingi Paiyong School

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

A workshop on Creative Mathematics was organised by the Technology Club of Lingi Paiyong Secondary School in collaboration with Centre for Computers and Communication Technology (CCCT), Chisopani, at the school on Saturday.

Anup Sarmah, Vice

Principal, Arun Pradhan, Lecturer (ECE) and two students addressed various problems and issues faced by students on the subject.

The objective of the programme was to remove fear of mathematics from students and help them develop an interest in the subject.

The school family

felicitated the lecturers and the organizing students. Yogesh Bhandari and other members of Lingmoo Paiyong GPU were present as guests on the occasion.

The programme was organised on the occasion of birth anniversary of M. Visvesaraya celebrated as National Engineers Day.



RED PANDA DAY: Students of VC Ganju Lama Govt Sr Sec School, Ravangla, participated in different events organized as part of Red Panda Day celebrated by WWF in collaboration with HRDD at Tathangata Tsal auditorium on Saturday. Krishna Bir Mangar of class XII bagged second position in "paint the panda" contest while Arpana Gurung received a consolidation prize in extempore contest held among different schools of South Sikkim.

Nawin Kiran claims remedy available in RP Act to allow Golay to contest in 2019

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

Joint Action Committee for Disqualification of Fourteen MLAs chief convener, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, has claimed that there was a remedy present in the Representation of People's Act, 1951 for Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], to contest the upcoming 2019 elections despite his current situation of being disqualified

for six years owing to his conviction in a corruption case.

He asserted that the Section 11 of RP Act, 1951 offered a remedy for the SKM president.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Mr Pradhan stated that the section 8 (1) (m) of RP Act, 1951 disqualifies a person convicted under the Prevention of Corruption law to contest elections for six

years from the day of release from the jail.

That said, section 11 of RP Act, 1951 states that the Election Commission can remove or reduce the period of disqualification.

On the same, he stated that if Mr Tamang filed a good petition to the ECI under the section 11 of RP Act by using a good advocate with a prayer to reduce or remove the period of disqualification,

then it was possible that the ECI might allow him to contest in 2019.

Mr Pradhan mentioned that the ruling party has been claiming that Mr Tamang cannot contest elections for the next six years while the SKM is asserting that he can contest, claims which were leaving the people confused, hence JAC felt compelled to present what the law and rules said about the issue.

Rotarians organise career counselling for Gangtok students



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

Rotary Club Gangtok South organised a career counselling programme for school children in Gangtok with the support of Indo Tibet Border Police here on Saturday.

The programme was conducted by ASstt Commandant ITBP Omkar Singh.

60 students from Modern School, Tathangchen School, TNSS School and TNA attended the programme.

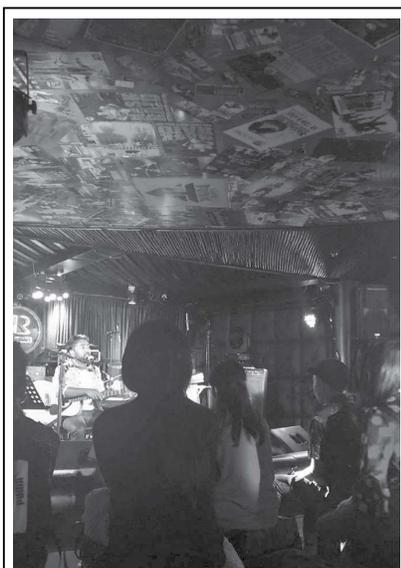
They, along with Rotarians also actively participated in the interactive session.

Addressing the students, president of the Club, Sunila Verma, highlighted the importance of career counselling.

Rotarians Mala Rana Patro and Anil Gupta felicitated Mr Omkar Singh on behalf of the Rotary Club Gangtok South.

The programme was conducted by Rotarian Geeta Sapkota and Rotarian Geeta Chettri proposed the vote of thanks.

The workshop was organised with the initiative of Angad Kumar Yadav, Commandant ITBP.



VISHAL LOMJAIL TALKS MUSIC WITH STUDENTS:

Known for his work in Mumbai film and entertainment industry, Vishal Lomjail, was at Cafe Live & Loud here today to interact with students on various aspects of music and musicians. He interacted with over 30 students here. Hailing from Darjeeling, Mr Lomjail belongs to a family of musicians.

MEMORIAL SERVICE



The Memorial Service (Anthyesti Kriya) of **Late Smt. Tika Maya Chettri**, resident of Samlik Marchak, Rumtek, who left for her heavenly abode on 07 September 2018, falls on **19 September 2018**. All friends, relatives and well-wishers are invited to us in offering prayers for the departed soul

Kharka Singh Chettri (Elders son, 9434408780), L.B Chettri, Mayesh Chettri, Mrs. Balika Joshi (Daughter), Mrs. Neelam Tamang (Daughter in Law), Rakesh Basnet (Grandson)

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Gangtok on Monday, 17 Sept

Temp: 26°C/15°C
Forecast: A morning thundershower in parts of the area; otherwise, sun and clouds; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:24 AM
Sunset: 5:38 PM

Governor launches Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign for Sikkim

GANGTOK, 15 SEPT (IPR): Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated the State Level launch of Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign on Saturday morning at Baluakhani here.

The fortnight long campaign launched by the Prime Minister in the national capital was launched simultaneously across the country with large participation of Heads of States and people from all walks of life.

The programme at Baluakhani also had the presence and participation of Gangtok's Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Lassey Doma Bhutia and other officials of GMC, officers of RM&DD, officials of Raj Bhawan, ITBP and general public.

Governor Prasad administered the pledge of Swachhta Hi Seva.

In his address, he urged the people to work towards sustaining the momentum and make sanitation a way of life.

He said that this campaign is for the cleanliness of Sikkim and is everybody's duty to keep the State clean. He appealed to the people from all walks of life to join the campaign to realize the vision of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Governor initiated the Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign by participating in the Shramdaan/cleanliness drive at the premises of Shri Satya Sai Mandir.

LTVC all-party meeting on...

contd from pg01

Mr Tshong stated that due to the silence of the State government, LTVC has been compelled to take these actions. He added that there was still time with the State government so it should take all political parties and organisation into confidence before taking any action.

The meeting was attended by representatives from SKM, BJP, SRP, JAC, SUP, SSP, GJS, DSA, BLPF and other organisations.

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Beauty Queen Peden Ongmu mentors Manhunt contestants

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 15 SEP:

Miss India Supranational 2018, Peden Ongmu Namgyal, was here at Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt to mentor and orient the 22 finalists at Hotel Denzong Shangrila on Saturday.

She shared her experience of the glam world with the contestants and also gave them helpful tips to grow in the journey of the competition.

The contestants also asked several questions about her journey and sought advice and suggestions on various aspects of modelling.

Ms Namgyal stressed on the need to be a happy person and have a very positive outlook towards life even



through struggle.

Terming herself as "happy go lucky" person, she asked the contestants to remain grounded and move forward with a zeal to learn and grow.

Speaking about her journey from Miss Sikkim to Miss India, the beauty queen shared that the mental growth has been tremendous especially since going to Mumbai

and participating in various national and international competitions.

"You'll have to have fire and be hungry for your dreams," she stressed.

She advised the contestants to chart their respective journeys with an open mind and learn while enjoying the moment.

One of the tips she gave to contestants to overcome stage fright was to learn and help each other make videos on mobile phones and re-watch it for improvisation.

Mridula Moktan, Peden's mother, expressed happiness on her daughter's achievements and stressed that family support was key to success in the glamour industry.

Bare body photo shoot was also held today exploring many aspects of modelling and photography.

Photographer Jonah Gurung, stating that all the fi-

nalists were getting into the mood and environment of being in a manhunt, added that all have been very cooperative and wished them luck for the future.

Ms Namgyal also instructed the contestants on ramp walk and other aspects of modelling.

She further stated that punctuality was a key factor in the glamour industry where time was money.

Wishing the finalists luck, the Sikkimese beauty queen stressed on opening one's mind to newer opportunities and exploring life in totality.

The Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt is being organised jointly by GBT Entertainment, Sikkim Chronicle and The Accelerator.

Sikkim Veterans Football Tournament gets underway



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

The fourth edition of Sikkim Veterans Football Tournament 2018 kicked off here at Paljor Stadium on Satur-

day. Snow Lion Football Club outplayed Chandmari United 4-2 in the inaugural match of the tournament.

The inaugural day of the match had former

national footballer, Sonam Lepcha, as the chief guest.

The tournament is being organised by one of the oldest and more popular football clubs of

the State, Dzongri Club, Gangtok.

Seventeen teams from within and outside the State are participating in this knock-out tournament.

The tournament has two teams from Darjeeling and one each from Kalimpong and Siliguri along with three teams from West Sikkim, one each from North and South Sikkim and eight from East Sikkim.

Darjeeling Veterans is the defending champion of the tournament.

The tournament is strictly for footballers above 40 years of age and presents a rare opportunity for the people to see former national and state-level players on the field again.

The organisers share that this annual tournament was mainly a recreational activity for

ex-footballers and veterans to encourage them to stay fit and healthy.

Dzongri Club has appealed the football lovers and people to come and support their favourite teams in the tournament.

In the inaugural match, Kamal Bagdas scored a brace for Snow Lion FC, while his teammates Karma Gyampo and Norden Bhutia contributed one goal each.

In the second match of the day, Freedom Veterans edged past Pandim Veterans 2-1.

Karan Gurung in the 44th minute and Palden Bhutia in the 64th minute scored a goal each for Freedom Veterans while the lone goal for Pandim Veterans was scored by Rinzing Bhutia in the 14th minute.

Himali Pratibhas selected in grand finale

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 SEPT:

The grand finale of talent-hunt program, Himali Pratibha ko Khoj Season-2, organised by the cultural wing of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), was held in the capital on Saturday.

In dancing, Amrita Rai secured first position followed by Samir Tamang and Soni Hangma Subba securing second and third positions. Likewise, in singing, Nihal Ramudamu stood first followed by Anju Tamang and Babita Thapa in second and third positions.

GM Gurung, Minister, Roads & Bridges Dept was present as chief guest, accompanied by a plethora of guests and judges, including Rajesh Thapa, General Manager, Nepal Rashtriya Naachghar, noted singers Shanti Thatal, Shiva Bahadur Moktan and Thupden Bhutia along with dignitaries from different walks of life.



It was informed that over 700 contestants auditioned for the talent hunt in singing and dancing categories. Five finalists in singing and dancing each competed for the top spot.

The top three were awarded cash prizes of Rs. 1.50 lakh, Rs One lakh and Rs 50,000.

The fourth and fifth positions will be getting consolation prizes of Rs 20,000 each.

Program also paid a singing tribute to the late Amber Gurung with a

musical presentation.

This was followed by felicitation to legendary singer of Nepali music, Shanti Thatal which was accompanied by a musical performance in her tribute.

Another felicitation was also given to Nisha Rasaily and Tara Dhakal, dancers who are in Sikkim after winning a national dance reality television show.

Singer Remanti Rai's new music was also launched by the chief guest during the pro-

gram which the singer followed up with a musical performance.

The organisers informed that such programs is not just to give a platform to the local artists but also to boost their morale towards a more positive outlook for all round development.

They also informed that the program has been a huge success back to back and hoped to give continuation in future.

Ashish Bangdel and Smita Rai anchored the program.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES DEAR ZALE EVENING
Draw No:5 DrawDate on:16/09/18
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Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 92205 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
02030 12176 18113 32826 66086
69688 79665 84303 85989 93367
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0163 3102 4043 4215 5591 6473 7186 7726 7894 7930
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0149 0637 2061 3274 5247 6191 7012 7638 9256 9824
5th Prize Rs.120/-
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0837 0871 0954 1130 1136 1169 1275 1479 1489 1649
1814 1983 2376 2598 2880 3072 3160 3194 3267 3307
3402 3530 3798 3815 3911 3977 4107 4367 4754 4991
5031 5119 5271 5307 5360 5391 5421 5730 5858 5861
5978 6000 6039 6062 6117 6121 6131 6319 6381 6416
6428 6482 6557 6619 6908 7057 7167 7279 7281 7284
7376 7393 7787 7796 7841 7861 7874 8187 8238 8451
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1881 1922 1930 2068 2318 2323 2510 2522 2726 2910
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4457 4489 4553 4585 4605 4636 4776 4831 4915 4950
5016 5059 5297 5313 5453 5562 5681 5714 5739 5762
5826 6178 6252 6314 6317 6768 6850 6856 7094 7150
7283 7286 7392 7491 7548 7556 7653 7693 7765 7794
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SummitTIMES

Road to Tourism

Use the lull to take stock and plan better

The “season” appears likely to pick up this Dussehra. The cyclical aandolan for statehood in neighboring Darjeeling, which had ensured that the booming summer tourist footfalls faded when they should have peaked last year, is on pause, making it easier for holiday planners to think about Sikkim. Dasain for tourism stakeholders in Sikkim will, in all probability, be bountiful. But, even though tourist arrivals have been on the up in recent years, it has not just been the awaited Gorkhaland that soured tourism often for the already existing Sikkim; there is also the travel hiccup imposed by the disrupted rail and road connectivity to the region and beyond. Because of the monsoon battering of the strained rail-tracks in the East, expect more tourists to go west this season. It is important thus to convey tourists that Sikkim remains open for tourism despite the politics of the neighbouring state and the unreliability of connectivity. This message will be difficult to convey in the wake of tourists getting stranded on the wrong side of landslide in North Sikkim, but effort still needs to be made that Sikkim tackles even events – like aandolans and landslides – beyond its control rather well.

That said, there is a lull before a storm of tourists arrive in Sikkim, and the State might as well use this pause to catch its breath, take stock and resolve to plan better.

Around five years ago, at around this time, trouble in the neighbourhood had similarly hurt the tourist season. At that time as well Sikkim was dealing with the double whammy of the “situation” in Darjeeling and the still fresh memories of the 2011 earthquake which were discouraging tourists from including Sikkim in their itinerary. At that time as well, one had heard of officials resolving to explore innovative options to resuscitate tourism in Sikkim. No innovative thinking transpired at that time and tourism just kicked into gear on its own, and is unlikely that better planning, promotion and preparedness will shake out any time soon, but that should not stop one from hoping.

One needs to accept that tourism requires several things to fall into place to prosper. It is also unfortunately too susceptible to external factors [trouble en route to Sikkim for instance] and since Sikkim cannot do too much about external factors beyond its control, it should work hard and well to streamline everything within the State. The creation of more homestay options and development of new tourist spots, projects already underway, will go a long way towards embellishing the bouquet of itineraries that Sikkim can offer guests, as will the suggestion that even better human resource be trained for the service sector. And providing the backbone for all these improvements will be the roads over which tourism accelerates into Sikkim.

The highways are the modern world's great rivers. Just as most ancient civilisations came up on the banks of major rivers and their tributaries, so too in the present times does every “developmental” initiative require the presence of good roads. A boom invariably follows road development initiatives. The absence or poor road-worthiness of stretches would hence automatically prove counter-productive. If this analogy be accepted, then the situation has turned worrisome for Sikkim as too many of its roads are in rather poor disrepair.

Now, about tourism and roads. No matter how many man-hours are spent trying to come up with the most enticing slogans to attract tourists to Sikkim, they will come to naught if travel is not safe and reliable. Tourism depends heavily on positive word-of-mouth publicity and no traveler, who is already taking a risk visiting places based on just publicity brochures and glossy centre-spreads, will decide on a destination once he is told of the poor road conditions. Taking Sikkim's case, it is making an earnest play to place itself on the Buddhist circuit and with the homestay thrust, trying to appeal more strongly to tourists wishing to slow down with a laidback holiday. Needless to add, all those who decide on Sikkim for either of these qualities, will expect a tranquil stay here. A bone-rattling experience on the road to the monasteries or a home-stay is not something they would have been factored in. It must also be borne in mind that when one says good roads, one does not, by any stretch of imagination, imply wide, double-lane blacktops. All that is being wished for are motorable, safe and reliable roads. Bad roads (in fact all roads) turn into nightmares during monsoons in Sikkim. West Sikkim connectivity remains poor like always at present and Tsomgo and North Sikkim, the other places that tourists wish to visit, compete for Khatron-ke Khiladi levels of unreliability.

So, the road to promoting tourism in Sikkim lies literally in its roads. Improve them, maintain them and promote Sikkim well and the State has enough potential to survive even just on repeat tourists. Admittedly, this is easier said than done since roads lie beyond the Tourism Department's control, but the other arm, that of Roads & Bridges for the State roads, also belongs to the same Government and BRO is another step away with the Centre. Some coordination, better planning and prioritization should get the roads in better health, monsoons notwithstanding. There is nothing new in what is being suggested and there must have been several attempts to improve the blacktops in the past, but maybe Sikkim should try harder and more consistently.

Terrorism at the Taj: ‘Hotel Mumbai’ pulls no punches at TIFF

JOSEPH MCQUADE & EMILY LEDUC

theconversation.com

Director Anthony Maras' new film *Hotel Mumbai* had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film stars Dev Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire*), Armie Hammer (*Call Me By Your Name*), Jason Issacs (*Harry Potter*) and Anupam Kher (*The Big Sick*). All of these actors attended the premiere and participated in a compelling Q&A conversation with the audience after the film.

The movie depicts the Mumbai terror attacks that took place Nov. 26-29, 2008, when 10 gunmen belonging to the Pakistan-based militant organization Lashkar-e-Taiba staged a series of co-ordinated attacks across the city, ending with a multi-day siege of the luxurious Taj Mahal Hotel that left 164 dead and hundreds wounded.

Based on hundreds of hours of interviews with survivors and witnesses and told from the perspective of hotel guests, staff and to some extent the gunmen, the film sets out to recreate the attacks faithfully and authentically.

The film expertly ratchets up tension and confusion, drawing the viewer into a harrowing experience that is not broken up by lengthy plot digressions or exposition.

Hotel Mumbai provides a raw and rare look behind the curtain of a terrorist attack, inviting the audience to experience its unrelenting and gut-wrenching reality. The film doesn't concern itself with the contextual details that emerge in the aftermath of a terror plot; instead it replicates the confusion, panic and genuine fear one would feel at the time.

For almost the entire two hour run-time, the viewer is left to struggle with the intensity of that confusion, not knowing when or if safety will materialize.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, popular media in North America has moved from amorphous representations of political violence to a plot format that explicitly uses terrorism, invokes real militant groups and focuses almost exclusively on the United States and Islamic extremism as their bread and butter. Few films actually take the viewer inside the experience of terror plots as they happen; this is where *Hotel Mumbai* ushers in a new complex path with audiences.

The only potential drawback of this narrative style is that for viewers unfamiliar with the broader political context of terrorism in India — and in Western audiences they may be the majority — there is little information about where the attack comes from or how it fits into the larger story of the Indian subcontinent.

TERRORISM IN INDIA

The Mumbai gunmen were trained in Pakistan and, as depicted in the film, carried out their attack with direction via mobile phones from planners in Pakistan's metropolis port, Karachi. The gunmen were found to be members of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistan-based militant group that was also responsible for a 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament in New Delhi.

The existence of groups like LeT is a significant sore spot in India-Pakistan relations. India accuses Pakistan of enabling or even encouraging such groups and Pakistan consistently denies these allegations.

LeT emerged out of the radicalization of the Kashmir conflict — a territorial dispute between



India and Pakistan over which country has the right to govern the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley. This conflict began with the 1947 partition of British colonial India into the two sovereign nations of India and Pakistan and has gone through numerous phases of escalation and détente.

India's continued military presence and the human rights abuses carried out by security forces in Kashmir provide a major source of grievance to some Indian and Pakistani Muslims. Although India is home to the second largest Muslim population in the world after Indonesia, Muslims in India are heavily disadvantaged in comparison to the Hindu majority. They also experience higher rates of poverty and lower literacy levels.

Despite this, the vast majority of Muslims — whether in India or elsewhere — consistently reject religious extremism.

EVERYDAY HEROISM

As a suspenseful and emotional snapshot of the events of November 2008, the film certainly succeeds. The audience's applause felt genuine and visceral, not polite or obligatory. The cast themselves were visibly emotional on stage, notably when Maras revealed that one of the real-life survivors of the attack portrayed in the film was present in the audience. This survivor (unnamed here to avoid spoilers) received an immediate and emotional standing ovation.

The film is full of heroes, but not the kind that audiences are accustomed to seeing in movies about terror attacks. In *Hotel Mumbai*, heroes can die with the casual and unceremonious pulling of a trigger, just like anyone else. Though the film uses character archetypes, it does so in a way that disrupts common film tropes associated with the genre.

For example, the local police are brave but are hopelessly outgunned and out of their depth when faced by trained insurgents with automatic weapons. Armie Hammer's character, the white American male that so often saves the day in Hollywood blockbusters, spends most of the film wanting to protect his family but having no real idea how to do so.

By contrast, Anupam Kher's Chef Oberoi displays a quiet dignity by relinquishing his opportunity for escape in favour of protecting the hotel guests by calmly hosting them in one of the hotel's hidden lounges. Dev Patel, as always, gives a memorable performance as a hotel staff member who just wants to get back to his family but displays remarkable courage and compassion along the way.

Just as there is no Hollywood action hero ready to jump in and save the day, *Hotel Mumbai* also steers clear of depicting the kind of one-dimensional villains that dominate most films in the spy or terrorism genres. The attacks in the film (as in real-life) are brutal, shocking and almost casual in their indifferent disregard for human life.

But the gunmen themselves remain undeniably human. In one scene, we see the terrorists coldly gunning down unarmed civilians and in the next we see them teasing each other about whether there is pork in the canapés. Later, we see the inner conflict of one of the gunmen, who seems to be in over his head as he oscillates between crippling self-doubt and brutal determination.

It is the dissonance between these two dimensions that make this depiction of terrorism so compelling. We also see how the attack impacts each of the attackers in subtly different ways, reinforcing that each has been drawn into this act of horrific violence through their own distinct motivations, whether religious, political or socio-economic.

It is not necessarily that the gunmen in this movie are relatable or sympathetic in the traditional sense (for the most part they are not), but they are resolutely human and that is part of what makes their violence so disturbing. The viewer is asked to face the uncomfortable truth that the people who carry out these attacks might not be the monsters hiding in the shadows that we so often see depicted on screen, but are simply ordinary people carrying out extraordinary acts of brutality.

Despite the horror that this film paints with such gritty and meticulous attention to detail, *Hotel Mumbai* is ultimately not about violence as an act that is carried out upon passive victims. Instead, it is about the resistance, resilience and quiet heroism of people confronted by chaotic scenarios filled with impossible choices.

RIISING TERRORISM ON 'SOFT TARGETS'

The film asks us to challenge easy assumptions and to rethink any sensationalist preconceptions we may hold about how we would, or would not, react in such a crisis.

Hotel Mumbai feels every bit as relevant today as if it had been released back in 2008 when the attacks occurred. If anything, the passage of a decade has perhaps made the tragedy of the Mumbai attacks resonate even more strongly with international audiences.

Massacres carried out by armed gunmen in “soft targets” such as hotels, train stations and shopping malls have become depressingly common in recent years.

Historically most of al-Qaida's most well-known attacks have used explosives, making them devastating in their death tolls but also relatively difficult to plan and execute.

Since 2014, ISIS has popularized the strategy of using any and all weapons available to attack public spaces, making attacks carried out by their sympathizers incredibly challenging to prevent. This style of attack is widespread across the ideological spectrum with notable examples including the Norway massacre of 2011 and the Las Vegas shootings of 2017.

Hotel Mumbai is ultimately intended as an “anthem of resistance” for those who survive such attacks, a quiet memorial of those who don't and a sobering snapshot of the chaos of terrorism for those who, fortunately, have never found themselves inside its brutal plot.

[Joseph McQuade is SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for South Asian Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto; Emily LeDuc is Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Fellow, Queen's University, Ontario]

How social networks can save lives when disasters strike

DANIEL P. ALDRICH

theconversation.com

Soon after my family moved to New Orleans in the summer of 2005, we heard Mayor Ray Nagin's first warnings about Hurricane Katrina. With two young children, a job I hadn't started yet, and little in the way of savings, my wife and I couldn't wrap

our heads around leaving our freshly furnished home to spend money on a hotel in some distant city. So we ignored the call for evacuation.

As our neighbors began to pack up and head out, we figured they were overreacting. Then relatives began to make increasingly frantic phone calls and Kathy, a member of our religious

community, dropped by at midnight to persuade us to leave. We got in our van around 3 a.m., some 12 hours before the rain began to fall.

Many deaths that occur due to flooding, fires, hurricanes, mudslides and other disasters could be prevented if more people left vulnerable areas in time — as my family did at the last minute. But people don't always move, even after the authorities order their evacuation and warn them about imminent risks.

Since evacuating from New Orleans in 2005, I have traveled to vulnerable communities around the world to study how people get through and bounce back from major catastrophes. Through research in Japan, India, Israel and

the Gulf Coast, I have sought to capture the factors that create resilience.

Given that evacuation almost always saves lives, I wanted to understand why people often don't leave in the face of danger. To do so, I teamed up with colleagues, including some who work at Facebook, to analyze evacuation patterns based on information that people shared publicly on social media before, during and after hurricanes. We found that social networks, especially connections to those beyond immediate family, influence decisions to leave or stay in place before disasters.

INSIGHTS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA
Many communities that are vulnerable to disasters put a lot of resources into providing residents with early warnings. For example, in Montecito, California, during the January 2018 mudslides, local authorities and disaster managers tried to warn residents through channels that included

turn to 05



Arunachal flash flood toll rises to five

ITANAGAR, SEP 16 (PTI): With the recovery of one more body, the death toll in flash flood and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh rose to five while a girl was still missing, an official said Sunday.



The body of 32-year-old Mary Beyong of Modirijo who went missing since Friday, was retrieved by Banderdewa Police and NDRF team from Dikrongn river at Nepali Gaon near No 2 Pithaguri village in Assams Lakhimpur district on Saturday night, Capital Deputy Commissioner Prince Dhawan said.

However, a 10-year-old girl Pangpi Beyong was still missing though search and rescue teams were on the job to trace her, the DC said.

Flash flood and landslides triggered by incessant rains in the past few days, ravaged several parts of the state capital on Friday morning washing away 26 houses, while over 60 houses were fully or partially damaged at affected sites

like Modirijo, Donyi Polo area, Chandranagar, Lobi, GSS Police colony, Press colony, he said.

The approach road to Modirijo has been completely washed away while half of the culvert has been reported to be damaged in Donyi polo area.

Itanagar MLA Techi Kaso and the DC distributed relief materials like blankets, utensils and food items to the victims whose houses were totally washed away or damaged.

A medical team also participated in the relief mission and provided first aid, conducted health check-up of all those injured at Modirijo and Donyi Polo Colony.

Mobile ambulance has also been activated for any medical emergency, the DC added.

IWRM can reduce floods in downstream areas of hydel dams: Sharma

GUWAHATI, SEP 16 (PTI): For mitigating floods in the downstream areas of hydel dams in the North East region, a river science expert has suggested adoption of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in the area.

River science expert and former IIT-Roorkee Professor Nayan Sharma suggested that the existing or planned hydel dams of NEEPCO, Assam Power General Corporation (APGCL) and NHPC be overhauled to incorporate necessary flood cushion in the reservoir along with evolving optimal reservoir operation rule curves.

IWRM is a Water Resources Planning process which "promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems", Sharma told PTI.

He suggested using recent advance technology for mitigation of the flood devastations wrecked in



downstream areas of hydel dams.

The recent advance technologies include Piano Key Weir (PKW) for achieving enhanced discharging capacity and increased reservoir storage, river restoration scheme for maintaining required channel flood conveyance capacity, he said.

It also include comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment programme in the watershed areas for controlling sediment ingress to the reservoir, scientifically overhaul-

ing reservoir operation schedules.

"Implementation of the suggested solutions will turn around these mono-purpose run-of-the-river hydel projects into multi-purpose projects which will be able to accrue multiple benefits for flood moderation, stable river restoration and sustaining ecology, besides generating cheaper and eco-friendly clean hydro power," he said.

Sharma who is also associated with the Assam Water Resources department suggested that planners and policy makers consider adoption of the IWRM approach to derive optimal benefits for society by using the limited natural and investible resources in a sustainable manner.

"Ranganadi, Doyang, Kopili, Karbi Langpi and Umiam hydel dams in the North East are all operated on a single purpose mode devoid of any reservoir storage space for flood cushion to hold back flood flows, and thus regularly wreck havoc on the downstream crippling the lives of the people there," he said.



Arunchal MP suggests to Centre for dredging of Siang river

ITANAGAR, SEP 16 (PTI): Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal Pradesh, Nining Ering has suggested to the Centre for dredging of the Siang river to solve the recurrent flood and erosion problems in the downstream areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

The Siang river is called the 'Tsangpo in China and in Assam it is called the Brahmaputra.

The Congress MP from Arunachal East constituency on Saturday in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi apprised him of the large-scale soil erosion taking place along the banks of Siang river in East Siang district which has posed a serious threat to the lives of people in riverine areas.

With Siang river in spate and flowing above danger level, the MP expressed deep concern over large-scale siltation in the riverbed and soil erosions in downstream areas of Borguli and Serum villages under Mebo sub-division and Pertung, Sika-Bamin and Sika-Tode in Pasighat area.

Education, counselling support for street kids of Kolkata

KOLKATA, SEP 16 (PTI): Fifty street children will receive education and counselling support at a state-run school in the city as part of an initiative aimed at providing "safe spaces" to them, an NGO official said.

The idea is to provide underprivileged children an opportunity to play, learn and interact with each other, the official of Child In Need Institute (CINI) said Saturday.

The premises of Shyambazar AV School, next to a metro station in north Kolkata, will be thrown open for these 50 children - ones living on footpaths and frequenting traffic signals to eke out a living - from 5 pm to 7:30 pm, after school hours, the official said.



"The school shelter, made available with support of Women Development and Social Welfare Minister Shashi Panja, will provide educational, nutritional and counselling support to the children and seek to ensure their holistic development," he said.

CINI, in collaboration

with NGO 'Save the Children', aims to help and support the underprivileged and abandoned children of this city, he stated.

"We have created 91 such 'safe spaces' for the street children in the city. The Shyambazar school will be an addition to the initiative," he explained.

Of these 50 children

chosen for the programme, 30 are eligible for Aadhar cards, the CINI official said.

"The NGO has approached UIDAI authorities for a pilot project to link these children with Aadhaar. Our aim is to facilitate Aadhaar benefits for them and their families," the official added.

None trapped in Bagree market, blaze to be controlled soon: CM

KOLKATA, SEP 16 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said there was no report of anybody being trapped inside the Bagree Market, where a massive fire rages on even after 12 hours.

A concerned Banerjee, who left for business summits in Germany and Italy, told reporters at the NSC Bose International Airport that she also had no information of any casualty in the incident.

"Nobody is trapped in the building. Also, no report of any casualty or injury has reached us. Steps are being taken.

Fire will be controlled soon," she said, adding, two committees have already been formed to deal with any

emergency situation and natural calamity during her overseas tour.

The committees comprise a group of ministers and senior administrative officials, she said.

"I and the chief secretary will be available on the phone anytime. These two committees will look after any emergency situation," the CM said.

A massive fire erupted early Sunday at the multi-storey Bagree Market, which houses nearly 1,000 business establishments.

The fire continues to rage even after 12 hours in the market, which is around a kilometre away from the Writers' Building and the Reserve Bank of India office here.

How social networks can save lives...

contd from pg04

emails, social media alerts, press releases and deputies going door to door. Despite these efforts, not all residents evacuated, and nearly two dozen lost their lives.

Traditionally, much emphasis has been placed on the role of physical infrastructure preparedness during crisis. But in light of findings about the importance of social capital during crises, our team wanted to better illuminate human behavior during these events.

To understand evacuation behavior, social scientists have typically asked survivors weeks or even years after an event to recall what they did and why. Other researchers have waited at rest stops along evacuation routes and directly interviewed evacuees fleeing oncoming hurricanes or storms. We wanted to better capture nuances of human behavior without having to rely on memory or catching people as they stopped for gas and coffee.

To do so, we worked alongside researchers from Facebook using high-level, aggregated and anonymized summaries of city-level data before, during and after a disaster to construct the outcome variables "Did you evacuate?" and "If you did, how soon after the disaster did you return?"

Facebook engages in numerous academic collaborations across engineering, business and research disciplines. We believe that our research team is among the first to study the movement of so many people across multiple disasters using geolocation data.

TIGHT LOCAL NETWORKS MAY

ENCOURAGE STAYING PUT

Based on research showing that social ties provide resilience to people during crises, we suspected that social capital might be a critical factor in helping people decide whether to stay or go. By social capital, we mean people's connections to others and resources available to them through their social communities, such as information and support.

Some aspects of these resources are reflected through social media. With this in mind, we set out to study whether attributes of people's social networks impacted evacuation behavior. We looked at three different types of social ties:

- Bonding ties, which connect people to close family and friends
- Bridging ties, which connect them through a shared interest, workplace or place of worship
- Linking ties, which connect them to people in positions of power.

Our research - forthcoming in a peer-reviewed journal - indicates that, controlling for a number of other factors, individuals with more connections beyond their immediate families and close friends were more likely to evacuate from vulnerable areas in the days leading up to a hurricane.

We believe that this happens for several reasons. First, people with more bridging ties have far-reaching social networks. Those networks, in turn, may connect them to sources of support outside of areas directly affected by disasters. Second, people with more bridging ties may have built those networks by moving or trav-

eling more, and thus feel more comfortable evacuating far from home during a disaster.

Linking ties are also important. Our data showed that users whose social networks included following politicians and political figures were more likely to evacuate. This may be because they were more likely to receive warning information and trust authority figures disseminating that information.

In contrast, we found that having stronger bonding ties - that is, family and friends - made people less likely to evacuate leading up to a hurricane. In our view, this is a critical insight. People whose immediate, close networks are strong may feel supported and better-prepared to weather the storm.

One North Carolina woman, trying to explain why she wasn't leaving her vulnerable coastal home as Hurricane Florence approached, told a reporter that she didn't want to leave family and friends unprotected. And staying in place could have positive outcomes, such as a higher likelihood of rebuilding in existing neighborhoods.

But it is also possible that seeing relatives, close friends and neighbors decide not to evacuate may lead people to underestimate the severity of an impending disaster. Such misconceptions could put people at higher immediate risk and increase damage to lives and property.

[the writer is Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Urban Affairs and Director, Security and Resilience Program, Northeastern University]

SIKKIM	GOVERNMENT	GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY		
Gangtok	Monday 9th July, 2018	No. 354
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HOME DEPARTMENT GANGTOK		

No: 35/Home/2018	Dated: 20/06/2018
NOTIFICATION	
In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 (Act No. 8 of 1993), Shri. T.N. Sharma is hereby deemed to have been appointed as Chairperson, Sikkim Commission for Backward with effect from 29/05/2018.	
By order and in the name of the Governor.	
Alok K. Shrivastava, IAS Chief Secretary Government of Sikkim File No. Home/Confid./202/2013/02	

SIKKIM	GOVERNMENT	GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY		
Gangtok	Monday 9th July, 2018	No. 351
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HOME DEPARTMENT GANGTOK		

No: GOS/SJE&WD/L/18-19/6	Dated: 27/06/2018
NOTIFICATION	
In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993, the State Government is hereby pleased to appoint the following persons as members of the Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes to exercise the powers conferred on and to perform the functions assigned to it under the Act from the date of their assumption of Office, namely:	
1. Shri Mohan Dungmali, Lingdum Ranka, East Sikkim	- Member
2. Shri Dev Gurung, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim	- Member
3. Shri Chandra Khaling, Namchi, South Sikkim	- Member
4. Shri K.B. Thapa, Sudunglaxha, East Sikkim	- Member
By order and in the name of the Governor of Sikkim.	
Sarala Rai, IAS Secretary to the Government Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department	
R.O. No: 343/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Date: 13.09.18	

Gold for Mary Kom, Manisha gets silver in Polish boxing tourney

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI): The seasoned M C Mary Kom (48kg) collected her third gold medal of the year with a display of tactical brilliance while Manisha (54kg) settled for a silver in the 13th Silesian Open Boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice, Poland.

Five-time world champion Mary Kom, returning to the ring after recovering from some niggles that kept her out of the Asian Games, prevailed 5-0 against Kazakhstan's Aigerim Kassanayeva to pick up India's lone senior category gold at the event Saturday.

Her other two gold medals this year came in the inaugural India Open in Delhi and the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast. She also won a silver at the prestigious Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria.



ment in Bulgaria.

The 35-year-old former Olympic bronze-medallist was in her elements against

a taller opponent, displaying a brilliant counter-attacking strategy. The nimble-footed Indian showed sharp reflexes and did not allow a clear shot to Kassanayeva through the bout.

"Mary was terrific in executing her strategy, it was a flawless performance," India coach Raffaele Bergamasco told PTI from Gliwice.

The Manipuri, a 2014 Asian Games gold-medallist, took full advantage of her rival's hesitation and went full throttle in the final three minutes to strike some good body blows.

Her strong right hand worked well for her and she never allowed the southpaw to settle.

Manisha was next to take the ring against Ukraine's Ivanna Krupenya.

The Indian went down

2-3 even though she came across as the more aggressive of the two boxers.

"Manisha was very good in the bout and in my opinion, she deserved to win," said Bergamasco.

India also won four bronze medals in the senior category through former world champion I Sarita Devi (60kg), Ritu Grewal (51kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pooja Rani (81kg).

In the youth competition, Jyoti Gulia (51kg), a former world champion and India's only boxer to have qualified for next month's Youth Olympic Games in Argentina, was India's lone medallist with a gold.

In the junior competition though, the Indian team produced a terrific performance to sign off with 13 medals -- six gold, six silver and a bronze.

Broken wrist, brave heart: Tamim Iqbal applauded for batting with one hand

DUBAI, SEP 16 (PTI): Tamim Iqbal batted, got injured, visited a hospital, returned with a wrist fracture and batted again - this time with one hand, his act of bravado receiving instant applause in the real and virtual world.

A couple of hours after being told by doctors that his Asia Cup was over because of a fractured left wrist, Tamim walked out to bat with one hand after the fall of ninth wicket.

He hung on with centurion Mushfiqur Rahim and helped add 32 for the final wicket, lifting his side to 261. The end result was a massive win for Bangladesh over Sri Lanka in the tournament opener.

"There was a lot of pressure, losing lost two wickets early and Tamim couldn't bat. But decision to bat (again) was made by him. If he didn't want to bat, no one could push him. Credit goes to him for the decision," Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza said after the game on Saturday.



The dashing opener missing out will be a "big blow" for Bangladesh, according to the captain, who called Mushfiqur's innings one of the best by a cricketer from his country.

"Mushfiqur played one of the best ODI innings by a Bangladeshi. The way Mushfiqur finished the innings was very good.

"The crowd the way they supported us from the first ball was really good. Nice way to start the Asia Cup. I think it was more than Mirpur. Big stadium, crowd was full."

Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews, too, lauded Tamim while lamenting his team's heavy defeat.

"Batting was the main downfall today. Lasith was ab-

solutely brilliant. Three wickets for three runs, and we let them off the hook. We dropped some crucial catches.

"Still 260 was a chaseable target on this wicket. It played very well. We made some bad decisions while batting.

"We are under pressure. We only have one lifeline. We have to win it. It's a do or die game for us. We have to learn

from the mistakes from this game."

Mushfiqur scored a career-best 144 off 150 balls with 11 boundaries and four sixes for his sixth ODI hundred as Bangladesh scored 261 all out in 49.3 overs after opting to bat. In reply, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 124 in 35.2 overs.

Mathews said, "Tamim showed a lot of guts. I thought Mushfiqur batted really well. Mushfiqur was out there and he (Tamim) came in to bat. And that 20-30 runs also made the difference. It was a really bad performance from the batting unit.

"We had to change our combination because of Danuska and Chandimal's injury. We went in with one less batsman thinking Dilruwan can bat at number eight. But one of the batting has to be done by one of the top order batters.

They showed a lot of guts. Credits goes to Bangladesh, they outplayed us in all three departments of the game."

Male tennis players punished more than women, report

LOS ANGELES, SEP 16 (AFP): Male tennis players are almost three times more likely to be fined for losing their temper and smashing racquets than their female counterparts, The New York Times reported.

Male players were slapped with 1,517 fines compared to 535 fines for females according to data compiled by officials at Grand Slam tournaments for the period covering 1998 to 2018.

The figures obtained by the Times show that men received 649 fines for breaking racquets to 99 for women in tens of thousands of matches in the four Grand Slams over the last two decades.

Men were fined 344 times compared to 140 for "audible obscenity" and 287 to 67 for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Last week, Serena Williams accused the chair umpire Carlos Ramos of being a "liar" and a "thief" after she was cited for verbal abuse during the US Open women's final against Japan's Naomi Osaka.

"Because I'm a woman you are going to take this away from me?" she said to the tournament referee Brian Earley.

"That is not right." In the post-match news conference, Williams doubled down on her claim there is a double standard when it comes to punishment.

"I have seen other men call other umpires several things. I am here fighting for women's right and women's equality and for me to say 'thief' and for him to take a game it made me feel like it was sexist," she said.

"He's never took a game from a man because they said thief. For me, it blows my mind." She also smashed her rac-

quet and threatened to make sure that the Portuguese umpire never worked another match of hers again in the second set of a 6-2, 6-4 loss to Osaka.

"You will never, ever, ever be on another court of mine as long as you live," she said during the on court outburst.

"You are the liar. When are you going to give me my apology?" The incident led to scores of Williams' supporters coming to her defence but also to widespread criticism, especially on social media, of the 23-time Grand Slam winner.

Williams' first code violation in the Osaka match was for coaching which women have received 152 fines compared to 87 for men during the 20 years. One factor in the disparity in the data is that men play best-of-five set matches in Grand Slam events while women play best-of-three.

- 2009 MELTDOWN -

This was not the first time Williams has had a meltdown at the US Open. In 2009, Williams refused to apologize after threatening to shove a ball down a lineswoman's throat in an explosive-laden outburst.

Earlier this year at the Indian Wells tournament, Williams berated a female reporter in the players' lounge area for asking a question at a news conference about therapeutic use exemptions.

One Australian commentator took issue with Williams' claim she is fighting for women's rights.

"She is doing a terrible disservice to women's rights, to the #metoo movement, to gender equality," Caroline Wilson of the Australian Broadcasting Corp. said.

India have to address batting inadequacies before facing Australia: Chappell

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI): India need to sort out their inadequacies in batting before standing up to an "extremely strong" bowling attack later this year Down Under, feels former Australia captain Ian Chappell.

Virat Kohli's India will hope for redemption in Australia after Test series reverses in South Africa and England.

"India now have to look on rehabilitating their reputation in the highly anticipated series against Australia but the batting inadequacies have to be addressed," Chappell wrote in 'ESPNcricinfo.com'.

"While Australia's batting is questionable, with their two best players, Steven Smith and David Warner, missing through suspension, the bowling attack is still extremely strong."

India are slated to tour Australia for three T20 internationals, four Test matches and three ODIs from November 21 to January 18.

"If Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Patrick Cummins and Nathan Lyon remain fit then the



Indian batsmen will be in for a challenging time. In England it was movement through the air and off the seam that created regular problems for them - apart from Virat Kohli - but it will be the extra bounce in Australia that sorts the men from the men."

India were beaten 2-0 in the four-Test series on their last tour of Australia in 2014-15.

Chappell further said, "A confident and in-form Rohit Sharma would be an ideal player to bolster the batting in Australia. His authoritative horizontal bat shots are perfectly designed to cope with the testing extra bounce, but sadly Rohit has never really come to grips with batting in Test cricket. Selecting him for the tour would be a gamble."

The batting great termed India's 4-1 loss to England a "missed opportunity"

"India should view their disappointing 4-1 series loss to England as a missed opportunity. They were highly competitive in the series - apart from a disastrous loss at Lord's - but the squad had enough ability to do better than just compete.

"The batting was disappointing and especially the way they played spin bowling in Southampton. A great opportunity went begging when their failure to be more proactive against Moeen Ali meant a chance to level the series was squandered.

Apart from Cheteshwar Pujara, no player was prepared to alter the offspinner's flight path by leaving his crease. The series loss is even more of a wasted opportunity when you consider how well the Indian fast bowlers performed."

He said England should also watch out for the Australians ahead of next summer's Ashes.



Simranjit wins gold, Pinki settles for silver in Turkey

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI): Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Monika (48kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81kg) claimed gold medals as Indian boxers notched up an impressive seven podium finishes at the Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul, Turkey.

Simranjit, a former national medallist, defeated Turkey's Sema Caliskan to fetch the top honours.

Competing in the light fly category, Monika beat Ayse Caginer of Turkey to win the gold medal, while Bhagyabati got the better of Selma

Karakoyun, who is also from the host nation, in the light heavyweight category.

However, Pinki Jangra (51kg), a former Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist, had to be content with a silver as she lost to another local hope Busenaz Cakiroglu to sign off second in the tournament.

World Championship silver medallist Sonia Lather (57kg) too, settled for a bronze.

Bhagyabati was declared the most scientific boxer of the tournament, and the Indian women's team finished third.

Zlatan pleased to make Toronto his 500th goal

LOS ANGELES, SEP 16 (AFP): Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic made history, scoring his 500th career goal in stunning fashion but it wasn't enough to lift the Los Angeles Galaxy to a win over Toronto FC.

The 36-year-old Ibrahimovic as always had a flair for the dramatic and he did just that Saturday in becoming the third active footballer to reach the milestone, joining Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The six-foot-five (1.95 metre) Ibrahimovic released a perfectly-timed roundhouse kick in the 43th minute that fooled goalkeeper Alex Bono for his 17th goal of the season.

The goal cut the deficit to 3-1 and sparked a three-goal Galaxy rally but the defending MLS champions would go on to win 5-3 in front of a crowd of 30,700 at BMO Field in Toronto.

"I am happy for Toronto because they will be remembered as my 500th victim," said Ibrahimovic.

Ibrahimovic came into Saturday's game tied for second in MLS scoring.

"I was close to the goal. It reminds me of a goal I did in Ajax," he said.

"It came from a cross and I turned around and I hit it. I was just trying to hit the goal and it went in."

Ibrahimovic scored 62 of his goals for Sweden with the rest coming while playing for Malmö FF, Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester United and now the Galaxy.

Jonathan Osorio's 75th-minute go-ahead goal halted a three-goal Galaxy comeback and helped give Toronto some much needed points in their playoff push.

Jay Chapman added an insurance goal in stoppage time with a low shot to the corner.

"It is an incredible achievement," said Galaxy coach Dominic Kinneer of Ibrahimovic's goal. "The guy is a great goal scorer and it is a memorable one for him for many reasons."

Typhoon Mangkhut rips through Hong Kong as Philippines toll rises

HONG KONG, SEP 16 (AFP): Typhoon Mangkhut rocked Hong Kong en route to mainland China on Sunday, injuring scores and sending skyscrapers swaying, after killing at least 30 people in the Philippines and ripping a swathe of destruction through its agricultural heartland.

The world's biggest storm this year left large expanses in the north of the main Philippine island of Luzon underwater as fierce winds tore trees from the ground and rain unleashed dozens of landslides.

In Hong Kong weather authorities issued their maximum alert for the storm, which battered the city with gusts of more than 230 kilometres per hour and left over 100 injured, according to government figures.

As the storm passed south of Hong Kong, trees were snapped in half and roads blocked, while some windows in tower blocks were smashed and skyscrapers swayed, as they are designed to do in intense gales.

The Philippines was just beginning to count the cost of the typhoon, but police confirmed at least 30 were killed when it smashed into northern Luzon on Saturday.

In the town of Baggao it demolished houses, tore off roofs and downed power lines. Some roads were cut off by landslides and many remained submerged.

Farms across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, were sitting under muddy floodwater, their crops ruined just a month before harvest.

"We're already poor and then this happened to us. We have lost hope," 40-year-old Mary Anne Baril, whose corn and rice crops were spoilt, told AFP.

"We have no other means to survive," she said tearfully.

Nearly five million people, almost a quarter of whom survive on just a few dollars per day, live in the storm's path.

An average of 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippines each year, killing hundreds of people.

The latest victims were mostly peo-



ple who died in landslides, including a family of four. In addition to the 30 killed in the Philippines, a woman was swept out to sea in Taiwan.

The Philippines' deadliest storm on record is Super Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 7,350 people dead or missing across the central part of the country in November 2013.

In Hong Kong, waters surged in Hong Kong's famous Victoria Harbour and coastal fishing villages, from which hundreds of residents were evacuated to storm shelters.

Some roads were waist-deep in water with parts of the city cut off by floods and fallen trees on Sunday afternoon as the rains continued.

In the fishing village of Tai O, where many residents live in stilt houses built over the sea, some desperately tried to bail out their inundated homes.

"Floodwater is rushing into my home but I'm continuously shovelling

the water out. It's a race against time," Tai O resident Lau King-cheung told AFP by phone.

The government warned people to stay indoors but some ventured out, heading to the coast to take photos.

A couple and child were seen by an AFP reporter taking pictures on a pier known as a popular Instagram spot as waves surged into it and almost submerged it.

Others stayed at home but were terrified by smashing windows in their apartments.

"The entire floor and bed are covered in glass," one resident told TVB after her bedroom window shattered. "The wind is so strong." Almost all flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled.

In the neighbouring gambling enclave of Macau, all 42 casinos shut Saturday night and businesses were shuttered Sunday morning, some boarded

up and protected by piles of sandbags.

As the storm moved south past Macau, its streets became submerged under water gushing from the harbour.

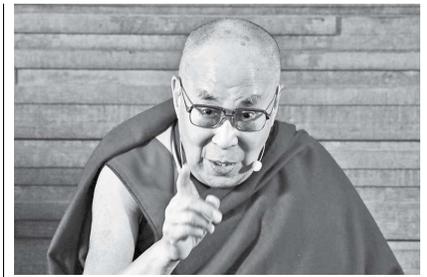
Rescue workers navigated the roads on jetskis, rescuing residents trapped in their shops.

The government and casinos are taking extra precautions after Macau was battered by Typhoon Hato last year, which left 12 dead.

Preparations were in high gear on China's southern coast, including in Yangjiang, which is not often hit by major typhoons and where the city's 2.4 million people were bracing for a direct hit.

Further down the coast preparations were also underway in Zhanjiang, where some villagers feared for the worst.

"I couldn't sleep last night, I saw the typhoon on television and how intense it was," said 55-year-old Chan Yau Lok.



Dalai Lama: I knew of sex abuse by Buddhist teachers since 1990s

THE HAGUE, SEP 16 (AFP): The Dalai Lama said Sunday he has known about sexual abuse by Buddhist teachers since the 1990s and that such allegations are "nothing new".

The Tibetan spiritual leader, revered by millions of Buddhists around the world, made the admission during a four-day visit to the Netherlands, where he met on Friday with victims of sexual abuse allegedly committed by Buddhist teachers.

He was responding to a call from a dozen of the victims who had launched a petition asking to meet him during his trip, part of a tour of Europe. "We found refuge in Buddhism with an open mind and heart, until we were raped in its name," the victims said in their petition.

"I already did know these things, nothing new," the Dalai Lama said in response on Dutch public television NOS late Saturday. "Twenty-five years ago... someone mentioned about a problem of sexual allegations" at a conference for western Buddhist teachers in Dharamshala, a hill town in northern India, he added.

The Dalai Lama, 83, lives in exile in Dharamshala. People who commit sexual abuse "don't care about the Buddha's teaching. So now that everything has been made public, people may concern about their shame," he said, speaking in English.

Tseten Samdup Choekyapa, a representative of the Tibetan spiritual leader in Europe, said Friday that the Dalai Lama "has consistently denounced such irresponsible and unethical behaviour". Tibetan spiritual leaders are due to meet in Dharamshala in November. "At that time they should talk about it," the Dalai Lama said in his televised comments Saturday. "I think the religious leaders should pay more attention."

Killer storm weakens, but officials warn devastation far from over

NEW BERN (US) SEP 16 (AFP): A killer storm that left up to 13 people dead weakened to a tropical depression on Sunday, but US authorities warned the devastation it caused - including catastrophic flooding - is far from over.

Most of the fatalities from Florence, which made landfall Friday as a Category 1 hurricane, have occurred in North Carolina, where officials confirmed eight victims. They included three who died "due to flash flooding and swift water on roadways," the Duplin County Sheriff's Office reported.

A woman and her baby were among the first casualties when a tree fell on their house, contributing to a death toll that US media said had reached 13 - 10 in North Carolina and three in South Carolina, according to CNN.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) downgraded Florence to a tropical depression on Sunday morning, adding that "flash flooding and major river flooding will continue over a significant portion of the Carolinas."

As of 5:00 am (local time) on Sunday, maximum sustained winds had weakened to near 35 miles (56 kilometers) per hour, the NHC said.

On Saturday, some residents tried to return home, driving through flooded highways and armed with chainsaws to clear fallen pine trees that covered the road.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper warned against such behavior as roads became increasingly



dangerous.

"All roads in the state right now are at risk of floods," he said. "As rivers keep rising and rain keeps falling, the flooding will spread. More and more inland counties are issuing mandatory evacuations to get people to safety quickly."

He earlier said the storm system "is unloading epic amounts of rainfall: in some places, measured in feet, not inches." Steve Goldstein of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said some areas have already received two feet of rain and could expect up to 20 inches more as the system moved "slowly, nearly stationary" over eastern North Carolina.

In New Bern, a riverfront city near the North Carolina coast that saw storm surges of up to 10 feet (three meters), residents took stock of the damage after flood waters began receding and au-

thorities rescued hundreds of stranded people. Charles Rucker, a retired teacher, had only spent five nights in his newly-purchased house, built in 1830, when Florence struck. "It was like a bullet train coming through the living room. Nothing I ever experienced before, I was truly scared," he told AFP. "We have 4,200 damaged homes," Mayor Dana Outlaw told CNN.

The doors of many houses suffered so much wind damage they appeared to have been kicked in, while the city's beloved fiber-glass bear statues, which are sponsored by local businesses, were floating down streets.

However, authorities said 16 wild ponies on hurricane-struck Ocracoke Island, located off the North Carolina coast, were safe.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster on Saturday announced that

a 61-year-old woman had died when her car hit a downed tree. CNN also reported a man and a woman died in South Carolina's Horry County due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

President Donald Trump tweeted late Saturday that "five deaths have been recorded thus far," and expressed sympathy to the victims' families.

The White House said Trump would visit hurricane-hit areas next week "once it is determined his travel will not disrupt any rescue or recovery efforts."

More than 800,000 customers in North Carolina were without power and 21,000 people were being housed in 157 shelters across the state.

The military announced Saturday it was deploying nearly 200 soldiers to assist in storm response and recovery efforts, along with 100 trucks and equipment.

London Mayor calls for second Brexit referendum

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, SEP 16 (PTI): London Mayor Sadiq Khan on Sunday called for a second Brexit referendum as he criticised the Conservative party-led UK government's increasingly "chaotic approach" to the negotiations with the 28-member European Union (EU).

The Pakistani-origin Opposition Labour Party leader said the fresh vote should offer voters the choice of staying in the EU against any deal the UK government manages to strike or against a "no-deal" Brexit, if an agreement cannot be reached.

Writing in the 'Observer' newspaper, Khan warned that with the UK due to leave the EU in six months, by March 2019, it now faced either a "bad deal" or "no deal".

"Both these scenarios are a million miles away from what was promised during the EU referendum campaign," Khan said, claiming that independent analysis had forecast 500,000 fewer jobs across Britain by 2030 if a Brexit deal is not reached.

"I've become increasingly alarmed as the chaotic approach to the negotiations has become mired in confusion and deadlock, leading us down a path that could be hugely damaging not only to London, but the whole country," he said.

The former Labour Party MP from Tooting in south London warned that the whole Brexit debate had become more about former foreign secretary Boris Johnson's "political ambitions" than what was good for the UK.

"The need for another public vote on Brexit was never inevitable, or something I ever thought



I'd have to call for," he said.

"But the reality is that the abrupt failure of the government and the huge risk we now face of either a bad deal or a 'no deal' Brexit means that giving people a fresh say on our future is now the right, and only, approach left for the good of our country," Khan added.

He said the government had failed to put the national interest ahead of party politics.

As calls for a People's Vote campaign for a second referendum has been building up, British Prime Minister Theresa May had said that "giving in" to such calls for a second referendum on the final terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU would be "a gross betrayal of our democracy".

People's Vote, a cross-party group that includes several high-profile figures and MPs, has been trying to sway the Labour Party to back its campaign and Khan's open support will come as a welcome boost for the drive.

Meanwhile, in a letter to UK Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, published by 'The Sunday Times',

Labour's shadow Brexit Secretary Sir Keir Starmer warned the government that Labour MPs will vote down attempts to force the country into a "blind Brexit".

The Labour Party's official policy remains to respect the outcome of the EU referendum in 2016, and not to call for a new one but to "leave all options on the table" if a deal is not agreed by Parliament.

Party leader Jeremy Corbyn himself has repeatedly failed to rule out the prospect of a second vote, but has consistently said it is not party policy and Labour is not advocating the issue.

He will now be under pressure to make a more vocal stance in favour of a second referendum.

In a referendum in June 2016, 51.9 per cent voters had backed Britain's exit from the EU and 48.1 per cent had voted to Remain.

According to a series of recent opinion polls, the chances of the vote being overturned in favour of Remain has been gaining ground as the Brexit negotiations between the UK and EU fail to reach a decisive phase.



A STONE SELFIE! Actress Emma Stone stops for autographs and photo ops with fans during the premiere of *Maniac* in London.

Shahid Kapoor on getting boxed as "chocolate boy": There were no options

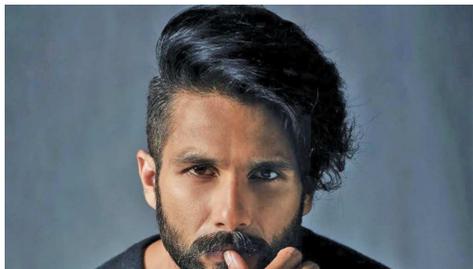
NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI): He may have proved his mettle as a performer with films such as "Kaminey", "Haider" and "Padmaavat", but Shahid Kapoor says initially it was not easy for him to score versatile characters.

The 37-year-old actor, who made his Bollywood debut with college romance "Ishq Vishk", said it was tough for him to break out of the "chocolate boy" image.

"I have always tried to get good and versatile roles. I wanted to show my versatility. But nobody used to offer me such scripts. They used to think that I am only suitable for chocolate boy and college student roles. There were no other options," Shahid said in an interview here.

The actor said it was sheer hard work and perseverance that helped him in convincing the filmmakers that he has much more to offer than just being a lover boy.

"It's been 15 years since I have been working in the-



dustry and after much hard work, now I am being offered diverse roles.

"It's been a long journey and I have made a lot of effort. Today, I feel very fortunate that people also think of me as an actor who plays a variety of characters," he said.

Shahid's next film, "Batti Gul Meter Chalu" is another addition to his diverse filmography and the actor says his character in the new feature was unlike others he has played on screen.

"It is diametrically opposite to what I played in 'Pad-

maavat". Sushil Kumar Pant, my character, has verbal diarrhea. He is completely immoral and has no values."

Directed by Shree Narayan Singh, the film is set in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district and narrates a story of electricity theft in rural areas of India.

"There are many such issues that people face in those areas and we have addressed these in the film," Shahid said.

Also starring Shraddha Kapoor, Divyendu Sharma, and Yami Gautam, "Batti Gul Meter Chalu" will hit the theatres on September 21.

TWO YEARS OF 'PINK': STUDIOS SAID WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL IN MAKING A FILM ABOUT CONSENT

JUSTIN RAO

Shoojit Sircar's "Pink" highlighted the importance of consent, a film that not only won box office battle but also a National award, and writer Ritesh Shah says producers were not ready to back it as they did not find any merit in the story.

Released on September 16, 2016, "Pink", featured megastar Amitabh Bachchan as a lawyer defending three girls, Taapsee Pannu, Kirti Kulhari and Andrea Tariang, who were molested.

"It isn't easy to attract people to theatre to see a film about consent. For three years it didn't get made. No production house no corporate stepped forward.

"I was so sure at one of the corporate houses that the film will be approved because there were about 20 odd people, most of them young and many girls. I thought here it'll work. But they were like 'what is the big deal?'," Shah told PTI.

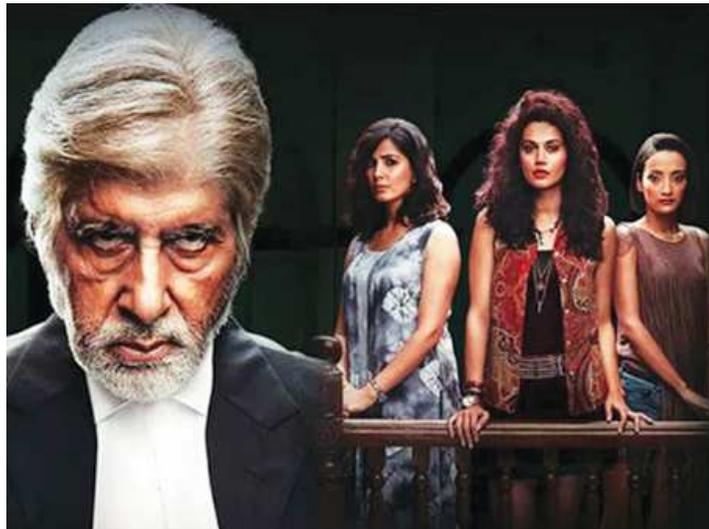
"Pink" was produced by Ronnie Lahiri, Sheel Kuma and Shoojit acting as a creative producer.

Things, however, changed once the film was out and received a lot of love.

"Later some of the studios were apologising. I said no point apologising now, if you couldn't see it you couldn't see it. Somebody like a Shoojit Sircar could see the film on paper, others couldn't."

Shah says the film's journey began as a commentary on moral policing before turning into a relevant piece on the importance of consent.

"Pink" was earlier titled "Eve" but the makers were



not sure if it will work with the audience. During a discussion on WhatsApp, Shah proposed "Pink" and Shoojit instantly liked it.

From there, the film had nearly 16 and a half drafts till it was finally locked. The team, though, was very confused about the climax.

While in the film it is shown that the girls win the case, Shah said they were initially in two minds.

"There was a lot of time we felt it would be filmy if the girls win. We also thought if they lose, why are we making this film? My spouse said it's like you are taking us on a fight and then throwing an ice cold water on us. We were conflicted about it till the end."

It was Shoojit who had asked Shah to put himself in the position of the judge, played by Dhritiman Chatterjee, and think what a man

with decades of experience in a court room would think of the case.

"Shoojit said look yourself in a room, think about it and then write a judgement. I did exactly that and the end came. We don't show the quantum of the judgement as the judgement just establishes the guilt," Shah adds.

Upon its release, one of the dialogues from the film became a pop culture reference regarding consent: "No means no." The writer says while "no means no" was always a thought, they did not have that particular line till a long time.

Initially, Bachchan had suggested that since his character already says so much and makes a point, for the final argument, he would simply say 'no', a logic which worked for Shah.

The team went to Delhi

to shoot and the writer was supposed to join them when something "divine" happened.

"Somebody sent me a picture on Facebook of a coffee mug which had 'no is a complete sentence' written on it. I thought I want to write something around this for the final argument because it is important. So I saved the picture and showed it to Bachchan sir."

When the team returned to Mumbai to shoot the court sequences, Shah was ready with six to eight lines, including the clincher, "no means no."

"The only line they dropped was 'don't use your hands to turn that no into a yes.' Rest they retained. It was a really last minute addition. I lost the phone in which I had that picture and no one seems to remember who sent me the divine coffee mug!"

Beach house for "Bigg Boss" contestants this season

LONAVALA, SEP 16 (PTI): Bringing alive several elements of beach, the "Bigg Boss" house for season 12 looks nothing less than a holiday destination.

The set has been designed by art director Omung Kumar and his wife Vanita.

"Last time my wife said, we should have a beach house theme for 'Bigg Boss' as we were planning to buy a beach house in Goa. My wife was hell bount that we get a beach house, she wanted it two years back but that did not happen," Omung said in an interview.

"We have shells, star fish, three big sea horses are there and fish are there on the door handle. Certain decor things are bought while shells and all are custom made. But assembling these things was difficult," he said.

Going by the theme this season, the show was also launched in Goa by host Salman Khan earlier this month.

The house is done in shades of blue, turquoise, pearl ice and teal by adding element of underwater mystique to the



decor.

"We want to give experience of beach. This season's innovation is the jodi," Omung said.

Chandeliers with fish detailing are an important part of the decor of the house. The wall in the living area, just above the TV, through which host Salman interacts with the contestants, is flanked by seashells, starfish, oysters, etc.

A ship-shape kitchen top is combined with colourful crockery and the dining area has a huge wooden boat hung upside down and the sequin dolphins are embedded on the wall.

The bedroom looks lively in shades of blue and one side of the wall create an

underwater illusion.

The garden area has a jail with three beds and a toilet inside, there is a swimming pool, swings and a boat shaped seating area besides the gym.

"The jail should look grungy so we have retained that. But we have done a small innovation, where one can get food," Omung said.

The confession room has an unconventional look this time with colourful lanterns and cushions and a low wooden sitting.

With a manpower of 200-300, it took about two months to set up the 'beach house' theme this season.

The show is set to premiere tonight at 9 pm on Colors channel. This season will again see some commoners being locked in the house for three months with celebrity contestants.

Around 16 contestants will be there in the show, including celebs like Dipika Kakar, Nehha Pendse, Srishty Rode, Karanvir Bohra, Ghazal singer Anup Jalota and cricketer Sreesanth will be part of the show.

ARIES: Someone may skip out on responsibilities today, Aries, causing extra tasks to fall to everyone else, including you. This might stir up some anger and resentment and it's definitely going to cause more stress. Delegate tasks if you can. Put yours in order of urgency and then take them one at a time slowly and carefully. If the less important ones have to wait until tomorrow, so be it!

TAURUS: If you've been planning to set off on a trip soon, Taurus, make a list of what you need to do beforehand and check off each task as you complete it. Otherwise you might panic at the last minute because you've forgotten something important. Stay calm even if it seems impossible. You're less likely to forget anything if you stay focused.

GEMINI: You may have been

worried about money lately, Gemini. Today a family member could make an expenditure that you view as unnecessary and irresponsible. Before you become angry know that all may not be as it seems! If you look at the situation objectively, you may see that you aren't in dire financial straits and the expenditure didn't take that much out of the family coffers.

CANCER: Today you might find it necessary to turn down an invitation to a social event, Cancer, and the host might for some reason seem offended. Your friend is probably overworked and stressed and apt to overreact to just about any situation. Relax a little. Explain things to your friend and then propose that you get together at another time. That's all you can do now.

LEO: Have you been doing a lot of walking lately? If so, Leo, your feet may be sore. This could affect your energy level considerably, not to mention your ability to get any work done. Concentrate on routine tasks that require little thought and can be done sitting down. Stay out of any squabbles! Relax in a hot bath tonight.

VIRGO: An event could find a current or potential love partner paying a lot of attention to others, Virgo. You might feel neglected and unloved, as though your friend is doing this to hurt you. This probably isn't the case. Your partner is just trying to be sociable and doesn't realize that it upsets you. Do some mingling. Your friend might have the same reaction as you and come running!

LIBRA: Do you sometimes go about

things backward, Libra? Are you caught up in the rat race of trying to have more money and security with the idea that eventually you'll earn the freedom to do what makes you happy? The happiness factor actually works in reverse. You must first be who you are and then take the necessary actions in order to have what you really want.

SCORPIO: An angry call from someone who lives far away might catch you off guard today, Scorpio. In your mind, the person has no reason to be angry and is blowing things out of proportion. They probably won't listen to reason. Say as calmly as you can that you'll get in touch tomorrow and then hang up. Give this person time to calm down before even trying to straighten things out.

SAGITTARIUS: Today you might

spend a lot of time looking for a lost object, Sagittarius. This item may only have sentimental value. Still, it's important to you that you find it. This isn't a good day to search. You're in a rather frenzied state and could look right at it without seeing it. Wait until tomorrow to look. What you seek is probably nearby and just hidden in some way.

CAPRICORN: A minor quarrel or separation could take place with a love partner, Capricorn, probably over something that seems trivial. It's likely to get your dander up to the point where you may never want to see this person again. Go for a workout or brisk walk to clear your head, get the endorphins going, and view the situation more objectively. Then phone your friend and work it out.

AQUARIUS: Too much stress from overwork could have your nerves on edge today, Aquarius. When someone makes an offhand remark, you might see insult where none is intended. Don't get so jumpy that you imagine traitors behind every door. Work alone if you can, and take a walk to clear your head. This will put you in a better frame of mind and a more relaxed space.

PISCES: Squabbles may break out among members of your group, Pisces. You might wonder what the big deal is since what they're arguing over seems rather silly. Apparently it's important to them! If you feel up to it, get your friends out of their emotional chaos and view the subject more objectively. It might not calm them down, but at least you'll have done something!