



**FILM STARS PAY HOMAGE
TO SOLDIERS ON KARGIL
VIJAY DIWAS**

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**DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS ARE NEARLY
AS COMMON AS DEPRESSION. SO WHY
HAVEN'T WE HEARD ABOUT THEM?**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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NIT launches MA in Buddhist Studies

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, launched a Post Graduate course in Buddhist Studies on 25 July, 2019, a press release informs.

Minister for Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, Samdup Lepcha and vice president of the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) Board attended the function as chief guest and delivered the inaugural address.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Secretary, Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, Government of Sikkim, Registrar and Joint Registrar including some Heads of Departments and Professors of Sikkim University, Doctors from the Ayush Department, Government of Sikkim, the representatives of the Ecclesiastical Affairs, Government of Sikkim, faculty members and students of the Post Graduate and Sowa Rigpa Departments of the NIT.

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Prof Lama returns as Cheif Economic Advisor to State Govt

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Former Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University, Prof Mahendra P Lama, is all set to return as the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of Sikkim.

A Home Department notification issued on 26 July informs that Prof Lama has been appointed the CEA with immediate effect.

Prof Lama has served an earlier stint, from 2000 to 2007, as the chief economic advisor to the State Government.

The honorary post carries the status of a Cabinet Minister and extends Prof Lama a contingency grant of Rs 60,000 to meet the expenses of secretarial assistance, office, research support and miscellaneous expenses.

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HRDD swamped by repatriations and deputations

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

The State Government effected 70 transfers in the HRDD on 25 July. Out of the 70, 37 are teachers and other staff of Government schools. Teachers who had been earlier transferred on deputation to other departments have been repatriated back as teachers. On the other hand, teachers have been transferred on deputation to other departments, many of whom have taken up the posts vacated by the repatriated teachers. The post of MVIs and inspectors in other departments like Agriculture appear to be favoured heavily in this round of transfers. It is interesting that while teacher transfers are primarily the domain of HRDD, this set of transfers has been notified by the Department of Personnel, a requirement necessitated perhaps by the fact that these are inter-departmental rearrangements.

Khamdong-Singtam celebrates academic excellence of Yangchen Doma Tamang

SUMMIT REPORT

KHAMDONG, 26 JUL:

Yangchen Doma Tamang of Baddong Thangsing, East Sikkim, was felicitated by Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association [SABA] on being selected after a national level competition to pursue her further studies at Adriatic United College, Italy.



She is among the top-20 students selected from India and the only one from the entire North-Eastern Region to study abroad.

She was felicitated on the second day of the ongoing 17th State Boxing Championship 2019 here Sonamati Memorial Senior Secondary School on Friday.

Yangchen Doma Tamang is the eldest daughter of Bir Bahadur Tamang and Nindu

turn to pg02

Tigers sighted in North Sikkim

Rebyna Rana

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

A fresh sighting of Royal Bengal Tiger has been reported from Gamthangpu above Lachen in North Sikkim. The tiger was spotted at an altitude of 3600 metres above sea level through camera traps set up by World Wildlife Fund as part of its special High Altitude Tiger Project under the National Tiger Conservation Authority. A similar project for Tiger Conservation has been initiated by the WWF in West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department, ML Shrivastava says, "Since November 2018, we have had multiple sightings of the Royal Bengal Tiger here in Sikkim, which asserts that



Sikkim is a thriving circuit for these big cats."

In recent weeks, tigers have been photo-captured

in camera traps in 2 different locations in the remote montane forests of North Sikkim, a press note from

the Forest Department informs.

"These tiger images from North Sikkim are

significant for a number of reasons. These are the most authentic photographs of the species

from this district in recent times. Based on these photographs, it is established

turn to pg02

Sikkim-Darjeeling merger chatter an SDF conspiracy: Golay



SAGAR CHHETRI

KHAMDONG, 26 JUL:

Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] today accused the opposition of conspiring against the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha government and making false allegations against it regarding the Sikkim-Darjeeling merger issue.

Addressing a gathering at Khamdong where the State Boxing Championship 2019 is going on, Mr Tamang said that he will not let any harm

come to Sikkim.

The opposition is conspiring against the SKM government with false allegations on this issue and people of the State need to understand who is behind this conspiracy, he stated.

The CM was referring to the reemergence of the Sikkim-Darjeeling merger issue on social media of late.

Speaking about sports, Mr Tamang mentioned that the

turn to pg02

CS meets industrial unit heads to foster better understanding

GANGTOK, 26 JUL [IPR]: A meeting of Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava with heads of industrial units in the State was held at the conference hall of Tashiling secretariat today.

The meeting also had the presence and participation of Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Dr Thomas Chandy, Secretary, Labour Department, SP Subba, Joint Labour Commissioner DS Kunwar, Director, Commerce & Industries, Tashi Chopel, senior officers of Commerce & Industries Department, and heads of all industrial units operating in the State.

This was the first meet-



ing of industrial heads with the Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary, in his opening remarks, stated that the meeting was convened to foster a better understanding between the industrial units and the Government, and address aberrations and impediments, if any, on the path

of growth.

He lauded the industrial units for their contribution to the state and the country and assured to strengthen areas where the Government can better its role as a facilitator.

The Chief Secretary sought information from the industry plant heads on the following issues:

1. The details of the industrial units, factories and other establishments and purpose for which they have been set up.
2. The initiatives taken by the industrial plants under Corporate Social Responsibility.
3. Contribution of the plants in area development

turn to pg02

Crafts aur Cuisines ka Sangam

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* Submission of application alone does not entitle the applicant's selection. * Only the selected applicants will be intimated separately by NMDFC.

davp 27101/13/0008/1920

Hunar ko Hausla...

Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India
www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

CEO's disability-friendly website launched

GANGTOK, 26 JULY [IPR]: Chief Electoral Officer R Telang today launched the new disability-friendly departmental website of the Office of the CEO-Sikkim.

It is informed that the existing website had been online for over ten years and adding another feature today is the disability-friendly fea-

ture which will help provide universal access.

The website is now completely dynamic with all important functionalities and objectives of the previous website with an improved information menu structure, a built-in content management system for seamless and easy access to basic information

about elections in Sikkim.

Mr Telang congratulated all officers and members who helped set up the new website and felicitated NIC officials and Netspeq representatives involved in the process. The programme included a live demonstration of the website by a Netspeq representative.

National e-postal ballot turnout jumped to 60% in 2019 from 4% in 2014

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Lok Sabha election 2019 recorded the highest number of 18,02,646 Service Electors who were sent postal ballots electronically using the flagship IT programme of Election Commission of India, known as Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), as per the Election Commission of India.

The Service Electors were enrolled as Service Electors through online registration with the dedicated portal <https://www.servicevoter.eci.nic.in> In the 2014 election, the number of registered Service Electors was 13,27,627.

“For the first time a full-fledged online registration portal for service electors has been used to save processing time, resources and human errors,” the ECI press release states.

Persons working in Central Forces under Arms Act and Govern-

ment officials deployed in Embassies outside the country are, classified as Service Voters and are provisioned for online enrolment.

In 2019, 10,84,266 e postal ballots were received indicating 60.14% turnout, which is a significant improvement compared to 2014 when turnout was only 4%, the release mentions.

Out of the total number of Service Electors, 10, 16,245 were from Ministry of Defence, 7,82,595 from Ministry of Home Affairs (Central Armed Police Forces), 3539 of Ministry of External Affairs and State Police 267.

In the seven phases spanning election, total 18, 02,646 postal ballots were dispatched electronically using the flagship IT programme of Election Commission of India, known as Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

ETPBS is developed by Election Commission

of India, for the use of the Service Voters. It is a fully secured system, having two layers of security. Secrecy of voting is maintained through the use of OTP and PIN and no duplication of casted ETPB is possible due to the unique QR Code in the portal <https://www.etpbs.in>. Through this system the service voters cast their vote on an electronically received postal ballot, from anywhere outside their constituency, thus the chances of losing the voting opportunity has reduced. The purpose of the online system was to create convenient and easy-to-use online system for Defense Personnel to become Service Voters.

With the motto of “no voter to be left behind”, Election Commission of India's ETPBS has empowered and ensured all eligible service electors with their constitutional power to vote while performing their duty for the nation.

Lingi Payong school observes Kargil Vijay Diwas

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Lingi Payong Secondary School observed Kargil Vijay Diwas on Friday by holding a small programme at the school premises, a press release informs.

Students and teach-

ers paid their respect to the martyrs by observing one minute silence. Students read out poems praising the contributions made by the army in the line of duty.

School in-charge, S Singh also delivered speech on the occasion.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on 26 July to mark the victory of the Indian Army over Pakistan in the Kargil war. On this day in 1999, Indian army were able to recapture the high outpost which had been lost to Pakistan.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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Tigers sighted...

that there is presence of at least two different individual tigers in the area. One of these animals, a male, was photographed at an elevation of 3600m which is one of the highest altitudes that tigers have been recorded in India thus far,” the release mentions.

These images resulted from surveys that were conducted as part of the Project Status of tiger habitats in high altitude ecosystems of Bhutan, India and Nepal. The survey involved a range of methods inclusive of interviews with local communities about the presence and status of tigers and other mammals, sign surveys to detect wildlife presence and camera trapping. It was undertaken in select areas across North and East Districts of the state.

Mr Shrivastava said that the department has been instrumental in providing the manpower for the project which laid out the camera traps.

NIT launches...

“This was a historic day for the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, till now well known nationally and internationally as a research Institute in the realm of Buddhist and Tibetan studies and for organizing national and international level seminars and workshops in such diverse subjects such as “Quantum Physics and Emptiness in Buddhist Philosophy” or on “Mind and Life” to site a few examples,” the release states.

In the year 2017 NIT had ventured into the teaching arena by introducing five and a half years course for Sowa Rigpa (science of healing) graduation and today, NIT inaugurated the Post Graduate course in Buddhist Studies in English medium.

The release further states that this is the first of its kind course introduced in the State of Sikkim offering opportunities to the local students to study Buddhism and its philosophy in languages other than Tibetan.

The Minister in his inaugural address congratulated the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology for the hard work done to diversify the activities of the Institute into the teaching realm. He was of the view that both Sowa Rigpa and the Post Graduate programmes in Buddhist Studies are relevant and appropriate to culture, traditions and religious ethos of the people of the Himalaya regions.

The Minister also said that the State Government will make maximum effort to provide quality education to

In the last 3 years there have been reports of cattle being killed by wild animals but it was not certain what animal was feeding on them, he added.

“The project is devoted towards tiger conservation with WWF laying out the necessary equipment, the project has been up and running for 4 months now. The previous sighting in November, 2018 was through a different project under JICA. Hence, such multiple sightings can ascertain that the ecosystem in Sikkim is suitable for Bengal Tigers to take the circuit,” informed the Secretary.

The animal tends to take the circuit which begins in Bengal and takes the route through the dense forest bordering Bhutan and Sikkim reaching beyond the tri-junction area. Apart from Royal Bengal Tiger, the camera traps have captured snow leopards as well, surprisingly in altitudes much lower than their natural habitat.

the masses and in this aspect he was of the view that the educational programmes started by NIT are in tune with the policy of the government. Hence, he said the government will give full support to NIT to make this a great success in the long run.

NIT Director, Tashi Densapa in his welcome speech said that the establishment of Buddhist University was entrusted to the NIT by the State Government in 2015. He said that graduating to a full-fledged University focused on Buddhist Studies alone will be a long process not only in terms of infrastructure requirement but also in terms of the stringent UGC norms applicable for recognition as a separate university.

Therefore, to start with, NIT decided to begin with MA (Post Graduate) course in Buddhist Studies. He also said that in the year 2017, the Sowa Rigpa (Science of Healing) course was introduced by NIT as it is a part and partial of Buddhism. He ended his address by saying that with gradual increase in teaching faculties, it may be possible to get a deemed university status for NIT.

Officer on Special Duty, NIT, K.N. Bhutia, gave a brief background report of the Sowa Rigpa and M.A programmes. While proposing the vote of thanks, the Joint Director made a special mention of the Vice Chancellor and Professors of Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath for their active support in preparing the Syllabus of the Post Graduate and Sowa Rigpa programmes.

Khamdong-Singtam..

Ongmu Tamang from the village of Badong Thangsing under Khamdong-Singtam constituency in East Sikkim.

She completed her primary education from Rumtek Senior Secondary School and secondary education from Him Jyoti School, Dehradun, on a Himjyoti scholarship.

A very bright student, she has now been selected after a national competition and is proceeding to Adriatic United College for further studies.

It is informed that she applied for this scholarship last year and had to write five essays following which she was selected for an interview along with 120 students from across the country and was then placed among the top-20 students from the country.

She is leaving for Italy on 23 August. Speaking to media persons, Yangchen expressed immense happiness on receiving the opportunity to study aboard.

She said, “I just finished my class X and now will be pursuing my first and second year of the college and then according to my IB marks I will be admitted into a university there.”

Yangchen informed that she can choose any six subjects of which mathematics, Italian and English were compulsory and she will be taking geography, political science and physics.

Yangchen's father, Bir Bahadur Tamang, expressed his happiness and great satisfaction on his daughter's achievement.

“She is a very bright student and never came second since class 1. I am very happy for achievements of my daughter,” he said.

Prof Lama..

As the CEA, Prof Lama will advise the State Government on planning, development, monitoring, evaluation and reform issues.

He is also tasked to introduce and build a new variety of modern institutions, advise on coordination of activities and institutional networking with noted international development and global multilateral institutions and also eminent national institutions.

His counsel will also be sought on broader issues of investment and sustainable development including climate change; and in activities related to preparation of economic survey, budget and resource mobilisation and preparation of major state level documents.

He will also be advising the State Government on human resource development and human capital formation.

Sikkim-Darjeeling..

state government has prepared various programmes and schemes which will be implemented gradually for the development of sports and welfare of sportspersons.

The SKM government has taken various austerity measures so that most of the money can be used for the development of Sikkim and its people, said the CM.

Despite the huge financial burden of the State incurred by the previous government, arrears of government employees and pension holders will be released in one installment shortly after the upcoming budget session, he announced.

Addressing the youth, Mr Tamang urged them to work hard and not get discouraged.

“The previous government had conspired against me and my family but I never got discouraged. I took it positively, moved ahead and now I am in this position,” he expressed.

He added that Sikkim has seen Parivartan due to the hardwork of all SKM workers.

The CM also thanked the people of Khamdong-Singtam for trusting SKM and voting it to power. He assured to work positively on demands placed by the Area MLA on behalf of the people of Khamdong-Singtam.

He also mentioned that the SKM government will give a ‘special gift’ to the people of Khamdong-Singtam very soon.

Area MLA, Dr MK Sharma alleged that the SDF government had always neglected Khamdong-Singtam and cheated the people of the area with false promises and used the people just for votes. He further alleged that the earlier government had not fulfilled any of its promises and the area still lacks basic facilities.

On the same, he mentioned that the SKM government has already started to fulfill its promises for the constituency.

Training on off-farm inputs at Mabong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Training cum demonstration program on off-farm inputs was held at Mabong, West Sikkim under MOVCD (Mission Organic Value Chain Development) on 25 July, a press release informs.

The training was organized by FPO in collaboration with HCC&DD and Service Provider Agency Mevedir. Several Farmer Interest Groups affiliated with the FPO were invited as participants to this training

program to receive these off farm inputs and to be aware of how to use these organic certified inputs in their major cash crops.

The training session was chaired by Field Assistant, HCCDD, D.K. Rai who welcomed all the participants and briefed about the MOVCD (Mission Organic Value Chain Development and the various schemes under MOVCD.

The assembled participants were thanked for their time and encouraged to use these

inputs as instructed in the training program. The farmers were also informed that for any other queries or difficulty in application of these inputs, Diwash Chettri from Mevedir would be available to explain and assist the farmers.

More than 25 farmers attended this training program.

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CS meets industrial...

(round about roads and other infrastructure).

4. Details of workers of all categories and their positions in the industrial units (local and non-local).

5. Labour Contract System - alternative for the system if the Government puts a ban on it.

6. Details of perks and facilities provided to the staff over and above their monthly salaries as notified by the State government.

7. Details about transportation for workers and storage/warehouse facilities for finished products, both within Sikkim and Siliguri.

8. Companies should provide information about promotional avenues for workers from skilled to supervisory level.

9. Pollution control measures. The industrial plant heads submitted the point wise response to the Chief Secretary and highlighted additional areas of concern that need to be addressed.

After lending a patient hearing to the points put forth by the Plant heads, Chief Secretary Shri A.K. Shrivastava assured that there will be no miscommunication or any gap in communication between the industry and the government. He said that an efficient mechanism will be established to ensure healthy communication and speedy action.

The Chief Secretary made it clear that a uniform system and policy guideline on Corporate Social Responsibility should be put in place so that the contribution of the Industries is beneficial for the society as a whole and that their contribution is valued

and acknowledged. He welcomed the suggestion from the industrial heads that a high-level Committee should be constituted by the State Government to draw up a policy guideline for CSR which should be followed mandatorily by all the industrial units operational in the state.

The Chief Secretary expressed his satisfaction at the success of the meeting, the first of this kind, and said that the deliberations from the meeting will be conveyed to the Chief Minister. He further stated that he would meet the head of all the units who could not attend today's meeting and create the premises for the final meeting of the Industrial heads with the Chief Minister.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, in his closing remarks, reiterated that the industries in Sikkim are doing laudable service both within the State as well as nationally.

He gave the example of how pharmaceutical products manufactured in Sikkim are prescribed to people living in different parts of the country.

He stressed on the need to demystify the notion that the industries are here solely to make profit. He called for the need to understand the functioning and role of these industries and acknowledge their contribution to the GSDP of the State. He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Secretary and all the industry heads for their participation and fruitful deliberation.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Joint Labour Commissioner.

Governor attends army-hosted Kargil Vijay Diwas function

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed in the State today with the Governor attending a function hosted by the army to mark the day here at the Defence Auditorium.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation made by two army officers who are Kargil veterans themselves, an IPR press release informs.

Earlier, the Governor presented mementoes to the two Kargil veterans.

Governor Ganga Prasad was accompanied to the event by the Chief Secretary. The programme included the screening of a short film



on the Kargil War.

The army had also organized band display at MG Marg on the evenings of 25 and 26 July to mark the anniversary.

The IPR release also

suggests that the Chief Minister has explained that due to many urgent engagements and the ensuing Assembly session, a civilian function to mark the

day could not be organized but when news of the army functions arrived, the state government decided to take part in their functions.

SLSA organizes awareness lecture for Legal Literacy Clubs of schools



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the directions of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai organized an Awareness Lecture on "The Importance Of Fundamental Duties As Envisaged In Article 51A And Free Legal Aid As Envisaged Under Article 39A Of The Constitution Of India" for the Legal Literacy Clubs of Schools in East District on 26 July at the Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang.

As per a press release, one of the activities under the directions of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLISA, is generating awareness through lectures about the Fundamental Duties as envisaged in Article 51A and Free Legal Aid as envisaged under Article 39-A of the Constitution of India to the student members of Legal Literacy Clubs of the Schools.

The programme commenced with the welcome note from Suraj Chettri, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLISA, who informed the august gathering that Legal Literacy Clubs have been established in Schools for disseminating information about law and to make people aware about their rights and duties through various activities of the Legal Literacy Club so that the students become law abiding citizens and not only boost legal literacy but also help in strengthening the aim of legal services institutions of Access to Justice for the vulnerable and marginalized section of the society.

The awareness lecture was attended by 194 student members of the club along with their

teacher-in-charge, the release mentions.

The Resource Persons for today's programme were T.R. Barfungpa and Zangpo Sherpa, Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLISA.

T.R. Barfungpa, Panel Advocate spoke on how to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem, how to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our National struggle for freedom, how to uphold and protect the Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity of India, how to defend the Country and render National Service when called upon to do so and how to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India.

While Zangpo Sherpa, Panel Advocate spoke on how to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture, how to protect and improve the natural environment including Forests, Lakes, Rivers and Wildlife, how to develop the Scientific Temper, Humanism and the Spirit of Inquiry and Reform, how to safeguard Public Property and to abjure Violence, how to strive towards excellence in all spheres, how to provide opportunities for Education by the Parent or the Guardian, to their child or a ward between the age of 6-14 years as the case may be and with regard to Free Legal Aid as envisaged under Article 39A of our Constitution.

The programme ended with interaction between the student participants and Resource Persons.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Bikash Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLISA.

Advisor to CM visits IPR office



GANGTOK, 26 JUL (IPR): Advisor to Chief Minister (Press and Media), C P Sharma paid a brief visit to Information and Public Relations Department (IPR), Government of Sikkim, today. He was warmly welcomed by the Secretary IPR, Sherab Shenga, officers and staffs of the Department.

He visited different sections of the department and interacted with the staff there. This being his first visit, he was briefly introduced to various works undertaken in each of the section i.e Media Section, Film Section, Photography Section, Advertisement

Section and Publications.

He commended the work done in archiving and digitalisation of old photographs and expressed that there is a need to publish a substantial photo-book taking all the archived photographs right from the Chogyal's time.

He also expressed that a better and bigger library may be established and maintained. He commended the work done in bringing out the news bulletins in various local languages and expressed satisfaction with the overall work being done in the department.

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
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HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES &
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GANGTOK.**

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 117/CHSO

Date: 24/7/19

Online tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/ authorized dealers for the supply of Generic Drugs, Medicines & Consumables to the Central Health Stores Organization, Government of Sikkim, for the financial year 2019-20.

The Bid should be submitted online in the web-site <https://www.sikkimtender.gov.in> for which, the bidder should have the necessary portal enrollment with his/ her own Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

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Central Health Stores Organization
HC, HS & FW Department
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R.O. No. 110/IPR/Pub./Classi./19-20

dt. 24.7.2019

State Boxing Championship final bouts to start on Saturday

SUMMIT REPORT
KHAMDONG, 26 JUL:

The second day of the 17 edition of State Boxing Championship 2019 for senior [men's & women's], junior [men's & women's] and sub-junior [boys & girls] has witnessed 18 bouts here at the playground of Sonamati Memorial Senior Secondary school in East Sikkim on Friday. With the completion of all semi-final bouts today, final bouts will start on Saturday.

There are 127 pugilists, 74 men and 53 women, from all four districts participating in the state championship.

The four-day championship is being organised by Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association [SABA] in association with Sonamati Memorial SSS, Khamdong in memory of Late Damber Kumari Sharma, wife of the State Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma.

The championship was inaugurated by the



Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma, who is also the chief patron of the organising committee, on Thursday. The valedictory function of the championship will be held on Sunday afternoon.

Speaking as chief guest on the occasion, Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] lauded the initiative of organizing the state-level event in rural Sikkim. He expressed his best wishes to all pugilists in the state championship.

In his address, Area MLA and Minister, Dr MK Sharma thanked Sikkim

Amateur Boxing Association [SABA] for bringing the state boxing championship to Khamdong. He stated that sports always lead youths towards productive and healthy path.

He encouraged the youth to take inspiration from Arjuna Awardee boxer, Jasal Pradhan to be successful in life. He mentioned that honouring personalities from Khamdong-Singtam during this state championship is an exemplary initiative.

Earlier, Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association president, Jasal Prad-

han spoke about various achievements of the State in boxing and development of boxing in the State. He also presented a brief report on the state championship. Likewise, Sonamati Memorial SSS Principal, LN Sharma gave a school report during the programme.

On the occasion, the organising committee felicitated the CM. The second day of the championship also witnessed the felicitation of personalities and achievers from Khamdong-Singtam constituency by the organising committee.



Screening of BTS performances

Games & Activities

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- Cham Cham
- Chinese Whispers with a Twist!
- Quiz Competition
- ...And lots more!

Date: 27th July 2019

Venue: Thuendel, Sichey.

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

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Crowded Out by Cars

Instead of cursing traffic jams, collaborate to find a solution

There is a footpath lining the highway in Gangtok, and yet parents are not comfortable sending children out on their own. Upto two decades back, children would rarely stay at home, gathering in groups and heading outdoors. That is a luxury which is denied the generation now in school because outdoors in the capital is a now a jumble of parking lots and dangerous traffic. People have been noticing the increase in traffic on Gangtok roads, many have even ventured explanations and some have stuck their necks out with criticism, and all have come to the same conclusion – Gangtok has been taken over by cars. Cars have captured public spaces and pushed everything else away. The neighbourhood streets, even those which lead to dead-ends, have been consumed, and the town still needs to come up with more and more ingenious ways to park its cars.

Despite the obvious glut on the roads, the rush is showing no signs of abating. Some years ago, a study by the Central Road Research Institute [yes, there is such an institute] revealed that vehicles were occupying almost as much space [10.8%] as the forest cover [11.5%] in the National Capital Region of Delhi. Anyone who has watched the explosion of vehicles in Gangtok will agree that Sikkim's capital too is trying hard to bring vehicular occupation at par with its green cover. Here, the plant life might not be getting hacked away to make space for more parking lots, yet, but it is being choked to death by the swarm of idling engines stuck in impossibly long traffic jams which grip the roads during peak office hours nowadays. There might not be too many people who remember how long a pony ride from Ranipool to Gangtok took in earlier times, but it could not have been much longer than what it takes to make it from Tadong to MG Marg in a vehicle nowadays.

Admittedly, all this description is not required because it is obvious to every Gangtokian that traffic and cars have become a problem and a nuisance. What has still not been accepted is that this problem needs to be addressed. The only initiative taken to address the problem of too many cars has been the commissioning of more parking lots some of which are built and ready but await an inauguration. While more parking is definitely required, this is not enough of a solution primarily because the parking space being created will already be too cramped by the time the structure is completed. For another, more parking space does not address the problem of vehicular movement. In this regard, Gangtok's topography and building practices play spoilsport, making the creation of alternate roads impossible.

The only real option then is to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads. This cannot be achieved by stronger legislations [in case someone is floating that idea], but can be pulled off with an approach which combines structured parking fees, safe and spacious parking in the outskirts [of the congested areas, say beyond Deorali or Tadong at one end or Burtuk at the other end or even along the bypass] and fast, frequent and reliable public transport. Bigger cities around the world have worked this combo quite well and there is no need why Gangtok should not try out the model as well. This is but one option that can be mulled and what would be even better for Gangtok to attempt will be a series of brainstorming meetings aimed specifically at addressing its traffic and parking challenges. Experts from diverse fields can be invited to study the problem and offer solutions. Think about it the next time you stare aimlessly out of the car window at another one Gangtok's traffic jams.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Dissociative disorders are nearly as common as depression. So why haven't we heard about them?

MARY-ANNE KATE
theconversation.com

Dissociative disorders are often said to be rare. But our soon-to-be published analysis of international studies suggest they affect 10-11% of the population at some point in their lives. This makes them nearly as common as mood disorders (such as clinical depression).

So what are dissociative disorders, why is diagnosis controversial and how can people be treated? **WHAT IS DISSOCIATION?**

Dissociation occurs when a person experiences being disconnected from themselves, including their memories, feelings, actions, thoughts, body and even their identity.

People with dissociative disorders have one or more of the following symptoms:

- amnesia and other memory problems
- a sense of detachment or disconnection from their self, familiar people or surroundings
- an inner struggle about their sense of self and identity
- acting like a different person (identity alteration).

For some people, symptoms can last days or weeks, but for others they can persist for months, years, or a lifetime.

Dissociation allows the person to compartmentalise and disconnect from aspects of traumatic and challenging experiences that could otherwise overwhelm their capacity to cope.

A person whose spouse has died may become emotionally numb, allowing them to focus on arranging the funeral; a man who has separated from his wife and lost his job soon afterwards may become so disconnected from his identity that he no longer recognises himself in the mirror and feels his life is happening to someone else; and a young woman who is sexually assaulted may remember her attacker moving too quickly towards her, recalls being safely back in her family home, but cannot remember the assault.

If the traumatic and overwhelming experiences happen repeatedly over a long period of time, the person's personality may become fragmented. The traumatised part of the personality that contains the emotions, thoughts, sensations and experiences relating to the trauma becomes separated from the part of the personality that is trying to get on with daily life.

This allows young children to be with frightening and abusive caregivers they can neither fight nor flee from as they are dependent on them.

The person may have no (or only some) con-

scious awareness of the compartmentalised memories, thoughts, feelings and experiences.

These may, however, intrude into the person's awareness. For example, the person may be aware of thoughts, feelings and internal voices that don't "belong" to them, or may speak or act in ways that are completely out of character.

The most extreme form of structural dissociation is dissociative identity disorder, once known as multiple personality disorder. This is where the person has at least two separate personalities that exist independently of one another and that emerge at different times.

These personality differences are not just psychological. Neuroimaging confirms structural differences in the brains of people with dissociative identity disorder.

A CONTROVERSIAL DIAGNOSIS

There are two competing theories about what causes dissociation: trauma and fantasy.

With the trauma model, dissociative symptoms arise from physical, sexual and emotional abuse; neglect, particularly in childhood; attachment problems if a child fears the caregiver or the caregiver is not adequately attuned to the child's emotional or safety needs; and other severe stress or trauma, such as experiencing or witnessing domestic violence.

This trauma model is reflected in the World Health Organisation and American Psychiatric Association past and present diagnostic criteria.

However, the fantasy model is based on the idea that dissociative disorders are not "real". Instead, they are the delusion of people who are troubled (and often traumatised), suggestible, fantasy-prone and sleep-deprived.

Fantasy model theorist Joel Paris describes dissociative disorders as a North American "fad" that has nearly died out.

Yet my analysis of 98 studies found rates are not declining. In fact, I found dissociation is an international phenomenon far more common in countries that are comparatively unsafe. This is supported by other research which finds dissociation more common in people that have experienced trauma, such as refugees.

All up, the evidence indicates dissociative disorders are real (not imagined) and caused by trauma (not fantasy).

DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS ARE UNDER-DIAGNOSED AND MISDIAGNOSED

Even though there are accurate ways of diagnosing dissociative disorders, most people will never be diagnosed. This is due to the lack of health professional education and training about dissociation, the symptoms being less obvious to observ-

ers, and scepticism that the disorder even exists.

The person also may not realise they have dissociative symptoms. Even if they do, they may not reveal them due to fear or embarrassment, or may find them difficult to put into words.

At least three-quarters of people with a dissociative disorder will also have one or more other mental disorders. They may be diagnosed with and treated for other mental health difficulties, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, sleep disorders, borderline personality disorder, or psychosis. They may also be treated for addictions, self-harm, and/or suicidal thoughts (2% of those diagnosed complete suicide).

They may also be misdiagnosed with schizophrenia because hearing voices is common to both.

But their dissociative disorder usually remains undiagnosed. However, treatment for other mental health issues is not likely to be effective unless the underlying dissociation is addressed.

HOW TO TREAT? WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE SAY WORKS?

The mental health and quality of life of people with a dissociative disorder improves significantly with psychotherapy (a type of talk therapy) that recognises the impact of trauma is physiological (affecting the brain and body) as well as psychological.

In therapy consistent with international treatment guidelines, people can learn skills to cope with unbearable emotions, thoughts and physical sensations. Once people are stable and have constructive coping strategies, therapists can then help people process traumatic and dissociated memories. Dissociative, post-traumatic, and depressive symptoms improve. And hospitalisations, self-harm, drug use, and physical pain declines.

There is no medication that specifically treats dissociation.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Dissociative disorders are one of the most common, yet most unrecognised, mental disorders. Symptoms are often debilitating, but significant improvements are possible if the dissociation is diagnosed and treated correctly.

If you are concerned, you can speak to your GP and ask for a referral to a therapist knowledgeable about trauma and dissociation. A list of therapists with this expertise in Australia is available from the Blue Knot Foundation and worldwide from the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation.

[the writer is Adjunct Associate Lecturer, University of New England]

The uproar over taking 'man' out of 'manhole'

SHANNON DEA
theconversation.com

It is not every day that a change to a municipal code for a medium-sized city makes international news. But when city council in Berkeley, Calif., had its first reading of a proposal to remove gendered language from its municipal code, the media went to town.

The 14-page proposal provides a rationale for the changes, cites legal and grammatical support, specifies the wording that will change and estimates the cost of the initiative at a mere \$600. The proposal was part of Berkeley city council's consent agenda — that is, the portion of any agenda that is deemed so pro forma and uncontroversial that it isn't brought to the floor for discussion. From Berkeley's perspective, this was all pretty dry business.

Almost immediately though, the proposal generated dozens of high-profile media stories, the overwhelming majority of which touted in their headlines one particular proposed change: the replacement of "manhole" with "maintenance hole."

CBS News (among others) claimed that Berkeley is banning gendered words. Late Night host Seth Meyers joked that henceforth in Berkeley, Hooters will be called "Torso." One news radio host characterized the ordinance as "left-wing language lunacy." Former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly called Berkeley a "fascist enclave." What a lot of commotion over a municipal ordinance for a small city with under 150,000 residents.

As a feminist philosopher who does research on gender, I am both impressed by the sensible changes Berkeley is proposing, and struck — but not surprised — by the force and the tone of the media response.

A PROGRESSIVE CITY

The use of gender-inclusive language is associated with reductions in gender stereotyping and discrimination. Further, for transgender and non-binary people, traditional binary approaches to language can cause stigma. That said, not everyone is

ready for gender-inclusive language, and forcing it can lead to resistance and resentment.

Berkeley's proposed changes are sensible because they are being made in the right place at the right time, in a way that is modest, feasible and evidence-based.

Berkeley is a progressive city in a diverse state. According to Gallup, the larger San Francisco Metro area, of which Berkeley is a part, has the highest proportion of adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) of any major U.S. metropolitan area. Berkeley has a vocal and influential LGBTQ community, and the municipality is more attuned to equity issues than many city councils. Berkeley is the right place to pioneer a gender-inclusive municipal code.

Moreover, California's enactment of Bill 179 earlier this year makes now the right time to update the gendered language in the municipal code. Bill 179 responded to growing social awareness about transgender and gender non-conforming identities by introducing a third, nonbinary, gender option for official California documents. At the same time, it removed the requirement for transgender and nonbinary people to undergo surgery or legal hearings to change their gender or name on official documents.

In response to those changes, the League of California Cities recommended municipalities replace all gendered terms within their municipal codes with gender-neutral terms. **SIMPLE CHANGES MADE OFFICIAL**

After discussing the League's recommendation at a March council meeting, Berkeley assigned staff to work through its municipal code and recommend changes to remove the

gendered language.

Most of the recommended changes simply replace a familiar gendered term with an equally familiar non-gendered term: "policeman" becomes "police officer," for instance. Most of us made these changes to using gender neutral language years ago.

These changes are sensible for two reasons. First, research tells us



linguistic changes are more likely to take hold if they are made officially. Second, it's important to remember these are changes to a city code.

The purpose is not to constrain what people on the street say. Indeed, if a city government tried to force a person on the street to say "chair" rather than "chairman," that government would soon find itself on the losing end of a First Amendment challenge. Rather, the code is the customer service standard for the city. It tells employees how the city wants them to interact with customers, and it serves as a style guide for city documents.

NOT HE/SHE BUT THEY

Arguably, the change that will take Berkeley employees the longest to get used to is replacing "he" and

"she" with singular "they." But it is an elegant solution to a real challenge. City employees interacting with customers can't tell at a glance what gender they are, and the process of finding out someone's pronouns is complicated and fraught.

Singular "they" allows city employees to circumvent that complexity using a linguistic device that is in fact quite familiar. Most of us already use singular "they" when we don't know the gender of the person we're talking about. "Oh no!" one might say, "someone left their book in the lounge. I hope they come back for it!"

These are modest, practical changes being made in the right place at the right time, and they don't affect the freedoms of people on the street. So, why are dozens of media outlets in North America and abroad making fun of the proposal's single reference to a manhole?

Like most of the terms in Berkeley's ordinance, push-back to gender-inclusive language has been around for years. Gender is deeply bound up with our sense of self, our beliefs and our values.

Change is hard, especially when it cuts to the core of our being. Today, decades-old resistance to gender-inclusive language is inflamed by social media hot takes, renewed culture wars and increasing pressure on media outlets to get as many clicks as possible.

So, what's a mid-sized California city — or indeed any person wishing to promote gender-inclusive language — to do? I say, weather the media storm and work to improve things in tractable ways. Media storms come and go, but with sensible models like the one Berkeley council is considering, we can make the world a little more inclusive for people of all genders.

[the writer is Professor of Philosophy, University of Waterloo]

Six Bangladeshis apprehended by BSF

KOLKATA, JULY 26 (PTI): The Border Security Force (BSF) Friday apprehended six Bangladeshis and one Indian national while they were trying to cross the international boundary illegally in West Bengal.

"We had apprehended six Bangladeshis national and one Indian national during the night when they were trying to crossover to India and vice versa. They were arrested from various sectors of Malda, Baharampur and Nadia," a senior BSF official of south Bengal frontier said.

The border force also seized 82 cattle when they were being smuggled to Bangladesh through different locations of border the districts of Malda, Murshidabad, North 24 Parganas and Nadia. The total value of cattle seized is Rs 5,48,97, he said.

The matter has been reported to the local police for disposal of the cattle and further investigation, BSF said.

WB govt announces hike in teachers' grade pay

KOLKATA, JUL 26 (PTI): The West Bengal government Friday announced a hike in the grade pay of primary teachers in the state on the fourteenth day of their hunger strike.

The enhancement of grade pay for trained and untrained primary teachers was notified by the school education department of the government.

"The grade pay of trained primary teachers is enhanced from Rs 2,600 in pay band 2 to Rs 3,600 in Pay Band 3 and the grade pay of untrained primary teachers is enhanced from Rs 2,300 to Rs 2,900 in Pay Band 2 with effect from August 1, 2019," the notification said.

Members of Usti Primary Teachers Association (UPTA) have been on indefinite hunger strike in front of Bikas Bhawan in Salt Lake, which houses the state directorate of school education for the past fortnight.

"We have not seen the order yet. But we have heard about it. If this announcement is true we are not at all happy. We are waiting for the government's decision on the revocation of transfer orders of 14 primary teachers," Sandeep Ghosh, one of the agitating teachers, said.

State Education Minister Partha Chatterjee had said on Thursday that the government was ready to effect a hike in the grade pay of the primary teachers.

Chatterjee had reasoned that the teachers were transferred to schools having shortage of teachers.

Earlier in the day, actor-director Aparna Sen paid a visit to the agitating primary teachers and urged the state government to look into the matter immediately with utmost importance.

She said that the state government should stop giving donations to the clubs, organising different festivals and instead pay dues to the primary teachers immediately.

Polls in only 15 pc Panchayat seats in Tripura on Saturday



AGARTALA, JUL 26 (PTI): The three-tier panchayat elections in Tripura will be held in only 15 per cent of the total seats on Saturday as 85 per cent seats have already been won by the ruling BJP unopposed.

While the Congress and the CPI(M) have accused BJP-backed goons of preventing opposition candidates from filing nomina-

tions, the saffron party has said the opposition parties failed to find nominees.

"Elections will be held in 833 gram panchayat seats, 82 panchayat samiti seats and 79 zilla parishad seats," SEC Secretary Prasenjit Bhattacharya told PTI on Friday.

There are a total of 6,111 gram panchayat seats, 419 panchayat

samiti seats and 116 zilla parishad seats in Tripura.

The SEC official said the BJP has won 5,652 seats of the total 6,646 gram panchayat, panchayat samity and zilla parishad seats unopposed. Ballot papers will be used in the polling which will be held between 7 am and 4 pm. Votes will be counted on July 31.

Man held for duping people on pretext of installing mobile towers

NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI): A 28-year-old Delhiite was arrested for allegedly duping more than 500 people in Kerala, Assam and Maharashtra on pretext of installing mobile towers, police said on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Ritesh Sharma, a resident of Uttam Nagar, they said, adding efforts are on to nab his associates.

The accused used to target people by posting advertisements in newspapers and lured them by offering good returns for using their property for installation of mobile towers, police said.

"A case was registered wherein people



were cheated online by persons impersonating as employees of a mobile tower installation company. The complainant company had alleged some persons were fraudulently using their logos, identical websites and emails, letter

heads to deceive the public offering them a lucrative return for using their property for installation of mobile towers," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (CyPAD) Anysh Roy.

However, the accused was arrested with the

help of technical sources, they said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Sharma targeted people in Kerala, Assam and Maharashtra by giving advertisements in the newspapers where he would offer people to rent out their land for installation of mobile tower at lucrative returns and would then ask them for money as processing fees, the DCP said.

He has cheated people of an amount ranging from Rs 10,000 to over Rs one lakh. It is roughly estimated that he has managed to con people of around Rs one crore since he started doing this in 2015, they said.

49 projects worth Rs 1,231 cr taken up in northeastern region



NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI): As many as 49 projects worth Rs 1,231 crore have been taken up in the northeastern region by the DoNER Ministry in the first 100 days of action plan in the second term of the BJP-led NDA government.

The projects include setting up of a bamboo industrial park in Dima Hasao district in Assam at a cost of Rs 50 crore and construction of roads and bridges in several northeastern states, an official statement said.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) held here on Wednesday and chaired by minister Jitendra Singh.

Secretary in the Ministry of DoNER Inderjit Singh said that 49 projects worth Rs 1,231.94 crore have been taken up so far by the ministry and these include sanction of eight new projects for Rs 586.3 crore under North East Road Development Scheme (NERSDS) and

North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS).

Additionally, 36 on-going projects under various schemes like Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), special packages, schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC) etcetera, have been completed with approved cost of Rs 529.18 crore, the statement said.

Works of two projects for Rs 89.63 crore got started and three projects for Rs 26.83 crore have been operationalised during this period.

During the meeting, it was also informed that a bamboo industrial park will be set up in Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district of Assam over an area of 75 hectares at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

The in-principle approval will be granted to this project in August this year. It was informed that the target is to complete the project by March, 2021 and another project for bamboo park in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, would be taken up by the NEC.

2 rhino carcasses found in flood-hit Pobitora sanctuary



MORIGAON (ASSAM), JUL 26 (PTI): The carcasses of two rhinos have been found from Assam's flood-hit Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary which had recorded no animal deaths because of inundation even four days ago, an official said.

Forest Protection Force in Pobitora recovered the carcass of a rhino calf from the flood waters near Amaramul Camp inside the sanctuary on Friday, its ranger said.

The forest guards had also found the carcass of another rhino calf on Wednesday from the sanctuary which was flooded by the Brahmaputra, he added.

The cause of the death of both the animals was drowning in the flood inside the sanctuary, said the forest official.

The entire Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, the densest habitat of one

horned rhinos in the world covering an area of 46 sq km, was completely submerged by the flood waters forcing its wild animals to leave for the nearby highland, the ranger said.

Over 100 rhinos living in the sanctuary have been facing serious problems as there is no green grass or sufficient food for these endangered species, forest department sources added.

On Monday, state Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said the personnel and volunteers at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary have done an impressive job by keeping the number of animal death toll at zero this time.

On the same day, the forest department had said the calamity has claimed the lives of 187 animals, including 16 rhinos, in the Kaziranga National Park.

Assam Oppn stages walkout after Speaker rejects adjournment motion

GUWAHATI, JUL 26 (PTI): Opposition MLAs walked out of the Assam Assembly on Friday after the speaker rejected an adjournment notice seeking discussion on the flood situation in the state.

As soon as the House assembled for the first day of the summer session here, Congress leader Debabrata Saikia, supported by the AIUDF, moved an adjournment motion, which was rejected by Speaker Hiten-

dra Nath Goswami on the ground that it was not raised "as per the rules of the Assembly". Noting

that Assam was not experiencing floods for the first time in, Goswami said, "The matter can be taken up after the Question Hour. Everyone will get an opportunity to speak on the topic. All members have to obey the rules of the House and should not be playing to the gallery."

Angry exchanges ensued between the opposition and treasury bench BJP MLAs, following which the Congress and AIUDF legislators moved to the well of House, insisting that the speaker fulfill their demand.

As Goswami remained steadfast in his decision, the demonstrating MLAs staged a walkout in protest.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said discussions can always be held after the Question Hour as per 'rule 60 clause one of the Rules and Procedures of House'.

Maintaining that the House "works for the interests of public and not any party", Patowary said, "The Congress diluted the important issue of floods by staging the walk-out."

Naga political solution has to be achieved within a year: Acharya



KOHIMA, JUL 26 (PTI): A political solution to the Naga issue has to be achieved within a year because Nagaland needs permanent peace for development and progress, outgoing governor P B Acharya has said.

"And for this, we have Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has the will and guts to resolve the issue," Acharya said while addressing a farewell programme, organised by the state government, on Thursday.

Noting that Nagaland is rich but Nagas are economically weak, he said, "We also need to march along with other states towards development and progress."

Acharya was sworn in as the 19th Governor of Nagaland on July 19, 2014. His successor, R N Ravi, is scheduled to take charge on August 1.

He expressed hope that the new governor will deliver goods to the people and work for the solution of the Naga political issue.

Ravi had been the

Centre's interlocutor for the Naga peace talks. Acharya also offered to extend his support to the state, whenever required.

"I am leaving as the governor of the state but not the Nagas, and I will always be at your disposal," he said.

Mentioning that the Naga people were fortunate to have such an eminent personality as their governor, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said, the people have been enriched through his guidance and leadership.

"Your support to the governments efforts towards realising permanent peace and solution to the Naga political issue is well appreciated," Rio said. As constitutional head of the State, Acharya had a meticulous and exemplary tenure, the chief minister said.

"The state experienced a few political crises during the past few years but the governor conducted himself in an impeccable manner and upheld the Constitution of India

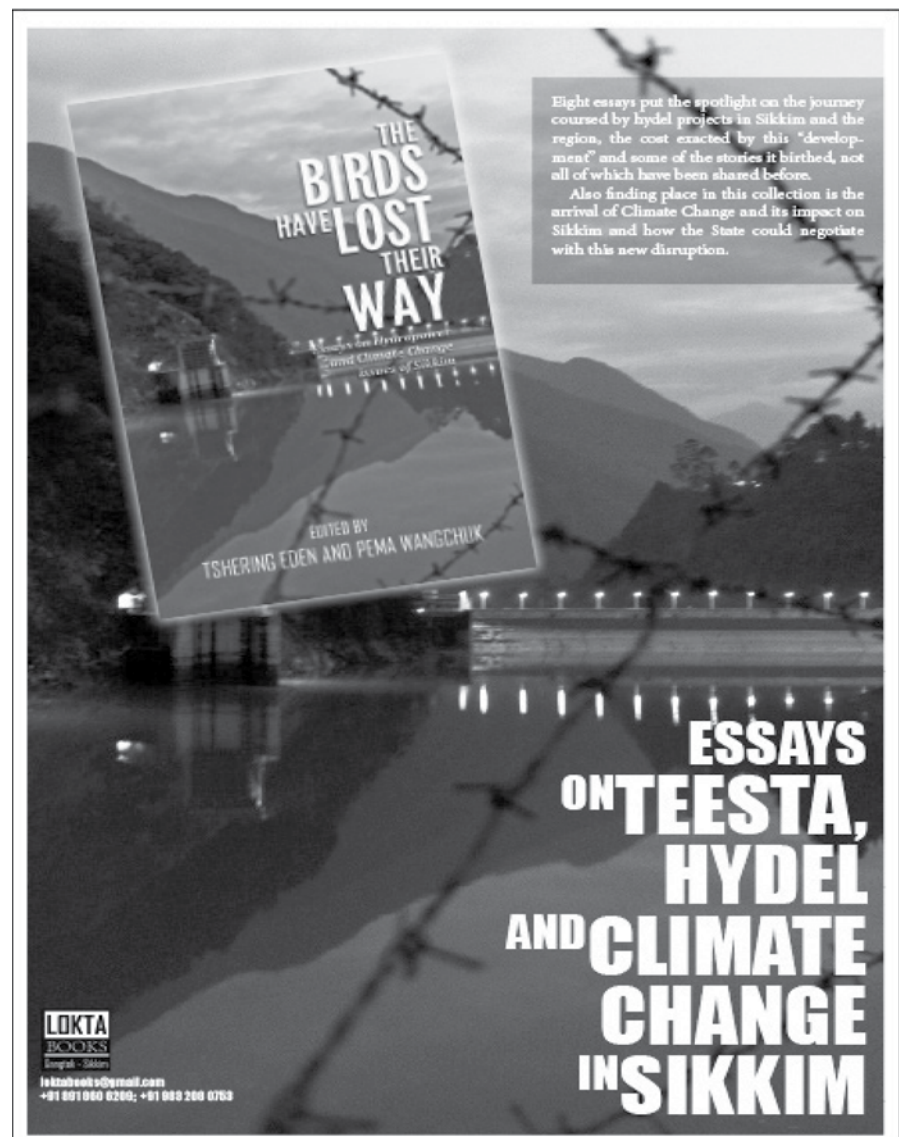
in exemplary fashion, for which he deserves to be complimented," the chief minister said.

Leader of Opposition T R Zeliang expressed hope that Acharya will continue to support the Naga people for an amicable solution to the Naga political problem.

He also recalled the framework agreement signed between the NSCN-IM general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah and the governments interlocutor R N Ravi, in the presence of PM Modi, on August 3, 2015.

As the governor, Acharya had played his role in this event, which makes him an integral part of Naga history, Zeliang said.

The agreement had come after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, with the first breakthrough made in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland, which started soon after the country's independence in 1947.



Mendy adds to Zidane's Real Madrid injury woes

PARIS, JUL 26 (AFP): Real Madrid's Ferland Mendy has been added to Zinedine Zidane's growing injury list after the Spanish club confirmed on Thursday the France left-back had suffered a calf injury.

Mendy, 24, signed for the La Liga giants in July and heaps further pressure on Zidane's squad after midfielder Marco Asensio ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament and winger Brahim Diaz suffered a thigh problem.

Newspaper AS reported Mendy, who cost the Bernabeu outfit a reportedly 50 million euros (55 million), could miss up to four weeks.

Real have two remaining pre-season friendlies including Saturday's game against capital city rivals Atletico Madrid in New Jersey before the La Liga season begins on August 17 with a trip to Celta Vigo.

Sindhu crashes out of Japan Open; Sai Praneeth advances to semis

TOKYO, JULY 26 (PTI): Olympic silver-medallist P V Sindhu crashed out of the Japan Open badminton tournament after a second successive defeat to local favourite Akane Yamaguchi while B Sai Praneeth continued his good form to advance to the semifinals here on Friday. Sindhu lost to Yamaguchi 18-21 15-21 in a 50-minute women's singles quarterfinal match. This was Sindhu's second defeat at the hands of Yamaguchi, who had beaten the Indian in the final of the Indonesian Open last week.

However, in men's singles, Sai Praneeth recorded an easy win over Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto to reach the semifinals. His 21-12 21-15 win over Sugiaro fetched him a clash against top seeded Japanese Kento Momota in the semifinals.

Sindhu was leading 12-7 in the first game but she squandered the advantage as her reigning Asian champion opponent clawed her way back to level the scores at 14-14. From there on, Sindhu lost momentum allowing Yamaguchi to surge ahead to 18-15 and then to 20-16. Sindhu won two consecutive points to narrow the gap to 18-20 but could not stop her opponent from bagging the next point and the first game.

In the second game, both were locked 6-6 initially but from there on, it was Yamaguchi all the way as she raced to 13-7 and then to 16-10. Sindhu recovered a bit by winning two consecutive points but in no time, the Japanese had five match points and she wrapped up the tie without much hassle. Sai Praneeth, in contrast, hardly broke a sweat as he just took 36 minutes to clinch up the match.

The unseeded Indian led almost all through the first game leaving the former world championships bronze-medallist Indonesian to play the catch-up game.

Djokovic, Del Potro withdraw from Montreal, Nadal gets top seed

MONTREAL, JUL 26 (AFP): Wimbledon champion and world number one Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from next month's US Open hardcourt tuneup event in Montreal, saying he needs more rest after capturing his 16th Grand Slam singles crown.

The 32-year-old Serbian, who outlasted Roger Federer in an epic All-England Club final earlier this month, was joined by Argentina's 12th-ranked Juan Martin Del Potro in pulling out of the ATP Masters Canada tournament.

"I'm sorry to announce that I decided to pull out of Rogers Cup," Djokovic said in a statement released by Tennis Canada.

"With the support of my team, I have decided to give my body longer rest and recovery time before coming back again to play.

"I love Canada and I have many friends there that always make me feel like I'm at home and I'm looking forward to coming back again to play in front of all of you in Montreal."

Djokovic's withdrawal means Spanish star



Rafael Nadal, an 18-time Grand Slam singles champion, will be the top seed in Montreal when main draw begins August 5. Nadal has captured the Canadian crown four times, most recently last year by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final.

Djokovic has won the Canadian event that alternates between Toronto and Montreal four times, twice in each city -- Toronto in 2012 and 2016 and Montreal in 2007 and 2011.

He was ousted last

year in Toronto by Greek star Tsitsipas in the third round. "We would have loved for Djokovic to have the chance to be crowned champion for a third time in Montreal, but we understand his decision and we wish him a quick return for the rest of the season," Montreal tournament director Eugene Lapierre said.

Del Potro was injured last month at Queen's and underwent right knee patella surgery and is undergoing rehabilitation for the setback.

"In del Potro's case,

we wish him a speedy recovery, he who has experienced his share of injuries in the past few years," Lapierre said.

"We look forward to seeing him back on court in the near future." World number three Federer said after his Wimbledon final loss that he too intended to skip Montreal.

Frenchman Richard Gasquet and Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan will take the two available spots in the Montreal main draw as a result of the withdrawals by Djokovic and Del Potro.

Nikhat, Deepak among five Indian boxers to make Thailand International finals

NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI): Former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) was the lone woman boxer to make the finals, while Asian silver-winner Deepak Singh (49kg) led a four-strong Indian men's charge into the summit clashes of the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok on Friday.

Ashish Kumar (75kg), Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist Mohammed Husammuddin (56kg) and Brijesh Yadav (81kg) were the other three men to make the gold medal bouts.

However, former Asian youth silver-medallist Ashish (69kg) lost his semifinal bout to sign off with a bronze medal. Ashish lost to Thailand's Wuttichai Masuk in a split decision after an exhausting clash.

Among the women, Manju Rani (48kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81kg) ended with third-place finishes. Manju went down to Chuthamat Raksat of Thailand, while Bhagyabati lost to China's Li Qian.

Earlier, Deepak hardly broke a sweat against Bhutan's Tashi Wangdi. The Indian's dominance was such that Wangdi

faced two standing eight counts and was left with a gash above his right eye. The judges eventually ruled unanimously in the Indian's favour.

Nikhat was up against Thailand's Jutamas Jitpong. The Hyderabad-based fighter impressed with the ferocity of her punches as she edged past the local favourite 4-1 and let out a scream to express her elation when her hand was raised by the referee.

Also advancing was Husammuddin (56kg). In a messy slugfest with Thailand's Ammarit Yadom, the Indian came out as the more aggressive and clean puncher to emerge triumphant in a 3-2 decision.

In the 75kg category, Ashish defeated Uzbekistan's Fanat Kakhramnov to make the finals. Brijesh was up against local favourite in Saranon Klompian in the last bout of the day and produced a ferocious performance.

A left hook just a minute into the second round sent his opponent crashing and the Thai could not regain his composure after that.

Klompian faced three eight counts before the referee stopped the bout in Brijesh's favour.

PCB seeks explanation from Basit on remarks against India during World Cup



KARACHI, JUL 26 (PTI):

The Pakistan Cricket Board has put former batsman Basit Ali's appointment for a coaching assignment on hold and sought an explanation from him for suggesting that India would intentionally lose matches to knock Pakistan out of the recent World Cup.

A source in the PCB told PTI that Ali's appointment as regional coach in Karachi has been held up after the Board had second thoughts about appointing him.

"The board, in fact, conveyed to Basit in clear terms that since he was a Test player and working for them on assignments he should explain and avoid his reckless comments on television," the source said.

Basit had claimed that India would lose intentionally to England and other teams to keep Pakistan out of the semifinals which caused a furore. Pakistan were knocked out of the mega-event's league stage.

"The PCB found itself in an embarrassing situation because of the reckless comments by Basit which were without any evidence or substance as internationally this hurt the image of Pakistan cricket," the

source stated. "The thing is that the PCB now has second thoughts about Basit as Karachi regional coach and wondering that if they appoint him what impression this will create internationally since Pakistan is a senior member of the International Cricket Council," he added.

PCB had shortlisted Basit for a coaching assignment in Karachi region but has now put that decision on hold.

"Basit was expecting to be issued a contract soon but this has not happened as yet," the source said.

Basit worked as chairman of the national junior selection committee.

While commentating on a national T20 match some years ago on the state-owned Pakistan Television, he accused the coach of the Sialkot regional team of intentionally losing a match.

When questioned, he slapped a former batsman Mahmood Hamid at the national stadium during a domestic cricket match in which Basit was coach of one team.

Basit first denied slapping Hamid but eventually admitted, saying he was upset with the remarks made by Hamid.

Bajrang must learn to retain focus for six full minutes: Coach Shako Bentinidis

AMANPREET SINGH

NEW DELHI, JULY 26 (PTI): Medal-contender Bajrang Punia must shed the habit of losing focus if he is to stand atop the podium at the Tokyo Games, warned his coach Shako Bentinidis while conceding that old habits die hard.

The Georgian has immense faith in his ward, saying Bajrang is best among the current Indian crop but feels playing badly for just 30 seconds can ruin Olympic dreams.

Bajrang has perched himself on the top of the UWW ranking table in 65kg after winning nine of his last 10 international assignments, including the 2018 CWG and Asian Games. The only final he lost was at the World Championship last year.

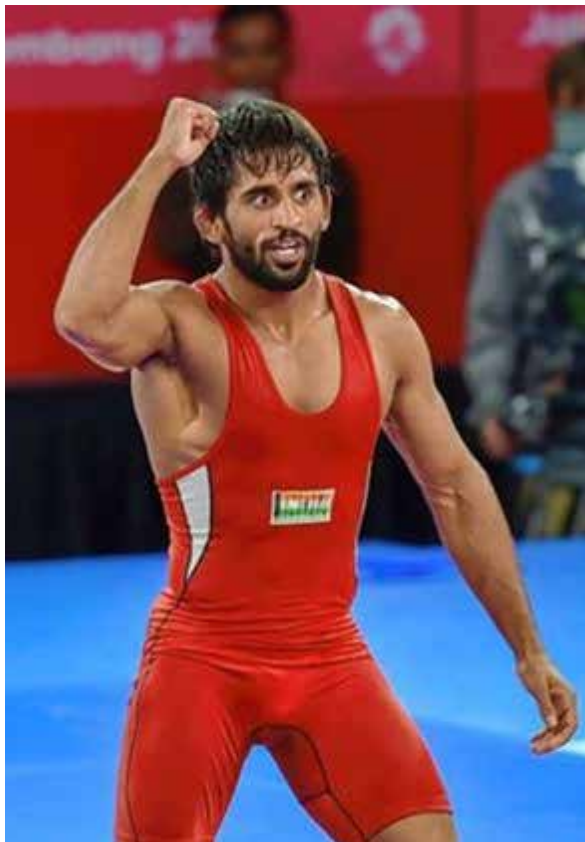
"The biggest problem with Bajrang is that he loses focus sometimes and gives away points. It becomes a minus three, minus four start for him. We are working on it. It's difficult. When I came he was 18 now he is 26, so it's difficult to change but I am giving my best," said Shako after Bajrang won the World Championship trials.

"Bajrang and Vinesh are close to Olympic medals. But one incorrect (sic) fight, and you are finished. Lot of legends lost at Olympics, it's a serious competition. You must give everything. One poor bout or 30 bad seconds, and it's good bye Olympics," he said.

So, what is it that causes Bajrang to lose his focus?

"If the training has not gone as per expectations, you might lose focus. And when you are a bit injured or want to avoid injury, it affects you. I try not to get distracted. Actually, when you are on the mat, there is no pressure but before that everyone feels a bit of pressure," Bajrang told PTI after the trials.

Shako did not say it in as many words but hinted that stardom can be distracting. "Wrestling is



a difficult sport. Bajrang was a good wrestler before but not the best. Now he is jumping fast, he has got name as well. He is a star now, so it becomes difficult to focus but he is at another level.

"I always tell him before the bout that you must understand one best situation, thing that your opponent first has to beat your name (being star) and then you and it's difficult to beat two persons. He is not number one for nothing, there is quality, he said counting the positives of being a star.

"The World Championship is very important for us because the qualification for the Olympics is priority now. We can focus on training for one year. A lot of people want him to win at Worlds but my priority is that he qualifies for the Tokyo Games."

Ask Shako what are the three-four things Bajrang must do, to do well at the Worlds and the Olympics and he comes up with a clear answer.

"Leg, leg leg and leg. if you give 6-7 points, comeback is possible but very very difficult in Olympics."

It's not surprising when Shako said that because the only final

Bajrang lost in the last 18 months was at the Worlds due to poor leg defence. Bajrang though said he made satisfactory progress on that count.

"If you look at my performance after the last World Championship, I have competed in 4-5 tournaments and lost just one bout in Madison Square. Today, I did not falter on leg defence. I have competed against Harphul before and gave him 1-2 points earlier but today I did not give any points to him, so there is definitely improvement on leg defence."

Shako hinted that perhaps the affable 25-year-old from Haryana does not give his body enough rest in his absence.

"Bajrang does not understand rest. Now he is best wrestler and if I go for one-week vacation, and come back, Bajrang is a different wrestler."

But he is sure that Bajrang definitely is the best as of now in the country.

"There is sea difference in Bajrang and other Indian wrestlers. He is the most disciplined. The problem is mentality. They don't know the history and there is not much Indian history in wrestling," he signed off.

Ex-schoolmate traces Sunanda Pushkar's life story in biography



NEW DELHI, JUL 26

(PTI): A former schoolmate traces the life story of Sunanda Pushkar from her early days in cantonment towns to her first two marriages, a largely unknown stint in Canada, her rise as a Dubai businesswoman, and finally her years with Shashi Tharoor until her controversial death shook the country.

On 17 January 2014, Pushkar was found dead in her hotel suite in New Delhi. Her death was as shocking as it was suspect, spawning many a controversy and complex legal battles.

In "The Extraordinary Life and Death of Sunanda Pushkar", her journalist friend Sunanda Mehta draws material from person-

al archives, interviews and investigation across continents to come up with the biography.

The author talks more of Pushkar's life than about her death.

"Sunanda Pushkar was born, surviving all odds," she writes, as she recalls how the former had not cried on birth and appeared to be stillborn.

Her parents Pushkar Nath Dass, who was an army officer, and Jaya Dass was about to give up hope when the doctors were successful in reviving her, Mehta says.

The author describes in detail Pushkar's early life especially her school days, her rise as a businesswoman in Dubai, her stint in real estate, her marriages and her days

with Tharoor.

Mehta and Pushkar were in the same school in Ambala and later their both fathers were posted together in Jhansi.

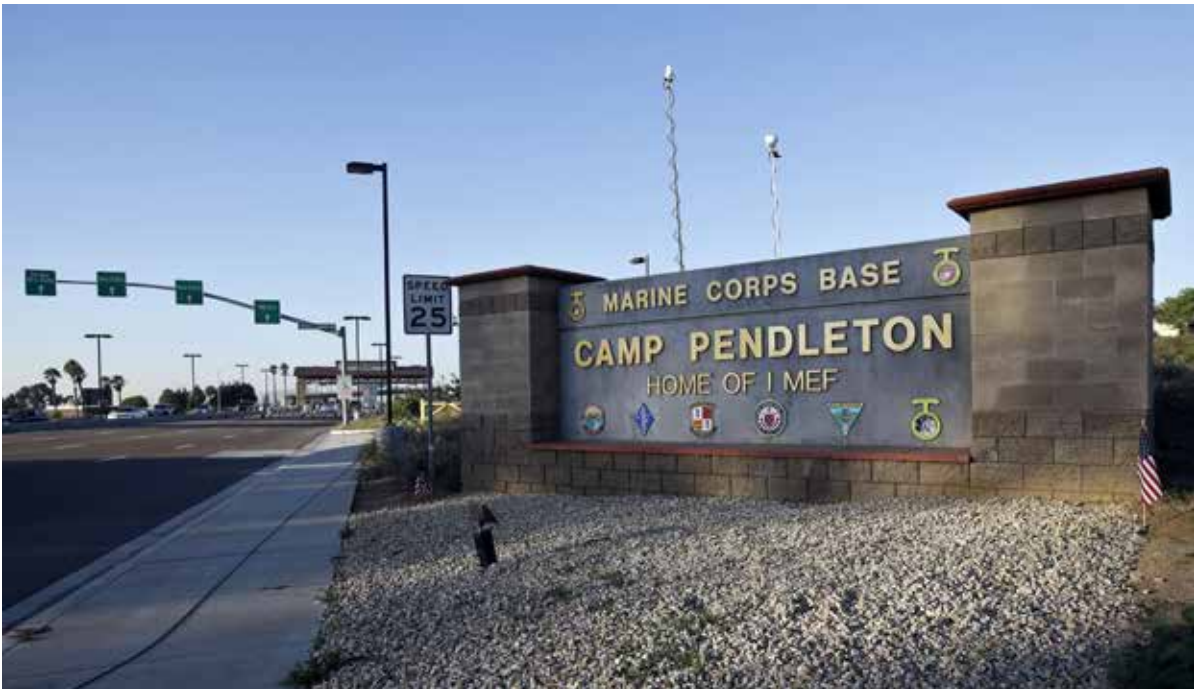
She says Pushkar was a woman who "lived energetically and loved passionately".

"This was a woman who went beyond her bounds and charted a life for herself that was different, daring and daunting, a woman who encountered unbelievable challenges throughout her life, but always bounced back with amazing tenacity," she writes in the book, published by Pan Macmillan.

"She was like a kaleidoscope - each person who knew her saw in her something no one else did," Mehta writes.

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16 Marines arrested in migrant smuggling investigation



SAN DIEGO, JUL 26 (AP): An investigation into Marines accused of helping smuggle migrants into the United States led to the arrest Thursday of 16 of their fellow Marines at California’s Camp Pendleton, just north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

In a dramatic move aimed at sending a message, authorities made the arrests as the Marines gathered in formation with their battalion.

None of the 16 Marines were involved in helping enforce border security, the Marine Corps said in a news release. They are accused of crimes ranging from migrant smuggling to drug-related offenses.

Officials could not immediately be reached for additional details.

The arrests came weeks after two Marines were arrested by a Border Patrol agent on sus-

picion of transporting three Mexicans on the promise of money after they crossed illegally into the United States.

The military said the investigation helped authorities identify the 16 Marines arrested at the largest Marine Corps’ base on the West Coast, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) from San Diego’s border with Mexico.

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Gary Barthel called it a “kind of black eye for the Marine Corps” and said it was important the military show criminal behavior will not be tolerated. “Obviously I think it looks bad whenever you have the military that is helping protect the border and then you’ve got military people smuggling,” said Barthel, an attorney at the Military Law Center in Carlsbad, north of San Diego. Marines and

other U.S. troops were brought in last year to help reinforce the border by installing razor wire on top of existing barriers, among other things. Troops are barred from arresting migrants.

All 16 were junior enlisted Marines. Barthel said smugglers may have targeted young troops who could be vulnerable to being enticed by fast money.

Border Patrol agents over the years have routinely caught migrants in the country illegally walking onto Camp Pendleton or floating in skiffs off the coast nearby. Authorities said the base, cut by Interstate 5 leading to Los Angeles, sits along a well-traversed route used by migrant smugglers.

Officials from 1st Marine Division worked alongside the Naval Criminal Investigative

Service in the investigation that started after the July 3 arrests of two Marines, who were charged in federal court with migrant smuggling. Both pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A U.S. Border Patrol agent stopped Lance Cpl. Byron Darnell Law II and Lance Cpl. David Javier Salazar-Quintero about 7 miles (11 kilometers) north of the border after being alerted by other agents that a vehicle similar to theirs was suspected of picking up migrants who came into the country illegally, according to the federal complaint.

Three migrants were found in the backseat of a black BMW driven by Law, investigators say. Both Marines are rifleman assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.

Law told the agent

that Salazar asked if he was interested in earning USD 1,000 picking up an “illegal alien.” Salazar told authorities that Law introduced him to a man who “recruited” him to help smuggle in migrants, according to court documents.

Salazar said he had gone out to pick up migrants on four separate occasions but was never paid.

Law and Salazar, who speaks Spanish, went to the border the night of July 2 and received instructions from a Mexican cellphone, court documents say. Law told the agent they picked up a man and dropped him off at a McDonald’s in Del Mar, a beach community north of San Diego, and then returned to the base. They were not paid.

Law said Salazar told him they would be paid if they picked up three migrants on July 3 near the border, according to court documents.

The three migrants told authorities they were from Mexico and agreed to pay USD 8,000 to be smuggled into the United States.

Marine Corps officials gave no details about how or why the investigation expanded to result in the arrest of 16 others. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service also declined to comment.

An additional eight Marines were being questioned about their involvement in drug offenses as part of a separate investigation.

Google crushes second quarter earnings expectations



SAN FRANCISCO, JUL 26 (AP): Google parent Alphabet beat analyst expectations for the second quarter Thursday, sending its shares up sharply as it bounced back from a rough first quarter.

Google is facing mounting pressure from federal elected officials and regulators over a variety of issues such as its market power, misinformation and claims usually offered without evidence that its popular search engine and other services are biased against conservative politicians and viewpoints.

The company has repeatedly denied those claims.

Google is also reportedly under scrutiny from the Justice Department , which announced Tuesday that it would investigate big tech companies for anti-competitive monopoly behavior.

The department didn’t name specific companies, but scrutiny has recently focused on Google, Apple, Amazon and Facebook.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai briefly addressed the concerns on a conference call with analysts Thursday. The company is no stranger to regulatory scrutiny, he said.

“Even in the US we have engaged in the process before,” he said. “To the extent we have to answer questions we will do so constructively.” Google was the subject of an FTC investigation that ended in early 2013 without the agency taking any antitrust action.

Pichai also acknowledged increased conversations about how the company handles user data privacy. He reiterated announcements Google made earlier this year that are designed to give people more control over what information they

are sharing, when.

“It’s one of the most important areas we are working on,” he said.

The company’s streaming site YouTube, a big driver of advertising revenue, has also faced backlash from Congress and regulators over offensive videos on the site and the protection of children who appear in videos or watch YouTube.

Google updated its hate speech policies for YouTube during the quarter, Pichai pointed out, and continues to focus on its “YouTube Kids” app.

A Washington Post report last week suggested the company is expected to pay a multimillion dollar penalty from the FTC over the way it handled kids’ information on YouTube.

But none of the bubbling scrutiny put a damper on Google’s financials or executive claims that the company’s cloud business is making great strides. That includes its business that rents computing power to other companies, as well as its enterprise software tools such as G Suite.

Google’s cloud while growing still falls behind market leader Amazon and runner-up Microsoft.

Alphabet’s losses continued to grow for its Other Bets businesses, which include more “moonshot” businesses such as self-driving car company Waymo and internet connectivity balloon company Loon. Other Bets reported a loss of USD 989 million on revenue of USD 162 million.

And Alphabet increased its headcount once again this time to 107,646 employees, adding more than 18,000 workers in the last year.

Entrepreneurship Education, Skill Development & Incubation in Kaziranga University

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Though the paradigm shift from seeking employment to striving for entrepreneurship looks apparently slow, but the change in mind-set is definitive and therefore, the curriculum and teaching-learning process in the seats of learning are evolving accordingly. This phenomenon is now not limited only to developed nations but the emerging and developing economies are also witnessing the rapid change in mind-set. Accordingly the institutions and universities have to groom the students in a manner that after completing a certain level of formal education (whether it is a Diploma, Under Graduate or Post-Graduate) a student, instead of worrying only about getting a job, should be able to take an informed decision as to whether s/he wants to pursue higher education to further hone her/his skills, or wants to take up employment based on her/his skill set, or wants to start her/his own dream enterprise. This necessitates the readiness of the institutions and universities to take up this challenging task of equipping students with the wherewithal of taking such crucial decision. Taking into account the changing dynamics the Kaziranga University is one of the pioneers in Assam and entire North East region that has created an ecosystem for its students so that they have the knowledge, skills and mentoring to choose the career path of their choice.

Entrepreneurship does not mean that one has to establish a brick and mortar structure to start an enterprise. It has become a limitless phenomenon that one can do business at a virtual platform, get connected to worldwide value chains and can successfully run the enterprise even sitting at one’s own home. All that it requires is a mind set to do something innovatively which caters to the need and demands of the market. Akin to the thoughts of the marketing philosopher Kotler it can be said that- good enterprises will meet needs of the market; great enterprises will create markets. Thus, market has no boundary!

The Kaziranga University, which is into seven years of its existence, started its maiden entrepreneurship education more than three years ago. It built a partnership with country’s premier entrepreneurship educational institution called Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad to create its own capacity. It has

set up a dedicated cell called Centre of Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Innovation being guided by two senior professors having hands on experience in promoting entrepreneurship and providing incubation support. The Centre has been offering entrepreneurship education to the graduate and post graduate students; and conducting Faculty Development Programme for the teachers of different colleges and universities in Assam and other North Eastern States. This particular programme is being supported by Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. Besides, the Centre has been incubating the student- entrepreneurs and has been able to establish two start-ups who are shaping up well.

Looking at the initiatives of Kaziranga University in the field of Entrepreneurship Education and Incubation, few more government and non-government agencies/institutions have come forward to create synergistic partnerships. They are:

1. Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India, Guwahati
2. Assam Start Up , A Govt. of Assam Initiative
3. Innovative Change Collaborative India (ICCo India), New Delhi
4. Apollo Medskills, Hyderabad

The Kaziranga University is also involved in active discussions with North East Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI) to forge a long-term association to promote entrepreneurship in the region.

The Kaziranga University envisions to become a hub in the North East Region for promoting entrepreneurship education and incubating the Start Ups by actively engaging/collaborating with the state & central government, PSUs and private sector. In this pursuit the University has been organising a policy discourse every year in collaboration with CSIR Institutions, Universities of repute, Civil Society Organisations and individual thought leaders, named as North East Sustainable and Inclusive Development Summit (NESIDS). The core strength of Kaziranga University lies in its convergence and inter-disciplinary approach where different schools such as School of Technology, School of Business, School of Social Sciences, School of Computing Science and School of

Health Sciences work in tandem. The crux of the approach is to make an initiative financially viable, socially impactful and technologically feasible.

Kaziranga University houses a SKF YES Centre for providing training in maintenance of Automobile Systems. This is a state of the art facility and which is one of the four such facilities existing in India and the only one in the North East. The range of training and operating equipment in the centre encompass the requirements of entire domain of automobile maintenance and management. Apart from catering primarily to the skill and entrepreneurship development amongst the underprivileged youth it also serves the students of Engineering and Technology for their hands on learning on maintenance and management of automobiles and manufacturing of associated accessories.

A Start-up named as ‘Eko Delivery’ by four students of Kaziranga University is already doing business by providing a number of services at the door step of the people. One can put order on mobile for provisions, medicines, payment of utility bills, and maintenance of house and electronic gadgets etc. at a reasonable service charge. The ambit of its services is expanding day by day.

Health is vast sector where there is immense potential for entrepreneurship promotion looking at the huge gap in the demand and supply of services and skilled persons. Kaziranga University in collaboration with Apollo Medskills (AMSL) undertakes different health care related training programmes under DDU-GKY programme of the Govt. of India. It offers four paramedical courses - Blood Bank Technician, Emergency Management Technician, General Duty Assistant, and Pharmacy Assistant. Active entrepreneurial support is being provided to the trainees who are desirous of starting their own Enterprise.

The students of Business Management and Social Sciences are into action research programmes in the entrepreneurship promotion in the farm and non-farm sector, being promoted by ICCo India. Incubation and mentoring support shall also be provided to the budding entrepreneurs being groomed by Assam Start-Up.



Film stars pay homage to soldiers on Kargil Vijay Diwas

MUMBAI, JUL 26 (PTI): Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar and Vicky Kaushal are among the prominent film personalities who paid tributes to the soldiers who fought in the 1999 Kargil war on the 20th anniversary of the conflict.

July 26 is observed as Kargil Vijay Diwas every year to mark India's triumph over Pakistan in 'Operation Vijay'.

Taking to Twitter, Amitabh said India salutes the soldiers who laid down lives while defending the country.

"We salute you for your sacrifice .. your determined fight to protect us all and our country..." he tweeted.

Mangeshkar wrote, "Today is Kargil Vijay Diwas. I bow my head in honour of our soldiers and pay my respects to the brave sons of our country who sacrificed their lives (Aaj Kargil Vijay Diwas hai. Main hamare veer jawano'n ko koti koti naman karti hun aur veergati ko prapt hue un sabhi Bharat mata ke sapooton ko aadarn-jali arpan karti hun)"

Akshay said he has started reading Shiv Aroor and Rahul Singh's book "India's Most Fearless 2: More Military Stories of Unimaginable Courage and Sacrifice", which chronicles the story of 2016 surgical strikes.

"I'm not much into books, but today as we pay tribute to our brave martyrs on 20yrs of #KargilVijayDiwas, I've picked up #IndiasMostFearless 2 by @ShivAroor & @rahulsinghx. May we never forget our soldiers whose courage and heroism lets us live in peace, day after day," he added.

Sanjay Dutt said, "I salute our brave jawaans who fought valiantly in the Kargil war for our country's sovereignty! Your sacrifice will always be remembered. Jai Hind #KargilVijayDiwas"

Vicky, who most recently starred in war drama "Uri: the Surgical Strikes",

es who lost their lives in line of service for their country. #KargilVijayDiwas #NeverForget #RememberTheGallantry" said actor Anushka Sharma.

Taapsee Pannu said she remembers watching news about the Kargil War everyday when she was a child.



also paid his tributes to the "real heroes" of the country. "Remembering the courage and sacrifice of the real heroes who laid down their lives fighting for the nation. Salute. Jai Hind. #KargilVijayDiwas" he said in a post.

South superstar Mohanlal said Kargil Vijay Diwas leaves a mark of "pride and honour in every Indian's heart".

"Saluting the brave souls who pledged their lives for the sake of Mother India. Jai Hind," he added.

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana wrote, "My heartfelt tribute to our martyrs of the Kargil War and a big salute to their valour and victory today #KargilVijayDiwas"

"A salute, homage, respect and gratitude to all the heroes in our armed forces

"The strange fear of sorts in our minds as school kids who never heard and saw such visuals before. Proud of the victory of our soldiers and disheartened many of them aren't there anymore celebrate with us," she added.

Arjun Kapoor said there are not enough words to "thank the martyrs, their valour and sacrifices that they've made for us". Farhan Akhtar tweeted, "Remembering all the bravehearts and martyrs with love, reverence and gratitude on this #KargilVijayDiwas... Jai Hind." "Remembering the triumph of bravehearts who fought for the nation. Jai Hind! #KargilVijayDiwas" newly-elected parliamentarian and actor Sunny Deol wrote on the micro-blogging site.

One must experiment irrespective of personal style: Kriti Sanon

NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI): Kriti Sanon says even though she is 'moody dresser' she believes in being open to new choices.

Kriti, who turned showstopper for designer duo Shyamal & Bhumika at FDCI India Couture Week (ICW) 2019 on Thursday, said, for her, comfort is key. "I'm very moody. There are days when I really don't want to make an effort and want to be comfortable in a T-shirt and shorts For me, comfort comes first," she told reporters at the post-show conference. "I also feel that no matter what your personal style is, you should be willing to experiment. Try something new because unless you do that, you'll not know what suits you," she added.

The actor walked for the couturiers' collection, 'Renaissance Muse', inspired by their recent trip to the Italian city of Florence. Kriti was dressed in a raw silk muted beige lehenga with dull pink tulle dupatta, which was based on the ceiling frescoes and architectural details of the Renaissance period, and a one-shoulder puffed-sleeve blouse. She completed the look with open wavy hair and a pearl-kundan choker.

The actor, whose film "Arjun Patiala" releases on Friday, said walking the ramp at ICW was a "nostalgic" moment for her. "It was very nostalgic for me to walk for the India Couture Week. While I was coming, I realised I have walked down these escalators many, many times. I used to come here for fittings, rehearsals and make-up. "I have walked for Shyamal and Bhumika very long back when I was a model. I always love their collections. What I'm wearing is really comfortable. I could even dance in it. I was having a blast at the ramp. I feel when you're wearing something that's comfortable and makes you look beautiful; you just own the garment rather than the garment owning you," she said.

Bhumika called Kriti "the modern woman" of today, who symbolised the collection aptly. "She is adventurous and well-travelled yet rooted in tradition, therefore a perfect fit for the collection," the one-half of the designer duo said. Shyamal reflected upon how sustainability is an important element of their brand. "We have been a sustainable brand from the start. All our products are biodegradable. Sustainability is in the DNA of 'Shyamal & Bhumika'," he said.

Amitabh Bachchan wraps 'Gulabo Sitabo', will soon start work on 'KBC 11'

MUMBAI, JUL 26 (PTI): Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Friday announced that he has finished filming for Shoojit Sircar's "Gulabo Sitabo" and will now start working on the eleventh season of "Kaun Banega Crorepati" (KBC). The 76-year-old actor stars alongside Ayushmann Khurrana in "Gulabo Sitabo". The movie, set in Lucknow, is billed as a quirky family comedy, penned by Sircar's longtime collaborator Juhi Chaturvedi.

"Withdrawal symptoms setting in as the GS schedule nears completion. Happens all the time and the next work schedule begins to take over. So the end to 'Gulabo Sitabo' and its completion as far as I am concerned gets initiated and the vision of KBC takes over," Bachchan posted on Twitter. "Gulabo Sitabo", produced by Ronnie Lahiri and Sheel Kumar, is set to release on April 24 next year, while "KBC" will premiere on August 1 on Sony TV.

Akshay Kumar releases quirky first look of 'Bachchan Pandey'

NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI): Bollywood star Akshay Kumar on Friday released his first look from his upcoming movie "Bachchan Pandey". Akshay shared the poster of the film on Twitter. The movie is directed by Farhad Samji and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala.

The first look of the film was also shared by production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment on the microblogging site. "Bachchan Pandey" marks 10th collaboration between Sajid and Akshay. The duo have earlier worked together on films like "Waqt Humara Hai", "Hey Babyy", "Jann-E-Mann" and "Housefull" franchise among others. The film is scheduled to be released on Christmas 2020.



STRIKE A POSE! The singer, Iggy Azalea rocks a tan, floral mini dress with matching jacket during an appearance in NYC.

Jennifer Lopez to topline drug lord film 'The Godmother'



LOS ANGELES, JUL 26 (PTI): Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez will essay the role of real-life notorious Colombian drug lord Griselda Blanco aka "The Godmother" in a new film. Titled "The Godmother", the movie will be produced by Lopez, Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas, Benny Medina and Julie Yorn, reported Deadline. The project marks yet another collaboration between Lopez and STXfilms, which previously backed the actor's movies -- "Second Act" and "Hustlers".

Regina Corrado and Terence Winter have penned the screenplay for the new film, which might mark the directorial debut of Lopez. However, it is yet to be confirmed by the studio. The movie will chronicle the various ups and downs of Blanco, who outsmarted and outthrustled the men around her to rise from

an impoverished childhood in Colombia to become one of the world's biggest drug lords. She reportedly was worth more than USD 2 billion, and was a key figurehead in Miami's bloody Cocaine Cowboy Wars.

"I've been forever fascinated by the story of Griselda Blanco and jumped at the chance to play her on screen. She is all things we look for in storytelling and dynamic characters notorious, ambitious, conniving, chilling," Lopez said. "In a genre dominated by legendary kingpins, I'm eager to shine a spotlight on this anti-hero and excited to partner with STX for the third time so we can bring this compelling, complicated story to life," she added. Winter, Alex Pettyfer, Alex Brown and Rick Yorn will be the executive producers on the project.

ARIES: As you sow, so shall you reap, Aries. Your relationships are a 10/10 reflection of the kind of energy you have been investing. But don't limit this love and nurture to your beloved alone. Think of their family as your own. Yes, despite their many quirks. This could be the secret to creating a harmonious life for yourself. PS: For some of you, this is a time of moving into a new space, refurbishing the house, or exchanging keys with your partner. Tip: Your relationships are a 10/10 reflection of your love and nurture.

TAURUS: If you've found yourself in yet another love triangle, you've only got yourself to blame. There is no fault in your stars, Taurus. You knew exactly what you were getting into before you entered this union. Those who are feeling 'limited' by their circumstances will have to make a decision. Others may be in the mood to explore their sexuality and kiss many a frog today.

Tip: Getting a love triangle can be injurious to your health.

GEMINI: Oh hello, material girl. This is the week to take the luxury up a notch and allow yourself some sweet indulgences. But

you're not the only one playing it up. Your partner is in the mood to spoil you silly too. Some of you could be thinking about jetting off on a vacation or planning a staycation in your home city.

Tip: Take the luxury up a notch this week.

CANCER: Quality time with the fam is on the cards. Try to be nice, Cancer. For some of you, this could be a time of meeting your partner's family or extended family and getting to know them on a deeper level. Be open to their eccentricities.

Tip: Get to know their family better.

LEO: Do people really change when they say they have? Are they capable of meeting you halfway this time around? Something to think about before you re-invest yourself in this relationship, Leo. Remember, the life you have built for yourself is too beautiful to be destroyed once again.

Tip: Show up for the people who show up for you.

VIRGO: If it didn't work out in the past, it's because you were making space for a greater love. That 'two bodies and one soul' connection is not a myth. Trust what's hap-

pening behind the scenes, wild one. Coupled Virgos, this is a time of harmony and togetherness. Can you be more in love with each other than you already are? This is the week to find out.

Tip: The Universe is conspiring to bring you that once-in-a-lifetime kind of love.

LIBRA: You're not daydreaming, Libra. Everything in your reality is picture perfect. Here's to a love that celebrates you for who you are and doesn't ask you to change a thing. Some of you are actively making space for another in your lives. Long-term commitment is certainly on the cards, despite what your skeptic side will have you believe.

Tip: Raise a goblet of goodness to that soul-mate kinda love.

SCORPIO: Here's to blood sisters, soul sisters, and synchronised moon cycle sisters. Raise a goblet of goodness to the women who have been showing up for you consistently, despite their personal dramas. This is a time to reciprocate their kindness and let them how special they are. For some of you, a landmark celebration such as an engage-

ment, a bachelorette or a baby shower may be on the cards.

Tip: A landmark celebration may be on the cards.

SAGITTARIUS: If they stepped away, they had a reason. Don't take this personally, Sagittarius. It was never about you to begin with. Everybody needs time and space to figure out who they are outside of their relationships. If this connection still matters to you, reach out and let them know that you're around in case they wish to communicate.

Tip: Respect their need for space, but let them know you're around.

CAPRICORN: Commitment with a big 'C', Capricorn. If you like it, put a ring on it, adopt a litter of kittens with it, and move into a fancy mansion together. Those who've been in the 'may be' and 'let's see' territory are getting ready to be a label on it too. It's all working out in divine time. Don't let your skeptic side get the better of you. But a joyful and harmonious life is not the only gift the Universe is offering you today. Looking for somebody to invest in your dream project?

Tip: You are building a lush and abundant

life together.

AQUARIUS: Beware of replaying the old narrative, especially when the Universe wants you to experience that once-in-a-lifetime kind of love. The gateway to transcendence is opening right now, Aquarius. Your professional life is not devoid of action either. Open your eyes to the signs and synchronicities. You are being led to prosperous opportunities that will help you create the financial reserve you desire.

Tip: The gateway to transcendence is opening for you.

PISCES: We all need space every now and then. We all need to discover who we are outside of our relationships. Instead of feeling rejected by their actions, make an effort to understand where they are coming from. Don't let fear and self-doubt get the better of you, especially when the love you share is real. Take this phase as what it is, Pisces: a wonderful opportunity to look within and journey closer to yourself.

Tip: Distance makes the heart grow fonder.