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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Darjeeling witnesses first shutdown after 2017 agitation

DARJEELING (WB), OCT 4 (PTI): The Darjeeling hills witnessed a shutdown on Friday, the first since the 104-day-long strike in 2017, over higher bonus payout for tea garden workers.

The peaceful shutdown lasted for 12 hours from 6 am and GJM leader Binay Tamang threatened a fast unto death if the demand was not met.

The protracted strike in 2017, which is billed as among the longest, was held to press for a separate Gorkhaland state in the Darjeeling Hills.

Workers of all the 87 tea gardens of Darjeeling observed the 12-hour strike ahead of the festive season.

Shops and markets remained closed with people preferring to staying indoors. The tea trade unions took out processions in different parts of the hills in support of their demand for

higher bonus payout.

GJM leader Binay Tamang Friday threatened to go on a fast unto death agitation from October 6 if the demand was not met.

"I appeal to the owners of all the tea gardens to be more compassionate about the cause of the tea garden workers," he told reporters here.

Seven trade unions belonging to Himalayan Plantation Workers Union (HPWU) and Darjeeling, Terai, Dooars Plantation Labour Union (DTDPLU) are demanding higher bonus payout of 20 per cent against 12 per cent which has been offered by the management.

The GJM faction led by Bimal Gurung, who is presently in hiding, mocked Tamang's call and alleged that he is not serious about the issue.

"We support 20 per

cent bonus for tea garden workers.

Binay Tamang's hunger strike is just a ploy to garner the support of the public but he will never succeed as people are against his moves," Roshan Giri, a leader of the Bimal Gurung faction said.

Darjeeling Indian Tea Association secretary Mohan Chettri said that the unions had been demanding a bonus of 20 per cent.

"However, we have offered 12 per cent."

The issue is likely to be settled at a meeting between the unions and the managements of tea estates on October 17, he said.

However, the tea garden workers of Terai and Dooars areas of north Bengal have been offered a bonus payout of 18.5 per cent and has been accepted by them, the sources said.

Golay has betrayed people's mandate second time around: Dr Mechung

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 OCT:**

Former MLA of Martam Rumtek constituency, Dr Mechung Bhutia, contesting the by-elections as an independent candidate, today slams the BJP-SKM seat-sharing arrangement as an 'unholy alliance' and accused his one-time party president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], of having let down the people's mandate twice – once after the 2014 elections and a second time now by accommodating a party which the electorate here

had resoundingly rejected barely four months back.

Condemning the SKM-BJP alliance as an 'alliance of compromise,' Dr Bhutia pointed out that BJP had received merely 1.6% of the votes cast in recent assembly elections and was still accommodated with two seats being vacated by the SKM for the by-elections.

Dr Bhutia's constituency is one of the two released by SKM in favor of the BJP.

Addressing a press conference here today, Dr Bhutia ar-

gued that the seat-sharing alliance had disappointed the Sikkimese who thought they had voted for change.

"This is not what the people had expected, especially at a time when the BJP, given its moves in Jammu & Kashmir, was intent on diluting the Old Laws of Sikkim and that it was only the Supreme Court which has stopped that from happening thus far," he claimed.

He also stated that the people's vote for change in

Sikkim has been corrupted to mean change only for one person. His reference was to the ECI relaxation accorded to Mr Tamang to be able to contest the by-elections despite his conviction in a corruption case.

The SKM-BJP alliance was in exchange for this clearance for which SKM has bartered two seats to the BJP, he alleged.

On his part, Dr Bhutia assured that he will stand for Sikkim and never compromise the interests of the Sikkimese people.

Election officials conduct coordination meeting with contesting candidates

GANGTOK, 04 OCT (IPR):

A coordination meeting with all the contesting candidates and their election agents was held in the office of Returning Officer, East, today.

The meeting was chaired by Returning Officer, Raj Yadav and was also attended by the General Observer for Martam-Rumtek, Susil Kumar Yadav, and General Observer for Gangtok, Madhurima Baruah (Sen) and Expenditure Observer, Naresh Kumar Bansal, SP (East), Election officials and Election agents.

The main objective of the meeting was to provide information regarding the upcoming by-election and its processes to all the political parties in their respective constituen-



cies.

The Returning Officer detailed provisions of the Model Code of Conduct and the cVIGIL mobile Application.

Expenditure Observer, Naresh Kumar Bansal, informed political parties about election expenditure and its monitoring. Account Expenditure Inspection is scheduled

for 09 Oct, 14 Oct and 19 Oct for both constituencies at the DAC, he informed.

Hoisting of flags on vehicles and private property, modification of vehicles for election campaign and rate chart of various items of election expenditure were also discussed.

Thereafter, the Expenditure and General

Observers convened a meeting with the Nodal Officers, Accounting Team, Video Viewing Team (VVT), Video Surveillance Team (VST), Flying Squad Team (FST), Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) and the officials of Control Room here at the conference hall of District Administrative Center.

The Expenditure Observer directed the extended election teams to closely monitor unusual or suspicious activities especially with regard to Model Code of Conduct. He also exhorted them to coordinate with their counterparts and facilitate the smooth conduct of elections.

The Returning Officer briefed official from the Excise Department on the use and misuse of liquor during elections, various possible MCC violations and the need to monitor expenditure.

He further instructed the FST and VST to remain more vigilant and urged officials to discharge their duties effectively to ensure successful, free and fair election.

Justice AK Goswami appointed Chief Justice of Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 4 OCT:**

Arun Kumar Goswami has been appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim. He is expected to be sworn in after the Dasain vacations.

Justice Goswami was confirmed by the President of India on 03 October after the Supreme Court Collegium passed a resolution elevating Justice Goswami as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim on 02 September.

Justice, Mr Goswami is currently officiating as the Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

The notification announcing the appoint-

ment was published by the Department of Law & Justice on 03 October.

Justice Goswami was born on 11 March 1961 at Jorhat, Assam, graduated in Economics (Hons) from Cotton College and LLB Degree from Government Law College, Guwahati in 1985. He enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh in 1985 and practiced mainly on Civil, Criminal, Constitutional and Service side.

He was designated Senior Advocate by the

Gauhati High Court in 2004 and has served as Standing Senior Counsel of Gauhati High Court and Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council, Education Department, Government of Assam and Standing Counsel, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council till appointed as an Additional Judge of Gauhati High Court on January, 2011.

Justice Goswami has also represented Assam in the Ranji Trophy and represented East Zone in Under-19, Under-22 and at the senior level.

He became a permanent Judge on 07 Nov, 2012.

BJP's backdoor entry into Sikkim Assembly a dangerous development: HSP

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 OCT:**

Hamro Sikkim Party working president, Bhairu Bhutia, has held up the decision of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha leadership to provide backdoor entry into Sikkim to Bharatiya Janata Party as a very dangerous development.

He expressed concerns that the Bharatiya Janata Party's final plan was to form its government in the State, something which the people clearly did not vote for.

Addressing a press conference here this evening, Mr Bhutia asserted that the people of Sikkim need to take the right decision for the by-elections and stop BJP's forced entry convincingly.

"We will not allow BJP backdoor into the State and we have been going to the people with our slogan 'Sikkim is not for sale,'" he said.

HSP, it may be re-

called, was not planning to contest the by-elections until the SKM-BJP seat sharing arrangement was announced followed a day later by the Election Commission of India's green signal to Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] to be able to contest elections nearly five years before his disqualification period was over.

Mr Bhutia stressed that claims made by SKM and BJP that their coalition was in the interest of Sikkim were totally false and baseless.

"Sikkim will get its due share from the Centre even without going in for a coalition and SKM can carry out developmental works for Sikkim from its share. But to seek extra funds for development is for corruption," he alleged.

Mr Bhutia also raised questions of BJP about the audio clip of a senior

BJP leader of Sikkim, Bhola Chauhan, which has gone viral, in which he can allegedly be heard commenting on Article 371F.

On the same, he commented that Mr Chauhan's supposed support for dilution of Article 371F was not his personal opinion but BJP's ideological position and perhaps even its hidden agenda for Sikkim.

He also asked the Darjeeling MP, Raju Bista, to clarify his stand on the Gorkhaland statehood issue. On the same, he added that HSP was in favour of the statehood demand but would never support the merger of Sikkim and Darjeeling.

HSP spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari, in turn, stated that HSP candidates for the by-polls will fight for the people of Sikkim and their rights. He reiterated the allegation that dilution of Article 371F was the hidden agenda of the BJP.

IRS officer appointed Expenditure Observer for Sikkim

Gangtok, 04 Oct (PIB):

In exercise of the powers conferred on it under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 20B of The Representation of the People Act 1951, the Election Commission of India today appointed an ex-Indian Revenue Service officer, BR Balakrishnan, and a serving IRS officer, Suresh Kumar, as Special Expenditure Observers for the By-Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Telangana and Sikkim, respectively.

The Special Observers will be supervising and monitoring work being done by the electoral machinery and ensure that stringent and effective enforcement action is taken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through cVIGIL, Voter Helpline 1950 against the persons/entities trying to induce voters by distributing cash, liquor & freebies etc. in order to vitiate the poll process.

Mr Kumar is presently posted as Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (Central), Ahmedabad.

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SSC wants leaders come clean on their stand on Article 371F

SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convener, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, has demanded that political leaders make their stand on the Article 371F “crystal clear.”

He stressed that Article 371F was a special safeguard provided by the Constitution to the people of Sikkim so any compromises on it will not be tolerated. The by-election was the ‘Litmus Test’ for the people of Sikkim given the present political situation.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Pradhan alleged that every political party in



the State has a hidden agenda so it was very important for their leaders to make their stand clear regarding the Article 371F.

He mentioned that

the present political situation in the State suggested that the remote control of the State was in Delhi’s hands as political parties and even independent candidates

in this by-poll have some of the other connection with BJP.

“We will not allow any comprise with the special protection of the Article 371F to Sikkim,” he said.

On the reduction of the disqualification period accorded to Chief Minister PS Tamang [Go-lay], Mr Pradhan commented that the order was laughable in its arguments and challengeable in the Courts.

He said that ECI was a constitutional body hence should remain independent but the recent order showed that it was working on the directions of the Central government.

Mr Pradhan also questioned how such an order was passed on a Sunday or at a time when the Model Code of Conduct was already in place. He also pointed out that the order was passed a day after the announcement of an alliance between Sikkim Krantikari Morcha and BJP.

He said that the SKM leadership has sold the rights of the people of Sikkim just for its leader to be able to contest the election.

He has appealed to be conscious about the political developments and take the right decision when they go to vote.

Sikkim Scouts cycle 1,582 KMs to promote army recruitment

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

In a concerted effort to reach out and spread awareness among the youth here about the army, a Sikkim Scouts contingent pedaled into Chungthang today after completing a 1,582 KM “Know Your Army- Join the Army” cycle rally which had kicked off from Gangtok on 23 Sept.

Two teams comprising of eight personnel each cycled through remote parts of all the four districts, visiting government schools at Singtam, Namhing, Bermiok, Kamang, Khamdong, Makha, Tibuk, Chungthang, Lachen, Pelling, Kensing, Ravangla and Padmachen and



holding seminars there to inform students and youth about the army and various opportunities to join.

Talks were also conducted at community centres, and Panchayat bhawans and the Sikkim Scouts personnel interacted with youth in remote areas of the upper reaches of Sikkim.

The team also carried out a Swachhata Abhiyaan at Chungthang and Lachen along with students and local authorities of the area on 02 Oct to mark Gandhi Jayanti.

The event saw active participation of both the soldiers and the civilian population of Lachen and Chungthang, a press release informs.

Shooting down chopper on Feb 27 was ‘big mistake’, action against officers: IAF chief

New Delhi, Oct 4 (PTI): Air Chief Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria on Friday described as a “big mistake” the IAF shooting down its helicopter in Kashmir on February 27, when Indian and Pakistani forces were engaged in a dogfight, and said disciplinary action is being taken against officers held responsible for the incident.

A surface-to-air missile of the Indian Air Force brought down the Mi-17 aircraft in Budgam in the Kashmir Valley, killing six IAF personnel on board the chopper and a civilian on the ground.

The court of inquiry (CoI) ordered into the incident has completed its probe and it has been established that the helicopter was hit by IAF’s own missile, Bhadauria, who over as chief of the Air Force on Monday, said while addressing his first press conference.

“It has been established that the helicopter was hit by our own missile. We have already taken administrative action. Disciplinary action is being taken against two officers. We admit that it was a big mistake and necessary steps have

been taken so that such incident does not recur,” he said ahead of Air Force Day on October 8.

Before the press conference, the IAF showed representational video clips of the Balakot strike.

Administrative action has already been taken against four officers held responsible for the helicopter crash by the Col. Separately, disciplinary action like court martial procedures are being initiated against two senior officers, IAF officials said.

The probe found there were “vital gaps” in communication and coordination between the ground staff and the crew of the chopper. It also found violations of standard operating procedures. Earlier, military sources said the probe found that the ‘Identification of Friend or Foe’ (IFF) system on-board the helicopter was switched off and there were “vital gaps” in communication and coordination between the ground staff and the crew of the chopper.

It also found violations of standard operating procedures. The IFF helps air defence ra-

dars identify whether an aircraft or helicopter is friendly or hostile.

The helicopter crashed in Budgam around 10 am on February 27 when Indian and Pakistani fighter jets were engaged in fierce aerial combat in Nowshera, a day after India’s air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan.

The helicopter went down around 10 minutes after taking off.

Official sources said the helicopter was asked to return because of the dogfight 100 km away from Srinagar. A missile was fired at the helicopter as the IAF ground staff thought it was an enemy chopper. The IAF headquarters had ordered a Col into the incident under an Air Commodore-ranked officer.

In early May, the IAF transferred the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of Srinagar base to ensure a thorough probe into the incident.

Sources said the CoI was also specifically focusing on examining the role of various people, including those controlling the air defence system when the helicopter was hit by the surface-to-air missile.

Two translations, two debut works in JCB 2019 shortlist

NEW DELHI, OCT 4 (PTI): Translation works including Perumal Murugan’s twin novels, “Trial by Silence” and “Lonely Harvest”, and Manoranjan Byapari’s “There’s Gunpowder in the Air” are among the five books that have been shortlisted for this year’s JCB Prize for Literature.

Murugan’s books have been translated from Tamil by Aniruddhan Vasudevan, and Byapari’s novel has been translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha.

Announced on Friday, the shortlist also features two debut works -- Roshan Ali’s “Ib’s Endless Search for Satisfaction”, and Madhuri Vijay’s “The Far Field”, as well as award-winning writer Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar’s “My Father’s Garden”.

The jury, chaired by filmmaker and environmentalist Pradip Krishen, noted that the five selected works were “bold” and shared “a deep sense of justice and injustice”.

“Bringing voices from across the country, these novels address the many specific difficulties of living a life in Indian society. With a combination of lyricism and humour, the five novelists portray characters who are at odds with their - very different - worlds.”

“Their private struggles help illuminate larger themes, including patriarchy in rural southern India, religious and political conflict in Kashmir, and social and sexual marginalization in eastern India.”

Party-hoppers galore as 243 file nominations in Nashik

NASHIK, OCT 4 (PTI): A total of 243 candidates from Nashik district filed their nominations on Friday for the Maharashtra Assembly polls slated for October 21.

Prominent among them was former deputy chief minister and senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal from Yeola.

The district has seen a churn among parties over the last few days and a large number of last-minute switchovers.

Sitting BJP MLA from Nashik East seat, Balasaheb Sanap, who was denied a ticket this time, joined the NCP and filed his nomination.

The BJP ticket for

Taken together these novels remind us that fiction remains the most powerful way for a society to examine its fundamental concerns,” Krishen said.

Now in its second edition, the Prize carries an amount of Rs 25 lakh, and is awarded each year to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer. It is the most expensive Indian award for writing.

Authors and translators of all the shortlisted titles will each be awarded Rs 1 lakh, and Rs 50,000 respectively.

“This year’s shortlist displays a satisfying diversity of voices, as is appropriate to the scale and variety of this country. These five books transport us to very different parts of India, and give us access to very different kinds of life.”

“Each of them is imbued by the spirit of its moment, which is perhaps why the shortlist has such an unsettled, turbulent flavour. But literature contains wisdom too, and the deep sense of justice in these books reminds us why, whatever our reality, we continue to care, hope and strive,” Rana Dasgupta, Literary Director, said.

The final winner of the 2019 JCB Prize for Literature will be announced on November 2. In case the winning entry is a translation, the translator will be awarded Rs 10 lakh.

The 2018 JCB Prize for Literature was awarded to “Jasmine Days” by Ben-yamin, translated from Malayalam by Shahnaz Habib and published by Juggernaut Books.

The seat was bagged by Rahul Dhikle who was with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena till some time ago.

Former BJP leader Apoorna Hiray filed his nominations for Nashik West seat as an NCP candidate.

Miffed with the Shiv Sena getting no seats in Nashik as part of the seat-sharing deal with the BJP, the former’s group leader in the civic body, Vilas Shinde, filed his nomination from Nashik West.

Another Sena rebel, Sudhakar Badgujar, also filed his nomination from the same seat.

Last date for withdrawing nominations is October 7.

Poultry Mission Phase-IV completed in North Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 04 OCT:

The Animal Husbandry Department concluded its flagship programme in North Sikkim, “Entrepreneurship Development for Poultry Broiler Farmers Under Poultry Mission Phase-IV,” on 02 Oct at the District Veterinary Hospital, Mangan, in presence of Lachen-Mangan MLA, the PWD Minister Sand-

up Lepcha, Additional Director (N), VO (Mangan), staff and the six beneficiaries selected under this scheme.

The programme had commenced on 30 Aug with a training on Broiler Farming). The beneficiaries were also trained on scientific aspects of proper broiler farming and were handed the first installment for construction of broiler poul-

try shed.

On 06 Sept, the beneficiaries were provided farm implements used for broiler farming and a demonstration class organized on the uses, importance and assembly of the farm implements.

On the final day, 200 day-old chicks and the final installment of the broiler shed construction was handed over to the beneficiaries.

OMAS hands over Rs 1,01,580 raised for Tsong’s landslide affected



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

The Organisation of Musician and Artistes of Sikkim [OMAS] today presented a cheque for Rs 1,01,580 to the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund for families affected by the landslide at Tsong in Yoksom, West Sikkim. The cheque was received by the Minister for Land Revenue and Disaster Management, Kunga Nima Lepcha.

OMAS had conducted a fund-raising event at MG Marg last week to raise funds for the affected families.

The Minister congratulated all artists and students for taking part in a humanitarian initiative for the affected people of Tsong.

He also appreciated the efforts of OMAS for continuously coming

forward to support people suffering in different calamities in the State and outside. He further encouraged OMAS and local artists to continue with such humanitarian initiatives and assured to provide all possible support from the government.

The Minister also assured local artists support for taking them ahead in their respective fields.

He also congratulated Geeta Sharma from Singtam who has cleared the blind audition round of the popular reality show of Nepal, Voice of Nepal Season-2. She had also been felicitated by OMAS during the event at MG Marg recently during which she had also performed.

On the occasion, Geeta also presented a

Nepali song, ‘Por Saal’ which she had performed at the blind audition of the Voice of Nepal.

She expressed deep satisfaction on having received a big platform to showcase her talent and appealed to the people of Sikkim to support her in the upcoming rounds of the show.

Earlier, OMAS patron and founding member, TW Lepcha, thanked all artists for supporting the fund-raising event.

OMAS president, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia, in turn, stated that Sikkim’s artists need platforms, opportunities and infrastructure for growth.

On the same, he reiterated the need for the Sikkim Artists Protection & Guarantee Bill which is being promoted by the organization.

Ayodhya case: SC to wrap up hearing on Oct 17

NEW DELHI, OCT 4 (PTI): The Supreme Court Friday said it would wrap up the hearing in the politically sensitive Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute at Ayodhya by October 17.

A 5-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, on the conclusion of 37th day of the hearing, fixed the schedule for the final leg of the lengthy arguments.

The bench said the Muslim sides to the dispute would complete the arguments on October 14 and thereafter, two days would be granted

to the Hindu parties to sum up their rejoinders by October 16, and October 17 would be the last day for wrapping up the hearing.

The bench, also comprising justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A

Nazeer, had earlier fixed the deadline of October 18 to conclude the hearing.

The judgement in the matter is to be pronounced by November 17 as the CJI will retire on that date.

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Rotary takes up TEACH and WinS, starts with Penlong School

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

In continuation to Rotary International's TEACH and WinS initiatives, Rotary Club of Gangtok has been organizing programs at different schools all over the State. Members of the Club visited Government Secondary School, Penlong, today to donate sanitary and toiletry items for the upkeep of their toilet facilities and also to promote proper hand washing.

They also took part in a "literacy activity" organised by the school called "Pustak Mero Sathi" which had competitions on poetry, quiz and debate. Rotarians spoke on literacy and



informed the gathering about Rotary Club.

Rotary in India, it may be mentioned here, through "Rotary India Literacy Mission" has embarked upon one of the most comprehensive programs on Total Liter-

acy and Quality Education.

This mission aims to achieve the literacy goals through its comprehensive program called T-E-A-C-H [T-Teacher Support, E-E-learning, A-Adult Literacy, C-Child

Development, H-Happy School].

Rotary India WinS Program is a pan India campaign initiated by Rotary in India in support of the national campaign "Swachh Bharat : Swachh Vidyalya."

Prerna organizes drawing & painting compett for Yuva Vikas

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

Marwari Yuva Manch Prerna's Gangtok branch organized a drawing & painting competition under the organisation's national project, "Yuva Vikas" at Modern School here today.

66 students from Classes VI to VIII partici-



pated in the program.

Sagar Subba was

invited as a judge and gave the students an in-

sight into drawings and sketching.

Day-5 of Open Men's Football Tourney at Dikchu School

SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 04 OCT:

The fifth day of the 78th Foundation Year Celebration Open Men's Football Tournament was played between Lum FC and Dikchu Drivers' Association at Dikchu Senior Secondary School today. The latter team won by 1-4. The day had Dawa Doma Bhutia as a chief guest accompanied by Rajen Pradhan and Chandra Lal Sharma as special guests.



Mamring School says no to discrimination against leprosy and rejects tobacco

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim, with active participation of its NSS Unit and in collaboration with RRC and NCC, conducted National Leprosy Eradication Program and Tobacco Free Educational Institution Programme at the school today.

The programme started with a speech on facts related to Leprosy by PGT Bio, Suman Kumar Sharma.

A skit on the theme, "No discrimination



against Leprosy," was also performed by volunteers of the school. The play was directed by GTA Bikash Bhattarai. During the program, PGT Eng, Doma Tamang administered the pledge to eradicate Leprosy.

Principal Prahlad Sharma addressed the

co-free.

On the occasion, PGT [Physics], Samten Bhutia, announced the results of the inter-house debate competition which was held earlier in the day.

At the end of the day, a volunteer of class XII, Songmit Lepcha delivered the vote of thanks with special acknowledgement to PGT [Chem], Suresh Kumar Pradhan, for his support to the program.

The programme was designed and anchored by NSS PO, Bikash Bhattarai.

Dussehra greetings from Governor

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

Governor Ganga Prasad has extended greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Dussehra.

In his message, the Governor says, "In Sikkim, we celebrate the festival as Dasain or Vijayadasami which has evolved into festival of mass with cul-

tural significance. The age old tradition of visiting the elders to seek their blessings on the occasion has inherent meaning in Indian family system...

Let this be the occasion to pray together for health, happiness and prosperity to all. May Divine Mother bless our society with eternal love, harmony and peace."

Lions Club of Rangpo gets active with One District, One Activity prog

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 OCT:

Lions Club of Rangpo Gateway of Sikkim organised different programs under the club's, "One District, One Activity" program.

Club members reached Mayel Lyang Children's Home, Namchi, today and gifted 40 umbrellas to the children and students under the

Dhup Chao Mission. Under the Swachhata Mission, the club presented 200 packets of sanitary napkins and under the Upahar Mission, 50 stationery kits, chocolates, eateries, biscuits and other items were presented.

On the day, the club also organised a cleanliness drive at several places.

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Sl. No	NAME OF THE POST	Reservation		Minimum Educational Qualification
		No of posts	Category	
i.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN HISTORY	01	UR	1. Masters Degree in respective subjects with 55% marks relaxable by 5% for SC/ST/Differently-abled (physically & visually) with NE(SLET)/NET/SET or Ph. D AND 2. M.Ed with atleast 55% marks.
ii.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE	01	UR	1. Masters Degree in respective subjects with 55% marks relaxable by 5% for SC/ST/Differently-abled (physically & visually) with NE(SLET)/NET/SET or Ph. D AND 2. M.Ed with atleast 55% marks.
iii.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN EDUCATION (FOUNDATION COURSE)	01	UR	1. Masters Degree in respective subjects with 55% marks relaxable by 5% for SC/ST/Differently-abled (physically & visually) with NE(SLET)/NET/SET or Ph. D AND 2. M.Ed with atleast 55% marks.
		01	BL	
		01	OBC(CL)	
		01	OBC(SL)	
iv.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH	01	UR	1. Masters Degree in respective subjects with 55% marks relaxable by 5% for SC/ST/Differently-abled (physically & visually) with NE(SLET)/NET/SET or Ph. D AND 2. M.Ed with atleast 55% marks.
v.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN SOCIOLOGY	01	UR	1. Masters Degree in respective subjects with 55% marks relaxable by 5% for SC/ST/Differently-abled (physically & visually) with NE(SLET)/NET/SET or Ph. D AND 2. M.Ed with atleast 55% marks.
vi.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION	01	UR	1. Masters Degree in respective subjects with 55% marks relaxable by 5% for SC/ST/Differently-abled (physically & visually) with NE(SLET)/NET/SET or Ph. D.

- All the essential qualifications must be obtained from a recognized University/Institute. By a recognized University/Institute is meant a University/Institute affiliated to UGC/Other Statutory apex bodies, or recognized by the State or Central Government as a centre of higher learning. In case of a foreign University, the Degree concerned should be recognized as equivalent to its Indian counterpart by the Association of Indian Universities.

NET/SLET/SET Exemption:

- The candidates who have been awarded Ph.D. Degree in the same or in a relevant subject in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations. 2009 are exempted from qualifying in the Eligibility Test (NET/SLET/SET).
- Candidates registered for Ph.D. programme prior to July 11, 2009 shall be exempted from qualifying in the Eligibility Test (NET/SLET/SET) as given below :

The award of Degree to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme prior to July 11, 2009, shall be governed by the provisions of the then existing Ordinances/Bylaws/Regulations of the Institutions awarding the Degree and the candidates with Ph.D. Degree in the same or relevant subject shall be exempted from the requirement of NET/SLET/SET subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- Ph.D. Degree of the candidate awarded in regular mode only;
- Evaluation of the Ph.D. thesis by at least two external examiners;
- Open Ph.D. viva voce of the candidate had been conducted;
- Candidate has published two research papers from his/her Ph.D. work out of which at least one must be in a referred journal;
- Candidate has made at least two presentations in conferences/seminars based on his/her Ph.D. work. (a) to (e) as above are to be certified by the Vice-Chancellor/Pro-Vice Chancellor/Dean (Academic Affairs)/Dean (University Instructions).

2. Age Limit:

- Should have attained the age of 21 years, but should not have exceeded 40 years as on 30/09/2019, in terms of Notification No: M(3)/(55)/GEN/DOP/Pt-III DT: 03/07/2017.

3. Other Qualifications:

- Should have knowledge of any of the State Languages.
- Should be conversant with the customs and usages of Sikkim.

4. Required Documents:

- Candidate must be in possession of either Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification issued by the competent authority under relevant orders of the State Government.
- Class X & XII Mark Sheet and Certificate.
- Degrees/Mark sheets in relevant fields
- Marital Status (for female candidate). In case of married women candidate, COI/SSC of Husband should be enclosed.
- Should have Valid Local Employment Card issued by the appropriate authority of the Government of Sikkim.
- No Objection Certificate from the Head of Department in case of employed candidate.

- Candidate should go through the advertisement and **read the instructions provided on the web page carefully before applying online. Applications received through any other mode shall not be accepted and shall be summarily rejected.**

- The candidates are advised to apply online from our website <http://spscskm.gov.in/> on or before **02/11/2019** upto 12 midnight. Application submitted after **02/11/2019** will not be accepted by the software and SPSC will not be responsible for the same.

- Application fee amounting to Rs 150/- only may be paid online through credit/debit card, Net Banking by Visa/Mastercard. The amount once deposited shall not be refunded or adjusted against any other purpose. Candidates belonging to **PWD Category** are exempted from paying the fees.

- e-Admit Cards can be downloaded and printed by the eligible candidates after a Notice for the same is published by the Commission in the official website i.e. <http://spscskm.gov.in/>

- Candidates are directed to bring a Photo Identity proof like (Aadhar Card, Voters Card, Driving Licence) alongwith valid e-Admit cards in the examination centre for proof of identity.

- Rejection list of candidates who do not qualify for the post as per the advertised criteria will be uploaded in the SPSC website on **11/11/2019** and if any of the rejected candidates have reservation on rejection of application, they should submit their grievances along with justification to the office of the Controller, SPSC w.e.f. **12/11/2019** to **21/11/2019**.

- No TA/DA is admissible for attending the examination/Interview.

- Admission at all the stages of examination for which candidates are admitted by the Commission viz. Written Examination and Interview Test will be purely provisional and is subject to satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions. If, on verification at any stage of the examination process, it is found that candidates do not fulfill any of the eligibility conditions, their candidature for the post will be cancelled by the Commission without notice.

- The Commission will entertain application on review or RTI/Correspondence only after the entire process of recruitment is complete.

- Any further instructions/Corrigendum/Addendum will be uploaded only on Sikkim Public Service Commission website.

Sd/-
SECRETARY
SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SPSC Ro.No. 210/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date: 04.10.2019

Distant, Hence Let Down

Extend collaborations to reinforce quality governance

What is worse? A society that is ill-informed and at times intentionally ignorant, or one that is dismissive and disinterested? They are both bad, and what is worse for Sikkim is that both conditions exist at large in almost equal measure.

Sikkim has a continuing problem with substance abuse, suicides, even child labour, sexual abuse of minors, and also, of late, political manoeuvrings which try to drown out the obvious with a cacophony of phony justifications. And yet, even as these stories make frequent headlines, one is yet to see any coherent societal engagement to address any of these issues. It is not rare to hear of people reading of drug busts and commenting that the right palms must not have been greased, or others subscribing to ill-informed and shallow explanations for the suicides or crimes or unemployment or alliances of convenience/compromise.

What should worry Sikkim is that in the absence of civil society interventions to address social challenges or political expression, one is left with the government stepping in and experimenting with possible solutions and leaders offering explanations none of which is ever complete or respectful of the people's intelligence. Such interventions, while required in the absence of any other alternatives, are also woefully incomplete because they compromise the public participation quotient of effective governance and seed the beginnings of big-brother attitudes. Take the ban on firecrackers through Diwali. Sikkim would have been counted among the most enlightened of societies if the ban had been enforced by children convincing elders not to blow up money on this excess. Unfortunately, several such efforts in the past years had failed until the cops stepped in and took to public address systems to warn of "strict action". The firecracker ban was implemented, but was the capitulation of the society towards its responsibility to come together and unanimously ban firecrackers voluntarily, a healthy development? It wasn't, because the administration is compromised and in the absence of civil society interventions, muscles can out-wrangle rules as happened recently at MG Marg.

What Sikkim should consciously remind itself is that democracy demands people's involvement more often than the once-every-five-years elections. An uninvolved people are not healthy for anyone, not the people and definitely not governance. Quality of governance, it is universally accepted, is reinforced by longstanding traditions of civic engagement. Voter turnout is only part of it, and other signs of civic engagement manifest in such indicators as newspaper readerships, (involved) membership in social organisations, sports clubs, school management committees, neighbourhood clubs etc. Such organisations exist in Sikkim, but most are staffed, at least at the executive levels, by government officers or nominees. For more people to be involved in these groups, they need to be made for genuinely representative, and dare we say, democratic. If that happens, they become hallmarks of a successful region. In fact, historical analyses suggest that these networks of organisational reciprocity and civic solidarity, far from being a result of socioeconomic and socio-cultural modernization and growth are a prerequisite for it.

Admittedly, the solutions are not simplistic and straightforward, and hence cannot be directed by law, but what they can, and should, receive is nurturing. Mechanisms through which civic engagement and social connectedness produce such results as better schools, faster economic development, lower crime and more effective governance- are multiple and complex. Such networks of civic engagement facilitate coordination and communication, amplify representation/concerns and allow dilemmas to be resolved through dialogue and timely interventions. These engagements also help resolve points of conflict because when social connectedness becomes instinctive, economic and political negotiation becomes embedded in diverse networks of social interactions. These are engagements in which an enlightened society becomes good at because it lays the foundations for a strong sense of belonging and provides the template for future situations and challenges. If these become too complicated organisations to form, then let's just begin by celebrating rationality and from there alone several solutions and networks will be born.

Community engagement, when genuinely crafted, automatically leads to spontaneous involvement. And one is not referring only to substance abuse and suicides in this regard. Look at how consistently silent the people and their organisations have remained in Sikkim through its several challenges and travails. The only voices that engage are politically inspired and hence "vested", and the lay citizens remain aloof because they have not cobbled together organisations which are not only not politically compromised, but also forceful and forthright. In this vacuum, issues are manufactured and forced on the people and genuine confusions remain unaddressed.

Gandhi's 150th birthday: A little-remembered philosopher translated the Mahatma's ideas of nonviolence for Americans

JOHN CHARLES WOODING
THECONVERSATION.COM

October this year marks Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday. One of the 20th century's most iconic figures, Gandhi's legacy defines how many people think about peace, self-reflection and the path to a more just world.

Much less celebrated is Gandhi's friend and follower, the American pacifist Richard Bartlett Gregg. Gregg never made any significant speeches, so no grainy newsreels feature his words. And his books are not required reading in college courses.

Gregg has nonetheless been an influential figure in taking forward Gandhi's message regarding the power of nonviolence. Gregg explained Gandhi's ideas in a way that made sense to a Western audience. His books even influenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s understanding of nonviolent resistance.

DISCOVERING GANDHI

My own interest in Gregg was something of an accident. I'm a political scientist with interest in peace activists as agents of change. I learned of Gregg a few years ago from a colleague, who told me that dozens of Gregg's personal notebooks were moldering in a yurt on a farm up in northern Maine. These journals soon became the subject of my scholarship.

Gregg was born to a Congregational minister in 1885. It was a time of rapid industrial growth and industrial conflict, as railroads and industrialization proceeded quickly.

Gregg discovered Gandhi in a journal article he read in a bookstore in Chicago in 1924. Deeply impressed by Gandhi's philosophy, at the age of 38, Gregg, a largely self-taught scholar, resolved to study with him in India.

In a long letter to his family explaining his decision to move to India, Gregg said he was so profoundly disenchanted with the violence of American labor relations and the American system that he sought alternatives.

As I write in my forthcoming book, Gregg arrived at Sabarmati Ashram in the western Indian state of Gujarat in early February 1925. Gandhi, just released from prison, returned to his home at the ashram a few days after Gregg arrived.

During an evening walk, Gregg writes in his notes, he told Gandhi why he had come to India:

"I felt at first awed by his presence, but he listened attentively to what I said and made me feel entirely at ease," Gregg recalls.

It was the start of a 23-year friendship that ended only with Gandhi's death on Jan. 30, 1948.

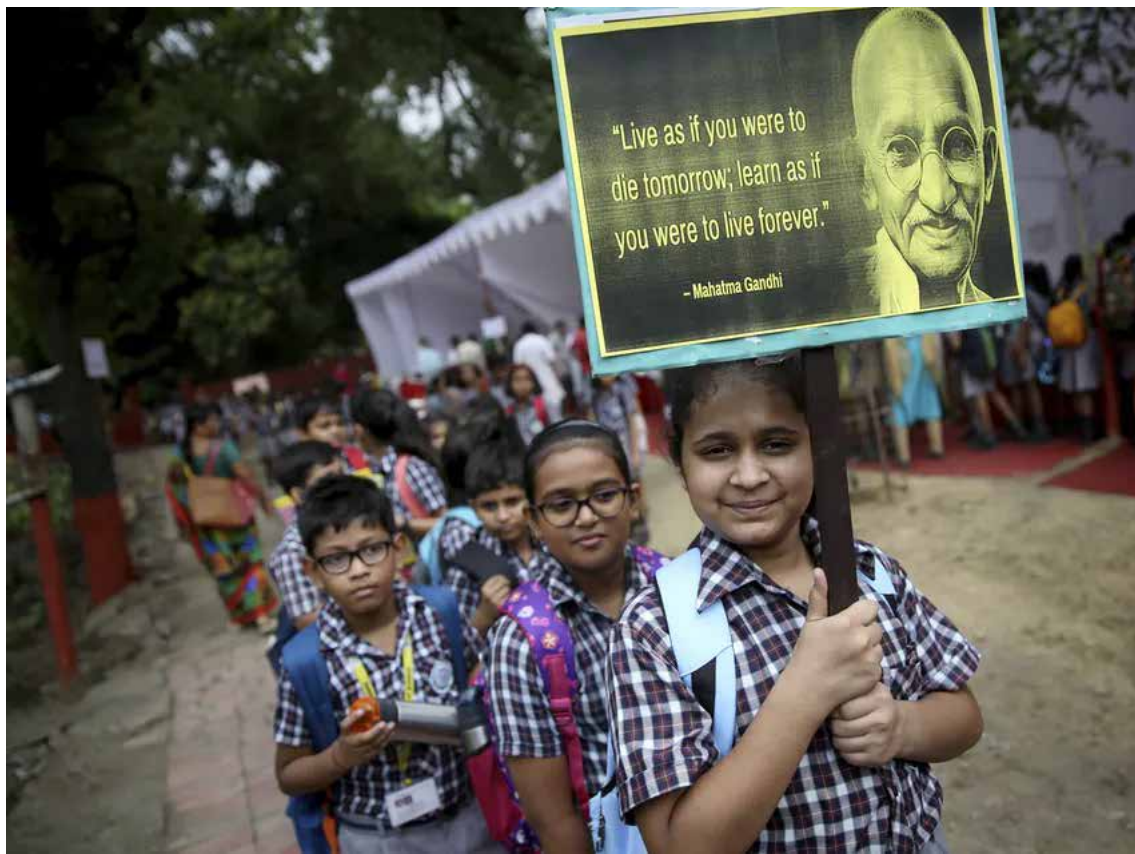
UNDERSTANDING NONVIOLENCE

Gregg spent those years traveling, teaching and studying in India.

At the time, a pacifist movement was emerging around the world. Pacifists are those who believe in confronting both domestic and international violence with peaceful resistance.

Gregg learned more deeply about Gandhi's own strategy of nonviolence and in his first four years with him and wrote an important book, "The Power of Nonviolence," which provided guidance on how to make pacifism more effective.

Gregg argued that onlookers should see the violent assailant, when confronted by nonviolent resistance, as "excessive and undignified – even a



little ineffective."

This was a tactic that Gandhi had used with enormous effect during the Salt March against Britain's domination of India in 1930. The march demonstrated Gandhi's ability to mobilize tens of thousands of Indians, who were forced to pay a salt tax to the British colonialists.

The peaceful demonstrators, who followed Gandhi to the Arabian Sea Coast to make their own salt, were beaten up and more than 60,000 arrested by British troops. The world watched, appalled at the repression of the British colonial rule.

Learning from Gandhi, Gregg also wrote that nonviolent protests should serve as a media spectacle. He knew nonviolence was not passive resistance: It was an active planned strategy that required intense – even military-style – training, both physical and spiritual.

This was controversial and shocking to many pacifists. But Gregg insisted that nonviolent protest represented a war of its own.

SIMPLICITY AND HARMONY

Gregg learned Hindi during his time with Gandhi and came to understand the Gandhian values of simplicity, self-reliance and how to live in harmony with the world.

Gandhi encouraged each home to have its own spinning wheel so Indians would not have to depend on cloth made in British factories. Gregg embraced the philosophy behind each Indian home spinning its own khadi cloth and became a leading advocate of organic farming and simple living.

Like Gandhi, Gregg believed that a peaceful world could only come about as humans developed inner peace and recognized their harmony with nature.

In 1936 Gregg published The Value of Voluntary Simplicity, a term he coined while serving as director of the Quaker retreat at Pendle Hill in

Pennsylvania. In that post, he continued to build on Gandhi's belief in simple living and harmony with nature as part of the true path to peace.

He was not, however, a Quaker; he remained deeply Christian.

Although he rejected Marxism and Soviet-style socialism, Gregg came to believe that the only solution to violence and injustice lay in a complete transformation of production and consumption.

WHAT GREGG BROUGHT TO AMERICA

There is no doubt that Martin Luther King Jr. was aware of Gandhi's ideas from other sources. But Gregg's book, "The Power of Nonviolence," deeply affected how he thought about passive resistance. Gregg put these ideas in a context that more closely fit the American civil rights struggle.

I argue, King's writing during this period carried very similar themes and perspectives to those laid out by Gregg. King made the distinction that nonviolent resistance was not cowardice but rather a brave act that required great training.

In 1959, King wrote the foreword for "The Power of Nonviolence," having already become deeply familiar with Gregg's earlier editions of the work. It went on to be published in 108 editions in six languages.

On the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth, Gregg's role in translating the Mahatma – meaning a great soul – for a Western audience and in being an early advocate of simplicity is worth commemorating, too.

How deeply he understood Gandhi's ideas is evident in Gandhi's own words, recorded in a personal letter to him from a friend in India:

"If you understood me as well as Richard Gregg does," he once said to a group of Indian independence leaders, "I would die happy."

[the writer is Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Lowell]

Science needs myths to thrive

ANDREW GEORGE
THECONVERSATION.COM

I can still remember the horror of discovering that everything I had worked on was wrong. I was a PhD candidate just starting my second year, and my supervisor and I had developed a test for rheumatoid arthritis which seemed a revelation. We wrote a paper for a prestigious journal but just before we sent it off, we decided to do one more experiment to check we were correct.

We weren't. Everything that I had done in the last year was ruined and I had to start an entirely new research topic. It was a tough but valuable lesson for a young scientist – you should always go further to test your ideas.

That was 35 years ago, and I wonder if someone starting out as a researcher today would be encouraged as I was to go the extra mile. Does the incessant drive to publish and measure outcomes mean that researchers are under pressure to cut corners, and have less time and freedom to pursue their ideas?

The Wellcome Trust – one of the world's largest funders of health research – recently launched a review of research culture, to find out if research has become so hyper-competitive that it "cares exclusively about what is achieved and not about how it is achieved".

What helped me develop as a researcher was reading stories about those who came before me. For scientific research to be successful in the long term, I think researchers need a strong set of values, including an unwavering commitment to the truth, and a drive to test any idea to destruction.

Though they may seem opposed to the ideals of the rigorous scientific method, the best way of instilling these values is, as ever, through the stories and myths that we tell ourselves.

THE POWER OF STORIES

In ancient times, people would sit around their fires at night and tell stories. Stories about their creation, stories of great deeds and feats, and stories that rehearsed how people interacted with

each other and the world they lived in. One of the oldest of these still to be read is the ancient Greek Iliad of Homer.

The story explores what it means to be a warrior and leader, how people should accept fate, achieve fame and the consequences of pride and anger. Young people listening to those stories learned what was expected of them, reinforcing the collective values and beliefs of society.

In the modern world, myths and stories still have an important role to play – even in scientific research. Scientists have stories about important people and great events in science, such as the discovery of penicillin, uncovering the structure of DNA, the development of vaccines and the battles that Galileo and early proponents of a sun-centred model of the solar system fought with the reactionary forces of the Church. Together, these stories help young scientists understand the collective benefits of research that go beyond personal advancement and success.

These scientific myths are based on reality, though sometimes strict historical accuracy has been sacrificed to better make a particular point. In a similar manner, the stories of Homer would have been based on real events – such as the Trojan wars – but they evolved in the storytelling. It's unlikely the Trojan Horse really was a large-scale model of a horse that soldiers hid in.

THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

It's important to recognise that how we do research has changed. This was brought home to me recently when I reread The Pursuit of Nature, the story of some of the great Cambridge physiologists of the mid-20th century. I was lucky to be taught by one of the authors, Alan Hodgkin, who won the Nobel prize for working out how nerve cells transmitted electrical impulses. He started his work on nerves in the second year of his undergraduate studies, and built his own equipment out of biscuit tins.

Nowadays to succeed you must win big grants

and build up a research team. Often more than 20 authors will contribute to a research paper. Hodgkin only ever had a few people working in his team and was more likely to publish with one or two close colleagues.

This "industrialisation" of science is right and necessary. It has accelerated the impact of research in society and allowed scientists to discover and develop new technologies. There is probably nothing left that can be discovered using equipment made from biscuit tins. But amid all this change, we haven't adapted the way in which we instil the ethics and values of science and research into young researchers.

When I was an undergraduate and PhD candidate, my supervisor worked on the lab bench. We had coffee and tea together every day. I learned from her, and colleagues, what it meant to be a scientist. Today, the interaction between supervisors and junior researchers tends to be more transactional, about the experiments and data. There is less time for the apprenticeship of research.

Of course, there is training in how to do research. Graduate schools and doctoral training centres have raised standards in the education of PhD candidates. But I doubt that many people develop their values and moral compass from PowerPoint presentations.

In my own life, the popular myths of great scientists fed a culture that cherished curiosity as a good all on its own. We need to develop these stories, curating them by selecting those that are appropriate and developing new ones that make useful points. As scientists, with a commitment to the truth, we should also ensure that they are accurate representations of reality that also reflect the collective endeavour, rather than the supposed genius of a few white men.

All cultures need their myths, and each lab needs its lore.

[the writer is Emeritus Professor, Brunel University London]

Slump in sponsorship, Durga puja loses its shine

KOLKATA, OCT 4 (PTI): The economic slowdown has dimmed the lights of Bengal's biggest festival this time, forcing Durga puja organizers to scale down celebrations due to shrinking sponsorship. Not just small-budget pujas, big-ticket ones have also curtailed their budget by nearly 15% to 30%, mostly compromising on marquee decoration, according to organizers.

On an average, setting up a theme-based marquee for the five-day fiesta, replete with safety arrangements and basic amenities, costs anything between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 30 crore in Bengal. "Owing to economic slowdown, we failed to achieve our target of Rs 65 lakh. We are running short of Rs 20 lakh. Most sponsors, this time, either declined to make a contribution or paid less than what they do," Sudipto Kumar, an official of Deshapriya Park community Puja in south Kolkata, said. Corporate firms are not willing to spend on advertisements, he claimed. "Every year, huge

advertisement hoardings and posters greet revelers outside the puja pandals, but this time, the numbers have shrunk considerably," he added. Echoing similar sentiments, Ekdalia Evergreen Club said several sponsors have gone back on their promise, citing the ailing economy. "Some sponsors, who had signed a contract with us, have also backed out. In 2008-2009 (during global recession), we had faced a similar situation," club secretary Gautam Mukherjee said. Organizers have made several modifications this year, mostly cutting down on promotional activities. Kajal Sarkar, the president of Forum for Durgotsab, said sponsorship has fallen by 30-50 per cent. "Donations, subscriptions and retail advertisements cover about 30 per cent of the expenses, the rest is usually taken care of by corporate funding," Sarkar said. The situation



has gone worse for small-budget Durga pujas committees, with some of the organizers opting for a marquee without any distinct theme. "We had decided to adorn our pandal with glass structures, but lack of funds forced us to find an alternative in plaster of paris," said Ashok Deb, an official of a Durga Puja committee in North 24 Parganas district. According to advertising agencies, weak consumer sentiment is also one of the reasons

for lack of sponsorship. "Most advertisers in India try to leverage the festive season. In the current year, advertising spends across multiple sectors have taken a hit due to weak consumer sentiment. "Nevertheless, the government is taking active measures to tackle the scenario by providing relief in corporate tax rates," Anand Bhadkamkar, the CEO of Dentsu Aegis Network India, stated. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader-

ship, however, blamed its arch rival Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the economic slowdown in the country. It also slammed the BJP-led government at the Centre for allegedly issuing income tax notices to several Durga Puja committees here, contending that festivals should be exempt from levies. The Central Board of Direct Taxes had, however, denied sending any notice to the organizers, ahead of the puja. "Durga puja is usu-

ally organised with the help of subscriptions and sponsorships. But harassment by the I-T department and the economic slowdown have hit the celebration hard this year," a senior TMC leader maintained. Denying the TMC allegation, a BJP leader said the crackdown on chit fund firms have left the state high and dry. "The TMC allegations are baseless and bereft of truth. Funds for Durga puja have dried up due to crackdown on chit funds companies," he added.

Pak woman gets Indian citizenship after 35 years

MUZAFFARNAGAR, OCT 4 (PTI): Thirty-five years after she applied for Indian citizenship, a Pakistani woman, married to a man in Muzaffarnagar city and residing in the country on a long-term visa, has been granted Indian nationality. According to a local intelligence official, 55-year-old Zubeda had married Syed Moham-mad Zaved, a resident of Yogenderpur locality here, 35 years ago. She had applied for Indian citizenship immediately after her marriage; however, it was not ac-

cepted on some legal grounds. Since 1994 she had been staying in the country on long-term visa, and granted Indian citizenship early this week, the official said. She can now apply for Aadhaar, ration card and voter ID. The woman has two daughters 30-year-old Rumesha and Zumesha, 26, and both are married. According to official data, about 25 Pakistani women married to Indian nationals are living in Muzaffarnagar district on long-term visa.

Johnson-Thompson leads changing of world order

DOHA, OCT 4 (AFP): Katarina Johnson-Thompson deposed her great rival Nafissatou Thiam as heptathlon world champion on a night when two other 2017 titleholders also surrendered their crowns. Johnson-Thompson's victory could not be described as a shock but Salwa Eid Naser's victory in the 400 metres caused shockwaves on Thursday. The 21-year-old Bahraini -- who left 2017 champion Phyllis Francis trailing in her wake -- recorded the third fastest time in history of 48.14 seconds.

"I was there competing at the Olympics in 2012 and was there when she (Ennis-Hill) broke her own record so it is unbelievable to me that I passed that score." Naser -- silver medalist in the 2017 400m final -- produced a blistering performance passing the pace-setting Francis and then leaving hot favourite Miller-Uibo with too much ground to make up in the straight. Naser -- who said the "time is so crazy" -- admitted afterwards a change of tactics had aided her. "I'm used to chasing," said the Nigeria-born athlete. "When you watch my race normally I chase. Today I wanted to be chased and it worked."

Only East Germany's world record holder Marita Koch and Jarmila Kratochvilova of the former Czechoslovakia have run faster and both were over 30 years ago. In doing so she became the first athlete to beat hot favourite Shaunae Miller-Uibo in over two years over both 200m and 400m. The Miller-Uibo household's trophy cabinet will be enriched by two silver medals as her husband Maicel Uibo finished second in the decathlon. That competition was destined for a new champion once France's world record holder Kevin Mayer had to wave the white flag due to injury in the third event of the day, the pole vault. Germany's Niklas Kaul emerged victorious in an event that went down to the wire and the final event, the 1,500m.

Johnson-Thompson was unrelenting in her pursuit of gold and finally taking the scalp of Thiam, who was burdened by a right elbow injury. The 26-year-old eventually cruised to the title -- Thiam suffering her first defeat since 2016 -- rounding off the seven discipline event in style by winning the 800m. Johnson-Thompson capped a perfect two days in also beating Jessica Ennis-Hill's British record of 6,955 points, set during the London 2012 Olympics, by 36 points. "I wanted to be chased" ----- As the enormity of her achievement sank in, Johnson-Thompson clasped her face with both hands in disbelief and fell to the track. "It has not settled in," said Johnson-Thompson.

Nearly 1,900 dead in monsoon rains, floods across India

NEW DELHI, OCT 4 (PTI): Nearly 1,900 people lost their lives and another 46 were reported missing this monsoon season in rains and floods which affected more than 25 lakh in 22 states, Union Home Ministry officials said on Friday. The highest 382 people died in Maharashtra, followed by 227 deaths in West Bengal in rains, floods and landslides that hit as many as 357 districts in the country. According to the officials, 738 people were injured and nearly 20,000 animals were lost. The heavy rains and floods fully damaged 1.09 lakh houses, partially damaged 2.05 lakh houses and destroyed 14.14 lakh hectares of crops. A total of 1,874 people died, an official said. Though monsoon remains active in a few parts of the country, the season officially ended on September 30. During the four-

month period, India recorded the highest rainfall since 1994, according to the India Meteorological Department. In Maharashtra, where 22 districts were hit by floods, 382 people died, 369 were injured and 7.19 lakh people were forced to seek shelter in 305 relief camps. The monsoon rains and floods hit 22 districts in West Bengal, where 227 people lost their lives, 37 received injuries, four were reported missing missing and 43,433 took shelter in 280 relief camps. In Bihar, currently reeling under floods, 161 people have lost their lives and 1.26 lakh have taken shelter in 235 relief camps following the deluge that hit 27 districts in the state. A total of 182 people were killed, 38 were injured and seven have gone missing in Madhya Pradesh, where 32,996 people

took shelter in 98 relief camps set up in 38 districts. In Kerala, heavy rains and floods claimed 181 lives and injured 72. Fifteen people were reported missing in 13 districts. As many as 4.46 lakh people in the state took shelter in 2,227 relief camps. Twenty-two districts in Gujarat were hit during the monsoon season. At least 169 people lost their lives, 17 received injuries while 17,783 people took shelter in 102 relief camps. In Karnataka, 106 people lost their lives, 14 received injuries and six were missing due to rains and floods in 13 districts. As many as 2.48 lakh people took shelter in 3,233 relief camps. The rains and floods claimed 97 lives in Assam, where 32 districts were hit by the deluge that resulted in 5.35 lakh people taking shelter in 1,357 relief camps.

5 more persons held in Odisha witchcraft torture case

BERHAMPUR, OCT 4 (PTI): Five more persons were arrested on Friday for their alleged involvement in pulling out the teeth of six elderly persons and forcing them to consume human excreta at a village in Odisha's Ganjam district suspecting them of practising witchcraft, a police officer said. With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with the incident at Goparpur village under Khallikote police station area has gone up to 34, Inspector In-Charge (IIC) of Khallikote police station, Satya Narayan Pradhan said. Police had earlier arrested 29 people, including 22 women, for their involvement in the incident, he said.

Efforts are on to arrest some more people, who were involved in the incident. "We have the names of other accused persons and they will be nabbed soon", the IIC said. A group of people of Goparpur village suspected that the six elderly men practised witchcraft which caused the death of at least three women and sickness of seven others in the locality, police said. They forcibly dragged the six men from their houses on Tuesday night and forced them to consume human excreta before pulling out their teeth, the police said. The pleas of the six victims for help failed to evoke any response from other villagers.

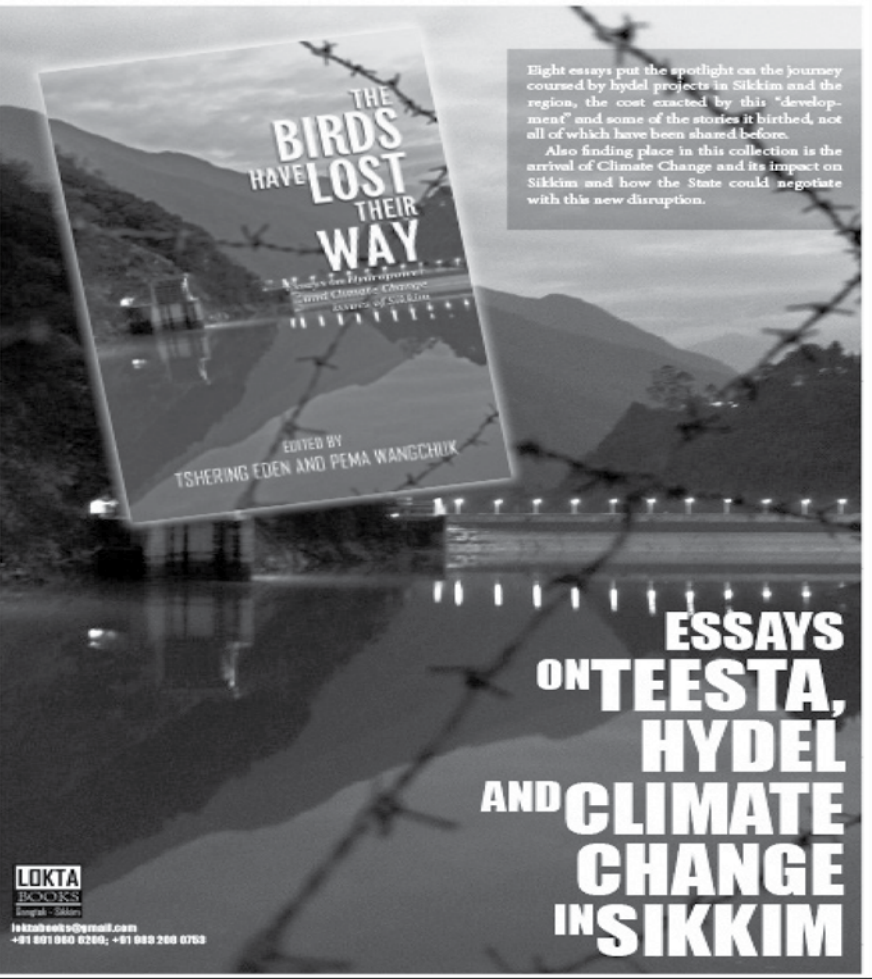
As the information reached the district headquarters, Superintendent of Police Brijesh Rai along with a police team rushed to the village and rescued them. The injured persons, all aged over 60 years, have been admitted at the hospital where their condition is stated to be stable. The police arrested 29 people including 22 women in this connection on Wednesday. Fearing arrest almost all the male persons had fled from the village, the IIC said. There was no tension in the area, but police were keeping a strict vigil on the situation. Patrolling was intensified in the area to nab other accused persons, police said.

Mizoram civil society orgns to meet Shah on CAB; change decision to hold protest rally

Aizawl, Oct 4 (PTI): A conglomerate of civil society organisations and student bodies of Mizoram on Friday said its leaders would meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Saturday, changing its decision to hold a protest rally on the issue. Shah comes to Aizawl on Saturday on a day's visit during which he will inaugurate an exhibition of northeast handloom and handicraft products and meet state leaders. "We will submit a memorandum and discuss with him our displeasure over the Centre's proposal to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955," a leader of the NGO Coordination Committee said, adding that they had withdrawn the earlier plan to hold a protest rally. The Committee has changed its decision after Chief Minister Zoramthanga urged

them not to protest during the first visit of Shah, also BJP national president, to the state after becoming the Union home minister, he said. Zoramthanga is the president of ruling Mizo National Front which is a constituent of the NDA and the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), both headed by the BJP. BJP's Mizoram unit president John V Hluna had also appealed to the civil society organisations of the state not to hold any protest programme during Shah's visit. BJP sources said the Shah would first inaugurate the Northeast Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition and hold a meeting with the chief minister and senior government officials. Besides, the Union minister will also hold a one-on-one meeting with Zoramthanga and then talk to the NGO Co-

ordination Committee leaders on the issue of Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB). Three days ago, Amit Shah had announced that the CAB would be brought in Parliament again. It had been passed by the Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019, but could not be placed in Rajya Sabha. The legislation seeks to facilitate the granting of citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Christians, and Parsis from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh and entering India before December 31, 2014. The move by the BJP-led NDA government to amend the Citizenship Act stirred a hornet's nest in the Northeast and protests were held in several states on Thursday. The indigenous people of the region were scared that if the CAB is enacted, it would endanger their identity and livelihood.



Johnson-Thompson leads changing of world order

DOHA, OCT 4 (AFP): Katarina Johnson-Thompson deposed her great rival Nafissatou Thiam as heptathlon world champion on a night when two other 2017 titleholders also surrendered their crowns.

Johnson-Thompson's victory could not be described as a shock but Salwa Eid Naser's victory in the 400 metres caused shockwaves on Thursday.

The 21-year-old Bahraini -- who left 2017 champion Phyllis Francis trailing in her wake -- recorded the third fastest time in history of 48.14 seconds.

Only East Germany's world record holder Marita Koch and Jarmila Kratochvilova of the former Czechoslovakia have run faster and both were over 30 years ago.

In doing so she became the first athlete to beat hot favourite Shaunae Miller-Uibo in over two years over both 200m and 400m.

The Miller-Uibo household's trophy cabinet will be enriched by two silver medals as her husband Maicel Uibo finished second in the decathlon.

That competition was destined for a new champion once France's world record holder Kevin Mayer had to wave the white flag due to injury in the third event of the day, the

pole vault.

Germany's Niklas Kaul emerged victorious in an event that went down to the wire and the final event, the 1,500m.

Johnson-Thompson was unrelenting in her pursuit of gold and finally taking the scalp of Thiam, who was burdened by a right elbow injury.

The 26-year-old eventually cruised to the title -- Thiam suffering her first defeat since 2016 -- rounding off the seven discipline event in style by winning the 800m.

Johnson-Thompson capped a perfect two days in also beating Jessica Ennis-Hill's British record of 6,955 points, set during the London 2012 Olympics, by 36 points.

- 'I WANTED TO BE CHASED' -

As the enormity of her achievement sank in, Johnson-Thompson clasped her face with both hands in disbelief and fell to the track.

"It has not settled in," said Johnson-Thompson.

"I was there competing at the Olympics in 2012 and was there when she (Ennis-Hill) broke her own record so it is unbelievable to me that I passed that score." Naser -- silver medalist in the 2017 400m final -- produced a blistering performance passing the pace-setting Francis and then leaving hot favour-



ite Miller-Uibo with too much ground to make up in the straight.

Naser -- who said the "time is so crazy" -- admitted afterwards a change of tactics had aided her.

"I'm used to chasing," said the Nigeria-born athlete.

"When you watch my race normally I chase. Today I wanted to be chased and it worked."

Mayer bowed out of the decathlon in tears with his head buried in the mattress after being unable to perform one vault.

He had looked in trouble after pulling up at the end of the the 110 metres hurdles but had retaken the lead with a good effort in the discus.

"I am not okay but it will be fine," said Mayer.

"It was disappointing because I was leading but this is sport.

"One has to accept

things will happen when you compete in 10 events and in general they are good."

He did not stay to see the denouement.

He left the complex limping, his arm draped round the shoulder of his girlfriend French windsurfing champion Delphine Jariel, with her trailing a suitcase behind them.

His successor -- who put himself into contention with a massive throw in the penultimate discipline the javelin -- was modest about his achievement.

"I am not the best decathlete in the world but maybe the most consistent," said Kaul.

While Thursday's medallists celebrated, Sifan Hassan's pursuit of a second title at the championships is very much on.

The 26-year-old Dutch athlete, who

has already won the 10,000m crown, showed no signs of the suspension of her coach Alberto Salazar affecting her as she won her semi-final in the 1,500m. Johnson-Thompson leads changing of world order Doha, Oct 4 (AFP): Katarina Johnson-Thompson deposed her great rival Nafissatou Thiam as heptathlon world champion on a night when two other 2017 titleholders also surrendered their crowns.

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Salazar casts shadow as runners digest ban

DOHA, OCT 4 (AFP): Alberto Salazar is banned but the disgraced coach continues to cast a shadow over the World Championships.

Four days after the head of the Nike-backed Oregon Project was suspended for doping offences, runners linked to the Cuban-born coach were still digesting the news which sent shockwaves across track and field.

Ethiopia-born Dutch runner Sifan Hassan, the winner of the 10,000 metres, who is coached by Salazar, chose not to speak to reporters after winning her 1,500m semi-final in 4min 14.69 secs.

Reigning Olympic 1,500m champion Matthew Centrowitz, who split with Salazar in 2018, also declined to comment after finishing third in his heat to reach the semi-finals.

"I'll speak after the championships, but right now my focus is the competition," Centrowitz said.

Oregon Project runner Craig Engels was more forthright, however, after advancing from his 1,500m heat to the semi-finals.

Engels, who is coached by the Oregon Project's Pete Julian, said he had never seen anything suspicious in his two years with the Portland-based outfit.

"No, not at all," Engels said when asked if anything had ever given him cause for concern.

"I remember telling my college coach, 'If anything ever happens, then I'll be the guy that says it,'" he added.

"I thought I'd give it a year and see if I did

well, and if I didn't and there was stuff going on, I would leave the group and report it. But literally, absolutely nothing has been offered to me, or pressured on me, nothing."

- MAXIMUM IMPACT -

Engels added he suspected the ban was deliberately announced by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) during the World Championships for maximum impact.

"They kept moving (the announcement) back and moving it back, strategically placing it in the middle of the worlds so it would upset all of Alberto's athletes," said Engels.

"Kind of messed up on their part but I understand they were trying to make an impact." Engels is concerned the revelations will damage the reputation of innocent athletes who train with the Oregon Project.

"It just sucks because the Oregon Project is a little bit more tarnished," he said. "It puts a bad name on everyone." Engels revealed he had quizzed his coach, Julian, about reports linking Salazar to illegal practices before he signed.

"When I joined the group I asked about all the stuff going on and Pete said there was nothing to worry about," Engels said.

"I fully trust Pete. I always have, he's been a great coach, a great leader and a great example." Meanwhile one of the Oregon Project's most forthright critics, Engels' USA teammate Jenny Simpson, said Salazar's downfall should be cause for celebration.

Rodgers eyes Liverpool revenge, Spurs seek salvation

LONDON, OCT 4 (AFP): Liverpool's perfect start to the Premier League season is under threat from an in-form Leicester led by a manager with a point to prove at Anfield in Brendan Rodgers.

The European champions have a five-point lead at the top of the table over Manchester City, but Leicester are the closest challengers to the top two as they aim to break the glass ceiling of the top six.

The Foxes' chances have been aided by the early-season struggles of Tottenham, Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United.

All four have winnable fixtures to get back on track this weekend, but Spurs are most in need of a lift after a 7-2 Champions League mauling by Bayern Munich in midweek.

NO HARD FEELINGS

Rodgers returns to Anfield for the first time since he was sacked by the Reds in 2015. The Northern Irishman has since rebuilt his reputation, winning seven tro-

phies in two-and-a-half seasons at Celtic before making the move back to the Premier League with the Foxes in February.

Since Rodgers replaced Claude Puel, Leicester have the third-best record in the league behind relentless Liverpool and defending champions City.

A 5-0 thrashing of Newcastle last weekend saw Rodgers's men open up a two-point lead on the chasing pack in third and they have shown their ability to test the traditional top six with a 1-1 draw at Chelsea and 2-1 victory over Tottenham already this season.

However, Rodgers knows ending Liverpool's unbeaten run at home in the Premier League since April 2017 is a much tougher challenge.

"We just want to continue with our performance level. Liverpool are on an incredible run, they are great opponents to test and challenge the quality of our team," said Rodgers.

"We're bringing a



real positive mindset into our games, no matter who the opponent is." Rodgers came agonisingly close to ending Liverpool's long wait to win the league in the 2013/14, but said he feels no bitterness about Jurgen Klopp's success with the Reds, so much so he rents his house to the German.

"I was never going to be bitter," Rodgers told

the Telegraph. "That's why I let Jurgen move into my house."

SEVENTH HELL FOR SPURS

Tottenham's second-half capitulation to German giants Bayern on Tuesday has raised questions over whether Mauricio Pochettino can turn the tide in his sixth season in charge after a dramatic dip in form over the past eight months.

Spurs have now won just three of their opening 10 games to the season and have lost 13 of their past 28 matches stretching back to February.

Pochettino called for unity after Tottenham's worst-ever home defeat in Europe, but to get the fans back onside they need a quick response against a Brighton side that have not won since

the opening day of the season.

NOT SO UNITED

Despite their stuttering start, Tottenham are still two points better off than Manchester United in the race for a top-four finish, with the Red Devils off to their worst league start for 30 years.

A trip to Newcastle ought to bring some relief for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

The Magpies are in turmoil on and off the field. St James's Park has seen swathes of empty seats for the first time in years as supporters protest against Mike Ashley's ownership of the club, while manager Steve Bruce accused his players of "a complete surrender" in losing four second-half goals to Leicester last weekend.

However, even against such demoralised opponents, there are no longer any guarantees for Manchester United on the road.

Solskjaer's men have not won away from home in 10 games stretching back to March.

Shot putter Toor, 1500m runner Jinson crash out of World C'ships

DOHA, OCT 4 (PTI): India's Asian Games gold medallist duo of shot putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor and 1500m runner Jinson Johnson crashed out of the World Athletics Championships after failing to qualify for the finals of their respective events.

The 24-year-old Toor produced a season's best effort of 20.43m to finish eighth in the Group B qualification round and 18th overall out of 34 competitors while Jinson ran a below par 3 minutes 39.86 seconds to end 10th in his first round heats on Thursday. He finished 34th

overall out of 43 runners.

Toor was the first to take the field but with eight shot putters from Group A having already touched the automatic final round qualifying mark of 20.90m, it was a difficult task for Toor to make the cut. The Punjab athlete has a personal best of 20.75m, which is also a national record.

He opened with a 20.43m, bettering his earlier season's best of 20.36m but fouled his next attempt. Pressure mounted on him as three competi-

tors from Group B touched the automatic qualifying mark in their first attempt while another shot putter did the same in the second round.

That meant Toor had to touch 20.90m and rewrite his own national record in his third and final attempt if he has to qualify for the finals.

But he could only come up with a 19.55m effort to crash out of the championships.

Those who touched 20.90m or at least 12 best performers were to make it to the final and eventually 12 shot

putters from Group A and Group B combined were able to cross the automatic qualifying mark for the finals.

Reigning world champion and 2016 Rio Olympics bronze medallist Tomas Walsh of New Zealand led the finalists with a throw of 21.92m.

Toor had won a gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta with his national record setting effort of 20.75m. He also won a gold at the Asian Championships at the same venue in April with a throw of 20.22m.

There was more

disappointment in store for India as the 28-year-old Jinson, who broke his own national record just last month with a time of 3:35.24, failed to preserve enough energy for the home stretch. He was overtaken by one competitor after another as he finished more than four seconds outside his best timing.

He was among the leading five till the final bell but lost steam towards the end.

The top six from each of the three heats and the next six fastest advanced to the semifinals.

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Ailing Musharraf plans to return to politics on October 6

ISLAMABAD, OCT 4 (PTI): Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf plans to return to politics on October 6 after remaining inactive for over an year due to his deteriorating health, according to one of his top aides.

General (retd) Musharraf, 76, who has been living in Dubai since March 2016, is facing the treason case for suspending the Constitution in 2007, a punishable offence for which he was indicted in 2014. A conviction for high treason carries the death penalty or life imprisonment.

Musharraf, the founder of the All Pakistan Muslim League (APML), took a backseat from political activities last year because of his deteriorating health.

He is now planning



a comeback following an improvement in his condition, The Express Tribune quoted a party official as saying.

The former president is suffering from amyloidosis, a rare disease caused by a build-up of an abnormal

protein called amyloid in organs and tissues throughout the body, according to his family.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, APML General Secretary Mehreen Malik said the former president had received medical treat-

ment at a hospital in London for 12 days last month.

"Now he is feeling better and back at his residence in Dubai," she added.

The APML general secretary said Musharraf had also held a meeting

with party officials.

"He will fully resume his political activities with the consultation of doctors," Malik said.

"He is being examined by a team of doctors every day," she added.

She said on Musharraf's instructions, the APML was resuming its political activities across Pakistan.

"He [Musharraf] will address the party's 9th foundation day ceremony in Islamabad through video link on October 6."

The party official said the former president would also make important political announcements soon.

Musharraf, who ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008, has been declared a fugitive in the Benazir Bhutto assassination and the Red Mosque cleric killing case.

Diplomats pushed Ukraine to investigate, dangled Trump visit

WASHINGTON, OCT 4 (AP): Top US diplomats encouraged Ukraine's newly elected president to conduct an investigation linked to Joe Biden's family in return for a potentially high-profile visit to Washington with President Donald Trump.

That's according to a cache of text messages released late Thursday by House investigators following a 10-hour interview with one of the diplomats, Kurt Volker, who stepped down as special envoy to Ukraine amid the Democrats' impeachment inquiry.

The pages of text messages convey a distinct campaign among the three diplomats, who apparently against some of their stated better judgment appear to be trying to help Ukraine reset its relationship with Trump by pushing his interest in investigating his Democratic rival.

Volker, in a text message on the morning of a planned July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, wrote: Heard from White House Assuming President Z convinces trump he will investigate / "get to the bottom of what

happened" in 2016, we will nail down date for visit to Washington.

An adviser to the Ukrainian president appears to go along with the proposal, which entailed investigating Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company where Joe Biden's son Hunter served on the board.

Phone call went well, wrote Andrey Yermak in a text to Volker later that day after the two presidents spoke.

Yermak suggests several dates when Trump and Zelenskyy could meet in September.

But all that planning started to unravel when Zelenskyy's aide tried to lock in a date for the Trump meeting before putting out the statement on the investigations.

Once we have a date we will call for a press briefing, announcing upcoming visit and outlining vision for the reboot of US-UKRAINE relationship, including among other things Burisma and election meddling in investigations, Yermak wrote two weeks later.

Sounds great! text-ed Volker.

Volker and the two other diplomats - William Bill Taylor, the charge d'affaires at the

US embassy in Ukraine, and Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union - discussed the statement Zelenskyy would issue in support of the investigation.

As the negotiations progressed, Sondland said Trump "really wants the deliverable," referring to Ukraine's commitment to conduct the investigation.

Then, Trump put a hold on military assistance to Ukraine, which was depending on the funds as part of its defense of Russia.

Need to talk with you, Yermak wrote to Volker.

Taylor, the seasoned top diplomat in the Ukrainian embassy, conveyed his concerns and questioned whether the money was being withheld until Ukraine agreed to Trump's demand.

Are we now saying that security assistance and WH meeting are conditioned on investigations? he writes.

This is my nightmare scenario, Taylor tells his colleagues days later.

Taylor says that by withholding the Ukrainian assistance, we have already shaken their faith in us.

House Democrats

launched the impeachment inquiry over the Ukraine matter after a government whistleblower disclosed Trump's call with Zelenskyy and the push to have a foreign government interfere in US elections.

Biden, as a Democratic front-runner, could be Trump's opponent in the 2020 presidential election.

Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani have tried, without evidence, to implicate Biden and his son Hunter in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine.

Hunter Biden served on the board of Burisma at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv.

Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Trump and Giuliani have also promoted an alternative theory of 2016 election interference, which puts Ukraine, not Russia, at the center, at odds with the 2017 findings of

Ex-Afghan hostage's assault trial wraps, verdict due in December

OTTAWA, OCT 4 (AFP): The trial of a Canadian man once held hostage with his American wife in Afghanistan and accused of assaulting her following their release came to a close on Thursday, with the judge reserving his decision until December.

Joshua Boyle, 36, was arrested and charged with assault, sexual assault and forcible confinement at the end of 2017 just two months after he and his wife Caitlan Coleman returned to Canada after their five-year hostage ordeal.

He has pleaded not guilty.

In closing arguments, the defense said Boyle is unconventional and unlikeable but truthful, while the prosecution called his testimony fictitious and self-serving.

"He's meticulous, and therefore argumentative. He can be frustrating to the point of being infuriating. He's not easy to like," Defense lawyer Lawrence Greenspon said.

"But he is a person who tells the truth."

Greenspon noted that there was "no eyewitness or physical evidence to corroborate any of 19 charges" against Boyle.

And he suggested that Coleman concocted the assault allegations in order to get sole custody of their children.

On the witness stand, Boyle denied striking his wife or sexually assaulting her, saying they had "playful and erotic" consensual sex.

Boyle also rejected her claims that he was controlling and abusive, saying that Coleman was volatile and suffered violent fits.

Prosecutors, however, said he lied to disguise his demeaning behavior and assaults on his wife. "He effectively coercively controlled her" and "forced sex" on his wife, prosecutor Jason Neubauer told the court.

Crown co-counsel Meghan Cunningham added that Boyle believes that "as a husband he has a right to dominate and subjugate his wife."

"Quiet and obedient, that's what he expected her to be," Cunningham said.

Cunningham pointed to a handwritten list of rules -- which Boyle testified were resolutions that had not been acted upon -- requiring Coleman to lose weight, sleep in the nude, plan interesting sex and

ensure that he ejaculated at least twice daily.

Coleman testified that she was spanked with a broomstick for failing to meet the latter demand, but Boyle insisted he reluctantly did so only at her request, for unrelated reasons.

Boyle and Coleman, who married in 2011, were kidnapped by the Taliban during what they initially described as a backpacking trip through Afghanistan in 2012.

They were later transferred to the custody of the Taliban-allied Haqqani network. The couple were freed in October 2017, along with their three young children -- all of whom were born in captivity.

A fourth was born afterward. The court heard Boyle's 911 call on the day Coleman walked out of the couple's Ottawa apartment at the end of December 2017.

He claimed she was mentally unstable, struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, and might harm herself.

But the call triggered a police investigation that led to him being charged.

The judge's verdict will be delivered on December 19.



Government of Sikkim Office of the Director Pension, G.I.S. NPS Finance Department Gangtok.

Ref no: 282/PGIPF

Date:12/09/2019

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all Pensioners including the Family pensioners that the Office (PGIPF) will be holding Pension Adalat in the District and Sub-Division of all the Districts in the month of January 2020. It is therefore requested that Grievances, if any, regarding their Pension should be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Pension on or before 15th November 2019. Only those grievances shall be entertained which is/are addressed to the Nodal Officer, Pension and as regards to their Pension only.

The date for the Pension Adalat shall be notified later.

*Sd/
Nodal Officer, PGIPF.*

R.O. No. 203/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date 26.9.19



Government of Sikkim Office of The Chief Engineer Rural Development Department E Procurement Department

Bid ID No. PMGSY - II (Batch-I) RE-TENDER5 2019-20

Postponement of Tender procedure

The Chief Engineer, RM&DD on behalf of Governor of Sikkim had invited percentages rates bids through e-procurement for the work, "MRL 05-Dahal Turning to Lower Bering in East Sikkim". Due to the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct for the upcoming election on 21/10/2019 the last date for submission of bid online has been postponed to 4/11/2019 till 10 a.m. The bid should be submitted online in web site **www.pmgstendersskm.gov.in** for construction of respective work as detailed in the above website by contractors of appropriate class with the state government for execution of Civil works. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with his own **Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)**.

**Chief Engineer -cum- Empowered Officer
Rural Development Department
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Disney CEO Confirms Tom Holland Played a Key Role in New Sony/Marvel Spider-Man Deal



The Walt Disney Company CEO Bob Iger has confirmed Spider-Man star Tom Holland played a key role in Sony Pictures and Disney-owned Marvel Studios agreeing to ink a new deal that will see Marvel's Kevin Feige produce at least one more Sony-distributed Spider-Man film set in Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe. In his first appearance as a guest on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Iger confirmed a report published by THR Wednesday that said Holland was instrumental in orchestrating a repair of the months-long divorce that threatened to pull Peter Parker out of the MCU after the original five-movie deal between the two studios expired with July's Spider-Man: Far From Home.

"Miraculously. He was. We had an event called D23, and Tom was there because he's a voice in [Pixar's Onward]. He said something on stage, and it was clear that fans wanted Tom back as Spider-Man, made by Marvel and our Marvel production team," Iger said. "And after D23, Tom reached out to folks who work for me and said, 'Can I please have Bob's e-mail address or phone number?'"

Of course, I'm very protected, so they were very careful. I said 'Sure, have him contact me,' and he did."

Iger continued: "We spoke. And he basically made a — he cried on the phone, no, not really. But it was clear that he cared so much. And actually, we care about him."

Holland, who made his debut as a rebooted Spider-Man in Marvel Studios' Captain America: Civil War before co-starring in Avengers: Infinity War and Avengers: Endgame for Disney-Marvel, is "a great Spider-Man," Iger said.

"I felt for him, and it was clear that the fans wanted this to happen. So after I got off the phone with him, I made a couple of phone calls to our team at Disney Studios, and then I decided to call the head of Sony, and I said 'We have to figure out a way to get this done, for Tom and for the fans.' And we did," Iger said. "That's how it happened... Sometimes, when companies are negotiating with each other, they kinda forget that there are other folks out there."

Sony was targeted by fan backlash and was at the center of multiple boy-

cotts in an attempt by fans to pressure the studio to strike a new deal with Disney, who would have been forced to forgo involvement in any and all future Spider-Man projects that would fall exclusively under the purview of Sony Pictures and its "Sony's Universe of Marvel Characters." While Holland is expected to appear in that continuity, he'll first reappear in the MCU — a payoff of Holland's behind-the-scenes campaign to get both parties to play nice.

In its report, THR said Holland made repeat appeals to both Sony and Disney executives to forge a new pact allowing Spider-Man to remain in the MCU. Following his appearance at Disney's bi-annual D23 Expo, Holland similarly urged Sony film chairman Tom Rothman to continue negotiations after talks famously broke down on both sides.

Feige will again take creative charge on Spider-Man 3, this time with Disney putting up 25% of the budget. The deal also entitles Disney, who already owns 100% of the Spider-Man merchandise rights, to 25% of net gross when this next Spider-Man swings into theaters July 16, 2021.



VIBRANT VIBES! The actress, Zoey Deutch is bursting with brightness in an orange pant suit on a rainy day in New York City.

James Franco accused in lawsuit of sexually exploiting women at his acting school

LOS ANGELES, OCT 4 (PTI): James Franco has been accused by two women for sexually exploiting them at his his now-defunct acting school.

According to New York Times, the lawsuit filed on Thursday alleges that Sarah Tither-Kaplan and Toni Gaal were pressured by the school into uncomfortable activities during auditions and promised acting opportunities that did not materialise.

The Oscar-nominated star of "127 Hours" was behind a school called Studio 4, which had branches in New York and Los Angeles.

Tither-Kaplan and Toni Gaal

were enrolled in the LA program and paid a monthly tuition of USD 300.

There were also special masterclasses, including a USD 750 class for sex scenes.

The lawsuit claims that students had to audition for the class on tape so Franco could review the footage. Students were also allegedly asked to sign away their rights to the recordings.

These actions, the suit says, "led to an environment of harassment and sexual exploitation both in and out of the class." In a statement, Franco's lawyer Michael Plonsker denied the accusations and called the lawsuit "ill-in-

formed".

"James will not only fully defend himself, but will also seek damages from the plaintiffs and their attorneys for filing this scurrilous publicity-seeking lawsuit," Plonsker said.

Franco opened acting school Studio 4 in 2014, with business partner, Vince Jolivet. The school was closed in 2017.

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages and the return or destruction of any video recordings of former Studio 4 class members, as well as class-action status so other women who may have similar experiences can join.

Nick Carter, wife Lauren Kitt Carter welcome second child

LOS ANGELES, OCT 4 (PTI): "Backstreet Boys" singer Nick Carter and wife Lauren Kitt Carter have welcomed their second child, a baby girl.

The 39-year-old singer and Lauren are already par-

ents to three-year-old son Odin Reign.

Entertainment talent relations and corporate brand management company, EMC Bowery, confirmed to Us Weekly that "Mom and daughter are doing great".

Carter announced in April that Lauren, 36, is pregnant, posting a family photograph on Instagram of Odin, kissing his mom's baby bump.

The couple got married in 2015 in Santa Barbara, California.

'Blindspotting' series based on film in works

Los Angeles, Oct 4 (PTI): American cable network Starz is developing a series based on 2018 movie "Blindspotting".

According to Variety, actor Jasmine Cephas Jones is set to reprise her role from the Lionsgate film.

The movie's screenwriters and stars, Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal, will write and executive produce the project.

The potential series would be a half-hour comedy revolving around Ashley (Jones), who was nipping at the heels of a middle-class life in Oakland, California, when Miles (Casal), her longtime partner and father of their son, was suddenly put in jail.

"Blindspotting" premiered in 2018 at Sundance and earned strong critical praise.

Plan to turn 'War' into franchise, says Siddharth Anand

MUMBAI, OCT 4 (PTI): Director Siddharth Anand, who is happy with the positive response his Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff-starrer "War" has received, says there are plans to turn it into a franchise.

The action-thriller, which released on October 2, earned over Rs 53 crore on day one.

"We did had an idea of turning it into a franchise provided we get love of audience. It seems audience's demand is more than our desire. This is how it should be.

"We all will sit together soon and decide on it," Siddharth told reporters here at the success press conference of "War" on Friday.

Siddharth said his aim was to take the action genre a notch higher and give audience an edge-of-your-seat experience.

"I wanted to push the team and everyone and only then we were able to make



a spectacle like this." "Audience has loved the film and this is the proof of their blessings. It is a unique film, a lot of hard work has gone into it and the credit goes to the entire team," he added.

The Yash Raj Films project also features Vaani Kapoor.

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ARIES: The decisions you make are yours and yours alone. No explanation needed. If you have chosen to walk away from something the world perceives as significant, don't look back. You are being guided by your higher self right here and in this moment. For some of you, this is a time of consciously cultivating meaningful relationships. Remember, elimination is an integral part of this process.

Tip: Choose yourself.

TAURUS: Your winning streak is strong, Taurus. And that charisma? Let's not even get started about that. Trust yourself to achieve the impossible. This chapter of your life calls for big dreams and big actions. Remember, a healthy body and mind are integral to your success. Know when to push yourself to do more and when to rest.

Tip: A healthy body and mind will support you to achieve the impossible.

GEMINI: Let go of the need to arrive at your desired destination at a given time. The journey is where the magic is at, Gemini, and right now you are being

asked to practice, strike for perfection, and polish your skill set. What if doing the same thing everyday is the secret to your success?

Tip: Become a master of your craft.

CANCER: Quickie, who? You're in the mood for a full-blown fiesta. If you find yourself making your way back home as soon as the clock strikes 6, you've only got the stars to blame, Cancer. Single crabs, expect the unexpected, especially if you are ready to put yourself out there. The only thing you need to keep in mind: sometimes it's better to engage without any strings attached.

Tip: Things are getting heated up around here.

LEO: Think of this as a resting period. You're gathering your resources and getting ready for the next big phase, which promises to be an adventurous one. You might need to make a few investments in the beginning, especially if the project is yours. Ensure you have adequate financial reserves. Yes, this means having to cut costs at this point. But you'll know why the sacrifice was needed from your end once it all comes together.

Tip: Create a reserve.

VIRGO:

The real question is: how much are you willing to put up with? If you have reached your wit's end, it's time to make a few changes. The world is not going to be happy to see you choose yourself. It doesn't have to. Stop looking outside of yourself for support or seek external validation. Some of you could be dealing with physical pain at this point. Take care of your shoulders and back, Virgo. Remember, it's okay to ask for help.

Tip: Change is Eternal, Perpetual and Immortal.

LIBRA:

If you want it, go get it, Libra. Stop beating around the bush. This chapter of your life requires a direct approach, both personally and professionally. You're gifted with the kind of charm that makes it very hard to turn you down. This is also a time of elimination; of doing away with the things that have served their purpose in your life. Listening to your head this time around will help you make space for the new.

Tip: Be direct in your approach.

SCORPIO:

It's their loss, not yours. Don't be weighed down by heavy emotions like remorse and sadness.

Buy yourself a cup of hot chocolate and tell yourself five amazing things about you. Self-love or narcissism? Who is to tell, Scorpio! Did you know that the element of water has been synonymous with healing and rejuvenation since the beginning of time? If you don't have the option of spending time by the lake, soak your feet in a bucket of salt water and let that negativity go.

Tip: Tell yourself five amazing things about you.

SAGITTARIUS:

Bone-breaking exhaustion. That's what the cards are pointing towards. Take a break, Sag. It is more critical now than ever. You have been pushing yourself beyond your limits, refusing to delegate or seek help. At this rate, you could risk everything you have worked so hard for: work, health, relationships. Remember, people can't always preempt our needs, given what they are going through in their personal lives. There's no shame in asking for support at this point.

Tip: Take that much needed break.

CAPRICORN:

You are not this or that, Capricorn. Beware of compartmentalising yourself. You could be freewheeling spirit in the morning, an America-

no-sipping boss babe as soon as the clock strikes 9, and Cardi B when you find yourself at the club later in the night. Embrace the soulful and the sensual. Accepting all parts of you will ultimately lead to liberation.

Tip: Give yourself the gift of acceptance.

AQUARIUS:

Trust that Justice will prevail; that good will triumph over evil, and that the goddess will show up for you in her myriad forms. The divine feminine energy is at its peak after all! On your part, continue to act conscientiously, Aquarius. When it comes to decision-making, check in with both your head and your heart. Retreating into your sacred space before you take action will give you the clarity you need at this moment.

Tip: Justice will prevail.

PISCES:

"Maybe our girlfriends are our soulmates and guys are just people to have fun with." What Carrie Bradshaw said, Pisces! Get ready for a day of joy, celebration and madness. Somebody call 911 because you and the crew are about the bum up the dance floor. But don't just mingle with those you know. Allow yourself to work the room. The Universe is giving you a chance to expand your social circle.