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# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 249 | Gangtok | Friday | 21 September 2018

O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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## Land Transfer Act restored to original form

**PEOPLE DID NOT  
WANT TO WAIT  
FOR LONG TERM  
FRUITS: CM**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

A fresh amendment to the Sikkim Regulation of Transfer of Land Act has restored the Act to its original form after having been tweaked barely four months ago.

Introduced by Chief Minister

Pawan Chamling who is also the Minister In-Charge for Land Revenue, the amendment was passed today on the second day of the ongoing Assembly Session.

And IPR press release, quotes the CM as explaining the turnaround, thus: "But people did not want to wait for the long term fruit so the Government had to again amend it and restore it in its original form. Thus, with this Amendment Bill passed by the House today, peo-

ple can continue to buy and sell land as per the existing practice."

He explained that the idea behind the amendments which were rolled back today was "to ensure that Sikkimese of every community is secure and are not landless."

These amendments, apart from protecting the private land holdings of Limboo, Tamang and Sherpa communities from alienation to other communities, as also those of OBCs and Scheduled Castes, had also included a

proviso which required sellers to retain a minimum acreage, below which they could not sell their lands or would require special permissions to be able to do so.

Syari MLA, KN Lepcha, also participated in the discussions on the latest amendment.

It may be mentioned here that some confusion, including criticism by some groups had followed in the wake of the amendments moved four months ago.

## TWO-DAY ASSEMBLY SESSION CONCLUDES



## CM hails amendment to Sikkim Anti Drugs Act as historic

**GANGTOK, 20 SEPT (IPR):** The Second Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2018-19 was passed by the House today in the concluding day of the two-day Session of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly. Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, also the Minister-In-Charge of Finance Revenue & Expenditure Department had moved for consideration and passing of the Demands for Grants.

Subsequently, the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, Bill No. 22 of 2018 was also passed by the House.

The Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission for the year ended 31 March, 2017 was tabled on the floor of the House by the Chief Minister, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department.

Likewise, the Annual Report of Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim for 2017-18, and Report titled 'Four Years of Empowerment'

of Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India were presented in the House by the Speaker.

Earlier during the Legislative Business, the House passed the Sikkim Anti Drugs (Amendment) Bill, Bill No.20 of 2018 introduced yesterday on the floor of the House by Minister-in-Charge of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, AK Ghatani. MLAs KN Lepcha and RN Chamling participated in the discussions.

The House also passed the Wildlife (Protection) Act (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 21 of 2018 introduced on the floor of the House by Minister-in-Charge of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha. MLAs, KN Lepcha and RN Chamling participated in the discussions.

Similarly, the House also passed the Sikkim Regulation of Transfer of Land (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 23 of 2018 introduced by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Land

Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Pawan Chamling. MLA, KN Lepcha participated in the discussion.

Similarly, the House also passed the Sikkim Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 24 of 2018 introduced by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department, Pawan Chamling.

Uniformly, the House also passed the Sikkim Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 25 of 2018 introduced by Minister-in-Charge of Law, Legal, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs Department, RB Subba. MLAs, KN Lepcha and Sonam Lama participated in the discussions.

During the Question Hour, Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, also the Minister-in-Charge, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, while replying to a question raised by MLA, RN Chamling informed that to know the total number of people having less than 3 acres land

*turn to pg03*

**PM visit  
rescheduled,  
will  
inaugurate  
Pakyong  
Airport on  
24 Sept**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

The proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sikkim has been rescheduled and the PM will now inaugurate the Pakyong Greenfield Airport on 24 Sept. The PM was earlier slated to inaugurate the airport on 23 Sept.

According to sources, the PM will arrive in the State on 24 Sept and leave the next day. He will also address the public at Pakyong. However, the detailed revised programme is yet to be released.



## Sikkim strength lifters ready for national challenge

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

A 33-member Sikkim Strength Lifting Association (SSLA) team is all set to represent the State in the 27th Senior

*turn to pg02*

## NIT permanent campus proposed at Khamdong: HRD Minister

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

Minister Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba today said that the Department has identified a site at Khamdong in East Sikkim for setting up permanent campus of National Institute of Technology [Sikkim]. Accordingly, a letter to Additional

Secretary, Ministry of HRD, Government of India has already been sent to depute Empowered Committee of MHRD for the finalization of the proposed site without further delay.

Mr Subba said this while replying to questions raised by MLA, RN Chamling during the concluding day of the two-day State Legisla-

tive Assembly session.

He also informed that an area of 30 acres of land is already in possession of HRDD and an additional 40 acres of land adjacent to the proposed site has been acquired which makes it upto 70 acres. The site has also been visited by Director, NIT, who has expressed satisfaction

*turn to pg02*

## Pop Up Pasa! selfie booth at MG Marg

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

As a pre-event activity for the upcoming Pop Up Pasa!, a selfie booth was set up at MG Marg today. The selfie booth was inaugurated by Advisor cum Pre Primary head of Tashi Namgyal Academy, Mrs Subramani.

The event was also attended by bloggers like Peden Ongmu, Dikila Barfunga, Rigzum and owners of veterinary clinic Birds, Beasts and Relatives, Dr Karma and Dr Minla.

Today, a meet and greet session of pets and their parents was organised to start off the Pet Friendly activity which is also part of the Pop Up Pasa!. During the Pet Friendly activity, vets Dr Karma and Dr Minla will be giving health check-ups, consults, grooming of pets. Accessories for pets will also be available at their stall from 30 Sept-02 Oct.

The main motive behind today's event is to promote Pop



Up Pasa!, said event consultant cum event manager, Dichen Paden Saring.

Pop Up Pasa! seeks to provide opportunity for the locals to interact with various brands and labels from all over India to benefit their future endeavours. It is also designed to give the young entrepreneurs of the State a platform to put up their work in an open market.

The event, supported by the Government of Sikkim and influ-

ential enthusiasts of the city, will be held from 30 Sept till 02 Oct at Ridge Park, Gangtok.

The three-day Pop Up Pasa! will have pop up shops, food stall, dedicated toddlers and kids zone, Workshops for children and adults, Live stage performances and activities including a beautifully designed ambience for shopping before the upcoming big festivals of Durga Puja and Diwali

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## Preparations on for 12th Vazra Guru Thongdrup Puja at Samdruptse

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

The final meeting of Samdruptse Vazra Guru Thongdrup Puja Committee with representatives from various associations and clubs in and around Namchi, South Sikkim to finalise preparations for the 12th puja this year was held at Samdruptse complex in Namchi on 16 Sept. The puja will be held from 04-19 Oct, a press release informs.

The Vazra Guru Thongdrup Puja which involves recitation of the Vazra Guru Mantra for 100 million times has been held annually at Samdruptse since 2006. This year marks the completion of one complete cycle of the Buddhist zodiac calendar. Therefore, all the participants during this year's puja will earn the merit and benefit of the entire 12 editions of the puja held since its inception, the release adds.

For smooth conduct of the puja, the work distribution among the various clubs and social organisations were delegated on 16 Sept. The members were also entrusted with individual responsibilities as well as forming various sub groups to oversee the various preparation works required.

It was decided during the meeting that as in previous years, the lodging and fooding to all the monks, nuns and Maney Aams will be arranged by the organising committee along with their to-and-fro travel fares. However they will be required to get their own bedding and eating utensils.

The committee members have also extended their invitation to all Buddhism practitioners and well wishers to participate in the event which is being held for the benefit of all sentient beings and Sikkim in particular.

The committee has expressed heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for his visionary concept of building this statue of Guru Padmasambhava who is the patron saint of Sikkim and who established Buddhism in this Bayul Demajong or the hidden land of Sikkim.

## Sikkim strength lifters ready for national challenge

### contd from pg01

National Men & Women Strength Lifting Championship 2018 to be held from 25 to 28 September at Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh.

The State team comprises of 17 women and 16 men and is scheduled to leave for the championship on 22 September. The team will be accompanied by an international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia as team coach and Kado Bhutia as team manger.

Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, team coach Mr Bhutia informed that this senior national championship was also a selection trial for Team India for the upcoming 7th International Strength Lifting Championship scheduled to be in January next year at Nagpur, India.

He informed that the state team has been shortlisted based on performanc-

es at the state championship held in the first week of this month.

"All team members performed well in the recently held state championship and everyone is in a good form to give their best in the senior nationals and win medals for the State," he said.

Mr Bhutia informed that 12 promising lifters will be making their debut at the national level while the rest have already represented and won medals for the State in the past.

He expressed confidence that Sikkim will win the team championship this time. He was also elated with a higher participation of women in strength lifting this time.

He highlighted that higher participation of women was a good sign for the promotion and development of strength lifting in the State.

# SDF holds umbrella rally in Namchi

### BIKASH CHETTRI

#### NAMCHI, 20 SEPT:

Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] held a massive umbrella rally here at Namchi in South Sikkim today. More than 5000 SDF supporters from eight constituencies of South district assembled here at Central Park in Namchi to participate in the rally.

Carrying the party's tricolor umbrellas and flags, people shouted slogans and sang songs as they marched towards Singithang public ground where the party meeting was scheduled to be held. The rally was led by SDF South District vice president In-charge,



Girish Chandra Rai, and was supported by senior leaders, youth and women of South district.

Addressing the gath-

ering, Mr Rai said that the rally had been organised to bring youth of South district together. He added that the re-

sponsibility of the party's functioning is being handed to the youth of Sikkim and that the party hopes that organising

this rally brings about enthusiasm and passion among the youth to disseminate the values of SDF across Sikkim.

## Swachhata hi Sewa campaign at Mamring School

### SUMMIT REPORT

#### GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim, organised a "Swachhata Hi Sewa" programme at the school this afternoon in a build up to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The centre of attraction of the programme was a skit presented by students based on "Swachhata" which also invoked the Mahatma in it. Also on the occasion, a patriotic NCC song was presented by the students of Class X.

Durga Lal Sewa, Panchayat



President of Amba-Mamring GPU, was present as the chief

guest accompanied by SMC president Lakpa Ghising, SMC secretary NK Pradhan as special guests and joined by all the teachers, staff and students of the school.

Also on the day, NCC Cadet Yanchen Lepcha of the school gave a presentation on "Road Safety and Discipline."

The Electoral Literacy Club of the school informed the gathering about the ELC of Mamring School and its activities.

The programme was supported by NSS, ELC, NCC, SAATHI and RRC Clubs of the school.

## Namchi College conducts workshop on sexual harassment at workplace

### SUMMIT REPORT

#### NAMCHI, 20 SEPT:

A daylong workshop on "Sexual Harassment at the Workplace" was organised today by the Gender Sensitization Unit of Namchi Government College here at the college auditorium hall.

The programme was attended by Principal of the college, Dr Parsuram Poudyel, Vice Principal, Royal Rai, Dean, Dr Tshewang Bhutia, convenor and co-convenor of Gender Sensitization Unit, Laxmi Rai and Pema Choden Rai, along with faculty members and students of Namchi Government



College.

Assistant Professor, SCERT [Gangtok], Dr Genevieve Syangbo,

who attended the programme as resource person, gave a Power-Point presentation on

sexual harassment at workplace.

A skit titled, "The unwanted child," was

also performed during the event by students of English Department of Namchi GC.

## NIT permanent campus proposed at Khamdong...

### contd from pg01

on the suitability of proposed alternative site.

Earlier, he mentioned that initially the establishment of National Institute of Technology (NIT) required 300 acres of contiguous land.

The land offered by the State Government was not approved by the Empowered Committee of MHRD, Government of India. Alternatively the land at Ravangla, South Sikkim was offered for NIT, Sikkim which was again

declined for various reasons. In the meanwhile, a high level delegation represented Sikkim on 29 August 2018 at New Delhi with Minister, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India regarding consideration of alternative site for NIT, Sikkim. Union Minister also committed to give a model degree college under RUSA for Ravangla. Since

the requirement of land is huge it was difficult for the State Government to acquire the land due to financial constraints.

It may be recalled that NIT students have been demanding a permanent campus and had gone on a hunger strike earlier this month which was called off on 09 Sept after the intervention of Additional Chief Secretary, HRDD.

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## MoS Road Transport calls on Governor

### SUMMIT REPORT

#### Gangtok, 20 Sept:

Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandavia, called on Governor Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhavan on 19 Sept. It was a courtesy call by the Minister of State who is on a two-daylong visit to Sikkim to oversee various central projects and schemes being implemented in Sikkim.

A press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs that during a brief meeting, the Governor conveyed his concern on the condition of highways being maintained and upgraded by the central agencies including National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limit-

ed [NHIDCL] in the State.

He also informed the MoS about the recent damages inflicted on the roads and bridges especially in North District following the onslaught of monsoon in the first and second week of Sept.

The MoS assured to take the matter of restoration and up gradation of highways in the State on priority by the ministry.

Concerning the availability of generic medicines in the State, the MoS informed that a plan has been finalised in consultation with the State Government and the Health Department to open generic medicine stores in all the four districts in a bid to ensure its availability which will reduce the cost of medicines considerably.

## India leads world charts for MDR TB: WHO

**NEW DELHI, SEP 20 (PTI):** India accounted for 24 per cent cases of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in 2017 -- the highest in the world and followed by China's 13 per cent and Russia's 10 per cent, according to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The three countries accounted for almost half of the world's total MDR-TB cases.

The WHO said global efforts have averted an estimated 54 million TB deaths since 2000, but TB remains the world's deadliest infectious disease.

India also ranked the highest among the top-30 high TB burden countries in the world, with 27 per cent of the 10 million people who were diagnosed with tuberculosis last year.

According to the report, under-reporting and under-diagnosis of TB cases remains a major challenge as of the 10 million people who fell ill with TB in 2017, only 6.4 million were officially

recorded by national reporting systems. This left 3.6 million people undiagnosed, or detected but not reported.

Ten countries accounted for 80 per cent of this gap, with India, Indonesia and Nigeria topping the list, the WHO report said.

Globally, an estimated 10 million people developed TB last year and two third of such cases were in eight countries -- India (27 per cent), China (9 per cent), Indonesia (8 per cent), the Philippines (6 per cent), Pakistan (5 per cent), Nigeria (4 per cent), Bangladesh (4 per cent) and South Africa (3 per cent).

Only 6 per cent of global cases were in the European Region (3 per cent) and the Americas (3 per cent), the WHO said.

The report stated that MDR-TB remains a public health crisis and China and India alone were home to around 40 per cent of patients requiring treatment for this, but not reported to be receiving it.



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3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0741 1320 2497 3333 4027 6474 6821 6877 8113 9323  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0264 4005 4545 6169 6320 6960 8045 8970 9126 9127  
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1163 1205 1483 1498 1500 1693 1768 1797 1842 1846  
1954 2056 2075 2121 2187 2235 2258 2529 2540 3192  
3230 3297 3340 3464 3495 3643 3669 3733 3830 3846  
3853 3991 4107 4209 4590 4654 4672 4895 4896 5045  
5056 5297 5390 5456 5473 5477 5596 5693 5763 5806  
5902 5939 5956 6114 6288 6329 6359 6409 6439 6447  
6507 7084 7198 7247 7441 7472 7578 7591 7749 7776  
7810 7979 8004 8010 8105 8155 8250 8322 8416 8463  
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

**Gangtok on  
Friday,  
21 Sept**

**Temp:** 26°C/16°C

**Forecast:** A couple of morning thundershowers; considerable cloudiness, not as warm.

**Sunrise:** 05:23 AM

**Sunset:** 5:34 PM

## Darj United downs Freedom FC at Veterans tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

Darjeeling United beat Freedom Football Club, Gangtok, 2-1 at the ongoing Sikkim Veterans Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on Thursday.

Darshan Sherpa in the 39th minute and Chandan Moktan in the 54th minute score a goal each for Darjeeling United while the lone goal for Freedom FC was scored by Suman Dewan in the 44th minute.

On Friday, the first match will be played between Darjeeling Towns Club and United Fitness Club, Gangtok, at 1 PM followed by Maney-bong-Dentam taking on Royal Veterans, Siliguri, at 3 PM.

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# Rey Valley students visit Nayuma TV

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

Students of Rey Valley International School, Gangtok, made a special field trip to Nayuma TV office and studio today as part of the school's initiative to provide practical knowledge and exposure to students beyond their academic books.

27 students of grades I and II, accompanied by three teachers, visited the news studio, editing room, news section and the programme studio of Nayuma TV.

The students were very happy with the visit and surprised to see the process putting together the daily news telecast and various other programmes of Nayuma Television.

The students were briefed by the news reader, reporters, news editor and

other staff of the News and Programme Section and provided information related to the studios, news reading and other related topics.

"Such educational tours and field trips are being arranged in regular intervals for the students and form an important part of their academic activities," explained Namrata Thami Gurung, one of the teacher's accompanying the group.

The students were accompanied by three teachers Shiwani Rai, Sanjee Subba and Ms Gurung.

The students expressed their happiness with the visit and thanked the entire team at Nayuma Television for their support and co-operation. They said that they have got an opportunity to learn so many things.



## World Tourism Day celebration to promote West Sikkim tourism

**GYALSHING, 20 SEPT [IPR]:**

Pelling, one the renowned and most sought after places on the tourism map of Sikkim, for the first time will host the World Tourism Day on the theme 'Tourism and the digital transformation' on 26 and 27 Sept. The World Tourism Day falls on 27 Sept.

West Sikkim Tourism Society will manage the event in coordination with the District Administration (West), Tourism Department (Government of Sikkim), Pelling Tourism Development Association and tourism stakeholders. Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso is the chief patron of the two-day event and Ministers heading different departments along with MLAs are also included in the committee as patrons.

The inaugural event of the World Tourism Day will be attended by Tourism Minister, Ugen T. Gyatso and the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling will be the chief guest on the con-



cluding day of the event.

The president of organizing committee, West Sikkim Tourism Society, Sushil Tamang in a press conference held on Thursday here at the office of the Press Club of West Sikkim informed that the World Tourism Day would be celebrated at Pelling with an aim of propelling the tourism prospects of West Sikkim through constructive tourism based activities.

He shared that promotion and propagation of tourism in West Sikkim is very much

needed considering the scope and opportunities the district offers in tourism sector. Mentioning that stakeholders who are the part of tourism industry need to do a lot, Mr Tamang said that participation of tourism stakeholders and people involved in the sector more or less must be aware of the easy technology based means through which the tourism sector can be accessed in an easy way in the modern world.

Mr Tamang said that the importance of digital technol-

ogies in tourism, providing opportunities for innovation and preparing the sector for the future of work, will be the call of the World Tourism Day 2018, to be celebrated at Pelling. He added that the World Tourism Day would provide a unique opportunity to raise awareness on tourism's actual and potential contribution to sustainable development.

"Our effort is to help to put the opportunities provided to tourism, by technological advances including artificial intelligence and digital platforms, on the map of sustainable development. The United Nations' World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) sees digital advances and innovation as an opportunity to ensure growth of tourism sector in the world. Our effort would be to make the tourism stakeholders aware of benefits provided to tourism by modern means of technologies", Mr Tamang said.

He further informed that the highlight of the inaugural day of the tourism day would be convention held on tourism sector.

"Heads and experts of prominent travel agencies and organizations involved with tourism industry from different parts of India and state of Sikkim would attend the convention. They would talk about tourism and the issues related to the sector at a length. We hope that the convention would be helpful for the tourism stakeholders", Mr Tamang added.

He further informed that heads and experts of travel agencies such as Make My Trip, Yatra, Mayfair group of hotels, Chumbi Group of hotels from Sikkim and others renowned tourism based agencies will attend the convention to offer their views in the convention. He expressed that the convention would be all about awareness on technology based facilities that

have become unavoidable part of the tourism industry and responsibilities of tourism stakeholders in keeping the sectors far reaching in terms of development and revenue generation in the state.

Pujan Kharka, a member of the executive committee speaking about activities of the two days long event informed that adventure based activities would also be the integral part of the tourism fest. He shared that mountain biking, Low Altitude Marathon Run, Trekking, Helicopter ride, painting competition are some of the activities the people flocking fest would be able to enjoy.

"Tourists could also enjoy the traditional cuisines in the food stalls placed by the distinct communities of the state. Merriment seeking visitors could go through traditionally prepared foods and breweries at the event", he quipped.

## CM hails amendment to Sikkim Anti Drugs Act as historic

**contd from pg01**

and 10 acres land in Sikkim will take time and it is in process. Sikkim generates approximately Rs.22.60 Lakh Land Revenue every year.

Minister-in-Charge, Roads and Bridges Department, GM Gurung, while replying to a question raised by MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha informed that the carpeting work has been tendered and shall be issued by the end of rainy season and will be executed in upcoming dry season. The tender cost of the project is 75, 02,601.00 and the contractor for the project is Bikram Lama. He also added that the department is not giving the Middle Syari road connectivity a step motherly treatment as the department is very much concerned about the hardships faced by the local people due to the damages caused by landslide at Zymping ward. To address such problems, the Government has already sanctioned the restoration work. Tendering process has been completed and work will take place during working season after issuance of work order to the contractor. He also informed about the last carpeting/resurfacing of Ranipool/Nandok road which was executed during the period 2009 to 2013 under the Government Contractor named Jogen Mukhia. The unprecedented rainfall in last few years has caused immense damage to road from LLHP to Nandok. This road has very few numbers of natural jhora to divert the water collected from side rain. During rainy season, even minor slips block the drain and water tends to flow over the carpeted surface. Prolonged water flow over carpeted area affects existing surface and more deteriorated state. During the CM's visit in July, emergency surface repairing was done departmentally to provide immediate relief. Now, a proposal has been prepared for strengthening of road surface by using much thicker section of bituminous course to improve the carrying capacity of the road, it is under active consideration.

While replying to the questions put forth by MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, Minister-in-Charge of Tourism and Aviation Department, Ugen. T. Gyatso informed about the total number of Domestic and Foreign tourist in Sikkim during 2017-18 such as; Domestic Tourists, 2017 - 13, 75,854, Domestic Tourists, 2018 - 10, 64,042. Foreign Tourists, 2017 - 49,111, Foreign Tourists, 2018 - 32,717.

Also, he informed about the total revenue earned during Financial Year 2017-18 and 2018 - 19 (first quarter) as Rs. 5, 13, 95,818 and 1, 84, 47, 926 respectively. The revenue earned is deposited in the State exchequer under the relevant Heads of Account.

He also informed about the 81,828 Inner Line Permits which has been issued since January, 2017 to June 2018. And the popular destinations visited on ILP are Gangtok, Rumtek and Tsomgo in East Sikkim, Phodong and Yumthang in North Sikkim, Namchi and Ravangla in South Sikkim and Pelling, Yukuksom,

Tashiding and Zongri in West Sikkim.

Chief Minister, also the Leader of the House, Pawan Chamling in his valedictory address said that the decisions taken in the two-day Session were directed to safeguard the present and the future of the Sikkimese people. He reiterated that the five Amendment Bills passed by the House are people-centric, and will have positive impact on their lives.

Speaking on the Sikkim Anti Drugs (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 20 of 2018, the Chief Minister stated that it was a historic amendment and will be a matter of wide discussion and praise throughout the country and the world. He reiterated that the Amendment Bill decriminalizes drug abuse and encourages drug addicts to seek medical treatment. He said that the earlier Amendment treated drug addicts as criminals liable to punishment, so they would not share their addiction. Thus, societal and other fears kept them from seeking help and they continued to discreetly abuse contraband substances. With this landmark Amendment, that will completely change and more people will acknowledge their addiction and will seek medical help. This will thus help in curbing drug addiction in our society, stated the Chief Minister.

"We have given drug addicts an encouragement to seek treatment and join the mainstream of the society. This is an initiative of the State Government worth emulating by other States and countries," he stated. He added that the other objective of this Amendment Bill is to build an opinion among all stakeholders about the challenge of addiction in society and the way to make Sikkim a drug addiction-free State. Drug peddlers, on the other hand, would be liable to severest punishment which can go upto minimum one year imprisonment and fine of over one lakh rupees, he added.

Speaking on the Wildlife (Protection) Act (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 21 of 2018, Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling stated that Sikkim is a unique model of humans coexisting in harmony with the environment. However, the menace of wild animals on private agricultural holdings posed a threat to human sustenance, and the Government was compelled to come out with the Amendment Bill. He reiterated that the Bill passed by the House today would give respite to the farming community of Sikkim. He urged the people to use their responsible minds to deal with any situation of wild life menace and use permissible objects or weapons to chase the animals. The Chief Minister also stated that Sikkim is the first State in the world to pass the Wildlife (Protection) Act, which prevents killing of wild animals.

On the Sikkim Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 24 of 2018, the Chief Minister said that the Bill would help improvise and simplify the Tax for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The Chief Minister stated that the Second Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year

2018-19 passed by the House today would fulfil the present demands and priorities of the people of Sikkim. He added that the sanctioned amount should be utilized to fulfil the basic minimum needs of the people as well as provide them with all the facilities. He stated that most of the need-based demands of the people from the recent thirty-two day tour of the Chief Minister were sanctioned and accommodated in the Budget.

He informed that 1200 km of road has been sanctioned, which when completed would mean 99% road connectivity in Sikkim. No village, block, or ward would be left out and Sikkim will have the highest road density in the country. The Chief Minister said that due to fragile geology leading to natural calamities, the condition of State and National highways remains an area of concern. He added that the concerned Department should immediately carry out repair and restoration work wherever necessary so that people do not suffer. He called for participation of engineers, contractors and the public to ensure that all ongoing works are qualitative and are completed within scheduled time.

The Chief Minister further stated that all protective works, drinking water schemes, electrification, jhora training, upgrade of transformers, demands for religious places, crematorium centres, community centres, community play grounds, repair of school buildings and other amenities have been sanctioned by the Government.

He further directed the concerned Department to complete the construction of all sanctioned houses under the Rural Housing Scheme, the REDRH Scheme, and complete the house up-gradation work on priority as well as to provide plot of land to the landless. The Chief Minister directed the concerned Department to ensure that the State and National highways and tourism spots should have wayside amenities and washrooms for the convenience of tourists and visitors. All taxi parking places, plaza and stands, should also have washroom facilities, he stressed.

Further, all non-functional hostels in Senior Secondary Schools and Colleges and all vacant Government Quarters should be made functional immediately.

He also said that budget has been allocated for the recently announced Sikkim Students Welfare Board and Sikkim Senior Citizens' Welfare Board as well as a Senior Citizen Bhawan.

The Chief Minister also announced that Disaster Management will be part of school curriculum from next academic session.

He said that people of Sikkim should take pride in the fact that it now has the highest literacy rate in the country with 96.72%, which is among the many 'firsts' it has achieved in several fields. Likewise, the development of Sikkim can be measured by its Happiness Index, which is the highest in the country, he

stated. The increase in the life expectancy of the people of Sikkim by ten years is yet another indicator of development recorded by the State, he added.

"Sikkim is all set to have the Pakyong Greenfield Airport inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on the 23rd of September. I thank the Prime Minister for taking out time from his busy schedule to visit Sikkim and welcome him on behalf of the people of Sikkim," stated the Chief Minister.

The Airport has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 605.59 crore by the Airports Authority of India, he informed. Further, he informed that the State Government has provided land compensation to 164 people amounting to Rs 63.13 crore. Further, 257 people have claimed for compensation but the matter is sub-judice, he informed.

The CM, in his address, also mentioned some of the major infrastructures coming up such as the alternative national highway, railway project upto Rangpo, new Secretariat, Medical College & Multi Speciality Hospital, Chenrizig Singkhom Riwo Potala, Sky Walk Project, Underground Road and City. He also touched upon some of the recent decisions of the Government such as 'Job for Jobless', and implementation of recommendations of the Pay Commission.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister called upon all the concerned to take collective responsibility and ownership to take Sikkim to greater heights of development. He said that the good work done by the Government in the last twenty-four years should be appreciated, and collective and coordinated efforts should be made to complete unfinished work.

"Determined leader, responsible administration and disciplined people are the three pillars or actors of true democracy," he stated. He urged all to understand and imbibe these values.

The Chief Minister thanked the Speaker of SLA, KN Rai for the smooth conduct of the two-day session. He thanked the Deputy Speaker, Ministers and MLAs for their presence and participation in the debates and discussions during the Session. He also thanked the Secretary and officers of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat, officers of the State Government and members of the press and media.

Speaker, KN Rai, in his valedictory address, thanked the Leader of the House, the Ministers, and MLAs for their participation. He expressed hope that the Supplementary Demands for Grants passed by the House would fulfil the aspirations of the people. He also thanked and congratulated the Members of the House for passing five important Amendment Bills. He extended his thanks to the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretaries, DGP, Officers, Printing & Stationery Department, Police Department, IPR Department and Members of the media, and Secretary officers and staff of the Assembly Secretariat.

The House was adjourned Sine-Die by the Speaker.

# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Blame Games

*When everyone plays victim, who will take the initiative?*

Anyone who has been following political developments and public statements of public figures in Sikkim, or for that matter at the national level, would have noticed that everyone is quick to take the position of a victim. This propensity is not limited to those in the Opposition or in the minority and is as frequently adopted position even by those in power or in the majority as well. And this is not even a new ploy; in fact, it is a dated move. But it continues to remain in vogue because playing the victim presents the easiest recourse and offers a convenient way to dodge accountability – after all, if you sign up among the victims as someone [or some people] somehow wronged, you escape being lined up as perpetrators. This dodge has worked consistently well and is hence so infectious; and need one add, dangerously counterproductive because it obsesses over denials and slights, real and imagined, but ignores individual and societal shortcomings which also contribute to the situation.

Politicians in power blame those in opposition of distractions and digressions which delay development, those in opposition blame the ones in power of corruption which siphons away progress, people blame each other for personal failures, locals blame non-locals of stealing away opportunities, non-locals accuse locals of sloth, doctors blame patients for having come to them too late and patients blame doctors of being too inept... Students blame teachers, teachers reciprocate, and the blame-game plays on and everyone sulks as a victim. Soon the role-play becomes so convincing that the young start buying in and now a generation is in grooming which is quick to blame everything on someone else, becoming intransigent and perfectly mirroring the very system and situation that they have issues with. Finger-pointing is a preferred pastime that the young see around them every day – leaders who fail to convince voters to trust them, blame money power or even the EVMs, parties which cannot attract an audience, blame intimidation of supporters; departments which scandalize with their inefficiency, blame blackmailing agents of spreading canards; panchayats who bungle, blame MLAs who blame Ministers who blame babus who blame political pressure... and the buck keep rolling.

The young always inspire hope and keep optimism alive and they do so by rebelling, by announcing that they will be different. Ominously for Sikkim, those claiming to speak for the young are screaming deeper colours of victimhood. When they should be open and pursuing excellence, they obsess over perceived slights, celebrate mediocrity, abandon reason and chase conspiracies. The young receive “attitude” from one side and condescending advice from the other, and very soon their issues get sidelined as the discussions move to places which serve politicking very well, but offer no resolutions. And when solutions can't be worked out, everyone collapses backing to playing victims of subterfuge.

## WRITE US:

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# Microplastics are getting into mosquitoes and contaminating new food chains

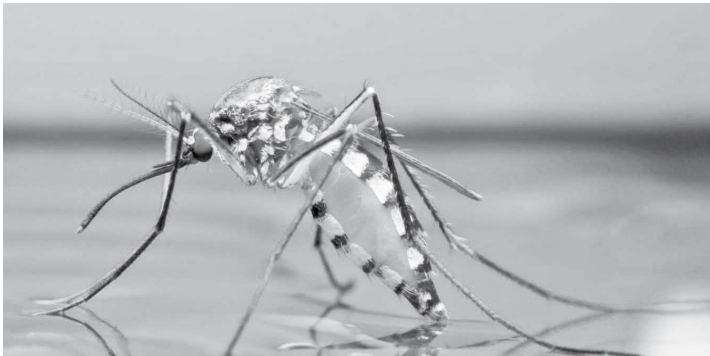
AMANDA CALLAGHAN & RANA AL-JAIBACHI  
*theconversation.com*

There is no doubt that plastic pollution in oceans is a growing worldwide problem. The internet is full of images of seabirds and other marine animals entangled in plastic waste, and animals starve because their guts are blocked with plastic bags.

But the problem goes much deeper than this. Much plastic pollution is in the form of microplastics, tiny fragments less than five micrometres in size and invisible to the naked eye. Our new research shows that these microplastics are even getting into tiny flying insects such as mosquitoes. And this means the plastic can eventually contaminate animals in a more unlikely environment: the air.

Microplastics can come from larger plastic items as they break down, but are also released directly into waste water in their millions in the form of tiny beads found in many cosmetic products including face wash and toothpaste (though these are now banned in many countries). Many tiny animals can't tell the difference between their food and microplastics so end up eating them. Once inside an animal, the plastic can transfer via the food chain into fish and other creatures and eventually become a potential health problem for humans.

By studying mosquitoes, we have found a previously unknown way for plastic to pollute the environment and contaminate the food chain. Our new paper, published in *Biology Letters*, shows for the first time that microplastics can be kept inside a water-dwelling animal as they grow from one life



stage to another.

Although most microplastic research has focused on the sea, plastic pollution is also a serious problem in freshwater, including rivers and lakes. Much of the freshwater research has concentrated on animals that live in the water throughout their life. But freshwater insects such as mosquitoes start their lives (as eggs) in water and, after several stages, eventually fly away when they grow up.

### TESTING THE MOSQUITOES

It occurred to us that aquatic insects might carry plastics out of the water if they were able to keep the plastics in their body through their development. We tested this possibility by feeding microplastics to mosquito larvae in a laboratory setting. We fed the aquatic young in their third larvae stage food with or without microplastic beads.

We then took samples of the animals when the larvae shed their skin to become larger fourth-stage larvae, when they transformed into a non-feeding stage called a pupa, and when they emerged from the water as a flying adult. We found the beads in all the life stages, although the numbers went down

as the animals developed.

We were able to locate and count the microplastic beads because they were fluorescent. We found beads in the gut and in the mosquito version of the kidney, an organ that we know survives the development process intact. This shows that not only do aquatic insects such as mosquitoes eat both sizes of microplastics, they can keep them in their gut and kidney as they develop from a feeding juvenile larva up to a flying adult.

In this way, any flying insect that spends part of its life in water can become a carrier of plastic pollution. And flying insects are eaten in their thousands by predatory insects in the air such as dragonflies as well as by birds and bats.

Our results have important implications since any aquatic insect that can eat microplastics in the water could potentially carry them in their body to their flying stage where they can move the plastics into new food chains. As a result, freshwater plastic pollution is a problem that has implications far beyond those of water quality and eventual marine pollution.

Clearly these results raise a number of questions, including what effect microplastics have on the survival and development of mosquitoes through their life stages. And we still need to examine the effect of different types and sizes of plastics on more species to see how widespread an issue this could become.

*[Amanda Callaghan is Associate Professor of Zoology, University of Reading; Rana Al-Jaibachi is PhD researcher, University of Reading]*

# How an ancient Islamic holiday became uniquely Caribbean

KEN CHITWOOD  
*theconversation.com*

A throng of Trinidadians line up along the streets of St. James and Cedros to admire the vibrant floats with beautifully bedecked models of mausoleums. Their destination is the waters of the Caribbean, where the crowds will push them out to float.

This is part of the Hosay commemorations, a religious ritual performed by Trinidadian Muslims, that I have observed as part of the research for my forthcoming book on Islam in Latin America and the Caribbean.

What fascinates me is how a practice from India has been transformed into something uniquely Caribbean.

### RE-ENACTING TRAGEDY

During the 10 days of the Islamic month of Muharram, Shiite Muslims around the world remember the martyrdom of Hussein, Prophet Muhammad's grandson, who was killed in a battle in Karbala, today's Iraq, some 1,338 years ago. For Shiite Muslims Hussein is the rightful successor to Prophet Muhammad.

Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, is marked by public mourning and a re-enactment of the tragedy. Shiite Muslims put on passion plays that include inflicting suffering, as a way to remember Hussein. In Iraq, Shiite are known to beat themselves with swords. In India, mourners whip themselves with sharp blades. Some Shiite also visit Hussein's shrine in Iraq.

The commemoration has also become a symbol for the broader Shiite struggle for justice as a minority in



the global Muslim community.

### EARLY HISTORY

In Trinidad, the 100,000 Muslims who make up 5 percent of the island's total population, celebrate the day of Ashura, as Hosay – the name derived from “Hussein.”

The first Hosay festival was held in 1854, just over a decade after the first Indian Muslims began to arrive from India to work on the island's sugar plantations.

But Trinidad at the time was under British colonial rule and large public gatherings were not permitted. In 1884, the British authorities issued a prohibition against Hosay commemorations. Approximately 30,000 people took to the streets, in Mon Repos, in the south, to protest against the ordinance. Shots fired to disperse the crowd killed 22 and injured over 100. The ordinance was later overturned.

The “Hosay Massacre” or “Muharram Massacre,” however, lives in people's memories.

### COLORFUL FLOATS OF TRINIDAD

These days, Hosay celebrations in St.

James and Cedros not only recall Hussein, but also those killed during the 1884 Hosay riots. Rather than recreate the events through self-flagellation or other forms of suffering, however, people in Trinidad create bright and beautiful floats, called “tadjahs,” that parade through the streets to the sea.

Each tadjah is constructed of wood, paper, bamboo and tinsel. Ranging from a height of 10 to 30 feet, the floats are accompanied by people parading along and others playing drums, just as is the practice in India's northern city of Lucknow. Meant to reflect the resting place of Shiite martyrs, the tadjahs resemble mausoleums in India. To many, their domes might be a reminder of the Taj Mahal.

Walking ahead of the tadjahs are two men bearing crescent moon shapes, one in red and the other in green. These symbolize the deaths of Hussein and his brother Hassan – the red being Hussein's blood and the green symbolizing the supposed poisoning of Hassan.

The elaborateness of the tadjahs continues to increase each year and has become somewhat of a status symbol among the families that sponsor them.

### A BIT CARNIVAL, A BIT ASHURA

While the festival is certainly a somber one in terms of its tribute, it is also a joyous occasion where families celebrate with loud music and don festive attire. This has led some to compare Hosay to Trinidad's world-famous carnival with its accompanying “joie de vivre.”

But there are also those who believe that the occasion should be a more somber remembrance of the martyrdom of Hussein. More conservative Muslims in Trinidad have made attempts to “reform” such celebrations. These Muslims believe local customs should be more in line with global commemorations like those in Iraq or India.

What I saw in the festival was an assertion of both the Indian and Trinidadian identity. For Shiite Muslims, who have dealt with oppression and ostracism – both in the past and in the present – it is a means of claiming their space as a minority in Trinidadian culture and resisting being pushed to the margins. At the same time, with its carnival-like feel, the festival could not be more Trinidadian.

Indeed, the celebrations each year illustrate how Indian and Trinidadian rituals and material culture merged to create a unique festival.

*[the writer is Ph.D. Candidate, Religion in the Americas, Global Islam, University of Florida]*

# Why you can smell rain

TIM LOGAN  
*theconversation.com*

When those first fat drops of summer rain fall to the hot, dry ground, have you ever noticed a distinctive odor? I have childhood memories of family members who were farmers describing how they could always “smell rain” right before a storm.

Of course rain itself has no scent. But moments before a rain event, an “earthy” smell known as petrichor does permeate the air. People call

it musky, fresh – generally pleasant.

This smell actually comes from the moistening of the ground. Australian scientists first documented the process of petrichor formation in 1964 and scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology further studied the mechanics of the process in the 2010s.

Petrichor is a combination of fragrant chemical compounds. Some are from oils made by plants. The main contributor to petrichor are actinobacteria. These tiny microorganisms can be found in rural and urban areas as well as in marine environments. They decompose dead or decaying organic matter into simple chemical compounds which can then become nutrients for developing plants and other organisms.

A byproduct of their activity is an organic compound called geosmin which contributes to the petrichor scent. Geosmin is a type of alcohol, like rubbing alcohol. Alcohol molecules tend to have a strong scent, but the complex chemical structure of geosmin makes it especially noticeable to people even at extremely low levels. Our noses can detect just a few parts of geosmin per trillion of air molecules.

During a prolonged period of dryness when it has not rained for several days, the decomposition activity rate of the actinobacteria slows down. Just before a rain event, the air becomes more humid and the ground begins to moisten. This process helps to speed up the activity of the actinobacteria and more geosmin is formed.

When raindrops fall on the ground, especially porous surfaces such as loose soil or rough concrete, they will splatter and eject tiny particles called aerosols. The geosmin and other petrichor compounds that may be present on the ground or dissolved within the raindrop are released in aerosol form and carried by the wind to surrounding areas. If the rainfall is heavy enough, the petrichor scent can travel rapidly downwind and alert people that rain is soon on the way.

The scent eventually goes away after the storm has passed and the ground begins to dry. This leaves the actinobacteria lying in wait – ready to help us know when it might rain again.

*[the writer is Instructional Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University]*



## Ruala made new Mizoram Cong vice president

**AIZAWL, SEP 20 (PTI):** Ruling Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Lal Thanhawla today appointed C L Ruala, the lone Lok Sabha member from the state, as vice president of the state party unit.

Ruala replaced R Lalzirliana, who was expelled from the primary membership of the party on Monday last.

Lalzirliana was expelled due to alleged anti party activities and for refusing to reply and give explanation to the show cause notice served by the party disciplinary action committee on September 11.

He resigned as cabinet minister from the council of ministers led by chief minister Lal Thanhawla on Friday last.

Mizoram is scheduled to go to poll by December this year.

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# Central team to assess flood situation in Arunachal Pradesh: Rijiju

**ITANAGAR, SEPT 20 (PTI):** Union minister Kiren Rijiju has assured Arunachal Pradesh government that an inter-ministerial team will be visiting East Siang district soon to assess the damages caused by the recent floods, an official release said here Thursday.

Siang river, which originates in Tibet, was in spate in August and September due to heavy rain in China.

Over 1,000 families living in the catchment areas of East Siang district were affected in the flood.

Arunachal Pradesh Disaster Management Secretary Bidol Tayeng called on Rijiju in New Delhi Tuesday to apprise him of the situation in the district, the release said.

Stressing the need for "flood protection" along Siang river, the secretary pressed for early visit of



a central team to inspect the district and assess the losses, it said.

The Union minister of state for home affairs, on his part, said he was yet to receive a requisition letter from the state government in this regard.

However, he promised to send an inter-ministerial team for assessment at the earliest.

"The team of experts will be visiting the district and file a report, based on which plans will be made to tame the Siang river," the

official release said quoting Rijiju.

Meanwhile, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAP-SU) here has expressed "deep concern" over the issue of large-scale siltation on Siang river bed and erosion of catchment areas.

AAPSU general secretary Tobom Dai said people had to flee their homes after the "marauding" flood waters of Siang entered into the villages.

In a statement Thursday, Dai said the river water is turning muddier and its flow more turbulent with time, adding to anxieties in the minds of people in the Siang valley.

"The alleged apathy of the governments, both in the state and at the Centre, in providing a concrete solution to the problem has created confusion and a sense of deprivation in the minds of affected people," Dai added.



## High security arrangements for Muharram in WB

**KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI):** The police have made elaborate security arrangements for Friday's mourning processions of Muharram in the city and elsewhere in the state, officials said Thursday.

Police officers would be posted at various crucial points, especially near mosques and alongside the city roads where mourning processions were scheduled, a Kolkata Police officer said.

"Around 6,000 police personnel will be deployed on the streets of the city to monitor tomorrow's processions so that no untoward incident take place," the IPS officer said.

Besides, Kolkata Police's Quick Response Team (QRT), Flying Radio Squad (FRS) and mobile patrolling vans would also be posted on Friday in connection with the processions.

"Muharram processions is scheduled to begin at 9 am and there will be traffic restrictions at certain roads.

Traffic will be diverted and there will be police posting along with the processions," an officer of Kolkata Traffic Police said.

The city police was also keeping a close watch on social media to keep a check on the spread of any fake news or rumour in connection with Muharram processions, the officer said.

sions, the officer said.

"That's a challenge for us. We are keeping an eye on social networking sites so that no fake news, photographs or hate messages lead to communal commotion here. Anybody found forwarding such rumours will attract strict action," he said.

A senior officer of state police said precautionary measures have been taken in connection with the Muharram procession.

"We have taken every possible measures to avoid any unwanted incident during tomorrow's Muharram's processions. We will not allow anyone to create disturbance in the state," he said.

"We have alerted the administration and asked them to take necessary measures to ward off any problem during the processions anywhere in the state. We want absolute peace during Muharram processions," state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee told reporters at the secretariat.

He said the administration has been asked to keep a note on the spread of hate messages to disrupt peace in the state.

"There is no dearth of people for spreading hate messages inciting others in communal passions," said Chatterjee, also the secretary general of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

## New French consul general seeks to boost cultural exchanges

**KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI):** Stressing the need to boost cultural exchanges between India and France, the new French Consul General in Kolkata Virginie Corteval Thursday said the city occupies a special place in her heart.

She expressed fondness for the city and said the first thing she ate after coming to the eastern metropolis was hilsa fish with mustard sauce, a popular Bengali delicacy.

"Kolkata is full of life and France shares a lot in common with the city when it comes to their love for art and films," she said during her first media interaction here at a school, two weeks after she landed in the city.

"I have visited Kolkata earlier, too, on multiple occasions and I have to say that I love the food

here," Corteval, who visited the school to give a fillip to a French internship programme running there, said.

Corteval, who succeeded Damien Syed as the French Consul General in Kolkata, said she seeks to boost cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Welcoming the new French Consul General in Kolkata, The New Town School Principal Satabdi Goswami Bhattacharjee said her institute was the "first in the country" to host a French teacher in the European Common framework for languages.

"For the first time, the French consulate and embassy has appointed Melissa Camille Abrantes as teaching assistant for The New Town School for a nine-month course. French is a part of the

curriculum for students of Classes V to X," Bhattacharjee said.

Her school will initiate a cultural exchange programme with two French schools from 2019, under which 10 to 15 students would be travelling to France and an equal number will be hosted by families of students here, she said.

Laetitia Lompech, the consulate's linguistic attach confirmed that Abrantes was the first French teacher in a school in India, who was directly engaged by the consulate.

She also said plans were afoot to take the initiative to other academic institutes in the eastern part of India.

Sharing her experience, Abrantes said she had been using innovative ways to connect with the students.

## Man arrested for molesting Manipur student in Mumbai

**MUMBAI, SEP 20 (PTI):** A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly molesting a student from Manipur while she was travelling in a local train in Mumbai, a police official said Thursday.

The accused, Ayaz Sattar Qureshi, a resident of Mankhurd suburb here, was nabbed from the Kurla railway station on Wednesday, he said.

The police managed to trace the accused with the help of his photograph clicked by the 22-year-old victim and analysing CCTV footages of various railway stations, he said.

The woman, studying at a renowned research institute here, was molested on September 11 while she was commut-

ing with her European colleague in the local train between Vashi and Govandi stations on the suburban Harbour Line, a police official said earlier.

She had complained that the man touched her inappropriately, taking advantage of the peak hour crowd in the general compartment of the train, he said.

While she and her colleague tried to nab the man, other passengers remained mute spectators and the accused managed to flee, the complainant had said.

The victim had narrated her ordeal on social media on Saturday. A case was registered against the accused under IPC section 354 (molestation), the police added.

# IIT-KGP develops model to predict variability and trends in rainfall in India

**KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI):** Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed a new statistical model which can be used to predict variability and trends in rainfall over different climate regions of India.

The model, developed by researchers of the Centre for Oceans, Rivers, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL), takes into consideration both local and remote factors causing weather changes, an IIT-KGP statement said Thursday.

Many of these, local and remote, factors that affect weather conditions have been known to the scientific community, the statement said, adding, most weather forecast models typically consider local factors or a single factor that affects rainfall or use of statistical models of correlation to establish the impact of various factors.

Because of this, there used to be significant uncertainties in such predictions as each independent factor has a certain impact, which may not match with actual conditions, it said.

"Our study finds that the summer monsoon rainfall variability is governed by the surface temperatures of the Eastern Pacific, Central Pacific, Atlantic and the north Indian Oceans, and equatorial zonal winds," the statement said quoting Prof Jayanarayanan Kuttippurath.

However, the winter monsoon rainfall variability is largely controlled by the surface temperature of the North Atlantic and extra-tropical oceans, Kuttippurath said.



"In our model we have used a technique which removes the impact of individual factors to find the trends in rainfall. The model can be used to find the contribution of individual factors to rainfall and can be applied to estimate the trends and variability of rainfall," Dr Priyitha J Nair, the lead researcher, who conceived and coordinated this study, was quoted as saying in the statement.

The model can predict any type of weather conditions, anywhere in the world only by changing the relevant factors affecting the changes, he explained.

The model, which has been developed by using data over a period of 38 years, has predicted significant changes in Indian rainfall in the perspective of global climate change.

The data analyses conducted during the study revealed signif-

icant positive trends (0.43mm/day/dec) in the north-west for summer rainfall during the period 1979-2017.

"There are scientific evidences of major climate shifts over centuries. These do not happen overnight but through gradual changes in weather conditions over time," Professor Arun Chakraborty, who supervised the research, was quoted as saying in the statement.

"The data shows there has been an incremental shift of Indian monsoon from east to west. However, this would require further studies," Chakraborty said.

The novelty of the model has been reported through a research paper 'The local and global climate forcings induced inhomogeneity of Indian rainfall' in the much-coveted Scientific Reports by the Nature, the IIT statement said.



# Jet Airways flight: 5 passengers suffer ‘mild conductive deafness’

Mumbai, Sep 20 (PTI): Five Jet Airways passengers, who suffered nose and ear bleeding Thursday after the crew failed to turn on a switch that controls cabin air pressure, were diagnosed with “mild conductive deafness” and later discharged from hospital, officials said.

The five passengers -- Anveshan Ray (39), Mukesh Sharma (31), Vikas Agarwal (31), Damodar Das (37) and Ankur Kala (38) -- were examined by ENT specialists at the Dr Balabhai Nanavati Hospital, a civic official said.

Nanavati Hospital's chief operating officer Rajendra Patankar said their health condition was stable and they did not require admission.

As per their examination by ENT doctors, the five passengers suffered “barotrauma” of ear, which is caused due to a change in air pressure, Patankar told reporters here.

“The five patients, all males, have mild conductive deafness, a temporary condition which is likely to take a week or 10 days to heal. They are advised not to fly till then.

They are undergoing all required tests,” he said.

“Whatever medication is required for the treatment of mild deafness, has been advised,” Patankar said.

After the five passengers were examined and provided treatment, they left the hospital, the civic official said.

The other passengers were attended to by doctors at the Mumbai airport.



Ankur Kala, who suffered nasal bleeding in the incident, alleged that the flight crew members were like “trainees” who did not know how to handle the situation.

“As soon as we took off, the air conditioners were not working. It was suffocating inside. I came to know (later) from the media they had forgotten to switch on the cabin pressure machine,” said Kala, who works for a jewellery firm and was going to Jaipur after coming here from Bangkok.

Recounting the ordeal, he said about 15 to 20 minutes after the takeoff, the oxygen masks got deployed from the overhead compartments but there was no instructions on whether to use it or not.

“There was no announcement from the pilots or crew whether we were going ahead or landing. The crew members panicked more than the passengers,” he claimed, while talking to reporters outside the hospital. “Suddenly, we smelt like a

wire was burning. The pressure was so high that we were covering our ears and holding the oxygen mask with our hands but it was still intolerable. Still, there was no announcement from pilots or crew members as to what exactly was the problem,” Kala said.

He further said that during landing, there was extreme pressure in the flight and he kept covering his ears and holding the mask, and fell unconscious for 10 to 15 seconds.

“When I removed my mask it was full of blood. I told my co-passengers that I am bleeding and waved to the air hostess, but she told me to remain seated and that all is normal,” Kala said.

He said after landing, there was no proper medication at the airport and that there were two compounders who cleaned the injuries with cotton.

“We were brought to the airport, saying we will be boarding the next flight. We were around 30 people who suffered injuries, of them 20 were sent to Jaipur

by another flight without proper treatment,” he claimed.

“But I kept insisting that I won't go ahead if I am not given proper medication and declared fit by doctors to fly again,” he said, adding that after two hours, he reached the Nanavati Hospital from the airport.

The Mumbai-Jaipur flight was carrying 166 passengers and five crew members on board.

Several passengers on the flight from Mumbai to Jaipur suffered nose and ear bleeding after the crew “forgot” to turn on a switch that controls cabin air pressure, officials said.

“During climb, the crew forgot to select bleed switch due to which cabin pressurisation could not be maintained. As a result, oxygen masks got deployed,” the official at aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), said.

The Boeing 737 aircraft returned to Mumbai due to “loss of cabin pressure” and the pilots have been taken off duty pending investigation, a Jet Airways spokesperson said.

Citing initial information, the official said few passengers have nose bleeding.

“Out of 166 passengers on board, 30 passengers are affected... some have nose bleeding, a few have ear bleeding and some are complaining of headache,” he added.

Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu ordered a safety audit of all scheduled airlines and airports.

BEST BOWLING FIGURES IN LIST A CRICKET

SCORE	PLAYER	YEAR
8-10	SHAHBAZ NADEEM (Jharkhand v Rajasthan)	2018/19
8-15	RL SANGHVI (Delhi v Himachal Pradesh)	1997/98
8-19	WPUJC VAAS (Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe)	2001/02
8-20	DT KOTTEHEWA* (NCC** v Ragama Cricket Club)	2007/08
8-21	MA HOLDING (Derbyshire v Sussex)	1988

\*Including two hat-tricks; \*\*Nondescripts Cricket Club

SHAHBAZ NADEEM

## Nadeem breaks List A bowling world record with sensational spell

CHENNAI, SEP 20 (PTI): Jharkhand spinner Shahbaz Nadeem Thursday broke a two-decade-old world record for best bowling figures in List A cricket, with an incredible haul of 8/10 against Rajasthan in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here.

Left-arm Nadeem, who has been knocking on the doors of the Indian team for a while now, ran through the Rajasthan batting to end a sensational spell. Rajasthan were all out for 73 runs in 28.3 overs with Nadeem's final figures reading 10-4-10-8.

The previous best was also in the name of an Indian in Delhi left-arm spinner Rahul Sanghvi, who achieved figures of 8/15 against Himachal Pradesh in a 1997-98 match. Sanghvi appeared in just one Test for India, back in 2001 against Australia.

The 29-year-old Nadeem has played 99 First-Class matches, taking 375 wickets at 29.74. He has taken 124 wickets at the List A level in 87 games besides 89 scalps in 109 T20s.

He has been a consistent performer



for Jharkhand in all formats including the four-day Ranji Trophy.

He was recently part of the India A team which played in England and also the home series against Australia A.



### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER SINGTAM SUB DIVISION ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

Memo No: 885/ED/R&B

Date: 19/09/2018

#### RE-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat unit of 17 Khamdong – Singtam Constituency where the work is to be executed. This re-tender notice supercede the earlier published NIT vide memo no:- 96/AES/R&B Dated:- 23/07/2018.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Construction of Road from Lingzey PMGSY Road to Pengring via Chandey JHS	Sumik Lingzey GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
2.	Construction of Road from Ganesh mandir to Sanskrit Patshala/ Milk collection centre at Aritar, East.	Sumik Lingzey GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
3.	Construction of Road from Dangeythang to Chukhim (Tourist spot).	Sumik Lingzey GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs.52,981.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
4.	Construction of Road from Badang to Sumik Lingzey GPK.	Sumik Lingzey GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs.52,981.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
5.	Construction of Road from Ganesh mandir to Upper Thasa via Subedi Gaon.	Sumik Lingzey GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
6.	Construction of Road from KLT Road to Neopanay Gaon via PMGSY Road at Patuk	Sumik Lingzey GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
7.	Construction of Road from Khamdong Linzey road to Beng via Bhirkuna.	Khamdong GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rs.29,66,947.00	Rs.74,174.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months.

8.	Construction of Road from 4 <sup>th</sup> Mile Church via Beng-Thangsing School to Ramitey Gaon, Upper Khamdong.	Khamdong GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
9.	Construction of Road from Maney Gumpa to Thangsing.	Khamdong GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rs. 12,71,549.00	Rs. 31,789.00	Rs.500.00	12 months.
10.	Construction of Road from Badang to Sumik Lingzey GPK.	Khamdong GPU			
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
11.	Construction of Road from Singtam Makha Road Near Panchayat Office Rangtu to Sibakothi Gaon, East..	Dung Dung Thasa GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
12	Construction of Road from Singtam Dikchu Road to Linkho at Lalap.	Dung Dung Thasa GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs.52,981.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
13.	Construction of Road from Ramitey Dungdung to Pradhan Gaon.	Dung Dung Thasa			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
14.	Construction of Road from Rangdu to Namgaythang via Beech Gaon.	Sirwani GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
15.	Construction of Road from Dokey Chisopanay Road to 16 <sup>th</sup> Mile Khapparay.	Chisopani GPU			
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months

#### TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt and TDR (as Earnest money) for issue of Tender Documents including Tender Form.	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at the Office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Deptt. Singtam.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 (2.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

#### CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

1. The conditions of contract remains the same as published in NIT vide memo no:- 96/AES/R&B Dated:- 23/07/2018 except the bank receipt for issue of tender form may be drawn in the account of respective GPU's where the work is to be executed. For any queries i/c condition of contract, Office of the Assistant Engineer, R&B Singtam and Divisional Engineer, R&B, East – II may be contacted during office hours.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER  
SINGTAM SUB DIVISION  
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPTT.

# Korean DMZ: Poignant symbol of divided nation, hope for reunification

**KUNAL DUTT**  
**KOREAN DEMILITARISED ZONE, SEP 20 (PTI):** A 250-km-long military demarcation line virtually divides the Korean Peninsula into two halves, but many hearts on both sides of the heavily fortified border still yearn to meet.

In and around the demilitarised zone, better known as the DMZ, that stretches 2 km wide on each side of the dividing line, symbolism of reunification run high.

From dazzling Dorasan station, the last railway station on the South Korean side located about 650 metres from the DMZ, with its 'Unification Platform', to countless colourful ribbons tied to barbed-wire fences nearby a preserved railway engine at Imjingak, carrying messages from people in the South for the family members lost or left back in the North, the desire to reunite is palpable in the air.

On the Unification Platform, a signboard put by Korail, South Korea's national railway operator, indicates "Pyongyang 205 km- Seoul 56 km" while a huge landscaped poster showing the tracks, carries the message "Not the last station



from the South. But the first station towards the North", signalling the aspiration to reconnect.

And, as South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un wrap up their

historic third summit Thursday, the two leaders made gestures, indicating a push towards establishing lasting peace in the region and accelerating the process of denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

"From the airplane, I observed North Korea's mountains and rivers and the streets of Pyongyang from the time they appeared until we landed. No signs of division were visible at all from that point

of view, Moon had tweeted Tuesday on the first day of the three-day summit.

The two leaders had hugged each other at the Sunan international airport in Pyongyang where Moon flew to from Seoul, becoming the first president to visit the North Korean capital in 11 years.

In his address at the May Day Stadium, Moon greeted people as Citizens of Pyongyang, our brethren in the North .

"By developing inter-Korean relations in an all-embracing and groundbreaking manner, we firmly pledged to reconnect Korea's arteries and to hasten a future of common prosperity and reunification on our own terms, Moon said.

We had lived together for five thousand years but apart for just 70 years. Here, at this place today, I propose we move forward toward the big picture of peace in which the past 70-year-long hostility can be eradicated and we can become one again, he said.

During their summit, Kim agreed to make a visit to Seoul and the two leaders also agreed to create a facility to hold family re-

unions at any time, work towards joining up road and rail links, and mount a combined bid for the 2032 Olympics.

The desire to become one was articulated in 1983, in a song '30 Years Lost' and was used as a themes song for the show 'Search for the Dispersed Families' which was aired on KBS, a Korean channel, from June 30-November 14, 1983, to reunite families torn apart by the Korean War, fought between the two Koreas from 1950-53 before an armistice brought it to a halt.

A monument to this song has been erected at Imjingak, next to the locomotive, riddled with 1,020 bullet holes a "symbol of the tragic history of the division" into North and South Korea.

"This song is also well-known in North Korea. And, this monument stands here, waiting for the reunification of north and South Korea, the plaque next to the monument reads.

A 2017 survey by the Seoul National University Institute for Peace and Unification Studies showed 53 per cent of the South Korean respondents backed unification.

## Imran Khan writes to Modi; seeks to re-start bilateral talks

**ISLAMABAD, SEP 20 (PTI):** Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan has written a letter to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, the Foreign Office said here Thursday, seeking to re-start the bilateral talks on key issues "challenging the relationship" including on terrorism and Kashmir.

In the letter dated September 14, the cricketer-turned-politician, who became the prime minister last month, proposed a meeting between Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York this month.

"Building on the mutual desire for peace between our two countries, I wish to propose a meeting between Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, before the informal meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers at the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York," Khan wrote.

Pakistan and India have an "undeniably challenging relationship", he said, while responding to Modi's letter to him on August 18.

In the letter to Khan, Modi conveyed India's commitment to pursue "meaningful" and "constructive" engagement with Pakistan and emphasising the need to work for a terror-free South Asia.



Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Spokesperson Mohammad Faisal said on Twitter: "PM (Imran Khan) has responded to PM Modi, in a positive spirit, reciprocating his sentiments. Let's talk and resolve all issues. We await formal response from India".

In the letter to Modi, Khan wrote: "We, however, owe it to our peoples, especially the future generations, to peacefully resolve all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, to bridge differences and achieve a mutually beneficial outcome".

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief thanked Prime Minister Modi for his "warm greetings" and best wishes on his assumption of charge as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The two ministers (Qureshi and Swaraj) could explore the

way forward, Khan said, adding that the SAARC Summit in Islamabad "will offer an opportunity for you to visit Pakistan and for us to re-start the stalled dialogue process".

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived following a spate of terror attacks on Indian military bases by Pakistan based terror groups since January 2016. Following the strikes, India announced it will not engage in talks with Pakistan, saying terror and talks cannot go hand-in-hand.

Amid heightened tension with Pakistan over Uri terror attack in which 18 soldiers were killed, India had pulled out of the SAARC Summit to be held in Islamabad in November, 2016. The summit was called off after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the meet.

## Japan's Abe cruises to party vote win, to stay as Prime Minister

**TOKYO, SEP 20 (AFP):** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won comfortable re-election as leader of his ruling party Thursday, setting him on course to become Japan's longest-serving premier and realise his dream of reforming the constitution.

The 63-year-old conservative secured 553 votes against 254 won by former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba, a hawkish self-confessed "military geek", in a two-horse race for leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

The win effectively hands Abe three more years as PM, giving him the chance of breaking the record for the nation's longest serving premierships held by Taro Katsura,



a revered politician who served three times between 1901 and 1913.

Public support for Abe -- a political thoroughbred whose grandfather and father both held power -- has recovered after he managed to survive a series of cronyism and cover-up scandals.

Now reconfirmed in power, Abe will head to New York this weekend to attend the UN General Assembly and hold a summit with US President Donald Trump.

Abe and Trump, who enjoy each other's company on the golf course and are close diplomatic allies, are expected to analyse the latest inter-Korean summit.

But they will also have to confront a growing trade dispute as Trump sees Tokyo among "unfair" trade partners.

While Japanese voters put the economy and social security as their top priorities, Abe aims to use the election to push his dream of reforming the country's post-World War II pacifist constitution.

## Indian-origin doctor warns of 'unconscious racism' in UK's state-run health service

**LONDON, SEP 20 (PTI):** A senior Indian-origin medic who heads Britain's leading doctors' union on Thursday called on the government-funded National Health Service to treat its black and minority ethnic doctors more fairly, alleging that there is an "unconscious racism" within the system.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul, chair of the British Medical Association (BMA), said despite making up a third of the National Health Service (NHS) workforce, the Black And Minority Ethnic (BAME) doctors were not proportionately represented at senior managerial levels of the UK's health service.

BAME doctors are more prone to bullying and being referred to the country's medical watchdog General Medical Council (GMC) over allegations of misconduct, he claimed.



Nagpaul cited the findings of a new survey he launched as the first Indian-origin head of the association to warn against an "unconscious racism" within the system acting as a barrier for BAME doctors in the NHS, many of them Indian.

"As well as a culture of fear and blame, the survey concluded that the BAME doctors remain disadvantaged by the NHS. Only half of ethnic minority doctors feel respected or culturally included in their place of work. They talked of experiencing unconscious racism in everything from job progression to training and patient interaction," the BMA said

in a statement.

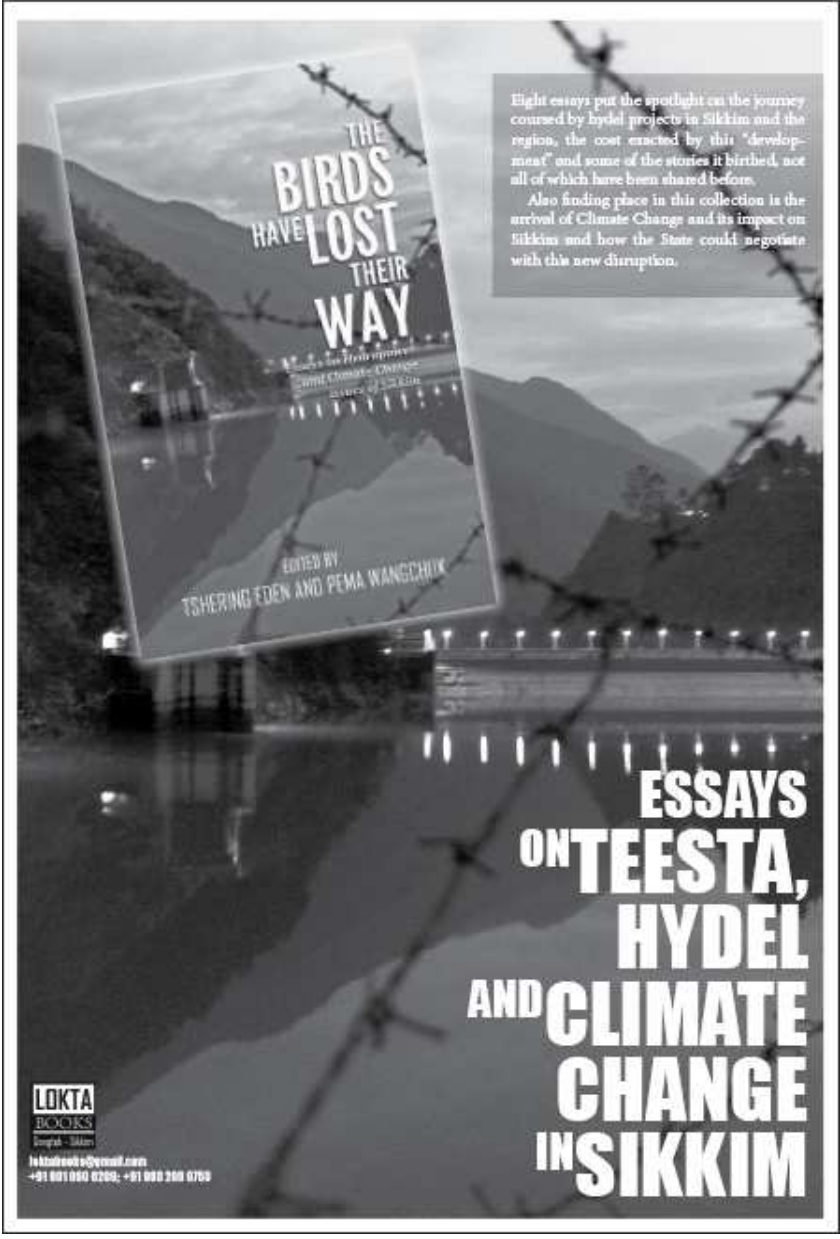
Nagpaul said that despite making up a third of the NHS workforce, BAME doctors were not proportionately represented at senior managerial levels of the UK's health service and are more prone to bullying and being referred to the country's medical watchdog General Medical Council (GMC) over allegations of misconduct.

"BAME doctors make up more than a third of the medical workforce and play a vital role, day in day out, delivering care to patients across the country. Yet despite their commitment they're more likely to face referral to the GMC,

are more likely to have their cases investigated and are more likely to face harsh sanctions following an investigation," he said.

BMA highlights that only seven per cent of very senior managers in the NHS are currently from the BAME backgrounds, something Nagpaul says is not down to "lack of ability".

"BAME staff in the NHS workforce as a whole are more likely to experience bullying, harassment or abuse from other staff. Differential achievement in exams and poorer career progression are another worrying factor, and with independent research showing that this is not related to any lack of ability. In the 21st century, that is not acceptable," said Nagpaul, who has been a General Practitioner (GP) with the NHS for nearly 30 years.





**SHOW-STOPPER!** Gigi Hadid, 23, commanded attention in a black trench coat that was tailored to fit the supermodel's statuesque figure to perfection as she strut her stuff for the luxury Italian fashion house.

## Tiger Shroff to make his Hollywood debut with Mortal Kombat Series producer Lawrence Kasanoff's project

After Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra, a B-town celeb is ready to make a mark in Hollywood very soon. The celebrity in question is none other than Jackie Shroff's son, Tiger. The actor who won acclauds for his action-packed stunts in Baaghi 2, has apparently bagged a Hollywood project, which is bankrolled by Lawrence Kasanoff, the producer of Mortal Kombat Series. If a report in Mumbai Mirror is anything to go with, the producer flew down to Mumbai, to meet the 28-year-old actor.

A source close to the development told the tabloid that Tiger and Lawrence met for the final rounds of discussions of the project, at a suburban hotel.

The source also mentioned that Gulshan Grover's son Sanjay, who has been a part of the



project for over a year, was also a part of the meeting. "Along with Larry, a big studio head, some of their associates and Emmy Award-winning writer

Sean Catherine Derek of the Batman series had also flown to India. Sanjay Grover, who has been a part of the project for the last one year, was also

present at the meeting," added the source.

Not just that, the reports also states that it was Sanjay who recommended Tiger's name to the producer.

"Larry (Lawrence) shared the script of his film with Sanjay who suggested they bring on board a fresh new face to play the lead and strongly recommended his childhood buddy Tiger with whom he had studied in school, to play the lead. Larry and his team were impressed with Tiger who they felt has an international look, is trained in martial arts, has a large fan following and has age on his side," the source said. It would be interesting to see how Tiger's Hollywood debut film which is touted to be an action one, will turn out. Meanwhile, a confirmation from the actor is awaited.

## OFFICIAL! Cary Joji Fukunaga comes on board as director of Daniel Craig's Bond 25

Many James Bond fans were disappointed, when Slumdog Millionaire helmer Danny Boyle made an abrupt exit as the director of Bond film due to creative differences. But producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara



Broccoli today announced that the 25th film of the Bond franchise will go on

floors from March 4, 2019 at Pinewood Studios and will be directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga.

Talking about him, Cary is known for directing 2009's Sin Nombre and 2011's Jane Eyre. He also directed the first season of True Detective. Though helming the new installment of Bond 007 franchise will be an altogether new responsibility for him.

The upcoming venture will be Daniel's fifth film as Bond after Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace, Skyfall and Spectre. As per the reports, the 50-year old actor will receive the whopping amount of Rs 450 crore [£50 million] as his acting fee for the spy action thriller.

Apart from that he will also get the credit of executive producer for the film. Bond 25 is scheduled to release on February 14, 2020.

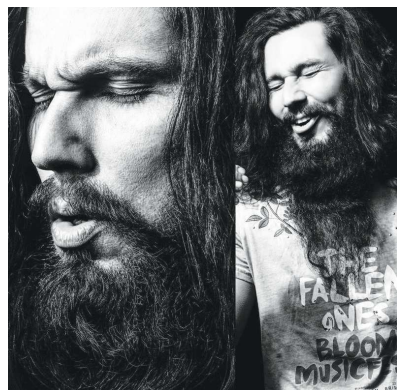
## Exclusive! Randeep Hooda to play a boxer in Vishesh Film's next

After maintaining a low profile for a year, Vishesh Films seems to be gearing up for a roller-coaster ride for the upcoming year. Post the announcement of the sequel to 1991 hit Sadak which will star Sanjay Dutt and Alia Bhatt, the team is working on another exciting project. BollywoodLife has exclusively learnt

that Vishesh Films is simultaneously working on a script that would revolve around a boxer.

A reliable source reveals that the makers have approached one of their favourite actors to play the male protagonist. Randeep Hooda, who was last seen in Baaghi 2, has been offered the movie. If a little birdie is to be believed he has also given a nod for the project. Hooda would essay a boxer in the movie, a similar character that he earlier played in Sultan, which starred Salman Khan.

The 42-year-old, who hails from Rohtak,



yet. It is in the initial stages, is what we've gathered. The hunt for the female lead is currently on.

"The makers want a fresh pairing for the movie," a source reveals.

The actor would be soon seen in a historical saga titled Battle Of Saragarhi, where he plays the male protagonist Havildar Ishar Singh. Meanwhile, the production house is gearing up for the release of their upcoming film Jalebi. Post that their ambitious project Sadak 2 would go on floors.

## ANURAG KASHYAP BLASTS THE DISTRIBUTORS OF MANMARZIYAAN FOR CHOPPING SCENES WITHOUT HIS CONSENT

Controversy surrounding Anurag Kashyap's directorial Manmarziyaan is refusing to take a back seat as it just got murkier. For those who have come in late, RTI activist Gurvinder Singh Chadha had filed a FIR against the film as it hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community.

A particular scene from the film- where Abhishek Bachchan and Taapsee Pannu smoking outside the Gurudwara was found objectionable by the community and hence a demand to remove the same came in place. Commenting the matter, director Anurag had written an open letter, thereby apologising to the ones hurt by it.

The latest development on this is that Eros Now deleted the aforementioned scene from Manmarziyaan without getting an approval from Kashyap. The director who has worked on films like Gangs Of Wasseypur, Bombay Velvet and Ugly, got agitated by this move and



lashed out at the distributors of Eros Now.

Taking to his Twitter handle, Anurag posted a sarcastic tweet which read, "Before my tweet is taken down -Congratulations. Here by all problems of Punjab are solved and Sikh youth have been saved. Happy to be back in LaLa land again. Next time you are threatened by a film please call Kishore Lulla directly on Eros knows how to solve matters in minutes."

In the statement which was released by Anurag yesterday, the filmmaker had

clearly stated that Manmarziyaan was shot with due guidance. "Not a single thing was shot without guidance. We wanted to show things the way they are. No religion teaches crime or anything anti-humanity, yet those things happen. It doesn't mean they are offending the religion. Manmarziyaan is a story of three individuals and not their religion. I am sorry if anyone feels genuinely hurt but I would also request that please don't make this unnecessary political because it's not," he had said.

## Priyanka confesses that she can bet her money on beau Nick

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are one adorable couple. The handsome singer turned 26 recently and they celebrated his birthday in Dallas. A video has surfaced on the net of Nick cutting a huge birthday cake with Priyanka by his side. She looks ravishing in a red dress with bright lips. We can see that she is cheering him on and looks so happy by his side.

The couple did their Roka recently in Mumbai with Nick's family flying down for

the ceremony. Their wedding might happen next year. The cake brought by Priyanka speaks of the trust she has in her man.

The cake had, "I bet my money on you, babe" written on it. It was shaped like a huge roulette table with cards, coins, cigars forming part of it. Nick's initials were also on it. The couple are spending a lot of time travelling together across the US meeting friends and relatives.

The firm that baked the

cake House of Pastry also thanked the couple for their trust. Well, Nick cut a birthday cake at the stadium where they were watching a baseball match. His brother Joe Jones also got a cake shaped like Coor Light Beer for him.

The couple met first at the Met Gala of 2017 but did not start dating immediately. It happened after six months but when it happened they realised that they had strong feelings for each other.

**ARIES:** Love and romance aren't just part of your life today, Aries, they're your whole life. If you're single, an exciting potential partner could have you reeling. If you're currently involved, recent events may have created such a powerful bond between you and your beloved that you think it will never end. Consider what led to this feeling and find a way to repeat it. This can only benefit you. **TAURUS:** Does your house look like a cyclone hit it? Your tidy nature should drive you to clean it up. In the course of wading through the mess, don't be surprised if you discover some objects you thought you'd lost forever. Once you finish, you'll probably find that the place looks beautiful, better than it did before it was messed up. Something good can indeed come out of chaos.

**GEMINI:** An exciting phone call or email could come from a friend who has some great news for you, Gemini. Love, romance, and success in the arts are all highlighted now, and this communication could bring it to your attention. Conversations could bring inspiration your way, and your mind is apt to be going a thousand miles an hour for most of the day. Make the most of it! **CANCER:** A group could meet in your home today, Cancer, perhaps friends who are involved in the arts or meditation or spiritual studies. This group is likely to be close, probably through mutual interests, so the evening should be both intellectually stimulating and emotionally gratifying. What takes place today could also bring healing of some kind, either for you or for someone else.

**LEO:** Communication involving romance could come unexpectedly today, Leo. You may get a loving message from a romantic partner, or you could hear of a wedding to take place in your circle of friends. You could also read a love poem or romance novel, or write something along the same lines yourself! Someone might also express affection to you. Don't be surprised. You deserve it! **VIRGO:** A chance to increase your income by participating in an artistic project of some kind could come your way today, Virgo. You might take part in the creative work or you could promote it in a business capacity. Which ever it is, you're likely to form some firm friendships in the process. If you're single, one of your colleagues might turn out to be a potential love partner. Enjoy!

**LIBRA:** Have you been feeling stagnant lately, Libra, as if your life is going nowhere? What happens today could change that. An unusual group event could put you in touch with people who open new intellectual, career, or spiritual doors for you. Stimulating conversations could turn your head toward opportunities that you were never aware of before. Onward and upward! **SCORPIO:** Inspiration could hit today, Scorpio. It's a beautiful feeling, but you might not be sure how to channel it. It could represent a spiritual breakthrough, artistic inspiration, increased understanding of others, or all of the above. What's almost certain is that you'll want to spend time alone to take it all in and figure out how to use it. Don't dismiss any possibility, however outrageous it may

seem. **SAGITTARIUS:** You might have the chance to meet new people in interesting fields, perhaps from foreign lands, Sagittarius. Your conversational abilities are at an all-time high, so you'll not only enjoy everyone's company but they'll enjoy yours, too. Intriguing ideas and useful information could have your mind buzzing all night. Try to take a walk in the evening to clear your head. **CAPRICORN:** Information gleaned from surprising sources could lead to sudden, fortunate career breaks, Capricorn. You might explore totally new fields, although this could be temporary. Your efforts should attract the attention of those who matter and eventually lead to advancement or a raise. Don't be afraid to continue to explore these sources. Keep up the

good work! **AQUARIUS:** A passionate encounter with a love partner might cement the bond between you so thoroughly that you start talking about commitment or even a wedding. A romantic haze may permeate your interactions. Still, exercise some restraint in expressing your feelings. Hitting your friend with too much at once could have the opposite effect from the one you're hoping for. Be patient! **PISCES:** Have you been feeling less than your normal self, Pisces? If so, today you may suddenly regain your strength and be raring to go. You might even be tempted to start a rigorous exercise program. Go ahead and start, but pace yourself and try not to make up for lost time all at once. You need to ease into these things. Maybe start with walking and yoga.