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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Article 370: Protests in UK as British MPs launch tit-for- tat letters

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, AUG 10 (PTI): British Kashmiri groups staged protests in the UK against the Indian government's decision to withdraw the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, even as UK MPs launched tit-for-tat letters to Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the issue.

The Stop Killing in Kashmir protest saw a group of anti-India banner-wielding protesters gather outside the Consulate General of India in Birmingham on Friday at a demonstration organised by the Tehreek-e-Kashmir pro-independence outfit.

Meanwhile, a group of British Muslim MPs from the Opposition Labour Party had issued a letter to Johnson demanding that the UK strongly condemn the actions of the Indian government as it described the decision to revoke Article 370 as an orchestrated coup by India.

The letter calls on the British PM to consider the wider context of the action led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is drafted by UK shadow minister for justice Yasmin Qureshi and signed by eight other mostly Pakistani-origin.

In a counter-attack, Conservative Party MP Bob Blackman hit back with his letter addressed to the British PM on Friday, accusing the Labour Party of breaking from Britain's long-held position that any matter concerning Kashmir is a strictly bilateral issue.

Blackman, the north London MP who has been a long-time supporter of Modi, writes in his letter that as a democratically elected government, the Indian Prime Minister is perfectly entitled to implement his party's election manifesto.

Constitutional changes are an internal matter for India. There is a widely respected convention that we do not interfere in the domestic affairs of a third country, especially a long-standing friend and ally like India, he notes.

The Tory MP accused the Opposition MPs of making provocative claims against India which has a long-established tradition of respecting all faiths. The letter attracted support on social media from a wide range of BJP supporters.

Alongside the (rather effective) political point scoring, Bob Blackman makes very serious points which merit equally serious response from the Labour Party. Surely you can't allow unrepresentative minority of MPs hijack the long-standing friendship, said

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Aditya will resign if I become MLA: Golay

SKM CELEBRATES JAN UNMUKTI DIWAS

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 10 AUG: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president and Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] today said that the day he becomes an MLA, his son and Soreong-Chakung MLA, Aditya Golay will resign from the Assembly. He said this during the celebration of the party's Jan Unmukti Diwas held at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Marchak near Ranipool.

Mr Tamang further said that he does not want his sons or family members to benefit from politics, business or contract work.



"Aditya is serving the people as an MLA and I have instructed my other son to serve patients in hospitals. They will

be doing people's work 'Jan Sewa' unlike Chamling's sons and family who took up big business ventures. We have to end

the culture of nepotism," he said.

Jan Unmukti Diwas is organized to mark the release of Mr Tamang from

prison on 10 Aug 2018 after serving a one-year sentence in a corruption case. It was also on 10 August 2017 when the

SKM president was sent to jail to serve his one year sentence.

While on Friday, SDF MLA, GT Dhungel had attended an SKM event in South Sikkim, today his colleague Em Prasad Sharma, was seen at the Jan Unmukti Diwas function.

It may be recalled that the two MLAs had also attended the recent Budget Session going against party decision to boycott Assembly sessions and had also requested the Speaker to provide them seats away from their party legislators.

Addressing the huge gathering, Mr Tamang said, "We are not in power to favour our party workers only. We are in power to work and serve all the people of Sikkim. I dedicate this day to all the people of Sikkim and

also to the party workers who worked hard to bring a Vyavastha Pari-vartan in Sikkim."

Recalling his time in prison Mr Tamang said, "I worked for my party even in jail and I did not allow any personal setback to affect my work for the party and people. Our party workers did not lose hope when I was in jail and all the Krantikaris worked hard."

Alleging that former CM, Pawan Chamling would hand out money in yellow envelopes to visitors, Mr Tamang said that he does not do that because he believes in working for the people.

"SDF is saying that they will form the government again after six months when by-elections are held. They seem to be still dreaming

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Gangtok celebrates Guru Rinpoche's Thungkar Tshechu

GANGTOK, 10 AUG (IPR): Guru Rinpoche's Thungkar Tshechu (birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava) was observed in a grand manner in Gangtok today with a religious procession taken out through town.

Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs Department, Sonam Lama was present on the occasion and offered his prayers.

A religious procession started out from Dotapu Chorten Gumpa on a bright sunny morning, today, wherein a statue of Guru Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche) specially made and con-



secrated by Drodupchen Rinpoche was carried along with Ser-Treng, sZong Tingdar and rare Guru Terzoet main scrip-

tures in 60 volumes. The procession organised by Sikkim Buddhist Duechen Organisation

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1. Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPC)

(for redressal of complaints not covered under Ombudsman Schemes of RBI)
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General Manager and Officer-in-Charge.
Address: Reserve Bank of India, Tseyang Dzong Building, Amdo Golai, Tadong, Gangtok – 737102,
Telephone No. 03592-281118/281117. Fax No 03592-281113.
Email ID: cms.cepcgangtok@rbi.org.in
Office time: 09:30 hrs to 17:45hrs

2. Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BO Scheme) 2006

(for redressal of complaints against banks covered under and on grounds listed in Clause 8 of BO Scheme)
Office of the Banking Ombudsman (Kolkata)
C/o Reserve Bank of India
Address: 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India, 15 Netaji Subhash Road. Kolkata-700001
Telephone No: 033 2230 6222/5580
Fax No 033 2230 5899
Email ID: cms.bokolkata@rbi.org.in
Office time: 09:30 hrs to 17:30 hrs

3. Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC-O Scheme), 2018

(for redressal of complaints against NBFCs covered under NBFC-O Scheme and on grounds listed in Clause 8 of NBFC-O Scheme)
NBFC Ombudsman (Kolkata Centre/ Zone)*
C/o Reserve Bank of India
Address: 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India, 15 Netaji Subhash Road. Kolkata-700001
Telephone No 033 2262 8772 Fax No 033 2230 5899.
Email ID: cms.nbfckolkata@rbi.org.in
Office time: 09:30 hrs to 17:30 hrs

Note: *The Jurisdiction of NBFC Ombudsman for Kolkata Centre/Zone covers West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Bihar and Jharkhand.

4. Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT, 2019)

(for redressal of complaints against system participants as defined under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 covered under and on grounds listed in Clause 8 of OSDT)
Digital Payments Ombudsman (Kolkata)
C/o Reserve Bank of India
Address: 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India, 15 Netaji Subhash Road. Kolkata-700001
Telephone No: 033 2262 8772 Fax No 033 2230 5899.
Email ID: cms.odtkolkata@rbi.org.in
Office time: 09:30 hrs to 17:30 hrs

[NOTE: Complainant MUST indicate his/ her name, address and contact number in the complaint.]

5.Complaints against Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

For complaints against DICGC, members of public can lodge the complaint at following address/e-mail Id:
Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

The General Manager
DICGC, Complaint Redressal Cell
RBI Building, 2nd Floor
Opp. Mumbai Central Railway Station
Mumbai – 400 008.

Complainant can also approach Smt Rita Sarkar Moria, General Manager on Telephone No. 022-23019633 Ext No. 8201 or through e-mail dicgc@rbi.org.in

Note 1:For filing complaint under the BO Scheme, 2006 or NBFC-O Scheme, 2018, OSDT 2019 or CEPC, the complainant may please note that he/ she should first approach the branch of the bank / NBFC/ system participant for redressal of his / her grievance. If the grievance regarding deficiency in service listed in Clause 8 of the respective Ombudsman Schemes against any bank / NBFC/ System Participant is not redressed within 30 days or if complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank / NBFC/ System Participant concerned, he/she can approach the concerned Ombudsman anytime within one year of receipt of reply from the bank / NBFC/ system participant or where no reply is received, anytime within one year and one month from the date of representation to the bank / NBFC/ system participant.

Note 2:Complaints to the Ombudsman against banks / NBFCs / System Participants and to the CEPCs against banks / System Participants can be filed on the basis of location of branch or office of the respective entity. For centralized operations and complaints to CEPCs against NBFCs, the complaint can be filed before the forum within whose territorial jurisdiction the billing / declared address of the customer is located.

Appeal against decision of Ombudsman

Appeal against decision of Banking Ombudsman / NBFC Ombudsman/ Ombudsman for Digital Transactions can be filed online on CMS at [https:// www.rbi.org.in](https://www.rbi.org.in)>> Lodge a Complaint >> File an Appeal or sent to the Appellate Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Central Office, 1st Floor, Amar Building, Sir P M Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 within 30 days of receipt of the communication of the respective Ombudsman's decision, only if the complaint is closed under the appealable Clauses of the respective Schemes.

Guru Thungkar Tshechu celebrated in Upper Rakdong



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 10 AUG:

Monasteries across the State observed the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava today. The Dzog-Chen Tensung Monastery of Upper Rakdong in East Sikkim also celebrated the auspicious day today with the “Rikzing Sokdup” prayers offered by around 100 monks of the monastery

led by the Omje and Dorjee Lopon.

The Guru Thungkar Tshechu prayers were organised jointly by the Gumpa committee, well-wishers and zindas [patrons].

The president of the Gumpa committee, TS Lepcha expressed gratitude to all the devotees and zindas for their wholehearted support for the prayers.

Flood situation grim in southern, western states; 97 dead

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM /AHMEDABAD, AUG 10 (PTI):

Kerala and Karnataka are facing a grim situation on Saturday as floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains left 66 people dead, while over four lakh people have been evacuated in Maharashtra and 19 lost their lives in rain-related incidents in Gujarat. Forty-two people died in rain-related incidents with 80 landslides in eight districts of Kerala since August 8, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said.

Many people are still feared trapped under debris following major landslides that hit Kavalappara in Malappuram and Puthumala in Mepadi in Wayanad even as a red alert has been issued in eight districts of Ernakulam, Idukki, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he might visit his flood-ravaged constituency of Wayanad on August 11.

“Probably going to Kerala tomorrow. I don’t want to disturb the rescue missions there. If I go there, I will be there for two days. I have spoken to the prime minister, (Kerala) chief minister, district collector and Congress workers of the state,” he told reporters in New Delhi. One of the four shutters of the Banasuragar dam, located about 21 km from Kalpetta in Wayanad was opened at 3 pm to discharge excess water and people on the banks of the Kabini river have been asked to be cautious.

Banasuragar, one of the largest earth dams in India and the second largest of its kind in Asia, impounds the Karamana-thodu tributary of the Kabini River.

Several trains have been cancelled and flight operations from the Kochi international airport,

which had been suspended following inundation, will resume at noon on Sunday, an airport official said.

Across Kerala, 1,24,464 people have been shifted to 1,111 relief camps, including 25,0028 in Kozhikode and 24,990 in Wayanad, officials said.

The flood situation worsened in Karanataka too, where the death toll rose to 24 in rain-related incidents.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has termed the natural calamity the “biggest” in 45 years.

The state government pegged the losses caused by rains and floods at Rs 6,000 crore and Yediyurappa revealed that his government has sought Rs 3,000 crore as relief from the Centre.

Landslides were reported near Maranahalli in Sakaleshpur, official sources said.

The entire Pane Mangaluru village in Dakshina Kannada district was inundated by the swollen Netravati river, they said.

Over four lakh people have been moved to safety from the flood-hit parts of Maharashtra so far, including 3.78 lakh from the worst-hit Kolhapur and Sangli districts where the situation showed signs of improvement on Saturday as the water level started receding. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis reviewed the rescue and relief operations in Sangli on Saturday and interacted with the people. He assured all assistance to them.

Addressing a press conference there later, Fadnavis attributed the flooding to “unprecedented” rainfall during this monsoon, which he said was “more than double” of what was witnessed in 2005, when many parts of the state, including large areas of Mumbai, were submerged.

Gangtok celebrates...

and Sikkim Buddhist Association, Gangtok, with support from various other religious organizations, NGOs, social organization and associations, had the presence of school children, laymen and devotees in large number, which was halted at White Memorial Hall where Chief Minister, PS Golay offered prayers.

The statue of Guru Padmasambhava was kept there for some time to allow the dignitaries and devotees to offer Jyaldar and prayed, after which the journey of the procession led back to Chorten Gompa.

Revered as the patron saint of Sikkim, the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava is observed every year with prayers organized for all sentient beings.

Sikkim boy among 3 winners of 10th Garnier Men Mega Mister North East

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

Sikkim boy Sonam Paul Tenzing Bhutia was among the three winners of Garnier Men Mega Mister North East 2019, the grand finale of which was held on Thursday evening. The other winners are Lukanand Kshetri-mayum from Manipur and Jonathan Thango from Mizoram.

A press release informs that Lukanand Kshetrimayum also won the title of Mister International India thus qualifying him directly to represent India in the Mister International pageant to be held later this year.

Mega Mister North East is the biggest man-hunt of northeast India, which has been conceptualized by leading fashion entrepreneur Abhijit Singha, and produced by Mega Entertainment, the release mentions.

The grand finale of the 10th edition had 50 contestants from across the North East region.

22-year-old Sonam Paul Tenzing Bhutia from Sikkim has just completed his master’s degree in commerce.

“I feel extremely honoured and privileged on winning the biggest man-hunt of north east India. This opportunity that I have received is something that I have dreamt of since a long time and means a lot for me. I am very thankful to Mega Entertainment for believing in me and for putting up such great platform where youngsters can make a mark in the fields



of their choice and nurturing them to forge their path ahead. I want people to encourage Mega Entertainment because it is giving the youngsters a mission and an opportunity to become a compassionate and confident individual, thus diverting our generation from societal issues like substance abuse, depression and suicidal tendencies that have been adversely affecting our society. I am also very grateful to the people of my state Sikkim for their immense love and support during the contest,” the release mentions.

The three winners will be offered profes-

sional representation by Mega Entertainment, a professional grooming session, which would guide them further on how to carry themselves forward in the professional sphere. Besides, the winners also get the opportunity to walk the ramp in various national and international shows.

The judges for the event were Mega Miss North East 2016 Meriya Subba, Mega Mister North East 2017 Babul Koch, Fashion & Lifestyle Promoter Monika Devi, Hotelier and entrepreneur Bobby Singh, and Fashion Photographer Rahul Biswas.

The pageant organizers were also judged for a series of sub-awards.

Pouguilung Abel Golmei from Manipur was awarded Radisson Blue Mister Hospitality; Moathy Longchar from Nagaland won the Shout-out Northeast Mister Congeniality title; winner Jonathan Thango from Mizoram was given the Sin Denim Mister Gamechanger subtitle award; Tseteej Shiwa-koty from Sikkim won the Garnier Men Look of the Year subtitle; and Paul Paokhothang Haokip from Manipur won the Vodafone SuperNet 4G Mister Popular subtitle.

Addl Chief Secy attends seminar on HRD and RTI Act

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG [IPR]: Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, GP Upadhyaya represented Sikkim in the seminar on ‘Human Resource Development and Right to Information Act, 2005’ organised by the Central Information Commission at New Delhi on 09 Aug, 2019.

The seminar was attended by Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commissioners, former Information Commissioners, State Information Commissioners, NGOs and other stake-holders.

Presenting a paper on behalf of the Education Department, Mr Upadhyaya spoke about the process being adopted by the Education Department in Sikkim in dissemination of information under the Act. He mentioned about the innovative practices of the Department in implementation of the

Act by way of periodical trainings to the Public Information Officers of the Department, proactive disclosure through departmental websites, extending all possible and reasonable support to the citizens while seeking and availing required information under the Act.

The key-note address was delivered by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, former Head ISRO and chairman of Committee for National Education Policy. Vanaja N Sarna, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, N. K. Gupta, Information Commissioner, CIC and Narinder Cuhan, State Information Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh, Anita Karwal, Chairperson, CBSE, Devendra Kumar Singh, RTI activist and N Kumutha, Associate Professor, Sudharsan Engineering College addressed the Seminar.

5-day awareness program on substance abuse at Singtam



YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 10 AUG:

A five-day awareness event is being organized at Singtam Bazaar from 10-15 Aug to provide a platform for victims of substance abuse. The event kicked off today at Mandi Bazaar with acoustic performances.

The event will include dancing, singing, beat boxing as well as a painting exhibition-cum-sale by Krypton Arts Society Sikkim of Singtam.

Paper Pursuit a musical band will also be performing on 15 Aug near

the open theater outside Singtam police station.

The event is being organized by Susan Subba who shared that with this event she hopes to spread awareness regarding the ill effects of stigma that is attached to drug users. She also said that Singtam being labeled a drugs hub is not good and people should refrain from making such comments.

Ms Subba was accompanied by her team members namely Samuel Sunam, Deepa Chettri, Thinley Tamang and Diksha Rai.

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Aditya will...

because our party has a huge majority now. In fact, the two opposition MLAs are already in favour of our party and we will also sweep the by-election. Poklok-Kamrang constituency was left underdeveloped for 25 years by the SDF government but we will bring a total transformation in terms of development in Poklok Karmang,” said Mr Tamang.

Mr Tamang informed that house upgradation works will start after 15 August for which fund of Rs. 16 crore has been sanctioned.

Political Secretary to CM and SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, also addressed the gathering. He said Jan Unmukti Diwas is celebrated to free the people from oppression and will be annually celebrated by the party.

On the occasion, Mr Tamang and others were felicitated to mark the ‘historic day’. The programme was attended by all the MLAs and Ministers, party leaders and workers. However, acting president and Minister KN Lepcha did not attend the function owing to his ill-health.

Article 370: Protests...

Manoj Ladwa, a BJP supporter and CEO of UK-based media house India Inc.

Downing Street has not made an official statement on the issue but in a read-out of a telephone conversation between Johnson and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan earlier this week, the situation was referred to as serious .

The leaders discussed the serious situation in Kashmir and agreed on the importance of maintaining dialogue, the Downing Street statement said.

India has maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is its integral part and the issue of withdrawing special status to the state and its bifurcation are strictly internal to the country.

The UK government has previously expressed concerns over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after India scrapped Jammu and Kashmir’s special status and bifurcated it into two union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

We’ve expressed some of our concerns around the situation and called for calm, but also had a clear read-out of the situation from the perspective of the Indian government, said UK foreign secretary Dominic Raab, when asked about the issue during his visit to the US.

In a previous statement, UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spokesperson had said the UK was following developments closely and supported calls for the situation to remain calm.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi defended his government’s decision to scrap the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and promised all-round development, early and transparent elections and an end to terrorism there.

“Removal of Article 370 is a reality, and it was a well thought out decision,” Modi said during his address to the nation on Thursday on the situation in Kashmir.

LOST

I, Sagar Tamang, s/o Prem Tamamg, r/o Namchi South Sikkim have lost my original Old School Certificate Cum Pass Certificate of Namthang Senior Secondary School, South Sikkim between Namchi Bazar to Near Namchi District Court on 01/07/2019. My Roll Number is 3143789, School Number: 05446 and Centre No: 3766. If found please contact Sagar Tamang, Namchi, South Sikkim or Nearest Police Station.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

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Mr. Subash Lama
Proprietor
Hotel Parasol Residency,
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SummitTIMES IN NEPALI



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Omega Christian Church celebrates golden jubilee with felicitations



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

Omega Christian Church on Saturday celebrated its golden jubilee with the felicitation of Pastors and Leaders for their contributions towards the growth of the church over the past 50 years.

Omega Christian Church is one of the oldest churches in the State, established by its Founding Pastor the late Rev James Bejoy Kumar Basnet in the year 1969 here at Development Area.

At a special programme held here in

the mini auditorium of Manan Kendra today, the church felicitated pastors and leaders from different churches from within and outside the State.

On the occasion, speakers also shared memories of working with the founding pas-

tor of the OCC, late Rev James Bejoy Kumar Basnet, and detailed instances of his hard work, dedication and contributions towards bringing Omega Christian Church to its present level.

The word of God was shared by Pastor Daniel

Bardewa and the programme has also featured Hymn presentation by the Omega Christian Church Choir.

The programme started with an opening prayer by Pastor Renzino Lepcha, followed by a welcome address by Omega Church Committee president, Dr Annie Deborah, and a brief sketch about the church and its founding pastor by the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee chairperson, MT Sherpa.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Pastor Rinko Tenzing, a closing prayer by Pastor Stephen Neopaney and benediction by Pastor Renzino Lepcha.

Earlier in the morning, the Goshen Jubilee Hall was inaugurated by Anita Basnet, wife of the late Rev James Bejoy Kumar Basnet, at the church complex.

Sikkim Himalayan enters semi-final of I-Day Cup



SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club has also progressed to the semi-final round of the ongoing Independence Day Football Tournament, 2019 for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup here at Paljor Stadium. A hat-trick by Eugene helped Sikkim Himalayan SC thrash United Football Club, Darjeeling 5-nil in the third quarter-final match played on Saturday.

Eugene scored an early lead for the home team in the 14th minute

and completed his brace in the 43rd minute to end the first half with 2-0 lead for Sikkim Himalayan SC. In the early minutes of the second half, Musa extended the lead of the home team to 3-0 in the 46th minute.

Continuing his attacking game, Eugene scored his hat-trick in the 54th minute to take the lead of Sikkim Himalayan SC to 4-0 and soon his teammate, Kilp Barfungpa further extended the lead of the home team to 5-0 in the 63rd minute.

The Darjeeling team played their hearts out

throughout the match and made many good attacks but they were not able to give a proper finish to score any goal in the match.

Sikkim Himalayan SC will take on Kalimpong XI in the first semi-final match of the tournament on 12 August. Kalimpong XI had defeated Sikkim United FC in the first quarter-final match of the tournament.

The defending champion of the tournament, ARC Shillong will take on Sikkim Police in the last quarter-final match on Sunday.

Send all-party team to Kashmir for views on Article 370: Oppn

CHENNAI, AUG 10 (PTI): Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu led by DMK on Saturday urged the Centre to put on hold the Kashmir reorganisation Act and demanded sending an all-party delegation to that state to invite public opinion on Article 370 which gives such a status.

DMK president M K Stalin convened a meeting of his party allies, including Congress, Left and the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

A resolution adopted at the meeting 'A new law for Kashmir be put on hold', apparently referring to the reorganisation Act, said while many issues including those concerning farmers and labourers were unresolved, the BJP-led NDA had gone ahead by scrapping Article 370.

People had voted for a successive term of the government expecting solution to various problems but were only disappointed, it said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government second term has already run aground", it said. The resolution said the 'sudden changes' in Kashmir were done after imposing Governor's rule and they include placing leaders under house arrest and blocking communication.

The resolution alleged this move was unjustifiable and charged the government with misusing people's mandate to implement such an initiative. Article 370 had been given to Jammu and Kashmir after much deliberation by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, among others, the resolution said.

"Scrapping this special power amounts to murder of democracy and betrayal of people of Kashmir and an attack on the Constitution," the resolution said.

It alleged that Centre's move amounted to shaking the very base of Indian democracy.

Serena powers past No. 1-bound Osaka, Halep retires hurt



TORONTO, AUG 10 (AFP): Serena Williams won the rematch Friday, dominating Naomi Osaka 6-3, 6-4 to ensure the Japanese star won't leave Toronto with a title to go with her number one world ranking.

Williams fired 12 aces and didn't face a break point as she beat Osaka for the first time in three meetings -- avenging her shock loss in last year's controversial US Open final in which the American star was docked a point and a game after losing her temper when warned about coaching.

There was no such drama in Toronto, where Williams broke Osaka for a 5-3 lead in the first and closed out the opening set with a service winner.

She broke again for a 2-1 lead in the second and never looked like surrendering the advantage. Even a run-in with the net cord -- as she raced forward trying to run down a drop shot -- didn't faze her.

"It hurt, but it wasn't the end of the world," Williams said.

The American's lone wobble came in the final game. After a pair of aces gave her a triple match point, Williams offered up a double fault and two backhands into the net before she closed it out with an ace on her fourth match point. "We

haven't played since New York, which was a really good match for her," said Williams, adding that she feels her own game is coming on as she'd hoped in the buildup to this year's US Open at Flushing Meadows.

"I'm getting there," said Williams, who hasn't dropped a set this week as she pursues a fourth Toronto title to go with those she won in 2001, 2011 and 2013.

"It's definitely not where I want to be, but I'm getting there," Bouzkova books Serena 'dream' -

Osaka said she played too defensively -- something she said was hard to avoid when Williams was hitting 31 winners.

"But I think there were chances where she hit shorter balls, but I wasn't expecting her to hit the shorter balls, so I didn't move up on time," she said.

In the semi-finals Williams will face Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova, who advanced when Wimbledon champion Simona Halep retired with Achilles tendon trouble after dropping their first set 6-4.

"I've always wanted to play Serena," said Bouzkova, a 21-year-old ranked 91st in the world.

"It's always my dream to play against her," Bouzkova notched her third

straight win over a Grand Slam champion, having beaten former US Open winner Sloane

Stephens and former French Open champ Jelena Ostapenko.

But Halep marked her first win over a top-five player.

The Romanian, who roared back from 0-4 down to level the set at 4-4 only to lose the last two games, said she had been bothered by her Achilles tendon from the start of the tournament.

"And today I felt it more, so that's why I decided to retire," said Halep, no doubt exercising extra caution with the final Grand Slam of the year due to start on August 26.

Despite the defeat, Osaka is assured of a return to world number one next week after the second-round exit of top-ranked Australian Ashleigh Barty and a quarter-final defeat for third-ranked Czech Karolina Pliskova.

Canadian teen Bianca Andreescu ousted Pliskova 6-0, 2-6, 6-4 after one hour and 49 minutes to doom the Czech's bid to regain the top spot for the first time since 2017.

Andreescu advanced to a semi-final clash with American Sofia Kenin, who defeated Ukraine sixth seed Elina Svitolina 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

Sunakhari Samaj in semis of I-Day football at Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 10 AUG [IPR]: The sixth day of the ongoing Independence Day open football tournament at Kyongsha ground was played two local teams today.

Government contractor KN Bhutia was present as the chief guest accompanied by Addl Chief Engineer (Roads) Thandup Bhutia as guest of honour, SE [Power] Sonam Dorjee Bhutia and other departmental officials as the special guest.

Sunakhari Samaj, Tikjek, defeated We United of Gyalshing 6-5 in penalty kicks and have entered the semifinals of the tournament.

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After LS debacle, Cong, CPI(M) share seats for Bengal bypolls

KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): The Congress and the CPI(M) have sealed a seat adjustment for the upcoming bypolls in three Assembly segments in West Bengal to stop the march of the BJP and the Trinamool Congress in the state.

The state leadership of the two parties decided in a meeting late on Friday that while the Congress will contest North Dinajpur district's Kaliaganj seat and West Midnapore district's Kharagpur seat, the CPI(M)-led Left Front will fight Nadia district's Karimpur seat.

"The Congress will contest two seats and the CPI(M) will fight on one. Our alliance will bring a new dawn in Bengal politics. Together, we will defeat the communal politics of BJP and TMC," West Bengal Congress

president Somen Mitra said. The CPI(M) leadership, however, termed it only as a "seat adjustment" but was hopeful of halting the BJP's march in the state.

The Kaliaganj seat fell vacant after the death of sitting Congress MLA Parmathanath Roy while Kharagpur's BJP MLA Dilip Ghosh won the Medinipur Lok Sabha constituency.

On the other hand, TMC's Karimpur MLA Mahua Moitra emerged victorious in the Krishnanagar Lok Sabha seat. The Congress and the CPI(M) had come together for the 2016 Assembly polls but failed to impact the TMC performance.

Their attempts to seal a pre-poll alliance for the Lok Sabha elections failed after they could not agree to a seat-sharing formula.

Both the parties performed poorly in the Lok Sabha elections, with the Congress winning just two seats and losing security deposits in 38 other constituencies.

The Left Front failed to win a single seat, losing security deposits in 39 constituencies.

On the other hand, the BJP won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats, only four behind TMC's 22 seats.

Since its impressive performance, the saffron party is now targeting to unseat the TMC from power in the 2021 Assembly elections.

The ruling party in West Bengal, on the other hand, is trying to turn the tide back to its favour after witnessing a sharp dip in its 2014 Lok Sabha election tally of 34 seats to 22 seats this general election.



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The date for conducting the written examination for filling up of 02(two) posts of Sub-Inspector, Excise (Abk.) under Excise (Abk.) Department as notified vide no: 65/SPSC/EXAM/2019 Date: 18/07/2019, through Direct Recruitment are hereby scheduled as under:-

Sl.NO.	Mode of Examination	Time	Venuw	Date
1.	Paper I- General English & General Knowledge.	10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Government College, Burtuk, Old India Press, Gangtok.	18/08/2019.
2.	Paper-II Main Paper	01:00 pm – 04:00 pm		

Candidates are instructed to produce the Admit Card in the examination center which was issued for the purpose of PET.

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So Much for People's Verdict

Rewarding sycophancy creates opportunistic "leaders"

Sikkim Democratic Front appears to be hemorrhaging "leaders" faster than dams in the State release water every time it drizzles, without enough warning and without too much care for how the people will be affected. Other parties have bled similarly in the past, albeit on a slower drip, and it is frustrating how aggressively naked opportunism continues to infect the public space and how effortlessly public representatives can ignore public ridicule so long as they can snuggle up to the dispensation in office. There has not been one assembly in the eight that Sikkim's voters have elected in which there has not been any opportunistic disaffection.

We opened this commentary with the result, not election results, but the result of shallow ambition, superficial commitment to ideology and fluid loyalties. Perhaps it is time to meditate a bit on the environment which muscles such obvious self-centeredness into the public domain and allows it to be flaunted without enough calling out or comment. There is an entire attendant discussion on how the public domain has been atrophied into platforms big enough only to accommodate propaganda and disingenuous half-truths and selective retellings. But let's leave that strand for some other time.

The blasé nature of leaders – elected, self-proclaimed or handpicked – when it comes to abandoning camps and auctioning their support is not new to Sikkim. As mentioned earlier, it has happened with every party and in every Legislative Assembly that Sikkim has seen. Hence, while there was a lot of scoffing when the Upper Tadong MLA, GT Dhungel, a first-timer elected on an SDF ticket, not only went against the party decision and turned up for the budget session but also showed up at an event in which many more hundred switched sides from SDF to SKM, there was no surprise. Most people only wondered why he could not have waited a few more months, may be till after the by-elections, before such a blatant capitulation. Imagine, people have been reduced to wondering over timing and are no longer shocked by the act itself! Such is the image that elected representatives have established for themselves that neither consistency, nor loyalty is expected of them. There is also no clarity at present over what the other MLAs of the former "ruling" party are planning for the present term.

Why such "leaders" are so commonplace is not because electoral politics demands compromises but clearly more so because the process that precedes an election is one in which sycophancy enjoys primacy over commitment or ability. Coteries tend to congeal around centres of power much faster in Sikkim than anywhere else and this scenario feeds favoritism, starting from how party office bearers are chosen across the various levels to how even candidates are selected. It is not rare for party functionaries to be among the more unpopular residents of the area and when the same practice of disconnected selection continues when it comes to selecting party candidates, whether at the panchayat or higher levels, opportunists rise to the top more often. They remain the most loyal till power sits in the camp they belong to and flee even before the dust has settled after the rug has been pulled off from under the regime. This cycle will not be broken until parties invest in some intra-party democratization. Unfortunately, one does not see that happening yet. And until it does, expect to keep reading about defections and more defections.

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.

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What 'The Lion King' teaches us about children's grief

ELENA MERENDA
theconversation.com

The Lion King is a movie about a young lion cub named Simba, who idolizes his father, King Mufasa, and is eager for his own royal destiny. Scar, former heir to the throne before Simba's birth, sends Mufasa to his death and convinces Simba that the king's death is the young cub's own fault.

For more than 20 years, since a 1994 version of the film, and now with a new remake, The Lion King has taught children lessons about the circle of life, the importance of following your dreams and the possibility of learning from mistakes.

Most importantly, The Lion King teaches about children's grief — specifically their emotional responses to the death of a parent.

HEART OF THE CHILD'S EXISTENCE

When Mufasa brings Simba to the highest point of Pride Rock to show him the kingdom's boundaries and to help Simba understand the responsibility he'll one day inherit, Simba places his paw in his father's footprint.

The scene suggests Simba will one day have large shoes to fill. It portrays the respect and admiration the young lion has for his father.

The impact of the parent's death on the family, and the loss of a significant role model for the child, changes the child's existence. Children progress through what Swiss-born psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified as the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Immediately after his father's death, Simba displays a range of typical grieving emotions, from self-blame and anger to profound sadness.

DENIAL

Denial is an important part of the grieving process as it helps individuals to cope, survive the loss and progress through feelings of grief. Individuals go numb, and wonder how they can continue.

Simba's character shows how death can be a difficult reality for children to accept. When Simba finds his father's body, the cub is in shock. He circles Mufasa. "Dad?" he asks. "Dad, come on, you have to get up."

Simba also experiences guilt: If only the young cub had listened to his father's request not to explore on his own. If only his father hadn't been trying to rescue him from a stampede.

Feelings of guilt associated with a parent's death are not unique to Simba. Between ages of three to six, children enter what psychologist Erik Erikson called the initiative versus guilt psychosocial stage. The line between reality and fantasy is blurred. Children believe they can make things happen with their thoughts and wishes. If a parent dies during this time period, children might feel responsible.

ANGER

When Simba escapes Pride Rock with his haku-na matata (no worries) mantra, he pushes away his thoughts and feelings about his father's death. It's not until Simba meets up again with an old friend, Nala, that the growing lion has to face his self-blame and anger about his father's death.

Without the cognitive ability to understand death's finality, children often think of people who have died as being far away or on a trip. They may feel angry when their loved one doesn't return.

It is not until children are between ages five and seven that they develop an understanding of the irreversibility and inevitability of death, allowing them to acknowledge the deceased parent hasn't abandoned them.

BARGAINING AND DEPRESSION

Eventually, individuals who are grieving find themselves bargaining. A child, for example, may promise to pick up their toys or stop arguing with their siblings to get back what was lost.

Depression is an appropriate response to loss. Depression in childhood can present as sadness, frequent crying, changes in appetite or sleep patterns or unexplained aches and pains.

Simba's bargaining and depression appear in the same scene.

Once Simba stops shouting blame at his father for leaving, Simba says: "It's me. It's my fault." Rafiki, a character who can be interpreted as a spiritual healer, reminds Simba that although Mufasa is dead, his spirit lives inside Simba. When Simba looks into the lake at his own reflection, he sees his father and is reminded of past hopes and dreams. Simba now enters the bargaining stage, pleading with Mufasa to stay.

ACCEPTANCE

Timon and Pumbaa famously teach Simba that "... bad things happen and you can't do anything about it ... you can either run from it

or learn from it."

Grief is a multi-tasking emotion that people don't move on from. Children have to learn to move forward with grief. Even with grief's weight, it's possible to follow dreams.

It isn't until a bereaved adult recognizes that they have to continue through life with grief that they are able to transition into the final stage, acceptance.

At the movie's end, Simba accepts his father's death and his own rightful place as king.

How parents can support grieving children

If your child is bereaved, be direct. It's important to talk to children about death.

Depending on their age, a child will be confused and they may think they caused the loss.

Provide children with facts about death, using language such as "death," "his body stopped working," rather than language such as "passed away," and "lost." It's important to help children understand that death is part of life. The more children are shielded from reality, the more confusing and frightening death can be.

Provide continuity and maintain routine and normalcy in the home and at childcare or at school. Talk to your child's educators so they can provide extra support.

Maintain boundaries and family roles. Sometimes, the death of a parent can overburden children with the responsibility of protecting the surviving parent or siblings. Psychologists call this situation parentification, where a child undergoes a functional or emotional role reversal. Children sacrifice their own needs in order to care for the needs of their living parent.

Encourage children's self-expression. It's important to tell children that it's OK to be sad and it's OK to be happy.

It's helpful to have these difficult conversations with children, but to also provide materials for them to express their emotions such as through play with blocks, dolls or in drawing pictures.

Most importantly, remember that the young Simba survives, grows and eventually embraces a future with the help and love of his friends, family and community after his parent dies. So can your bereaved child.

[The writer is Assistant Program Head of Early Childhood Studies, University of Guelph-Humber]

Baby naming time? Here's how people judge what's in a name

PENNY PEXMAN & DAVID SIDHU
theconversation.com

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." -Shakespeare, Romeo & Juliet

There has always been an interest in how the name of a thing affects our interpretation of it. Does it matter what something or someone is called? Imagine that you are going to meet either "Anne" or "Kate" (or "Owen" or "Kirk"). Would you expect different kinds of people, based on their names? Who would you expect to be kinder? Who would you expect to be more outgoing?

Across three recent experiments conducted with our colleagues from the University of Calgary — Joshua Bourdage and Kristen Deschamps — we found that people with softer-sounding names like "Anne" or "Owen" were expected to be more agreeable, emotional and hardworking; while people with harder-sounding names like "Kate" or "Kirk" were expected to be more outgoing.

Why might the name of a person suggest different kinds of personality? Over the past century or so, research on sound symbolism has demonstrated that people will associate certain language sounds with particular properties. For example, the two words: "maluma" and "takete" were first used in 1929 by linguist researchers. How would you pair them with the two shapes below?

If you're like 90 per cent of the people studied worldwide, you probably paired "maluma" with the round shape, and "takete" with the jagged shape. Something about the sounds in these words (or maybe even how they feel as you say them) makes them seem to go along better with the round or the jagged shape. There have also been demonstrations of certain language sounds seeming like

better fits for shapes of certain sizes, colours and even those travelling at certain speeds.

In our research, we asked the question: what about the sounds in a person's name? Will they also lead to certain expectations about the person? Beyond associations with visual properties like shape or size, could the sounds in names also be associated with different personalities?

PEOPLE WITH ABRUPT-SOUNDING NAMES ARE SEEN AS EXTROVERTED

We compared names containing what are called sonorant consonants (e.g. /m/ or /l/) to those containing "voiceless stop consonants" (e.g. /k/ or /t/). Sonorants are characterized by a more smooth and continuous sound, while voiceless stops are more abrupt.

Compare the consonants in "Mom, I'm online now!" to "Pop's kite! It cracked!" These are very different kinds of sounds, and so we asked if names containing these different sounds would be associated with different personalities.

Some examples of names we used include: Kate, Tia, Etta for the voiceless stop names and Anne, Noelle, Laurel for sonorant ones. For men, voiceless stop names included Kirk, Kurt and Tate and sonorant ones were: Owen, Noel and Lou.

We looked at the six personality factors from the HEXACO model of personality: Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, eXtroversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness (how hard-working and organized a person is) and Openness (to experience). In our first two experiments, participants were asked how much they expected people with either sonorants or voiceless stops in their names to have these different personalities.

In general, we found that participants expected people with names like "Anne" or "Owen" to be high in Agreeableness, Emotionality and

Conscientiousness. Conversely, they expected people with names like "Kate" or "Kirk" to be high in Extroversion.

72 MADE-UP NAMES — AND HOW THEY GET JUDGED

In a follow up experiment, we were curious how much this had to do with the names themselves versus the sounds that they contained. For example, maybe participants were just thinking of Captain Kirk when they judged that "Kirk" is highly extroverted.

So, we found uncommon or made up names that still contained sonorants or voiceless stops, but that participants wouldn't associate with existing people. Examples of sonorant names are: Ammel, Nilo and Leonne and examples of voiceless stop names we used were: Triss, Seka and Treetk.

We found the same effects once again. Also, if you are ever looking for an original name for a baby, we have 72 ready to go! And we know what kinds of personalities people will associate with them!

A few ideas: Lona was rated as being very agreeable and shy. Kipus was rated as being very extroverted, but not so agreeable.

At this point we were curious — as you the reader probably are too — to know if these associations are reflected in the real world. Are people with sonorants in their names actually kinder than people with voiceless stops in their names?

This sounds outlandish, but there is recent work showing that individuals might change their appearance over time to look like their names. Might it also work for their personalities?

NO TRUTH TO THE JUDGMENT

To find out, we tested over a thousand people, collecting information about their personalities and their names. We found that the answer was a resounding "no." None of the

associations that we observed in our experiments existed in the real world. There was no evidence that "Annes" are actually kinder than "Kates," or that "Kurts" are more outgoing than "Owens."

But our other experiments show that people might think they are (if all they know about someone is their name).

This again suggests that the effect comes from the sounds of the names and is not inferred from the personalities of real people. So what is it about the sound in "Anne" that makes it seem especially kind? The maluma/takete effect is often explained by a sort of metaphorical extension of the qualities of the sounds or feelings of the words to the shapes. "Maluma" feels softer than "takete" as you say it, and it also involves less abrupt changes in sound.

This matches the smooth outline of the round shape we showed you earlier when we asked you to choose which shape best matches which sound. Some researchers have suggested that something similar may be happening when sound is matched with personality. Maybe the smoothness of sonorants metaphorically matches an agreeable personality, while the quick changes in voiceless stops match the energetic nature of an extroverted personality. We'll need more research to know for sure.

This work helps to answer the age-old question posed by Shakespeare: what's in a name? Our results suggest that names carry information that affects what we expect someone to be like in terms of their personality.

It seems that if "Rose" were to go by another name, she may not seem as sweet.

[Penny Pexman is Professor of Psychology, University of Calgary; David Sidhu is PhD Candidate, University of Calgary]

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12 Bangladeshis arrested while crossing over to India



KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): Twelve illegal Bangladeshi immigrants have been arrested from Bithari and Hakipur area of the Indo-Bangla border, while trying to crossover to India, BSF officials said.

A BSF patrol party intercepted and arrested eight female and four male Bangladeshi nationals in two different incidents from Bithari, Hakipur and Dobolia area of

North 24 Parganas district on Friday night, a BSF statement said.

"During preliminary questioning, these Bangladeshi illegal intruders revealed that they came into India with the help of Bangladeshi touts," the statement, issued on Saturday, said.

The arrested persons have been handed over to respective police stations for further legal action, it added.

Mamata criticises Khattar comment on Kashmir



KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday criticised her Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar's remark on Kashmiri girls and said people holding high office should refrain from making insensitive comments about people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Without naming Khattar, Banerjee in a tweet said, "We, and more so people holding high public office, must restrain ourselves from

making insensitive comments about the beloved people of Jammu and Kashmir. These are hurtful, not only for J&K, but the entire nation."

Her comments comes in the backdrop of Khattar's recent statement that people from Haryana "could now get brides from Kashmir" apparently in reference to the scrapping of the special status for Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution.

WB heads GDP growth rate: Mitra



KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): West Bengal is at the top of the list of states for GDP growth rate recording 12.58 per cent during 2018-19, state Finance Minister Amit Mitra said on Saturday.

The feat was achieved by the state at a time when the country is going through a "deep recession", he said.

"I am delighted to say that as per the Government of India's ministry of statistics and programme implementation just-published table on GDP growth of states in

2018-19 West Bengal's growth is the highest in the country at 12.58 per cent," Mitra told newsmen here.

Bengal is followed by Andhra Pradesh which has recorded GDP growth of 11.02, Bihar with 10.53 and Telangana 10.5 per cent respectively. Goa is at the bottom of the list with 0.47 per cent growth rate, he said. "We are holding the baton and moving forward while the rest of the country is going through serious recession," Mitra added.

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FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

Barahimizong as a symbol of Mangar identity

RAKCHA RANA

In the words of Audrey C Shalinsky, festivals can be of religious, spiritual, ethnic or seasonal background and also "offer a unified focus for learning about history, government, community, social interaction, traditional values and social change" in a society. People with the same values are brought together and thus the community spirit gets strengthened and the social cohesion fostered; furthermore traditions get taught.

As per Audrey C. Shalinsky then, festivals and rituals play a significant role in helping know about a community from the grassroots level. Barahimizong is a festival celebrated by the Mangar community of Sikkim in the month of December during the time of Mangsir Purnima. The State Government of Sikkim has declared a Government Holiday for the 16th of December to mark Barahimizong. This festival is known for ancestral worship among the Mangar community and it was resumed in Sikkim from Namchi, in South Sikkim. Within Namchi is a village called Assangthang where Mangars are in majority, living alongside Tamangs, Rais etc.

On this day, members of the Mangar community remember their forefathers through prayers and worship and reconnect with their roots in mother nature and their relationship with the rest of the community.

The community has also taken the initiative to pass on the rituals to the coming generation by involving them in every task of the festival.

On this day, every clan from the Mangar community comes together. Mangar Bhusals [priests of the Mangar community] play a significant role in carrying out the rituals. They build a seven-step shrine and each step is categorised according to its function, i.e., 1) space for heaven, 2) space for gods, 3)

space for devils, 4) space for humans, 5) space for creatures, 6) space for spirits and 7) space for hell. They use fruits, flowers, incense sticks, eggs etc and end the rituals by offering two pigeons to Sansari Mai as a symbol of peace.

On the 27th of December 2018, I got the chance to participate in Barahimizong festival held at Mangsari Mangarzong in West Sikkim. What I noticed there is that Barahimizong was not only seen as a festival but it is regarded as a platform for the community to interact and display unity and celebrate their culture and traditions.

This festival plays a major role in sustaining the unique features of the community and also passes on traditional knowledge to the youth.

During the festival, when I started to

vation of the day has been scaled up into a community event.

The reasons behind transforming the private ritual into a public event and celebrating it as a community festival are manifold. The Mangar community was divided into two divisions - Barahmagrat and Athahmagrat. By selecting the name Barahimizong, the community reflected one division - Barahmagrat. In this ritual, every clan of the Mangar community has its own way of following the rituals eg., Hiski Rana of Rana clan offer white sheep to their ancestors while Thapa/ Alley have their own way of following rituals and some of them sacrifice goat, pig, hen etc.

Every clan has its own Wapa or Mangpa (Mangar shaman). Most Man-

prefer offering fruits and flowers. That said, some others still practise animal sacrifice, holding on to it as a tradition passed down to them from the time of their forefathers.

I also that noticed is that while people remembered times when Wapas or Mangpas led the rituals, since these shamans cannot be found as easily any more, the rituals are attended to by "Kutumba" which means son-in-law.

Now, most members of the Mangar community invite Mangar Bhusal (Mangar pandit) to perform the rituals.

The festival gives a look into how private rituals become public rituals and also sheds light on how rituals get continuity even while accommodat- ing change. This festival has now become a signifier of the identity of the

Mangar community and also encourages the youth to come forward and get involved. The festival is also to serve and remember ancestors through prayers and worship. Rituals do not only define the customs of a community but also its history, legacy, continuation, changes, and most importantly, identity.

A festival can be described as a cultural performance.

According to Gluckmann, a festival, as an "interaction between individual motivations and societal functions", keeps traditions alive. If they aren't celebrated, they will get lost. Rituals or festival are often centres around the symbols and Barahimizong at a some level symbolizes a community identity. These symbols can be multivocal, which means that everyone can interpret it on their own way. It depends on how the individuals connect with this symbol.

[the writer is Research Scholar, Sikkim University]



interact with the people they told me that things were different in earlier days when people would observe the day at home with their family members. In fact, the festival used to be called "Chiyopa" [Kul Puja, ancestor worship, in Mangar language]. These were very private rituals. Now, while Kul Puja is still in practice, the obser-

gar folk have given up sacrificing animals or birds in this ritual. Some told me that they discontinued the practise because family members started falling sick after sacrifices were offered. Another factor is that many of them are now following Buddhism and many others are also uncomfortable with the idea of offering animal sacrifices and

Bulls eye 2021: BJP begins brainstorming session in Bengal



KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): The West Bengal unit of BJP on Saturday began its two-day brainstorming session in West Burdwan district's Durgapur to list the do's and don'ts for the party workers in the run up to the 2021 state Assembly elections, party sources said.

The 'Chintan Baithak' is the first major meeting of the party after the Lok Sabha election results.

Apart from discussing organisational aspects, the meeting will chart the party's course for the Assembly elections, they said.

"The central leadership has set the agenda of the meeting, in which the roadmap for the 2021 elections, organisational issues and the ongoing membership drive are likely to be discussed," state BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu said.

The meeting is being attended by senior central leaders and all the of-

fice bearers of the party's state unit.

BJP's Bengal minder and general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, national secretary (organisation) Shiv Prakash, co-incharge of Bengal Arvind Menon and BJP state president Dilip Ghosh are attending the meeting.

The central BJP leadership had set a target of one crore membership from West Bengal and the state unit has claimed to have enrolled around 60 lakh so far.

The membership drive will continue for the next few days.

State BJP sources said although the central leadership is happy with the party's "magnificent performance" in the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, where it won 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats, it is not happy with the induction of leaders from other parties without "proper

background check".

Another senior state BJP leader said on condition of anonymity that the reverting of five of the six TMC-controlled municipal bodies, which had switched over to the BJP after the Lok Sabha elections, to the ruling party in West Bengal has embarrassed the central BJP leadership.

"This has sent a wrong message. So, the central leadership wants us to have checks and balances to avoid such embarrassing situation. It was decided to form a committee comprising state leaders such as Dilip Ghosh and Subrata Chatterjee to screen people from other parties aspiring to join the BJP," he said.

The saffron party won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state this election, just four less than the TMC, garnering 41 per cent of the vote share.

ABVP to increase its footprint in Bengal

KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): Buoyed by the BJP's unprecedented success in the Lok Sabha polls, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student's organisation affiliated to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has planned to increase its presence in Bengal in days to come.

ABVP, which is holding a two-day closed door Central Working Committee meeting from August 10-11 here, discussed various aspects of increasing its presence in Bengal. According to state ABVP leaders, the organisation is trying to open college units in various parts of the state.

"We would also contest upcoming student body elections in the

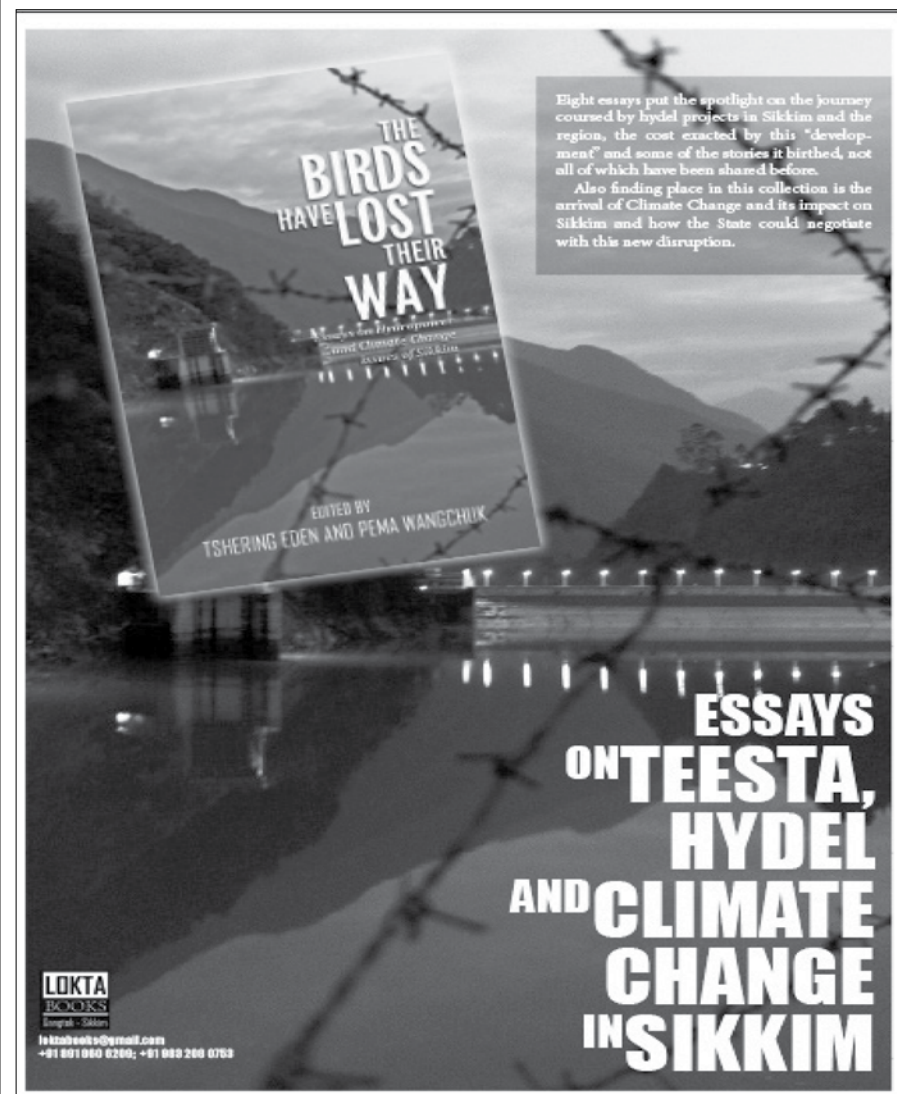


state. The TMC student's wing has been trying hard to stop us from opening units but we are receiving huge response from the students," the state leader said.

While Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad (TMCP) controls the majority of the student bodies in the state, SFI- the CPI (M)

student's wing and Chatra Parishad- the Congress's student's unit have influences in some colleges. The ABVP is yet to establish its presence in Bengal.

The saffron party won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the general elections, just four less than the state's ruling TMC.



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World Archery says AAI suspension can be lifted “conditionally” if clear road map is made

NEW DELHI, AUG 10 (PTI): In a significant development, the World Archery is willing to lift Archery Association of India’s suspension “conditionally” by the end of this month if a clear road map is established.

The development came soon after Delhi High Court directed the sports ministry on Friday to form a five-member transition committee to look into the state of affairs of the suspended AAI till fresh elections are held.

Following the order, World Archery secretary general Tom Dielen wrote to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) secretary general Rajeev Mehta and even suggested four members of the committee, to be headed by retired Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice B D Ahmad.

“If rapid progress is made and a clear road map is established by the end of August, World Archery might conditionally lift the suspension by the end of this month,” Dielen said in the letter written to Mehta, a copy of which is in possession with PTI.

“We ask the IOA Secretary General to coordi-



nate with the chairman to get the committee established as soon as possible,” the letter said.

The WA suggested four names for the transition committee -- Mehta from IOA, R Rajagopal from the sports ministry, and B V P Rao and Virendra Sachdeva from the two rival AAI factions.

This transition committee is tasked “to prepare a road map for the AAI having a new election as well as a Constitution that respects

both the Indian Sports Code and the World Archery Constitution”.

“This road map will have to be approved by World Archery for the suspension to be lifted,” Dielen wrote.

The committee will handle any transitional issues such as team selection process for the Olympic qualifying Asian Championships in Bangkok in November and prepare a selection process for the Tokyo Olympics 2020. “The organi-

sation of a fair and open trials process will be essential for World Archery to accept participation in the events,” Dielen said.

On Friday, hearing a PIL in the Rahul Mehra vs Union of India & Others, a Delhi HC Special Bench comprising Justice S Murlidhar and Najmi Waziri passed directions to constitute a transition committee by August 23 and hold its first meeting on August 24.

“The committee is constituted to ensure

Archery Association of India (AAI) once again enjoys good standing with World Archery Federation (WAF) so that our archers are permitted to represent India under Indian flag in the forthcoming qualifying tournaments & Tokyo Olympics,” Rahul Mehra tweeted.

An AAI official said the committee will be constituted to oversee the day-to-day affairs of Indian Archery which was suspended by the world body on Thursday for defying its guidelines by electing two parallel bodies.

“This committee will not take a call about fresh election procedures but will run the show till a new body comes to power. We are expecting to hear about fresh election procedures in the next hearing slated for August 16,” he said.

The last event in which the archers can participate under the Indian flag is the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid from August 19-25.

After which the Indian archers’ participation in international events under the National Flag stands jeopardised unless a resolution is made.

Literature in school education a must for meaningful life: NBT Chairman



NEW DELHI, AUG 10 (PTI): The National Book Trust chairman, Govind Prasad Sharma, here said that children need to read literature as part of school education to earn a successful and meaningful life.

Speaking at ‘Scrapbook 2019 Children’s Publishing Conclave’, organised by FICCI, here Friday, Sharma said that while technology can give children a successful career, literature was needed to build a sense of cooperation in them.

“Sahitya (literature) is vanishing from education and schools. There is no language section in Class 11 and 12. And, the focus on science and technology may give the child a successful career and a job but literature can build a sense of compassion, sympathy and cooperation among the children,” he said.

He urged the publishers of children’s books to create content that may

help them go beyond working for self and family by contributing towards society.

“Literature gives the wings of imagination even to a scientist for great works,” he added.

Based on the theme of ‘Diversity of Content’, the conclave explored possible collaboration between children content creators, publishers, offline and online service providers, teachers, parents, children, and policy makers.

Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director - NCERT, said that it was important to bring a “complete change of mindset” to make children innovative.

“It is a matter of great concern whether the society is preparing a good human being, a good citizen despite most of the children scoring above 90 per cent in studies. For this, a complete change of mindset is required to destress the children and make them

innovative.

“Knowledge construction will be done by the children themselves, but we will have to create the conducive environment. We will have to facilitate and encourage divergent thinking for innovation and creativity among the children,” Senapaty said.

FICCI, in partnership with Grant Thornton, will be preparing a survey-based study on book buying behaviour with a chapter on children’s books, the organisers announced.

“The maximum impact on mind happens in early age and publishers have a huge business opportunity in children’s literature to provide customised and diverse content on different platforms both for school text books and leisure reading,” Ratnesh Jha, Chair, FICCI Publishing Committee and MD, Cambridge University Press, said.

Zimbabwe cricket board reinstated, team still suspended

HARARE, AUG 9 (AP): The Zimbabwe cricket board has been reinstated by a government body but the country remains suspended by the International Cricket Council because of outside interference.

Zimbabwe Cricket’s leadership under chairman Tavengwa Mukuhani will be allowed to return to their jobs after a court settlement was reached on Thursday with the government-appointed Sports and Recreation Commission.

The SRC suspended the entire board in June, alleging corruption and election irregularities. That led to the ICC suspending Zimbabwe from international competition for government interference.

The ICC said it will only reconsider Zimbabwe’s suspension at a meeting in October.

The ban has come at a high price for Zimbabwe’s team, which has lost its place at the Twenty20 World Cup qualifying competition.

Editors Guild of India concerned over shutdown in communication links with J&K

NEW DELHI, AUG 10 (PTI): The Editors Guild of India expressed deep concern on Saturday over the continued shutdown in communication links with the Kashmir Valley and the consequent “curtailment of the media’s freedom and ability” to report fairly on the developments there.

The guild’s statement came days after the government revoked the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir to withdraw the special status given to the state and bifurcated it into two Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The guild said while some visiting journalists might be able to file their reports once they were out of the Valley, the lockdown was almost “total and draconian” for the vibrant local media organisations that were the first eyes and ears on the ground.

The government knew very well that it was impossible to process and publish news now without the internet, it said.



The government owed it to the people of the country, including those in Jammu and Kashmir, to allow the press, a vital institution of democracy, to function freely, the guild said.

It added that it was deeply concerned over the continued shutdown in communication links with the Kashmir Valley and the consequent “curtailment of the media’s freedom and ability” to report fairly and accurately on current developments.

In a situation such as that prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir at present,

the role of a free media, unhindered by such restrictions, becomes critically important in helping in dissemination of news and in its democratic duty of keeping a watch on institutions of the government and security, the guild said.

“The Guild underlines the imprudence in creating an unfair distinction in the treatment: for access, curfew passes, communication between local journalists and those coming in to report from outside. All journalists and all Indian citizens are entitled to equal freedom,” the statement said.

The guild urged the government to take immediate steps to restore normalcy for the media’s communication links.

Media transparency had always been and should be India’s strength, not fear, it said. The guild also expressed its appreciation for and solidarity to all journalists reporting from the ground despite unprecedented challenges.

“The Guild requests all, especially the government, to ensure their safety and freedom of movement,” the statement said.

Real Madrid go head-to-head with Barcelona for Neymar - reports

MADRID, AUG 9 (AFP): Real Madrid will rival Barcelona in the race to sign Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar this summer, according to reports in the Spanish press on Friday.

Madrid have shifted focus to Neymar after the close of the English Premier League’s transfer window on Thursday ended their hopes of signing Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba.

According to Marca, Neymar has “returned to the scene” with the club “believing for some time that the team is lacking a big star up front”.

Sports newspaper AS claims the Brazilian has been offered to Madrid by PSG, who are open to selling if they can either recoup the 222 million euros they spent on him in 2017 or receive half that amount, with players included in the deal.

It means La Liga’s two greatest rivals are set to

go head-to-head in the battle to sign Neymar before the Spanish transfer window closes on September 2.

Barcelona newspaper Mundo Deportivo says the 27-year-old will wait until August 20 for Barcelona to make a decisive move, after which “PSG’s number 10 does not rule out any option in order to leave the French champions, where it is clear he does not want to stay any longer.”

But Mundo adds that “it is clear Neymar wants to play for Barcelona” while Diario Sport agrees, writing that “the winning card Barca continues to hold is the will of the striker to reunite with players like Leo Messi and Luis Suarez. With them he has a great understanding on the pitch and also a strong friendship off it.”

Marca believes Madrid also have factors in their favour. “Neymar’s

priority is not to go to Barcelona. His priority is to leave the PSG,” wrote Marca, also citing their “magnificent relationship” with PSG, “quite the opposite” of how the French club view Barcelona. Luka Modric is mentioned as a possible makeweight while Philippe Coutinho, who reportedly rejected an offer from Tottenham this week, could be included in an offer from Barcelona.

Sport admits whichever team signs Neymar will “inflict a blow on their rivals by snatching a star player from the other’s grasp”.

“From now on, it will be Neymar that decides,” Sport added.

“Barcelona want the player to go public but he understands such a move would be risky. If Barca and PSG do not reach an agreement he would be stuck in the French capital for a third year.

Pakistan suspends Delhi-Lahore bus service

ISLAMABAD, AUG 10 (PTI): Pakistan has suspended the Lahore-Delhi friendship bus service, after suspending two cross-border trains, in the wake of India’s decision revoking Jammu and Kashmir’s special status and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories, a senior Pakistani minister has said.

The bus service was first started in February 1999 but suspended after the 2001 Parliament attack. It was restarted in July 2003.

The move is in line

with the decisions taken during a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) held on Wednesday, Pakistan Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed said.

“In line with the decisions of NSC Pak-India bus service is suspended,” Saeed tweeted on Friday.

The Lahore-Delhi bus service is operated from Ambedkar Stadium terminal near Delhi Gate. DTC buses ply every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Pakistan

Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) buses every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, from Delhi to Lahore.

For the return trip, DTC buses leave Lahore every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday whereas the PTDC buses are available every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Earlier, Pakistan Minister of Railways Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad had announced on Friday that it will suspend the Thar Express train service with India which links the two countries across

the Rajasthan border, a day after it stopped the Samjhauta Express following its decision to downgrade bilateral ties.

Rasheed announced to suspend the services of Thar Express and said that the last train would leave for India late Friday night, the official APP news agency reported.

The Thar Express has been running between Jodhpur’s Bhagat ki Kothi station to Karachi every Friday night since services resumed on February 18, 2006 after a 41-year suspension.

He said the 133 km new track was built with the cost of Rs 13 billion for Thar Express and now the track would be used for Thar coal project.

On Thursday, Pakistan suspended the Samjhauta Express train service with India.

Rasheed said that the train service will not operate till he is the Railways minister and the bogies of the train will now be used for passengers travelling on the occasion of Eid.

The Samjhauta Ex-

press, named after the Hindi word for “agreement”, comprises six sleeper coaches and an AC 3-tier coach. The train service was started on July 22, 1976 under the Simla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations.

On the Indian side, the train runs from Delhi to Attari and from Lahore to Wagah on the Pakistan side.

Pakistan’s decision to suspended the services of the two trains came after it expelled

Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria on Wednesday and decided to downgrade the diplomatic ties with India over what it called New Delhi’s “unilateral and illegal” move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

India on Monday revoked Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

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NKorea fires 2 missiles into sea in likely protest of drills

SEOUL, AUG 10 (AP): North Korea on Saturday extended a recent streak of weapons displays by firing what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, according to South Korea's military.

The fifth round of launches in less than three weeks was likely another protest at the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States and the continuance of US-South Korea joint military exercises that the North says are aimed at a northward invasion.

The South's military alerted reporters to the launches hours after President Donald Trump said he received a "beautiful" three-page letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and predicted that they will have more talks to try resolving the nuclear standoff.

Trump reiterated that he was not bothered by the flurry of short-range weapons Kim has launched despite the growing threat they pose to US allies in the region, saying Pyongyang has never broken its pledge to pause nuclear tests.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the presumed ballistic missiles were fired from the North's east coast and flew about 400 kilometers (248 miles) on an apogee of 48 kilometers (30 miles), before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

Seoul's presidential Blue House said the tests were likely aimed at verifying the reliability of



the North's newly developed weapons and also demonstrating displeasure over the military drills.

Hours after Saturday's launches, the North's official Korean Central News Agency released a statement denouncing South Korea's recent acquisition of US-made F-35 fighter jets and other plans to expand its military capabilities, saying that the moves deteriorate trust between the Koreas and increase risk of war on the peninsula.

The agency said the South will gain "nothing but destruction if it treats (a nation of the same race) with hostility and pursues a contest of strength."

North Korea has unleashed a series of test firings of short-range weapons in recent weeks

while saying that the joint military drills between the allies compel it to "develop, test and deploy the powerful physical means essential for national defense."

The North did not immediately comment on the launches. South Korea has said the weapons tests don't help efforts to stabilise peace and called for Pyongyang to uphold an inter-Korean agreement reached last year to form a joint military committee to discuss reducing military tensions.

The missile tests come amid stalled talks on the North's nuclear program.

So far, North Korea has stuck by its unilateral suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests, which came during a diplomatic outreach to Washington last year.

Experts say Trump's

downplaying of the North's launches allowed the country more room to intensify its testing activity while it seeks to build leverage ahead of negotiations, which could possibly resume sometime after the end of the US-South Korea drills later this month.

Leif-Eric Easley, an expert at Seoul's Ewha Womans University, said North Korea is also looking to exploit Trump's preoccupation with getting South Korea to pay more for US troop deployment in the country as well as Seoul's worsening relations with Tokyo over an escalating trade war that's spilling over to security issues.

South Korea has threatened to end a military intelligence sharing agreement with Japan in what's seen as an attempt to pressure the

United States into mediating the dispute.

"Kim appeals to Trump directly about the exercises, trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul," Easley said.

"Meanwhile, North Korean propaganda supports rising anti-Japan sentiment in South Korea, calculating that a diplomatically isolated Seoul will be more subject to Pyongyang's coercion."

The North described recent test-firings as a new rocket artillery system and short-range ballistic missile launches.

The North's state media said that Kim, while supervising a live-fire demonstration of newly developed, short-range ballistic missiles on Tuesday, said the launches were intended to send a warning to Washington and Seoul over their military drills.

The allies have scaled down their major military exercises since the first summit between Kim and Trump in June 2018 in Singapore created space for diplomacy.

But the North insists even the downsized drills violate agreements between Kim and Trump.

The North's recent tests have dampened the optimism that followed the third and latest meeting between Trump and Kim on June 30 at the inter-Korean border.

The leaders agreed to resume working-level nuclear talks, but there have been no known meetings between the two sides since then.

British Sikh schoolgirl hits back after being branded 'terrorist'



BY ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, AUG 10 (PTI): Branded as a "terrorist" at a London playground, a 10-year-old British Sikh schoolgirl has hit back with a social media message saying greater "exposure and knowledge" should be promoted about the community to "handle racism".

Munsimar Kaur's video message, posted by her father on Twitter, has attracted over 47,000 views already since it was went live on Thursday.

The video shows the young turbaned girl bravely relate the incident, which took place at Plumstead playground in south-east London earlier in the week.

"On Monday and Tuesday at a park, I was greeted not very nicely by four kids and a mother of a young girl," says Kaur, reading from a notebook in which she has written about her experience.

"On Monday, two boys who looked like 14

to 17 years old and two girls who looked like they were in their late teens when I asked to play the game they were playing and the queue was a mile long they said, loud and clear, 'no, you can't play because you are a terrorist,'" she recounts.

Kaur speaks of how the words obviously broke her heart, but she kept her "head up and walked away". She returned to the same adventure play area the next day when she made a friend with a nine-year-old girl.

"After an hour, her mum called her and said she can't play with me because I was, apparently, dangerous," she says, defending the young girl who apologised for this as it was not her fault.

In her message to the world, Kaur notes: "This experience has shown me the lack of exposure and knowledge some people have. And Sikhs are naturally caring and

no matter what, we will love everyone."

"But I need to speak out about this because not everyone is strong enough to walk away or has suitable parents to talk to and handle this racism. I will hang out with the right people."

On an optimistic note, she calls on anyone else going through similar racism to speak to their parents and keep their chin up because it will all work out in the end.

Her video has attracted scores of messages of support, with people applauding the schoolgirl's "class act" and praising her for her courage.

"You are a truly inspiring individual Munsimar! Such courage and eloquence in your words sadly racism persists but we can collectively value diversity and inclusion," said Gurch Randhawa, Professor of Diversity in Public Health at the Institute for Health Research at the University of Bedfordshire.

'P is for protest': Hong Kong families join pro-democracy rally

HONG KONG, AUG 10 (AFP): Armed with balloons and strollers, several hundred families took to the streets in Hong Kong on Saturday to show support for pro-democracy protests that are now in their third month.

The colourful and calm atmosphere at the rally was a far cry from the increasingly violent confrontations that have marked recent demonstrations by activists calling for greater freedoms in the city. A leaflet featuring an alternative alphabet was circulated, offering "demonstration" for the letter D, "angry" for A and "protest" for P.

Faye Lai was attending with her three-year-old niece and said she hoped the rally would help children understand the tumult that has en-

gulfed the international financial hub in recent weeks. "We have to tell children about the current situation in Hong Kong, and educate them about what the right kind of society is," Lai, a stage assistant, told AFP.

"The future belongs to the children. Hong Kong's future is theirs. We are fighting for rights that children should have," she added.

Protests that began in opposition to a controversial bill to allow extradition to mainland China have morphed into a broader movement calling for greater freedoms, including direct election of the city's chief executive.

The family event, billed as a rally to "guard our children's future," received a permit from

authorities, unlike several other protests that activists have organised for the weekend.

"At this stage, we need to come out for any event, especially those for the future generation, not just protests and marches," said Roger Cheng, a 50-year-old office worker.

"Like today, it's for the next generation to know about the importance of having a future... Although they don't understand (everything) yet, they might be able to experience freedom, the human need to just do what they want."

Activists plan to ramp back up their demonstrations over the weekend, including with a three-day sit-in at the airport that began on Friday and attracted thousands of people.

Tanzania fuel tanker blast kills 57

MOROGORO, AUG 10 (AFP): Fifty-seven people perished in Tanzania on Saturday when a fuel tanker exploded after overturning on a road west of the country's economic capital Dar es Salaam, police said.

The disaster took place near the town of Morogoro, with police saying the blast may have been sparked by a cigarette as people rushed to collect leaking fuel from the stricken truck. "There was a huge blast which has so far killed at least 57 people," regional police chief Willbrod Mtafungwa told reporters.

Witnesses told AFP by telephone that they saw the charred remains of a number of motorcycle taxis and trees scorched by the power of the explosion. Mtafungwa said the dead were mainly drivers of the taxis known as "boda-boda" and local residents flocking to the scene for the fuel after the tanker crashed. Police later announced the blaze had been brought under control.

"The Morogoro region had never experienced a disaster of such magnitude," Morogoro governor Stephen Kebwe told reporters at the scene in the locality of Msamvu, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Dar es Salaam.

Pak receives little traction globally on Kashmir issue: Sources

BY LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, AUG 10 (PTI): Pakistan, which has launched a major lobbying effort, particularly in Washington and the United Nations, after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has received little traction on the issue, according to diplomatic sources here.

Islamabad is being bluntly asked not to use the development in Kashmir for cross border terrorism or infiltration across the Line of Control, a diplomat closely following the massive lobbying efforts being undertaken by Pakistan in the last few days said on Friday.

"They have got very little international traction," the diplomat said.

India has said Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and the issue was strictly internal to the country.

Led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, top Pakistani leadership have been calling world leaders and its top diplomats have been meeting US lawmakers and senior officials in Washington and New York to ascertain their position and telling them that it is headed for a war if there is no mediation by them.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokes-



person Raveesh Kumar on Friday said Islamabad was trying to project a panic situation to the international community. "It is a ploy to deflect attention...It is time for Pakistan to see the new reality and stop interfering in internal matters of India," he said.

Pakistan is being clearly told that the onus for maintaining peace and stability in the region is on them, the sources said.

"They (international community) has called upon Pakistan to ensure that they do not take steps, including cross border infiltration, that would be detrimental to peace and security," they said, adding that this is what the US and other major players are work-

ing on to prevent Pakistan from unleashing non-state actors.

Do whatever, but do not use terrorism, is the message being told to Pakistani leaders and officials again and again, the sources said. Pakistan is facing an imminent risk of being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force if it fails to meet its commitment on counter-terrorism financing.

The international community is closely watching its move, said two diplomatic sources.

After the Taliban's statement that Afghanistan peace talks should not be linked to Kashmir, another Pakistani argument has fallen flat, the diplomats noted.

The US is in a mission mode to end the war

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BOLD IN PINK! ! The “Nobody Love” singer, Tori Kelly sends out good vibes onstage at the TODAY show at Rockefeller center Plaza in NYC.

Couldn't be more proud of 'Paani' team: Priyanka Chopra on film's National Award

MUMBAI, AUG 10 (PTI): Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra has lauded director Adinath Kothare and the team behind her production “Paani” after the film registered a win at the 66th National Film Awards.

The Marathi movie, which Priyanka and

though Adinath was making his directorial debut with, I knew he would be a force to reckon with. And now here we are with a National Award for our labour of love. I couldn't be more proud of Adinath and his creative team and my team at PPP,” Priyanka said in a statement. The actor also thanked the jury for recognising the team's “hard work”.

“It has given us further impetus to continue on the path of telling the stories that combine entertainment with socially relevant stories. We are so honoured that the film had an impact and that our efforts have been recognised,” she added. “Paani” is based on true events and the problem

of water scarcity in Nagardwadi, a drought prone area of Maharashtra.

Madhu Chopra said, “I'm grateful to the National Award jury for bestowing one of the most respectable laurels on us. The subject of ‘Paani’ is very close to our heart and it's a story that needs to be told.”

Previously, Priyanka and Madhu's production “Ventilator” had bagged three awards at the 64th National Film Awards -- best director for Rajesh Mapuskar, best editing and best sound mixing.



her mother Madhu Chopra produced through their banner Purple Pebble Pictures, won the award for best film on environment conservation and preservation.

“When we started Purple Pebble Pictures (PPP), it was with the clear intent to produce stories of substance. We wanted to tell local stories that along with entertaining people, also had a purpose and tackled the pressing issues we face today.

“Paani” was one such film... One that I knew instantly that I wanted to make. Even

What Vicky Kaushal And Ayushmann Khurrana Said After Winning Best Actor

It's a special day for actors Vicky Kaushal and Ayushmann Khurrana and director Aditya Dhar, all of whom featured in the list of National Film Awards announced in New Delhi by filmmaker Rahul Rawail, head of this year's jury. It's the first National Award for all three. Vicky Kaushal and Ayushmann Khurrana share the Best Actor

gave Ayushmann a shout-out and dedicated his win to his parent, Team Uri, the country and the armed forces.

Ayushmann Khurrana, who was awarded for his role as a young man embarrassed by the pregnancy of his middle-aged mother in Badhaai Ho, said, “Today's honour is a validation of my hard work, my belief system, my

multiple awardee, winning Best Hindi Film among other prizes.

The National Award winners this year also include Telugu film Mahanati, Kannada film Nathicharami and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's controversial Padmaavat. Read the full list of winners here.

Uri was this year's most successful film until being dethroned recently by Kabir Singh. Director Aditya Dhar, whose first Bollywood gig was as lyricist for 2008 film Kabul Express, said in a statement, “15 years of failure, rejection and hard work have



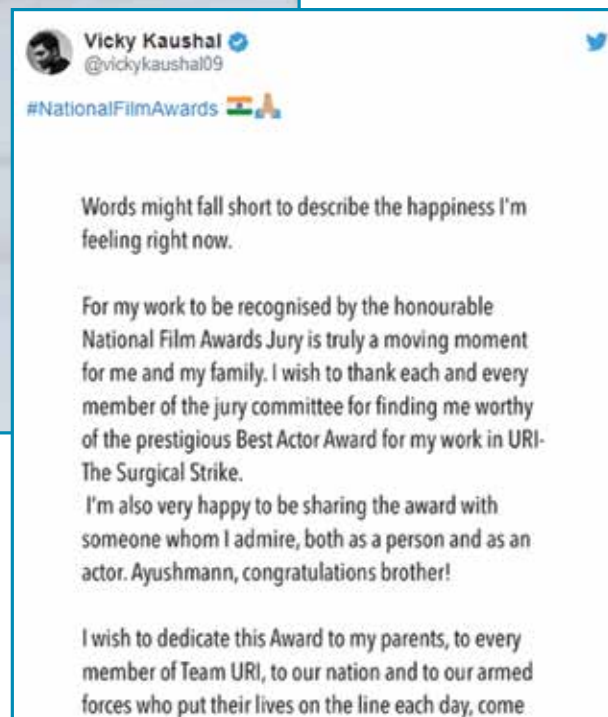
prize for their work in Uri: The Surgical Strike and Badhaai Ho respectively. Uri helmer Aditya Dhar won the National Award for Best Director - Uri, for which he also wrote the screenplay, is his first film as a director.

Vicky Kaushal, who plays an army officer in Uri which is based on the surgical strike of 2016, said in a tweet: “Words might fall short to describe the happiness I'm feeling right now.” He also

journey in movies and my reason to be an actor in the first place.”

Badhaai Ho also won the Best Supporting Actress award for Surekha Sikri and the award for Providing Wholesome Entertainment. Badhaai Ho

wasn't the only Ayushmann film to be awarded today; AndhaDhun was a mul-



led to this moment and it just can't get better than this.”

Yet to reach child actor Talha: ‘Hamid’ director Ajiz Khan on Nat Award win



MUMBAI, AUG 9 (PTI): “Hamid” bagged best Urdu film and best child actor award for Talha Arshad Reshi at the 66th National Film Awards but director Aijaz Khan is yet to connect with the young boy from Kashmir.

The Valley was in a lock down after the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated the state into two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Phone and internet lines, which were suspended in the Valley before the Centre's big move on Article 370, are still inaccessible.

“I have no words on the big win. I don't know what to say, I am thrilled. I just didn't expect it

at all. I want to thank God for this.

“I am also trying to get in touch with Talha's family but I can't because all the phone lines are jammed. They still don't know and that's sad. I am trying my best to reach them,” Aijaz told PTI.

“Hamid” chronicles the story of an eight-year-old Kashmiri boy who wants to talk to Allah over the phone so that he can convince him to send his missing father back. He dials the 786 number and ends up connecting with a hard-knuckled CRPF Jawaan, who he believes, is the God he is looking for.

Reshi shares the best child actor award with PV Rohith (“Ondalla Eradalla”), Sameep Singh (“Harjeeta”) and Shrinivas Pokale (“Naal”).

Rani Mukerji's ‘Mardaani 2’ to release on December 13

MUMBAI, AUG 10 (PTI): “Mardaani 2”, starring Rani Mukerji's as police officer Shivani Shivaji Roy, will hit the theatres on December 13.

The film, which is a sequel to the 2014's “Mardaani”, marks the directorial debut of Gopi Puthran, who wrote the first movie in the franchise. Produced by Aditya Chopra and Yash Raj Films, “Mardaani 2” was shot extensively in Jaipur and other parts of Rajasthan.

The movie will see Shivani, now Superintendent of Police, face a cold, merciless villain who has no empathy and “is pure evil”. “Mardaani 2” will be Rani's next after 2018's “Hichki”.

Veteran actor Vidya Sinha admitted to hospital

MUMBAI, AUG 10 (PTI): Veteran actor Vidya Sinha is admitted at a suburban hospital here reportedly due to breathing problems.

Sinha was admitted to Citi-Care Hospital in Juhu on Thursday. As per reports, she is suffering from lung and heart disorders and has been put on ventilator in the ICU. “She is not well right now... Beyond this I can't comment anything,” Sinha's daughter Janhavi told PTI.

The veteran actor is best known for her performances alongside Amol Palekar in “Ranjigandha” and “Chhoti Si Baat” and in mainstream commercial space for “Pati Patni Aur Woh” among others. She has also acted in quite a few TV shows like “Kkavyanjali”, “Qubool Hai” and “Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala”.



ARIES: If you're single, this is the weekend to swipe right and say yes to the many invites coming your way. You never know who you may lock eyes with when you are being the most magnificent version of yourself. Coupled rams could find themselves in a bit of a Vicky Christina Barcelona situation. Does the given person promise to add ‘salt’ to your relationship? It's all good in the hood as long as you've got consent on the table.

TIP: An unconventional romance is on the cards. **TAURUS:** One step forward, two steps backward. How long are you going to play this game, Taurus? Remember, you're the one who is getting hurt in the bargain. This week, you're being asked to take a good look at your relationships. Differentiate between the people who nurture you, and those who make you feel rejected. Learning to protect your sacred space is going to be an important theme for you in the days to come.

TIP: Protect your heart.

GEMINI: Gemini, you are a medicine woman, a healer, and a lightworker. You're blessed with the kind of sensitivity others cannot even wrap their head around. Tap into this place of

knowing, wild one. You have the power and potential to heal not just yourself, but also the world. What you need to keep in mind: you can only be a light unto others by empowering yourself first.

TIP: Your sensitivity is a gift.

CANCER: The worst is behind you, Cancer. You have emerged from the dark night of the soul as a stronger, more resilient version of yourself. Trust that this new chapter will bring you a greater degree of joy, laughter and togetherness. Quality time with the soul family is also on the cards. Don't wait for them to initiate plans. You be the proactive one.

TIP: This new chapter promises to be better than the last one.

LEO: It's okay to feel too many things at one time. It's okay to experience sadness, loneliness, grief and melancholy. Leo, you don't need anybody else to validate your feelings. What this phase of your life requires you to embrace: the duality that is synonymous with our existence. Beware of isolating yourself though. Reaching to a therapist, soul coach or mentor could help you process the heavy emotions.

TIP: There's no shame in reaching out for help.

VIRGO: It's all fun and games until somebody gets hurt. For the sake of your heart, maintain a safe distance from the non-committal types. Walk away from those who have too many tabs open. There's nothing wrong with their life choices. They are just not in alignment with what you are seeking at this moment. It's better to be independent than to settle for a love that is less than perfect.

TIP: Protect your personal space.

LIBRA: In a world that frowns upon singleness, you revel in your solo status. No, you're not shunning togetherness. You're simply refusing to settle for anything less than magic. You do you, Libra. Everybody will just have to get on board with it. The Universe is giving you a chance to curate a life that sparks joy and makes you feel like the most magnificent version of yourself. PS: Dinner for one, please!

TIP: Take pleasure in your solo status.

SCORPIO: Is love without passion, love at all? Thankfully, you'll never have to find out. On the cards for you this weekend: a raw and passionate connection. Revel in the joy of undressing each other. You are uncovering newer layers. Scorpions who have been coupled

for a while are likely to realise that what they have is rare and precious. What does the next phase of your relationship look like? Don't be afraid to take a step in the right direction.

TIP: A raw and passionate connection is on the cards.

SAGITTARIUS: What if your whole life was one long vacation and not just fragments of it? If you've been spending too much time in your head, come back to the present. Find the joy in each and every moment. As spiritual guru Osho once said, “Live your life totally, be drunk with the divine through life. Everything has to be celebrated; everything has to be lived, loved. To me, nothing is mundane and nothing is sacred.” Spoiler alert: the Universe is giving you more than one reason to pop the champagne today.

TIP: Find the joy in each and every moment.

CAPRICORN: It's a ‘watch your shadows’ kind of day, Capricorn. To add to the fears and insecurities, anger and jealousy are likely to make an appearance. Where do you think this is stemming from? The voice that says you're not good enough or makes you question your own abilities deserves to be burnt at the stake. Come back to that space of love, joy and ac-

ceptance within yourself, and let the transformation begin.

TIP: You are one in a million.

AQUARIUS: If they don't know how to love you, it's because you haven't given them a chance to understand who you really are. Take the masks off, Aquarius. Allow your most authentic self to be seen and heard, no matter how vulnerable this makes you feel in the beginning. Old wounds are likely to show up in the process, and that's okay. The more compassionate you are towards yourself, the more compassion you will attract from others.

TIP: Your most authentic self is yearning to be seen and heard.

PISCES: You may be talking plenty, but are you talking about the real stuff? Don't shy away from broaching the subject that's been on your mind for a while now. Today also brings with itself the reminder that not everybody who clinks glasses with you is necessarily your friend. There's a difference between those who show up for you in real life, and those who only hype you on social media. This is your chance to be there for those who matter, Pisces.

TIP: Focus on the real connections.