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SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 236 | Gangtok | Tuesday | 03 September 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

**No person
excluded from
NRC to be
detained till all
legal remedies
exhausted:
MHA**

NEW DELHI, SEP 2 (PTI): The Centre on Monday said no person excluded from the final NRC will be detained till he or she exhausts all legal remedies and such people will continue to enjoy all rights like any other citizen.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) also said the Assam government has made necessary arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy amongst those excluded from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) through the district legal services authorities.

"Persons left out of final NRC not to be detained under any circumstance till they exhaust all remedies available under law," the statement said.

It added that such persons will continue to enjoy all rights as earlier, like any other citizen, e.g. right to employment, education and property, etc. The MHA said adequate judicial process is available for the people left out to appeal to the Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) within 120 days from August 31, when the final NRC was published.

To facilitate the appeals, 200 new FTs will be functional from Monday, in addition to 100 already existing, it said.

According to the final NRC released on Saturday, out of the total 3.3 crore applicants, 3.11 crore figured in the list and names of about 19 lakh residents were excluded.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had said last week the exclusion of someone's name from the final NRC does not amount to the person automatically becoming a foreigner as such a decision can be taken only by a foreigners' tribunal after following proper legal process.

"No one should be worried. No one should panic. Government is here to take care of everyone. Even those who will be excluded from the final list will get enough opportunity to prove their Indian citizenship," he had said.

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**WILL REINVENT
TRANSFER AND
APPOINTMENT
POLICIES: GOLAY**

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:**

In a mass joining programme held at Saramsa Garden today, 2,732 active members, panchayats and functionaries of Sikkim Democratic Front party from different constituencies of Sikkim joined Sikkim Krantikari Morcha. Most of those joining SKM today were from Gnathang-Machong, Namcheybong and Upper Tadong constituencies.

SKM president and Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] welcomed the SDF workers into SKM at the programme.

Addressing the programme, Mr Tamang expressed delight at this mass joining happening on the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi.

"Those who joined



SKM today are all active workers of SDF who were with SDF for 25 years. So far more than 100 panchayats have joined our party. Today Pawan Chamling is all alone," said Mr Tamang while welcoming the new members.

Accusing former CM, Pawan Chamling of persistently trying to defame him, Mr Tamang said that justice has finally prevailed.

"Chamling used all his powers to stop me from reaching this position. He jailed me for a

case that dated back to the year 1997, and he tried all he could. After lots of hardships and obstacles I have become the Chief Minister and this is all because of the love and support of the masses who voted for me and SKM. I will never betray your hope

and trust," he stated.

Mr Tamang also thanked former SDF MLAs, Em Prasad Sharma and GT Dhungel for joining SKM. They have come to work for the people of Sikkim and people can share their grievances with them, he said.

Stating that the SKM government is only three months and six days old, he asked for people's support and strength to fulfil all the promises that the party has made.

Mr Tamang said that all MPLAD funds will be utilised in the education

sector. He urged all Ministers, MLAs and Panchayats to adopt a school in their respective areas.

He also announced that Pakyong and Soreng will be made districts and work on this will begin in the next financial year.

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**CM attends Ganesh
Chaturthi puja at Thakurbari**



GANGTOK, 02 SEPT (IPR): Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] attended the puja ceremony on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi at Thakurbari today which was organised by the Marwari Yuva Manch, City Branch. He was accompanied by Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, Minister, Arun Upreti, Confidential Secretary, Bikash Basnet, DC East, Raj Yadhav, SP East, Hari Chhettri and other officials.

On this occasion, the CM offered his prayers to Lord Ganesha and prayed for the well-being of Sikkim and the Sikkimese people. Marwari Yuva Manch, on behalf of the entire business community of Sikkim, expressed gratitude to the CM for attending the puja.

It may be mentioned here that this is the first time that any Chief Minister of Sikkim has attended the Ganesh Chaturthi celebration.

**SDF pans Golay for
crude comment**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly condemned the "crude" comments made by Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] in reference to his predecessor at a Teej celebration recently. Speaking in Nepali, the Chief Minister had said that 'an old tree cannot bear fruits but can only sprout mushrooms and moss' [rough translation].

SDF today panned

the comment for its uncivil crudity and questioned whether the CM was mocking age and experience.

The release also scoffs that Mr Tamang was probably driven to such uncouthness by his frustration over not being able to declare a holiday, given the SKM Govt's propensity to declare holidays, for Teej since the previous government had already done so.

Sikkim Theatre Festival begins 26 Sept

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:**

A group of trained theatre artists from Sikkim have come together to organise Sikkim Theatre Festival 2019 scheduled for the end of the month.

The idea is expectedly to promote theatre culture in the State and inspire the younger generation towards theatre.

The four-day long theatre festival is being jointly organised by Artist Recognize Theatre of Sikkim [ARTS] and Ujjwal Kala Kendra [UKK] in collaboration with Culture Department from 26 to 29 September here at Manan Kendra.

The first day of the festival will stage "Bhustigray Ko Subha Vivah" directed by Suman Rai performed by a group from East Sikkim which will be followed by "Aadha Adhuro" directed by Pabitra Kumari Gautam and performed by a group from West Sikkim on 27 September and another play, "Georgette Saree" directed by Bikram Lepcha by a group of South Sikkim on 28 September.

The final day of the festival will stage "Tendong-Lho-Rum-Faat" directed by Lapchen Lepcha and performed by a theatre group from North Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference



here today, UKK president Kala Subba informed that their organization has been working in the field of folk songs and dance since 2004.

She added that the centre has been working to conserve traditional folk arts and culture of the State and said that they decided to support the theatre festival mainly to promote theatre in the State and support local artists.

ARTS general secretary, Deepika Chhetri, mentioned that their group was established in the year 2017 to promote local artist in theatre, movie and traditional art forms of Sikkim by creating awareness among the youths through road skits, workshops and other activities.

She said that local theatre artists of Sikkim trained at the National School of Drama have come

together to organise this theatre festival by involving aspiring artists of the State.

ARTS member, Suman Rai, adds that NSD-trained artists have put together these plays by involving aspiring and interested artists from their respective districts.

"We, trained theatre artists from NSD, want to prepare the younger generation in this field as it has tremendous scope," he said.

Likewise, another ARTS member Guru Karma T Lepcha urged the people of Sikkim to support the event with their presence in large numbers on all four days.

Tickets will be available in a counter at MG Marg from Wednesday onwards and interested persons can contact the organizers at 8900002716 or 9733062400 for further details.

Chandrayaan-2 lander separates, moves a step closer to the Moon

BENGALURU, SEP 2 (PTI): India's second lunar mission moved a step closer to the Moon after the landing module 'Vikram' was successfully separated from the orbiter on Monday, five days ahead of the planned touchdown on the unexplored lunar south pole.

Announcing the success of yet another key manoeuvre in the ambitious Rs. 978 crore Chandrayaan-2 mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said the separation of lander 'Vikram', which is set

for soft landing on September 7 on the lunar surface along with rover 'Pragyan', was carried out at 1.15 pm. The space agency also said all systems of Chandrayaan-2's orbiter and the lander were healthy.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan last month said that the separation of the lander from the orbiter will be akin to a bride leaving her parental home.

The separation was carried out successfully, an official of the city-headquartered ISRO told PTI. The milestone event

came 42 days after the mission was launched onboard India's most powerful rocket GSLV-MkIII-M1 from the spaceport of Sriharikota on July 22 and after a series of earth and lunar orbit manoeuvres, that took the spacecraft closer to the moon gradually.

The fifth and final lunar orbit manoeuvre was carried out on Sunday.

In a statement, the ISRO on Monday said the lander, after the separation, was located in an orbit of 119 km perigee (closest

point from moon) and 127 km apogee of the moon's orbit.

The Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, which has a mission life of one year, continues to go around the Moon in its existing orbit.

The ISRO said the health of the Orbiter and Lander was being monitored from the Mission Operations Complex at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) here with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at nearby Bylalu.

turn to pg02

**Tibetan
government
in exile
celebrates 59th**

Democracy Day

DHARAMSALA, SEP 2 (PTI): The Tibetan government in exile celebrated its 59th Democracy Day at the McLeodganj monastery in Dharamsala on Monday.

The function was presided over by the Himachal Pradesh Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning, Sarveen Chaudhary.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said Tibetans had a strong democracy and steps had been taken by their religious leader Dalai Lama to strengthen it further.

"The exiled Tibetans are following the path of Ahimsa for the independence of Tibet, in which they have been supported by the international community," she added. Cultural programmes were presented by students of various institutions on the occasion.

Thousands of people, including Buddhist nuns and monks, attended the function, along with a host of senior functionaries and supporters.

Want fair and speedy trial in Unnao rape case, says SC

NEW DELHI, SEP 2 (PTI): The Supreme Court Monday said it wanted “fair and speedy trial” in the cases arising out of the rape of a minor allegedly by ex-BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Unnao.

The top court sought a report from the special judge Dharmesh Sharma, who is holding trial in cases arising out of the Unnao rape.

A bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose sought the report from the trial court judge by September 6, on how much time is needed for the completion of the trial.

“We want a fair trial but at the same time we also want a speedy trial in these cases,” the bench said. During the hearing, counsel appearing for Sengar and other co-accused Shashi Singh said that charge-sheet has not been filed by the CBI in the accident case.

The bench said that it would be better if it knows the views of the special judge on how much time was needed to complete the trial in these cases. The bench listed the matter for Friday. On August 19, the apex court had granted CBI time till September 6 to complete the investigation into the road accident in which the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts killed.

The apex court, which had earlier given two weeks to the CBI to complete the probe, extended the time while noting that the probe agency has done “extensive investigation” in the case so far. The CBI had told the top court that statements of rape survivor and her lawyer have not been recorded yet and it wants to analyse certain electronic evidence collected so far during the probe.

The court had also directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay Rs 5 lakh to the lawyer, who is in a critical condition and undergoing treatment.

The court had taken exception to some public statements made by the family members of the rape survivor in the media and said it might help the accused during the trial of the case. On August 1, the apex court had directed Uttar Pradesh government to provide Rs 25 lakh to the rape survivor as an interim compensation.

The top court had on August 2 directed the CBI to complete the investigation in the case within seven days, adding that the agency could avail additional seven days in exceptional circumstances, but in no case the time frame would be extended beyond a fortnight.

It had earlier ordered transfer of all the five related cases in the matter to Delhi but later modified its order putting in abeyance shifting of the accident case till the probe was completed.

The modification was done stating that due to shifting of the case, the local court was facing technical hurdle in passing orders of remand for the accused who are being arrested in course of the probe.

State Level Swachh Prerak Award

GANGTOK, 02 SEPT (IPR): Minister for Rural Development Department, Sonam Lama presented the State Level Swachh Prerak Award under Swachh Mahotsav 2019 at Janta Bhawan, Gangtok today.

Speaking at the event, the Minister congratulated all the awardees who were instrumental in making Swachh Bharat Mission a success. He said that the Department had made remarkable progress towards achieving the goals of rural and urban sanitation and added that cleanliness should be an integral part of every citizen and every household so that we can make it an effective and sustainable instrument.

Lastly, he assured that he will look into the progress of the Department and that much work is done in a structured manner.

Earlier the awards were distributed which was presented to the following:

1. Best District Coordinator
ADC, Milan Kr Subba, Gyalshing
2. Best BDOs
Roshan Subba, Passingdong (North)
Mahendra Subba, Yuksom (West)
Swabhaw Gurung, Kabi (North)
3. Best Coordinators (SRM-G)
US, ADC-Dev, Swapna Lama, Gangtok
US, ADC-Dev, Ashish Gurung, Namchi
US, ADC-Dev, Netra Bdr Bishwakarma, Gyalshing
PI, ADC, Sunil Pradhan, Pakyong



4. Best Panchayats
President, Deborah Rai, Lungchok Kamerey, GPU, South
PP, Tara Devi Sharma, Aho Yangtham GPU, East
PP, Bandana Chettri, Martam Nazitam, GPU, East
PP, Yeshay Lepcha, Shipgyer GPU, North
PP, Tashi Doma Bhutia, Navey Shoto GPU, North
PP, Gyal Tshering Lepcha, Sulduag Kamling, GPU West
PP, Arun Kr Gurung, Chuba Phong,

- GPU, South
Panchayat Member, Chandra Bir Kami, Gelling Baiguney, West
Panchayat Member, Sonam Lepcha, Samdong GPU, West
Panchayat Member, Indra Moti Bhutia, Singling GPU, West

The event was attended by dignitaries, officers and staffs of Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim.

The programme concluded by vote of thanks proposed by Special Secretary cum Mission Director, Rural Development Department.

Plantation drive held at Temi Tea Estate

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:**

A plantation drive sponsored by MSME Development Institute, Gangtok under Ministry of MSME, Government of India as part of Swachhta Action Plan 2019–20 was undertaken at Temi Tea Estate today.

During the drive, 750 bamboo saplings were planted, a press release informs. Assistant Director MSME, Narayan Saw and Assistant Director, Atul Mishra were present along with MD Temi, Mrinalini Shrivastava, Bamboo expert, Ghani Zaman



and Dr Rahul Banerjee head of Corporate Governance for Temi.

Temi has planted 7 different types of bamboo as part of backward raw material collection. The bamboo product factory has been established

at Temi which is under trial run and will be inaugurated on 18 September on the occasion of World Bamboo Day.

The MSME and Temi will also host workshop on Zero defect and cluster development drive.

Speaker inspects new Rangpo-Rhenock road

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 AUG:**

Speaker cum MLA, Lall Bahadur Das inspected the newly constructed road (Rangpo to Rhenock via Kumrek) at Rangpo Chaney under West Pendum Constituency in East Sikkim, today, a press release informs.

He was accompanied by AE PWD, JE's PWD, SHO Rangpo Police Department, CLC executives and other officials.

The Speaker has directed the concerned department and the contractors to finish the work at the earliest and



specifically mentioned that the general public should not be harassed due to the negligence of work. He also re-

quested for quality roads and requested for early execution and completion within the stipulated time.

Inter-school District Level Folk Dance competition



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 AUG:**

Government Secondary School Lingi Payong stood second in District Level Folk Dance competition held in New Secondary School Namchi, as per a press release.

The theme chosen for the competition was protection of environment

and nature conservation. The competition was organised by National Population Education Cell of SCERT, HRDD, Sikkim.

Kateng Secondary School stood first, Lingi Payong Secondary School came second and Melli Senior Secondary School came in third. The top three schools of district level competition

will participate in the state level folk dance competition to be held at the end of this month.

Six schools from South district participated in the competition. The competition is organised under the aegis of National Population Education Project of NCERT, MHRD, New Delhi.

Classic case of shooting messenger: Editors Guild on scribe booked for ‘salt-roti’ report

NEW DELHI, SEP 2 (PTI):

The Editors Guild of India on Monday described as “cruel” and a “classic case of shooting the messenger” the Uttar Pradesh government's action of filing an FIR against a journalist for his report that rotis and salt were being served to children at a school in Mirzapur.

The Guild, in a statement, said it condemns the Uttar Pradesh government's action of filing an FIR under serious sections of criminal law against journalist Pawan Jaiswal for his report that rotis and salt were being served to school children as their lawfully guaranteed mid-day meal in Siyur primary school.

“It is a cruel and classic case of shooting the messenger. It is precisely expos such as these that show how valuable free and fearless journalists are to a democratic society,” the Guild said.

“It is shocking that instead of taking action to fix what is wrong on the ground, the government has filed criminal cases against the journalist. Even if the government

believes that his report is wrong, there are easy and conventional redresses available. Using the IPC and police is no way to respond to this,” it said. The Guild urged the state government to withdraw these cases forthwith and ensure that the journalist is not put to any further harm or harassment.

It also expressed “grave concern” over recent incidents of restrictions on the overseas travel of journalists.

The latest being the denial of travel permission for Kashmiri journalist Gowhar Geelani, who works for a German media organisation.

“The law does indeed give the government such powers but only in the rarest of rare cases and following due procedure and disclosure. There must be transparency in these decisions,” the statement said.

The Guild called on the government to not create a situation where the constitutionally and legally mandated freedoms of media representatives are compromised.

Breastfeeding pods in Ker railway stations

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 2 (PTI): CREATING a safe and comfortable zone for lactating mothers during journeys, a startup mentored by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has launched a project for installing state-of-the-art breastfeeding pods at three railway stations in the state.

Christened Domatio, the new age breastfeeding pod has already been set up in Thrissur Railway Station and the facility will be opened in Thiruvananthapuram Central and Ernakulam South in the coming days.

It is designed to help women comfortably

breastfeed infants in public places such as shopping malls, restaurants, hospitals, zoo, bus stand, and railway stations.

I Love 9 Months, a maternity wellness startup, is implementing the project in association with KSUM, along with a hospital in Kochi and Thrissur.

The facility at Central Railway Station here will be inaugurated on Tuesday and at the Ernakulam South on Thursday, a release here said.

State Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar had launched it at Thrissur Railway station on August 30.

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Now Pawan...

Mr Tamang said that the transfer policy under the SDF government was mostly about victimization wherein those that voted in SKM's favour were sent to remote locations. He said that the SKM government will have a systematic transfer policy to ensure no employee stays in one place or department for more than 3 years. That way, they will have more experience around the State and more departments to learn from, he said.

He added that the retirement policy has been marred by extension which was guaranteed only to SDF loyalists.

“SKM will also devise a proper policy, wherein the unemployed no longer need to run after Ministers. They will get appointed as per their merit and given their age group falling mostly in the 20s and early 30s. Their first appointment will be in remote locations of the State,” he said.

Namcheybong MLA, Em Prasad Sharma and Upper Tadong MLA, GT Dhungel also addressed the gathering wherein they assured to work hard for their constituencies.

During the program, Mr Tamang also released the song “Jan Un Mukti Ko Kranti”.

Chandrayaan-2...

After the separation, two deorbit manoeuvres of the lander to bring it further down will be carried out on September 3 and September 4 to prepare for its landing in the south polar region of the moon, where no country has gone so far.

The first of the manoeuvres was scheduled on Tuesday between 8.45 am and 9.45 am IST, the ISRO said.

Vikram, named after the father of India's space research programme Vikram A Sarabhai, is scheduled to land on the lunar surface near its south pole on September 7 at about 1.55 am.

The exact landing site free of hazards will be decided based on pictures of the area captured and sent back by the lander's onboard camera.

A successful mission will make India the fourth country after Russia, the US and China to pull off a soft landing on the moon.

Rover Pragyaan, a six-wheeled robotic vehicle, will then roll out from the lander to carry out various tests on the lunar soil, especially detecting the presence of water and other mineral there, during its mission life of one Lunar day, equal to 14 Earth days.

Sivan earlier said the soft landing on the Moon will be a “terrifying” moment as it is something the has not done before, whereas the Lunar Orbit Insertion manoeuvre was successfully carried out during the earlier Chandrayaan-1 mission.

The orbiter carries eight scientific payloads for mapping the lunar surface and study the exosphere (outer atmosphere) of the Moon while the lander carries three scientific payloads to conduct surface and subsurface science experiments.

The rover carries two payloads to enhance the understanding of the lunar surface.

ISRO has said the objective of the Chandrayaan-2 mission is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface.

The mission aims at further expanding knowledge about the moon through a detailed study, leading to a better understanding of its origin and evolution.

ANTHYESTI KRIYA

The anthyesthi Kriya of Late Hemlata Basnett who left for her heavenly abode falls on 7th of September 2019 at Gom, South Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering our prayers for the departed soul on 7.09.2019 at Gom, South Sikkim.



Family Members

Sankar Das Rai (Husband), Roshan Rai (son) & Rushma Rai (daughter)
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Shah to visit Assam next week for NEC meet; NRC may figure with state leaders

NEW DELHI, SEPT 2 (PTI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Assam next week to attend a meeting of the North Eastern Council and is likely to review the situation in the state in the wake of publication of the final NRC, sources said on Monday.

During the September 8-9 visit, Shah will chair a meeting of the NEC, to be attended by chief ministers and governors of eight North-eastern states.

"Shah is also likely to have separate meetings with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and top functionaries of the Assam government and the state BJP leadership," a source said.

Shah is also the BJP President.

The final National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published on Saturday.

According to the NRC, out of the total 3.3 crore applicants, 3.11 crore figured in the list and names of about 19 lakh people were excluded.

After the list was published, Assam Finance Minister Himant Biswa Sarma and state BJP chief Ranjit Kumar Dass said they were unhappy with the NRC as names of many genuine Indian citizens were not included.

Both Sarma and Dass said there is a possibility of government taking some legislative options to protect the rights of genuine Indians.

"Under this circumstances, the home minister's visit bears significance," another source said.

This will be Shah's first visit to Assam after becoming the home minister three months ago.

His earlier plan to attend the NEC meeting on August 3-4 was postponed, apparently due to his engagements ahead of abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories, which was announced on August 5. During his meeting with the chief ministers and governors at the NEC plenary, Shah will review and discuss with them the security situation and development issues, a home ministry official said.

He will review the progress of various development issues at the NEC meeting.

Shah is expected to have a separate meeting to take stock of the security situation in the northeastern region, the official said.

The NEC is the apex advisory body for securing balanced and coordinated development, and for facilitating effective coordination among the member states.

The body was re-structured in July 2018 with the nomination of the home minister as the NEC chairman and the minister for development of north eastern region (DoNER) as the vice-chairman.



Ganesh Mahotsav at Thakurbari

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

Marwadi Yuva Manch Gangtok City is organizing a two-day Ganapati Mahotsav here in the capital at Thakurbari. The celebration got underway today with aarati, and an entire day

of bhajans, bhandara, and mahaprasad. Colourful decoration and attractive lights along with the Ganesh statue were the main attractions of the day. In the evening, a guest artist from Sili-guri presented bhajans. On Tuesday, a hawan is scheduled.

SICA Annual General Meeting held

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) was held at Gangtok on 31 Aug, 2019, where all the Voting Right members, Administrative Staff, Support Staff, Senior Men and Women players and Under 23 players were invited, a press release informs.

As per the new constitution of SICA and guidelines of The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the AGM is to be held before the end of September every year.

The meeting was started by SICA secretary, Sonam Palden Bhutia with the presentation of annual reports of SICA. Treasurer, Naresh Kumar Agarwal submitted his report before the stakeholders of SICA about all the expenditure incurred during the last financial year and also



about the current financial position of SICA.

Once all the reports were submitted, a presentation on "Workflow and Organizational recommendation for SICA" was showcased by Di-chen Dolker and a presentation by architect, Prayan Dixit was also given on the projected infrastructure and facilities that "Mining Cricket Ground" will be having once the ongoing con-

struction is completed.

Various others matters like the construction of multiple cricket grounds of SICA, development of Cricket in the State, Appointment of CEO and Selectors, Regularization of Administrative Staff, training of Coaches and support staff and players, Cricket Academies, election dates of SICA were discussed by the voting right and board mem-

bers of SICA.

The meeting concluded with a speech by SICA president, Lobzang G Tenzing where he informed all that the BCCI and COA is watching SICA closely and also that the board is very impressed by the way SICA is working towards the development of Cricket in the State and also that SICA is setting an example for rest of the newly included full members of BCCI.

Hindi fortnight at Rangpo Senior Secondary School



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

Rangpo Senior Secondary School is observing a 15-day long Hindi Pakhwada at the

school. Vice Principal BR Siwakoti inaugurated the programme, coordinated by Hindi teachers Ram Prasad Sharma and Laxmi Prasad Sharma, today.

CS delivers motivational talk at SMU



GANGTOK, 02 SEPT [IPR]: Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava delivered a motivational talk to students of Sikkim Manipal University on the topic "Youth

and Changing Values" here at the SMIMS auditorium today. The CS focused mainly on two topics - Health and Technology [internet & mobile phones].

With top shooters in fray, chance for India to win medals on first two days of Olympics

NEW DELHI, SEP 2 (PTI): Striving to leave a mark in the Olympics, India could straightaway win medals in the next edition of the world's biggest sporting event, with its highly fancied shooters scheduled to compete on the first and second competition day in 2020. In all likelihood, current world number one Apurvi Chandela and seventh-ranked Anjum Moudgil -- both quota winners -- will be representing India in the women's 10m air rifle event on July 25 as per the opening day schedule released by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

On the same day, the rampaging duo of Saubh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma, who have won all four World Cup gold medals on offer this year, will be competing in the men's 10m air pistol event. On July 26, the second competition day, Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini Singh Deswal will be India's representatives in the women's 10m air pistol, provided there is no swapping of quotas.

So far, 17-year-old Divyansh Singh Panwar

is the only Indian to have won a quota in the men's 10m air rifle event, and a country is eligible to field shooters per event.

The brilliant performance by the 20-year-old Deswal helped her join Sanjeev Rajput, Moudgil, Chandela, Chaudhary, Verma, Divyansh, Rahi Sarnobat and Bhaker as India's other quota holders for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. India dominates the world rankings in women's 10m air rifle and men's 10m air pistol. The Indian duo of Chaudhary and Verma are placed 1-2 in the latest rankings issued by ISSF.

Chandela and Elavenil are placed one and two in the women's 10m air rifle. The formats of the three mixed team events have also been approved by the administrative council. A total of 30 shots will be fired by each team member (total 60 shots) in 30 minutes in the first qualification round.

The top eight ranked teams from qualification 1 remain on their original firing points. In the qualification 2, there will be 20 shots by each team member (40 shots in total) in 20 minutes.

Assam MLA calls on CM, invites him for NEC and NEDA meeting

GANGTOK, 02 SEPT (IPR): Assam MLA, Ashok Singhal called on the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang, today.

It was a courtesy call by the MLA who also congratulated the Chief Minister for his party's victory in the recently held election and greeted with good wishes to move ahead together in mutual coordination and cooperation.

His visit to Sikkim was to invite the Chief Minister for the North Eastern Council (NEC) meeting which is sched-



uled to be held at Guwahati on 08 Sept and North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) meeting on 09 Sept, 2019. It is also to be mentioned here that Sikkim

Kim Krantikari Morcha is also a part of NEDA.

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Limboo will also be attending the NEDA meeting.

Indian Oil Day marked at LPG bottling plant

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

LPG Bottling Plant, Rangpo, observed the 60th Indian Oil Day marking the foundation of India's largest enterprise and Fortune 500 listed company of India, Indian Oil, today.

The program featured pledge-taking, traditional cake cutting ceremony, a rendition of the Indian Oil song and prize distribution.

Plant Manager Suman Tamang briefed the gathering on the importance of the day.

On the occasion, all the



employees, security personnel and labourers donated clothes to be handed over to an NGO for the needy.

Also today, with the

help of sponsorship by Indane LPG Distributors, copper bottles were distributed to all employees of the LPG Plant.



WORKING OUT FOR CLEANLINESS: Taking a break from their regular workout regimen, members of Pema's Gym, Gangkha, Martam in East Sikkim, today sweated it out leading a cleanliness drive from Martam Government School to St Joseph's School on Sunday. The cleanliness drive, led by international athlete, Pema Dorjee Bhutia, who is also owner of Pema's Gym, was also joined by members of other organisations and Martam residents.

Akhlaq lynching case accused held after exchange of fire in Greater Noida



NOIDA (UP), SEP 2 (PTI): An accused in the 2015 lynching of Dadri's Mohammad Akhlaq was arrested following an exchange of fire with police in Greater Noida early on Monday, officials said.

Hari Om (30), who was wanted in at least four cases of robbery and dishonestly receiving stolen property in Ghaziabad, was shot in the leg, said police.

He, along with other accused, was out on bail in the Akhlaq lynching case.

Hari Om was held from near Samana Canal by a team from the Jarcha police station, which had got a tip-off about a criminal's sus-

pected movement in the area around midnight, the officials said.

"When the police team reached the spot, Hari Om started his motorcycle and tried to flee. When asked by police to stop for inquiry, he opened fire, inviting retaliatory action," a police spokesperson said.

"The accused, a resident of Bisahda village, got a bullet injury in his leg and was soon held by the team. He was then taken to a hospital for treatment," the official said.

An illegal firearm, along with ammunition, was seized from him, police said, adding that his motorcycle had been

impounded. A fresh case under the Arms Act and Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against him at the Jarcha police station.

Hari Om is one of the 18 men accused of killing 52-year-old Mohammad Akhlaq at Bisahda village in September 2015 over suspicion that he had stored beef in his house.

All accused in the case are currently out on bail and some of them had even attended a pre-Lok Sabha election event addressed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Bisahda village in March this year.

Stonewalling Without Workable Alternatives

The wait for reserved seats continues for Limboos and Tamangs in the absence of consensus

Another year is three-quarters done, and while Sikkim has much to be excited by in the year going by, there are some matters which remain unresolved and stranded at where they were a decade and a half back. Reserved assembly seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities, in keeping with their having become Scheduled Tribes, is one of them. The two communities were included in the Scheduled Tribes list on 07 January 2003. This automatically entitled them to contest from Scheduled Tribes seats, but when it comes to the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim, they have not been able to do so despite the four assembly elections which have taken place since then.

For all the noise and claims and counter-claims, informed not so much from reason as political positions, reserving seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities is not an issue that is easily resolved. The enormously long time that has passed since they became entitled to such seats and the continuing delay should prove that. At one level, it is very straightforward in that with the inclusion of the two communities in the Scheduled Tribes list, reserved assembly seats for them becomes a right mandated by the Constitution of India. The prescribed calculation – seats in proportion to their population composition in Sikkim – is simple in understanding and demanding what is required but complicated in how one can arrive at that figure or find the available seats.

Yes, things are rarely ever very simple in Sikkim.

Thumb-rule apportioning of seats cannot be undertaken for the exacting and keenly specific requirements of matters which involve the Constitution and when the matter needs to be processed through multiple Ministries. The calculations are further vexed because they do not offer an easily worked out or universally acceptable proportion because of the existing set of reserved seats, which, because they do not follow the proportionate-to-population allotment, make additional reservations unreasonable for the populations left outside the segregated berths in the Legislative Assembly. A situation like this cannot be resolved solely by mathematics or rules and laws or even amendments to the Constitution of India and require involved deliberations at all levels. The political rhetoric that has hounded the issue has however effectively kept such deliberations and hence the possible consensus at bay. And no, the few “deliberations” that have been claimed have not been across the board or without bias.

The only clear commitment on how the reserved seats could be apportioned had arrived in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly back in December 2008, when the Chief Minister had tabled a resolution on increasing the Assembly strength to 40, maintaining the BL seats at 12, Sangha at one and SC at two and then, from the remaining 25 seats, setting aside seats for the Limboos and Tamangs as Scheduled Tribes from their proportion to the population for whom the remaining seats are available (40 minus the 12 BL, 1 Sangha and 2 SC seats). This resolution was passed on 11 December, 2008. 2019 is ending now, and despite the decade that has lapsed since, there is no other workable formula presented by anyone. Unfortunately for the two communities, there does not even appear to be a clear consensus on the issue either. In fact, it would be correct to comment that while several objections and demands are raised, the focus among sections outside the government appears to be to doubt solely for the purpose of not agreeing. It was much the same back in December 2008, when straight off the bat, there were those who cried foul and disagreed. Of course the proposal is complicated, but this was never going to be a simple issue. And while criticisms and condemnations are necessary reactions in a healthy democracy, the communities in question would have been well served if these responses were backed by alternate options on how else the political rights of the Limboos and Tamangs as Scheduled Tribes could be delivered without compromising the political expressions of any other community or section of Sikkimese population.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Why living in a poor country means you have bad food choices

DEREK HEADEY & HAROLD ALDERMAN
theconversation.com

Poor diets are the number one risk factor in the global burden of disease: they account for one in five deaths globally.

In higher income countries sugar, fat and red meat increase the risks of heart disease, diabetes and cancer. These usually kill people later in life. Meanwhile people in lower income countries struggle to access nutrient-dense foods like fruits, vegetables, dairy, eggs, meat and fish. This puts them at risk of wasting, stunting and micro-nutrient deficiencies. These tend to kill people in early childhood, but also result in various nutrition disorders and slower cognitive development.

The decision-making processes that lead to poor dietary choices are undoubtedly complex. Diets are affected by culture and tradition, by nutritional knowledge and the importance people attach to good health. But economic factors like income and relative prices are also important. This is especially true for the poor because their food budgets are just that much tighter.

We wanted to explore this economic aspect of dietary decisions. So we analysed consumer food prices for 657 products in 176 countries surveyed by the World Bank's International Comparison Program. The aim was to understand the global food system from poorer consumers' perspective by examining the “relative caloric price” of any given food: how much consumers must fork out for healthy versus unhealthy sources of calories.

Our analysis of these relative caloric prices yielded a striking result. As countries develop, their food systems get better at providing healthier foods cheaply, but they also get better at providing healthier foods cheaply. This means that in less developed countries poor people also live in poor food systems. Nutrient-dense foods like eggs, milk, fruits and vegetables can be very expensive in these countries. That makes it harder to diversify away from nutrient-sparse staple foods like rice, corn and bread.

The problem in more developed countries is rather different. Unhealthy calories have simply become a very affordable option. In the United States, for example, calories from soft drinks are just 1.9 times as expensive as staple food calories and require no preparation time.

The fact that relative food prices differ so markedly and so systematically provides a very strong rationale for nutrition-focused food policies. Gov-

ernments' food policies prioritise the incomes of farmers and the profits of food producers and retailers. Instead, they should be designing their food policies with consumers' nutrition and health outcomes as their top priority.

NUTRITION TRANSITION

Niger is one of the world's poorest countries. People's staple foods include rice, bread or corn. Eggs would be a useful nutrient boost as they are dense in high-quality protein and a wide range of micronutrients. This makes them a super food ideal for young children and pregnant mothers especially.



But egg calories in Niger are 23.3 times as expensive as calories from staple foods! In contrast, egg calories in the far wealthier United States are just 1.6 times as expensive as staple food calories. This suggests that even if poorer consumers in Niger want to diversify away from their staple foods, this is economically very hard.

Our findings are consistent with the so-called nutrition transition: as countries develop, diets diversify into more nutritious foods (though sometimes slowly). But they also diversify into unhealthy foods like soft drinks.

So what is it about the global food system and the process of economic development that delivers the wrong price of healthy and unhealthy foods in so many settings?

Part of the answer lies in the foods themselves. Sugar is very dense in the basic calories needed for survival and adequate energy; green leafy vegetables are rich in micronutrients but don't offer much energy, so they're expensive in caloric terms. Hence when money is tight, poor consumers find cheap sugar-dense foods very appealing, and food manufacturers see sugars as a very cheap way of getting both flavor and calories into their products.

The perishability of foods is also a hugely important determinant of relative prices. Eggs and fresh milk can't easily be traded over long distances. Egg production is low in Niger, because poultry production in African countries faces major prob-

lems with disease, low technology and poor access to capital.

In principle, Niger could just import cheap eggs from the US but that's not an option for a highly perishable and fragile food like eggs. On the other hand, countries can import less perishable foods like beans, nuts, milk powder, or frozen meat or fish.

Differences in the costs of healthy and unhealthy calories are therefore partly determined by the nature of the foods themselves, and partly by local productivity levels and whether the food can be cheaply traded. These complexities mean that

different strategies are needed for different kinds of foods in different countries.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Clearly the main food system problem for consumers in poor countries is the high price of healthy foods.

For perishable foods that cannot easily be traded it will be essential to increase investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) to improve productivity of nutrient-dense foods.

For the developing world perhaps the most important multilateral institution for agricultural R&D is the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which helped produce the Green Revolution super crops in the 1960s and 1970s, such as high-yielding rice, wheat and maize varieties. But the CGIAR hasn't invested anywhere near as much in nutrient-dense crops and livestock or fish.

This same bias towards staple foods is also true for developing country governments, who all too often remain fixated on the supply of their most basic staples. That needs to change.

For more tradable foods, countries need to review their import policies to ensure they're not taxing foods that consumers need to eat more of. Not every country needs to be self-sufficient in dairy, for example. Milk powder is super nutritious and very tradable, and can be often be mostly imported from high-productivity exporters like New Zealand and the US.

And for all types of healthy foods, improvements in infrastructure and the broader business environment should also help to improve storage, trade and processing of healthy foods.

The low and often declining cost of unhealthy foods is a much trickier issue to grapple with. Taxes on unhealthy foods may be one solution. But the caloric cheapness of sugars and oils and fats is very striking, and we suspect there might be more traction in nutrition education and supply-side regulations such as food labelling.

[Derek Headey is Senior Research Fellow, The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Harold Alderman is Senior Research Fellow, The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)]

Star laws: what happens if you commit a crime in space?

DANIELLE IRELAND-PIPER
theconversation.com

NASA is reportedly investigating what could be the first ever alleged crime in space. Astronaut Anne McClain has been accused of accessing her estranged spouse's bank account via the internet while on board the International Space Station (she denies the accusation).

This gives rise to the question: what criminal law, if any, applies in outer space? The short answer is that, for a US astronaut aboard the International Space Station with a US alleged victim, US criminal jurisdiction applies.

The long answer is more complicated, and set to become even more so with the advent of space tourism, space militarisation, and commercial activity. Human activity has increased in space, with at least 50 nations currently engaged in space activities.

Space, like the high seas, is considered res communis – it belongs to everyone and to no one, nor can any country lay claim to it.

But that doesn't mean the high seas and outer space are free from national laws. International law allows countries to assert jurisdiction outside their territory in several ways, including via the nationality principle, which covers crimes committed by a country's citizens outside its borders, and the universality principle, which allows countries to prosecute anyone for serious crimes against

international law, such as piracy.

So far there are no pirates in space, outside the realms of science fiction at least.

Space is governed by five key international treaties, known informally as the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention, and the Moon Agreement (their formal names are much, much longer). All are under the auspices of the delightfully named United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs.

The Outer Space Treaty is one of the most relevant when it comes to dealing with alleged crimes in space.

Broadly, the treaty requires the exploration and use of outer space to be free, in the interests of all countries, and not subject to any claim of national sovereignty. The Moon and other bodies are to be used only for peaceful purposes. Nations are responsible for national space activities and are liable for damage caused by their space objects.

As for the question of who prosecutes space crimes, the short answer is that a spacefaring criminal would generally be subject to the law of the country of which they are a citizen, or the country aboard whose registered spacecraft the crime was committed, because the treaty grants that country authority “over any personnel thereof”.

However, the term “personnel” is not defined, and this raises questions as to what the case might be for pri-

vate citizens such as, for example, an Australian space tourist flying aboard a US-registered spacecraft.

FAR FROM HOME, FAR FROM SIMPLE

The International Space Station (ISS) in fact has its own intergovernmental agreement, signed by the project's partner nations, that makes express provision for nationality-based jurisdiction over crime. It says:

“Canada, the European Partner States, Japan, Russia, and the United States may exercise criminal jurisdiction over personnel in or on any flight element who are their respective nationals.”

As McClain is reportedly a US citizen, this means US criminal law will apply to her conduct. This is also known as “active-nationality” jurisdiction. This is made simpler by the fact that her alleged victim is also a US national.

If the victim of a crime committed on the ISS was a citizen of a different partner nation, and if the US did not provide assurance it would prosecute the perpetrator, that other nation's criminal law would apply. This is known as “passive nationality” jurisdiction. There is also a possibility that if the crime took place in a partner nation's section of the space station, its criminal law may apply.

For other space flights not on board the ISS, things potentially get more complicated still, for several reasons.

The treaty framework on criminal law in space relies heavily on nation-

ality. This makes the situation more complicated if an alleged criminal is a dual citizen.

Since 2001, when Dennis Tito became the first space tourist, a total of just seven private citizens have paid to go to space. But Virgin Galactic promises “a regular schedule of spaceflights for private individuals and researchers” in the future.

Future space tourists are unlikely to be aboard the ISS, so that agreement won't apply. It is most likely that the criminal law of the country of registration of the space plane would apply, but this could be problematic if the countries whose citizens are on board also attempt to claim jurisdiction.

Another issue is the question of where space even begins. Earth's atmosphere does not have a solid boundary, which makes it hard to determine whether air law or space law should apply at a given altitude, and whether space-bound flights can be deemed to have violated another country's air space.

Finally, for really serious crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court may also extend into outer space. While some people already see space as a military arena, we can only hope this theoretical jurisdiction is never applied in practice.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Constitutional and International Law, Bond University]

Journalist booked for recording video of salt-roti midday meal



LUCKNOW, SEPT 2 (PTI): A case has been registered against a journalist and a village-head representative for allegedly doing “despicable work” of maligning the Uttar Pradesh government by recording a video of schoolchildren being served salt and roti as their midday meal.

The FIR stated that the village head’s representative, Rajkumar Pal, was aware that only rotis were cooked and vegetable was not cooked in the Siyur Primary School in Jamalpur block of Mirzapur district.

But “instead of ar-

ranging it”, Pal called journalist Pawan Kumar Jaiswal, who works in the print media, and “pressed him to run it” in the electronic media, according to the complaint lodged on Saturday by Mirzapur block education officer Prem Shankar Ram at the Ahraura police station.

Jaiswal and Pal have been booked under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharging duty), 193 (false evidence) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, a senior

police officer said. Some unnamed persons are also mentioned in the first information report.

According to the complaint, Jaiswal and Pal conspired and deliberately made the video in a well-planned manner and did “despicable work” of maligning the image of the state government. “The journalist shot the video on his mobile and shared it to an electronic media agency,” it said.

Jaiswal, however, denied the allegations. “This is against journalism. You can see the

news and verify it,” he told a television channel. “Nothing is being created. I had informed everything (to officials).”

The video of students of the being served salt and roti in their midday meal had gone viral on social media on August 22, triggering outrage and leading to the suspension of two teachers.

Explained how he got the information and shot the video, the journalist said: “I write for a New Delhi newspaper. I got information about the school that there were discrepancies in the mid-

day meal served to students. They were sometimes given salt, roti or salt, rice.” Jaiswal said he got a call from someone on August 22, following which he reached the school for news and also informed additional basic education officer Brijesh Kumar Singh about the visit.

“I shot the first video at 12.07 pm and informed my colleagues, who informed the DM,” he said. “The DM did a probe even before the news was run and suspended many.”

“Later, the matter became high profile. To save themselves, a number of cases have been lodged against me,” he said. As per norms under the flagship nutrition scheme, pulses, rice, rotis, vegetables, with fruit and milk on certain days, are to be served to school-going children to ensure necessary nutrition to them.

The midday-meal scheme is designed to provide a minimum of 450 calories per child per day, which should also include at least 12 grams of protein each day. These meals should be served to each child at least 200 days a year.

Contradictory voices in Assam Cong on NRC; Tarun Gogoi slams it as ‘waste paper’, party MP says ‘historic’ document

GUWAHATI, SEP 2 (PTI): Differences seem to have cropped up in the Congress’ Assam unit over the NRC, with former chief minister Tarun Gogoi describing it a “waste paper” and a Lok Sabha MP terming it a “historic scientific document”.

The final National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published on Saturday and, according to it, out of the total 3.3 crore applicants, 3.11 crore figured in the list and names of about 19 lakh people were excluded.

“I have been saying for long that the NRC would be a waste paper. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi had said Tarun

Gogoi rolled out a red carpet for the foreigners.

“But, instead of throwing out the illegal immigrants, he (Modi) could not prepare the NRC properly. We are with all Indians who were excluded from the NRC,” Gogoi said in a tweet in Assamese.

Congress MP from Barpeta, Abdul Khaleque, however, described the NRC, which validates bona fide Indian citizens of Assam, as a “milestone” and a “historic scientific document”.

“Although lots of names of Indian Citizens drops from final NRC, but it’s a historic scientific document prepared by Government of Assam and Government of India

under the supervision of Hon’ble Supreme Court of India. No doubt, it’s milestone (sic),” Khaleque tweeted.

The former chief minister’s son and Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi said it was due to the “carelessness” of state authorities that a genuine Indian citizen excluded from the NRC will now have to go to court.

“In Assam, BJP says that excluded persons need not panic because they can approach a tribunal court. Question is why should a genuine Indian need to go to court to prove his or her citizenship, when it’s clearly due to the carelessness of the state authorities,” he tweeted.

TMC to hold mass protests against NRC in WB

KOLKATA, SEP 2 (PTI): Trinamool Congress leadership Monday decided to hold mass protests across West Bengal from this week opposing NRC in neighbouring Assam, party sources said.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s residence Monday afternoon.

It was decided that the mass protests would be held on September 7-8 against the National Register of Citizens and the divisive politics of BJP, the sources said.

On September 12 a protest rally will be organized in the city from Chiria More to Shyam-bazar in north Kolkata.

Banerjee, who is also the TMC supremo, is likely to be present in it, a senior party

leader said.

“During the meeting Banerjee expressed concern over the future of 19 lakh plus people who have been left out of the final NRC list in Assam. She has asked party leaders to reach out to the people and explain to them about the sinister designs of BJP, such as the implementation of NRC if it ever comes to power in Bengal,” a TMC leader said.

The updated final NRC, which validates bonafide Indian citizens of Assam, was out on Saturday.

“Senior TMC leader and minister Firhad Hakim and the party’s Rajya Sabha deputy leader Sukhendu Sekhar Roy have been assigned to keep in touch with leaders of the north eastern states on NRC,”

he said. TMC Lok Sabha party leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay has been assigned to keep in touch with leaders of other regional parties across the country on the issue, party sources said.

TMC has opposed NRC in Assam and has slammed the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in the state for making valid citizens refugees in their own country.

A total of 3,30,27,661 people had applied for inclusion in the NRC. Of them, 3,11,21,004 have been included in the final list and 19,06,657 excluded, according to a statement from the Assam NRC coordinator’s office.

Those who have been excluded from the NRC have 120 days to appeal against it at the Foreigners Tribunals.

Assam doctors to withdraw services for 24 hrs on Tuesday

GUWAHATI, SEP 1 (PTI): Doctors in Assam on Sunday called for a 24-hour ‘withdrawal of medical services excluding emergency’ across the state on September 3 in protest against the killing of an elderly doctor by associates of a patient who died at a tea garden hospital in Jorhat. Doctors will withdraw their services from 6 am but the emergency in all hospitals will remain open, President of the Assam State Branch of the Indian Medical Association, Dr Satyajit Borah said.

The Teok Tea estate doctor, 73-year-old Dr Deben Dutta was assaulted on Saturday by garden workers following the death of a person in the estate hospital. Dutta later died at the Jorhat Medical College Hospital.

Borah said the assault on Dutta is the third major incident of physical attack on doctors serving in tea gardens and the number of such incidents is increasing.

“As a mark of protest against these incidents and failure of the



government to provide security to the doctors and convict the culprits, doctors have decided to withdraw services for 24 hours,” he said.

The IMA demanded that the government ensures exemplary punishment of the culprits and beef up security measures such as installation of surveillance cameras in all health establishments including those in tea gardens.

“We hope that the doctor fraternity is not compelled to take more severe steps,” Borah said.

Meanwhile, Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has condemned the incident, describing it as ‘unfortu-

nate’. “We will not tolerate anybody taking the law into their hands and the district administration has been directed to take immediate action against the culprits,” the minister said in his twitter handle.

The Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Roshni Aparanji Korati has already ordered a magisterial enquiry into the incident and Additional Deputy Commissioner Subhan Gowala has been asked to submit the report in seven days.

The Assam Valley Consultative Committee of Plantations Associations and Tea Association of India have also condemned the killing of the doctor.

Doctors stay away from work in Jorhat to protest against killing of colleague

JORHAT/GUWAHATI, SEP 2 (PTI): Healthcare services in Jorhat district of Assam was affected on Monday as doctors in government and private hospitals stayed away from their work to protest against the killing of an elderly doctor by a mob on Saturday, officials said.

However, services in the emergency and the Outpatient Department (OPD) were out of the purview of the agitation, the officials said.

Monday’s agitation in Jorhat will be followed by a state-wide stir on Tuesday when doctors will withdraw their services from 6 am but the emergency will remain open, President of the Assam State Branch of the Indian Medical Association, Dr Satyajit Borah said.

Doctors in Jorhat Medical College Hospital (JMCH), Civil Hospital, family referral units, primary health centres abstained from work.



The medicos also stayed away from duties in private hospitals and did not attend consultation chambers, the officials said.

In Jorhat town, doctors, pharmacists and para-medical persons held a dharna in front of the deputy commissioner’s office demanding justice for 73-year-old Dr Deben Dutta who was assaulted by a mob on Saturday following the death of a patient in the estate hospital. Dutta later died at the JMCH.

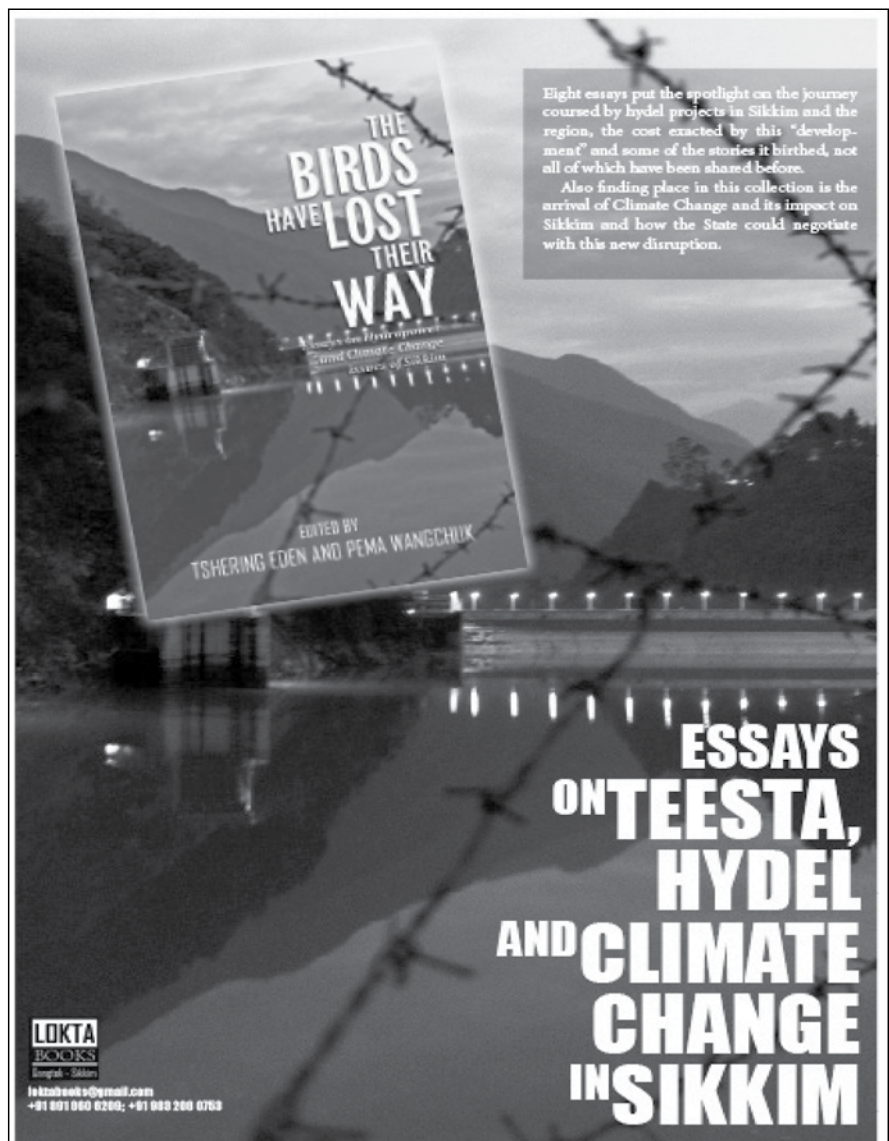
The agitating doctors also submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioners across

the state demanding a law to ensure security of the doctors.

Meanwhile, a total of 26 people were taken into custody from the Teok Tea Estate where Dutta was attacked, police sources said.

Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) Deepak Kedia has visited the tea estate to take stock of the situation.

Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Roshni Aparanji Korati has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the assault of Dutta, who was working in the hospital after his retirement without remuneration.



Serena rolls ankle and US Open rival as Barty, Pliskova fall

NEW YORK, SEP 2 (AFP): Serena Williams overcame an injury scare to maintain her pursuit of a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title at the US Open on Sunday while Roland Garros champion Ashleigh Barty and Karolina Pliskova crashed out in the last 16.

Williams, a six-time US Open winner, romped to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Croatian 22nd seed Petra Martic to set up a quarter-final with China's Wang Qiang, the conqueror of world number two Barty.

The 37-year-old American star required a medical timeout in the second set after rolling her right ankle as she approached the net but promptly recovered to reach the last eight in New York for the 16th time.

"I feel fine right now physically," said Williams, who received further strapping to an already heavily taped ankle.

"But I'll see tomorrow. So far I'm good. I have been managing it. We'll see tomorrow.

Eighth-seeded Williams, who has also suffered knee and back injuries this season, felt a mental setback when it happened but battled through to win. "I've had a rough year with injuries," she said. "It was like, 'Oh my God. Not again. I'm finally walking.'"

Williams, who last won a major at the 2017 Australian Open and hasn't won the US Open since 2014, is seeking a 24th career Slam title to match Margaret Court's all-time record.

She will play 18th seed Wang for the first time as the Chinese 27-year-old extended her best Slam run with a 6-2, 6-4 defeat of an erratic Barty.

The Australian, who beat Wang twice last year in their only prior meetings, was undone by 39 unforced errors at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"It's a tough day at the office today. But it has been a year where we've hit our goals," Barty said.

"We've had a great season in Grand Slams for singles. We've made the second week every single one, which has been really special.

"Now we'll sit back, reflect, and look forward to a big couple months to finish off the year."

- MCNAMARA SPIRIT WITH WANG -

Wang became the first Chinese player to reach the women's quarter-finals since Peng Shuai made it to the last four in 2014.

"I think I'm really focused on the court, really enjoyed the way I played. I'm so happy I won," said Wang, whose breakthrough run has been fuelled by the memory of her late coach, Peter McNamara. The former Australian Davis Cup tennis star and Wimbledon doubles champion passed away in July at the age of 64 after a battle with prostate cancer.

"He helped me a lot. It was really tough to me to hear he passed," Wang said.

I'd do it again tomorrow, Serena coach says of illicit coaching



NEW YORK, SEP 2 (AFP): Patrick Mouratoglou, the coach at the center of Serena Williams' infamous US Open final meltdown last year, said he "would do it again tomorrow" in reference to his hand signals that sparked the controversy.

Williams was warned for coaching during her loss in the final to Japan's Naomi Osaka when Mouratoglou was spotted making signals from the players box.

Williams then carried out a running verbal battle with umpire Carlos Ramos, who eventually penalized her a game.

The American described Ramos as a "liar and a thief" before crashing to defeat at a shell-shocked Flushing Meadows.

"Do I regret? No, I felt like she was lost at that moment and I tried to help her doing something that everybody does," Mouratoglou

said Sunday. "I would do the same tomorrow. Really. 100 percent. And if I'm penalized again, I think it's unfair the same way. If I'm penalized, then everyone should be penalized every day. And nobody is. Nobody." Mouratoglou insists that all players are coached from the sidelines and it is hypocrisy to deny it exists.

At the moment, on-court coaching is only allowed in WTA events but not on the men's ATP Tour or at the four Grand Slams. "Do I regret? Not at all. Not at all. For me, I didn't do anything bad. I just did what all the coaches do," he said.

"As I said, and I say it again, I usually never do it. So that was extremely unfair, because he penalized somebody -- he knows I'm not doing it. I did it once.

"Nobody gives a warning for the first time. They just tell you, Be

careful. Actually tell you to be careful usually after four or five times. Anyway, so I think it was completely unfair."

The Frenchman cited the inconsistency with which certain rules are applied, noting that warnings for racquet abuse were administered with regularity -- unlike the case with on-court coaching. "When you smash the racquet, you always have a warning. This is really the rule and the use. So this is something nobody complains about because we know that," he said.

"I think it's the most stupid rule. I don't think we should get penalized for that. That's how it is. This is fine.

"But when you never, and nobody is penalized or almost never (for coaching), I don't think it's fair. So do I regret? No. Would I do it again tomorrow if it's necessary? Yes.

Rechristened Dynamos shifts base to Bhubaneswar

NEW DELHI, SEP 2 (PTI): Rechristened Odisha FC, Indian Super League (ISL) franchise Delhi Dynamos FC has shifted base from the national capital to Bhubaneswar. The outfit has played its home games for five years at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here. In the last few years, Odisha has emerged as a sports hub, hosting top events in various Olympic disciplines. Bhubaneswar has successfully hosted the 2018 men's hockey World Cup, the first two editions of the Hero Super Cup and numerous other sporting events.

The Kalinga Stadium, which will be adopted as the club's new home ground, is hosting the All India Football Federation's developmental side, Indian Arrows. The stadium is the first to be provisionally cleared for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2020.

Speaking on the decision of moving base, owner of the franchise and founding CEO of GMS Leadership, Anil Sharma said, "It hurts for me to move Delhi Dynamos FC away from the city of Delhi, but certain hard decisions had to be taken. "I had a vision for the development of football in the country. And my vision has always made me strive for better. I feel the state of Odisha shares the same vision with me.

"As difficult as it was for me to take the call, I am immensely happy to say that the Government of Odisha is equally committed and determined to create an environment of sporting excellence in the state." The development comes only a few days after ISL side FC Pune City shut their operations due to financial problems and were replaced by new franchise Hyderabad FC.

Djokovic says 'life goes on' as injury wrecks US Open defense

New York, Sep 2 (AFP): Top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic said "life goes on" after a shoulder injury forced him to quit Sunday's clash with Stan Wawrinka in the last 16 of the US Open. Wawrinka, the 23rd seed and 2016 champion, led Djokovic 6-4, 7-5, 2-1 when the Serb quit with a nagging left shoulder problem that had troubled him since the start of the tournament.

"The pain was constant for weeks now. Some days higher, some days with less intensity and obviously taking different stuff to kill the pain instantly," Djokovic said.

"Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't. You just know when you know, I guess, when you feel like you're not able to hit the shot anymore." Djokovic refused to expand on the nature of his injury, which had caused him considerable pain during a second-round win over Juan Ignacio Londero.

"I retired and I told you it's left shoulder. I have nothing more to talk about," he said.

"I don't want to talk about my injuries. I said that in the past. I'm sticking to that."

Djokovic had claimed he felt "almost pain-free" following a straight-sets defeat of Denis Kudla in round three, but the problem resurfaced against Wawrinka in the first meeting between the pair since the final here three years ago.

The world number one received treatment before the start of the third set against Wawrinka but soon threw in the towel, the sixth time he has retired at a Grand Slam tournament.

"It is frustrating. Very frustrating. Obviously not the first, not the last player to get injured and to withdraw from one of the biggest events in sport," he said.

"But obviously I just came off the court, so of



course it hurts.

"Obviously I'm in the midst of unfortunate situation, and I have to, you know, suffer the consequences of that. And as I said, I'm not the first nor the last one. Life goes on." - 'LONG ROAD AHEAD' -

But Djokovic, winner of four of the past five Slam events and 16 overall, remained bullish about his chances of eventually catching and surpassing long-time rival Roger Federer, who holds the men's record of 20 major titles.

"It's no secret that I have of course desire and a goal to reach the most Slams and reach Roger's record," Djokovic said.

"But at the same time, it's a long road ahead hopefully for me I hope I can play for many more years. I'm planning to. I don't see an end behind the corner at all.

"Now it's a matter of keeping my body and mind in shape and trying to still peak at these kind of events that are majors and that are the most significant in our sport."

It marked just the second time in the past decade Djokovic had pulled out of a Grand Slam match, having last

retired during a 2017 Wimbledon quarter-final against Tomas Berdych with an elbow injury.

That setback prompted him to shut it down for the remainder of the season and led to questions about his future. His spectacular return to form 12 months later silenced those concerns, and he is hopeful of a swift recovery.

"This season is not yet over," he said, reflecting on a year in which he added another Australian Open and Wimbledon title to his collection.

"Obviously Grand Slam season is done for me. I mean, I won two Slams out of four and played semis in French. I had a really good Grand Slam season. I cannot complain, not at all.

"There is plenty of big tournaments ahead. Rankings-wise, plenty of points to defend for me and try to withhold that ranking of number one.

"I just hope I'll get a chance to be competing, because once I'm healthy I actually like my chances playing in Asia. And also indoor season, I play historically pretty well in those last couple months of the year.

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12thShaktiBhattFirstBookPrizeshortlistannounced

NEW DELHI, SEPT 2 (PTI): The shortlist of 12th Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize, a literary award constituted to acknowledge literature from the many countries of the South Asian sub-continent, was announced on Monday.

With five books, instead of its usual six, the shortlist this year includes two works of non-fiction and three fiction. Beside three books from India, the shortlist has a book each from Pakistan and Bangladesh, Arshia Sattar, author and co-curator of the prize, said in a statement.

"Our selected books speak of origins and futures, of satirical masculinities and the continuing vulnerability of women in our society, of vaulting ambitions and the sweetness of dreams.

"Never flinching from confronting ugly truths or recognis-

ing the gossamer thread of hope, they provide a vivid commentary on South Asia's social and political fissures, its unresolved anxieties and its contemporary concerns," the renowned translator said.

The shortlist includes "Good-bye, Freddie Mercury" by Pakistani author Nadia Akbar, "Babu Bangladesh" by Bangladeshi author Numair Atif Chowdhury, Roshan Ali's debut novel "Ib's Endless Search for Satisfaction", "No Nation for Women" by Priyanka Dubey, and Tony Joseph's "Early Indians".

Dubbing the shortlist as a "shoutout to spaces of resistance", Sattar said these books have become the "source of solidarity among people".

"As our democratic processes are brutally demolished and our voices of dissent are choked

off, our public and private bookshelves can stand tall as spaces of resistance. Solidarities can still be created by the books that we write and read and share. This year's shortlist is a shout-out to those spaces and solidarities," she said.

While the Pakistani author's book gives voice to "the young and the restless of Lahore's social elite" trying to escape from the corruption in the region, "Babu Bangladesh" tells the story of a national superhero who has lived through both -- his country's bloody past and the threatening chaos of its imminent future.

Another fiction in the list, Roshan Ali's "Ib's Endless Search for Satisfaction" circles around an unremarkable boy who considers questions of love and death from a distinctly 21st cen-

tury urban Indian perspective.

The two non-fiction works by journalists, "No Nation for Women" by Priyanka Dubey and "Early Indian" by Tony Joseph, bring forward stories of sexual violence against women in India and is an evidence-driven version of Indian history -- one that strongly contests the new version of India's past being created by the current political dispensation -- respectively.

Set up in 2008 in the memory of Shakti Bhatt, the prize honours debut authors from the South Asian subcontinent with Rs 2 lakh and a trophy.

Last year, the prize was awarded to Sujatha Gidla for her "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family And The Making Of Modern India". This year the winner will be announced in November.

Malaysia's Mahathir begins state visit to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, SEPT 2 (AP): Malaysia's prime minister arrived in Cambodia on Monday to strengthen ties and witness the signing of several agreements. Mahathir Mohamad will meet with Cambodian leader Hun Sen on Tuesday to discuss cooperation and exchange views on regional and international affairs, the Cambodian Foreign Ministry said.

The two men will also witness the signing of a double taxation avoidance agreement and a memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation, Malaysian state news agency Bernama reported.

On Monday afternoon, Mahathir gave a talk on international relations at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

The Malaysian leader also plans appearances with Malaysian expatriates and businesses in Cambodia during his three-day visit.

The Council for the Development of Cambodia, a government agency that oversees investment, says Malaysia has been the fifth largest foreign investor in Cambodia over the last five years.

It says Cambodia received USD 481 million in investment from Malaysia during the 2014-2018 period, and that two-way trade last year reached USD 474 million.

Hong Kong protesters call student boycott, strike after weekend of violence

HONG KONG, SEPT 2 (AFP): Hong Kong pupils made human chains at schools early Monday and protesters disrupted rush-hour trains as the city's pro-democracy movement returned to action after a weekend which brought some of the worst violence in three months of anti-government protests.

The global financial hub is in the grip of an unprecedented crisis as a largely leaderless movement has drawn millions on to the streets to protest against what they see as an erosion of freedoms and increasing interference in their affairs by Beijing.

China, which stands behind Hong Kong's government, has reacted with intimidatory tactics, including pressure on the city's businesses and well-publicised troop movements and exercises near the border.

An editorial late Sunday on Xinhua, the state news agency, warned "the end is coming" for the protest movement, without giving further details.

Early Monday protesters dressed in their signature black stood at doorways of trains, stopping them from closing, at a series of stations on the underground system, briefly disrupting an arterial network that has become a target of their activities.

Shortly afterwards, secondary school pupils



formed human chains outside a number of government schools before classes began.

Some wore gas masks, helmets and goggles -- the now essential kit carried by protesters during months of tear gas-enveloped rallies and clashes with police.

At one school the bronze statue of Sun Yat-sen, the Hong Kong-educated powerhouse of Chinese political thought, was also fitted with a gas mask and goggles.

A few dozen pupils risked disciplinary action at school to attend a rally in the city centre.

"Hong Kong is our

home... we are the future of the city and have to take up responsibility to save it," said a 17-year-old secondary school student who gave her surname as Wong.

Hong Kong is a semi-autonomous southern Chinese city that operates under a "one country, two systems" framework, which gives citizens rights unseen on the mainland.

China committed to giving the people of Hong Kong those rights in an agreement that saw the city return from British colonial rule in 1997.

China's erosions of those rights has been

one of the driving forces behind the protest movement. Another 17-year-old pupil named Cheung recognised the importance of study but reasoned "if a city no longer has freedom, we can't speak our own views. then academic achievement is not important."

Protesters also called for a general strike on Monday - although there were few immediate signs of it biting - while university students are due to rally in the afternoon.

The protests started in opposition to government plans to allow the extradition to the main-

land of people wanted by Beijing, but have widened to include broader demands. These include demands for the extradition bill to be formally scrapped and for an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality during the protests.

The protesters also want the city's leader and all its lawmakers to be directly elected, scrapping the current system that heavily favours the Chinese government.

Monday's round of protest actions followed yet another weekend of violence on the streets as well as efforts by protesters to disrupt the city's

airport, one of the busiest in the world.

On Sunday at least a dozen flights were cancelled after protesters blocked routes to the airport, although police fended off demonstrators' efforts to converge on the terminal itself.

On Saturday, hardcore protesters rampaged through the city centre, setting fires and throwing petrol bombs at riot police in defiance of a rally ban.

Police hit back with tear gas, baton charges and water cannon laced with chemical dye. Video footage captured by local media showed police

charge and beat a crowd cowering inside a train carriage, with Amnesty International calling their actions "horrifying".

The images have fortified anger against the police, who protesters accuse of brutality.

Universities were due to resume classes Monday after a summer break, but students -- who make up the backbone of the protest movement -- are planning a two-week boycott.

Protesters were also urging a general strike.

In early August, a city-wide strike -- a rare occurrence in a free-wheeling finance hub where unions traditionally have little sway -- brought transport chaos to the city.

Hong Kong's flagship carrier Cathay Pacific has warned staff they risk being sacked if they joined Monday's strike after the last walkout was supported by the airline's flight attendant union.

Cathay has already fired at least four staff -- including two pilots -- for supporting the protests.

Hong Kong's reputation as a stable place to do business has been shaken by the ongoing protests.

Visitor arrivals have plummeted, hotel vacancies have soared and retailers have reported huge losses, but the government has offered little in the way of concessions or suggestions on how to end them.

In escalating trade war, US consumers may see higher prices

WASHINGTON, SEPT 2 (AP): The United States and China on Sunday put in place their latest tariff increases on each other's goods, potentially raising prices Americans pay for some clothes, shoes, sporting goods and other consumer items before the holiday shopping season.

President Donald Trump said US-China trade talks were still on for September.

"We'll see what happens," he told reporters as he returned to the White House from the Camp David presidential retreat. "But we can't allow China to rip us off anymore as a country."

The 15 per cent US taxes apply to about USD 112 billion of Chinese imports. All told, more than two-thirds of the consumer goods the United States imports from China now face higher taxes.

The administration had largely avoided hitting consumer items in its earlier rounds of tariff increases.

But with prices of many retail goods now likely to rise, the Trump administration's move threatens the US economy's main driver: consumer spending. As businesses pull back on investment spending and exports slow in the face of weak global growth, American shoppers have been a

key bright spot for the economy. "We have got a great economy," said Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa. "But I do think that the uncertainty caused by volatile tariff situation and this developing trade war could jeopardize that strength, and that growth, and that is, I think, that's a legitimate concern," he told ABC's "This Week."

As a result of Trump's higher tariffs, many US companies have warned that they will be forced to pass on to their customers the higher prices they will pay on Chinese imports.

Some businesses, though, may decide in the end to absorb the higher costs rather than raise prices for their customers.

In China, authorities began charging higher duties on American imports at midday Sunday, according to employees who answered the phone at customs offices in Beijing and the southern port of Guangzhou. They declined to give their names.

Tariffs of 10 per cent and 5 per cent apply to items ranging from frozen sweet corn and pork liver to marble and bicycle tires, the government announced earlier.

After Sunday's move, 87 per cent of textiles and clothing the United States buys from China and 52 per cent of shoes will be subject to import taxes. On December 15,

the Trump administration is scheduled to impose a second round of 15 per cent tariffs this time on roughly USD 160 billion of imports. If those duties take effect, virtually all goods imported from China will be covered.

The Chinese government has released a list of American imports targeted for penalties on December 15 if the US tariff hikes take effect. In total, Beijing says Sunday's penalties and the planned December increases will apply to USD 75 billion of American goods.

Washington and Beijing are locked in a war over US complaints that China steals US trade secrets and unfairly subsidizes its own companies in its drive to develop global competitors in such high-tech industries as artificial intelligence and electric cars.

"I give the president credit for challenging China on some of its really egregious behaviour" on intellectual property and technology transfers, for example, Toomey said.

He said he hopes that's what Trump's focus is, "not just the fact that Chinese clothing and shoes are popular among consumers. That's not the problem."

If China changes its behaviour "in a meaningful way in that area ... then we will have ended up in a better place.

That's what I'm hoping for. But let's be honest. In the meantime, we're doing damage. It's a double-edged sword," he said.

To try to force Beijing to reform its trade practices, the Trump administration has imposed import taxes on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese imports, and China has retaliated with tariffs on US exports.

"It's a good thing taking on China. Unfortunately, he's done it the wrong way," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said on "Fox News Sunday."

"To take on China there has to be a multilateral approach. One country can't take on China to try to dry up its overcapacity because they just send it through to you in other ways," he said.

Trump has insisted that China itself pays the tariffs. But in fact, economic research has concluded that the costs of the duties fall on US businesses and consumers.

Trump had indirectly acknowledged the tariffs' impact by delaying some of the duties until December 15, after holiday goods are already on store shelves.

A study by JP Morgan found that Trump's tariffs will cost the average US household USD 1,000 a year. That study was done before Trump

raised the September 1 and December 15 tariffs to 15 per cent from 10 per cent.

The president has also announced that existing 25 per cent tariffs on a separate group of USD 250 billion of Chinese imports will increase to 30 per cent on October 1.

That cost could weaken an already slowing US economy. Though consumer spending grew last quarter at its fastest pace in five years, the overall economy expanded at just a modest 2 per cent annual rate, down from a 3.1 per cent rate in the first three months of the year.

The economy is widely expected to slow further in the months ahead as income growth slows, businesses delay expansions and higher prices from tariffs depress consumer spending. Companies have already reduced investment spending, and exports have dropped against a backdrop of slower global growth.

Americans have already turned more pessimistic. The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index, released Friday, fell by the most since December 2012.

"The data indicate that the erosion of consumer confidence due to tariff policies is now well underway," said Richard Curtin, who oversees the index.

Pak PM Imran hypes Kashmir situation, increases volatility: ex-envoy Roemer

WASHINGTON, SEP 2 (PTI): The US should remain steady in its policy towards the strategic ties with India and must push Islamabad for "real results" on counterterrorism cooperation, former US ambassador to India Tim Roemer has said, as he hit out at Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for ratcheting up the Kashmir issue.

Roemer oversaw the signing of the Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative which broadened US-India coordination in intelligence and security cooperation.

He has helped strengthen US cooperation with India in technology transfers and sales in the defence and space industries.

Roemer said Prime Minister Khan was hyping the Kashmir situation and blamed him for personally attacking his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

"Pakistan PM Imran Khan hypes the Kashmir situation, personally attacks PM Modi, and increases the volatility in the region," he said.

"US policy should remain steady toward strategic relations with India, emphasise counterterrorism cooperation, and push Pakistan for real results," Roemer said in a tweet on Saturday, tagging Khan's The New York Times opinion piece on Kashmir.

In the write-up, Khan says if the world does nothing to stop the "In-

dian assault" on Kashmir and its people, the two nuclear-armed states will get ever closer to a direct military confrontation.

"The world needs warriors for peace and negotiation. Hopefully, India takes the initiative for stability in Kashmir. China should be neutral. America knows India is its long term strategic partner in democracy, values and the valued diaspora," Roemer said.

His remarks came amidst fresh Indo-Pak tensions, which spiked after India abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two union territories.

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The door is never fully closed: Andrew Scott on 'Sherlock' return

LONDON, SEP 2 (PTI): Andrew Scott may have gained immense global success for his turn as the 'hot priest' in "Fleabag", but the British actor is still hooked on to his "Sherlock" character of Jim Moriarty.

The actor says he hopes to revisit the arch-nemesis of iconic fictional detective Sherlock Holmes in the potential season five.

In an interview with DigitalSpy, the actor said he doesn't know much about the future of the BBC One series, but for him "the door is never fully closed".

"I think everybody's sort of doing their own separate thing just at the moment. I know Stephen (Moffat) and Mark (Gatiss) have done a version of Dracula which I'm looking forward to seeing.

"For me, the door is never fully closed. It's closed at the moment, but that doesn't mean it can't be opened at some point in the future. But it's definitely not something that's on the agenda in the foreseeable future," Scott said. The series, which features Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock and

Martin Freeman as Dr John Watson, saw Scott's Moriarty take his own life towards the end of season two.

The character, however, continued

ward a couple of my suggestions. I feel very protective of him. I'm very proud of what we did on that show. If it's the right time, we'll all talk about it again.



to make appearances on multiple occasions in the form of flashbacks.

Scott said he does not know how will Moriarty pop-up in the series in future.

"... It depends. I would just listen to what their idea was, and just put for-

"But at the moment, I do think it's provided such great opportunities for everybody in the show. So everybody's got to do their own thing. But the idea of doing that at some point in the future is not an unhappy one," he said.

Shikha Talsania boards 'Coolie No.1'

MUMBAI, SEP 2 (PTI): Actor Shikha Talsania is set to share screen space with Varun Dhawan and Sara Ali Khan in "Coolie No. 1".

The movie is a remake of the 1995 original of the same name, which featured Govinda and Karisma Kapoor in the lead.

Shikha, who has movies such as "Wake Up! Sid", "Dil To Bacha Hai Ji" and "Veere Di Wedding" to her credit, said she is excited to work on the project, which will be helmed by the original film's director, David Dhawan.

"Being a part of a David Dhawan film is on every actor's bucket list and I am no different. And to top that with an opportunity to collaborate with such fantastic actors and people - Varun and Sara - I said yes without batting an eye-

lid," she said in a statement.

The actor said she will be playing a character who is completely different from the one she portrayed in "Veere Di Wedding".

"After 'Veere Di Wedding', the audience will see me in a totally new lens and that's what makes it more exciting than it already is. I am also thrilled to partner with Pooja Films who are making sure we have an absolute blast at the shoot and I am sure that fun will translate beautifully on screen," she added.

"Coolie No. 1" is being produced by David, Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh, and presented by Pooja Entertainment.

The film is set to release on May 1, 2020.

'The Laundromat' talks about dark joke being played on all of us: Meryl Streep

VENICE, SEP 2 (PTI): Multiple Oscar-winning actor Meryl Streep believes "The Laundromat" is an important film as it tries to shed a light on a "dark joke that's being played on all of us".

Directed by filmmaker Steven Soderbergh, the comedy-drama is about the Panama Papers expose. It features Streep, Gary Oldman and Antonia Banderas in the lead.

According to Variety, speaking ahead of the movie's world premiere at the Venice Film Festival on Sunday, Streep said, "This is an entertaining, flash, funny way of telling a very, very dark, black-hearted joke, a joke that's being played on all of us. It's a crime not without victims. And the victims, many of them are journalist." The Panama Papers was a set of leaked documents that shared financial information of offshore entities, revealing fraud, tax evasion and attempts to avoid international sanctions by some of the biggest names from across the world.

"The reason Panama Papers was exposed to the world was because of the

work of 300 investigative journalists. Some people died for this," Streep said as she cited the case of Daphne Caruana Galizia, the Maltese investigative reporter who was killed by a car bomb outside her home in 2017.

"People died and people die still to get the word out. This movie is fun and it's funny but it's really, really, really important," the veteran actor added. Streep portrays the role of Ellen Martin, a fictional Texan widow who exposes the mastermind company, Mossack Fonseca, being run by Jurgen Mossack (Oldman) and Ramon Fonseca (Banderas).

The actor said that her character is driven by her grief which is enough to mount a crusade.

"Grief is a great motivator. The parents of the children shot at Parkland High School, the parents of the children shot at Newtown, Connecticut, those people don't stop; they don't stop in trying to change the world. If it's personal, you don't stop, and we rely on those people, when it really counts, to save us all," Streep said.

There is realisation of inequality and necessity rising in people to fix it: Elizabeth Moss

LONDON, SEP 2 (PTI): "The Handmaid's Tale" star Elizabeth Moss says things have improved immensely for female actors in the film industry but when it comes to the technical space, women representation is still quiet low.

In an interview with The Sunday Times magazine, the 37-year-old actor said she is glad that people are writing stories with women at the forefront.

"I do think (interesting female roles) are being written. The industry has realised that women go to see things, and we are getting more and more opportunities to put women at the forefront. We are a huge audience and we want to see ourselves represented," she said.

Moss believes equality is still a long shot.

"I was reading some numbers on the percentage of women who are behind the camera and it's still really low. It's not equal yet, but it's a hundred times better," she added.

Moss, who also serve as an executive producer on "The Handmaid's Tale", said it is always her endeavour to have female directors on board the show.

"We try to hire mostly female directors. There are so many out there that are talented and we don't have space for them all. It's the same with cinematographers. They are out there. I think there's an awakening and a realisation of the inequality and a necessity rising in people to fix that, which is good," the actor said.



LUMINOUS GIRL! The actress, Margaret Qualley glows as she gets on a water taxi in Venice, Italy.

Aanand L Rai collaborates with Bhushan Kumar to jointly produce films



MUMBAI, SEP 2 (PTI): Filmmaker Aanand L Rai and producer Bhushan Kumar are set jointly produce films in the future.

The projects will be produced by Kumar's T-series and Rai's Colour Yellow Productions.

The much-awaited sequel to the quirky comedy "Shubh Mangal Savdhaan" "Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan", featuring Ayushmann Khurrana, Neena Gupta and Gajraj Rao, will kick-start Rai and Kumar's long-term association.

Directed by Hitesh Kewalya, just like the first part of the franchise, the sequel will also deal with a serious subject in a comic way.

Commenting on this partnership, Kumar

said in a statement, "I had earlier associated with Aanand L Rai for the music of his films 'Tanu Weds Manu' and 'Zero'. He has a great music sense and now I am delighted to collaborate with him for movies too. Along with 'SMZS' and some helmed by Aanand L Rai himself, we have more projects in discussions..."

Rai, who last directed "Zero", said T-Series will add tremendously to a film like "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan" with "their understanding of music and the pulse of the audience."

"With our combined strengths, we hope to collaborate on scripts that are exciting, empowering and entertaining," Rai added.

shock of it, you will realise how positive this change is for you. Keep a calm mind and understand the lesson being taught, and the opportunity it brings. Be especially prudent with your finances. You will thank the Universe later.

TIP: Positive change is heading your way.

CANCER: You are taking life too seriously, Cancer. It is time to let your inner child come out to play. Find something new, something that you have always wanted to do. A change in the way you experience work could be the key to feeling satisfied. New opportunities surround you. Make the most of them.

TIP: Look, breathe, leap.

LEO: All the hours you invested in honing your skills are finally paying off. Trust yourself, Leo. Do not let yourself be lured with that false sense of satisfaction. You are in a place to

make things happen for yourself. The reins of your life are in your hands. Choose your direction as you see fit.

TIP: You have control. Take action.

VIRGO: Today brings positive tidings of progress and movement with itself. Thinking about a big change, Virgo? The Universe is sending a thumbs up. Your dedication and motivation will bring the expansion you are looking for.

TIP: Move forward and don't be afraid to change it up.

LIBRA: Everything you are wondering about is coming into fruition, Libra. Are you ready for the celebration? The Universe is recognising the work you have put in to get to this point. All you have to do is take advantage of all the doors that are opening for you.

TIP: Wishes are coming true.

SCORPIO: Being prepared for a hard time can help you deal with it better. It

is a good idea to set your focus on stabilising things around you, Scorpio. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Be prudent, and seek help where you can find it. Careful planning can help you through this rough patch.

TIP: Don't put your eggs in one basket.

SAGITTARIUS: Make sure that the risks you are taking are not impulsive but well thought-out. Strength is not just about brute force. Sometimes, striding in like a lion and exuding charm and assertion will do the trick, Sag. Be careful to not rub people the wrong way. Stay alert and listen.

TIP: Your confidence and charm can do the trick.

CAPRICORN: You are at the top of your game, Capricorn, with your qualities of high intellect, focus and determination leading the way. There is no harm in being proud of your accomplishments, just as

long as you stay humble. Keep making informed decisions, and communicate them clearly and effectively.

TIP: Be humble.

AQUARIUS: Not all things that sound great are good for you. Is your job giving you the emotional satisfaction you have been craving? If not, it is time to find something more suitable. It is imperative to find something that balances all your needs. Now is not a great time to be focusing on making new investments.

TIP: Focus on your heart's true desire.

PISCES: A new offer or proposal is on the cards for you, Pisces. Things are looking up in terms of your work and career. Use your creative side to resolve any challenges in your environment. You are in a good place to successfully negotiate deals. For those looking for a change, explore the arts.

TIP: Solve problems creatively.