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AND NAYUMA TV** Pg03

# SummitTIMES

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

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## CMO Officers cannot meet public for one month

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

The public will not be able to meet Officers of the Chief Minister's Office for a period of one month according to a circular passed by the Principal Secretary of the CMO, RS Basnet today.

It is mentioned in the circular that the Officers have not been able to carry out work related to the applications submit-

ted by villagers during the Chief Minister's recent tour since they have to attend to members of the public calling on the office.

However, the circular states that this exemption is only for Officers of the CMO and all others must meet the public from 10 a.m. till 01 p.m. as was directed by the Chief Secretary in a recent circular to officers.

## SDF condemns Golay's allegations, advises him to do some homework

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly criticised and condemned what it rejects as false and baseless claims of SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay] leveled by him at a party office inauguration here yesterday. The ruling party has instead advised Mr Tamang to update his knowledge before issuing any baseless statement.

An SDF press release issued by its general secretary, DB Katwal, counters that to distract from his deeds and conviction in a corruption case, the SKM President has shamefully attacked the awareness of the people.

SKM should know that SDF has already made the people aware in the last 25 years about the truth and ground realities.

The release states that to think that people were unaware and that their endorsement of SDF for five terms now was a mistake was to cast doubts on democracy itself and was a big conspiracy to promote dic-

tatorial tendencies and anarchy.

The SDF has strongly condemned and criticised such contemptible and wrongful statements of SKM, the release reiterates.

The release mentions that Mr Tamang's attempts to paint himself as innocent despite a court conviction upheld by higher courts as well revealed his hypocrisy and disdain for people's intelligence.

The release adds that SDF was a party working as per the suggestions and needs of the people and does not expect anything from another political party which was only wanted to come to power. On the same, it is added that the ruling party was confident that the people would endorse the performance of the SDF government in the next election as well.

The release adds that a handful reactionaries and opportunists in the SKM cannot be considered as political critics capable of making creative or positive suggestions.

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## Centre again changes Bakrid holiday to Aug 22

**NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI):** The Centre today changed the date of Bakrid holiday again to Wednesday from Thursday for its offices in Delhi.

On the basis of the report of Ruiyat Hilal (moon deciding committee) headed by Shahi Imam, Jama Masjid, Delhi, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, intimating that witnesses of sighting of moon have been received from different cities of India, it has been decided that

all central government administrative offices located in Delhi/New Delhi shall remain closed on August 22, 2018, instead of August 23, 2018 on account of Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid), a statement issued today by the Personnel Ministry said.

The government has withdrawn earlier release issued on August 14 stating that Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid) will be celebrated on August 23, according to the statement.

## PRESS CLUB OF KOLKATA DELEGATION CALLS ON CM, FELICITATES HIM

# Didi and I have agreed to share resources for peace and development in Darj Hills: CM

**GANGTOK, 20 AUG (IPR):** A 28-member delegation of the Press Club of Kolkata called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling this evening at his official residence Mintokgang.

President, Press Club of Kolkata, Snehasis Sur, informed that the main objective of the study visit and Goodwill Mission of journalists from various parts of West Bengal (including Siliguri) was to understand the developmental initiatives of the Government of Sikkim on all fronts and also to felicitate Chief Minister Chamling for having achieved the unique distinction of becoming the longest serving Chief Minister in the country.

He apprised the Chief Minister that the goodwill visit was also an effort towards fostering greater bonding between the two neighbouring States through 'Track 2 diplomacy' and added that the visit was themed 'Love Your Neighbour'.

The members of the delegation thanked the Chief Minister and the Government for the warmth and hospitality extended to them.

They mentioned about



their visit to 'Char Dham' in Namchi and praised the concept and also the positive developments that the town has undergone over the years.

While introducing the members of the Press Club of Kolkata, Mr Sur stated that the team was particularly keen to learn more about the recent developments recorded by the State of Sikkim such as environment initiatives, Organic Mission, highest literacy rate, poverty alleviation measures and sustenance of peace and tranquility here.

He further said that the Press Club of Kolkata will work in close coordination with the IPR Department of the Government of Sikkim and the Press Club of Sikkim to learn from each other's developments.

The Members of the Press Club of Kolkata honoured the Chief Minister by presenting a bouquet, shawl, memento of the Club, the traditional scarf 'uttariya' and a miniature replica of the flag prepared by the Club for this visit.

The Chief Minister welcomed the delegation and

shared some of the unique initiatives of the Government.

While responding to questions put forth by the visiting journalists, the CM stated that the focus of his Government was on qualitative development through scientific, environment-friendly and sustainable methods.

He shared some of the steps taken by the Government towards environment conservation resulting in a record 4% increase in forest cover, which he highlighted was a rare accomplishment.

He also shared the intent of the Government towards enhancing the quality of education in the State.

Responding to a question about Sikkim-West Bengal relations in the context of separate State-hood demands in the Darjeeling hills, the Chief Minister informed that he has spoken to Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee on more than one occasion and that they have decided to work together to maintain peace in Darjeeling hills.

He added that the two States have agreed to share each other's resources in law and order and also in other sectors like tourism and industry to ensure that Darjeeling prospers.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister stated that he has always practiced positive politics with a one-point commitment - to serve the people of Sikkim.

The programme was also attended by Secretary, IPR Department, S. Shenga, Director-IPR, Tashi Chophel and president, Press Club of Sikkim, Joseph Lepcha.

## Vinesh enters history books, becomes first Indian woman wrestler to win Asiad gold



**JAKARTA, AUG 20 (PTI):** Vinesh Phogat today created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games, brushing aside her rivals with remarkable ease in the 50kg category here.

Vinesh was a medal-favourite in her category and was likely to face stiff competition from Japan's Yuki Irie whom she outplayed 6-2 in the final.

It is surely a ground-breaking achievement for the 23-year-old firebrand Haryana wrestler, who is connected to Dangal-famed Phogat family.

Putting behind her heart-breaking loss at the Olympics two years ago, Vinesh began her victorious campaign with a revenge win against Chinese Yanan Sun against whom she had suf-

fered that terrible leg injury which cut short her journey in Rio.

This time Vinesh did not give her opponent any chance and came out a dominant winner with a 8-2 score.

In the next bout she brushed aside the challenge of Korea's Hyungjoo Kim by technical superiority. She ended the bout with a four-point throw.

Vinesh's semifinal lasted just 75 seconds as she moved into the final with a 'fitley'. She was already up 4-0 and then rolled over her opponent thrice with leg-lock.

The gold also enabled Vinesh to achieve another feat as she became the only woman wrestler to win two medals in back-to-back Asian Games.

turn to pg02

**GBT Entertainment presents**

**Sikkim Temi Tea**  
THE TASTE OF DISTANT SAGA

**MR. SIKKIM 2018 MANHUNT**

**DO YOU HAVE IT IN YOU?**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN**  
LAST DATE 23rd AUGUST, 2018

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email id: mrsikkimmanhunt@gmail.com

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For Enquiries | Registration | Contact +91 8250520467 / 7584977223/ 8016458624



**File Income Tax Return  
on or before**

**31 AUGUST**

**Last date for filing of Income Tax Return for A.Y. 2018-19 is 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2018**  
(For persons whose accounts are not liable to audit)



**Income Tax Department  
Central Board of Direct Taxes**

For more details

**www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in**  
**OR 1800-103-0025/+91 8046122000**



## Vinesh enters history books, becomes first Indian...

contd from pg01

Vinesh had earlier won a bronze medal in the 48kg category at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games.

Vinesh also won back-to-back gold medals in Glasgow and Gold Coast Commonwealth Games this year.

Earlier, Sakshi Malik paid the price for being over-defensive and was left to fight for bronze in the 62kg category.

CWG silver medallist Pooja Dhandla will also fight for bronze after losing her semifinal in the 57kg.

Pinki was the only girl to not reach the medal round as she lost her first round bout in the 53kg category against Mongolia's Sumiya Erdenechimeg. She could not score a single point and lost her bout by technical superiority.

Sumit Malik, the last remaining Indian in the men's freestyle, bit the dust in the 125kg category as he could not resist his opponent even for two minutes, losing by technical superiority.

Thus, the men's campaign finished with just one gold medal from Barjang Punia (65kg).

Sakshi, playing her first Asian Games, was hardly challenged before her semifinal round as she easily won against Thailand's Salinee Sri-sombat (10-0) and Ayaulym Kassymova (10-0).

She was up 4-0 in her semifinal bout against Kyrgyzstan's Aisuluu Tynybekova but lost six points in a row by the end of first period.

She led 7-6 with a throw but became too defensive with 10 seconds to go. The Kyrgyz took advantage and pushed Sakshi out of the mat to pocket the match-winning two points.

Pooja lost just one point en route the semifinals as she outclassed Thailand's Orasa Sookdongyor (10-0) and Uzbekistan's Nabira Esenbae (12-1) but lost the last-four clash on technical superiority to Korea's Myong Suk Jong.

## SDF condemns Golay's allegations...

contd from pg01

The release also highlights that Mr Tamang's announcement to convert Mintokgang into a cancer hospital reveals his lack of knowledge about requirements of infrastructure and equipment for such a speciality hospital.

The release further mentions that Mr Tamang has copied this statement from the new Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The release further mentions that due to the complete democracy institutionalized in the State, 6 lakh Sikkimese were free to get involved in politics and that Mr Tamang was among these 6 lakh to enjoy the fruits of democracy nurtured by the SDF Government.

# Nepali Language Recognition Day celebrated in Chakung

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:

A constituency-level 27th Nepali Language Recognition Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm here at Government Senior Secondary School, Chakung in West Sikkim today in the presence of area MLA, HRDD Minister RB Subba, as chief guest, a press release informs.

During the function, litterateurs Dr Gopal Dahal, SR Khajum and PL Sharma, were felicitated by the organizing committee for their contributions to the field of Nepal language and literature and for their work in the Nepali Bhasa Andolan in India.

Minister Subba was also felicitated by the or-



ganising committee for playing a vital role in supporting the struggle for the constitutional recognition of Nepali language.

The event included a poetry recitation competition participated in by different schools of Soreng-Chakung constituency.

Manu Smiriti Panth of Tharpu SSS, Prerna Gurung of Sirbadam SSS and Bidhan Sharma of Soreng SSS took the first, second

and third places in the competition respectively.

In the Secondary School level essay competition, Anamika

Sharma of Himalayan Academy and Riyal Mith Lepcha of Chakung SSS secured the first and second positions respectively while Janak Gurung of Sirbadam SSS and Prasant Dangal of Mangsari SSS were tied for the third position.

A debate competition was also conducted today in which Soreng B.Ed. College spoke for the motion on the topic "Shikshako Madhyam Matribhasha Hunuparcha" while Chakung Science College spoke against the motion.

Soreng B.Ed. College was the winner of the competition with Arjun Sharma of Soreng B.Ed. College being adjudged the best speaker.

A wall magazine

comprising of 64 Nepali poems written by Post Graduate Teacher [Hindi] of Chakung SSS, Khemraj Thangsingh, was also released by the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stressed on remembering former Chief Minister, late NB Bhandari, on the occasion of Nepali Language Recognition Day.

"For the recognition of Nepali language in the eight schedule of Indian Constitution, Dil Kumari Bhandari, also played a vital role," said Mr Subba. Ms Bhandari was the Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim at the time.

The Minister also urged students of Sikkim to appear for UPSC exams in Nepali language.



## Bhasa Manyata Divas observed at Lingi Paiyong School

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:

Bhasa Manyata Divas was observed at Government Secondary School Lingi Paiyong on

Monday. The students and teachers were appraised about the importance of the day and need to conserve language for upliftment of the society, a

press release informs. Rema Chettri, a student of Class IX recited a beautiful poem to mark the day.

The programme was coordinated and con-

ducted by Arjun Koirala.

Meanwhile, the school family also paid tribute to Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and decided to conduct morning

speech, quiz and recitation of his poems in the morning assembly from 20 to 25 Aug as a tribute to the departed soul, the release mentions.

# Demonstration on bio pesticide Agniastra at Raigaon

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 AUG:

International Panaacea Limited a Service Provider Agency under Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim, organized a ward level programme at Raigaon ward on preparation of Agniastra against leaf roller, stem, fruit & pod borer at Raigaon ward of Namcheybong GPU, East Sikkim.

A press release informs that Field Executive, Sita Bhushal demonstrated the use of Agniastra against pests like leaf roller, stem borer, fruit borer & pod borer. The solution can be prepared by the farmers.

Ms Bhushal explained the required materials and method of preparation to the farmers. The items are cow urine, crushed leaves of Neem or Bagaina, green chilli pulp @ 25g per litre of cow urine, garlic pulp @ 12.5g per litre of cow urine, crushed neem leaves (with thin stems) or neem seed powder @ 100g per litre of cow urine.

Mix all the ingredients in a pot. Use wooden stick for mixing the ingredients. The stick should be moved clockwise while mixing so that positive en-



ergy is circulated in the mixture. Boil the solution. Cover the pot with gunny bag or poly net. Tank should be in shade and ensure the tank is not exposed to direct sunlight or rain water. Let the mixture ferment for 48 hours. Stir the solution clockwise using

a wooden stick 2 times a day for 1 min. After 48 hours filter the solution and store agniastra in bottle.

Solution should be used within 3 months from the date of preparation.

All the farmers thanked the

Field Executive for providing such important remedy of the pest management.

International Panaacea Limited is continuously organizing ward level training and demonstration in different areas, the release mentions.

WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 20 AUG:

Sadbhawana Diwas was observed at Mangan District Administrative (DAC) under the supervision of DC North, Karma R Bonpo and attended by all government employees of DAC, North.

The day was also observed at Mallang in North Sikkim in a programme attended by 30 participants from Susong SHG and Red Ribbon Club.

The programme started with lighting of the ceremonial lamp and offering khadas to the portrait of Rajiv Gandhi on whose birth anniversary Sadbhawana Diwas

is observed.

Welcoming guests and participants, national youth volunteer, Sangkit Lepcha informed the participants about the meaning of Sadbhawana.

Talking about Rajiv Gandhi, she told the participants about the good deeds he had done to make India a developed country.

Chairperson, Sherpa Bhutia [Malling Panchayat] motivated the participants and said that he is always there to extend all possible support to uplift the youth and State.

The program ended with vote of thanks by Sangkit Lepcha.

**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: [letters@summit-times.com](mailto:letters@summit-times.com)

## Shooting of Bengali soaps stalled for the third day

**KOLKATA, AUG 20 (PTI):** Shooting of Bengali TV soaps was stalled for the third day in the city today due to a cease-work by the Artists Forum demanding regularisation of pay and talks between it and the Welfare Association of Television Producers failed.

Actor Prosenjit Chatterjee told reporters that the Artists' Forum did not wish to disrupt shooting schedules of TV soaps but the July 8 agreement between the body and the Television Producers' body should be respected and artists should be paid regularly.

While the agreement between producers and forum had stipulated that the artists should get their salaries within the 15th day of the next month, many producers did not honour it and did nor arrange the payment over-

due to the artists, Chatterjee said.

He said in the given situation it was not possible to resume work unless the producers paid the overdue wages on time.

Chatterjee made it clear though he was only referring to a section of producers and not all, the cease-work was disrupting the overall shooting schedules.

Forum general secretary and actor Arindam Ganguly said the July 8 agreement had also specified that any artist, working for more than 10 hours should be paid on hourly basis after the expiry of the time. That too had not been honoured by a section of producers.

"If an artist has to slog for 14 hours on the shooting floor and is not paid his/her dues for three-four months - isn't that an issue which has

to be addressed immediately?" Chatterjee said.

He said the state government was aware of the situation. "Minister Aroop Biswas has been updated of the developments at the meeting and he is trying to arrive at a solution."

The Forum, an organisation of actors and actresses, has 2,200 members.

A spokesman of the Welfare Association of Television Producers said it had joined the talks today with an open mind. Everyone should keep in mind that any further disruption of shooting schedules will led to a halt in the telecast of serials on local TV channels soon.

There was no shooting during the day in all the eight studios located across different areas of south Kolkata due to the cease-work, the spokesman said.



**Gangtok on Tuesday, 21 Aug**

**Temp:** 26°C/18°C  
**Forecast:** Considerable cloudiness, a thundershower.  
**Sunrise:** 05:09 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:08 PM



## Directorate of tourism in the pipeline: Tourism Secretary

**REBYNA RANA**  
**GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

Secretary for Tourism Department, CP Dhakal, today said that the department has proposed the setting up of a Directorate of Tourism. If approved it will provide employment opportunities, he added.

Mr Dhakal also said that a single window system for shooting films in Sikkim has already been implemented and the nodal department for this is the Information and Public Relations Department.

The Secretary addressed media persons today regarding the Sikkim Tourism Policy 2018 at the Tourism Information Centre [TIC] on MG Marg.

The tourism department has worked hard on the policy, he stated.

The Sikkim Tourism Policy 2018 was released by Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, on the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, here at Paljor Stadium.

# Brahma Kumaris celebrate Rakhi with Sadar PS personnel and Nayuma TV

**ARPAN PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

Brahma Kumari Meditation Centre, Gangtok, celebrates Raksha Bandhan every year as part of their annual festivals. This year, the centre is honoring the bond between a brother and sister from 08 Aug to 02 Sept.

As part of the Rakhi celebrations, they celebrated the festival today with the personnel of Sadar Police Station here.

Brahma Kumari didis tied Rakhis on the wrists of the cops stationed there and offered them sweets.

Later, the Brahma Kumari didis tied Rakhis decorated with colourful beads on the wrists of officials and staff of the Nayuma Television at a function held at the Nayuma Office located at Sonam Gyatso Marg.

The programme was attended by General Manager, Nayuma Television, Gajendra Ghaley, Chief Editor, Nayuma News, Xavier Subba, Associate Editors Bharat Sharma and KK Chettri, and other staff members.

The Brahma Kumaris were led by its centre head, Brahma Kumari Sonam didi, and were joined by didis and brothers of the Brahma Kumaris.

Sonam didi, in her address, spoke about the importance of Rakhi and their objective of celebrating Rakhi in this manner.

She said that the Rakhi festival



has its own importance and traditional values while also expressing disappointment over the festival losing its essence in the present times.

"Rakhi these days is being celebrated for fashion and some other selfish reasons which is very disappointing," she expressed.

She thanked the Managing Direc-

tor of Nayuma Television, Roshan Rai, for providing support and granting permission to celebrate the festival at Nayuma office.

She informed that founder of Prajapita Brahma Kumari Rajyog Bishwas Vidhyalaya and Chief of Brahma Kumaris, Rajyogini Dadi Janki ji, will be visiting Sikkim this year in Nov.

The function was also addressed by the GM, Nayuma Television, Mr Ghaley, who in his address extended gratitude towards the Brahma Kumari didis and brothers for celebrating Rakhi and thanked them for choosing Nayuma Television for the event.

He assured of supporting the

centre in all possible way.

The Brahma Kumari Meditation Centre will be visiting various social organisations, institutions, schools, offices, State Jail, orphanages, old age homes and NHPs to celebrate Raksha Bandhan.

It may be mentioned here, the festival of Rakhi falls on 26 Aug.

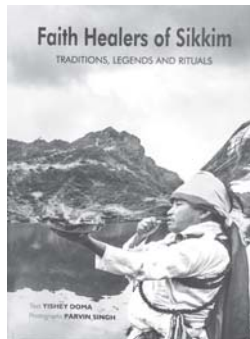
## Book on Faith Healers of Sikkim launched

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 20 AUG:**

A book containing legends and rituals of various ethnic groups of Sikkim was launched by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling here in Gangtok on the occasion of Independence Day.

The book, Faith Healers of Sikkim: Traditions, Legends and Rituals, has been written by Yishey Doma. The 286-page book – a result of passionate grass-roots level research – has twenty-two chapters, each embellished with some rare pictures of faith healers and their rituals taken by Parvin Singh, one of India's diverse travel photojournalists, a press release mentions.

The book aims to explore the



deep connection all ethnic communities in Sikkim have with the elements of nature and how faith healing is an integral part of their day-to-day life.

Faith Healers of Sikkim

also features significant steps taken by the state government in recognising religious diversity, and promoting and protecting traditional and cultural practices in Sikkim over the past two decades, the release states.

Published by Trysts & Traces for Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim, the book will be available shortly in all leading book stores across the country. It can also be bought online.

Yishey has written several books on Sikkim including Legends of the Lepchas: Folk Tales from Sikkim (Westland/Tranquebar, 2010), which won her the Sikkim Sahitya Samman, one of Sikkim's highest civilian

awards. She is also the winner of MSN-Random House Short Story prize-2012.

In 2014, she was selected by the President of India to stay at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi under the prestigious writers in-residence programme launched by the President.

Yishey currently holds the position of Research Officer in Chief Minister's Office, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

Photographer Parvin Singh is an avid traveller who has journeyed all over India for more than three decades, recording people, landscape and the traditions of changing cultures, but India's Northeast, particularly Sikkim struck a chord with him.



## Sabbhavana observed at Manan Kendra

**GANGTOK, 20 AUG (IPR):** Sabbhavana Diwas was observed at the Manan Kendra secretariat here today. Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava administered the pledge to all the HODs, officers and staffs present.

The Chief Secretary asked everyone to perform their duties for the emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of

caste, region, religion or language and to resolve all differences through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence.

Sabbhavana Diwas was also observed in all the Departments throughout the state and marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, the late Rajiv Gandhi.

# Situation in Kerala improving, rescue ops almost complete: Vice Admiral Luthra

**SRINAGAR, AUG 20 (PTI):** The situation in Kerala is improving and the rescue operations are almost complete, with efforts now moving towards relief and rehabilitation, a senior Navy officer said today.

Floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains have claimed 210 lives in Kerala since August 8 and displaced over 7.14 lakh people from their homes.

"As far as the Navy is concerned, we have stepped up our efforts specifically in the last four-five days and today, as you know, the effort is moving more towards providing relief and subsequently towards rehabilitation," Vice Admiral Girish Luthra Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Western Naval Command (WNC) told reporters here.

"The initial part of rescue has been more or less completed, although a few people may be trapped in different areas. We will be reaching to them and making sure that they are also taken to safe locations," he said.

Vice Admiral Luthra said the rescue operations in Kerala started about two weeks ago and were gradually stepped up as the rains intensified.

"The entire effort is being coordinated from Delhi. As



far as the defence forces are concerned, it is coordinated by the Defence Crisis Management Group and at the national level too it is (being) coordinated by the National Crisis Management Group," he said.

He said the situation was expected to come under control soon with the support from all agencies, the central

and state governments and a large number of NGOs and individuals.

Vice Admiral Luthra was here to attend the ceremony for affiliation of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment with INS Kochi and 51 Squadron Air Force.

The ceremony was held at the JAKLI Regimental Centre at Rangreth, on the outskirts of

Srinagar.

"It is a very historic day. Today, a frontline ship of the Indian Navy -- INS Kochi -- has been affiliated with JAKLI. It is for the first time that we are doing this affiliation between the naval unit and an Army regiment outside a naval base," the FOC-in-C said.

"We will have personnel from JAKLI visiting our ships

and also sailing our ships and similarly, our personnel from INS Kochi will visit their various locations, including off-locations, and learn about the functioning of various battalions of JAKLI, he added.

"This will promote better understanding and better synergy between our two services," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Lt Gen Satish Dua said thousands of Jammu and Kashmir youths turning up at Army recruitment rallies showed that not all felt alienated.

He said, "It is true that we have some of our children who are misguided, who are on the wrong path and we hope that they will get back into the mainstream soon. But there is also another face of the youth of J-K. If everybody is so alienated, then why do we have youths coming into in such huge numbers for recruitment rallies of the Army?"

Lt Gen Dua said there had been an "improvement" in the situation in the state this summer, with terrorist encounters, stone-pelting under control compared to the previous years.

## SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

### DEAR DELIGHT EVENING

**Draw No:2 DrawDate on:20/08/18**

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4th Prize Rs.250/- 0780 1134 1393 2052 2287 3545 4644 6689 7419 7941  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
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1218 1365 1520 1555 1737 1773 1878 1913 2290 2418  
2695 2746 2867 2929 2947 3116 3189 3416 3431 3552  
3693 3805 4254 4609 4737 4787 4820 4840 4925 4943  
4966 5055 5094 5176 5179 5204 5223 5292 5376 5785  
5835 5839 5980 5998 6008 6145 6177 6303 6399 6684  
6774 6787 6881 6967 7017 7200 7205 7213 7332 7400  
7443 7507 7739 7767 7843 7966 8067 8147 8268 8350  
8535 8540 8742 8761 8840 8866 8911 8922 9138 9171  
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

## Antyesthi Kriya

The 13th day Antyesthi Kriya of **Late Rangalal Roka (82 years)** for left for his heavenly abode on 09th August 2018 falls on **21st August 2018 (Tuesday)**. All relatives, well wishers and friends and requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Samdur, Tadong, East Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Family members: **Mrs Dhan Maya Roka (wife), M.P. Roka, B.B. Roka, K.P. Roka, Tara Roka, Indra Roka (sons), Bishnu Maya, Devi Maya, Sun Maya, Ash Maya (daughters in law) and all Roka family.**



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Fertility Rates and Reproductive Autonomy

*Welcome the data, don't go regressive*

It has been two years now since the State Government discontinued the financial incentive it offered to government servants if they opted for smaller families – usually seen as one with a maximum of two children. The reason behind this discontinuation was that the fertility rate in Sikkim had dropped to the desired level of two children per couple. With small families having become the norm, there was clearly no reason to incentivize it anymore.

That is good news, right? But that is not necessarily how everyone seems to be receiving the news that women in Sikkim, by and large, have achieved some level of reproductive autonomy.

First, because everyone has been hearing it so often in speeches and private conversations, let's try and first understand what total fertility rate means. Fertility rate is the number of children an average woman is likely to have during her childbearing years. Sikkim's Total Fertility Rate stands at 2.02. Fertility rate should not be confused with birth rate because the latter stands for the actual number of children born per 1,000 people per year. And then there is Replacement Rate. Simple logic suggests that if there are no mass scale deaths, the replacement rate would be 2.0 – two parents replaced by their two children. Actually, fractionally higher because there are fewer girls as compared to boys and infant mortality rates are such that more girls die as infants than boys. Also, since child mortality is higher in under-developed areas, the replacement fertility rate is higher there as well. In the developed world, replacement fertility rate is about 2.10. In poorer economies, it can go over 3.0. The global average is 2.33.

The Fertility Rate for Sikkim in the year 1998-99 was recorded at 2.75, substantially higher than the current rate of 2.02 which is lower than even the replacement fertility rate. That said, the fall in the fertility rates is clearly not because more women in Sikkim have gone barren, but is obviously thanks to improved consciousness of modern parents. More and more couples in Sikkim are discarding the “hum do, hamarey do” slogan for the increasingly popular choice of having just one child. This could also be the reason why the percentage of the child population [age group of 0-6 years] has also reduced in Sikkim to 10.05 percent of the total population in the 2011 Census compared to 14.28 percent in 2001.

It is also an accepted fact that fertility rates start to drop as incomes and living standards go up, roughly tracking the passage from poverty to middle-income status and from an agrarian society to a modern one. Macroeconomic research has also established a link between living standards and fertility even within countries. Bihar, for instance, has a fertility rate of 4, while the “richer” Tamil Nadu and Kerala have rates below 2. It is possible that there is such a contrast in fertility rates even between rural and urban Sikkim.

There are also cons to falling fertility rates, but they pale in comparison to the fact that women bearing fewer children is a sign of them having finally secured some level of reproductive autonomy. It is also evidence of the fact that both partners in a relationship are planning their families together, by consensus. Falling fertility rates is proof of women's empowerment, but that is not how everyone sees it. One often hears of the need for Sikkimese women to bear more children because the “local” population was falling! Demographic changes are always worrying, but not as offensive as asking your women to bear more children just so that the state or the community can increase its share of the population. Pause on the thought and the misogynic import of such beliefs leaps out to scare.

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# Hajj: How Globalisation Transformed the Market for Pilgrimage to Mecca

SEÁN MCLOUGHLIN  
*theconversation.com*

More than 2m Muslims are currently gathering in Mecca ahead of the annual Hajj, which begins on August 19. As long as they are fit and financially able, the pilgrimage is an obligatory act of worship that followers of Islam owe to God once in their lifetime. Reenacting the faith-testing ordeals of Ibrahim (Abraham, the Biblical founder of monotheism) and his family, Muslims believe that an “accepted Hajj” will cleanse them of all their sins. Their hope is to return home as pure as the day they were born.

But until the introduction of modern transport systems, most Muslims beyond the Arab world had little expectation of completing this fifth and final pillar of Islam. Before the mid-1950s, the number of overseas pilgrims rarely exceeded 100,000 and modern Saudi institutions were still developing. Yet by the early 2000s, the total number of Hajj pilgrims had passed the 2m mark, reaching a recent peak of just over 3m in 2012.

New opportunities for pilgrimage in the jet age have put immense pressure on the infrastructure of Mecca. Hundreds have lost their lives during periodic disasters including fires and stampedes, most recently in 2015. Undoubtedly, the Saudi authorities have invested huge sums in continually seeking to improve facilities and the overall management of the Hajj. Hajj organisers and guides I have interviewed compare overseeing the pilgrimage to hosting the Olympics every year.

But the kingdom's Vision 2030, published by Crown Prince Salman in 2016, underlines that the Islamic tourism market has a significant role to play in diversifying Saudi Arabia's non-oil-based economy. While the strategy is focused mainly on the Umrah (the year-round, non-obligatory minor pilgrimage), US\$50 billion investment in new transport and other infrastructure also aims to double the size of the Hajj by the end of the next decade.

### SUPPLY AND DEMAND

A look at Hajj-going among British



Muslims in an age of globalisation underlines the growing role of the market for religious tourism in shaping the organisation of the pilgrimage. At an industry event I attended earlier this year, The Council of British Hajjis, suggested that this niche sector of the UK economy is worth around £150m (£310m including Umrah).

Unlike all Muslim-majority nations, Muslim minorities in the West are not restricted to a Hajj quota of 1,000 pilgrims per million of population. Relatively prosperous, literate and increasingly socially mobile, they are generally free to perform the pilgrimage at a time of their choosing. Pilgrims in the West are also often younger than those in the rest of the Muslim world. The number of British Muslims performing Hajj each year rose from 759 in 1968 to around 25,000 by the mid-2000s – about twice the rate of UK Muslim population growth for the same period. About 100,000 now go annually for Umrah.

In the West, secular governments play no direct role in organising Hajj. Until the 1990s, there were also just a few companies formally arranging Muslim pilgrimages in Britain. So, most UK Muslims travelled to Saudi Arabia as individuals or as part of a small community group. But during the early 2000s, in a bid to improve services to pilgrims, the Saudi authorities insisted that anyone organising Hajj should form a registered company and be properly licensed. By the mid-2000s, they also made buying a “package” from one of these organisers the only way for Muslims

in the West to perform Hajj.

### RISE IN PRICES

Today there are around 117 UK Hajj organisers licensed by Saudi Arabia. Each is responsible for their own annual quota of 150-450 Hajj pilgrim visas. British Muslims now have plenty of choice in terms of package options. But UK pilgrims wanting to perform Hajj in 2018 probably spent as much as £5-6,000 on their package. At an industry event last spring, I was told that a top company selling half their packages for £9,500 per person sold out in six weeks. Even an “economy” Hajj this year cost more than £4,000. Overall, the cost of Hajj-going has increased by around 25% in recent years.

Long-established pilgrim welfare charities such as the Association of British Hujjaj (established 1998) complain that high prices reflect UK organisers' profiteering. But the bigger picture is that the restructured Hajj industry in Saudi Arabia is increasingly privatised and commercialised. The 2-3m Muslims arriving to the city of Mecca for one key week in the calendar create a huge demand for travel, accommodation and other services. And for all its investments in pilgrimage infrastructure, the Saudi government does not control the pricing of flights, rents and so on. Certain local subsidies are being reduced and Saudi VAT and municipality taxes have increased recently, too.

Members of the UK's newly formed Licensed Hajj Organisers national trade association (established 2016) are in a risky business. In the tourism industry, payments are usually made in arrears, but UK Hajj or-

ganisers often make large down payments before packages are even sold. And because they lack the bargaining power of large Muslim governments, Hajj organisers in the West can pay a premium for some services. Political and economic instability, such as wars in the Middle East and the negative impact of Brexit on the pound, also affect pricing.

### REGULATION AND THE FUTURE

The new leadership of Licensed Hajj Organisers are keenly aware of the

complex issues faced by the Hajj and Umrah industry. Few UK Hajj organisers can sell their entire quota without maintaining relationships with networks of sub-agents. Spot checks for “Hajj fraud” by Trading Standards suggest that long selling chains and a lack of proper documentation can encourage “over-selling” and even criminal scams.

That there is a new willingness in the trade to hold fellow organisers to account in this regard is clear from a new code of conduct launched by Licensed Hajj Organisers before Hajj this year. At the same time, many Hajj organisers still argue that the European Package Travel Regulations, intended to regulate “package holidays”, cannot account for the logistical and business complexities of Hajj.

Transformations in the organisation of Hajj-going in Britain represent only a local case study of challenges the Hajj and Umrah industry is facing worldwide. Piety and commerce have always existed cheek-by-jowl in Mecca. But the development of a consumer-capitalist model of religious tourism on the scale envisaged by Saudi Arabia is unprecedented. Great chains of buying and selling as well as believing now connect Muslims to the birthplace of Islam. But there are major issues to resolve across quite different regimes of regulation. For some, this suggests a need for greater international governance of the Hajj and Umrah.

*[The writer is Professor of the Anthropology of Islam, University of Leeds]*

# Climate models predict the world will be ‘anomalously warm’ until 2022

FLORIAN SÉVELLEC  
*theconversation.com*

The next four years are going to be anomalously warm – even on top of regular climate change. That's according to new research my colleague Sybren Drijfhout and I have just published.

We developed a new prediction system we call PROCAST (PROabilistic foreCAST), and used it to predict the natural variability of the climate system. This refers to how the climate varies naturally from warm to cool phases that last a few years at a time, and is separate from the long-term trend of anthropogenic global warming. PROCAST predicts a warm phase for the next few years.

Our work, published in Nature Communications, is important as such forecasts help predict the chances of events like heatwaves or cold snaps months in advance, and it is now well established that anomalous climatic events have a direct human impact. For example, heatwaves lead to excess deaths in only a few weeks. During the 2003 European heatwave, a long drought caused UK wheat production to drop by 12%.

Tougher winters, meanwhile, can worsen respiratory infections, increasing pressure on health services and the supply of drugs. Indeed, consumption of flu vaccines can vary significantly depending on the weather conditions. In the UK, snowy conditions in winter 2010 were estimated to have cost the economy £690m a day, while natural gas consumption increased massively. Predicting these extreme climatic events up to a season in advance is therefore a priority, in order to allow early adaptation and cost-effective mitigation.

Scientists have made some important breakthroughs in understand-

ing and modelling the climate system, yet these have not yet been transferred into an ability to predict the climate from year to year. This inability has its roots in the deterministic chaos of the climate system, which has been popularised by the idea of the “butterfly effect” where the tiniest error in the estimation of the current weather might have significant consequences later.

### THE QUEST FOR ANNUAL FORECASTING

Despite these difficulties, major research centres and national meteorological services have embraced this challenge and a significant effort is currently going toward developing accurate predictions of year to year climate variations. At the core of this development each group and centre relies on its individual state-of-the-art climate model used to propagate into the future the current climate state. Unfortunately, because climate models are not perfect, we are still not able to efficiently predict the climate a few years in advance.

This is where PROCAST comes in. Instead of relying on a single climate model, we combined a range of different climate models used in the context of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 5 (CMIP5). PROCAST can be quickly trained to build on the work already done by these models,

which are already completed and freely available.

This has two obvious advantages. First, it removes any dependence on a single, possibly biased, model. But it also dramatically improves the speed of the predictions – a forecast that previously took a supercomputer an entire week now can be done on a laptop in a few hundredths of a second.

To check if our predictions are accurate and reliable, we conducted a series of a posteriori predictions, or “hindcasts”. We found our system was both accurate (able to predict what actually happened in the future) and reliable (on average, it did not predict events that did not occur).

### FORECASTING THE FUTURE

Our study shows that, on top of the forced warming from climate change, natural variability will induce an anomalously warm phase of more than 0.02°C for 2018, more than 0.03°C for 2018-2019, and more than 0.01°C for 2018-2022. These numbers, which can look unfamiliarly small, are in fact comparable in intensity to the typical rate of global warming experienced each year if averaged it over the past century (around 1°C over 100 years roughly equals 0.01°C every year).

However it is important to acknowledge that the method does not only predict one given value, but a probability. This means that warm years are more likely than cold years for the period 2018-2022. Indeed our research showed that over the next two years it is 64% likely to be anomalously warm. In addition, over the course of the next five years PROCAST predicts a relative decrease in the likelihood of extreme cold years.

*[The writer is Associate Professor in Ocean Physics, University of Southampton]*





# Repatriated Brus demand uniform rehabilitation package

**AIZAWL, AUG 20 (PTI):** An organisation of repatriated Bru community people has demanded that the Centre extend to them the same re-habilitation package being given to the Bru refugees whose repatriation was scheduled to begin later this month.

The final repatriation of 5,407 Bru refugee families from Tripura to Mizoram, scheduled to start from

August 14, was deferred to August 25. The repatriation process was expected to be completed by September 25.

The Equal Package Demand Committee (EPDC), formed last month, raised the demand for equal rehabilitation. The EPDC has earlier threatened to thwart the repatriation process if its demand was not met.

The organisation held a

meeting at Mamit bordering Tripura yesterday, following which a letter on the demand was sent to senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, EPDC chairman Elvis Chorkhy told PTI today.

In the letter, the EPDC expressed gratitude over the attention given to the demands raised by the organisation at a meeting of Joint Monitoring Committee at Dhamcherra, Tripura, on August 10.

As per an agreement signed on July 3, the yet to be repatriated refugee family would get a package of Rs 1.5 lakh for housing assistance, Rs 4 lakh to be withdrawn only after three years, free ration for 2 years and Rs 5,000 per month.

The Brus have already received Rs 80,000 as rehabilitation package and they were demanding Rs 70,000 more. The repatriated Brus

have received free ration for one year and they expect to receive it for another year, Chorkhy said, adding that they also expect to receive Rs 5,000 per month per family.

Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla had supported the demands of the EFDC saying those who obediently returned to Mizoram earlier should be given an equal deal as those who are yet to be repatriated despite several

attempts.

Altogether 32,876 Brus belonging to 5,407 families are currently lodged in six relief camps at Kanchanpur sub-division in North Tripura district.

These Brus are in Tripura since late 1997 in the wake of a communal tension triggered by the murder of a forest guard inside the Dampa Tiger Reserve on October 21, 1997 by Bru National Libera-

tion Front militants.

The first attempt to repatriate them in 2009 failed and triggered another wave of exodus after the killing of a youth three days before the commencement of the repatriation process.

Though some Bru families had returned to Mizoram during a number of repatriation processes and on their own, many of them refused to leave Tripura.

## Plea by Manipur Police personnel on SC's remarks to be heard on Sep 4

**NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today said it would next month hear two pleas filed by some Manipur Police personnel who have alleged that they would not get a fair trial in the alleged fake encounter cases in view of reported remarks of the top court branding them as "murderers".

These police personnel have claimed in their petitions that the apex court bench, hearing the alleged fake encounter killings by the army, Assam Rifles and the state police in Manipur, had reportedly remarked on July 30 that "murderers" were roaming freely in the state.

In one of the pleas filed by six commandos of Manipur Police, the petitioners have claimed that the CBI's special investigation team (SIT) appeared to have charge sheeted them in connection with alleged encounter cases on murder charges under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The court, which is hearing a PIL seeking a probe into as many as 1,528 cases of alleged extra-judicial killings in Manipur, had on July 14 last year constituted the SIT and ordered lodging of FIRs and investigating them. This and another plea today came up for hearing before a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta, which said these would be heard by the bench which is seized of the matter related to alleged fake encounters in Manipur on September 4.

## Nepal suspends services of private chopper firm after death of Indian pilgrim

**KATHMANDU, AUG 20 (PTI):** The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal has temporarily suspended the flight operations of a private helicopter firm after an Indian Kailash Mansarovar pilgrim died when he was hit by the rear blade of its helicopter at a remote helipad in country's Hilsa region.

Manang Air was licensed to operate commercially by the state aviation regulator after it obtained the Air Operator's Certificate (AOC), the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) said. The AOC is a formal certification by the state that the operator is fully-qualified to meet the safety objectives in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's stipulations at the minimum.

According to the official, a technical team from the CAAN has already returned from Humla after collecting ground evidences. Manang Air has been licensed to operate two seven-seater airbus helicopters.

The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil



Aviation has also formed a four-member committee led by Joint-Secretary Buddhi Sagar Lamichhane to probe the accident, according to ministry's spokesperson Ghanashyam Upadhyaya.

The other members of the committee include senior captain Dawa Jangbu Sherpa, senior engineer Bharat Parajuli and engineer Yogesh Aryal.

Kartik Nagendra Kumar Mehta, 42, a resident of Mumbai, died when he rushed to board the helicopter and accidentally hit its tail rotor. He was

beheaded with the tail rotor of the Manang Air helicopter.

The committee has been given 30 days to submit its report. It will also check whether the operator complied with the Flight Operations Requirements-Helicopters (FOR-H), the technical regulations for helicopter operations, while conducting flights.

The FOR-H clearly states that the issuance and continuation of the AOC is dependent upon the operator demonstrating an adequate organisation, method of control and supervision of flight operations, training programme as well as ground-handling and maintenance arrangements consistent with the nature and extent of the operations specified.



## Family of boy born in ATM queue after demonetisation to launch SP's cycle yatra next month

**LUCKNOW, AUG 20 (PTI):** Keen to score a political point, Uttar Pradesh's opposition Samajwadi Party has chosen the family of two-year-old Khajanchi, who was born outside an ATM shortly after the Centre's demonetisation move, to flag-off its over 40-km 'Haq aur Samman Yatra' being carried out in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

And the family of another tiny-tot, Akhilesh, who was born on a state highway last year, will mark the closing of the yatra, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said today.

The cycle yatra on September 16 will be led by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav from Kannauj, the constituency from where he will contest the Lok Sabha polls, to Agra Expressway to highlight the "failures" of the ruling BJP at the Centre and showcase his own party's development vision.

"We have chosen, the family of little Khajanchi, who was born while his mother was standing in an ATM queue to withdraw money after demonetisation. His family

will be flagging off our cycle yatra. It's an attempt to show the failed demonetisation move which severely affected traders and our economy," Akhilesh Yadav told PTI.

Significantly, it was his birth near the ATM that led to the boy being named 'Khajanchi' which means cashier in Hindi.

The yatra after covering over 40 kms will end at the Lucknow-Agra Expressway, where landing of airforce planes were done during Akhilesh Yadav's regime and later by the Yogi Adityanath government also.

The closing of the yatra will be marked by the family of another child, also named Akhilesh, who was born on the expressway near Khabauli village in December 2017.

Residents of Hayatnagar Bhaura village in Bangarmau area of Unnao district, Shivpal Yadav and his wife Meera had left for hospital as soon as she developed labour pain. Just when their car reached the airstrip on the expressway, Meera gave birth to her first child, whom they named Akhilesh.

## Malayalis in J'khand cancel Onam fete, start donation drive

**JAMSHEDPUR, AUG 20 (PTI):** A Malayali association in Jamshedpur has decided to cancel Onam celebrations this year in view of the devastating floods in Kerala that claimed over 200 lives and rendered more than seven lakh people homeless.

The annual harvest festival commenced on August 15, and is set to conclude on August 27.

Kerala Samajam, comprising 3000 members, celebrates Onam in a grand manner every year, but this time no one is in a mood to rejoice, said Sunil Kumar, the general secretary of the association.

The members have launched a week-long campaign in and around the Steel City in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district to raise



money and relief materials for the flood-affected people, he told PTI.

"Onam is a grand affair for the community. We organize various programmes, including 'rangoli' contests, during this period. This year, however, we have decided not to celebrate the annual festival as our brothers and sisters in Kerala are fighting for survival," said

Kumar.

The southern state is battling its worst floods in a century, with more than 200 casualties.

Kerala has suffered a loss of Rs. 19,512 crore due to the deluge, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Saturday.

The general secretary of the association appealed to people to make generous contributions

towards the relief effort.

"We have launched a week-long campaign here and opened two counters on the premises of Samajam office to collect relief materials. The members of the community have connected with the volunteers down south for transporting the materials," he said.

Welcoming the move, Dalbhum Sub-divisional Officer Madhavi Mishra said organizations do not need permission from

the district administration to start a relief collection programme.

"The administration has asked all police stations to cooperate with such initiatives. The police will also keep a check on people or groups who try to take advantage of such drives to loot people," she added.

"The collected cash and supplies will be sent to the Kerala CM's Relief Fund and other rehabilitation camps," he added.

## Book depicting actor as Milkha Singh not published by WB govt: TMC MP

**KOLKATA, AUG 20 (PTI):** A day after actor Farhan Akhtar pointed out an error in a textbook depicting him as legendary athlete Milkha Singh, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien today said the book was neither a part of government school curriculum nor was it published by the state.

The senior TMC leader, however, assured Akhtar that efforts were being made to track the private publishing company that printed the school textbook.

"Thanks Farhan. Ref the wrong pic of Milkha Singh. Checked with education minister of state. He tells me it isn't a textbook for government schools. Nor is it published by government," he said tweeted last night.

"Trying to track the private publishing company. They ought

to correct the mistake in future editions," he said.

The actor, too, thanked O'Brien for his response.

"Appreciate your response. Tagged you since you take education very seriously," he tweeted.

The error went viral on social media yesterday and Akhtar had urged the state government to rectify it. Mikha Singh, known as 'The Flying Sikh' was the first Indian to win an individual athletics gold medal at Commonwealth Games in 1958.

The 44-year-old actor, who essayed the role of Singh in the 2013 biopic 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', took to Twitter to point out that a still from the film had been incorrectly used in the book instead of the athlete's photo.

"To the Minister of School Ed-

ucation, West Bengal. There is a glaring error with the image used in one of the school text books to depict Milkha Singh-ji.

"Could you please request the publisher to recall and replace this book? Sincerely," Akhtar wrote, while re-tweeting the image shared by another Twitter user.

The actor-director tagged West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and O'Brien in his tweet.

Chatterjee yesterday said the government will take necessary steps after finding out the details.

Akhtar received critical acclaim for his performance and 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' bagged National Awards in two categories - Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment and Best Choreography.

# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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### Lakshay claims silver in men's trap for shooting's third medal

**PALEMBANG, AUG 20 (PTI):** Young Indian shooter Lakshay claimed the silver medal in the men's trap event of the Asian Games here today.

The 19-year-old Lakshay shot 39 out of 45 to finish second on the podium.

Taipei's Kunpi Yang won the gold medal while equalling the Games record with 48, while Korea's Daemyeong Ahn bagged bronze after scoring 30 at the JSC Shooting Range.

Manavjit Singh Sandhu, who topped the qualification, finished fourth in the final with 26 after 30 shots, having stayed on course for a while.

This is the Indian shooting contingent's third medal at the ongoing Games.

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## 'Spiritual' shooter Deepak Kumar finally lands a major medal

**PALEMBANG, AUG 20 (PTI):** India's Deepak Kumar produced a late surge to steal a silver in the men's 10m rifle event at the Asian Games, giving the shooting contingent its second medal here.

China's defending champion Yang Haoran was a cut above the rest, winning the gold with an aggregate of 249.1.

Deepak, who was not in the race for a medal until the 18th shot when he produced a perfect 10.9, earned his maiden Asian Games medal with 247.7, pushing Taipei's Lu Shaochuan to third with 226.8 in the 24-shot final.

Ravi Kumar, who had won a mixed team bronze alongside Apurvi Chandela yesterday, was unlucky to miss out on a medal. He was eliminated after the 20th shot, scoring 205.2.

For the Delhi-based Deepak, it was his first major individual medal, after having won a World Cup in mixed team event alongside Mehuli Ghosh in Guadalajara earlier this year.



A medal from a highly competitive field is a promising result but still there is a long way to go before the current crop can match the performances by Olympic medallists Abhinav Bindra and Gagan Narang.

Deepak and Ravi had finished fourth and fifth in the 60-shot classification held earlier today. The top eight qualify for the finals.

Late in the finals, Deepak shot a perfect 10.9 to dislodge his Air Force mate Ravi before producing a 10.8 to pip the Taipei shooter.

Giving a peek into his state of mind while he was trailing for major part of the finals, Deepak said he just thought about what his coach Manoj Kumar would say.

"I was trailing also in the qualification. I just thought about his words. He often says 'you have the potential and you know your limits'. Starting was not good, the middle was worse. So I just tried to stay calm," the 30-year-old told PTI.

Asked how he felt beating his friend and Air Force roommate Ravi, he had a philosophical

take: "We don't think on those lines when you are shooting. We are close friends and spend a lot of time together. But it is an individual sport."

Deepak broke into the Indian team only last year, having picked up shooting back in 2004. However, Deepak sees this medal only as the beginning.

"Everyone keeps thinking about what they will get. I believe in spreading whatever I have learnt from my days in Gurukul. You eventually get your due. There is not point feeling sad about anything. Life is short," said the spiritual shooter.

Deepak's parents sent him to Gurukul Academy in Dehradun for his schooling. He is a Sanskrit expert and tries to spread all values he has learnt at Gurukul.

"I am what I am because of Gurukul. It has taught me the true values of life. My parents sent me away from Delhi because they did not want me to study in a city environment," he added.

## Rowing: Dushyant and men's quadruple sculls team in finals

**PALEMBANG, AUG 20 (PTI):** Dushyant Chauhan and the Indian men's quadruple sculls team finished first in their respective heats to reach the finals of the rowing competition at the 18th Asian Games here today.

Dushyant, who won a bronze at the single sculls in the Incheon Games four years ago, clocked 7:43.08 to emerge the fastest in heat 1 and second overall behind South Korea's Hyunsu Park, who recorded 7:22.08.

Starting off in lane 4, the quartet of Sawarn Singh, Dattu Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh qualified comfortably for the final, clocking 6:15.18



seconds. They finished the fastest overall. The pair of Bhagwan Singh and Rohit Kumar made it to the repechage round in the men's lightweight double sculls event. Singh and Kumar finished second in heat

1 clocking a time of 6:57.75 seconds. In the men's lightweight eight heats, the Indian team comprising Akshat, Jegan Sekar, Hardeep Singh, Sumit, Bhopal Singh, Jagvir Singh, Tejas Hananmant Shinde, Pranay Ganesh Naukarkar and Lakshman Rohith Maradapa finished second with a timing of 6:18.68 seconds. The team finished second in heats and head to the repechage round.

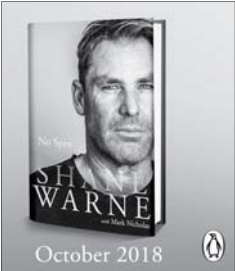
In the women's four heats, the team including Sanjukta Dung, Annu, Navneet Kaur and Yamini Kaur finished last in Heat 1 behind China, Vietnam and Indonesia. They moved to the repechage round.

## Shane Warne to come out with autobiography "No Spin" in October

**NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI):** Spin legend Shane Warne will talk about his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography which will be published this October.

Ebury Press today announced that Warne's memoir "No Spin" will have a global release on October 4.

"No Spin" is the true story behind the headlines, in Warne's own voice, and challenges some of the enduring myths and untruths that sur-



round him.

Uncompromising and compelling, it is destined to rank alongside some of the greatest

sports autobiographies ever, the publisher said.

Andrew Goodfellow, deputy publisher at Ebury, said, "Despite all the pain he's inflicted on us over the years Shane Warne is still one of the most admired and celebrated cricketers to a British audience.

"You simply can't imagine the game without his unique contributions. I think his insight, no-nonsense honesty and strength of voice will make this the most read cricketing autobiography in years. At

Ebury we are all very excited and honoured to be publishing such a legend."

The memoir is written with cricketer and TV presenter Mark Nicholas.

Warne's mesmerising bowling prowess coupled with his personal life (which has long been fodder for the tabloid press) has made him one of the world's most illustrious sportsmen.

Born on September 13, 1969, Warne is widely regarded as one of the finest bowlers in the history of the game. He

played his first Test match in 1992, and took over 1,000 international wickets (in Tests and One-Day Internationals).

A useful lower-order batsman, Warne also scored over 3000 Test runs. He played domestic cricket for his home state of Victoria, and English domestic cricket for Hampshire. He also captained the Rajasthan Royals to victory in the IPL in 2008. He officially retired from all formats in 2013 and currently commentates for Foxtel.



### Djokovic wins Cincy title to complete Masters matched set

**CINCINNATI, AUG 20 (AFP):** Novak Djokovic ended a career-long jinx, lifting the trophy in Cincinnati at last to complete a matched set of Masters 1000 titles.

Djokovic, who came up empty in five prior Cincinnati finals, defeated seven-time winner Roger Federer 6-4, 6-4 in the final.

The former world number one became the first man to win all nine of the ATP's Masters 1000 events in the elite series' current configuration.

Federer, meanwhile, lost a final in the hard-court US Open tuneup for the first time.

"I played five finals (here) before, and most of those finals I lost to this great man, Roger ... thank you for letting me win here once in Cincinnati," Djokovic joked.

"This is a dream come true," Djokovic said.

"I finally won Cincinnati after six finals, some against the greatest ever, Roger."

Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam winner, said his game wasn't sharp -- but he didn't want to take anything away from Djokovic's achievement.

"Novak is a great champion," Federer said. "This is about him making history."

Federer's streak of 100 straight unbroken service games in Cincy was ended by Djokovic in the seventh game of the first set.

The 37-year-old Swiss had been aiming for a 99th career trophy, but was unable to get over the line due in part to four double-faults at the most inopportune of times, but he said his return game was also lacking.

"It was definitely not my best day on the return - it was just awful," Federer said.

"Missing every second serve on the forehand side, I don't know what that was about.

"But I don't even want to look for reasons why it

happened," he added.

"Novak totally deserved to win today. This (effort) was not good enough.

"Good week, but I'm happy it's over and I need to rest," added Federer, his eye on the US Open starting in New York in eight days.

Djokovic claimed the opening set in 37 minutes and came back from an early break in the second to overhaul his long-time rival as they played for the 46th time.

The Serb now leads Federer 24-22 and has won their last three encounters.

The pair had not played since the 2016 Australian Open semi-finals more than two and a half years ago.

Wimbledon champion Djokovic claimed his Masters record on his first match point and now heads to the US Open as a title favorite after a string of sub-par seasons and an elbow injury which required surgery.

"It's a wonderful feeling. it's been a couple of tough months for me with an injury and then winning Wimbledon and Cincinnati," Djokovic said.

Federer started the match with three aces in the opening game, then added a pair of love games for a 3-2 lead.

But it began to unravel as the Swiss double-faulted to yield a break point, dropping serve as Djokovic moved ahead 4-3.

Djokovic took advantage for a 5-3 lead and closed out the set after 37 minutes.

Federer broke for a 2-0 lead in the second set but gave the break back immediately as he double faulted to give Djokovic a break point which the Serb promptly converted.

Djokovic broke again to lead 4-3, and after Federer held to close the gap to 4-5 Djokovic ended the afternoon in the next game on his first match point.

## Worried for flood-affected families but Kerala athletes carry on at Asiad

**JAKARTA/NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI):** The tragedy unfolding in the aftermath of the Kerala floods is finding an echo in faraway Indonesia where athletes from the state have anxiety in their hearts but have their minds focussed on the Asian Games.

A swimmer didn't even know of it until a journalist enquired, a sprinter is worried, while a hockey player is just relieved that his family is in a safe zone even though he is heartbroken for the state.

India's chef-de-mission at the ongoing Games, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, told PTI in Jakarta that the athletes will be updated on the safety status of their families after seeking the home ministry's assistance.

"We will approach the home ministry to find the whereabouts of missing family members of the Kerala athletes. They need support and we want them to compete without taking any load," Singh said.

"I know it's difficult when such tragedies happen but we will try to get assuring news for them," he added.



Kerala's representation is strong in the Indian teams of athletics, volleyball, and basketball besides a significant presence in squads for swimming and hockey. The number adds up to 34 in all.

The athletes are dealing with the conflicting emotions of being

so far away from home amid a calamity that has claimed over 300 lives till now.

"My family is in a safe zone but a lot of my relatives and friends are affected by the terrible floods. I did not expect the situation to be so severe. It is a sad situation,"

sprinter Muhammed Anas, who is the 400m national record-holder and a strong medal-contender at the ongoing Games, told PTI.

Anas hails from Nilamel town near the state capital of Thiruvananthapuram, which has been relatively better off.

Long-jumper Shreeshankar, all of 19 and competing in his maiden Asiad, spoke of the fear of losing his grandparents who were eventually traced out in the Idukki district.

"I have seen the devastation with my own eyes, people dying, houses being flooded and buried by landslides, people living on roads and makeshift places. My own material grandfather's family could not be contacted. Now I have been told by my parents that they were contacted through phone yesterday," Shreeshankar said.

"They are safe and sound but there is no means of transport for them as yet. I am a bit relieved now and hope to focus on the Asian Games," added the youngster, whose appendicitis operation had denied him a shot at Commonwealth Games selection earlier this year.

Swimmer Sajjan Prakash, who finished fifth in the 200m butterfly event last night, is still awaiting some update on his family members but managed to break the national record nonetheless.

"...I was seeing the news and a reporter here, who was in touch informed me. He told me that he spoke to my mother and members of my family are affected by the floods in Kerala," Sajjan revealed.

"My mother is in Tamil Nadu but my maternal family members are stuck in Kerala. We haven't been able to contact them. I would like to hope they are at a safe place," he added.

Sajjan's family members are based in the village of Maniyarankudi in Idukki, one of the worst-affected districts.

Hockey captain P R Sreejesh said even though his family is safe, his heart goes out to the affected people.

"I feel for those who are affected in my home state. It's time we as Indians should unite and extend all our help to the people of Kerala. The state has never witnessed such devastation. My wife is from Idukki which is severely affected," said Indian hockey's most reliable custodian, who is from Kochi, another affected part of the state.



# In his maiden address to nation, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan highlights problems

**ISLAMABAD, AUG 19 (PTI):** Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan today lashed out at the previous PML-N government for current debt crisis which has risen to Rs 28 trillion, saying the country had not been as indebted in its entire history as it has been in the last ten years.

In his maiden address to the nation a day after his swearing in as the country's 22nd prime minister, Khan identified Pakistan's challenges on economic front, deficiencies in the health-care sector and other issues grappling the country.

Outlined his governments approach to resolve the issues, Khan stressed on taking austerity measures, working on tax reforms instead of taking loans, rooting out corruption.

He also spoke about revamping the judiciary, educational and health care reforms, civil service reforms, devolution of power, providing jobs opportunity to youths and building dams to end water crisis.

"Never in Pakistan's history have we faced such difficult economic circumstances. Our debt burden is Rs 28 trillion. We haven't been as indebted in our entire history as we have been in the last ten years," he said.

"The interest that we have to pay on our debt has reached to a level that we have to take more debt to repay our obligations. Our external debt obligations have reached a level that we have to contemplate how we are going to grapple with them,"



Khan said.

"On one hand we are so indebted, and on the other hand our human development index ranking is very poor," he said.

Pointing out the deficiencies in the health-care sector, he said that at present Pakistan is among the five such countries where infant mortality is highest due to use of contaminated water.

"We have the highest rates of mortality for pregnant women. We are unfortunately one of the countries that suffer from the highest incidences of stunting in children. We

are talking about 45 per cent of this nation's children," he said.

"They are not getting proper nutrition. They are not developing properly. They are automatically left behind. What must their parents go through seeing their children in such a state?" he added.

He called up on people of Pakistan to team up with him to eradicate poverty, improve health-care system, provide proper nutrition to children.

"We have two paths ahead of us: one is the path we have taken so far - indebtedness, poverty, no funds to help our most vulnerable.

The Prime Minister pointed out the difference between the growing lifestyles of the rich and the poor, and hinted that he would adopt an austere style of governance.

Khan also said he will not be staying in the sprawling Prime Minister House but in the military secretary's three-bedroom house.

Announcing austerity measures to cut down his own as well as the country's expenditure, he said that he wanted to live in his own house in Banigala "but was told by security agencies that my life was under threat which is why I am living here".

He said that the prime minister house has 524 servants and 80 cars.

"The prime minister, which is me, also has 33 bulletproof cars. We have helicopters and aeroplanes to fly us. We have massive governor houses and every conceivable luxury.

"On one hand we don't have money to spend on our people; on the other hand, we have a section of our people living like our colonial masters used to live," he said.

"Look at how much money is spent by prime ministers on foreign tours? Where do these people spend Rs 650 million? Where does the speaker spend the Rs 160 million budget allotted to him? Are they going abroad to conquer land?" Khan said.

Detailing about the austerity measures, he said "I will keep two people with me out of the 524 and government would auction off all the other bullet proof cars and invite businesses to come and buy them.

"We will put the proceeds of that auction in the state treasury," he added.

He said I wish that all the governor houses are kept as simply as possible.

Khan said that he wished that the PM House be turned into a research university, he will form a committee to figure out how to cut expenses nationwide.

"I also want you to understand that the money we lavish on ourselves could have been spent on those who our state has left behind.

'Naya' Pakistan also requires a new 'soch' (thinking). We have to think about those who we have left behind," he said.

On tax reforms, he said instead of trying to rebuild the economy by taking external loans, his government will try and fulfil its needs from within.

"No country can succeed by taking on debt again and again. Debts are taken for brief periods of time. I will be ashamed to go abroad and ask for money. If the leader of the nation has to go and ask for debt, what will my nation be?" Khan added.

He said only 800,000 people out of 200 million pay taxes in Pakistan.

"We will fix the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and assure the nation that I will be responsible for your taxes. It is your responsibility to pay taxes. If we start paying taxes we will get out of deficit," he said.

He termed money laundering as the biggest problem.

Khan asked the overseas Pakistanis to deposit money in Pakistan's bank and sent remittance through banks.

The prime minister stressed on the need give a boost to exports, saying he has made a business advisory council to help address the challenges of export industries. He said that no one thought of the water crisis.

Khan also stressed on improving the standard in government hospitals, and said a health card would introduced across Pakistan.

## UK confirms Nirav Modi in its territory, CBI moves extradition request

**NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI):** Authorities in the United Kingdom have confirmed that fugitive billionaire Nirav Modi is in their territory following which the CBI has moved an extradition request, officials said today.

The agency has sent the request through proper channels. It has been submitted to the Home Ministry which will send it to the UK through the External Affairs Ministry, they said.



The CBI has also requested the UK authorities to detain him, they said.

Interpol had issued a Red Cor-

ner Notice against Modi, one of the masterminds in over USD 2 billion fraud in the Punjab National Bank.

The case pertains to allegedly cheating the state-run PNB through fraudulent issuance of Letters of Undertakings (LoUs) and Foreign Letters of Credit (FLCs).

The agency recently charge-sheeted both Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi separately in the scam.

## Muslim pilgrims climb Mount Arafat for peak of hajj

**MOUNT ARAFAT, AUG 20 (AFP):** Muslim pilgrims today began ascending Mount Arafat for the climax of the annual hajj which brings together more than two million people from around the world.

A sea of worshippers scaled the rocky hill southeast of the holy city of Mecca for a day of prayers and reflection where Muslims believe Prophet Mohammed delivered his final sermon.

Some of the pilgrims -- men in white seamless garments and women in loose dresses -- pushed elderly relatives in wheelchairs on the second day of the hajj, one of the world's largest annual gatherings.

A hot wind blew across the hill, also known as Jabal al-Rahma (Mount of Mercy), and



the surrounding plain after a downpour late Sunday. Many faithful could be seen sipping from bottles of water.

After sunset, the pilgrims will leave for nearby Muzdalifah where they will gather pebbles to perform the symbolic "stoning of the devil".

The ritual begins in

earnest tomorrow as Muslims observe the first day of Eid al-Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice, which marks the end of the hajj.

Muslims traditionally slaughter sheep for the three-day Eid al-Adha, a tribute to the prophet Abraham's sacrifice of a lamb after God spared Ishmael, his son.

They will consume some of the meat and give the rest to poor people unable to buy food.

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam which every Muslim is required to complete at least once in their lifetime if they are healthy enough and have the means to do so.

## Pak wants 'uninterrupted' dialogue with India: Qureshi

**ISLAMABAD, AUG 20 (PTI):** Pakistan's new Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi today extended the hand of friendship to India soon after taking oath by offering "uninterrupted" dialogue to resolve all the outstanding issues, saying it is the "only wise course" as the two countries cannot afford any "adventurism".

After the swearing-in ceremony at the President House, Qureshi went to Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and addressed media.

Qureshi was the foreign minister from 2008 to 2011 under the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government when the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks took place. He was in New Delhi when 10 Pakistan-based LeT terrorists attacked India's financial capital.

The new foreign minister said Pakistan wants to rebuild ties with eastern and western neighbours and create peace in the region. He said Pakistan wants to resolve all issues with India through talks.

"We need a continued uninterrupted dialogue. It is the only wise course for us," he said.

The India-Pakistan ties nose-

dived in recent years with no bilateral talks taking place.

The ties between the two countries had strained after the terror attacks by Pakistan-based groups in 2016 and India's surgical strikes inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The sentencing of alleged Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav to death by a military court in April last year further deteriorated bilateral ties.

Qureshi, the vice-president of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, today said External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj sent a letter yesterday to congratulate Prime Minister Imran Khan and mentioned about talks to resolve issues.

I welcome her letter, he said.

I want to say to Indian Foreign

Minister that we are not only neighbours but also nuclear powers. We have old issues and we both know what these issues are. We need to address these issues, he said.

Qureshi said that the two countries cannot afford any adventurism due to close proximity.

We cannot afford any adventurism as response time is so short. The only option is to engage with each other. We cannot live in enmi-

ty and we have to accept that there are outstanding issues, he said.

He said Kashmir is an issue and both countries know about it.

He said former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Lahore and Islamabad and recognised the reality of Pakistan and the issue of Kashmir.

"Whether we wish or not, Kashmir is an issue and both countries have recognised it. In my opinion there is no option other than talks to resolve it, he said.

Prime Minister Khan in his maiden address to the nation yesterday said Pakistan will hold talks with all its neighbours to normalise ties as without it peace cannot be brought in the country.

Earlier, in his address after leading his party to victory in the general elections on July 25, Khan had said Pakistan is ready to improve its ties with India and his government would like the leaders of the two sides to resolve all disputes, including the "core issue" of Kashmir, through talks.

"If they take one step towards us, we will take two, but at least (we) need a start," he had said.

**THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY**

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey  
coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the  
region, the cost exacted by this "develop-  
ment" 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.

EDITED BY  
TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

**ESSAYS  
ON TEESTA,  
HYDEL  
AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
IN SIKKIM**

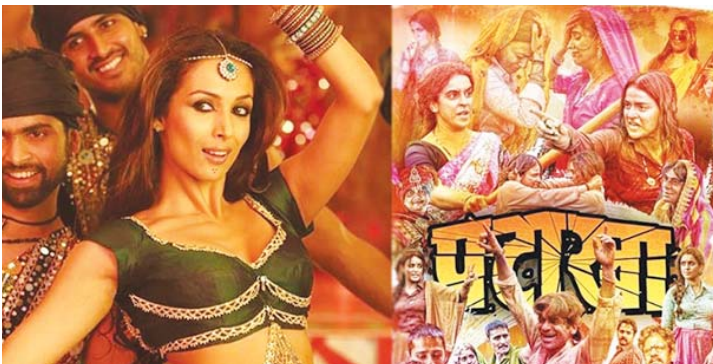
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**GREEN PRISTINE!** Singer, Ciara, looks fantastic in her green dress at the Revlon and Mette Towley celebrate The Volumazing Mascara launch in NYC.

## Malaika to do special song in Vishal Bhardwaj's 'Pataakha'



**MUMBAI, AUG 20 (PTI):** Malaika Arora Khan is set to appear in a special song for Vishal Bhardwaj's upcoming film "Pataakha".

She will be grooving to the number titled "Hello Hello", crooned by Rekha Bhardwaj and penned by Gulzar. Vishal has also composed the music. The song has been choreographed by Ganesh Acharya.

"Malaika started the trend of these special songs, so when we came up with this track for 'Pataakha', she was the first one we thought of casting. When I approached her for the song,

she was very excited and immediately agreed. We are happy to have her on board and this song is tailor-made for her," producer Ajay Kapoor said in a statement.

The song will be filmed this week.

"Pataakha" is a comedy-drama about two sisters, Badki and Chhutki and, is based on an acclaimed short-story by renowned writer Charan Singh Pathik.

Featuring Sanya Malhotra, Radhika Madan, Sunil Grover and Vijay Raaz, the film releases September 28, 2018.

## Filmmaker Srijit Mukherji announces film on 'Gumnami Baba'

**KOLKATA, AUG 20 (PTI):** Filmmaker Srijit Mukherji is set to helm a project centred on 'Gumnami Baba', an ascetic spotted in Uttar Pradesh in the 1970s who many believed was Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in disguise.

The director, who received acclaim for his last outing 'Uma', told PTI that he had been toying with the idea ever since he read a newspaper article on the ascetic in 2016.

With Prosenjit Chatterjee in the titular role, the film is scheduled to go on floors in 2019.

"I am currently doing my homework. The project will commence next year," Mukherji said, refusing to divulge further details about the film.

Sharing a picture of Netaji on his Twitter handle on Saturday, Chatterjee had said, "Today, 18th August, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose boarded the flight in Taiwan before disappearing forever. SVF, Srijit Mukherjee and Prosenjit Chatterjee are delighted to announce a film on the mysterious case of Gumnami Baba, a man many thought was Netaji."

Bose was believed to have survived a plane crash in Taiwan by a section of friends and family members.



A one-man commission constituted by the Centre to find out about the disappearance or death of Netaji nixed the air crash theory but could not confirm if the ascetic in UP was Bose due to absence of "clinching evidence".

SVF co-founder Shrikant Mohta ex-

pressed hope that the film will receive good response at the box office.

"We are optimistic that this film will garner positive critical and audience response," he said.

The yet-untitled film is slated for release in 2019.

## India's 'The Holy Fish' selected for Religion Today Film Festival



**MUMBAI, AUG 20 (PTI):** Indian film "The Holy Fish", directed by Vimal Chandra Pandey and Sandeep Mishra, has been selected for the 21st Religion Today Film Festival in Italy.

The festival screens films that best showcase how religion affects society in modern times.

The feature film category at the festival has movies from Italy, America, Bangladesh, Canada, Russia, Turkey, South Korea, Belgium and Israel. "The Holy Fish" is the sole entry from India.

Shot in Allahabad during the 'magh' festival and in Manikpur village, the film features veteran theatre actor Syed Iqbal Ahmed in the central role of an old man seeking nirvana.

The film also stars National School of Drama (NSD) graduate Suman Patel, who was most recently seen opposite "Mukkabaaz" actor

Vineet Singh in an advertisement for a mobile network.

The story revolves around two lonely souls, an old man and newly-married woman, who travel to the Kumbh mela chasing their dreams. The old man, after a near-death experience, wants to touch the holy fish, which is believed to lead to nirvana while the woman, whose husband has left home, tries to drown her loneliness in the Kumbh crowd.

The background score of the film is given by Rohit Sharma, who worked on Hindi film "Anaarkali of Aarah".

"We are delighted that the film has been selected for this international film festival. We hope that this will make its journey and the process of its release easier," writer-director Pandey told PTI.

"We often get confused between our needs and desires. The film attempts to show this dilemma," he added.



## BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH OFFERED 7.5 MN POUNDS FOR 'DOCTOR STRANGE 2'

**LONDON, AUG 20 (PTI):** Actor Benedict Cumberbatch has been offered a whopping 7.5 million pounds to star in the sequel of his hit film "Doctor Strange".

According to Mirror, the "Avengers: Infinity War" star will get a 5 million pound raise in his salary from the Disney Studios for reprising his role as the title character in another solo film.

"Benedict has become a huge player in the Marvel universe," an insider told the newspaper.

Cumberbatch first played the part in the Scott Derrickson-directed "Doctor Strange" in 2016 and later

appeared briefly in "Thor: Ragnarok", which released last year.

Doctor Strange was a pivotal character in "Infinity War" and the 42-year-old actor will play the part again in the untitled "Avengers 4", which is due to release in 2019.

The paper reported that Cumberbatch has already made 4.2 million pounds in total from his work on the "Doctor Strange", "Thor: Ragnarok" and the last two Avengers movies.

The report also stated that the "Doctor Strange" sequel is expected to start shooting next year.

**ARIES:** Step out of your usual role, Aries. Doing this every now and then can add knowledge and expand your life. The day's planetary aspects favor such growth. Your willingness to walk a different path can give you far more than you imagine. Try something you've never considered before. Go to a new place. Change your desk around. See what you can discover about yourself and the world.

**TAURUS:** Are you satisfied with your current career, Taurus? If not, start by making a plan. There are specific steps that you can take to give you the greatest advantage in the opportunities available. Consider visiting online career sites. There are wonderful articles and tips for the taking. Don't settle for less than you deserve. See what's out there and find a more fulfilling career.

**GEMINI:** Don't fear change, Gemini. Even if you think you don't adjust well, you have far more adaptability than you realize. Without change, life would become stagnant and lifeless. It wouldn't be long before you grew unsatisfied and bored with the same old thing. Try to see change as an adventure and a gateway to greater happiness and fulfillment. Trust in your versatility, too.

**CANCER:** Make your dreams valuable tools for insight, Cancer. Back in the old days, great rulers believed so strongly in the insight of dreams that they employed interpreters. Whether you think dreams are mystical insights or random thoughts, you can gain a lot from them. Recurring dreams are significant and can point to something that needs addressing. Consider exploring this area.

**LEO:** Leo, if there's something interesting that you've wanted to try, this is a great day for it. Adventure brings excitement, creative flow, and energy, which are essential to you. You're highly artistic. Continual stimulation is required to keep your psyche healthy. Experience something new today, even if it's a walk in a new place. You'll get the adrenaline you need.

**VIRGO:** With today's energy, you can take steps toward getting things in order, Virgo. Tackle desk drawers, closets, storage rooms, or filing cabinets. When you create order, you gain a sense of peace and personal control. Mental organization, such as goal planning, brainstorming, or scheduling, will add to this, too. Do what you can to clean out as many mental and physical corners as possible.

**LIBRA:** Today's energy can have you feeling ready for anything, Libra. Given your more radical approach, you may need to keep in check. Humanitarianism is part of your being, so if the pursuit of something you want hurts others, it would be a serious contradiction. Think through your actions before following through to ensure that you remain true to your ethical standards.

**SCORPIO:** Today might be a good day to take a second shot at something that didn't work out the first time, Scorpio. Falling flat on your face can damage your self-esteem and confidence, but such things are part of life, and they really do add character. By going back into the ring, you ensure that you build courage and perseverance.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your ability to find

innovative approaches to things may serve you well today, Sagittarius. Strong energy and mental acuity continue today, and you'll find that most things come easily. When approaching projects, take extra time to consider possibilities. Try seeing things from every angle. You'll likely find far more choices than you originally thought there were. Jot down ideas.

**CAPRICORN:** If long-overdue work has piled up, Capricorn, today is the day to dig in. This is especially so for things you weren't able to handle yesterday. Fortunately, you have added strength and mental acuity. Things will go smoothly. Make the most of this energy by not putting off anything. The pile will just grow if you procrastinate. Do what needs to be done and you'll feel great.

**AQUARIUS:** Don't worry about be-

ing productive today, Aquarius. You might still accomplish more than you have in a long time. The cosmic energy indicates that if you didn't get everything done that you wanted to yesterday, you're sure to do it today. Dig in your heels and go. Things will get done with time to spare. If you're into a creative hobby, work on that, too. You'll find it rewarding.

**PISCES:** Expect an added boost of physical energy today, Pisces. It's an excellent day to clean out closets. Exercise like yoga or walking will be most enjoyable. It could also prove to be well worth your while to look at your goals. Are you where you want to be at this stage of your life or are there changes that need to be made? Give your brain and body a good workout.