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SummitTIMES

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

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Golay challenges SDF government to “open debate” at Paljor Stadium

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], addressed a press conference here in the capital today. This was his first press meet since his release on 10 Aug from Rongneck Jail where he completed a one-year prison term following his conviction on a corruption charge. He lashed out against the SDF Government, reiterating his party's stand on various issues and challenged the government to an “open debate” at Paljor Stadium on current issues facing the State.

Mr Tamang extended gratitude to the people of Sikkim for welcoming



him back in such a grand manner upon his release, and while commenting on the massive turnout for Jan Unmukti

Diwas [as the SKM marked the day] in Singtam, said it was a manifestation of people's anger [Jan Akrosh] against

Sikkim Democratic Front party and its government.

“I dedicate the remaining years of my life to free people from the dictatorial rule of the SDF party,” he said.

Accusing SDF party and its president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, of being negative towards opposition parties of the State, Mr Tamang said, “Pawan Chamling has zero respect for opposition parties and is always accusing them of standing against Sikkim. Bhaichung Bhutia opened his party and it is his right in a democracy. He is an Arjuna awardee but the CM used improper language against him and other

turn to pg02

CS assault case: Kejriwal, Sisodia among 13 AAP MLAs chargesheeted

NEW DELHI, AUG 13

(PTI): The Delhi Police

today named Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia as accused in its charge sheet in connection with the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash in February.

The charge sheet, which was filed before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal, has also named as accused 11 legislators of the Aam Aadmi Party -- Amanatullah Khan, Prakash Jarwal, Nitin Tyagi, Rituraj Govind, Sanjeev Jha, Ajay Dutt, Rajesh Rishi, Rajesh Gupta, Madan Lal, Parveen Kumar and Dinesh Mohania.

In its around 1,300 page charge sheet, the police has alleged that Kejriwal, Sisodia and others had criminally conspired to threaten the Chief Secretary of death or grievous hurt, obstructed him in discharging his public function and caused hurt.

It has also accused the AAP leaders of other offences punishable under sections of IPC, including wrongfully confining any person, assaulting or using criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty, insulting him to provoke breach of peace and abetment of the offence.

They were also charge sheeted for offence committed under section 149, which says if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly, every other member of such assembly shall be held guilty of the offence.

The court has put up the charge sheet for consideration on August 25. If convicted, the accused may get a maximum of seven year jail term.

The Delhi Police had on May 18 questioned Kejriwal for over three hours in connection with the alleged assault on Prakash.

Prakash was alleged-

turn to pg02

Army XI vrs Aakraman for Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Army XI, Lucknow, will take on home team, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club, in the finals of the Independence Day Football Tournament for the Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on 15 Aug.

In the second semi-final match played today, Army XI edged past ASC Bangalore in a tie-breaker to secure it berth in the



finals of the tourney.

The full time of the match

ended in a goalless draw.

In the extra-time game of 30 minutes, Neeraj scored the lead for Bangalore in the 107th minute but with the equaliser by NH Singh for Army XI in the 119th minute, the extra time again too ended in a draw 1-1.

In penalty shootout tie-breaker, Army XI

players scored three goals while ASC Bangalore players managed to convert just two shots into goals. Army XI won the match by 4-3 to enter the finals of the tournament.

Sikkim Aakraman FC is already in the finals after defeating United Sikkim Football Club in the first semi-final played on 12 Aug.

Subash Deepak to attend 11th World Hindi Conference

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Noted Hindi and Nepali writer, senior journalist and translator from Sikkim, Subash Deepak, will be a part of the official delegation from India to attend the 11th World Hindi Conference being held from 18-20 Aug in Mauritius.

The conference is organised by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in association with Government of Mauritius, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal ministry for the 11th World Hindi conference.

In keeping with past practice, Hindi scholars from India and other countries will be honoured with 'Vishwa Hindi Samman' for their distinguished services in the field of Hindi. The main theme of the conference is 'Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti'.

Mr Deepak's name had been nominated for the conference by the Government of Sikkim.

In his career spanning more than four decades, Mr Deepak has authored six books in Hindi which include a novel, an anthology of short stories, collections of poems and three books on prominent Indian Gorkha freedom fighters.

His first novel 'Aranya Rodan' is the first Hindi novel from Sikkim published in 1985. He also authored Sikkim's first Hindi collection of poems, 'Khula Darwaza aur Ped', and the State's first collection of short stories in Hindi, 'Chakravahutatha Anya Kahaniyan'.

He has four published works



in Nepali to his credit including several translation works in Hindi, Nepali, Dogri and English.

He translated and edited 'Bharatiya Nepali Kahani Visheshank', a collection of Nepali short stories translated into Hindi, in 1974 which was the first translations of Indian Nepali short stories into Hindi.

He has also to his credit the translation of Nepali poems by Pawan Chamling 'Kiran' into Hindi titled 'Crucified Prashna Aur Anya Kavitaeyin' published in 1996.

Mr Deepak has also authored 'Langauge and Literature, a research work on 10 Languages and literature of Sikkim including Nepali' under Sikkim Study Series in 2004.

He started his career as a journalist in 1978 as sub-editor of 'Himali Bela' published from Gangtok and later published and edited 'Wichar', a Nepali newsweekly for more than three decades. He has

also edited 'Sudha', a monthly magazine in Nepali in 1978, 'SrijanSamaya' and 'Akademi Journal', the annual magazines published by Sikkim Akademi from 2008-10.

In 2003, he was the recipient of Sahitya Akademi translation award for 'Pal-Vipal', a Dogri novel by Dr Om Goswami into Nepali which was the first translation work from Dogri to Nepali.

He is also the recipient of Shiva Kumar Rai Smriti Puraskaar from Dakshin Sikkim Sahitya Sammelan, Namchi in 2002, Mahakavi Devkota Shatabdi Samman by Mahakavi Devkota Shatwarshiki Samaroh Samiti, Kathmandu in 2010, Nepali Bhasha Manyata Samman by Paschim Sikkim Sahitya Prakashan, Gyalshing in 2012 and Bhanu Puraskaar from Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim in 2013. He has also received Sikkim Sewa Samman in journalism from the State Government in 2014, the release adds.

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SDF condoles Somnath Chatterjee's passing away

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG: Sikkim Democratic Front party has conveyed profound grief on the demise of the former Lok Sabha Speaker and veteran politician, Somnath Chatterjee.

The ruling party has also extended its condolences towards the bereaved family.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity secretary, Chudamani Mishra, states that the former Lok Sabha Speaker and ten-times MP and renowned politician and legal expert, Somnath Chatterjee was a brilliant Speaker and a veteran communist leader who was respected by all.

CS assault case: Kejriwal, Sisodia...

contd from pg01

ly assaulted during a meeting at Kejriwal's official residence on the night of February 19. The police said the chief minister was present when the alleged assault took place.

The police have already questioned 11 AAP MLAs present at the chief minister's residence for the meeting. Two of the party MLAs -- Amantullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal --were arrested in the case.

The alleged assault on the chief secretary had triggered a bitter tussle between the Delhi government and its bureaucrats.

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SKM president calls on former CM, BB Gooroong

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 AUG:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], called on former Chief Minister of Sikkim, BB Gooroong, at his residence in 5th Mile here today.

Mr Gooroong welcomed the SKM president and expressed happiness over his release after one year of imprisonment, an SKM press release informs, adding that Mr Gooroong has expressed confidence over Mr Golay's potential in boosting political activities of Sikkim while bringing about the "long-awaited change".

The SKM president sought his guidance on current political scenar-



io of Sikkim during the meet, the release further informs. Extending his re-

gards and good wishes to SKM party and its leader, Mr Gooroong urged them

to be dedicated and sincere for the cause of Sikkim and its people.

Governor condoles passing away of Somnath Chatterjee

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 AUG:**

Governor Shrinivas Patil has expressed deep sadness and grief on the demise of former Lok Sabha Speaker, Somnath Chatterjee, in Kolkata this morning, a press communique received from Raj Bhavan informs. In his condolence message sent to Late Chatterjee's wife, Renu Chatterjee, the Governor wrote, "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the news of passing away of former Lok Sabha Speaker, Somnath Chatterjee, on Monday in Kolkata.

A distinguished member of Lok Sabha for ten times spanning over five decades which includes his memorable stint as Lok Sabha Speaker from 2004-2009, he was fondly called 'Dada' for his skills and mannerism as a senior Parliamentarian. It was my pleasure to be associated with him as member of Lok Sabha

in my second term from 2004-2009, presided over by Late Somnath Dada as Speaker, who always inspired me as a person to emulate inside the House.

Late Chatterjee was also a leading figure in Bengal's as well as India's political firmament with a long and distinguished public service. He will always be remembered as a great statesman and a public figure par excellence who did not hesitate to defy party lines when the Nation's interest called for it.

With his demise, the country has lost a political doyen and an experienced administrator. He has left a void in the Nation's political spectrum.

At this time of bereavement, I join the people of Sikkim to offer my deepest condolences. I pray to the almighty for bestowing strength to his family members to cope with this irreparable loss."

All-women's Police Station inaugurated in Kalimpong

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 13 AUG:

An all-women's police station was inaugurated here today in the old DIB building by Inspector General of Police, Manoj Kumar Verma. The thana has Sub-Inspector Sabita Lama as the OC and Shanti Lama as Assistant Sub-Inspector. Six lady constables were also deputed yesterday to the police station along with lady civil force personnel.

The IG also accepted that there was shortage of personnel in the State and remarked that since Kalimpong is also a new district, even these issues will be worked out by and by.

"The government is taking steps for that.



Recruitments are going on for constables and sub-inspectors. It may take a little time, but the vacancies will be filled soon," he said.

About infrastructure, he said that improvements and enhancements were already underway and that proposals of police stations

in Pedong, Reyang, Algarah and Lava have been mooted by the officers.

The IGP also mentioned that more police units will be established

and more concern will be given to the traffic.

"The progress will come in time as it is a new district and it will take time to build the infrastructure," he said.

Meanwhile, Sister Subishna Thapa, the Director of Bal Surakshya Abhiyan, an NGO that works for the welfare of children along with the protection of the girl child, also expressed her gratitude to the Superintendent of Police, Dhurva Jyoti De, for being proactive and welcomed the establishment of an all-women's police station within such a short span of time since Kalimpong was declared a district.

3rd Harka Maya and Damber Limboo Memorial Diamond Cup

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG;

The semifinals of the 3rd Harka Maya and Damber Limboo Memorial Diamond Cup [U-15] Open Boys' and Men's Football Tournament being organized by Pratap International

School were held at Tikpur in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

In the boys' semifinal match, Tikpur Secondary School defeated Dalam Junior Boys 4-2, while TUC, Tikpur secured victory against NGC, Tikpur



in the men's semifinal match of the tourney.

On 15 Aug, Sombaria SSS will take on Tik-

pur SS in the open boys' final.

Men's open final match will have Sa-

langdang FC and TUC, Tikpur play for Harka Maya & Damber Limboo Memorial Diamond Cup.

Golay challenges SDF government to...

contd from pg01

opposition parties. He never addresses opposition parties in proper language."

He also alleged the ruling party of implementing separate rules for the opposition parties during rallies and political meetings.

The SKM president strongly opposed the decision of the State Government to provide 5th Pay Commission arrears from 01 Jan, 2017, instead of 2016.

"Government employees have not received their 5th Pay Commission pay scale and they are aggrieved by the decision of arrears to be provided from 01 Jan, 2017. This is not acceptable. We demand that the government pay arrears from 01 Jan, 2016 itself. The arrears should be paid in one go and not in three installments. If the government does not immediately pay their arrears, SKM will sit on a fast-unto-death hunger-strike. We will make sure that government employees receive their arrears from 01 Jan, 2016 along with revised pay scale when SKM comes to power," he said.

The SKM president also commented on the CM's announcement with regard to provision of employment in MR/ adhoc basis to one member of each unemployed family.

"It was our party's agenda of one family-one job programme which was lifted by SDF but we had also said that we will provide regular employment and not on MR/ adhoc basis to each family. What SDF will do is terminate those who have been provided with MR/adhoc jobs after elections just like they gave fake housing scheme allotment orders before the 2014 elections. The State Government must issue a notification immediately on its employment announcement so that services of such persons are not terminated after the 2019 elections," Mr Tamang stated.

He further alleged that the State Government has regularized services of MR employees but is handing over appointment orders only after demoting them to lower posts.

"The MR workers should be regularised on the posts they were working in. Home Guards should also be regularised after five years of service like the MR workers. They should not be posted as chowkidars. They know about police processes and should be regularised in police service itself," he said.

He added that Mr Chamling had announced abolishment of labour contract system on Labour Day earlier this year but notifications on the same has not been issued yet.

"The State Government must immediately abolish labour contract system. Only those close to the SDF government are benefiting from factories, hydel power projects and pharma companies set up in Sikkim. Buses and trucks are hired in large numbers by these factories and hydel projects. The truth is that all these buses and trucks are owned by MLAs, ministers and persons close to them. The government should have sponsored buses and trucks for the unemployed youths to help them earn a livelihood," he stated.

Mr Tamang also challenged the SDF government to bring a resolution in Sikkim Legislative Assembly for reservation of Nepali seats under provisions of Article 371F. He stressed that the resolution will have full support of SKM if it is passed and sent to the Centre.

Addressing the Organic Mission of the State, Mr Golay expressed, "We are not against Organic Mission but it should be properly implemented. Farmers and consumers should not suffer due to this mis-

sion. Let people choose what they want to eat. If the State Government is that dedicated to the mission, it should start making arrangements for export of organic vegetables so that the farmers of Sikkim can earn even more."

Mr Tamang also criticised the SDF government for failing in every sector including health and education.

"We challenge SDF to have an open debate with us on any subject at Paljor Stadium in front of people. I am least concerned about whether I can contest the 2019 elections or not. Let the Election Commission of India decide on this. We have thousands of candidates ready for the elections. I did not revolt against SDF with the intention to become the CM. Either as a captain or a coach, we are ready to enter the ground and emerge victorious," he concluded.

Sharing his experience during his one year imprisonment in Rongneck Jail, Mr Golay said that he had developed gall bladder stones before going to jail and his family had approached the court to get an order for his treatment at Neotia Hospital in Siliguri.

"The State Government wanted me to undergo treatment at Vendanta or AIIMS. I knew it was a conspiracy so I gave an undertaking refusing treatment at Vendanta or AIIMS due to threat to my life and went back to jail. The pain was chronic sometimes but I tolerated the pain for the people of Sikkim," he said.

He also informed that he did not receive VIP treatment in the jail and was in 8x4 confinement cell.

"I ate the jail food and did other things as per the jail manual. As per norms, people were allowed to meet me. I used to spend most of my time reading and following the news," said Mr Tamang.

Himalayan FC vs Sikkim Police for Rangpo I-Day football finals

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Himalayan FC thrashed Temi FC 4-0 in the fourth semi-final match of Rangpo In-

dependence Day Open Football Tournament played at Rangpo Bazaar playground in East Sikkim today. Sailesh Tamang of Himalayan

FC was adjudged man of the match. Himalayan FC will play against Sikkim Police in the finals of the tourney on 15 Aug, a press release informs.



**Gangtok on
Tuesday,
14 Aug**

Temp: 26°C/18°C
Forecast: Times of clouds and a sun, a thundershower in one or two spots.
Sunrise: 05:06 AM
Sunset: 6:15 PM

Six climbers, crew rescued in Tajiki- stan chopper accident

DUSHANBE, AUG 13 (AFP): Six climbers and a crew member were rescued from the site of a helicopter accident in a remote mountainous region of Tajikistan while nine others remain missing after a "hard landing", emergency services said.

The Tajik Committee for Emergency Situations told AFP that a rescue helicopter reached the site in the east of the country and brought back the first group of six mountaineers and a crew member of the Mi-8 accident.

"Some of the climbers suffered injuries. They are receiving help," the committee said.

It added that two other rescue helicopters were on their way to the site, around 300 kilometres east of the capital Dushanbe.

Earlier authorities said 16 people were feared dead in the accident that took place yesterday at 1130 GMT, the committee said and two helicopters were sent on a rescue and recovery mission to the crash site.

The emergency committee said the group had been climbing the Ismoil Somoni mountain that was once known as Peak Communism and was the highest in the Soviet Union.

The statement did not identify the climbers or the crew.

The accident comes two weeks after four Western cyclist tourists were killed in an attack initially reported as a hit-and-run road accident, striking a blow to the country's emerging tourism sector.

The attack that saw the tourists rammed with a car before being attacked with knives was claimed by the Islamic State group, although the authoritarian government refused to acknowledge the group's claim.



KVK NAMTHANG DISTRIBUTES COLE CROPS SEEDLINGS TO FARMERS

GANGTOK, 13 AUG: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Namthang, distributed seedlings of cole crops to farmers of Upper Kabrey and Lower Maneydara of South Sikkim today. Farmers were provided with seedlings of cabbage [var. rare ball] and cauliflower [var. kenzan-60, white excel], a press release informs.

Manipur observes Patriots' Day, pays tribute to martyrs

IMPHAL, AUG 13 (PTI): Manipur today observed Patriots' Day in memory of state heroes who laid down their lives fighting the British during the Anglo-Manipuri war of 1891.

A state function was held this morning at Hicham Yaichampat and Thangal General Temple complex, in the heart of Imphal, to pay tributes to Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General, who were hanged to death on August 13, 1891 for waging a war against the colonialists.

The programme was attended by Chief Minister N Biren Singh, council of ministers, top police officers and civil officials among others.

A contingent of Manipur Rifles also paid gun



salute to the martyrs on this occasion.

At another programme organised by the BJP Manipur Pradesh later in the day, the CM urged the youth to imbibe in them a sense of patriotism.

"Our forefathers fought the war with courage and valour, despite

knowing that the British Empire was more powerful than them," he said.

The 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War, between March 31 and April 27, ended in a British victory.

"The present government will never compromise the territorial integrity of the state," the CM added.

In a statement issued by the Raj Bhavan, Governor Najma Heptulla today extended her best wishes to the people of Manipur.

"August 13 is observed as Patriots' Day every year in memory of those who laid down their lives resisting the British colonial designs in 1891," she said.

EC show cause notice to S Tura candidate for 'Hate Speech'

TURA, AUG 13 (PTI): The Election Commission has issued a show cause notice to John Leslee K Sangma, an independent candidate in Meghalaya, for an alleged hate speech he made during campaigning, ahead of the August 23 bye-elections to South Tura seat, an election official said.

The Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills, Ram Singh, confirmed that the notice had been served to the candidate yesterday though a reply from the former legislator is still awaited. He was asked to reply to the show cause notice by today noon.

The National Peoples Party (NPP) general secretary Mathias N Marak in his complaint to the Returning Officer had accused John Leslee K Sangma of making a hate speech against former legislator Agatha Sangma and her late father, P A Sangma, at a meeting at Nikrang Ading locality on August 7.

Mobile testing labs to ensure safe water in rural Arunachal

ITANAGAR, AUG 13 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today inaugurated two mobile testing laboratories aimed at ensuring safe and potable water supply in rural areas.

The labs, capable of onsite testing of different water quality parameters, are funded by the

state's Public Health Engineering Department.

The testing units will also spread awareness about clean drinking water.

Khandu said the labs are significant, as people in the rural areas are not much aware about the benefits of potable drinking water.

SAKO forms executive committee



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG: Sikkim Association of Kickboxing Organisations (SAKO) formed a new executive committee during its annual general body meeting held at Paljor Stadium on 12 Aug. The meeting was attended by SAKO members from different parts of the State.

The new committee has Arjun Rai as chief patron, Bhim Bahadur Subba as president, Bishnu Rai, Bhanu Rai, Hem Kumari Rai and Dina Rai as

vice-presidents, Bidhan Ballav Subba as general secretary, Bijoy Gurung, Taraman Gurung and Dingwa Hang Subba as joint secretaries, Phurba Sherpa as treasurer, Kazi Sangay as legal advisor and Binam Gurung, Bikash Pradhan, Bimala Tamang and Nimu Lepcha as publicity secretaries.

A SAKO press release informs that the newly elected body has decided to host the 2nd State Kickboxing Championship 2018 in Gangtok in the last week of Sept this year.



Team Adampool, Young Star in Adampool I-Day Volleyball Tourney final

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG: Team Adampool defeated Rey Khola with 25-22 points in the 2nd semi final of 72nd Independence Day Volleyball Tournament played here

at Adampool Junior High School in East Sikkim.

Additional Chief Engineer, Power Department, Dilip Sharma, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by special guests, Dr SP Shar-

ma [retired Director, Health Department] and Ghanashyam Poudyal [Assistant Engineer].

Team Adampool will take on Young Star in the final match of the tourney on 15 Aug.



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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Begin Kneejerk, but Then See it Through

Something the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board could consider

The Lepchas of Sikkim were notified a Primitive Tribe of Sikkim around a decade and a half ago and now have a welfare board dedicated exclusively to their, well, welfare. A welfare board for the primitive tribe group was announced in the run-up to the last elections, and as expected, was received with some skepticism given the timing. Surely enough, there was criticism over the timing from the Opposition camp, but that is in the past now. The board itself has remained relatively low-key, and since no major interventions have been seen from it thus far, may be now will be good time as any to try and understand the significance and potential of the latest development.

It takes years of close dialogue and interaction to develop even a reasonable understanding of what shapes another's culture. If this statement were true, then one would expect social and socioeconomic interventions - which by definition aim to change the environment or behaviour of people - to be based on a deep understanding of the 'stakeholders'/ 'beneficiaries'. Of course, that does not always happen, but should at least be attempted.

Unfortunately, more and more such projects are conceived, planned and even executed from a distance. In our country, schemes and projects are invariably designed with the "bottleneck approach". Developmental analysts look for the bottleneck which is blocking their version of development from reaching the people and then try and ease the bottleneck. That is kind of like allopathy in targeting the symptoms instead of the ailment. Look around, a host of national flagship programmes float on this model and a sizeable number of community-specific demands and promises also mirror similar sentiments.

When it comes to what the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board could achieve for the Lepchas of Sikkim, they need to learn from an old intervention which has delivered only limited returns (and this might be highly contentious) - the system of a quota for every ill. Analysts, when India got Independence, racked their brains on why the adivasis were not assimilating into the mainstream faster. Lack of education and opportunities was the obvious answer. So a quick-fire solution was worked out - reservation.

And sure enough many tribals started getting into premier institutes, some even completing their courses and going on to land plum jobs. Exulted with the results, the planners forgot part-b of the original plan - improving infrastructure in tribal areas. Education in the remote regions remains dismal and the system of reservation keeps getting extended. The fact that 71 years on, reservation still not only exists but now includes even more communities is proof that the magic formula was not all that it was made out to be.

What appears scary at this juncture, especially for Sikkim, is that the same formula continues to be applied and the same oversights continue. As things stand, all that the primitive tribe status has secured is an additional 5% reservation in higher education for the Lepchas, and while this access to exclusive quota in education is welcome, the next step needs to be taken and better educational infrastructure for the community created in their midst. And this is only one aspect of what can be attempted.

The welfare board for primitive tribes should begin its recommendations by proposing interventions beyond quotas; the Board should direct the creation of more, better and more relevant infrastructure for the community at every level whether they are at the school education level or skill development interventions or improved access to them. The scholarship for students from North Sikkim at Tashi Namgyal Academy has delivered a handsome crop of achievers. Imagine what could happen if such an institution was established in Dzongu itself! How many more futures could have been collectively improved? And it is never too late to attempt something on these lines. If the initiative was made a collaborative effort of the community, many more intangible benefits could also manifest. And that is the kind of role the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board should conceive and chaperone to completion...

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

The Taj Mahal is wasting away, and it may soon hit the point of no return

CAROLYN ROBERTS
theconversation.com

The saying goes that the Taj Mahal is pinkish in the morning, milky white in the evening, and golden when the moon shines. Though this may once have been true for the famously pristine marble monument, a mixture of pollution and poor management has now burdened the Taj with a 24-hour layer of yellowy-brown. Condemning the "lethargy" of restoration efforts, India's Supreme Court recently told the government to restore the Taj or demolish it.

Located in Agra, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Taj Mahal is one of the most iconically beautiful buildings in the world. Built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a testament to his grief, following the death of his first wife Mumtaz Mahal, Rabindranath Tagore called it "a tear running down the cheek of time".

The Taj was constructed of translucent white marble, brought to Agra from the north-west Indian region of Rajasthan. It was then inlaid with semiprecious stones, including jasper, jade, turquoise, lapis lazuli, sapphire and carnelian. The whole riverside complex, including the gardens and surrounding sandstone walls, was finished in 1653.

A MAUSOLEUM IN NEED OF NEW LIFE

Over the last four centuries the Taj has aged and darkened as a result of natural oxidation processes - the marble equivalent of rust - but it has been given no help by its hostile surroundings. It has been drenched in acid rain, coated in soot from industrial and domestic chimneys, and eroded by atmospheric pollutants.

Air pollution in Indian cities is legendary, and Agra is no exception. As in many Asian cities, increasing car ownership has caused traffic to surge, while dirty air seeps from Agra's oil refinery and tannery chimneys. These pollutants - sulphur dioxide, Nox gases, and mainly carbon-based particulates - have steadily weathered and eroded the Taj's brilliant white façade, giving it a yellow sheen. Despite the establishment of a 4,000 square mile protective area



around the site, (the Taj Trapezium Zone), within which emissions are supposedly strictly controlled, photographs show a marked deterioration in the Taj's condition over the last few years.

Legal emission limits have been long contested by developers, and are widely ignored. Smoky funeral pyres are lit, and piles of rubbish are regularly burned very close to the buildings. Pollution from the Yamuna River presents a further challenge. Untreated sewage and industrial waste pours in from the city, creating nutrient-rich waters. These nutrients are then picked up by the wind and deposited in the Taj's increasingly porous stonework, allowing river-derived microorganisms to thrive on its surfaces, colouring them green.

Allegedly, excrement from the many insects that thrive in the contaminated river water has hastened the damage, but the effect is surely negligible compared to that of fossil fuel-derived sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

Since 1998, a range of Indian research institutes have explored restoration methods, and millions have been spent trying to reverse the discolouration. One attempt involved smothering the Taj with damp clay poultices similar to face packs. It was hoped they would draw the damaging acids out of the surface layers of

marble, but, if anything, they seem to have made the situation worse.

A TEMPLATE FOR RENEWAL

In London, some 50 years after the completion of the Taj Mahal, Sir Christopher Wren designed a structure of comparable ambition. St Paul's Cathedral was finished around 1711, a resting place for the nation's great and good, and was built from the light-coloured, calcerous rock, Portland Stone.

St Paul's has suffered many of the same problems as the Taj Mahal - acid rain, soot, atmospheric pollutants, darkening with age. But after 40 years of monitoring by teams of university geographers, employing scientific techniques such as repeated observation with microerosion meters, the extent of the weathering is far better understood.

Older British readers may recall the infamous smogs that engulfed Britain's cities in the 1940s and 50s. Four hundred years of coal-powered domestic heating, and latterly the fumes emanating from vehicles and coal-fired power stations, allowed sulphur dioxide and fine particles of carbon to reach toxic levels in London's air.

On cold, still autumn evenings, dense chemical smog can do as much damage to calcerous or chalky stone as it can to people's lungs. Combined with rainfall it creates weak sulphuric

or nitric acid, which over centuries can erode calcareous stone. When St. Paul's was closely examined in the 1980s, some of the parapets and carvings had crumbled away completely leaving stone surfaces held together by black sooty crusts, hiding the voids beneath.

The worst excesses of soot and sulphur dioxide have been curbed by environmental legislation, though the atmospheric nitrogen produced by traffic, particularly diesel vehicles, still causes problems. Like Agra, London regularly breaks the World Health Organisation limits on air pollution.

However, the rate of weathering on St Paul's seems to have halved with the fall in atmospheric sulphur dioxide. Concerns remain over microflora growing on stone surfaces, but sensitive cleaning and the odd replacement stone have largely protected Wren's legacy. It remains to be seen whether the Taj can be similarly restored.

The Taj Mahal is a wonder of the modern world, but this national and international treasure needs swift and decisive action if it is not to lose its legendary lustre.

[The writer is Entrepreneur in Residence, Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership, Keele University]

Climate change and wildfires – how do we know if there is a link?

KEVIN TRENBERTH
theconversation.com

Once again, the summer of 2018 in the Northern Hemisphere has brought us an epidemic of major wildfires.

These burn forests, houses and other structures, displace thousands of people and animals, and cause major disruptions in people's lives. The huge burden of simply firefighting has become a year-round task costing billions of dollars, let alone the cost of the destruction. The smoke veil can extend hundreds or even thousands of miles, affecting air quality and visibility. To many people, it has become very clear that human-induced climate change plays a major role by greatly increasing the risk of wildfire.

Yet it seems the role of climate change is seldom mentioned in many or even most news stories about the multitude of fires and heat waves. In part this is because the issue of attribution is not usually clear. The argument is that there have always been wildfires, and how can we attribute any particular wildfire to climate change?

As a climate scientist, I can say this is the wrong framing of the problem. Global warming does not cause wildfires. The proximate cause is often human carelessness (cigarette butts, camp fires not extinguished properly, etc.), or natural, from "dry lightning" whereby a thunderstorm produces lightning but little rain. Rather, global warming exacerbates the conditions and raises the risk of wildfire.

Even so, there is huge complexity and variability from one fire to the next, and hence the attribution can become complex. Instead, the way to think about this is from the standpoint of basic science - in this case,



physics.

GLOBAL WARMING IS HAPPENING To understand the interplay between global warming and wildfires, consider what's happening to our planet.

The composition of the atmosphere is changing from human activities: There has been over a 40 percent increase in carbon dioxide, mainly from fossil fuel burning since the 1800s, and over half of the increase is since 1985. Other heat-trapping gases (methane, nitrous oxide, etc.) are also increasing in concentration in the atmosphere from human activities. The rates are accelerating, not declining (as hoped for with the Paris agreement).

This leads to an energy imbalance for the planet.

Heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere act as a blanket and inhibit the infrared radiation - that is, heat from the Earth - from escaping back into space to offset the continual radiation coming from the sun. As these gases build up, more of this energy, mostly in the form of heat, remains in our atmosphere. The energy raises the temperature of the land, oceans and atmosphere, melts ice, thaws permafrost, and fuels the water cycle

through evaporation.

Moreover, we can estimate Earth's energy imbalance quite well: It amounts to about 1 watt per square meter, or about 500 terawatts globally.

While this factor is small compared with the natural flow of energy through the system, which is 240 watts per square meter, it is large compared with all other direct effects of human activities. For instance, the electrical power generation in the U.S. last year averaged 0.46 terawatts.

The extra heat is always the same sign and it is spread across the globe. Accordingly, where this energy accumulates matters.

TRACKING THE EARTH'S ENERGY IMBALANCE

The heat mostly accumulates ultimately in the ocean - over 90 percent. This added heat means the ocean expands and sea level rises.

Heat also accumulates in melting ice, causing melting Arctic sea ice and glacier losses in Greenland and Antarctica. This adds water to the ocean, and so the sea level rises from this as well, rising at a rate of over 3 millimeters year, or over a foot per century.

On land, the effects of the ener-

gy imbalance are complicated by water. If water is present, the heat mainly goes into evaporation and drying, and that feeds moisture into storms, which produce heavier rain. But the effects do not accumulate provided that it rains on and off.

However, in a dry spell or drought, the heat accumulates. Firstly, it dries things out, and then secondly it raises temperatures. Of course, "it never rains in southern California" according to the 1970s pop song, at least in the summer half year.

So water acts as the air conditioner of the planet. In the absence of water, the excess heat effects accumulate on land both by drying everything out and wilting plants, and by raising temperatures. In turn, this leads to heat waves and increased risk of wildfire. These factors apply in regions in the western U.S. and in regions with Mediterranean climates. Indeed many of the recent wildfires have occurred not only in the West in the United States, but also in Portugal, Spain, Greece, and other parts of the Mediterranean.

The conditions can also develop in other parts of the world when strong high pressure weather domes (anticyclones) stagnate, as can happen in part by chance, or with increased odds in some weather patterns such as those established by either La Niña or El Niño events (in different places). It is expected that these dry spots move around from year to year, but that their abundance increases over time, as is clearly happening.

How big is the energy imbalance effect over land? Well, 1 Watt per square meter over a month, if accumulated, is equivalent to 720 Watts

turn to 06

Communist veteran Somnath Chatterjee passes away

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (PTI): Communist veteran and former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away at a private hospital here this morning following multiple organ failure. He was 89.

The 10-time Lok Sabha MP is survived by his wife Renu, a son and two daughters.

Chatterjee passed away around 8.15 am after his condition deteriorated following a mild heart attack yesterday, a hospital official said.

"He suffered multiple organ failure and had stopped responding to treatment late last night," the official told PTI.

His body was taken to the state Assembly, where it was accorded a gun salute, and then to his residence.

Chatterjee, who was associated with the Communist Party of India-Marxist for most of his life, had donated his body to medical science.

It will be handed over to the government-run

SSKM hospital later in the day.

He had suffered a cardiac arrest, systemic sepsis and renal failure along with respiratory problems and underlying diabetes, said a senior doctor, who was treating him.

Chatterjee suffered a mild heart attack yesterday morning but was revived.

The former speaker had suffered a haemorrhagic stroke last month.

Known as a 'Bhadralok (gentleman) Communist' like his mentor Jyoti Basu, Chatterjee had been under treatment for the past 40 days. He was discharged from hospital just for three days after his health had shown signs of improvement.

However, his condition deteriorated last Tuesday



and he had to be hospitalised again, the hospital official said.

Leaders across party lines condoled the death of Chatterjee, describing him as an outstanding parliamentarian who enriched Indian politics.

Condoling his death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was a stalwart of Indian politics.

"He made our parliamentary democracy richer and was a strong voice for the well-being of the poor and vulnerable," the prime minister said.

Congress President Rahul Gandhi said Chatterjee was an institution who was greatly respected and admired by all parliamentarians across party lines.

"He was a remarkable human being, an eminent

parliamentarian and a very clear headed speaker of the Lok Sabha. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family," said former vice president M Hamid Ansari in a condolence message.

Recalling her long association with Chatterjee, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said he was from a different ideology, but was always kind to her.

"I have been observing Somnath da from the very first day I entered Parliament and learnt a lot from him. He was a big brother to me," Mahajan told reporters.

She added that Chatterjee's tenure as the Lok Sabha speaker was a guide for her and he had established that the speaker's post was above politics by refusing to step down from his position.

Chatterjee, who was speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009, was expelled from the CPI(M) in 2008 for refusing to resign as speaker after his party withdrew support to the UPA-I government.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GYALSHING, WEST SIKKIM NOTICE INTIVTING TENDER

Memo No. 89 (A)/NIT/R&B/SD/GYZ DATED: 04.08.2018

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Govt. of Sikkim, invites sealed tender under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV grade enlisted with vide Sikkim Public Works Department vide notification no.515/R&B/PWD Secy. Dated 12/06/2018, for construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat/Urban local bodies where the works is to executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK: STRENGTHENING, CARPETING & DRAINAGE WORKS ALONG GYALSHING-SAKYONG ROAD UNDER GYALSHING SUB-DIVISION IN WEST SIKKIM.	VALUE PUT TO TENDER (RS)	COMPLETION TIME (IN YEAR)	AMOUNT OF BANK RECEIPT FOR COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (RS)	AMOUNT OF EARNEST MONEY@ 2.50% FOR ISSUE OF TENDER FORM (RS)
1.	Km 3 rd (0.0 to 1000.0) M	26,88,728.00	1(one) year	2500.00	67,218.00
2.	Km 4 th (0.0 to 500.0) M	34,96,512.00	1(one) year	2500.00	87,413.00
3.	Km 4 th (500.0 to 1000.0) M	39,93,653.00	1(one) year	2500.00	99,841.00
4.	Km 5 th (0.0 to 500.0) M	32,18,161.00	1(one) year	2500.00	80,454.00
5.	Km 5 th (500.0 to 1000.0) M	37,15,302.00	1 (one) year	2500.00	92,883.00
6.	Km 6 th (0.0 to 500.0) M	37,36,151.00	1 (one) year	2500.00	93,404.00
7.	Km 6 th (500.0 to 1000.0) M	42,33,293.00	1 (one) year	2500.00	1,05,832.00

TIME SCHEDULE

- 1) Date for submission of application with Bank Receipt for issue of Tender Document (excluding the Tender Form) 4th September 2018 (from 10 am to 4.00 pm).
- 2) Date of issue of Tender Form: 5th September 2018 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm).
- 3) Date and Time for submission of Tender: 7th September 2018 upto 12.00 pm.
- 4) Date and Time of opening of Tender: 7th September 2018 at 1.30 pm.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

1. Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
2. The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself.
The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
3. The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate, (b) No Objection Certificate/Tax Clearance Certificate from the Commercial Taxes Division, Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department (c) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
4. The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Sub-Division, Gyalshing on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) under the receipt Head 0059-80-01 Roads & Bridges (cost of Tender form).
5. Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of temporary deposit receipts of Fixed deposits receipts in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer (W), Roads & Bridges Department, Gyalshing. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts to that contractors/ firm who has obtained the tender Documents, on production of towards deposit receipt of 2.5% earnest money.
6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it.
7. Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, on the date and within the time indicated above.
8. Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
9. The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of Value Added Tax and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
10. In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/

analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

11. The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
12. The contractors shall establish a field laboratory at the construction site. It shall be mandatory to test material by the contractor at site or any other laboratory fixed by the Government for quality control purpose. The Department reserves the rights to withhold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
14. In case of roads, contractor shall be required to execute the pavement works in test patches for ensuring quality of materials and for determination of correct methodology. The test patches shall be got approved from the Engineer-in Charge.
15. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work Order.
16. All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% or as notified from time to time and applicable on date of payment.
17. The contractor shall ensure the safety of plant in the road reserve area and beyond. He shall also plant additional flora as directed by the Engineer- in Charge at his own cost in due fulfillment of the stipulation under the State Green Mission. Security deposit for the work shall be refunded only after verification of the survival of such plants in additions to the others norms laid down for the release of security deposit.
18. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
19. The Contractors are required to register themselves under – Rule 39 or 40 (as the case may be) of the Sikkim Value Added Tax Rules 2005 with the Income and Commercial Tax Division of Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department and obtain the TIN Number before the settlement of bill, or must be a registered Companies/Firms registered under the Companies Act, 1956 having valid Pan Card and Tan. The Contractors are also required to submit PAN No as per provision of Indian Income Tax Act. Wherever applicable.
20. The recoveries of Taxes and Royalties on forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
21. In case of carriage of Non Stock Materials, if these materials are available at site or are actually transported from a lesser distance than indicated in the schedules, the department shall pay the carriage as per actual proof or carriage supported by permits issued by Forest department indicating the quarries which is required to be submitted by contractor with bill, not exceeding the rates as incorporated in these schedules. The contractors are required to submit necessary documents to fulfil the claim of payments for carriage of Non Stock Materials.
22. Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
23. In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
24. The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicted in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
25. Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
 - a) Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
26. The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
27. Quarrying of stones shall be allowed only from designated approved quarries. Where work of Water Bound Macadam is involved, binding materials shall strictly be in accordance with the specifications, both in quality and quantity. Works such as compaction, consolidation and stabilization etc, will be required to be done on trial stretches to ensure that materials, procedure and equipments are producing the desired result.
28. Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
29. Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor.
30. The contractor shall make necessary arrangement accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
31. It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
32. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/ Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
33. The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills us per rules.
34. The defect liability period for the pavement work shall be for a period of five years which shall not cover the damages due to natural calamities formation sinking landslides etc.
35. The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/-
ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT.
SUB DIVISION, GYALSHING.

R.O. No. 270/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 13.8.2018.

If you want Olympic medal, you have to provide facilities accordingly: Vinesh

AMANPREET SINGH

NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI): Vinesh Phogat says India expects Olympic medals from its wrestlers but the grapplers do not have access to world class facilities required to produce such champions, though there has been "slight improvement" in training conditions.

The 23-year old Vinesh from Haryana is in good form, having won gold medals at the Commonwealth Games and Grand Prix of Spain ahead of the Asian Games.

She was part of the national camp in Lucknow but revealed that she had to skip sessions because it was hot in the training hall and intense practice could have caused an injury.

"We have Asian Games now and then World Championship is also approaching but things still stand where it was before. Food quality (at training Centres) has got better but lot of things need to be changed.

"If you want an Olympic medal, you have to provide matching facilities too. We train irrespective



of the conditions but it affects recovery and becomes a cause of injuries. The wrestling hall (in Lucknow) was so hot even this time,

despite it being a rainy season.

"We were sweating a lot and it affects your recovery. I started feeling pain in my knee. Sometimes

there is no electricity. And I had to skip training sometimes. But what do we do?," Vinesh said.

Vinesh though was not highly

critical of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

"Federation is doing ok but it alone can't do all. Others also have to do their job honestly. Before important competitions, you can't compromise on training," she said at as send-off ceremony organised by WFI and Indian Wrestling's new sponsors Tata Motors.

Vinesh, who suffered a heart-breaking injury during the Rio Games, said having a world class coach by her side is a must to get the desired results. She chose to train with Hungarian Waller Akos and said it has worked well so far.

"They have a long term plan for each and every wrestler. They know what you have to do today, tomorrow, 10 days before the tournaments and 20 days after the event. That is very important. They evaluated me before making a plan, whether they need to work on my speed, power or stamina, strategy.

"I have prepared well in Hungary and worked on many little things, won medals at CWG and

then in Spain. I will take carry this confidence into Asian Games," she said, sounding confident of a good show in Jakarta.

Asked if she gets to learn anything from Indian coaches, Vinesh did not reject their training outright.

"They also try their best but wrestling has changed a lot. Young wrestlers who have retired recently, should come into coaching. Like, If I return to wrestling as a coach after 10 years, I will prove to be a much better coach.

"So when seniors and young coaches will work together, it will give better results. I need a coach who can work 24 hours with me. They can't focus on each athlete."

Vinesh said the competition in Jakarta will be as tough as the Olympics.

"There is a Japanese Olympic champion and Chinese Olympic bronze medallist in the field. It is going to be tough and I have devised a strategy according to each of my opponent," she added.

Kohli admits selection has been off, tells batsmen to keep it simple

LONDON, AUG 13 (PTI):

India captain Virat Kohli conceded that team combination was "a bit off" in the lost second Test against England and urged his struggling batsmen to "keep it simple" in the head to save the ongoing series.

"I think we got the combination a bit off before the game. We have a chance to correct that next game. (At) Two-nil down the only option is to come out positive, make it 2-1 and make it an exciting series from there," Kohli said after the team lost by an innings and 159 runs to be 0-2 down in the five-match series.

India could only make 107 and 130 in the second Test and will need to avoid a loss in the third game -- due to start on August 18 in Nottingham -- to stay alive.

Kohli reiterated that his batsmen's problem is more mental than technical.

"I don't see any technical deficiency. If a batsman is clear in the head and he's clear about the plans he's taking, then if the ball does something off the pitch, you're able to counter it," said Kohli at the post-match media interaction.

"If my head's clouded then I feel like the ball can do this, or that, or



even that. You know there are three-four scenarios that run in your head. It sounds cliché but as the greats have said, keep this game simple, that's all you have to do. You can't come here and think the conditions are too difficult because they are really not if you're prepared to counter them.

The weather also did not favour India, who batted in overcast conditions while England scored their runs in bright sunshine on day three.

"A lot of people are talking about the conditions, that we batted during a difficult time. On the day that was good, we had to bowl. And again, today was overcast and we had to bat. If we think about these things, we won't be able to plan for the future.

"There is nothing to be gained from thinking about what has happened and thinking what if. Going ahead in this series, we need to look at the mistakes we've made in this game and correct them. A

sportsman has no other options," felt the captain.

Bowlers did well in the series opener but were not consistent enough at Lord's, he said.

"You can't control the toss or the weather. We didn't play good cricket in this game. We bowled well in the beginning but didn't hit our areas consistently. We didn't get enough chances in the field to miss any, but with bat and ball we could have done much better than we did."

During the second innings, Kohli batted at number five as his back problems resurfaced. The star batsman was hopeful that he would be fit in time for the next match.

"Back is one thing that can be very tricky when it goes off. It happened during the latter half of the last leg of the South Africa tour when I missed a T20 game because that was very sudden. It happened one day before. The good thing is I have five days before the next Test.

ST. LOUIS, AUG 13 (AFP): Brooks Koepka held off dramatic challenges from Tiger Woods and Adam Scott in a thrilling back-nine battle Sunday to win the 100th PGA Championship.

The 28-year-old two-time US Open champion sealed his third major title by firing a four-under-par 66 to finish 72 holes on 16-under 264, edging Woods by two strokes at Bellerive Country Club with Australia's Scott another shot adrift.

"To do this is truly incredible," Koepka said.

As Woods electrified spectators by displaying the form that made him a 14-time major champion, American rival Koepka stayed calm and persevered under intense pressure to claim the Wanamaker Trophy and a top prize of 1.98 million (1.73 million euros).

"I heard all the roars when Tiger made his run," Koepka said. "It was fun. It made it enjoyable.

"It's my focus. For some reason the majors get my attention. When you're firing at flags you have to be calm and focus on every shot." Deadlocked for the lead with Scott -- who began the back nine with three birdies in four holes -- and only one stroke ahead of Woods, Koepka sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-4 15th and a six-foot birdie putt



at the par-3 16th then parred the last two holes to secure the victory.

"I missed putts on 14 and 15 and Brooks didn't and my momentum was gone," Scott said. "I'm definitely playing better and in the right direction and that's a positive."

Woods, who hasn't won a major title since the 2008 US Open and hasn't won any title in five years, proved he is a legitimate major title contender once again at age 42 with an epic 64 which he concluded with a 20-foot birdie putt at 18, the crowd roaring as he walked off.

"These fans were so positive all week," Woods said. "I can't thank them enough for what they were saying out there and what it meant to me coming back trying to win a major champion-

ship again." - 'Mind-blowing' -

Koepka, who defended his US Open crown in June at Shinjuku, became only the fifth player to win the US Open and PGA Championship in the same year, joining Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gene Sarazen and Ben Hogan.

And it came in a season where he missed the Masters with a left wrist injury.

"Going from that to even being able to play this year to this, it's absolutely mind blowing," Koepka said.

In his eighth month of a comeback season after spinal fusion surgery and years of back injuries, Woods grinded out four birdies against a lone bogey on both the front and back nines but could never draw level with

Koepka, settling for his seventh career major runner-up finish.

"I played hard," Woods said. "Bit of a struggle with my game. I was hanging in there, grinding it out trying to make as many birdies as possible." Crowds cheered the veteran through a thrilling round that saw him miss every front-nine fairway but take only 10 putts, scrambling from dirt, trees and bunkers to stay in the hunt.

"It was a struggle until I found a little bit of something on the back nine," Woods said. "I was hanging in there with my mind and it got me through." Woods, who said he wants to be chosen as a captain's pick for the US Ryder Cup team, was pleased he was able to contend at the PGA and lead in the last round of last month's British Open.

"I would never have foreseen that a year ago," Woods said.

The impact was dramatic for rivals as well.

"The roars were pretty unbelievable," second-ranked 2017 PGA winner Justin Thomas said. "Any birdie he made everyone went nuts. This was the first real Tiger effect I've experienced with that many people." Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, missed a short birdie putt at the par-5 17th and made bogey 18 to finish third but was pleased with his overall effort.

Climate change and wildfires – how do we know if there is a link?

contd from pg04

per square meter over one hour. 720 Watts is equivalent to full power in a small microwave oven. One square meter is about 10 square feet. Hence, after one month this is equivalent to: one microwave oven at full power every square foot for six minutes. No wonder things catch on fire!

Attribution Science

Coming back to the original question of wildfires and global warming, this explains the argument: there is extra heat available from climate change and the above indicates just how large it is.

In reality there is moisture in the soil, and plants have root systems that tap soil moisture and delay the effects before they begin to wilt, so that it typically takes over two months for the effects to be large enough to fully set the stage for wildfires. On a day to day basis, the effect is small enough to be lost in the normal weather variability. But after a dry spell of over a month, the risk is noticeably higher. And of course the global mean surface temperature is also going up.

"We can't attribute a single event to

climate change" has been a mantra of climate scientists for a long time. It has recently changed, however.

As in the wildfires example, there has been a realization that climate scientists may be able to make useful statements by assuming that the weather events themselves are relatively unaffected by climate change. This is a good assumption.

Also, climate scientists cannot say that extreme events are due to global warming, because that is a poorly posed question. However, we can say it is highly likely that they would not have had such extreme impacts without global warming. Indeed, all weather events are affected by climate change because the environment in which they occur is warmer and moister than it used to be.

In particular, by focusing on Earth's Energy Imbalance, new research is expected to advance the understanding of what is happening, and why, and what it implies for the future.

[The writer is Distinguished Senior Scientist, National Centre for Atmospheric Research]

NEW DELHI, AUG 13 (PTI): Indians would live for about four years longer on an average if the country meets the WHO's air quality standards, according to a new study.

Noting that ambient air pollution alone may cost India more than USD 500 billion per year, it said it is causing hundreds of millions of people in the country to lead shorter and sicker lives.

A group of researchers have proposed a slew of measures to overcome the issue that includes applying monetary charges on excess emissions.

Indians would be able to live for about four years longer on an average if the country meets the WHO's air quality standards, the study said.

Under the World Health Organisation quality standards, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) should be 10 g/m3 annual mean and 25 g/m3 24-hour mean while the coarse particulate matter (PM10) 20 g/m3 annual mean and 50 g/m3 24-hour mean.

To help improve India's air quality, researchers from the University of Chicago and Harvard Kennedy School have laid



out five key evidence-based policy recommendations in a new report titled 'A Roadmap Towards Cleaning India's Air', the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago said in a statement.

Moreover, if India were to meet the WHO's air quality standards, its people would live about four years longer on an average. The economic costs of pollution, through its impact on health care expenditures and workforce productivity, will be significant, it said.

The study noted more than

660 million Indians live in areas that exceed the country's standard for what is considered safe exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

For Delhi, the results of the odd-even scheme suggest driving restrictions may be most effective as emergency measures during the worst periods which is winter.

"The analysis found evidence of a 13 per cent reduction in PM2.5 concentrations during the January round. The effect was particularly large between

11 am and 2 pm, perhaps due to a reduction in traffic during the morning peak hours. In contrast, the analysis found no evidence of an effect during the April round. The absence of an April effect may have been due to greater dispersion caused by warmer temperatures," the study said.

It recommended improving emissions monitoring by better aligning incentives of auditors, providing regulators with real-time data on polluters' emissions, applying monetary charges for excess emissions, providing the public with information about polluters, and using markets to reduce abatement costs and pollution, according to the study.

"While the economic costs of pollution are high and there is no easy solution, we remain optimistic because of the incredible innovations currently being experimented with throughout India," Rohini Pande, a professor in Rafik Hariri University and co-director of Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) at Harvard Kennedy School, was quoted in the statement.

Death toll from quake that hit Indonesian island passes 430

JAKARTA, AUG 13 (AP):

The death toll from the earthquake that rocked the Indonesian island of Lombok a week ago has passed 400 and the government is estimating economic losses of at least several hundred million dollars.

The national disaster agency said Monday the August 5 quake killed 436 people, most of whom died in collapsing buildings.

It said damage to homes, infrastructure and other property is at least 5 trillion rupiah (USD 342 million), calling that a temporary figure that will rise as more assessments are made. The agency said rebuilding will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

The magnitude 7.0 quake flattened thousands of homes and according to the disaster agency's latest estimate has displaced about 350,000 people.



Iran's Khamenei: 'No war, no negotiations with the US'

TEHRAN, AUG 13 (AFP):

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said today that there would be neither war nor negotiations with the United States.

"Recently, US officials have been talking blatantly about us. Beside sanctions, they are talking about war and negotiations," he said via his official Twitter account in English.

"In this regard, let me say a few words to the people: THERE WILL BE NO WAR, NOR WILL WE NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S." There has been widespread speculation over whether Iran would be forced back to the negotiating table following Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposition of sanctions.

But Iran has rejected fresh talks, saying the US can no longer be trusted after violating its commitments under the deal.

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Imran Khan among 329 newly-elected members of Pak's Parliament take oath

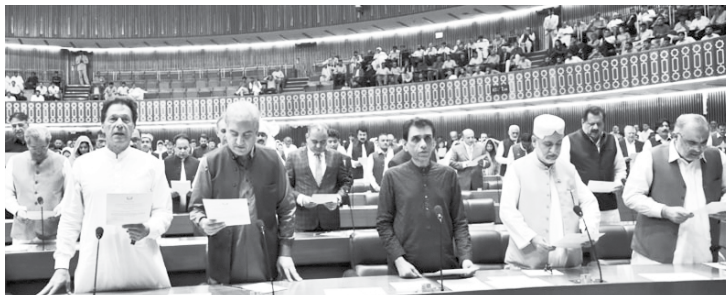
SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, AUG 13 (PTI): Pakistan's Prime Minister-in-waiting Imran Khan was among the 329 newly-elected members of the National Assembly who took the oath today, setting the stage for the cricketer-turned-politician to form the next government, only the second democratic transition of power.

The maiden session of the 15th National Assembly, the lower house of Parliament, concluded after outgoing Speaker Ayaz Sadiq administered the oath to the leaders in the 342-member house.

The 329 members signed their presence in a register.

The National Assembly session was then adjourned till 10 AM, August 15, Geo News reported. President Mamnoon Hussain had summoned the maiden session at 10 AM in parliament house today, 19 days after Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party emerged as the single largest



in the general elections.

Khan and other prominent leaders including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shahbaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and former president Asif Ali Zardari also took oath.

The PTI chief shook hands and posed for a photo with Bilawal, who is entering the National Assembly for his maiden term, Dawn reported.

The Speaker announced that elections of the new Speaker and his deputy will

be held on August 15.

The PTI has nominated Asad Qaisar for Speaker, while opposition has named Syed Khurshid Shah of the PPP as the joint opposition candidate for the post.

Earlier, the maiden session started with the National Anthem, followed by recitation from the Holy Quran.

Khan looked prominent as he sat in the front row of the parliament house close to the chair of the leader of the house, which he is eventually expected to take after formal

election as Prime Minister.

Strict security measures have been put in place to avoid any untoward incident during the proceedings and irrelevant persons have been barred from entering the house.

The PTI emerged as the single largest party with 116 seats in July 25 elections. Its number increased to 125 after nine independent members joined it and final tally reached 158 after it was allotted 28 out of 60 seats reserved for women and 10 seats reserved for minorities.

Party sources said that the list of the Cabinet has not been finalised but there is a general consensus that Shah Mahmood Qureshi will be the new Foreign Minister and Pervez Khattak the new Interior Minister. Asad Umar is expected to get the key post of Finance Minister.

Khan is expected to appoint prominent businessman Abdul Razzak Dawood as advisor on finance. Dawood served in the Cabinet of former military dictator Pervez Musharraf.

The election of the Prime Minister will be held after election of the new Speaker who will supervise the election of the premier.

The PTI has nominated Khan for the top post and he is scheduled to take oath on August 18 at the President House.

The combined opposition has nominated Shehbaz Sharif against Khan.

The new government faces a strong opposition as the

PML-N has a final tally of 82 seats, followed by the PPP with 53 and Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) 15 seats. The three have joined hands and formed the combined opposition.

The PTI has the support of smaller parties including Muttahida Qami Movement (MQM) with seven seats, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) five, Balochistan National Party (BNP) four, Pakistan Muslim League (PML) three, Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) three, Awami Muslim League and Jamori Watan Party one seat each.

This will be the third consecutive democratic government in Pakistan since 2008 when military ruler Musharraf announced general elections after serving as president from 2001 to 2008 following a coup in 1999.

The PPP formed the government in 2008, followed by the PML-N led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in 2013.

Pakistan releases 30 Indian prisoners ahead of Independence Day

ISLAMABAD, AUG 13 (PTI): Pakistan today released 30 Indian prisoners, including 27 fishermen, from jail as a goodwill gesture ahead of the country's Independence Day tomorrow.

The release of the prisoners "is in line with Pakistan's consistent policy of not politicising humanitarian issues," Foreign Office Spokesperson Mohammad Faisal said in a statement.

The 30 prisoners being set free also include 27 fishermen, it added.

"This is a humanitarian gesture to mark Paki-

stan's Independence day on August 14," he said.

"It is our hope that the Indian side will also reciprocate in a similar manner," he said.

Over 470 Indians, including 418 fishermen, are detained in Pakistani jails, according to a government report submitted before the country's Supreme Court in July.

The 27 fishermen today reached Lahore and will be handed over to the Indian authorities at the Wagah Border.

Senior jail superintendent at Malir jail in

Karachi, Ghulam Baksh said that they had released the fishermen yesterday and sent them via train to Lahore after getting orders from the interior ministry.

"The fishermen have been released as a goodwill measure," he said.

Faisal Edhi of the Edhi welfare trust said the fishermen were obviously delighted at being released some of them had spent the last two years in jail.

"We have taken care of their expenses, including sending them by train to Lahore and taking

them to the Wagah Border. We have also given them cash and gifts as a sign of goodwill," he said.

Pakistan and India frequently arrest fishermen for allegedly trespassing in the territorial waters in the Arabian Sea and these fishermen do not have boats equipped with the technology to know their precise location, authorities say. A number of non-governmental organisations in both India and Pakistan have raised the issue of jailed fishermen, pressing their governments to release them without delay.



PUTRAJAYA, AUG 13 (AP):

Malaysia's prime minister said today he will seek to cancel multibillion-dollar Chinese-backed infrastructure projects that were signed by his predecessor as his government works to dig itself out of debt, and he blasted Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya Muslims as "grossly unjust."

Mahathir Mohamad made the comments during a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press days before the 93-year-old leader heads to Beijing for his first visit there since returning to power in an electoral upset three months ago.

Mahathir said he wants to maintain good relations with China and welcomes its investment, so long as the projects benefit Malaysia.

But he took his toughest stance yet on Chinese-backed energy pipelines and a rail project along peninsular Malaysia's eastern coast that were struck by his predecessor, Najib Razak. The former premier faces trial on multiple charges related to the alleged multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund. He denies wrongdoing.

"We don't think we need those two projects. We don't think they are viable. So if we can, we would like to just drop the projects," he said from his office in the administrative center of Putrajaya.

During his time in power, Najib drew Malaysia closer to China, which sees the multiethnic Southeast Asian country as a key part of its ambitious One Belt, One Road global trade initiative. The former prime minister reached deals for the 688-kilometer East Coast Rail Link and the two gas pipelines in 2016.

Malaysia's new government has already suspended work on the projects, being built by Chinese state-backed companies, and called for drastic cuts in their ballooning cost, which it estimates at more than 22 billion. Some of that money has already been paid and could be difficult to recoup.

If scrapping the projects altogether isn't doable, Malaysia will need to at least put them on hold until the future, Mahathir said.

Mahathir also urged China to respect the free movement of ships throughout the South China Sea. China and multiple Southeast Asian nations including Malaysia have competing claims on islands and reefs in the sea along with the rich fishing grounds and potential fossil fuel deposits around them.

China claims much of the sea as its own and has built up several man-made islands equipped them with runways, hangers, radar and missile stations to bolster its claim.

It has accused the US, which routinely deploys aircraft carriers, other warships and planes to the sea, of meddling in a purely Asian dispute. Chinese ships also patrol the sea.

"We are all for ships, even warships, passing through, but not stationed here," Mahathir said. "It is a warning to everyone. Don't create tension unnecessarily."

Mahathir was scathing in his criticism of Myanmar, a country whose inclusion into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations he had pushed for in 1997 despite concerns over human rights abuses and protests by the US.

"It is grossly unjust to do what they have done, killing people, mass murder, that's not the way civilized nations behave," he said.

The previous government of predominantly Muslim Malaysia strongly supported the Rohingya, a persecuted minority in Myanmar who have fled by the hundreds of thousands to neighboring Bangladesh after a crackdown last year that some have called ethnic cleansing.

Malaysia has said the displacement of Rohingya is no longer a domestic issue for Myanmar, in a rare departure from ASEAN's non-interference policy in each other's affairs.

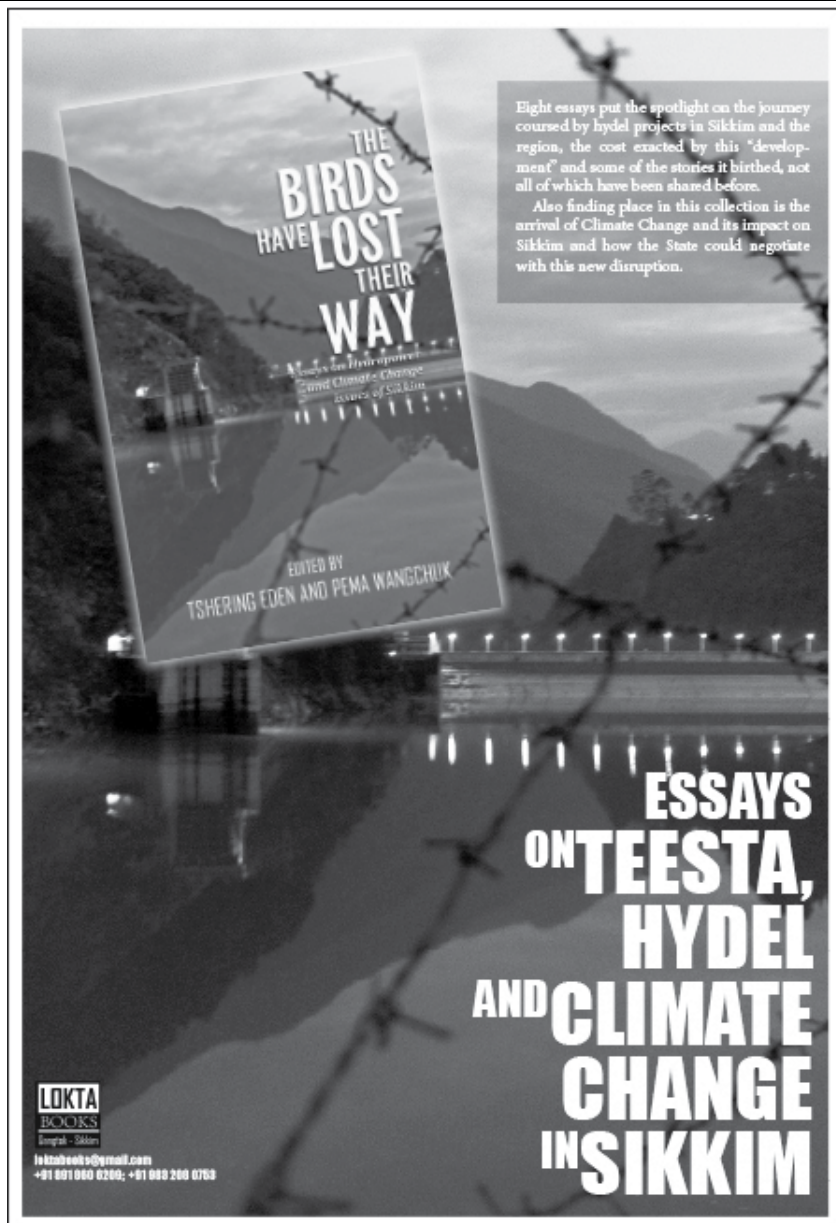
Mahathir added that he was "very disappointed" in Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's failure to halt the oppression.

"Obviously she appears to be with the government of the day on how they treat the Rohingyas. It's a question of justice and human rights. You can't do that," he said.

He stopped short of committing Malaysia to taking in more Rohingya refugees, however, saying the 7 million legal and undocumented foreigners Malaysia already hosts are "far too many." Mahathir is a larger-than-life figure in Malaysia, with his influence dominating the multiethnic country's politics from the Cold War into a new millennium.

His first turn as prime minister stretched for 22 years, coming to an end only in 2003. He rose to prominence by controversially championing the country's indigenous Malays, whom he saw as disadvantaged compared to the country's Chinese minority, and he oversaw the rapid development of his young country while concentrating power under his increasingly autocratic rule.

Mahathir long seemed to relish his role as an antagonist to the West. He frequently criticized the U.S. and its close allies often with colorful and at times offensive language while promoting what he saw as Asian values and interests.





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PRE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WITH BRO! Joe Jonas celebrated his 29th birthday, a few days early, with brother and former bandmate Nick Jonas in Miami.

CHRIS PRATT TAKES HOME THE SURFBOARD FOR JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM AT TEEN CHOICE AWARDS

He has battled genetically altered dinosaurs in the last two Jurassic World blockbusters. And on Sunday, Chris Pratt was awarded for his efforts when he won Choice Summer Movie Actor at the 2018 Teen Choice Awards for his role as Owen Grady in Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom.

The crowd went wild when the 39-year old was announced as winner and then strutted on stage to get his surfboard with a big grin on his face. The crowd had good reason for their enthusiasm.

The actor looked every bit the movie star that he is dressed in classic two-piece suit that was paired with a black polka-dot shirt.

He wore his short locks stylishly pulled combed back and with a left part. But on this night, and in classic Pratt style, the actor used equal parts charisma and humor to



address the excited audience. "I haven't been a teenager in a long time," the hunky actor joked when he accepted the award.

the award.

Pratt's Jurassic World co-star Bryce Howard, who also won for Choice Summer Movie Actress, was brought up on big screen via video chat because she couldn't attend the event in person.

And the two, once again, showed their great chemistry with a chummy and adoring acceptance speech. Pratt took time out to thanks God in his speech, while Howard reaped praise to her co-star.

"The only thing better than running from dinosaurs is running from dinosaurs with Chris Pratt," she gushed.

Their undeniable chemistry has helped turn the last two Jurassic World installments into major blockbusters. The 2015 movie earned more than \$1.6 billion worldwide, while Fallen Kingdom has raked in more than \$1.2 billion since its release May 21.

Stories talk to you, they don't leave you: Mudassar Aziz

Mudassar Aziz believes that story is most important aspect of filmmaking and directors should only make films when they have a good script.

Six years after he made his directorial debut with passable "Dulha Mil Gaya", featuring Shah Rukh Khan, Sushmita Sen and Fardeen Khan, Aziz won over the critics and audiences with his 2016 film "Happy Bhag Jayegi".

Now, Aziz is gearing up for the release of its sequel, "Happy Phir Bhag Jayegi", which will hit the theatres on August 24.

"Stories talk to you, they are living things, they are not dead things. They create a stir in your life, they don't leave you. That's when you should make a film. Don't make a film because you have to make a film," Aziz told PTI.

Money was never a motivator for Aziz, who dropped



out of engineering college in the final year to fulfil his dream of making films.

"...We land up reaching a certain stage in our life where bills will get paid, coffee will be affordable, let that not become the reason to make a film.

"This is something that the failure of my first film taught me, that a film should be made only when you have a story within you to tell," Aziz said.

The failure of his first film made him realise that the "onus of a flop" often lands

on a director's head.

"Failure is met with certain amount of struggle. When a film works then it is said it worked because of the stars or the timing was right and if it did not do well then it is because of the director. I am not from the film industry, I had nothing to fall back on."

Having seen the failure with his first film itself, Aziz says he only learnt to narrate stories that come straight from his heart.

"Maybe if I would have seen success with my first film I could have become dishonest to my craft. I realized the importance of remaining true to my craft.

"Whatever be the reasons for the first film to not do well I know how to work and grow as a filmmaker and keep a certain relationship with my audience alive. Failure came with its fair share of struggle but there was also learning.

Travis Scott's album Astroworld enters at No 1 in Billboard charts!

Travis Scott's new album has debuted at no 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. The rapper shifted the equivalent of 537,000 units, the second highest debut of 2018.

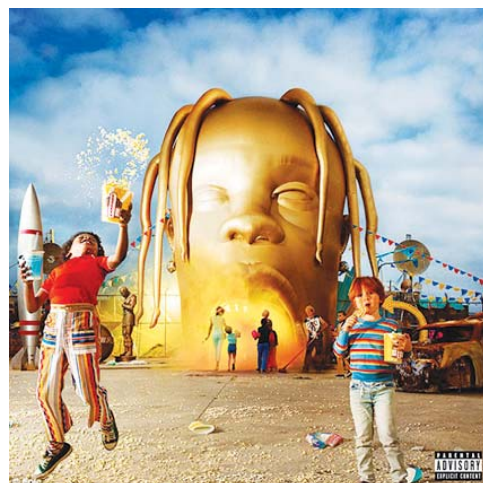
Only Drake's record-breaking Scorpion has made a bigger sales impact this year, at 732,000 units. Travis even managed to finally push Scorpion into no 2, having spent five straight weeks at the top.

Astroworld is the 26-year-old's third album, and his second number one; his 2016 effort Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight also topped the charts. His first album, 2015's Rodeo, peaked at no 3.

This week Mac Miller's Swimming debuted at no 3 with 66,000 units; it is his fifth consecutive top-five charting release. Post Malone's beer-bongs & bentleys slips one place to no. 4; its 15th week in the top four.

YG rounds out the top five, with his third studio album and third top ten offering Stay Dangerous.

With positions 6, 7 and 8 filled by Juice



WRLD's Goodbye & Good Riddance, Cardi B's Invasion of Privacy and XXXTentacion's ? respectively, hip hop albums dominate the top 8 on the charts for the first time ever.

It's been a big year for Travis — real name Jacques Berman Webster II — personally as well as professionally; in February his girlfriend Kylie Jenner gave birth to his first child, daughter Stormi.

Demi Lovato temporarily leaves rehab



Demi Lovato has reportedly left the rehabilitation facility she entered last week in search of additional treatment in Chicago.

According to People magazine, the 25-year-old singer and her mother, Diana De La Garza, left Los Angeles and flew to Chicago to meet with a psychiatrist who specializes in mental health and sobriety treatment.

"She's in the midst of recovery," a source told the publication.

"It's going to be a long road, and Demi knows that. Emotionally, it hasn't been easy, but she's doing okay," it added.

Last month, Lovato overdosed on what was reported as an unspecified opioid. She was found unconscious in her Hollywood Hills residence. She was then taken to Cedars-Sinai hospital, where she listed in stable condition and has remained there since the incident.

Following her hospitalization, the singer had cancelled performances in Atlantic City and Toronto, which were originally slated for July 26 and July 29 respectively.

Earlier this week, the singer cancelled the rest of her 2018 tour dates to focus on her recovery.

In an Instagram post recently, the sing-

er spoke about her battle with addiction, saying she needed "time to heal and focus on my sobriety".

"I have always been transparent about my journey with addiction. What I've learned is that this illness is not something that disappears or fades with time. It is something I must continue to overcome and have not done yet," she wrote.

"...I now need time to heal and focus on my sobriety and road to recovery. The love you have all shown me will never be forgotten and I look forward to the day where I can say I came out on the other side," she added.

ARIES: Changes to your chosen field are indicated, Aries. Ideas from other states or countries might fire your creativity. Your intellectual or artistic interests could take on a new dimension, expanding your horizons and opening new opportunities. You might toy with the idea of travel, perhaps to learn more about these matters. Possible formal education in new fields is also indicated.

TAURUS: A sum of money above and beyond your usual income could come your way. This could be a bonus, settlement, or even a gift of some kind. You could put it to work making changes in your home, perhaps repairs, perhaps remodeling or redecorating. This may seem like a daunting prospect, but you'll have the energy and enthusiasm in addition to the money. Go to it.

GEMINI: Some vast changes in your community could take place, Gemini. They're positive, for the most part. Today the news should spread widely, and you could be hearing about it from all sides - local newspapers, neighbors, and conversations on the street. The level of excitement in your neighborhood is likely high, and you could get caught up in it. Be prepared for some surprises.

CANCER: Cancer, you might choose to do some volunteer work today or help a friend. This could make you aware of a talent you didn't know you had. It could pave the way to more income. You could feel very proud of yourself and decide to do more with this ability, leading not only to financial benefits but also to increased self-esteem. Go for it.

LEO: Today you might wake up

feeling that you can move mountains - and this might be exactly what you set out to do, figuratively speaking. Your physical energy, enthusiasm, and self-confidence are very high, Leo. Your own and others' creative projects could take up a lot of your time. If you're coaching or helping others, however, avoid the temptation to take over the project.

VIRGO: Today you could recapture the joy in life that you had as a child, Virgo. You're serious by nature, and feelings of joy are to be lived and treasured. You could be experiencing true flow. There might not be any real reason for it, so don't try to find one. Your imagination and your relationships with others could be enhanced as a result. Relish the moment.

LIBRA: Projects involving a group,

perhaps your entire community, could take up a lot of your time, Libra. Interesting news and stimulating conversations could come your way. Expect a lot of activity around you. You could be running around in the car, seeing a lot of people, getting errands taken care of. You could also find yourself changed somewhat - for the better, of course.

SCORPIO: New ideas for your career could be on your mind, Scorpio. You might be thinking not only about getting a new job but also entering an entirely new field. This could be a positive development, but don't be too impulsive and leap without thinking. List your options, cross out the unworkable ones, and do some research on the rest. Even though you may feel some urgency, there is none.

SAGITTARIUS: Continued success

and good luck should have you feeling charged up to move ahead with plans and ideas. Your energy and enthusiasm are high, Sagittarius. You're likely thinking about expanding your horizons, perhaps through travel or education. You should definitely give these serious thought. Plan carefully, and take care not to move before the time is right.

CAPRICORN: Don't be surprised if sometime during the day you feel angry for no apparent reason, Capricorn. It's probably rooted in the past, from a situation that wasn't resolved long ago. Take a good look at what's going on today. Did some person or event awaken old traumas within you? Let them and the anger go. This can only benefit you and clear the way for more positive emotions.

AQUARIUS: This is a great day

to start new enterprises with others, Aquarius. Gatherings with friends or group activities could lead to ideas for new projects that fire your energy and enthusiasm. New immediate and long-term goals should be set. Some people may not be interested and could drop out, but don't worry. Others who share your interests will quickly step in to take their places.

PISCES: Activities of some kind could put you in the public eye today, Pisces. Some work you've done well might bring you richly deserved acknowledgement. Your energy and enthusiasm are already high, and you're probably all fired up to do more. This could bring up thoughts of changes in your working situation. But don't give notice right away. Some careful thought is needed.