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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Gangtok to host Green Film Festival and Forum on Environment & Wildlife

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:**

Gangtok is set to host a green film festival and forum on environment and wildlife by engaging a cross section of stakeholders to encourage environment conservation in the month of September.

A three-day Unique Green Film Festival and Forum on Environment & Wildlife is being organized by SECURE Himalayas with the support of Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India and CMS Vatavaran from 15 to 17 September.

This festival is part of a series of 9th CMS Vatavaran Travelling Film Festival & Forum in four Himalayan cities of Uttarakashi, Gangtok, Lahaul & Spiti and Leh.

Addressing a press



conference here today, CMS Vatavaran Deputy Director, Sabyesachi Bharti, informed that the main idea behind this festival in Himalayan cities is to encourage environment conservation through film festivals and forums and other creative activities.

He mentioned that the event is targeted at outreach and engagement of a cross section of stakeholders through a series of activities and

providing a platform for showcasing initiatives and programmes of SECURE Himalayas in the State.

Speaking on activities of this three-day long event, he informed that there will be a two-day capacity building workshop on MOJO Film Making and using videos as a tool for conservation on 15 and 16 September. He added that the workshop would be conducted by an experienced

and award-winning film director and Instructor from FTII, Pune, Ritesh Taksande.

The festival will also host a one-day film screening of selected awarded and nominated CMS Vatavaran environment related films on 17 September. He mentioned that most of films would be related to Sikkim and its issues along with environment related films from other parts of the country. He added

that 12 youths from marginalized community of the project areas of the SECURE Himalayas Sikkim Project have also been specially invited to participate in the workshop.

Likewise, other highlights of the festival are drawing and painting competition for selected students from different schools of Gangtok on 17 September wherein the best three paintings will

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CHIEF MINISTER PS TAMANG'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

"I am confident that we can work together to make Sikkim heaven on earth"

Excerpts:

On the auspicious occasion of the 75th Independence Day of our nation, I extend my warmest greetings to all the Sikkimese people and my fellow countrymen.

...Sikkim merged with India in the year 1975 and since then, we have made significant strides. Over the years, Sikkim has been bestowed with numerous awards and recognitions and has emerged as one of the most exemplary states of the nation and have set examples for others to follow.

There are many more goals that we are steadily aspiring to reach and have been formulating policies towards achieving them. The education and the health sector are the chief areas of focus for the State Government and a major chunk of the budgetary allocation for the current financial year has been made towards these sectors.

The State Government aims to make the best of healthcare and education available to the citizens with state-of-the-art facilities in these sectors which are easily accessible to all even in the remotest areas of the state.

The Covid -19 pandemic has further strengthened the State Government's commitment towards ensuring that its citizens are safe, healthy and have the best of healthcare facilities easily available and we are determined to provide health facilities right at the doorsteps of both the rural and urban residents.

Major changes have been brought about in the health sector since the formation of our government. Some of the measures taken to achieve our aspirations in this sector are:

1. More than 400 Health workers, including Specialists, Medical

Officers and Non-technical employees have been recruited.

2. Oncology Department has been upgraded and facilitated with the chemo and radiation therapy Unit.

3. Remarkable increase in budgetary allocation for medicine and consumables.

4. Earmarked a substantial sum for Ambulance expenses.

5. Cashless treatment initiated from Chief Minister's Rural Health Insurance Scheme from CMRF. Cash aid is also being given to the patients from Chief Ministers Discretionary Grant (CMDG).

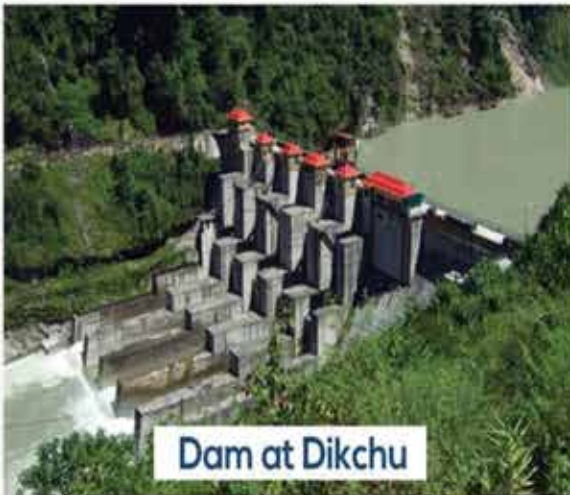
6. The State Government and the Sikkim Manipal Medical College, Tadong have an agreement for 50 fully free and 30 full payment MBBS seats.

7. Cancer Hospital at Karfector is under consideration under PPP mode.

turn to pg02



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Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Government of India



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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For Investors : How to File the Claim?

- Register yourself on IEPF Website: www.iepf.gov.in
- Fill the new web form IEPF-5 ONLINE
- Attach scanned copy of requisite documents with form
- Take print out of auto generated advance receipt and indemnity bond (IEPF website -> Forms -> Web Forms IEPF-5 -> MCA Services)
- Send all documents to the company
- Company to e-verify the claim in 30 days
- On the basis of verification report, refund of shares and amount by IEPF Authority.

Note: Claimants are advised to file e-form IEPF-5 only when all documents are available

FOR COMPANIES: How to Process?

- File the details of nodal officer in new e-form IEPF-2(IEPF website -> Forms -> Register for filling web form.
- e-verify the form IEPF-5 within 30 days of filing of the form.
- Company to retain all original documents.

BEWARE : Do not get into the clutches of agent/brokers or middlemen for refund of Claims from IEPFA. Procedure for refund of claims from IEPF Authority is Simple, Easy and FREE OF COST.

For any further query, do write to us at iepf@mca.gov.in or call on our toll free number 1800-114-667

The requirement of documents is enumerated in the Instruction kit as well as in the FAQ section of the official website of IEPFA at www.iepf.gov.in

The official website of IEPF Authority is www.iepf.gov.in. IEPFA does NOT have any other website.

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority(IEPFA)

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I-DAY MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR GANGA PRASAD

“Let us rededicate ourselves to protect the freedom, honour and sovereignty of our great motherland”

Excerpts:
On the happy occasion of the 75th Independence Day of the nation, I convey my greetings and felicitation to the people of Sikkim. It was on this day, 75 years ago, that we achieved freedom from the colonial rule after prolonged years of resistance and struggle for Independence. Today, we remember the roles played by our freedom fighters and others in the struggle to gain independence and freedom from the British Rule. Let us take this opportunity to remember and salute the great martyrs and leaders who made the ultimate sacrifice so we could live in pride and honour as free citizens of an Independent, glorious and free India. Let us rededicate ourselves to protect the freedom, honour and sovereignty of our great motherland.

...Sikkim joined the Indian mainstream on May 16, 1975 and we are proud to be an integral part of a nation that is the largest democracy in the world. Today, we pay our gratitude to the men and women who fought for our independence and pledge to work in full allegiance with our Countrymen to take the country to greater heights.

Sikkim, though, one of the youngest and smallest States of the country, has made remarkable progress and has successfully emerged as one of the leading States in many sectors. We have set the track for development and progress for other States to follow and learn from. Our dedication towards the preservation of the environment, our commitment to social justice, upliftment of the poor, and our conviction to make Sikkim a paradise have been reflected in our policy, programmes and various achievements. The State Government since its formation has vehemently addressed the issues pertaining to the health sector along with the much needed push in the education sector.

The major thrust areas of the State Government

are health, education, rural development, and building up of infrastructure in all sectors to ensure fast paced sustainable development in the State.

...It is the State Government's utmost priority to ensure complete literacy, quality education and skill development opportunities for our children. Impetus is also being laid on providing quality training to the teachers which will greatly improve the standard of students. With this goal, the State Government has been facilitating digital education to each and every student by providing them with smart android TVs in their homes along with dish and set up box. Now, students have access to digital education in the comfort of their homes.

In a major historic step, the State Government has also taken the decision to establish a green field higher educational institute of excellence at Chakung, West Sikkim. Further, to mitigate the difficulties of students desirous of taking higher studies at masters level, extension study centres of Sikkim University for master courses in different colleges of Sikkim is also being initiated. Also, in order to reach out to our students even in the remotest corners of the State, the department is in the process of establishing 32 community radio stations with the support of the Government of India.

...The Tourism sector and other allied services have been the worst hit sectors during this COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent efforts are being made by the State Government to work out ways in which the glory of this sector can be restored; lockdown impact related relief and reconstruction measures along with few major projects to boost the tourism industry are being looked into.

...Consistent efforts are made to protect the lakes and glaciers, streams and rivers and the medicinal plants which are found in abundance in the State. My Government has taken the preservation and protection of the environment into consider-

ation while forming all its plans and policies. The State Government has launched 'A Day for Mother Earth' initiative wherein all vehicular movement in the State will be stopped to reduce carbon emissions for seven minutes from 11: 00 am to 11:07 AM on July 7 every year; it is one affirmative action taken by the State Government for ameliorating the detrimental effects of climate change.

...The State Government recognizes that in order to achieve holistic development, progress and development needs to start at the village level. Hence, all efforts are being made to bridge the gap between the urban and the rural areas of the State.

In another historic step to eliminate the interference of politics in the development of rural areas, the State Government has abolished the party based Panchayat Election by amending Section 129 of Sikkim Panchayat Act 1993.

Similarly, a party less election to the Urban Local Bodies was conducted for the very first time with Municipal Representatives being selected by the people and not any political party.

...The responsibility of pushing the State forward to greater glory also falls on the citizens. It is only with collective effort that the aspirations and visions of the State Government can be achieved within the stipulated timeline.

I am confident that you will join hands in making Sikkim a true paradise on Earth. We have responsibilities and we must carry them out to the best of our abilities.

I also take this opportunity to extend my heartiest congratulations to all the medal winners of Tokyo Olympics who have made us very proud and brought laurels to the nation.

I once again express my best wishes to the people of the State on this happy and auspicious occasion.

**JAI HIND **

SSB organizes Fit India

walkathon in West Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT

Gyalshing, 13 Aug:

The 72nd Battalion Sashastra Seema Bal organized a walkathon today under Fit India Movement as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' to mark the 75th year of India's independence. The walkathon was participated by officers and 60 Jawans of the Battalion.

The event was flagged-off by Officiating

Commandant (72nd Battalion), SK Awadhiya. The walkathon started from Darap, Food Corporation of India (FCI) godown [store] via Rimbi till Battalion Headquarter, Melli Aching, a stretch of around 7 kilometres.

The troops marched with placards, flex and banners pertaining to 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', Fit India Movement, Ek Bharat Shreshth

Bharat, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao and Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

During the walk, the participants shouted patriotic slogans while national flags made of paper were also distributed to children along the way.

A series of programmes like plantation drive, yoga training, cultural events and other activities will be executed throughout this week.

India Freedom Run 2.0 in

27 villages of South Sikkim



BIKASH CHETTRI

Namchi, 14 Aug:

Nehru Yuva Kendra, affiliated youth clubs of South Sikkim and NSS, carried out Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 in 27 villages of South Sikkim today to create awareness on Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The volunteers, under the theme 'Jan Bhagidari se Jan Andolan' and tagline 'fitness ka dose, aadha ghanta roji', carried

out various fitness activities in their respective villages, especially running and yoga.

The fitness movement which is being carried out across the country in 750 districts is scheduled to be held in South District on 14 Aug, 21 Aug in West Sikkim, 28 Aug in North Sikkim and 04 Sept in East Sikkim.

Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav shall be carried

out till 02 October across the country. The hashtags for the programme are #AzadiKaAmrutMahotsav and #Run4India. The main objective of this program is to celebrate the 75th year of independence on the theme of fitness.

South District Administration and Namchi Nehru Yuva Kendra is organizing the programme in Namchi, at the premises of District Administrative Centre, on 15 Aug.

“I am confident...

8. Dialysis centres have been established in district hospitals of Gyalshing Namchi and Gangtok.

9. Cardio Specialist, appointed along with Neuro and other Surgeons in STNM and district hospitals.

10. Sufficient ICU have been created in STNM and District Hospitals.

11. Super speciality outreach programme in districts (ENT, Cardio, Neuro etc.) initiated.

12. Cardio Sub-Unit established in Jorethang PHC.

13. CHC with special facilities is under construction at Soreng.

14. Commencement of Neuro super speciality facility at New STNM Hospital.

15. Under the Su-Swastha Yojana, provision of health insurance will be made to all the government employees along with their family members in collaboration with the employee and the government.

16. Inauguration of Private room complex and inauguration of dedicated Super-speciality wing complex has been done at New STNM, Sochyangang.

17. Upscaling of Namchi Hospital to 300 bedded hospitals with high-class modern facilities is underway which will cater for the need of South and West Sikkim.

18. Refrigerators for storing vaccines and medicines have been made available to all PHCs.

19. The state government will also commence with the facility of Mobile Village Clinic Ambulances with a doctor and nurse and all the basic medical facilities and will go for a weekly visit to all the villages so that the villagers need not come to the district hospitals for minor ailments.

20. There were no oxygen plants in the entire Sikkim before 2019. Nevertheless, anticipating the problem of the requirement of oxygen during the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Government established a 500 ltr per minute PSA Plant at STNM Hospital which helped out in the 2nd wave in a big manner. In addition, the following provisions are being made to ensure adequate supply and easy access to oxygen. At the request of the State Government, the Union Government promptly sanctioned an oxygen plant with a capacity of 1000 litres per minute, now installed at STNM hospital, 500 at Mangan, 500 litres at Namchi, 200 litres at Singtam, and 200 litres at Gayzing. The State government will also be establishing a 1000

litres per minute, oxygen filling plant at Mining, Rangpo.

The State Government seeks to boost and transform the education sector to ensure complete literacy and quality education for the students.

...

1. The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence is being established at Chakhung, West Sikkim which will engage top-class professionals, internationally experienced academicians and recognized education administrators. This centre will be a par excellence institution of higher learning with local ethos, national goals and global orientation. It will be a centre of learning dealing with the relevant subjects like climate change, global warming etc.

2. Extension of Campus of Sikkim University for Master Degree Courses in different colleges of Sikkim has been initiated.

3. Establishment of 32 community radio stations with the support of the Government of India to reach out to students, even in the remotest corners of the State.

4. The State Government has passed the bill for establishing Kanchanjunga Buddhist University at Pangthang by Denzong Charities Trust and the setting up of Board of Open Schooling and Skill Education for the State in a PPP model. Similarly, upcoming universities like Sikkim Medhavi University at Bermiok, Sikkim International University, Sribadam and Sikkim Alpine University, Kamrang will aid in making Sikkim an Institutional area.

...The State Government stands firm in its resolve to turn Sikkim into the "Education Hub of the Country" and aims to cater to students from all across the globe.

...To boost the IT sector in the state and to enable digitisation of the Government facilities through various e-Governance projects and other Information Technology related projects to allow efficiency, transparency and smooth delivery of Government welfare schemes, the State Government since its formation has initiated various policies and programmes.

Some of the notable achievements are:

- Launching of the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund web portal thereby enabling the online contribution of fund support by the citizens into the said

Disaster relief Fund.

- Installed CCTV cameras at the Rangpo and Melli Check Posts enabling continuous surveillance of the check posts movements.

- Launched a centralised portal on COVID-19 which allowed the citizens to access any information about the Pandemic including the latest Notification/Directives/Guidelines/Orders issued by the Government.

- Developed a centralized permit system for the citizens entering Sikkim from different parts of India.

- The Department of Information Technology has also developed an Oxygen Monitoring system for the New STNM Hospital and the Central Referral Hospital for monitoring and maintaining the stock of the Oxygen cylinders in the hospital for ensuring availability of oxygen 24 x 7.

- E-office: A digital workspace solution comprising of a suite of products that paves the way for an efficient and open Government by streamlining workflow for both inter and intradepartmental file movements. The application has been launched at the District Administrative Centre, East District and Department of Information Technology.

- E-Cabinet: is a paperless system, that enables to prepare and conduct Cabinet Meetings, entirely without paper.

- Sikkim Government Services Portal (SGSP).

- Special Economic Zone: Proposal for setting up a Special Economic Zone for an area of 6.80 hectares at Namli, East Sikkim has been approved by the Government of India.

- The State Government has signed an agreement with M/s. Reliance JIO for providing Internet Connectivity at 118 Gram Panchayats and 18 blocks on a rental basis.

- 100 Mbps Internet Connectivity has been provided to the New STNM Hospital.

- Online application for Skill Development Department wherein citizens can apply online for availing various Skill Courses offered by the Government.

...The State Government has undertaken significant projects which will further add to the tourism landscape of the State such as the Eco-Tourism Pilgrimage Complex at Dodak in West, Herbal, Medical and Spiritual Healing Complex at Nandugaon. The State Government has also taken steps to revive the proj-

ect for the construction of Ram Dham at Tumin and ropeway at Pelling.

The State Government also aims to build 1000 Mega Homestays in three ethnic designs of Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepali architecture which will be equipped with furniture etc. These shall be run by the locals themselves who will be trained on the nitty-gritty of home stay promotion and management.

...

During the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was concerning that the patients in quarantine were facing hardship to procure essential medicines and food. Addressing this problem, we provided a medicine kit along with ration to the needy.

The creation of an All-women Anti-riot force has been proposed to the Govt. of India which will be a historical achievement empowering our women.

We have also proposed pilgrimage for those senior citizens who cannot afford it. The long-awaited proposal to convert Pakyong and Soreng into districts have finally been achieved and will help in speeding up the process of development of the areas and will also assist in making life convenient for the public.

...

The Covid-19 pandemic has slowed our progress to some extent but has not stopped our efforts. With the Vaccination drive being carried out successfully, we hope to be able to gain momentum and work with greater zeal. We have an enormous task in front of us and I am confident that we collectively work and join hands in making Sikkim heaven on earth.


...

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the people of Sikkim, frontline warriors, doctors, nurses, officials, police personnel, home guards, safakarmacharis, Dhobi, Medical attendants and all supporting staff, volunteers, civil society organisation, political workers, media, farmers, daily wage workers, drivers, businessmen, tourism industry stakeholders and all others for their patience, forbearance, cooperation and support during both waves of the pandemic.

I once again express my best wishes to the Sikkimese people and my fellow countrymen on this happy and auspicious occasion of 75th Independence Day 2021.

JAI HIND! JAI SIKKIM!

[courtesy: IPR Deptt, GoS]

<div><div></div><div>INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (IMU)</div><div>(A Central University under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)</div><div>Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008</div></div>	
The following programmes are offered at IMU for the Academic Year 2021-22	
<div>Under-Graduate</div> <div>B.Tech (Marine Engineering)</div> <div>B.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)</div> <div>B.Sc.(Nautical Science)</div> <div>BBA(Logistics, Retailing & E-Commerce)</div> <div>DNS (Diploma In Nautical Science)</div> <div>B.Sc.(Ship Building & Repair)* - conducted at affiliated Institute only</div>	<div>Post-Graduate</div> <div>MBA(Port & Shipping Management)</div> <div>MBA(International Transport & Logistics Management)</div> <div>M.Tech(Marine Engineering & Management)</div> <div>M.Tech(Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)</div> <div>M.Tech(Dredging & Harbour Engineering)</div>
PG Diploma	
Post-Graduate Diploma in Marine Engineering	
Last date of registration: 20.08.2021. For more details, please visit IMU website www.imu.edu.in	
davp 37208/11/0005/2122	

One more Covid death even as Sikkim continues to record more daily recoveries than new cases

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Sikkim recorded one more death on Saturday taking the state's Covid toll to 361. This death was reported from Central Referral Hospital, Tadong.

In the meantime, 217 more persons were discharged from home and facility isolations on Friday after making full recoveries to further improve the count of recovered cases of COVID-19 here to 25,658. Sikkim has consistently been recording more recoveries than new Covid cases since 05 August raising hope that the second wave is on its way out.

That said, the continuing detection of more than a hundred new cases everyday remains a worry.

As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department this morning, 129 cases were detected in last 24 hours in Sikkim taking the state's tally of

confirmed cases to 28,554.

These new cases were detected from the testing of 1,204 samples on Friday giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 10.7%.

Of the 129 new cases, 67 were registered in East District, 30 in West District, 30 in South District and 02 in North District.

While 62 cases were picked up in RT-PCR testing of 686 samples, 64 more persons tested positive in rapid antigen testing of 509 samples and three in TruNat testing of nine samples.

There are currently 2,256 active cases of Covid in the State, only 106 of whom are in with symptoms severe enough to require hospitalization and the rest are recovering under home or facility isolation.

Among the Covid patients in hospital, 20 were admitted in the last 24 hours and eight are currently admitted in ICU facilities of STNM hospital and CRH.

Fit India Freedom Run organized by SSB Marchak

GANGTOK, 14 AUG [PIB]: 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0' was organized on 13 and 14 Aug by Sector Hqrs, Sashastra Seema Bal, Marchak, Gangtok.

During the event, Bishwajeet Kumar Pal, Deputy Inspector General, SHQ SSB Gangtok and all Officers and officials of SHQ took oath as per programme of 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0' to regularly exercise to remain fit and convince others to do the same.



On the occasion, a 3 Km run was conducted on 13 Aug wherein 65 personnel including Officers participated.

On 14 Aug, 75 personnel of SHQ Gangtok

including Officers participated in a Walkathon of 4.0 Km to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav as a part of the 75th Independence Day Celebration 2021.

SiCA team begins recce tour of Karnataka

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

A team of Sikkim Cricket Association officials and selectors, led by president, Lobzang G Tenzing, travelled to Karnataka on a week-long programme to recce various academies in Bengaluru and the types of training programs that are on offer there.

A press release informs that this undertaking also aimed at charting out programmes and modules tailored as per the requirements of SICA and its players.

Also taken up during the tour was SCA's hunt for young talents who could possibly fill in the position of guest players in its senior men's and



women's team for the BCCI domestic season of 2021-22.

In this regard the Karnataka State Cricket Association and its executives were very forthcoming with their support and

extended all possible help to Sikkim Cricket Association during their tour, the release mentions.

"SICA's Karnataka chapter was in-fact conceptualised on the advice of Chairman Brijesh Pa-

tel of the IPL Governing Council, a retired International cricketer having represented the country and a former KSCA Secretary. A figure I often look up to when seeking council and help, he has

been instrumental in taking cricket in Karnataka to the level that it enjoys now. It was an eye opening experience for me and my team," said SCA president, Lobzang G Tenzing.

SRP asks Govt to make LT seat reservation formula public

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Sikkim Republican Party president, KB Rai today demanded that the State Government make its formula for Assembly seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang communities public. He added that the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party had promised to make a scientific formula for LT seat reservation during the election so it is the responsibility of the State government to inform the public about its formula for seat reservation.

Mr Rai was referring to the statement of the Chief Minister, PS Tamang on Limboo-Tamang seat

reservation in a press conference held yesterday at Rangpo.

Addressing a press conference here today, the SRP president said that the CM mentioned that the state government had already sent its formula for seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang to the Centre and there was no need to make it public.

Stating that the ruling party had promised to make a scientific formula for LT seat reservation in consultation with the people of Sikkim, he alleged that its refusal now to share the formula with the public reflects the dictatorial nature of the government.

Instead of repeatedly sending delegations to the Centre,

the government should make the formula public, said Mr Rai.

He further alleged that the previous SDF government had also led many delegations to the Centre on the issue which did not make any difference and the same is being continued by the present government.

SKM must prepare the formula of seat reservation for LT according to the private bill placed by KN Lepcha in the State Assembly during the previous government - to reserve seats from existing 32 seats, he stated.

On the same, he questioned whether the people of Sikkim would accept this formula. SRP wants to know how the SKM

government will reserve LT seats from the existing 32 seats because the state will see a strong protest if that happens.

Responding to statements of Sikkimey Nagaarik Samaj president, Bharat Basnet that SRP continually refers to Sikkimese Nepali as foreigners, Mr Rai alleged that the work done by some politicians in the past has resulted in the foreigner tag given to Sikkimese Nepali. He also presented various documents supporting his statement during the press conference.

He lashed out against politicians in the State who, he said, were never serious towards the cause.

Greetings to all fellow citizens on

75th Independence Day

Jai Hind

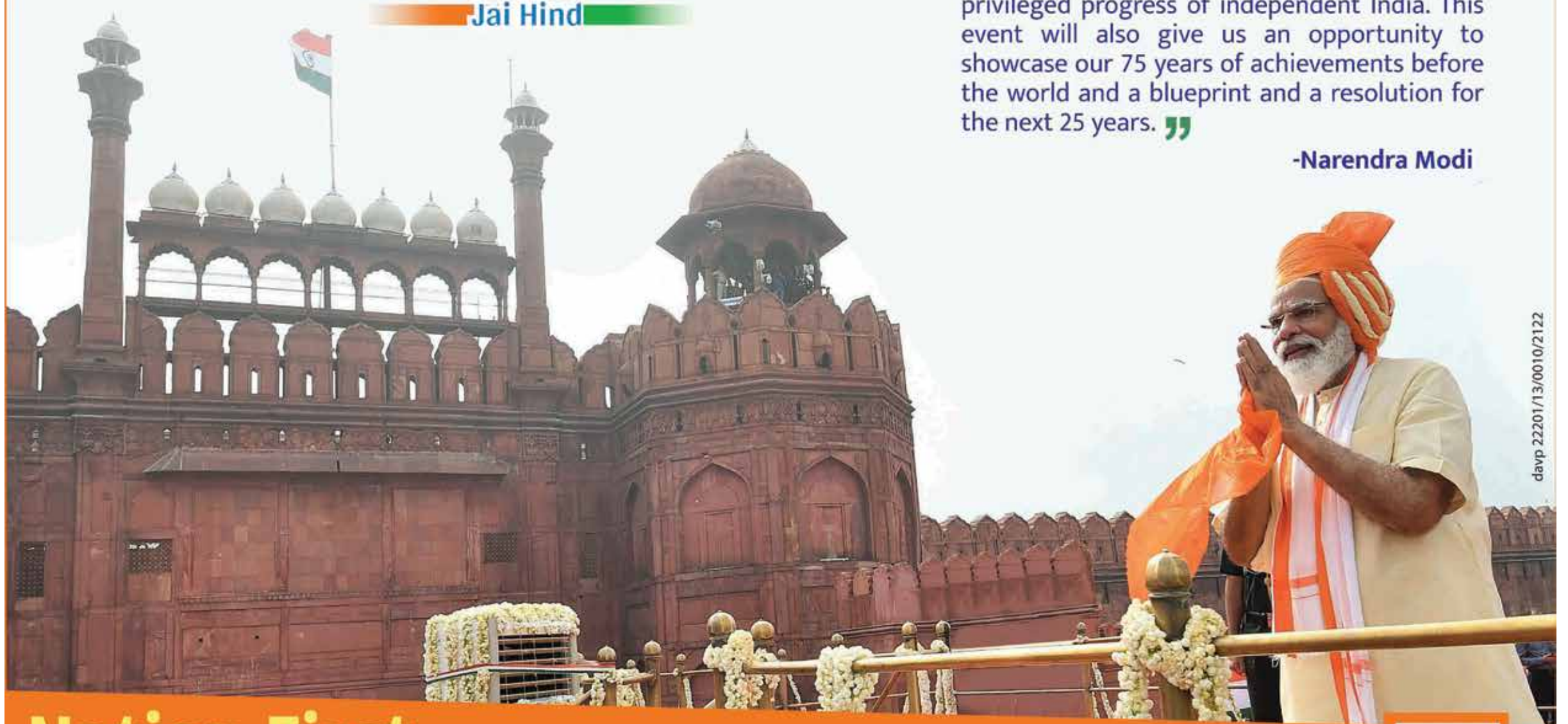
75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

“The Amrit Mahotsav of the country's independence is a festival of crores of Indians, which has the tradition of eternal India, reflection of the freedom struggle, and the privileged progress of independent India. This event will also give us an opportunity to showcase our 75 years of achievements before the world and a blueprint and a resolution for the next 25 years.”

-Narendra Modi



Nation First,
Always First

Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be telecast live by Doordarshan from 6:25 a.m. onwards

#AmritMahotsav
Scan QR code and participate
in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Is the Mind is Without Fear?

This I-Day, let's resolve to reject diktats, evaluate claims and challenge more often

As we fall in line for Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, it is important that we remind ourselves that we sought out Independence as a people because we were tired of accepting without questioning, being told what to do, how to think, whom to accept and whom to other, what to consider virtues and what to frown upon. As subjects of an empire, that was the dictated life and conduct that was assigned to us. And then we decided to salvage our pride and seek out our “tryst with destiny”; we wanted to be our own masters, our minds unshackled. Seventy years appears an apt milestone to see how far we have progressed.

So, where do we stand today?

There is a lot to be proud about, and the leaders and their speeches will delve exclusively into that today, so here, let's focus on what we lost track of and abandoned along the way. Seven and a half decades on, we find ourselves in a situation in which a self-serving club (loose translation) which did not even want the British masters to Quit India, and imagined, and continues to do so, monsters in shadows while preferring to ignore the elephant in the room, is telling citizens of an already proud nation on how to prove their nationalism. People who mistake bigotry for nationalism are not rare in the world, but that is no reason for us to normalize their presence here. But we do; worryingly, to the scale of celebration. We have arrived at a nadir from which we allow theatrics to camouflage demagoguery, noise to cancel out reason and accept self-promotion as evidence despite ground realities screaming otherwise. Acceptance and mutual respect, virtues which have kept us together as a people for seventy years, is increasingly being made conditional, and that cannot be healthy. As citizens of a free country, and irrespective of which pigeonhole we find ourselves slotted into, it has become important for us to challenge the sectarian narrative being laid out by minds which have been wearing blinkers of exclusion for far too long. Majority opinion is not always right, and while reasoned debate will not always win, capitulation is no option either.

Let's begin by putting our freedom in perspective. 74 years of self-rule later, the only freedom which we can guarantee ourselves is our political freedom. Political freedom is very important, but not complete in itself. What is equally necessary is economic, and more importantly, social and cultural independence. This is a pertinent issue in our country today where rapid developments in various fields, the homogenizing experiment of Right Wing nationalism and the ironically simultaneous percolation of identity issues are collaborating to inflict serious fragmentation of society. The plethora of touchy social issues which are multi-dimensional in nature, but are painted in nuance-obliterating swathes, make it urgent for free citizens of an Independent nation to go over the basics once again. We were never uni-polar, and while our diversity was always celebrated, it was also a complicated and messy existence, something which has been stirred up even more with human engagement having become broader and more inclusive in thought but parochial and paranoid in practice. Political relevance is increasingly being sought in the dangerous muddle of suspicion and distrust. In the past few years, the concept of freedom in India has experienced a regression especially due to the rise of politico-religious and ethnic pressure groups and the moral police muscle. The ideas of compassion and collaboration which inspired us to become a nation need to be highlighted more often and the hate and suspicion which gave us the horror of the Partition need to be reasoned away.

We have to become a nation which addresses its challenges with more than beef bans enforced by gau-rakshaks and police teams clamping down on empathy with draconian laws and hate without even a rap on the knuckles at a time when our hospitals lack oxygen and citizens being denied agency. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by state-mandated diktats, an obsession of the privileged babus, when the population is riven by unemployment, inflation and lack of access, or even a voice.

WRITE US:

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Should We Tell Stories of Vaccine Sceptics Who Have Died of COVID?

NICK CHATER
theconversation.com

As vaccine uptake starts to wane, stories have begun to emerge of people who refused the jab ending up in intensive care, ruing not having had the vaccine, and subsequently dying. These cautionary tales are certainly attention-grabbing, but is it right to publish or broadcast them?

If human morality depended only on totting up costs and benefits, our moral lives would be simple matters of accounting. On the plus side, if the vaccine saves lives, any cautionary tale to persuade the unpersuaded has to be good – doesn't it? On the minus side, perhaps cautionary tales don't always work. And what about the effects on bereaved families if a loved one is heartlessly portrayed as a victim of their own folly?

According to a philosophical view called consequentialism – which proposes that what is morally right is whatever makes the world best in the future – we should “do the sums” as best we can and check that the benefits outweigh the costs. But consequences, whether good or bad, are only part of our complex moral psychology, as shown by a long history of experiments, especially the famous trolley problems. A runaway trolley is hurtling down a railway line towards a crowd of people who will face certain death. There is a switch that will flip the trolley into a siding, saving the crowd but hitting and killing a single person. Should you flip the switch and divert the trolley?

A cost-benefit story is clear: flip the switch! But in experiments, many people refuse to flip the switch. Doing nothing means the whole crowd will die. But perhaps doing nothing isn't killing, just allowing a tragic sequence of events to unfold.

Flipping the switch becomes very much less popular in a clever variant where the runaway trolley can only be stopped by pushing an innocent and heavy bystander, who happens to be standing on a footbridge, into the path of the oncoming trolley

(imagine you are too light to stop the trolley by diving over the parapet yourself). Few people want to push an innocent person to their death, even if it saves many. And surely even those who judge this is morally right feel conflicted and uncertain.

So our moral queasiness about reporting the deaths of vaccine sceptics won't go away just by showing that the ends justify the means. But what exactly is the missing moral ingredient that makes us so uncomfortable?

Moral psychology researchers often assume our morality is governed by two forces. One is a slow, rational process that tots up costs and benefits. The other is a fast emotional process that cares mainly about obeying moral rules (“killing is wrong!”). This way of putting things gives the impression that it is the rational system that we should be listening to.

The emotional system, with its blind desire to follow the rules, is pulling us away from the “right” action. From this standpoint, moral discomfort should be recognised, but put aside. If publicising the deaths of vaccine sceptics helps save others, we should do it, whether we feel queasy or not.

CONTRACT-BASED APPROACH

But there is a third philosophical tradition in ethics that psychologists have only recently started to consider. This puts matters in a very different light and helps us understand moral dilemmas in a new, but insightful, way.

According to contract-based approaches to ethics, people care not only about consequences and rules, but agreement. Roughly, something is morally OK if people agree to it – or would agree to it, if we had time to ask them.

This viewpoint helps explain why we are morally conflicted by flipping the switch: the hapless person on the siding would surely not agree to be killed. By contrast, we don't need to get anyone's agreement for doing nothing. Doing nothing is just the default option.

And consider the person on the footbridge.

They surely, in our imagination, will protest even more vigorously against the terrifying prospect of being pushed to their death. And hence this feels even less morally acceptable.

From a contract-based view of moral psychology, the crucial question is: would the tragic victims of COVID have agreed to their case being reported? What about their families? And would they have approved the tone and storyline?

In some reported cases, people close to death, or their families, have asked for their stories to be broadcast to warn others. These cases feel morally fine, as the contract-based view would suggest. In other cases, though, such permission has neither been sought nor granted. Here, our queasiness is greatest, especially where people are portrayed, however subtly, as foolishly endangering their own lives. No one would agree to the printing of a story spun like that.

And there is yet another element. Our moral psychology cares, too, about whether people – and especially ourselves – are virtuous. Yet *schadenfreude* – the delight in the misfortune of others – is surely a vice: better to be kind and compassionate. So publicising, and being riveted by, the tragic deaths of vaccine sceptics invites us to indulge this vice, and we feel morally uncomfortable in doing so.

Our mixed feelings about reporting the deaths of vaccine sceptics reflect the complexity of our moral selves – consequences, rules, agreements and virtues can pull us in different directions. There is no one source of moral intuition but many, each with deep psychological roots.

So when is reporting justified, and when is it not? Moral psychology can only help us understand why people have different opinions and why many of us feel conflicted. Resolving these conflicts isn't a job for psychology. It is a task for democratic societies and each individual conscience.

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Poland: Why is a new media law prompting street protests and outrage from the US?

PAWEŁ SUROWIEC & MAGDALENA KANIA-LUNDHOLM
theconversation.com

The lower chamber of Poland's national parliament has passed controversial changes to the country's media law that impose heavy restrictions on the way broadcasting companies will be licensed.

Proposed changes mean that firms from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) cannot secure a licence to operate a TV or radio station in Poland. This is a change widely viewed as targeting TVN, which is the largest private TV network in the country, and in which the US-based Discovery, Inc. has majority shares.

TVN has been bidding to renew its broadcasting licence since February 2020 without success.

Questions have long been raised about whether the National Broadcasting Council was behaving with impartiality towards TVN. Some senior figures have openly voiced their opposition to granting the licence.

Then the ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS) mooted the surprising legislation. It made questionable claims that the changes were needed to protect the broadcasting market from players from authoritarian states or drug cartels. It was hard not to see the move as having questionable motives. Broadcasting markets in mature EU democracies, such as

France, are able to heavily regulate foreign ownership without imposing exclusions on specific regions of the world.

QUESTIONABLE MOTIVES, CLEAR TRACK RECORD

In a recent article, we examined how media policy changes since 2015 are feeding the illiberal and anti-democratic trends in Poland. We argued that the new politics of public media regulations aids democratic backsliding. It is also fuelling the politicisation of public service media.

This new law is yet another example how strategic government practices are deployed to concentrate power into the hands of populist leaders. In Poland, that involved using rhetoric on national security, sovereignty and patriotism to silence opposition voices and undermine media freedom.

The PiS government began intervening in the public broadcasting sector almost as soon as it came to power in 2015. And in 2020 it took aim at the print market and created conditions for the state-owned company, Orlen, to buy the independent Polska Press.

Given this track record, it's hardly surprising that this latest move has been so widely perceived as an attack on media pluralism.

The act has not yet come into effect since it still needs to be approved by Poland's senate and president.

And this is by no means a given. It was a struggle to get the changes voted through the lower house because the PiS has recently lost its majority after falling out with its coalition partner. The senate vote is provisionally scheduled for September 9 and 10 and will be an even bigger challenge since the PiS does not have majority in the upper chamber and the MPs of the far-right Confederation party are expected to abstain. That would probably block the act in its present form and potentially force the PiS back to the drawing board.

There are sure to be protests as the debate heads to the senate. This law is being seen not only as an example of the PiS tendency towards nationalism but also a neat way to boost its own political chances by reshaping the media landscape to the detriment of TVN, a network known for holding the PiS to account.

More broadly, the law is being seen as a key test in the PiS push to implement the illiberal governance model that has strained Poland's internal politics and relations abroad, not least with the European Union.

THE VIEW FROM ABROAD

Relations with the EU and US were already tense but now run the risk of being thoroughly destabilised by this outright attack on foreign inward investment.

US secretary of state Antony Blinken has warned the law would

“gravely weaken media freedom” while other US State Department representatives have expressed concern about the act arguing that TVN has been part of the Polish media landscape for two decades and that free news media is crucial for democracy.

Heightening the tension, Discovery Inc. has announced that it is to take legal action, claiming that it has been discriminated against by Polish authorities. According to its press release, Poland has broken the provisions of the 1990 Polish-American agreement on investment protection.

Meanwhile, the EU is aware that this law is part of a trend in recent years that has seen multiple central and eastern European states make moves against their national media. European Commission officials are seeking to draft a European Media Freedom Act in the spring in the hope of increasing transparency and accountability when it comes to control and media freedom within the EU. Such action may come too late for Poland's TV and broadcasters but it could be vital if the Polish government decides to go after internet freedoms too.

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Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Sikkim



Shri Ganga Prasad
Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim



Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Galey)
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim

Azadi Ka
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AUGUST
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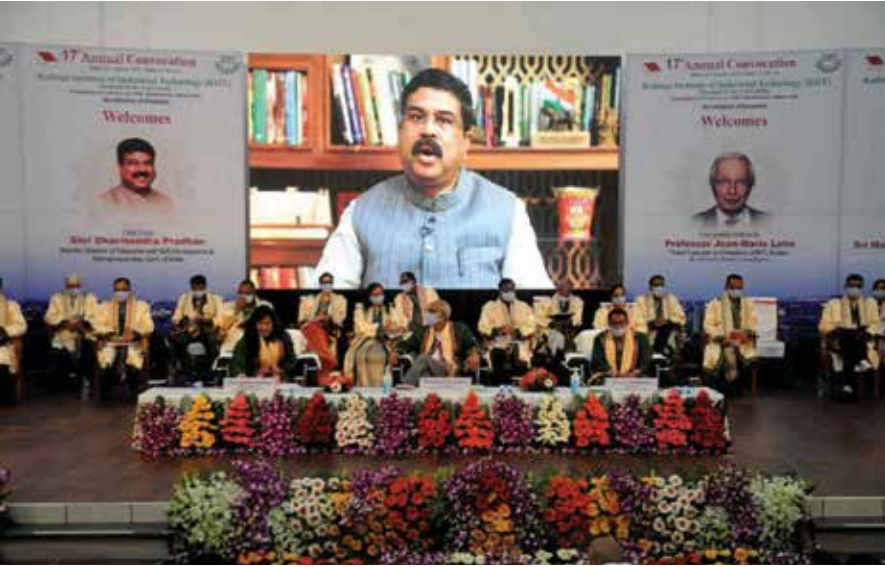
CELEBRATING 75th
INDEPENDENCE
DAY 2021

KIIT holds 17th annual convocation

ODISHA, 14 AUG: With a culture of quality research and the quest for empirical accuracy, KIIT Deemed to be University contributes effectively for taking India to the top of the global knowledge economy, said Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India at the 17th Annual Convocation of the university on 14 Aug, 2021. Total 7032 students of 2020-21 graduating batch of KIIT Deemed to be University received their degrees at the virtual convection ceremony.

With a strict adherence to the Covid guidelines, taking to the virtual mode, The University also conferred Honoris Causa Degrees of DLitt upon Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), Spiritual Leader, Guru & Humanitarian and Co-founder, Vallabh Bhan-shali, ENAM Securities; Founder, Desh Apnayan Sahayog Foundation & Founder-Director, FLAME University, and Prof Jean-Marie Lehn, Noble Prize in Chemistry (1987), France.

Addressing the graduating students, union minister, Mr Pradhan said, “You have acquired several skills that will help you to achieve milestones in the years ahead. While you strive for excellence, I hope you also measure that excellence in terms of outcomes that help achieve



the greater common goal that positively impacts people less fortunate than you”.

Recent initiatives like the academic bank of credit, multiple entry and exit system and National Education Technology Forum launched upon completion of the first year of the National Education Policy 2020 will be a catalyst for developing the quality higher education sector in India, he stated.

KIIT conferred Honoris Causa D Litt degree on Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, known for her great contributions in the field of spiritualism, education, environmental issues, humanitarian efforts, love and compassion. Dedicating the honour to her devotees, Amma said, “The most important thing to be developed through education is compassion towards our fellow beings. Amma heartily

applauds Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS as he has chosen to offer his humanitarian service in ‘Kalinga’, which is a soil of compassion”.

In his acceptance speech, Vallabh Bhan-shali said, Prof. Achyuta Samanta has set a high bar in achievement, empathy and commitment. No human quality is greater than gratitude, he stated, while suggesting students cultivate this quality. Bhan-shali was conferred Honoris Causa DLitt for his vision in diverse fields of finance, behavioral sciences, education, motivational skills and scientific spiritualism.

“The batch of 2021 has fared well with their erudite and resilience despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic”, said Prof Achyuta Samanta, in his message to the students. Referring to KIIT’s immense contributions in the realms of education, healthcare,

sustainable development, literature, culture and sports, he mentioned that it is the only university in India to have sent three of its students - Dutee Chand (Athletic), Shivpal Singh (Javelin Throw) and CA Bhavani Devi (Fencing-Sabre) – to represent India in Tokyo Olympics, 2021.

In his address, Prof Ved Prakash, Chancellor, KIIT-DU said, “Government of India has chosen KIIT as an Institution of Eminence (IoE) in 2019. It signifies that KIIT has emerged as one of the most premier universities in the country. It has become the most sought after university by the aspiring youth of different nationalities”.

“You have the responsibility to take forward KIIT’s unique vision - Education is the driver of growth and eradication of poverty - throughout the globe”, Pro-Chancellor, Prof (Dr) Subrata

Kumar Acharya, told the graduating students.

Presenting the report of the University, Vice-Chancellor (I/C), Prof Sasmita Samanta informed that the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2021 ranked KIIT 201-300 globally in its Impact Rankings 2021. KIIT has also ranked 86th globally in SDG 4 ‘Reduced Inequalities’ category.

Times Higher Education has ranked KIIT 251-300 both in its Asia University Rankings 2021 and Emerging Economies University Rankings 2021. It has been awarded 5 Stars rating in 2021 by the prestigious QS, becoming the first QS 5 Stars Rated University in India, she added.

Registrar, Prof JR Mohanty proposed the word of thanks. Aayush Kumar, Basel Nassor and Sudhanshu Upadhyay won Founder’s Gold Medals for their outstanding all round and academic performances. Similarly, 22 students were awarded Chancellor’s Gold Medals, while 31 students got Vice Chancellor’s Silver Medals. Nanibala Memorial Gold Medal, Krushna Chandra Panda Memorial Gold Medal, PK Bal Memorial Gold Medal and Paradeep Phosphates Ltd (PPL) Gold Medal were also given away on the occasion. Sixty-one research scholars were awarded PhD degrees.

Rahul backs Pujara, Rahane to find form soon; says they know how to turn things around



LONDON, AUG 14 (PTI): India opener K L Rahul has backed struggling CheteshwarPujara and AjinkyaRahane to find form soon, saying both the batsmen are world-class players and experienced enough to know what it takes to return among runs.

The experienced duo of Pujara and Test vice-captain Rahane have not been at their best of late, averaging in the 20s this year.

While Pujara made 4, 12 not out and 9 in the three innings in England so far, Rahane managed just 5 and 1 in the two innings he got to play.

“Pujara and Ajinkya have done the job for India many times we were in trouble. They are world-class and experienced players so they know how to come out of a couple of innings they haven’t scored runs,” Rahul said at the press conference after the second day’s play in the second Test against England here.

“You have also to realise they are playing in tough conditions. In English conditions batting is always going to be challenging, you are going to get good balls. You can’t go out there and score runs in every innings, but if you get a start you make it count.”

Rahul (129) scored his fifth Test century at the hallowed Lord’s on Thursday. But he admitted he was frustrated at missing out on a bigger hundred and taking the visitors to a bigger total.

He could add only two runs to his Thursday’s score before walk-

ing back to the dressing room amid a big applause. Having played a fine knock, Rahul’s was a soft dismissal as he drove straight to the cover fielder in only the day’s second delivery, bowled by Ollie Robinson.

“I get frustrated when I am set and then get out. Obviously this (Friday) morning was really crucial for us having put 270 on board last night to go out there and get 70-80 runs in the first session which would have set things up really nicely. So that’s what I was looking to do,” Rahul said.

“I was feeling good and fresh, so wanted to go out there and being set batting at 127, I could have played with a lot of freedom. Really frustrated that I missed out on a juicy half volley. Just drove a half volley straight into covers hands. I was looking to build on my innings and get a bigger score.”

Back into the Test fold during the ongoing tour, Rahul has grabbed his opportunities with both hands. Having already established himself in the limited-over formats, he said the key to success in five-day game is discipline and patience.

“Challenges are there in every format and we as players know what are the challenges and what we need to do to deal with them. But sometimes you perform, sometimes not because when you go in the middle the pressure is slightly different. The situation of the game is slightly different,” he said.

“Yes, one-day cricket is different because after

2 or 3 overs the ball stops swinging, even in green top it will swing for 5-10 overs but it’s completely different in Test cricket. It’s all about being disciplined and waiting for the loose balls and just trying to be as patient as you can and keep discipline in shot selection.”

Rahul said it was a special feeling to score a century at the hallowed Lord’s and witness your name on the honours board of the iconic ground.

“Every time you walk out to play for your country you want to score, give the team a good start. It was special once I stepped out of the ground and once you see your name in the honours board you feel a sense of achievement and sense of pride and I am no different.

“Every Test hundred is very very special for me and if it’s at Lord’s it becomes little sweeter.”

The stylish right-hander said with the Lord’s pitch not offering much assistance, Indian bowlers need to be disciplined and bowl according to plans to shoot out England quickly.

“It’s too early to predict. We are taking it as it comes. Obviously we want to go out there and get a couple of wickets in the first hour and put pressure on the English batsmen.

“There is not a lot happening on the pitch. We need to be really discipline with our line and length and just keep working on our plans. We obviously have plans for every batsmen so just stick to those plans,” Rahul said.

Sikkim’s Tathagat represents India at Youth SDGs Summit



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Tathagat Ghanashyam Sharma from Gangtok, Sikkim, represented India at the Asia Pacific Youth SDG’s Summit

2021 held from 05-12 August as a mentor and part of the jury in the summit hosted by Studec International Indonesia, a press release informs.

He participated in the summit as Indian Ambassador for SDG’s and mentor for around 400 delegates from 29 countries. He also held a workshop of SDG’s and was later part of the jury in the summit’s presentation competition.

Newcomer Brentford opens Premier League by beating Arsenal

BRENTFORD (UK), Aug 14 (AP):Brentford started its first topflight campaign since 1947 by stunning Arsenal 2-0 in the opening game of the Premier League season. SergiCanos put Brentford ahead in the 22nd minute and Christian Noergaard headed in the second in the 73rd after Arsenal failed to deal with a long throw-in, handing the promoted club a perfect start to life in the Premier League in front of nearly 16,500 fans at the Community Stadium.

Those fans finally had a chance to celebrate inside the stadium, which was opened last year amid the lockdown when no supporters were allowed into games.

They had waited even longer for a moment like this. Brentford’s last game in England’s top division was a 1-0 loss to Arsenal, in May 1947. Now the team is top of the league for at least an

evening, ahead of the rest of the weekend’s games.

Nobody who was here will ever forget that. And I’m proud to be a part of that,” Brentford manager Thomas Frank said. I have such belief in this group of players, so even though I knew we were going to face Arsenal, a massive club with unbelievable players, I had a feeling I would be disappointed if we didn’t beat them.”

For MikelArteta’s Arsenal, it was another disappointing performance and a worrying start. The team only finished eighth last season and showed little sign of having sorted out its previous problems. With strikers Pierre-EmerickAubameyang and AlexandreLacazette both missing Arteta said they were feeling unwell Arsenal again struggled to create any kind of clear scoring chances despite dominating possession for stretches of the game.



Madhumita Sarcar inaugurates Siliguri’s first D’Signia store

SILIGURI, 14 AUG: One of the largest jewelry retail chains of India, Senco Gold & Diamonds, has launched its premium luxury showroom - D’SIGNIA in Siliguri. Located at Sevoke

Road, this is the first D’SIGNIA store in North Bengal and fifth in the country. Actress and model, Madhumita Sarcar inaugurated the new store at a glittering event held in the city.

Bayern held 1-1 by Gladbach in Bundesliga season opener

BERLIN, AUG 14 (AP): Bayern Munich opened the Bundesliga season with a 1-1 draw at Borussia M nchengladbach, with the hosts incensed at the referee for denying them a late penalty.

DayotUpamecano twice looked like he conceded a penalty in the late stages of his Bayern debut, but referee Marco Fritz waved play on and received no contradiction from the video referee despite clear contact from the French defender on compatriot Markus Thuram on both occasions.

Gladbach coach Adi H tter was booked for his protests in his first league game in charge of the home team. Counterpart Julian Nagelsmann was making his debut as Bayern coach.

Alassane Plea gave the hosts the lead in the

10th minute but Robert Lewandowski equalized in the 42nd.

H tter’s call to start American teenager Joe Scally on the left of defense for his Bundesliga debut paid off as the 18-year-old again impressed following his fine performance in the German Cup last weekend.

Some 23,000 supporters were allowed at the game under new regulations that permit up to 25,000 or half capacity, whichever is greater. Few fans were allowed at any games last season due to the risk of coronavirus infections.

Gladbach’s Patrick Herrmann flashed a good chance just wide early on and the hosts missed an even better opportunity shortly afterward, when Herrmann opted to pass to Lars Stindl instead of

shooting. Bayern’s disorganized defense cleared the danger.

Serge Gnabry missed when he only had the goalkeeper to beat, but otherwise it was all Gladbach and Stindl set up Plea for the opener. Goalkeeper YannSommer denied Lewandowski an immediate response, then again a short time later when Bayern’s bench was poised to celebrate. JosipStanisic was next to test the Gladbach keeper. Stanisic, who usually plays for Bayern’s reserves, was making just his second league appearance due to Benjamin Pavard’s ankle injury.

But the equalizer came from a familiar source. Lewandowski got ahead of his marker to volley in Joshua Kim-mich’s corner before the break.

West Indies lead Pakistan by 34 after day 2, 1st test

KINGSTON (JAMAICA), AUG 14 (AP): Captain KraiggBrathwaite was run out for 97 after a 96-run partnership with former captain Jason Holder which helped guide the West Indies to a first-innings lead over Pakistan on the second day of the first test.

Brathwaite turned a ball to fine leg and was attempting a second run when he was beaten by Hasan Ali’s direct hit at the keeper’s end, falling just short of a 10th test century. The West Indies were 221-7 when his wicket fell Friday, already ahead of Pakistan’s first innings of 217.

Holder was out earlier for 58. The West Indies began the day at 2-2 and were 251-8, a lead of 34, when stumps were drawn early due to bad light. Joshua da Silva was 20 not out.

The West Indies had been in trouble when they lost Kieran Powell and Nik-rumah Bonner to consecutive deliveries from Mohammad Abbas near stumps on day one. Roston Chase and Jermaine Blackwood steadied the innings at the start of the second day, putting on 49 for the third wicket before Chase, on 21, was caught behind by Mohammad Rizwan from the bowling of Hasan Ali.

Blackwood carried on, making 22

and helping the West Indies to 100 before he was caught by Abbas at mid-on from the bowling of Shahid Afridi.

Kyle Mayersfell next ball to Afridi, leaving the West Indies 100-5 and putting pressure on Brathwaite and Holder to rebuild the innings in the face of accurate bowling from Pakistan.

The key was to be tight, Brathwaite said.

They were really testing our patience and while we committed to putting away the bad balls, it was about letting them come to us.

We stayed in that bubble for long periods and it helped us. I’ve played a lot of cricket with Jason. We just kept encouraging ourselves and we just stuck at it because we knew they were bowling well and we just buckled down and put away the bad balls when they came.

Holder reached his half century from 95 balls with nine fours and was looking solid when he reached forward to a full ball from Faheem Ashraf which nipped away late, took a faint edge and carried to Rizwan. The umpires kept Holder at the crease while they established it was not a no-ball and Holder left with the West Indies at 196-6.

Afghanistan is spinning out of control: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, AUG 14 (PTT): Voicing concern that Afghanistan is spinning out of control, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the Taliban to immediately halt the offensive and asserted that seizing power through military force is a "losing proposition" and can only lead to prolonged civil war and the complete isolation of the war-torn nation.

The Taliban has captured Herat and Kandahar, the country's second and third largest cities. As the Taliban insurgents increasingly gain ground in Afghanistan, some accounts state that 60 per cent of the country's territory is under their control.

There is growing concern that Kabul too could fall into the hands of the Taliban soon.

Even for a country that has tragically known generations of conflict, Afghanistan is in the throes of yet another chaotic and desperate chapter an incredible tragedy for its long-suffering people," Guterres said on Friday.

"Afghanistan is spinning out of control, he said, voicing concern over the grave situation" in the country.

The UN chief called on the Taliban, which is rapidly taking control over provincial capitals across the country, to immediately halt the offensive and negotiate in good faith in the interest of Afghanistan and its people.

The message from the international community to those on the warpath must be clear: seizing power through military force is a losing proposition. That can only lead to prolonged civil war or to the complete isolation of Afghanistan, Guterres said.

He asserted that directing attacks against civilians is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime, call-



ing for perpetrators to be held accountable.

The UN chief said he is also deeply disturbed" by early indications that the Taliban are imposing severe restrictions on human rights in the areas under their control, particularly targeting women and journalists.

It is particularly horrifying and heartbreaking to see reports of the hard-won rights of Afghan girls and women being ripped away from them.

Guterres expressed hope that discussions in Doha between representatives of Afghanistan and the Taliban supported by the region and the wider international community will restore the pathway to a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Only an Afghan-led negotiated political settlement can ensure peace, he said, adding that the United Nations is determined to contribute to such a settlement, promote the rights of all Afghans and provide life-saving humanitarian help to the ever-increasing

numbers of civilians in need.

Guterres said that in the last month alone, more than 1,000 people have been killed or injured from indiscriminate attacks against civilians, notably in Helmand, Kandahar and Herat provinces.

The fighting between the Taliban and Afghan security forces in urban environments is causing tremendous harm, he said adding that at least 241,000 people have been forced to flee from their homes and humanitarian needs are growing by the hour.

With hospitals overflowing, food and medical supplies dwindling, roads, bridges, schools, clinics and other critical infrastructure being destroyed, Guterres said every day, the conflict is taking an ever bigger toll on women and children.

Continued urban conflict will mean continued carnage with civilians paying the highest price, he said calling on all parties to take heed of the conflict's heavy toll and its devastating impact on civilians.

They all must do more to protect civilians. I remind all parties of their legal and moral obligation to take all measures to protect civilians, Guterres said.

Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo said in a tweet that she is deeply concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and noted that yet again, civilians are bearing the brunt of the violence.

She underscored that one thing is clear from the country's recent history: durable peace and development will not be achieved militarily.

In response to a question on whether the UN has plans for a complete evacuation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General said, There [are] always contingency plans for the best case and for the worst case.

"At this point, we are remaining. We're remaining in Kabul. As I said, we have footprints in other parts of the

country to fulfil our mandate and help civilians and alleviate the suffering of civilians as much as we can," he said.

Dujarric said at the daily press briefing that due to the conflict across the country, many people are arriving in Kabul and other large cities trying to seek safety for themselves and for their families. The humanitarian community has verified 10,350 internally displaced people who have arrived in Kabul between July 1 and August 12.

Dujarric said most of the displaced people are either renting accommodations or being hosted by friends or family, but unfortunately, a growing number are staying in the open. He said 20 inter-agency assessment teams have now been deployed in Kabul.

As of yesterday, we, along with our partners, have provided food, health, household items, and water and sanitation assistance to some 6,900 men, women and children who have been displaced in Kabul, he said.

Fred may regain tropical storm strength as it nears Florida



HAVANA (AP): Tropical depression Fred was moving along Cuba's northern coast and could regain tropical storm status as it moves towards the Florida Keys on Saturday and southwest Florida on Sunday, forecasters said.

Meanwhile, still east of the Caribbean Sea, forecasters were watching a tropical depression that they said would likely become Grace, the seventh named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. A tropical storm warning was in effect for several islands including Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Saint Martin and Saint Barthélemy. A tropical storm watch was in effect for the British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said Fred had maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph) and was dropping heavy rain over parts of Cuba, where the main threats were rain and flooding. A tropical storm warning was

discontinued Friday night for a portion of the Florida Keys, including Florida Bay. The warning remained for the Florida Keys west of the Seven Mile Bridge to the Dry Tortugas.

Forecasters said little change in strength was expected in coming hours, though Fred could regain tropical storm status again on Saturday.

The hurricane center said 3 to 6 inches (7.5 to 15 centimeters) of rain were expected across the Florida Keys and southern peninsula by Monday, with isolated maximums of 8 inches (20 centimeters).

No evacuations are planned for tourists or residents in Monroe County, Keys officials said Friday. The county's emergency management officials are advising people in campgrounds, recreational vehicles, travel trailers, live-aboard vessels and mobile homes to seek shelter in a safe structure during the storm.

Once a tropical storm, Fred weakened back to

a depression by its spin over Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where it knocked out power to some 400,000 customers and caused flooding that forced officials to shut down part of the country's aqueduct system, interrupting water service for hundreds of thousands of people. Local officials reported hundreds of people were evacuated and some buildings were damaged.

Fred's center was about 150 miles (245 kilometers) south-southeast of Key West, Florida, and about 45 miles (75 kilometers) southeast of Varadero, Cuba. It was headed west at 12 mph (19 kph).

The system was expected to produce 2 to 5 inches (5 to 12.5 centimeters) of rain across portions of Cuba, as well as 1 to 3 inches (2.5 to 7.5 centimeters) across the Bahamas.

Fred became the sixth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season late Tuesday as it moved past the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Heavy rain causes floods, mudslides in southwestern Japan

TOKYO, AUG 14 (AP): Torrential rain continued to trigger floods on Saturday in wide areas of southwestern Japan, damaging homes and disrupting transportation a day after a landslide killed one person and left two others missing.

In the southern city of Kurume, rivers overflowed and residents evacuated from their homes on rubber boats as rescue workers pulled them while wading through muddy water.

Heavy rain has dumped on southern Japan this week, and the Japan Meteorological

Agency said more rain is expected in the coming days as a front is stuck above the Japanese archipelago.

The agency expanded heavy rain and mudslide warnings in the Kyushu region to other parts of Japan, including Hiroshima, as the rain front slowly moved eastward, bringing downpours to the ancient capital of Kyoto and Nagao in central Japan.

The rains triggered a mudslide Friday in the city of Unzen in Nagasaki prefecture, burying four people. One of those buried was killed and

another was seriously injured. Rescue workers are searching for the two others.

Another mudslide in Hiroshima late Friday left one person seriously injured.

Dozens of homes around the country have been damaged by floods and mudslides, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Local authorities have issued the highest-level disaster alert for parts of Kyushu and Hiroshima, affecting about 1.4 million people, though evacuation is not compulsory.

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Early election results show Zambian opposition leader ahead

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA (AP): Early election results in Zambia show opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema ahead in a tight, tense race while the national Electoral Commission has urged people to wait for the final official results to avoid any unrest.

The first set of results announced Saturday from 15 of the country's 156 constituencies has Hichilema in the lead with 171,604 votes to President Edgar Lungu's 110,178. The commission said it will update the results as votes from the constituencies are tabulated and expects to announce the final results by Monday.

An overwhelming turnout, particularly by youthful Zambians who make up a majority of registered voters, saw long lines in front of polling stations on election day, Thursday. Many polling stations had to close late to accommodate the voters, said the electoral commission, which noted that the large turnout was unprecedented.

Sixteen candidates ran for president and some of them have already conceded defeat and congratulated Hichilema on victory, citing results posted at polling centers where votes were counted.

Hichilema's United Party for National Development forecast that he would win, also based on the results from polling centers. However, Lungu's Patriotic Front claimed that the incumbent would win.

Votes in Zambia are counted at polling cen-

ters and then posted for the public to see. The results from the polling stations are sent to the national election center in the capital, Lusaka, where the final results are announced.

Zambia's military was on the streets of the capital, Lusaka, and in other parts of the country Saturday. President Edgar Lungu deployed the military ahead of the election saying it was to curb some outbreaks of violence. He ordered more troops to be deployed in some restive parts of the country after there were two killings on election day.

The opposition alleges the troop rollout is an intimidation tactic by Lungu.

Zambia's newspapers showed the divide.

"HH gets it" and "HH takes lead" trumpeted the banner headlines of two privately owned newspapers, using the initials of Hichilema's name, as his supporters call him.

In contrast, the state-run Zambia Daily Mail ran with the headline "Lungu set for victory-PF" citing an official of the ruling Patriotic Front party.

In the capital Lusaka, reaction to the early results was largely muted as people went about their daily morning chores and others set up market stalls to sell live chickens, vegetables, and charcoal.

Others were seen pulling down Lungu's posters that are plastered all over the city, which was being swept by dry, dusty winds Saturday.

CORONAVIRUS

PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY TIPS

DON'T LOWER THE GUARD

LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE THREAT OF COVID-19 HAS NOT YET SUBSIDED.

As we adapt to the new normal, here is a reminder of the precautions you must take-

WEAR A MASK
Always wear a mask to prevent droplets from going outside

GET A FLU VACCINATION
Get your flu shot to develop an immune response before flu season begins, particularly if you have comorbidities

WASH YOUR HANDS
Wash your hands often, for about 20 seconds each with soap & carry a sanitizer

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms length) from other people

GET TESTED
Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay at home until you get the result.

COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE WHILE SNEEZING, OR COUGHING
Before stepping outside, make sure to carry a handkerchief or a packet of tissues.

FOLLOW PRECAUTIONS BEFORE STEPPING OUT
Carry your sanitizer, water bottle and, most importantly, avoid crowded areas.

CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE
Monitor your temperature on regular basis

महान राष्ट्र भारतको 75 औं स्वतन्त्रता दिवसको अवसरमा सम्पूर्ण मुलुकवासी तथा सिक्किम राज्यवासीलाई बधाई एवम् शुभकामना टर्न्याउन चाहन्छु।

स्वतन्त्र मुलुकको अंग भए तापनि सिक्किम राज्यले भने गणतान्त्रिक व्यवस्थाको अधिकार प्राप्त गर्नबाट वञ्चित रहँदै आइरहेको छ। यस स्वतन्त्रता दिवसको अवसरमा सिक्किमवासीले पाउनुपर्ने अधिकारहरू कुशल नेतृत्वको मार्ग निर्देशनमा सहजताको साथ प्राप्त गर्न सकोस् साथै सम्पूर्ण सिक्किम जेन समुदायले सदा सर्वदा सुख समृद्धि र प्रगतिको मार्गदर्शक आफ्नो अस्तित्व अनि अस्मिताको साथ प्रेम भाइचारा लिई अग्रसर बनिरहुन् भन्ने शुभकामना व्यक्त गर्दछु।



केवी राई
अध्यक्ष सिक्किम रिपब्लिकन पार्टी



स्वतन्त्रता दिवसको शुभकामना

75औं स्वतन्त्रता दिवसको शुभोपलक्ष्यमा सम्पूर्ण सिक्किमेली जनता जनार्दनमा हार्दिक शुभकामना व्यक्त गर्दछु। यस शुभ दिनले राज्यमा स्वस्थ, सुरक्षित र समृद्ध समाज निर्माणको सपना पूरा गरोस्। सिक्किमको प्रगति, उन्नति र विकाससँगै सिक्किमवासीको स्वस्थ र सुखद जीवनको कामनाका साथ राज्यमा एसकेएम सरकार र केन्द्रको भाजपा सरकार कृत-संकल्पित छ। स्वतन्त्रता दिवस प्रकाशमय बन्नलागेको नयाँ उज्यालोले वैश्विक महामारीको पीडा भोगिरहेको यस राज्यलाई रोगमुक्त गराएर सुनौलो भविष्यतर्फ लैजाने म कामना गर्दछु।

शुभेच्छुक
वाई. टी. लेप्चा
विधायक
गान्तोक समष्टि

मिति: 15 अगस्त 2021

"Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better."

Wishing everyone a very Happy Independence Day 2021

**I AM 371F Campaign
Gangtok Sikkim**

सी.पी. शर्मा
मुख्यमन्त्रीका प्रेस सल्लाहकार
सिक्किम सरकार

देशले स्वाधिनता हासिल गरेको 75 औं वार्षिक उत्सव एवम् स्वतन्त्रता दिवसको शुभ अवसरमा सम्पूर्ण देशवासी एवम् सिक्किमवासीप्रति हार्दिक बधाई एवम् शुभकामना टर्न्याउँदछु।

यस सुखद क्षणमा सिक्किम राज्यलाई अग्रगमणको दिशातर्फ लैजान नेतृत्वको भूमिका निर्वाह गर्दै आइरहनुहुने सम्माननीय मुख्यमन्त्री श्री प्रेमसिंह तामडलाई सिक्किम जेनता जनार्दनको हित र समृद्धि हेतु कार्य गर्ने थप शक्ति प्राप्त होस् भन्ने कामना गर्दछु।

Happy Independence Day to everyone, I on behalf of 09 Barfung Constituency wish you all faith in the words, freedom in the mind and pride in your souls.

Let's salute this glorious nation on its 75th Independence Day.

Bishnu Prasad Sharma
CLC President 09 Barfung Constituency
Cum
State President All India Naval
Veterans Association (Regd)

NATION IS ABOVE ALL, LOVE IT HONESTLY...

Happy 75th Independence Day

BISHNU KUMAR KHATIWADA
Rhenock constituency
MLA

हाम्रो महान राष्ट्र भारतको 75 औं स्वतन्त्रता दिवसको शुभोपलक्ष्यमा सम्पूर्ण देशवासीमा बधाई एवम् शुभकामना चढाउन चाहन्छु।

संघीय भारतको बाइसौं राज्यको रूपमा अभिन्न अङ्ग बनेको हिमाली राज्य सिक्किम र यहाँका वासिन्दालाई वास्तविक स्वतन्त्रताको फलको रसस्वादन गराउन सिक्किम युवावर्गमा नवचेतना र एकताको खाँचो छ।

नवीन किरण प्रधान
संयोजक
सिक्किम सञ्जेट कमिटी

Grammy-winning folk singer-songwriter Nanci Griffith dies

NASHVILLE, Aug 14 (AP): Nanci Griffith, the Grammy-winning folk singer-songwriter from Texas whose literary songs like Love at the Five and Dime celebrated the South, has died. She was 68.

Her management company, Gold Mountain Entertainment, said Griffith died Friday but did not provide a cause of death.

It was Nanci's wish that no further formal statement or press release happen for a week following her passing, Gold Mountain Entertainment said in a statement.

Griffith worked closely with other folk singers, helping the early careers of artists like Lyle Lovett and Emmylou Harris. She had a high-pitched voice, and her singing was effortlessly smooth with a twangy Texas accent as she sang about Dust Bowl farmers and empty Woolworth general stores.

Griffith was also known for her recording of From a Distance, which would later become a well-known Bette Midler tune. The song appeared on Griffith's first major label release, Lone Star State of Mind in 1987.

Her 1993 album Other Voices, Other Rooms, earned a Grammy for best contemporary folk album. Named after a Truman Capote novel, the album features Griffith singing with Harris, John Prine, Arlo Guthrie and Guy Clark on classic folk songs.

In 2008, Griffith won the Lifetime Achievement Trailblazer Award from the Americana Music Association.

Country singer Suzy Bogguss, who had a Top 10 hit with Griffith's song Outbound Plane, posted a remembrance to her friend on Instagram.

I feel blessed to have many memories of our times together along with most everything she ever recorded. I'm going to spend the day reveling in the articulate masterful legacy she's left us, Bogguss wrote.

Darius Rucker called Griffith one of his idols and why he moved to Nashville.

"Singing with her was my favorite things to do, he wrote on Twitter.

Keeping in line with the tradition of folk music, Griffith often wrote social commentary into her songs, such as the anti-racist ode It's a Hard Life Wherever You Go, and the economic impact on rural farmers in the 1980s on Trouble in the Fields.

I wrote it because my family were farmers in West Texas during the Great Depression, Griffith told the Los Angeles Times in a 1990 interview. It was written basically as a show of support for my generation of farmers.

Griffith gained many fans in Ireland and Northern Ireland, where she would often tour.

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