



**NEVER ENTERTAINED THE
THOUGHT OF FAILURE:
NASEERUDDIN SHAH**
pg 08

**BEIJING IS MOVING TO STAMP OUT THE
HONG KONG PROTESTS – BUT IT MAY HAVE
ALREADY LOST THE CITY FOR GOOD**
pg 04

**SAIF ALI KHAN'S 'LAAL
KAPTAAN' TO RELEASE
ON OCTOBER 11**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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SPYF to launch statewide movement to protest defections



**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 16 AUG:**

Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum [SPYF] has announced plans to launch a “strong statewide movement” against the recent defection of Sikkim Democratic Front legislators to Bharatiya Janata Party and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha.

The organisation has demanded that the defected legislators resign

immediately for breaking the trust of the people and for disrespecting the people’s mandate. In what is being planned as a series of state-wide activities, SPYF will begin with a mass protest rally on 18 August in Gangtok.

Addressing a press conference here today, SPYF member Shankar Sharma argued that the mandate of the people has been overlooked in

the recent political development in the State.

He pointed out that people are considered the most powerful in a democracy and people use their right to choose their representatives to work in their interest. He added that the people brought SKM to power and kept SDF in the opposition in the recent elections. However, he

due to defection, a party which received hardly 1.62% of the votes cast has now become the main opposition party in the assembly.

Mr Sharma alleged that horse-trading of legislators after elections without the consultation and knowledge of the people was disrespectful of the people’s mandate and a direct attack on their democratic right.

He also stated that

the election process was an expensive undertaking and took a lot of hard work, both of which are wasted when the people’s representatives do not respect the people’s mandate. If they are to continue conducting themselves in this manner, representatives might as well be selected through tender or auction.

He reiterated that SPYF found the latest conduct of the legislators completely unacceptable for the people of Sikkim and hence the protest.

“We have decided to take our movement ahead through the Citizen Forum against defected MLAs. It is an open forum for all to come together. Our movement will continue until these MLAs resign on moral grounds,” Mr Sharma said.

He appealed to all people and organisations which respect democracy to join this movement

turn to pg06

CM reiterates commitment to development and security



GANGTOK, 16 AUG [IPR]: Sikkim celebrated Independence Day with much fervor and patriotism at a colourful function organized at Paljor Stadium on Thursday.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] unfurled the Tricolor and took the salute presented by contingents of ITBP, SAP, IRB, SSB, Sikkim Home Guards, Sikkim Police (Male and Female), National Cadets Corps, contingents from

various schools of capital and band parties of Indian Army, Sikkim Police, PNG SSS and West Point SSS.

Special School for Speech and Hearing Impaired presented the National Anthem in sign language on day.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister announced that the Article 371F of the Constitution that provides special privileges to Sikkim will be protected, conserved

and consolidated by both the Government of India and the State Government and informed that the Union Home Minister has assured the same.

He also welcomed and supported the creation of two Union Territories in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and thanked the Prime Minister for the new direction, huge developmental strides and significant policy interventions.

He said that as being announced in the budget 2019–20 the government is now committed to regulate the entire functioning of the pharmaceuticals and other industries which have come up under various Industrial Promotion Scheme of the Governments of India and Sikkim.

He said that many innovative new developmental measures and an institutional designs will be introduced which will bring about visible transformation in the socio-economic development of the people of the Sikkim and that the State endeavors to move ahead in the development with

turn to pg06

SSC to move court against SDF defections

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

Sikkim Subject Committee [SSC] has asserted that the recent defection of Sikkim Democratic Front legislators into Bharatiya Janata Party and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was against the interests and hopes and aspirations of the people of Sikkim. The organisation has decided to file a case against the defected MLAs in the High Court of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSC vice-convenor Nawin Kiran Pradhan alleged that democracy was under attack and in danger due to recent defections of SDF legislators into

different parties.

He stated that people had big expectations to bring change in the State but the latest political developments were very disappointing and have saddened the people.

He argued that horse-trading was betrayal to the people and an attack on the democracy.

Mr Pradhan stated that SDF had promised to deliver as a strong opposition but could not stay the course even for three months.

“If this is the system after the election then there is no use to conduct elections,” he said.

He asserted that it

turn to pg06

Agri Minister launches Mamley Kamrang GPU into model village future



NAMCHI, 16 Aug (IPR): Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma launched the model village of Mamley Kamrang GPU in the presence of Krishna Kumari Rai, wife of the Chief Minister, present as the guest of honor at Namchi Government College auditorium today.

The meeting was also attended by Cabinet Ministers KN Lepcha, Samdup Lepcha, MN Sherpa, Sanjit Kharel, Chairman STCS, Bishnu Khatiwara,

MLA Zoom Salghari Constituency, Sunita Gazmer and Administrative Advisor to CM, MP Subba.

The program also had the presence of Secretary Agriculture, Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture, DK Bhandari, Secretary Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, SB Subba, Managing Director Sikkim Milk Union, Dr AB Karki, DC (South), Ragul K alongside HoDs of various departments

turn to pg06

I-Day recognitions and awards



Gangtok, 15 Aug [IPR]: Police Medals for Meritorious Service and the State Meritorious Awards to State Government Officers and employees who have rendered extraordinary services during the course of their duties were conferred on the occasion of Independence Day.

Police Medals for meritorious service:

1. Commandant, Prawin Gurung, 2nd IRBn. Pipalay.
2. DSP, Tashi Landey Bhutia, Gangtok.
3. SI, SAP, Dupzang Bhutia, Pangthang.

The Presentation of Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Police Training for 2016–17 was awarded to SI, Ram Bahadur Chettri, Police Training, Yangang.

The Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) presented the State Meritori-

ous Service awards to 08 employees –

1. Deputy Director, Garjaman Subba, ICDS, Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department.
2. Deputy Director, Jeewan Tamang, UD & HD.
3. ASI, Purna Bahadur Gurung, Sikkim Vigilance Police
4. ASI, Nima Sherpa, FRO, Special Branch, Tadong.
5. Head Assistant Election Cell, John Bhutia, DC North.
6. UDC, Tashi Bhutia, Election Department,
7. LDC, Man Bahadur Gurung, Home Department.
8. Chowkidar, Nima Wangdi Bhutia, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

turn to pg06

Reverting History to our Front Doors: 371F and the Begging Bowls in Sikkim Politics

SHRADHA T K LAMA

On 5th August Monday the Home Minister announced two critical measures on the floor of the Upper House, the revocation of Article 370 and 35A or the “special status” granted to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. In the immediate aftermath of these events, the Rajya Sabha MP from Sikkim, Hishey Lachungpa, delivered a speech on the floor of the house where he first congratulated the Central government on its actions and then went on to plead saying, “But I hope the government won’t do the same to Article 371F in Sikkim for Sikkim joined India through a referendum”. (All said in Hindi)

According to the provisions in Article 370 (in paper at least) Kashmiri’s were to have their own Laws, their own state Flag, a Prime Minister and a President and according to Article 35A only Kashmiri citizens were allowed to buy

and sell land and avail government jobs in Kashmir. All finely said only on paper, the 70 years since this negotiation, Kashmir has seen mass deployment of Indian army, huge human rights violations, generations of psychological abuse, widowed women and aggrieved mothers who do not know whether their sons are or dead or alive and the spectacle of unmarked graves which runs in thousands.

Article 371F grants similar provisions to the state of Sikkim which acceded to the Indian Union in 1975. The Sikkim Subject holders of Sikkim alone can own and sell land and avail government jobs in Sikkim, Laws that were in regulations before the accession continue to retain legal saction in Sikkim and Sikkim continues to retain fiscal autonomy with the State Bank of Sikkim still functioning thanks to the 1968 Royal Proclamation Order of the Chog-

yal. What is also distinct in the case of Sikkim is that the word “Indigenous”, which in the global diaspora may have restricted meaning, denotes all people who resided in Sikkim before 1961. Hence, the word “Indigenous People of Sikkim” includes not just people of one community but all – Bhutia, Lepcha’s and Nepalis’ who resided in Sikkim before 1961.

It is with this in mind the recent turn of events need to be put into prespective. The demand for revocation of Article 370 by the Rastriya Sawam Sevak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of BJP, goes well back to 1950’s. The RSS’s imagination of “Akhand Bharat” covers huge areas of the Indian subcontinent, which includes Sikkim and the rest of North-East India. In this imagination of an uniform Hindu state, diversity is secondary and uniformity primary. There is no space for Federalism let alone provisions such as Article 371F. The Nation

is one unit, one body, with one religion and one goal. Its ideological foundations are Upper Caste Hindu centric, Patriarchal with masculinity being a necessity to achieve this imagined nation, detrimental to Tribal societies and most importantly anti-Muslim.

This demand has found larger echo since 2014 and has been pledged with much nationalist fervor as the cartographic imagination of right wing passions blooms against the withering of its imagined nation-state’s head. Even among the liberal elite, who otherwise are on point on their political correctness, the historicity behind Article 370 is erased and the image of Bharat Mata looms large.

What makes the honorable RS representative believe that Sikkim will not meet the same fate as Kashmir? Didn’t the order of events in Kashmir follow similar pattern as 1975 in Sikkim?

turn to pg06

I-Day at Gyalshing



GYALSHING, 15 AUG (IPR): The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervor and much enthusiasm here at Kyongsa playground.

Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma was present as chief guest accompanied by Gyalshing Municipal Council chairperson IK Neopaney, DC West Karma R Bonpo, SP Tenzing Loden Lepcha, ADC West, Karma L Lepcha, HoDs of the line departments and other dignitaries.

A total of seventeen platoons from Sikkim Police, NCC, NSS, and schools of the area participated in the march past.

Addressing the occasion, the Minister paid tribute to freedom fighters and also recalled the role played by Mahatma Gandhi in securing Independence for the country and focused on the Bapu's philosophy of peace and nonviolence.

The Minister stated that the people of Sikkim have achieved the true privilege of freedom in practice with the formation of a new government

in the State.

Speaking in the context of current issues, the Minister stressed that Article 371F of the Constitution will be protected and preserved at all costs and emphasised the commitment of the State Government to make Sikkim a corruption free state.

Highlighting the initiatives of the state government Minister Sharma informed that the government has allocated funds for release of long pending arrears of government employees in a single installment and has also arranged to manage salaries for thousands of employees appointed under the One Family One Job scheme.

He also spoke about the White Paper released by the State Government to bring transparency about the income-expenditure in the government. He urged employees to be fully determined and dedicated to deliver their duty with utmost sincerity.

He also spoke about Green Economy conceptualized by the Chief

Minister and encouraged people to adopt agriculture as a profession.

He also informed that four Gram Panchayat Units - Chingthang in West, Mamley Kamrang in South, Reymendu GPU in East and Ringchen GPU in North - have been selected to adopt as model villages for the implementation of integrated developmental programmes.

He also stressed that ongoing construction works like early completion of Kyongsa Stadium at the earliest.

The programme also included a spirited colourful cultural programme by various participating schools.

On the occasion, the Independence Day Celebration Committee in coordination with District Administrative Centre felicitated Additional Chief Engineer, Thupden Bhutia, DNS District Hospital Gyalshing, Namgey Bhutia, Revenue Supervisor Yuksom Sub Division, Sonam Tshering Bhutia, various Anganwadi Centres and district toppers of Classes-X and XII in

different streams. NSS platoon of Gyalshing Sr Secondary School won the title of best contingent. Minister, Sharma handed over felicitation letter and souvenir to the awardees.

The Minister also launched a Gyalshing-based media House on the day, Yug Awaj, headed by Madhu Sharma.

In the I-Day Cup football finals played on the day, FC Gyalshing beat Local Taxi Drivers Association. The match was decided in a tie-breaker 6-5.

The goal keeper of the winning team, Riwang Lepcha, was adjudged man of the match while Wangden Tamang of LTDA secured trophy of Man of the Tournament.

National and International player from Sikkim & Kalimpong including Bikash Jairu, Robin Gurung, Nirmal Chettri, Sanju Pradhan, Nadong Bhutia and Nim Tshering Lepcha, who all played for FC Gyalshing, were felicitated by the Independence Day Celebration Committee.

Volleyball and rakhi at Lingi Payong



SUMMIT REPORT LINGI PAYONG, 16 AUG: The Aditya Prasad Memorial Volleyball Tournament was played between Aakraman Boys of Lingmoo and Unique Boys of Sumsee here at Lingi Payong as part of the Independence Day celebrations at the school. Unique Boys won the match to lift the cup.

Also on the day, students from Lingi Payong Secondary School, Kaw Primary School, Sokpay JHS and Mount Valley Academy presented a cultural routine.

Celebration of Raksha Bandhan was an added feature of the programme which saw the students tie Rakhee on guests and teachers.

Sports with patriotic fervor at Sakyong Chispoani JHS



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 AUG: Independence Day at Sakyong Chispoani JHS was highlighted by a march past by students and patriotic dance presentation and a set of routines by the junior section.

Former Headmaster of the school, Mahesh Dhal, was felicitated on the

occasion for the all-round development of the school during his tenure.

An exhibition match was also played between the primary and upper primary students much to the delight of the people present. The older students won the match decided by a penalty shootout.

I-Day at Rhenock

SUMMIT REPORT RHENOCK, 16 AUG: Independence Day was celebrated here at the Rhenock Senior Secondary School on Thursday with SKM's Chujachen constituency in-charge, Damber Pradhan, as the chief guest accompanied

by MD, Samast Bharat National Magazine, Yusuf Bhutia, as special guest.

Tarpin Secondary School was adjudged the winner of the Parade contest followed by St Joseph's School, Rhenock, and Aritar Govt Sec School.

I-Day at Mangshila

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 AUG: Independence Day was celebrated in grand manner at Mangshila Senior Secondary School in North Sikkim on Thursday with NHPC Teesta IV HEP General Manager Ramesh Mukhia as the chief guest.

In his address, the chief guest remembered and paid rich homage to freedom fighters for their

sacrifices for the country. He encouraged students to move ahead in taking education to a higher level with hard work and dedication.

He also spoke about various CSR and SD activities of Teesta-IV HEP in different areas.

The celebration also witnessed the cultural presentations by students and a football final match.

KVK introduces Kadaknath birds to poultries in Chingthang

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

Kadaknath Bird, a native of Jhabua and Dhar Districts, Madhya Pradesh, is in high demand in the market these days because of its high protein content, low cholesterol level, low-fat percentage and is a rich source of essential Amino Acids.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), West Sikkim, has been conducting adaptive trials of Kadaknath at its Demonstration Farm at Gyaba for the past year.

After finding the high rate of survivability and acceptability of



the Bird in Gyalshing area, KVK conducted a daylong training cum distribution program of Kadaknath Birds at its campus at Gyalshing today, where select farmers

from the model village of Chingthang were briefed about scientific management practices of Kadaknath under backyard poultry farming system by Subject Matter Spe-

cialist (Animal Science), Dr Lhaki D Bhutia.

After the training, the farmers were given two and a half month old Kadaknath Birds under the On-Farm Testing program of KVK.

Singhik SA lifts MLA Challenge Cup in Mangan



SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 16 AUG:

Singhik SA beat Denzong Dragons 2-0 to lift the Independence Day MLA Challenge Cup football tournament here on Thursday. With the victory, Singhik SA took home Rs 1,20,000 in cash prize while the runners-up received Rs 60,000.

The tournament was organized by North Dis-

trict Football Association and was participated in by 25 teams.

Meanwhile, in the finals of the women's open football tourney played between Mangan Police Station and NSFA which the former won.

Also on the day, two NDFA members, Ugen Palzor Kazi and Sachin Agarwal, were felicitated.

Kashmir remains shut for 12th consecutive day

Srinagar, Aug 16 (PTI): Kashmir remained shut for the 12th consecutive day on Friday, even as the authorities relaxed restrictions on the movement of people in Srinagar. "Restrictions on the movement of people have been eased in most parts of the Valley. The situation so far has remained peaceful," a senior official of the state administration said here.

He said while the deployment of security forces on the ground remains as earlier, people were allowed to move around the city and other towns.

Kashmir was placed under a total clampdown on August 5, hours before Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced

in the Rajya Sabha that the special status for the state had been revoked.

The state administration has directed government employees to report at work from Friday through a radio announcement.

However, the communication clampdown continues as all telephone and Internet services remained suspended.

While schools are closed for the past two weeks, shops and other business establishments too remained shut since August 5.

The official said the situation in the Valley was being monitored on a real-time basis and the decision to remove the forces would depend on the ground situation.

SC expresses anguish over filing of defective petitions on Article 370

NEW DELHI, AUG 16 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday refrained from examining the legal challenges posed to the changes made in the constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the petitions filed on the "serious issue" of abrogation of provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution suffer from defects. The apex court, which was dealing with the first petition filed on August 6, a day after the decision to scrap Article 370 was announced, expressed its anguish that there have been six petitions on the issue and all were filed with the defects.

It pulled up advocate M L Sharma, the first petitioner on the issue, saying his petition has "no meaning".

Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said he spent 30 minutes reading the petition but could not make out anything and also could not understand what was the prayer.

"What kind of petition is this? It could have been dismissed but there are five other pleas with the registry which are under defect," the bench also comprising Justices S A Bobde and S A Naeer said. "You are not praying for setting aside the Presidential order. What is the prayer it is not clear. It can be dismissed on technical grounds. In a matter of this nature if this is the petition, there is no meaning," the bench said.

The apex court asked lawyers to cure defects in their six petitions on Ar-

ticle 370 and adjourned the hearing. "The petitioner, who is appearing in person prays for leave to amend the writ petition. The leave as prayed for is granted. The matter be listed along with other connected matters, some of which are lying with defects.

"The Registry is directed to place the matter before the Chief Justice on the administrative side no sooner the defects are removed," the bench said in the order.

The bench also noted that it was hearing the petition on Article 370 by breaking the combination of judges which was hearing the sensitive Ayodhya matter.

During the hearing, advocate Shakil Sabeer said he was a resident of Jammu and Kashmir and had filed the petition against the scrapping of Article 370 and the creation of union territories of J-K and Ladakh.

He said he had cured the defects but the petition was not listed.

The bench enquired from the apex court registry and found that the defects were cured only on Wednesday evening.

The bench said the defects were cured on Wednesday evening and Thursday was a holiday. Then how did he expect the listing of his petition on Friday? "Why did you file a defective petition in the matter of this importance," an anguished bench asked the lawyer.

"You file a defective petition and trouble my officers," the CJ said.

The bench asked the lawyer if he knows how many petitions on the J-K issue are in the apex court and are under defects?

The bench told him that six petitions have been filed on the issue.

"In the matter of this seriousness, people are filing petitions with defect," the bench said.

The National Conference, a political party in Jammu and Kashmir, has also filed a petition

posing legal challenges in the apex court to the changes made in the constitutional status of J-K, contending that these have taken away rights of its citizens without their mandate.

Arguing that the legislation approved by Parliament and orders issued by the President subsequently were "unconstitutional", the petition prayed for these to be declared as "void and inoperative".

~ SummitTIMES ~
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Sikkim Himalayan SC lifts Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club has become the champion of the Independence Day Football Tournament 2019 for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup played here at Paljor Stadium on 15 August.

In a nail-biting final match played on Thursday, Sikkim Himalayan SC defeated its city rival, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club, in a tie-breaker.

The match was contested neck-to-neck with both teams playing attacking football right from the start. Both teams, however, missed some good opportunities to take the lead and the first half ended in a goal-less draw. The second half was again full of attacks



and counter-attacks but again saw no ended goals.

The match went directly into the tie-breaker through penalty shoot-out and even this was as nail-biting as the regulation

time with penalties going into two rounds, taking a total of eight shots to decide the winner.

In the tie-breaker, Sikkim Himalayan SC scored 6 goals while Sik-

kim Aakraman FC fell one short at managed five.

The finals had Governor Ganga Prasad as the chief guest accompanied by Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] as the

guest of honour.

The tournament was organised by Sikkim Football Association under the aegis of the Home Department, Government of Sikkim.

SMU celebrates Independence Day

SUMMIT REPROT
GANGTOK, 15 AUG:

Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) and its constituent units celebrated the 73rd Independence Day with traditional fanfare and grandeur.

Students and staff of SMU and its constituent colleges- the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON), Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCPT), Department of Humanities & Social Sciences took part in the celebrations with much fervour and enthusiasm, a press release informs.

Brig (Dr) VK Mehta, Dean, SMIMS hoisted the



Tricolour and students of MBBS of SMIMS, SMCON, SMCPT, Dept of Humanities & Social Sciences and SMU Security Services staff participated in the March Past.

The Best Marching Contingent prize was won by the SMCON con-

tingent. The MBBS contingent won the second prize and the third prize went to the BPT contingent from SMCPT.

A colourful cultural programme was also presented by students on the occasion.

Phone lines in Kashmir to be restored over weekend, schools to reopen next week: JK chief secy

SUMIR KAUL

SRINAGAR, AUG 16 (PTI):

Most phone lines in Kashmir will be restored over the weekend and schools will reopen next week, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam said on Friday while announcing the easing of restrictions in a phased and "orderly way".

Offices of the Jammu and Kashmir government in the Valley functioned normally on Friday and the attendance in many offices was "quite high", Subrahmanyam said at a press conference.

He said there has been no loss of life or major injury since restrictions were imposed on August 5, when Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was revoked and the state bifurcated into two Union Territories.

"...There will be easing of restrictions in the next few days in an orderly way," Subrahmanyam told reporters here, adding that steps would be taken keeping in view the evolving situation as well as the cooperation of the people in maintaining calm and peace.

"Schools will be opened after the weekend area-wise so that children's studies do not suffer," he said.

Telecom connectivity,

a major point of concern, will gradually be eased and restored in a phased manner keeping in mind the constant threat posed by terrorist organisations in using mobile connectivity to organise terror actions, Subrahmanyam said.

Asked about the restoration of telephone lines, he said, "You will see gradual restoration from tonight and tomorrow onwards. You will find a lot of Srinagar functioning tomorrow morning. BSNL takes a couple of hours to get back to action. Exchange by exchange they will be switching it on. Over the weekend, you will have most of these lines functional." Twelve districts in Jammu and Kashmir out of 22 were functioning normally while there was limited night-time restrictions only in five districts.

"After today's Friday prayers, immediate reports suggest that things have gone off quite peacefully right throughout the state," he said.

"We have prevented any loss of human life despite concerted efforts by terrorist organisations, radical groups and continuing efforts by Pakistan to destabilise the situation," he said.

As restrictions on the movement of peo-

ple are removed area by area, movement of public transport will be allowed in these areas too, the senior official said.

"It is expected that over the next few days as the restrictions get eased, life in Jammu and Kashmir will become completely normal. This is already visible on the roads as the roads are full of regular traffic and we expect to an increase in the coming days," he said.

Preventive detentions, he said, are being continuously reviewed. Appropriate decisions will be made based on law and order assessments, he added.

Subrahmanyam said the administration appreciates the fact that the cooperation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is critical in helping maintain peace and public order.

"Focus is that, at the earliest, normalcy returns while ensuring that terrorist forces are given no opportunity to wreak havoc as in the past," he said.

The chief secretary said the government had taken steps to ensure there was no shortage of essentials and medicines during the period of restrictions. The free movement of Hajj pilgrims was also ensured.

I-Day at High Court

GANGTOK, 15 AUG (IPR):

The High Court of Sikkim celebrated the 73rd Independence Day with patriotic zeal and fervor at the High Court of Sikkim premises.

Chief Justice Vijai Kumar Bist hoisted the National Flag on the occasion while the Bar Association of Sikkim and the employees of High Court of Sikkim presented the

national anthem.

Also present for the function were Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Registrar General NG Sherpa, Registrar KW Bhutia, Additional Advocate General Dr Doma T Bhutia along with members of the Bar Association of Sikkim and the staff of High Court of Sikkim.

I-Day celebrated at SLLSA



GANGTOK, 15 AUG (IPR):

Sikkim State Legal Service Authority (SLLSA) celebrated the 73rd Independence Day at its premises at Development Area on Thursday.

Justice Meenakshi M Rai unfurled the National flag and received the National salute and Guard

of Honour.

Amongst others present on the occasion were Judge High Court of Sikkim, Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Former Judge High Court of Sikkim, Justice AP Subba, Ex-Officio members, panel Advocates and Judicial Officials.

Sikkim-BJP remembers Vajpayee on first death anniv



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit paid tribute to former Prime Minister and founding president of the BJP, Atal Behari Vajpayee, on his first death anniversary today at a program held at the BJP Head Office in Singtam.

Sikkim BJP president, DB Chauhan, vice presidents Mohan Gurung and Bharat Dulal, general secretary SB Karki, YT Lepcha and former president, Padam Chhe-

tri, West District President, Sanjit Hang Subba, were present along with party workers.

Addressing the occasion, Mr Chauhan, while reflecting on the late leader's life, remarked that he was a true soldier of the party's struggle since its inception.

On the occasion, former BJP president, Padam Chhetri, recited Vajpayee's poem, 'Shikhar,' while other party members also paid tribute by commemorating his great achievements.

SHGs host I-Day celebration at Rongneck

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

Self Help Groups of Rongneck gram panchayat unit celebrated Independence Day here at Rongneck Gram Prasashan Kendra under Shyari constituency in East Sikkim on Thurs-

day. The celebration was jointly organised by Aprajita SHG and Evergreen SHG and had a social worker, Norzang Chopel as the chief guest. The celebration witnessed patriotic songs and series of cultural presentations.

Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti marks I-Day with felicitations



SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 15 AUG:

Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti hosted a grand Independence Day celebration for the residents with the felicitation of nine individuals from in and around Singtam for their contributions in fields like service towards nation/state, sports, health and social service.

Retired Divisional Engineer, LP Chettri, was present as chief guest accompanied by Shantinagar Panchayats Deepa Chettri

and Deu Kumari Pradhan as guests of honour.

KB Baniya (ex-serviceman), Son Bdr Tamang (retired police official), Palzor Tshering Bhutia (Social Service), Parshuram Chettri (Baidhya), Ganesh Chettri (Yoga Guru), Bhuwan Sharma (Blood Donor), Pritam Shilal (Boxing Coach), Sangay Bhutia (JVC Football Academy), and Bijay Pradhan (Howler Football Academy) were felicitated on the day.

Five gold medalists from Pritam Shilal Box-

ing Centre were also presented with certificates for their victories at the recently concluded 17th Sikkim State Boxing Championship.

Amisha Bishwakarma, Aditi Pokhrel and Ayushman Chettri, students of nearby schools of Singtam presented patriotic songs.

President SGSS, Krishna Chettri, presented the welcome speech while Shital Pradhan was the host of the day and Dhiraj Pradhan proposed the vote of thanks.

Lok Sabha MP tours West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, visited several places in West Sikkim accompanied by SKM's Rinchenpong candidate, Phurba Tshering Bhutia, Mangalbaria BDO Robin Dong, Independent Panchayat, SKM's CLC and BLC members and Reshi Police staff.

The MP and team visited the MPCs building at Reshi which had been inaugurated by the then Chief Minister, the late Nar Bahadur Bhandari, in 1987.

The MO also visited Reshi Bazaar site where back cutting work is underway on the road and which has damaged several houses. The MP also met the affected people.

The MP made a final halt at Parvata Foods Pvt Ltd, a ginger and haldi factory at Birdang, West Sikkim.

After inspecting every room and machinery, he took stock of various facilities and also enquired about the product quality. Here, the factory staff also placed their grievances.

The MP interacted with all the people and assured to look into their concerns.

Fire Safety Drill at Manjusri Public School



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 AUG:

A Fire Safety Drill was carried out at Manjusri Public School on 12 Aug. 2019.

A team of five firemen visited the school headed by the Deputy SHO, Rabongla, NB Pradhan, and KB Gurung who conduct-

ed most of the demonstration.

After the theory session, it was time for a live demonstration on fires and how to control it.

The students, teachers and the non-teaching staff actively participated in the fire drill.

St Xavier's School wins Samast Bharat Challenge Open Football Tournament

SUMMIT REPORT

RHENOCK, 16 AUG:

St Xavier School, Pakyong, beat Brotherhood Football Club of Gangtok 2-1 to win the Samast Bharat Challenge Open Football Tournament played here at Rhenock Senior Secondary School on Independence Day.

The winning team received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh while the runners-up received Rs 60,000.

The tournament was organized by the Sports Committee on sponsorship by Samast Bharat National Magazine, Delhi.

Chujachen constituency in-charge, Damber Pradhan, was present as chief guest, accompanied by Managing Director, Samast Bharat National Magazine, Yusuf Bhutia, and representatives of Manali Inn Resort of Himachal Pradesh present as guests of honour.

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MR. SIKKIM MANHUNT

The Greater Freedom

72 years on, it's time to want more

Now that the football matches, march pasts, band displays and the speeches are over, time to meditate over what 15 August is all about. A day past the 72nd anniversary of our Independence, let's make an attempt at putting into perspective our freedoms.

More than seventy years of self rule later, the only freedom which we can guarantee ourselves is our political freedom, and even that is being increasingly straitjacketed, compromised and bartered away. Political freedom is not complete in itself because equally necessary is economic, and more importantly, social and cultural independence. And these too are being hobbled. This is a pertinent issue in the country today where rapid development in various fields and the filtering in of air signals from the west have created serious fragmentation of society and given rise to touchy social issues which are multi-dimensional in nature. There is now a dispensation in office which sees the nation as one-dimensional and extends only conditional tolerance to diversity even as it pushes pointless disruptions which distract and confound. This dispensations massive mandate has already led to one major upheaval in the abrogation of Article 370 and closer home too some uncertainties have been seeded; And to think that there are still five years to go!

All the more reason then to take a pause and reflect on what promise the 15th of August 1947 held for citizens of a new country.

People's wants and aspirations have become more intricate. Today the world is no longer uni-polar in nature. Together with the development of human thought, all areas of human development have also become broader and more inclusive even if governments of late have become more closed and divisive. Hence, political freedom alone is not enough for the all round development of the individual or the society.

Today we are celebrating our freedom from oppressive British colonial rule but should we just limit our definition of freedom only to political sovereignty? If anything, political freedom, while giving us the right to choose our representatives has also, indirectly, allowed caste and communalism to stifle our social, cultural and intellectual legroom. The practise of vote bank politics – a natural fallout of “democracy” - by our politicians has made each and every move, whether by a politician or the individual of the community he favours, suspect. A society existing in an environment of suspicion and mistrust is fooling itself if it considers itself free. Even the lynch mobs, which even though they might think they are free now to enforce their vileness, are, for instance, being played by agent provocateurs and lack even free will.

In the past few years the concept of freedom in India has experienced a regression especially due to the rise of certain politico-religious pressure groups and the moral police. Globalisation has taught us about open markets and open economy; about privatisation and cable TV. At a time when the government is attempting to relinquish the responsibility of economic activity and is withdrawing from the economic sphere, making the term ‘public sector’ almost inapplicable, the extension of various groups, owing allegiance to political parties, into the social domain and attempting to regulate our private lives is undesirable and confounding. Censorship in any form does not gel with the concept of a democratic polity and a free people. This is ironic because this control is arriving at a time when there are more and more platforms available for free expression.

India as a country and Indians as a people are awaiting the second phase of independence, the greater freedom. This greater freedom can only be delivered by us, citizens of India. It is a difficult task as there is no tangible body to overthrow and this is also probably the reason why most of us do not realise our subtle subjugation. We can begin by grasping the concept and then demolishing the devices and instincts which are trying to impose instead of governing, dictate instead of consulting and manipulate instead of convincing.

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



What's behind the protests in Kashmir?

SUMIT GANGULY
theconversation.com

India recently enacted a law which will end a special autonomous status given to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, known in the West as simply “Kashmir.”

Amit Shah, India's minister for home affairs, announced in Parliament that the Bharatiya Janata Party government was revoking Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in the name of bringing prosperity to the region.

Since 1954, this article has governed federal relations between India and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

I'm a scholar of South Asian politics and have written extensively on the evolution of the India-Pakistan conflict in Kashmir.

Article 370 is woven into that history.

HISTORY OF KASHMIR'S AUTONOMY

Article 370 originated in the particular circumstances under which the former prince and last ruler of Kashmir acceded to India shortly after the partition of the British Indian Empire into the independent states of India and Pakistan in 1947.

The prince, or maharaja, agreed to have Kashmir become part of India under duress. His rule was threatened by an insurrection supported by Pakistan.

Article 370 was designed to guarantee the au-

tonomy of the Muslim majority state, the only one in predominantly Hindu India. The clause effectively limited the powers of the Indian government to the realms of defense, foreign affairs and communications. It also permitted the Kashmiri state to have its own flag and constitution.

More controversially, Article 370 prohibited non-Kashmiris from purchasing property in the state and stated that women who married non-Kashmiris would lose their inheritance rights.

CHANGES OVER TIME

But the independence of the Kashmiri state has been declining for decades. Beginning in the early 1950s, a series of presidential ordinances, which had swift effect much like American executive orders, diluted the terms of the article.

For example, in 1954, a presidential order extended Indian citizenship to the “permanent residents” of the state. Prior to this decision the native inhabitants of the state had been considered to be “state subjects.”

Other constitutional changes followed. The jurisdiction of the Indian Supreme Court was expanded to the state in 1954. In addition, the Indian government was granted the authority to declare a national emergency if Kashmir were attacked.

Many other administrative actions reduced the state's autonomy over time. These have ranged from enabling Kashmiris to participate in national administrative positions to expanding the jurisdic-

tion of anti-corruption bodies, such as the Central Vigilance Commission and the Central Goods and Services Act of 2017, into the state.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA AND THE WORLD

What has happened as a result of the move to revoke Article 370?

The decision has been met with considerable unhappiness and resentment in the Kashmir Valley, which has a Muslim population close to 97% – versus 68% of the population of the state as a whole. The government of Jammu and Kashmir, meanwhile, does not have the legal power to challenge the move.

China and Pakistan have expressed displeasure.

Pakistan has long maintained that it should have inherited the state based upon its geographic contiguity and its demography.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir. While I don't believe Pakistan will initiate another war with India over this issue at this time, I doubt it will quietly resign itself to the changed circumstances. At the very least, it will seek to draw in members of the international community to oppose India's action, as it has sought to do in the past.

China, which considers Pakistan to be its “all-weather ally,” has stated that the decision was “not acceptable and won't be binding.”

[the writer is Distinguished Professor of Political and the Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, Indiana University]

Beijing is moving to stamp out the Hong Kong protests – but it may have already lost the city for good

ADAM NI
theconversation.com

Since the start of mass demonstrations in Hong Kong in early June, there has been a significant escalation of Beijing's rhetoric and tactics. Instead of addressing the root causes of the public anger, Beijing has demonised the protesters and threatened to suppress them with its military.

Beijing's shrill rhetoric, misinformation campaigns, and blatant threats have galvanised resistance in what has fast become a volatile situation. The crisis doesn't appear to be dissipating. And things are going to come to a head very soon.

The mass protests started in response to a controversial extradition bill that was widely seen as another step in the erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy. The demonstrations quickly escalated due to public anger over police violence and an unresponsive Hong Kong government.

But deeper down at the heart of this crisis is a conflict over the longer-term vision for the city – over its soul.

Beijing's goal is to gradually tighten its grip on Hong Kong. It aims to assimilate the city into China's authoritarian political system, and rule over its people in the same way it does in rest of the country. Many Hong Kongers, meanwhile, are desperate to resist any further encroachment by Beijing on their freedoms and way of life. These goals are fundamentally incompatible.

In many ways, this is a problem of Beijing's own making. It created the conditions for the current crisis by systematically undermining the “one country, two systems” framework.

Beijing has effectively torn up its promises, made before the British handover, to keep Hong Kong's political system intact until 2047. In recent years, it has undermined the “one country, two systems” framework through political interference, the changing of electoral and other laws, and the penetration of Hong Kong's social institutions.

In doing so, it has provoked local resentment, a stronger Hong Kong

identity, and a culture of resistance. According to a recent poll, the percentage of Hong Kongers identifying as Chinese is now at its lowest point since the handover in 1997.

For the ruling Chinese Communist Party, this is worrisome. And the longer the protests continue, the more it sees its authority challenged. Such resistance, in Beijing's view, cannot be tolerated.

BEIJING'S MULTI-PRONGED STRATEGY

In the early days of the protests, Beijing adopted a low-profile approach that focused on censoring news of the demonstrations from filtering into mainland China. This approach, however, changed quickly when the Chinese government realised the protests would likely continue and it needed to mobilise public opinion.

What is Beijing's aim now? In the short-term, it wants to end the unrest by shutting down the protests completely. It has repeatedly signalled its willingness to use force if necessary.

Beyond that, given what has transpired over the last ten weeks of demonstrations, Beijing will seek to tighten its political control over Hong Kong even further to check continued resistance.

In order to achieve its immediate and long-term goals in Hong Kong, Beijing has put in place a multi-pronged strategy. A full picture of this strategy has emerged in recent weeks:

1) First, Beijing is firmly backing the embattled Hong Kong authorities. Chinese officials have repeatedly urged the Hong Kong police to adopt tougher tactics against protesters who they see as criminals.

And in the last week, we have seen an alarming escalation in police violence, with tear gas and rubber bullets being used with increasing frequency.

2) Beijing is also ramping up its influence operations in Hong Kong to solidify support among pro-establishment elites, businesses, and other “patriotic forces”.

Last week, the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office

and Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong held a consultation forum with about 500 pro-establishment figures in Shenzhen, just across the border.

The key message was that the Chinese government was fully behind them and that their fate was tied to Beijing. This has had an immediate impact on the ground in Hong Kong, with the city's billionaires “breaking their silence” this week and calling for the protesters to stand down.

Not with a small degree of irony, Beijing and its proxies in Hong Kong have a close relationship with the city's organised crime groups. On several occasions in the last two months, these groups have assaulted protesters on Beijing's behalf in an attempt to instill fear in the local population.

3) Beijing has stepped up its propaganda and misinformation efforts against the protesters in an attempt to cast them as villains in the unfolding drama. Criminal elements are also working with nefarious foreign agents to foment turmoil and undermine China, the official line goes.

Within mainland China, such blatant twists of truth are widely believed. And because Beijing has successfully mobilised public opinion there, that makes it harder for the government to back down and make compromises (not that we are seeing signs of that).

In any case, Beijing's relentless war for hearts and minds continues.

4) Beijing is using punitive measures to cut off support for the protesters. For instance, the Chinese government ordered the Hong Kong-based airline Cathay Pacific to block staffers who took part in the protests from working on flights to the mainland.

It did this to deliver an unequivocal message: support the protesters and we will hit your bottom line. Beijing will likely continue to target Hong Kong and international companies that it sees as being on the wrong side of the political crisis.

5) Beijing is trying to deter escalating protests by signalling its strong determination to intervene with force if necessary.

The Chinese government has re-

peatedly threatened the use of armed forces as a backstop measure if the unrest spins out of control. Indeed, it may at some point make the judgement the situation warrants military intervention, regardless of the high cost involved.

Beijing's posturing is intended to send a deterrent message and is part of a wider psychological campaign against the protesters. But we are not at the point of imminent military intervention yet.

6) Despite the unrest, Beijing will likely accelerate its efforts to integrate Hong Kong into the mainland economically and through infrastructure projects. High-speed trains, new bridges, and economic cooperation are all part of this long-term effort. We are also likely to see a further tightening of control over the city's political institutions, judicial system, and media.

A FESTERING LONG-TERM PROBLEM

For Chinese leaders, the protest movement has reinforced an important lesson: insufficient government power, civil liberties, and perceived weakness leads to the loss of control, resistance, and social instability.

This will only serve to strengthen Beijing's resolve to assert its control over Hong Kong more forcefully, which will, in turn, provoke further resentment and resistance from locals.

To be sure, Beijing has a long-term Hong Kong challenge on its hands. If it wants to resolve the current impasse, hardline tactics are not sufficient. As unpalatable as it is to both sides, Beijing and the protesters must compromise. But there is little prospect of that in the current environment of escalating violence, inflamed passions, frayed nerves, and hardening attitudes on both sides.

But Beijing must recognise that its actions are sowing the seeds of future conflict, just as its past broken promises led directly to what we are witnessing today. As Hong Kong gallops towards tragedy, it is both mesmerising and heartbreaking to watch.

[the writer is China researcher, Department of Security Studies and Criminology, Macquarie University]

Manipur village trying to preserve art of making circular salt slabs

IMPHAL, AUG 16 (PTI): Ningel, a small hamlet in the foothills of Imphal valley, is the only village left in Manipur which is struggling to preserve the over three-century-old art of making circular salt slabs.

Despite the lure of higher-income generating occupations, availability of packaged iodized salt and the disappearance of salt wells in neighbouring villages, people like Maibum Mutum works tirelessly throughout the day to make the circular salt slabs.

Inhabited by less than 1,000 people, Ningel has three salt-wells of which two were constructed in the not-so-distant past.

"Salt is extracted from nearby salt wells after the presence of salt springs is confirmed when subtle vapours are found hovering from potential sites. A shaft is sunk down to the spring by the locals to extract the water from which salt is made," Mutum said.

These salt wells are 45 feet in depth and six feet in diameter, said 51-year-old Mutum.

Only six households of Ningel are engaged in making circular salt slabs and multiple salt wells located at nearby vil-



lages of Chandrakhong, Nongbram have become obsolete.

Explaining the reasons for the declining popularity of making the circular salt slabs, village chief Naomi said, the younger generation, particularly women, was now preferring to opt for weaving, as it yields higher income.

Unlike packaged salt available in local supermarkets, the salt slabs procured from Ningel, located 28 km from the state capital, are not sold in fancy packets.

Circular in shape with a diameter of 12 cm and thickness of less than one inch, Ningel salts are marketed not in powdered form but in unpackaged slabs placed

on a palm-sized banana leaf, which is then moulded into the same shape with one's hands.

Salt making at Ningel is a relatively simple process.

Salt water is taken out from the wells in bronze containers and heated in medium or small sized vessels, resembling wok or rectangular-shaped pans.

After an hour or more of continuous heating by firewood, the salt water evaporates leaving behind brightly coloured salt in the form of paste. The paste is transferred to another large bowl and allowed to cool down.

The salt-maker then collects the paste in a locally made simple tool known as "chilel" and puts it in a palm sized ba-

nana leaf, which is then moulded into its familiar circular shape.

The circular salt slabs are later taken to the busy salt-section of the Ima Market in Imphal and sold at the rate of Rupees 10 per slab.

She says she would like to make more of such salt slabs but the amount of firewood required for heating the salt-water is huge, which is hindering the process.

At present, wood worth Rs 300 is needed, which is a burden for the poor villagers.

However, Maimu claimed that the circular salt slabs are better than packaged iodized salt and are in demand during the Manipuri festival of Cheiraoba or Ma-

nipuri New Year, as well as in the months of "Lamta" and "Fairan" (February/ March).

Former pradhan M Ingocha told PTI, "The locals have petitioned the government to preserve the salt wells but to no avail."

Still, the villagers have made voluntary efforts to preserve them by cleaning the areas around the salt wells, said Ingocha.

Noting that 40 to 50 tourists visit this site every year, the former pradhan said, the possibility of total disappearance of the salt wells is "very high" because of the alleged negligence and low income generated from selling the salt slabs.

All-women defence team conducts adventure patrolling in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, AUG 16 (PTI): A joint all-women team comprising members of the Army, the Assam Rifles and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police has conducted adventure patrolling in Arunachal Pradesh, a defence spokesperson said on Friday.

The 18-member squad became the maiden all-women team to accomplish adventure patrolling in the Himalayas of the northeastern state, Kohima-based defence spokesman Col Chiranjit Konwer said in

a statement. "The fully kitted and self-sustained patrol led by the Indian Army woman officers was launched on August 10 last from Kibithu in remote Anjaw district of the state," he said.

Before concluding the patrol on the Independence Day on Thursday, the team went through a difficult terrain criss-crossing streams and dense forests where their navigation skill was tested.

The women underwent training encompassing physical condi-

tioning exercises, basic lessons on mountaineering, jungle survival and motivation before the programme, he said.

Displaying high standards of morale, motivation and resolve during the adventure patrol, the joint team of officers and soldiers exhibited the tremendous potential of 'Nari Sakti', Konwer said.

General officer Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Command, Lt Gen M M Naravane lauded the grit, professionalism and determination of the team members.

Ponzi scams: Partha Chatterjee, Rajeev Kumar reach CBI office



KOLKATA, AUG 16 (PTI): Senior Trinamool Congress leader Partha Chatterjee and former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar went to CBI office here on Friday on summons issued to them in connection with Saradha chit fund and Rose Valley cases respectively.

Both Chatterjee and Kumar went to the agency's Salt Lake office in the afternoon after the two were summoned by the CBI on Friday in connection with the two separate cases, a senior officer confirmed.

"Yes, both Mr Chatterjee and Mr Kumar have reached the CBI office and investigating officers in the respective cases will talk to them," the officer told PTI.

Chatterjee, secretary general of the TMC and considered to be a close aide of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, chose not to answer questions put to him by the media in this regard.

Chatterjee is also the

Education Minister and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister of the state.

Sources in the agency said that Chatterjee's name had surfaced during the CBI's questioning of TMC Rajya Sabha MP and party spokesperson Derek O'Brien in connection with the probe into the Saradha scam on August 9.

"Chatterjee's name appeared during last week's questioning of Mr O'Brien. We got his name in connection with alleged funding of the party's newspaper, Jago Bangla," the source said.

Incidentally, Chatterjee is the editor of the newspaper and O'Brien is its publisher.

CBI sources said that Kumar, who had been earlier been interrogated by CBI sleuths in connection with the Saradha ponzi scam, has been asked to appear before the agency officials to ascertain his role in the multi-crore Rose Valley scam.

Kumar had earlier been granted protection by the Calcutta High Court from any coercive action by the CBI against him in connection with the Saradha ponzi scam.

He has also filed a prayer before the Calcutta High Court seeking similar protection from any coercive action being taken against him in the Rose Valley case.

The prayer in connection with the Rose Valley case is yet to be taken up for hearing.

The Saradha ponzi scam had allegedly raised Rs 2,500 crore from customers after luring them with attractive interest rate on their investment, the CBI had said.

According to Enforcement Directorate estimates, the Rose Valley scandal is at least five times the Saradha ponzi scam.

The ED has pegged the total volume of the alleged irregularities in the Rose Valley scam at Rs 15,000 crore, including interest and penalties.

Noted Odisha tribal leader dies

PHULBANI (ODISHA), AUG 16 (PTI): Eminent tribal leader and former Odisha MLA Sahura Mallick died in a hospital on Friday following a brief illness, family sources said.

He was 84 and is survived by his wife and a son. Mallick who was admitted to the sub-divisional hospital at Balliguda in Kandhamal district a few days ago, breathed

his last on Friday.

Mallick was elected to Odisha Assembly from Balliguda constituency thrice as a Congress candidate in 1974, 1080 and 1995.

As the news of his death spread, common people and political leaders thronged his residence at Balliguda to pay their last respects to the departed soul.

National tribal festival to begin in Leh on Saturday



LEH, AUG 16 (PIT): In a bid to give a fillip to the tribal economy in Ladakh, Union minister Arjun Munda and Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik will inaugurate the 'Aadi Mahotsav' or the national tribal festival on Saturday here.

Home Minister Amit Shah was to inaugurate the festival, but he could not come as he was pre-occupied.

In a message, Shah said, "I am happy that the Tribal Affairs Ministry is organising Aadi Mahotsav in Leh, Ladakh, which will showcase tribal culture, cuisine, art, craft, and herbal medicines. The event will help spread these in other parts of the country and provide opportunities to tribals for economic growth and prosperity."

Aimed at scaling up business opportunities for tribals, it is the first such event in Ladakh since the central government announced the decision to make Ladakh a Union Territory.

Ladakh is currently a part of Jammu and Kashmir and the new UT will come into effect on October 31.

The nine-day Aadi Mahotsav, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), will be organised at the Polo

Ground, Leh, till August 25. Around 160 tribal artisans from more than 20 states across the country will participate and showcase their craft.

The major attraction will be the tribal textiles from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal; jewellery from Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and the Northeast; Gond and Warli art, metal craft from Chhattisgarh and black pottery from Manipur.

Managing Director of TRIFED Praveer Krishna said the changes in the Union Territory status of Ladakh has provided an opportunity to scale up business opportunities for tribals in Ladakh.

"We will register tribal groups from Ladakh. At present, we have a small number of them empanelled with TRIFED," he said.

Ladakh is known for pashmina shawls and apricots. The idea is to provide the tribal cultivators with a big market across the country. Through a collaboration of TRIFED and online marketplace Amazon, these products will be sold in 190 countries across the world, Krishna said.

A TRIFED official said Ladakh did not figure on the list of the places where Aadi Mahotsav is held every year, until

2018. "Last year, we decided to take it to new places. It was decided that one edition should be organized in Ladakh, where tribals make up 70 per cent of the population," he said.

The event will have two reputed local cultural troupes presenting Ladakhi folk dances.

Krishna said a Van Dhan camp will be organized in Ladakh over the next 10 days. Village-level groups of tribal artisans will be formed under the Van Dhan scheme. Launched in 2018, the Van Dhan scheme seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of their products.

The government has set a target of setting up 600 Van Dhan by September and total 5,000 in the next five years.

Under the scheme, a group of 20 tribal artisans is trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle, at each Van Dhan Kendra. At the Aadi Mahotsav, an effort will be made to take tribal commerce to the next level of digital and electronic transactions.

For the first time, the tribal artisans will be accepting payment through major credit/debit cards for which point of sale machines have been provided at each stall.

Odisha CM launches online land revenue payment system



BHUBANESWAR, AUG 16 (PTI): In a major relief to farmers and others facing difficulties in making payments for land rent, Odisha has launched the online land revenue payment system in the state.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the system on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day here on Thursday.

"This system would provide great relief to farmers who had to run to various government offices to pay land rent," Patnaik said. Developed by NIC Bhubaneswar, the system will enable farmers to make payments within minutes and get rent receipts, he said.

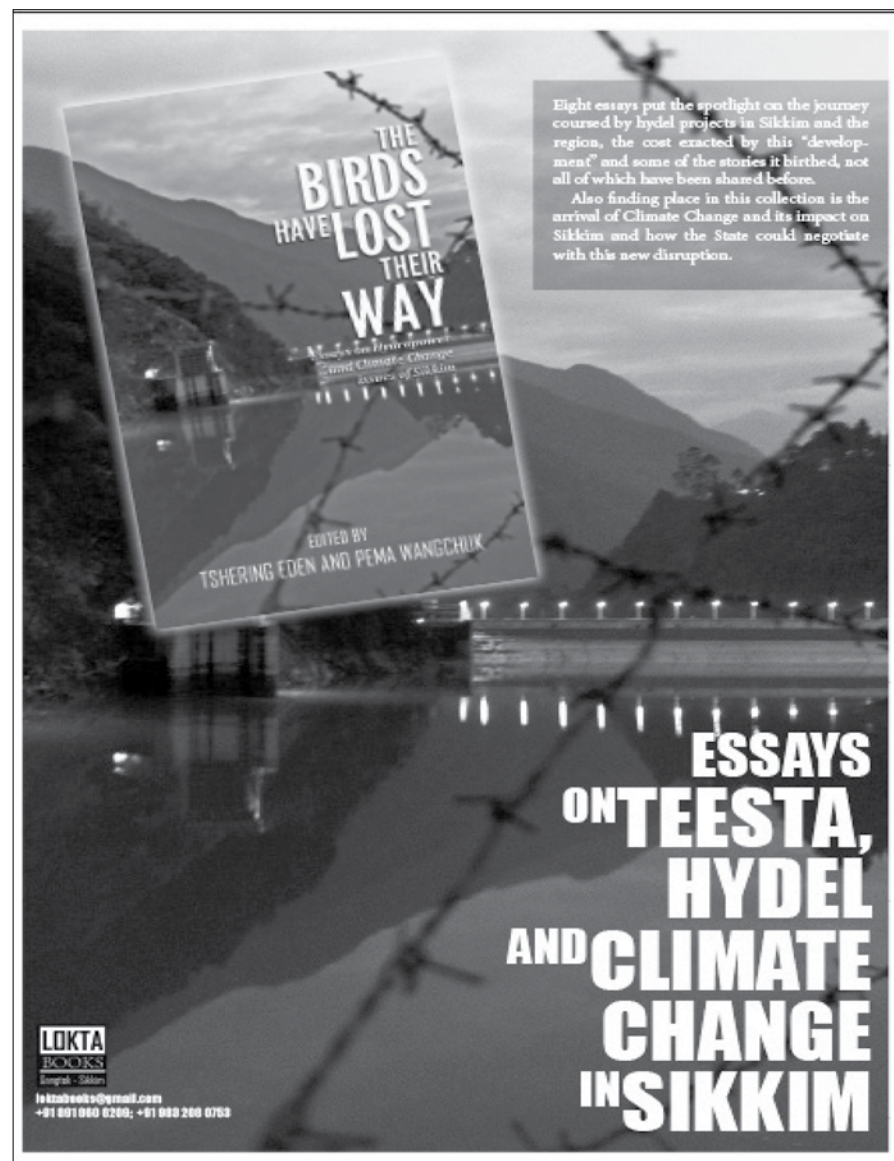
This is the first of its kind initiative by the state Revenue department under the Odisha government's "5-T mantra" to provide better

services to the people. The state government has recently adopted 5T-Time, Teamwork, Technology, Transparency-as its 'mantra' (formula) for the better governance in Odisha.

Patnaik also dedicated Mahatma Gandhi's Talisman as part of his 150th birth anniversary celebrations. Veteran freedom fighters Bhavani Charan Patnaik and Nilamani Samal were present on the occasion.

Gandhi's Talisman is inscribed on a brass plate in English and Odia languages with a sketch of the Father of the Nation.

The chief minister has also inaugurated the newly constructed Kharavel Bhavan at an estimated cost of Rs 128 crore and the building will house 11 departments of the state government.



Man City seek Spurs revenge, Lampard hoping for home comforts

LONDON, AUG 16 (AFP): Manchester City will seek revenge against Tottenham on Saturday for their dramatic Champions League exit last season as Liverpool and Manchester United also look to build on impressive Premier League starts this weekend.

City completed the first ever domestic treble of trophies in England last season, but fell short once more in the Champions League as Tottenham progressed from their quarter-final tie on away goals.

VAR disallowed Raheem Sterling's strike deep into stoppage time of a thrilling second leg 4-3 win for the English champions in April, robbing Sterling of his hat-trick on the night and City a place in the last four.

Yet, Sterling has started the new campaign as he finished the last, scoring a hat-trick on the opening weekend as City thrashed West Ham 5-0 to already move to the top of the table.

Tottenham were also victorious against Aston Villa, but needed to come from behind and two goals in the final five minutes from Harry Kane to secure a 3-1 win over promoted Aston Villa.

Kane has warned that Spurs cannot fall behind so early in the campaign if they want to maintain a title challenge.

"We have to make sure we get off to a good start," said the England

captain. "It's important that we stay in touch as long as we can.

"We have full belief that we can go all the way but there's a long road ahead."

Liverpool will hope to have forged ahead by the time City and Spurs kick-off at the Etihad when they travel to a Southampton side reeling from a disappointing 3-0 defeat at Burnley to start the season.

LAMPARD COMES HOME

Chelsea were the only member of the 'big six' to get off to a losing start as the Blues were humbled 4-0 by Manchester United in Frank Lampard's first game in charge.

The former England midfielder fairly argued that the scoreline was very harsh on his side after they enjoyed the better of the opening hour.

And there was further encouragement for Lampard in his side's performance despite losing the UEFA Super Cup to Liverpool on penalties after a 2-2 draw in Istanbul on Wednesday.

"To lose the game was disappointing but if it means Chelsea's season can be something like how we played today, we'll be OK," he said.

After a summer in which Lampard could not sign new players and Chelsea lost Eden Hazard to Real Madrid, facing a refreshed United and relentless Liverpool was a baptism of fire for Lampard.

Chelsea's all-time top goalscorer is still assured

of a hero's welcome for his first home game as manager against Leicester at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

But he badly needs a win to quieten the doubters over Chelsea's decision to hand a club legend with just one year's managerial experience such a high-profile job.

TRUE TEST FOR NEW UNITED

After the negativity that greeted Manchester United securing just three new signings in the transfer window, the comprehensive margin of victory over Chelsea was the perfect tonic for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James all made a big impact as United registered just their second clean sheet at home in the Premier League under the Norwegian, while James came off the bench to score the final goal.

However, a Monday night trip to Wolves will be another tough test of United's ambitions this season.

Solskjaer's men lost on both visits to Molineux last season.

"When you start the season like this, the club, the supporters, everyone goes home bouncing and happy. Now it's about levelling out," said Solskjaer.

"We know the last two games went against them when I was there. We just have to make sure we do everything we can and there's no repeat of that scoreline.

'Embarrassment' Kyrgios hits new low, say Aussie media

SYDNEY, AUG 16 (AFP): Explosive tennis star Nick Kyrgios is an embarrassment to Australian sport, domestic media screamed Friday, branding his latest meltdown a "vile" new low.

The temperamental 24-year-old was fined US \$113,000 after smashing two racquets, launching an abusive tirade at chair umpire Fergus Murphy before appearing to spit at him during his Cincinnati Masters defeat to Russia's Karen Khachanov.

The ATP warned him that he could also face another suspension from the sport once a full investigation has taken place.

Veteran Channel Nine television sports presenter Tony Jones said he should be immediately banned from the upcoming US Open.

"Yet again Nick Kyrgios has proved himself to be an embarrassment to Australian sport. Quite possibly world sport," he said on the broadcaster's website.

"Surely tennis authorities need to show something that resembles a backbone and deal with him accordingly.

"It's time the ATP adopted a heavy-handed approach and ban Kyrgios from this month's US Open," added Jones, who hosts Nine's Australian Open coverage. Former Australian Sports Anti-doping Agency boss Richard Ings, who used to be an ATP Tour umpire and administrator, called him "despicable".

"Nick Kyrgios's behaviour in this match was, yet again, that of a jerk," he said on Twitter,

adding that Murphy was well-respected on the tour.

"No umpire deserves to be treated as Nick Kyrgios treated Fergus. It was despicable behaviour rightly fined by ATP."

The Australian newspaper was brutal in its assessment of Kyrgios' behaviour, saying his "most vile outburst yet" was "akin to a child having a tantrum", while the tabloid Sydney Daily Telegraph said: "The Nick Kyrgios show has sunk to a new low."

Kyrgios, who picked up four fines of US \$20,000 each for unsportsmanlike conduct plus another US \$20,000 for verbal abuse, has a history of poor behaviour.

In 2015, in one of his more notorious outbursts, he was fined for making a sexually disparaging remark in Canada about the girlfriend of three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka.

The following year, he was banned for eight weeks after being accused of not trying at the Shanghai Masters.

While the fiery Australian won some support on Twitter, with one user noting that "until his performance no one even knew there was a tennis tournament in Cincinnati", the reaction was largely negative.

"Get him off the tennis circuit until he stops behaving like a toddler," said one tweet, while another noted that "in any other workplace, @NickKyrgios alleged verbal abuse of the ref, explosive aggression even to equipment would likely get someone sacked".

I-Day...

The Certificate of Appreciation this year was awarded to:

- Driver, Subash Tiwari, Home Department.
- Businessman and social worker for civic work, Prem Goyal
- Avani Lakhota for her work in revival of Lepcha Script.

The State Government also felicitated students of government schools who topped class X and Class XII board exams with cash award of

Rs.50,000/= (Fifty thousand) each, which was handed over by the Chief Minister, PS Tamang.

- Pukar Chettri of Class X from Ling-

Agri Minister...

under South Districts, officials of various line departments, stakeholders and public and representatives of Mamley Kamrang GPU.

Addressing the launch program, Mr Sharma expressed his delight over the selection of Mamley Kamrang GPU as a model village under South district.

In his address, the Minister explained that a model village is to be a sustainable community that is able to generate and maintain the available resources necessary to improve its level of well being by strengthening the sustainability pillars of livelihood, infrastructure and services of Mamley Kamrang GPU.

The Chief Guest informed that various line departments in a uniform manner will implement different programmes and initiatives to upgrade the GPU in a holistic manner.

Furthermore, he spoke about how development of a model GPU brings about an integrated development which works towards achieving holistic and sustainable development backed up by futuristic and progressive skills leading to higher levels of productivity and improvement in overall quality of life of the public.

He further urged the progressive farmers and other stakeholders of the area to work in coordination with each other in order to realize the objective of a model GPU. The Minister added that technology, community involvement, sustainability and connectivity will be the key elements of the model GPU, and any efforts towards convergence must rely extensively on these approaches.

Secretary Agriculture, Khorlo Bhutia stated that the concept of a 'Model Village' which has been conceptualized by the CM will see one Model GPU in all four districts of Sikkim.

He stated that Chingthang GPU in West, Mamley Kamrang GPU in South, Ray Mendu GPU in East and Ringhem GPU in North have all selected to be developed as model GPUs in the state.

moo Kolthang Senior Secondary School,

Similarly, felicitation and awards to the Class XII Board Examination State toppers:

- Miss Prashna Subba, from Ranka Dhajey Senior Secondary School in Humanities stream.
- Arvind Tamang from Bermoik Tokal Senior Secondary School in Commerce Stream.
- Biswadeep Sharma from Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School in Science stream.
- Meera Basnet from Khechuperi Senior Secondary School in Vocational stream.

He reiterated that departments in convergence with each other will implement all central and state schemes with full force and effect in Mamley Kamrang. Mr Bhutia also spoke in brief about Chief Minister's vision of Green Economy and stressed upon how the stakeholders should all endeavor to work towards achieving the missions of Green Economy.

The meeting also saw Secretary (Horticulture), DK Bhandari speak on the economic scope of tourism in the model GPU which will aid the youth and public of the area to be self-sufficient and self-reliant. He spoke about the setting up of Central Nursery which will facilitate the production of seedlings of fruits such as oranges, kiwis and bananas as well vegetables and spices such as ginger, turmeric and cardamon as per land suitability. Additionally, he also spoke about the varied opportunities that progressive farmers of Mamley Kamrang GPU can avail through training programmes, study tours and farm visits which will aid them in their agricultural practices.

Secretary Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS), SB Subba also addressed the program and spoke about the economic possibilities provided by trout farming, bee keeping and livestock production.

He spoke about the numerous training programmes and government enabled initiatives that the Directorate of AH&VS will be providing to the potential public of the model GPU.

The program also saw the Chief Guest handing over tokens and benefits of power tillers, power sprays pump, tubular structure green house, irrigation pipes, turmeric grinder, community tanks, piglets, poultry and goats to the beneficiaries of Mamley Kamrang GPU.

The program was also addressed by the guest of honor, Education Minister KN Lepcha and MD Sikkim Milk Union, Dr AB Karki.

CM reiterates...

its focus on its mission to serve the State and its people.

While directing his address to the audience, the Chief Minister informed them about the firm policies and widely consulted strategies for crucial sectors like agriculture, education, health, employment, tourism, culture, water, environment, energy, youth, road, industry and disaster of the State Government and reiterated the State Government commitments towards fulfilling the educational aspirations of the young talented youth.

The day also featured the launch of Mobile Science Laboratory by the Chief Minister. This is a unique concept of bringing laboratory on wheels to the schools of rural areas where proper laboratories are not set up and will be replicated in days to come. Agastya International Foundation based in Bangalore has signed MOU with the Education Department and the initiative is supported by CIPLA pharmaceuticals

SSC to move ...

was time for the people to come out and register their protest against such practices and hold the legislators to account. He also asserted that the SDF president should also speak on this issue.

Likewise, he also questioned SKM for having taken two legislators from SDF into its party when it already has a majority to form the government. He pointed out that SKM was against defections while in the opposition but was

SPYF to launch...

to save democracy and to secure due respect for the people's mandates.

He asserted that these legislators do not deserve to be the people's representatives any more or enter the legislative assembly.

Another SPYF member, Rupen Kariki, mentioned that the political parties make promises to the people in their campaign, but after the results are declared, take selfish and self-centred decisions.

He asserted that the latest defections disrespected the people's mandate and said that people were left confused due to recent political devel-

and SBI mutual fund.

News Magazine, Panda 2018-19 by Forest Department, 'Sikkim Today' special issue on New Government formation and Coffee Table Book titled: "PS Tamang 6th Chief Minister of Sikkim" both by Information & Public Relations were released by the Chief Minister on the occasion.

Later, trophies for best March past were presented. Sikkim Police (female) Senior Platoon bagged first position followed by Indo Tibet Border Police. Similarly Army Band was declared as the best band contingent and West Point Senior Secondary School as second.

The best School March past trophy was given to PNGSS and the students who all participated in the day parade was presented certificates.

The day ended on a joyous note as the State on the 73rd Independence Day granted a remission of sentences ranging from two months to six months to 91 prisoners of State Central Prison, Rongyek.

now okay with benefitting from it.

He argued that at present there was no provision for legislators of a party to join another party with 2/3 majority and that the only provision was to merge the party and that too in consultation with every party member. On the same, he argued that the joining of SDF legislators into other parties was clearly a case of defection and liable for disqualification.

opments in the State.

On the same, Mr Karki reiterated the demand that these legislators immediately resign for disrespecting the people's mandates. He argued that the hopes and aspirations of the people have been betrayed by these political leaders. He added that these leaders have played with the sentiments of the people of Sikkim.

He appealed to the people to join the mass rally in the capital on 18 August and asserted that to display anger and reaction only on social media was not enough and that it was time for them to come out on the field in reality.



Reverting History...

The house arrest of the King, questionable conduction of referendum, annexation in the name of Democracy and the complete black out of media? Colonialism is not a black and white affair. It functions through illusionary folklore, cultural hegemony, Racial/Religious sense of superiority and its ultimate goal being plunder and profit making moives.

What makes the honorable RS representatives think that Sikkim will be treated any different when the past years has seen enormous shelling out of mineral resources from Sikkim, which has led to huge ecological diasters and not a miniscule percent of this profit has been used for Sikkim's own development. **What makes us think that we will not meet the same fate as Kashmiris?**

Lets revert back to the timeline of events since last week. The Indian government suddenly sent in thousands of troops to the valley where half a million troops were already stationed. Tourists were told to leave the valley, students from mainland were told to return, the annual Amarnath yatra was suspended. Then on Sunday evening Kashmiri Politicians were put under house arrest, curfew was announced and all mediums of communication - internet, mobile networks were shutdown. With few rumours running astray no one knew what was really brewing in Delhi. Then on Monday the home minister announced the revocation of the Articles when large numbers of opposition MP's who had received no prior notice to such huge steps that were to be undertaken were missing.

All this done while Kahmiri's themselves remained cutoff from the rest of the world. Such big decisions taken without the consent of those who it was going to affect. All this done to a region that has for 70 years asserted its right to self determination and actively resisted, by all means, the Indian state's draconian actions.

If tomorrow the government does the same to Article 371F, what will our response be? How will we resist this move? Or are we going to sit tall in our individual middle class lifes stating that we will not sell our

land to outsiders even if they can now buy it (as many are already doing on social media). Do you think chrony capitalist enterprises will not lure us in, when already majority of the Sikkimese population have made huge money assisting the loot of these private companies and when we already crib inside our houses about how our market is being controlled by "outsiders". **What makes us think that we will not meet the same fate as Kashmiris?**

The reponses from our elected representatives makes one thing clear; we cannot reply upon them to protect our Special status. The Chief Minister released a statement only after much pressure was mounted by the opposition and fraction of the civil society. The CM told journalists,"the Centre will not touch 371F.... we heard in Parliament that Union Home Minister Amit Shah said these provisions will continue."

On the other hand, news from our Opposition, who have been demanding for "assurance", took a completely different direction with 10 SDF MLAs joining the BJP. The Sikkimese people need to be asking these 10 MLAs on what grounds can they "assure" the Sikkimese janta that they will be able to protect 371F when their new Party's ideological leanings says otherwise? On what moral and ethical grounds have they decided to join a party whose ideological base rests on anti-minority Hindutva values?

Keeping our "Sikkimese" pride aside, one thing needs to be said loudly and clearly: the people of Sikkim have a lot to learn from other North-Eastern states like Mizoram and Nagaland. In the immediate aftermath of scrapping of Article 370 widespread protests were held in these states. In Mizoram effigy's of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister was burnt in public and the entire society came together condemning the move. Such was the immediate backlash that on Thursday the BJP state unit's General Secetray came out with a statement assuring the people that Aricle 371G granting special rights to Mizos was not to be touched. Similarly Naga Nationalist groups are talking about demanding more autonomy than

what they already have under 371A and remain anxious about governments moves in Kashmir. Such were the apprehensions that the newly appointed governor of Nagaland RN Ravi released statement that the Naga people had nothing to worry about. All this done with no need of pleading for assurance and at the same time with active resistance to what had occurred in Kashmir.

It is not just the possibility of revocation of 371F that plagues Sikkim and other North-East states; What gurantee is there that the BJP government will not table the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the same manner and pass it through both the houses arbitrarily? The CAB which intents on changing the demography of the North-East dramatically. Are we going to ask for "assurance" once again?

Whatever happens in the coming days, our politicians begging for fallen crubs off the table will not do. Article 370 was not something that was "granted" to Kashmiris. It was a "negotiated" deal between the Indian leaders and the Indian appointed Kashmiri leaders. Just as 371F in Sikkim is a "negotiated" deal between the Indian state and the last Chogyal. The Sikkimese people are not at the mercy of the Indian state to grant us or revoke 371F, as the Honorable representative Hishey Lachungpa implied. Provisions of Article 371F is the reason why we agreed to and are part of the Indian union in the first place.

At times like these we need to revert back to our History, especially the period between 1973- 1975. Younger generations need to talk to their elders, ask and take in the oral stories of everyday normal lives in Independent Sikkim and how Sikkim eventually came to become the 22nd state in the Indian union. There is so much more to our history than what the mainland monitored history books tell us where Sikkim's history begins in 1975 by "willingly" acceding to the Indian union. Sikkim has a History prior to 1975, unique and separate from the mainstream Indian history and it is because of this history that we are today able to enjoy the special provisions under 371F.

Epstein autopsy shows broken neck bones: US media

NEW YORK, AUG 16 (AFP): An autopsy of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein found broken bones in his neck, US media reported on Thursday, as New York's medical examiner said the cause of death required further study.

Epstein, a convicted sex offender who befriended many celebrities and politicians, was found dead in jail on Saturday from an apparent suicide as he awaited trial on federal charges that he trafficked underage girls for sex.

Preliminary findings from the autopsy showed the 66-year-old had multiple broken bones in his neck, including the hyoid bone near his Adam's apple, according to The Washington Post and The New York Times.

They cited sources familiar with the post mortem examination.

The newspapers also quoted experts as saying that a hyoid fracture can occur in victims of suicide, particularly older ones. They also said it can be found in incidents of strangulation. The of-



fice of New York City's chief medical examiner, which conducted the autopsy, said it was too early to confirm exactly how Epstein died.

"In all forensic investigations, all information must be synthesized to determine the cause and manner of death," it said in a statement carried by US media Thursday.

"Everything must be consistent; no single finding can be evaluated in a vacuum," it added, saying the case of death was

"pending further study." Epstein, a multi-millionaire who counted Britain's Prince Andrew and Donald Trump as friends, was charged with one count of sex trafficking of minors and one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors.

According to prosecutors, Epstein sexually exploited dozens of teens, some as young as 14, at his homes in Manhattan and Florida, between 2002 and 2005.

He denied the charges but faced up to 45 years in jail if found guilty.

The FBI and Justice Department is investigating how America's most high-profile inmate apparently managed to take his own life just weeks after an earlier reported suicide attempt.

The warden of the Metropolitan Correctional Centre has been temporarily reassigned and two guards put on administrative leave pending an investiga-

tion. They guards were reportedly asleep when they should have been checking on Epstein.

Epstein's death came a day after a court released documents in which an alleged victim said he used her as a "sex slave" and that she was forced to have sex with well-known politicians and businessmen.

Prosecutors have pledged to pursue cases against anyone else involved in Epstein's alleged crimes.

China doing very poorly as a result of trade war: Trump

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, AUG 16 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has said that China is doing very poorly as a result of the trade war and the "longer it goes on, the stronger we get".

Asserting that the United States is "having a very good discussion" on a trade deal with China, Trump told reporters at the Morristown airport in New Jersey that he will speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping "very soon".

On the protests in Hong Kong which have been going on since early June, the US president said that Xi can "humanely" solve the problem so that "everybody is happy".

"I think the longer the trade war goes on, the weaker China gets and the stronger we get. We're taking in massive amounts of money. Billions and billions of dollars. And I think the longer it goes, the stron-

ger we get. I have a feeling it's going to go fairly short," he said on Thursday. As a result of the trade war, China is doing very poorly, Trump said.

"The tariffs have really bitten into China. They haven't bitten into us at all except for the reporters that want to make it look that way, but they don't understand what's happening," he said.

"We've taken close to USD 60 billion in tariff money. The consumer has not paid for them. Now, at some point, they may have to pay something. But they understand that," Trump asserted. He claimed that millions of jobs have been lost and thousands of companies are shutting down in China.

"They'd love to have somebody like (former vice president Joe) Biden, who doesn't know what he's doing. I mean, I just put a clip where he said, 'Oh, we want to build up China'. Well, they gave us a very strong Chi-

na which has taken out over USD 500 billion a year for many years from our country. And that's not going to happen anymore," he said.

Trump, however, said that the US is having a very good discussion on a trade deal with China.

"We're having very good discussions with China. They very much want to make a deal. We'll see what happens. We had a deal and they decided not to make it. Now, I think they would like to have that opportunity again," the US president said.

"We have a call scheduled soon. We'll be speaking with him (Xi Jinping) very soon," he said.

To a question on the protests in Hong Kong, Trump said, "I really believe he (Chinese President Xi Jinping) can work it out. I know him well. If he wants to he can work that out in a very humane fashion. He can work out something so that everybody is happy."

China media says Hong Kong response 'won't repeat' Tiananmen



BEIJING, AUG 16 (AFP): Chinese state media vowed Friday there "won't be a repeat" of the Tiananmen Square crackdown if Beijing moves to quash Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests.

In a rare reference to the bloody incident -- which is usually taboo in mainland China -- the Global Times newspaper insisted the country had more sophisticated methods than those it employed 30 years ago to crush protests in the capital.

"The incident in Hong Kong won't be a repeat of the June 4th political incident in 1989," it wrote in an editorial.

"China is much stronger and more mature, and its ability to manage complex situations has been greatly enhanced." Hong Kong has endured 10 weeks of civil unrest, which have morphed

from opposition to a hated extradition bill into a wider, and sometimes violent, call for democratic rights. An intensifying drumbeat of propaganda and strident warnings have sparked fears that Beijing might look to intervene -- possibly militarily -- in the semi-autonomous city.

Images of flag-waving military personnel and armoured vehicles in the border city of Shenzhen this week added to those fears, with international commentators invoking spectre of the June 4, 1989 Tiananmen crackdown.

Weeks of student-led protests in the Beijing square were ended when the military rolled in with tanks. Images of the operation were beamed around the world.

Estimates on the death toll range from hundreds to thousands, although there is no of-

ficial figure. The brutal assault resulted in two years of economic near-stagnation as the country became an international pariah.

Discussion of what is euphemistically referred to as the "June 4th incident" is heavily censored in China, and few Chinese are familiar with the photos that are so well known around the world.

US National Security Advisor John Bolton warned China Thursday against creating a "new" Tiananmen Square in its response to the protests in Hong Kong.

Beijing has repeatedly blamed "foreign forces" for stirring up trouble in the city, which was handed back from Britain in 1997, and the Global Times said Friday that the US would "not be able to intimidate China by using the turmoil 30 years ago".

S Korea says N Korea has fired 2 more projectiles into sea

SEOUL, AUG 16 (AP): South Korea's military said North Korea fired two projectiles into the sea Friday to extend a recent streak of weapons tests believed to be aimed at pressuring Washington and Seoul over slow nuclear diplomacy.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the projectiles launched from the North's eastern coast flew about 230 kilometers (143 miles) on an apogee of 30 kilometers (18 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the U.S. and South Korean militaries were analyzing the launches but didn't immediately say whether the weapons were ballistic missiles or rocket artillery. It was North Korea's sixth round of weapons launches since late July when it began stepping up its weapons demonstrations while expressing frustration over stalemated nuclear negotiations with the United States and continuance of U.S.-South Korea joint military drills that the North sees as an invasion rehearsal.

South Korea's presidential office said national security adviser Chung Eui-yong was presiding over an emergency National Security Council meeting about the launches and President Moon Jae-in was being briefed on the developments. The Blue House called for the North to stop launches that risk raising military tensions on the peninsula.

Japan's Defense Ministry said the North Korean projectiles did not reach the country's territorial waters or its exclusive economic zone. The White House said it was aware of reports of the launches and was consulting with Seoul and Tokyo.

The weapons the North tested in recent weeks included a new rocket artillery system and what security analysts say are two new short-range mobile ballistic missile systems that would potentially expand the North's ability to strike targets throughout South Korea, including US bases there.

Experts say President Donald Trump's downplaying of the North's launches allowed the country more room to intensify its testing activity while it seeks to build leverage ahead of a possible resumption of negotiations, which could happen sometime after the end of the allied drills later this month.

The North has ignored South Korean calls for dialogue recently and is seen as dialing up pressure on Seoul to coax major concessions from Washington on its behalf.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff alerted reporters to the launches hours after the North issued a statement berating South Korea, saying it's "senseless" for Seoul to hope for a resumption of inter-Korean dialogue while it continues its military exercises with the United States.

The statement by the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country came a day after Moon said in a speech that the momentum for dialogue remains alive despite the series of "worrying actions taken by North Korea recently."

"A sure thing is that the (South) Korean chief executive is (such a) funny man as he just reads what was written by his juniors," the statement said while avoiding calling Moon by his name.

It would be "senseless" for Moon to believe that inter-Korean dialogue will automatically begin after the end of U.S.-South Korea military drills, the statement said.

Hong Kong cuts taxes to shore up economy amid protests

HONG KONG, AUG 16 (AP): Hong Kong's government announced tax cuts and higher social spending Thursday to reverse a deepening economic slump aggravated by anti-government protests and the U.S.-Chinese tariff war.

The territory's financial secretary, Paul Chan, cut this year's official growth forecast to 0 to 1 per cent, which could be the worst performance since 2009 during the global financial crisis. The previous forecast was 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

Hurt by the plunge in US-Chinese trade, growth already was declining before anti-government protests erupted this year over a proposed extradition law and other

grievances. "The recent social incidents have hit the retail trade, restaurants and tourism, adding a further blow to an already-weak economy," said a statement issued by Chan's agency.

It also cited the impact of slowing trade in Asia, global financial market volatility and the risk of disorder as Britain leaves the European Union.

The measures announced Thursday will "provide impetus for our economy" and "help cushion the enterprises and people of Hong Kong against challenges," the statement said.

The changes will result in some 1.3 million taxpayers having their taxes waived, Chan said at a news conference. He

said the government will increase payments for elderly and low-income residents and provide subsidies to small businesses and parents of schoolchildren.

The package will cost a total of 19.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (USD 2.4 billion), according to Chan.

Hong Kong's economic growth held steady at 0.6 per cent over a year earlier in the quarter ending in June but economists have cut forecasts as the U.S.-Chinese trade war and protests mounted.

Tourist arrivals fell 31 per cent in the first week of August from a year ago, according to the territory's secretary of economic development, Yau Tang-wah.

Israel says to let in barred US lawmaker for 'humanitarian' visit



JERUSALEM, AUG 16 (AFP): Israel is to allow a visit by barred US congresswoman Rashida Tlaib who is of Palestinian origin on "humanitarian" grounds, the interior ministry announced Friday.

It said Interior Minister Aryeh Deri decided to allow Tlaib to make a "humanitarian visit to her grandmother" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank after the lawmaker had sent him a written pledge "to respect conditions imposed by Israel".

Tlaib had "promised not to promote the cause of the boycott of Israel during her stay", in a letter to Deri sent overnight, the ministry said in a statement. Israeli

media published the letter reading: "I would like to request admittance to Israel in order to visit my relatives, and specifically my grandmother, who is in her 90s..."

"This could be my last opportunity to see her. I will respect any restrictions and will not promote boycotts against Israel during my visit."

On Thursday, Israel announced it would bar a planned visit by Tlaib and fellow Muslim congresswoman Ilhan Omar over their support of a boycott of the Jewish state for its treatment of the Palestinians.

Israeli officials had, however, said they would consider a sep-

arate humanitarian request from Tlaib to visit her family, a trip for which she would have to pass through Israel.

The decision to bar the congresswomen, although encouraged by President Donald Trump, drew sharp criticism in the United States from several allies of Israel, including top Democratic lawmakers, presidential hopefuls and influential pro-Israel lobby AIPAC.

Omar and Tlaib had been expected to arrive in Israel at the weekend.

Before Israel announced its decision, relatives of Tlaib in the West Bank village of Beit Ur Al-Foqa had been excited about her planned visit.

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VIDEO NEWS SECTION
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Never entertained the thought of failure: **Naseeruddin Shah**

Mumbai, Aug 16 (PTI): When Naseeruddin Shah was young and starting out his career, the actor was prepared for “a long hard struggle”, aware of the odds he was against but hopeful for a fruitful pay off. The actor made a name for himself in what was referred to as the ‘parallel cinema’ in the 70s and 80s, headlining off-beat films and collaborating with mostly young and new directors.

“I never felt any despair because I didn’t expect success to come easily,” Shah told PTI, reflecting on what he felt when he began acting.

“I was prepared for a long hard struggle. I was also not willing to admit defeat easily. The thought of failure didn’t even occur to me, even though I knew the odds I was battling.”

The 70-year-old actor said his outlook towards life and career -- to never give up-- hasn’t changed over the years. “I never entertained the thought of failure. ‘What will happen if?’ I never thought about this. I just had to become as good as I can. If I know my job, I’ll get work. This was my belief.

01”There has been no change in the way I see things today, in fact it has been consolidated, confirmed in my head now.”

Shah was speaking on the sidelines of the screening of the short film “Half Full” that won at Shorts TV’s Best of India Short Film Festival. Featuring him alongside Vikrant Massey, the 12-min short directed by Karan Rawal chronicles the story of a

young man battling internal conflicts.

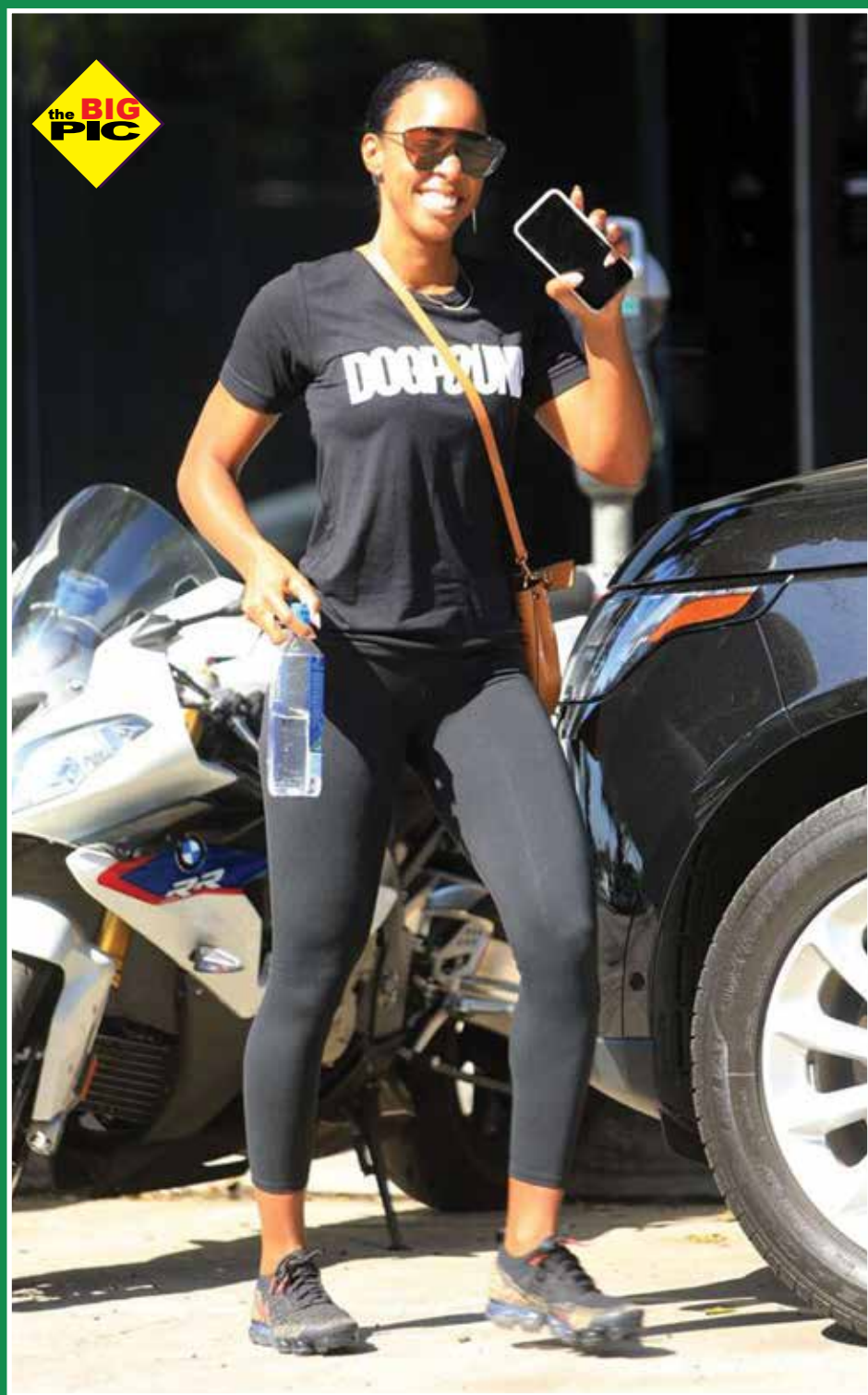
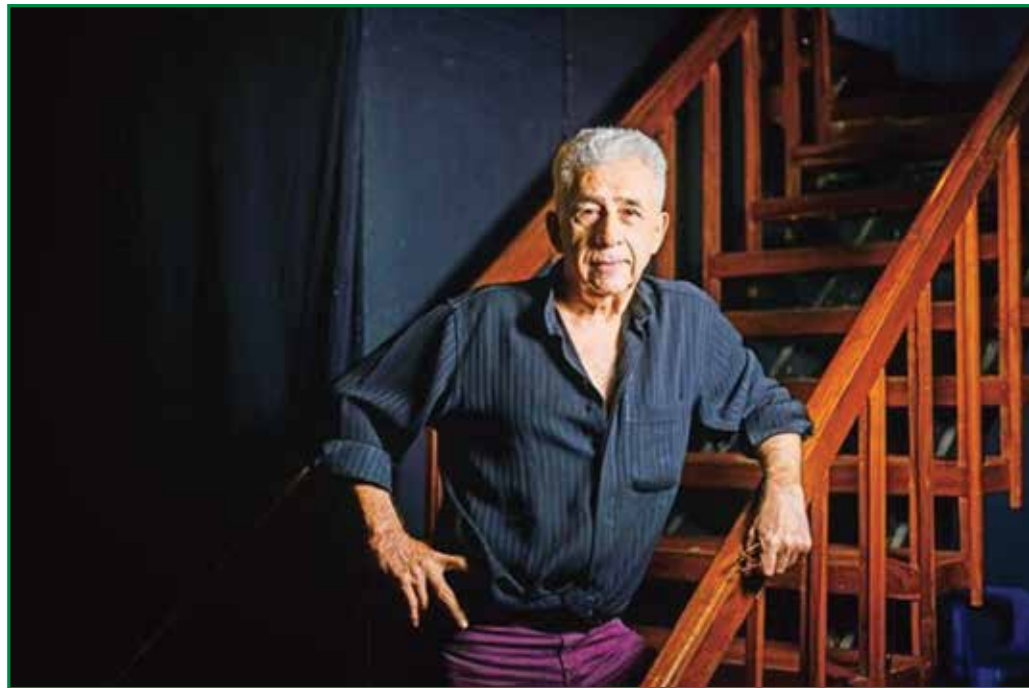
In young directors taking baby steps in their career, Shah sees himself and is encouraged to know that there are filmmakers who still want to work with him.

“I remember if I had not received a helping hand at every stage I might not have made this journey. I love to work with youngsters, like to see dreams in

ing with him. “How do we direct a man whose films we grew up watching?”

“I understand that but I try my best not to let that get in the way. I don’t believe in overruling the director. If I don’t have faith in the director I’ll probably not work with that person.”

Shah is currently enjoying working in short films on varied topics and



FIT AND FAB! The singer, Kelly Rowland looks happy after a workout in West Hollywood.

‘13 Reasons Why’ star Justin Prentice on why playing Bryce Walker was ‘eye-opening’

BY RADHIKA SHARMA

NEW DELHI, AUG 16 (PTI): Portraying the role of Bryce Walker, the dangerous and entitled sexual predator, in “13 Reasons Why” changed Justin Prentice’s worldview and the actor says starring in the Netflix Original series has been “rewarding”.

The season three of the teenage drama, which starts streaming August 23, will see Bryce being found dead making everyone at Liberty High School a potential suspect.

The actor, who has received critical acclaim for the role, said the character shone a light on the gravity of sexual crimes prevalent in the society.

“It has been really rewarding. Playing the role and diving into the research for a show like this changes your mindset and perspective on things. For me, playing a character who is essentially a rapist and has sexually assaulted many women just shows how much of an issue it is in our society.

“It has been really eye-opening for me. I noticed I sort of take things in a different light just having played this character,” Prentice told PTI in a telephonic interview from the US.

Bryce is also a manipulative bully and the 25-year-old actor said the upcoming installment will reveal more “interesting” facets to his personality.

“He definitely has a bit of an arc throughout the seasons. We get to see the monstrous side of him aplenty. But in this new season, we get to see a kind of a different colour from

Bryce, which was a joy to play. To work on a character that you’ve been honing for several years and add a different flavour to it was incredible.”

Prentice said the entire cast was surprised by the breakout success of the series, which debuted in 2017, adding it has “transformed” all of their lives.

“Fame sort of alters your life in the day-to-day things. But I think more importantly, it’s the issues that the show touches upon. It’s been beautiful to see how much it resonates with the audience, that in turn affects us as individuals,” he said.

The actor said the fact that people across all age groups connect with “13 Reasons Why” is what makes being a part of a show worth it.

“I’ve had parents come up to me on the streets and say, ‘Hey, I watch this show with my child’. The amount of issues that have been brought up that they were able to relate to and talk to us about was incredible.

“It makes it worthwhile. The show does a lot of good in raising awareness and getting people talking about these issues,” Prentice said. The show has been renewed for the fourth and final run.



Saif Ali Khan’s ‘Laal Kaptaan’ to release on October 11



MUMBAI, AUG 16 (PTI): Saif Ali Khan-fronted epic action drama “Laal Kaptaan” will hit the theatres on October 11.

The film, directed by Navdeep Singh of “NH10” fame, was earlier scheduled to release on September 6. In the film, Saif, who turned 49 on Friday, is portraying a naga sadhu out on a journey ridden with drama, revenge and deceit.

“Saif’s prowess as an actor underlines the themes of vengeance and deceit in the film. It is absolutely fitting to

announce the release date to the viewers on his birthday,” Sunil Lulla, Managing Director at EROS International Media Ltd, said in a statement.

Filmmaker Aanand L Rai, who has produced the movie through his banner Colour Yellow Productions, said, “We as a team are happy to announce the release date of Laal Kaptaan on Saif’s birthday. The film is based on the subject which has never been attempted before and has its own style of narrative.”

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Veteran actor **Vidya Sinha** dies at 71

MUMBAI, AUG 15 (PTI): Vidya Sinha, the star of middle-of-the-road Hindi movies such as “Rajinigandha”, “Chhoti Si Baat” and “Pati Patni Aur Woh”, died on Thursday after prolonged illness. She was 71. Sinha was recently admitted at a suburban hospital here reportedly due to breathing problems.

“She passed away today at 12 PM at the hospital due to prolonged illness,” Sinha’s daughter Janhavi told PTI.

The veteran actor made a name for herself with her woman-next-door characters opposite Amol Palekar in “Rajinigandha” and “Chhoti Si Baat” and in mainstream commercial space for “Pati Patni Aur Woh” among others.

In a career spanning over four decades, she also featured in “Josh”, “Love Story”, “Bodyguard” and TV shows such as “Kkavyanjali”, “Qubool Hai” and “Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala”.

Producer Rajan Shahi, who worked with the actor on the TV show “Itti Si Khushi”, said Sinha was not only extremely talented but “most importantly a very down to earth person.”

“I remember her very sweet request... When she was cast to play a pivotal role in the show, she requested me if I would direct one of her scenes. I had stopped directing since long... but could not say no to such a senior and veteran actor... She was extremely warm and created a family bond with all unit and actors,” he said in a statement.

TV actor Smriti Karla, who worked with Sinha on “Itti Si Khushi”, called her passing away “a big loss for the film and tv industry.”

“As a child I have seen her as a heroine and then I had the honour of working with her as my ‘Dadi’... I remember gushing when she complimented me for being a fine actress. She was extremely loving and caring. We will miss her presence but she will live through her films,” she said.

On Twitter, filmmaker Sanjay Gupta wrote, “RIP Vidya Sinha ji. You were the epitome of grace and dignity on and off the screen.”

Director Madhur Bhandarkar said Sinha will always be remembered for her superlative performances in films like “Rajinigandha”, “Chhoti si Baat” & “Pati Patni Aur Woh”.

“My condolences to her family & friends. #OmShanti,” he tweeted.

ARIES: Major things are happening for you on the career front. For some, this could be a time of joining or associating with a big organisation. Game on, Aries! You want to make the most of the opportunities standing before you. This phase of your life also requires a balance between the material and the spiritual. Is there a faith you feel connected with? A sacred place that gives you a sense of peace and quiet? It’s time to pay it a visit.

Tip: Make the most of the opportunities knocking at your door.

TAURUS: If you’ve been playing it safe for a while, now is the time to push your limits. Think of yourself as a reality TV star and go daredevil, Taurus. Revel in the rush of doing that one thing that has always intimidated you! The cards are also reminding you of the importance of staying curious, of venturing into unknown territories, and finding new ways to quench your thirst for knowledge.

Tip: Do things differently.

GEMINI: You are strength. You are courage. You are resilience. You are Athena in human form. The challenges before you may seem insurmountable at this moment. The key is to

remind yourself there is nothing you cannot do. What you don’t want to do today: be intimidated by the fancy titles. This is all just a power play. Stand in your truth and stand strong—despite the resistance—and you will eventually be respected for it.

Tip: Channel your inner Athena and look your challenges in the eye.

CANCER: In the words of Ariana Grande, “The light is coming back to give you everything the darkness stole.” This is the week to make your way out of the metaphorical tunnel. What awaits you on the other side: a greater degree of peace, harmony and happiness. Given that your vibe attracts your tribe, you will witness a positive shift in your relationships as well.

Tip: You are making your way out of the darkness.

LEO: Your power word: confidence. When you are so sure of your abilities, no force in the world can bring you down. Instead of focusing on the competition, turn your attention inwards, Leo. Find new ways to innovate. Do what it takes to get better. Some of you may even find yourself firefighting your way through your professional life. There is an

easier way around this situation, and it doesn’t involve going to war with yourself. Centering your energy will give you clarity on the road ahead.

Tip: Do what it takes to enhance your own skills.

VIRGO: Let’s talk about your fitness routine, Virgo. What do you do to feel the most indomitable version of yourself? What the cards are asking you to focus on: channelling your inner Lara Croft in the gym (or the park) today. Understand the correlation between the physical and the mental. The more you work on your body, the stronger you will feel as a person.

Tip: This is the season to redefine your fitness goals.

LIBRA: A project that was once important to you could suddenly seem lacklustre. Is it time to give up on it yet, or are you letting your emotions come in the way of something beautiful? Now is not the time to make any decisions, Libra.

Tip: Sometimes you just have to step away from the situation.

SCORPIO: It’s not always about experimenting with the new or venturing into un-

charted territories. Sometimes, the best way forward is to keep doing exactly what you’re doing until it gets better. Overheard at the cosmic conference: enhancing your skill set is the secret to attracting lucrative opportunities. But that doesn’t mean it’s going to be all work and no play from now on. The cards are reminding you of the importance of putting your fitness gear on and going for a run. Be sure to choose a place where you can connect with Mamma Nature.

Tip: Keep doing what you are doing until it gets better.

SAGITTARIUS: Ready, set, go! This is the time to go back to your books and make knowledge your superpower. There is always room for improvement, no matter how experienced you are. For those who are trying to get into their dream college/course, this week could bring with itself big news. Working towards an entrance exam at the moment? Block the distractions.

Tip: The pursuit of knowledge takes centre-stage.

CAPRICORN: 2019 is a time of healthy relationships and love that honours your true

essence. No matter how many challenges or delays you may have faced, there’s a voice in your head that says “the best is yet to come.” Remember, the process of manifestation requires a crazy amount of faith in your desired goal and the mysterious forces above. Look around you, Capricorn.

Tip: The time to manifest your best life is now.

AQUARIUS: This is the season to rise from your own ashes, Aquarius. Revel in the process of reinvention. You are becoming the best version of yourself. What you need to be prepared for: your life will not be the same before and after this transformation. If there are parts of your old self that no longer make sense to you, that’s okay.

Tip: Embrace all of you.

PISCES: You never thought you’d make it to the other side, yet you did. The cards are reminding you of your resilience. Your ability to challenge your circumstances and win against all odds. You’re this close to the finish line, Pisces. Keep moving forward. Let no demons, within or without, keep you manifesting your larger-than-life goals.

Tip: Let resilience be your power word.