



**IPR MINISTER  
ATTENDS I-DAY  
FOOTBALL TOURNEY  
AT YUKSOM Pg02**

**KHANGCHENDZONGA  
BIOSPHERE RESERVE  
ADDED TO UNESCO LIST**

Pg03



**SILTAC'S PUBLIC  
OUTREACH PROGRAMME  
CONCLUDES  
IN DARAMDIN Pg03**

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Book release and awards mark Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration

**GANGTOK, 08 AUG (IPR):**

On the occasion of Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration at Saramsa Garden today, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling visited the altar of Tendong hill and offered prayers amidst chanting by bongthangs.

The program began with welcome address by president, Tendong Lho Rum Faat Celebration Committee, Dawcho Lepcha followed by brief introduction to the historical significance of Tendong Lho Rum Faat by Chopel Lepcha. The program was also addressed by president Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum, NT Lepcha. The Chief Minister was also felicitated during the occasion by the Organising Committee.

A book titled 'Intro-



duction of Linguistics and Phonetics of Lepcha Language Vol. No. 2' by Saldong Lepcha was released on the occasion by the CM.

Tar Tshering Lepcha was awarded the presti-

gious Tendong Award in recognition of his lifelong dedication and commitment to the development of the Lepcha community.

Likewise, the General G.B. Mainwaring Lepcha

Literary Award was presented to Saldong Lepcha honouring his outstanding achievement in the field of Lepcha language and literature.

The Mayal Marnue

Award was presented to Norzang Lepcha for his visionary and committed role in Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association.

Norden Lepcha was felicitated on the occasion for his valuable contribution to Lepcha music.

The chief guest also presented certificates and mementoes to the three best dance troupes which participated in the three-day festival. The three troupes namely Mayal Lyang Lepcha Development Board, West Bengal, Sonamati Memorial Government School Khamdong and Ringhim Senior Secondary School presented ethnic dances and added colour and festivity to the event.

## Legislation to impose stringent punishment for peddlers: CM

**NITESH R PRADHAN/  
NIRMAL MANGAR**

**GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling made some key announcements today while addressing a gathering at Saramsa Garden in East Sikkim on the occasion of the Lepcha festival, Tendong Lho Rum Faat.

He announced that the State Government will frame laws that will serve longer jail term for drug traffickers.

While highlighting the increase in drug users in the State, he said that addiction will not be considered a crime but a disease so that the stigma attached to it can be removed.

Adding that movie star, Sanjay Dutt, is an inspiration when it comes to fighting addiction and emerging victorious, he stated that the State Government wants talks with the actor to be appointed as ambassador of drug free Sikkim.

He also announced waiver on interest to those who pay their loans under Chief Minister Self Employment Scheme to one payment within sixty days.

Countering criticism from the opposition on the ongoing flagship HPV vaccination drive for young girls, he said that over 150 countries have already administered the HPV vaccine.



He urged people to avoid rumours and opt for the vaccine as it is based on an Australian model to make the society healthy.

Addressing the Lepcha community, he stated that Sikkim's human history is intertwined with the history of Lepchas.

It has been the prime policy of the government to empower Lepchas not just materially but also intellectually, he said.

He highlighted that the government has been working on a sustainable path towards the protection and advancement of the Lepcha community.

Declaration of Lepchas as a primitive tribe by the State Government for giving special protection was a tough decision but it was the iron will of his govern-

turn to pg02

## Manipur forming policy to take action bandh sponsors

**IMPHAL, AUG 8 (PTI):**

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh today said the government was in the process of forming a policy to take legal action against those who call and observe general strikes and bandhs in the state.

The government was consulting legal experts to formulate such a provision as general strikes and bandhs affect normal life and business, Singh said at the first Manipur Start Up Conclave here.

"Everyone has the right to protest, but doing so by affecting the lives of general people

turn to pg02

## Court will decide if Golay can contest elections, not SDF: HSP

**HSP TO PETITION GOVERNOR AND DGP WITH REGARD TO RUMOURS OF VIOLENCE**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

Hamro Sikkim Party's spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari, and vice president, Bhaichung Bhutia, today addressed a press conference at the party head-office in Deorali, Gangtok.

Mr Adhikari informed that HSP will be submitting a memorandum to Director General of Sikkim Police on 09 Aug with regard to the law and order situation in the State.

"We are distressed at



the rumours circulating among the general public concerning the peace and law and order situation in Sikkim. These rumours have created a sense of fear among the population and the HSP has reasons to believe that these rumours may be true and that the ruling party, as usual, is hell bent upon resorting to violence as a political tool," Mr Adhikari contended.

In their memoran-

dum, the HSP has requested Sikkim Police to consider making immediate plans to ensure that peace in Sikkim is maintained at all costs. Further, the police should also demonstrate that they are a professional force guided by laws of this country and thus avoid pressure of the ruling dispensation in Sikkim.

The party has also

turn to pg02



## USFC enter semis after beating Sikkim Police in extra time

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

United Sikkim Football Club has entered the semi-final round of the Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In the first nail-biting quarter-final match today, United Sikkim FC edged past Sikkim Police 2-1 to secure a berth in the semi-final round.

Both the teams played neck-to-neck throughout the match. Players of both the teams put constant pressure on each other from the start with attacks and counter-attacks but missed the net many times.

Finally, Kilp Barfungpa found the net to score the lead for United Sikkim in the 30th minute.



Sikkim Police launched

continuous attacks from the early minutes of the

second half to bounce back into the match.

Ongchuk Namgyal Sherpa turned the cross of his teammate into the equaliser for Sikkim Police in the 66th minute. Both the teams played aggressively to take the lead in the match but could not score further and the full time of match ended in 1-1 draw.

The match further extended for 30 minutes extra time.

Early in extra time, substitute Karan Rai extended the lead for the United Sikkim FC in the 96th minute earning them the 2-1 victory over Sikkim Police.

On 09 Aug, the second quarter-final match will be played between the State Sports Academy and ASC, Bangalore.

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## Dalai Lama calls for shunning Shia-Sunni conflicts

**PANAJI, AUG 8 (PTI):** Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama today appealed to Muslims in India to make efforts to reduce Shia-Sunni conflicts that are prevalent in some other countries and asserted that Islam is a religion of peace.

He lamented the bloodshed over denominational differences, which he said should be avoided as Islam teaches compassion and harmony.

Addressing an event at the Goa Institute of Management, the 14th

turn to pg03

## Manipur forming policy to take action bandh sponsors

contd from pg01

is undemocratic and unacceptable," Singh said hitting out at those who frequently call general strikes and bandhs.

Various organisations have called a two-day bandh in Manipur last month demanding removal of Manipur University Vice Chancellor Adya Prasad Pandey. Another bandh against the Naga deal also affected life on August 1.

Stating that the Supreme Court has declared bandhs as unconstitutional, he said at least one lakh daily wage earners were affected by bandhs.

Various national and international firms that sought to invest in the state emphasises on safety, he said.

Singh said uploading pictures and videos of tyres being burnt on road and vehicles being stopped during bandhs on social media create an image where business transaction cannot be processed smoothly.

The state government would provide financial assistance amounting to Rs 150 crore in the next five years to nurture entrepreneurs in the state, the chief minister said at the Start Up conclave.

# SILTAC's public outreach programme concludes in Daramdin

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

The eight-day public outreach programme of Sikkim Limboo Tamang Apex Committee [SILTAC] which had commenced from Yuksum-Tashiding Constituency in West Sikkim concluded today here at the auditorium of Daramdin Senior Secondary School, a press release informs.

Area MLA, DN Sherpa, attended the event as chief guest in the presence of Zilla Adhakshya [West], Devika Subba, SILTAC president, CB Subba, senior advisor, Kalawati Subba, publicity secretary, Kabita Subba, and other members of the committee.

Publicity secretary, Ms Subba, in her address, informed that the public outreach campaign had been organized to spread awareness on Limboo Tamang Assembly seat reservation issue among the LT communities and



also to place forward the report of SILTAC regarding progress made so far to sort out long pending demands of LT seat reservation.

Terming SILTAC as an apolitical body formed to work for upliftment of LT communities, Ms Subba mentioned that the committee has been working consistently to address the issue of LT seat res-

ervation in tandem with the State Government.

"The State Government has done everything in its capacity and now the Assembly seat reservation for the LT seat is in the hands of the Central Government. Seat reservation will happen once the delimitation of seats in the State is processed. Negative forces are claiming that seat de-

limitation is not possible in the State until 2026. They are unaware that as per the special provision guaranteed by 371F of the Indian Constitution, delimitation of Assembly seats in the State is possible. Such claims based on falsehood should not be believed," said Ms Subba.

Claiming that Assembly seat reservation is a constitutional right of

the LT communities, she mentioned that seats for the two communities will be reserved in due time and added that SILTAC has approached the Central Government recently and has received positive response on the issue.

Stressing that Assembly seat reservation issue is not a matter that can be sorted out in three days as claimed by an opposition party of the State, Ms Subba appealed to the LT communities to have patience.

General secretary, Sukraj Limboo, while highlighting the reasons for the delay in LT seat reservation issue, said the process was delayed for 10 years due to a case filed in the Supreme Court by former State BJP president, Harey Ram Pradhan.

"The process in regard to seat reservation was delayed as the case was subjudice in the apex court and only after 2016

the process was restarted after dismissal of the case. Our aim is to bring the LT communities to work together in legal and non violent way in order to seek amicable solution got the LT seat issue," Mr Limboo added.

He further reiterated that LT seat reservation issue will be solved before 2019 election.

"People should not fall prey to politics of intimidation carried out by the opposition parties on the LT seat reservation issue," stressed Mr Limboo.

President of SILTAC, CB Subba, informed that the committee has submitted a memorandum to the Central Government and that the committee is optimistic. He shared that the members of the committee had also met leaders and officials of the Central Government on the same.

"We have received positive response from

the central leadership and we are hopeful that seat reservation process will be accelerated by the Central Government and the issue will get sorted out very soon," said Mr Subba.

He expressed that SILTAC supports the delimitation of seats from existing 32 to 40 seats formula proposed by the State Government to the Central Government. He added that out of 40 seats, 05 seats should be reserved for the LT communities of the State.

"It is due to the efforts of Sikkim Democratic Front led State Government that LT communities have been recognized as Scheduled Tribes. The communities should have faith in the State Government. The State Government has been placing the LT seat reservation demand to the Central Government consistently," stated Mr Subba.

## Start Up programme has Rs 100 cr budget not Rs 79 cr: SDF

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

The to and fro of allegations between Sikkim Democratic Front and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha continues with SDF today condemning SKM's most recent allegations as baseless. SKM had criticized the ruling party for not working for the youth of the State.

In a press release, SDF has said that SKM is only trying to instigate youth against the government. The party has detailed the various programmes aimed at youth of the state.

For the 'Start Up' Programme, Rs 100 crore has been allocated and not Rs 79 crore as claimed by SKM, the release clarifies.

On another allegation of the government ignoring the sports sector, SDF has said that the gov-

ernment has been providing encouragement and support to youth in the field of sports, music, art, drama and dance, theatre, literature and in other fields.

The release adds that the government has started the construction of the best library of the country, 'Gyan Mandir' at Gangtok for the youth. The state government has continuously been making playgrounds and community centres in villages, the party has said.

SDF has stated that the government has also made arrangements to provide annual grant of Rs 10 lakh to first division sports club and Rs 5 lakh to second division clubs of the State. The government has also decided to provide grants of Rs 5 lakh to first level organisation and Rs 3 lakh to second level

organisations in literature, culture, music, art, play and dance.

The State government has started these initiatives to provide encouragement and support to the youth, the release adds.

On the misuse of Paljor Stadium, SDF has said that the concerned department has been always actively working for the better use and maintenance of the stadium.

The release highlights initiatives like the CM Self Employment Scheme, no interest loans, scholarships, livelihood schools, capacity building and support in higher education.

SKM has no pro-youth policies to offer which is why it is making such baseless allegations, the party has alleged.



## IPR Minister attends I-Day football tourney at Yuksom

**GYALSHING, 08 AUG [IPR]:** Minister for IPR & Health Departments, AK Ghatani, attended the ongoing 72nd Independence Day Football Tournament being organized at Yuksom Senior Secondary School ground in West Sikkim today as chief guest. Mr Ghatani congratulated

Principal of Yuksom SSS, the school faculty and students for the organizing the I-Day celebration. He also assured the Panchayats that he will keep visiting the place to ensure that the public of Yuksom are receiving proper health benefits.

## Court will decide if Golay can contest elections, not SDF: HSP

contd from pg01

requested the police force to treat all opposition activities, as it would of the ruling party, in the days ahead.

Mr Adhikari informed that a copy of the memorandum will also be submitted to Governor as well.

Vice president, Mr Bhutia, will be taking the memorandum to be submitted to the Union Home Affairs Minister, he added.

"There should be no separate laws for the ruling party and the opposition parties. Yesterday, Sikkim Democratic Front took out an umbrella rally in Gangtok and their workers were allowed to walk in the middle of the road disturbing traffic and causing traffic-jams for more than three hours. However, the opposition party

supporters are always forced to walk on the footpath when they hold rallies. Law should treat all in an equal manner but it seems that there's separate law for SDF's rallies and a different law for the opposition parties," said Mr Adhikari.

Addressing the press, HSP vice president, Mr Bhutia, said, "Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's party president, PS Tamang [Golay], is being released from jail on 10 Aug. It is learnt that the administration will be imposing Section 144 CrPC on that day which is unfair for Mr Tamang and SKM workers. This should not take place as it will be a dictatorial decision. SDF cannot decide whether Mr Tamang can contest the elections or not. That is for the courts to decide."

## Legislation to impose stringent punishment...

contd from pg01

ment that took such a decision in order to help them live with pride and lead the State in the future, he added.

Primitive Tribe Board that was formed by the government is also for the youth to be constructive, creative, innovative, competitive, empowered and capable, highlighted the CM.

He further appealed to Lepcha youth to avail all facilities provided by the government in education as those who use such benefits avail rich dividends.

Regarding the delay in the Stairway to Heaven project at Daramdin in West Sikkim, the CM said that technical planning is very difficult in such projects which will be the first of its kind. He asked all to cooperate positively and work together for completion of the project.

Citing the example of 83-crore

Mantam Bridge which will include bungee jumping, he said that he wants to bring opportunities to the Lepcha reserve of Dzongu and promote it as an indigenous world. He also informed that the Government is building a bridge over the river Rongyang which will connect Sakyong and Pentong.

The CM also stated that since there is high inflow of tourists [around 20 lakhs per year], the urban infrastructure is under increasing stress hence there is a need for more promotion of rural tourism and a need for villages to adapt to tourism and related professions like home stays to reap rich dividends. He said that sustainable tourism is the need of the hour.

He stated that inclusive politics and upliftment of all sections of Sikkimese society to the mainstream has been the hallmark of his government and he termed Sikkim as "an oasis of peace" amidst

all the turmoil in the neighbourhood.

Citing the example of indigenous tribes in the US where reservation and facilities to them has meant more backwardness for the tribes, he said that too much of such a system can be harmful.

He further added that people have nowadays become counter-productive and urged all to be constructive in approach including criticism.

The CM requested citizens to avoid communalism and people with negative approach, and concentrate on taking ownership of the State for all round sustainable development of Sikkim.

Organising committee of the Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebrations, Ugen Bhutia, Dawcho Lepcha and Lobsang Chopel Lepcha, thanked the CM on behalf of all the members of the community for all round progress of Lepchas.

## Team of experts to assess site in Nagaland for airport project

**KOHIMA, AUG 8 (PTI):** An eight-member team of aviation experts has arrived in Nagaland to conduct a feasibility study for a greenfield airport at Ciethu, around 20 km from here, official sources said.

The team, comprising members of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), will be submitting their report to the Centre in the next 10 days, they said.

In 2006, too, a central government team had carried out a field assessment for the ambitious project.

Talking to mediapersons before heading for the survey, S D Tiwari, the joint general manager of AAI, said the team that arrived in the state yesterday will be carrying out a fresh survey at the airport



site as the earlier report has been "nullified".

Tiwari, who left for Ciethu this morning along with Nagaland Civil Aviation Minister Paiwang Konyak, also said that the state has submitted its own assessment to the team.

"The state government's survey by its own team has relevant information. We will submit both the reports to the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation for consideration," he added.

Paiwang said the Nagaland

aged, ASDMA said.

ASDMA said authorities are running 109 relief camps and distribution centres in the two districts, where 19,636 people are taking shelter

at present.

Currently, Brahmaputra at Nimatighat in Jorhat and Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat are flowing above the danger marks, it added.

*Gangtok on  
Thursday,  
09 Aug*

**Temp:** 26°C/17°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly  
cloudy, a thun-  
dershower.  
**Sunrise:** 05:03 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:19 PM

## SDF pays rich tribute to memory of Karunanidhi

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

Sikkim Democratic Front today paid rich tribute to the memory of DMK president and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M Karunanidhi, who passed away on Tuesday evening. The party has further conveyed its deep condolences to the bereaved family.

SDF Spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, in a press release issued today, highlights that the 94-year-old M Karunanidhi, who was affectionately called 'Kalaigarnar' by his supporters, was an 'Itihaas Purus' of Indian politics. SDF has also remembered him as an able leader not only of Tamil Nadu but of national politics as well.

## JNU scholar does not shake hands with VC at convocation in protest

**NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI):** A JNU student today did not shake hands with Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar at the convocation ceremony in protest against, what he termed as, his "role in negating the idea of the varsity being an inclusive campus".

Anoop Patel, who did a comparative study on India's Reservation Policy and South Africa's Affirmative Action for his doctorate, attended the convocation ceremony but when Kumar acknowledged him and wanted to shake hands, he did not reciprocate.

"The way the image of JNU has gone down, the VC has a huge role to play in it. The decisions, policies which are enacted by the Vice-Chancellor are against the inclusive, democratic, progressive and secular credentials of our JNU," he later claimed.

Patel also claimed that when he refused to shake hands with the VC, JNU Chancellor VK Saraswat, who was the chief guest at the convocation, asked him, "I hope you will shake hands with me."

"I told Saraswat sir, 'I will definitely shake hands with you,'" he said.

JNU had hosted its second convocation today, 46 years after the first.

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# Khangchendzonga biosphere reserve added to UNESCO list

**NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI):** The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, one of the highest ecosystems in the world, has been added to UNESCO's list of World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR).

The Khangchendzonga reserve will be the 11th internationally designated WNBR.

The reserve includes a range of ecoclines varying from subtropical to arctic, as well as vast natural forests in different biomes that support an immensely rich diversity of forest types and habitats resulting in high species diversity and endemism.

"International coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, UNESCO, in its 30th session (23-27 July, 2018) at Palembang, Indonesia, designated Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserve," a document uploaded on the Environment Ministry's website said.

Khangchendzonga joins the list of other biospheres such as Nandadevi, Simlipal



Biosphere reserve, Nilgiri and others. The document said India

has 18 biosphere reserves and now, with the inclusion of Khangchendzonga, the

number of internationally designated WNBR has become 11 with seven BRs

as domestic designated biosphere reserves. AK Mehta, Additional Sec-

retary, Environment Ministry, said that out of 18 biosphere reserves, 11 have been internationally designated WNBR. "Seven are left and we will try for their inclusion as well," he told PTI.

The ministry document said that the core area is a major transboundary Wildlife Protected Area.

The southern and central landscape which makes up 86 per cent of the core area is situated in the Greater Himalayas, while the northern part of the area which accounts for 14 per cent is characterized by trans-Himalayan features.

Buffer zones are being developed to promote e-Plantation and soil conservation works are also being carried out.

Over 118 species of medicinal plants found in the Dzongu Valley are of ethno-medicinal utility.

The core zone - Khangchendzonga National Park - was designated a World Heritage in 2016 under the "mixed" category, the document said.

## Rangpo I-Day Open Football Tourney



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

In the second quarter final match of the 72nd Independence Day Open Football Tournament organised by Rang-

po Independence Day Celebration Committee at Rangpo Bazaar playground, ASC Bangalore won against Truck Drivers' Association, Rangpo 1-0. Deepak Singh of

AFC Bangalore was adjudged man of the match. Biswadeep Club Rangpo will play against Sikkim Police in the third quarter final match on 09 Aug, a press release informs.

## Facebook data breach: CBI initiates preliminary enquiry against Cambridge Analytica, GSR

**NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI):** The CBI has initiated a preliminary enquiry against Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research for alleged illegal personal data harvesting of Indians from Facebook, officials said today.

It is alleged that Cambridge Analytica received data from Global Science Research which employed "illegal means" of personal data harvesting of Indians using Facebook, they said.

After receiving a reference in this regard from the Centre, the CBI has initiated the pre-

liminary enquiry which is normally a first step to decide whether the allegations deserve a full-blown investigation through an FIR or not, they said.

Data mining and analysis firm Cambridge Analytica earlier faced allegations that it used personal information harvested from 87 million Facebook accounts to help Donald Trump win the 2016 US presidential election.

Union Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had told Rajya Sabha last month that the probe will be handed

over to the CBI.

He had said there were also reports that user data was "illegally accessed by hardware manufacturers who had tie-ups with Facebook. In regard to this issue, Facebook has reported that they are not aware of any misuse of information, including Indian users' information".

Facebook has over 20 crore users in India. The Mark Zuckerberg-owned company had said that the data of about 87 million people -- mostly in the US -- might have been improperly shared with Cambridge Analytica.

## Dalai Lama calls for shunning Shia...

*contd from pg02*

Dalai Lama stressed the need for international brotherhood and harmony.

"We are part of the world of seven billion human beings. Sometimes, I suggested that the Indian community in America, England and different European countries should invite some Europeans during Diwali and New Year, and talk about 'ahimsa' (non-violence) which is the basis of religious tolerance," he said.

Sunni and Shia are two major denominations of Islam. They chose sides after death of Islamic prophet Muhammad in AD 632.

"Muslims across the globe follow the same Quran and also pray five times a day. However, there are killing each other owing to differences between the sects like Shia and Sunni," he said.

The Dalai Lama said, "I was in Ladakh. I suggested to Ladakhi Muslims that Indian Muslims should make some efforts to reduce the conflict between

Shias and Sunnis".

He told the audience that a national conference of Muslims would be organised in the coming months, which will be followed by a similar convention at the international level.

He said the modern India has remained by and large peaceful due to over 1000-year-old history of religious harmony.

"The modern and independent India is peaceful despite being a hugely populated and democratic nation," the 83-year-old spiritual leader said.

He appealed to educationists to combine the modern education with ancient knowledge and introduce the same in educational curriculum, first within the country and then at the international level.

"We should show that if problems happen we can solve them through a dialogue. It is more important to have inner disarmament through knowledge," he added.



## I-Day men's volleyball tournament kicks off at Adampool

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 08 AUG:**

In the inaugural match of the 72nd Independence Day Open Men's Volleyball Tournament held at Adampool Junior

High School in East Sikkim today, Rautey Rumtek defeated Zero Mile, Ranipool.

The next match to be played on 09 Aug will have Rey Khola play against Ex-

tingable, 6th Mile.

The 72nd Independence Day celebration at Adampool is being initiated by Headmistress, Adampool JHS, Nirupa Rai, with the support of

school teachers, School Management Committee members and the general public of Adampool.

On Thursday, Expendibles 6th Mile will take on Ray Khola.

## Ex-Assam CM Mahanta wants NRC in West Bengal

**NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI):** Amid the ongoing row over the National Register of Citizens (NRC), former Assam chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta today urged the government to prepare a similar list for the residents of West Bengal to identify genuine Indians, saying the state was also "affected by illegal immigration" from Bangladesh.

He also said the ongoing update of the NRC in Assam should be fool-proof and no Indians should be left out and no illegal immigrants included in the final list of Assam's residents.

"We want the NRC in all states. First, we want

an NRC in West Bengal which is also affected by illegal immigration from Bangladesh as language and culture of West Bengal and Bangladesh are same," he told a press conference here.

Mahanta, a signatory of the 1985 Assam Accord which provides for identification and deportation of illegal immigrants from the state, said even the local residents of West Bengal are in favour of an NRC in the state.

"An NRC is an urgent necessity for West Bengal. The central government should appoint a good nodal officer of the NRC in West Bengal and start the exercise," he said.

Mahanta's comments came days after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the NRC exercise in Assam was done with a "political motive" to divide people and it would lead to "bloodbath" and a "civil war" in the country.

The NRC, a massive Supreme Court-monitored exercise to identify genuine Indians living in Assam excluded over 40 lakh people from the draft list published on July 30, creating a huge political controversy.

Mahanta, whose party AGP is part of the ruling alliance in Assam, also opposed the move to amend the six-decade-old Citizenship Act, seeking to grant citizenship to people from minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"We appeal to the central government not to bring the citizenship amendment bill as it would negate the Assam Accord and allow citizenship to illegal immigrants," he said.


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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Proper Rules for Temp Appointments

*Such clarity would have avoided a lot of heartburn*

It was almost exactly a decade ago, in July 2008, that the State Government lifted the 'ban' it had imposed on itself on the appointment of personnel on ad hoc basis.

The ban, one must bear in mind, was not imposed because the State did not need ad hoc personnel any more. If that had been the case, it would have just stopped hiring more people on ad hoc or contract basis, not imposed a ban on it. An official ban was required for two reasons – unplanned hiring and rampant favouritism.

Ineffective manpower planning had straddled the State exchequer with too many personnel with unclear job specifications. And then there was growing resentment among the "left-out" for what they saw as rigged appointment processes where "contacts and recommendations" mattered more than requirement or employability while making ad hoc/ MR/ work-charge and then the consolidated pay appointments. Obviously, all efforts to make the departments observe fair-play had failed and a 'ban' was the only option left. But that was never the solution, and hence the lifting of the ban a decade ago.

Governments frequently require time-bound services of professionals for project-specific responsibilities and with the ever increasing roles that the government is undertaking, a ban on sourcing professionals for specific projects was a serious hindrance to deliverability. But that definition of temporary appointments is turned ever so often on its head with the regularization of such services like is being worked at present. Those hired on ad hoc when the ban was lifted in 2008 were always vying [along with thousands hired before them] for regularization. And the government conceded eventually and service regularization has been underway for some years now. The expectation is so normal now that not getting regularized is seen as victimization.

Back in 2008, when the ban was lifted and talk of service regularisation en-bloc started making the rounds, one had hoped that the temp employees had been hired because they were good and the ban not lifted just because the pile of "recommendations" had become too enormous to ignore any more. Since temporary employment has a knack of becoming permanent, it is also time that the State laid down proper guidelines for even temporary appointments so that merit is not compromised and everyone provided a level playing ground.

This is necessary because the experience of such employments has been that they are processed on recommendation and contacts and not necessarily merit or employability. What this means is that those who decide to play by the rules end up getting punished, twice. First, when they avoid making the rounds to curry favour and land a temp employment, and then again when a vacancy/post which should have been open to all qualified unemployed goes to someone whose services are being regularized. Apart from the individual who stands so denied, even the State loses the opportunity to select the best from a pool of hopefuls. At a time when the roster of prospective candidates was short, this was not much of a worry for Sikkim. But that is not the case anymore. An increasing number of youth do not only have the qualifications and the ambitions, but also the self-respect not to kowtow. As more of them keep getting sidelined, there will be that many more of them of who will be resentful and disappointed. That cannot healthy for Sikkim and is a situation which can be as easily avoided as implementing the rules for temporary employment properly. Give such personnel clear job descriptions and make the conditions of their service clear as well. This is done on paper already, sure, but does anyone take them seriously since they have been sidestepped so often?

**WRITE US:** Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper.

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# When did Aboriginal people first arrive in Australia?

ALAN COOPER, ALAN N WILLIAMS & NIGEL SPOONER  
*theconversation.com*

Many Aboriginal Australians would say with conviction that they have always been here. Their ancestors and traditional learnings tell them of this history, and their precise place within it.

Our review of the scientific evidence, published today in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggests that for all practical purposes, this is indeed the case.

Their ancestors arrived shortly after 50,000 years ago – effectively forever, given that modern human populations only moved out of Africa 50,000-55,000 years ago.

## LONG CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Earlier genetic analysis of historic Aboriginal hair samples confirmed the incredibly long and deep relationships between individual Aboriginal groups and their particular country. The small locks of hair were collected during anthropological expeditions across Australia from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Analysis of maternal genetic lineages revealed that Aboriginal populations moved into Australia around 50,000 years ago. They rapidly swept around the west and east coasts in parallel movements - meeting around the Nullarbor just west of modern-day Adelaide.

Archaeological sites and dates (shown above) closely match the genetic estimates. This indicates a very rapid movement throughout Australia 48,000-50,000 years ago.

## OUT OF AFRICA

It was only a few thousand years earlier that a small population of modern humans moved out of Africa. As they did, they met and briefly hybridised with Neandertals before rapidly spreading around the world.

They became the genetic ancestors of all surviving modern human populations outside of Africa, who are all characterised by a distinctive small subset of Neandertal DNA – around 2.5% – preserved in their genomes.

This distinctive marker is found in Aboriginal populations, indicating they are part of this original diaspora, but one that must have moved to Australia almost immediately after leaving Africa.

## HOW TO GET TO AUSTRALIA 50,000 YEARS AGO

The movement from Africa to Australia culminated in a series of hazard-

ous sea voyages across island south-east Asia.

Recent studies suggest the last voyage, potentially between Timor/ Roti and the northern Kimberley coast, would have involved advanced planning skills, four to seven days paddling on a raft, and a total group of more than 100 to 400 people.

The possibility that earlier waves of modern human populations might have moved out of Africa before 50,000 years has also been raised.

But in our review of these events, we point out that there is no convincing fossil evidence to support this idea beyond the Middle East.

One of the most important claimed potential early sites is in northern Australia, at Madjedbebe, a rock shelter in Arnhem Land. Human presence here was recently declared at more than 65,000 years ago.

This 65,000-year date has rapidly become accepted as the age for colonisation of Australia. It has appeared widely in the media and elsewhere, in political statements and comments by the Prime Minister.

But there is good reason to question a 65,000-year date, and the extent to which this contrasts with the sudden wave of archaeological sites that sweep across Australia shortly after 50,000 years ago.

These sites include Barrow Island and Carpenters Gap in the Kimberley, Devils Lair south of Perth, Willandra Lakes in NSW, and Warraty rockshelter in the Flinders Ranges.

This rapid archaeological manifestation at 50,000 years is a perfect match for the genetic evidence from Aboriginal maternal, paternal, and genomic lineages, and a far better fit with the extinction of Australia's



megafauna around 42,000 years ago.

## AN AGE LIMIT FOR HUMAN MIGRATION

One of the most interesting ways we can date the dispersal of modern humans around the globe, including Australia, is through that original interbreeding event with Neandertals as we left Africa.

About a decade ago, an ancient human leg bone was found on the banks of a Siberian river by an ivory hunter. Radiocarbon-dated at 43,000-45,000 years ago, the entire genome of this individual, named Ust'-Ishim after the site, was sequenced using the latest ancient DNA technology.

The genomic sequence revealed the bone contained the standard 2.5% Neandertal DNA signal carried by all non-Africans. But it was still present in large continuous blocks and had yet not been dispersed into fragments around the genome as we see in more recent ancestors and ourselves.

In fact, the size of the blocks showed that the 43,000-45,000-year-old Ust'-Ishim specimen could only be a maximum of 230-430 generations after that initial Neandertal liaison, dating our movement out of Africa to no more than 50,000-55,000 years ago.

## 50,000 YEARS, OR MORE THAN 65,000 YEARS?

Given the evidence is so strong that the ancestors of modern human populations only started moving around the world 50,000-55,000 years ago, could the human activity at Madjedbebe really be more than 65,000 years old?

One of the major limitations of the Madjedbebe study is that the stone artefacts themselves weren't dated, just the surrounding sand layers.

As a result, over time, even the slightest downward movement of the artefacts within the unconsolidated sand layers at Madjedbebe would make them appear too old.

We identify a range of factors which are common around the site, such as termite burrowing and heavy rainfall, that could cause stone artefacts to sink.

Many archaeological signs suggest activity at Madjedbebe is actually much younger than 65,000 years, and overall, the extent to which the site is an outlier to the rest of the Australian record should raise a red flag.

## CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Either way, Aboriginal Australians have effectively been on their country as long as modern human populations have been outside of Africa.

How does this help us better understand Aboriginal history? By appreciating the enormous depth of time that Aboriginal groups have been on their own particular country, and the extent to which all their history, knowledge, and ancestors form part of that country.

It is this gulf between a European history of constant migration and global dispersal, and the profoundly deep Aboriginal connection to one particular part of the world, that leads to failures to comprehend why being on country is not simply "a lifestyle choice", but a fundamental part of their identity.

[Alan Cooper is Director, Australian Centre for Ancient DNA, University of Adelaide; Alan N Williams is Associate Investigator, ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage, UNSW; Nigel Spooner is Adjunct professor, University of Adelaide]

# Two types of tectonic plate activity create earthquake and tsunami risk on Lombok

JANE CUNNEEN & PHIL R. CUMMINS  
*theconversation.com*

Several large earthquakes have struck the Indonesian island of Lombok in the past week, with the largest quake killing at least 98 people and injuring hundreds more.

Thousands of buildings are damaged and rescue efforts are being hampered by power outages, a lack of phone reception in some areas and limited evacuation options.

The majority of large earthquakes occur on or near Earth's tectonic plate boundaries – and these recent examples are no exception. However, there are some unique conditions around Lombok.

The recent earthquakes have occurred along a specific zone where the Australian tectonic plate is starting to move over the Indonesian island plate – and not slide underneath it, as occurs further to the south of Lombok.

This means there is earthquake and tsunami risk not only along the plate boundary south of Lombok and Bali, but also from this zone of thrusting to the north.

## JAMMED SUBDUCTION ZONE

Tectonic plates are slabs of the Earth's crust that move very slowly over our planet's surface. Indonesia sits along the "Pacific Ring of Fire" where several tectonic plates collide and many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.

Some of these earthquakes are very large, such as the magnitude 9.1 quake off the west coast

of Sumatra that generated the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. This earthquake occurred along the Java-Sumatra subduction zone, where the Australian tectonic plate moves underneath Indonesia's Sunda plate.

But to the east of Java, the subduction zone has become "jammed" by the Australian continental crust, which is much thicker and more buoyant than the oceanic crust that moves beneath Java and Sumatra.

The Australian continental crust can't be pushed under the Sunda plate, so instead it's starting to ride over the top of it. This process is known as back-arc thrusting.

The data from the recent Lombok earthquakes suggest they are associated with this back-arc zone. The zone extends north of islands stretching from eastern Java to the island of Wetar, just north of Timor (as shown in map below).

Historically, large earthquakes have also occurred along this back-arc thrust near Lombok, particularly in the 19th century but also more recently. (Dates and sizes of past earthquakes are shown in the map above).

It is thought that this zone of back-arc thrust-

ing will eventually form a new subduction zone to the north along from eastern Java to the island of Wetar just north of Timor.

## TSUNAMI RISK

Lombok's recent earthquakes – the August 5 6.9 magnitude quake plus a number of aftershocks, and the 6.4 magnitude earthquake just a week before it – occurred in northern Lombok under land, and were quite shallow.

Earthquakes on land can sometimes cause undersea landslides and generate a tsunami wave. But when shallow earthquakes rupture the sea floor, much larger and more dangerous tsunamis can occur.

Due to the large number of shallow earthquakes along the plate boundaries, Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to tsunamis. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami killed more than 165,000 people along the coast of Sumatra, and in 2006 over 600 people were killed by a tsunami impacting the south coast of Java.

The region around Lombok has a history of tsunamis. In 1992 a magnitude 7.9 earthquake occurred just north of the island of Flores and generated a tsunami that swept away coastal villages, killing more than 2,000.

Nineteenth century earthquakes in this region also caused large tsunamis that killed many people.

The areas around Lombok and the islands nearby, including Bali, are at high risk for earthquakes and tsunamis occurring both to the north and the south of the island.

Unfortunately, large earthquakes like the ones this week cannot be predicted, so an understanding of the hazards is vital if we are to be prepared for future events.

[Jane Cunneen is Research Fellow, Curtin University; Phil R. Cummins is Professor, Australian National University]



# Mizoram Government to start Bru repatriation from Aug 14

**AIZAWL, AUG 8 (PTI):** Mizoram government today said it would go ahead with the plan as agreed during talks held in Delhi last month for final repatriation of the Bru families lodged in six relief camps in North Tripura district.

At a meeting here, Home Minister R Lalzirlana informed political parties and civil societies of the state that the repatriation would begin as per schedule on August 14 and was expected to be completed by September 10.

Lalzirlana said the state government recently received instructions from the Election Commission to conduct revision of voters' lists in the relief camps, while its earlier order had asked conducting the revision in Mizoram after completion of the physical repatriation process.

"We have to implement the instructions of the Election Commission of India by conducting the electoral roll revisions in the relief camps," he said.

The civil societies and the political parties, however, were not happy



with the latest instruction of the EC.

"We decided that the Election Commission would be approached again so that the entire electoral process should be conducted within the state," said TA Vanlalruala, president of central committee of the Young Mizo Association, a civil society organisation.

The Centre, state governments of Mizoram and Tripura and the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF), the apex body of the Bru community in the relief camps, have on July 3 signed an agreement for repatriation of all the Bru refugees from Tripura before September 30.

According to the agreement, Rs 4 lakh would be deposited in

the account of the head of each repatriated Bru family, which would mature after three years, and a payment of Rs 1.5 lakh as housing assistance.

Each repatriated Bru family would also be given Rs 5,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer every month and free ration for two years.

Altogether 32,876 Brus belonging to 5,407 families are lodged in six relief camps in Tripura.

While 4,199 Bru families would be resettled in 48 villages in Mamit district, 824 and 384 families would be resettled in 10 villages Kolasib and four villages in Lunglei districts respectively, Mizoram Additional Secretary for Home Lalbiakzama had said on Monday.

However, a section of the Bru refugees were not happy with the repatriation process.

The Brus are in Tripura since late 1997 in the wake of a communal tension triggered by the murder of a forest guard inside the Dampa Tiger Reserve on October 21, 1997 by Bru National Liberation Front militants.

The first attempt to repatriate them in 2009 failed and triggered another wave of exodus after the killing of a youth three days before the commencement of the repatriation process.

Though some Bru families had returned to Mizoram during a number of repatriation processes and on their own, many of them refused to leave Tripura.

# Tata Trusts to roll out cancer care programme in Nagaland

**KOHIMA/GUWAHATI, AUG 8 (PTI):** Tata Trusts today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nagaland government to roll out a cancer care programme in collaboration with the public healthcare system of the state, a release from the Tata Trusts said.

The programme will integrate with the existing plans of the state on cancer screening, palliative care and tobacco control with a three-tiered model of treatment delivery.

Besides developing the Naga Hospital Authority in Kohima, the model envisages building capabilities in select district hospitals at Mon, Mokokchung, Phek and Tuensang so that patients do not have to travel more than a few hours for accessing the entire range of cancer care services.

The MoU was signed between Tata Trusts senior advisor Burzis Taraporevala and Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Commissioner and Secretary Himato Zhimomi, the release said.



Speaking on the occasion, Taraporevala said, "Nagaland is among the states that have the highest per capita burden of cancer in India. Through the partnership, we aim to provide the much-needed impetus by making cancer care accessible and affordable, and help in awareness and early diagnosis."

The Tata Trusts and the Nagaland government will establish a joint venture -- Nagaland Cancer Care Foundation -- and the collaboration will build on the public healthcare system to make cancer care accessible and affordable, it said.

"The model is centred on the use of technology

and building capabilities of the existing workforce to facilitate operations in remote areas and patient-centric design principles to provide a good in-hospital experience to patients and care-givers," the release said.

Recently, the Tata Trusts partnered with the Assam government to operationalise the Assam Cancer Care Foundation by laying the foundation stones of 19 upcoming modern cancer care facilities.

The Tata Trusts is currently in talks with state governments such as Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana for establishing similar cancer care network.



# Land border crossing between Mizoram and Myanmar inaugurated

**AIZAWL, AUG 08 (PTI):** The Chief Minister of Myanmar's Chin State Salai Lian Luai and Mizoram Commerce and Industries Minister H Rohluna today jointly inaugurated the land border crossing between the two countries at Zokhawtar, an official statement said.

The two leaders expressed the hope that the agreement on land border crossing by the two neighbouring countries would go a long way in cementing friendship between Myanmar and India.

The two leaders crossed the bridge over Mizoram- Myanmar border river Tiau at the Rih Sector Border Trade point on foot, it said.

# TTAADC initiative for skilling 425 tribal people in 2018-19

**AGARTALA, AUG 8 (PTI):** An autonomous district council for tribals in Tripura has taken the initiative to train 425 tribal people in five districts to create better job opportunities for them, a senior member of the tribal council said.

The All India Society for Electronics and Computer Technologies (AISECT), a skill development service provider, has been given the responsibility of training the people, Chief Executive Member of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), Radhacharan Debbarma said.

The training would be held in Dhalai, Khowai, West Tripura, North Tripura and South Tripura districts.

The exercise will be held in

the trades of rod binding and motor mechanic at the district level as per the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) standards, he said.

The AISECT has been associated with the TTAADC since 2016.

In the last two years of its partnership with the TTAADC, the AISECT has trained 450 and 120 candidates in FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 respectively.

The TTAADC is an autonomous body that aims to devote attention to all aspects of improvement of the tribal people, who constitute one-third of Tripuras 37 lakh population.

The AISECT, which is associated with the TTAADC since 2016, has trained 450 and 120 candi-

dates in FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively.

AISECT Director Siddharth Chaturvedi said, "The 5th Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey (201516) says that Tripura has the highest unemployment rates in the country.

"These are worrying figures and require full attention of the public as well as private organizations."

Initiatives like the ones being taken by TTAADC were a positive step in the direction of solving the crisis, he said.

The AISECT will be responsible for at least 50 per cent students getting placed in wage-based jobs, he said.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT  
SORENG, WEST SIKKIM

Memo No 136/SD/SOR/R&B/2018-19/38

Dated: 04/08/2018

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer (Soreng), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/PWD/Secy. Dated 12.06.2018, for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed.

The works and time schedule are listed as under:-

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	COST OF WORK PUT TO TENDER (IN RS.)	EARNEST MONEY @ 2.5% (IN RS.)	COST F TENDER DOCUMENTS (IN RS.)	COMPLETION TIME
1.	Construction of link road from Chakung Soreng road to Borbotey via Rupsang Km 0.00-1.00	5909784.00	147745.00	5000.00	12 Months.
2.	Construction of link road from Chakung Soreng road to Borbotey via Rupsang Km 1.00-2.00	6028599.00	150715.00	5000.00	12 Months.
3.	Construction of link road from Chakung Soreng road to Borbotey via Rupsang Km 2.00-3.00	5743023.00	143576.00	5000.00	12 Months.

## Time Schedule for SL No. 1-3:

1.	Date of submission of application with bank Receipt For issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form)	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money)	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
3.	Late Date and Time of submission of Tender For SL.No. 1 to 3	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018 (from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm)
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Bid For SL.No. 1 to 3	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018 (At 1.30 pm).

## CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Gram Panchayat Unit and Urban Local bodies Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applicants should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Soreng Sub Division, on production of requisite Bank receipt of the state of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (non-refundable) under the receipt Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form (Roads & Bridges).
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts (TDR) in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Tender form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at SL.No. 3(a & b) along with other relevant documents be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box in the office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Soreng Sub Division, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the general Direction and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other applicable Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No. claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produces by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of the work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, clam of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in the analysis of rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to notice, the original contact shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get then registered with the labour department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
  - Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
  - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period, i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors' bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER  
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT  
SORENG SUB DIVISION  
WEST SIKKIM.

R.O. No. 250/1pr/pub/classi/18-19 dt. 6.8.2018

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# Batsmen the key as India look to reverse fortunes at Lord’s

CHETAN NARULA

**LONDON, Aug 8 (PTI):** The Indian cricket team would expect its floundering batsmen to take more responsibility in pursuit of a series-levelling victory in the second Test against England, starting tomorrow at the Lord’s.

If captain Virat Kohli had got support from his batting colleagues in Birmingham, the scenario would have been completely different. The world number one Test side came close to taking the lead but fell short by 31 runs.

The mood in the Indian dressing room, though, is quite upbeat.

Two days before the game, there was healthy amount of grass on the Lord’s pitch. It is expected that the groundsmen will shave a few bits off before the first ball. But even if they don’t, the general expectation is that the pitch would turn out to be quite dry.

This has also prompted a re-think in the Indian camp as to what bowling strategy they would want to go in with.

Despite India’s overall failed batting effort at Edgbaston, bowling coach Bharat Arun ruled out playing an extra batsman here. He also mentioned that the second spinner could come into contention.



tion.

In that scenario, Umesh Yadav can expect to be left out with Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Hardik Pandya handling the pace duties.

Toss-up for the second spinner’s slot is an interesting one. The last time Ravindra Jadeja played at the Lord’s (in 2014), he took 3-99 in two innings but scored 68 in the second innings that underlined his value with the bat and helped India

put on a match-winning total.

It isn’t easy to overlook Kuldeep Yadav either. There is a strong appreciation for his talent in the Indian camp, and it was once again noticeable in the nets as he bowled to skipper Virat Kohli on Tuesday, beating him with drift and turn on more than a couple of occasions.

He got thumbs-up and smiles of admiration from the star batsman. In dry English conditions, wrist spin is a premium weapon,

particularly against a line-up that hasn’t faced Kuldeep much (barring Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow and Jos Buttler).

Away from bowling attack permutations, Kohli will face a tougher dilemma regarding the batting line-up. The skipper played Shikhar Dhawan ahead of Cheteshwar Pujara at Edgbaston, fitting-in KL Rahul in the eleven appropriately.

Experimentation with the number three spot is nothing new

for this team management.

Back in 2014-15, the Kohli-Ravi Shastri combination first played around with number three, when Rohit Sharma was picked ahead of Pujara for the fourth Test against Australia at Sydney.

That experiment lasted two Tests against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (first Test at Galle), before Sharma was moved down the order with Ajinkya Rahane batting at number three in the next two Tests.

Pujara returned at number three in the home series against South Africa (2015) and status quo was maintained for six Tests, before he was dropped again for the third Test in West Indies (St. Lucia, 2016).

There, much to everyone’s surprise, Kohli himself batted at number three, scoring 3 and 4 in two innings.

The common aspect among these previous changes was Pujara’s poor run of form (in Australia, he had scored 201 runs in three Tests before being dropped) or strike-rate (in the second Test at Jamaica, he scored 46 runs off 223 balls at 28.93 before being dropped).

The question for the team management to answer is if they want Pujara -- someone who has played

county cricket this summer -- back in the playing eleven.

Dhawan only managed 26 and 13, while Rahul scored 4 and 13, yet nothing has really changed since Birmingham.

According to the Indian camp, Edgbaston was a difficult pitch to bat on and this experiment could yet continue. Even so, with 36 different playing XIs in as many Tests under Kohli’s captaincy, the Indian line-up is begging for some consistency.

In comparison, England’s permutations are far simpler. Dawid Malan is dropped and Ben Stokes is unavailable due to his on-going court case for affray. In that light, Joe Root only has to decide if he wants two spinners or not.

Moeen Ali will walk into the side and take up one of those vacant spots. It will also mean a Lord’s debut for 20-year-old Oliver Pope, as three pacers James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Sam Curran should be enough on a dry, spin-friendly wicket.

The greater concern for the hosts is their recent record at the ‘Home of Cricket’.

Going back to India’s last visit here, England have only won three out of their last nine Tests at this hallowed ground.



## Very less time to prepare but hope to do better at Asiad: Sindhu

**HYDERABAD, Aug 8 (PTI):** PV Sindhu believes Indian shuttlers haven’t got enough time to prepare for the Asian Games but expects the team to deliver more than just the one bronze medal claimed in the 2014 edition.

Indian women’s team had won a bronze medal at Incheon four years ago and Sindhu hoped they can change the colour of the medal this time when the multi-sport event gets underway on August 18.

“Definitely, it is going to be very different. Because, we have the team events and also the individuals. Very less time to prepare. But, as a team, last time we got bronze. This time, we would expect a better one,” said Sindhu, who clinched her second silver at the World championships last Sunday. “Also, individuals, I hope that I do well. Taking the World Championship silver, taking it as a confidence, I hope that I move forward and do well.”

# Pogba keen to leave United for Barcelona- reports

**LONDON, Aug 8 (AFP):** France World Cup star Paul Pogba is determined to end his fractious relationship with Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho and move to Barcelona, according to British media reports on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old -- who scored in the 4-2 World Cup final win over Croatia -- has agreed terms with Barcelona for a deal worth ?89.5 million ( 115 million, 100 million euros) over five years, according to the Daily Mail.

The reported agreement would see him pick up ?346,000 a week, almost double what he earns at United.

The Sun claims the former Juventus star -- who joined United for a then world-record fee of ?89 million in 2016 -- has demanded the Premier League side increase his wages from ?180,000 to ?380,000 a week so he is paid almost on a par with Chilean star Alexis Sanchez, otherwise he will leave.

United, though, would be most reluctant to sell him, with the Daily Mail reporting they have already rejected a bid by Barcelona of ?44.5 million plus Colombian central defender Yerry Mina and Portuguese midfielder Andre Gomes.

Mourinho has expressed his frustration over the club’s transfer policy, and Pogba’s departure would leave little time for executive chairman Ed Woodward to find a suitable replacement with the Premier League transfer window due to close on Thursday.



day.

The club has had to deny the claim that Pogba sent a text message to Woodward demanding he be allowed to leave.

The Frenchman is keen to move to Barcelona -- the Spanish transfer window does not shut till the end of the month -- to play with Argentina superstar Lionel Messi, while his close friend and former Juventus team-mate Arturo Vidal also recently moved to the Catalan giants.

- ‘Pogba needs to play his part’ -

Essentially, though, Pogba’s unhappiness stems from the deterioration in his relationship with Mourinho, who not only does he blame for his muted performances for United since his move but also for his qualified praise of his performances

for France at the World Cup.

“Paul was like the (France) team. He started average and ended top,” Mourinho told beIN Sports on United’s unhappy tour of the United States last week.

Pogba, though, is believed to have been more upset by what followed in the interview as Mourinho implied being in an enclosed environment over six weeks ensured he focused just on football and not on outside matters such as commercial contracts.

Pogba’s super agent Mino Raiola -- who was also instrumental in bringing Romelu Lukaku to United last summer -- has remained out of the fray, refusing to comment on links with Barcelona.

“I will never make declarations about Paul,” said the Dutch-Italian agent, who is re-

ported to have earned just over ?40 million when Pogba moved to United.

“You have to speak to Manchester United,” added Raiola. Former United star Rio Ferdinand told Wednesday’s edition of the Daily Mail that Mourinho needed to fit the team around Pogba’s sublime talent, but accepted the player needed to adapt too.

“It’s down to the manager to get the best out of him, setting the team up and setting Pogba up in the right way to achieve the best,” said the former England central defender.

“But Pogba needs to play his part in that.

“It’s a case of the player and manager getting an understanding for each other and getting the best out of the player.



## Sprint king Bolt gets new football chance at Aussie club

**SYDNEY, Aug 8 (AFP):** Eight-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt will join the A-League’s Central Coast Mariners for an “indefinite” training period as he works to realise his dream to become a professional footballer.

The 31-year-old, who retired from athletics last year, is an avid Manchester United fan who has long wanted to play top-flight football.

He has already tried out with teams in Germany, Norway and South Africa, to no avail.

Undeterred, the Mariners have agreed to see what he has to offer and the sprint legend is set to arrive at their training ground in Gosford, 75 kilometres (47 miles) north of Sydney, later this month.

“The agreement between the Central Coast Mariners and Usain Bolt does not guarantee a

professional playing contract,” the club said on their website late Tuesday.

“But (it) does provide the eight-time Olympic gold medalist with an opportunity to achieve his burning desire to play football professionally,” Bolt was thrilled to be given another chance to showcase his abilities ahead of the A-League season starting in October.

“I am very excited about coming to Australia and would like to thank the owner and management of the Central Coast Mariners for giving me this opportunity,” said the Jamaican.

“It has been my dream to play professional football and I know that it will involve a lot of hard work and training to get to the level required to play and make an impact in the A-League.

# Kohli is already close to being a legend: Dhoni

**MUMBAI, Aug 7 (PTI):** At the helm during Virat Kohli’s transition from a gifted youngster to a seasoned master, Mahendra Singh Dhoni today said the current India skipper is close to being a legend for all the brilliance he has shown in the last few years.

“He (Kohli) is the best, and has already reached a status, where he is close to (being) a legend. So I am very happy for him. And the way he has batted everywhere and in the last few years, he has just been brilliant,” Dhoni, who is the brand ambassador and mentor of an app ‘Run Adam’, said at the launch.

The former skipper complimented his one-time deputy for his batting exploits. Kohli played all his cricket under Dhoni’s captaincy and blossomed from a talented teenager into a world beater.

His 149 against England in the first Test was the final frontier that the current India captain captured. Dhoni is happy that Kohli is taking the team forward.

“He keeps taking the team forward and



that is what you want from a leader. So all the best to him,” Dhoni said.

The dashing keeper-batsman also cleared the air about his international future making it clear that he is going nowhere till the 2019 World Cup in England.

There were rumours about his retire-

ment when TV cameras spotted him asking for the match ball after final ODI that India lost to England last month but today Dhoni revealed that he was merely doing his homework for next year’s mega event.

“(I took the ball) to see why we are not able to get enough reverse swing. Because

we will be playing the World Cup in England, we have to (ensure) that we get reverse swing going. Because it is something that is very important. If the opposition is getting it, we should also get it, at some point or the other,” Dhoni elaborated.

“After 50 overs, the ball is useless to the ICC (International Cricket Council), so I requested the umpire ‘Can I get the ball and gave it to the bowling coach?’”

“We need to work on it as to how we can get it more scuffed up so that we can get a bit of reverse swing going, that will in-turn help the fast bowlers get those yorkers or wickets in and around the 40th over mark. That would really help us restrict the opposition by not getting too many runs in the last 10 overs.”

Asked how India can win the Test series, having lost the opener in Birmingham by 31 runs, Dhoni’s take was simple.

“I will just tell you one thing -- to win a Test match, you need 20 wickets and we (India) did that. So that’s the only answer I would give because it doesn’t matter how

well you bat, how well you are there for five days but (by) taking 20 wickets, you can win a Test match,” he said.

Dhoni also shed light on the calming effect the presence of his daughter Ziva, who has was a regular feature at the IPL matches he played his season.

“Irrespective of whether I like it or not she (Ziva) gets a lot of attention and the thing is wherever I go people ask about her. It’s good to have somebody like her around, which is, who is a live-wire,” he said.

“It feels good to have somebody around who can ease on the stress, it’s good to have her. She is hardly three and half years and she has her own character, she talks in a particular way and it’s good to have a daughter always around,” he added.

Meanwhile, Dhoni picked up 25 per cent stake in his personal capacity in the tech company and will play a significant role as mentor and brand ambassador of ‘Run Adam’.

## IMF asks India to consider simpler GST rate structure

**WASHINGTON, AUG 8 (PTI):** The IMF today described the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a "milestone reform" in India's tax policy, but pushed for a simplified structure, saying the multiple rate structure and other features could give rise to high compliance and administrative costs.

In its annual country report, the International Monetary Fund also said that a dual rate structure with a low standard rate and an additional higher rate on select items can be progressive and preserve revenue neutrality.

The GST is an indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services in India. It came into effect on July 1, 2017.

The IMF said that GST is a

milestone reform in India's tax policy, taking the important step of unifying and harmonising numerous indirect taxes across all states of the federation and the central government.

"Yet, the GST has a complex structure with a relatively high number of rates (and exemptions), which could be simplified without sacrificing progressivity of the current GST and with potentially significant gains from lower compliance and administrative costs," it said.

A dual rate structure with a low standard rate and an additional higher rate on select items can be progressive and preserve revenue neutrality, while streamlining exemptions would further contribute

to progressivity and reduce compliance and administrative costs, the IMF recommended.

The IMF said that with the consumption basket of the rich taxed at higher rates than that of the poor, the GST as presently designed has an effective tax rate rising with household consumption. A revenue-neutral reduction in the number of rates would raise the effective rates for poorer households while reducing those for richer households. This is the key cost of moving to a simpler system, it argued.

In its report the IMF said the implementation of the GST led to the key step of harmonising indirect tax rates on goods and services that previously differed across different states

and the centre, and brought services into the state tax net.

However, India belongs in a small group of five countries having four or more GST rates: four non zero rates of five per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent, and 28 per cent; special low rates of three per cent on gems and jewelry and 0.25 per cent on rough diamonds; and a GST "cess" levied on demerit goods. In comparison, among 115 countries with VATs, 49 have a single rate, and 28 have two rates, it noted.

"The multiple rate structure and other features of India's GST environment could give rise to high compliance and administrative costs, it said.

The goods and services tax created a unified national mar-

ket for the first time by lowering internal barriers to trade - effectively establishing a free trade agreement for a market of over 1.3 billion people, said Ranil Salgado, IMF mission chief for India.

The tax is also expected to increase the amount of economic activity taking place in the formal sector of the economy - leading to better quality and more reliable jobs, he added.

"As a result, the goods and services tax should improve productivity and boost medium term potential growth, while also creating room for the government to increase much needed social and infrastructure spending," Salgado added.



## US to impose USD 16 billion import tariffs on China

**WASHINGTON, AUG 8 (PTI):** The Trump administration said today it was moving ahead with a stiff 25 per cent tariff on additional USD 16 billion worth of imports from China, intensifying a trade war between the two economic giants.

After coming to power, the Trump administration has initiated steps to address the issue of massive balance of trade with China and to the alleged Chinese theft of intellectual property. This is the second tranche of such tariffs and comes into effect on August 23.

Washington had already imposed tariffs on USD 34 billion on July 6 but held off on a final USD 16 billion in goods as a result of concerns from US companies.

This is part of the US' response to China's "unfair trade practices" related to the forced transfer of American technology and intellectual property, the US Trade Representative (USTR) said.

The Trump administration has accused China of unfair trade practices.

Talks between Washington and Beijing are at an impasse in the ongoing trade spat, with both sides continuing to threaten new tariffs.

Trump directed the

Office of Trade Representative earlier this month to consider imposing a 25% tariff on an additional 200 billion worth of Chinese goods, including fruit and vegetables, handbags, and refrigerators. China has threatened to retaliate on any additional US tariffs tit-for-tat.

In March 2018, the USTR had released the findings of its "exhaustive" Section 301 investigation that found China's acts, policies and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation are "unreasonable and discriminatory and burden US commerce".

The investigation had revealed that China uses joint venture requirements, foreign investment restrictions, and administrative review and licensing processes to require or pressure technology transfer from US companies and it deprives US companies of the ability to set market-based terms in licensing and other technology-related negotiations.

It also found that China directs and unfairly facilitates the systematic investment in, and acquisition of, US companies and assets to generate large-scale technology transfer.

## Indian sailor to return home after 18-months' stranded aboard a ship in UK

**LONDON, AUG 8 (PTI):**

An Indian captain stuck aboard an Indian ship stranded at a UK port for 18 months due to a long-standing legal dispute over unpaid crew wages and port dues is set to return home, a media report said today.

Nikesh Rastogi, 43, is the captain of the offshore supply vessel Malaviya Twenty which has been held at a port in Great Yarmouth, in the East Anglia region of England, since July 2016 after its Indian owners declared bankruptcy.

Most of the original crew has since been repatriated back to India but Rastogi and three other crew members have been stuck aboard for 18 months due to a stalemate with the harbours owners.



The death toll from a shallow 6.9-magnitude earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok has risen above 130, officials said today. "We estimate the death toll of 131 will keep rising," national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

## Another Sikh man assaulted in US within a week

**NEW YORK, AUG 8 (PTI):** A 71-year-old Sikh man was brutally assaulted and spit at by two unidentified men in the US state of California, the second attack on a community member in about a week that has raised concerns over increasing incidents of hate crimes in the country.

Disturbing footage from a surveillance camera shows Sahib Singh Natt walking alone on the side of a road early morning on August 6 in Manteca, California when two men, wearing hoodies, walking from the opposite direction approach him.

Natt stops on seeing the men and the two men are seen talking to him. Singh then walks past them but they continue to follow and talk with him.

After a brief argument, one of the men, who is wearing a black hoodie, suddenly kicks Natt in the stomach and the elderly man falls down on the road, with his turban coming off.

He tries to get up and defend himself but the man again kicks him in the stomach. Natt falls on the road as the man who attacked him comes close to him and appears to touch his face and spit on him. They then walk away as Natt is lying on the road.

A few seconds later the man in the black hoodie runs back and viciously kicks Natt three times near his head as he lay on the street. He then starts leaving again, pauses, turns around, and then spits at Natt. This is the second attack on a Sikh man in about a week in California.

On July 31, 50-year old Surjit Malhi was attacked while putting up campaign signs in support of incumbent Republican Congressman Jeff Denham and other local Republican candidates. While beat-



ing Malhi, the attackers yelled "Go back to your country!" and spray painted the same message, along with hate symbols, on his truck. Local police are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

Sikh advocacy group The Sikh Coalition wrote on their Facebook page that while it does not have any immediate evidence that the attack on Natt was bias-related, the group is quickly investigating the details to learn more. Natt has received serious injuries and a photo of him shows him in a collar brace.

A report in the Manteca Bulletin said Natt has had heart and other health issues. Manteca Police say the incident appears to be a robbery attempt but they are not ruling out the possibility of it being a hate crime.

Co-founder of National Sikh Campaign Rajwant Singh said "we are disturbed and appalled by the recent attacks on Sikh-Americans. The fact that Sahib Singh was assaulted and had his turban ripped off his head should be a peaceful call to action for our community and the many supporters of our campaign Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike. This situation serves as a painful reminder that there is still much work to be done in bringing Americans of all faiths, colours, and communities together."

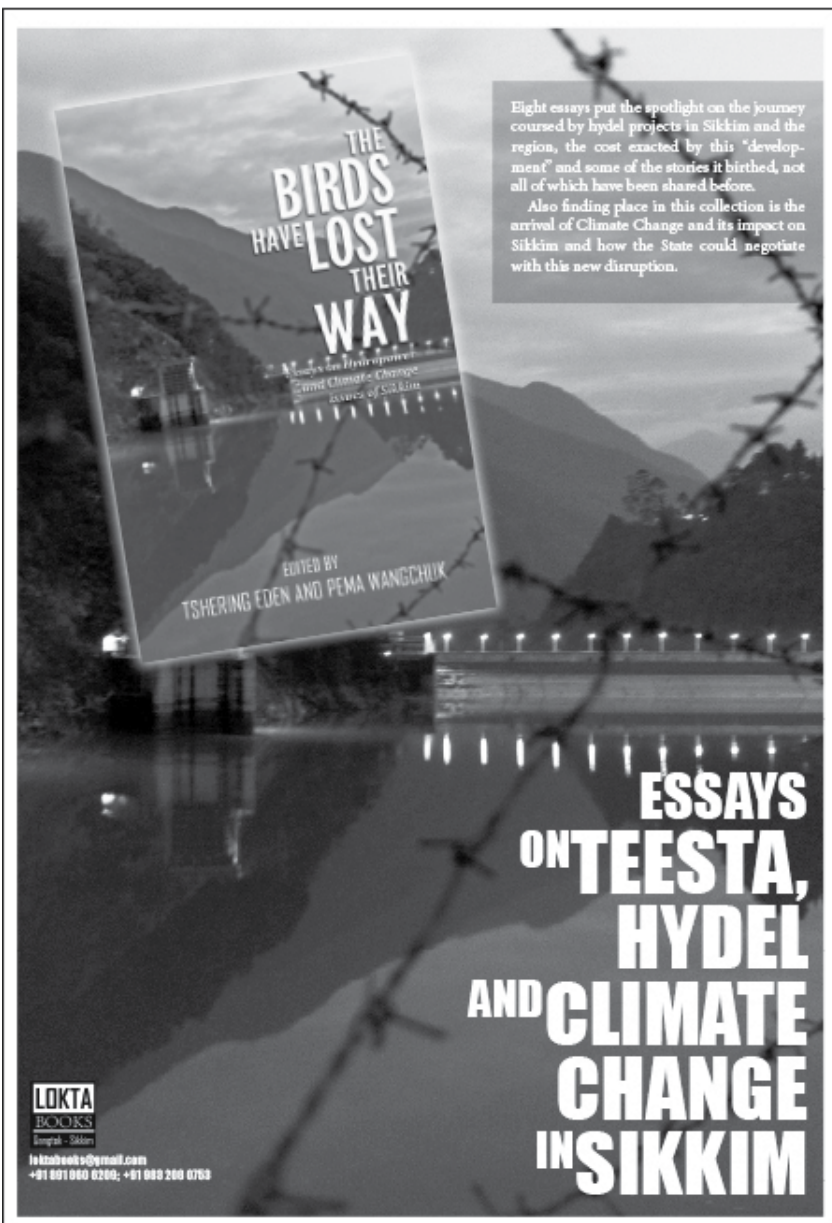
He said America is going

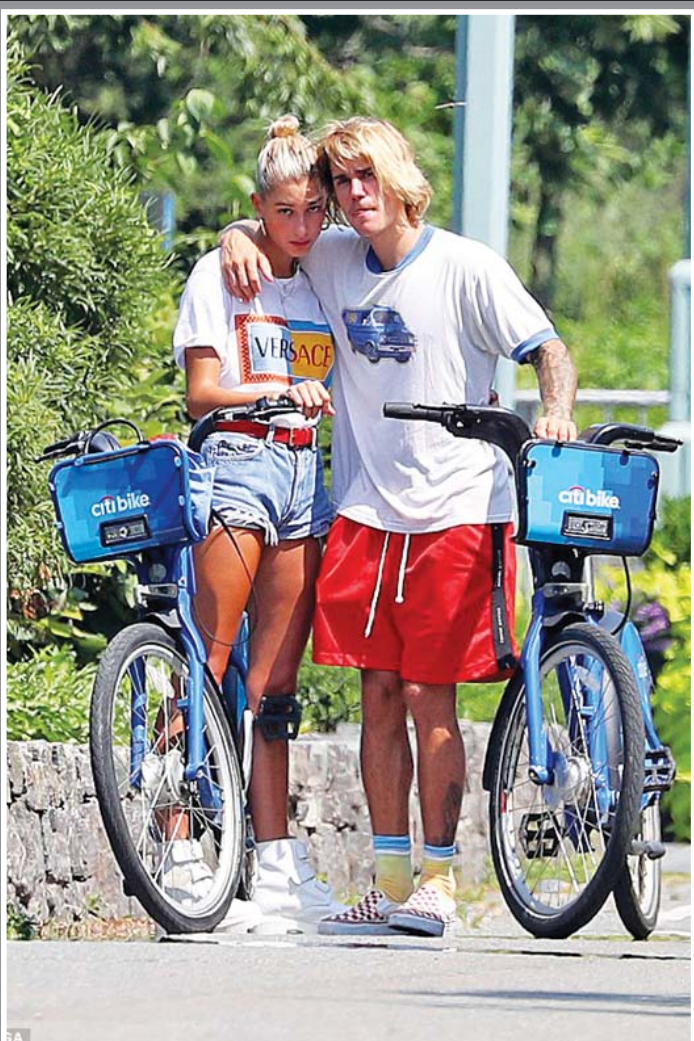
through an "incredible time of polarisation" and hateful rhetoric has been inserted in the public domain. "The Sikh community could be the easy target of the people who are either enraged or misguided. We hope that civic sense prevails in this nation and we continue to make this nation stronger and harmonious," he added.

Executive Director of NSC Gurwin Singh Ahuja said Sikhs wear the turbans to stand up against inequality, injustice and the poor treatment of the oppressed. The organization had launched the National Sikh Campaign & We Are Sikhs last year to spread awareness among Americans about their Sikhs neighbors, what the community stands for and the contributions it makes to the country.

Indian American Impact Project, A non-profit organisation focussed on Indian-American political participation, had condemned the attack on Malhi saying hate violence targeting the Indian American community, and the broader South Asian American community, has surpassed post-9/11 levels.

Earlier this year, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) published a report documenting a 45 per cent increase in hate violence and rhetoric against Indian, Sikh, and South Asian Americans from the year prior.





**TROUBLE IN PARADISE?** Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin comfort each other as they hold back tears on emotional outing in New York.

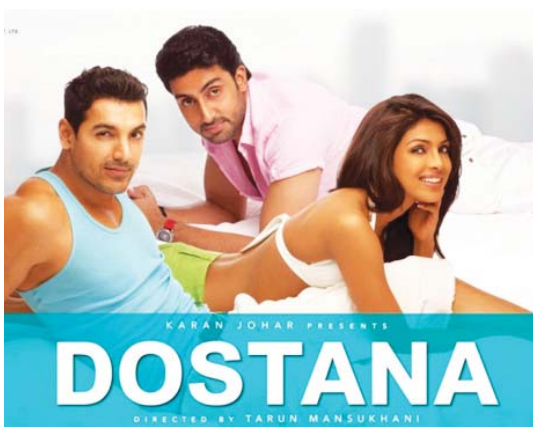
## KARAN JOHAR'S DOSTANA TO RETURN WITH A SEQUEL!

Dostana's sequel will finally exist but it won't be another story on John Abraham and Abhishek Bachchan or Priyanka Chopra for that matter. Instead, Karan Johar is looking for new actors for the leads, if Mumbai Mirror's report is to be believed.

A source told the daily, "The script is currently being developed and should be locked by the end of the month. The film is expected to go on the floors early next year."

Talking about the cast, the source adds, "Karan wants to cast two new actors in the film. There will be a girl to complete the triangle and she will be a Bollywood A-lister but it won't be Priyanka reprising her role."

It's interesting how Karan has apparently decided to get a fresh cast for the sequel. That's because there were many contenders for the sequel. Ranveer Singh wanted to work in the same with his buddy Arjun Kapoor.



During Dishoom, Varun Dhawan was so smitten by his co-star John Abraham that he wanted to bump off Abhishek Bachchan from the sequel and take his place instead. He had told PTI, "If they were still casting for Dostana 2 I think John and I would be a good pair as well. But we have given that moment in Dishoom with that scene so people will have lots to enjoy with it."

Even Shatrughan Sinha wanted to do another Dostana with Amitabh Bachchan but obviously, that wouldn't be anything like what we saw in Tarun Mansukhani's 2008 hit.

Dostana was a story about these two straight guys who are forced to pose as gay to snag a good apartment. The latter is owned by Priyanka Chopra who is against sub-letting it to straight guys. All goes well till both the boys fall for her while she has her sets on her boss played by Bobby Deol.

league is likely to be irritable today, Gemini, which you might find upsetting. Bear in mind that this person's mood probably has little, if anything, to do with you or anything you've said or done. Just stay out of the way until your friend gets over it. This isn't a good day to host or attend social events or even accept invitations. Wait until tomorrow.

**CANCER:** Too many unfinished tasks may have you feeling pressured. Cancer, creating unnecessary stress. Pace yourself and don't panic if you have to let some go for now. You're probably feeling more sensitive than usual, so you might also pick up stress from the people around you. Take periodic breaks and go for a walk. This should clear your head and make things easier for you.

**LEO:** Emotions run high as disagreements turn into quarrels among members of a group you're affiliated with, Leo. Stay out of it. It won't do you any good to get involved. Write your impressions and share them after tempers have cooled. You might want to make one final push toward reaching a personal goal, but forces beyond your control could block you. Try to remain patient.

**VIRGO:** Pressure to get unfinished tasks completed and new ones begun causes emotions to run high, Virgo. Everyone, including you, is likely to feel tired and stressed, and quarrels may erupt. It might be best if you focus on the tasks at hand and ignore the petty squabbles that crop up around you. This will keep your blood pressure down and reassure those you want to impress.

**LIBRA:** If you're involved in a class

or any kind of group activity or social situation, be prepared for quarrels to break out among people there, Libra. You could find this counterproductive and useless. You might be tempted to try to break in and put a stop to it. It's best to stay out of it. Work out your frustration by walking home. You'll feel better.

**SCORPIO:** Frustration could tempt you to release that energy by spending a lot of money, Scorpio. You might overindulge in food or drink or resort to impulse buying. Treat yourself a little, but don't go overboard. You don't want to get an upset stomach, and you won't want to have to take unwanted items back to the store. Get some exercise or throw your passion into creative pursuits.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Frustrated energy resulting from an inability to put

plans into action could have your nerves on edge today, Sagittarius. You might be tempted to get into petty quarrels with those around you. Try to find other outlets for your energy in order to avoid this trap. There's also the danger that you might take impulsive action. Stop and think before you act or your efforts might be wasted.

**CAPRICORN:** Overwork and the resulting stress and nerve strain could result in tension headaches today, Capricorn. It might be a good idea to start the day pacing yourself and concentrating on the most pressing tasks. Don't worry if you have to leave some for later. There's a chance that others around you might get into some rather heated arguments. Stay out of it. This would only make you feel worse.

**AQUARIUS:** You're probably feeling especially energetic but with little if any outlet for your energy, Aquarius. Increased irritability and frustration could tempt you to take it out on friends, children, or your significant other. On days like this you might want to consider jogging, yoga, or aerobics. These can produce endorphins that override the stress. Go for it.

**PISCES:** A conflict between career and home obligations could arise today, Pisces. You may feel powerless, so it could make you feel irritable. Try to think clearly and find a solution for your conundrum, then act on it. Avoid the temptation to quarrel with others. Go for a good workout in the evening. Whether dancing or jogging, just work off some of that frustration.

## ANGELINA JOLIE PULLS OUT OF PETER PAN AND ALICE IN WONDERLAND PREQUEL COME AWAY

Angelina Jolie has reportedly pulled out of upcoming Peter Pan and Alice in Wonderland prequel Come Away at the 11th hour. According to The Sun, the Oscar-winning actress, 43, was due to begin filming in Bucks on Monday morning alongside Lincoln actor David Oyelowo.

However, it was claimed that late on Monday, Angelina called producers to inform them she was pulling out of the project, leaving a question mark over the future of the fantasy prequel.

The brunette beauty is still in the UK, however it is not known whether she will return to the role or whether it will be re-cast.

A source told the website: "Everything was set to get under way this week, it has all been agreed for months. Now nobody is quite sure what is going on. She's an A-list star and a total pro so everybody expected things to begin as planned, but the way she is talking suggests she won't now take the role at all. The top producers are hoping to persuade her to reconsider so they can get things moving, but there are also contingency plans being considered to keep things on track."

Come Away sees Alice and Peter Pan as siblings, with Angelina and David playing their parents. When their brother tragically dies, the pair unite to save their parent from their grief.

The alleged withdrawal from the film project comes after Angelina accused Brad Pitt of failing to support their kids financially amid the couple's long-running divorce.

Attorneys for the actress alleged on Tuesday that the 54-year-old actor hasn't paid "meaningful" child support for 18 months, according to court documents seen by DailyMail.com.

"As of present, [Pitt] has paid no meaningful child support since separation," Jolie's attorney, Samantha Bley Dejean wrote.

The actress-turned-director alleged her third husband has not been meeting his financial obligations and has demanded the court force him to pay up.

"Given the informal arrangements around the payment of the children's expenses have not been regularly sustained by [Pitt] for over a year and a half, [Jolie] intends to file an RFO for



the establishment of a retroactive child support order," the filing says.

She has asked the judge to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue.

"Meaningful" support was not defined in the filing and Pitt's team is yet to formally respond.

A Pitt source familiar with the situation hinted to Dailymail.com that the actor would likely fight the allegations, commenting: "Brad always fulfills his commitments."

The documents also demand that the divorce be finalized this year, with Jolie seemingly in a hurry to bring the battle to an end.

Jolie's net worth has been estimated at \$160 million, according to Celebrity Net Worth and in 2014, she was ranked 74th highest-earning celebrity by Forbes. The same site puts Pitt's net worth at \$240million.

It's been nearly two years since their shocking split was announced. Jolie filed for divorce in September 2016 citing irreconcilable differences.

It came amid allegations that Pitt had been 'rough' with one of their children on a private plane. Pitt was investigated but cleared of all wrongdoing.

It started months often nasty exchanges and the couple are still "not even close to settling their divorce", according to E! News.

The duo's divorce has apparently

ground to a halt over disagreements about how much time Pitt gets with their six children: Maddox, 16, Pax, 14, Zahara, 13, Shiloh, 12, Vivienne, 10 and Knox, 10.

And according to UsWeekly, a major reason for the holdup is the Maleficent actress' resentment towards her World War Z star ex.

Jolie is allegedly making the divorce negotiations and child custody battle very hostile and has been "out for blood" ever since her September 2016 divorce filing. A source connected to the Fury actor told TMZ that they believe the Maleficent actress wants "to kill any relationship he has with his kids".

It's become so bad that the mother-of-six's lawyer Laura Wasser, who has represented many divorcing celebrities over the years, is apparently going to quit and has "made it known" to Jolie because it's become too "venomous".

TMZ claims the Wanted actress has already hired another law firm to take over when Wasser officially leaves. However, Angelina's people have disputed that account.

"I've spoken directly to Laura," Jolie's spokesperson told PEOPLE. "The TMZ story is not true. She's not quitting now or in the future."

Jolie is currently filming the sequel to Maleficent in London while Pitt films Once Upon a Time in Hollywood in LA.

## Deepika Padukone's xXx co-star Ruby Rose to play lesbian Batwoman

Actress Ruby Rose has been roped in to play role of a lesbian Batwoman in a series for the network The CW. As previously announced, the character will make her debut in the annual crossover event between four of the network's DC shows: "The Flash," "Arrow," "Legends of Tomorrow," and "Supergirl", reports hollywoodreporter.com. The event will be held in December.

Greg Berlanti is also planning a stand-alone series revolving around the character. The "Batwoman" series, which is in development with Caroline Dries penning the script, revolves around Kate Kane, who, armed with a passion for social justice and flair for speaking her mind, soars onto the streets of Go-



tham as Batwoman, an out lesbian and highly trained street fighter primed to snuff out the failing city's criminal resurgence.

While saving the city, Kate must overcome her own demons before embracing the call to be Gotham's symbol of hope. Rose celebrated the news through a post on Instagram, saying she is "beyond thrilled and honoured". "I'm also an emotional wreck... because this is a childhood dream," she wrote.

"This is something I would have died to have seen on TV when I was a young member of the LGBT community who never felt represented on TV and felt alone and different. Thank you everyone. Thank you God," added the actress.

Should "Batwoman" move to series, it would join a slate of DC shows at The CW that includes "Arrow", "The Flash", "Supergirl", "Legends of Tomorrow" and "Black Lightning".

Rose's casting comes after the network made it a priority to cast an openly gay actress to take on the role. Rose's credits include "Orange Is the New Black" and features in "The Meg", "Pitch Perfect 3" and "John Wick: Chapter 2".

**ARIES:** This could be a challenging day, Aries. You might receive a call that brings disconcerting news, making you angry or upset. You could be tempted to take it out on the caller, but don't. He or she is just the messenger. Short trips in the neighborhood could find you in impossible traffic. If you have to go out today, you might reach your destination more quickly by walking.

**TAURUS:** Vivid dreams are likely to cause you to wake up feeling angry for no clear reason, Taurus. You might want to take a close look at your dreams and try to analyze them so you can understand the source of your anger and how best to get over it. Later today, some disconcerting news about money is likely to prove groundless, so don't get stressed out.

**GEMINI:** Either your lover or a col-