



SABA TEAM LEAVES FOR SR NATIONALS

pg 03

THE OLDEST TRADE IT MAY BE, BUT IT REMAINS A VIOLENT OFFENCE

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RICKY MARTIN, IWAN YOSEF EXPECTING FOURTH CHILD

pg 08



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim State Civil Service Officers Association elects executive body after 14-year hiatus



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

The investiture ceremony of Sikkim State Civil Service Officers Association was held at Janata Bhawan, Gangtok on 29 Sept, 2019. This completes the process of re-kindling the association and to bring concerted focus back to pursuing issues of the State Civil Services. The last time that elections were held to the executive body of the association was in the year 2005.

The newly elected members of the SSCSOA were presented the certificates of election by Additional District Magistrate [East], Bharani Kumar, who was the Returning Officer for the elections in which members cast their votes online.

It may be mentioned here that, the SSCSOA was formed in the year 1986 and had the late MM Rasaily as its first president. The SCS Association now has more than 250 members.

The process to elect a new body had begun in August with a meeting of the officers held at Janta Bhawan on 03 Aug, 2019 which discussed the need to revive the association and hold elections to constitute an executive body.

It is now hoped that the process of reviving the association will bring concerted focus back on pursuing the issues of

the State Civil Services along with focusing on key issues concerning the state and service.

The election was held on 28 Sept with 222 registered members casting their votes online which was a first of its kind in itself. The results were declared on Sunday and the new office bearers are:

1. President: Special Secretary, Tshewang Gyachho, Education Department.

2. Vice President: Director, Bhim Bdr Thatal, Education Department.

3. General Secretary: Additional Secretary, Annapurna Alley, Agriculture Department.

4. Joint Secretary I: Joint Secretary, Umesh Sunam, Home Department.

5. Joint Secretary II: SDM Rangpo, Prem Kamal Rai, Land Revenue Department.

6. Joint Secretary III: Under Secretary, Suprina Chettri, Home Department.

7. Treasurer: Joint Commissioner, Kamala Rai, Commercial Tax.

8. Assistant Treasurer: BDO Sumbuk, Kiran Kr Thatal, RDD.

The new body has thanked all members for their cooperation and assistance, especially the Members of the Election Committee, Special Secretary, Anil Raj Rai, Rural Development

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WSOS announces Inter School Scholastic Festival 2019



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

Wandering Souls of Sikkim has announced the next edition of its Inter School Scholastic Festival titled NEEV: A Foundation for Better Future which is scheduled to be held at Government Senior Secondary School, Rateypani, South Sikkim on 04 Oct, as per a press release.

The event is supported by Rateypani Gram Panchayat and Government Senior Secondary School, Rateypani.

Sixty students from seven Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools from around Namthang Rateypani are expected to participate in 6 scholastic competitions like quiz, debate, poetry, elocution, essay writing etc in various categories during the daylong festival.

Education Secretary, MT Sherpa has consented to attend the festival as chief guest.

This festival is being organized in line with our objective to provide a platform for the young

18 candidates in the fray for 3 by-elections

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

The by-elections promise to be interesting this time around with some strong words being thrown around and last minute developments keeping the politics energized. All nomination papers for the bypolls were filed today, and on final count, where most had expected this to be an SDF versus BJP-SKM contest, there are now 18 candidates in the fray for the three constituencies which will see a by-election on 21 Oct.

Martam-Rumtek received the largest number of candidates at 8 while Poklok-Kamrang receiving only 4 nomination papers even with SKM fielding a dummy candidate as well and Gangtok sitting in the middle with six candidates.

The total number will definitely come down to 17 after the date for withdrawals since SKM



Martam Rumtek	Gangtok	Poklok Kamrang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuk Tshering Bhutia [SDF] Sonam Tshering Venchungpa [BJP] Mingma Tshering Sherpa [SRP] Nima Lepcha [HSP] Passang G Sherpa [Ind] Sonam Tashi Bhutia [Ind] Dr Mechung Bhutia [Ind] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinzing Ongmu Bhutia [SDF] Delay Namgyal Barfungpa [SNPP] Yong Tshering Lepcha [BJP] Song Tshering Lepcha [SRP] Bhaichung Bhutia [HSP] Karma Yenten Chankapa [Ind] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moses Rai [SDF] Prem Singh Tamang [SKM] Kharka Bdr Rai [SKM] Yadu Kr Rai [SRP]

has fielded a dummy candidate as well. Whether this number climbs down further after scrutiny and

withdrawals, only the coming days will tell.

Interestingly, only two parties, both in the

opposition – Sikkim Democratic Front and Sikkim Republican Party – are contesting from

all three constituencies, while the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is contesting only from one constituency and BJP from two.

SKM and BJP, it may be recalled, announced a seat-sharing arrangement on Saturday and as a result, SKM president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], filed his nomination papers from Poklok-Kamrang today. This is the only general seat go to by-polls, the other two being BL-reserved constituencies.

While the stakes are probably highest at Poklok-Kamrang where Mr Tamang's continuation as the Chief Minister is at stake, the contest can be expected to be keen and confusing at the other two constituencies as well both of which have former MLAs in the hunt.

Poklok Kamrang is the SDF president, former CM Pawan Chamling's traditional constituency and had posted a comfortable

victory for him in April earlier this year when he received 60% of the votes cast. Kharka Bdr Rai, fielded by SKM as the dummy candidate this time, was the party candidate in the April elections has received 36% of the votes while the SRP, HSP and Congress candidates had to make do with slivers.

How the equations change now that SKM is in government and has Mr Tamang contesting, will be interesting to watch.

Martam-Rumtek, meanwhile, was among the most narrow victories for SDF earlier this year with Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, the SKM candidate at the time, losing to DT Lepcha, then an SDF candidate, by a mere 73 votes. Postal ballots were the deciding factor at the time since the EVMS had counted out nearly equal votes between the two with Mr Venchungpa in fact

turn to pg02

Congress condemns ECI decision allowing Golay to contest elections

SKM not Krantikari but Vyapari party: Bharat Basnett

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] president, Bharat Basnet today announced that the party will not be participating in the upcoming by-elections for three seats in the State following the decision of the Election Commission of India [ECI] to allow Chief Minister PS Tamang to contest the election. He alleged that the present political development in the State has totally defiled the Constitution and suppressed the rights of the people of the State.

Meanwhile in New Delhi, the Congress central leadership also took up the matter at a press conference where they condemned the ECI's decision. Congress spokesperson, Abhishek Manu Singhvi said that the relaxation awarded to Mr Tamang reeked of favouritism because of SKM's affinity to BJP.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Basnet alleged that the ECI's decision coming a day after the announcement of the alliance between Bharatiya Janata Party and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party for by-election, makes it evident that it was all a great scheme.



The ECI is supposed to be an autonomous body but the interference of a party in the ECI is very sad and unfortunate, said Mr Basnet.

He stated that SKM has the majority but to save a leader the party has sacrificed the man-

date and trust of the people of Sikkim and destroyed the value of democracy.

turn to pg02

SCBC Chairman removed following complaint

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

The State Government relieved Chairman Sikkim Commission of Backward Classes, TN Sharma from his charge under Section 4 sub-section 3(p).

Mr Sharma was appointed as the Chairman on 20 June 2018 vide Notification 33/ Home/2018.

Earlier this month on 07 September, he was served notice on a complaint filed by a resident of Gangtok for violating rules and defaming the institu-

tion while holding the quasi-judicial post. Mr Sharma was accused of being actively involved in politics as an active member of the then ruling party.

A day before he demitted his office after attaining the age of superannuation, Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava on 29 Sept, 2019, signed the order relieving him from the post of Chairman after holding an enquiry.

It is learnt that TN Sharma has not filed his response to the notice despite ample time being provided to him.

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World Tourism Day Celebrated at SRM Univ

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

School of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, SRM University-Sikkim, celebrated World Tourism Day on UNWTO's theme, "Tourism and Jobs: A better future for all" on 27 Sept, with entrepreneur Rewaj Chettri and HR of NE Taxi, Usha Subba. Stalls put up by stu-

dents detailing different job prospects in this field were a big draw on the day. Travel agencies, Tour Operations and hotels owned and managed by the students were also promoted. One of the stalls highlighted adventure tourism in Sikkim.

Rewaj Chettri, in his address, highlighted the

job prospects in tourism while Usha Subba pointed out the qualities and skills required of tourism professionals and how students can develop the skills.

Vice Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar talked about Sikkim and Tourism development here.

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Training held for Social Inclusion and Health Community Resource Persons

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

A special training for Social Inclusion and Health Community Resource Persons [SIH CRPs] to cover Food Nutrition Health and Wash (FNHW) was held at Janta Bhawan here on Monday. A total of 40 SIH CRPs from 14 blocks of North and East districts attended the program.

SIH CRPs are routinely trained on various aspects of social inclusion and health by Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission as support to SHG members on tasks such as social inclusion and health awareness through community resource



Persons.

Some of the Community SHG resource persons are designated to take care of social inclusion and health awareness activities at village level.

There are 2-3 SIH CRPs identified by SRLM for the purpose in each block.

Additional Director, Dr Melojina Lepcha, NHM (National Health Mission), Joint Director, Dr AK Rai, Health Department and Joint Director (Nutrition), Bharati Basnett, Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department and SRLM thematic staff comprising of Project Manager

and Asst Project Managers served as resource persons for today's training.

Commissioner-cum-State Mission Director, P Senthil Kumar, in his address, informed that the objective of organizing this training program was to build the capacity of SIH CRPs in

order to enhance their capacity to deal with social inclusion and health awareness at the village level.

He also explained the role of SIH CRPs in social inclusion and health.

These CRPs have to provide necessary assistance and facilitate people avail their entitlements related to old age, PWD, orphans, SC and ST among SHG members.

The resource persons of the program covered Tuberculosis, its diagnosis and treatment and management; Nutrition, Diet diversity to be followed for mothers, infants, elders; Sanitation aspects affecting the health and the need to make awareness among the rural population.

Poshan Maah ends in North Sikkim



MANGAN, 30 SEPT (IPR): Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, North District, organized the closing ceremony of the "Poshan Maah" campaign here at the Zilla Bhawan conference hall today.

The entire month of September was celebrated as Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutritional Month). This year the theme was "Complimentary Feed-

ing." Prime Minister's Overreaching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN Abhiyaan) is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to address malnutrition with targeted approach by 2022.

The closing ceremony of Poshan Maah campaign in North Sikkim had Chungkipu Lepcha as chief guest who praised the efforts of Aaganwadi, ASHA and ICDS workers in making

a difference in the rural community by spreading awareness. The month-long nutritional campaign was an eye-opener for mothers and children in the community, she said.

On the occasion, Northern Bikers which had participated in the POSHAN Maah bike rally in the district and schools which actively participated in the closing ceremony were felicitated by the organizing body.

Family Peace Seminar held in South Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 30 SEPT: Universal Peace Federation of Sikkim organized one day Family Peace Seminar on "Ideal Family: Foundation for Peace & Development" at Zilla Panchayat Bhawan Conference Hall in Namchi, South Sikkim on Sunday.

The seminar was attended by Zilla Adhyaksha, Ashok Gurung, West Sikkim, Ex-DYC cum Peace Ambassador of Sikkim, Puran Chettri, vice-president UPF Sikkim,



Nima T Tamang, Ex-Panchayat, BB Tamang, Panchayat Presidents, Radha Sharma & Deoraj Rai and the families of South Sikkim. Sec-

retary general UPF India, Krishna Adhikari was the main speaker of the day. He took his session on Family Peace Principal: Ideal, Cause of Family Con-

flict & Suffering & the Conflict Resolution through Family Peace Blessing.

The programme was also addressed by Puran Chettri.

Mamring school holds parent-teacher-SMC meeting

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

Parent-teacher-SMC meeting was held at Mamring Senior Secondary School in East Sikkim today which was chaired by SMC vice president and Panchayat, Amna Devi Basnett. The meeting was attended by Panchayat President, members, SMC members, Principal, Teachers and parents of the students, a press release informs.

Principal of the school, Prahlad Sharma, placed a brief report of school activities,



achievements and requirements, expressed gratitude to parents and Zilla Panchayat for donating essential items to the school and supporting the school in times of need.

Pre Board/ Mid Term

exam results were also declared to make the parents aware about the performance of the students. Subject Teachers also apprised the parents about various issues of the students.

Parents also raised

various queries regarding scholarship schemes, use of mobile phones by students, joining private coaching, improvement in academic performance, etc which were answered by the Principal and teachers.

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282 dengue cases in Delhi; 368 of malaria

NEW DELHI, SEP 30 (PTI): Nearly 70 fresh cases of dengue have been reported in the national capital over the last one week, taking the total number of people affected by the vector-borne disease to 282, according to a municipal report released on Monday.

The number of malaria cases recorded till September 21 stands at 368, it said.

This is by far the maximum number of malaria and dengue cases recorded in any month this year.

As many as 214 malaria cases were recorded in September, 56 in August, 54 in July, 35 in June, eight in May and

one in April.

Of the total 282 dengue cases, 190 were recorded in September, 52 in August, 18 in July, 11 in June, and rest between January and May, according to the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates the data on vector-borne diseases in the city.

Malaria cases have outstripped those of dengue in Delhi for the past several weeks.

According to the report, at least 87 cases of chikungunya have also been reported this year.

Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four deaths were recorded by the SDMC. While, 473 cases of malaria and 165 cases

of chikungunya were also reported.

Both the Delhi government and local bodies have been making efforts to raise awareness on precautions to ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae.

The AAP government has started an anti-dengue campaign '10Hafta, 10Baje, 10Minute' urging people to inspect their house for any standing water.

The campaign from September 1 and November 15 to combat dengue has garnered support from several personalities, including cricket legend Kapil Dev, many Bollywood actors and well-known journalists.

18 candidates in the fray...

polling one more vote than Mr Lepcha in the EVMs. This time around, both the victor and the runner-up are wearing BJP colours with Mr Lepcha having defected to BJP earlier this year and Mr Venchunga having joined the saffron party on Saturday.

For the by-elections, Dr Mechung Bhutia who represented the constituency in the last term has also thrown his hat in as an Independent candidate.

This is also the constituency where BJP has put in its best performance in April 2019 polling 5.85% of the votes polled.

Gangtok will be the prestige constituency and a former Minister in SDF's Ringzing Ongmu Bhutia and two party presidents in Bhaichung Bhutia [HSP] and Delay Namgyal Bhutia [SNPP] in the fray. BJP's YT Lepcha had also turned out one of BJP's better performances in April 2019 when he polled 5.28% of the votes.

Of course, BJP will have to do much better to win and must be hoping that the handsome margin with with SKM's Kunga Nima Lepcha had won earlier this year will come to it.

Follow-up awareness prog held for Yak herders



SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 30 SEPT:

The Animal Husbandry Livestock Farming and Veterinary Service Department organized awareness programmes at Lachen, Lachung and Rabong Angora farm, North Sikkim on 28 and 29 Sept.

The programme was attended by Director, ICAR-NRC on Yak, Dr

P Chakraborty, Senior Scientist, Dr D Medhi, and was supported by AHLF&VS, Principal Director, Dr NT Bhutia, Addl Director, Dr Karma Bhutia, Veterinary officer, Sonam Diki Lepcha and staff.

The team conducted veterinary health awareness on conservation of Yaks, nutrition and motivation for Yak herders

under Tribal Sub Plan scheme.

Training was provided on scientific Yak rearing and demonstration held on conservation of feeds & fodder in the form of a Complete Feed Block (CFB) and silage making to meet the feed requirements during winter.

The herders were also provided basic in-

puts like CFB, concentrate feeds, mineral mixture, solar lamp, medicinal aids like basic veterinary medicines and vaccines earlier in May 2019.

This was a follow up programme conducted for affected Yak herders who had suffered due to unprecedented heavy snowfall.

Sevilla edge out Real Sociedad in five-goal thriller

MADRID, SEP 30 (AFP): Sevilla avoided a third consecutive defeat in La Liga and stopped high-flying Real Sociedad from going top after coming from behind to beat them 3-2 on Sunday.

After Real Madrid's stalemate against Atletico on Saturday, the Basque outfit could have leapfrogged both to claim first place in Spain but came up short in a pulsating contest at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

It looked good for the visitors when Mikel Oyarzabal gave them a fourth-minute lead but Nolito equalised for Sevilla with a sumptuous half-volley before Lucas Ocampos and Franco Vazquez completed the comeback in the second half.

Portu still set up a nervy finish when he added a second for Real Sociedad in the 87th minute but Sevilla held on for a much-needed win, after consecutive

losses to Real Madrid and Eibar this week.

After signing 12 new players in the summer, Sevilla have gelled impressively quickly and they now sit sixth, just two points off the top.

Their credentials for keeping pace with the leaders will be tested next weekend, when they play away at defending champions Barcelona.

Real Sociedad have been arguably the sur-

prise side of the season so far, having already beaten Atletico Madrid and with Martin Odegaard, the 20-year-old on loan from Real Madrid, back in form.

They are fifth after seven games played, level on points with both Sevilla and Barca.

Sevilla were undone early as Adnan Januzaj won the ball back and freed Oyarzabal, who finished for his fourth goal of the season.

Sikkim State Civil Service...

Department, Additional Secretary, Roshni Rai, Election Department, Additional Secretary, Manoj Rai, Finance Department, Joint Secretary, Rinchen Doma, Rural Development Department, Under Secretary, Zomden Lachungpa, Food Department and Deputy Director, Zangpo Gyaltsen, IT Special thanks to ADC, Bharani Kumar, East District for gracing the investiture ceremony and handing out the certificates.

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ICFAI felicitates Chief Secretary



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: ICFAI University Sikkim felicitated the Chief Secretary of Sikkim, AK Shrivastava with a certificate of citation today. The Chief Secretary thanked the ICFAI family and said that he will remember

the University as a part of his family.

The citation was presented by the Vice Chancellor of ICFAI University, Dr Jagannath Patnaik and Registrar, Dr Rabindra Chettri. The Vice Chancellor also met the next Chief Secretary, SC Gupta

and congratulated him for the new position and discussed various developmental schemes of ICFAI University Sikkim in order to build capacity of local youth by providing them certificate and diploma programs so that they get employment.

Rotary Int'l District Governor visits Gangtok



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Rotary Club of Gangtok South hosted an official visit of District Governor, Rotary International 3240 Dr Devashis Das from Shillong on 29 Sept, a press release informs. During his visit he interacted with members of Ro-

tary Club of Gangtok Hills and members of 5 Interact Clubs of Sikkim Sponsored by Rotary Club of Gangtok South.

Devashis Das interacted with members of the club and gave suggestions. Secretary, Prakash Sundas, presented the club's report.

Rotary Club of Gangtok South presented Token of Appreciation to 5 Rotarians namely PK Dong, Bina Sharma, Namgyal P Sherpa, Geeta Sapkota and Geeta Chettri.

The also Club inducted, Kiran Rasaily and Priyanka Sharma as members.

SABA team leaves for Sr Nationals



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association's senior elite men's team left today to represent the State at the Senior National Men's Boxing Championship which begins on 04 October at Solan in Himachal Pradesh.

The four-member

State team is made up of Suk Raj Rai [Jr] in 49 kg category, Suk Raj Rai [senior] in 56 kg, Lakpa Tamang in 60 kg and Subash Tamang in 75 kg.

The team is being accompanied by Anoj Pradhan as team coach, Suman Lepcha as assistant coach and Shakti Kumar Rai as team

manager. Manoj Kumar Limboo from Sikkim will also serve the championship as a referee/judge.

The State team members, led by SABA president, Jasral Pradhan, called on Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kuber Bhandari, at his office on Sunday.

Workshop on Ethical Hacking held at SRM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: SRM University Sikkim, School of Information Technology organized a two-day workshop on "Cyber Crime and Ethical Hacking" recently. Information Security Analyst, Vatsal Vaishy (Red Teamer) from Macksofy Technologies, Mumbai was the resource person. He was assisted by CEO-Macs Technologies, Shubham Keshyup, Sikkim. Forty students participated in this workshop which informed students about Ethical Hacking and Information security thereby giving them knowledge about reading the hacker's mind and understanding the hacking psychology and methodology.

Hands-on training was given in this regard

to the participants. Prof Ch Satish Kumar, the Vice Chancellor of the university was present for the inauguration and valedictory function.

While addressing the students, he highlighted the significance of becoming a techno-geek as IT is taking the world to another level through AI. While advancement is appreciable but safety too is important, that's why security is required, he said.

He congratulated the participants and encouraged them to take the most from this two day workshop, sharpen their skills in contributing to use safe technology in future.

Assistant professor and coordinator of this program, Sabna Sharma delivered the vote of thanks.

Football tourney kicks off at Dikchu SSS



SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 30 SEPT: The open men's football tournament, organized here as part of the 78th foundation year celebrations of Dikchu Senior Secondary School kicked off today.

The inaugural match

was played between Dikchu Senior Secondary School and Makha Secondary School which the latter team won 2-4 following a penalty shootout.

In the second match, Mangan Police defeated Nam-

rang Boys 5-0.

The final match of the tournament is scheduled for 01 November with the winning team receiving Rs 50,000 in cash along with a trophy and the runners-up receiving Rs 30,000 and a trophy.

State Level Open Talent Hunt Season II begins

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Season II of State Level Open Talent Hunt show started in a grand manner at Community Hall, Rongli today. Eighty participants both in solo and in groups participated in the audition, a press release informs.

Dancing and singing had the most participants while different individual events like painting, sketch, rubik cube solving, chess, beat-boxing and acting

were also performed.

SKM Incharge, Chujachen Constituency, Damber Pradhan, was the chief guest of the day. He appreciated the efforts of the organising committee.

Forty participants were selected for the quarter final round to be held at Community Hall, Singtam on 26 Oct, 2019. The Talent Hunt Audition now moves to Soreng, West Sikkim on 04 October thereafter on 19 October at Singtam and on 20 Oc-



tober the final audition round will be held at Gangtok.

The talent hunt show is organised by Sikkim

Newar Guthi Youth Affairs in collaboration with Inspire Academy, Arithang and Sang-Martam Jan Sewa Sangathan

on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration of Sikkim Newar Guthi to promote the local talents of Sikkim.

ICFAI VC and Registrar meet Governor



GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

Vice Chancellor, Jagannath Patnaik and Registrar, Rabindra Chettri, ICFAI University Sikkim called on the Governor, Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhawan on 30 Sept, 2019 and presented a Brochure of Tourism and Hospitality Program and Diploma Program in Culinary Arts under the Skill Development Initiatives of ICFAI University Sikkim, as per a press release.

This program is basically launched for employment generation for local youth of Sikkim since Sikkim has a huge potential in tourism and hospitality sector, the re-

Under the Diploma Program ICFAI University provides adequate knowledge and skills to the students to help them become a trained chef and provide placement assistance by recruiting them in various hotels industries, home stays and other tourist places.

Dr Patnaik also presented the annual report of ICFAI University Sikkim to the Governor and discussed various issues, development plans and new admissions of the University. The Governor appreciated the efforts of the University and was impressed by the developments that have taken place till date, the release adds.

SRM Univ hosts B-School meet

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: SRM University, Sikkim, hosted a two-day B-school meet, "Innovative '19," here over the weekend with 240 students from various schools, colleges and universities of Sikkim participating.

The first day of the fest saw the participation of five colleges and universities with a total of 80 students joining events like business plans, market mayhems, situation strategies and many more.

The meet was inaugurated by the SRM Univ Vice Chancellor, Prof Ch Satish Kumar, along with Additional Chief Secretary, Dr Thomas Chandy, present as the chief guest,



a press release informs.

The VC announced that winners of Business Plan competition will receive support to make their start-up more feasible.

The chief guest, in his address, spoke on small and medium industries and initiatives taken by the Government to help budding entrepreneurs.

The prize distribution ceremony of the first day had founder of Taste Bud Sikkim, Sonam Choden Bhutia, as the chief guest.

The second day of

the B-School meet had eight schools participating represented by 160 students in the quiz, talent hunt, trust your leader and many more competitions.

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, chaired the day as the chief guest and urged students to be innovative future leaders.

The prize distribution of the final day had founder of Karismatica Academy, Karishma Pradhan, as chief guest.

The champions trophy were lifted by Department of Management, Sikkim University and Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School on the first and final day of Innovative '19 respectively.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION 2019

STATE LEVEL TALENT HUNT SHOW

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19TH OCT 2019 SINGTAM
20TH OCT 2019 GANGTOK

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**RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK**

Plastic Waste Management Campaign

As per the call made by the Government, all the Government, government undertakings and Private Institutions in the state are organizing campaign to be free from Plastic Waste as per the schedule given below:

CALANDER: SWACHHATA HI SEWA 2019		
11 TH September – 1 st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness generation across towns and villages.• Preparation for collection, disposal of plastic waste.• Shramdaan for general Swachhta	
2 nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nationwide Shramdaan for plastic waste collection & segregation.	
3 rd October – 27 th October (Diwali)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling and effective disposal of the collected plastic waste.	

All are requested to participate in the SHRAMDAAN being scheduled on 2nd October 2019 in your locality.

Rural Development Department
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 206/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date: 30.9.201

Trafficking

To repeat a cliché, prostitution is the oldest trade. While this might be true, it does not make the flesh trade acceptable or even legal. The legalities we can leave to the legal minds to work out, but that still leaves us with the social aspect which continues to demand attention. Of late, there have been many NGOs, some effective ones even in the region, which have been hard at work to rescue and rehabilitate victims of trafficking. They, however, work in isolated silos and have not received the involvement of people at large on a scale that is required to address the problem with any real consequence or rebust enough to effectively rehabilitate all the rescued victims. As things stand, these organizations work with law & order agencies and victims; their engagement with the society limited to press briefings and the occasional sensitization camp. Speak to those working with rehabilitation, and they will be share that the number of victims they see returning to the “trade” is worrying. And this return is not out of choice, but sheer desperation. There are also those who look at this situation and argue that if someone takes up prostitution as a profession by choice, then no one should have any problems with it. This might appear sound on surface, but scratch a bit and an ugly picture emerges. But we digress.

What does it say about a society where girls take to prostitution by choice. And this is not about moralizing on the issue either. Prostitution, and there are no two ways about it, is a very demeaning profession. Its workers are sex workers with no choice over who they service. While high-society call girls might still have some iota of control over where to draw the line, even this control is superficial since prostitution is a racket controlled by pimps and slave-keepers. Even when we pass off the induction of more girls into this trade to the lure of easy money and a weakness for luxuries, what we are actually commenting on is the social fibre which makes such decisions easy to take. Each time a police raid breaks into hotel rooms and claims to have found “evidence” of paid sex, the society cannot turn away its nose in disgust to avoid the unsightly reflection, it should instead hang its head in shame. How weak can the societal cushion be when prostitution keeps increasing in the State which does not even have a red light district or any overt presence of an organised mafia involved in this trade? Of course, one does not hear much about such raids nowadays, but that does not mean the problem does not exist. The police on their part, tackle even this social ill with their hands tied behind their backs just as they battle substance abuse. To illustrate this point further - while we read often about elaborate sting operations which have busted prostitution rackets all over the country, how often have we read about convictions? The cops cannot, however, go easy on the trade any more. Raids have to be conducted and arrests made, if not for convictions, then just to get the message across that prostitution will not be ignored in Sikkim. This is necessary because if the trade is ignored, it will keep growing in the years to come and when it becomes really big we will have to start living with horror stories of girls being sold and forced into the trade. Even if one were to accept for a moment that girls are not being sold into the trade in Sikkim at present, one cannot discount the coercion part. There is always that person who inducts and lures people into the trade. Given the ever-falling age of induction, isn't that coercion? And, we have not even started talking the attendant health risks involved yet.

Having said all this, we have also got to accept the fact that no society and no police has been successful in wiping prostitution out. And that is where the NGOs and volunteers come into play. The violence involved in the trade, both physical and psychological, needs to be conveyed to a wider audience and the situations which sucked victims into it need to be made known. Then the social engagement might come about and rescue and rehabilitation become possible and effective.

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Misogyny, male rage and the words men use to describe Greta Thunberg

CAMILLA NELSON & MEG VERTIGAN
THECONVERSATION.COM

Detractors have dismissed Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg - a Nobel Prize nominee - as mentally ill, hysterical and a millennial weirdo after she pleaded with world officials last week to address the climate crisis.

Here, two researchers explain the stereotypical labels deployed by critics to undermine Thunberg's call to action, which the activist herself has described as “too loud for people to handle”.

CAMILLA NELSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN MEDIA, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Greta Thunberg obviously scares some men silly. The bullying of the teenager by conservative middle-aged men has taken on a grim, almost hysterical edge. And some of them are reaching deep into the misogynist's playbook to divert focus from her message.

It is not a rhetorical accident that critics of Thunberg, nearly 17, almost always call her a “child”. This infantilisation is invariably accompanied by accusations of emotionality, hysteria, mental disturbance, and an inability to think for herself - stereotypically feminine labels which are traditionally used to silence women's public speech, and undermine their authority.

In Australia, Herald Sun columnist Andrew Bolt has called Thunberg “freakishly influential ... with many mental disorders”. Sky News commentator Chris Kenny described her as a “hysterical teenager” who needs to be cared for.

Overseas, male commentators have used similar pejorative terms - describing her as a “mentally-ill Swedish child”, unstable and a “millenarian weirdo”. One claimed Thunberg needed a “spanking”; another likened her activism to “medieval witchcraft”.



Obviously these men find Thunberg triggering. But why?

At a deep level, the language of climate denialism is tied up with a form of masculine identity predicated on modern industrial capitalism - specifically, the Promethean idea of the conquest of nature by man, in a world especially made for men.

By attacking industrial capitalism, and its ethos of politics as usual, Thunberg is not only attacking the core beliefs and world view of certain sorts of men, but also their sense of masculine self-worth. Male rage is their knee-jerk response.

Thunberg did not try to be “nice” when she confronted world leaders at the United Nations last week. She did not defer or smile. She did not attempt to make anybody feel comfortable.

US President Donald Trump tweeted: “She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!” Happiness here aligns itself with conformity, and an unspoken idea that women and children are expected to be docile and complacent.

But in reality, Thunberg is cutting through - rather than displaying - emotionalism. What certain kinds of men do not wish to acknowledge is that asking for action on climate change is entirely rational.

MEG VERTIGAN, LECTURER IN ENGLISH AND WRITING AND ACADEMIC ADVISOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

As Greta Thunberg's speech to the UN climate summit last week reverberates across the world, claims by critics over her mental state are alarming. Thunberg has described herself as having “Asperger's”, an autism spectrum disorder, and describes it as her “superpower”.

But politicians and broadcasters appear to have confused the disorder with mental illness - a label used throughout history to label and potentially stigmatise “difficult” women who are told they need bed rest, medication or incarceration. Even today, doctors are more likely to diagnose women than men with depression, even when they present with identical symptoms.

Advocates for people with autism have pointed out the disorder is not

linked to mental illness.

Yet commentator Andrew Bolt wrote of Thunberg, “I have never seen a girl so young and with so many mental disorders treated by so many adults as a guru”.

“She seems chronically attracted to apocalyptic visions, to fear,” he wrote, describing her as “chronically anxious and disturbed”.

Thunberg is ‘not the messiah, she is an extremely anxious girl’, Bolt says.

Not-for-profit organisation Beyond Blue defines anxiety as stress or worry which occurs “without any particular reason or cause”. Therefore by diagnosing Thunberg with anxiety, men are pathologising Thunberg's concern about the environment and dismissing her fears as baseless and the result of mental illness.

History is littered with examples of this. Former Coalition minister George Brandis in 2015 famously called Labor frontbencher Penny Wong “shrill” and “hysterical” after she interjected during his Senate address - implying her comments were due to feminine mental instability.

So too, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison suggested climate change fears were a type of pathology. Following Thunberg's UN speech he declared that the climate debate subjected children to “needless anxiety” and suggested they needed more “context and perspective” on the issue. “We've got to let kids be kids,” he said.

Here, Morrison is implying that Thunberg's anxiety is somehow contagious. This is offensive to people with anxiety disorders - and offensive to passionate and vocal women.

[Camilla Nelson is Associate Professor in Media, University of Notre Dame Australia; Meg Vertigan is Lecturer in English and Writing/ Academic Advisor, University of Newcastle]

The history of the People's Republic of China - through 70 years of mass parades

XUN ZHOU
theconversation.com

Traditionally in China, 70 is an auspicious number. A person who reaches 70 is considered “rare and precious” (guxi 国瑞) and the 70th birthday is worth a big celebration. To mark its own 70th anniversary on October 1, the People's Republic of China (PRC) will hold a mass parade in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

For the Chinese Community Party (CCP), which has ruled such a vast country for 70 years and turned what was once viewed as the “sick man of Asia” into a major world power and the world's second-biggest economy, this is a rare and precious occasion worth celebrating in a grandiose way.

The history of parades to mark China's National Day can help to track the changing concerns and priorities of the country's leadership over the past 70 years. Over time, such mega events have helped to validate the political status and legitimacy of the CCP leadership, and connect the distant, autocratic state with ordinary people through spectacle.

After the founding of the PRC in 1949, one of the major tasks of the new People's Government was national, cultural and educational work, which meant raising the cultural level of the masses. It sent delegations to the USSR to learn how to stage “socialist-style” national events. In the early years of the PRC, the state staged two annual mass parades, one on May Day and the other on the national day on October 1, whose design closely resembled Soviet parades. They were displays of the CCP's military force, core economic goals and achievements as well as occasions for the masses to show devotion to the party and state.

The 1959 National Day parade celebrating the tenth anniversary of the PRC's foundation was the biggest yet. In anticipation for the event, the newly constructed square in front of the Tiananmen, the gate of the former imperial palace of Beijing's Forbidden City, was enlarged. It would surpass the size of the Red Square in Moscow and become the biggest square in the world, with space for a million people. This was viewed as a tangible way to display the CCP's “Great Leap Forward” to the world.

But in the aftermath of the 10th anniversary jubilation, China leaped into great chaos. Mao Zedong's utopian vision to take the country into a communist paradise ended with the worst famine and environmental disaster in history, which claimed tens and millions of lives as well as killing many animals and plants.

FRUGALITY AND REVOLT

In response to the “catastrophic natural disasters” - to use the official euphemistic formulation at the time - in September 1960, the CCP leadership made a strategic change to the protocols gov-

erning National Day celebrations. An official decision declared that from then on:

“National Day will be celebrated with frugality: there will be small-scale festivities every five years (xiaqing 小庆) and major celebrations (daqing 大庆), including a military parade, only every ten years.”

A march past would continue to feature every year on October 1, but between 1960 and 1984, no military review was held. This was partly due to the disruption of the Great Proletarian, or Cultural Revolution.

After Mao's death in 1976, under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the CCP passed a new protocol to resume the military reviews on October 1. The next parade was held in 1984 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the PRC, alongside China's achievements brought about by the post-Mao economic reform under Deng's leadership. But the memory of this celebration was short-lived.

In 1989, a few months before the 40th anniversary national celebration, hundreds and thousands of workers, students and ordinary residents took to Tiananmen Square in Beijing to raise grievances against official corruption and increasing inequalities, and to press for greater freedom. Their peaceful demonstration was brutally suppressed by the communist authorities. The image of tanks rolling down Tiananmen Square changed the global meaning of the square from a political space designed to celebrate the successes of the Chinese communist revolution and national unity, to a space of resistance to authoritarian rule and oppression.

In the aftermath, there were no mass gathering or mega events held on Tiananmen Square for the next decade. Then in 1999, under Jiang Zheming's leadership, the CCP Central Committee decided to hold a National Day parade in the square to mark the PRC's 50th anniversary. The event would showcase the PRC's economic and technological achievements in the post-Mao era as well as celebrate Hong Kong and Macao's recent return to the Chinese motherland.

OPENING THE DOOR

While the 1999 National Day parade was similar in style to previous parades, it showed the changing political priorities of the CCP leadership as China moved towards the 21st century. Slogans included: “Open door, and reform science and education to build the nation, rush to the next century!”, “One country two systems, reunite the motherland, peaceful development!” and “Political stability, economic development, cultural blossoming, social progress”.

Despite the Ministry of Defence's promise to put on a “frugal and cost-effective” show for the 60th anniversary in 2009, it was, until now, the most

spectacular display of the PRC's military might. On show were 56 phalanxes of more than 10,000 People's Liberation Army soldiers, 500 tanks and military vehicles and 151 combat aircraft. In military terms, 90% of the armaments, which included nuclear-capable intercontinental missiles, were shown to the public for the first time.

Social, cultural and technical feats were celebrated on floats following the military display. These included symbols of national achievements from the space programme to the bullet train, hybrid rice and family planning. There were also symbols of national unity, including floats representing 56 national minorities. Traditional power symbols and cultural icons once condemned as feudal - such as the dragon, the philosopher Confucius and some religious symbols like the lotus flower - were also on display for the first time since the founding of the PRC. By reclaiming “Chinese traditions”, the CCP hoped to generate positive feelings about its rule.

FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE

Ahead of the 2019 parade, the CCP is anxious. Alongside continued unrest in Hong Kong and tensions with Taiwan, China's economy is flagging, the wealth gap growing and health scandals increasing. Fewer and fewer people in China trust the current leadership.

To ensure its 70th celebration turns out a “joyous, happy and harmonious” occasion, the state media has focused on efforts by the the CCP to eradicate poverty, improve people's livelihood and health, as well as reiteration by China's leaders of the old Chinese saying that “the people are the foundation of the state”.

But while the dissemination of large televised parades into living rooms and onto mobile phones across China is a key way in which ordinary Chinese people experience the state's central programmes, it also unveils China to a global audience.

“The foreigners are looking” has been a constant anxiety of modern Chinese elites. The success of the National Day parade is therefore important to promote the idea among the leadership that: “We, the CCP leadership have won international respect for China.”

Like the opening ceremony for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, held under the motto “one world, one dream”, the 70th anniversary will allow the CCP to promote China as a harmonious, peaceful and benign world power. Expect the parade to present China as major player in the international order on all key environmental issues including climate change and the need for sustainable use of resources.

[the writer is Reader, Department of History, University of Essex]

All eyes on Amit Shah's seminar on NRC

KOLKATA, SEP 30 (PTI): All eyes are on Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled seminar on the contentious National register of Citizens and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 slated to be held on Tuesday in the city.

Shah, who is also the BJP president, will visit the city on October 1 and inaugurate a community Durga Puja besides addressing the seminar, party sources said on Monday.

This will be Shah's first visit to West Bengal since he assumed the office of the union home minister earlier this year.

The seminar assumes importance as it is being held at a time when there have been 11 deaths in the state allegedly due to panic over implementation of NRC in West Bengal.

Hundreds of people are seen lining up at government and municipal offices in the city and across the state to collect their birth certificates and necessary documents to be in readiness

should NRC be implemented in the state.

Shah had repeatedly said that the NRC exercise will be conducted across the country and Mamata Banerjee-headed TMC government in West Bengal had avowed that the NRC exercise will not be allowed in the state.

According to state BJP sources, Shah's seminar is of immense importance as he likely to address all allegations by TMC and "misconceptions" created by it over NRC.

"The TMC has deliberately tried to create a panic in the state over NRC. So Amit Shahji will give us a clear picture over the issue and dispel all the fears and misconceptions," a senior state BJP leader said.

In Assam, the only state in the country where the exercise was carried out to update the NRC, names of over 19 lakh people were omitted from the final list which was published on August 31. Of them about 12 lakh are Hindus.



NRC was one of the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985 and was carried out under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

The omission of a large number of Hindu Bengalis from the final NRC list in BJP-ruled Assam has apparently created panic among the people and has allegedly led to eleven deaths in the state so far.

"The TMC has been opposing NRC to protect Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators who are its vote bank in West Bengal. But

after many Hindus were omitted from the NRC final list in Assam, it is trying to project us as anti-Hindu and an anti-refugee party. This might take a toll on our prospects in Bengal," said a senior state BJP leader, who did not wish to be named.

TMC has been against the updation of the NRC calling it an "anti-Bengali" move by BJP.

Meanwhile, TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee, has demanded that Shah and

Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after seven years of residence in India instead of 12 years, which is the current norm, even if they do not possess any document. The legislation was passed by Lok Sabha during its winter session on January 8 but could not be cleared by the upper house.

Some senior BJP leaders have said that the Bill would be reintroduced in the winter session of Parliament.

Banerjee, who had met Shah earlier this month in the national capital over the matter, has been building strong public opinion against the NRC exercise.

The TMC supremo had led a rally against NRC on September 12 in the city.

The West Bengal Assembly had in August passed a resolution against NRC and Banerjee had vowed not to allow its implementation in Bengal.

CBI transfers over 200 lower-rung staff members

NEW DELHI, SEP 30 (PTI): In an attempt to overhaul the CBI, the agency has transferred over 200 lower-rung staff members who are understood to have been posted at a station for over 10 years, officials said.

In a string of orders issued last week, hundreds of lower division clerks, upper division clerks and inspector rank officials were transferred in a pan India move, they said.

The agency has a sanctioned strength of over 7,000 personnel, they said.

On August 21, 2019, Joint Director (admin) A K Bhatnagar had asked heads of various units to prepare a list of officials

under them who have been posted at a place for a long time.

In the letter, Bhatnagar had urged the officials to stick to the transfer policy of "annual rotation" as keeping officers at a location creates discipline issues in the agency.

"All HoZs (Head of Zones) are requested to review the posting particular of each individual posted in their zone and send a list of officers and officials," Bhatnagar said in the letter.

The officers were asked to furnish three choices of postings, the letter said.

They were also asked to furnish the data by September 10.

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Indian National Army veteran dead



NAGAPATTINAM, SEP 30 (PTI): A veteran of the Indian National Army (INA) V Ganesan, belonging to Sembodai village near Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam district, is no more.

He died on Sunday night and leaves behind four sons.

He was 94, his family members said.

The funeral is scheduled to be held late Monday evening.

Ganesan joined Nethaji's INA at the of 18 and received six months of military training in Singapore.

While participating in the battle against the British Army in Myanmar, Ganesan was arrested and was imprisoned for 10 months in Yangon jail and was later repatriated to India, said his family members.

A recipient of Copper

Plaques from both the central and state governments, Ganesan was honoured by the President of India in 2012 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Ganesan founded the Nethaji Hospital, a public charitable institution at Sembodai village and asked his son VG Subramanian, a doctor by profession to serve the poor people of the area.

Chakrapani appointed new VC of Berhampur University

BHUBANESWAR, SEP 30 (PTI): Odisha Governor and Chancellor of Universities, Ganeshi Lal on Monday appointed Govind J Chakrapani and Hari Hara Hota as Vice Chancellors of Berhampur University and Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Puri respectively.

The two professors were appointed as VCs of two universities for a period of three years with effect from the date they assume office or until further orders, whichever is earlier, an official release said.

Prof Govind J Chakrapani is presently serving as Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, IIT, Roorkee.

After completing his MSc in Applied Geology in IIT, Mumbai, he did his M Phil in Environmental

Sciences and PhD from JNU, New Delhi in Environmental Geosciences.

Chakrapani did his Post Doctoral in Marine Sciences from the University of Delaware, USA in 1991-92. He had 27 years of teaching experience and also academic administrative experience of 23 years holding several posts and responsibilities.

Prof Hari Hara Hota is presently serving as Professor and Chairman, PG Council in Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya (SJSV), Puri. He had both his Acharya (MA) and PhD from SJSV, Puri and later did MBA in IT from Punjab Technical University, Ludhiana.

He had 30 years of teaching experience and has a long administrative experience in various capacities.

Heavy rains claim four lives in J'khand

DUMKA/PAKUR/CHATRA(JHARKHAND), SEPT 30 (PTI): Heavy rains lashing Jharkhand have claimed four lives, including those of three members of a tribal family in Dumka district, officials said on Monday.

Three members of a family died on the spot when a rain-soaked wall of their house collapsed on them at Amjhar village in Dumka district while they were asleep on Sunday night, sub-divisional officer Rakesh Kumar said on Monday.

The dead were identified as the house owner, his wife and his mother-in-law, the SDO said.

In another incident, a 30-year-old woman was swept away by the flood waters of Jam river at Vasisht Nagar area of Chatra district.

The woman was wading through the water to reach her home on the other side when she was caught in the strong current and swept away. Her body



was found five km away in Niranjana river, Vasisht Nagar police station officer-in-charge Rajiv Ranjan said. Chatra and Dumka are being lashed by torrential rains for the past several days. The Dumka district administration has given 50 kg rice and Rs 20,000 cash to the family members of the dead and assured more relief from the disaster management department, Kumar said.

The other people whose houses were damaged in the rains were given grains, blankets, tarpaulin and other relief materials, the SDO said.

In Pakur district, Masna and Pathra rivers are in spate due to heavy rains for the last five days which has led to inundation of roads in several villages in Pakur sadar block, officials said.

Chappell concerned about effects of climate change on Test cricket

MELBOURNE, SEP 30 (PTI): Former Australia skipper Ian Chappell believes Test cricket is threatened not just by the rising popularity of T20s but also climate change, something that the boards around the globe need to pay serious attention.

"Closer inspection of the five-day game indicates there are some serious challenges ahead. Two of the biggest concerns are the effect of the T20 game and climate change on the longer version," Chappell wrote in his column for 'ESPNcricinfo' website.

Sharing his concerns about the future of Test cricket, Chappell said: "The effects of climate change on the game are a major concern, and the solutions rely on decisive action being taken by some annoyingly reticent politicians.

"For starters, drastic increases in temperature will add to the health dangers for players. There's nothing more frustrating than a game

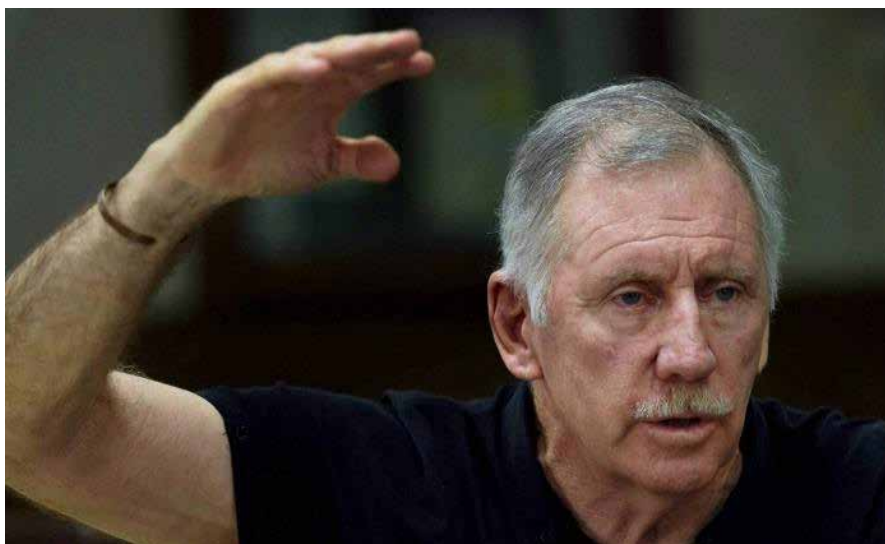
delayed by rain, but imagine if players are off the field because the sun burns too brightly."

The former captain, who has battled skin cancer, said exposure to sun for too long could make players susceptible to the ailment he has been fighting.

"That is the reality if temperatures keep rising; players will need to be protected from heat stroke or more lasting skin-cancer damage. In a litigious era, cricket boards will need to proceed with caution. It's no wonder day-night matches are considered critical to Test cricket's future," he wrote.

Concerned about the rising sea levels, Chappell said, "Then there is the concern of rising sea levels and more ferocious weather events like devastating tornadoes and cyclones.

"There's also the damaging effect of reduced rainfall, which has already seen one Test-match city - Cape Town - come perilously close to



running out of water in recent years.

"These are firm reminders that cricketers and administrators need to take climate change seriously," he added.

The 76-year-old also pointed out the varied effects of T20 cricket on the five-day format.

"There's no doubt that the explosive nature of T20 has already had a profound effect on Test-match batting. The prevailing mindset in tricky Test match conditions is for batsmen to adopt the attitude 'I'll get them

before they get me," he wrote.

"There's no doubt that this changed approach to batting has helped boost the entertainment quotient of Test cricket and reduced the number of draws; both are positive outcomes.

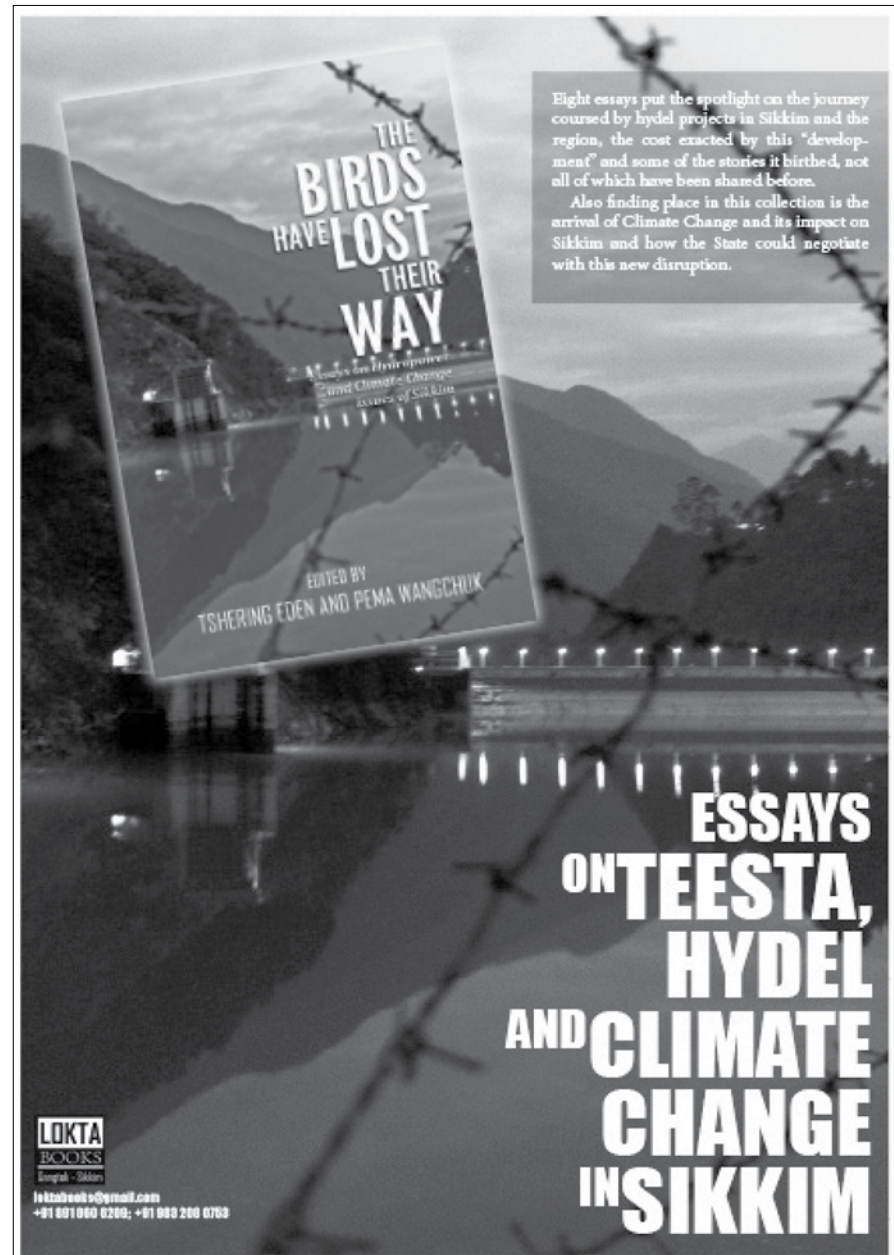
"Even so there needs to be some artistry in long-form batting, and if this is ignored in the search for brute strength, Test cricket will lose some of its magic."

Calling on the coaches to take more respon-

sibility for the wholesome development of batsmen, Chappell said the craft should remain technically sound.

"If the blueprint for a modern batsman is a solid all-round base with the advantage of added power when required, then Test-match batting will continue to be a captivating spectacle.

"If, on the other hand, batting becomes an exercise in clearing the boundary regularly, with the accent on power, then Test-match batting will be diminished.



Defence is king as Madrid go back to basics ahead of Brugge test

Madrid, Sep 30 (AFP): Real Madrid's revolution was supposed to be built around their attack but resilience has been the base for the recovery ahead of their Champions League group game at home to Club Brugge on Tuesday.

At the end of last season, as Zinedine Zidane's dreary run-in came to a close and paved the way for what many expected to be a spectacular summer, polls were published by Madrid's newspapers asking fans which of the world's deadliest strikers they hoped would arrive at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Harry Kane, Mohamed Salah, Sergio Aguero, Mauro Icardi and Robert Lewandowski were some of the names offered up and, in the end, Luka Jovic arrived, the Serbian who has struggled for starts so far and is yet to score a goal.

Eden Hazard is

tasked too with helping fill the void left by Cristiano Ronaldo, even if the Belgian's own opening in Madrid has also been underwhelming, stalled by injury and now seemingly a period of adjustment.

"We would like him to score because it will release him," said Zidane on Saturday.

"But there is no problem with him." Yet the stalemate against Atletico Madrid, in which neither side ever looked likely to find a winner, was a stark indication of how Real Madrid have relied on their defence to ease the pressure on their coach.

"We have been compact and again we have not conceded," said Zidane after the derby draw.

"We have missed a little offensively but we are in it and we can improve."

This is the first time



Madrid have kept three consecutive clean sheets in the league under Zidane and in the games against Sevilla, Osasuna and Atletico, they have had to cope with just a single shot on target.

"Defending is very important, it is the fundamentals," Zidane said.

The turnaround has been remarkable from Paris Saint-Germain, whose 3-0 win in the Champions League 10 days ago was Zidane's worst ever defeat as coach, as well as Levante and Villarreal, who had just scored twice against Madrid in the league.

When they were floundering last season, the focus was on their lack of goals but Madrid's defending was arguably just as problematic, with Sergio Ramos, Raphael Varane and Marcelo all woefully out of sorts.

After missing the loss to PSG, Ramos' return has

coincided with the trio of clean sheets and his performances have been tighter too, more disciplined and less prone to extravagance.

- BALE 'DOING VERY WELL' -

But perhaps the biggest gains have been made ahead of him, in

central midfield where Zidane's options are light but boosted by two excellent displays from Fede Valverde, who was given a chance in the rotated line-up against Osasuna and impressed enough in defensive midfield to keep his place.

"I want to highlight Valverde as well," Zidane said after Osasuna.

"He played a brutal match." Ahead of Valverde, there has been more diligence from the front three, with Zidane singling out Gareth Bale for praise a handful of times since his move away failed to materialise in the summer transfer window.

Zidane's scepticism around Bale in the past has centred on a belief the Welshman cannot be trusted to defend but against Sevilla it was Bale who was at his own back post in injury time, hacking a cross clear from danger.

"Gareth is doing very well," Zidane said.

"Above all he is also helping a lot in the defensive areas and it shows. The team is more comfortable when we all defend." Perhaps as well, there is a sense of a team finding its reality after a fantasy summer, a coming to terms with the need to build this new era not on glamour signings but going back to basics.

They restart this week in the Champions League too, where PSG's victory makes the French side favourites to go through top of Group A but a win over Brugge would at least get Madrid on the board.

The rematch at home to PSG comes in November and before then, the season's first Clasicos against Barcelona arrives at the end of the month. Zidane will hope his defence can hold firm.

Ramsey gamble paying off at Juventus

MILAN, SEP 30 (AFP): Welsh international Aaron Ramsey scored on his first start for Juventus as the former Arsenal man's Turin gamble looks to be paying off as he flourishes in the Italian league.

Ramsey moved to the Serie A champions this season on a lucrative free transfer reported to be worth 503,000 euros per week (515,000).

The 28-year-old has impressed in his first three league games for the eight-time reigning Serie A champions having recovered from a hamstring injury picked up with Arsenal.

He found the net on his debut against Verona on September 21, and impressed in the following two league wins over Brescia and SPAL.

"Three wins out of three in Serie A this week. Onto the Champions League Tuesday," Ramsey wrote on social media.

Juventus will host Bayer Leverkusen in their Group D clash in Turin, having being held 2-2 at Atletico Madrid in their opener.

Ramsey had come



on as a late substitute against Atletico with the Italians conceding a goal just two minutes later.

"I've waited a long time for this moment, I'm really happy, both for the victory and for the goal," said Ramsey of scoring.

"It was important after the Madrid game."

Juventus are second in Serie A -- two points behind Inter Milan -- with their only slip-up a goalless draw with Fiorentina.

After a bout of pneumonia, new coach Maurizio Sarri has been implementing his changes from predecessor Massimiliano Allegri.

And Sarri has been giving more space to the Welshman, who the

former Chelsea boss has been easing into the team.

Ramsey has played an average of just over an hour in each of his league games so far.

"We're trying to preserve him from the point of view of playing time," explained Sarri.

"There's a big difference between playing 60 and 90 minutes."

- JOHN CHARLES'S WELSH SUCCESSOR -

How Ramsey could fit into Sarri's already talent-packed side needed to be worked out.

The star-studded midfield boasts World Cup winner Blaise Matuidi, experienced internationals Sami Khedira, Miralem Pjanic, Emre Can

and Rodrigo Bentancur, as well as Adrien Rabiot who arrived from Paris Saint-Germain during the summer.

But winger Douglas Costa's injury has allowed Sarri to make more use of Ramsey with the Welsh playmaker's driving runs forward impressing.

Ramsey's creative position behind strikers Ronaldo and Gonzalo Higuain or Paulo Dybala now seems to be confirmed, until at least Costa's return from injury.

Ramsey won three FA Cups in his 11 years at Arsenal and played a key role in Wales reaching the semi-finals of Euro 2016.

Despite the uncer-

tainties, the former Cardiff City academy member jumped at the move to Italy.

"When I knew that Juventus were interested, I couldn't refuse," said Ramsey.

"It's a great club, one of the biggest in the world, and to have the opportunity to come here and play for them is a dream."

The player from Caerphilly in South Wales has also become a fan favourite since speaking a few words of Italian at his unveiling.

He will now be aiming to follow in the footsteps of compatriot and Juventus icon John Charles, who died in 2004 at the age of 72.

The former Leeds United and Wales hero is a bona fide legend in Turin thanks to a hugely successful five-year spell in the late 1950s and early 60s.

Charles scored more than 100 goals for Juve as they bagged three league Scudettos and two Coppa Italia titles, and became part of the 'Magic Trio' alongside Omar Sivori and Giampiero Boniperti.

Doubles defeat for Djokovic ahead of Japan Open singles debut



Tokyo, Sep 30 (AFP): World number one Novak Djokovic, forced out of the US Open with a shoulder injury, suffered a doubles defeat at the Japan Open on Monday, but proved his recovery is on track.

Bruno Soares of Brazil and Mate Pavic of Croatia beat the 32-year-old Serbian star and his countryman Filip Krjinovic 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 to progress to the quarter-finals.

The doubles experts survived Djokovic's powerful serves with crisp

volleying as their quick court coverage overwhelmed the Serbian pair's bold shots.

Top seed Djokovic will make his Japan Open singles debut later this week playing Alexei Popyrin, a 20-year-old Australian, at the Ariake Coliseum, a venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

His main challengers in the Japan event will be second seed Borna Coric of Croatia and Belgian third seed David Goffin.

Earlier this month, Djokovic was forced to

pull out of his US Open fourth-round clash with Stan Wawrinka due to a nagging injury in his left shoulder.

His return means he could play out the season and hold off a challenge to his number one ranking from US Open winner Rafael Nadal.

Later in the day, 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic of Croatia will face Yuichi Sugita, entering on a wild card, who leads local hope after Japanese star Kei Nishikori pulled out of the tournament due to injuries.

NBA to tip-off grassroots community programmes in Mumbai

MUMBAI, SEP 30 (PTI): The National Basketball Association (NBA) will begin a series of grassroots community, youth basketball and elite development events and programmes set to impact thousands of young people, teachers, coaches and families across Mumbai.

This comes ahead of The NBA India Games 2019, which will be played between the Kings and Pacers in Worli here on October 4 and 5.

Throughout the week, NBA Cares, Jr. NBA, Her Time to Play and NBA Academy programming will feature basketball clinics, community impact projects and special events.

These are designed to encourage physical fitness, inspire play, empower women and girls and create sustainable, technology-equipped spaces to support STEM

education for kids of all ages, a media release said.

Continuing and expanding these initiatives ahead of The NBA India Games, the NBA, Pacers and Kings will support five under-resourced municipal schools in and around Mumbai, including Sitaram Mill Compound BMC Marathi School, where league and team executives and former NBA players will break ground on a new basketball court on October 5.

In partnership with American India Foundation (AIF), this joint 'Legacy Project' will transform the educational experience of hundreds of Mumbai's most under-served students for years to come.

Students and teachers will have access to new smart classrooms, STEM Resource Centres and a robotics lab outfit-

ted with new technology, digital STEM curriculum and training, and improved infrastructure for school facilities, as well as the newly-constructed basketball court.

Additionally, Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA programmes will be launched at each school for both boys and girls, it said.

"Our mission is to use basketball as a platform for good and we are thrilled to partner with the American India Foundation to invest in the education and growth, both physically and mentally, of youth in India," said Kings Chairman, CEO and Governor Vivek Ranadiv.

"We are excited to partner with the American India Foundation to support the health, wellness and education of under-served youth in Mumbai," said Pacers Chairman, CEO and Governor Herb Simon.

Gandhi's autobiography in Malayalam outsells others

AHMEDABAD, SEP 30 (PTI): Gujarat might be Mahatma Gandhi's native state but it is 'God's own country' Kerala that has more takers for his autobiography.

According to Navjivan Trust, an Ahmedabad-based publishing house founded by Gandhi, 'The Story of My Experiments With Truth' has sold 8.24 lakh copies in its Malayalam version, the highest for any language after English, while the figure is 6.71 lakh for Gujarati.

The book in Gujarati was published in 1927. The Malayalam version stole a march in terms of sales despite coming into print only in 1997.

Vivek Desai, managing trustee of the Navjivan Trust, pointed out to Kerala's high literacy rate as the reason for the robust sales of its Malayalam translation.

"Moreover, Ker-



ala has a culture of reading. It is there in Gujarat as well but it is higher in Kerala. Schools and colleges in Kerala buy the book in higher numbers," Desai said.

According to data with the trust, the book has sold the most in English, currently at 20.98 lakh copies, fol-

lowed by Malayalam, and then Tamil with 7.35 lakh copies, while 6.63 lakh Hindi copies were sold.

The book, printed in several languages including Assamese, Odia, Manipuri, Punjabi and Kannada, in all has sold 57.74 lakh copies, the Trust said.

The 500-page autobi-

ography, priced at Rs 80, saw sales of 2,000 copies in Punjabi when it was launched in 2014, while sales of the Manipuri and Sanskrit versions hover around the 3,000 mark each.

The trust plans to release the book in Jammu and Kashmir's Dogri and Assam's Bodo languages.

"The autobiogra-

phy was first published in Dogri in 1968. Only 1,000 copies were printed at that time and none after that. But now the trust has decided to publish it. We will start with 500 copies, which will be available from January," said Navjivan trustee Kapilbhai Rawal.

The Bodo version is currently being worked on and is expected to hit the markets by January next year, he added.

Rawal said the trust has decided to launch the autobiography as an audio-book, which can be in the form of a CD or pen drive.

"Those who do not have time to read books can listen to audio books while travelling to work or in office," he said.

"The Story of My Experiments with Truth" covers Gandhi's life from early childhood to 1921. It was written in weekly installments and published in his journal Navjivan from 1925 to 1929.

Delhi Metro's Dwarka-Najafgarh corridor to open on Oct 4

NEW DELHI, SEP 30 (PTI): The over 4.2 km-long Grey Line of the Delhi Metro, which will connect urban village area of Najafgarh to the rapid transit network, will be opened for services on October 4, officials said on Monday.

The corridor consists of three stations -- Dwarka (interchange with Blue Line), Nangli and Najafgarh.

"The Dwarka Najafgarh corridor of Delhi Metro will be formally flagged off on October 4 by MoS (Independent) for Housing & Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal," a senior DMRC official said.

The flagging-off ceremony is slated to take place at Metro Bhawan at 12.15 pm and passenger services on the section shall commence from 5 pm on the same day, said Anuj Dayal, the executive director, corporate communication of the DMRC.

With the opening of this section, the Delhi Metro network will expand to 377 km with 274 stations, including the Noida-Greater Noida Aqua Line,

"The Grey Line is a standard-gauge section and out of the 4.295 km, 2.57 km is elevated and 1.5 km underground. With the opening of this section, the Dwarka metro station is all set to emerge as an interchange facility that will connect the sub-city with the locality of Najafgarh," Dayal had said.

Senegal president pardons Khalifa Sall, ex-mayor of Dakar

DAKAR, SEP 30 (AFP): Senegal's President Macky Sall has pardoned former Dakar mayor and political rival Khalifa Sall, who had been sentenced to prison for fraudulent use of public funds, the presidency announced Sunday.

Khalifa Sall, no relation of the president, has been in jail since March 2017 and was sentenced to five years in prison in August 2018.

He was therefore barred from taking part in the presidential election in February.

Khalifa Sall emerged from prison a few hours after the pardon was announced to be greeted by a crowd of supporters.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd,

witnesses and local media said, The president has "totally annulled his sentences," said a presidential decree made public Sunday. Two of his co-accused were also pardoned.

Khalifa Sall, 63, served as Dakar mayor from 2009 till 2018 when the president removed him from office.

"I thank the head of state (Macky Sall) who had promised me this release," said Sowam Wardini, who took over as Dakar mayor from Khalifa Sall.

"Khalifa Sall is returning to his family today," he added.

Khalifa Sall was elected to parliament in 2017 but never got the chance to take his seat.



A popular politician, he has always believed that the case brought against him was a political move to prevent him from standing in this year's presidential election against Macky Sall, who has been in power since 2012.

That claim is denied by officials.

Several religious leaders have recently called for more discussion and less conflict in the country's political life.

Former minister Karim Wade, son of

Macky Sall's predecessor as president Abdoulaye Wade (2000-12), is another one who was prevented for standing for the presidency because of a fraud case.

He was jailed for six years in 2015 after having been detained for

two years, and handed a fine of more than 210 million euros.

After a three year stint in prison he was handed a presidential pardon in June 2016.

However the constitutional court rejected his presidential election candidacy due to that conviction.

Serigne Mountakha Mbacke, head of the Sufi Mouride Brotherhood, one of the most influential Muslim orders in Senegal, was the instigator of a reconciliatory meeting on Friday between President Sall and Abdoulaye Wade.

Religious leaders have a lot of influence in a country where over 90 percent of people are Muslims.

Trump wants to meet whistleblower in Ukraine scandal

WASHINGTON, SEP 30 (AFP): President Donald Trump said Sunday he wants to meet the anonymous whistleblower at the center of the scandal threatening his presidency.

Trump has been relatively quiet this weekend but in a series of evening tweets he also blasted Democratic lawmakers and the media as he railed against the impeachment inquiry launched last week.

That probe was triggered by the release of a rough transcript of a July phone call in which Trump asked the president of Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, a potential Democratic candidate in the 2020 US election.

He also enlisted his



attorney general and personal lawyer to help in that effort.

The whistleblower filed a complaint over the contents of the conversation back in August,

saying Trump had tried to get a foreign power to interfere in a US election for his own gain.

"Like every American, I deserve to meet my accuser, especially when

this accuser, the so-called 'Whistleblower,' represented a perfect conversation with a foreign leader in a totally inaccurate and fraudulent way," Trump tweeted.

He also said the de facto leader of the congressional inquiry, Adam Schiff, lied to Congress last week about what Trump said to the president of Ukraine and should be punished.

"His lies were made in perhaps the most blatant and sinister manner ever seen in the great Chamber," Trump tweeted.

"He wrote down and read terrible things, then said it was from the mouth of the President of the United States. I want Schiff questioned at the highest level for Fraud & 'Treason,'" he wrote.

Xi bows to Mao ahead of China's 70th anniversary



BEIJING, SEP 30 (AFP): Chinese President Xi Jinping paid his respects to Chairman Mao Zedong's embalmed body Monday in a rare gesture ahead of China's celebration of 70 years of Communist rule.

Xi and other top Chinese officials visited Mao's mausoleum -- located in the heart of Beijing in Tiananmen Square -- and bowed three times to the late leader's statue, reported official news agency Xinhua.

He also paid respects to the remains of Mao, whose embalmed body is kept in a glass display at the memorial hall.

The last time a Chinese leader bowed to the statue of the "Great Helmsman" was six years

ago, when Xi commemorated Mao's 120th birthday.

The move to honour the founder of the People's Republic of China comes as the country readies itself for a day of tightly-choreographed festivities, including a massive military parade and the release of 70,000 doves.

The anniversary is meant to showcase China's extraordinary rise from the ravages of war and famine to a modern, powerful nation state whose economic and military muscle is viewed by many with increasing concern.

But the celebration comes in a very bad year for the Chinese presi-

dent.

The US-China trade spat threatens to pummel the global economy, while African swine fever has sent the price of pork -- the country's staple -- soaring.

Months of unrest and pro-democracy protests in semi-autonomous Hong Kong also threaten to upstage Tuesday's celebrations, with fierce clashes between protesters and riot police erupting on Sunday.

Democracy activists in the financial hub have vowed to ramp up their nearly four-month-long campaign ahead of the National Day, which Hong Kong protesters have dubbed a "Day of Grief".

On Monday morning, Xi and other leaders of the Communist Party of China also attended a wreath-laying ceremony to honour national heroes on Tiananmen Square.

A choir of children in crisp white shirts and red scarves sang before Xi approached the Monument to the People's Heroes -- a tall obelisk in the middle of the square -- where baskets of flowers decorated with red banners were placed.

"A promising nation must have heroes, and a country with future prospects must have pioneers," said state-run CCTV in a broadcast of the ceremony, quoting Xi.

China to send its top trade negotiator to US for talks

BEIJING, SEP 30 (AP): China's top trade negotiator will lead an upcoming 13th round of talks aimed at resolving a trade war with the United States, a senior Chinese official said Sunday.

Vice Premier Liu He will travel to Washington for the negotiations, Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said. He didn't give exact dates, but said the talks would be after China's National Day holiday, which runs through Oct. 7.

"The two sides should find a solution through equal dialogue in accordance with the principle of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit," Wang said at a news conference with other officials, including Commerce Minister Zhong Shan.

The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese imports last year in a bid to win concessions from China, which responded with tit-for-tat tariffs. The escalating dispute between the world's two largest economies has depressed stock prices and poses a threat



to the global economy.

Both sides have made conciliatory gestures ahead of the next round of talks, but a deal remains elusive.

The US postponed a further tariff hike on Chinese goods, and China lifted punitive duties on soybeans. The move helps both American farmers and Chinese pig breeders,

who use soy as feed

and are struggling with a devastating outbreak of African swine fever.

The Chinese government released a third round of 10,000 tons of pork from its reserves Sunday to try to stabilize rising prices ahead of the holiday, Vice Commerce Minister Qian Keming said at the news conference.

China also has increased pork imports 40 percent in the first eight months of this year, as well as those of other meats.

Qian said the average wholesale price of pork had edged down slightly during the week of Sept. 16-22 to 36.4 yuan (USD 5.11) per kilogram.

Factory fire kills 19 in east China: official

BEIJING, SEP 30 (AFP): A factory fire has killed 19 people in east China, local authorities said Monday, in the latest deadly incident to hit the country's industrial sector.

The fire broke out on Sunday at a factory in Ninghai county, eastern Zhejiang province, said the local government on its official Twitter-like Weibo account.

The incident, which is under investigation,

occurred at a facility owned by the Ruiqi Daily Necessities Company.

Among eight people rescued from the fire, three were injured and sent to hospital for medical treatment, said Ninghai authorities.

It made for a deadly weekend in China ahead of the communist-led country's 70th-anniversary celebrations on Tuesday.



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Any actor will readily accept the role of Netaji: Prosenjit

KOLKATA, SEP 30 (PTI): Bengali actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, who is essaying the challenging roles of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and an ascetic in upcoming film 'Gumnaami', says he always waits for good roles and the one offered to him in the Srijit Mukherji movie was beyond his dreams.

Chatterjee told PTI on Sunday that any actor would have accepted the roles, that were offered to him in 'Gumnaami'.

The film portrays Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the character of an ascetic in Faizabad called 'Gumnaami Baba', but there was no effort in the movie to establish that the two were the same, he said.

The film, slated to be released on October 2, is based on theories surrounding Netaji's 'disappearance'.

"Never in my wildest dreams had I thought of getting a chance to portray such a character, but it is equally true that I am approached by directors only when they have a challenging role to offer.

"I also believe any actor in the world will agree to portray a global icon like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose," he said.

Recalling that he had undergone a prosthetic makeup that took three to four hours to perfect the looks of Netaji and Gumnaami Baba, the actor said, "For me, it was more challenging to become Netaji, as I don't have the same physical built or look like him."

"I also had some initial doubts about essaying the character of Netaji since everyone knows how he actually looked like, but I was convinced by the director. He asked me to start all kinds of preparations for the role which included increasing my food intake and putting on weight", Chatterjee said.

Asked how he prepared for the roles of Netaji and Gumnaami Baba, Chatterjee said it took him five to six months during the pre-production phase.

"We did a lot of research for documentation, including watching whatever footages I could lay my hands on," the actor said.

Mentioning that the film, particularly the part dealing with Netaji was "almost like a documentary with very little fictional elements", Chatterjee said, the film deals with three theories surrounding Netaji's disappearance - the plane crash theory, the Russia theory and the Gumnaami Baba theory.

"The plane crash portion has been extensively referred to in this film. Perhaps no previous film had dealt with the plane crash theory, the way we did. There was logistical problem for shooting of the Russian theory, while the Gumnaami Baba part was shot in various locations of Uttar Pradesh where the her-



mit had surfaced in the 1970s", he said.

Asked to comment on the controversy regarding the film, including the statements by several members of Netaji's family against the movie, Chatterjee said, "We could foresee there will be debates, arguments and counter-arguments but did not anticipate that it will turn so bitter."

"Before arriving at any conclusion let the people opposing the film watch it for once. They will understand that we are not belittling anyone. Also can a cinema belittle an icon, a true patriot, a warrior like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose," the actor wondered.

"We have not projected Netaji as Gumnaami Baba. We sought to refer to different theories about Netaji's disappearance.

"Can't a film, as a work of art, bring up questions which remain uppermost in people's mind, to narrate all the three theories and leave it for the audiences to decide? Why pre-judge a film which has been cleared by the Censor Board which is okay with the title," the actor said.

Kanye West's Jesus is King still isn't out — but soon, a documentary may be

The album has already missed two release dates.

It's been a long weekend for Kanye West fans who prepped for the release of his ninth studio album, Jesus Is King. It didn't come out.

After missing its two scheduled release dates, there's no clue when we'll see the religious LP. The rapper organized a few listening events over the weekend to hold the crowd over, so the album really does exist, but Jesus Is King is not out. However, reports of a forthcoming documentary on the making of the album seem to suggest the story still isn't over.

The saga began late last month when Kanye's wife, Kim Kardashian West, began teasing the imminent September 27 release date for the album, followed by a confirmation on Kanye's website. When September 27 came, aside from a Jesus Is King: A Kanye West Experience show in Detroit and some

new Jesus Is King merch, there was no album.

Kim then revealed to fans that after "a final few tweaks," Kanye would be dropping the album on Sunday. Last night, he hosted a Sunday Service event in New York and was expected to drop the LP, but the release never materialized. The forthcoming documentary, apparently also titled Jesus Is King, is reportedly set to hit IMAX theaters on Friday, October 25.

In 2018, after dropping his Ye album and the Kid Cudi collaboration Kids See Ghosts, Kanye teased the release of another new album, Yandhi, that never came out. The hype for that ultimately turned into the sudden excitement for Jesus Is King. There have been Sunday Service events throughout the year that seemingly building up toward the release of the album, so it possibly could be out sooner than later. At the very least, we'll have the IMAX doc next month. Maybe.

Ricky Martin, Jwan Yosef expecting fourth child

LOS ANGELES, SEP 30 (PTI):

Pop star-actor Ricky Martin and husband, artist Jwan Yosef are set to become parents once again.

The 47-year-old singer shared the news while accepting an award at the 23rd annual Human Rights Campaign National Dinner in Washington, DC over the weekend.

"My family's here. I don't see you but my husband Jwan, I love you, my beautiful twins, Valentino and Matteo, they're also here, I love you with all my heart, you're my strength, you inspire me every day, you motivate me to keep doing what I'm doing and you guys are amazing kids.



"Lucia, my baby girl who is not here with us, she stayed at home with grandma, but she's also the light of my life. I have to announce that we are pregnant. We are waiting. I love big families," Martin told the audience as he gave a shout-out to his family.

The "Livin' La Vida" hit-

maker was honoured with the HRC National Visibility Award for his advocacy of LGBTQ rights and his philanthropic efforts.

Martin and Yosef, 35, also share 11-year-old twin sons Matteo and Valentino and nine-month-old daughter Lucia.

Rani Mukerji's 'Mardaani 2' to release on December 13

MUMBAI, SEP 30 (PTI): Rani Mukerji-fronted cop-drama "Mardaani 2" is slated to be released on December 13.

The movie, backed by Yash Raj Films, is written and directed by Gopi Puthran.

It will see Rani reprise the role of cop Shivani Shivaji Roy.

"This Navratri, good will triumph over evil. Mark the date. #Mardaani2onDecember13 #RaniMukerji #GopiPuthran @Mardaani2," the post on YRF's official Twitter account read on Monday. The production banner also shared a 30 second-long teaser of the movie on the microblogging site. It is a sequel to 2014 critically-acclaimed hit "Mardaani", which



was directed by Pradeep Sarkar.

The production house is starting the "Mardaani" franchise with the project.

Veteran actor Viju Khote passes away at 77



MUMBAI, SEP 30 (PTI): Veteran Hindi and Marathi film-theatre actor Viju Khote passed away on Monday due to multiple organ failure. He was 77.

The actor, most famous for playing the dacoit Kalia in "Sholay" and Robert in "Andaz Apna Apna", died at his residence.

"He passed away today at 6.55 am peacefully in his sleep at the residence. He has been unwell since quite sometime. He had multiple organ failure," actor Bhavana Balsavar, his niece, told PTI.

"He did not wish to die in the hospital so we had brought him home few days ago. It is a great loss for all of us," she said.

The last rites of the actor will be performed at Chandan Wadi around 11 am.

Khote featured in popular films like "Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak", "Ventilator" and the TV show "Zabaan Sambhalke".



BROWN EYED GIRLS ANNOUNCE SURPRISE COMEBACK:

K-pop girl group Brown Eyed Girls have said the magic word yet again, but this time, it's not "Abracadabra". It's "comeback"! If you were a fan of K-pop in the 2000s, you will definitely remember iconic girl group, Brown Eyed Girls. On 25 September, Miryo, Ga-In, Narsha and JeA surprised fans by spontaneously starting a livestream on V Live. It has been over four years since fans have seen the Brown Eyed Girls back together in one screen, as the group took a hiatus in 2015.

ARIES:

This is the fire of transformation, Aries. Trust that you will not be the same person before and after. The Universe is giving you a chance to do away with the self-negating patterns and rise to your power. This chapter of your life requires you to make some pretty bold moves. Living on the edge has always been your favourite sport.

Tip: Rise to your power.

TAURUS:

If you wake up feeling the feels, you know you've got your stars to blame, Taurus. But if you don't take initiative, nothing will ever change. Stop playing shy guy and ask them out today. It doesn't have to be a date if you don't want it to. Getting to know them informally is a better to secure a spot in their inner circle. Feeling out of sync with your partner? This is the day to make amends.

Tip: The old wounds are healing.

GEMINI:

Every time you clear one hurdle, another one appears. The battle you've had to fight explains your paranoia, Gemini. The real question is: how long do you want to hold onto the trauma?

Beware of projecting your past traumas on the blank canvas of the future, especially when the Universe is offering a clean slate.

Tip: You will get through this storm.

CANCER:

Don't let the complacency make its way to your bones. A good way to reignite your fire is by adding physical movement to your repertoire. If you're not a fan of the gym, go for a run in the park. Even better, sweat it out to that Bollywood playlist you curated on your best friend's wedding. The more active you are, the more you will have the energy to invest in your dreams.

Tip: Dance like nobody's watching.

LEO:

Any doubts you have been having about this team will now be put to rest. As always, understand the strengths of every individual. This will help you divide responsibility in a way that is most effective for the project. Don't be surprised if you bump shoulders with biggies from the industry. Do your homework, brush up on your skills, and stay updated on what's happening around you. You want to make the right impression when this opportunity comes up.

Tip: Staying updated gives you an edge over your competitors.

VIRGO:

In the words of Daphne Rose Kingma, "Holding on is believing there is only a past. Letting go is knowing there is a future." So the real question is: do you believe what you know, or do you know what you believe? This day is about letting go of the negative thought patterns. Once the rain has cleansed all the untouched corners of your soul, the rainbows will appear in your line of sight.

Tip: Engaging in a purification ritual, whether spiritual or physical, will take you closer to the light.

LIBRA:

This victory is yours and yours alone. Don't hesitate to take some time off from your routine and celebrate the joy. It's all about the simple rituals today, like brewing a cup of lavender tea and reading your favourite novel. Yearning for the song of the birds and the dance of the breeze? Take this party outdoors, Libra. Remember, as you enter the manifestation cycle, negative thought patterns from your subconscious are likely to show up. What you remind yourself when your life starts to look like heaven on Earth: you deserve all the blessings in the world and more.

Tip: Spend the day with yourself.

SCORPIO:

You deserve to be happy, Scorpio. You deserve to live a life of joy, tranquility and bliss. Don't make the mistake of questioning the blessings coming your way. Remember, you are reaping the rewards of your own actions. That everything is transient in nature is a universal truth we're all aware of. One season will come to an end and another one will begin. Staying in your centre will ensure you're having a joy ride despite the changes.

Tip: Embrace the blessings.

SAGITTARIUS:

Name a king who won wars on his merit alone. It took an army, led by a seasoned warrior, to achieve the impossible. History is proof, Sagittarius. You think that you know everything there is to know about the project at hand, and you might be right. But can you pull it off all by yourself? You know just the right people for this collaboration. Focus on the big picture and keep your ego aside.

Tip: Collaborative effort is the key to success here.

CAPRICORN:

It is better to do things right than to do them quickly. This is a test of your patience, of how you handle the

wait. When you are moving upwards, it is important to keep the foundation solid. Some of you may feel like you're being entrusted with more responsibility than before. Remember, it's because you're capable of handling it. Say yes to the challenge!

Tip: Let the foundation be strong.

AQUARIUS:

Ah, finally that adrenaline rush you have been craving for! The gestation period is over and things are finally gaining momentum. There are lots of interesting projects and collaborations coming your way. Time management is key to being the most productive version of yourself. Grounding your energy is just as important. For some, travel for work may be on the cards. Make it a trip to remember, Aquarius!

PISCES:

Celebrate the victories, Pisces. Yes, even the small ones. They deserve to be acknowledged. Your hard work is finally paying off and bring you the kind of opportunities that were once a distant dream. Carpe diem! Remember, this is only the beginning of the journey. You may many more mountains to climb. Stay humble.