



**EAST DLSA AND TLSC
CELEBRATE SENIOR CITIZENS
DAY AT ISHARAMBHA
SAMITI SANGH** *pg03*

**TOURIST DIES
WHILE RAFTING IN
TEESTA-RANGIT**
Pg03

**NSS UNITS
OBSERVE SURGICAL
STRIKE DAY** *Pg02*



SummitTIMES



CM extends Gandhi Jayanti greetings

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The CM, in his greetings, has expressed hope that the auspicious occasion will be a reminder for all to tread upon Gandhiji's path of truth, non-violence and cleanliness. He also called upon people to work towards universal peace, global unity, true compassion and swachhta [cleanliness].

In his message, the CM has said, "The ideals of Mahatma Gandhi are relevant even today for his vision for the country and his dream for the community as a whole still hold good for India. On this momentous day, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi: non-violence, peace and tolerance.

I urge the people of Sikkim to imbibe wisdom from the valued teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and strive to translate Bapu's ideals into action. May his vision lead us through the challenges of the present and enable us to build a stronger State and Nation."

Petrol crosses Rs 91 mark, LPG above Rs 500

New Delhi, Oct 1 (PTI): Petrol price Monday crossed the Rs 91-mark in Mumbai while domestic cooking gas LPG rates breached the Rs 500-level for the first time ever as oil at four-year high pushed fuel prices to new all-time high across the country.

Petrol prices were hiked by 24 paise per litre and diesel by 30 paise, according to price notification of state-owned oil firms.

The hike pushed petrol price in Delhi to an all-time high of Rs 83.73 per litre and diesel to Rs 75.09.

In Mumbai, petrol now costs Rs 91.08 at Indian Oil Corp (IOC) outlets, Rs 91.15 at Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) pumps and Rs 91.15 at Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL)

turn to pg02



Heavy rain ambushes Mangan-Chungthang road yet again

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 01 OCT:**

The Mangan-Chungthang road, which had only recently been restored, has been ambushed again at multiple places by slides and slips caused by heavy overnight rain.

The rain has severely compromised the Mangan-Chungthang road

connectivity with the stretch disrupted at several spots by landslides with roads blocked at Lanthey Khola, Nadey and Rafong Khola.

Around 70 tourists stranded in between were evacuated with the help of Mangan Police with a team led by Superintendent of Police, North and Station

House Officer, Mangan Police Station on the spot at Rafong Khola and Lanthey Khola.

Likewise, the Mangan-Singtam road was also blocked at the Sansari Khola trouble-spot this afternoon.

Further, the road leading to Lachen and Lachung was also blocked today.



Governor greets Sikkim on Gandhi Jayanti

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

Governor Ganga Prasad has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti which falls on 02 Oct.

In his message, the Governor conveys: "Joining the worldwide celebration of birth anniversary of one of the greatest legend of non-violence and truth in the modern times, let us pay rich tributes to our beloved Bapu.

As the world celebrates International Day of Non Violence as a mark of respect and reverence to this great soul and son of Mother India, it is high time we seriously reflect on the ideals Gandhiji propagated for the peaceful co-existence of entire mankind. The world today need Gandhiji's ideals more than ever before as we are witnessing global turmoil, uncertainty, misery and violence posing threat to very existence of mankind. Gandhiji's teachings of living with simplicity holding high

turn to pg02

Kids to Pitch initiative to begin Sunday

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

A group of likeminded people from Gangtok, in coordination with the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, has come forward with a unique initiative - 'Kids to Pitch' - exclusively for the children below 12 years of age.

The idea is to draw these kids to Paljor Stadium and provide them with the basics of sports and fitness.

The initiative will be launched on Sunday [07 October], and under this engagement, Paljor Stadium will be opened exclusively for children below 12 years from 7 to 9 AM every Sunday. The main idea, as mentioned, is to engage young children in outdoor activities and to give basic knowledge about sports and fitness.

The initiative is born from a group of likeminded parents, former sportspersons and sports enthusiastic led by Sports & Youth Affairs Deputy Director [coaching], Thupten Rapgyal.

Addressing a press conference here at Paljor Stadium this afternoon, Mr Rapgyal informed that the initiative has been started in consultation with the Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department.

He highlighted that children nowadays are confined to four walls and this initiative would help bring children

to the ground at least once a week for some outdoor activities.

He added that most parents are hesitant to send their children to the packed ground, hence this initiative which opens the stadium exclusively for children has been getting an encouraging response.

"This would also help the children change their lifestyle and develop an interest towards fitness and also establish a good foundation in sports," he expressed.

Mr Rapgyal has expressed his happiness with the interest shown by parents to support this initiative.

"Later on the initiative will have the total involvement of parents and we would only provide them technical support. This is a very good start by likeminded people and we are hoping it will make a big impact in the near future," he said.

Members of the group stated that children of different age groups will be segregated and coaches will look after children each group.

They also shared plans to organise a Baby Football Tournament in the near future and competitions in other sports as well.

"We would closely watch every child to establish a good foundation in sports and they will be encouraged in the sports of their choice," they said.

SBI halves daily ATM withdrawal limits to Rs 20,000

MUMBAI, OCT 1 (PTI):

The nation's largest lender State Bank has slashed the daily withdrawal limit from ATMs to half from Rs 40,000 to check fraudulent transactions.

The new limit will be effective from October 31 for the bank customers who number over 42 crore.

The limit has been reduced to Rs 20,000 on classic debit card, which is the most popular ATM-

cum-debit card of the bank. There is no change in the daily withdrawal limits on other cards.

This card variant is not chip-based and so there are concerns about its security, a senior bank official said.

"The bank has been receiving many complaints regarding cloning. Due to this the decision is taken to reduce the withdrawal limit on

these cards," the official explained.

As of March 2018, the bank issued over 39.50 crore debit cards with around 26 crore actively used debit cards.

In terms of debit card issuance in the country, it has

a market share of 32.3 per cent, while in terms debit card spends, its market share is 30.40 per cent.

Gor School enables students to learn outside the classroom



**SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 01 OCT:**

In order to encourage active participation of students in extra-curricular activities, the school administration and management of Gor Secondary School, Dzongu has given a facelift to the old wooden structure house which was the first school constructed in the area during the Chogyal's rule.

The old wooden house has been repaired and set up as handloom and bamboo basket weaving centre for the students of the school as part of their extracurricular activities. Students are given first-hand training in weaving traditional Lepcha clothes, bags,

etc. The weaving training has been initiated by senior teacher of the school, Naksuk Lepcha.

Gor SS, which has enrolment of 140 students, indulge in their extracurricular activities after school hours from Thursday to Saturday under the guidance of their teachers.

Local instructors for handloom weaving and bamboo basket weaving have been hired by the school administration. The money accrued from handloom products is being utilised in providing stipend for the instructors, it is informed.

Apart from the handloom and weaving centre, Gor SS has also developed a class-wise kitchen garden, flower garden and a green

house for vegetation to spread awareness about organic farming among students.

"Every extracurricular programme at Gor SS is initiated to prepare the students for successful life ahead," says headmistress of the school, Tseten Lhamu Lepcha.

She further shared that students are keen to learn new things. "We are also making them aware on health and hygiene which will be helpful in their day to day life," she adds.

The enthusiastic students shared their experiences and added that they are learning and enjoying it as a part of their education.



POP UP SHOPS

FOOD BRANDS
LIVE PERFORMANCES
KIDS ZONE
SPA
GO TIPSYS

3 DAYS OF HAPPINESS

30TH SEPT TO 2ND OCT

PET FRIENDLY !! 10 : 30 PM TO 8 PM

OPEN MIC AND JAMING ON 30TH EVE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT,

LOAFING AROUND
BUDDHA CAFE
BAKING MAGIC
INFINITY INSTAL
BBR VET
SELIUS BISTRO

SEE YOU AT !!

POP UP RIDGE PARK NEAR WHITE HALL

Pasal



Swayem JHS wins State level Sanitation Quiz Competition

GANGTOK, 01 OCT [IPR]:

In the grand finale of the State level Junior High School Quiz, "The Sanitation Quiz", organized by Swachh Bharat Mission [Gramin] Cell of Rural Management and Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Swayem Government Junior High School, North Sikkim bagged the first position in the competition held at Mannan Kendra in Gangtok on 30 Sept.

The first runner up for the State level quiz was Zeel JHS, West Sikkim while the second runner up was Bermiok Daragaon JHS, West Sikkim.

The other schools who represented their respective divisions were Rhe-nock JHS [East], Passi JHS [South], Bermiok Thang-sing JHS [South] and Tumlalong JHS [East].

It may be mentioned here, the Sanitation Quiz was an extensive quiz conducted at the eight Divisions level [two in each district] across Sikkim and the winners of the Division level competition were invited for the State level competition. 138 JHSs from

across eight divisions participated in the competition, making it the biggest State level competition at the JHS level.

Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, while addressing the gathering as chief guest, appreciated the initiative of the department in reaching out to the students of JHS with the message of sanitation amongst the younger generation. He also lauded the efforts of the schools for having showcased spirit of positive competition and giving their best performances in the grand finale of the quiz competition.

Speaking on the occasion, RMDD Secretary, CS Rao, who attended the event as special guest, highlighted on the importance and the need for the department to reach out to JHSs and also encourage schools to provide various exposure programmes to the students assuring support from the department in furthering the cause of sanitation in the State.

A play titled 'Hamro Sikkim Ramro Sikkim' produced by Swachh Bharat

Mission [Gramin], RMDD in collaboration with National School of Drama [Sikkim Centre] was also showcased during the programme. The play highlighted on the benefits of good sanitation and hygiene practices while focusing on the importance of sustainability of Open Defecation Free statutory of the State.

The grand finale of the quiz competition was also attended by Secretary, Office of the Chief Minister of Sikkim, DR Nepal, RMDD Special Secretary, Anil Raj Rai, who is also the Mission Director of Swachh Bharat Mission [Gramin], Director, Panchayati Raj, Cheden Ladingpa, Additional District Collector [Development], Soreng, Suman Gurung, ADC [Dev], Namchi, Milan Subba, and ADC [Dev], Gangtok, Kishore Pradhan, among other guests and invited dignitaries.

The intervention successfully reached out to 4000 plus JHSs across the State. The on-ground quizzing intervention was managed by 24 hours Inspired.

NSS units observe Surgical Strike Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

National Service Scheme units of various schools of the State

observed National Surgical Strike Day at their respective campuses on 29 Sept.

The schools include

Dentam SSS [West], JNV Ravangla SSS [South], As-sam Lingzey SSS [East], Modern SSS [East], Sang SSS [East], Yangsum SSS

[West] and Temi SSS [South].

NSS volunteers of these institutions contributed to the day by

creating post cards, posters, slogans and delivering speeches on the 'Surgical Strike', a press release informs.



LINGI PAIYONG SCHOOL OBSERVES INT'L DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS

GANGTOK, 01 OCT: International Day for Older Persons was observed at Government Secondary School, Lingi Paiyong in South Sikkim today. On the occasion, few senior citizens were offered khadas by School in-charge, S Singh, as a mark of respect. Students of the school were motivated to take care of elders as they are the torch bearers of the present day society. The attending senior citizens also spoke on the occasion and expressed happiness on the noble initiative undertaken by Lingi Paiyong SS, a press release informs.

Fly ash from Bihar reach Assam using waterways

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 (PTI):

A consignment of 1233 tonne of fly ash from Bihar reached the Pandu Inland Port on September 30 to cover a distance of 2085 km. This is a critical integrated movement through three Waterways NW-1 (river Ganga), the Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route and NW -2, (river Brahmaputra), it said.

In one of the longest hauls in Inland Water Sector (IWT) movement in the country, the consignment completed a month-long voyage from Bihar to Assam through three waterways, the statement said.

The 1233 tonne of bagged flyash (by product from National Thermal Power Corporations

(NTPC) Kahalgaon power plant, Bihar) had sailed for Pandu Inland Port on September 30 to cover a distance of 2085 km.

Two IWAI barges of 1000 tonne capacity each carried the consignment for delivery to Star Cements for use in its cement plant in Guwahati.

Fly ash is in huge demand as raw material in cement and brick industry and is also used for the purpose of land filling.

Nepal intensifies security along Indo-Nepal border

KATHMANDU, OCT 1

(PTI): Security has been beefed up along the Nepal-India border to check the movement of anti-social elements ahead of the Dashain, Tihar and Chhath festivals, a senior police official said Monday.

The India-Nepal border is open and citizens of both the countries move freely across it without passports or visa.

"Police teams have been mobilised in the border areas in Birgunj, adjoining Raxaul (Bihar),

in Parsa, including Inarwa Sirsiya, Aalau, Janaki Tole and Bhiswal," Superintendent of Police, Birgunj, Rewati Dhakal said.

Also, a tight vigil is being kept in the areas where there is a large movement of people like banks, bus stops and religious sites, the official said, adding it aims to prevent any criminal from carrying out any illegal activities during festival period.

Petrol crosses Rs 91 mark...

contd from pg01

to buy cooking gas LPG at market price. The government, however, subsidizes 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each per households in a year by providing the subsidy amount directly in bank accounts of users.

This subsidy amount varies from month to month, depending on the changes in the average international benchmark LPG rate and foreign exchange rate. When international rates move up, the government provides a higher subsidy. But as per tax rules, GST on LPG has to be calculated at the market rate of the fuel. The government may choose to subsidize a part of the price but tax will have to be paid at market rates. This has led to increase in price.

The price of non-subsidised or market priced LPG in Delhi was hiked by Rs 59.00 per cylinder to Rs 879 mainly due to change in international price and foreign exchange fluctuations.

According to IOC, the subsidy transfer in customers' bank account has been increased to Rs 376.60 per cylinder in October as against Rs 320.49 per cylinder in the previous month.

Delhi has the cheapest fuel rates among all metros and most state capitals because of lower taxes. Mumbai has the highest sales tax or VAT.

stations.

Diesel in Mumbai costs Rs 79.72 per litre at IOC outlets and Rs 79.79 at BPCL outlets.

India is the third largest importer of crude oil and rising international oil prices are inflating domestic transport fuel costs in a strong demand environment. Brent, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, rose to the highest since November 2014 on Monday ahead of US sanctions against Iran kicking in next month. Brent crude oil climbed to USD 83.27, up from USD 71 five weeks back, while the rupee lost ground against the dollar by 5-6 per cent during the same period, resulting in expensive crude imports.

Since mid-August, the petrol price has risen by Rs 6.59 a litre and diesel by Rs 6.37 - the most in any six weeks after the daily price revision was introduced in mid-June last year.

Also on Monday, domestic cooking gas (LPG) rates were hiked by Rs 2.89 per 14.2-kg cylinder to Rs 502.40 on account of higher GST applicable on base price, according to oil companies.

This is the fifth straight monthly increase in subsidised LPG rates. It was priced at Rs 491.21 in May.

All consumers have

Governor greets Sikkim on Gandhi...

contd from pg01

ideals is the treasure for life and if propagated in its right spirit can solve many complexities and problems that we are facing today.

The country has vowed to dedicate Swachh Bharat on his 150th Birth Anniversary. We are geared up to ensure Swachhata and Sanitation in the country as the real tribute to our Bapu and have been participating in extensive campaign 'Swachhata Hi Seva' since last fortnight.

Let us all know that cleaning our conscience, thoughts and behaviour and making Swachhta our way of living is the first step towards the accomplishment of the goal of Swachh Bharat. Sikkimese society has always exemplified Swachhta as the way of living and we must keep up this momentum.

Let us endeavour to live life as shown by Bapu, giving less emphasis on material possessions and more on richness of thoughts and actions."

Gangtok Road Runners to build momentum for Kanchenjunga Marathon

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

Sikkim Mountaineering Association has announced plans to organise a short distance run, Gangtok Road Runners, on 07 October here. This is a promotional event for the upcoming third edition of Kanchenjunga Marathon to be held from 31 October to 07 November in West Sikkim.

Kanchenjunga Marathon is the first high altitude marathon of Sikkim and starts from the base camp of the third highest peak of the world, Khangchend-zonga.

The top-three men and women in the open category and the winner of the veteran category of Gangtok Road Runners will get the free entry in the upcoming Kanchenjunga Marathon.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Director of Kanchenjunga Marathon, Everester Kunzang Gyatso, mentioned that Gangtok Road Runners was a promotional activity for the upcoming mega event.

He added that another aim of the event was to encourage the



people towards fitness and live a healthy life.

Gangtok Road Runners has two categories of 10 KMs and 3 KMs and will be flagged off from Ridge Road and cover the route towards TNA Gate, Zero Point, Swastik and Bakthang Falls and return to Zero Point, Secretariat Road, Bhanu Path, Dukit Pan Dokan and end at the starting point.

Runners in 3 KM race will have to cover the route of Ridge Road, TNA Gate and then turn to Bhanu Path, Dukit Pan Dokan

and end at the starting point.

The organisers have fixed the registration fee of Rs 500 for runners in the 10 KM run and Rs 200 for students in the 3 KM run.

Mr Gyatso informed that Kanchenjunga Marathon was started in 2015 with 20 runners from Sikkim and other parts of India and other countries and could not be held in 2016 and in 2017 the marathon had received 62 national and international runners.

He informed that 20 runners

have been confirmed so far for this year and the number would likely to go above 60 by the end of the registration process. This year, the marathon carries the total prize money of Rs 6.35 lakhs.

"Kanchenjunga Marathon is an event to further promote tourism in Sikkim and also provide employment to local youth. This event has also been successful in promoting talented runners from Sikkim and encouraging the people to live a healthy life," he expressed.

India witnessing gender disparities against backdrop of rapid economic growth: Gender index

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 (PTI): India still witnesses gender disparities against the backdrop of rapid economic growth even as the rate of violence against women remains high, says a new global gender index.

The SDG Gender Index was released by Equal Measures 2030 (EM2030) a global partnership of nine civil society and private sector organisations. Gujarat-based NGO SAHAJ is the partner of EM2030 for this project.

The SDG Gender Index presents gender equality progress of six countries-India, Indonesia, Kenya, Senegal, Colombia and El

Salvador.

The index measures reproductive health standards, empowerment and economic status of women.

Under the index, reproductive health is measured using indicators such as maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; and empowerment is measured by the proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by women and the proportion of women aged 25 and above with at least some secondary education.

The report shows a mixed picture for India.

According to the index, India is still witnessing gender dis-

parities against the backdrop of rapid economic growth and the rate of violence against women remains high.

"India has lagged behind the other countries in nutrition. Rate of stunting among girls is the highest. Prevalence of anaemia among women is also the highest, with rates nearly double that of Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia and Kenya," it said.

"With respect to SDG 5 on gender equality, India has the lowest percentage of women in its Parliament (in 2018)-just 12 per cent compared to 42 per cent in Senegal. It has the second highest percentage of child mar-

riages, early and forced, before the age of 18," the index said.

Nearly half the Indian women 45 per cent reported that a husband is justified in hitting his wife, an indication of discriminatory social norms, the index said.

In terms of gender equality, India has the highest score on legal grounds for abortion along with Colombia. In SDG 17 (partnerships for goals), India registers a strong commitment to gender budgeting.

The SDG Gender Index report added that in SDG 2 (hunger, food security and nutrition) India lagged behind other countries.

Gangtok on Tuesday, 02 Oct

Temp: 25°C/14°C

Forecast: Mostly cloudy, a thunder-shower; not as warm.

Sunrise: 05:28 AM

Sunset: 5:21 PM

West Bengal govt waives off property tax for senior citizens

KOLKATA, OCT 1 (PTI): The West Bengal government has waived off property tax for senior citizens and set up a helpline for them, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

Speaking on the International Day for Older Persons, Banerjee said her government was also planning to open geriatric care units at state-run district hospitals.

"Today is International Day for Older Persons. Our government has waived 10 per cent property tax for senior citizens. We have set up helplines for them.

"Plans are afoot to open geriatric care units in district hospitals. My best wishes to all," the CM wrote on her Twitter handle.

Tourist dies while rafting in Teesta-Rangit

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 01 OCT:

Kalpna Ashok Rathi (56), a tourist from Amrawati, Maharashtra lost her life while rafting in Teesta-Rangit today.

The rafting had started from 7th mile, near Kirney and as they approached Melli a wave hit the boat and she lost her grip, falling into the river.

The life-guard rescued her and took her to Melli health

center from where the case was later referred to Kalimpong District Hospital where she was declared brought-dead.

There were six persons on the boat, three tourists and three life-guards.

"We informed the car, and it took time to reach," said Rajendra Bihani, one among the group of 18 tourists. He also appealed to the government to look after the safety of tourists.

"The government should set an age limit where people from certain age should be restricted from rafting or should have a back-up ambulance. They should also train the pilots. The pilots don't even know how to handle the victims. They have zero training, they didn't even provide us helmets," added Mr Bihani.

The tourists had gone rafting on the way from Sikkim to Dar-

jeeling where they planned to halt today.

The post mortem will be conducted on Tuesday in the District Hospital.

Kalimpong SP, Dhurvajyoti Dey has said that so far, no complaint has been lodged while DM Kalimpong termed the incident unfortunate and said that the administration has taken note of the incident.

CAEPHT and COH celebrate Annual College Week

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

The 12th Annual College Week of College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology [CAEPHT], Ranipool, East Sikkim and the 1st Annual College Week of College of Horticulture [COH], Bermiok, South Sikkim commenced at the CAEPHT campus in Ranipool today, a press release informs.

The programme was inaugurated by Dean, CAEPHT, Professor PP Dabral, as chief guest accompanied by Dean, COH, Dr SK Sharma, as guest of honour and Principal, Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool, D Adhikari, as special guest.

While addressing the inaugural session, the CAEPHT Dean mentioned that the main idea



behind organizing the annual college week was to make students engage in extra-curricular activities besides their regular studies.

He also extended best

wishes to all the participating students of both the colleges.

Dean, COH, in his inaugural address, encouraged the students to participate more ac-

tively in such activities and create a good image of colleges in the country.

On the first day, field events including 100m race, 400m relay race,

shot put throw, discuss throw, etc. were conducted for boys and girls of the colleges.

The annual college week will conclude on 06 Oct, the release adds.

Kalimpong SUMI school wins West Bengal Student Youth Science Fair 2018



SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 01 OCT:

Kalimpong SUMI school stood first in the West Bengal Student Youth Science Fair 2018 organised by Department of youth services and sports government of West Bengal held on 26-28 Sept. They were awarded prize money of Rs 1 lakh.

Students Paul Lepcha and Sagar Kumar Prasad along with teacher Ramji Prasad qualified for the State level competition after winning the Kalimpong District level Science Fair.

Now they will represent West Bengal in the National Science Fair which will be

held in the month of January. They presented a Lepcha model house, which was built using golden formula, a totally earthquake resistant house constructed using Japanese seismic isolation technique.

Principal of SUMI school, Jagat S Rai today received the students and thanked god for blessing the school. GTA BOA, Binay Tamang has also congratulated the school and directed the Kalimpong District GJM to arrange a program to felicitate the students for making the Hills proud.

Youth Services MIC, Aroop Biswas, who was present as chief guest, handed over the trophy to them.

Chemical farming contributing to climate change: Vandana Shiva

JAIPUR, OCT 1 (PTI): Environmental activist Vandana Shiva on Monday highlighted the hazards of chemical farming, saying this has generated a lot of problems and is also contributing to climate change.

She also called for giving up chemical farming and suggested promoting organic farming to face the challenge.

Speaking at a session in the three-day global summit-cum-expo on science, spirituality and environment which concluded Monday at Abu Road in Sirohi, Shiva said some of the reasons for the climate change were plastic and

chemical farming.

Citing Punjab, she said chemical farming gave adverse results and many farmers there committed suicide while several others were affected by cancer.

She said that all will have to make combined efforts to make farming free from chemicals and toxic substances.

Shiva also said that the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) can be realised with Rajyoga (meditation). Uttar Pradesh's stamp and Civil Aviation minister Nand Gopal Gupta said the country can be prosperous when the farmer is prosperous.



Dhurba Lohagan releases two books

SUMMIT REPORT

JORETHANG, 01 OCT:

Two books, "Sammo-han" and "Facebook ko Pannaharu Dekhi Pustak ka Panna Haruma Aitebarey Koseli," written by eminent playwright, Dhurba Lohagan, were released on 30 Sept at Panchasheel Bhawan in Jorethang.

Health Minister AK Ghatani, who attended the event as chief guest, congratulated Mr Lohagan for his tireless efforts and valuable contribution towards

Nepali literature.

Literary figure, Rudra Poudyal, chaired the programme.

On the occasion, senior teacher from Jorethang, BB Mukhia, and Ram Chandra Rawat, were also felicitated. Other personalities felicitated during the programme were PN Kazi, Tika Gurung, BB Subba, Gopal Singh Gazmer, DR Gurung, Rajen Shivakoti and DK Lepcha.

Various cultural programmes were also presented at the event.



East DLSA and TLSC celebrate Senior Citizens Day at Isharambha Samiti Sangh

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

The District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee, East, celebrated "International Senior Citizen Day" activities at Isharambha Samiti Sangh, Ranipool in East Sikkim on Monday.

The function was attended by the District & Sessions Judge, who is also the Chairperson of DLSA East, Jagat B Rai, and Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate, who is also the Secretary of DLSA East, Ranjeeta Pradhan, and panel advocates Dilip Kumar Tamang and Sonam Bhutia

and Doctors from Singtam Hospital.

A press release informs that the Old Age Home in-charge and senior citizens of the home were present for the camp.

The Chairperson apprised the senior citizens on various legal aspects and their rights and also about the reasons behind observing such a Day.

Likewise, the Secretary DLSA briefly explained the importance of conducting such a camp. The camp also included an interactive session and routine health check up and counselling to senior citizens.



Cultural Affairs Dept holds Kavi Sammelaan to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti

GANGTOK, 01 OCT [IPR]:

In commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department organized a 'Kavi Sammelaan' at the Mini Theatre in Manan Kendra on 29 Sept.

Secretary, Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, Ambika Pradhan, who attended the event as chief guest, highlighted on the life and works

of Mahatma Gandhi which has influenced civil right leaders. Thus, she urged people especially the youth to draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's life and asked them to emulate it in their lives.

Twenty eminent and amateur poets from all over the State participated in the Sammelaan by rendering their compositions on the legacy

of Mahatma Gandhi. The poems which were based on the theme 'Mahatma Gandhi: his life, philosophy and works' were read out in Hindi, Nepali and Gurung languages.

All participating poets were presented with Certificates [Praman Patra]. The poems will be compiled and published by the Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department, it is informed.

MUSIC COMPETITION

MULTI MEDIA CAMPAIGN: 2018-2019

CASH PRIZE
WINNER - 70,000/-
FIRST RUNNER UP - 50,000/-
SECOND RUNNER UP - 30,000/-



ORGANIZED BY
SIKKIM STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

ENTRY FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.sikkimsacs.org OR FACEBOOK PAGE OF SIKKIM STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY FOR ANY FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT: 9832034252/9800730010/9434448617/9609971350/9593781887/7872953189

ANY OF THESE GENRES CAN BE SELECTED:

(ALL THE PERFORMANCES HAVE TO BE IN ENGLISH)

ACOUSTIC
BLUES
SOFT ROCK
COUNTRY
POP
REGGAE
FOLK
HIP HOP/RAP (BAND)

LAST DATE OF ENTRY
5TH OCTOBER 2018

FIRST AUDITION FOR:

FOR SOUTH & WEST DISTRICT
WILL BE HELD AT NAMCHI ON THE 11TH OF OCTOBER 2018
FOR EAST & NORTH DISTRICT
WILL BE HELD AT GANGTOK ON THE 13TH OF OCTOBER 2018

THE ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ALONG WITH RS. 500/-
(ALL THE PROCEEDS OF THE ENTRY FORM SHALL BE USED TO SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS)

1. SIKKIM STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY, STNM HOSPITAL COMPLEX
2. ICTC CENTRE, DISTRICT HOSPITAL, SINGTAM, EAST SIKKIM
3. ICTC CENTRE, DISTRICT HOSPITAL, NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM
4. ICTC CENTRE, DISTRICT HOSPITAL, GYALSHING, WEST SIKKIM
5. ICTC CENTRE, DISTRICT HOSPITAL, MANGAN, NORTH SIKKIM
6. ICTC CENTRE, MANIPAL HOSPITAL 5TH MILE, TADONG, EAST SIKKIM

समय दैनिक

SE

RED

SummitTIMES

MEDIA PARTNERS

SSCS

NACO

run

CBQ/NGO

PARTNERS

freedom

FACILITY

serenity home

SummitTIMES

Administer Merit into Quotas

Hire fair and ensure transparency

Local protection is always an emotive issue. It is also a popular one and has its benefits; even necessity if historical denials need to be amended. In Sikkim, there are laws and rules in place which guarantee stronger local protection than seen in most other States. Everyone, from politicians to NGO volunteers to association members, has been consistently demanding exclusive access to all job openings for local candidates. And even though this protection is reasonably well enforced in the State, it manages to steal into the headlines ever so often. And as an election cycle begins spinning faster now, expect even more rhetoric to garnish this issue.

Substantial printers ink has been spilled reporting on protests and criticisms of appointment of a non-local OSD in a government department. Yes, one instance of such an appointment had caused much heartburn in the public domain as recently as two years ago, and that just goes to prove how sensitive the issue is. There are other issues facing Sikkim which demand more primacy, but this one packed in employment and local protection into one neat package, making it convenient grist for political mills. Most times, local protection is only an idea, but government employment is a very real aspiration and pursuit for many. Real, and even perceived, denial can lead to severe disaffection and disappointment. As more colleges are opened in Sikkim producing more graduates from a wider spectrum of society, aspirations will commensurately increase too and if the hiring process does not become more transparent and reliable, disaffections will grow too.

Of course, when it comes to Sikkim, the matter does not end with just local protection, because even within this, quotas have to be accommodated to make every community feel special, and, well, protected. But, if the present generation in office has any serious plans to ensure that at least the next generation gets a fighting chance to rise above the mediocrity that the generation on the wane has bequeathed, Sikkim, instead of greater 'protection' should be demanding fairer selection processes.

Reservations and blanket protectionism achieve very little in the long run. Take government jobs for instance; they are reserved for local candidates, but even these opportunities have dried up now. The last State Civil Service exams had 25 vacancies in the Under Secretary level and a mere two for Deputy Superintendents of Police. And this slim picking even though the exams were being held after a gap of eight years! And now it has been some more years since, and jobs in this grade are not showing any signs of opening any time soon. Government jobs, at least the ones opened to competition, are running low. Understandably then, the one reason why voices demanding stricter enforcement of local protection in jobs are getting more stringent nowadays is because employment opportunities with the government have become scarce.

These demands however might not have been so urgent had the system equipped the young with the tools to secure appointments in the national and global job-markets, or even promoted entrepreneurship more effectively. The youth are not competitive enough not because of some infected chip hotwired into their genetic code, but because they were not consistently pushed to become competitive and respect merit. This might be urged of them in speeches and from formal platforms, but this is not what they see being practiced. When a generation is allowed to grow up thinking that it is somehow deserving of sidestepping merit, it will remain obsessed with its portion of a quota. Their ambition atrophies and their worldview shrinks to a sliver of what they have potential for. Once that happens, they will have no respect for merit and eyes only for 'documents' and certificates.

A good place to begin a course correction will be to institutionalize selection on merit. Guaranteeing a fair selection process [in jobs], however, is easier said than done in Sikkim. Politicians and bureaucrats are known to place individual concerns ahead of common good. Favouritism is frequently deployed to subvert selection processes and the "system" does not evoke any confidence. But, it is possible to institutionalize a fair selection process and enforce it. Many will rightly comment that this requires political will and this is easily arranged if there is a genuine demand from the voters that they want only the best to handle responsibilities which affect future generations. What Sikkim requires at this juncture is a demand for quality, not more reservations.

As mentioned, there is nothing inherently wrong with local protection, but to start with, at least within this structure, prioritize merit and while mediocrity need not be condemned, don't celebrate it. Unfortunately, one sees the latter happen too often in Sikkim.

Why the media needs to be more responsible for how it links Islam and Islamist terrorism

AUDREY COURTY
theconversation.com

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the US, Islam has become central to debates about social cohesion and national security in Australia.

Restrictions on Muslim immigration have been openly discussed – most recently by Senator Fraser Anning in his maiden speech to parliament – and many believe another terrorist attack in the name of "Islam" is inevitable.

Confronted with this reality, the media are playing an essential role in informing us about Islam and influencing how we respond. But, perhaps due to a limited understanding of Islam or a fear of antagonising Muslims, a fundamental point has largely been absent from reporting: the threat of terrorism does not stem from Islam. Rather, it stems from Islamism, a political ideology.

The two terms may sound similar, but Islam and Islamism are not the same thing. Islam is a faith observed by over 1.6 billion people, whereas Islamism is the political ideology of relatively small groups that borrow concepts like shariah and jihad from Islam and reinterpret them to gain legitimacy for their political goals.

HOW THE MEDIA LEGITIMISES THE AIMS OF TERRORISTS

Islamist groups like al Qaida and the Islamic State use violence against non-Muslims with the aim of establishing a political institution ("caliphate") based on shariah law – neither of which have a basis in the Quran or hadith (Islamic prophetic traditions).

Part of the appeal of the Islamic State comes from its insidious ability to selectively use Islamic teachings and repackage them as legitimate religious obligations.

In particular, Islamists have appropriated the concept of jihad to legitimise an offensive "holy war" against non-Muslims. This interpretation, however, has been rejected by studies that have examined the Quran's principles concerning war and peace.

Islamic teachings, for instance, prohibit terrorism and the use of violence against civilians. Further, Muslim leaders and scholars around the world have repeatedly condemned terrorism, issuing fatwas (Islamic legal rulings).

By reporting on this misleading interpretation of jihad and under-reporting Muslim condemnations, the Western news media reinforce the perceived connection between Islam and terrorism.

In some cases, media pundits explicitly make this link, pointing to the fact terrorists specifically refer to "Islam" as the basis for their actions.

This uncritical acceptance of terrorists' claims and misrepresenting of Islam legitimises and unwittingly promotes the Islamist agenda.

In other words, the media plays into the hands of terrorists by allowing them to become the representatives for Islam and Muslims in general.

ISLAMIC STATE RECRUITING TOOL



Islamist terrorists have a strategic interest in propagating the belief that Islam and the West are engaged in a civilisational war.

As the Islamic State outlined in its online magazine in February 2015: "Muslims in the West will soon find themselves between one of two choices."

The group explained that, as the threat of further terrorist attacks looms, Western Muslims will be treated with increased suspicion and distrust, forcing them to:

"...either apostatize [convert] ... or [migrate] to the Islamic State and thereby escape persecution from the crusader governments and citizens."

The Islamic State's divide-and-conquer strategy is crucial to its ability to replenish its ranks with foreign recruits. The group targets disaffected and marginalised Western Muslims and invokes an Islamist narrative with promises of brotherhood, security and belonging.

In turn, the Western news media indirectly advance the group's interests by repeatedly linking Muslim communities to terrorism and failing to meaningfully distinguish the Islamic faith from Islamist political ideology.

For example, as the first wave of Syrian refugees arrived in the UK in 2015, The Daily Mail warned of "the deadly threat of Britain's enemy within" and associated refugees with the threat of "Muslim extremists".

In the midst of the 2014 Sydney siege, The Daily Telegraph prematurely linked the Muslim hostage-taker with the Islamic State – a claim that was later dispelled by terrorism experts.

THE IMPACT OF CARELESS REPORTING

This kind of overly simplistic and sensationalist media coverage serves the Islamic State's objective to pit Muslims and non-Muslims against one another.

As a study conducted at the University of Vienna in 2017 confirmed, media coverage that does not explicitly distinguish between Muslims and Islamist terrorists fuels hostile attitudes toward the general Muslim population.

With growing awareness of the impact this kind of reporting, some media outlets like CNN have tried to distinguish between "moderate Islam" and "radical Islam", "Islam" and "Islamic extremism". But this, too, is misleading because it focuses on presumed religious motivations and overlooks the

central role of Islamist political ideology.

A survey of almost 1,200 foreigner fighters by the Combating Terrorism Center revealed that over 85% had no formal religious education and were not lifelong, strict adherents to Islam. The report suggests the Islamic State may prefer such recruits because they are: "less capable of critically scrutinising the jihadi narrative and ideology."

Islamism masquerades as religion, but is much more a post-colonial expression of political grievances than a manifestation of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings. While the establishment of a caliphate or shariah-based order is the expressed agenda of Islamist terrorists, this is not a religious obligation for Muslims.

And it is not an assault on Islam for non-Muslims to say so.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS, OR A MORE NUANCED DISCUSSION?

In an effort to strip the Islamic State of its legitimacy, some governments have advised news outlets in the UK and France to use the derogatory acronym "Da'esh" to refer to the group, although this is not always practised.

Malcolm Turnbull, also adopted the term "Islamist terrorism" in order to differentiate between those subscribing to the Islamist ideology and Muslim communities.

But many politicians, such as Donald Trump continue to blur the distinction by using rhetoric like "radical Islamic terrorism" instead.

Some argue that our "political correctness" inhibits us from tackling the problem head on.

But those who say the problem stems from Islam are mistaken. We should be able to have a constructive conversation about the central concepts of Islam, including whether establishing a "caliphate" and committing violence against non-Muslims are indeed religious obligations or have legitimacy in Islam.

Given the extent to which concerns about Islam have impacted on our society, there is an ethical obligation to differentiate between Islam and Islamism – or at least present a counter to the Islamist perspective.

[the writer is PhD candidate, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, Griffith University]

Chagos: Mauritius challenges British colonialism in a case with major implications

MIRIAM BAK MCKENNA
theconversation.com

The International Court of Justice has just heard four days of arguments as it weighs the legality of a hugely contentious colonial act: the UK's decision to separate the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius prior to the latter's independence in 1968. Mauritius has been pursuing this case for decades, and has made substantial progress in recent years. And by claiming that the UK breached that right during the decolonisation process, it has forced important issues about self-determination up on the international agenda.

Britain detached the Chagos Islands from Mauritius in 1965, three years before Mauritian independence. From 1967 to 1973, some 1,500 Chagos islanders were gradually forced to leave their homes so that the largest island, Diego Garcia, could be leased to the US for a strategic airbase. Today, Diego Garcia hosts a major US military base and is a strategic node in US bombing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

There are also reports it was used as a site for the CIA's War on Terror-era rendition and interrogation programme, although the precise details are still opaque.

In the five decades since their removal, the islanders have fought for their right to return. In 2016, after several judicial challenges, Britain extended Diego Garcia's lease until 2036 and declared that the expelled islanders would not be allowed to go back. In 2017, Mauritius successfully petitioned the United Nations to seek an ICJ advisory opinion on the le-

gality of the separation. Coming just months after the Brexit referendum, the vote on whether to refer the matter to the ICJ was a humiliating diplomatic blow to Britain, which failed to rally support from fellow European states.

The referral was highly controversial. Under Article 96 of the UN Charter, the General Assembly can request that the ICJ give an advisory opinion on "any legal question", but the UK argues that it's inappropriate for the ICJ's advisory opinion procedure to be used to intervene in a dispute between states that have not both consented to ICJ jurisdiction.

And while ICJ advisory opinions are not binding, the ramifications of the opinion will be highly significant; an opinion in favour of Mauritius may strengthen their position in any future negotiations, as well as putting significant international pressure on the UK over the status of the territory.

But what could be particularly critical is

the decision's impact on far broader issues of post-colonial sovereignty, and the legitimacy of colonial era independence arrangements.

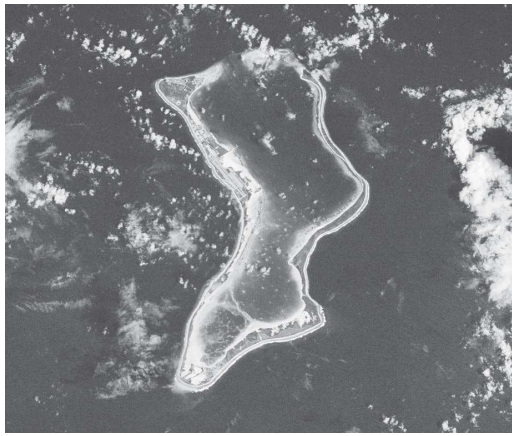
OLD WOUNDS

The crux of the Mauritian claim is the right of self-determination. In its submission to the court, the Mauritian government claimed that the separation of the islands from Mauritius was in clear breach of UN resolution 1514, also known as the Colonial Declaration. Passed in 1960, it enshrined the right of self-determination for colonial peoples and specifically banned the breakup of colonies prior to independence. This was intended to keep borders stable, and to prevent colonial powers from simply absorbing colonial territory into their overseas territory so as to retain their sovereignty.

Yet in spite of this resolution, a number of states (including France and the UK) kept possession of parts of their former colonies following the decolonisation process.

In his opening submission, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Mauritius's defence minister, alleged that his country was coerced into giving up the islands, resulting in "the unlawful detachment of an integral part of our territory on the eve of our independence". A number of classified doc-

turn to pg05



visit us at:

www.summittimes.com

Students moot ideas on good governance at Arunachal conclave

ITANAGAR, OCT 1 (PTI):

A three-day conclave organised by the Arunachal Pradesh government here to involve youth in policy formulation and decision-making process has ended on a positive note with Chief Minister Pema Khandu promising to make the event an annual affair.

Atal (Arunachal Transformational and Aspirational Leaders) Conclave, the first-of-its-kind event in the state, saw students from different colleges and universities engaging in deliberations and presenting proposals for good governance to the chief minister, an official release said here Monday.

During the valedictory function of the three-day conclave here Sunday, the CM urged the youth to join 'Team Arunachal' government, it said.

He promised the students that deliberations made and papers presented during the three-



day event would be examined by the planning department for incorporation in the policy programmes of the government.

Stressing the need to bridge the gap between public and the government, the CM also requested the students to make use of their free time to spread awareness on the flagships programmes of the state and the Centre.

He proposed a monthly honorarium of Rs 5,000 for volunteers who take part in the in-

formation dissemination campaign.

Khandu also asked the students to be a part of a campaign against cash distribution during elections.

"If the students wish to see a bright future for Arunachal then it must begin from elections. All election in the state must be free, fair and fruitful," he asserted.

During the question and answer session, Khandu asserted that the government was making all efforts to curb corrupt practices in the state.

"Several high-ranking officials, businessmen and political leaders have been arrested for corruption. No one will be spared irrespective of their status or party affiliations, if found guilty," he maintained.

Asked about shortage of manpower in schools, colleges and hospitals, the chief minister said that state government was recruiting teachers and medical officers through Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission exams.

Hollongi airport in Arunachal to have better facilities than Pakyong: Minister

ITANAGAR, OCT 1 (PTI): The proposed greenfield airport at Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh, when completed, would have better facilities than the recently inaugurated Pakyong Airport in Sikkim.

The benefits to come would be beyond one's imagination, the Union minister of state for Civil Aviation said while addressing the valedictory function of the 3-day ATAL (Arunachal Transformational and Aspirational Leaders) conclave here on Sunday.

Citing the advantages of the proposed airport at Hollongi, near here, he said, it has better topography and a larger runway.

"The proposed 2,200 metre runway at the greenfield airport can handle jet aircraft that can provide direct flight service to metro cities.

On demand, flight services can also be extended to international destinations," Sinha said.

A greenfield airport is an aviation facility that is planned, commissioned and built from scratch without destroying an existing structure.

About Rs 1,200 crore would be



spent for the project, the 'bhoomi puja' of which will be held in December.

Asked about air connectivity plans in Arunachal Pradesh, Sinha said the entire state would be linked with aviation services in the next 10 years.

The minister said that under UDAAN Scheme, small and big towns in Arunachal would be connected with helicopter, seaplanes and passenger drone services.

He also informed that government is providing subsidy on helicopter services with Rs 2,500 for

half an hour air travel.

Under the Chief Ministers Air Connectivity Scheme, all Advanced Landing Ground (ALG)s in the state will be made operational for air services connecting it with Itanagar, Tezu and Pasighat airport, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said.

The chief minister said that tender for operating of air services in the state has been completed and will be finalized soon.

The DoNER Ministry would spend about Rs 350 crore for the initial phase of work in the Hollongi airport.

Over 8400 children missing in Assam in the last 5 yrs

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 (PTI): Assam government Monday said over 8,400 children went missing in the state during the last five years and nearly half of them have remained untraced so far.

Replying to a query by BJP MLA Numal Momin during the Question Hour in Assam Assembly, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said 8,443 children were reported missing from 2013 to 2017.

The highest number of 1,839 cases of missing children were reported in 2017, followed by 1,733 in 2016 and 1,674 in 2015, he said on behalf of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who holds the Home portfolio.

Patowary said 4,377 missing children have been rescued in the last five years, while the remaining are untraced.

He said 1,086 children were rescued in 2017, while 911 chil-

dren were rescued in 2015 and 901 in 2016, he added.

On the rehabilitation measures, he said they are being taken as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and stress is given on sending the children back to their families wherever possible.

The children who are surrendered, abandoned or orphaned, are given for adoption, he added.

Flesh trade on the rise in narrow alleys of Manipur

IMPHAL, OCT 1 (PTI): The dingy motels that dot the narrow alleys of Paona Bazaar in Imphal, amid the liquor dens and roadside eateries, have become the latest hub of flesh trade in the city, a study conducted by a local non-government organization (NGO) has claimed.

At nearby Thangal Bazaar and North AOC areas, too, organised sex trade has seen a steady growth in the recent years, according to data compiled by NGO Meitei Leimarel Sinnal Sang (MLSS).

S Inaocha, the project director of MLSS, said a survey conducted till August has registered 915 female sex workers (FSW) in the state capital as against 908 last year.

"The actual figure is far more than what we have recorded as many FSWs were reluctant to reveal their true identities. Even the ones who have registered themselves with MLSS had to be persuaded several times," she told PTI.

Most of these women have been victims of extreme poverty and abuse, Inaocha stated.

"Behind every case of FSW, there exists a tragic individual history. They were either forced into the profession by their near ones or had to take it up to feed their families."

Onaebe was just 15 years old when she was married off to a heroin addict at Thoubal district by her family. After giving birth to a daughter, she divorced her husband at the age of 19 and came to the capital town to earn a living by selling vegetables.

"Selling regular vegetables, I

could barely make Rs 200 per day. It was difficult to make ends meet. At the motels, I earn more than Rs 200 in an hour," Onaebe, who is now 25, said.

However, the money they earn and the amount they take home are never the same.

"The pimps and arrangers often take away a chunk of the collections these FSWs make. They are the ones who run the show," Inaocha said.

Another woman, who refused to be identified, said she was tricked into joining the trade by a local at her hometown in Chura-chandpur district.

"I came to Imphal to work for a private company, but ended up joining the flesh trade. I was locked up in a hotel room for several days and not allowed to contact anyone. They agreed to set me free only after I relented," she added.

Many of these women start taking drugs to cope with the stress and humiliation.

"The FSWs registered with MLSS also included Female Injecting Drug Users (FIDUs). Some of them take heavy doses of heroin to get through the day," Inaocha said.

Nirvana Foundation, another NGO working with women addicts, said it has registered 265 FIDUs as of September this year compared to 231 last year.

Both FSWs and FIDUs face harassment by social groups and clubs engaged in moral policing, H Devlaxmi, the project manager of Nirvana Foundation, said.

"These women are often badly assaulted by local groups, rendering them paralysed for a week," she

said.

Both MLSS and Nirvana have come together to open "night shelters" for the sex workers and addicts.

"The shelters would save them from exploitation to a certain extent in the night hours," Devlaxmi explained.

Alliance India, headquartered in Delhi, along with Nirvana is currently conducting a research - Violence Intervention - to analyse the hostility perpetuated towards FIDUs and FSWs by the moral policing brigade, she said.

"It's a challenging task as these social groups target women who cannot retaliate. They, however, cannot raise a finger at those who import bulk of drugs in the state from India-Myanmar border town of Moreh," the project manager at Nirvana said.

Often the FIDUs flee their homes and cities fearing these moral policing drives.

"The FSWs and FIDUs are too scared to file complaints with the police. It becomes hard to trace them once they leave without informing us," Inaocha said.

The two NGOs, along with local activists, are trying to raise awareness on the legal rights enjoyed by the women.

"A legal clinic under Manipur State Legal Services Authority was set up in July this year to promote awareness of the rights available to FIDUs. Apart from that, we are also trying to educate these women about the options available to them in times of distress," Inaocha added.

Chagos: Mauritius challenges...

contd from pg04

uments made public on Wikileaks were used as key evidence of the diplomatic pressure Britain exerted over the decision to separate the islands. "The choice we were faced with was no choice at all: it was independence with detachment [of the Chagos archipelago] or no independence with detachment anyway," Jugnauth told the court.

For his part, the UK's solicitor general, Robert Buckland, stated that while the UK accepted that the removal of the Chagossians and their treatment thereafter "was shameful and wrong" it had already been resolved in a 1982 agreement on compensation. The

UK also contended that the right to self-determination was not established in international law until the 1970s, after the separation of the islands from Mauritius.

But for all that the UK might want to see this case viewed as narrowly as possible, it is inevitably part of something greater. Around the world, many territories remain under the administrative or sovereign control of several states. What the Chagos case indicates is that there is now serious momentum behind efforts to review and challenge their status, and that a question mark now hangs over a number of colonial era territorial arrangements.

22 interested parties, among them the African Union and many former colonies, have taken part in the Chagos hearings. Speaking of their decision to participate in the proceedings, representatives for South Africa referred to the duty of all member states of the UN "to assist the general assembly to remove the last vestiges of colonialism". As Professor Philippe Sands QC, representing Mauritius, told the ICJ: "The right to self-determination is not a 'heritage' issue. This is not Africa in the late 19th or early 20th century. This is September 2018."

[The writer is Postdoctoral Fellow in International Law, Lund University]



Messi speaks up amid slump in new role as Barcelona captain

BARCELONS, OCT 1 (AP): With his actions, and now words, Lionel Messi is embracing a new role as Barcelona captain.

Messi came off the bench to set up a late equalizer by fellow substitute Munir El Haddadi and salvage a point in a 1-1 draw with Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Extremely reticent to talk to the Spanish media in the past, the club's all-time leading scorer faced the cameras afterward to explain why his team over the last week had secured only two out of a possible nine points in the Spanish league.

Messi acknowledged that Barcelona must improve in defense after it drew 2-2 to Girona and lost 2-1 at Leganes before its latest slip against Bilbao.

"We are angry for this run of results," Messi said.

"We are aware that we have to be stronger in defense and not concede goals in every match. Last year it was very difficult to score against us, and now it doesn't take much."

Messi then pointed to Barcelona's upcoming Champions League trip to Wembley Stadium, where the defending Spanish champions play Harry Kane's Tottenham in a Group B game.

"Now we must think about Wednesday because we have a very hard match against a very complicated team," Messi said.



"We know we have a lot to improve, but we must stay calm." At age 31, Messi is in his 15th season with Barcelona's first team and has long been the player his teammates turn to for the decisive dribble, pass or goal.

But this campaign he has the added responsibility of wearing

the captain's armband that was handed down by Andres Iniesta after his departure to Japan.

Besides talking to the media, Messi was also the team's vocal defender on the field. Messi argued long enough with referee Jaime Latre after the final whistle of Saturday's match where he earned his

first booking of the season.

Messi set a record for the Champions League with his eighth career hat trick in the competition two weeks ago when Barcelona routed PSV Eindhoven 4-0 in their European opener.

The team is winless since then, but Messi was quick to reassure

fans that Barcelona is not relying too much on his goals.

"We have the squad and players to make a great team that doesn't depend on one player," Messi said. "We have more than enough players so that we don't have to depend on any single one." The numbers back him up.

While Messi leads the team with eight goals across all competitions, Ousmane Dembele has scored five goals overall, Luis Suarez three, and Philippe Coutinho and Gerard Pique two each.

THIN DEFENSE

Barcelona's defensive troubles could be magnified in London against Tottenham, with Barca missing half of its starting backline. Center back Samuel Umtiti will serve a one-game suspension for his sending-off during Barcelona's win over PSV.

Sergio Roberto, who can play at right back but also in midfield, will miss the upcoming game after he injured a muscle in his right leg over the weekend.

That means Clement Lenglet, who joined the club this summer, will team up with Gerard Pique in the center of the defense, while Nelson Semedo is the squad's only available right back.

SCORING DROUGHT

Real Madrid is missing Cristiano Ronaldo. Madrid started the season well

enough, leading some commentators to argue that the team's collective attack was as dangerous as the huge individual threat once provided by Ronaldo before his exit to Juventus this summer.

But a stinging 3-0 loss at Sevilla and a 0-0 draw with Atletico Madrid at home on Saturday have left Madrid searching for the goals that Ronaldo used to produce.

To make matters worse for Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui, Madrid has lost three of its top attacking talents ahead of its Group G match on Tuesday at CSKA Moscow in the Champions League.

Gareth Bale, who has scored four goals this season, picked up an unspecified leg injury against Atletico. Left back Marcelo, who often joins the attack, missed the derby due to a muscle injury in his right leg, and midfielder Francisco "Isco" Alarcon underwent surgery for an appendicitis.

Lopetegui has also left Sergio Ramos off his squad for the trip to Moscow, presumably to rest his center back.

"We have to find solutions and put all our faith in our squad," Lopetegui said after the draw with Atletico.

With Karim Benzema in poor recent form, Mariano Diaz could get more playing time after scoring two weeks ago in Madrid's 3-0 win over Roma.



VAR in spotlight again, this time for not working in France

PARIS, OCT 1 (AP): The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system has been much talked about since being used at the World Cup earlier this year praised by some for spotting fouls, criticized by others for slowing down matches.

On Sunday, VAR attracted attention for another reason altogether: it stopped working during the 1-1 draw between Rennes and Toulouse.

"The fourth official came to see me 10 minutes from the end of halftime to tell me it wasn't working," Toulouse coach Alain Casanova said.

"There was a problem, quite simply," Casanova said he and his Rennes counterpart, Sabri Lamouchi, as well as the two team captains, were all informed before the second half started.

Toulouse may have cause for regret because VAR was not used to review images when a penalty was given to Rennes midway through the second half. It was awarded after striker M'Baye Niang fell under a challenge from Jean-Clair Todibo, who was shown a yellow card for protesting the decision.

Niang converted in the 70th minute, but Todibo headed in the equalizer two minutes from time for Toulouse.

Toulouse played with 10 men for the entire second half after forward Aaron Leya Iseka was sent off in the 43rd for a

second yellow card.

The draw leaves Rennes struggling in 16th place two spots above the relegation zone while Toulouse is seventh.

SLICK LILLE

Lille showed it means business as a contender for Champions League qualification, beating Marseille 3-0 to move into second place behind Paris Saint-Germain.

Striker Nicolas Pepe opened the scoring from the penalty spot midway through the second half and then earned another penalty. He let strike partner Jonathan Bamba take it, making it 2-0 in the 86th.

Moments later, Bamba added his second of the night from close range. Lille struggled so much last season it was almost relegated.

What a turnaround it has been since

coach Christophe Galtier took charge. Not only did he save Lille from humiliating relegation following a significant transfer outlay, he has transformed the side this season.

Meanwhile, Marseille's defense continues to leak goals and coach Rudi Garcia's team is down in sixth spot.

IMPRESSIVE MONTPELLIER

Third-place Montpellier continued its fine start by beating local rival Nimes 3-0.

Defender Ambroise Oyongo put Montpellier ahead and striker Andy Delort made it 2-0 after nine minutes of first-half injury time.

A metal gate gave way after Montpellier fans celebrated Oyongo's goal, sending a few of them spilling onto the pitch and causing the match to be delayed.

Discarded Sanchez a window into Man Utd's wasted millions

MANCHESTER, OCT 1 (AFP): Manchester United believed they were closing the gap on "noisy neighbours" Manchester City when they beat the Premier League champions to the signature of Alexis Sanchez just nine months ago.

But as the Red Devils slumped to a third defeat just seven games into the new league season at West Ham on Saturday to already fall nine points adrift of City, Sanchez was nowhere to be seen.

That the Chilean was deemed not good enough to make Jose Mourinho's 18-man squad for such a shambolic display at the London Stadium speaks volumes for

Sanchez's slide since joining United in January. Prolific in four years at Arsenal and three seasons with Barcelona before then, Sanchez has scored just three times in 23 appearances under Mourinho -- none of which have come this season.

Mourinho's power battle with 89 million pounds (USD 116 million) midfielder Paul Pogba has drawn the spotlight from Sanchez.

But Mourinho's patience with the other marquee signing of his time in charge at Old Trafford ran out this week.

Sanchez was hauled off during a 1-1 draw with Wolves last weekend. He was then reportedly admonished by Mourinho in front of his teammates for his poor form and was the only outfield player who travelled to London for the West Ham debacle left out of the matchday squad.

"Look for how many months are people asking for (Anthony) Martial, Martial, Martial and saying how Alexis isn't playing well enough," said Mourinho justifying his decision.

"This week it was time to agree and leave Alexis out." - 'Different football'

Sanchez wouldn't be the first creative player Mourinho has failed to get the best out of.



United's fiercest rivals City and Liverpool have benefited from Mohamed Salah and Kevin De Bruyne being discarded by the Portuguese during his time at Chelsea.

When imploring Mourinho to attack more after being held by Wolves, Pogba defended Sanchez's struggles to adapt from the more open football played at Barca and Arsenal.

"When you play a long time with another team and you play different football in that other team you have some kind of adaptation that you have to have," said the Frenchman.

Mourinho's time at Old Trafford may be running out, particularly if he fails to summon a response when United host Valencia in the Champions League on Tuesday.

However, the difference in the fanfare that greeted Sanchez's signing and his production on the pitch is emblematic of the waste that is leaving United trailing in City's wake.

Courted by his former Barca boss Pep Guardiola, United boasted of dealing a blow to City in the transfer market and of generating more social media traffic than Neymar's world record move to Paris Saint-Germain.

Yet, that victory has proved a hollow and expensive one. United's accounts last week revealed an 11 per-

cent rise in their wage bill taking it to GBP 295.9 million, 36 million more than City's.

Much of that went on handing Sanchez reportedly the most lucrative contract in Premier League history worth a reported GBP 400,000 a week plus bonuses.

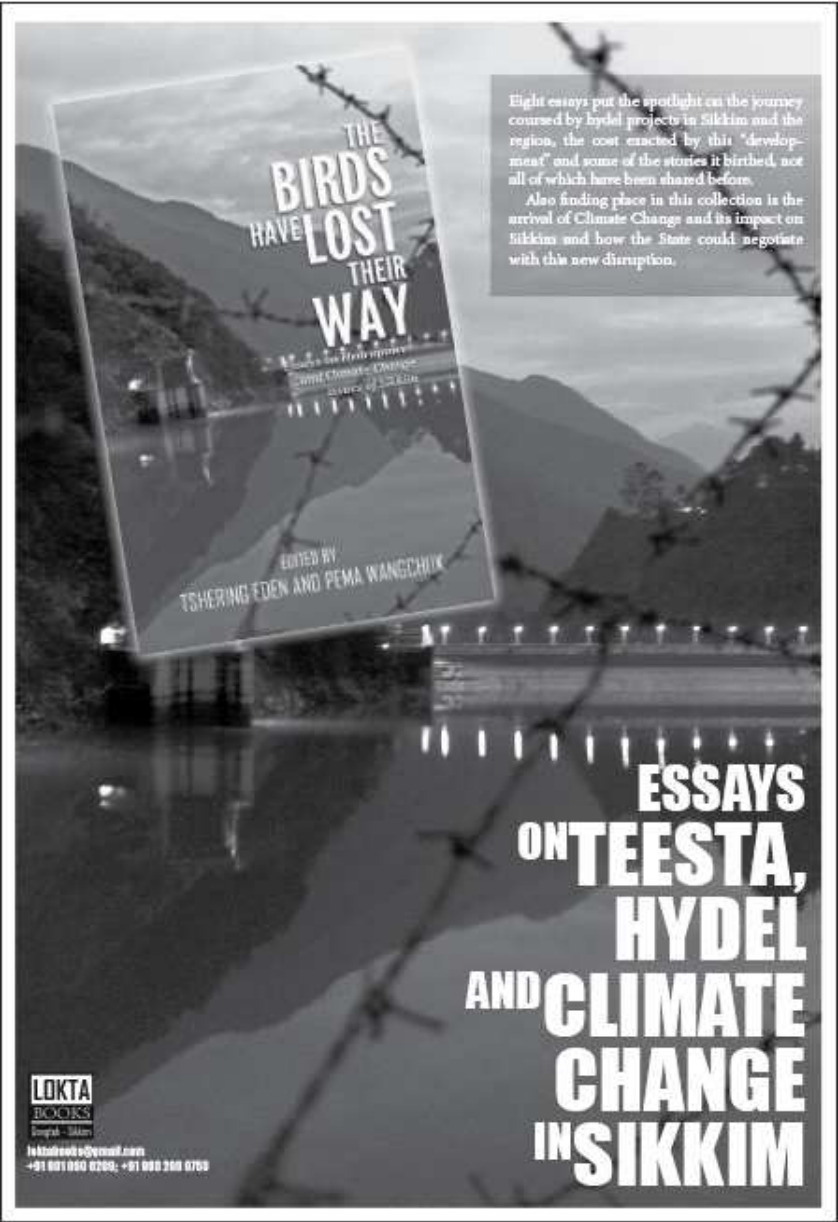
United remain the world's richest club for now, but that is not being reflected on the field for frustrated fans more interested in points than profits.

The club's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward has put his faith in Mourinho, but his trust runs out quickly when missing out on the riches of Champions League.

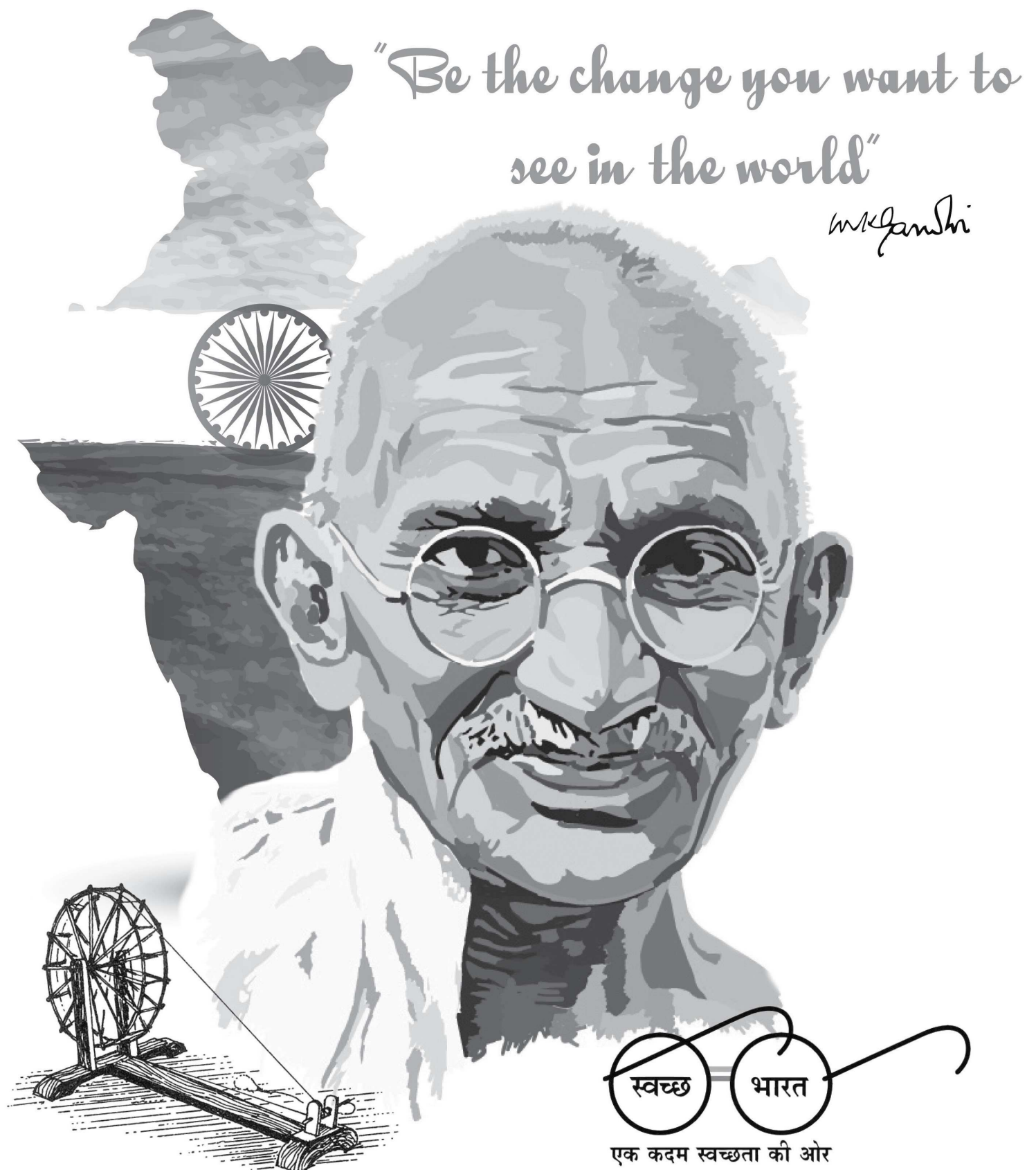
David Moyes and Louis van Gaal were both dismissed after failing to qualify and United are already five points off the top four.

Another route into the Champions League is by winning the competition. United currently look far from contenders, but they can take a huge step towards the last 16 by moving six points clear of Valencia in Group H on Tuesday.

It is the type of game Sanchez was signed for. Whether he even starts will say much about his future so long as Mourinho remains in charge.



149th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi



Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Sikkim

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH CONTESTANTS OF TEMI TEA MR SIKKIM 2018 MANHUNT

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

Twenty two finalists of Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt, each uniquely different in their own ways, now vie for the coveted subtitle 'Summit TIMES Mr Multimedia' presented by the official print partner of the mega event, Summit TIMES.

This subtitle will be decided by the audience based on the total number of likes on their pictures on social networking sites of Mr Sikkim Manhunt namely Facebook and Instagram.

•CONTESTANT NO. 1:

KUNZANG TOPGAY BHUTIA

Father's name: Tamding Shring Bhutia

Mother's name: Chung Chung Ladingpa

Residential address: Gangtok, East Sikkim

Hobbies/Interests: Basketball, v-logging, travelling and eating

Q) Why did you join Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt competition?

Kunzang: I joined this competition because this is the first time that such event has been hosted in Sikkim and I wanted to be part of this new venture to gain experience, learn from it and hopefully even emerge as the winner.

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

Kunzang: Well, to stand out in a crowd, usually our physical factors come into play like height, body built-up and face which I believe I've been blessed with. However, I feel I usually stand out due

to my positive and cheerful attitude.

Q) What if you win or lose the competition?

Kunzang: Well if I lose I will still pursue my dreams in the field of media and communications and promote the event in the coming years. However, winning is my priority and when I win I would like to carry the title and the responsibility that comes with it to excel and compete in national and international stages.

Q) How would you define yourself?

Kunzang: I am a hardworking guy who likes to chase his goals and achieve success. I often fail in a few of them but I have always stayed strong, learnt from my mistakes and kept moving forward. I am friendly and like meeting and interacting with new people while learning new things from them and improving myself along the way. I am

also kind to everyone because everyone is going through their own share of troubles in their lives and I feel we should be kind to each other.

Q) What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

Kunzang: Compassion, always.

Q) Your message/appeal?

Kunzang: Dear people of Sikkim, this is the first time we are hav-

ing such an exclusive competition in our small State and it might be small now but it will open a doorway to connect us to the big world. I request you all to support this whole event, their team along with me and all the competitors. I am a small human like all of you trying to achieve something big in this world and I hope to make it to the top with all your blessings and support.

• CONTESTANT NO. 2: JIGDAL GYATSO BHUTIA

Father's name: Ongden Gyatso Bhutia

Mother's name: Kesang Dicki Rechung

Residential address: Raigaon, Lower Burtuk, Gangtok

Hobbies/Interests: Singing and Modeling

Q) Why did you join Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt competition?

Jigdal: Because this is the only platform for boys to showcase their charm and

charisma.

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

Jigdal: I am a humble and an optimistic person. I would like to see a glass as half-full rather than seeing it as half-empty. In simple words, I see things in a positive way.

Q) What if you win or lose the competition?

Jigdal: Winning or losing does not matter, what matters the most is the participation and also learning from the experience you gain.

Q) How would you define yourself?

Jigdal: Hardworking

Q) What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

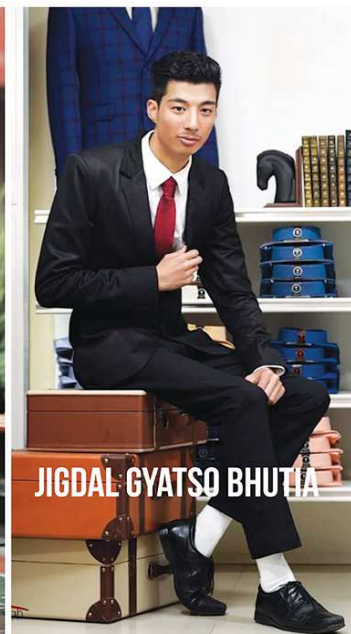
Jigdal: The one thing that can unite humanity is positive and clean thoughts.

Q) Your message/appeal?

Jigdal: Be confident and be yourself. Follow your passion and dreams.



KUNZANG TOPGAY BHUTIA



JIGDAL GYATSO BHUTIA



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



NATION PAYS TRIBUTES TO TWO OF ITS GREATEST SONS MAHATMA GANDHI & LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI



“Come, Let's pledge to take forward their ideals and fulfill their vision for a better nation and a better self”

-Narendra Modi



15
YEARS OF
CELEBRATING
THE MAHATMA

davp 22201/13/0001/1819



Nana Patekar's lawyer confirms that they have sent Tanushree a legal notice, asking for an apology

"I HAVE absolutely no idea why she (Tanushree) is talking about it now but she may be have some reasons to do it," the lawyer said.

Nana Patekar's lawyer confirms that they have sent Tanushree Dutta a legal notice, asking for an apology. Tanushree Dutta is in the eye of the storm now after alleging that Nana Patekar had sexually assaulted her on the sets of a film. It has started a debate and has people taking sides. While Dutta has reiterated her story in interviews, we all have been waiting for Nana Patekar to speak up. On Monday, Patekar, who is in Jaisalmer currently, shooting for Housefull 4, had his lawyer, Rajendra Shirodhkar, send a legal notice to Tanushree Dutta. According to a report in Firstpost, Shirodhkar has sent a legal notice to the actress and demanded an apology. He said, "A legal notice has already been sent to her and she will receive it today. The notice that I have sent is a standard one — denying allegations and asking for an apology."

Shirodhkar also revealed that Patekar would soon address the world and the media through a press conference. Talking about it, he added, "I can't say much now. I have absolutely no idea why she (Tanushree) is talking about it now but she may be have some reasons to do it. Nana will come to town (Mumbai) today or tomorrow and address a press conference. Let him come back and talk, that is the best way to know. Tomorrow he should be definitely here."

Reports of Patekar slamming the actress with a legal notice have been doing the rounds for some time now. However, denying all of it, during a media interaction, Dutta had said, "Contrary to claims made by Nana's lawyer I have not received any legal notice. So bluffmaster gogo needs to step up his game a bit here. Instead of making empty threats to intimidate me into silence, send me a legal notice and then you will see what I will do with it!!"

For those unaware, Tanushree accused Nana Patekar for assaulting her during the shoot of an item song in Horn OK Please. Well, let's wait and watch as to what Nana has to say about all the allegations.