



**SKM COORDINATION MEETING AT LAL BAZAAR**  
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**FORMER TMC GENERAL SECRETARY ARRESTED FOR SHARING DOCTORED VIDEO OF CM**  
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**WHEN GOLD PRICES GO UP, SO DOES THE COST OF A DOWRY**  
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# SummitTIMES

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

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## SKM delegation meets PM, submits memorandum

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:

A Sikkim Krantikari Morcha delegation led by its president, PS Tamang [Golay] along with legislators, Kunga Nima Lepcha, Sonam Lama and the party's senior members met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the evening of 23 Sept at Raj Bhawan.

The delegation specified various political and social issues of the State and its people. They also submitted a memorandum to the PM. The memorandum talks about Limboo Tamang Assembly seat reservation at the earliest, hydel power project and pharma companies, corruption, ST status for 11 left-out communities, CBI inquiry, etc.

In the memorandum, the party has also expressed gratitude to the Centre for allowing Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim.

## Petrol crosses Rs 90-mark in Mumbai, rates at all-time high across country

### NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI):

Petrol Monday crossed the Rs 90-mark in Mumbai as a dip in the value of rupee and rise in international oil prices pushed rates across the country to new all-time high.

Petrol prices were hiked by 11 paise per litre and diesel by 5 paise, according to price notification of state-owned oil firms.

The hike pushed petrol price in Delhi to Rs 82.72 per litre and diesel to Rs 74.02.

In Mumbai, petrol crossed Rs 90-mark for the first time ever. The fuel now costs Rs 90.08 at Indian Oil Corp (IOC) outlets in the city while it is priced at Rs 90.17 at Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) outlets and Rs 90.14 at Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) stations.

India is the third largest importer of crude oil and rising international oil prices are inflating domestic transport fuel costs in a strong demand environment. Brent, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, climbed to USD 80 per barrel from USD 71 in the last five weeks, and the Indian rupee lost ground against the dollar by 5-6 per cent during the same period, resulting in ex-

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# Sikkim's first, nation's hundredth!

## PM INAUGURATES GREENFIELD AIRPORT AT PAKYONG

### SUMMIT REPORT

PAKYONG, 24 SEPT:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sikkim's first airport and the 100th functional airport of the country at Pakyong here in East Sikkim today.

The PM unveiled the plaque of the Pakyong Greenfield Airport declaring the airport open for operations which was followed by a book release '100 Airports of India' published by AAI.

He was accompanied by Governor Ganga Prasad, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Union Minister for Commerce & Industries and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, Minister of State for DoNER, Dr. Jiten-

dra Singh and Minister of



State and Darjeeling MP, S.S Ahluwalia, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, RN Choubey, Cabinet Ministers and representatives from BJP state unit.

Union Minister for Commerce & Industries and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu also presented a memento to the Prime Minister on the occasion.

After inaugurating the airport, the PM along with the entourage headed to the St. Xaviers School playground at Pakyong where a massive gathering of Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, HODs and officials, students and the public of Sikkim had been waiting in anticipation for the Prime Minister.

The PM started off his ad-

dress with a few lines in Nepali which instantly got a spirited response from the public. He said that Sikkim was a beautiful state with equally beautiful people.

"I couldn't help but click pictures this morning," he said.

With this airport, India has hit a century when it comes to airports, the PM said wherein

he also mentioned Sikkimese cricketer Nilesch Lamichaney, who recently scored a century in the Vijay Hazare Trophy becoming the first from the State to do so.

"I dedicate Pakyong Airport to the nation and hand over its command to the Sikkimese people", he said stressing that the Pakyong Airport would significantly ease con-

nectivity to and from Sikkim while also ushering in a new wave of economic growth and development for the state, especially in the field of organic farming and the thriving tourism sector here.

He stated that today is a historic day for the state as the long awaited Sikkimese dream of air connectivity has finally been realized and added that the country has hit a century of airports with Pakyong Airport.

Talking about the UDAAN scheme under which Spicejet airlines has secured the operation of Kolkata-Pakyong route, the PM stated that not only the distance and the hardship of a long road route has not been cut but it the airfare would also be affordable at around Rs 2500 to Rs 2600.

He mentioned how he has been touring the North East Region for the past few days and that he has been fortunate enough to inaugurate infrastructures dedicated in the service of the nation. He

turn to pg02



## Chamling requests PM for reservation of seats for LTs

### PAKYONG, SEP 24 (PTI):

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday to reserve seats for the Limbu and Tamang communities in the state Assembly.

While speaking at a programme after the in-

auguration of an airport here, Chamling said the state government had been demanding for the last 16 years to increase the number of seats in the Assembly to 40 from the existing 32, to include representatives of the two communities.

The prime minister

inaugurated Monday Sikkim's first airport at Pakyong.

"We request you to consider this long pending demand of seat reservation since it is the will of the people for a long time now," Chamling said.

turn to pg03

## Governor Ganga Prasad calls on PM Modi

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad and First Lady Smt Kamla Devi called on Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on his arrival at Raj Bhawan on 23 Sept.

A press release from Raj Bhawan informs that after the formal exchange of greetings, the Governor raised various developmental issues concerning the State and sought continued assistance from the Prime Minister and the Union Government.

Prime Minister Mr Modi conveyed that Sikkim has special place in his heart. He asked the Governor to make extensive tours into the interiors and dis-



tricts of Sikkim and interact with the people to address their con-

cern and grievances, the release adds.

## HC pulls up State for failing to follow directions on compensation for Pakyong Airport affected

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:

As the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport today, the High Court of Sikkim pulled up the State authorities for failing to follow its directions regarding compensation for those affected by the construction of the airport.

After hearing the State and petitioners, whose landed property was damaged by the construction of the airport, the single bench of Acting Chief Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai pulled up the state authorities and directed them to strictly comply with the

order passed by the High Court on 30 April, earlier this year.

66 affected families had approached the High Court in 2016 stating that the affected families had not been properly compensated. According to the petitioners, their landed and standing properties were damaged due to heavy construction of airport works, earth cutting on western side of the airport and vibration due to blasting and use of other heavy machineries in the construction site.

The State Agriculture and Horticulture department has only paid

compensation for a year assessed for 2016-17. However the villagers were not happy with the amount of compensation for their agriculture and horticultural products for a year as they say that they have lost their productivity since 2009.

The High Court in April earlier this year directed the state government for assessment of all damaged houses, buildings damages caused in and around the Pakyong Airport and a report to be submitted by 30 June. Despite the court's repeated directions, the authorities

turn to pg03

## STUDIO ESSEMBLE PRESENTS

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WHITE HALL  
30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT to  
2<sup>ND</sup> OCT, 18

10.30 A.M TO 8 P.M





## Ensure constitutional security of Sikkimese: SPCC urges PM

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:**

Extending a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has, in a press release, said that all is not well in the State and the PM should look into the issues plaguing Sikkim.

Increasing the strength of Vidhan Sabha seats from 32 to 40 in order to provide assembly seat reservations to the Limboo and Tamang communities "is just a conspiracy to not just dilute but completely do away with the special protection that article 371(F) of the Indian constitution ensures for the state of Sikkim", the party has said.

On the same, SPCC has requested the PM to initiate appropriate actions to ensure constitutional security for all Sikkimese subjects, to maintain communal harmony amongst the Sikkimese Bhutias, Lepchas and Nepalis, and to sincerely work towards building a corruption free, peaceful and a developed border state with a happy and satisfied local population with strong nationalistic values.

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## Sikkim's first, nation's hundredth!

*contd from pg01*

asserted that emphasis is being given to both infra-structural and emotional connectivity with the north east region and established that he has personally visited the region several times to review developmental works. He also informed that Union Ministers regularly visit the region, the results of which are visible on the ground with enhanced air and rail connectivity and bigger and better roads and bridges.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, while welcoming the Prime Minister and his entourage to the State, expressed deepest gratitude to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Sikkimese people for the gift of air connectivity to the state.

He said that it is a proud moment for the State and lavishly praised the PM calling him a superhero in world affairs which has resulted in growing respect for India internationally.

"All must be proud to be Indians," added the Chief Minister.

He further added that Sikkim is terrorism free, peaceful and a rapidly developing state with communal harmony and patriotism deeply embedded in all Sikkimese.

Adding further he



## SKM coordination meeting at Lal Bazaar

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:**

A coordination meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was held here at Lal Bazaar on Monday with the party president, PS Tamang [Golay], as the chief guest. He was accompanied by acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha, chief coordinator Sonam Lama, working pres-

idents MP Subba and Nawin Karki and other leaders and workers of the party.

An SKM press release informs that retired Principal, Chung Keepu Lepcha, and former panchayat of SDF party, Sam Tshering Lepcha from North Sikkim along with 219 families from Dzongu constituency, 45 families from

Lachen-Mangan, seven families from Shyari and two families from Arithang joined SKM during the meeting.

The release states that the party president informed that online registration for health insurance was underway and urged people not to get confused as it did not require any reference from MLAs or

Ministers.

He stated that as per a DESME report, the BPL rate in Sikkim was just 8.19% and due to the same only 10,000 people would be able to enjoy benefits of this service. He alleged that the poor of the State have been suffering due to wrong data of the government.

Mr Tamang stated

that after forming the government, SKM will declare North District as a special district to address the ignoring of the district by the present government.

He also lashed out at the State government on other issues of the State, the release informs. The meeting was also addressed by other leaders of the party.



## Training on Fermented Plant Extract for West farmers

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:**

Mevedir, a service provider agency, organized a ward level training on Preparation of Fermented Plant Extract (FPE) today. The training program was conducted at Buksom ward under Barasamdong GPU & Tinzerbong ward under Suldung Kamling GPU, West Sikkim, informs a press release.

In Buksom ward the resource person of the training was Mon Bdr. Gurung (Field Assistant) including Chunki Bhutia (Panchayat member) along with Mevedir Master Trainer, Ran Maya Rai whereas in Tinzerbong ward, the

key officials who attended the training were A.B. Rai (Mission Officer cum HDO, Horti. Dept), Karma Hissey Sherpa (CEO) & Parsu Ram Rai (MOVCD member) including Dil Kumari Tamang (Ward Panchayat) along with Mevedir Master Trainer, Santosh Manger.

Both the training consisted of demonstration for the preparation of organic herbal extracts using local plants and resources.

In Tinzerbong, A.B. Rai announced the distribution of seeds of carrot and cabbage to all the farmers who attended this training. Before distribution he informed how such seeds

need to be sown and some general idea about its package of practice. He also emphasized about the importance of organic farming and also informed the farmers that after Rabi season, the Department will visit all the farms to make an appraisal of the production and facilitate them for marketing.

More than 45 farmers participated in this training program and both the trainings concluded successfully. The vote of thanks was given by the field officers of the organic project and thereafter the seeds were distributed in Tinzerbong ward of Suldung Kamling GPU.

## 11 killed as rains pound north India; 'red alert' in Punjab



**NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI):** Incessant rains triggered flash floods and landslides in hill states of northern India, with at least 11 people killed Monday in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, and a 'red alert' being issued in Punjab.

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) issued an advisory to the Punjab government that it will release "excess" water from the Pong dam in the wake of incessant rains in catchment areas of the Beas river.

Educational institutes have been ordered to remain closed on Tuesday in Punjab. Schools have been closed in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir and in most places of Himachal Pradesh.

Heavy rains led to landslides which blocked the roads to Badrinath, Kedarnath and Yamunotri, affecting the Chardham Yatra, while traffic snarled in the national capital due to waterlogging following heavy rains.

The Punjab government has asked district authorities to maintain vigil to avert any untoward situation due to heavy rains, an official said.

Punjab has been witnessing widespread rainfall for the last two days and the downpour continued Monday, prompting state authorities to review preparations to tackle flood-like situations.

Incessant rains in Punjab and Haryana could cause damage to kharif crops and dip in their yield, farm experts said.

In Haryana's Ambala, a 45-year-old man died when the roof of his house collapsed due to heavy rains, police said.

Five people, including a minor girl, died and as

many injured in separate incidents during heavy rains in Kullu, Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh on Monday, the officials said. A "high alert" has been sounded for Kullu district.

Several houses were also swept away in flash floods as the Beas is flowing at a dangerous level, HP Forest Minister Govind Singh Thakur said, cautioning people against going near rivers and nullahs.

An Indian Air Force team had rescued, with the help of a chopper, 21 people stranded due to flash floods at Dobi in Kullu district in the last 48 hours.

BJP MP from Hamirpur Anurag Thakur said, "So far, 126 roads have been affected by landslides triggered by rains and news of the loss of lives are too pouring in from many places."

People residing in the low-lying areas, especially in Kangra, Chamba, Kullu and Mandi districts, are being evacuated, officials said.

In Chamba, the Ravi river is still flowing at a dangerous level and people are being evacuated from low-lying areas by the administration since Sunday, Superintendent of Police Monica Bhutun-guru said.

In Uttarakhand, most of the places, including state capital Dehradun, received showers with around 45 rural roads blocked in these districts, the state emergency operation centre said.

In Rajasthan, heavy to moderate rainfall was recorded in various parts of the state in 24 hours, an MeT official said.

Heavy rains lashed several parts of the national capital, causing waterlogging and traffic snarls on major intersections in the city.

## India may cut oil imports to mitigate pain from high oil prices, dip in rupee

**NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI):** India, the world's third-biggest oil importer, is considering cutting oil purchases to soften the blow from high crude oil prices and declining rupee, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) Chairman Sanjiv Singh said Monday.

State refiners are looking at optimising crude oil inventory levels without in any way affecting fuel supplies in the domestic market, he told PTI.

Refiners maintain 7-8 days of inventory in tankages besides carrying stocks in pipelines as well as ships in transit. They are looking at reducing these so that monthly imports of crude oil can be reduced, he said.

India is the third largest importer of crude oil and rising international crude oil prices are inflating domestic transport fuel rates in a strong demand environment. Brent, the benchmark for half of world's oil, climbed to USD 80 per barrel from USD 71 in the last

five weeks, and the Indian rupee lost ground against the dollar by 5-6 per cent during the same period, resulting in expensive crude imports.

India is 81 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs.

"We had a meeting last to last Saturday (September 15) to deliberate on a host of issues facing the industry and in that meeting, one of the options that was considered was to reduce imports by cutting down on inventory levels," Singh said.

An important factor guiding the decision was also Asian Premium climbing to as high as USD 3-5 per barrel in last 3-4 months, he said.

Asian Premium is extra charge be-

ing collected by oil-cartel OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries.

"Reducing inventory levels and imports are being considered as temporary measures without impacting fuel supply in the domestic market," he said. "This decision would in no way be allowed to impact supplies of petroleum products in the domestic market. Our commitment to meet domestic supplies remains supreme."

Singh said the high oil prices will in long term impact demand and so reducing imports makes sense. India imported 18.6 million tonne (MT) of crude oil in August for USD 9.8 billion.



It had imported 18.1 MT of crude in the same period of 2017 for USD 6.4 billion.

During April-August, it has spent USD 48.9 billion on import of 94.9 MT of crude compared to USD 31 billion on the import of 89.1 MT in the same period last year. Singh, however, did not say when the move will kick in saying these are ongoing discussions.

"One thing is very clear that we do not want petroleum product supplies in the domestic market to be impacted in any way," he said.

Petrol Monday crossed the Rs 90-mark in Mumbai as rates across the country touched a new high. While petrol in Delhi costs Rs 82.72 per litre, it costs Rs 90.08 in Mumbai. Diesel is priced at Rs 74.02 in Delhi and Rs 78.58 in Mumbai.

Since mid-August, the petrol price has risen by Rs 5.58 a litre and diesel by Rs 5.3 - the most in any month since the daily price revision was introduced in mid-June last year.



Gangtok on  
Tuesday,  
25 Sept

Temp: 28°C/15°C  
Forecast: A morn-  
ing thundershower  
in parts of area;  
otherwise, time of  
clouds and sun.  
Sunrise: 05:27 AM  
Sunset: 5:30 PM

HC pulls up  
State for  
failing to  
follow  
directions on  
compensation  
for Pakyong  
Airport  
affected

contd from pg01  
have not assessed the  
loss of agricultural land,  
which has become un-  
cultivable, nor have they  
come up with any re-  
sponse.  
In the meantime, the  
State Government came  
up with a new legisla-  
tion to deal with the gri-  
evances of the petiti-  
oners in the month of June and  
filed their response to  
the Commissioner Set-  
tlement of Claims for  
Loss and Damages in the  
month of July for pay-  
ment of compensation  
to the persons whose  
property, land and crops  
have been damaged on  
account of construction  
of Pakyong Airport as  
per directions of the High  
Court.

As per the 2013 Land  
Acquisition Act, the agri-  
cultural land is calculated  
four times of actual price  
in rural area along with  
cent per cent solatium  
of houses and standing  
properties of the land.  
The Act also said that the  
affected families have to  
be rehabilitated and re-  
settled in proper way and  
also have to be provided  
one time assistance grant  
and employment in the  
said project, which is yet  
to be provided.

Chamling requests PM...

contd from pg01  
He said the other long  
pending demand of the  
state government was to  
grant tribal status to  
11 other communities in  
the state which are Ba-  
hun, Chettri, Bhujel, Rai,  
Gurung, Dewan, Yamaha,  
Yogi, Sanyasi, Mumbai  
and Thami.  
"Sikkim believes in  
you and your govern-  
ment, so please fulfil our  
wishes so that peace pre-  
vails in the most peaceful



FINALLY HERE!

SINGTAM, 24 SEPT: Late, but effective. The newly constructed ticket counter of Singtam Motor Transport Workers Drivers Association was inaugurated by the Tourism Minister Ugen T Gyasto on the oc-  
casion of Biswakarma Puja here last week and was finally made operational today. [Yogen Thatal]

Police busts  
fake call centre racket  
in Nagaland

DIMAPUR, SEP 24 (PTI):  
The police busted a fake  
call centre racket at Di-  
mapur in Nagaland and  
arrested 20 people for  
duping American citi-  
zens posing as revenue  
officers, a senior police  
officer said Monday.  
Deputy Commis-  
sioner of Police (DCP),  
Dimapur Zone-II, Vishal  
said that based on spe-  
cific information, police  
team raided a place and  
arrested 20 persons in-

cluding six women.  
Sixteen of them have  
been released on bail  
while four main accused  
are still in judicial custo-  
dy, the DCP said quoting  
a delayed police report.  
While probing the  
case, Special Investi-  
gation Team (SIT) had  
also arrested two main  
accused Ajit Kumar Ray  
and Anirban Gupta from  
Kolkata on September  
15. The duo have been  
brought to Dimapur and  
is being kept under judi-  
cial remand, he said.  
The call centre which  
started functioning in the  
month of June 2018 had  
made a transaction of  
around Rs 30-35 lakh, the  
DCP said, adding further  
investigations are on.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?  
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Rahul fires fresh salvo at Modi on Rafale deal

AMETHI (UP), SEP 24  
(PTI): Firing a fresh  
salvo at the prime min-  
ister over the Rafale jet  
deal, Congress president  
Rahul Gandhi Monday  
charged that the coun-  
try's "chowkidar" Naren-  
dra Modi snatched mon-  
ey away from the poor  
and handed it over to in-  
dustrialist Anil Ambani.  
Gandhi also asked the  
prime minister for an-  
swers on several issues  
relating to the Rafale jet  
fighter deal with France.  
"The chowkidar of  
the country has taken  
out Rs 20,000 crore from  
the pockets of the poor,  
martyrs and the jawans



and put it in the pocket  
of (Anil)Ambani," Gandhi  
said at a meeting in the  
Jais area of his Lok Sabha  
constituency.  
The Congress chief  
arrived here on a two-  
day visit, the first after  
his Kailash Mansarov-  
er pilgrimage, and said  
the people of the coun-  
try want to know the  
amount involved in the  
Rafale deal.

"Why was the price  
not disclosed...how  
was the contract given  
to (Anil) Ambani...  
serious charges have  
been levelled by former  
French president Fran-  
cois Hollande," he added.  
Recalling that during  
a debate in Parliament  
on the Rafale deal, "The  
prime minister could not  
look me in the eye. PM  
gives speeches but no an-  
swers... he does not have  
the courage to give reply."  
"Under the BJP govern-  
ment, the farmers and  
poor are crying...the pres-  
ent government is provid-

ing all benefits to a select-  
ed five to ten people," he  
said, alleging people like  
Anil Ambani, Vijay Mallya  
and Lalit Modi are getting  
all benefits.  
The Reliance Group,  
in a statement quoting  
Ambani's letter to Gand-  
hi last month, had said,  
"Allegations of Reliance  
benefitting by thousands  
of crores is a figment of  
imagination, promoted  
by vested interests."  
French company Das-  
sault, which is supplying  
the fighter jets, has en-  
tered into a joint venture  
with Anil Ambani-owned

Reliance Defence to meet  
its offset obligations to  
create business for Indi-  
an firms, following the  
Rafale deal.  
Escalating his tirade  
against the Modi govern-  
ment on the Rafale issue,  
Rahul said the contract  
worth thousands of crores  
of rupees could have pro-  
vided jobs "to youth of  
Amethi, to engineers...  
it could have given em-  
ployment to thousands  
of youth...aircraft with  
French technology would  
have been made in India...  
the nation would have  
benefitted from it"

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR ZEAL EVENING

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:23/09/18

1st Prize Rs.26.06 Lakhs/- 71C 03732  
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 03732 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
00231 00265 26626 41484 47036  
48623 70868 77928 78054 89602  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0287 0786 3105 3406 5647 7468 7563 8010 8580 9854  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1537 2675 3019 4928 5489 5880 7431 9065 9408 9446  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
0003 0007 0216 0270 0350 0427 0471 0574 0681 0698  
0745 0948 1028 1172 1272 1322 1391 1492 1507 1798  
1850 1891 1897 2025 2033 2067 2115 2138 2484 2650  
2671 2760 2911 3021 3027 3370 3449 3540 3568 3624  
3659 3850 3854 3884 4068 4271 4325 4390 4476 4599  
4603 4663 4748 4908 5008 5080 5105 5340 5533 5811  
5815 5840 5960 6268 6451 6483 6586 6655 6703 6785  
6862 6882 7033 7229 7302 7429 7537 7564 7637 7682  
7703 7718 7766 7839 7916 8385 8390 8512 8838 8936  
9230 9378 9413 9470 9610 9633 9730 9856 9939 9954

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT  
No: 29(a)/ETENDER/BHD/2018 Dated: 22/09/2018  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Chief Engineer, Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders from qualified Class IA contractors, within the State, enlisted with the SPWD in two cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) for the work as listed below:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORKS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	BID VAL- UE (RS. IN LAKHS)	COST OF TENDER/ BID FORM (RS IN LAKHS)	COM- PLETION PERIOD.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of Underground parking space at Namchi, South Sikkim.	25.7435	1029.74	1.00	36 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2018.
iii)	Document download/Sale start date and time.	:	23 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2018 11:00 am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	8 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in)

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER  
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

R.O. No. 373/IPR.PUB/Classi/18-19 dt. 24.9.18



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Allow Students to Think

*Open doors, don't spoon-feed*

What Sikkim requires its schools to create are sensible citizens who can think for themselves, weigh options and make practical decisions. In these times of fake news and manufactured consent, an open mind willing to learn and analyse will be required to side-step the shackles of time-serving mediocrity. And we would all wish that for the next generation, won't we? The one place where clear thought can be honed into an instinct is the classroom – allow the education system to adopt genuinely learning-friendly practices and future generations will dazzle with their confidence and carry Sikkim forward. Don't do so, and a majority will remain hesitant and unsure, seeking out charlatans to form their beliefs, ideologies and pursuits.

If education was approached with the aim to open minds, not suppress inquisitiveness, the quality that everyone seeks to infuse into the system will become a reality. What the present system delivers, and this is a national malaise, is infectious indecisiveness. Students are not encouraged to enquire or seek clarifications and every effort is made to drill them into an army of monotony, their uniqueness and differences brushed over by soul-sapping rigour and mind-numbing routine. It is rare to find students with wide-ranging interests any more. In fact, the syllabus and pattern of education do not even allow children the space to develop any meaningful interests any more. Even when these interests are displayed at annual day functions they are mostly hobbies decided for them by the teachers or "talents" singled out by them for display. Student projects for interschool competitions are prepared by teachers and every intonation of a poetry recital for competition dictated to them. We just won't allow them to make their mistakes and learn from them or stand by their side in case assistance is required; we believe that we are serving them by hand-holding them through their years in school, college, university, and if we have the "contact", even their employment.

More and more teachers are so scared that students will "fail" them that they end up spoon-feeding them. At the other extreme are teachers who see no hope in their students so they don't get involved at all. In both scenarios, the student meets the same fate – a confidence stamped down even before it could develop. A good way to start delivering Sikkim a more confident generation would be to allow students to discover more things by themselves and in doing so, they will also discover the confidence required to think and decide for themselves later in life.

## ...and baby girl survival rates in India fall

SONIA BHALOTRA  
*theconversation.com*

When world gold prices go up, fewer girl babies in India survive the first month of life, according to our new research. My colleagues and I suggest that this is linked to gold often being part of bridal dowries in India – so when gold prices go up, the cost of raising girls rises and families tend to neglect or abort them.

Dowry, a transfer at marriage from parents to daughters, is an ancient tradition thought to date back to at least 200BC, and was widely prevalent in medieval Western Europe. While it has virtually disappeared in most of the rest of the world, it persists in contemporary India – despite prohibition since 1961 – and has become increasingly common in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

While dowry payments originally acted as a bequest to daughters that afforded them financial protection after their marriage, dowries are now often appropriated by the groom or his parents rather than retained by the bride.

Dowries impose a considerable tax on girls' families, with estimates indicating that in South Asia it is six times the average annual household income. As a result, even though dowry is banned and can result in prosecution, families in India often start saving for dowry as soon as a girl is born. Previous research has also suggested that dowry costs contribute to a preference among Indian parents for sons rather than daughters, but there is no previous causal quantitative evidence of this.

While there is no consistent time series data on dowry transactions across India, my colleagues and I analysed variation in the financial burden of dowries over more than three decades, based on fluctuation in gold prices on the world market. Gold, typically in the form of jewellery, is an integral part of dowry in India and since India imports more than 90% of its gold, fluctuations in the international price translate into fluctuations in the cost of dowry.

### GIRL BABIES NEGLECTED

We merged monthly data on international gold prices between 1972 and 2005 with monthly birth cohort data, and analysed whether gold price changes

influenced the sex ratio at birth and the survival of a newborn girl up to the age of one month. Using this large data set with more than 100,000 births, we found that in months where the gold price went up, the chances of a girl surviving through the neonatal period were significantly lower than for boys. In fact, gold price inflation was correlated with an improved survival chance for boys.

Between 1972 and 1985, our analysis showed a 6.3% increase in the monthly price of gold was accompanied by an increase in girl neonatal mortality of 6.4%. During the same period, there was no significant corresponding change in male neonatal mortality.

We also found that those women who were born in months when the gold price was increasing were shorter in adulthood. This is consistent with previous research which has established that nutritional deprivation in early life leads to lower stature in adulthood, and that some parents in India deprive girls of nutritional inputs. In this case, it could be that lower levels of breastfeeding led to girls born in months of gold inflation being shorter as adults. We found that those girls that survived carried a marker of relative neglect into adulthood, compared to boys born in months of gold price inflation.

We separated out the results for children born between 1986 and 2005, as ultrasound technology became widely available across India after the mid 1980s. My previous research showed that in this period parents shifted away from neglecting girls after birth to aborting unwanted girls before birth. For potential births after 1986, we found that a 2.6% increase in the price of gold during

pregnancy was accompanied by a statistically significant 0.3 percentage point decline in the probability that a girl rather than a boy would be born.

### FOCUS ON GOLD

By one means or the other, parents seem to be reacting to gold price increases by trying to reduce the chance of having a surviving girl child. Clearly, to respond in this way parents need to be aware of changes in gold prices. Given the importance of gold in India, gold prices regularly feature in the media but people also talk frequently about gold prices and dowry costs. If Indians were not aware of the gold price fluctuations, it would be hard to find an alternative explanation of our findings.

We conducted various tests of our results, to determine how strongly we can link these back to dowry costs. For example, it could be that gold price increases are a proxy for a decline in real income because those who want to buy gold have less money to spend on other things and this may have an impact on girl survival rates. However, after investigating these possibilities statistically, we concluded that the evidence points to dowry costs as the driver of our findings.

One may imagine that parents react to increases in gold prices by reducing the amount of gold given in dowry while maintaining its value. But, using a rural survey containing information on dowry, we found that its value tends to rise more or less proportionately with gold prices, suggesting that social norms may make it hard to adjust quantities downwards.

Recent government figures from India's Census Office suggest that only 900 girls were born for every 1,000 boys between 2013 and 2015, indicating a continuing trend in the abortion of girl fetuses. This is despite persistent high economic growth and declining poverty in India over the past three decades.

Policies to strengthen the monitoring of dowry prohibition in India are unlikely to work because social norms lead families to support tradition and to co-operate in violating the ban. But there is room for hope: the equalisation of property rights for women and rising levels of education for both men and women may slowly but spontaneously loosen the dowry tradition.

*[the writer is Professor of Economics, University of Essex]*



## Maths quiz: a very problematic game of tennis

GIHAN MARASINGHA  
*theconversation.com*

Each day for a week, a tennis player is to receive a number of tennis rackets as a gift. She knows that she'll get a different number of rackets on each of the seven days and is told exactly how many she'll receive in total. Using only this information, she deduces that on at least one day she'll be presented with at least ten rackets. What is the minimum total number of rackets she could receive for her to know this?

### THE SOLUTION (SPOILER ALERT)

She'll be given at least 43 rackets. Any fewer and she couldn't guarantee she would receive ten or more on any one day. For example, if the total was 42, she could receive  $9 + 8 + 7 + 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 (= 42)$  – and not necessarily get ten in one go.

This puzzle is based on the so-called pigeonhole principle. If more than  $n$  pigeons are to be placed in  $n$  pigeonholes, then at least one pigeonhole must contain at least two pigeons.

The pigeonhole principle has striking consequences. You might wonder, for instance, how likely it is for two people in London to have the same number of hairs on their head. To make the problem interesting, we'll only consider non-bald Londoners.

There are more than eight million Londoners. These are our "pigeons". We put each Londoner into a pigeonhole labelled with the number of hairs on his or her head. Humans have 100,000 head hair follicles, on average. The number of follicles are the pigeonholes. Even taking into account variance from the average and bald Londoners, there are vastly more pigeons than pigeonholes. This proves that at least two non-bald Londoners have exactly the same number of hairs on their head.

*[Senior Lecturer, Mathematics, University of Exeter. Mathematician Gihan Marasingha specialises in setting devilishly difficult number conundrums, including for BBC Radio 4. Can you solve his latest problem?]*

# When gold prices go up, so does the cost of a dowry



# Samsung's foldable phone could soon be a reality

RAVI SILVA  
*theconversation.com*

We rarely see a truly remarkable new technology more than once a decade. After years of undelivered promises, such a technology looks finally set to enter the market: the flexible computer screen.

Imagine, a tablet display you can fold up and put in your pocket, a smart watch whose strap is the screen, or a handbag that is also a monitor and keyboard. Nokia originally called this proposed technology "Morph" back in 2008 because of the plethora of applications it would make possible. Now it looks like it will become a reality.

After nearly two decades of work, Samsung is rumoured to be getting ready for the launch of the first flexible smartphone. The company's head of mobile recently said it was "time to deliver" such a phone, and that the development process for it was "nearly concluded".

But perhaps more significantly, the Samsung Display division of the company recently said it had developed an "unbreakable smartphone panel" that had passed rigorous safety testing. Even after being subjected to temperatures of 71°C and -32°C, and dropped from a height of 1.8 metres, the display showed no signs of damage and functioned normally.

This display is a flexible organic light emitting diode (OLED) panel made of an unbreakable surface with a plastic overlay window attached to it, making it simultaneously lightweight and tough as glass but a lot



more robust. Manufacturers have yearned for many years to make displays with flexible, bendable properties and a paper-like feel with electronic functionality. If Samsung has truly found a way to protect a flexible OLED then it has solved a major technical challenge in removing the need for the glass screens used on most other displays today.

Glass was originally needed to actually stop displays from bending. Old-fashioned liquid crystal displays easily distorted when bent because the molecules in the liquid inside them would become misaligned. Today's OLED screens are based on a solid layer of light-emitting material that doesn't easily distort in this way. But glass is also used to protect the organic molecules in an OLED display from being degraded by water vapour and other gases that would shorten their lifespan. Until now, encapsulating displays in flexible plastic hasn't been enough to protect them.

A more advanced, better quality kind of screen known as a quantum dot light emitting diode (QLED) display can also be made flexible. These use nano-crystals to produce high-quality, pure and sharp monochromatic light. They convert the backlight into the



pure basic colours without the use of filters. But encapsulating QLED displays is even harder than OLEDs and so are likely to take a lot longer to turn into a flexible product.

### INCREASING FLEXIBILITY

Samsung's flexible OLED screen is likely to be have the most basic level of flexibility, with the ability to be bent and curved without distorting the display but not completely folded. The level of flexibility might be increased as the nanotechnology in the screens improves, as the nanowires used to carry electricity through the displays become more flexible at smaller diameters.

In the future we may eventually see rollable displays that can be rolled up like a scroll. The most advanced type of flexible screen will be one that can be folded or even crushed like a sheet of paper and still produce

a seamless image. The newest and most exciting idea for creating these screens is to use new "auxetic" materials, which become thicker as they are stretched rather than thinner.

These materials can absorb high energy impacts and are made of single molecules or crystals that can self-align once distorted. They are typically lightweight and would allow the creations of screens with hinge-like design features that can flex significantly.

In the meantime, appears that within a year we could be able to snuggle up in bed reading from a screen that we don't have to worry about damaging if we fall asleep on it. I, for one, can't wait to get my hands on this new tech.

*[the writer is Director, Advanced Technology Institute, University of Surrey]*



## 42 arrested for cheating in constable recruitment exam

**KOLKATA, SEP 24 (PTI):** The West Bengal CID has arrested 42 people for allegedly adopting unfair means during written examination conducted for recruitment of police constables, a senior officer said Monday.

The investigation department has initiated criminal cases against all 42 of them, he said.

"We had information that candidates in different examination centres will be using improvised wireless devices, comprising a receiver in the shape of a credit card and an earphone, during Sunday's preliminary test for constable recruitment," the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officer said.

The devices were hidden in the "sole of shoes and slippers" of candidates, he said.

"We have also seized micro earpieces from many candidates. These devices, if connected to a mobile phone, could be operated by accomplices outside the premises."

There could be a racket behind the illegal practice, the senior officer said.

"A racket could be running the operation from outside."

The CID is making efforts to arrest all those involved in the racket," he added.

## Goods train derails in Dima Hasao district

**HAFLONG, SEP 24 (PTI):** A goods train derailed in Assam's Dima Hasao district Monday but there was no report of any casualty, N-F Railway officials said.

All trains in the Lumding-Silchar hill section have been cancelled till Tuesday due to the derailment, they said.

The goods train was going towards Silchar from Lumding when 20 wagons derailed between Daotuhaja and Phiding railway station in the district at around 9.30 am, the sources said adding there was no report of any casualty in the mishap.

Haflong Station Manager, Anil Sharma said a quick response team has been dispatched to the derailed site to take stock of the situation and execute necessary actions for running of trains.

The Kachanjunga Express has been held back at Phiding railway station and Guwahati-Silchar BG fast passenger express at New Haflong railway station, the sources said.

# India, China to sign internal security cooperation agreement

**NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI):** For the first time, India and China will sign an internal security cooperation agreement during the forthcoming visit of China's Minister of Public Security, marking a new beginning in bilateral relations, officials said Monday.

Zhao Kezhi, China's Minister of Public Security, is expected to visit India next month and hold meetings with Home Minister Rajnath Singh during which they will discuss various aspects

of security cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit of the Chinese leader, an agreement on internal security cooperation between the two countries will be signed, a home ministry official said.

The proposed pact is expected to cover areas of intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices, cooperation in disaster mitigation besides others, an official said.

The move comes just

a year after a two-month-long border stand-off between the India Army and the China's People's Liberation Army at Doklam on the India-Bhutan-China tri-junction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held an informal summit in Wuhan, China, in April this year which helped repair bilateral ties.

A Chinese delegation met an Indian team on August 28 to hold discussions on the forthcoming visit of the Chinese Min-

ister of Public Security and the proposed pact on security cooperation between the two countries, the official said.

This will be the first such agreement between the authorities of India and China which look after internal security of the respective countries, the official said.

While Singh is the head of eight central armed police forces with a combined strength of about 10 lakh personnel, Zhao is responsible for day-to-day law en-

forcement in China and commands about 19 lakh personnel.

The forthcoming meeting may lead to a future India-China agreement on exchange of sentenced prisoners, another official said.

Currently, India does not have an extradition treaty with China, nor a pact to exchange each other's sentenced prisoners.

There are at least 10 Indians in Chinese prisons and an equal number of Chinese citizens in Indian prisons.



## 12,750 cases of crime against women in Assam in 2017-2018: Minister

**GUWAHATI, SEP 24 (PTI):** The Assam government Monday told the Assembly that 12,750 cases of crime against women were registered in the state in the year 2017-18.

In a written reply to a query by Congress MLA Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said in Assam 1,751 cases of rapes, 539 murders and 10,460 dowry crimes took place across the state in 2017-18.

Replying on behalf of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who holds the Home portfolio, Patowary informed that in the previous financial year 1,571 rapes, 490 murders and 9,629 dowry related crimes were

registered in the state.

In 2016, the total number of crimes recorded in Assam was 1,07,022, which went up to 1,11,118 in 2017, the minister said.

To a separate question of AGP MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Patowary said the state has witnessed a total of 84,540 crimes related to theft, dacoity, kidnapping, sexual harassment, rape, dowry, accident and superstition till August 2018 from the time alliance government came to power in 2016.

In this period, 56 extremists have been killed, while seven security personnel also lost their lives in addition to injuries to 14 other security persons, he added.

## Under-construction bridge collapses in West Bengal

**KAKDWIP (WB), SEP 24 (PTI):** An under-construction bridge collapsed in Kakdwip area of South 24 Parganas district on Monday, a senior official said.

There has been no report of any casualty, South 24 Parganas district magistrate Y. Ratnakara Rao said.

"The incident happened on Monday morning. We are waiting for further details," the district magistrate said. A team has been rushed to the spot to look into the incident, he said.

This is the third incident of bridge collapse in the state in September. Majerhat Bridge in south Kolkata had collapsed on September 4, killing three persons and injuring 24. On September 7, an old bridge had collapsed near Siliguri in north Bengal leaving a truck driver injured.

# Leh school to raze 3 Idiots-inspired 'Rancho Wall', bans entry of tourists

**LEH, SEP 24 (PTI):** The Druk Padma Karpo School here, which shot to fame after it featured in the Aamir Khan-starrer '3 Idiots', has decided to raze the 'Rancho Wall' and ban entry of tourists as the authorities felt it was becoming a distraction for students.

The wall was shot in a scene when one of the characters, Chatur, tries to urinate on it and gets electrocuted by an ingenious invention of school children. The school later painted it as the 'Rancho Wall' which became a picture spot for tourists.

"The movie gave a lot of publicity to the school and it became a must visit for the tourists visiting Ladakh. However, we realised that the purpose of having a school in the area was getting defeated. Not only students were



getting distracted by the tourists flocking to the school but also every day the campus was being reduced to a litter ground," school principal Stanzin Kunzang told PTI.

"Inspired by the vision of His Holiness the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa, spiritual leader of Ladakh, the school aims to provide modern education for Ladakhi children

- an education grounded in their own culture and which could prepare them to lead happy and productive lives," Kunzang said

Set up in 1998 by the

Druk Padma Karpo Education Society, the school was partially destroyed in the flash floods and landslides that hit the town in 2010, but was renovated thereafter.

# WB govt ready to thwart BJP-sponsored Bangla bandh: Partha

**KOLKATA, SEP 24 (PTI):** West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee Monday accused BJP of trying to foment trouble in the state by calling a 12-hour shutdown on Wednesday and said all steps will be taken to ensure normal life on the day.

Apart from issuing notification for state government employees to attend office on the bandh day and running state-operated transport system, the government will ask commercial establishments, private educational institutions to function normally, the education minister said.

Chatterjee, who is the secretary general of the Trinamool Congress, was speaking to reporters after attending a meeting of Group of Ministers here at the state secretariat.

As in previous bandhs, a special notification will be in place regarding attendance of the government employees, the minister said.

Chatterjee also said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was monitoring the developments in the state from Milan in Italy.

Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikary has been asked to coordinate with private bus operators to run their fleet normally on the bandh day, he said.



The BJP has called a 12-hour Bengal bandh on Wednesday to protest the deaths of ITI student Rajesh Sarkar and third-year college student Tapas Barman at Daribhit village in Islampur of North Dinajpur district.

Chatterjee, who accused the BJP and Sangh Parivar organisations such as Bajrang Dal and RSS of using the language of threat and coercion to enforce the bandh, called upon the people to approach the administration, if they faced disturbances on the road.

"We will do whatever is needed to keep life normal," he asserted adding the government was bent on maintaining communal harmony and amity in the state.

To a question, Chatterjee said the BJP was resorting to the politics

of bandh as they had lost bases and suffering from frustration.

"They are now resorting to the drama of either going to court or creating lawlessness to disrupt normal life, besides disturbing the holding of examinations in different institutions and formation of panchayat boards," he said.

To another question, Chatterjee said it needed to be probed as to who hurled bombs during the agitation over appointment of school teachers and who fired on the students in Islampur.

He said the government has already suspended the District Inspector of schools, North Dinajpur, following the incident at Islampur.

"I have also called the DIs to Bikash Bhavan Monday for discussion," he said.



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# Asia Cup: India aim to test middle-order against resolute Afghanistan

**DUBAI, SEP 24 (PTI):** The Indian cricket team will hope that its untested middle-order gets some game time ahead of the grand finale when it takes on an ever-improving Afghanistan in the final 'Super Four' encounter of the Asia Cup here Tuesday.

India have been on a roll after an unimpressive start against Hong Kong, with couple of one-sided victories over arch-rivals Pakistan and an equally facile one against Bangladesh.

With a spot in Friday's final sealed, skipper Rohit Sharma may want some of his untested middle-order batsmen to get quality time in the middle against someone of Rashid Khan's calibre.

Often in cricket, the 'Law of Averages' catches up with the best performing teams at



a critical juncture.

Shikhar Dhawan (327) and skipper Rohit (269) have done the bulk of the scoring in the four matches so far with very little contribution being required from the oth-

er batsmen in the line-up.

The next highest scorer is Ambati Rayudu (116 runs) because he comes in at No 3.

The problem has been lack of batting time for the likes of Mahendra Singh Dho-

ni, Kedar Jadhav and Dinesh Karthik so far.

Sample this: Rohit and Shikhar have so far faced 284 and 321 deliveries respectively. The next best Rayudu has played 162 balls.

However, Karthik (78 balls), Dhoni (40 balls) and Kedar (27 balls) can be found wanting if there is a top-order collapse on the big day.

Rohit had given Dhoni an opportunity to come in at No 4 against Bangladesh and the former captain scored 33 runs. But it was a pressure-free situation.

Dhoni's achilles heel of late has been to keep the scoreboard ticking in pressure situations that the middle-overs throw up.

If the likes of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb ur Rahman can put pressure, it will be a good warm-up for the middle-order trio before the final match.

The Indian captain might fancy batting first in case he wins the toss, which in turn will give his team a chance to bat 50 overs instead of chas-

ing another modest total.

The Indian bowlers have been splendid on the slow Dubai International Stadium track with all the bowlers enjoying an economy rate of less than five runs per over.

The spinners have been on a roll with Yuzvendra Chahal (5 wickets at 4.61 runs per over) and Kuldeep Yadav (5 wickets in 4.01 runs per over) have been tight as usual while Jasprit Bumrah (7 wickets with 3.37 runs per over) has been exceptional at the death with his yorkers.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (6 wickets at 4.08 per over), in his comeback tournament, has also been consistent.

There is a possibility that India might rest both Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah before the summit clash to help them recharge their batteries.

In such a scenario, two among Deepak Chahar, Sidharth Kaul and Khaleel Ahmed will take their spots in the playing XI for the game.

For Afghanistan, a win against the fancied Indian side will be a great end to the tournament where they have been competitive throughout, only losing out due to lack of experience.

Having packed off Sri Lanka in the group league stage and crushed Bangladesh, Afghanistan were done in by inexperience during the fag end of the Super Four matches against Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Against Pakistan, their bowlers couldn't hold nerve in the final over while their batsmen found it difficult to read Mustafizur Rahman's variations in the final over.



## I'm a 'scapegoat' says sacked Sri Lanka captain Mathews

**COLOMBO, SEPT 24 (AFP):** Sri Lanka's sacked skipper Angelo Mathews accused the country's cricket board Monday of blaming him solely for the island's humiliating exit from the Asia Cup.

The 31-year-old all rounder has threatened to retire from the two shorter formats of the game after being dumped on Sunday as captain of Sri Lanka's one-day international and twenty20 teams.

"I have been made the scapegoat in this entire saga of Sri Lanka's dismal performance against Bangladesh and Afghanistan in the Asia Cup," Mathews said in a letter to Sri Lanka Cricket.

The board said it asked Mathews to step down and allow Dinesh Chandimal to lead Sri Lanka during England's tour which begins next month.

"The national selectors... have requested Mathews to relinquish his duties as captain with immediate effect," the board said in a statement. It did not elaborate on why Mathews was sacked.

But it follows Sri Lanka's drubbing in the Asia Cup, with losses to lower-ranked Afghanistan and Bangladesh ensuring the island nation's quick exit from the competition.

Sri Lanka were thumped by 137 runs against Bangladesh in their opening match of the tournament, and have now lost 30 of their 40 matches since January 2017.

Chandimal, who was already captain of Sri Lanka's Test side, now takes the reins in all three formats of the game.

Sri Lanka will face England in five one-day internationals, one twenty20 and three Test matches from October 10.

# Asia Cup: Mustafizur keep Bangladesh in hunt

**ABU DHABI, SEPT 24 (PTI):** Mustafizur Rahman held his nerve to bowl a fantastic final over as Bangladesh eked out a three-run win over a gutsy Afghanistan to stay afloat in the race for the Asia Cup final.

Afghanistan yet again came close to a victory against a top-Asian team but faltered at the finish line, losing plot in the last 10 overs of the chase during Sunday's match.

They needed eight runs off the final over but experienced paceman Mustafizur conceded only four and also dismissed dangerous Rashid Khan (5).

Afghanistan looked well in control with Hashmatullah (71) and captain Asghar Afghan (39) going very strong after losing three wickets.

They stitched a 78-run partnership for the fourth wicket but Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza dismissed both to puncture Afghanistan hopes.

Mohammad Nabi (38) and Samiullah Shenwari (23 not out) produced a quick-fire 46-run stand for the sixth wicket but that was not enough as they ended with 246 for seven, while chasing 250.

Mahmudullah (74) made it memorable match for himself. After batting well at crucial juncture, he dismissed Afghanistan opener Mohammad Shahzad (53) and also took a catch of the rival skipper.

Bangladesh now need to beat Pakistan on Wednesday to



qualify for the summit clash.

Afghanistan bowlers could not capitalise on a dominant start upfront and allowed Bangladesh to score a competitive 249 for seven with Mahmudullah and Imrul Kayes repairing the innings with fighting half-centuries.

Mahmudullah and Kayes (72 not out), playing his first ODI in almost a year, shared a 128-run stand for the fifth wicket to lift their side from a precarious 87 for five after electing to bat.

The inexperience of Afghan bowlers showed yet again as they allowed the rivals to free themselves from their clutches.

Mahmudullah played aggressive after completing his 20th ODI, twice lofting star Afghan spinner Rashid Khan over the

ropes.

Rashid was well handled by the two batsmen. He could get only one wicket today and gave away 46 runs in his 10 overs. It was key in Bangladesh's revival.

Mahmudullah's knock came off 81 balls with three fours and two sixes while left-hander Kayes consumed 89 balls for his calculative unbeaten knock, which had six shots to the fence.

The partnership broke towards the end of the innings when pacer Aftab Alam had Mahmudullah caught by Rashid.

At the top, only Liton Das could make his presence felt with a 41-run innings whiler Mushfiquur Rahim (33) frittered away a good start by running himself out.

The pace trio of Aftab Alam, Mujeeb ur Rahamn and Gulbadin Naib had succeeded in straight-jacketing Bangladesh batsmen, keeping them under a tight leash with disciplined line and length.

Alam got the better of Nazmul Hossain (6) while Mohammad Mithun (1) was done in by Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Boundaries were far and few. Making it tougher for the Bangladesh was some terrific fielding by the gritty Afghans.

After the top-order was removed, run outs of Shakib ul Hasan (0) and Rahim only added to their woes.

However, Mahmudullah and Kayes ensured that the minnows do not take advantage of a brilliant start.



## Anand rests as Indian men take on El Salvador

**BATUMI (GEORGIA), SEPT 24 (PTI):** Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand is expectedly rested for the opening tie as the fifth seed Indian men take on El Salvador in the 43rd Chess Olympiad here Tuesday.

After a glittering and probably the best ever opening ceremony in any Olympiad that was a mix of performances by the local stars, its time now to set the clock rolling and start the biggest biennial chess event.

Anand, being one of the most respected player in the competition was called for the ceremonial draw of lots that gave top seeded United States and India white colour on the top board in the first round.

Each match will be played over four boards and the team scoring 2.5 points in all will be declared the winner. The points awarded are called Match points which means two points are awarded for every win, one for a drawn 2-2 result and none if a team scores less than two.

Like India, defending champions USA also rested top rated Fabiano Caruana in the first round clash against Panama and as if on cue, Russians gave a day off to their biggest star Vladimir Kramnik.

The biggest absentee in the Olympiad this year is reigning world champion Magnus Carlsen and Norwegians, who finished a creditable sixth last year.

The other notable absence is that of Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria but that is because Bulgarian team is not playing this time.

The first round looks

like a walk in the park for the Indian men with over 400 rating points separating each member from their respective opponents.

While the going is expected to get tougher after each round, the real challenge may not come till the fourth round when some relatively big clashes are expected to take place.

Apart from the fancied, United States, Russia, China and Azerbaijan, a young Iranian team might just come knocking on the doors and can trouble the best.

The team is headed by recently crowned world junior champion Parham Maghsoodloo on the top board and has an average age of less than twenty years with all players already attaining the Grandmaster title.

Meanwhile, in the women's section the Indian eves can also fancy for a 4-0 opening round rout against New Zealand.

Out of action for almost two years, Koneru Humpy has been given the chance to get back in competitive mode and the other Indian Grandmaster D Harika has taken a drop instead. Humpy's form will be crucial if Indian women have to win a medal here.

Russian women start as the top seed this time as top Chinese player Yi-fan Hou is not playing for her team.

Ukraine is seeded second ahead of China and the local favourite Georgia is seeded fourth. While there could be individual upsets on some boards, it is unlikely that any top team will go down in the opening round.

# ISL: FC Goa's Corominas plays down Lanzarote's departure

**MUMBAI, SEP 24 (PTI):** FC Goa striker Ferran Corominas Monday played down concerns over the departure of attacking Spanish mid-fielder Manuel Lanzarote from the team and said there were others to fill in the breach.

The 34-year-old Spaniard was in impressive form last season, clocking well over 1,500 minutes on the field and coming up with 13 goals and six assists to his name.

Lanzarote has shifted to take up the captain's role with Kolkata's ATK in the upcoming season of the Indian Super League (ISL) beginning September 29.

Corominas, who paired up with Lanzarote last season, was of the view that it was the team which eventually contributes in scoring goals.

"Even if Lanza (Lanzarote) is not there, we will be fine. There are other players who always come in, who can come in and take over in that place.

"We have got the players, who we think, have got the capacity to do the same, if not



better," he said at the ISL Media Day held here.

"It is not necessarily always in pairs that we have to score and ultimately it's the whole team that can contribute as well; so we can get goals from other areas of the team," Corominas noted.

"Myself and Lanzarote had scored quite a goals between us (in the last ISL season) and ultimately it is because of the style of play we had. The idea is to recreate that as much as possible this year," he added.

FC Goa winger Mandar Rao Dessai, who will be with the side for the fifth season, said he was being helped by foreign and senior players.

Their assistant coach Jesus Tato said it was important for the players to retain their style of play.

"We have to improve on some things. Last season we scored a lot of goals, but conceded lot of goals also. This season we will try to improve our defence line and not concede so many goals," Tato said.

FC Goa would begin their campaign against North East United on October 1.

Meanwhile, Delhi Dynamos mid-fielder Marcos Tebar revealed that he had "offers" from Europe, but waited to come back to India.

"I was close to sign for Jamshedpur, but then the coach called me to come back to Delhi. I was happy here (with Delhi) when I played in ISL three and I had got good memories," he recalled.

Delhi head coach Josep Gombau said he was happy with the squad.



# Trump’s latest tariffs on China begin to bite

**WASHINGTON, SEP 24 (AFP):** President Donald Trump’s latest round of punitive tariffs on China took effect on Monday, adding 200 billion in Chinese imports to the escalating trade war that is clouding the global economic horizon.

The new attack on Beijing brings the amount of goods hit by duties to more than 250 billion, roughly half of Chinese exports to the United States, and increasingly consumers will feel the pain in their wallets directly.



Trump has hit 12 percent of total US imports this year alone.

Defiant in the face of increasing fears about the impact to the US economy, Trump has threatened to go after 100 percent of imports from China if the country refuses to change policies he says harm US industry, particularly the theft of American technology.

“These practices plainly constitute a grave threat to the long-term health and prosperity of the United States economy,” he said in announcing the tariffs last week.

“We are going to win it,” his Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told “Fox News Sunday.” “We’re going to get an outcome which forces China to behave in a way that if you want to be a power -- a global power -- transparency, rule of law, you don’t steal intellectual property,” Beijing has

promised to strike back on Monday with duties on 60 billion in American goods, bringing the total to 110 billion, nearly everything China buys from the United States.

But Trump warned he could ramp up to “phase three,” slapping tariffs on approximately 267 billion of additional imports, or the entirety of the goods the US buys from China.

Dialogue between the world’s two biggest economies appears severed. Beijing cancelled the visit of a Chinese negotiating team expected September 27-28 in Washington, The Wall Street Journal said.

Previous talks in late August were ineffective.

In that context, the International Monetary Fund has warned about the potential for “significant economic costs,” including slower growth.

“Should the escala-

tion go further, the economic costs for both countries and around the world will quickly add up,” IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said last week.

Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings has cut its growth estimates for China and the world for 2019.

“Protectionist US trade policies have now reached the point where they are materially affecting what remains a strong global growth outlook,” Fitch said in a report Friday.

The latest round of Chinese imports will face 10 percent tariffs through the end of the year, and then the rate will jump to 25 percent.

A broad swath of products are on the hit list, including billions in Chinese-made voice data receivers, computer memory modules, automatic data processors, and accessories for office equipment such as copi-

ers and banknote dispensers -- instantly making widely used goods more expensive.

However, following complaints from thousands of US firms -- including powerhouses like Apple and Walmart -- 300 product lines were dropped from the target list.

The products spared also include smartwatches and Bluetooth devices, like the iPhone and Fitbit, child safety products such as high chairs, car seats and playpens, and certain health-and-safety products such as bicycle helmets, US officials said.

The removal of smartwatches and wireless headphones represents a win for tech giant Apple, just days after it unveiled its latest smartwatch and three new iPhones as part of a bid to fight back after slipping to third place among smartphone makers.

# Rohingya crisis: UN has ‘no right to interfere’ says Myanmar army chief

**YANGON, SEP 24 (AFP):** Myanmar’s army chief said the United Nations had no right to interfere in the sovereignty of the country a week after a UN probe called for him and other top generals to be prosecuted for “genocide” against the Rohingya minority.

The defiant response is the army chief’s first public reaction since a UN fact-finding mission urged the Security Council to refer Myanmar’s top military brass to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

No country, organisation or group has the “right to interfere in and make decisions over sovereignty of a country,” Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told troops in a speech Sunday, according to the military-run newspaper Myawady.

“Talks to meddle in internal affairs (cause) misunderstanding.”

UN investigators went into horrific detail about the atrocities allegedly committed by army troops last year in their “clearance operations” against the Rohingya, which forced more than 700,000 of the stateless Muslims to flee over the



border into Bangladesh.

Troops, often aided by ethnic Rakhine mobs, committed murder, rape, arson and torture, employing unfathomable levels of violence and with a total disregard for human life, they concluded.

The military has denied nearly all wrongdoing, justifying its crackdown as a legitimate means of rooting out Rohingya militants.

Myanmar’s civilian government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, had already rejected the report’s finding as “one-sided” and “flawed”

and dismissed a separate decision at the criminal court that found it had jurisdiction over the crisis.

Suu Kyi’s civilian government shares power with the still mighty army, which has retained control over a quarter of parliamentary seats and three key ministries since the nation emerged from direct junta-rule in 2011.

The UN team also criticised the Nobel Laureate’s government for “acts and omissions” that had “contributed to the commission of atrocity crimes”.

# Fresh sexual assault allegation against Justice Kavanaugh

**WASHINGTON, SEP 24 (PTI):** A new sexual assault allegation has surfaced against Justice Brett Kavanaugh and is being investigated by the Senate Democrats, a media report claimed Sunday, a development that can further complicate the confirmation process of President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee.

Justice Kavanaugh, who is already facing at least one publicly known similar charge, was quick to deny the latest allegation, which dates back to his time as freshman at the Yale University in the 1980s.

Justice Kavanaugh and the accuser of the first allegation against him, Christine Blasey Ford, are scheduled to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.



“This alleged event from 35 years ago did not happen. The people who knew me then know that this did not happen and have said so. This is a smear, plain and simple,” Justice Kavanaugh said in a statement issued through the White House.

“I look forward to testifying on Thursday about the truth, and defending my good name -- and the reputation for character and integ-

ity I have spent a lifetime building -- against these last-minute allegations,” the Supreme Court nominee said after The New Yorker magazine published the latest allegation of sexual assault against him.

The alleged sexual assault dated back to the 1983-84 academic school year, when Justice Kavanaugh was a freshman at Yale University, The New Yorker said, adding that at least two Senate Democrats were investigating the allegation.

The magazine identified the woman as Deborah Ramirez (53). She attended Yale with Justice Kavanaugh, where she studied sociology and psychology, the magazine said. Later, she spent years working for an organisation that supports the victims of domestic violence, it added.

# Maldives opposition leader wins presidential poll

**COLOMBO, SEP 24 (AFP):** Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the Maldives’ presidential election, results showed Monday, a surprise defeat for President Abdulla Yameen, following a campaign observers said was rigged in the strongman’s favour.

Results released by the Elections Commission early Monday morning showed Solih had secured 58.3 per cent of the popular vote.



Celebrations broke out across the tropical archipelago with opposition supporters carrying yellow flags of Solih’s Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and dancing on the streets. There was no response from Yameen after the results were announced.

Solih had the backing of a united opposition trying to oust Yameen but struggled for visibility with the electorate, with the local media fearful of falling afoul of heavy-handed decrees and reporting restrictions.

There were also no other candidates at Sunday’s election held with all key dissidents either in jail or exile.

Earlier in the night, Solih had called on Yameen to concede defeat once the tally showed he had an unassailable lead.

“I call on Yameen to respect the will of the people and bring about a peaceful, smooth transfer of power,” he said on television.

He also urged the incumbent to immediately release scores of political prisoners.

Yameen, who was widely tipped to retain power, had jailed or forced into exile almost all of his main rivals.

Before the polls opened, police raided the campaign headquarters of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and searched the building for several hours in a bid to stop what they called “illegal activities”.

Male, where opposition campaign efforts had been frustrated by a media crackdown and police harassment.

Some 2,62,000 people in the archipelago -- famed for its white beaches and blue lagoons -- were eligible to vote in an election from which independent international monitors have been barred.

Only a handful of foreign media were allowed in to cover the poll.

The Asian Network for Free Elections, a foreign monitoring group that was denied access to the Maldives, said the campaign had been heavily tilted in favour of 59-year-old Yameen.

The government has used “vaguely worded laws to silence dissent and to intimidate and imprison critics”, some of whom have been assaulted and even murdered, according to Human Rights Watch.

Before the election, there were warnings that Yameen could try to hold on to power at all costs.

In February he declared a state of emergency, suspended the constitution and ordered troops to storm the Supreme Court and arrest the judges and other rivals to stave off impeachment.

Yameen told supporters on the eve of the election that he had overcome “huge obstacles” since controversially winning power in a contested run-off in 2013, but had handled the challenges “with resilience”.

The crackdown attracted international censure and fears the Maldives was slipping back into one-man rule just a decade after transitioning to democracy.

India, long influential in Maldives’ affairs -- it sent troops and warships in 1988 to stop a coup attempt -- expressed hopes the election would represent a return to democratic norms.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this “development” and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

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## I like to live on the edge: Radhika

**MUMBAI, SEP 24 (PTI):** With three consecutive Netflix projects and one Bollywood blockbuster to her credit Radhika Apte is on a roll, but the actor says she does not let the success get to her and likes to live on the "edge".

The actor started the year with R Balki's comedy-drama "Padman" and featured in "Lust Stories", "Sacred Games" and "Ghoul", positioning her as streaming giant's India favourite.

"The content that's coming my way is great, but something really needs to challenge and throw me off, completely shatter me. I like to live that. It has its downside too, but I like to live on the edge.

"The year has been great but there's much more I want to do, which will give me the kind of satisfaction that I've been looking for. I don't think this is that year," Radhika told PTI.

She said she is current-

ly experiencing gratefulness and insecurity in equal parts.

"I am grateful for all the work but it's also confusing because you are doing so much work that you don't have time to breathe. It produces a lot of insecurities about whether you continue to work like that or not. Or what is the next thing that I'm going to do. It worries me."

The actor was speaking at the launch of True Roots Botanical Hair Tonic.

Radhika's upcoming projects are Saif Ali Khan's "Baazaar" and Hollywood filmmaker Michael Winterbottom's "The Wedding Guest" along with Dev Patel.

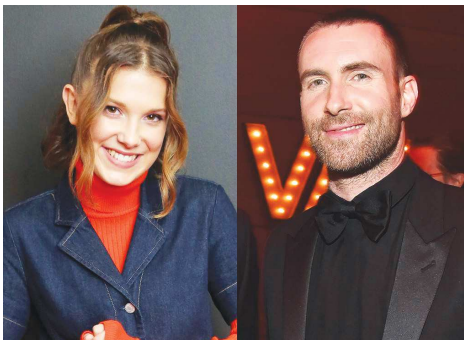
The actor said it is important for her to surprise her viewers hence she always tries to pick diverse characters.

"You get a one-off opportunity and if you manage to sustain that or not is very crucial. It's very important to come up with new things, to reinvent yourself," she added.

## Millie Bobby Brown Gives Epic Surprise Performance at Maroon 5's Concert

Millie Bobby Brown gave Maroon 5 fans the ultimate surprise on Sunday when she took the stage in the middle of their Nashville concert and performed their hit "Girls Like You."

The Stranger Things star showed off her skills by rapping the lyrics normally performed by Cardi B. The 14-year-old actress didn't seem to miss a beat, either. The Bridgestone Arena crowd went wild after her performance, and Adam Levine gave his stamp of approval by giving the Eleven



star a high-five.

Brown posted a video of

the memorable moment on Instagram.

"soooo 2nite was insane!!!" she captioned the video. "I love @maroon5 and my dear friend @adamlevine."

The video even received praise from Levine's wife, Behati Prinsloo.

"YAAASSSSS I'M DEAD!!!!!" she wrote in the comments section.

Brown later opened up about the experience during an Instagram Stories video.

"It was such an amazing night," she said. "It was such incredible people and such good friends and, you

know, truly family. It's such an honor to just be on stage with such talented human beings."

The young starlet also revealed she "was not nervous" about her performance at all.

"In fact, I was so comfortable," she said. "It was so insane. It was so fantastic, and I had such an amazing time."

It looks like she's ready for her next gig, too. After taking the stage, she posted a video of her performance and captioned it, "Imma do that again sometime."

## Making my next feature still a struggle: Bejoy Nambiar

**MUMBAI, SEP 24 (PTI):** Filmmaker Bejoy Nambiar says every time he begins work on a new film he has to start from scratch as the struggle to find people who would back his "kind of movies" is endless.

Over the years with films like "Shaitaan", "David" and his last release "Solo", Bejoy has cemented his position as an edgy storyteller.

"Every feature has been a struggle for me and that continues to be so. After every feature I find myself starting from the scratch like it is my first film. At the end of the day, you need to be relevant enough, viable enough for people to have that faith in you.

"When you are constantly trying to push the envelope - in terms of content you are trying to make - and when it hasn't had that kind of wide acceptance, you will keep struggling to make your next. I am no different," the director told PTI in an interview.

The filmmaker is currently trying



to get his next Hindi feature together but says he is looking forward to dipping his feet in the digital space.

"I am swimming with the tide and trying to figure out the digital space here. On one hand, I am trying to mount my next feature and on the other, I have interesting offers to do something on the digital front. Though my heart is still set for a fea-

ture, it will all depend on the story," he said.

Bejoy's short, "Dobaara" recently released online as part of the ZEE5 film festival.

The "Wazir" director said he had the idea for the film since a very long time and wanted to turn it into a Malayalam feature film.

Things did not come to fruition

but the story stayed with him, until 2015 when he got the chance to make it for ZEE5.

The short comes at a time when there is a growing discussion among the audience and film industry if streaming services will take over theatrical release, but Bejoy believes both the mediums can co-exist.

"It is an interesting time. The way we consume entertainment is evolving. But I don't see digital completely taking over feature film industry as such. There will be a dent in the number of films being made for the screen and the amount of content made for digital," he said.

"That gap will increase but feature film won't go away completely. The kind of films made for the screen will change. The small-mid range films will definitely gravitate towards the digital while the big-ticket tent-pole films will draw the audiences to theatres," the director added.



UDAN gives flight to the common man's aspirations

- Narendra Modi

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