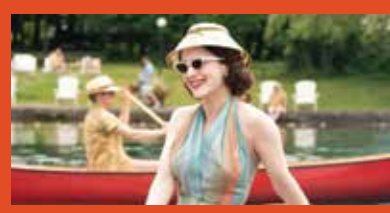




**MALAYALAM ACTOR, FILM CREW
STRANDED IN HIMACHAL VILLAGE**
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**'LIKE' ISN'T A LAZY LINGUISTIC
FILLER – THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SNOBS NEED TO, LIKE, PIPE DOWN**
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**'THE MARVELOUS MRS
MAISEL' SEASON 3 TO
PREMIERE ON DECEMBER 6**
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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

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Bikram Pradhan unloads on MLAs who switched sides to BJP

**BHIM RAWAT
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

A section of the Sikkim Democratic Front party cadre has gone public with dissatisfaction over ten of its legislators switching sides and being unable to play the role of the opposition as SDF representatives. Since a senior SDF leader, who was also the party whip at one time, is part of this group, the party could face serious crisis if these ten legislators do not revert their decision to join BJP as is being demanded by this upset section.

SDF's Bikram Pradhan recently expressed this dissatisfaction on social media and appears to have opened the floodgates of criticism within the party. SDF, it may be recalled, has been very controlled in its comments on the defection by its MLAs and this must have led to some



confusion in the ranks.

The ten MLAs in question have reportedly returned to Sikkim and are said to be meeting supporters and explaining their stand.

Now, it is learnt that a section of the SDF party-workers have decided to come out on the streets demanding that the 10 MLAs withdraw their membership from BJP and continue serving

as Opposition MLAs of the SDF.

Although SDF gave the party ticket to KB Rai from Chujachen constituency in the recent Assembly election, it was former Chujachen MLA, Bikram Pradhan, who went door-to-door on the directions of the party president to campaign. Even KB Rai had credited Mr Pradhan for his victory in the election.

The area MLA has now joined BJP and has even switched off his phone to avoid questions, Mr Pradhan contends.

He further warned that the ten legislators cannot "sell" the people's mandate to serve their personal interest without consulting party cadres and supporters.

While the ten legislators claim that they took permission from the party president, Pawan Chamling before joining BJP, Mr Chamling is claiming that his MLAs have betrayed him, Mr Pradhan adds.

At the moment, SDF cadres are faced with a dilemma compounded by the fact they continue to be kept in the dark not only about what happened and why but also what the party plans to do next. This leaves them undecided about whether

turn to pg02



PNGS 'robotechs' in Shanghai for Robotex Asia

GANGTOK, 20 AUG: A three-member team of Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior Secondary School reached Shanghai in China to represent

the country at Robotex Asia. The three Class XII students, Bathsheba Lepcha, Perna Pradhan and Sristika Sharma, are being

accompanied by their mentor, Ivan D Lepcha, who is also the head of the Physics department at PNGSSS, as team coach.

Resolve teachers' stir in democratic manner: Bengal's personalities write to Mamata

KOLKATA, AUG 20 (PTI): Ten personalities of West Bengal, including filmmaker Aparna Sen have written an open letter to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urging her to resolve the agitation of para-teachers in the state in a democratic manner.

The letter sent by 'Citizen Speak India' referred to alleged police lathicharge on and arrest of para-teachers during their hunger strike at Kalyani in Nadia district on August 17 to press for hike in their salaries.

The filmmaker and the actors were among the 49 who had written an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 24 in which they had voiced their concerns over alleged rise in incidents of mob lynching across the country triggering questions on their silence during incidents of violence in West Bengal.

The other signatories of the letter to Banerjee, which was sent on Monday, were actors Parambrata Chatterjee, Kaushik Sen and his son Riddhi Sen, the youngest to have won the national award for the best actor.

The letter said, "We would like to draw your attention to some extremely violent incidents that have recently taken place in West Bengal.

"We have been noticing with a great deal of anxiety that instead of trying to resolve the peaceful democratic protests of teachers of this state through sane dialogue and debate, the

turn to pg02

CM announces Krishna Pranami Mandir with Vrindavan at Dodak

NAMCHI, 20 AUG (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) paid his obeisance at Shree Krishna Pranami Mangaldham Namphing Bermiok today. He was accompanied by the Minister Ecclesiastical Department, Sonam Lama alongside Confidential Secretary, Bikash Basnett, officials, local gentry and a large number of pilgrims.

At the onset, the Chief Minister offered his prayers and attended aarti at the main shrine.

Addressing the gathering, he extended his best wishes on the month long Shrimad Bitak Katha Puja Evum Shrimukh Vaani Paath Samaroha at the dham.

The CM also announced that a Shree Krishna Pranami Mandir along with Vrindavan will soon be set up at Dodak, West Sikkim. The CM stated that with the commencement of the new Sikkim State Government



priority is provided to make concrete positive changes for the holistic benefit of the public and the state at large.

He also informed that the management committee of the Mangaldham should be headed by a strong minded individual who is not particularly politically affiliated and can steer the said

committee into much needed upgradation.

Additionally, the CM reiterated that the various communities in Sikkim have peacefully co-existed from time immemorial and that the same should be maintained by the citizens of the State.

He elucidated that the demands placed by the Mangaldham Man-

agement Committee will be looked into at the earliest. Furthermore, the CM urged that Mangaldham should be made into one of the most sought after pilgrimage tourist destinations in the State.

During the course of the programme a brief pravachan was also presented by Prachaarya, Mahendra Maharaj.

GJM leaders Gurung, Giri move HC for pre-arrest bail

JALPAIGURI (WB), AUG 20 (PTI): Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leaders Bimal Gurung and Roshan Giri have moved the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court seeking anticipatory bail in connection with around 120 criminal cases pending against them.

Hearing the prayers on Monday, a division

bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and M Mandal directed the West Bengal government to file a note on the cases pending against them so that it can segregate them in accordance with the seriousness of the charges.

The court directed the state lawyers to produce the note before it on August 22, when the petitions of

the two leaders of Darjeeling hills will be taken up for resumed hearing.

Around 120 criminal cases were filed by police against Gurung and Giri during the statehood agitation by the Morcha in 2017.

A PTI report had on Monday erroneously said the bail prayers of the two were rejected by the court.

3 Bhutan nationals held with caterpillar fungi worth Rs 1 cr

Jalpaiguri (West Bengal), Aug 20 (PTI): Three Bhutan nationals were nabbed from India-Bhutan border town of Jaigaon in West Bengal's Alipurduar district and five kg "Keeda Jodi" or caterpillar fungus worth Rs 1 crore in the international market seized from them, a senior SSB officer said on Tuesday.

"Keeda Jodi", also called "Himalayan viagra", is a fungus that grows as a parasite on a species of caterpillar found only in certain regions of the Himalayan range.

It is worth more than gold in China for its claimed



medicinal benefits such as curing cancer, slowing ageing process and working as an aphrodisiac.

"Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) and forest officers of Hamiltonganj range nabbed Thimpu residents Chorten Namgyal, Dorjee Kheyang and

Khombu Dorjee from Jaigaon on Monday night and seized 'Keeda Jodi' worth Rs 1 crore," SSB 53rd battalion commandant Arvind Kumar said.

Kumar said the nabbed Bhutan nationals and the seized caterpillar fungus were handed over to the forest officials.

Groom fails NRC test, wedding called off

GUWAHATI, AUG 20 (PTI): A family in Silchar in Assam has called off the wedding of their daughter when the groom failed to provide his citizenship credentials.

Dilwar Hussain Laskar, of Nayagram village near Silchar was in love with a local girl and the two families had agreed to their marriage.

But trouble arose when the girl's family wanted to know from his family on August 15 whether his name was in the citizens register.

"We wanted to check whether the person seeking to marry the daughter of the family is a genuine Indian citizen or an illegal foreigner staying in the



country as the matter would impact her future", said a member of the girl's family.

But Dilwar's name was not in the draft NRC. He was among the 40 lakh people whose name was omitted from the draft citizens register which was published in

July last year.

Dilwar's family claimed that the names of all his family members are in the NRC and were hopeful that his name will be included in the final NRC to be published on August 31.

The girl's family was not con-

vinced and called off the wedding.

The final NRC is set to be published on August 31 and little is known about what happens to those whose name do not figure in it. They can appeal at the foreigners tribunal, move the Gauhati High Court and the Supreme Court but what happens to them in the interim period is again unknown.

According to villagers the couple has eloped and the police said the woman's family has filed an FIR at Silchar police station alleging Dilwar has kidnapped her.

Investigations are on, the police added.

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in Nepali**

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Bhasha Manyata Divas at Lingi Payong

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

The 28th Nepali Bhasha Manyata Divas was observed at Lingi Payong School on Tuesday which was also attended by teachers and students, a press release informs. Teacher, Yog Kr Bhandari conducted and coordinated the programme.

On the occasion, the origin of Nepali language and contributions of different persons were also highlighted by the teacher. Students from class VI-X recited self composed poems and read out speeches on Nepali language and its importance.

A small game on translation was also conducted for the students wherein Ramesh Dahal emerged as the winner.

Free health camp held at Sardong

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

Bhavishya Bharat conducted free health camp today at Sardong Village, West Sikkim under the Sanjeevani Project supported by The Hans Foundation. The camp was attended by 182 patients.

Doctor consultation, laboratory tests and medicines were provided free of cost to the patients. Dr Chewang Dorji Bhutia from District Hospital, Gyashing, West Sikkim attended to the patients.

PNGS alumni and school for deeper collaborations

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

Members of the PNGS Alumni met with the Principal, senior teachers and school captains' committee on 17 August to discuss possibilities for deeper collaborations in the future.

A press release informs that the meeting decided that the school and the alumni will collectively undertake all the future works to be carried out for the welfare of the school and the students.

The Principal of the school assured support to the Alumni in all initiatives undertaken by it in future.

The meeting also decided that this year's Teachers' Day will be jointly celebrated by the school and the alumni.

The Alumni has scheduled its next meeting after completion of a road map of future plans for the benefit and welfare of the school and students.

CONTACT

**SUMMIT TIMES
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Nepali Bhasha Manyata Diwas celebrated at Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 20 AUG (IPR): The 28th Nepali Bhasha Manyata Divas' organized by Paschim Sikkim Sahitya Prakashan and Sikkim Akademi was celebrated at the Community Hall of Gyalshing, West Sikkim today.

Administrative Advisor to CM, MP Subba attended the program as the chief guest and Chairman, State Bank of Sikkim, DB Gurung was the guest of honor. Also present as distinguished guests were Chairman GMC, IK Neopaney; DC West, Karma R Bonpo and Padma Shree, Kedar Gurung, President (Sikkim Akademi) along with other officials and dignitaries.

MP Subba, in his address, spoke on the importance of language and how it impacts our lives. He mentioned that the 'Nepali Bhasha Manyata Divas' has been possible because of Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari and his wife Dil Kumari Bhandari whose selfless efforts have led to the creation of Nepali Bhasha Manyata Divas.

"As a Nepali speaking



community we are prepared to take our literature to the next level," he said.

He mentioned that it is important for the Nepali Literary Societies to reach new heights and conquer new avenues of literature which would be aligned with the thoughts and ideas of the coming generations.

He then stated that language and literature needs freedom to work and hence literary figures of modern Nepali Community need to understand that they have the responsibility to

make Nepali Language more popular amongst youngsters.

Mr Subba urged educational institutions to focus on languages as they are treasures of our past and need to be kept safe for future generations. He then congratulated the organisers for a successful event and all the participants for their active participation in the event.

DB Gurung also addressed the gathering on the contributions done by famous personalities of Nepali Literature and

their sacrifices for the language. He also acknowledged the role and extensive contributions of former Chief Minister, Late NB Bhandari and Dil Kumari Bhandari for her active role in the inclusion of Nepali Language in the Constitution of India. He then spoke on the contributions of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya towards Nepali Literature.

Bhagi Rath Rawat of Kalimpong, West Bengal was felicitated for his contributions towards the Nepali Language by Paschim Sikkim Sahitya

Prakashan and Sikkim Akademi.

Books written by Mr Rawat titled 'Baas Salki rahey cha'; 'Mato ko Maya' and 'Laptop' were released by the chief guest and the guest of honor along with other dignitaries. The program also had an array of cultural dances, songs, poem recitations and literary works.

The participants were also given certificates and tokens of appreciation by the chief guest and guest of honor on behalf of the organizing committee.

DAC Mangan observes Sadbhawana Diwas



MANGAN, 20 AUG (IPR): District Administrative Centre (DAC), Mangan, North Sikkim observed Sadbhawana Diwas 2019 on the 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

On the occasion, District Magistrate, North, Tenzing T Kaleon administered Sadbhawana pledge to the officer and staff of DAC, Mangan who were assembled in front of DAC.

Before administering

the Sadbhawana pledge, DM, North, Mr Kaleon stated that Sadbhawana Diwas is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 20 August every year.

Furthermore, the main theme of Sadbhawana Diwas is to promote national integration and communal harmony among people of all religion and languages, he added.

CM visits Kalika Mandir at Temi Tarku



NAMCHI, 20 AUG (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) offered prayers at Kalika Devi Mandir at Tarku today. He was accompanied by Confidential Secretary, Bikash Basnett, SP (South), Prawin Gurung, SDM (Namchi), Vishu Lama and other officials.

The Chief Minister also

interacted with the Kalika Devi Mandir managing committee where he was briefed regarding the history of the mandir, its inception as well as various developmental activities that the mandir has undertaken till date. Additionally, the Chief Minister also interacted with the local gentry and heard their grievances.

OMAS meets Aditya Golay, discusses Artistes' Bill

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

An OMAS [Organisation of Musicians and Artists of Sikkim] delegation comprising of its executive body met Chakung MLA, Aditya Golay, the son of the Chief Minister, in Gangtok today.

The delegation had a fruitful meeting with Mr Golay during which they discussed future plans and ideas related to Sikkim Artistes Protection and Guarantee Bill, 2019,

a press release informs. OMAS will soon be holding a series of meetings with other Ministers and Legislators regarding the introduction of Sikkim Artistes Protection and Guarantee Bill.

"We are thankful to Mr Golay who has kindly obliged with the concept presented by OMAS. He further assured all necessary cooperation with our organisation for the betterment of Sikkim and its artists," the release concludes.

Panth attends State Tourism Ministers Conference in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 20 AUG (IPR): Minister for Tourism, Industries and Commerce, BS Panth and Additional Chief Secretary, Dr K Jayakumar participated in the State Tourism Ministers Conference in New Delhi at Hotel Ashok organised by the Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India today the 20 Aug, 2019.

During the Conference, Sikkim showcased and presented to the august delegates the progressive initiatives taken by the State and several best practices adopted to promote tourism and enhance experience of travellers visiting the state. The conference was attended by Tourism Ministers and Secretaries of twenty states.

Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel addressed the delegates and emphasised on the need for enhanced levels of co-ordination across the states and agencies of the states, in facilitating travellers and providing them unique and memorable experiences. He stressed on the need for improved and updated



information to tourists.

The conference saw the launch of One Stop Portal Solution for tourism related services, presentations on adventure tourism, home stay guidelines and on the status of projects under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes.

In the context of improving quality of services to tourists and travellers offered by Homestays / B&B establishments, it was pointed out by ACS during the conference that it would be necessary to develop a framework for assessment of the quality of services, and certifications, so as to build aspirations in the homestay owners to continuously improve their rating.

Also, it was submitted

that the compilation and publishing of a handbook would help guide the homestay owners as to the manner in which the quality of services can be improved, the efforts that need to be undertaken by them, pathways to add or augment the portfolio of services like adding nature trails, ethnic food, entertainment, shopping and avenues for making travellers experience local customs, traditions and lifestyles.

The Minister for Tourism highlighted the problems and challenges faced by the State of Sikkim in augmenting tourist facilities in the state, especially the need for resources to support the operations and management of the tourist assets and facilities.

Census 2021 Pre-Test underway at Regu and Burtuk

GANGTOK, 20 AUG (IPR): The Decennial Population Census exercise is due in the entire country in the year 2021. A preparatory step towards Census 2021 in the form of a Pre-Test is being conducted encompassing all facets of census operations.

The Pre-Test for Census 2021 is being conducted in Regu BAC (Rural Charge) and Ward No: I, Upper Burtuk, Gangtok Municipal Corporation (Urban Charge) as per the selected criteria of Register General Census Operations.

The Pre-Test is a full dress rehearsal for the

Population Census 2021 wherein Census Enumerators, Supervisors and Charge Officers have been engaged. Further, as the Government has desired to update the National Population Register (NPR) also along with the first phase of the Census, the process for updation of NPR will also be tested during the Pre-Test.

Therefore the field operation for Pre-Test for Census and NPR during the period 12 Aug, 2019 to 30 Sept, 2019 is of utmost importance.

Considering the significance of the activities

under the Census Operation all the residents of the identified areas (Regu BAC and Ward No: I, Upper Burtuk, GMC) are requested to extend their fullest cooperation to all the officials engaged in Pre-Test exercise of Census 2021 to ensure its smooth conduct during the above mentioned period and for its success as per directions of Government of India.

All relevant information sought in the prescribed formats is as per National guidelines and will be used extensively for all future policy making by the Government.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

Resolve teachers'...

administration has been resorting to undemocratic means of quashing these protests by the use of police brutality," the letter read.

Referring to the police action at Kalyani, it said "We strongly condemn this attack by the police on educationists, and earnestly request you to resolve the issue in a democratic manner at the earliest," it said.

The letter also alleged that a member of 'Actors United', an organisation of theatre actors, was beaten up by unknown assailants at Dum Dum area of the city on August 15.

"We feel that such incidents are, in effect, an attack on all artistes propagating free thought and should be condemned with the same severity as any case of lynching anywhere else in India," it added.

Kaushik Sen told PTI on Tuesday, "We condemn the incidents of violence in West Bengal. There should be free space for artistes and individuals to profess and espouse their views and thoughts. There should not be intimidation or coercion, anywhere in the country.

"We request the state administration to identify and punish the perpetrators as swiftly as possible," he said.

Apart from the four, activist Bolan Gangopadhyay, commentator and social worker Mudar Patherya and theatre personality Sohag Sen were among the signatories to the letter.

Bikram Pradhan...

they should remain in the party or move elsewhere to remain politically engaged and active.

They remain convinced that the 10 MLAs should leave BJP and return to the SDF.

SDF party supporters are also reportedly angry with the BJP for having poached its MLAs despite the clear mandate of the electorate here that they did not want BJP in Sikkim.

Given BJP's track-record of forming governments through defections and opportunistic alliances, the SDF cadre is apprehensive that the saffron party has similar designs for Sikkim. What they do not want is for a party which was in government in Sikkim for 25 years to allow such backdoor entry into office for BJP.

Consultations are reportedly underway among such aggrieved SDF party workers who, sources inform, have decided to resign en masse from the party from all 31 territorial constituencies if the ten legislators did not come back to the SDF.

Mr Pradhan is insistent that these legislators should return to the SDF respecting the people's mandate and play the role of a strong and positive opposition for the people for the next five years.

The former MLA also remains suspicious of the BJP and its nationalistic agenda and commented that although BJP leaders have assured to protect the special status of Sikkim, the Prime Minister's Independence Day message underlined the party's, 'One Nation, One Constitution', ideology and this makes BJP unacceptable to the people of Sikkim. The only relaxation this group is willing to offer its ten MLAs is that if they did not wish to return to SDF, then they should not stay in BJP either.

~ **SummitTIMES** ~
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Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444

WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER.

Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

**Mr. Subash Lama
Proprietor**

**Hotel Parasol Residency,
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Two workshops held for District & Sessions Judges



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 AUG:

Sikkim Judicial Academy organised two workshops for District & Sessions Judges of all the districts of Sikkim.

The first workshop was on Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 and the Narcotic, Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, a press release informs. The Resource Person was Superintendent of Police, National Crime Bureau, New Delhi, Mehak Jain.

The second work-

shop was on The Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988, The Banker's Books Evidence Act, 1891, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

The Resource Person was Judge, High Court of Calcutta, Justice, Bibek Chaudhuri. The workshops started at 9:45am and concluded at 4:30pm.

In the workshop on Sikkim Anti Drugs Act,

2006 and the Narcotic, Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, the Resource Person discussed the important provisions of the two Acts while comparing the similarities as well as the differences prevalent.

The Resource Persons in both the workshops discussed the salient features of the Acts while referring to landmark judgments of the Supreme Court as well as the various High Courts of the country.

Animal Husbandry Minister meets Fisheries officials

GANGTOK, 20 AUG (IPR): Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Lok Nath Sharma convened a meeting with the officials of Directorate of Fisheries in presence of the concerned Secretary, SB Subba at the Directorate, Paljor Stadium Road, Gangtok, today.

Minister Mr Sharma stressed to revive fish farming and suggested to utilise technical manpower for immediate repairing of existing farm, raceway tank and fish ponds. He encouraged officials to work with new spirit and prepare a convincing proposal for the new projects as well.

After contemplating on various issues and challenges, minister urged to work in close proximity with the parent Deptt and underlined responsibility and accountability of the Directorate to embrace targeted achievements through collective efforts. He also advised to launch a web portal of the Directorate to disseminate information about various governmental schemes in



order to generate massive awareness.

Secretary Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, SB Subba advised to carry out output orientated activities and make visible social impact. He also stressed upon conducting research work to address challenges and to bring notable progress in practice.

Director, Fisheries, Sunil Pradhan presented overview of the Directorate of Fisheries. He elaborated various activities like trout culture, seed production, departmental schemes, infrastructures, budgetary provision, five year action plan and also appraised about the constraints like shortage of manpower, discontinuation in trout farming, monitoring and

mechanism in the state.

Later Minister accompanied by the Secretary visited the various sections of Directorate of Fisheries, State Aquarium, Ornamental Fish Breeding-cum-Demonstration Unit.

Earlier, the Minister and the newly joined Secretary Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Mr Subba were accorded warm welcome by the officials and staff of the Directorate.

Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum election commission meets

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 AUG:

Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum or Sikkim Lepcha Association's election commission held a meeting on 19 Aug to discuss the election of the Association's Central Executive Committee, a press release informs. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of ADC, West, KL Lepcha.

The meeting discussed various issues related to modalities and regulations for the

smooth conduct of the said election. It was decided by the commission to come up with a documentation of Voters Electoral Roll of every district for which volunteers shall be deployed to carry out the registration process in every district till 30 Aug, 2019.

Thereafter the commission has decided to set one week's notice, with registered voters electoral roll displayed in the offices of Sikkim Lepcha Association of every

district, to see if any objections are raised from any corner and if anyone has been left out from the voters' electoral roll.

Further the commission has also decided to have a general meeting with every government registered Lepcha Organisation on 31 August to discuss the eligibility criteria that has been formulated for the candidates contesting the upcoming election of Sikkim Lepcha Association and to address any objections.

"CHALISWA" (PRAYER MEETING)

The Holy Quran recitation (Religious Perform) after forty days of death of late Mrs. NAD-RA KHATOON, who left for heavenly abode on 24th July 2019(Wednesday), falls on 31st August 2019(Saturday) shall be held at Marut Bhawan, Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim.

"AMEEN"

Maniul Haque Ansari(Husband), Naseema Bano & Rubina Anjum(Daughters) Mohshin Raza (son).

Time: 10:00 am onwards



Contact: 9475077786.
**(Meraaj Complex, Central Park
Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim).**

S S A C S		SITUATION VACANT	
SSAKS		SIKKIM STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY STNM HOSPITAL COMPLEX, GANGTOK	
NO: SSACS/PIII/507/2/2010-14		Dated: 20/08/2019	
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR FILLING UP OF THE FOLLOWING POSTS IN THE SOCIETY:-			
1. PROJECT OFFICER (Technical Support Unit)			
a.	Name of Post	: Project Officer (TSU)	
b.	Qualification	: Post graduate degree in Social Sciences or associated fields 5 years in a supervisory role in the development sector. Experience in managing Targeted Intervention Programme for 1 year is a must	
c.	No. of Post	: 1 (one)	
d.	Place of Posting	: Sikkim SACS	
e.	Consolidated remuneration	: Rs. 25,000/- per month	
f.	Nature of appointment	: Contractual till 31/03/2020. (Renewal of contract based on performance)	
2. NURSE (Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST CENTRE))			
a.	Name of post	: Nurse (OST Center)	
b.	Qualification	: BSc Nursing /GNM or ANM with minimum 1 yrs experience.	
c.	No. of posts	: 1 (one)	
d.	Place of posting	: Namchi District Hospital	
e.	Consolidated remuneration	: B.Sc/ GNM Rs.13,000/- per month ANM -Rs.9,000/- per month	
f.	Nature of appointment	: Contractual till 31/03/2020. (Renewal of contract based on performance)	
Typed applications giving details of qualifications and experience in Tabular Form along with attested copies of testimonials and certificates, C.V, Contact No. complete address for communication, two pass-port size photographs in a sealed cover addressed to the Project Director, Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, Gangtok should reach the office of the Society on or before 26/08/2019. Preference will be given to the local candidates.			
		Project Director SSACS	

Rural Development Department Government of Sikkim Gangtok - 737101.	
Memo No. 40/SE/PLG/RM&DD	Dated: 20/8/2019
NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF TENDER	
The Tender notification issue for the work "Construction of Block Development Office (Khanda Prasasan Kendra) at Chumbong under Soreng Chakung Constituency, West Sikkim", vide Memo No. 27/RMDD/E-TEN Dated 15/7/2019, is hereby cancelled till further notice due to certain technical rectification in design/plan of the building.	
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Planning Rural Development Department.	
R.O. No. 153/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20	Dated: 20.8.19

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise)																																											
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016 Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001 Website: www.powergridindia.com CIN : L40101DL1989G01038121																																											
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1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019 for i) Revision of Transmission Tariff for 2001-04 tariff block, 2004-09 tariff block, 2009-14 tariff block, ii) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and iii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Petition-1: 400 kV Biharsharif-Sasaram-Sarnath Transmission line along with associated bays under Eastern-Northern Inters Regional HVDC Transmission system, Petition-2: Dehri-Karamnasa Transmission System, Petition-3: Hathidah River Crossing Section of 220 kV Biharsharif-Begusarai Transmission Line, Petition-4: LIL O of 400 kV D/C Bongaigaon-Malda at Purnea & Sub-station at Purnea (New), Petition-5: Farakka-Malda Transmission Link and Additional 315 MVA Transformer at Malda in Eastern Region.																																											
2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are:(a) BSP(H)CL (b) WBSEDCL (c) GRIDCO (d) JSEB (e) DVC (f) Power Dept., Government of Sikkim.																																											
3. Tariff details:																																											
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4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com .																																											
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.																																											
Place : Gurugram Date : 20/08/2019 Sd/- Sr. General Manager (Commercial)																																											
Give a missed call on toll free number 1800-2003-004 to get MoP Apps																																											

supervision of fish import etc. Amidst his presentation, the Minister, Secretary, Mr Subba and departmental officials

had thorough discussion on highlighted subjects and came out with various inputs to strengthen fisheries production

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR SHRAM BHAWAN GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOKEYTHANG, TADONG- 737102	
No: 252/ESIC/DL	Dated: 14/08/2019
CORRIGENDUM	
This is to inform to all concerned that the dates for the walk-in-interview advertised vide no. DL/131/ESIC dated. 6/8/2019 published in local daily newspapers i.e. Summit Times, Sikkim Express, Hamro Prajashakti and Anugamini may be read as 28th August, 2019 for the post of Medical Officer, GNM & Dresser and 29th and 30th August, 2019 for the post of UDC (Cashier), UDC (Adm.), LDC, Record Keeper and Peon.	
Therefore, all concerned are requested to attend the interview on 28th, 29th and 30th August, 2019 respectively.	
Inconvenience caused is regretted.	
R.O. No. 139/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Dated: 14.8.19	Deputy Labour Commissioner (I) Labour Department

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HOME DEPARTMENT TASHILING SECRETARIAT GANGTOK	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Sealed tenders are invited from individuals/organizations for running a cafeteria at Tashiling Secretariat Annexe Building to cater to the employees and visitors to the Tashiling Secretariat at Gangtok.	
The Tender Document can be obtained from the Office of the Under Secretary (Adm.), Home Department, Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok (at 2nd Floor, Room No. F2-06) on all working days from 28th August, 2019 to 4th September, 2019 between 11a.m. to 4 p.m. or can be downloaded from the Home Department's website www.home.sikkim.gov.in on payments of Rs.500/- vide Bank receipt under Revenue Head 0070-Other Adm. Services-60 Other Service-800-Other Receipts-03-Other Receipts-Cost of Tender form.	
1. The prescribed bid form duly filled by the applicant in all respects should be delivered by post or by hand to the Under Secretary (Adm.), Home Department by 3 p.m. on 5th September, 2019.	
2. The tenders will be opened on 6th September, 2019 at 11 a.m. in the Conference hall (4th Floor), Home Department, Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok in presence of the members of Tender Committee of the Home Department and authorized representative(s) of the bidding parties. The parties will be required to meet the Committee to satisfy all material questions pertaining to their company/firm and their modus-operandi etc. and for finalization of the offer.	
3. The Home Department reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reasons.	
Sd/- R.O. No. 146/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Dated: 19.8.2019	
Special Secretary Home Department.	

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TASHILING, GANGTOK -737103			
No. GOS/DTE/2019/955	Dated: 20/08/2019		
Counseling Notice			
It is for information of all concerned that the counseling for allotment of vacant State quota seats for the academic session 2019-20 will be held as per the schedule indicated below:-			
Sl.No.	Date and Time	Course & Institute	Venue
1	26 th August 2019 (2:00 p.m.)	B.Sc. Nursing, GNM (Vinayaka Mission Sikkim University)	Conference Hall, Education Department, Tashiling, Gangtok, East Sikkim.
Following information will be available on the department's portal www.sikkimhrdd.org . All concerned are advised to log o to the above site on regular basis.			
(i) The notification relating to reservation policy of the State Government for different categories of people of Sikkim for allotment of State quota sats.			
(ii) guidelines relating to procedure for allotment of State quota seats.			
(iii) Instructions for counseling.			
Candidates belonging to SC/ST, Central ad State OBC communities are advised t long on to the website www.socialjustice.nic.in and www.tribal.nic.in of Ministry of Social Justice and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India for eligibility conditions and components of the scholarship along with Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim.			
Sd/- Additional Director Technical Education Education Department			
R.O. No. 150/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Dated: 20.8.19			

Population Figures

Census Numbers Hold Many Stories

The population totals of Census 2011 were released some years ago, and soon it will be time for another round of the decadal headcount of the country. In that sense, the 2011 numbers are slightly dated, but still, the bits and pieces hold many stories. When the first set of Census numbers are released, they always generate much interest, sometimes even gasps over how the state is growing, or not as was the case with 2011. In the current census figures, Sikkim's falling fertility rate has hogged the limelight, convincing the previous State government to scrap the financial incentives it offered public servants for keeping their families "small". But there are so many more stories that the numbers tell. Statistics are not always boring, provided someone dug out the human stories behind them. This should be a study that more people undertake in Sikkim.

Sikkim's population as of March 2011 has been counted at 6,07,688 people, recording a 12.36% growth since 2001. Since 1911, when the first proper Census operation was undertaken in Sikkim, only three decades, the last being 1941-51, have population growths been lower than this. The first Census of Sikkim was conducted in 1891 by the Political Officer. A decade later, in 1901, the West Bengal Census authorities of British India were deputed to carry out the task and it was probably only in 1911 that the Directorate of Census Operations brought the detailed methodology by which India does a head-count of all its people. In the decade of 1901-11, Sikkim's population grew by 48.98%, the second-largest population spurt here since such counting was undertaken. In the next decade, 1911-21, the population fell by 7.05%, the only time it has done so. Population growth in Sikkim has shown marked variations, growing by little over 34% in the decade of 1931-41 and then almost grinding to replacement fertility-rate figure of 10.67% in 1931-41, creeping only slightly higher to 13.34% in 1941-51 and reaching 17.76% in 1951-61. It started rising from thereon, recording a nearly 30% population growth in 1961-71 and then hitting the record of 50.77% in 1971-81, dropping to nearly half this growth rate to 28.47% in 1981-91, rising five percentage points to 33.07% in 1991-2001 and then scaling back to its mid-Twentieth Century average of 12.36% growth in 2001-11.

Census findings are important indicators of socioeconomic conditions of the areas they cover. Populations obviously grow beyond the traditional average either due to influx or improvements in health services, both of which are indicative of the quality of life and opportunities. Of course, in the recent past, our country has been working towards containing its population through family planning schemes launched on mission-mode, but the population figures of the past slightly more than a century are untouched by such efforts and should attract closer academic scrutiny. From the pattern of these figures, one could understand the history of Sikkim from the point of view of the lay people, who, although they have lived through Sikkim and its transitions, rarely find mention in the few records of even contemporary events. The nearly 50% growth in population between 1901 to 1911 should make for interesting analysis, coming as it does in a decade when the palace and the Political Office were in direct confrontation and also the time when British India was most interested in Sikkim, using it as the route to open Tibet. The change in how the State was administered must have obviously created new opportunities triggering new arrivals. What can also not be ignored is that if this 1911 exercise was also the first head-count Census and would hence have accounted for population segments not covered in the previous two Census operations carried out the Political Officer who had relied on feedback from the landlords, who could have had their own reasons to under-report the actual number of people in areas under their jurisdiction.

The fall in population in 1911-21 should be even more fascinating for anyone interested in the people's history of Sikkim. The population fell by 7.05% due to the Influenza pandemic (Spanish Flu) which spread through the world in the wake of World War-I. Sikkim did not fight the Great War, but an epidemic which was born from it claimed too many lives here as well. The pandemic broke out in 1918 and is believed to have killed 50 million people across the world. One still does not know how many died of it in Sikkim. The numbers must have been huge because healthcare services were too rudimentary here to have been able to deal with an alien sickness. Most of these deaths would have taken place in the two years between the outbreak and when the Census was carried out. This 7% fall in population immediately after a 50% growth must have scarred an entire generation. It deserves to be researched because it could explain many things about how Sikkim lived in those times. As an aside, there are also references to how the Younghusband Mission of 1904-05 brought the Foot & Mouth disease to Sikkim. Agriculture and animal husbandry were the only occupations in Sikkim at that time. Isn't it important to research into how Sikkim resuscitated itself from that calamity?

These exercises are important for Sikkim to understand its past better and may be even understand issues which attract passionate opinions in a different light.

'Like' isn't a lazy linguistic filler – the English language snobs need to, like, pipe down

REBECCA WOODS
theconversation.com

The latest series of the television show Love Island is over, with Amber and Greg now snuggling up as the most recent winners – at least until the winter version starts in January 2020.

As well as bringing us a fresh group of islanders and a new villa to admire, the January series is likely to throw up many of the same linguistic debates as previous series.

Yes, you read that right – linguistics. For nary a season of Love Island, or any programme predominantly aimed at young people, may pass without a flurry of grumpy think pieces on the protagonists' language habits. And few linguistic habits cause as much ranting from those seeking to protect the fair English tongue as use of the word like.

After several decades of like-bashing, which long predate Love Island's arrival on our screens, commentators, headteachers and professors all continue to denounce the "excessive" use of the word like among "the young".

But seeking to protect English grammar from like is misguided for one crucial reason: like has a grammar, too. And by understanding the grammar of like, we can learn a lot about what it means and what it contributes to someone's speech.

LIKE IT OR NOT

To shed light on like's grammar, I've built what is known in linguistics as a corpus. A corpus is a representative sample of language as used by certain speakers. We can then examine this corpus to understand how language is used – rather than relying on our perceptions, opinions and memories.

My corpus is not based on Love Island, but on a programme with similarly young participants – and audience members – that has also attracted much criticism for its participants' language use: the BBC's make-up competition Glow Up.

After transcribing the show and removing the kinds of like that are broadly "accepted" – that is the verbs, nouns, quotatives and those used for comparisons – I found that participants used like 229 times in eight episodes. That's about 29 uses of like per episode, or one every two minutes.

First, it was notable that like was rarely either preceded or followed by a pause. So even though this use of like is regularly dismissed as a meaningless, lazy filler, it doesn't, in fact, behave like um or er. In the programme, the participants knew what they wanted to say, and using like was part of that.

We can further understand the meaning of like by noticing that there are places in an utterance where like can appear and places where it sounds really unnatural. According to the Glow Up corpus, here's where like might appear in an utterance such as "I am going to create a beautiful look in 15 minutes":

Like, I am going to create a beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am like going to create a beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am going to like create a beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am going to create like a beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am going to create a like beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am going to create a beautiful look in like 15 minutes.

And here are the places where like never, or very rarely, appears:

I like am going to create a beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am going like to create a beautiful look in 15 minutes.

I am going to create a beautiful like look in 15 minutes.

I am going to create a beautiful look like in 15 minutes.

I am going to create a beautiful look in 15 like minutes.

I am going to create a beautiful look in 15 minutes like.

Of course, we can't assume that this kind of like never appears in the positions marked in the second set of examples. But a large scale study of North American English speakers also found that speakers regularly produced utterances like the first set of examples but didn't produce utterances like the second set, making my finding somewhat stronger.

Like, then, can't just be used anywhere, but it can still appear in about six different places in our example sentence – so what is it doing?

THE MEANING OF LIKE

The corpus shows us that an utterance that starts with like always follows on from another utterance. The speaker who starts an utterance with like in this way might be adding their support to what someone else has just said, or emphasising that they really believe something that they have just said themselves. For example:

Dom: This is bloody marvellous. Like this is

Bring on the technology bans!

KENTARO TOYAMA
theconversation.com

In mid-July 2019, Oakland, California, became the third U.S. city to ban municipal departments from using facial recognition technology. Meanwhile, Congress began hearings on whether and how to regulate it on a national level. In a surprising moment of bipartisan consensus, the only thing lawmakers fought about was how extensive restrictions ought to be.

This response to a powerful, potentially invasive technology is a sign of how the public and policymakers might respond to future technological developments – especially those using artificial intelligence. Not only does facial recognition allow Facebook to automate people-tagging in photos, but it also supercharges law enforcement's ability to track down crime suspects. Ethical questions abound. As Georgetown's Center on Privacy and Technology put it, facial recognition could lead to "a world where, once you set foot outside, the government can track your every move." And it's just the beginning.

On the horizon is a flood of digital innovations that could be at least as powerful, wide-ranging and controversial: "deepfake" videos showing people doing things they never did, the "internet of things" constantly monitoring private homes, manipulative virtual reality, self-driving cars overwhelming communities and more.

I'm a researcher studying digital technology's societal impacts, and it's my job to stay informed about upcoming technologies and to project future outcomes. But, with more and more innovation, there is less and less time to reflect on the consequences. Many of my colleagues feel the same.

To tame this onrushing tide, society needs dams and dikes. Just as has begun to happen with facial recognition, it's time to consider legal bans and moratoriums on other emerging technologies. These need not be permanent or absolute, but innovation is

not an unmitigated good. The more powerful a technology is, the more care it requires to operate safely.

LITTLE URGENCY

There's not a pressing need for most new digital technologies. Some innovations, of course, are almost completely positive: anesthesia, electric light, radio, vaccines. But today's society often celebrates innovation for its own sake, even when the benefits are questionable – and more and more, the benefits are indeed questionable.

Is it really worth a crowded, buzzing sky filled with drones to get one-hour delivery of consumer goods, instead of delivery in 24 hours, or even two days? Is virtual reality so great that children should, effectively, grow up with their eyes glued to video screens? When governments can conduct hard-to-trace assassinations by drone, is anyone truly safe? Scanning lists of possible future technologies can incite more fear than hope.

These types of innovations repeatedly fail to provide overall improvements in truly meaningful ways, like how deeply people love each other, how compassionately people care, how well society supports the less privileged, or how wisely humans steward the planet. If anything, technology appears to amplify humans' moral weaknesses by coddling people with consumer comforts and echo chambers. The last half-century has seen a golden age of digital innovation, yet rates of poverty have stagnated, inequality has soared and sustainability seems farther out of reach.

Most of the technological advances in the works today won't address those problems; they'll tackle smaller annoyances that there's simply no rush to relieve.

HARMS NEARLY CERTAIN, BUT UNCLEAR

New technologies always have unintended consequences – often negative – and innovators always underestimate how bad they'll be. Pesticides have caused public health scourges. Plastic bottles have polluted the oceans. Smartphones

are contributing to a teenage mental health crisis.

Consider what an AI system might do if directed to do something obvious – like maximize profits, using all the information and tools at its disposal. It might hold embarrassing personal information for ransom to coerce users to purchase goods, or extort criminal actions from people with darker secrets.

Nothing has yet stopped online stores' algorithms from lying to increase sales, nor curbed Facebook's actual ability to manipulate users' moods. Tech companies routinely treat their customers as experimental guinea pigs, and are already applying artificial intelligence systems for a range of purposes.

If these are just the known effects of tech companies; efforts and innovations, imagine what unintended consequences might lurk. The premise of the popular game "Universal Paperclips" is that an AI focused on optimizing a business ends up destroying the known universe. Science fiction is rapidly becoming science fact.

DIFFICULT TO GO BACKWARDS

Once unleashed, digital technologies are particularly difficult genies to put back in the bottle. In this respect, they differ from other advanced technologies. Soon after World War II, activists began to call for bans on nuclear arms, culminating in the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970. The treaty has been effective in keeping an 80-year-old technology limited to just eight or nine countries – that's an impressive feat, especially across the jagged history of global politics.

Nuclear weapons, however, require significant resources to design, build, test and deploy. By contrast, digital technologies are easy to share, making them even harder to control. Advanced hacking tools have been stolen and shared online: Techniques developed by the U.S. National Security Agency have been used in global cyberattacks by China, Russia and North Korea. Their

really beautiful. You have won me over 100%.

Or:

Leomie: Nah well done, Nikki. Like the eye, the colour, like it proper worked.

Like in the middle of an utterance is similar, but subtly different. It may be used to highlight the part of the utterance that's telling us something new and relevant, or that the speaker thinks is most interesting or important. You might think that this would mean that like could highlight any and every part of a sentence but, as we've already seen, like can highlight certain types of constituents (combinations of words and phrases), but not others.

Ellis: I'm layering up the powder to kind of get, like, this velvety finish

Stacey: Is Ellis putting, like, a gluestick on his eyebrows?

In both cases, then, speakers use like to make sure that their message is properly understood by the person they're speaking to, both in terms of its content and how it fits into the conversation.

We can make an analogy between like and how intonation is used in English. We could remove it from an utterance and that utterance would still be grammatical, but it wouldn't convey its message in the same way. It could also sound really odd in the context of a conversation.

English speakers use and interpret both like and intonation without thinking about it consciously. Intonation has also been a target for language commentators who decry, for example, "uptalk", when a speaker uses rising intonation at the end of their utterance.

But why do like and uptalk annoy people so much? Alexandra D'Arcy at the University of Victoria in Canada argues that the multi-purpose nature of like might be part of its downfall. Because all of the uses of like are pronounced in the same way, its apparent repetition makes it stand out.

More generally, though, these language gripes just seem to be a proxy for demeaning certain groups that share characteristics other than their (perceived) language use – they tend to be young, female and not in positions of power.

If we criticise a person or group based on how we think they speak, we not only draw attention away from what they're saying, but we're likely to stop them from wanting to speak (up) at all. Language prejudice is real and needs to be called out.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Language Acquisition, University of Huddersfield]

software is now available to anyone with an internet connection.

AN IMBALANCE OF POWER

Technology companies pushing their advances have money, influence and time on their side. The millions of lobbying dollars they spend are pocket change when compared to their multi-billion-dollar profits, and they can keep the funding going indefinitely, waiting out news cycles and activist energy.

In my view, uncertainty about how new technologies will affect society overall means that skeptical forces deserve more support. Bans and moratoriums would mean that rich, powerful entities would have to seek legal and societal permission before unleashing their potential monsters onto the market. That doesn't seem like too much to ask.

There are many reasons to continue to build new technologies – to remain globally competitive, to advance human knowledge and to prepare for potential future crises. Technology has its benefits. But slowing the pace of its advance would give society more time to think through the consequences and debate which aspects of new technologies are desirable, and which should be outlawed.

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Cross-border drug smuggling on the rise in Manipur

IMPHAL, AUG 20 (PTI): Cross-border smuggling of drugs from neighbouring Myanmar to Manipur is witnessing a rapid rise despite measures being undertaken by law enforcers to check the menace, police said.

A high ranking police officer told PTI that most of the drugs smuggled from Myanmar are heroin, brown sugar and amphetamine tablets, known as "WY tablets" in the common parlance.

"There is no doubt that cross-border drug smuggling has increased in recent years and Manipur has become a favourable transit route for transporting them to other parts of the country and beyond," the officer said. Manipur shares a 398 km border with Myanmar.

According to reports available with PTI, 12,37,993 amphetamine tablets -- that come in unlabelled packets -- were seized by the Narcotics and Affairs of Borders (NAB) personnel and other law enforcers in 2019 so far, up from 12,15,273 tablet seizures in 2018 and 1,80,007 in 2017.

Heroin seizures have also spiked, with 9 kg seized till July, 2019. The corresponding figures for 2018 and 2017



stood at 22 kg and 7 kg respectively.

The officer said, the number of alleged drug peddlers have also increased manifold due to the lucrative financial prospects of the business.

"While 355 drug peddlers, including 79 women, were arrested

in 2017, the number of arrests rose to 479, including 95 women, in 2018 and 203 till July, 2019," he said. The officer said the border drug racket is complicated and foreign nationals are associated with it.

In February this year, a 35-year-old Myanmar national was detained at the Indo-Myan-

mar border town of Moreh in Manipur for possessing 143 small packets of brown sugar with a total worth of Rs 3.6 crore in the international market, another police officer said.

Brown sugar too has made inroads in the state for local abuse.

While a little more

than 5 kg of brown sugar had been recovered in 2017, 19 kg of the contraband was seized in 2018 and more than 115 kg of the drug seized till July 2019. Not just these smuggled drugs, poppy cultivation in Manipur's hill districts of Chandel and Ukhrul bordering Myanmar, too is giving a headache to the law enforcers.

Sources revealed opium grown in these districts are purchased by dealers from Myanmar, who then export them back to Manipur after chemically processing them into heroin.

Poppy cultivation is banned in Manipur under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Nevertheless, several farmers in the hill areas have discarded rice cultivation and shifted to poppy cultivation for better financial returns, a police officer said.

To check poppy cultivation, personnel of the state police, the NAB and the Assam Rifles periodically destroy these plantations, the officer said.

Some 2210 acres of poppy cultivation were destroyed in 2017. The corresponding figures for 2018 and till July, 2019 stood at 1506 acres and 446 acres respectively.

Rare books, maps and manuscripts to go under the hammer at online auction

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI): Books, maps and manuscripts from the twilight years of Indian ruler Tipu Sultan will be among the collection of rare books that will go under the hammer at an upcoming online sale by Mumbai-based auction house Prinseps.

The literature on Tipu Sultan will include a book titled, "A Narrative Of The Campaign In India, Which Terminated The War With Tippoo Sultan, In 1792", and two maps of the Sultan's territories, one dated 1792, and the other dated 1799.

While the book has an upper estimate of Rs 3,90,000, the maps are expected to fetch anything between Rs 90,000 - 1,20,000, each.

Scheduled to be held on September 4-5, the

selection of books that cover a period of nearly 400 years, the oldest book being "De Vita Caesarum" (The Twelve Caesars), which dates back to 1605.

The tome that is considered to be a text of historic importance is a biographical chronicle of the Caesars of Rome.

It is estimated between Rs 40,000 - 50,000.

"The lots have been primarily obtained from the collection of renowned collector Sunil Baboo, whose meticulously documented collection developed from his travels across Europe and the United States of America," the auction house said in a statement.

Also on offer will be "The Works of Sir Wil-

liam Jones" (1799) by Lady Anna Marie Shipley Jones, who founded The Asiatic Society of India in Bombay and Calcutta.

This first edition copy of Jones' six-volume work carries a series of engravings as well as William Jones' translations of "Hitopadesa" and Kalidasa's "Shakuntala".

It is estimated at Rs 7,25,000 - 9,50,000.

Other key lots will cover the history of conquests in India, including the first edition print of "Narrative of the War on the Coast of Coromandel" (1756) by Richard Owen Cambridge that talks about the French conquests.

It is expected to fetch Rs 3,45,000 - 4,50,000.

A preview of the key highlights was held recently at the Taj Art Gallery in Mumbai.

CSIR research unit set up in Arunachal for post-harvest processing



ITANAGAR, AUG 20 (PTI): A research institute under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has set up a centre for post-harvest processing near here to help farmers in Arunachal Pradesh increase their income, state minister Tage Taki said on Tuesday.

The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) would cater to the needs of the farmers of the state through technological solutions and training to improve their knowledge and skills about post-harvest handling, processing, water purification and renewable energy technologies.

"Arunachal Pradesh produces good quality of ginger, turmeric, chilly and other spice crops. But due to lack of preservation and post-harvest processing technology, farmers are forced to

sell their produces at a low price," the minister pointed out. Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister Tage Taki inaugurated the centre at Naharlagun near here on Tuesday.

"The centre will immensely benefit our farmers as it will provide technical know-how to them through training and various skill development activities," Taki told reporters after the inaugural programme.

He said the centre would facilitate the farmers the technologies and knowledge on how to wash, slice and drying of spices like ginger and turmeric for commercial marketing.

Responding to a question, Taki said his department is contemplating to go for post-harvest processing of winter vegetables so that it could be

preserved for long. "We are working in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to double the farmers' income by 2020. To double the farmers' income, we must go for quality produces instead of quantity for which post-harvest technology plays a crucial role," the minister added.

The CSIR-CMERI is based on Durgapur in West Bengal.

Its Director Dr Haris Hirani said the centre would help the farmers of the state to get proper value for their produce and also help in their economic upliftment.

The cost of the post-harvesting unit is around Rs 10.5 lakh.

The director said similar centres was inaugurated at Pasighat in East Siang district of the state and another is in the pipeline at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district.

DRI arrests 3 with gold biscuits worth over Rs 3 cr smuggled from Myanmar

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI): The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested three persons for allegedly carrying about 10 kg gold worth over Rs 3.87 crore smuggled into India through the Indo-Myanmar border, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the DRI officers intercepted a vehicle on the Fulbari-Ghoshpukur bypass on Monday and recovered 60 gold biscuits, weighing a total of 9.960 kg, smuggled from Myanmar to India through the Indo-Myanmar border in Mizoram, the official said.

Zomuanikima, H Rualsangpuia and Lalneihlaia,

who hail from Mizoram's Aizawl, were taking the smuggled gold bars from Aizawl to Kolkata, he said. The smuggled gold biscuits, with Myanmar-origin markings, were concealed in two headrests of the middle seat of the car, the official said.

He said all the recovered gold biscuits, valued at Rs 3,87,07,548, have been seized and the three persons arrested under the provisions of the Customs Act. The gold biscuits were to be delivered to a person in Kolkata, the official said.

Further investigation is on to unearth the kingpins of the smuggling racket, he added.

Officials talk terrorism, trade at Indo-Bangla bilateral meet

SHILLONG, AUG 20 (PTI): Bangladesh has rooted out terrorists from its soil and taken significant measures to uplift the socio-economic condition of its people, an official from the neighbouring country said here on Tuesday.

Ahmad Kabir, the deputy commissioner of Bangladesh's Jamalpur district, asserted that his country will continue to cooperate with India in its fight against terrorism.

Bangladesh has taken a strong position against extremism and terrorism. The country has successfully rooted out almost all terrorists from its soil, Kabir, who led a delegation of 52 officers to Shillong for the meeting, said.

Among those present in Tuesdays conference were district magistrates and superintendents of police from seven districts of Bangladesh, East Khasi Hills district deputy commissioner Matsiewdor War, Meghalaya Additional Chief Secretary R V Suchiang and officers of the BSF and the BGB. Bangladesh



will continue to cooperate with India in weeding out terrorism, Kabir added. Suchiang, while addressing the delegates, said the meeting gives the two countries an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest.

"This is the right forum for generating options based on consensus. Earlier, too, meetings have been cordial. There has been progress since the last meeting in Mysensing. Long standing issues cannot be resolved overnight, she said.

The additional chief secretary insisted that a standard operating procedure should be adopted by the two sides to avoid delay in repatriating imprisoned Indians and Bangladeshis.

Talking about bilateral trade, the official said three more border "haats" (weekly markets) are expected to be operational by the end of this year.

Currently, two weekly markets -- one at East Khasi Hills district's Balat and the other at South West Garo Hills district's Kalaichar -- are functional in the state along the India-Bangladesh border.

Two new border haats at East Khasi Hills district's Bholaganj and Ryngku will open in September, while another at South West Khasi Hills district's Nolikata will be unveiled by December," Suchiang added.

Meghalaya shares 443-km-long border with Bangladesh.

Adequate arrangements to appeal for people non-included in final NRC: MHA

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI): Ahead of the publication of the final list of the NRC later this month, the Union Home Ministry said on Tuesday adequate arrangements will be made for people to appeal against non-inclusion in the list of Assam's residents.

The ministry also said every individual, whose name does not figure in final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can rep-

resent his or her case in front of foreigners tribunals. The decisions have been taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and attended by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and others on Monday.

"It was decided that in order to facilitate the persons excluded from NRC, adequate arrangements will be made by

the state government to provide full opportunity to appeal against their non-inclusion. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigner Tribunals (FT)," a home ministry statement said.

The final list of the NRC will be published on August 31.

Bengal gov holds hour-long meet with PM Modi in Delhi



KOLKATA, AUG 20 (PTI): West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi and held an hour-long meeting with him, a source at Raj Bhavan said here.

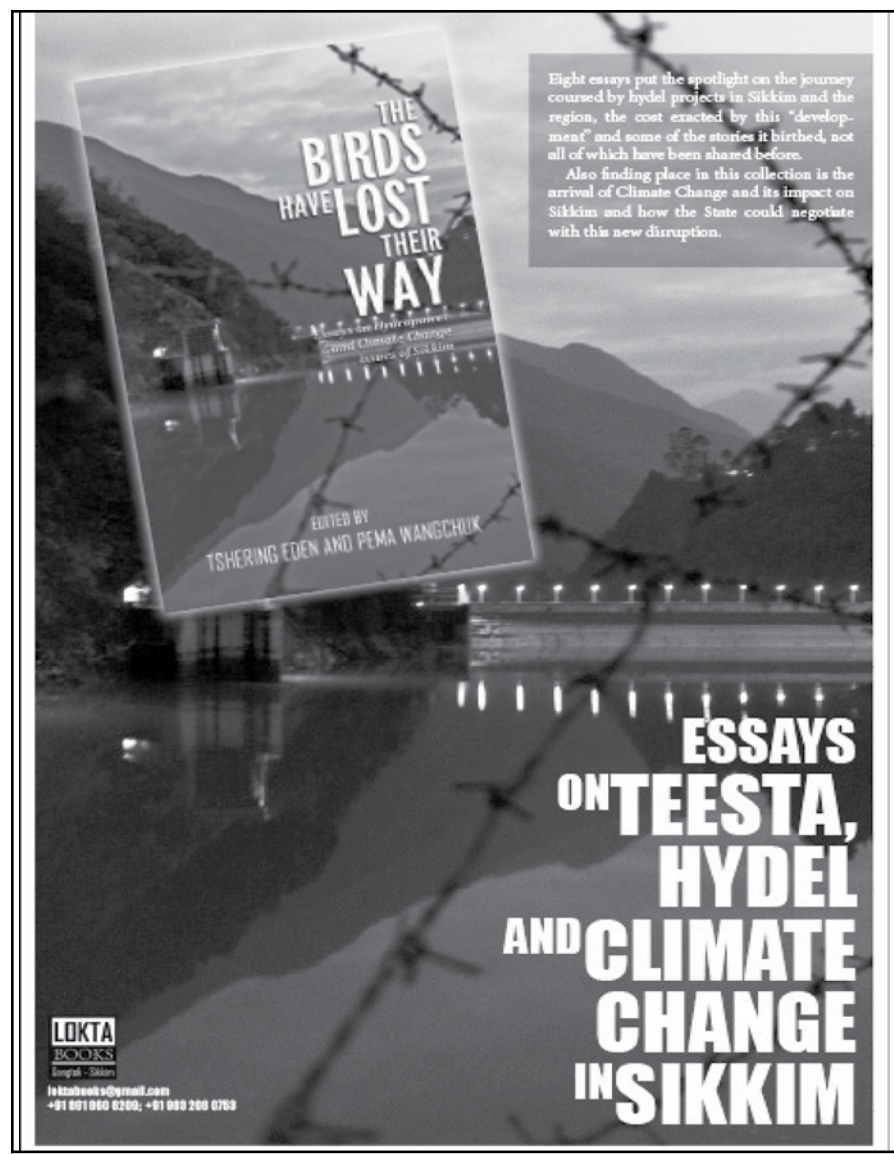
The Prime Minister's Office has tweeted pictures of Dhankhar's meeting with Modi.

"The PM met the governor at his Lok Kalyan Marg residence in New Delhi today. The meeting lasted for an hour," the

source said. Dhankhar, accompanied by wife Sudesh Dhankhar, son and daughter, also visited ailing BJP leader Arun Jaitley at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), he said.

"The governor enquired about the health of veteran BJP leader Arun Jaitley and wished his speedy recovery," the Raj Bhavan source added.

Dhankhar, a Supreme Court lawyer, was appointed West Bengal governor last month.



Prannoy stuns Lin Dan to enter pre-quarters of World C'ships

BASEL (SWITZERLAND), AUG 20 (PTI): Indian shuttler H S Prannoy stunned London Olympics gold medalist and multiple-time world champion Lin Dan in a hard-fought match to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the World Championships here on Tuesday.

The unseeded Indian beat the highly-decorated Chinese, seeded 11th in the showpiece tournament, 21-11 13-21 21-7 in a second round match that lasted one hour and two minutes.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Prannoy will meet the winner of the second round match between top seed Kento Momota of Japan and Luis Enrique Penalver of Spain.

Prannoy completely dominated the first game and led all the way after 2-2. The Indian was ahead at 10-5 and then raced to 19-11 before pocketing it.

In five meetings between the two, Prannoy has emerged victorious thrice. The Chinese won in the last meeting, at the Australian Open in June.

Lin, who had also won gold in the 2008 Olympics, apart from seven World Championships titles, roared back in the second game. They were tied 5-5 but from there on, the Chinese legend did not give any chance to Prannoy as he easily won the second game to take the match to the decider.

Prannoy, however, was not going to be intimidated by the reputation of the former world number one. The Indian reserved the best for the last and just like the first game, Prannoy left Lin far behind after 4-4 and won the deciding game easily to wrap up the match.

In the women's doubles, the Indian pair of Ashwini Ponappa N Sikki Reddy got a walkover from Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in their opening match. They will face seventh seeded Chinese pair of Du Yue and Li Yin Hui in the second round.

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Moreno brings Mallorca back from 'the well' to ecstasy against Eibar

**SID LOW
theGuardian**

Dani Rodríguez had been a first division footballer for three minutes and 19 seconds when the ball dropped at his feet by the centre spot and the pitch and a whole new world opened up, inviting him in. High in the stand at Son Moix, a Mallorca director edged forward and, he later admitted, thought: "Run, Forrest, run!" All around, 15,127 fans had pretty much the same idea. Down below, Dani did too. So he ran: fast and straight. "I set off like mad; it felt like a whole herd chasing me," he said with a grin – and he got away, reaching the edge of the area before anyone from Eibar could catch him: 40 metres, four seconds, four touches. A fifth and the ball was in the net.

Rodríguez carried on running but this time the herd heading after him were his own players: prime-ra. Fists were in the air, supporters leaping into each others' arms, released at last, footballers tumbling and shouting. Mallorca were 1-0 up on the opening night. Only, the referee had his finger in his ear. Guadalupe Porras, his female assistant, the first in La Liga history, stopped and then they all did, as if someone had pressed pause. "You must have thought: 'Hostia, bloody hell, don't take this off me,'" Rodríguez was asked afterwards. "Yeah, and in those words," he replied, "I didn't even know what they were looking at: there was nothing wrong with it."

What they were looking at was Real Mallorca's first goal in the first division since 2013 and Rodríguez was right: there was nothing wrong with it. Just a lot that was right. Mallorca had been to hell and back, dropping from first division to second and then to second B, down where pitches are far from perfect, municipal sports centres for homes, some worrying that their very survival was in doubt. But on Saturday night here they were, back again. Consecutive promotions, both via the play-offs – only the second team ever to do so after Granada in 2011 – had returned them to the top flight and they had scored within four minutes. It had been fast, even if it did not feel like it to some fans, and so perhaps another minute waiting for the VAR would not matter much. They had already waited six years after all.

Most of their players had waited much longer. Dani Rodríguez is 31; he has been a ballboy in the Champions League for Deportivo La Coruña but had never played for anyone in the first division; it had taken him until he was 29 to even play in segunda. Now he had scored. "Pfffff," he



said. "So many things went through my mind." A tweet later tried to explain some of them: "Never give up, keep dreaming, keep working, believe in yourself, and in the end dreams come true: from Carregal [Betanzos, Galicia], to scoring at Son Moix in the best league in the world," he wrote, alongside a grainy picture of himself as a kid.

In a way his story was all of theirs; a bunch of football players that probably never expected to be here but were not going to hold back now, 1-0 up and dominating, tearing into their opponents. Ante Budimir put one over from four yards. And while Eibar recovered, Fabián Orellana outstanding and Paulo Oliveira equalising, Mallorca did not fold. Instead they got the winner when Joan Sastre's cross was deflected by Oliveira and looped in with 15 minutes left to make it 2-1, a result met at the end by a huge roar. It was, Diario de Mallorca said, a "first-class victory". "A triumphant return," Ultima Hora called it. "A sweet awakening."

"I could never have imagined this in my wildest dreams," Salva Sevilla had said when Mallorca were promoted back to the first division in June and he spoke for all of them there on Saturday. When Mallorca-born Xisco Campos, the club captain at 37, came on with four minutes to go to a huge cheer, it was his first top-flight game since the 2004-05 season and he played only three ever. "I was especially happy for him on his 're-debut', and in his home," the manager, Vicente Moreno, said.

The day Salva Sevilla left Espanyol, it was to join Mallorca in Segun-

da B. One could call it Spain's third tier but, organised in four 20-team regional groups, usually excluded when people here talk about "fútbol profesional", it is anything from third tier to seventh and known as "the well". It is easy enough to fall into but almost impossible to climb out of again. Relegated from the first division to the second in 2012-13, after 16 consecutive seasons there, Mallorca had been relegated again, falling into the well at the end of 2016-17.

It was not supposed to be this way: Mallorca had been bought by Robert Sarver, owner of the Phoenix Suns, in January 2016, when he spent €20.62m on shares. His president is the former tennis player, Andrew Kohlberg. Steve Nash, the former basketball player, is on the board. So is Graeme Le Saux. And the CEO is Maheta Molango, a lawyer who scored 12 seconds into his debut at Brighton and also played for Lincoln, Oldham, Wrexham and Grays Athletic.

Mallorca had come out of administration in 2012, with a payment plan that obliged them to return €40m over 10 years. The arrival of Sarver and Nash brought stability and promised the end of the bitter civil war that had crippled the club for so long. But as the Spanish phrase goes: if the ball does not want to go in ... "Mallorca are a first division club who happen to be in the second division," Sarver had said but by the end of the 2016-17 season they were not even that. For the first time in 36 years they found themselves out of "professional football". "Everything that could go wrong did,"

Molango said. "We've made mistakes and we're sorry." Javier Recio, the sporting director, vowed to "give back what we've taken away". They did not throw it all away. There was patience and a plan. That summer they brought in the new coach Moreno, who had previously won promotion from Segunda B with Nastic. They approached some players with three-year contracts, not the usual single year, promising they were building to return, and constructed a team for Segunda B but also for beyond. Sevilla was their first signing, dropping from first to third tier. Others followed.

He, Moreno and the rest made their debuts at Peralada, in a municipal ground that holds 1,500 against a team that had been taken over by Girona to be their B team. By the end of the season they had been promoted. By the end of the following season they had been promoted again. On Saturday first division football returned to the island.

"I never thought I was leaving the elite behind," Sevilla insisted, but truthfully he never thought this either. None of them did. And even if they imagined Mallorca getting there, many would not have imagined getting there with them. Most teams, when they get to the first division, obsessed by "experience" there, change almost the entire team, denying them the reward they fought for. Some ditch the manager too.

Like Saturday's opponents Eibar, a model for most to follow, Mallorca have not. Of the starting XI only Febas and Lumor Agbenyenu were new: five had played in Segunda B with them and four in the second di-

vision (including Iddrisu Baba, from the youth team). It is true they have signed nine players and want four more before 2 September; it is true, too, that they know it will be hard to survive and insist on humility – acting "as if we were the shittest of the shit" – aware that, at €29m, they have the division's smallest operating budget. It is also true that they won promotion on 23 June, a month after everyone else had finished, denying them preparation time. They know they will have to wait to see which players are left. But Saturday's line-up was not just circumstantial nor was the result. It is the way they want it. As one beaming director put it after the game, long after everyone had gone: "I really, really like my team."

So does Moreno, although he is pushing for more players. Already revered on the island, he was making his first division coaching debut at the same ground as he had made his first division playing debut for Xérez a decade before. "Seven of those who played with us in Segunda B got on the pitch tonight. What sometimes looks like a handicap can be an advantage," he said afterwards. "Having players from before allows our ideas to be put into practice more quickly." Then he added something that, at least at some level, is even more important: "And this is a group of players who deserve to enjoy this opportunity because they're the ones who brought us here."

At one pre-season training session Moreno was caught on camera ranting at his players, some of whom had arrived late. He sought the intensity, the enthusiasm, the effort that had taken them to primera and that would see them survive there, to impress on them the importance of the work and the size of the opportunity ahead, just how big this was. "For fucks' sake," he said. "We're already 10 minutes late and some of you have a face on. That's not going to last 30 seconds with me. A first division training session: some of you have been gifted this. The first 'face' I see, the first person easing off a little, that's it, up yours, gone. I don't care if we end up with just eight of us: I'll put [assistant coach Dani] Pendín on the pitch. Got it? Some players never get the chance to play in primera."

On Saturday night Mallorca's players did. They had earned it, nobody else. And they took it. Fast. It was early when Dani Rodríguez set off running and late by the time he left, walking out of Son Moix with his son, "Papá 14" printed on the back of a mini-Mallorca shirt. "Life can be wonderful," he said as he went.

Juventus gamble on Sarri delivering another style of Serie A title

MILAN, AUG 20 (AFP): Juventus begin their Serie A campaign this weekend under new coach Maurizio Sarri as the multiple Italian champions gamble on the veteran delivering another style of Serie A title. The Turin giants start their quest for a ninth consecutive title in Parma on Saturday but could be without Sarri on the bench after the 60-year-old was diagnosed with pneumonia on Monday.

Sarri returns to Italy after one turbulent season in the Premier League with Chelsea, having previously coached his hometown team Napoli for three seasons.

Chain-smoking Sarri's appointment, in place of the clean cut Massimiliano Allegri who had delivered the last five of their Serie A titles, is a break in tradition for Juventus.

But after also ditching their iconic black and white striped jersey last season, the club are looking for a change in direction.

Despite their success Juventus have often been criticised for their boring defensive style of play.

Club bosses want a more attractive eye-catching style of football in an attempt to increase their fan base outside of Italy.

While Sarri's only major title was the Europa League last season with Chelsea, he promises to give serial Italian champions Juventus a more dynamic style of play.

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, returning to Turin after a season

at Paris Saint-Germain, thinks the change of direction can pay off.

"Those who follow the same path will always achieve the same results, so Juve are seeking the Champions League and wanted to try breaking away towards pastures new," said the 41-year-old.

"Sarri is not a revolution, nor a gamble. He simply represents an untested path, a whole other story." Among Juventus's rivals this season will be Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli and Inter Milan, now coached by former Juventus boss Antonio Conte. But Juventus have spent big giving Sarri a stellar squad to target a 36th Scudetto and their first Champions League title since 1996.

Cristiano Ronaldo, a player who Sarri insists "will make the difference", will again be central to attack with newly-signed Dutch star Matthijs De Ligt the jewel in defense alongside veterans Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci.

De Ligt's Ajax sent Juventus crashing out of the Champions League last season.

The midfield has been strengthened with PSG's Adrien Rabiot and former Arsenal star Aaron Ramsey, both acquired on free transfers but on large salaries.

For Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici all the pieces are in place for Sarri to deliver another style of football. "We're very happy with what has been done. We bought de Ligt, who all the top

teams wanted," said Paratici. "We managed to buy him, along with two big players on free transfers: Rabiot and Ramsey, who were courted by many. 'Juve has very high-level players in all departments, a squad of absolute value.' - 'REMOVING SCEPTICISM' -

Juventus will be hoping these players and their new coach can implement the 'Sarriball' football philosophy: a fast-paced attacking style, that impressed during his time with Napoli.

Brazilian left-back Alex Sandro insisted Sarri was already having an impact. "We can't wait to start the season. We've already assimilated Sarri's mentality and, we know what to do.

"We all still have to improve naturally, but we are on the right path." De Ligt also praised Sarri.

"He was one of the reasons that I wanted to join here, I've heard a lot of good things about him and I like his footballing philosophy and how he prepares his defence."

Sarri described coaching Juventus as "the crowning" moment of his 30-year managerial career.

"I arrive surrounded by sceptics, but then I always am. I had the same at Empoli, Napoli and Chelsea. "In football, I know only one way of removing scepticism from the minds of people: by winning convincingly.

"I haven't won a lot, but I believe that having fun on the pitch doesn't stop you winning.

Huawei expects no relief from US sanctions but is confident

SHENZHEN, AUG 20 (AP): The founder of Chinese tech giant Huawei said Tuesday he expects no relief from US export curbs due to the political climate in Washington but expressed confidence the company will thrive because it is developing its own technology.

Ren Zhengfei also said he doesn't want relief from US sanctions if it requires China to make concessions in a tariff war, even if that means his daughter, who is under house arrest in Canada on U.S. criminal charges, faces a longer legal struggle.

In an interview at Huawei's sprawling, leafy headquarters campus in this southern city, the 74-year-old Ren said Huawei expects U.S. curbs on most technology sales to go ahead despite Monday's announcement of a second 90-day delay. He said no one in Washington would risk standing up for the company.

The biggest impact will be on American vendors that sell chips and other components to Huawei, the biggest maker of network gear for phone companies, he said. Washington has placed Huawei on an "entity list" of foreign companies that require official permission to buy American technology.

"Whether the 'enti-



ty list' is extended or not, that will not have a substantial impact on Huawei's business," said Ren. "We can do well without relying on American companies."

Huawei Technologies Ltd, China's first global tech brand, is at the center of a battle over trade and technology that threatens to tip the global economy into recession.

American officials accuse the company, also the No. 2 global smartphone brand, of stealing technology and facilitating Chinese spying, accusations Huawei denies.

Huawei's chief financial officer, who is also Ren's daughter, is fighting extradition from Canada to face US charges related to possible vio-

lation of trade curbs on Iran. Beijing arrested two Canadians in a possible attempt to force her release. Ren looked relaxed and confident throughout the two-hour interview at a palatial new building in neoclassical European style where Huawei entertains customers.

The atmosphere was a striking contrast from a June 17 news conference at which Ren compared the company to a "badly damaged airplane" and warned U.S. sanctions would cut Huawei's projected smartphone sales by 30 billion over the next two years.

President Donald Trump has suggested controls on Huawei might be lifted if Beijing agrees to a deal on trade

and technology disputes that led to US tariff hikes on Chinese imports.

Ren rejected that. He said Huawei couldn't ask for favors that might hurt the interests of China's poor majority.

"I couldn't take it if those poor people sacrificed their own interests for the benefit of Huawei," said Ren.

"Maybe my daughter will suffer more. But I would rather do that instead having the poorer people in China sacrifice for Huawei's survival and development."

The May announcement of export curbs prompted warnings that sales of Huawei smartphones and other products that use U.S. chips and other technology could be devastated. The

curbs also mean a loss of billions of dollars in potential annual sales for American vendors.

Even before the announcement, Huawei was working on developing its own chips, software and other technology that might reduce reliance on American vendors. The company spent USD 15 billion last year on research and development, more than Apple Inc. or Microsoft Corp.

Huawei reported sales in the six months through June rose 23.2 per cent over a year earlier. Its chairman, Liang Hua, said in July that Huawei was reviewing its core products to make sure they all could be delivered to customers without American components.

Hong Kong leader hopes peaceful rally presages 'return to calm'

HONG KONG, AUG 20 (AFP): Hong Kong's embattled leader Carrie Lam on Tuesday said she hoped "calm" will prevail after a massive weekend march passed without clashes between police and demonstrators, but again refused to give ground to protester demands.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched through the heart of the city on Sunday in a show of peaceful protest after escalating street battles with police drew stark warnings from Beijing and threatened to undermine public support.

"On Sunday, many Hong Kong residents participated in a rally at Victoria Park that was largely peaceful," Chief Executive Carrie Lam said at a televised press conference.

"I wholeheartedly hope that this is the beginning of society returning to calm and staying away from violence." The protests began against a proposed extradition law to China but morphed into a pro-democracy movement sparking the city's biggest political crisis in decades.

They have been fuelled by anger over alleged police brutality,



with tear gas and rubber bullets deployed against protesters.

Lam reported 174 complaints have been made against police since protests began.

She said they would be "robustly" investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Council, whose head is appointed by the chief executive.

However, the probe is unlikely to satisfy protesters who have called for an independent inquiry by an external body.

In addition to universal suffrage and cancelling the extradition bill, protesters also demand the release of those detained during clashes.

Lam, pilloried by press and protesters for failing to step down while the city plung-

es into crisis, said her government would continue a "fact-finding mission" on how to move forward from the demonstrations.

She took a softer tone than in recent weeks, but again refused to formally withdraw the contentious extradition bill, repeating only that: "The bill is dead. There's no plan to revive this bill."

The chaos has caused mounting concerns for business and investment in Hong Kong, with the effects of the trouble particularly impacting the tourism industry.

"One of its most important strengths is the rule of law," Lam said of the financial hub.

"That's why we have been doing so much to ensure that the rule of law is being upheld and respected in Hong Kong.

Trump asks Imran Khan to 'moderate rhetoric' with India over Kashmir

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, AUG 20 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has asked Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to "moderate rhetoric" with India over Kashmir, as he underlined the need of exercising "restraint" by both sides and avoid escalation of the "tough" situation in the region.

Trump on Monday spoke separately to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Khan in his bid to ease fresh Indo-Pak tensions after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Trump's suggestion to Khan came as Prime Minister Modi during his telephonic conversation with the US president conveyed that "extreme rhetoric and incitement" to anti-India violence by certain leaders in the region was not conducive to peace.

After his 30-minute conversation with Modi, Trump held a telephonic conversation with Khan, the second in less than a week.

Trump spoke with Khan to discuss "the need to reduce tensions and moderate rhetoric with India over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," the White House said in a readout of the call.

Continuing with his tirade against India over the Kashmir issue, Khan on Sunday had called the Indian government "fascist" and "supremacist", alleging that it poses a threat to Pakistan as well as to the minorities

in India. He also said the world must also seriously consider the safety and security of India's nuclear arsenal as it impacts not just the region but the world.

During the conversation with Khan, Trump "reaffirmed the need to avoid escalation of the situation, and urged restraint" on both sides, the White House said.

The two leaders also agreed to work towards strengthening US-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation, it added.

"Spoke to my two good friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding trade, strategic partnerships, and most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir," Trump said in a tweet late on Monday.

"A tough situation, but good conversations!" he said.

White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Hogan Gidley said Trump spoke with Modi to "discuss regional developments" and the US-India strategic partnership. The president conveyed the importance of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan, and maintaining peace in the region, he said.

"The two leaders further discussed how they will continue to strengthen United States-India economic ties through increased trade, and they look forward to meeting again soon," Gidley added.

JuD chief Hafiz Saeed challenges his arrest in terror financing cases in Pak court

BY M ZULQERNAIN

LAHORE, AUG 20 (PTI): Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, a UN designated Pakistani terrorist whom the US has placed a USD 10 million bounty on, challenged his arrest in the terror financing cases in the Lahore High Court here on Tuesday.

In a fresh petition, Saeed and 67 other leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD), and its charity wing Falah-i-Insaniat (FIF), challenged the FIRs of terror financing against them in the LHC through their counsels, Advocate A K Dogar, Ahmad Abdullah Dogar and Ghulam Yasin Bhatti.

The petitioners have made the interior ministry, the Punjab home department and the Counter Terrorism Department of Punjab police respondents in the case. The court will fix hearing of this case later.

Saeed was arrested on July 17 in a terror financing case and the anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujrat (some 200-km from Lahore) will take it up on September 2. He is kept at the Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in high security.

The petitioners said JuD chief Saeed and others (67) are not members of Lashkar-e-Taiba either they have any nexus with it. They also cited some previous courts observations in this regard.

Saeed and others prayed to the LHC to declare the property detailed in this petition



was "dedicated for the purpose of mosques and is being used as such therefore FIRs are without lawful authority and of no legal effect."

"It is prayed that this learned court be pleased to declare that none of the petitioners and pro-forma respondents are linked with LeT and therefore the FIRs are without lawful authority and of no legal effect (be quashed), they prayed.

Saeed-led JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the LeT which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people. He was listed under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December 2008.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab Police had registered 23 FIRs against the petitioners on the charges of "terror financing" in different cities of Punjab province.

The cases have been registered in Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan for collection of funds for terrorism financing through assets/properties made and held in the names of Trusts/Non Profit Organisations (NPO) including Al-Anfaal Trust, Dawatul

Irshad Trust, Muaz Bin Jabal Trust, etc.

The CTD said investigation launched into financing matters of proscribed organisations -- JuD and LeT -- in connection with implementation of UN Sanctions against these Designated Entities and Persons as directed by NSC (National Security Committee) in its Meeting of 1st January 2019 chaired by the Prime Minister Imran Khan for implementing the National Action Plan.

"These suspects made assets from funds of terrorism financing. They held and used these assets to raise more funds for further terrorism financing. Hence, they committed multiple offences of terrorism financing and money laundering under Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. They will be prosecuted in ATCs (Anti-Terrorism Courts) for commission of these offences," the CTD said.

The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the US, since 2012, has offered a USD 10 million reward for information that brings Saeed to justice.

Johnson tells EU he wants Brexit deal but without backstop

LONDON, AUG 20 (AFP): British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has written to EU President Donald Tusk reaffirming his desire to conclude a Brexit deal as well as his opposition to the controversial "backstop" on Ireland.

The so-called backstop is a mechanism that would keep the UK in EU customs arrangements to prevent a hard border between the British province of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state.

In the letter Johnson stressed that his government wanted to achieve a divorce deal with Brussels.

"You have my personal commitment that this government will work with energy and determination to achieve an agreement. That is our highest priority," Johnson wrote on Monday.

Brussels says the backstop is needed as a fallback option to preserve the integrity of European trade and avoid



risking a return of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. The backstop was included in the accord reached with the European Union by former premier Theresa May, which was rejected thrice by the British parliament.

Johnson, who succeeded May in July, has said he's ready to leave the EU at the new scheduled exit date of October 31, with or without an accord.

But he also reiterated his view that the Irish backstop plan was "anti-democratic and inconsistent with the sovereignty of the UK as a state." In addition,

keeping the UK in the customs union would prevent London from establishing a trade policy independent of EU rules, he said.

The EU has repeatedly stated that it was not ready to renegotiate the Brexit deal it had reached with May.

Johnson will seek support for his vision for Brexit in key European capitals, travelling Wednesday to Berlin to meet Chancellor Angela Merkel and Thursday to Paris for talks with President Emmanuel Macron, ahead of the G7 summit in Biarritz at the end of the week.

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Malayalam actor, film crew stranded in Himachal village

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 20 (PTI): A 30-member film crew from Kerala, including award-winning actress Manju Warrier, has been stranded in a remote village in Himachal Pradesh, which has been witnessing heavy rains and floods for the past few days.

The plight of the crew came to light after the 'How Old Are You' actress contacted her family in Kerala through a satellite phone on Monday night.

As the actress said there was food for only two days in reserve and there was no communication facility, her family sought the help of the authorities on Tuesday for their safe evacuation.

The crew has been camping for two weeks at Chatra, a scenic hamlet in the Himalayan valley and located over 80 km away from Manali, for the shooting of Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's upcoming movie, Manju Warrier's actor-brother Madhu Warri-

er told television channels. Besides the cinema crew and Sasidharan, nearly 200 people were stranded at the place due to inclement weather and there was a

Madhu Warrier appealed to the authorities to take urgent steps for the safe evacuation of those stranded and ensure that they were provided food.



lack of transport and communication facilities, he said. "She made the call on a satellite phone. She said there is food for only two days in their reserve and she could speak only for some time."

He said the family had contacted Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan for the intervention of the Centre and the Himachal Pradesh government in this regard.

Juan Riedinger cast in 'Riverdale'

LOS ANGELES, AUG 20 (PTI): Juan Riedinger is heading to "Riverdale" for a recurring role in the fourth season.

The Canadian actor will play Dodger, Archie's nemesis, in the upcoming chapter of The CW show, reported Deadline.

Riedinger's credits include shows like "Narcos" and horror comedy "Jennifer's Body".

He recently wrapped up "Claws" from TNT. Season four airs October 9.

Sam Claflin, Laura Haddock announce separation



LONDON, AUG 20 (PTI): Actors Sam Claflin and Laura Haddock have announced their split after six years of marriage.

Claflin shared a joint statement on his Instagram Stories on Monday.

"Laura and I have decided to legally separate. We will move forward with nothing but love, friendship and a deep respect for one another, whilst we continue to raise our family together.

"We won't be comment-

ing on this further. Thank you in advance for your support and respecting our privacy at this time. Both of us," the statement read.

Haddock shared the same statement on her Instagram Stories.

Claflin and Haddock, 33, tied the knot in 2013 and kept details of their relationship private.

They have two children: son Pip, three-and-half and daughter Margot, 18 months.

Malavika Mohanan to turn showstopper for VineetRahul at LFW

MUMBAI, AUG 20 (PTI): "Beyond the Clouds" actor Malavika Mohanan is set to walk the ramp for designer duo Vineet-Rahul at the Lakme Fashion Week Winter Festive 2019.

The collection taps into the elements of love, devotion, flamboyance and vibrancy- through our contemporary and neo-Indian interpretation of Pichwais in the world of colour and fashion.

"Redefining forms and art of the traditional textile, the label makes an endeavour to fuse the traditional with the modern.

"Fabrics used are hand woven chanderi and silks with intricate details and laborious hand crafted embroidery and finishing techniques. Silhouettes are fluid, easy and feminine to bring in sensuality and comfort," a press release read.

For the duo Vineet Kataria and Rahul Arya, their latest clothing line goes beyond the designs.

"It's a larger programme that focuses to uplift various crafts and communities like hand block prints, hand embroideries and traditional weaves to offer an unconventional aesthetic, keeping traditional modes of development alive," the release further read.

LFW kicks off Wednesday.

'The Marvelous Mrs Maisel' season 3 to premiere on December 6

LOS ANGELES, AUG 20 (PTI): The third season of "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel" is set to air on December 6, Amazon has announced. The streaming platform on Monday also shared

the teaser trailer of the upcoming installment on Twitter, which gave a sneak peek into Midge's first world tour as a budding stand-up comic with her manager Susie.

"We're ready to take this marvelous act on tour! Season 3 of #Mrs-Maisel arrives December 6 on @PrimeVideo," the tweet read.

It offered the first look at "This Is Us" star Sterling K Brown's character in the Emmy-winning series. Cary Elwes

and Stephanie Hsu are the other new additions to the cast.

"The Marvelous Mrs Maisel", a period comedy, follows Rachel Brosnahan as the titular character, Miriam "Midge" Maisel, a housewife in late 1950's New York City who discovers she has a knack for stand-up comedy. Created by Amy Sherman-Palladino, it also features Tony Shalhoub, Alex Borstein, Michael Zegen, Marin Hinkle, Kevin Pollak and Caroline Aaron.



Strut in style! The model, Gigi Hadid was spotted looking very stylish and fashionable while out & about in New York City.

Farhan Akhtar, Shibani Dandekar to walk for Payal Singhal at LFW

LOS ANGELES, AUG 20 (PTI): Farhan Akhtar and Shibani Dandekar are set to walk the ramp for designer Payal Singhal at the upcoming Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive.

The couturier marks the 20 years of her eponymous brand with her latest collection '#PS20', which is based on gypsies and bohemian culture. Payal said Shibani and Farhan were the perfect muses for the clothing line because they both imbibe the bohemian vibe. This is first time they will walk the runway as a couple.

"Shibani was mainly my choice as she has been the eternal PS Muse and walked for my debut show at Lakme Fashion Week so it was only apt for her to walk for the 20 year anniversary show.

"Since we have launched PS Men this year, it has been a dream to have Farhan as a PS Man. He has the cool boho vibe that our clothes have and is a dream showstopper to have," the designer said in a statement.

Payal said the collection is more than sim-

ply referencing the bohemian way of life.

"The original bohemians were really just artists who went against norm. They were liberal thinkers and dressers; often drawn to bold colours, indigenous crafts and textures. They also pioneered mixing and matching...

"This forward-thinking mindset, deeply



inspired by art and culture, has been the raison d'être of the brand for two decades now," she said.

The collection is rich in elements from Islamic architecture and cultural cues from the crafts and bazaars of Turkey and Morocco.

LFW begins Wednesday.

ARIES: Nothing says 'I love you' like being present to the other. Yes, we mean physically, Aries. Is there an ocean between you and your beloved? It's time to dissolve the distance. Can't move cities just yet? Don't let that stop you from spending the weekend together. Happily married to the one you love? Make quality time for each other.

Tip: Make time to be with the one you love.

TAURUS: Listen to yourself talking, Taurus. Is any of it making sense to you? Take a deep breath and count backwards from 10. This will give you perspective on a lot of matters. Personal relationships may or may not be chaotic today. It doesn't mean you have to be. Tap into the ability to stay Zen despite everything that transpires in your outer reality.

Tip: Find within yourself that reservoir of peace.

GEMINI: One word, Gemini: self-sufficiency. It doesn't mean you are not engaging with other people. It means that you are putting yourself first, setting boundaries, and protecting your sacred space. Not everybody deserves your time and energy—you've learned the hard way. Remember, your physical space

is a good indicator of where you are emotionally. Be sure to clean and purge old energy and re-organise in a way that attracts good chi. Tip: Putting yourself first is just as lit as it is made out to be.

CANCER: If things on the romance front are seeming lacklustre, it's because they are. Don't wait for your partner to pull out that story on 50 bed breaking moves. You take charge of how things will transpire in the bedroom and outside. There's something about embracing your power that makes you the most alluring version of yourself.

Tip: Take charge.

LEO: If it's working out seamlessly, take it as a sign that you're meant to be together. If it's not, trust that you are destined to find a greater love. The Universe wants you to practice the fine art of surrender, wild one. Remember, almost perfect is not the same as perfect. There's a good chance you are dulling your own sparkle by settling for somebody who only celebrate 'parts' of you as opposed to the whole package.

Tip: You'll know if and when it's time to walk away.

VIRGO: We come to the lesson of reciproc-

ity yet again, Virgo. Have you allowed your own needs to be put on the backburner? Are the compromises you have made left you feeling bitter? Understand what these experiences are revealing to you about your own subconscious patterns. The inadequacy within your own being that you could be making up for. This chapter of your life requires you to restore the balance between giving and receiving.

Tip: Restore balance in your personal relationships.

LIBRA: Ready, set, go. Spontaneous travel is on the cards for you, Libra. Debating over where you should and shouldn't go? Choose a place that allows proximity to water, preferably in its natural form. If running off into the wilderness seems unrealistic at this point, margaritas by the pool should do the trick for you. Keep it simple. This trip isn't about what you are projecting to others, it's about journeying back to your soul.

Tip: Eat, pray, love.

SCORPIO: Be careful of who you are engaging with, Scorpio. What if they're a conduit of bad vibes? Listen to the voice of your higher self when she asks you to stay away. Some of you could experience a classic case of 'fun

and games until somebody gets hurt'. You don't want one careless night to affect your health. Besides, it's not always possible to separate the emotional from the physical, especially when there is attraction involved. Draw boundaries if and when you need to protect your heart.

Tip: Listen to your inner voice.

SAGITTARIUS: Once again, the cards are pointing towards the opportunity to teach and learn. It's back to the classroom for some of you. Others could prepping for their own lecture or workshop. But don't limit your understanding of sharing knowledge to institutions alone. A heart-to-heart with a stranger at the cafe next door could just as revelatory—if you are prepared to listen to what the Universe is communicating to you via multiple sources.

Tip: Stay open to knowledge.

CAPRICORN: Have you been dancing with your demons yet again, Capricorn? What the Universe wants you to remember: your mind is the most powerful tool at your disposal. Use it to create a beautiful reality for yourself. Reroute your thoughts for the benefit of your growth. The words you use when in conversation with yourself are just important. Be kind.

Be gentle. You are allowed to be both a masterpiece and a work-in-progress.

Tip: Reroute your thoughts.

AQUARIUS: If and when you find yourself in a castle of illusions, give yourself a reality check. There's a good chance you have got your priorities completely wrong at this point. Be accountable for your time and energy, Aquarius. Not everybody deserves a place in your inner circle. When it comes to love and romance, resort to 'straight talk' instead of implying things. This will help you protect your heart and replace confusion with clarity.

Tip: It's time for some truth tea.

PISCES: This week, you're that strange and beautiful mix of mother and crone. A wise woman who knows her place in this world, but has also perfected the art of looking beyond the veil, connecting with her spirit guides, and moving energy for the highest good of humanity. Continue to be a conduit of ancient wisdom. Continue to be a torchbearer of light in these dark times. What if awakening the collective is part of why you chose to take birth in this human body?

Tip: Tap into your higher self.