



**NOT LOOKING FOR ROLES  
I CAN COMFORTABLY  
DO: KIRTI KULHARI**  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Bijay Kumar  
Subba to  
receive Rashmi  
Prasad Alley  
Puraskar**



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

The prestigious Rashmi Prasad Alley Puraskar 2019 will be conferred on teacher and progressive litterateur, Bijay Kumar Subba.

An SPP press release informs that Mr Subba was born on 26 January 1962 at Lingee-Payong in South Sikkim and has made substantial contributions as a teacher and a progressive litterateur for the last four decades.

He is presently working as a teacher at Soreng Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim and has been associated with various magazines on education and role & responsibilities of teachers and students, it is informed.

It is added that he has been highlighting various issues of the society through writings laced with sarcasm and wit.

The release informs that the award will be presented at a function scheduled to be held in Gangtok on 21 September. The awards function will have Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] as chief guest. Also to be released on the day is a students' magazine of SPP, 'Vidyarthi Digest'.

SPP was established last year by likeminded litterateurs, artists and journalists of the State and the first Rashmi Prasad Alley Puraskar was conferred on senior litterateur KN Sharma.

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## Curfew-like restrictions reimposed in several parts of Kashmir to foil Muharram processions

**SRINAGAR, SEP 10 (PTI):** Curfew-like restrictions were reimposed on Tuesday in several parts of Kashmir, including the city, to foil any plans on taking out Muharram processions in the Valley as authorities apprehended that large congregations might lead to violence. Commercial hub of Lal Chowk and adjoining areas were completely sealed off by placing concertina wires at all entry points where large number of security force personnel were de-

**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

World Suicide Prevention Day was observed today in Gangtok with a series of events starting with the cycle rally 'Cycle Around the Globe' at 7 30 AM. The cycle rally, a worldwide initiative of International Association for Suicide Prevention, was flagged off by former Indian football skipper, Bhaichung Bhutia.

More than 30 cyclists participated in the rally which started from MG Marg and covered Tashi View Point, Ganesh Tok, Chandmari and concluded at MG Marg. 11-year-old Ugen Dorjee Tamang was the youngest cyclist in the rally. Together the cyclists covered more than 500 kms which will be added to the total distance covered by cyclists across the globe in their effort to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

The day long programme was organised by San-Ker Hospital, Shil-long and Freedom Facility, Gangtok with support from Health Department, Government of Sikkim, Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, DOTS, SummitTIMES, Hotel Royal Plaza, and Hub Outdoor.

After the cycle rally,



the awareness program at MG Marg began at 10 30 AM with prayers by Freedom Facility residents. This was followed by the address of suicide attempt survivor, Lakpa Bhutia who shared his experience and journey of recovery.

The highlight of the day's program was the panel discussion which had Dr CS Sharma [HOD Psychiatry, Health Department], Dr Sandy Syiem [Director, San-ker Hospital], Dr Praveen Somani [Psychiatrist],



Krishna Kumar Chettri [Sub Inspector, Sikkim Police] and KC Nima [Project Director, Freedom Facility]. The discussion was moderat-

ed by Pema Wangchuk [Consulting Editor, SummitTIMES].

The discussion brought forth the need for a research institute, continued training for psychiatrists of the state and; need for civil society, healthcare professionals both in government and private sector and media to come together in an organized fashion to address the problem of suicide.

Chief guest for the program, Health Minister, Dr. MK Sharma, in his address, emphasised on

the need to work together as a community to prevent suicides.

"We must take it seriously when someone talks of attempting suicide, even if it is said casually and counsel them to get help. Counselling and awareness can help to address the problem of suicide," he stated.

Dr. Sharma said that hope is the only way of living life and family support is the most important support in one's life so people should understand the value of family and spend some time with family every day.

As per the data, the suicide rate of the state is alarming but it can be prevented through awareness and counselling and we can still work more seriously on this, he added. Appreciating the effort of the event organisers, Dr. Sharma has assured all possible help from the department and the government.

He also suggested using technology to reach help to those who need it by developing mobile apps for counselling or some other innovation so that help is easily accessible to people.

Also on the day, the Lungsigang family of

**turn to pg02**

## Gangtok gets CSIR Examination Centre



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

UGC has declared Gangtok as the CSIR Examination Centre for Sikkim.

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, accompanied by Sikkim University Vice Chancellor Avinash Khare had met and apprised the Director General of UGC Dr Shekhar C Mande about the need for a CSIR exam-

ination centre in Sikkim on 23 July.

Their demand has been met and CSIR aspirants can now take their exams in Gangtok and need not travel out.

The MP has congratulated CSIR aspirants from Sikkim and nearby areas and thanked the UGC CSIR Director General for opening a CSIR Examination Centre in Gangtok.

## SFA's casual commitment to football sees players reject its overtures, call for elections

**SAGAR CHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

More than 80% of the footballers shortlisted by Sikkim Football Association for the Santosh Trophy training camp have announced their boycott of the camp. Triggering this strong reaction from the players is what the footballers see as SFA's casual commitment to the game. In fact, the players are so disappointed that they also demanded today that fresh elections be called to the SFA.

These footballers associated with local premier division clubs have also received the support of Sikkimese players currently playing at the professional level outside the State.

Although several factors are contributing to this latest de-



velopment, the final proverbial straw on the camel's back was SFA's announcement of a training camp for the upcoming Santosh Trophy for which players from many local premier divi-

sion clubs were also shortlisted. Addressing a press conference today, footballers expressed deep dissatisfaction with the manner in which SFA has shortlisted players. The

training camp was scheduled to begin today for Santosh Trophy which begins in a week's time.

The 41 players shortlisted for the camp were directed to report for the training camp today even though their teams are currently in thick of the Sikkim League, some fighting for the top spot and some others fighting relegation.

The timing could not have been worse, but that is not all that is bothering the players.

"The notice for the Santosh Trophy camp came in the last minute and all the better players from different clubs directed to attend the camp, disrupting their teams at such a crucial moment of the league," they said.

They also rued that adhocism

**turn to pg02**

## Nawang Gyatso Bhutia represents Sikkim at Ziro Butterfly Meet

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

Nawang Gyatso Bhutia from Yuksam, West Sikkim, represented Sikkim at the Ziro Butterfly Meet 2019 held at Talley Valley wildlife Sanctuary, Lower Subansari district, Arunachal Pradesh.

The program was organised by Nego Ziro NGO from 04 to 08 September. Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim Nature Conservation Society [BAMOS] was the organising partner.

Mr Bhutia was invited as a guest to the meet which aims to spread



awareness on butterflies among the locals of Ziro

for ecotourism. There were more than 50 par-

ticipants in the meet.

Mr Bhutia is a butter-

fly expert from Sikkim.

"It was good to share my experience on butterflies and ecotourism. There were participants from different parts of the country," says Mr Bhutia.

Mr Bhutia is also attending the North East Butterfly Meet at Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh as a resource person from 13 to 15 September. He has thanked SBS chairperson, DB Gurung, social workers Santosh Tamang and NB Dadhal, and contractor, Monn Rai for supporting his trip.



## ISRO racing against time to salvage lander-rover part of Chandrayaan-2 mission

**BENGALURU, SEPT 10 (PTI):** ISRO is racing against time to spring 'Vikram' back to life and salvage the lander-rover part of the Chandrayaan-2 mission.

The lander Vikram, with rover 'Pragyan' tucked inside it, lost communication with the ground-stations during its final descent, just 2.1 kms above the lunar surface, minutes before the planned soft-landing in the early hours of Saturday.

ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) said on Sunday Vikram had a "hard-landing".

The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency on Tuesday again confirmed that the lander has been located on the lunar surface by the on-board cameras of the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter which is circling the moon in its intended orbit.

"All possible efforts are being made to establish communication with (the) lander", ISRO further said in a tweet.

A senior ISRO official associated with the mission said: "The images from the orbiter camera showed that Vikram is in single piece lying on the lunar surface; not broken into pieces. It is in a tilted position. It's not in its four legs, as usual".

This official added on condition of anonymity: "It's not upside down. It's lying on its side".

ISRO officially did not comment on the condition of the lander.

Chandrayaan-2 comprises an orbiter, lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan).

The mission life of the lander and rover is one Lunar day, which is equal to 14 earth days.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan said on Saturday evening that the space agency would try to restore link with the lander for 14 days and it has been reiterating the resolve since then. An ISRO official said Vikram hit the lunar surface at a place about 500 metres away from where it was originally planned to touch-down.

But there was no official word on this from ISRO. Sources said an ISRO team is trying to see if they can reorient the antennas of the lander in such a way that communication can be restored.

"Efforts are going on", they said.

According to a senior ISRO official, orientation may have been lost during the final descent when velocity was reduced, due "sensor or on-board software or computer anomaly".

"A committee is looking into what has gone wrong. They will come out with answers soon", this official said.

Meanwhile, flawless and precise launch and efficient management of the Chandrayaan-2 mission ---- till the lander 'Vikram' lost communication with ground-stations --, has paid rich dividends to the ISRO on the orbiter front.

The 2,379 kg orbiter whose mission life was designed to be one year would now be able function for almost seven years.

## Sikkip BAC convenes awareness session on Jal Shakti Abhiyan, felicitates students for participation in Mission

**NAMCHI, 10 SEPT (IPR):** Block Administrative Centre (BAC) Sikkip organised an awareness programme for farmers on the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and also awarding of students for their participation in the mission.

The programme, held at the BAC conference hall today, had the presence of Director, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Rakesh Kumar Singh, Deputy Director Education South, DB Rai, Technical Officer, Tapan Talukdar, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Rabongla Subdivision and Programme Coordinator KVK Namthang, IP Shivakoti along with progressive farmers, students and staff.

Mr Shivakoti also the resource person highlighted various programmes launched under Krishi Vigyan Kendra to the farmers. He also briefed the gathering about Jal Shakti Abhiyan Phase I (01 July - 15 Sept, 2019) and also presented a detailed PowerPoint



presentation on water conservation strategies. He spoke on the new techniques of irrigation that is imperative for water conservation. He suggested promoting efficient water use for irrigation and better crop

choices. BDO Sikkip, Tirsang Tamang in her address spoke on the importance of water conservation and present scenario of water stressed areas un-

der South District. She also stated that extensive awareness activities need to be taken by all the stakeholders for conservation of water.

An interaction session among the farmers and the officials was also held as a part of awareness programme under Jal Shakti Abhiyan followed by inter school quiz competition, drawing competition and essay writing competition conducted by BAC Sikkip.

The programme also saw distribution of prizes and certificates in various competitions to the participating students from Lingyong Junior High School, Chumlok Junior High School, Gumpadara Primary School and Omchu Secondary School.

## KVK organizes Jal Shakti Abhiyan awareness at Sikip



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

A day long awareness programme on Jal Shakti Abhiyan was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Sikkim, Namthang at Block Administrative Centre, Sikip in presence of Technical Officer Tapan Talukdar, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Rabongla Subdivision; Dy Director, DB Rai, Education

Department, Namchi, South Sikkim; BDO, Tirsang Tamang along with other officials from BAC Sikip and 68 farmers.

At the very onset, Sr Scientist and Head, IP Shivakoti, KVK South Sikkim, briefed the gathering about Jal Shakti Abhiyan Phase I (01 Jul-15 Sept, 2019) and also presented a detailed power-point presentation on water

conservation strategies.

An interaction session among the farmers and the Officials was held during the programme followed by Inter School Quiz competition, Drawing Competition and Essay Writing competition conducted by BAC Sikip. Representatives along with participant students from various schools under Sikip BAC also attended the programme.

## BJP gears up for Sewa Saptaha

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

The Bharatiya Janata Party is celebrating Sewa Saptaha, a week-long initiative of the party to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which falls on 17 September.

BJP-Sikkim is also preparing various programmes at different parts of the state to be held from 14 to 20 September and has selected youth leaders of the party, Sudeep Pradhan and Bhanu Dahal as coordinators to make the week-long programme a success.

The party will be organizing events under the Fit India Programme, Health Camps, Blood Donation Camps, Eye testing and Operation Camps, distribution of essential materials



to hospitals and shelter homes, sanitation drives, water conservation campaign, awareness programme on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme, etc.

The main purpose of this Sewa Saptaha is to bring these programmes to the people of Sikkim through civil society, NGO and governmental organization engagement.

Since the Swachha Bharat Abhiyan has been running nationwide for the past five years under the directions of the Prime Minister.

and Red Ribbon Club of the school in collaboration with PHSC, Tharpu.

Staff Nurse at Tharpu PHSC, Ruth Shanker, and PGT [Political Science], Binod Thapa, were present as resource persons.

## Poshan Abhiyaan program at Passingdang



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA DZONGU, 10 SEPT:**

Today Govt of India's flagship programme "Poshan Abhiyaan" PM's Overarching Holistic Nourishment for targeted beneficiaries of Pregnant women, Lactating mothers, Adolescent girls and children

Poshan Abhiyaan was observed at BAC Passingdang Dzongu, North Sikkim today. The programme started with a pledge on Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyaan.

The main objective of

the programme was to inform everyone about 8 types of hand washing in order prevent diseases.

The programme was attended by AD HRDD, SL Giri as chief guest along with Panchayat member Salim Pakel under Passingdang-Saffo GPU, Sanden Lepcha, resource person, Ongkit Lepcha [ANM Passingdang PHC], S Lepcha [BPM NRLM], Bardewa Sewa [Project assistant, Poshan Abhiyaan], CDPO Dzongu, Netuk Lepcha, Panchayat Inspector, BAC Passingdang, Nima D Sherpa.

## Tharpu School observes World Suicide Prevention Day



**SUMMIT REPORT THARPU, 10 SEPT:**

World Suicide Prevention Day was observed in Government Senior Secondary School, Tharpu, West Sikkim by the NSS unit

and Red Ribbon Club of the school in collaboration with PHSC, Tharpu.

Staff Nurse at Tharpu PHSC, Ruth Shanker, and PGT [Political Science], Binod Thapa, were present as resource persons.

## Awareness program on Electors Verification Program in West Sikkim

**GYALSHING, 10 SEPT [IPR]:** An Awareness program for Electors Verification Program (EVP), organized by the District Election Office, was held at the Govt Industrial Training Institute and Govt Sr Sec School, Kyongsa, today.

The programme was conducted by Sonam

Palmu Bhutia, RO/AD, Gyalshing as resource person assisted by Kadem Bhutia, Head Assistant (Election cell).

The program was mainly conducted to help young voters understand EVP and Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Roll.

conducted by Sonam

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## World Suicide..

Tathangchen felicitated the 24/7 Suicide Helpline team. They also gifted a set of items required for the helpline office.

Today's program also saw cultural performances by students of various schools and Music in Motion Dance Academy.

The programme was attended by Director General Health Department, HoD Psychiatry Department STNM, officials from the Health department, concerned citizens, students from various schools around Gangtok.

## SFA's casual...

at SFA was affecting Sikkim's performance at the prestigious tournament as well.

They complained that SFA organizes the camp for Santosh Trophy at the last moment every year unlike states like Goa, West Bengal and Mizoram organize camp months in advance for the State teams.

"SFA officials stated that the 41 players were shortlisted based on their performance at the ongoing premier division league but some players have not played a single game in the league so far and some are not even from Sikkim," they alleged further to illustrate SFA's casual approach.

Football Players Association of Sikkim [FPAS] has also demanded the executive members of SFA step down immediately and hold fresh elections in a democratic manner to allow some fresh blood and genuinely motivated executive members.

FPAS president Nirmal Chettri also clarified that FPAS has not influenced any player to take this decision and that footballers have taken this decision on their own in the interest of Sikkim football and footballers.

He further informed that a signature campaign by FPAS on their decision to reject SFA overtures has received the support of more than 120 players from premier division clubs and other division leagues along with prominent players from Sikkim in ISL and I-League like Sanju Pradhan, Bikash Jairu, Robin Gurung, Kunzang Lachungpa and others.

## Curfew-like...

The restrictions were lifted in phases from many parts of the Valley as the situation improved with passage of time.

The authorities have been imposing restrictions in vulnerable areas of the Valley every Friday, apprehending that vested interests might exploit the large gatherings at big mosques and shrines to fuel protests.

Meanwhile, normal life remained severely affected in Kashmir due to shutdown in the Valley which entered 37th day on Tuesday.

Markets and other business establishments remained closed while public transport was off the roads across the Valley, the officials said.

Most of the top-level and second-rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders, including three former chief ministers -- Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- have also been either detained or placed under house arrest.

## ANTHYESTI KRIYA

The anthyesthi Kriya of Nar Bdr Gurung, rtd, Record Officer Health deptt and also Vice President in Paramedical who left for his heavenly abode falls on 5th of September 2019 at Ahley, Namthang south Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering our prayers for the departed soul on 18.09.2019 at Ahley, Namthang south Sikkim



Family Members



## Mangan celebrates Muharram

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**MANGAN, 10 SEPT:**

Anjuman Islamia of Mangan Bazaar celebrated Muharram at Mangan Bazaar, North Sikkim today.

**NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI):**

A new book will discuss topics of India's future, its inter-faith equations, caste politics and the rights of LGBTQ people from the point of view of Rashtra Swayamsevak Sang (RSS), Rupa Publications announced on Tuesday.

"The RSS: Roadmaps for the 21st Century", written by Sunil Ambekar, national organising secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) will shed light on the right-wing organisation's functioning, outreach and vision for the future.

"The RSS continues to make headlines, despite several books tracing its journey. Curiosity about the functioning of the RSS has increased phenomenally as swayamsevaks have risen to top

positions in the government and the Sangh's core ideas of Hindu Rashtra and Ekamata have become the mainstream lexicon of our social and political space," the publisher said in a statement.

The book will analyse topics like the "RSS" idea of India, the place of Islam and other faiths in the country if it becomes a Hindu Rashtra, RSS' project of history writing, and social issues pertaining to the changing nature of a family". Ambekar also highlights the internal working of the Sangh, its decision-making process, coordination system and its means of expansion, it added.

The book will be released by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on October 1 at the Ambedkar International Centre here.

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## Sikkim Rising Star Season 2 audition coming to Gangtok

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

After completing the audition around in Jorethang and Namchi, Sikkim Rising Star Season 2 is coming to Gangtok on 14 and 15 September at Manan Kendra, Mini Hall. Sikkim Rising Star is in its 2nd

Season of Talent Hunt Competition with 6 categories namely: Dancing, Singing, Beatbox, Rap, Acting, Musical instruments.

The winner will get a sum of Rs. 80,000, the 1st runner up will get Rs. 40,000 and the 2nd runner up will get Rs. 20,000 along with performing opportunities.

## Aakraman and Sikkim Police play out a draw in an aggressively contested match

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:** Sikkim Aakraman Football Club and Sikkim Police shared a point each from a 1-1 draw at the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim League 2019 here at Paljor Stadium on Tuesday.

Being a crucial match for both teams, the two squads entered the ground eager for a win and played neck-to-neck right from the start and the match witnessed some aggressive moments. The desperation for a win was apparent in the seven yellow cards and two red cards flashed by the referee to keep control of the match.

It was Sikkim Police which pulled ahead when it striker, Bir Bahadur Pradhan, headed a cross from his teammate into the Sikkim Aakraman goal in the 16th minute.

Sikkim Aakraman

players put in their best efforts to score the equaliser but missed the net on different occasions in the first half.

Shortly into the second half, Sikkim Aakraman received a penalty-kick in the 61st minute for a Sikkim Police handball in the D-box area.

Don Tshering Lepcha successfully converted the spot kick.

Both teams continued playing their hearts out but could not score any further goals in the match and shared one point each from this drawn match.

Soon after the match ended, some dissatisfied Sikkim Aakraman FC members and players, dissatisfied with the referee's decisions got into an argument and ended up manhandling the referee.

They have also registered a strong protest against SFA members.

## CBSE and Microsoft join hands to build capacity for AI learning for schools

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that it will conduct Capacity Building Programs for high school teachers in association with Microsoft India with an aim to integrate cloud and AI-powered technology in K12 teaching.

Meant for teachers of grades 8-10, the program will be conducted in 10 cities across the country, starting 11

September.

This program will provide teachers better access to the latest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and help them to integrate technology into teaching in a safe and secure manner.

The 1,000 teachers nominated by CBSE will undergo a 3-day project-based training for practical, hands-on knowledge of Microsoft 365 tools. In the next phase the program will

be extended to cover skilling workshops for 400 CBSE School on the Microsoft K-12 Education Transformation Framework.

General Manager, Manish Prakash, Microsoft India said, "Through this initiative, we are empowering institutions, educators and students of India to acquire early education/skills in new technologies like AI and cloud to lead that growth in that rapidly changing world."

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## Inner Wheel celebrates International Literacy Day



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

To celebrate International Literacy Day, Inner Wheel Club Gangtok organised a literacy competition among students of class IX and X of Tadong Senior Secondary School, which is also one of the "Happy schools" developed by Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok, a press release informs.

Fifty students had participated in this competition

which was held on the following topics; Global warming, one time use plastic should be banned, fit India, and catch them young.

As an incentive dictionaries and books were given as prizes to the students scoring first, second and third positions.

To inculcate and encourage reading habits, inspirational and motivational books were distributed among the other participating students.

## Awareness on hand hygiene and sterilization at CRH

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

The Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC) of Central Referral Hospital (CRH) conducted training on hand hygiene awareness and sterilization assurance on 10 Sept, 2019 in collaboration with 3M company. Doctors, nurses and house-keeping staff of the hospital attended the programme.

Member Secretary, Dr Dechen C Tsering, HICC, CRH informed that hand hygiene was one of the most crucial interventions to prevent cross infection in healthcare facilities, a press release informs.

Many studies have demonstrated that contaminated hands are responsible for transmitting infections, she added. HICC, CRH has been conducting such programmes to reduce the number of hospital acquired infections on a regular basis, it is informed.

## Cleanliness drive in Jorethang



**SUMMIT REPORT  
JORETHANG, 10 SEPT:**

A mass cleanliness drive was carried out in Jorethang by Sikkim Police. The drive was conducted on the initiative of ASP Santosh Kr Shrestha and SHO Mahendra Pradhan on the theme, "Afno Goan-Bazzar Afai Safa Rakhov," a press release informs.

The drive was joined by various segments of

the men in uniform like the Jorethang Police team, Fire & Emergency Services personnel, Forest Deptt, Abkari Dept, NayaBazzar PS, Traffic and Special Branch.

The team cleaned all the jhoras of Jorethang MG Marg surroundings and later distributed dustbins to shopkeeper with "Use Me; Sikkim Police" emblazoned on it.

After the cleanliness drive, ASP Santosh Kr Shrestha informed that if anyone was found littering, a fine will be imposed and strong action taken.

"We will organise such mass cleanliness drives at Jorethang after 15 days and at that time all members of the general public should also cooperate," he appealed in conclusion.

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## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT E Procurement Notice

**Bid ID No. SK-PMGSY II Batch I Online (2019-20)**

The Chief Engineer, RM & DD on behalf of Governor of Sikkim invites percentage rate bid through e-procurement. The bid should be submitted online in web site [www.pmgstendersskm.gov.in](http://www.pmgstendersskm.gov.in) for construction of respective work as detailed in the above website by contractors of appropriate class with the State Government for execution of Civil works. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with his own Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date of time for seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender
		From	To		
Chief Engineer, RDD	SK- PMGSY II online (2019-20)	10/09/2019	14/10/2019 upto 4.30 PM	03/10/2019 upto 4.00 PM	15/10/2019 from 11.00 AM onwards.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer-cum-Empowered Officer  
Rural Development Department  
Government of Sikkim  
Gangtok.

### PMGSY-II(Batch-I) RE-TENDER 5 2019-20

Sl	Dist- district	Pkg.No.	Block	Name of Road works	Road Length in kms	Tender amount (Rs in Lakhs)	Grade of Contractors	Jurisdiction	Earnest Money in Lakhs	Tender form cost	Completion Time.
1.	East	East SK02 P9 RT5	Pakyong	MRL05-Dahal Turning to Lower Bering in East Sikkim	2	181.99	All class III Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department	Competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat/ Urban Local bodies where the work is to be executed.	4.55	30000	1 YEAR

R.O No. 180/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Date: 10.9.2019

## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

No.

Dated..

### E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Addl.Chief Engineer (HQ-II), Power Department invites percentage rate tenders through e-tender from the Class II "A" contractors of East District enlisted with the Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim for the following project:

1	2	3
Sl.No.	Name of Work	Bid Value in Rs. In lakh.
1.	Strengthening, Modernization and Improvement of Transmission and Distribution System of Raj Bhavan, Mintokgang, High Court, VIP Areas and Surrounding Areas in Gangtok, East Sikkim.	6,42,93,773.00

The schedule of events (date wise) instruction to bidders (ITB) and detail bidding documents along with the technical specifications are available in the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in). The interested bidders may view and download the e-bid document from 06.09.2019 after 1100 hours onwards.

Sd/-  
(S.R. Bhutia)  
Addl. Chief Engineer (H-II),  
Power Department  
Govt. of Sikkim  
Gangtok.

R.O. No. 176/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20  
Date: 9.9.19



## To Protect and to Promote

*To secure the future, think beyond protection and quotas*

Local protection is an important issue. It could also be argued that it is of more emotional significance than constructive intervention, but because people and their leaders feel so strongly about the issue, it becomes very important. Even the West, with its enviable unemployment rate despite the economic downturn, is passionately debating the pros and cons of outsourcing which, in its mind is taking jobs away to cheaper human resource destinations even though benefits of such cost cuts benefit cash-strapped consumers at home the most.

So yes, local protection evokes a passionate and emotional response from the people, and governments have to continuously appear to be prioritising it. There are, however, practical and logistic implications that should never be lost sight of and quality never allowed to be compromised. Opportunities that progressive and positive attitudes create should not be allowed to get drowned by the din of rhetoric. In a world growing increasingly 'flat' [to borrow the now dated term from Thomas L. Friedman], digging trenches only manages to keep opportunities out, shrinks the horizon and constricts development. The present times demand competitive edge, and prioritizing protectionism dulls this pre-requisite of making it in the world. Protect, yes, but also trust the inherent skills and potential of the young. The young have proven that they have what it takes to succeed and survive. Take for example the many young entrepreneurs that Sikkim can boast of now. They happened when the easier option of landing employment with the government became scarce and also less appealing. They applied themselves to enterprises, something that the 'local' talent pool was not considered very adept at till even a decade back. But look around now, the youth, who while in school, were being groomed for cushy bureaucracy or technical professions, have grown up quite well as hoteliers, restaurateurs, travel operators, small scale industrialists, respected professionals with national media, sportspersons... achievers.

Such successes probably happened because they grew up before obsessive protectionism invaded the public domain and made the young lazy. This of course does not go to say that job opportunities should not be protected for the people of the land, they should; but the policy makers have to strike the right balance where it is done in a way that does not lull future generations into a false sense of security and stops them from developing skills which make them world beaters. It is not easy, but a good beginning can be made with devising ways which reward healthy business practices. Investors who set up shop in Sikkim should conduct themselves better, encourage and invite more local employment on their own instead of being made to do so by way of legislations. They enjoy tax breaks and many other sops when they opt for Sikkim, not because Sikkim needs more factories, but because it rewards job creation. They have to understand and appreciate this fact. The young on the other hand should be groomed as competitors, not as beneficiaries-in-waiting. In times to come, it should be their skills that attract and retain investments and not lavish industrial policies alone. Various arms of the government will have to collaborate to make this possible. It is possible and the generation controlling the present owes it to the future.

### WRITE US:

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

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# India's moon mission should be considered a success, and a lesson in spacefaring

REBECCA ALLEN  
*theconversation.com*

Over the weekend, India attempted to make history by becoming just the fourth nation to successfully land a probe on the Moon. It came agonisingly close, but after journeying millions of kilometres, the Vikram lander lost contact in the final few hundred metres and crash-landed on the lunar surface.

But it would be both unfair and plain wrong to label the mission a failure.

### TWO-MONTH TRIP

After a postponed launch, India's Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft began its journey to the Moon on July 22.

Onboard it carried the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover, equipped to search the lunar south pole for water and other valuable resources. Everything seemed to be going according to plan. Chandrayaan-2 completed several orbits around Earth and then the Moon, slowly making its way closer to the lunar surface and taking photographs the whole time.

On September 2, the Vikram lander separated and began to make its descent. All communications were normal until the lander was within 2km of its goal.

Then it went silent – a space engineer's worst nightmare.

### VIKRAM, DO YOU COPY?

So far, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) engineers have not been able to reestablish communications with the lander. It's likely Vikram landed with enough force to damage its communications equipment, as well as other instruments.

But all hope was not lost, as Chandrayaan-2 remained in orbit above the Moon and, with its high-resolution camera, was able to spot the lander. If oriented favourably, Vikram could still manage to power itself up.

ISRO has not admitted defeat and will keep trying to connect to Vikram for the next two weeks. However, the chances of success diminish with time.

While the Chandrayaan-2 mission has not gone as expected, it cannot be called a failure. The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter will continue to monitor the

Moon for up to seven years and the high-resolution images it takes will be vital to future international efforts to land on the Moon.

### TECHNICALLY A SUCCESS

The near success of Vikram's landing should be celebrated. To appreciate just how hard it is, let's delve into some physics.

Earth is rotating and also hurtling through space at more than 100,000km per hour. The Moon is almost 400,000km away and travelling around 4,000km per hour as it orbits Earth.



To reach the Moon, you first have to escape Earth's gravity and ensure you're going at the right speed to orbit Earth a few times before moving far enough to be caught by the Moon. Then you slowly decrease your distance to the lunar surface, inching closer over several orbits until you are low enough to use powered assistance to land.

It took the United States and Russia decades to design, plan and execute missions to the Moon. In fact, the ISRO was founded shortly after the successful Apollo 11 mission.

We should applaud the hard work India has done over the past 50 years to get this far. This sentiment was clear as Indian prime minister Narendra Modi addressed his country, all of whom stood in solidarity with the scientists who spent countless hours in pursuit of their goal.

### A GLOBAL SPACE COMMUNITY

The story of the Indian lander echoes that of the failed Israeli landing attempt earlier this year.

The Beresheet lander was built by private company SpaceIL, which was chasing the coveted Google Lunar XPrize when an engine malfunction caused it to swan dive into the Moon's surface.

I mention this mission to reiterate just how hard the task is, but also to demonstrate that the old Cold War space superpowers are no longer the only ones in the game. Countries and even private companies across the world are gaining spacefaring capabilities and undertaking incredible missions that will enable humankind to go further than ever before.

In the next five years, more than a dozen missions to the Moon from six different countries, including Japan and Korea, are slated. This doesn't include NASA's ambitious Artemis mission that seeks to put the first woman on the Moon.

But as the cliché goes, with great power comes great responsibility.

Now that countries across the world can send things into space, we must have solidarity as a global spacefaring community to consider how our actions up there will affect us on Earth and to ensure long-term success in space ventures.

This is not the last international space mission you will hear about in the news this year.

In coming years, we may even be discussing Australian ventures into space – and maybe even to the Moon itself.

*[the writer is PhD candidate researching galaxy formation and evolution, Swinburne University of Technology]*



# India must stop deforesting its mountains if it wants to fight floods

GAYATHRI D NAIK  
*theconversation.com*

Floods are now an annual nightmare in many parts of southern and western India. Valleys in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala that weren't considered flood-prone until recently are at risk.

During floods and landslides in August 2019, two villages were completely destroyed killing several people, while a year earlier Kerala saw its worst floods in a century.

These floods appear to be getting more severe. Climate change is causing stronger and more erratic rainfall with recurrent floods in low-lying areas while population growth is putting more people in risky areas. And another problem comes from deforestation in the mountain range where much of the water first fell: the Western Ghats.

The Western Ghats run for 1,600km in parallel with India's west coast, from Gujarat right down to Tamil Nadu at the tip of the sub-continent. It is – or was – a picturesque landscape of serene valleys, steep gorges and virgin forests. Yet recurring floods and landslides in the mountains, hills and areas downstream (between the Ghats and the sea) show that India must rethink its environmental law to balance the needs of nature and humans.

The mountains are teeming with

life. Though they cover only a small part of India's total land area, the Ghats are home to more than 30% of the country's species of plants, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals, including both wild elephants and tigers. Its combination of unique species and habitat loss means Unesco has recognised it as one of eight global "hottest hotspots" of biodiversity.

Climate change is already having an obvious impact, with unprecedented rains in monsoon seasons and severe drought and dry rivers in summer. And as the human population has grown, people have chopped down the forests and replaced them with spice, tea, coffee and rubber plantations. Thousands of illegal stone quarries now also operate in the Ghats, where mountainsides are demolished to generate stones and sand for the construction industry. Deforestation and the use of highly destructive explosives mean these areas are prone to increased seismic tremors and landslides.

Large dams on major rivers offer renewable energy yet also raise another set of environmental problems. In Kerala, many are located in eco-sensitive parts of the Western Ghats, with some dating back to British rule. As demand for energy increases, India plans to build more dams which in turn could lead to massive deforestation and ecosystem destruction. All this makes flooding

more severe, as deforestation in the catchment area of a river reduces the land's ability to retain water.

Whether triggered by damming, deforestation, or exacerbated by climate change, human-induced natural disasters in the region have pointed to a need for stronger environmental protection laws.

### HOW TO PROTECT THE WESTERN GHATS

India's 1950 constitution claims that protection of environment is a fundamental duty of every citizen, and though it does not explicitly contain a right to a clean environment, legal authority for environmental lawmaking is derived from the document.

Over the years, the country's central government has enacted various laws that are applicable to the Western Ghats: the Environment Protection Act 1986, the Forest Conservation Act 1980, the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2002 and so on. However, these laws are not implemented efficiently, which makes me wonder if areas like the Himalayas and the Western Ghats – internationally significant ecosystems and biosphere reserves – need their own special laws.

Additionally, India's water laws are inadequate. Existing legislation primarily focuses on pollution control, meaning the law has little to say about preventing or even man-

aging floods which result from mismanagement of dams or too much riverside development.

The problem is enhanced in case of rivers that flow across state boundaries. Some of the major floods in the past couple years happened after dams at or near full capacity in one district or state were opened, letting water flow downstream into another area. Recently, a draft dam safety bill has been proposed to address these problems.

Similarly, discussions over climate change and environmental lawmaking should involve more grassroots level participation. For most people, poverty and earnings still matter more than climate mitigation or adaptation. Hence people's perception should be moulded to recognise and realise how deforestation or climate change impacts their daily life.

The Western Ghats are south India's lifeline, with millions dependent on the range either directly or indirectly. These mountains need protection. However, while new development in the region continues to be human-centric, the entire concept of nature preservation is relegated. To protect the Western Ghats, what we require is an attitude that recognises the significance of these mountains, and that will involve specific laws.

*[the writer is Research Scholar, School of Law, SOAS, University of London]*



# Tripura Opposition vows stir over hiked healthcare tariffs

**AGARTALA, SEP 10 (PTI):** Opposition parties in Tripura on Tuesday called for an immediate roll-back in the state government's decision to hike tariffs for healthcare services and threatened to launch a statewide stir if their demand is not met.

The BJP-IPFT government, in a notification on Friday, set the daily charge for ICU beds at Rs 300 for Antodaya Annapurna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries and Rs 600 for people above the poverty line (APL). It was free earlier.

AC cabins in state-run hospitals will cost Rs 700 per day whereas APL patients will have to pay Rs 50 per day for food in the hospitals. Earlier, free food was served to them.

The AC cabins used to cost Rs 400 earlier, as per Healthcare Department director P K Majumdar.

Similarly, different diagnostic tests would be charged at par with Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates for APL patients and 50 per cent of the CGHS rates for those under the Priority Group.

Protesting the move, Tapas Dey, vice-president of the Tripura Pradesh Congress Com-



mittee (TPCC), said, "The decision is a direct attack on the people's basic requirement. We have decided to organise protests in all the eight districts till the government rolls back its decision," he said. CPI(M), too, vowed to launch a stir over the issue.

"This government is trying to charge more for the facilities in government hospitals. This is not acceptable. We will

launch a statewide movement," CPI(M) state committee member Pabitra Kar said.

Noting the revised rates will make it difficult for the masses to get proper healthcare in government hospitals, former health minister and BJP MLA, Sudip Roy Burman said he would urge the state government to review its decision.

TPCC president

Pradyot Kishore Debbarman, in a Facebook post on Monday night said, "Instead of providing quality health care, we are denying it to the people. As Opposition, we must demand an all-party discussion on how to ensure that there is a rethink by the state govt.

"The healthcare in the previous govt was in shambles we should

be upgrading the system... I appeal to the govt to listen to the voices of opposition," Debbarman wrote.

Former chief minister Manik Sarkar, in a letter to Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who also holds the health portfolio, on Sunday had termed the move as "inhuman and injudicious".

"Public healthcare in Tripura was nearly free since majority of people were from low income groups... Your government's decision to roll back free services in public healthcare is injudicious and inhuman," he had written.

Reacting to the issue, BJP spokesperson Dr Ashok Sinha said, "This decision will not affect the poor as there are several benefits for them such as Ayushman Bharat scheme. The mentality of people that things are available for free in hospitals has to be abolished."

Asserting that the state government would never remain unresponsive to genuine cases of poor patients, he added that there have been noticeable examples of misuse of hospital facilities, because they were free.

## Arunachal: 105 butterfly species documented in Ziro meet

**ITANAGAR, SEP 10 (PTI):** Some 105 butterfly species were documented during the sixth edition of the Ziro Butterfly Meet held recently in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Subansiri district, the event organiser said on Tuesday.

The key species recorded were the Bhutan Glory, Brown Gorgon, White Dragontail and Manipur Jungle Queen.

Three species Scarce Blue Oakleaf, Hairy Angle and Slate Awl -- were documented for the first

time at Ziro, event organiser NgunuZiro said in a statement.

The meet concluded on Sunday.

More than 100 species of moths, including the elusive Apatani Glory, were also documented, it said.

Participants from across the country gave presentations on butterflies and moths.

Workshops were also held for students and local attendees, it said.

Divisional Forest Officer of Tale Wildlife

Sanctuary, Koj Rinya said the proposal by NgunuZiro to declare Kaiser-i-Hind species as the state butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh is being considered for approval.

The meet was inaugurated by district Deputy Commissioner Chukhu Takar on September 4.

He had then released a book titled "Butterflies of Ziro", containing images and information about 186 species of butterflies documented during earlier editions of the meet.

## People excluded from NRC to get certified copies soon



**GUWAHATI, SEP 10 (PTI):** People excluded from the final NRC will get certified copies, regarding rejection of their names, at the earliest so that they can file their appeals, the office of the NRC state coordinator announced on Tuesday.

The dates regarding distribution of exclusion certificates will be announced soon, NRC State Coordinator's office

tweeted. The process of collection of exclusion certificates from the NRC Seva Kendras are on, the notice added.

The final NRC published on August 31 consisted only of Supplementary Lists and "queries are being received from the public about publication of all members of a family irrespective of their involvement in the claims

and objections process" the tweet said.

"The results for the complete family will be available for display online from September 14 next and this will be available only online," the notice added.

The final NRC was released with 19,06,657 of the total 3,30,27,661 applicants excluded and 3,11,22,004 included.

## US extracted spy Putin's Kremlin: report

**WASHINGTON, SEP 10 (AFP):** US agents extracted a high-level Russian government source who had confirmed Vladimir Putin's direct role in interfering in the 2016 presidential election, American media reported. The individual had been providing information to US intelligence for decades, had access to Putin and had sent pictures of high-level documents on the Russian leader's desk, CNN said.

But the spy was pulled out of Russia, both CNN and the New York Times reported late Monday.

The Times reported that the CIA initially offered to extract the source in late 2016 over fears about media exposure, after officials revealed the severity of Russia's election interference in extensive detail.

The informant initially refused -- citing family issues and prompting fears the individual had become a double agent, the Times said.

Months later, the agent relented as media inquiries about a mole continued.

CNN, citing an unnamed person it said was involved in discussions on the asset, said the 2017 extraction was over concerns that Trump and his cabinet could expose the agent after repeated mishandling of classified intelligence. The CIA vehemently denied this charge.

The network cited the intelligence community's particular concern after Trump confiscated a translator's notes following a 2017 private meeting with Putin.

The CIA's director of public affairs, Brittany Bramell, told CNN: "Misguided speculation that the President's handling of our nation's most sensitive intelligence

-- which he has access to each and every day -- drove an alleged exfiltration operation is inaccurate." White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham told the network: "CNN's reporting is not only incorrect, it has the potential to put lives in danger."

The individual was key in providing information that led US intelligence to conclude Putin directly orchestrated Russian interference in favor of Trump and against his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election, the Times said.

The informant was also directly linked Putin to the hacking of the Democratic National Committee, resulting in the release of a flood of embarrassing messages, the newspaper reported.

According to the Times, the agent was the CIA's most valuable Russian asset. The extraction "effectively blinded" American intelligence to the Kremlin's inner workings during the 2018 US midterm election, the Times report said, as well as the upcoming 2020 presidential election. On Tuesday, Russian media named the alleged spy, reporting that he had worked at the Russian embassy in Washington before moving to Moscow.

Meanwhile, US network NBC claimed to have found a man living in the Washington area who -- according to two FBI sources -- matched the descriptions of the man in the CNN report.

When the NBC correspondent approached the home two men -- who identified themselves as friends of the Russian -- suddenly appeared and questioned why he wanted to speak to the occupant.

## Meghalaya decision on Kulsi Dam after examining DPR: CM

**SHILLONG, SEP 10 (PTI):** Meghalaya government will take a call on the proposed construction of Kulsi Dam along the border with Assam after examining the detailed project report, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said on Tuesday.

He expressed apprehensions that vast tracts of land would be submerged and people of both the states would be affected if the dam was constructed, the chief minister said in the Assembly.

The Meghalaya government was yet to issue a no-objection certificate to the Assam-based Brahmaputra Board, which carried out a survey of the Kulsi Dam project, which has been declared as a national project.

Compensation and rehabilitation of the affected people would be done as per guidelines of the Government of India, the chief minister said.



Public hearing would also be conducted and the government would take measures based on the outcome of the hearing, Sangma said.

The project site is located in the border between Assam's Kamrup district and West Khasi Hills and Ri Bhoi districts of Meghalaya.

While the Chief Minister could not give specific details of the project, Congress MLA Kimfa S Marbaniang quoted an RTI report which said that altogether 35 villages and a total area of

15.55 sq km in Assam and 5.5 sq km in Meghalaya would be affected.

According to the chief minister, a joint meeting of both the state governments was held on April 21. A joint site inspection was also done following which it was decided to go ahead with the DPR.

"Once the DPR is completed, we will be able to make a decision (on the matter)," the chief minister said.

Leader of Opposition Mukul Sangma also criticised the government for not knowing the details of the project.

## Women hailing from other states married in Assam excluded from NRC: Mukul Sangma

**SHILLONG, SEP 10 (PTI):** Senior Congress leader Mukul Sangma on Tuesday claimed that the final NRC has left out all the Indian women who had come to Assam as brides from other states of the country.

Sangma, a former chief minister, also urged the state government to help those women who were originally from Meghalaya but married to residents of Assam and did not find their names in the National Register of Citizens.

"All brides who were from other states have been excluded. Brides born in West Bengal, Nagaland, Bihar and Meghalaya were excluded from the NRC," he said during a discussion in the Assembly.

The saddest thing



about exercise is genuine Indian citizens have been left out, the leader of the opposition in Meghalaya Assembly said adding that he received frantic calls from such victims in Assam.

Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said he has spoken to his counterpart in Assam over the exclusion of women hailing from Meghalaya and married in Assam.

The final NRC was published on August 31 exclud-

ing over 19 lakh people. Sangma asked the government to be on guard so that no foreigner could infiltrate into the state.

Conrad K Sangma admitted that outsiders were detected trying to enter the state without valid documents.

He said the police have detected and sent back 223 people recently from various infiltration checkpoints set up across the state.

## Trustea partners with TRA, AFPRO for sustainability code implementation

**KOLKATA, SEP 10 (PTI):** The voluntary sustainability code for Indian tea industry, trustea, has joined hands with Tea Research Association (TRA) and Action for Food Production (AFPRO) for adoption of a plantation system across the country.

Since its inception six years ago, trustea has verified 627 million kilogram of tea cumulatively till June 2019.

"The association with TRA and AFPRO will help active implementation of the sustainability code for plantations,

bought leaf factories and small tea growers," Director of trustea Rajesh Bhuyan said.

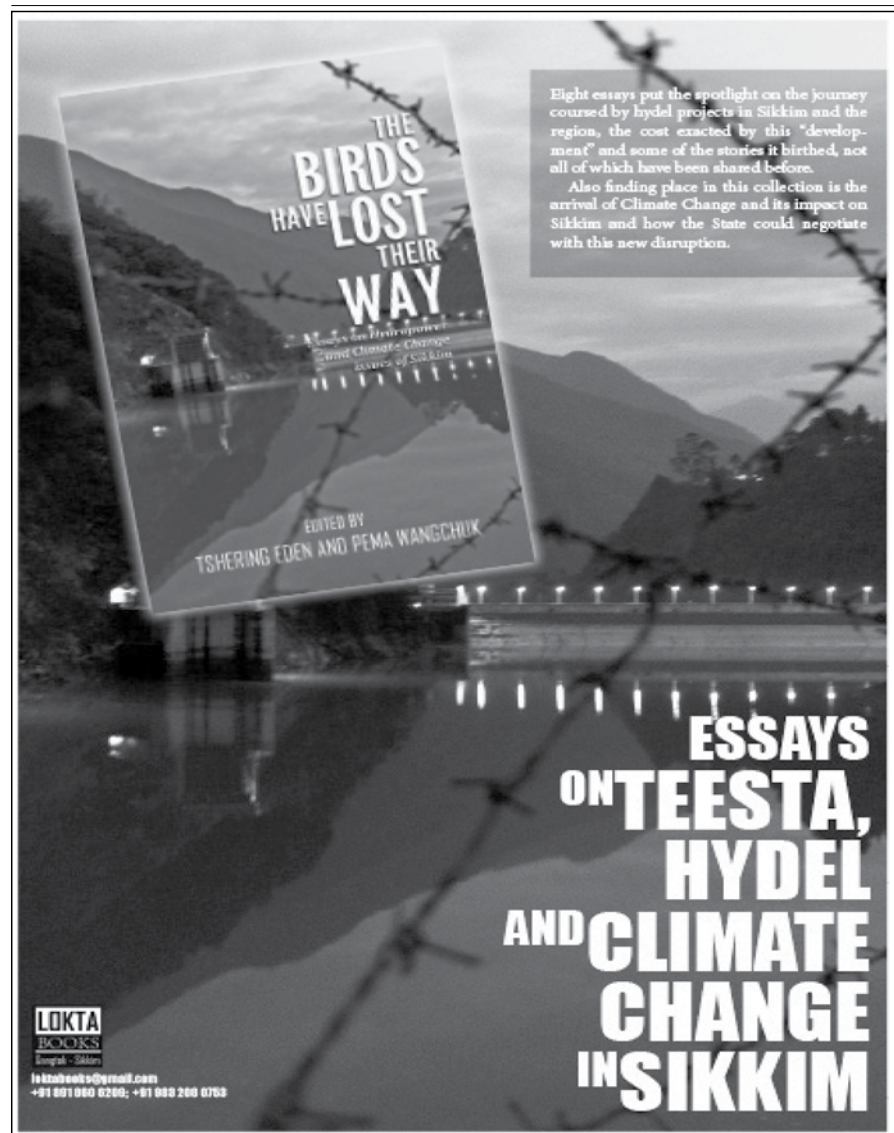
He said that trustea will provide training to TRA and AFPRO to ensure effective implementation of the programme which will enable producers and buyers to obtain tea produced according to agreed, credible and transparent manner.

Bhuyan said that so far, trustea certification is only for bulk tea. "We intend to go for certification of retail packs also," he said. Till date, the

trustea programme has engaged 51,463 small tea growers and certified 622 estates, and bought leaf factories across the country, he stated.

The trustea certification will ensure compliance of national regulation such as FSSAI and Plantation Labour Act, Bhuyan said.

"We will like to ensure that the tea industry remains sustainable, economically robust and compliant with national standards," the Principal Officer and Secretary of TRA, Joydeep Phukan, said.





# I'll be marked now, need to find new strategy every time: Sindhu



**NEW DELHI, SEPT 10 (PTI):** Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu says she will be marked by opponents after her World Championships gold and would need to constantly discover “new things” in her game to maintain her stranglehold on international badminton.

Olympic silver medalist Sindhu became the first Indian to win a historic World Championships gold medal after thrashing Japan’s Nozomi Okuhara 21-7 21-7 in a lop-sided final at Basel, Switzerland last month.

Asked about the challenges that she will face from now on, Sindhu, who boasts of two silver and as many bronze in the World Championships, said: “Pressure and responsibility will now be more. I know everybody will mark me now after the World Championship.

“Now I have to really work harder and change a few things and come with new things because everyone can see my game and know what I am playing. So I have to go with new strategy every time I go into the court,” Sindhu told reporters here.

The 24-year-old from Hyderabad said the World Championships gold medal took a long time coming and it was a result of hard work, besides all the sacrifices that her parents have made over the years.

“I have been wanting this gold for five years. I have been losing every time. I also used to feel sad, but I always kept fighting back and working hard. My parents made a lot of sacrifices for me,” she said.

“Coaches role also has been important. My first coach was Mehboob Ali and then I have been

under Gopi sir since I was 10. In badminton, you need to have a strong mindset.”

Sindhu will next play at the China Open World Tour Super 1000 (September 17-22) and Korea Open World Tour Super 500 (September 24-29) at Changzhou and Incheon City respectively.

“I am preparing for China and Korea Open, I will be leaving in a few days, that is my immediate goal. I hope to give my best,” she said on the sidelines of the PNB MetLife Junior Badminton Championship (JBC).

“This (gold) medal gave a big boost and I will move with this confidence. There are many events before Olympics, so I will just give 100 percent instead of taking pressure.”

Asked if there was any pressure ahead of the World Championships final, Sindhu said:

“There was no pressure in the final. The quarterfinals was one of the good matches against Tai Tzu.

“Playing Okuhara, everyone was saying whether I will repeat the 2017 final but for me I was not thinking about that. It was a fresh match for me. We knew each others’ game, as we have played a lot against each other. So there was no particular strategy.”

National coach Pullela Gopichand had recently said that India have not “invested enough in coaches”.

Asked about her opinion on this issue, Sindhu said: “There needs to be high level coaches, where they need to know everything about badminton to create a champion.

“Of course, Gopi sir himself has been a great player and a great coach. Now we have other coaches from abroad and

they are helping us. But national coaches need to be much qualified, then definitely they can train more players and they will become champions.”

Talking about the role of foreign coach Kim Ji Hyun of Korea, Sindhu said: “For last couple of months, I have been training with Kim under the guidance of Gopi sir. It is not just one stroke, each stroke is important, we have to make each stroke perfect.

“We have been working on defence and front and back court and that really helped me.”

Sindhu, who felicitated the winners of PNB MetLife Junior Badminton Championship (JBC), also gave a big thumbs-up to the tournament which completed its fifth edition here on Tuesday.

“It is a great idea and it is encouraging players of grassroot level. The number of participants is increasing and talent is there and we need to have tournaments like this for them to grow,” she said.

“PNB Metlife is encouraging and supporting each of them.”

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? email us @ news@ summit-times.com

# England greats Boycott, Strauss given knighthoods



**LONDON, SEP 10 (AFP):** England cricket greats Geoffrey Boycott and Andrew Strauss have been given knighthoods by Theresa May in her resignation honours list.

Boycott and Strauss both received the honour for their services to sport after outstanding careers for England.

“We couldn’t be more delighted that Sir Andrew Strauss joins other giants within the sport who have been knighted for their achievements,” England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive Tom Harrison said in a statement. “Aside from his achievements on and off the pitch, Andrew is widely regarded as an exceptional person in our game and this wonderful accolade will be celebrated around the cricketing world.

“Our heartfelt congratulations also go to Sir Geoffrey Boycott, honoured for his long career and passionate dedication to the sport.”

Boycott was one of May’s sporting heroes and the former British Prime Minister spoke of her admiration for his

bloody-minded style of play on several occasions. During the painfully slow Brexit negotiations last year, May defended her stance by saying: “Can I just say that you might recall from previous comments I have made about cricket that one of my cricket heroes was always Geoffrey Boycott.

“And what did you know about Geoffrey Boycott? Geoffrey Boycott stuck to it and he got the runs in the end.”

May, who stepped down as Prime Minister earlier this year, once said she had baked Boycott a batch of chocolate brownies and joked that the former Yorkshire batsman still had the Tupperware box she delivered them in.

Boycott, 78, was a polarising figure for his conservative batting and acerbic personality, but that didn’t stop him amassing 8,114 Test runs at an average of 47.72 in an England career that ran between 1964 and 1982.

He was forced to apologise in 2017 after joking that he would have to “black up” to receive a knighthood, pointing out

that the honour had been bestowed on West Indian cricketers including Viv Richards, Garfield Sobers and Curtly Ambrose.

Boycott was also given a three-month suspended prison sentence in 1998 after being convicted of assault against former girlfriend Margaret Moore.

Former England and Middlesex batsman Strauss hit 7,037 runs in 100 Tests from 2004 to 2012.

Strauss captained England to Ashes triumphs against Australia in 2009 and 2010/2011, the latter campaign making him the first English skipper to win a Test series on Australian soil since Mike Gatting in 1986-87.

South Africa-born Strauss served as England’s director of cricket between 2015 and 2018 before resigning when his wife suffered the lung cancer that would eventually lead to her death.

The 42-year-old’s time in the England hierarchy was credited with laying the foundations for the team’s first 50-over World Cup victory earlier this year.

# Brazilian tennis player Matos handed life ban for match-fixing

**LONDON, SEP 10 (AFP):** Brazil’s Diego Matos was given a life ban from professional tennis and fined 125,000 after being found guilty of match-fixing on Monday.

An anti-corruption hearing found Matos contrived the outcome of 10 matches played in 2018 at ITF level tournaments

in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Portugal and Spain.

The 31-year-old was also found guilty of not cooperating with a Tennis Integrity Unit investigation as he refused to comply fully with requests to provide his mobile phone for forensic examination and failed to supply financial records.

Matos has been ordered to repay 12,000 he received from tournaments in Ecuador: He had been provisionally suspended from tennis since December 2018.

He is currently ranked 373 in doubles, with a highest singles ranking of 580 in April 2012.

# ‘Accidental’ Australia captain Paine on verge of Ashes landmark

**LONDON, SEP 10 (AFP):** Greg Chappell could not do it, while Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke, who had both had two attempts each, were unable to manage it either.

But if his side avoid defeat in the fifth Test against England at The Oval starting Thursday, Tim Paine will join the list of Australia captains who have led the team to an Ashes series win in England. It is a feat no Australia captain has achieved since Steve Waugh oversaw a 4-1 success 18 years ago.

Waugh, like Chappell, Ponting and Clarke, is one of Australia’s greatest cricketers. No one, least of all wicketkeeper Paine himself, would suggest he is in that class and the way in which he inherited the captaincy was highly unusual.

Traditionally, Australia have picked their best 11 players first and then opted for one of them as captain, while in England, where there has long been an emphasis on ‘leadership qualities’, the tendency has been to select the skipper first and then find 10 others to join him.

Paine’s case was different. Following the ball-tampering scandal in Cape Town in March 2018 that saw Steve Smith stripped of the captaincy and David Warner removed from the post



of vice-captain -- with both batsmen subsequently given 12-month bans by Cricket Australia -- officials needed someone uncontaminated by the incident to lead the team and turned to Paine the morning after ‘Sandpapergate’.

Paine, who had made his Australia debut in a Test against Pakistan at Lord’s in 2010, had been on the brink of retiring from cricket in 2017 and taking up a job with an equipment manufacturer instead.

But having forced his way back into the side, the Tasmanian found himself thrust into the captaincy barely a year later. Ever since becoming skipper, Paine has

face accusations that he is both an “accidental” skipper and not worth his place in the side.

But having shown dignity after a dramatic one-wicket loss in the third Test at Headingley, Paine had the satisfaction of leading the team to an 185-run win at Old Trafford on Sunday that ensured they retained the Ashes at 2-1 up with just one to play. - ‘Scary Smith’ -

Much of the credit will go to Smith, who has so far scored 671 runs at 134.20 with three hundreds, including 211 at Old Trafford, in his first series since his ban.

“He is just a genius and I never had any doubt he would come back and be the player

he was,” said Paine, who made his Test debut in the same match as Smith.

“The scary thing is he’s getting better. I don’t know where it is going to stop but we are enjoying being on the ride, that is for sure.” Just as Smith is the world’s top-ranked Test batsman, Australia spearhead Pat Cummins is at the summit of the corresponding bowling rankings.

Most captains are only as good as their players, but Paine contributed to victory in Manchester by ending a run of low scores with a valuable first-innings 58.

“In terms of what we’ve been able to achieve as a group is pretty satisfying from

where we’ve come from in the last 18 months,” said Paine. “Great character, shows the great people we have got and shows we’ve also got some bloody good cricketers in our team.

“Also from where we’ve come from, even from last week (the defeat at Headingley).

That was a loss that would break a lot of teams but we weren’t.” As for personal satisfaction, the 34-year-old Paine added: “My dream was to come here and win an Ashes. I certainly didn’t want to be the captain winning the Ashes.

“I am just happy to be a part of it. I could have been working at Kookaburra so this isn’t bad.

# Cricket ‘heat rules’ call in response to climate change

**LONDON, SEP 10 (AFP):** A joint report by sports researchers and environmental academics unveiled on Tuesday urges cricket authorities to introduce “heat rules” including postponing games in response to climate change.

The review, by the British Association for Sustainable Sport and two universities, also calls for extra care around youth players and for manufacturers to develop equipment that enhances air flow, as extreme heat becomes more common.

“This is a wake-up call not just for cricket, but for all sport,” said Russell Seymour, sustainability manager at Lord’s cricket ground in London -- the spiritual home of the game -- who wrote the foreword to the report.

“Sportspeople are not by nature bystanders and we can and must react to avoid the crises approaching us.

“For every player suffering, there are many

more fans having to work and go about their daily lives in these increasingly harsh conditions,” he added. The “Hit for Six” report details how cricket-playing countries such as India and Australia are already being severely impacted by extreme weather events such as droughts, heatwaves and storms that experts say are being made more common by climate change.

It notes youth matches in Australia have been disrupted due to heat, while dire water shortages have hit a tour of South Africa and flooding has delayed cricket in England.

Its authors say they have combined climate science with heat physiology to show how batsmen and wicket-

keepers are becoming increasingly susceptible to poorer performances due to the conditions.

They argue “safety-related heat stress guidelines” are now needed, and that more games may need to be postponed or rearranged to cooler times of the day.

“Above 35 degrees (Celsius) the body runs out of options to cool itself,” said Mike Tipton, professor of human and applied physiology at the University of Portsmouth and one of the report’s authors.

“For batsman and wicketkeepers even sweating has limited impact as the heavy protective cladding creates a highly humid microclimate next to their bodies.”



## Parliament deals British PM Brexit blow before suspension

**LONDON, SEPT 10 (AFP):** British MPs rejected a second attempt by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday to call an early election to break the Brexit deadlock, in a final show of defiance before he controversially suspends parliament.

After a tumultuous few days that exposed Johnson's weakness in the face of hostile lawmakers, the House of Commons again refused to grant a snap poll that might have bolstered his position.

MPs had earlier also voted to demand the government publish confidential documents about Britain's readiness to leave the EU on October 31 without a divorce deal.

Johnson took office in July promising to deliver on the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit, even if that means leaving without exit terms agreed with Brussels. But many MPs reject a "no deal" divorce and in the past few days have rushed through a law that would force Johnson to delay Brexit if he failed to strike a deal.

Addressing a rowdy chamber late into Monday night, the prime minister told MPs: "I will not ask for another delay."

But having lost his parliamentary majority after a swathe of his own Conservative MPs rebelled over the law, he is running out of options.

The last chance to get a deal to avoid a Brexit delay is at an EU summit starting on October 17. Some commentators have said Johnson may be forced to resign if he does not want to delay.

In a further sign of the political turmoil, House of Commons Speaker John Bercow, who has championed the rights of MPs to challenge government, announced he was stepping down. Britons voted by 52 per cent to leave the EU in 2016, but after three years of political wrangling, parliament still cannot decide how to implement that decision. Johnson says he wants to revise the deal agreed by his predecessor, Theresa May, which MPs rejected, but says this requires keeping open the option of walking away. His wafer-thin majority in the Commons disappeared last week, however, when he expelled 21 of his own Conservative MPs for voting with Labour on the "no deal" legislation.

The bill -- which became law on Monday -- would force Johnson to delay Brexit to January or even later if he cannot get a deal with Brussels, or persuade MPs to back no deal. Johnson told Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn: "If you really want to delay Brexit... then vote for an election and let the people decide." But he needed support of two-thirds of MPs, and as last Thursday, opposition leaders refused, arguing that "no deal" should come off the table first.

Bercow, accused by eurosceptics of being biased against Brexit, warned the government that it could not now ignore parliament as he announced that he will step down by October 31.

# Afghan peace talks with Taliban are dead: Trump

**BY LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, SEP 10 (PTI):** Declaring that the Afghan peace talks with the Taliban as "dead", President Donald Trump has said that the United States has hit the Taliban harder in the last four days than any time in 10 years.

The president stunned the world on Saturday when he announced the cancellation of a secret meeting with the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at Camp David near Washington. It came after the Taliban claimed responsibility of an attack in Kabul last week, in which an American soldier were among the dead.

The US has been conducting peace talks with the Taliban and the two sides were hopeful of a deal that included America cutting down on troops in Afghanistan and guarantees by Taliban of not allowing the Afghan soil to be ever used again for terror activities.

"They (talks with the Taliban) are dead. As far as I'm concerned, they're dead," Trump told re-

porters at the White House on Monday.

What's happening is this. We are talking, we are talking to the government, we are talking to a lot of different people, and we will see," he said.

The US president said that he cancelled Camp David on the basis that they (Taliban) did something that they sure shouldn't have done,

The United States will get out of Afghanistan, he said, adding but we will get out at the right time.

Trump alleged that the Taliban tried to pressurize him by carrying out a terrorist strike that among others killed an American soldier.

"They (the Taliban) thought that (they) had to kill people in order to put themselves in a little better negotiating position.... You can't do that with me," Trump said while responding to a question about his decision to cancel the talks.

"So, they are dead as far as I'm concerned," he said. "We have hit the Taliban harder in the last four days than they have been hit in over 10 years. So that's the way it is."



Trump said the decision to invite the Taliban to Camp David was his, and so was the call to cancel it.

Justifying the move, the president underlined that he did not want the meeting to happen under circumstances "where they (Taliban) go around and try and make themselves a little bit more important by killing a soldier and also a total of

12 people".

According to the draft of the peace deal, which is now dead, the US had reportedly agreed to pull out some 5,400 of its troops within 130 days of signing the deal.

Responding to a question, Trump said that he has a specific number of troops that he would withdraw from Afghanistan, but would not tell the media.

I would never tell you. I will tell some people, but I would never tell you, but we have--we have a very specific number. We have a very specific number, he said.

Trump said that he has not discussed about the possibility of meeting with the Taliban in the future.

We haven't discussed it. I'm not looking to discuss it. We've hit the

Taliban and our enemy in Afghanistan harder than we haven't over 10 years, so I'm not discussing anything right now, he said.

On asked how he defines victory in Afghanistan, he said that the US beats them (Taliban) militarily.

Well, that's always the question. How do you define victory? We beat them militarily

ily but as soon as we leave, it seems to form again. We would beat them very easily militarily if we wanted to by doing certain things and I'm not talking nuclear, Trump said.

We could have that over with very, very rapidly, but you would lose millions and millions of lives, and I don't want to do that. Afghanistan is a very interesting situation. We have been there for 19 years, and we are now really policemen in Afghanistan, he said.

Trump said that the United states has been a policeman there for a long time and "we'd like to get out but we'll get out at the right time."

"We have been serving as policemen in Afghanistan, and that was not meant to be the job of our Great Soldiers, the finest on earth," Trump tweeted earlier.

The (Afghan) government is going to have to take responsibility or do whatever it is they do. I've been saying from the campaign that we want to get out at the earliest possible time, he said.

## Outgoing parliament deals new Brexit blow to British PM



**LONDON, SEP 10 (AFP):** Beleaguered British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to continue with his attempts to strike a new Brexit deal with Brussels, after losing yet another parliamentary vote on Tuesday to hold an early election.

Johnson slammed the opposition for voting against his call for a snap poll next month, in the final minutes of a late-night debate ahead of a controversial five-week suspension of parliament called by the prime minister.

He said he would "strive to get an agreement" at a summit in Brussels next month.

"While the opposition run from their duty to answer to those who put us here, they cannot hide forever," he said.

"The moment will come when the people will finally get their chance to deliver their verdict." It was a final show of defiance in a stormy parliamentary session in which Johnson also lost a separate vote, calling on the government to publish confidential papers about the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit.

The opposition has said it will not allow an early election, which under British law requires a two-thirds majority

in parliament in favour, until Johnson has either struck a deal or delayed Brexit beyond October 31.

The prime minister insisted he would not delay, despite a bill being rushed through parliament in the past few days that could force him to do so if he fails to reach an agreement with the EU.

"This government will not delay Brexit any further," he insisted.

In a further sign of the political turmoil, House of Commons Speaker John Bercow, who has championed the rights of MPs to challenge the government, announced he was stepping down.

In exceptional scenes as the parliament shut down for five weeks, opposition Labour MPs waved signs reading "silenced", while one tried to restrain the speaker to prevent him leaving for the suspension ceremony. Opposition MPs jeered and chanted "shame on you" as government MPs left the chamber, while Bercow, in protest, called the suspension "an act of executive fiat".

Johnson took office in July promising to deliver on the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit, even if that means leaving without exit terms agreed with Brussels.

But many MPs have rejected a no deal divorce and supported new legislation forcing Johnson to request a three-month delay if he fails to strike a deal.

His last chance to reach an agreement is at the two-day EU summit starting on October 17.

Some commentators have said Johnson may be forced to resign if he does not want to make the delay request. Ministers have also hinted at a potential legal challenge against the law.

Britons voted in 2016 to leave the EU, but after three years of political wrangling, parliament still cannot decide how to implement that decision.

Johnson says he wants to revise the deal agreed by his predecessor, Theresa May, which MPs rejected, but says this requires keeping open the option of walking away.

His wafer-thin majority in the Commons vanished last week when he expelled 21 of his own Conservative MPs for voting with Labour on the anti-no deal legislation.

The bill -- which became law on Monday -- would force Johnson to delay Brexit to January or even later if he cannot get a deal with Brussels.

The bill's passage through parliament prompted anger from the government.

But Bercow, accused by eurosceptics of being biased against Brexit, warned the government that it could not now ignore parliament as he announced that he will step down on October 31.

"We degrade this parliament at our peril," he warned lawmakers, to a sustained ovation from largely opposition MPs.

Johnson had earlier visited Dublin for talks with his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar, a key player in the search for a Brexit deal.

MPs rejected the current agreement three times earlier this year, in large part because of its provisions to keep open the border between British Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

Johnson wants to scrap the so-called "backstop" plan, which would keep Britain aligned to EU trade rules long after Brexit, to avoid any checks at the frontier.

But the EU accuses him of offering no alternative.

"Common ground was established in some areas although significant gaps remain," Johnson and Varadkar said in a joint statement following their talks.

## N Korea fires 'projectiles' after offering talks with US

**SEOUL, SEPT 10 (AFP):** North Korea on Tuesday fired projectiles toward the sea, South Korea's military said, hours after Pyongyang said it is willing to hold working-level talks with the United States in late September.

Negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington have been gridlocked since a second summit between the North's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump in February ended without a deal.

North Korea twice launched "unidentified projectiles" Tuesday morning in an easterly direction from South Pyongan province, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

No further details were immediately available but these were the latest to be fired since July. Previous launches have been identified as short-range missiles.

"We are aware of reports of projectiles launched from North Korea," a senior US official said. "We are continuing to monitor the situation and consulting closely

with our allies in the region." Trump and Kim had agreed to restart working-level dialogue during an impromptu meeting at the Demilitarised Zone dividing the nuclear-armed North and South Korea in June, but those talks have yet to begin.

"We are willing to sit face-to-face with the US around late September at a time and place that we can agree on," Choe Son Hui, the North's vice foreign minister, said in a statement carried on Monday by the official Korean Central News Agency. Choe's comment followed her warning in late August that North Korea's "expectations of dialogue with the US are gradually disappearing", after Pyongyang conducted weapons tests to protest joint US-South Korean military exercises.

Asked about the proposal for lower-level talks in September, Trump told reporters: "I have a very good relationship with Chairman Kim. I always say having meetings is a good thing. We'll see what happens." The period suggested by North Korea

would correspond with the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

On Monday, Choe recalled Kim's comments that the North would wait until the end of the year for Washington to "quit its current calculation method". She repeated Pyongyang's call for the US to come up with an "acceptable calculation" or risk jeopardising the entire diplomatic process. When asked by AFP about the latest North Korean offer, a State Department official replied: "We don't have any meetings to announce at this time."

Kim and Trump adopted a vaguely-worded statement on the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula" at their first summit in Singapore in June last year, but little progress has since been made on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear programme. A report published by a United Nations panel of experts last week said North Korea's development of nuclear warheads has not stopped, despite the moratorium it declared on nuclear blasts and long-range missile launches.

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# Not looking for roles I can comfortably do: Kirti Kulhari

BY JUSTIN RAO

**MUMBAI, SEP 10 (PTI):** Kirti Kulhari says she is always in search for roles that can help her leave the comfort zone that her past performance has become. The actor, who followed her breakthrough role in "Shaitaan" with critically-lauded turns in "Pink", "Uri" and most recently, "Mission Mangal", is playing a Balochi woman in Netflix's "Bard of Blood", which she says gave her the opportunity to push herself more.

"Very few people are capable of seeing what you can still do. People always look back at what you have done and think, 'oh yes, she has done this so she can do something similar again.' I am not looking for something that I can comfortably do," she told PTI in an interview.

"I am looking to get out of my comfort zone, in the sense that every time I have played a character and played it well, I feel 'I have done this.' So that's my new comfort zone. I need something to wake me up from that comfort and go like 'show me if you can do this,'" Kirti added.

Digital platforms, she believes, has come as a boon for actors who are looking to prove their talent.

"It is becoming easier, it is a great time for actors who are looking for good work and proving themselves. For me, it is a problem in a way, because once

you have done something good, the next one has to go notches higher. The kind of work which gave me satisfaction six months ago, today, I will feel I want to do more challenging work."

Based on Bilal Siddiqi's bestsell-

explored or known too much about before. Not just Balochistan, I had to first understand the world of espionage, how does all of this work- the stakes involved, among other things.

"It was very interesting for me to go



**POSITIVELY ORANGE!** The model and TV host, Karlie Kloss is looking vibrant and classy as she arrives for the Caroline Herrera show for New York Fashion Week.

## 'Rambo' story contemporary, relevant: Siddharth Anand

**MUMBAI, SEP 10 (PTI):** Filmmaker Siddharth Anand has revealed that the team of "Rambo" remake is all set to go on floors from March 2020, with a script that's extremely relevant to the current situation of the country.

The Hindi adaptation of the 1982 Hollywood classic "Rambo" will feature Tiger Shroff stepping into the shoes of veteran action star Sylvester Stallone.

The original followed John Rambo, a US Army veteran (played by Stallone), who is traumatised by his experience in the Vietnam War, and uses the skills he gained there to fight police, enemy troops, and drug cartels.

Siddharth said the film has been adapted as per Indian sensibilities. "The germ of 'Rambo' is the most fascinating bit, not just the fact that it's a remake. The story that we have is something very relevant and contemporary, the kind of situation that's prevalent in the country. That's what makes it equally challenging and exciting," Siddharth told PTI.

The director said work on the film will begin immediately after his upcoming ac-

tion-thriller "War" is released.

"The script had always been in place and we are going to start shooting in March 2020. I'll only know how geared up I am for the film after 'War' releases in October. But the film is definitely happening and I'm looking forward

## 'Face/Off' reboot in the works

**LOS ANGELES, SEP 10 (PTI):** "Face/Off", the high-concept action film, featuring Nicolas Cage and John Travolta, is getting a reboot at Paramount Pictures.

"22 Jump Street" screenwriter Oren Uziel has been roped in by the studio to pen the film, reported Deadline.

No actors or director are attached with the project.

The 1997 original, directed by John Woo, revolved around two arch enemies exchanging each other's identities (and faces). The story follows FBI agent Sean Archer

(Travolta), who is chasing terrorist Castor Troy (Cage).

When Troy boards a plane in Los Angeles that crashes and is severely injured, Archer undergoes surgery to remove his face and replace it with Troy's in order to go undercover as the criminal. In a twist, Troy then awakes from a coma and forces the doctor who performed the surgery give him Archer's face.

Neal Moritz is producing the project for Paramount with David Permut serving as executive producer.

## Rishi Kapoor returns to India after cancer treatment



**MUMBAI, SEP 10 (PTI):** Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor is back home after undergoing a medical treatment for cancer in the US.

The actor, who was in New York since late last year, returned to India on Tuesday morning. The 67-year-old actor took to Twitter to share the news of his homecoming and thanked his fans and well-wishers for their continuous support. "Back Home! 11 Months 11days! Thank

you all," Kapoor tweeted.

For his treatment in the US, the actor was accompanied by his wife, yesterday star Neetu Kapoor, and during their stay the couple were visited by many Bollywood celebrities including Shah Rukh Khan, Alia Bhatt, Aamir Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Deepika Padukone, Anupam Kher and Abhishek and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan among others.

## Screenwriters, actor's association to fight issues, including sexual harassment

**MUMBAI, SEP 10 (PTI):** The Screenwriters Association (SWA) and Cine and Television Artists Association (CINTAA) are signing a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) to address and resolve all issues their members face in the industry.

The two organisations felt the need to combat problems common to both after Alok Nath's refusal to respond to Indian Film and Television Director Association (IFTDA) after writer-director Vinta Nanda accused the actor of rape in the wake of the #MeToo movement in India.

Sushant Singh, general secretary, CINTAA, said the association are the back bones of the industry and

can work more effectively together. "With a lot of members from CINTAA and SWA turning producers, there are chances of conflict. The idea is for both associations to form joint committees to address complaints. Together, they will have more power, be respected and feared more," Singh said in a statement.

Sunil Salgia, general secretary, SWA, added that MOU will address all violations, be it sexual harassment, copyright, payment or breach of contract.

"The idea is to fight and take action. The MOU will compel members to attend hearings or else they couldn't accept cooperation in case of personal grievance," he added.

## 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan' to release in March 2020

**MUMBAI, SEP 10 (PTI):** Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan" will hit the theatres on March 13, 2020. The announcement was made on Tuesday after the team started the shoot of the film.

"Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan", a sequel to the quirky comedy "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan", is directed by Hitesh Kewalya. The film, produced by Aanand L Rai's

Colour Yellow Productions and Bhushan Kumar's T-Series, will address a socially relevant story revolving around a same sex couple.

"Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan! Lock your date 13th March 2020," the post on the official page of Colour Yellow Productions read.

The movie also features Ayushmann's "Badhaai Ho" co-stars Gajraj Rao and Neeha Gupta.

**ARIES:** Spoiler alert, Aries: they want you as much as you want them. This phase of your life requires you to be the most proactive version of yourself. Let your desires be known. Somebody who really wants to make things work will be happy to meet you halfway.

Tip: Let your desires be known, wild one. **TAURUS:** This is a challenging time for you, Taurus. Beware of making the loss, pain and separation part of your narrative. Today brings with itself the reminder that all is not lost. It is your misunderstandings that are creating a veil of separation.

Tip: Communicating your needs is sure to lessen the pain.

**GEMINI:** You are many things, Gemini, but a victim is certainly not one of them. Feeling that you are at the mercy of your circumstances is keeping you from seeing the grand opening. Let go

of the fear that each action will take you a few steps back. Resolve to move out of your comfort zone, no matter how safe it feels to stay inside. This is the week to rediscover your wings.

Tip: Realise your true potential.

**CANCER:** It's not always calling each other every day or making grand declarations on social media. It's about showing up when it matters the most, Cancer. The Universe is reminding you who your real friends are. Remember, it's okay to reach out when you need a sounding board. Those in committed relationships will find that they are stepping into a time of harmony and emotional stability.

Tip: Reach out if you need a sounding board.

**LEO:** The true test of compatibility? How you survive the stormy weather. Be warned: sudden changes are on the cards. Changes that could pull the rug

from beneath your feet and make your question the foundation on which you have built your life.

Tip: Make love to the winds of change.

**VIRGO:** The secret to long-lasting relationships: open and honest communication, respect for each other's journey, trust, acceptance and unconditional love. You might not have got it right the first time around, but you're learning to perfect your recipe with time.

Tip: You have built a solid foundation for yourself.

**LIBRA:** There's nothing wrong with fun and games if you're both on the same page, Libra. Allow yourself to be wooed and pursued. Allow yourself to be treated like Cleopatra reincarnated. Coupled Venetians will find that this is a time of renewed passion.

Tip: Get in touch with your wild side.

**SCORPIO:** "Maybe our girlfriends are

our soulmates and guys are just people to have fun with." What Carrie Bradshaw said, Scorpio! This day calls for joy, celebration, and madness. Don't let the Gregorian calendar be the reason you put fun off until the weekend. Is there a certain friend who is planning to visit you soon?

Cosmic tip: Call on your girlfriends for that much needed support and cheer.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Why are we so quick to judge, Sagittarius? Despite how things appear on the outside, you will discover that there are more similarities than differences. Open your heart, Sag. Your soul circle is ready for an upgrade.

Tip: Expand your social circle. **CAPRICORN:** You know what's sexy? The ability to take life by the horns, not back down in the face of adversities, and continue to believe in your dreams. It is this attitude that is making

both the Universe and your suitors weak in the knees. Coupled Capricorns, this is the time to adopt a no hold barred policy in the bedroom.

Tip: Grab life by the horns.

**AQUARIUS:** What's keeping you from making that bold move? Don't let fear and inhibitions dampen your spirits. You have come so far, Aquarius. Continue to choose love over everything else. Some of you may be struggling to listen to your inner voice.

Tip: Turn down the noises outside.

**PISCES:** You know what enhances the flavour of your relationship? Shared experiences. Stop adulting already, Pisces. The cards are reminding you of the importance of letting your hair down and experimenting with the new. Is there a new brewery you've been meaning to visit?

Tip: Let your hair down.