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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**'Vikram' lander tilts after hard hit, but unbroken: ISRO**

**BENGALURU, SEP 9 (PTI):** The 'Vikram' lander lies on the lunar surface as a single piece, unbroken and it is in a tilted position following a hard landing while efforts to re-establish link with the probe were on, an ISRO official said on Monday.

Vikram, which encases rover 'Pragyan' went out of contact during its final descent, when it was just 2.1 km above the lunar surface, in the early hours of September 7.

"The lander is there (on lunar surface) as a single piece, not broken into pieces. It's in a tilted position," an ISRO official associated with the mission claimed.

Though the lander hit the surface hard while landing, it was still very close to the scheduled touchdown site as per the images sent by the orbiter's onboard camera, he said.

"We are making all-out efforts to see whether communication can be re-established with the lander," the official said.

"An ISRO team is the on the job at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)," he added.

Chandrayaan-2 comprises an orbiter, lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan).

The mission life of the lander and rover is one lunar day, which is equal to 14 earth days.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan had said on Saturday that the space agency would try to restore link with the lander for 14 days, and reiterated the resolve on September 8 after the orbiter's camera spotted it on the Lunar surface.

An ISRO official said chances of restoring link with the lander were bleak since its system functionality was a prerequisite to achieve that.

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## Leh-Ladakh team in Sikkim to study good practices



**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

A five-member delegation from Leh-Ladakh completed a four-day study tour of Sikkim on Monday. The team members expressed that this Sikkim tour was a learning experience where they learnt about various models and good practices of the State. They said that they would try to replicate some of models in their newly formed Ladakh union territory.

The five-member delegation was comprised

of Bharatiya Janata Party president Leh-Ladakh, Dorje Angchok, BJP vice-president Leh-Ladakh, Tashi Gyalson, advisor to Panchayat Coordination Committee Leh-Ladakh, Dr Skalzang Dorje, Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry Leh-Ladakh, Nawang Thinles and general secretary of All Ladakh Tour Operator Association Leh-Ladakh, Deleks Namgyal.

In this four-day tour of Sikkim, the team members interacted with the

Governor, retired government officials, various organizations, stakeholders, individuals and studied the special provisions of Article 371F and other models of the State.

Addressing a press conference here this morning, Mr Angchok mentioned that various teams from Leh-Ladakh were presently on a study tour of various States and Union Territories of the country after Ladakh got the Union Territory status.

He added that teams

their reports and then the final draft will be prepared to be submitted to the Central government with suggestions and recommendations to be adopted for Leh-Ladakh Union Territory," they said.

They highly appreciated the special provisions of Article 371F.

Sikkim and Leh-Ladakh share same strategic location surrounded by international borders and special provisions like those under Article 371F would be very beneficial for Leh-Ladakh not only to protect the identity, culture and tradition, land and local interests but also important from the point of national security, the team said.

Another objective of visiting Sikkim was to study and understand the eco-tourism policies of the State, they said further adding that the team studied eco-tourism policies of the State which they found to be exceptional.

have been studying the model and good practices of different states and union territories that could be adopted in Leh-Ladakh.

"We want to make Ladakh an exceptional union territory by picking up good things and modality of different States and union territories of the country," he expressed.

"The main purpose of the tour is to study various States and union territories and after the tour all teams will compile

**Bhaichung inspires USFC to its first Sikkim League victory of the season**



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

Defending champions, United Sikkim Football Club, registered its first victory of the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim League 2019 here at Paljor Stadium on Monday.

United Sikkim FC outplayed Boys Club, Gangtok, 3-0 to finally get on the points board.

Both teams played contesting football since this was a crucial match for both teams. After missing some good opportunities to take the lead, the keenly contested first half ended in a goalless draw.

The entry of the for-

mer Indian football team skipper and founder of United Sikkim FC, Bhaichung Bhutia as a substitute in his trademark jersey No 15 at the start of the second half filled new energy and confidence in his team which was palpable in their game in the second half.

United Sikkim FC made constant attacks from the start of the second half and the first breakthrough came in the 54th minute when Suraj Subba scored the lead for the team.

When Boys Club players were trying to equalise the score, Sonam Tamang extended the lead to

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## ICFAI Univ convocation celebrates graduation of 382 students

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

The 12th convocation ceremony of ICFAI University, Sikkim, was held here at Chintan Bhawan today.

A total of 382 graduating students were awarded degrees at the event declared open by ICFAI Chancellor Ram Pal Kaushik. Five gold and five silver medals were also conferred on students who excelled in academics.

Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, was slated to attend as the chief guest but could not owing to ill health. His

message was however delivered through live video conferencing from Delhi.

Meanwhile, the Governor's convocation message was read out by Director [Branding], Sudhakar Rao, ICFAI University.

Addressing the convocation, Education Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha, who was present as special guest, remarked that it Sikkim was proud to ICFAI University here and that the institute has gained substantial recognition for their impressive work in education and other fields.

A large number of students are now enrolling

in ICFAI University which reflects the popularity of the institute, he said.

"It's good to see that the ICFAI University is operating full swing providing education in different disciplines. I wholeheartedly wish the institution the very best to reach the pinnacle," he said.

The Minister also assured to extend all help required to resolve admission problems if some should surface.

Similarly, Deputy Speaker Sangay Lepcha, expressed happiness on seeing the advances made by ICFAI University

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## Suicide numbers continue to remain worrisome, understanding even more so

**TSHERING EDEN/REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

Today, 10 Sept, is World Suicide Prevention Day and the right time to look at the challenge of suicides that Sikkim has been facing for many years now.

Sikkim lost 572 lives to suicide between 2016 and 2018 and has been among the top three states of the country when it comes to high suicide rates for the past many years.

What is particularly unfortunate is the fact that a majority of the victims fall in the 18-45 years age group, the most productive years of life.

As per police records from 2016 to 2018, 401 of the 572 suicide victims were in the 18-45 years age group.

The second highest number of 96 suicide victims fell in the age group of 45-60 years.

51 persons aged below 18 years took their own lives between 2016-2018 while 24 were aged above 60 years.

Records also show that suicide is more prevalent among males with 412 males completing suicide in the last 3 years.

The highest number of 273 suicides was reported from East district while West recorded 161 suicides between 2016-18. South recorded 125 suicides and only 13 were reported in North Sikkim.

Determining the cause of suicide has always been a challenge and Sikkim has been slow to take up this challenge with inquiry into the reasons behind the high suicide rate in the State being few and far between.

This is made evident by the fact that 'unknown' is the top cause of officially recorded reasons for suicide in Sikkim. 212

suicides have been attributed to unknown causes.

Depression ranks second with 115 suicides followed by alcoholism resulting in 67 suicides.

When it comes to methods used for suicide, in Sikkim hanging is the predominant method used.

Police records show that 550 out of 572 suicides were by hanging between 2016-2018. The other methods used were jumping from heights, poisoning and drowning.

National Crime Records Bureau has stopped releasing data on suicide since 2015 and the above statistics were sourced from local police records.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with mental illness or suicidal tendencies, you can call the 24/7 Suicide Helpline: 18003453225/ 03592-202111.

# Let's work Together to Prevent Suicide

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**10 SEPT, 2019**  
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**SUICIDE HELPLINE: 18003453225 / 03592-202111**



## Handwash program at Singtam School



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

As part of Poshan Maah 2019 an intensive handwashing program amongst the students of Senior Secondary School, Singtam, East District was held today, a press release informs.

The program organized by Social Justice and Welfare Department had the presence of Principal, Sr Sec School School Singtam, Vice Principal, KB Chettri, Sr Secondary School, Singtam, RP Poudyal, CDPO-Cum-District Programme Officer (East), Yamini Pradhan, ANM, Harimaya Khatiwada, AWW, ASHA alongside teachers and school staff. This handwashing program was observed in various schools and all AWCs in East District.

This program is aimed to improve awareness on the importance

of washing hands with soap so as to prevent communicable diseases.

Month long activities have been planned and will be undertaken at the district and block level under Poshan Maah in East District which will include Poshan Rally, Quiz competition, debate and painting competitions in schools and colleges, community based events, anemia camps, etc.

Emphasis will be given to involving students, teachers and local community at the villages through discussion of best practices in bringing about everyday behavioral change in hygiene and sanitation.

These activities will be organised in coordination with Departments such as Health, Education, RMDD, Agriculture, PHE, and Nehru Yuva Kendra, NGOs, SHGs.



## Bridge at Bar Khola posing threat to commuters

### WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 09 SEPT:

The bridge at Bar Khola at 4th Mile, Lower Mangshila on the Dikchu-Mangan highway in North Sikkim is in poor condition and poses a threat to the safety of those commuting along this route.

Unfortunately, it also sits on the only main road

and is receiving more traffic. The iron plates and nut bolts on the bridge have loosened and it is risky for loaded vehicles to cross the bridge.

If repair work is not undertaken immediately, there is high chance of an accident, say residents of 4th Mile.

They also informed that they have already informed BRO but nothing has been done so far.

## SBI cuts loan, deposit prices again; chairman says expect more

**MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI):** The largest lender SBI on Monday slashed its lending rates by 0.10 percent for the fifth time since April and signaled towards more softening ahead, as the government and Reserve Bank try to push up the sagging growth with cheaper loans.

The bank described the move to slash both deposit and loan prices as a result of the excess liquidity in the system as well as it, and the falling interest rate scenario.

It can be noted that system-wide bank credit and deposits have been hovering around 12 percent since the beginning of the year.

This is the fifth rate cut by State Bank this fiscal, and takes the quantum of the decreases to 0.40 percent, yanking down its one-year benchmark rate to 8.15 percent. The cuts are effective Tuesday. The bank has cut its marginal cost



of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.10 percent and the one-year MCLR, to which its key loans like home mortgages are aligned, stands at 8.15 percent now.

The same one-year MCLR of its private sector rivals ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank stands at 8.30 percent and 8.35 percent, respectively.

The bank has also cut the retail term deposit rates by up to 0.25 percent, and the bulk term deposit rates by up to 0.20 percent.

Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of an event,

bank chairman Rajnish Kumar said there will be further "softening" in the rates by the bank going forward, and affirmed its commitment to support the economy till there is credit demand.

The bank's moves in the future will also be dependent on the calls which the Reserve Bank takes at its next review in October, he said.

For the RBI, the rate call is a function of the movement in inflation, Kumar said, adding it is "under control" at present. Kumar said the economy needs a de-

mand-side stimulus at present, and made clear that interest rates will not go up. It can be noted that the RBI is peeved at lenders for not passing the entire quantum of its rate calls to final borrowers, while the banks claim it generally takes time for liabilities to be repaid before the transmission can happen.

As a solution, the RBI has made it mandatory for all lenders to have their lending rates linked to an external benchmark like the repo rate, at which it lends to the system.

SBI has a majority of its deposits and loan products now linked to external benchmarks.

However, it can be noted that lending rates are still much higher than the RBI's repo rate of 5.40 percent-- which is at a nine-year low after in four successive moves, the central bank cut the repo rates by a cumulative 110 bps since February.

## Handwash program as part of Poshan Maah



**NAMCHI, 09 SEPT (IPR):** As part of Poshan Maah, 2019, an intensive handwash program amongst the students of Old Primary School, Namchi was held today. The program organized by Social Justice and Welfare Department had the presence of CDPO (Namchi), Laxman Tamang, District Programme Officer; Jyothsna Khatiwara, District Coordinator; Sailendra Chettri, Supervisor Namchi, Norbu Lepcha alongside teachers and school staff.

This handwash program was observed in various schools around the District. This program is aimed

to improve awareness on the importance of washing hands with soap so as to prevent diseases. Additionally, information about the appropriate method of washing hand was also imparted by the officials.

It may be mentioned here that month long activities will be undertaken under Poshan Maah in the South District which will comprise of Poshan Rally, Drama competition, Community based events, Marathon and Scotty Rally. These activities will be held in coordination with Departments such as Education, Health and Police.

### 'Vikram' lander...

"Unless and until everything is intact (in lander), it's very difficult (to re-establish contact). Chances are less. Only if it had soft-landing, and if all systems functioned, then only communication can be restored. Things are bleak as of now."

Another space agency official, though felt that chances did exist for restoring link, however, listed the limitations involved.

Recalling ISRO's experience of recovering a spacecraft that went out of contact in the geostationary orbit, he said the lander's case was dissimilar.

In the case of Vikram, "that kind of operational flexibility is not there," since it is already on the lunar surface and it cannot be reoriented, he said.

A vital aspect is positioning of antennas and these have to be pointed towards either the ground station or the orbiter, he said.

"Such an operation is extremely difficult," he said adding "we will have to keep our fingers crossed."

The official said, however, the lander's generating power was not an issue since it has solar panels all around it and encompasses internal batteries as well which are not used much.

Vikram carried three payloads--Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA), Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment (ChaSTE) and Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA).

### Bhaichung inspires...

2-0 in the 67th minute and within three minutes, Bhaichung Bhutia stretched the lead to 3-0 with a wonderful goal.

When the match appeared headed to end 3-0 in USFC's favour, Rohit Tamang scored a goal for Boys Club in the 87th minute but it was not enough to stop the defending champion from registering its first victory of this season's premier division league.

On Sunday, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club thrashed Unicorn Football Club 9-nil to secure three points. Eugene scored a double hatrick for the winning team, while his teammate, Musa contributed a brace and Zangpa added a goal to the huge victory margin.

### ICFAI Univ...

and shared that the institution was important to State of Sikkim.

Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, Chancellor, RP Kaushik, ICFAI University, Chairman, Jaipur Foot USA, Prem Bhandari, Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, Avinash Rai Khanna, Registrar IUS, Dr Rabindra Chhetri was also present along with families of graduation students from Bhutan.

### ANTHYESTI KRIYA

The anthyesthi Kriya of Nar Bdr Gurung , rtd , Record Officer Health deptt and also Vice President in Paramedical who left for her heavenly abode falls on 5th of September 2019 at Ahley ,Namthang south Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering our prayers for the departed soul on 18.09.2019 at Ahley ,Namthang south Sikkim



Family Members

## Dr Teruo Higa: The Pioneer of Effective Microorganisms



*The world is currently facing a time of great change and upheaval. I believe this condition has arisen mainly because of our present civilization becoming increasingly structured along the lines of competitive principles. An excessive reliance on competition certainly does not excite feelings of generosity and sharing."*  
(Teruo Higa, 1996).

The world today and Sikkim in particular is quite familiar with the term Effective Microorganisms or EM technology. When Sikkim commenced its Organic Mission in 2003, EM Technology developed by Prof. Higa at the EM Research Organization (EMRO), Japan and provided through Maple Orgtech Inda Ltd. became a part of this mission. Today EM is a familiar name to most of the farming community at Sikkim.

The seed of what was to become EM germinated when Dr. Higa was researching mandarin oranges for his doctorate in Horticulture at Kyushu University Graduate School. It was there that he realized the potential of microorganisms in agriculture and this discovery took his research in a new direction.

In those days, orange farming relied heavily on agricultural chemicals. Dr. Higa was interested in microorganisms but advocated of the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides because, with his farming experience, he knew that farming was extremely labor intensive, especially the production of good compost. While he was involved in growing oranges, he noticed an overall decline in his health and he started to break out in rashes. His symptoms got progressively worse as he continued to work in proximity with agro-chemicals. That experience deeply influenced his thinking and he made microorganisms the main focus of his research. However, in those days it was common to work with only one type of microorganism at a time and there were many different types of microorganisms to test. His research generated no results of any significance even after five years of hard work.

After he returned to University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, he continued his research with safe and harmless microorganisms only. For this reason, he

usually collected several strains all in the same bucket in order to dispose of them at the end of the day. One day, he felt it was such a waste to flush these strains down the drain, considering their costs, and decided to sprinkle them on a patch of grass instead. A week later, an obvious difference was noticed on the spot. The growth of grass was significantly better than the grass around the spot. As none of his students did experiments on that spot, he was certain that that mixture of several different types of microorganisms he sprinkled was the cause of the difference. That was when he realized that the key was the combination of microbes.

After many trials and errors, Dr. Higa discovered an optimal mix in 1980 that promoted healthy plant growth and coined the name "EM 1" for that group. EM 1 is a soil conditioner that can be used on gardens or crops. The soil conditioner creates healthy soil to allow plants and vegetables grow to their maximum potential. EM 1, is a liquid bacterial product that is made up of three main microorganisms. These microorganisms are Yeast, Photosynthetic Bacteria, and Lactic Acid Bacteria. All products using EM Technology contain EM 1 in some part of their manufacturing process. Dr Higa's development of EM has brought him international recognition and now he provides guidance and assistance in the application and research of EM around the world.

Co-existence & co-prosperity

One of the most fundamental beliefs in Dr. Higa's philosophy is that "the essential condition for human happiness is the ability to do what one really loves, whatever that may be, throughout the course of one's lifetime." (P. 327, Teruo Higa, An Earth Saving Revolution)

In order for human society to prosper, it is essential that the environment, food supplies and medical treatment be considered the common property of every man, woman and child on earth. Once we are able to establish a system by which this may be accomplished, humanity will move closer to a state of truth and people will attain greater maturity, receive veneration as they get older and be able to serve as assets of society. In order to attain such a state, it is necessary that human kind abandon its penchant for

competitiveness and develop a new way of life based on coexistence and co-prosperity.

He insists that authentic technologies, including EM products, have the power to overcome many problems associated with a competitive society and help make a society based on co-existence and co-prosperity come true.

He defines authentic technologies in such a way that they must satisfy two essential criteria: first, it must generate only positive results free from any defects, drawbacks or negative aspects, and secondly, it must be affordable. EM 1 satisfies the first criteria, as there have not been any cases reported with any evidence of adverse or harmful results or negative side-effects. It also satisfies the second criteria, considering the fact that EM 1 is manufactured and distributed in many countries around the world.

With EM products, common problems faced by human beings - food crises, environmental degradation, health care, etc - can be solved. Growing crops using EM products can help make both producers and consumers healthy and will enrich the ecosystem. EM will help farm sustainably, protect the environment and maintain people's health. It will help agriculture, animal husbandry, the environment, and society to transform into cyclic and sustainable, and will enable us to live in a society based on co-existence and co-prosperity.

In order to make his philosophies and visions into reality, Dr. Higa maintains his position as the top pioneer of EM products and continues his research, constantly discovering new aspects and effects of EM products. Recent use of Dr Higa's EM products have been in radioactive contamination cleanup measures in Fukushima Prefecture, in resolving human wildlife conflicts and in human health products including those for anti-aging.

**The people of Sikkim now have an opportunity to listen live to this interesting and world famous personality as Dr Higa is visiting Gangtok on the 11 th and 12th of September. He will be delivering a talk on EM Technology at the Hotel Lemon Tree on the 11th September at 10.30 am.**

[from ECOSS]

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**CBI moves court for summoning Kalyan Singh in Babri Masjid demolition case**

**LUCKNOW, SEP 9 (PTI):** The CBI on Monday moved a special court here trying the Babri masjid demolition conspiracy case involving former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani and other BJP stalwarts, for summoning former Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh to stand trial in the case.

The investigative agency moved the court weeks after the 87-year-old leader quit the governorship, a constitutional post which offered him immunity from the trial for conspiracy in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

The court accepted the CBI application after ascertaining from the agency that Singh, also a former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, is no longer holding any constitutional position.

As the trial is being conducted on a day-to-day basis, the CBI application may be taken up for adjudication on September 11.

The other BJP leaders, who are facing trial in the December 6, 1992 demolition case include Muli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti.

In its application, the CBI submitted to the court that Kalyan Singh had been was charge-sheeted in the case in 1993.

It added the Supreme Court in its April 19, 2017 had said that Kalyan Singh, who was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh when the Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, could not be made to face trial as an accused owing to the constitutional immunity granted to governors under the Article 361 of the Constitution.

The apex court, however, had allowed the CBI to seek his summoning as an accused as soon as he would cease to be a governor.

# Coaching camp for Santosh Trophy begins today, SFA hopes Nirmal Chettri will lead squad

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

Sikkim Football Association [SFA] has announced plans to hold a coaching camp starting 10 September at Paljor Stadium to prepare the Sikkim State team for the upcoming Santosh Trophy 2019-20. SFA has shortlisted 41 players from eight premier division clubs of the State for the ten-day coaching camp.

SFA released the names of the 41 footballers at a press conference held here at Football House this afternoon.

Addressing the press conference, SFA vice-president, Chewang Paul Sangderpa, informed that a selection committee led by former SAI coach, Pempa

Tshering Bhutia, short-listed players from the ongoing premier division Sikkim League.

He urged the premier division clubs to extend full support to the state camp by releasing short-listed players from their respective clubs.

He mentioned that eventually, a 20-member squad will be selected to represent Sikkim.

SFA joint secretary, Arjun Rai, mentioned that the SFA executive committee held a meeting with representatives of eight premier division clubs of the State on Sunday evening for the upcoming coaching camp.

He further informed that representatives of premier division clubs agreed to release short-listed players for the



state coaching camp.

Mr Rai informed that the team required AFC B License coach as per AIFF norms but the State does not have any AFC B License coach so Bhaichung Bhutia has

taken the special initiative to bring an AFC B License coach from outside the State. He added that the coach will be arriving in the State within a few days.

Likewise, SFA secre-

tary Tenzing Lachungpa informs that Sikkim has been placed in group-B of East Zone along with Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand for the qualifying round in Kolkata.

Sikkim will take on

Chhattisgarh in its first qualifying match on 23 September and its second match against Jharkhand on 27 September.

Likewise, SFA chief coordinator, Phurba Sherpa, mentioned that

SFA wants India international from Sikkim, Nirmal Chettri, to lead the State team to Santosh trophy this time.

He added that the presence of Indian international and professional footballer will boost up the morale of the team. He further informed U-16 India team player, Evan Thapa, has also been shortlisted for the state camp.

Mr Sherpa urged all shortlisted players to report for the state coaching camp, underlining that it was a wonderful opportunity for players to represent the State at the prestigious tournament and further asserted that it was the duty of every footballer to serve the State team.

## Mr Ultimate Sikkim competition this weekend

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

The fifth edition of Mr Ultimate Sikkim is scheduled to be held on 14 September at the Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College auditorium here in Tadong.

Event head Rupendra Mukhia informs that the competition will be held in three categories - Body Building and Open Men and Open Women physique championship.

The occasion will also include the felicitation of five sportspersons who

have been promoting different sports in the State.

Those being felicitated are Body builder Sanjay Chettri, Fitness enthusiast Suraj Subba, Boxing coach Tenzing Sherpa, International Karate Judge Bijoy Gurung and Kick boxing Coach Bhim Subba.

"The main objective of the event is to encourage the people of Sikkim to stay fit and healthy and to send a strong message of staying away from substances of abuse," explains Mr Mukhia.

## Sikkim Newar Guthi launches Newari khada



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

One of the Shakhas under Sikkim Newar Guthi has come up with a Newari khada design to promote, preserve and create awareness among the Newar community of the state, a press release informs.

The khada was officially launched in the presence of Guruji Suryabir Tuladhar at Gangtok.

The khadas will be available on the occasion of the Sikkim Newar Guthi's Silver Jubilee. The khadas shall be available in two colours i.e. red and white with design of Newar rituals.

This Newar Khada is the brain child of Gangtok Zone BBCTV (Burtuk, Bojoghari, Chandmari, Tathangchen, Vajra).

Any person who is interested in selling the khadas may kindly contact the concerned Shakha, adds the press release.

## Shooting underway for Mandira's Yatra

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:**

Yatra, a Nepali short film about love and brotherhood, directed by Mandira Chettri, an independent filmmaker from Sikkim, is currently being shot at Gangtok and Siliguri.

Starring Sherab Chopel Bhutia as Aditya Raj Pradhan, Anisha Rasaily as Nisha Shrestha, Nikhil Chettri as Nikhil Pradhan, Rupa Tamang as Nim Doma Sherpa, Sajal CP as Dr Sajal, Chitish Chettri and Samridh as Ward Boy, the

film has Lewang Gishing as Assistant Director and Sishir Ghatani as Cameraperson.

The director inform that the film is set to be released by the end of Fall on most of the social media platforms and film festivals.

Mandira started working in the film industry in 2010, starting her journey as Assistant Director on Prashant Rasaily's "Aacharya."

The latest venture is produced by Mandira's production house, Maark Pictures.

## Awareness on skill development at Mellidara Paiyong

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**MELLI, 08 SEPT:**

Mellidara Paiyong GPU organised an awareness programme on Skill Development at Kerabari JHS Hall here in South Sikkim on 07 September for members of SHG groups, unemployed youth and school drop outs.

The programme had ex-National Youth Volunteer, NYK Namchi, Suyog Pradhan, as resource person and was also attended by Diwas Gurung, Ward Panchayat, AC NERLP, PAA.

Mr Pradhan spoke on how the skill development programme can be brought to the village level and provided brief introductions to service

providers like NSDC, SICB, Livelihood Schools etc.

He also spoke on government schemes like Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and other flagship programmes.

Area Coordinator, NERLP, Balamam Sharma, in turn, highlighted the various training programmes under NERLP and other projects and requested SHG members to strive for excellence and professionalism.

Ward Panchayat Diwas Gurung shared that he was worried for the youth of the area and their future and underlined the benefits of such programmes.

## Lecture on "Bio- Economy for Sustainable Development" at SRM

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

Department of Botany of SRM University Sikkim conducted a special lecture on 'Bio-economy for Sustainable Development' recently, a press release informs.

Eminent scientists from National Academy of Science, India (NASI) and Biotech Park, Lucknow, namely, Padma Shree, Prof Pramod Tandon, CEO, Biotech Park, Lucknow; NASI Honorary Fellow and Chairman, Prof Ved Prakash Kamboj, Biotech Consortium Ltd, Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India; Padma Shree, Prof Veena Tandon, NASI Se-

nior Scientist Platinum Jubilee Fellow and NASI Senior Scientist Platinum Jubilee Fellow and former Director CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Prof Prahlad K Seth, Lucknow, were present for the program.

Dr Anand Sharma, HOD Botany and Convener of this program, Vice Chancellor, Prof Ch Satish Kumar, SRM University, Sikkim talked about interdependency of bio-resources and economy. Associate Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Dr Govind Pratap Singh made the audience understand the term bio-economy and its applications in the

field of science.

Prof Tandon spoke about the evolution of bio-economy. He explained about the huge repository of bio-resources in North Eastern India and talked extensively about germplasm conservation, genetic engineering, importance of Genetically Modified (GM) crops and patenting.

Prof Kamboj explained the scientific technologies and innovations related to Make-in-India for health security. The session was followed by queries and discussion on how bio-economy can be practiced in this part of the world.

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### GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

No. 82/CEHV-NE/2019-20/219

Dated. 09/09/2019

To  
The Joint Director  
IPR Department  
Government of Sikkim  
Gangtok

Sub: Publication of Shutdown News.

Sir  
This is to inform you that EHV (Extra High Voltage) North/East Division is taking Proper Shutdown for the Maintenance and lopping of trees under the 66KV Transmission line at various locations for uninterrupted Power Supply during Festival Season. Details have been given below:

Sl. No.	66KV Transmission Line	Date and Time of Shutdown	Affected areas
01	PGCIL-Bulbulay	19.09.2019 (Thursday) 8am to 5pm	No Affected areas.
02	LLHP-Pakyong	20.09.2019 (Friday) 8am to 5pm	Assam Lingchey, Pakyong, Linkey, Parkha, Machong, Rongli, Rhenock.
03	Tadong-Phodong	21.09.2019 (Saturday) 8am to 5pm	Entire North District
04	Pakyong-Rongli	23.09.2019 (Monday) 8am to 5pm	Rongli, Rhenock.
05	LLHP-Topakhani	24.09.2019 (Tuesday) 8am to 5pm	Singtam, Makha, Khamdong, Temi-Tarku.
06	Phodong-Mangan	25.09.2019 (Wednesday) 8am to 5pm	North District above Phodong
07	Mangan-Meyong	26.09.2019 (Thursday) 8am to 5pm	North District above Mangan
08	Tadong-Sichey	27.09.2019 (Friday) 8am to 5pm	No affected areas.
09	Sichey-Bulbulay	28.09.2019 (Saturday) 8am to 5pm	No affected areas.

I request your office to kindly publicize widely.

Thanking You

Your Faithfully

Ashish Lamichaney, JES  
Assistant Engineer (EHV)

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### GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

No.

Dated..

### E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Addl.Chief Engineer (HQ-II), Power Department invites percentage rate tenders through e-tender from the Class II "A" contractors of East District enlisted with the Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim for the following project:

1	2	3
Sl.No.	Name of Work	Bid Value in Rs. In lakh.
1.	Strengthening, Modernization and Improvement of Transmission and Distribution System of Raj Bhavan, Mintokgang, High Court, VIP Areas and Surrounding Areas in Gangtok, East Sikkim.	6,42,93,773.00

The schedule of events (date wise) instruction to bidders (ITB) and detailed bidding documents along with the technical specifications are available in the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in). The Interested bidders may view and download the e-bid document from 06.09.2019 after 1100 hours onwards.

Sd/-  
(S.R. Bhutia)  
Addl. Chief Engineer (H-II),  
Power Department  
Govt. of Sikkim  
Gangtok.  
R.O. No. 176/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20  
Date: 9.9.19



## Terrible on Terror

**No plan, not even a specific law to combat terror**

Tomorrow is 9/11, that infamous 9th of September, 2001, when terrorism became a truly global enemy. While most are not comfortable with USA's aggressive ways post-9/11 and the continuing failure of that approach, there is no denying the fact that the crackdown on international terrorism has been strong in the past sixteen years. Nations, ignored for long by even their neighbours were all of a sudden finding themselves surrounded by sympathisers in the fight against homegrown extremists. Even Pakistan was forced to publicly crackdown on terrorist outfits it had sponsored in India, but as the years passed, new arrangements were made and exporting terrorism continues. There is pressure on Pakistan again, but that is also a passing phase and unless a comprehensive and unanimous approach is worked out to address terrorism, the problem is not going away anywhere soon.

Our country has suffered much in the hands of the dealers of terror. Countless lives, including two prime ministers, have fallen to their bullets. The assassination of the Father of the Nation was also an act of terror. And yet India seems to be the only country without a clear plan on terrorism. Its approach remains so uncertain that even though the state has had recourse to a draconian Act in Manipur for the past more than four decades it has failed to contain extremist activities there. A special Act is for extreme times; its life is supposed to be short and effectiveness quick and decisive. The Armed Forces [Special Powers] Act in Manipur is neither. Only the people seem to have suffered under it and yet the Centre is not willing to repeal or withdraw it. The Act has been universally thumbed down, and yet it persists, the irony being that it is modeled on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Ordinance promulgated by the British on 15 August, 1942 to suppress the 'Quit India Movement'. The Ordinance was made into an Act by free India, and continues to be imposed on some of its own people, an embarrassment which has also given the nation the Iron Lady Irom Sharmila and her nearly two decade long hunger strike in protest against AFSPA.

But we digress here.

Even as the GoI persists with AFSPA, it is not even consistent in its hardline approach and remains a study in vacillation. The Centre is convinced that Manipur needs the Act for its own security, but does an about-turn on national security and delivers a situation where the country does not have an anti-terror law even as its leaders keep finding new groups to brand terrorists. India does not have any specific legislation in place to combat terrorism. This confusion in intent continues to defeat any attempt at curbing sponsored violence in the country. For a country which has grappled with terrorism in some form or the other ever since its inception in 1947, this is a completely indefensible position. But that is how things are and can be expected to remain till such time that our politicians keep themselves so busy settling personal and petty ideological scores that national issues keep getting deferred.

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# Genetic engineering and human-animal hybrids: How China is leading a global split in controversial research

DAVID LAWRENCE  
*theconversation.com*

If you want to conduct groundbreaking but contentious biological research, go to China. Last year, Chinese scientist He Jiankui announced he had created the world's first gene-edited human babies, shocking the world at a time when such practice is illegal in most leading scientific nations. More recently, US-based researcher Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte revealed he had produced the world's first human-monkey hybrid embryo in China to avoid legal issues in his adopted country.

Yet if China is fast becoming the world capital of controversial science, it is not alone in producing it. More babies produced using the "CRISPR" gene-editing technology are now planned by a scientist in Russia, where another researcher is also hoping to conduct the world's first human head transplant. And Japan has recently lifted its own ban on human-animal hybrids.

The world is rapidly moving towards a two-tier system of cutting-edge medical research, broadly divided between countries with minimal regulation and those that refuse to allow anything but the earliest stages of this work. The consequences of this split are likely to be significant, even potentially affecting your own access to healthcare.

The births of the CRISPR babies in China led to uproar among the scientific community, which criticised He Jiankui, and inspired calls for a halt in any CRISPR research on human embryos. In around 30 countries, gene editing of human embryos is already banned outright or at least tightly controlled. For example, in the UK only a handful of research groups have been granted a licence to conduct experiments, and certainly not with any aim of bringing an embryo to term.

But in most countries, things are less clear. The Chinese establishment was quick to condemn He's work and declare it illegal. And some commentators have made the point that, despite outside perceptions, Chinese science is far from unregulated. Yet the fact remains that He was able to conduct the work unimpeded, with evidence suggesting he may have even received state funding.

With a technology moving as quickly as CRISPR, many nations will not have had the time nor expertise to develop a comprehensive stance. As a result, it seems likely that we won't be able to avoid a two-tier system for this kind of research. Nations with developed regulation for biotechnology will be able to adapt more quickly and easily to the latest advances and put restrictions in place. Other states will scramble to keep up, leaving scientists to proceed without having to consider the ethical or social implications of their work. And that's assuming all governments want to restrict this kind of research, which they may not.

We have seen what happens when there is this kind of international disconnect with other biotechnologies. "Medical tourism" has become a boom sector within the healthcare industry. People travel from all over the world to private clinics that provide – or claim to provide – stem cell therapies unavailable in their home countries. There have been high-profile cases of people travelling from the US to Mexico in order to skirt national laws and access mitochondrial replacement therapy.

So it's safe to assume that those with the means to do so might try to access gene editing abroad when it's not available in their own countries, perhaps to avoid passing on a known heritable condition they carry. And with home DNA-testing kits becoming widespread (although not necessarily accurate), the number of people wanting to edit their genome before having children is likely to increase.

A lack of or loose medical regulations also tends to produce predatory clinics that charge huge amounts for what sounds like wonder cures but might be, at best, a sugar pill or, at worst, something actively harmful. And, perhaps worst of all, regulatory problems might contribute to destroying the reputation of promising developing medical technologies. The more nasty incidents that are attributed to an unregulated therapy, the less and less willing people will be to support legitimate medical trials.

This kind of two-tier system of medical regulation could also lead techniques such as gene-editing to become much more culturally accepted in

some countries than others. Our society continues to struggle with xenophobia and racism, so we may also find prejudices and legal dilemmas developing for genetically engineered humans (never mind human-animal hybrids).

Would people born using technologies such as CRISPR be allowed to visit or emigrate to countries where their very creation was illegal? Would it be illegal for them to have their own children and spread their genetically altered genome? This kind of conflict between international human rights legislation and domestic policy is yet to be tested but could have grave consequences.

## WORSENING HEALTH INEQUALITY

On the other side of the divide, if countries with strong regulations move too slowly to allow treatments that may be lifesaving or disability preventing, it could worsen health inequality. We already have serious global problems with distributive justice, the ways in which services or technologies are only accessible to the privileged. If a particular illness could be prevented through CRISPR, is it right that someone should have to risk their child developing the disease just because they cannot afford to travel to a country where the technique is legal?

Unfortunately, the obvious solution – internationally agreed standards and regulations – may be a pipedream. We have consistently failed to find global consensus on gene editing issues, just as with embryo research. Even if it is possible to reach common ground, developing and implementing mutually acceptable terms that are flexible enough to handle the inevitable further technological progress, will take many years. For now, proposals for concerted effort to keep track of gene editing research may be the best we can do.

It's difficult to predict what could happen in the meantime. But it seems likely that more and more gene editing and other controversial practices will take place in a variety of regulated and unregulated circumstances. Sadly, it may be the case that little progress is made until the types of problems outlined above become all too real.

*[the writer is Postdoctoral Fellow, Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University]*



# What research reveals about drivers of anti-immigrant hate crime in South Africa

STEVEN GORDON  
*theconversation.com*

Mobs have attacked foreign-owned businesses on the streets of at least three South African cities in recent days. This has caused outrage across Africa. There have even been retaliatory attacks. The South African government, under pressure to protect her large international migrant community, quickly defused the attacks.

Such attacks are not new. For more than two decades, this type of crime has bedeviled the country. There is growing frustration that so little has been done to stop it.

To combat anti-immigrant hate crime, we need to understand its drivers. Scholars at the Human Sciences Research Council have recently made new discoveries about the drivers of anti-immigrant hate crime in South Africa.

We found that a significant share of the general population hold anti-immigrant views and blame foreign nationals for many of the socio-economic challenges facing South African society. Yet there is little empirical evidence that immigrants are driving problems like crime or unemployment.

But beliefs about the role played by foreign nationals in the country clearly influence how people think about anti-immigrant hate crime. Anti-immigrant statements by politicians also feed into the problem.

**TRACKING ANTI-IMMIGRANT**

## HATE CRIME

Data from the South African Social Attitudes Survey, conducted annually since 2003, was used. The survey series consists of nationally representative, repeated cross-sectional surveys. It is designed as a time series and is increasingly providing a unique, long-term account of the speed and direction of change of public participation in anti-immigrant behaviour in contemporary South Africa.

Using this data, researchers have found that anti-immigrant hate crime is more widespread than previously thought.

Beginning in 2015, the following item was added in the survey questionnaire:

- Have you taken part in violent action to prevent immigrants from living or working in your neighbourhood?

People may be disinclined to disclose this type of potentially incriminating information during face-to-face interviews. But community research suggests that the stigma attached to participation in xenophobic activities may not be as great as we may imagine. Still, the reader should be aware of this possible under-reporting of anti-immigrant behaviour when reviewing the survey's results.

A minority of the South African adult population reported that they had participated in this form of anti-immigrant aggression. The share of the general public who admitted engaging in violence fluctuated within a very narrow band over the period 2015-2018. This shows the

willingness of survey participants to respond to this question varies by only a small margin between the two periods. It also suggests a linear relationship between behavioural intention and attitudes.

The survey results demonstrate the ugly reality of violent anti-immigrant hate crime in South Africa. Although this is an important and dangerous type of prejudice, such crime is not the only form that xenophobia may take. Other forms of peaceful anti-immigrant discrimination are also evident in South African society.

Research has shown that more peaceful forms of anti-immigrant activities are often the first step in a process of escalation that leads to xenophobic violence. Past participation in peaceful anti-immigrant activity (such as demonstrations) was found to be a major determinant of this type of violence.

For this reason, we suggest in our study, "policymakers should consider non-violent anti-immigrant activities as early warning signs of forthcoming anti-immigrant hate crime."

## CONCLUSION

One of the most troubling findings to have emerged concerned possible participation in anti-immigrant aggression among those who had not taken part before. More than one in ten adults living in South Africa reported in the 2018 survey that they had not taken part in violent action against foreign nationals – but would be prepared to do so.

This finding is quite disturbing

given that there may be under-reporting of the propensity for violent action. Anti-immigrant stereotypes were shown to be a robust driver of this kind of behavioural intention. This suggests that anti-immigrant attitudes could have a mobilising effect, spurring individuals towards acts of violent xenophobia.

The results of this study show that millions of ordinary South Africans are prepared to engage in anti-immigrant behaviour. So it is vital that the resources dedicated to combating xenophobia be equal to the size of the problem.

The South African government has a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The progressive measures put forward in the plan include immigrant integration, better law enforcement, civic education and increased immigrant access to constitutionally entitled rights.

Recent research suggests that many of these measures have a degree of public support. The plan was approved in March this year. If it's to work, it requires adequate resources and support from all sectors of South African society.

Instead of focusing on short-term solutions civil society, foreign governments and the general public must work with the state to progressively implement this plan.

*[the writer is Senior research specialist, Human Sciences Research Council]*



## People with unproven Assam citizenship will have to go where they came from: Gehlot



**RAIPUR, SEP 9 (PTI):** The people whose citizenship remains unproven in Assam might have “to go to where they have come from”, Union minister Thawarchand Gehlot said here on Monday amid growing concerns over the number of exclusions from the final NRC list.

The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister made these comments at a press conference to mark completion of 100 days of the Narendra Modi government in its second term.

He also said the

economic situation in the country was not as “frightening” as being projected.

Responding to a query on names of scores of people missing from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, Gehlot said, “People who have proved their citizenship will remain in the country. For those whose citizenship remains unproven (in Assam), the Centre is working on it but they have to go to where they have come from”.

While 3,11,21,004 people found eligible for

inclusion in the NRC list, which was made public last month, 19,06,657 people found themselves excluded, a development which has triggered concerns among various sections.

On the state of economy, the minister said, “In some sectors, like auto, there are reports (of slowdown) but the Union government has clarified there is no economic slowdown.

It is evident from statistics of sale and purchase made public by the Centre that there is no such atmosphere of

slowdown as is being projected”.

As per data, the country’s GDP growth, which was at an average of 7.7 per cent during 2014-18, contracted to 5 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year, the lowest in the last six years.

For its part, the Centre has been assuring that the fundamentals of the economy are strong and that the slowdown is cyclical and temporary in nature.

“The situation is not that frightening. The Centre has taken some

financial measures, like the merger of banks and reduction in interest rates, in view of this,” he said. Speaking on jobs data, the minister said the Centre did not have exact figures of unemployment but claimed it had worked to create job opportunities for several crore people.

He said over 17 crore people were provided loans under the PM’s MUDRA scheme.

Gehlot listed revocation of provisions of Articles 370 and 35A in Jammu and Kashmir, passing the triple talaq law, launching of Jal Shakti Abhiyan and amendments in the Motor Vehicle Act as some of the important decisions taken in the first 100 days of the Union government.

He said the new Motor Vehicles Act, with steep fines, will help reduce the number of accidents on roads.

On a query on banning liquor to curb road accidents due to drunk driving, he said it was a matter to be dealt with by the states, and added that his ministry had worked to make people aware of alcohol addiction.

## Bhutanese nabbed with leopard skin in West Bengal

**JALPAIGURI (WEST BENGAL), SEP 9 (PTI):** A Bhutanese was apprehended in West Bengal’s Jalpaiguri district and a leopard skin seized from his possession, a forest official said on Monday.

The alleged smuggler was apprehended by a special task force of Baikunthapur forest divi-

sion in Dooars region of northern West Bengal.

Thirty three-year-old Daw Tshering Doya was nabbed from Old Hashimara area of the district on Sunday evening and an 11-foot leopard skin recovered from him, forest ranger Sanjay Dutta said.

He said prelim-

inary investigation has revealed that the leopard skin was being smuggled from Bhutan to some other country via India.

The forest department has taken the accused into their custody will produce the accused in Jalpaiguri district court, Dutta said.

## Hill Council of Ladakh members call on Pondy LG

**PUDUCHERRY, SEP 9 (PTI):** A team of officials and members of the Hill Council of Leh-Ladakh called on Puducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi at her office here on Monday.

A press release said the officials and members of the Hill Council

of Leh-Ladakh were on a tour to study the administrative process of a Union Territory.

Ladakh will become an union territory after the Centre on August 5 nullified Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifur-

cating it into two Union Territories (Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh).

The delegation comprised Iftaar Ahmed and Mohammad Shabir (officers) and Phunchok Dorje and Tsering Morop (Councillors), Bedi was quoted as saying in the release.

## Manipur in favour of implementation of NRC, will approach Centre : Biren Singh (Correcting typo in header)

**GUWAHATI, SEP 9 (PTI):** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Monday said the state government is in favour of implementation of NRC and will approach the Centre for it in line with the one in Assam.

The state has already approved a resolution for a National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state, he told reporters here on

the sidelines of the NEDA conclave here.

“We and many of the states in the north east need NRC.

The Manipur government has already taken a decision in the cabinet to have NRC,” Singh said.

The Centre’s view is very clear that no illegal immigrant will be allowed to stay anywhere in the country.

“That is a very clear message,” the chief minister said.

Asked how the state plans to implement the exercise, he said “It will be done through the central government. Assam is doing it under the supervision of the Supreme Court. So we are requesting the central government and it will be done by them.

## TMC, CPI, NCP defend national party status before EC

**NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI):** The CPI, TMC and the NCP on Monday urged the Election Commission not to take away their national party status, saying they should be given a fresh opportunity to improve their electoral performance.

They three told the

Commission that they are old parties and have played a key role in national politics. Hence, their status should not be based on recent electoral performance only.

The parties had appeared before the Commission for a personal hearing on Monday.

Earlier, responding to a show cause notice, the three had told the poll panel that their national party status should not be revoked based on their performance in the Lok Sabha elections this year.

The Election Commission had earlier issued them notices asking

why their ‘national party’ status should not be revoked following their performance in the Lok Sabha elections. The CPI is learnt to have said that after the Congress, it is the oldest party in the country which had been the principal opposition party in Lok Sabha.

The Left party said though it may not have fared well in the recent Lok Sabha elections, it has been in power in several states and has played a key role in strengthening the Constitution.

The TMC is learnt to have said that it was given national party status in 2014 and it should be allowed to continue with it at least till 2024.

The CPI, BSP and the NCP were facing the prospect of losing their national party status after their dismal performance in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections as well.

However, they got a reprieve when in 2016

the EC amended its rules, whereby national and state party status of political parties are to be reviewed every 10 years instead of five.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which won 10 Lok Sabha in the last parliament polls, and some assembly seats, does not face the possibility of losing its national party status now.

According to the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, a political party can be recognised as a national party if its candidates secure at least six per cent of votes polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha or assembly elections, and, in addition, it has at least four members in Lok Sabha.

As of now, the Indian National Congress (INC), BJP, BSP, CPI, Communist Party of India (Marxist), TMC, NCP and the National People’s Party of Meghalaya have national party status.

## Scientists help farmers take up aromatic crops’ cultivation in hilly areas

**DHARAMSHALA, SEP 9 (PTI):** Scientists are helping farmers in remote areas in the hills take up cultivation of aromatic crops to double their income under the CSIR Aroma scheme, officials said.

Cultivators have been facing problems of non-remunerative returns and increasing incidents of crop loss due to wild and stray animals.

CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur Director Sanjay Kumar told PTI that aromatic crops are cultivated around the world for essential oils which earn a high revenue and are used in agrochemical, flavoring, perfumery and pharmaceutical industries.

Crops such as wild marigold, damask rose, lavender, rosemary, lemongrass and mushk-bala are good for cultivation in marginal and waste lands.

“To promote cultivation of aromatic crops, a complete package of agro and processing technologies has been developed to help farmers realize the profits. Depending upon the quality and quantity of essential oil, they can earn a net profit of Rs 0.8 to 1.5 lakh per hectare annually,” Kumar said.

He said the essential oil extracted from aromatic crops has a huge demand in perfumery, flavour and fragrance industry in India and abroad.

“During the last two years, CSIR-IHBT has brought more than 500 ha area under these crops. Cultivation of wild marigold has resulted in production of 7.6 tonne

of essential oil in Himachal Pradesh with revenue generation of Rs. 5.56 crore, benefitting 861 farmers,” he said.

“To promote cultivation of aromatic crops for doubling farmers’ income, small societies of progressive farmers have been formed in different states. Nineteen processing units have been set up for these societies for production of essential oils,” Kumar said.

With CSIR-IHBT’s efforts, Himachal Pradesh has become the largest producer of high-quality wild marigold essential oil in India, meeting the demand of perfume, flavouring, and condiment industries, he said.

The main wild marigold growing regions in Himachal are Bhatiyat and Salooni in Chamba district , Seraj and Gogardhar in Mandi district, Banjar in Kullu, and Rampur in Shimla district. Batote and Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir and Bageshwar and Nainital in Uttarakhand are also important wild marigold growing regions.

The CSIR-IHBT team imparted 133 trainings on cultivation and processing of aromatic crops to 2,900 farmers and unemployed youths in remote areas in the hilly states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Linkages were established between farmers and guaranteed buyers and the institute held extensive varietal improvement programs for these crops. Farmers were also provided quality planting material for their commercial cultivation.

## Journalist arrested after taking pictures of kids mopping school floor



**AZAMGARH (UP), SEP 9 (PTI):** Azamgarh district magistrate on Monday ordered a probe into the arrest of a journalist allegedly after he took photographs of some children mopping the floor in their school.

The journalist was arrested on false charges of extortion and obstructing public servants from discharging their duty, alleged a fellow journalist Sudhir Singh, who, along with other journalists met District magistrate N P Singh to apprise him of the alleged illegal arrest.

“No injustice will be meted out to the journalist. We will look into the matter,” said Azamgarh DM N P Singh.

Singh also ordered a probe into the matter.

Local journalist Santosh Jaiswal was arrested here last week on Friday after he took photographs of school children, mopping the floor and called up police to apprise them of the illegal practice by school authorities,” said Sudhir Singh.

Singh said the police, responding to Jaiswal’s call reached the school and took both the journalist and principal Radhey Shyam Yadav of the Oodpur pri-

mary school to the police station.

At the Phoolpur police station, the school principal lodged a complaint against Jaiswal on the basis of which an FIR was registered against him and he was arrested, said Singh.

The FIR No 237 registered on September 6, 2019 against the journalist quotes the school principal as saying that Jaiswal often visited the school and misbehaved with both male and female teachers and students and tried to persuade them to subscribe to the newspaper published by him.

Yadav said in the FIR that on the day of the incident Jaiswal came to the school and ordered some school children to mop the floor to facilitate him take their photographs.

Yadav said he objected to his act, following which Jaiswal fled the school premises leaving his vehicle there and later demanded money from him.

Sudhir Singh, who also met the Azamgarh district magistrate along with other journalists to complain against Jaiswal’s arrest, refuted the charges against the arrested journalist.

## Tripura: Three BSF jawans among five injured in clash

**AGARTALA, SEP 9 (PTI):** Three BSF jawans were among five people injured in a clash between the troops and local residents in West Tripura district, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred at Rayermura village near the India-Bangladesh border on Sunday evening.

“A BSF patrol detained three people who were allegedly throwing packets of some contraband items from the Indian side of the international border to Bangla-

desh at Rayermura village on Sunday evening,” DIG of police, Arindam Nath said.

He said when the BSF personnel prevented the alleged smugglers from throwing the contraband items to Bangladesh, some villagers attacked the jawans and other local residents joined them. “The BSF jawans had to open two rounds of pump-action gun on the attackers, causing injuries to two of them,” Nath said.

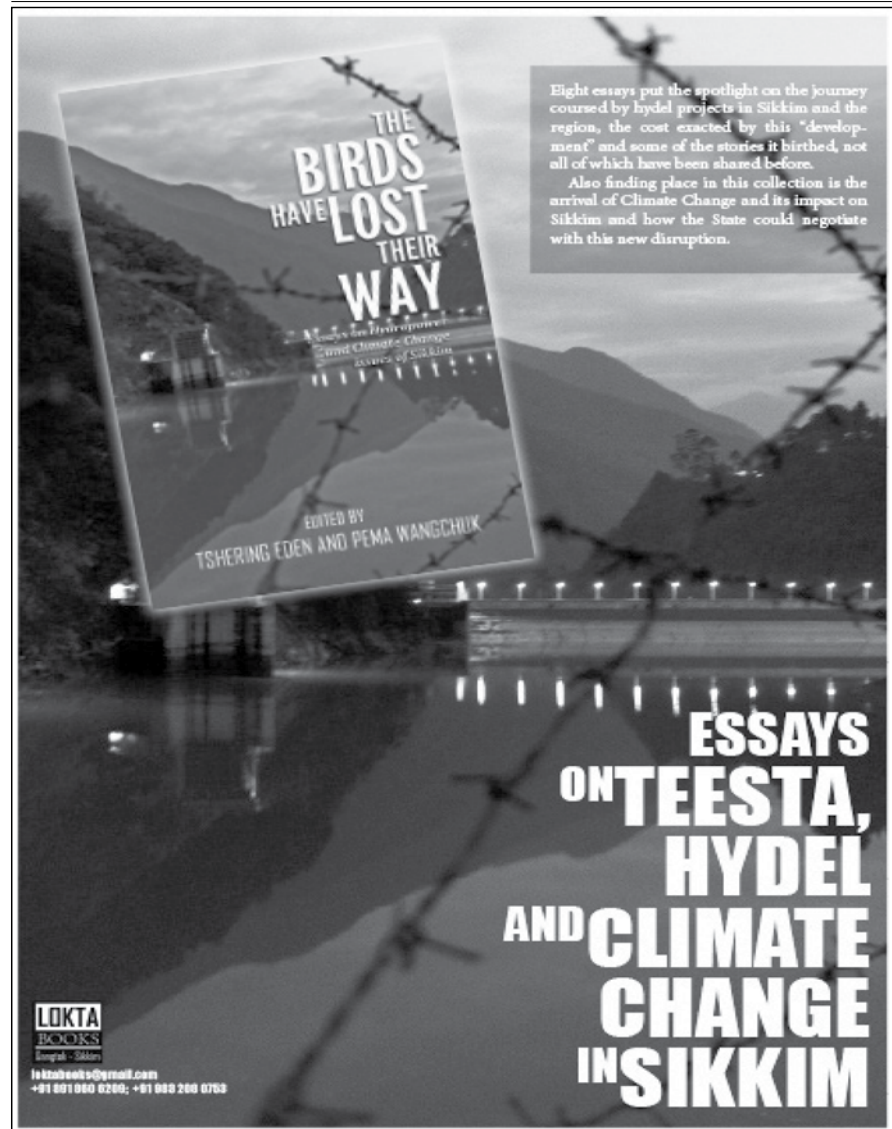
The BSF personnel have lodged an FIR

against the attackers, he said. BSF DIG, C L Belwa, confirming Nath’s version, said that his jawans had opened fire on the villagers in self-defence from pump-action guns causing minor injuries to two of them.

Three BSF personnel, including a company commander, were injured in stone-pelting by the alleged smugglers, he said.

The injured persons were given first aid at Tripura Medical College.

Police are investigating the case.





# Rafael Nadal cherishes moment at US Open as clock ticks on golden career



TUMAINI CARAYOL/  
THEGUARDIAN  
NEW YORK, 09 SEPT:

Moments after one of the great grand slam finals of his career, Rafael Nadal sat exhausted in his seat as endorphins and adrenaline coursed through his body. Overhead on the big screen of Arthur Ashe Stadium, footage of all 19 of his triumphs played out one by one. The Spaniard stared upwards and thought of all the obstacles and injuries he had overcome, and then he wept.

Nadal's fourth US Open title marks another crowning achievement to an incredible year. He is now 27-1 in his last five events, with titles in Rome, Roland Garros, Montreal and New York, and is now the frontrunner to finish the year as world No 1.

Roger Federer stands only one grand slam away, yet whenever asked about the possibili-

ty of catching his great rival, Nadal issues the same mantra. "As I always say to you, and is true: I would love to be the one to have more [grand slams than Federer], yes, but you cannot be all day frustrated or all day thinking about what your neighbour has better than you. You have to be happy with yourself."

It is easy to forget how arduous Nadal's path has been in recent years. He spent much of his 2018 season battling a constant stream of different injuries. He withdrew or retired from 11 of the 12 hardcourt events he played and, after ankle surgery at the end of the year, was forced out of the spring US hardcourt events Indian Wells and Miami with a hip injury. When he returned on his beloved clay in April, the constant blows had finally taken their toll. He said that incessantly worrying about his body had sapped

his confidence dry.

Nadal went to Monte Carlo, a tournament he had won a record 11 times, and was humiliated in the semi-finals by Fabio Fognini. The next week, at his home tournament in Barcelona where the public worship him and the stadium court bears his name, he found that he could not play. The 33 year-old's anxiety was so crippling he retreated to his hotel room alone and considered if he should stop playing tennis for a while in order to refresh his mind. He decided to play on, and slowly the shackles fell away as he found his form again.

This summer has marked Nadal's first stretch of total good health in years. He is not as fast as he was at 20 years old, but he has adapted and improved. He flattens out his forehand more, he takes

the ball earlier and his matches are far more efficient. Over the past few years, his backhand has become a potent weapon in itself and his serve has improved immeasurably. Despite not playing to the best of his ability on Sunday night, Nadal kept his opponent, Daniil Medvedev, constantly guessing. He mixed heavy, whippy spin with skidding low slices and the occasional loopy ball. He came into the net, using his serve and volley 20 times and with 66 total net approaches.

As Medvedev bore down on Nadal by recovering from two sets down and generating double break point at 1-0 in the fifth, the 33 year-old reacted by storming to the net behind his serve and executing a great half volley winner. His subsequent hold would prove the turning point in the match. The most remarkable thing about

the enduring greatness of Nadal, Federer and Novak Djokovic has been their ability to improve and adapt at a faster rate than those who are 10 years younger.

Nadal's victory means that he and his three greatest rivals have won 54 of the last 59 grand slams. Though Medvedev pushed him harder than any of the youngsters, once again one of the legends was left at the end of the tournament to secure another victory. Nadal's tears were a reminder that it was a moment to cherish, because it will not last for ever.

"We have been here for 15 years almost," said Nadal. "At some point, these days, going to happen sooner than later that this era going to end. Is arriving to the end. I am 33. Novak is 32. Roger is 38. Andy is 32, too. The clock is not stopping. That's part of the cycle of life."

# Opportunity for us to see where we stand against best: Rabada

KUSHAN SARKAR  
NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): South Africa's pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada feels the upcoming T20 and Test series against India is a chance for his embattled team to figure where it stands against the world's best in a tough transition journey.

The Proteas will be playing three T20s starting September 15 followed by three Tests against India. They arrived with a relatively young team in which Rabada and skipper Quinton De Kock are the two most experienced players.

"I am really looking at the next couple of years. It's a challenge for us, it's a journey. The group has belief in its abilities and we need to see how we fare on this tour of India," Rabada told PTI in an exclusive interview.



The tour of India is South Africa's first assignment since a disastrous World Cup campaign, during which they were knocked out in preliminary stage itself. India are the numero uno team in the ICC Test rankings but are placed a rung behind South Africa, at 4th, in the T20 list.

"The goal is to compare ourselves with the best. India have been a successful team over the years. There's been some changes and our team is now a lot younger. It's a challenge for those who haven't played here earlier," acknowledged Rabada, who has already played over 100 international games across formats.

interim coach Enoch Nkwe, having been under his wings at the age-group level.

"I have been involved with him since the age group level. I like the way the team is gelling," said the soft-spoken pacer in an interaction which was organised by Sun International hotels represented by Outbound Marketing in India in collaboration with the South Africa High Commission.

Despite the lack of experience, Rabada said there is a belief that the visitors can win against the formidable hosts.

"There will be a few debuts. Players who have not played against an Indian team, especially such good quality. We are going to see where we are at here. We believe we are going to win. Its exciting and we are going to have fun," he exuded confidence.

respond to the Herculean assignment.

"Virat Kohli has proven that he is the best batsman in white-ball format. He is already regarded as a great of the game with some pedigree. Playing him is an opportunity to test yourself as a player.

"I think he is a fighter and at the end of the day, we would like to go and express ourselves and not have any fear. Have fun, play hard and just enjoy the battle with the world's best batter," was Rabada's simple advice for the rookies in the team.

Just as Kohli, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and Joe Root form the "Fab Four" of world batting, Rabada, Jasprit Bumrah and Jofra Archer are considered the terrific trio with the ball.

"I mean it's good. I have always admired watching other fast bowlers and it's healthy competition, it's good that they (Bumrah and Archer) are around," he said.

"Like I said, the natural competition is healthy. It's a spectacle to see someone running in and bowling rockets. A great spell with skill and execution is all you want to see," he concluded.

# Root wants to stay on as England captain after Ashes blow

MANCHESTER, SEP 9 (AFP): Joe Root is in no doubt he should remain as England's Test captain despite presiding over their first failure to win a home Ashes series in 18 years.

England were looking to regain the Ashes after a humiliating 4-0 loss under Root in Australia in 2017/18.

But Australia's 185-run victory in the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Sunday left them with an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series ahead of next week's finale at the Oval.

Root, whose tactical acumen has been questioned this series, may be England's best batsman but three of his last five Test innings have ended in ducks.

Nevertheless, he had no doubts about continuing in the often stressful role of England captain. "Definitely, yes," the 28-year-old said when asked if he still felt he was the right man for the job.

"Whenever you lose a series it hurts and I have to take that on the chin. It's still very raw.

"You have to look at areas you want to get better at, both in yourself and as a team.

"But I have been given a fantastic opportunity to captain the Test

side and will continue to work very hard doing my best at that. That is in my control and I have to make sure I keep getting this team in the best shape to win as many games as possible."

This was England's first defeat in an Old Trafford Test since 2001 and Root, one of several players also involved in this season's World Cup triumph, has little time in which to revive flagging spirits ahead of Thursday's start at The Oval.

England, however, could still end this series all square at 2-2 and gain valuable points in the inaugural World Test Championship with a victory in south London.

"It's important to look at next week," said Root.

"We have an important Test match against Australia and we have to make sure we finish this summer strong: do not lose this Ashes series.

"We have the Test championship to play for, do not lose this Ashes series. It matters to me, it matters to everyone involved.

"I know the Ashes are not coming home but in terms of the Test championship, at the end of the two-year cycle those points could be crucial.

"Every game against Australia matters.

# Afghanistan thrash Bangladesh by 224 runs in one-off Test

CHITTAGONG (BANGLADESH), SEP 9 (AFP): Rashid Khan claimed 6-49 and completed his maiden 10-wicket haul in Test cricket as Afghanistan overcame rain and fading light to crush Bangladesh by 224 runs in the one-off Test in Chittagong on Monday.

In only his country's third Test match, Rashid took three of the last four wickets to finish with a match haul of 11 wickets, helping Afghanistan bowl out Bangladesh for 173 runs in the second innings.

With four wickets in hand, the hosts were given 18.3 overs to survive after play resumed in the final session following a rain break but they succumbed with three overs to spare.

Brief scores: Afghanistan first innings 342 all out (Rahmat Shah 102, Asghar Afghan 92, Rashid Khan 51; Taijul Islam 4-116) and 260 all out (Ibrahim Zadran 87, Asghar Afghan 50; Shakib Al Hasan 3-58) vs Bangladesh first innings 205 (Mominul Haque 52; Rashid Khan 5-55, Mohammad Nabi 3-56) and 173 in 61.2 overs (Rashid Khan 6-49, Zahir Khan 3-59.

# Jorginho edges Italy closer to Euro 2020 with Finland winner

TAMPERE (FINLAND), SEP 9 (AFP): Jorginho fired Italy to within touching distance of Euro 2020 with a spot-kick winner that beat nearest rivals Finland 2-1 on Sunday and maintained his side's perfect qualifying record.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho's 79th-minute penalty in Tampere made it six wins from six for Roberto Mancini's side and sent them six points clear of the second-placed Finns in Group J, after in-form Norwich City striker Teemu Pukki had levelled Ciro Immobile's headed opener with a penalty of his own six minutes before.

With two teams qualifying from the group, four-time world champions Italy are flying high with a maximum 18 points with four qualifying games to play, nine points ahead of third-placed Armenia despite their thrilling 4-2 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina earlier on Sunday.

They could now secure qualification for the tournament, which kicks off in Rome next June, against Greece or Liechtenstein -- who surprisingly drew in Athens -- next month.

"The match against Greece could be the one that secures qualification and we hope the Stadio Olimpico will be as full as during the 1990 World Cup when we were young," said Italy coach Roberto Mancini.

Former Italy international Mancini



ni took over last year after the Azurri's failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

"There was a bit of suffering, but we dominated the game," he added.

"The lads did very well overall, although we had a few scares when it was 1-1.

"But there were so many things that I liked, dominating away from home every time is very positive and even the substitutes did very well, having more players to choose I think is fundamental.

"Our nature is to always attack, you could see that tonight, giving very little to our rivals."

Finland -- bidding to qualify for the European Championship for the first time -- have lost both their matches to the Italians after also falling 2-0 in Udine last March.

- **'FEELING THE PRESSURE'** -

The Italians had the best of the first half, dominating possession against the Finns who have won four matches out of six.

Finland goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky did well to deny a Stefano Sensi volley with Immobile getting his head to a Federico Chiesa cross but sending it wide.

Sensi again missed a chance to

give Italy the advantage just before the break with Hradecky blocking a Chiesa effort.

Pukki threatened after the break but Italy's pressure paid off in the 59th minute, with Chiesa racing down the right to set up Immobile who nodded in his first international goal in two years.

"I was feeling the pressure of not scoring with this jersey," said Lazio striker Immobile whose last international goal was in a World Cup qualifier against Israel in September 2017.

"But I knew the time would come. Tonight wasn't easy, but we did well. We are happy, we are starting again after the disappointment of missing out on the World Cup."

Italy looked to have thrown away the win when Sensi tripped dangerman Pukki in the box, with the striker easily beating Gianluigi Donnarumma from the spot to score his fifth of the qualifying campaign.

However seven minutes later Italy were ahead again, with another penalty taken by Jorginho, after being fouled by Robin Lod.

The Brazil-born midfielder netted the winner to ensure all three points with just his second Italy goal, one that has all but booked his team's place at the Euros.

Italy next play Greece on October 12 in Rome.



# Malaria eradication possible by 2050, says Lancet report

**LONDON, SEP 9 (PTI):** The world may be able to completely eradicate malaria -- a deadly mosquito-borne disease -- within the next 30 years, partly due to improved coverage of current interventions, according to a study published in The Lancet journal.

The study found that more than half of the world's countries are malaria-free today, encouraging discussions about completely eradicating the disease.

The report compiled by a diverse range of experts including malariologists, biomedical scientists, economists, and health policy experts, condenses available evidence with the latest epidemiological and financial analyses and demonstrates that with the right tools, strategies, and sufficient funding, elimination of the disease is possible by 2050.

The authors used new modelling methods to predict how prevalent and intense malaria could be in 2030 and 2050.

Their analyses indicate that socioeconomic and environmental trends, together with improved coverage of current malaria interventions, will "lead to low levels of malaria that persist in pockets across roughly ten countries in equatorial Africa in 2050.

The report notes that communities plagued by malaria can choose to commit to a time-bound eradication goal with purpose, urgency, and dedication, instead of gradual efforts to reduce malaria, which comes with the constant threat of resurgence, and a steeping struggle against drug and insecticide resistance.

"For too long, malaria eradication has been a distant dream, but now



we have evidence that malaria can and should be eradicated by 2050," said Richard Feachem, Director of the Global Health Group at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in the US.

While global malaria incidence and death rates declined by 36 and 60 per cent respectively since the year 2000, the advancements are threatened by recent plateaus in global funding, together with a rise of malaria cases in 55 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, says the report.

The authors also expressed concern about parasite and vector resistance to currently available drugs and insecticides.

There are still more than 200 million cases of malaria reported annually around the world, claiming nearly 50,000 lives, according to the authors.

They add that malaria continues to trap countries in cycles of inequity, with 85 per cent of global deaths reported in 2017 coming from 29 nations. "Despite unprecedented

progress, malaria continues to strip communities around the world of promise and economic potential. This is particularly true in Africa, where just five countries account for nearly half of the global burden," said Winnie Mpanju-Shumbusho, Co-chair of The Lancet Commission on malaria eradication.

To achieve eradication within the timeline, the Commission urges that specific and deliberate actions at country, regional and global levels must be taken -- with three ways to accelerate the decline in malaria cases worldwide.

First, the Commission suggests that the world must manage and implement current malaria control programmes better with improved use of existing tools -- what it calls the "software of eradication."

Second, it highlights the need for better "hardware of eradication" with the development and supply of innovative tools that can overcome the biological hurdles in eradication. And lastly, the authors say that ma-

laria endemic countries and donors must provide more funds for ultimately eradicating the disease.

As the cost of ridding the world of the disease is unknown, the Commission suggests that an annual increase of about USD two billion would accelerate the progress.

The report emphasises the crucial role played by regional management approaches in eliminating malaria.

Eradication programmes, according to the report, should avoid being overly academic, and employ professionals from the world of implementation, rather than just research, adding that contributions from business schools and the private sector are crucial.

The authors note that training programmes should emphasise practical leadership and management skills which they say would create a global network of malaria eradication professionals over time.

The Commission also anticipates a revolution in the collection, analysis, and use of data about ma-

laria cases in the next decade with profound effects on programme management and effectiveness.

From the simulations, the authors also report very high levels of malaria control with the combined use of fast diagnostic tests, mosquito nets, indoor spraying of pesticides, and a combination therapy based on the anti-malarial drug Artemisinin.

And to achieve effective spraying of pesticides, the report suggests that a more sustainable approach, with greater benefit to the local economy, is for the health ministries of endemic countries to contract with local for-profit or not-for-profit entities.

"This report shows that eradication is possible within a generation. But to achieve this common vision, we simply cannot continue with a business as usual approach. The world is at a tipping point, and we must instead challenge ourselves with ambitious targets and commit to the bold action needed to meet them," Feachem added.

## Audio-visual premiere on Gandhi's favourite songs held in S Africa

**BY FAKIR HASSEN**

**JOHANNESBURG, SEPT 9 (PTI):** An audio-visual extravaganza to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was premiered here to spread the message of peace through his favourite songs.

The premiere held at the University of Witwatersrand's Great Hall on Saturday was lauded by the South Africans.

"This was a deliberate strategy to appeal to youth as we send out the universal message of peace and the values that Gandhi ji espoused, but we have found that even older people in the audience enjoyed the show," said Bharghav Purohit

from the music composer duo Bhargav-Kedar.

Jeevan Ramjee, who takes care of the Hall, said: "This is such an amazing show that it needs to have a performance at our Gandhi Hall in Lenasia". During the programme, an exhibition of 19 huge panels recalling highlights of Gandhi's life and promoting Gujarat as a tourist destination was also organised.

"We are delighted with the response here in Johannesburg and are currently negotiating several global venues to take the show there, said curator Varun Sutaria, who put together the programme with assis-

stance from local events coordinator Anil Rambaran. Gandhi, who was born in 1869, spent 21 years in South Africa before returning to India in 1915. Immediately upon arriving in South Africa, Gandhi faced discrimination because of his skin colour and heritage, like all people of colour and that is when he developed his political views, ethics and politics.

This year the entire world is observing the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi.

Several events have been held in South Africa alone, including rallies, cultural programmes and exhibition, to spread his message of peace.

## Hong Kong tells US to stay out; students form protest chains

**HONG KONG, SEP 9 (AP):** Thousands of students formed human chains outside schools across Hong Kong on Monday to show solidarity after violent weekend clashes to push for democratic reforms in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

The silent protest comes as the Hong Kong government condemned the "illegal behavior of radical protesters" and warned the US to stay out of its affairs.

Thousands of demonstrators held a peaceful march Sunday to the US Consulate to seek Washington's support, but violence erupted later in the day in a business and retail district as protesters vandalized subway stations, set fires and blocked traffic, prompting police to fire tear gas.

Hong Kong's government agreed last week to withdraw an extradition bill that sparked a summer of protests, but demonstrators want other demands to be met, including greater democracy.

Protesters in their Sunday march appealed to President Donald Trump to "stand with Hong Kong" and ensure Congress pass a bill that proposes economic sanctions and penalties on Hong Kong and China officials found to suppress democracy and human rights in the city.

Hong Kong's government expressed regret over the US bill, known as the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. It said in a statement Monday that "foreign legislatures should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs" of Hong Kong.

The government said

it was "very much in Hong Kong's own interest to maintain our autonomy to safeguard our interests and advantages under the 'one country, two systems' principle" after the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement last week that Hong Kong residents deserve real autonomy and freedom from fear. She urged an end to police violence against protesters and said Congress looks forward to "swiftly advancing" the Hong Kong bill.

The unrest has become the biggest challenge to Beijing's rule since it took over Hong Kong, and an embarrassment to its ruling Communist party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th year in power.

## Iran installing advanced centrifuges: UN nuclear watchdog

**VIENNA, SEPT 9 (AFP):** The UN's nuclear watchdog confirmed Monday that Iran was installing advanced centrifuges as the troubled 2015 deal with world powers over Tehran's nuclear programme threatens to fall apart.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a statement that on September 7 it had "verified that the following centrifuges were either installed or being installed...: 22 IR-4, one IR-5, 30 IR-6 and three IR-6s".

The IAEA's confirmation comes a day after Tehran hit out at European powers, saying they



had left Iran little option but to scale back its commitments under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The IAEA added in its statement that the centrifuges had been installed at Iran's Natanz facility and said "all of the installed centrifuges had been prepared for testing with UF6 (uranium hexafluoride), although

none of them were being tested with UF6 on 7 and 8 September 2019."

"In addition, in a letter to the Agency dated 8 September, Iran informed the Agency that it would reinstall the piping at two R&D lines to accommodate a cascade of 164 IR-4 centrifuges and a cascade of 164 IR-2m centrifuges," the agency's statement said.

## Moderate earthquake measuring 5 shakes parts of Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD, SEP 9 (PTI):** A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5 on Monday struck several parts of Pakistan, including the capital Islamabad, with no immediate reports of any casualties, according to a media report.

The Met office said the epicenter of the earthquake was 12 kilometers deep along the northern border between Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and India. The tremors were felt in Islamabad, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and the PoK. They were also felt in nearby areas including Abbottabad, Nakial and Manshera, The Express Tribune reported. Although the tremors triggered panic among the people, no casualties or damage to property has been reported so far, the report said.

In May, an earthquake measuring 4.2 was reported in Chitral and adjoining areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

In April last year, a 5.6-magnitude earthquake jolted many towns of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan.

## Nadal takes five-set US Open thriller for 19th Slam title

**NEW YORK, SEP 9 (AFP):** Rafael Nadal captured his 19th career Grand Slam title in thrilling fashion on Sunday by winning the US Open final, outlasting Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 to seize his fourth crown in New York. The 33-year-old Spanish left-hander moved one shy of Roger Federer's all-time men's record 20 Grand Slam triumphs and became the second-oldest New York champion in the Open era after Ken Rosewall in 1970 at age 35.

"Has been one of the most emotional nights in my tennis career," Nadal said.

World number two Nadal took the top prize of 3.85 million at Arthur Ashe Stadium and added to his US Open trophy haul from 2010, 2013 and 2017.

Nadal, who was in his fifth US Open championship match and 27th Grand Slam final, is the first man to claim five major titles after turning 30. But it took a supreme effort from the Spanish maestro, who nearly became the first player to drop the final after leading by two sets since Ted Schroeder in 1949. "This victory means a lot," Nadal said. "And the way it happened. It was hard to control the nerves. The nerves were so high after having the match almost under control." Nadal, who rose to 22-12 in five-set matches, only lost once at a Slam when up two sets, to Italy's Fabio Fognini in the 2015 US Open third round.

"I more or less had the match under control," Nadal said. "The

way he was able to fight, to change the rhythm of the match, was incredible." At four hours and 50 minutes, the match finished four minutes short of equaling the longest final in US Open history from Mats Wilander's 1988 win and Andy Murray's 2012 title.

It was the second Slam title of the year for Nadal after taking his 12th French Open crown in June.

In addition to reaching the brink of Federer's mark, Nadal moved one shy of the Open era record five US Open titles won by Federer, Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras.

"A 19th Grand Slam title is something unbelievable, outrageous," Medvedev said.

Nadal, who won his only prior meeting with Medvedev in last month's Montreal final, stretched his win streak over Russians to 20 matches since losing to Nikolay Davydenko in the 2011 Doha semi-finals. Fifth seed Medvedev, 23, would have been the youngest men's Grand Slam champion since Juan Martin del Potro at the 2009 US Open. Medvedev, who will rise to a career-best fourth in the rankings, was a champion at Cincinnati and runner-up at Montreal, Washington and the Open. "His summer was one of the best summers I ever saw," Nadal said.

"People saw why he is already number four in the world." Medvedev, who saw his career-best 12-match win streak snapped, would have been the first Russian to win a Grand Slam title since Marat Safin at the 2005 Australian

Open and the first Russian to win the US Open since Safin in 2000.

- Electric fifth set -

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On a knife's edge at 5-5 in the third set, Medvedev reeled off eight of the last nine points to force a fourth, breaking Nadal in the 12th game with a backhand winner.

"To be honest in my mind, I was already thinking, 'What do I say in the speech, it's going to be in 20 minutes,'" Medvedev said.

"I was like I have to fight for every ball, and it went further but it didn't go my way." Nadal was broken in the 10th game of the fourth set to force a fifth when Medvedev blasted a sterling backhand return winner. Nadal rescued three Medvedev break chances to hold in the second game of the fifth set, fired a backhand volley winner to break Medvedev in the fifth game and seized a 5-2 edge when Medvedev hit an overhead smash long.

Serving for the match, Nadal was broken when umpire Ali Nili issued Nadal a time violation for his first serve and the Spaniard sent his second long, the crowd booing Nili for his call.

Nadal squandered two break and match points in the ninth game as the drama intensified.

Again serving for the match, Nadal rescued a break point then hit a forehand drop volley for his third match point chance and Medvedev sent a forehand return long to end matters. Nadal screamed and fell to the court on his back in joy and exhaustion.

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# Actors lie when they say they're secure: **Emraan Hashmi**

**MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI):** Emraan Hashmi says an actor always tends to be insecure as it is tough to survive in the entertainment industry, which requires one to stay relevant.

The actor, who has established himself as a versatile performer in his close to two-decade-long career in Hindi film industry, believes the struggle to survive in showbiz is never ending.

"An actor is probably the most insecure person. Anyone who tells you he's not insecure is lying. From being relevant, to staying alive in a really competitive terrain, it's not easy," Emraan told PTI in an interview.

"Everyone's struggling to stay afloat. That's the nature of the business and that's what's fun about it. It's not easy, but it's a high. Everything has to lead to the next thing. I don't have a road map. It's just holding on to the next opportunity and moving on. It's been 18 years for me in the industry. There are so many new people coming on the block, it's insane. You've got to be on your toes," he added.

The actor said he is enjoying the current phase of his career where he is getting opportunities to play good roles, starting with Indian intelligence agent Kabir Anand on Netflix India Original "Bard of Blood".

"It's the best time for me. There are films I've reluctantly done in the past to keep the gas burning, for bread and butter. They were far from my ideology, thought process and my aesthetics. But it's a great time now with platforms like

Netflix coming up, there are realistic films coming out," he added.

The seven-episode series is based on Bilal Siddiqi's bestselling book of the same name.

It chronicles the story of an excommunicated RAW agent Kabir Anand--acourageous analyst and a sleeper agent --who takes on a covert mission in Balochistan when four Indian spies are

ent kind of performance. Understated, real, raw, authentic and nothing that's unbelievable. Even the action is fantastical but not unbelievable," he added.

Emraan said looking back, he is extremely happy the way the show turned out and hopes for a second season too.

"This show one went on for five months. Unlike films, where your character arch will last probably two hours,



captured; the mission soon turns south and Kabir must face his demons from the past. The 40-year-old actor said he had read the book and three episodes were already written when he joined the series.

"I had to begin by understanding where Kabir Anand comes from. He has angst, he's fighting his demons, ghosts from the past. Just getting into his head was a difficult process."

"I've never done something like this --the spy zone. The show will go to 190 countries so it'll involve slightly differ-

here it's a longer arch, so many artistes and tracks."It's a relief that we have got the work done very well. We have hit bull's eye with this one. I still want to play Kabir Anand so fingers crossed for season two. That's a good thing with web series, they can continue," he added.

The series also features Vineet Kumar, Sobhita Dhulipala, Jaideep Ahlawat, Kirti Kulhari and Rajit Kapoor among others.

"Bard of Blood", produced by superstar Shah Rukh Khan's banner Red Chillies Entertainment, starts streaming from September 27.

## Canadian PM Justin Trudeau sends best wishes to Asha Bhosle on her birthday

**MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI):** Music icon Asha Bhosle turned 86 on Sunday and the veteran singer had a special birthday message from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau sent a signed birthday note to Bhosle which read: "It is a great pleasure to send you best wishes and warmest congratulations on the occasion of your eighty-fifth birthday."

The singer shared the picture of the note on her Twitter page and said she was happy to have contributed in putting India on the world music map.

## Umesh Shukla's next a comedy, will feature Abhimanyu Dassani, Paresh Rawal, Mrunal Thakur

**MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI):** Director Umesh Shukla is working on a comedy film which will star Abhimanyu Dassani, Mrunal Thakur, Arshad Warsi and Paresh Rawal in the lead.

The film is touted as a family entertainer and will also feature Seema Pahwa and Divya Dutta.

"I will be directing an ensemble film which will feature Paresh Rawal, Arshad Warsi, Divya Dutta, Seema Pahwa, Darshan Jariwala, Abhimanyu Dassani and Mrunal Thakur. It is a comedy meant for family audience. There will be some message in it," Shukla told PTI.

The director is known for his films like "Oh My God", about an atheist who

decides to sue god and talked about commercialisation of religion and "102 Not Out" revolving around the lives of elderly father-son duo played by Amitabh Bachchan and Rishi Kapoor. The



new project will soon go on floors.

"We will start the first schedule in New Zealand and then Punjab. There is a studio on board for it and they will make an official announcement soon," Shukla added.



**KISSES! The model, Adriana Lima is looking gorgeous in all red at the Jason Wu show during New York Fashion Week.**

## One can't live in a bubble: **Ayushmann** on navigating success in Bollywood

BY SHUBHA DUBEY

**NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI):** With back-to-back hits and a National Award to his credit Ayushmann Khurrana has emerged as the go-to star for quirky stories, a space that the actor says he always wanted to capture.

The 34-year-old star, who made his foray into showbiz with reality TV and went to become a successful radio jockey and video jockey before making his Bollywood debut with "Vicky Donor", believes being on the periphery of the entertainment industry for a long time prepared him to make better choices.

"I was always aware about what I wanted to do. I had rejected a lot of films before 'Vicky Donor', it was a big thing for somebody who was not from the industry. Somebody else would have just grabbed any opportunity, but I was not like that.

"Coming from a journalistic background where I interviewed many actors, I have seen the rise and fall of a lot of actors from the other side. So, I could learn from their experiences and their mistakes. I always thought that my first film should be path breaking and it happened," Ayushmann told PTI in an interview.

Having achieved the kind of success that would be any aspiring actor's dream, Ayushmann is aware that one tends to get caught in the "bubble" that Bollywood is. His way of

dealing with the pitfalls that comes with stardom is to stay away from "yes-men".

"It is important to stay close to people who will give you objectivity in your life, are critical of your work and who are there to help you evolve as a person. One should stay away from yes-men.

"You can't live in a bubble and just be with the industry people. One needs to meet people from the real world. They are the ones to give you the fodder as an artiste to just put those experiences across on celluloid. I make it a point to meet people from different walks of life."

Ayushmann has been on a success spree since 2015's "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" and had a great 2018 with his films "Andhadhun" and "Badhaai Ho" winning big at the National Film Awards besides minting over 100 crore at the box office.

He also received the best actor National Award for his role in the Sriram Raghavan-directed movie, which he shared with "Uri: The Surgical Strike" star Vicky Kaushal. In 2019, Ayushmann's "Article 15", which was based on the caste divide in India, was well-received by both critics and the audiences.

His upcoming slate looks equally promising, with "Dream Girl" and "Bala", which are right up his alley with unusual stories at their core.

Tip: A staycation could help you get your mojo back.

**CANCER:** You will be faced with important choices at the start of the week. Don't let the glitter distract you. This situation requires you to tap into your logical side. Look at the entire picture, weigh the pros and cons, make a list if you have to. Making the right choice will open up a whole new world for you. Tip: Be mindful of the choices you make.

**LEO:** Keep the distractions at bay, Leo. A lot of opportunities are heading your way and you want to be present to them. It is time to leave the Shire on a new adventure. Are your bags packed? The road ahead promises to be a long one, so ensure you plan ahead.

Cosmic tip: A brand new adventure awaits.

**VIRGO:** 'Should I?' 'Will I?' 'Won't I?' Aren't you getting tired of running on the mental treadmill, Virgo? This

phase of your life requires you to let go of judgements and biases, and show up as your most authentic self—someone who isn't afraid to colour outside the lines, or show the world something it has never seen before.

Tip: Colouring outside the lines is cool again.

**LIBRA:** This week finds you exactly where you belong: on the top of your game. You make success look easy, but only you know the battles you've had to fight to get here today. Continue to manifest those larger-than-life ideas in your reality. You are in the process of creating your best life. As for them haters and naysayers? They don't deserve your time and energy.

Tip: You owe it to your dreams, Libra.

**SCORPIO:** Everything is aligning for you, even though you can't see it yet. Trust what's taking place behind-the-scenes, Scorpio. The secret to making it

big: continue to put in the work without focusing on immediate results. Your moment in the sun is closer than you think.

Tip: Ready for your moment in the sun?

**SAGITTARIUS:** The only reason it hurts is because you are holding on too tight, Sag. You have to let this one go. Things don't always turn out the way you want them to, and that's okay. Let 'one step at a time' be your mantra. For now, focus on getting to the other side. PS: Tip: One step at a time.

**CAPRICORN:** Life is your teacher, Capricorn, offering you lessons to challenge yourself in a multitude of ways. Be aware of the deep revelations you are having at this moment. When confused, ask the Universe for guidance. Question why you are doing the work that you are doing. Breaking out of your normal routine will give you some much-needed perspective. Some of you might meet a

guide or a mentor who can help you out of a tough spot too.

Tip: Seek guidance where required.

**AQUARIUS:** The inner world is where the magic is at, Aquarius. Listen to what the wise woman within is telling you. You will need no other sign to pursue your higher purpose. For some of you, the world of myths and mysteries is opening up. Is there a woman who thinks of you as a worthy initiate? The time to explore that connection is now. Tip: The gates of mystery are now open.

**PISCES:** What a wonderful time to be you, Pisces. You are not only learning from your past mistakes, but also understanding how to implement the life lessons. No wonder your work is thriving with you. The good news: harvest season is just around the corner, so keep putting in the work.

Tip: Harvest season is just around the corner.