



**NOT IN POLITICS TO GET  
CLICKED OR BLOW MY OWN  
TRUMPET: SUNNY DEOL**

pg 08

**AMAZON FIRES: INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLE SHOW FIRE CAN BE  
USED SUSTAINABLY**

pg 04

**MARLON BRANDO CONFRONTED  
MICHAEL JACKSON ON CHILD  
ABUSE ALLEGATIONS**

pg 08



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## ACT and Save Dzongu reiterate protest against Teesta Stage IV

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
DIKCHU, 30 AUG:**

The Affected Citizen of Teesta and Save Dzongu organized a meeting at Hee Gyathang Panchyat Ghar today to register their protest against the implementation of the 510 MW Teesta Stage IV hydroelectric project.

Present for the meeting were ACT General Secretary, Gyatso Lepcha, member Tenzing Lepcha, former chairperson Chopel Lepcha, Save Dzongu president, Ugen Lepcha, Kalzang Dorjee Lepcha, Champa Leekden, Zilla members and Panchyat members of Hee Gyathang and Lingdong Barfok GPUs along with the public.

The meeting started with prayers at Ring Khola led by Bongthing Tshering Lepcha.

SHG member Chenjay Ongmu Lepcha, speaking on behalf of SHGs of Hee Gyathang GPU, opposed the project and said that Article 371F of the Constitution of India which accords special status to Sikkim will be under threat if the project is implemented in Dzongu.

Similarly, ACT general secretary Gyatso Lep-



cha conveyed gratitude towards those who came from outside Dzongu to support the cause and stated that ACT has been fighting against the Project for the past 12 years.

“Since we started our battle against the project in 2007, we faced a lot of challenges and learned a lot from it,” he said.

He added that a pro-

test rally will be organised in Gangtok in the coming days and appealed to the younger generation to come forward and help save Dzongu.

Save Dzongu member Kalzang Dorjee Lepcha, in turn, said that they were gathered to save their motherland and were prepared for any sacrifice for the cause.

He recollected that

in the run up to the elections, a petition had been submitted to SKM president PS Tamang [Golay], and then MLAs Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama and they had promised to scrap the project but no action has been taken yet.

“I am also the SKM CLC President for Dzongu constituency and if

my party does not stop the Teesta Stage IV, am ready to resign from the post,” he said.

ACT member, Tenzing Lepcha, reminded the gathering about the support received from students during the hunger strike in Gangtok in the year 2007 and hoped of similar support this time as well.

## Nawin Kiran petitions Speaker seeking disqualification of 12 SDF MLAs on grounds of defection

**SAGAR CHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, has filed a petition with the Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, seeking disqualification of the 12 SDF MLAs who recently defected from their party and joined the BJP. He expressed hope that the Speaker will take up the matter and give his decision at the earliest and put an end to this political trend of defections in Sikkim.

Mr Pradhan submitted the 11-page petition accompanied by advocate S Chatterjee from Kolkata.

The petition has been filed against former SDF MLAs, Narendra Kumar Subba, Karma Sonam Lepcha, Tashi Thendup Bhutia, Farwanti Tamang, Raj Kumari Thapa, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia, Krishna Bahadur Rai, Dorjee Tshering Lepcha,



Dilli Ram Thapa and Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, who have now joined Bharatiya Janata Party on 13 August at Delhi, and also against former SDF MLAs, Em Prasad Sharma and Gay Tshering Dhungel, who joined Sikkim Krantikari Morcha on 14 August.

The petition argues that these MLAs were liable to be disqualified under Article 191 (2) read with Paragraph 2 (1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

Mr Pradhan has prayed that appropriate

proceedings be initiated against the 12.

Speaking to media persons after filing the petition, Mr Pradhan also informed that the matter of the defection of seven former SKM MLAs in the last term was still pending in the Assembly.

“The defection is also an attempt to break down and change the political demography of the State because this is the State which has from beginning seen only local regional parties in the power and opposition in the State,” Mr Chatterjee said.

## Media sensitized on suicide, TB, drug abuse and mental health issues

**GANGTOK, 30 AUG (IPR):** Health & Family Welfare Department organized a sensitization training programme on Suicides, Tuberculosis, Drug Abuse and Mental Health for media personnel at the New STNM Multispecialty Hospital today.

The welcome speech by Dr Sonam Lasopa was followed by talks and elaborations on early identification of mental illness, current trends in suicide & reporting of suicide by Dr Bibhusan Dahal, Psychiatrist.

He highlighted that youngsters were the most vulnerable group to suicides.

Suicide is a condition/ situation not an illness, he stressed.

A majority of people who commit suicide are between 15 to 19 years of age, it was informed.

Awareness has to be created among family members and friends on prevention of suicide, Dr Dahal stated while adding that the family should be very sensitive and observe the behavior of the person inclined to commit suicide.

The media, society and the community should work together to prevent this social evil, he added.

Medical Officer Dr Bhawana elaborated on the prevention and control of Tuberculosis.

She spoke about DOTS [Directly Observed Treatment Short course] which is the internationally recommended strategy for TB control that has been recognized as being highly efficient and



cost-effective.

KC Nima, project director of Freedom Facility, also elaborated on the role of Crises Centre Helpline and highlighted its activities.

Also he urged media persons to generate wider awareness among the masses about the 24x7 Crises Centre Suicide Prevention Helpline Number - 18003453225/ 03592-202111 and 104 - where anyone can call and seek help.

The main objective of the Programme was:

- To create an awareness among the general masses about prevention of suicide through authentic report released by media.
- To motivate students and people to create awareness among family, friends and peer group members on prevention of suicide.

During the interaction session, discussions were held to improve collaboration with the health system and civil society and the need for broader and more effective reporting on TB.

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## Nine Sikkimese receive awards under Poshan Abhiyan

**YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 30 AUG:**

Along with the rest of the states, nine women from Sikkim have been listed for effort and outreach towards society and individuals under the Poshan Abhiyan.

Geeta Das (ANM), Dayawanti Pradhan (Aganwadi Associate), Laxmi Pradhan (ASHA worker), Shanti Devi Mukhia (Aganwadi worker) and Apsara Devi Sharma (supervisor), Chuning Lepcha (Aganwadi worker), Nima Lamu Lepcha (Aganwadi Associate), Tsheten Doma Lepcha (ASHA workers) and Tara Basnett (ANM) from Sikkim were amongst those who were awarded for their contributions and deliverance.

The awards were conferred under the Poshan Abhiyan 2018-19 regarding Field Leadership and Convergence Award (State level) in New Delhi.

“This is a proud moment for us and we would like to share this happiness and success with all and wish to see others receive such awards in the coming days,” shared Geeta Das, an ANM, while speaking to SummitTimes on behalf of the awardees.

The awardees was

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## SANSKRIT SAMBHASAN SHIVIR CONCLUDES IN LOWER BERMIOK

## CM announces Sanskrit College for Bermiok, development of Sirijunga’s cave for tourism

**BERMIOK, 30 AUG (IPR):** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] today attended the closing ceremony of the 10-day Sanskrit Sambhasan Shivir organized by Sanskrit Patshala (Bermiok) at Lower Bermiok in West Sikkim.

While addressing the valedictory ceremony hosted at the playground of Government Secondary School, Lower Bermiok, the Chief Minister spoke extensively on the plans of the Government to encourage the growth of Sanskrit language in Sikkim along with the other languages.

He stressed that Sanskrit teachers shoulder the huge responsibility of



making Sanskrit popular and expressed happiness on the strength and importance of the programme and congratulated the organising committee for making new his-

tory by organising a state level function on Sanskrit.

Speaking in the context of recent appointment of 170 Sanskrit teachers since the formation of the new government, he ex-

tended gratitude to the Government of India and Education Department of the state for their support to ensure justice for the educated youth.

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## GMC to strictly introduce segregation of waste at source

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

Gangtok Municipal Corporation commissioner, HK Chettri, addressed a press meet at his office here today to detail steps taken by the GMC for segregation of waste at source and other measures.

Mr Chettri informed that starting September, the GMC will be introducing segregation of waste at source on a compulsory basis apart from enforcing the ban on single-use plastic ban.

Yellow bags are also being installed in GMC trucks to dispose sanitary napkins and diapers which are to be now discarded wrapped in paper and marked red.

He said GMC has initiated all required awareness with respect to segregation of waste at source and also distributed dustbins to Gangtokians a while back.



“Now, from September onwards we plan to collect dry and wet waste separately. We have already conducted sensitization of the Gangtok beautifiers on the collection of waste. For the first two weeks of September we will be considerate but from then onwards we have decided not to collected waste if not segregated at source and in the days ahead, as per

the solid waste management action plan of the state government, we plan to impose fines as enshrined in the plan.

Following the waste management we have also started generating awareness among students. We feel that students are the best messengers who can lead the society towards right direction and aware too,” he explained.

The GMC Commissioner pointed out that being a hilly terrain, Gangtok has limited land to develop landfill sites. As for the landfill site that exists, though it has been scientifically developed, non-segregation of waste has limited its abilities, he said.

“It’s high time for all to extend all necessary cooperation in managing waste in a proper manner,” he said.

He maintained that if wet waste and dry waste were segregated at source itself, and col-

lected accordingly, the same can be managed in a scientific manner at the landfill.

It was further informed that the composting plant at the landfill site was not functioning because waste was not being segregated. Similarly, the composting plant installed at Lall Bazaar was also not in operation due to mechanical failure. The spare parts have however been brought in and the unit should be operational within 15 days.

The Commissioner mentioned that a total of 50 metric tonnes of waste is received at the landfill site on a daily basis and with the help of rag-pickers, the segregation of big plastic items, bottles is being carried out and sent for recycling.

It was informed that 20-30% of the dry waste is segregated at the landfill site and recycled.

The Commissioner also spoke on the E-Waste management too which remains a

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# Tech demo on ultra high density planting of maize at Mangan

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**  
**MANGAN, 30 AUG:**

In an effort to enhance agricultural productivity under the Central Government's New India Movement which is underway in the district with technical support from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Mangan, a technology demonstration and awareness programme was held today on Ultra High Density planting of maize for farmers of Malling and Ringhim villages at the KVK farm.

The initiative aims at doubling farmer incomes by 2022 and has identified seven sources



of income growth - improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards

high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations.

Malling and Ringhim villages have been identified for a pilot project of this programme. Farm-

ers from Pakyong also attended the programme.

Project Coordinator KVK, TT Bhutia, explained the ultra high density on maize through high yielding technology of farming.

The project coordinator also made a power point presentation on Quineo farming.

The farmers also made a field visit to the KVK farm where high density planting of maize is cultivated. An interaction session was also held during the programme.

The meeting was attended by farmers, Panchayats and Zilla members and officials.

## Seminar on Water Conservation and Waste Management



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

A seminar on Water Conservation and Waste Management was organized by MSME, DI Gangtok in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim, BAC Namthang and Agriculture Department, South.

BDO Namthang, Ram Kumar Tamang, was present as chief guest for the programme which had Assitant Professor Dr GS Patle; Professor CAPHET, Dr BC Kusre, CAU Ranipool; Junior Scientific Assistant SPCB,

Pem Tsenden Bhutia and Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), Wilson Rai, KVK South Sikkim as resource persons.

The topics covered were water conservation and low cost irrigation technology, water resources: constraint & prospects in Sikkim, solid waste management, e-waste management and Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

132 farmers from Sumbuk, Tharpu, Chuba and Bokrong along with officials from line department participated in the programme.

## Media sensitized...

Responsible reporting takes the opportunity to educate the public about suicide. There are many misconceptions about suicide, and the media can play a role in dispelling various myths.

The factors that lead an individual to suicide are usually multiple and complex, and should not be reported in a simplistic, dramatic or sensational way, it was stressed.

Suicide is never the result of a single factor or event, it was added and mental illness a strong predictor of suicide. Mental disorders, such as depression and substance use disorders may influence a person's ability to cope with various life stressors and interpersonal conflicts.

Cultural, genetic and socioeconomic factors need to be taken into account as well. Almost always, it will be misleading to attribute a suicide to an individual event like exam failure or relationship breakdown particularly in circumstances where the death has not yet been fully investigated.

Suicide should certainly not be depicted as a means of coping with personal problems. The complexity of the act has a devastating impact for family members and friends, often leaving them searching for causes, wondering whether there had been signs they may have missed, mourning their loss, and feeling guilty, angry, stigmatized or abandoned.

Reports of suicide that explore some of these effects will further serve to educate the public. Avoid language which sensationalizes or normalizes suicide, or presents it as a solution to problems, perhaps more than anyone, media professionals recognize the importance of language in conveying nuanced meanings. Language which conveys that suicide is a significant public health problem will serve to educate the community. Such language should not sensationalize suicide. Terms like "increasing rates" should be used in preference to hyperbolic phrases like 'suicide epidemic', and caution should be exercised in using the word 'suicide' in headlines. Language that misinforms the public about suicide or normalizes it should be avoided, informed by the resource persons.

## GMC to strictly...

big challenge and needs to be managed and handled with care since e-waste contains many hazardous elements which needs to be taken care of in proper manner.

He also requested shopkeepers to continue keeping two dustbins in their shops and sensitize customers on their proper use. He mentioned that shopkeepers used to follow segregation of waste earlier but have stopped doing so now.

Meanwhile, GMC plans to carry out an awareness campaign on the ban on single use plastic in the state from 11 September onwards.

## Group C and D employees form adhoc committee in West Sikkim

**GYALSHING, 30 AUG [IPR]:** West District Group C and D Government Employees Association organised a district level committee formation programme under the chairmanship of BDO Mangalbaria, Robin Dong at the Community Hall here today.

The house was informed that All Sikkim Government C & D/PSU Employee's Association was organizing a state level convention on 07 September at Paljor Stadium during which Chief Minister PS Tamang [Go-

lay] will be felicitated by the association. All the present were requested to join the convention compulsorily.

The house then dissolved the existing committee and formed an adhoc committee till further order.

The program included an interactive session during which genuine grievances and suggestions were discussed and the association assured to take the matter to the higher authorities and work for the welfare and development of the employees.

## Farmers-Scientists interaction at Chalamthang



**GANGTOK, 30 AUG (PIB):** A farmers-scientists interaction meeting was organized at Chalamthang, South Sikkim, under Schedule Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) Project by ICAR National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong.

Scientist & Nodal Officer, Dr TL Bhutia, SCSP explained the project and also requested the farmers to take the opportunities offered by the scheme.

Orchids can be a boom to farmers by providing additional income and im-

proving the livelihood of the farmers, he said.

Dr LC De, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) stressed on improving farmer livelihoods through orchid cultivation as well as other floricultural crops.

Around 30 farmers participated in the programme along with scientists Dr BP Mallikarjuna (Genetics and Plant Breeding), Dr S S Biswas (Soil Science) and Ajay Bhusal (Technical Personnel) from ICAR-NR-CO, Pakyong.

## CM announces...

He also expressed his pleasure on being part of the programme and recalled his journey and attachment with the locality.

Later, the CM, in response to demands placed by the area MLA, Lok Nath Sharma, and announced the establishment a Sanskrit College and develop the sacred cave of Teyongsi Sirijunga at Lower Martam as a tourist destination.

The Chief Minister also assured to introduce science and commerce streams at Government Senior Secondary School, Bermiok Martam.

The Chief Minister also welcomed the proposal to change the name of the school to "Teyongsi Sirijunga Government Sr. Sec School, Bermiok Martam" and also assured to address demands including construction of an auditorium for the school, road connectivity from Gyalshing to Bermiok via Rungdu, establishment of a parking plaza at Gyalshing, sewage management and establishment of Culture Research Centre of the Sherpa community etc.

The Chief Minister also announced enhancement of the monthly salary of recently appointed Sanskrit teachers from Rs 8,000 to Rs 18,000. He also announced Rs 5 lakh each for Lower Bermiok Sanskrit Pathshala and Lower Bermiok Mandir from the Chief Minister's Fund.

He also informed that the State Government has secured the future of youth appointed under One Family, One Job scheme and allocated Rs 295 crores for their salaries.

The government has released Rs 796 crores to provide arrears of government employees in a single installment.

He also congratulated Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, for taking oath in Nepali in the Parliament and

## D-category EVMs and VVPATs shifted in North Sikkim



**MANGAN, AUGUST 30 (IPR):** In compliance with directions of the Election Commission of India, the North District Election Office successfully shifted 'D' category EVMs and VVPATs i.e. Unused Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) during General Elections 2019, which were stored at an earmarked strong-room at Zilla Bhawan, Pentok, to the district EVM warehouse, District Administration Centre, Mangan today.

A total of 75 Control Units, 78 Ballot Units and 67 VVPATs were shifted in the presence

of State Nodal Officer, Election Department, PW Lepcha, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mangan, Karma Thendup Bhutia, Head Assistant, Election Department, North, John Bhutia.

The whole shifting process was carried out under the surveillance of the Police personnel and authorized government officials after opening the strong room at 11:00am.

Later, the EVMs and VVPATs were kept according to their respective constituencies in the warehouse. The strong-room was locked and sealed at 2:46pm in the presence of SDM, Mangan and police personnel.

## Cleanliness drive at North DAC



**MANGAN, 30 AUG (IPR):** A Cleanliness Drive was conducted at the District Administration Centre here at Mangan today.

The cleanliness drive initiated by District Collector, North, Tenzing T Kaleon and DFO (T), Pempa T Lachenpa and will henceforth be con-

ducted every Friday.

Volunteers from Forest Department, North, participated in weeding and gardening of the surroundings of the DAC.

Also present were, ACF, Manil Kharel, ROs and BOs from the Forest Department of the District.

## Jal Shakti Abhiyan in South Sikkim



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

The first phase of Jal Shakti Abhiyan was held under the aegis of BDO Tenzing Bhutia on 29 Aug with inter-school competitions judged by the BAC staff.


Six schools partici-

pated in the programme: Dong JHS, Denchung JHS, Nanduguan SSS, Salghari SS, Tinik Chisopani JHS and Bhaisalgoan JHS.

The students surprised the audience with their detailed knowledge about Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

## Nine Sikkimese...

felicitated with a letter of appreciation along with medals and a cash component of Rs 2,50,000 which was handed by the Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani, at an event held on 23 Aug in New Delhi.



**AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

No. 460/Adm/Agri                      Dated: 27/08/2019

**ADDENDUM TO EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**  
**No. 451/Adm/Agri dated 20/08/2019**

In continuation to the above mentioned Employment Notice for the post mentioned at Sl.No. 1, the subjects are:

1. Agronomy/Agricultural Sees Technology/Agricultural Plant Breeding.
2. Agriculture Soil Science/ Agriculture Soil Chemistry.

The terms and conditions remain as stated in the earlier Employment Notice.

Sd/-  
Under Secretary  
Agriculture Department

R.O. No. 167/IPR/Pub./Classsi./19-20                      dt. 27.8.19

## MISSING



Hemlata Rai ( 63) has been missing from Namchi, South Sikkim since August 26 ( Monday) at around 10am.

*Please contact: 9932707969,9733358518,9474524297*

~ **SummitTIMES** ~

## CLASSIFIEDS

**URGENTLY REQUIRED:**  
Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444

## WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER .  
Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

**Mr. Subash Lama**  
**Proprietor**  
**Hotel Parasol Residency,**  
**Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim**

*Four & half Storied building on SALE, behind Hotel Agarwal at Pani House, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Interested parties may also buy flats – 2 flats – 1650 sq.ft, 1 Flat – 1186 sq.ft & 1 Flat on top (1 & half)- 3000 sq.ft. Contact: -9434751150*

**Required ground staff M/F, air ticketing ,Supervisor, store Incharge, Computer operator, Helper Eligibility (10th to Graduate) Salary (29500 to 78500) Food+accommodation free send your Resume skaviationacademy1988@gmail.com 9953059884 9654483299**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Roadside plots for sale at Adampool, Ranipool- Rumtek highway.  
**For details contact: 9083826462**

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/ lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg.  
**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**



OMAS calls on Tourism Minister

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:** Organisation of Musicians and Artistes of Sikkim (OMAS) executive members called on Tourism Minister, BS Pant, today.

The team, led by Sonam Gyaltsen Bhutia apprised the minister about the activities of OMAS and also updated him about Sikkim Artistes Protection and Guarantee Bill 2019

“We are happy to share that Honble Minister gave a patient hearing to us and also assured full cooperation for promotion and propagation of Sikkimese artistes,” OMAS members inform.

OMAS has thanked the his encouragement and his assurance to extend all possible cooperation and engagement in the interest of artists.

Twins Jaga, Kalia to return to Odisha 2 yrs after separation

**BHUBANESWAR, AUG 30 (PTI):** Conjoined twins from Odisha's Kandhamal district, Jaga and Kalia, who had been undergoing treatment at AIIMS in Delhi after being separated two years ago, would return to the state on September 7, a state minister has said.

A team of doctors from the AIIMS, New Delhi, along with the state government officials, will accompany the twins who will travel by train as advised in view of their health condition, Odisha Health minister Naba Kishore Das said on Thursday.

The twins, admitted at the AIIMS on July 14, 2017, will be discharged from the hospital on September 6, the minister said adding that they will travel in Rajdhani Express to Cuttack. The four-and-half-year-old twins will now get treatment at the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, Das said on Thursday.

“Expert doctors, under the supervision of neurosurgeon Sudhansu Mishra, will provide all aid to the twins at a special cabin set up for them in the S C B Medical College Hospital Cuttack,” he added.

SCB Medical College superintendent CBK Mohanty said they are well prepared to provide best possible treatment to the twins. The state government had earlier wanted to shift Jaga and Kalia to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar but the hospital authorities here refused to take responsibility of their treatment on the ground of lack of required facilities in AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

Jaga and Kalia, born at Milipada village of Kandhamal district, were separated in two operations in August and October, 2017 in AIIMS, New Delhi.

Ashok Mohapatra, the former chief of the neurosurgery department at AIIMS, who supervised the twins surgery in 2017, said Kalia needed special treatment.

“Jaga does not need any special care as he has recovered significantly, but Kalia might require special treatment. I am optimistic that the SCB-MCH, Cuttack, can meet the requirement of the twins,” Mohapatra said.

Fit India movement at SMU



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:** The live telecast of the launch of the Fit India Movement by the Prime Minister was organised by Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) and its constituent institutions along with NSS wing of SMU at the college auditorium here on 29 Aug, 2019.

The programme began with an introduction to National Sports Day and the Fit India Movement followed by the live telecast.

PREMIER DIVISION SIKKIM LEAGUE SHSC and Sikkim Police draw while SSA wins big

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:** A last minute goal helped Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club hold Sikkim Police to a 1-1 draw in its second match of the ongoing Premier Division Sikkim League here at Paljor Stadium on Friday. Both teams shared a point each from this drawn match.

Both teams maintained pressure on each other with an attacking game from the start and Ongchuk N Sherpa scored an early lead for Sikkim Police in the 5th minute of the match itself.

That is the score on which the match almost played out its regulation time until the referee offered a penalty to Sikkim Himalayan SC for a foul in the Sikkim Police D-box

gan with an introduction to National Sports Day and the Fit India Movement followed by the live telecast.

Vice Chancellor, SMU, Lt Gen MD Venkatesh, Registrar, SMU Prof, Dr KS Sherpa, Dean, SMIMS Brig. VK Mehta also graced the occasion.

The Dean Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS)

addressed the gathering consisting of about 400 students of SMIMS, SMCON, SMCPT, Dept of Biotechnology, department of Humanities & Social Sciences, NSS wing of SMU, Head of the institutes, faculty and staff members. He explained the importance of sports and exercise in our day to day lives and motivated all

to be active and fit. The chairman of the Sports Committee, SMIMS elaborated regarding the sports and gym facilities available at the campus and highlighted the fitness action plan for 2019-2020 academic year. This was followed by the walk for 10,000 steps during which the pledge of the day was administered.

Mamring School organizes Teej celebration for lady teachers senior girls



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:** Mamring Senior Secondary School Sikkim organised a pre-Teej celebration and a farewell program today for PPT, HK Pradhan, retiring from service at the end of the month.

The staff members, along with the Principal, offered khadas to the retiring teacher wishing her the best for the coming days.

The Principal, Prahlad Sharma, highlighted the service rendered by Ms Pradhan and wished her a happy retired life on behalf of all the staff. The staff also presented gold ornaments as a parting gift to the retiring teacher, a press release informs.

In her short address, Ms Pradhan thanked the Principal and all the staff members for all the respect and love showered on her.

After the farewell program, a Teej celebration was held at the school.

The Teej celebration was hosted by the Principal and male staff of the school for all the lady

staff members and girl students of class XII of the school.

The importance of Teej was highlighted and the traditional dish of “Dhakaney” was served. The traditional dishes were cooked by teachers.

The idea to organize Teej celebration at the school was initiated by the Principal with the help of some teachers last year.

CK Sharma delivered a speech on Teej and expressed her gratitude towards all organisers for setting this trend. She said that such functions increase the feeling of belonging, cooperation and goodwill among all staff. Today's program was anchored by PGT, Ringma Sherpa and vote of thanks was proposed by Primary Incharge, KB Gurung. Funds for the Teej celebration were managed by interested teachers, staff and Principal.

Girls of class XII also expressed their happiness and gratitude for including them in the celebrations.

Anti-Doping & Anti-Corruption Education Workshop by BCCI



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

Before the cricketing season, 2019-20 starts, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) conducted an Anti-Doping & Anti-Corruption Education Workshop for the players and support staff of the Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) at Gangtok on Wednesday.

Sikkim will be participating in 14 different tournaments (both men and women) this upcoming season.

In the first phase, Dr Ravindra Doiphode educated the players and support staff on the BCCI Anti-Corruption Code.

He explained the different consequences involved in seeking, accepting, offering or agreeing to accept any bribe or other reward to fix or to contrive in any way to influence the result, progress, conduct or any other aspects of any Match or Event, entering into any bet with any other party concerning the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any Match or Event.

Disclosing inside information to any person before or during any Match or Event where the Participant might reasonably be expected to know that disclosure of such information in such circumstances could be used concerning Betting, it was informed.

In the second phase, Dr Mohammed Rizwan Khan enlightened the players and support staff about the BCCI Anti-Doping Code and the substances they can and cannot take.

He explained that the players are ultimately responsible for what they consume and cannot claim ignorance if they

test positive for a banned substance.

The players must inform the concerned person of every medication that they are consuming. The concerned person, in turn, will contact the BCCI Anti-Doping Cell to check the substances/medications that the players are consuming and will guide the players accordingly, it was explained.

The players can also directly contact the Anti-Doping Cell to check the substances/medications that the players are consuming or advised to consume.

This was a much-needed workshop as many cricketers are unaware of several banned substances, and they consume it without knowledge while working out in training. This workshop will make them aware of such performance-enhancing drugs which are banned.

Book Donation Drive

Interested book donors may like to donate books for promoting reading habit amongst the younger generation, generate interest in reading, reach out to the unreached and make reading a lifestyle w.e.f. August to September 2019.

**Collection Centers:**

1. State Central Library, Manan Bhawan, Development Area, Gangtok.
2. District Library, Mangan, Pentok Road, North Sikkim.
3. District Library, Namchi, Bhaichung Stadium Road, South Sikkim.
4. District Library, Gyalzing, Gyalzing Bazaar, West Sikkim.

**Collection Time:**

1. State Central Library, Gangtok..... Monday to Friday – 11.00 am – 4.00 pm.
2. District Libraries (North, South & West)...Monday to Friday – 11.00 am – 4.00 pm.

The books should be readable and in good condition; Preferably Children's Literature & Short stories; Comics; Motivational books; Fold tales; Encyclopedia; Biographies/ Autobiographies etc.

The books received will be distributed on need basis to various institutions and centers as identified by the library.

Academic test books may not be donated.

It is also for the information of the general public that the State Central Library, Manan Bhawan, Gangtok will be open from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm every Saturday and Sunday for reading services w.e.f. 12th August 2019 onwards.

**Point of contact for query:**  
**9564443999 / 8945812727**

**OSD/ State Central Library.**  
**Gangtok.**

**R.O. No. 143/IPR/Pub./Classi./19-20**  
**Dated: 19.8.19**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
GANGTOK

Email:sbmgsikkim@gmail.com

No. GoS/RMDD/2015-16/146/San/382

Dated:29.08.2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

The acclaimed National Flagship Programme – Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014. The State was declared 1<sup>st</sup> Open Defecation Free (ODF) on March, 2016 as per the Baseline survey 2012 conducted by the Department.

Despite of the much hyped achievement, there is apprehension of Missed Out Households (MOH) which is proposed to be covered under the Universal Sanitation Coverage.

Therefore, all such MOH of rural habitations are hereby requested to submit the details of households, if any to the respective Addl. District Collector-Development latest by 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in the format as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of Beneficiaries	Father/husband Name	Name of GPU	Name of Village	Reasons for non inclusion in the original PIP	Photograph of the beneficiary	Signature of the beneficiaries.
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The statement should be supported by a NOC from the concerned Block Development Officer and duly verified by field functionaries of SBM(G) concerned.

**R.O. No. 169/IPR/Pub./Classi./19-20**  
**Dated:30.8.19**

Sd/-  
(Anil Raj Rai)  
Mission Director, SBM (G)  
Rural Development Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

“CHALISWA”  
(PRAYER MEETING)

The Holy Quran recitation (Religious Perform) after forty days of death of late Mrs. NAD-RA KHATOON, who left for heavenly abode on 24th July 2019(Wednesday), falls on 31st August 2019(Saturday) shall be held at Marut Bhawan, Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim.

“AMEEN”

Maniul Haque Ansari(Husband), Naseema Bano & Rubina Anjum(Daughters) Mohshin Raza (son).

Time: 10:00 am onwards

**Contact: 9475077786.**  
**(Meraaj Complex, Central Park**  
**Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim).**





## Caught in Quotas

*Inspire ambitions for bigger, not nooks and corners*

It is never out of season to talk about the near obsessive ambition of communities across the board to get included in some reserved category or the other. We have, in our country, quite a wide range of categories to choose from – there is the ST list, the SC recognition, the OBC, now even MBC, Bihar introduced us to the EBC grouping as well – and one can rest assured that more such segregations will be dreamed up in the coming years. Communities vie to fit in somewhere, speculate to move across to reservation-enjoying groups and seek out more quotas in newer avenues.

Why these categorizations and why this keenness for reservations?

Given the history that India emerged from in 1947, where caste alienation was extreme and jan-jatis genuinely underprivileged and denied access, a policy was required to overcome this legacy of injustice and to provide all in this country with a broad measure of equal opportunity. Since equal opportunities would not have been willingly granted and communities with centuries of oppression behind them could not be expected to benefit from an equal footing standpoint, reservations were eked out. Over the years, reservations were extended to include more communities and even women. The idea was to provide these communities/ genders with the first stepping stone to equality – access. Access to education, to jobs, to positions of power and wider exposure and wider expression. This target has been met relatively well and as far as access is concerned, a wide swathe has been covered. That said, new elites have emerged within the reserved groups, from those who benefitted first from the ‘quota’ and thus became the more privileged among the disadvantaged. The obvious next step would have been to pull communities which have benefited “enough” out of the reserved categories and make space for those which still lag behind. If not that, at least consider extending the creamy layer segregation to reserved categories which currently have no such differentiation.

This, obviously, is easier said than done. For one, there is no easily quantifiable way to decide when a community has developed enough to make it on its own steam sans reservation, and for the other, there is the vote-bank politics in which saner decisions in genuine public good would be political hara-kiri. So, the nation is left with an ever overflowing bouquet of reserved sections and shrinking opportunities.

This is where the whole policy has failed. Instead of making people competitive with improved access, it has made them lazier with increased quotas. Little wonder then that more and more communities want to fit into some reserved category or the other. In fact, in the present times, when jobs are rare and competition even for education is tough, it would be foolish of community leaders not to work for a quota for their people. And so the demands keep pouring in. This is not to belittle the aspirations of any community to find a new grouping for itself, but just a suggestion that maybe it is time the country and Sikkim paused to re-read the principles why reservations and special categories were first created, whether its expressed aims are being met, and also whether the people who genuinely require reservations are receiving it or not.

### WRITE US:

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

Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

# The Living Mountain: in an age of ecological crisis, Nan Shepherd’s nature writing is more relevant than ever

SCOTT LYALL  
*theconversation.com*

*Its waters are white, of a clearness so absolute that there is no image for them. Naked birches in April, lighted after heavy rain by the sun, suggest their brilliance. Yet this is too sensational. The whiteness of these waters is simple. They are elemental transparency. Like roundness, or silence, their quality is natural, but is found so seldom in its absolute state that when we do find it we are astonished.*

- from *The Living Mountain*

A brilliant philosophical meditation inspired by Scotland’s Cairngorm mountain range, *The Living Mountain* was written in the 1940s, but remained unpublished until 1977. Thanks to its recent success the author, Nan Shepherd, is now regarded as a superb writer on the natural world.

The book dazzlingly captures the Cairngorms in their various seasonal moods. Shepherd’s eye for detail is incisive, her understanding of the mountains, plants and animals profound. *The Living Mountain* reveals the visionary nature of Shepherd as a lone and intrepid hillwalker who sometimes went barefoot so she could feel the grass, mud and heather on her skin.

Influenced by Zen Buddhism, the book illustrates the importance of the natural world to human well-being. It is also concerned with the negative human impact on the local habitat. Crucially, its influence on contemporary nature writing, especially the work of Robert Macfarlane, has brought Shepherd to the attention of a new, ecologically aware generation of readers. The recently announced Nan Shepherd Prize for Nature Writing points to the growing relevance of *The Living Mountain* in an age of environmental crisis.

### SCOTTISH CULTURAL REVIVAL

This focus on *The Living Mountain* tends to obscure the creative achievement of Shepherd’s three novels, *The Quarry Wood* (1928), *The Weatherhouse* (1930) and *A Pass in the Grampians* (1933), with their attention to rural communities under pressure from modernity.

These novels emphasise the rural and local na-

ture of much Scottish writing of the early 20th century modernist period and illustrate Shepherd’s important place in the modernist cultural movement known as the Scottish renaissance. This was especially concerned with the nature of a changing rural modernity, and Nan Shepherd was one of its foremost fictional chroniclers.

Modernism is traditionally viewed as a movement focused on city life. But academics increasingly recognise that the modernist “shock of the new” also affected rural life.

The Scottish modernism of the renaissance movement was largely centred in Montrose, on Scotland’s north-east coast, during the 1920s. Many writers and artists were based in or visited Montrose during this period, such as poet Hugh MacDiarmid, writers Willa and Edwin Muir, novelist Neil Gunn, poet and sculptor James Pitten-drieh Macgillivray, poet Violet Jacob and artist Edward Baird.

Scotland’s north-east corner was also home to Lewis Grassie Gibbon’s trilogy, *A Scots Quair*, which begins in the fictional rural village of Kinraddie. Shepherd’s *Martha Ironside* may well be an unacknowledged model for Gibbon’s *Chris Guthrie*, the more famous heroine of *Sunset Song* (the first part of the trilogy, published in 1932).

Internationalist in its aims and appeal, and often modernist in its influences and aesthetics, Scottish culture in this period was still deeply rooted in the rural. In her three novels, Shepherd, from Aberdeen, was a key contributor to this Scottish cultural revival.

### EXPLORING CONFLICTING WORLDS

*The Quarry Wood* follows *Martha Ironside* growing up in the farming community of Wester Cairns. *Martha*, like Shepherd, goes to Aberdeen University, an environment very different to home.

Navigating between these two spaces – one of labour, earthiness and familial ties, the other of intellectual aspiration, refinement and burgeoning sexual desire – places *The Quarry Wood* in a tradition of semi-autobiographical modernist novels. *Martha* initially dreams of escaping the muck of the farm, but chooses ultimately to stay in her community, which offers a more satisfyingly embodied experience of life than university.

In *The Weatherhouse*, Shepherd’s most complex novel, young soldier Garry Forbes returns to Fetter-Rothie on leave from the First World War. He brings to this rural community a fierce drive for truth, leading one character to lose her faith in God. But the lesson of *The Weatherhouse* is that what constitutes true holiness is the understanding that each living thing has its own nature, which we can only recognise if we get outside of our private selves.

*A Pass in the Grampians* concerns the effects of modernity on rural communities. Bella Cassie is a famous singer who returns to her birthplace to build a new house. She represents modernity, emancipation and the vulgar shock of the new, and her plans upset the rural traditions of the community. The novel lampoons modernism while satirising things like the locals’ incomprehension of modern art which was coming out of great cities such as Berlin, Vienna, London and Paris.

For Shepherd, though, modernism’s origins are complex and concealed. An orphan, Bella discovers to her horror that her father is an old sheep farmer bent “crooked, from a lifetime of labour and exposure”. Bella, symbolising pleasure, art and beauty, is related to a man who embodies labour, servitude and parochiality. Modernism may have found its home in great cities, but often had its roots in less cosmopolitan locations.

Shepherd was one of the great early 20th century writers of nature, landscape and the weather. Such descriptions vividly imbue all her works, not least *The Living Mountain*. But her novels also invite us to frame conversations around modernity and modern literature to include the importance of the natural world and its living rural communities.

For contemporary writers and readers, it is Shepherd’s understanding of the connectedness of human beings to the natural world that has made *The Living Mountain* a much-loved work. At a time of global ecological crisis, when the greed and short-sightedness of humans threatens an increasingly fragile environment, her intuitive understanding of the landscape and the rhythms of nature is both a clarion call and a balm for the soul.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Modern Literature, Edinburgh Napier University]*



# Amazon fires: Indigenous people show fire can be used sustainably

JAYALAXSHMI MISTRY  
*theconversation.com*

As thousands of fires rage across the Amazon, world headlines have highlighted the associated illegal deforestation and international outcry. But the implicit categorisation of all these fires as “wildfires” or even just “bad” fires hides the fact that fire is also used sustainably in the region. In fact, for numerous smallholders and Indigenous peoples, it is part of their livelihood and cultural practices.

The Amazon isn’t one continuous block of lush rainforest as in the Western imagination, but rather a landscape of multiple ecosystems including forest, wetlands and savannas. Indigenous and local communities use fire within these habitats in different ways.

For example, fire is used in small-scale rotational forest farming where typically half hectare plots are cut, burned and planted for a number of years, before being left to regenerate. And in the fire-prone savanna, Indigenous people use fire to drive and trap game such as deer or the pig-like peccary.

Key to traditional fire management is the burning of small areas at different times over the whole

dry season, thus producing a mosaic of burnt and unburnt patches across the landscape. This reduces fuel loads, introduces natural fire-breaks, and limits the potential for catastrophic fires.

For many Indigenous groups in the Amazon, their entire way of life is predicated on sustainable fire. For example, the Mebêngokrê (Kayapó) people, who live in a remote region of the Brazilian Amazon, use fire to hunt for tortoises. Fire is used to clear tall savanna grasses thus making tortoise burrows more visible and accessible. Hunts like this form part of extended traditional festivals with implications for social processes including courtship, community cohesion, youth initiation and inter-generational knowledge transfer.

The Wapishana and Makushi, in neighbouring Guyana, use fire for gathering resources such as burning along swamps before cutting palm leaves, smoking bees before collecting honey, and stimulating certain trees to fruit, as well as using fire to protect important areas such as sacred forests, farming plots and homes. For all these groups, fire intimately connects livelihoods, culture, history and beliefs.

### ANTI-FIRE DISCOURSE

Indigenous management has a

wider impact: evidence from several satellite studies indicate that Indigenous lands have less deforestation and habitat conversion compared to surrounding areas. This means these areas are more biodiverse and store more carbon.

Yet, there is still a pervasive anti-fire discourse targeting Indigenous peoples and smallholders in the Amazon. In Venezuela, for example, the Indigenous Pemón have been labelled with the derogatory phrase “Pemonos los quemones” (crudely translated as “Pemón the pyromaniacs”), and in Brazil there is a notion that Indigenous burning activities represent an inherently destructive mentality. This anti-fire rhetoric is widely used by interest groups in the Amazon, such as the powerful agribusiness lobby, to discredit Indigenous and local communities and as political narratives contesting rights to land.

It does not help that the satellite imagery currently used to monitor fires in the Amazon is typically 4km x 4km resolution – that is, it can only “see” in blocks of four kilometres. That means it cannot distinguish between small, controlled fires – perhaps only the size of a field, but large enough to trigger the satellite – and much larger wildfires.

Conflating distinct fire types –

small, large, controlled, uncontrolled, intentional, accidental, sustainable, unsustainable – raises more problems. It impedes our understanding of the root causes of destructive wildfires, and aids the formulation of restrictive policies that further disempower already marginalised groups while giving more power and control to established hierarchies.

Climate change is a reality for marginalised groups in the Amazon, where drought produces more flammable forests. In a vast region with limited infrastructure, resources and on the ground enforcement, firefighting alone is not viable and not effective, today or in the future.

At the G7 summit, a group of wealthy nations pledged US\$22 million for firefighting planes and military support to tackle the Amazon fires. But it’s a top-down, sticking plaster approach. That money may be much better spent on strengthening Indigenous and local community land rights, while supporting local communities to share their fire knowledge with decision-makers in order to revalorise and implement traditional fire management grounded in local realities and a changing climate.

*[the writer is Professor of Environmental Geography, Royal Holloway]*



# NRC and the changing stands of pol parties

TRIDEEP LAHKAR

**GUWAHATI, AUG 30 (PTI):** The contentious NRC has occupied the centrestage in Assam from the publication of its first draft over a year and half ago and the major political parties in the state have repeatedly changed their positions on it.

The NRC is touted as the proof of Assamese identity and it is hoped that it will filter illegal foreign nationals, an issue that has affected the state for decades.

When the updation of the National Register of Citizens began in 2015 the Tarun Gogoi-led Congress was in power in the state. The political scenario had changed by the time its first draft was published on January 1, 2018 as the BJP under Sarbananda Sonowal had come to power in Assam in 2016.

BJP president Amit Shah had batted aggressively for implementing NRC not only in Assam but throughout the country to identify illegal immigrants.

He had even compared the situation in the state due to infiltration with that of Jammu and Kashmir.

Claiming that BJP had initiated the updation, he had told a public rally in the state in February "We (BJP) will not allow Assam to become second Kashmir. We will deport each and every infiltrator with the help of NRC".

The BJP, he had asserted, is committed to the people to bring in NRC across the country to "chuck out" all infiltrators.

But after becoming the union home minister in the Narendra Modi II government, Shah has not publicly spoken on the issue yet.

Instead the union home ministry in a statement on August 20 said that non-inclusion of a person's name in the final NRC list does not by itself amount to him or her being declared a foreigner. It also assured that adequate arrangements have been made for



appeal against it.

At a high-level meeting chaired by Shah and attended by Sonowal, the ministry had decided to amend the rules to increase the time limit of filing of appeals in Foreigners Tribunals from 60 days to 120 days for those whose names do not figure in the NRC.

"It has been decided that state government would also make arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy people amongst those excluded from NRC," the statement said.

Sources in the BJP said that the change in strategy was necessitated after it came to be known that many suspected illegal immigrants were able to include their names in the citizens register by forging documents and that almost half of the named excluded in the complete draft of NRC were those of Hindus.

"As per available information

the final list will not be very different from the complete draft of the NRC. Only 20-25 per cent of the total excluded names will find place in it. This means that a huge number of Hindus will again be excluded from the list," the sources told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Infact the BJP governments both at the Centre and the state seemed to have apprehensions about the updation under the supervision of the Supreme Court. It had appealed twice to the apex court for sample re-verification to find out wrongful inclusions, especially in districts bordering Bangladesh, and exclusions of persons in the NRC.

The state government may explore legislative options to deal with the wrongful inclusion or exclusion of some names in the NRC after its final publication tomorrow, Sonowal said.

BJP had shifted stands on the

NRC earlier too. It had expressed apprehensions about the efficacy of the NRC process when it had begun during Gogoi's tenure, but Sonowal had claimed this year that it was done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 as per his election commitment to the people of Assam.

Sonowal had even visited the NRC headquarter here on his first day in office as chief minister and promised help from the state authorities indicating the importance that his government accorded to it.

Hoisting the National Flag on Independence Day in 2018, he had iterated his commitment to the NRC by saying "We will keep a strong eye so that no name of any foreigner is included in the NRC ... The government is committed to ensure that no Indian citizen living in Assam is excluded from the NRC."

Sonowal was the president of

All Assam Students Union (AASU), which had spearheaded the six-year long Assam Agitation in 1979-85 to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, before joining the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and then shifting to the BJP.

The BJP Assam unit chief Ranjeet Kumar Dass has attacked NRC state coordinator Prateek Hajela of undertaking the revision process unilaterally.

"Many have told us their names appeared in the first NRC draft list, but went missing from the final draft ... Also there are reports that people who have been declared foreigners were engaged for the NRC citizenship verification work ... It seems we will get an NRC which will include the names of illegal foreigners and exclude genuine Indian citizens," Dass told newsmen earlier this week.

Assam is the only state in the country where the NRC updation

has been undertaken since 1951 under the supervision of the Supreme Court. The final NRC will be published on Saturday.

For inclusion of their names in the NRC an applicant can submit a host of documents. On compilation of six crucial documents it was found that around two lakh people out of one crore submitted forged papers.

In July last year, 40,07,707 names of people were excluded from the complete draft of NRC, which contained 2,89,83,677 eligible persons out of a total 3,29,91,384 applicants. An additional 1,02,462 names were added in the list of excluded persons in June this year taking the total ineligible persons to 41,10,169 in the complete draft.

The cut off date for legitimate claim to citizenship in Assam, which had faced influx of people from erstwhile undivided Bengal and East Pakistan since the early 20th century, is March 24, 1971.

The erstwhile Gogoi government had initiated NRC updation out of compulsion after the Supreme Court intervened and began monitoring it as the Congress allegedly has a soft corner for the minority community.

Not willing to let go of the opportunity, Gogoi had claimed the credit for beginning the NRC updation during his tenure and boasted that he had appointed Hajela.

He changed his stand after losing power and now vehemently criticises the entire process.

"Neither the Assam government nor the Centre is serious about NRC ... It (the NRC) is going to be a waste paper. The work is not going on as per the Supreme Court's instructions. If lakhs of genuine Indian citizens are left out then what is the point of such an NRC?" the Congress veteran had said in June this year.

## Hearing of claims of Bru to continue on Saturday: Home Secy

**AIZAWL, AUG 30 (PTI):** Hearing of claims and objections of 260 displaced Brus, whose names were excluded from the list of Mizoram's bonafide citizens during an identification process in July, could not be completed as scheduled on Friday and would continue on Saturday, an official said.

Altogether, 26,128 Brus, lodged in six relief camps of neighbouring Tripura, have made it to the list, he said.

Mizoram Home Secretary Lalbiakzama said the hearing of claims and objection began on Tuesday and was scheduled to be concluded on Friday with some officials sent from Mizoram remaining in the relief camps. It would continue on Saturday also as it could not be completed, he said.

Lalbiakzama told PTI that he has convened a meeting of the officials who conducted the hearing in the relief camps on Monday in Aizawl to complete the whole process before the commencement of the physical repatriation.

Of the 350 Brus claiming to be bona fide residents of Mizoram, the cases of over 80 people were settled while over 260 people have to be verified at a hearing in the relief camps. Mizoram officials who conducted second phase of identification of bona fide Mizoram residents in the six Bru relief camps in Tripura district during July three to July 20 last had identified 26,128 people belonging to 4,278 families in the second phase of identification.

He said that all the identified families expressed willingness to

return to Mizoram from Tripura's relief camps, but "hardliners and anti-repatriation organisations" may dissuade them from doing so, he claimed. Thousands of Brus fled to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of a communal tension triggered by the killing of a forest guard by militants inside Dampa Tiger Reserve.

The Centre and the governments of Mizoram and Tripura have made multiple attempts to repatriate the Brus to their home state since 2009, but majority of them stayed back in the relief camps, citing inadequate rehabilitation package. The government has promised to deposit Rs 4 lakh in the bank account of every repatriated family. It has also assured a sum of Rs 1.5 lakh as housing assistance, free ration and Rs 5000 for other expenses for two years.

The next phase of repatriation is likely to be held in October, the home secretary added. Police sources had earlier said that Bru insurgents have threatened the community members from returning to Mizoram as they plan to escalate their demand for a separate autonomous district council carved out western Mizoram, adjoining Bangladesh and Tripura.

The first attempt to repatriate the Brus in November 2009 had fizzled out following the murder of a Mizo youth at Bungthum village in Mamit district. The murder had also triggered a fresh wave of exodus.

The Bru community, also called Reangs, is among the 21 scheduled tribes in the country. They are scattered across Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

## CPI(M) twice stages walkout from Tripura Assembly



**AGARTALA, AUG 30 (PTI):** The opposition CPI(M) on Friday twice staged walkout from the Tripura Assembly after their demand for an adjournment motion to discuss the law and order issue was rejected and also against the introduction of the ESMA bill.

After Question hour, the deputy leader of the opposition Badal Chowdhury raised a demand for an adjournment motion to discuss the state's law and order situation.

Chowdhury claimed that the attention of Speaker Rebatimohan Das was drawn for the adjournment motion submitted earlier, but the speaker said that no adjournment motion could be admitted.

The speaker quoted Rules 72 and 73 of procedure and conduct of business of the Tripura Assembly for his rejection of the motion.

But Chowdhury supported by fellow opposition MLAs Sudhan Das and former minister Bhanulal Saha kept on raising the demand for adjournment motion on the law and order issue. Chowdhury

alleged that law and order situation had deteriorated in the state and the issue needed to be discussed in the House. BJP MLA Sudip Roy Barman said many questions on the issue were answered in today's session and many more will be answered on Monday, the day scheduled for questions on Home department and thereafter the speaker could allow an adjournment motion if he wanted.

The Leader of Opposition Manik Sarkar said that the voice of legitimate dissent of the opposition was being forcibly suppressed in the House and they could not stay in the House to legitimize the proceedings.

Thereafter the opposition MLAs walked out of the House for a few minutes but returned soon to take part in proceedings.

In the second half, when the Assembly began after recess, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who is also the Home minister moved the "The Tripura Essential Services Maintenance Bill 2019".

When the discussion on the bill started, the leader of the opposition said, "Law and Order had deteriorated in the state. The government employees have the rights to express their opinion. They are also citizen of the country and may not like many decisions of the government. This ESMA act would suppress the opinion of the government employees."

"The government should think before introducing it. We oppose the bill," he said.

Sarkar was supported by all the members of the CPI-M.

The opposition members then walked out for the second time, but rejoined the House after 15 minutes.

When the opposition members walked out, Deputy Speaker Biswabandhu Sen placed the bill for vote and it was passed by voice vote.

In the 60-member Tripura Assembly the BJP has 36 MLAs, its ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has eight and the opposition CPI(M) has 16 legislators.

## Telecom engineer among 4 thrashed by mobs on suspicion of being child-lifters

**RAE BARELI (UP), AUG 30 (PTI):** Four persons, including a telecom engineer, were allegedly thrashed by locals on the suspicion of being child-lifters in different incidents in this district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Friday.

Amar Kumar Verma (35), an engineer working in a private telecom company, was allegedly attacked by a mob of around 50 people when he was returning from Kesarua village within the Lalganj Kotwali police station limits after checking a mobile tower

on Wednesday, they added. A case was registered on a complaint from Verma and some villagers were arrested.

The residents of Madauli village under the Khairo police station area allegedly assaulted an elderly man from Bihar, suspecting him to be a child-lifter, on Wednesday morning, police said.

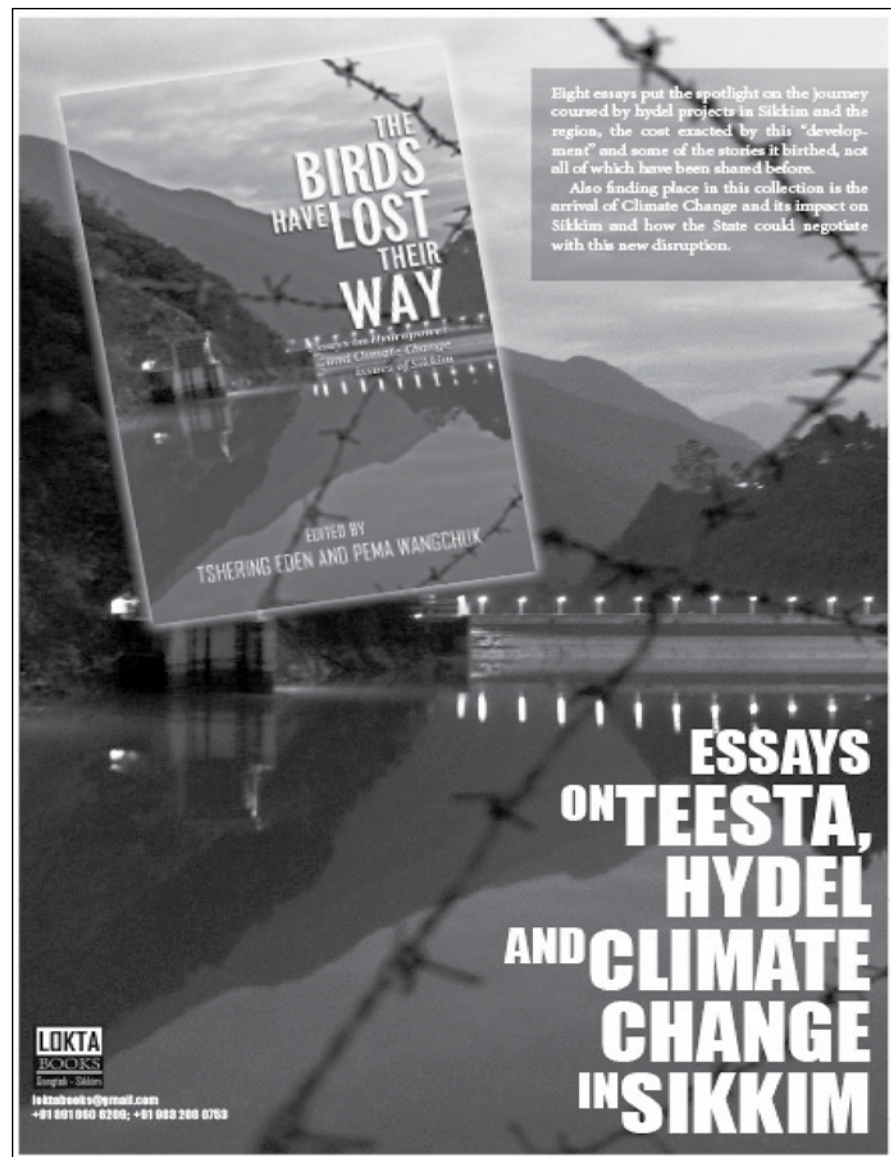
A police team rushed to the spot, rescued the man and took him to a community health centre, from where he was referred to the district hospital.

In another case, people caught hold of a wom-

an, who they claimed was dragging a 10-year-old girl, in the Gorahi locality within the Salon police station limits, police said, adding that she was being interrogated.

In Majharganj Majre Bahai village under Lalganj Kotwali, a young man, who had got down from his SUV after it developed a snag, was targeted by the locals, suspecting him to be a child-lifter, police said.

The villagers hurled stones at the man, who somehow managed to convince them of his innocence, they added.





# Arsenal, Spurs battle for bragging rights, Man Utd aim to bounce back at Southampton

**LONDON, AUG 30 (AFP):** Arsenal and Tottenham battle for North London supremacy on Sunday in an early indicator as to who will be Manchester City and Liverpool's closest challengers for the Premier League title.

City and Liverpool have already moved clear of the chasing pack with Jurgen Klopp's men boasting the only 100 percent record after three games to open a two-point lead over the champions.

Both will expect to add another three points before the international break as City host Brighton, while Liverpool travel to Burnley.

But below them the rest have plenty of room for improvement with Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea having already tasted defeat.

Arsenal were given a lesson in how far they still have to go to challenge for the title in losing 3-1 at Anfield last weekend, but the Gunners can quickly erase the memory of that defeat should they get the better of Spurs at the Emirates.

A thrilling 4-2 win over the Champions League finalists in this fixture last season was the highlight of Unai Emery's first season in charge and Arsenal have little to fear from Tottenham's start to the season.

Mauricio Pochettino believes his squad is unsettled by speculation over the futures of Christian Eriksen, Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld.

Vertonghen has been dropped for all three games so far this season, whilst Eriksen started on the bench against Aston Villa and Newcastle.

A shock 1-0 reverse to the Magpies last weekend showed Pochettino can ill afford the luxury of leaving out two of his better players, even if they seem set



to leave the club at the end of the season after failing to agree new contracts.

Arsenal missed out on Champions League football to their local rivals by a point last season, but still reinforced well in the transfer market.

Nicolas Pepe shone on his full debut against Liverpool last weekend and could be unleashed alongside Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette from the start for the first time.

Should Arsenal's exciting new attacking trio click, they can lay down an early marker in the battle to be the best of the rest behind the top two.

**UNITED SEEK REDEMPTION AT ST MARY'S**

Manchester United's bright start to the season also came to an abrupt end in defeat at home by Crystal Palace last weekend. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men

paid for a missed penalty for the second consecutive game as Marcus Rashford hit the post after Paul Pogba's spot-kick was saved in a 1-1 draw at Wolves the week before.

However, the debate over who should be on penalty duties has masked familiar problems from United's disastrous end to last season.

Goalkeeper David de Gea was at fault for Palace's injury-time equaliser, while Victor Lindelof and ?80 million summer signing Harry Maguire were caught flat-footed for the visitor's opener.

The departure of Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez to Inter Milan has also left Solskjaer desperately short on forward options, particularly with Anthony Martial ruled out for Saturday's trip to Southampton.

Lose again and the alarm bells will already be ringing for United's season

before September is out.

**BARNES A THREAT TO LEAKY LIVERPOOL**

Liverpool looked more like their old selves against Arsenal last weekend with Mohamed Salah in supreme form.

But at the other end of the field, the European champions have not looked nearly as solid without injured goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

The Reds have yet to keep a clean sheet in five games this season and Burnley have an in-form striker ready to pounce on any sloppiness this weekend.

Only Liverpool's Sadio Mane has scored more Premier League goals in 2019 than Ashley Barnes's 13, four of which have come in the opening three games of the season.

"We go into every game confident," said Barnes. "We are striving and want to finish in the top half.

## Verma wins gold, bronze for Chaudhary in Rio Shooting WC



**RIO DE JANEIRO, AUG 30 (PTI):** Asian Games medallist Abhishek Verma won the gold while teen sensation Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the bronze as Indian shooters dominated the podium in the men's 10m air pistol event of the ongoing ISSF World Cup here.

Verma, a part-time lawyer, shot 244.2 in the eight-man final on Thursday, while the 17-year-old Chaudhary's 221.9 was good enough to get him the bronze after five gold medals this year.

The silver medal went to Turkey's Ismail Keles, who aggregated 243.1 in the season's fourth ISSF World Cup for rifle and pistol shooters. India are now placed at the top of the medals tally with two gold, one silver and a bronze.

India have already exhausted the maximum Olympic quotas available per country in this event, with both Verma and Chaudhary securing the sports in the previous qualifying events. In the qualification round on Thursday, Chaudhary was fourth with 584 points and Verma entered the finals in fifth position with 582 points, while Gaurav Rana was 44th with 571.

The young Elavenil Valarivan opened India's account with a gold in the women's 10m air rifle event on Wednesday.

Sanjeev Rajput then claimed a silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final to secure an Olympic quota for India.

Verma, who won bronze in the Jakarta Asiad last year, and Chaudhary ended the second day of competitions on a high note for India.

For a change, Chaudhary had to settle for a bronze this time -- his sixth ISSF World Cup medal of the year. He had earlier won a phenomenal five golds. The signs were there early when Verma and Chaudhary, who have now won all the four ISSF World Cup gold medals on offer this year between them, shot scores of 584 and 582 to qualify for the final.

Just one and three points separated the duo from the top qualifying score of 585 posted by Ukrainian veteran Oleh Omelchuk. Chaudhary was comparatively subdued in the final, but it was the Asian Games bronze-medallist Verma, who looked in his ele-

ments. In a top quality final field, featuring the likes of former Olympic and World Champion Pang Wei of China, besides multiple World Cup and World Championship medallists like Omelchuk, Serbian Damir Mikec and Turkish Yusuf Dikec, Verma was placed second till the first series of five shots. He went into the lead from the 12th shot, which is also the first elimination shot of the 24-shot final and never looked back from there, fending of the challenge of Ismail Keles of Turkey with a sublime 10.7 for his final shot to settle the issue.

A 9.6 for his 23rd shot helped the Turk go into the final shot just 0.1 behind, but his hopes were dashed by Verma's finish. Keles managed only a 9.7 to finish with 243.1, a clear 1.1 behind the Indian. Chaudhary, despite his best efforts, won a bronze with a score of 221.9.

Earlier in the day, Chinki Yadav came close to making it to the finals, finishing just a point behind the final qualifying mark in the women's 25m Pistol event.

She shot a 294 in the Rapid Fire round, ending up with a solid 584 to claim 10th spot.

Switzerland's Heidi Gerber, who bagged the eighth and final qualifying spot, shot 585 even as Hungary's Veronika Major claimed her third ISSF World Cup gold of the year in the event.

Annu Raj Singh, making a comeback to the Indian team, shot 579 to end in 25th spot while Abhidnya Ashok Patil shot 572 to finish 53rd.

Among other Indian competitors on the day, Chain Singh and Parul Kumar, in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions, shot 1161 and 1148 to finish 49th and 57th respectively while Gaurav Rana, in the men's 10m Air Pistol, shot 571 to claim the 44th spot. Indian shooters in the non-competition Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) section also had a great day. In the women's 25m Pistol, Rahi Sarnobat and Manu Bhaker, both of whom have won Tokyo quotas for India, shot solid rounds of 580 and 583 in MQS respectively.

Swapnil Kusale and Aishwary Singh Tomar, shooting in the MQS section of the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions, shot rounds of 1166 and 1165 respectively.

## Murray suffers defeat in Mallorca Challenger

**PALMA (SPAIN), AUG 30 (AFP):** Andy Murray suffered a setback in his return from injury as he slipped to a surprise last-16 loss to world number 240 Matteo Viola at the second-tier Challenger event in Mallorca on Thursday.

The three-time Grand Slam champion, returning after hip surgery, was beaten 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) by his Italian opponent.

Murray was competing in a Challenger tournament for the first time since 2005 and had cruised through his opening two matches at the Rafa Nadal Open in straight sets.

A third consecutive such victory looked on the cards when he took the opening set with two

breaks of the Viola serve, but he dropped the second despite twice fighting back from a break down. The former world number one again recovered an early break in the decider, but lost a tie-break on Viola's second match point.

The 32-year-old, currently ranked 328th in the world, had a metal hip implanted in January and pulled out of the doubles at the ongoing US Open in order to concentrate on his singles comeback.

Murray had suffered back-to-back first-round losses on the ATP Tour earlier this month -- against Richard Gasquet in Cincinnati and Tennyson Sandgren in Winston-Salem.

## Leading Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong arrested: Party

**HONG KONG, AUG 30 (AFP):** Leading Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong was arrested Friday, his party said, a day ahead of a planned rally in the city that has been banned by police.

"Our secretary-general @joshuawongcf was just arrested this morning at roughly 7:30," Demosisto tweeted. "He was forcefully pushed into a private minivan on the street in broad daylight. Our lawyers following the case now."

Hong Kong has been wracked by three months of political unrest, with huge, peaceful demonstrations interspersed by violence that has seen stand-offs between police and protesters.

Saturday marks the fifth anniversary of Beijing's rejection of a call for universal suffrage in the city, a decision that

sparked the 79-day Umbrella Movement led by mainly young protesters including Wong. Permission for a mass rally this weekend was denied on security grounds, raising the likelihood of another weekend of clashes between police and protesters, who will likely come out in defiance of the ban.

In a letter to the rally organisers the Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF), police said they feared some participants would commit "violent and destructive acts".

The protests ignited when the city's Beijing-backed government tried to pass a bill allowing extraditions to mainland China. But they have evolved into a wider call for greater democracy and an investigation into allegations of police brutality.

# Confident India will qualify for Tokyo Olympics: Pillay

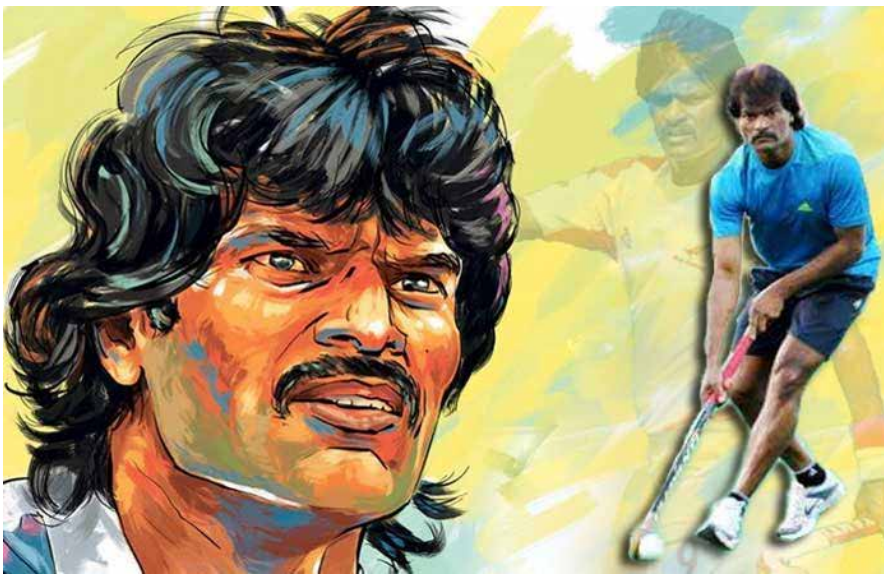
**MUMBAI, AUG 30 (PTI):** Insisting that India is currently at par with other leading hockey playing nations, four-time Olympian Dhanraj Pillay says he is confident of the national team's qualification for next year's Tokyo Games.

The draw to determine the matches of the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic qualifiers will be held on September 9 at the International Hockey Federation (FIH) headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

It will be conducted by FIH CEO Thierry Weil and will be streamed live on the FIH Facebook page.

14 men's and 14 women's teams, including India, will be involved in the draw.

"Right now, we (India) are at par with Australia, Germany, Holland, Argentina, Belgium and so they (the team) should not be scared to face any team and move ahead with full confidence," Pillay told reporters here on Thursday night after attending a National Sports Day func-



tion organised by the Maharashtra government.

Pillay, who also played in four World Cups apart from four Asian Games, said the way the men's national team was performing right now, they would surely make it to the Tokyo Games.

"It is very important that first we qualify for the Olympics. It is not only my dream but that of the entire hockey fraternity that Olympics medal should come to India because last was in 1980 Games. After that we have struggled to get a medal in the

Olympics," he noted.

India won the last medal in hockey at the Olympics -- a gold -- in the 1980 summer Games at Moscow, but after that the country hasn't tasted any success at the quadrennial event. They had even failed to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The former skipper feels the real work for coach Graham Reid and his men would begin after qualifying for the Olympics.

"The way the team is performing and playing right now, I am confident

that they will qualify for the Olympics and after that their (real) works starts because Olympics is a different ball game and you can't take even one match lightly. Points are important in every match and you will be playing 5-6 (teams) in alternate days," Pillay said.

Pillay, who hails from Khadki area in Pune, also heaped praise on Australian Reid, saying he was doing his job earnestly.

"As of now he (Reid) is doing a good job. His job is to coach and he is doing the job earnestly," Pillay signed off.

## Tyrone Mings call-up by England makes up for early series of rejections

**STUART JAMES**  
*theGuardian*

Last Saturday afternoon, less than 24 hours after helping Aston Villa beat Everton in front of Gareth Southgate, a live television audience and more than 41,000 spectators, Tyrone Mings was back where it all started, at Hardenhuish Park, in Wiltshire, watching Chippenham face Weymouth in the National League south among 768 others. To say Chippenham is where it all started is not quite true. Mings got his big break there in 2012, when Ipswich invited him to drive his Citroën Saxo to Suffolk for a trial, but before that he played for Yate Town, another non-league club in the south-west, and had also been part of

Southampton's academy, only to be released at the age of 16. Rejection was in danger of becoming something a theme in those days. At one stage – and he would later laugh about this with Adie, his father – Mings was turned down for a job in his local One Stop corner shop because of his lack of experience.

He had more success pulling pints in the White Hart near Chippenham and applying to work as a mortgage adviser with London & Country's Bath Office, where he was earning £15,000 a year to go with the £45 a week he was picking up in the non-league game.

With all of that in mind, it is easy to see why Mings talked about it being "a long journey to get to this point" when

he pulled up a chair at Villa's training ground, with a big grin on his face and his eyes sparkling, and reflected on the news he had been called up to the England squad for the first time. The 26-year-old thought it was a prank. "I got a text when I came in from training from the England player liaison officer, Emily. I texted back saying: 'Oh shit.' Excuse my language. She then called me and said: 'I'm not joking.' It was only when I spoke to her, I knew she was being serious."

Mings has been on England's radar for a while. Southgate watched him last season in a 2-1 victory over Blackburn in March, when Jack Grealish and Tammy Abraham were also in his thoughts, and the England manager or

his assistant, Steve Holland, have seen Villa's three Premier League games this season, during which Mings has been hugely impressive. Tall, quick, combative and comfortable on the ball, he ticks a lot of boxes for a central defender, especially as he is left-footed.

Even so, England recognition represents a remarkable turnaround for a player who made 10 Premier League starts for Bournemouth after joining from Ipswich in 2015. Injuries played their part in that statistic – Mings snapped his cruciate ligament six minutes into his first appearance for the club and, much to his annoyance, later spent seven months on the sidelines with a back problem he felt should have been resolved within seven weeks.



# 'A big deal': Florida braces for Hurricane Dorian

**MIAMI, AUG 30 (AP):** Florida residents picked the shelves clean of bottled water and lined up at gas stations Thursday as an increasingly menacing-looking Hurricane Dorian threatened to broadside the state over Labor Day weekend.

Leaving mercifully little damage in its wake in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the second hurricane of the 2019 season swirled toward the U.S., with forecasters warning it will draw energy from the warm, open waters as it closes in.

The National Hurricane Center said the Category 1 storm is expected to strengthen into a potentially catastrophic Cat 4 with winds of 130 mph (209 kph) and slam into the U.S. on Monday somewhere between the Florida Keys and southern Georgia a 500-mile stretch that reflected the high degree of uncertainty this far out.

"If it makes landfall as a Category 3 or 4 hurricane, that's a big deal," said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. "A lot of people are going to be affected. A lot of insurance claims." President Donald Trump declared Florida is "going to be totally ready." With the storm's track still unclear, no immediate mass evacuations were ordered.

Along much of Florida's east coast, shoppers rushed to stock up on food, plywood and other emergency supplies at supermarkets and hardware stores, and motorists topped off their tanks and filled gasoline cans. Some fuel shortages were reported in the Cape Canaveral area.

Josefine Larrauri, a retired translator, went to a Publix supermarket in Miami only to find



empty shelves in the water section and store employees unsure of when more cases would arrive.

"I feel helpless because the whole coast is threatened," she said. "What's the use of going all the way to Georgia if it can land there?" Tiffany Miranda of Miami Springs waited well over 30 minutes in line at BJ's Wholesale Club in Hialeah to buy hurricane supplies. Some 50 vehicles were bumper-to-bumper, waiting to fill up at the store's 12 gas pumps.

"You never know with these hurricanes. It could be good, it could be bad. You just have to be prepared," she said.

As of late Thursday morning, Dorian was centered about 220 miles (355 kilometers) north-west of San Juan, Puerto Rico, its winds blowing at 85 mph (140 kph) as it moved northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

It is expected to pick up steam as it pushes out into warm waters with favorable winds, the University of Miami's McNoldy said, adding: "Starting tomorrow, it really has no obstacles left in its way." The Na-

tional Hurricane Center's projected track had the storm blowing ashore midway along the Florida peninsula, southeast of Orlando and well north of Miami or Fort Lauderdale. But because of the difficulty of predicting its course this far ahead, the "cone of uncertainty" covered nearly the entire state.

Forecasters said Dorian could bring 4 to 8 inches of rain to the Southeastern coast, with a foot possible in places, and trigger life-threatening flash floods.

Also imperiled were the Bahamas, with Dorian's expected track running just to the north of Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands.

Jeff Byard, an associate administrator at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, warned that Dorian is likely to "create a lot of havoc with infrastructure, power and roads," but gave assurances FEMA is prepared to handle it, even though the Trump administration is shifting hundreds of millions of dollars from FEMA and other agencies to deal with immigration at the Mexican border. "This is

going to be a big storm. We're prepared for a big response," Byard said.

Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency, clearing the way to bring in more fuel and call out the National Guard if necessary, and local governments distributed sandbags. Some residents used community Facebook groups to share updates on grocery stores getting new shipments of water.

At the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, NASA decided to move indoors the mobile launch platform for its new mega rocket under development. A Rolling Stones concert Saturday at the Hard Rock Stadium near Miami was moved up to Friday night.

The hurricane season typically peaks between mid-August and late October. One of the most powerful storms ever to hit the U.S. was on Labor Day 1935. The unnamed Category 5 hurricane crashed ashore along Florida's Gulf Coast on Sept. 2. It was blamed for over 400 deaths.

Dorian blew through the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico as a Category

1 hurricane on Wednesday. Puerto Rico seemed to be spared any heavy wind and rain, a huge relief on an island where blue tarps still cover some 30,000 homes nearly two years after Hurricane Maria. The island's 3.2 million inhabitants also depend on an unstable power grid that remains prone to outages since it was destroyed by Maria.

Several hundred customers were without power across Puerto Rico, said ngel Figueroa, president of a utility workers union. Police said an 80-year-old man in the town of Bayam died after he fell trying to climb to his roof to clear it of debris ahead of the storm. Dorian caused an island-wide blackout in St. Thomas and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands and scattered outages in St. Croix, government spokesman Richard Motta said.

No serious damage was reported in the British Virgin Islands, where Gov. Augustus Jaspert said crews were already clearing roads and inspecting infrastructure by late Wednesday afternoon.

## Beijing refuses to 'budge' on South China Sea: Philippines

**BEIJING, AUG 30 (AFP):** Beijing told visiting Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte that its position on the South China Sea was not up for negotiation, a spokesman for the leader said Friday.

China claims most of the contested sea, including waters close to Philippine shores, and has rejected a UN-backed international tribunal ruling that said its assertion to the Sea is without legal basis.

Duterte is under growing pressure at home to challenge China -- after largely setting aside the standoff for years -- with tensions high after a Chinese fishing trawler hit and sank a Filipino boat in June in the contested waters.

In a meeting between the Philippine leader and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday evening, Xi reiterated his government's position of not recognising the tribunal ruling "as well as not

budging from its position", said Duterte's spokesman.

The pair agreed to work together to "manage" the issue and recognised "the importance of self-restraint and respect for freedom of navigation in -- and overflight above -- the South China Sea", he said. The decision to raise the issue marks a turnaround for Duterte, who had revived once-icy diplomatic ties with Beijing after being elected in 2016 when he set aside the maritime ruling in favour of wooing Chinese aid, trade and investment.

Renato de Castro, professor of international studies at Manila-based De La Salle University, said Duterte was expected to bring up the issue on his visit to "go through the motions". "At this point in time, he has nothing to lose because he has only three years to go", he said.

"So (he) might as well raise it expecting

that President Xi Jinping would basically ignore it or reject it. It's... a classic charade." According to a statement from China's foreign ministry, Xi said the two countries should "put aside disputes, eliminate external interference" over the South China Sea, and "make greater strides in the joint development of offshore oil and gas" in the region.

Parts of the South China Sea are also claimed by Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam.

China invokes the so-called "nine-dash line" to mark its historic rights to the territory, which is based on a vague map that emerged in the 1940s.

Despite the territorial issues, Manila and Beijing signed a series of agreements over joint cooperation in fields including education, and Duterte hailed the "friendship and the value of our ties" between the two countries.

## Pak observes "Kashmir Hour" to express "solidarity" with Kashmiris

**ISLAMABAD, AUG 30 (PTI):** Pakistan observed the "Kashmir Hour" on Friday to express "solidarity" with the Kashmiri people as many rallies were held across the country, weeks after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The nationwide, half an hour protest began as the clock struck noon. It was followed by the blaring of sirens across Pakistan, with traffic grinding to a halt for few minutes in many Pakistani cities.

The main event was held at Islamabad's Constitution Avenue where Prime Minister Imran Khan delivered an address to a flag-waving and slogan-shouting crowd.

"Today, all of Pakistan, wherever there are Pakistanis, whether they are our students, or shopkeepers or labourers, all of us are standing with the Kashmiris," Khan said.

"The Kashmiris are going through a difficult phase. Approximately 8 million Kashmiris for the last four weeks have been locked under curfew," he said.

The prime minister said the purpose of observing the nationwide protest was to apprise the Kashmiris that Pakistan shared their "grief and pain" and "fully stand by them".

"We will stand with them till the last breath," he said.

Khan said Pakistan would give a "befitting response" if India attempted to launch a "false flag operation" in Kashmir.

"There are reports that India might resort to an operation to divert international attention from the situation in Kashmir. The Pakistan Army is fully prepared to thwart any external aggression," he said.

Khan said the world should realise that a clash between the two nuclear armed countries might result into a loss

to the whole world.

Another event is being held at the Aiwane-e-Sadr where President Arif Alvi addressed the crowd.

Education institutions, government and private offices, banks, traders, lawyers and military authorities took part in the rallies.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated after New Delhi on August 5 revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two union territories.

Reacting to India's move on Kashmir, Pakistan downgraded its diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

Prime Minister Khan earlier this week gave a call for weekly protests by the nation and designated August 30 as the day for the first such demonstration to show "solidarity" with the Kashmiris.

According to the railways ministry, all trains stopped for one minute and all railway workers took part in the rallies.

The weekly protest will continue till September 27 when prime minister Khan is expected to address the UN General Assembly.

Different local leaders also addressed the gatherings.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Senate, the upper house of Parliament on Friday unanimously passed a resolution strongly condemning India for revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The resolution noted that New Delhi's decision was an attempt to undermine the UN Charter, international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the Kashmir issue.

## Hong Kong police round up activists as mass rally called-off

**HONG KONG, AUG 30 (AFP):** Prominent democracy activists were arrested Friday in a dragnet across Hong Kong - a move described by rights groups as a well-worn tactic deployed by China to suffocate dissent ahead of key political events.

The sweep comes after a major rally planned by a civil rights group on Saturday was banned by police on security grounds.

Hong Kong has been locked in three months of political crisis, with increasingly violent clashes between police and protesters that have prompted an escalating public relations campaign from China.

Protesters had planned yet another mass rally on Saturday -- the fifth anniversary of Beijing's rejection of a call for universal suffrage in the semi-autonomous city.

It was a pivotal moment, sparking the 79-day Umbrella Movement in 2014, which seeded the ground for today's protests.

But organisers on Friday afternoon said they would not march, complying with the police banning order.

Earlier, two of the Umbrella Movement's leaders, Joshua Wong and Agnes Chow -- both still well-regarded among the city's youth -- were arrested in dawn swoops both accused of "inciting others to take part in unauthorised assembly" among other charges.

The pair were charged in court on Friday afternoon. The main charge carries up to five years in jail.

Hours before another vocal independence campaigner Andy Chan was detained at Hong Kong's airport.

The arrests are a sign of the "spread of 'white terror' towards Hong Kong protesters", said Issac Cheng of Demosisto party, co-founded by Wong, deploying a commonly-used term for China's efforts to fragment and harass the protest movement.

More than 850 people have been arrested in connection with protests since June.

But that has failed to snuff out the leaderless protest movement.

Chan's small independence party was outlawed last year on the grounds it posed a national security threat, the first such ban since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

A fourth pro-democracy campaigner, Rick Hui a councillor for the working-class Sha Tin district, was also detained by police on Friday, according to a post on his Facebook page, without detailing why.

Former student leader Althea Suen was also arrested for entering parliament building during a July break-in by protesters.

Amnesty International decried the "the ludicrous dawn swoops", condemning the arrest of Wong and Chow as an "outrageous assault on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly" and as "scare tactics straight out of Beijing's playbook".

The arrests come as Hong Kong's crisis-hit government scrambles to find an appropriate response to the unprecedented pro-democracy protests, which have by turns seen millions march, closed the airport and left city streets strewn with bricks and shrouded in tear gas.

The protests started as a kickback against a bill allowing extraditions to mainland China, but quickly billowed out into wider calls for democracy and police accountability.

Permission for another mass rally on Saturday was denied on security grounds, raising the likelihood of another weekend of clashes between police and protesters.

In a letter to rally organisers the Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF), police said they feared some participants would commit "violent and destructive acts".

After an appeal to hold the rally was rejected, Bonnie Leung of the avowedly peaceful CHRF said "no option but to cancel the march tomorrow".

But pockets of protesters swiftly vowed to hold creative events at the scheduled time and place of the rally, including a mass shopping trip, football match and impromptu religious gatherings in downtown Hong Kong, while a YouTuber with 800,000 followers called a fan meeting.

With a hardcore minority among the protesters, mainly young students, unlikely to heed the police ban, the weekend appeared poised for renewed violent clashes.

Student protester Kelly, who wanted to be identified only by her first name, said the arrests would not cow the movement.

"The police think there are leaders behind the protests and this will stop us," she said.

"We are our own leaders and we will keep coming out." On Sunday the city saw some of its worst clashes, with running battles between black-clad protesters, armed with bricks and Molotov cocktails, and police wielding batons, rubber bullets and tear gas.

One officer fired a warning shot -- believed to be the first live round used during the protests -- as a mob with sticks set upon several policemen.

The violence has damaged Hong Kong's reputation for stability and prosperity.

China has responded with a campaign of intimidation, with a slick PR video released Thursday showing troop movements into Hong Kong as part of "routine garrison rotation".

State-media reported that fresh Chinese military anti-riot drills were held across the border in Shenzhen.

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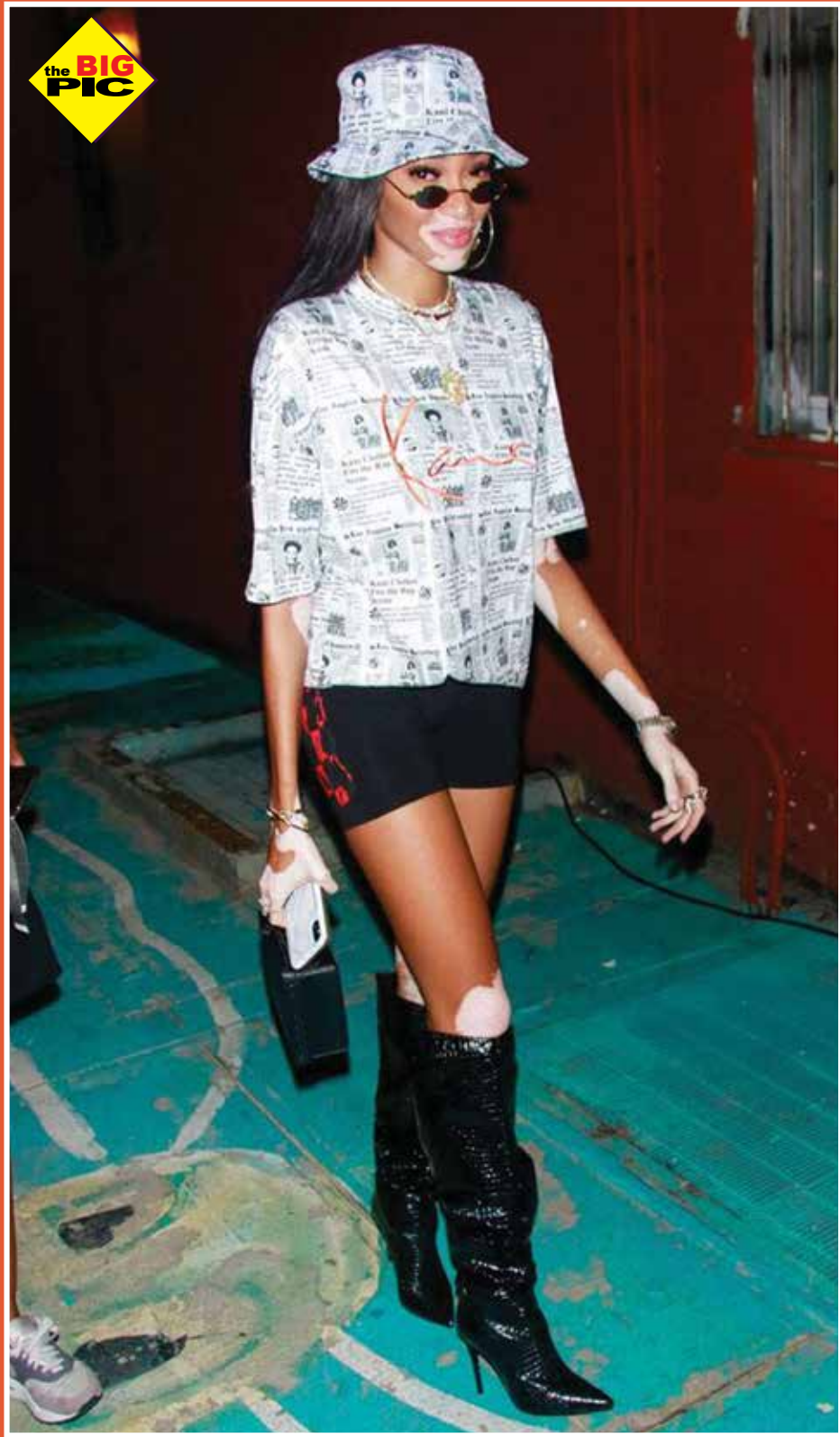
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**HOT OFF THE PRESS!** The model, Winnie Harlow spends the night in New York City in a newspaper print shirt with matching bucket hat, paired with a pair of trendy shorts and boots.

## Marlon Brando confronted Michael Jackson on child abuse allegations

**LOS ANGELES, AUG 30 (PTI):** Acting legend Marlon Brando spoke to Michael Jackson about child abuse allegations and he revealed the music icon was “frightened” to give an answer to him.

Brando was grilled by prosecutors in an interview during Jackson’s 1994 trial and recounted an exchange with the musician at his Neverland Ranch, reported New York Post.

The conversation will be a part of the final episode of podcast “Telephone Stories: The Trials of Michael Jackson”.

One of the creator-producer of the podcast, Brandon Ogborn, obtained a transcript of Brando’s statement and verified its authenticity with Los Angeles Superior Court judge Lauren Weis.

“I had asked him if he was a virgin and he just sort of laughed and giggled and he called me Brando. He said, ‘Oh, Brando.’ I said, ‘Well, what do you do for sex?’ And he was acting fussy and embarrassed,” the “Godfather” star

said in the interview.

The actor said he went on to grill Jackson about the allegations of child abuse against him, after which the singer began to cry and admitted to hating his father.

“With this mode of behaviour that’s been going on, I think it’s pretty reasonable to con-



clude that he may have had something to do with kids. My impression was that he didn’t want to answer because he was frightened to answer me,” Brando added.

The actor’s son Miko was working for Jackson at his ranch at the time of the conversation.

## Not in politics to get clicked or blow my own trumpet: Sunny Deol

**BY JUSTIN RAO**

**MUMBAI, AUG 30 (PTI):** Actor and BJP MP Sunny Deol says he doesn’t pay attention to people’s reaction about his fledgling political career because he believes in quietly doing his work.

Deol, who was elected as MP from Gurdaspur after defeating Congress’ Sunil Jakhar by 82,459 votes in the Lok Sabha polls this year, has come under scrutiny for his lack of attendance in the Lower House.

Deflecting the criticism, the actor said he has been doing several things for his constituency without making too much noise about it.

“My job is to do things and not blow my own trumpet. It isn’t my job to go there and get myself clicked so people say, ‘look he is such a good man, giving donations,’” Deol told PTI.

He added that he is not a person who seeks publicity.

“It’s not that I don’t want to do this (politics)... As a person, I know what I have to do and what needs to be done. I have done lots of things in this time which I don’t like to talk about,” he said.

The actor said he likes to inter-

act with people and find solutions to problems.

“My personality has been to actually go (and do things). People interacted with me and I interacted with them. I’m not a politician by profession, I am just a human being who can interact, can feel the vibe of love, hate and anger and re-



act to that. That’s how you find solutions for things,” he said.

Deol, 62, who has been juggling politics and films, is gearing up for the release of his next directorial, “Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas”. The film marks the debut of his

son Karan, who will be seen along with actor Sahher Bambba, and is scheduled to release on September 20.

Asked how he will balance acting, directing and politics, Deol said he will give the jobs his all.

“I joined politics because I had a certain belief... Whatever is in my capacity

and however much I can do, I will definitely do it. I’m not so worried about it.

“Everything you do people will talk about you, especially on social media. I’m not going to lead my life based on what they are saying,” he added.

## Amy Heckerling to direct Darren Criss-starrer Quibi series ‘Royalties’

**LOS ANGELES, AUG 30 (PTI):** Filmmaker Amy Heckerling will be tackling musical comedy “Royalties” for the upcoming streaming service Quibi.

Heckerling, who has films such as “Clueless”, “Vamps” and “Fast Times at Ridgemont High” to her credit, will direct all the ten episodes of the series, Deadline reported.

“American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace” star Darren Criss is playing the lead role in the show. He will also executive produce and write songs for the series.

Described as a “satirical take on the oft-untold story of songwriters behind the world’s biggest hits”, the show will follow the ascent of a ragtag songwriting duo Sara and Pierce (Criss) as they

navigate the strange and hilarious challenges of creating a truly great song, week after week.

In every episode, real-life entertainment personalities will be making appearances, portraying fictional music stars.

Apart from Criss, the project will be executive produced by Nick and Matt Lang, Gail Berman, Hend Baghdady, Joe Earley and Ricky Rollins. Quibi, co-founded by Hollywood heavyweight Jeffrey Katzenberg and former HP CEO Meg Whitman, is set to launch next year.

The streaming service has already lined-up an impressive slate of projects in collaboration with celebs like Steven Spielberg, Jennifer Lopez, Idris Elba, Chrissy Teigen, Lena Waithe, Don Cheadle, Tyra Banks and Lorne Michaels.

## Andy Muschietti says there is enough material for third ‘It’ film

**LOS ANGELES, AUG 30 (PTI):** Filmmaker Andy Muschietti has teased a potential third part in the “It” horror franchise as he says there is a lot of mythology which could be explored in further films.

Muschietti is back with “It: Chapter Two”, the sequel to his 2017 hit which was based on Stephen King’s book of the same name.

The director told Io9 that in King’s book, the horror entity Pennywise the Clown (played by Bill Skarsgard in the films) has been living on earth for “millions of years”, which he believes can be shown in another movie.

“There is a whole mythology

to the book though... Mythology is something that always has opportunities to explore. It (Pennywise) has been on Earth for millions of years. He’s been in contact with humans for hundreds of years, every 27 years.

“So you can imagine the amount of material. It’s always exciting to think of eventually exploring this mythology. It’s very exciting,” Muschietti said.

However, the director said there is “nothing on the table” officially as far as a third part is concerned.

“It: Chapter Two” will release worldwide on September 6.



## Mike Figgis to head Busan Film Festival jury



**LOS ANGELES, AUG 30 (PTI):** Oscar-nominated British filmmaker is set to head the New Currents Competition section jury at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF).

The director will be joined on the jury by Karel Och, artistic director of the Karlovy Vary IFF; Samal Yeslyamova, the winner of the best actress award at Cannes last year for “Ayka”; Lee Sinje, the first Malaysian awardee of the best actress award at the Golden Horse Awards in 2002 for “The Eye”; and Korean sales agent and producer Suh Youngjoo, CEO of Finecut.

According to Variety, the jury will select two films which will each receive USD 30,000 as prize money.

The festival also announced the jury for its Kim Ji-Seok award, which was established in 2017 “to encourage and discover the growth and new talents of Asian cinema”. The award was created in honour of the late Kim Ji-Seok, the Busan executive programmer who died of a heart attack at Cannes in 2017.

The jury will comprise of Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Busan programmer Huh Moonyung and Tan Chui Mui, the winner of the New Currents award for Love Conquers All at the 11th Busan festival in 2006.

They will select two films which will receive USD 10,000 each as prize money.

BIFF runs from October 3 to October 12.

**ARIES:** If someone’s offhand remark leaves you feeling especially emotional today, don’t freak out. What they said might have seemed harmless, but it could have triggered something deep inside of you that you’re not quite sure how to identify. Let yourself sit with this awkward feeling, and don’t try to overanalyze it. Throughout the day, you’ll slowly begin to understand why the comment bothered you—by tonight you will have solved the mystery.

Tip: Let this partnership evolve into what it is supposed to.

**TAURUS:** Learn to let go, Taurus. There is nothing more you will receive from this situation. Don’t cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it. Cut your losses and move on. A fresh perspective is all that you need.

Tip: Don’t cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it.

**GEMINI:** Welcome to the jungle, wild one. Pay attention to all the opportunities that are surrounding you. It is time for you to go on this new journey. New perspectives, new angles, or maybe a new job. Do

not be afraid to explore and create. A welcome change in your work experience will give you satisfaction.

Tip: Do not be afraid to explore and create.

**CANCER:** This is the time to make all those pending decisions so that you can hold space for something new and exciting. Put your innate creativity into motion. The Universe is sending change and passion your way. Learn to master your mind and heart and mold this energy for your benefit.

Tip: Learn to master your mind and heart to channelise your best self.

**LEO:** Being modest isn’t going to do you any good today. Everyone knows you’re a star, so there’s no point in denying it—you’re busted! Step out into the spotlight and grab the microphone. Whatever you choose to say or do, everyone will be behind you one hundred percent. In a work context, you have money-saving ideas that will get you some long-lasting praise. In terms of love, your opinions are ultimately going to help you get exactly what you want.

Tip: Take the weekend off.

**VIRGO:** Social outings that don’t seem to

be your style might offer up just the kick you’ve been looking for in life. So it’s time to let go of your preconceived notions about what fun can be, and try something new! There are opportunities for fun social events everywhere, so you have no excuse not to dive right into one of them. Start today by just saying yes to more invitations. Walk on the wild side a bit more, and you’ll be exposed to many interesting people.

Tip: Make decisions only when you have all the facts.

**LIBRA:** There is a long road ahead of you, and now is the time to plan your course of action. Distractions will just lead you off course. This is the calm before the storm so use it wisely. Things are gradually turning in your favour. Be rest assured that your hard work will reap rewards. Keep this healthy cycle going.

Tip: This is the time to set intentions—to plan, not to take action.

**SCORPIO:** Today you’ll be given an opportunity to take control—but you should not necessarily take it. You have a lot of drive right now, but there is no point in

moving forward if you’re not totally sure where you’re going. You’ll only end up lost and frustrated. So try not to control anything right now—just let whatever will be, be. Take a ‘wait and see’ approach, and be patient. For the moment, it’s much healthier and productive to just let things unfold as fate dictates.

Tip: Take some time off to heal yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Regain your strength before you step out again. Gather the fuel so you can burn brighter. This is the time to watch and listen. Hasty actions will just pull you down. Protect the work you have done. A little financial responsibility can go a long way.

Tip: A little financial responsibility can go a long way.

**CAPRICORN:** The Three-Fold Law says what you put out will come back to you threefold. So be ready to reap what you sowed. Do not underestimate the power of charity and good deeds. Learning to manage finances will do no harm.

Tip: Do not underestimate the power of charity and good deeds.

**AQUARIUS:** You might think you’ve got your daily routine down to a science, but today it will not be quite so easy. Little mishaps, a bout of forgetfulness, and some miscommunication will throw a few wrenches in your plans. You will probably enjoy the disruption, though. This is just the universe’s way of waking you up and reminding you that you can’t take anything for granted. Staying on your toes will keep you energized, keep you happy and keep your calves looking great!

Tip: Be prepared for change.

**PISCES:** You have more love in your life than you realize, and it will begin to show itself today. There are many different types of love—the kind you have for another person, the kind you have for yourself, and the kind you have for that new car you’re dreaming of buying. Focus on the type of love you have for other people today, and try to express it as openly and as honestly as you can. That is the best way to encourage them to show their love for you—and they are eager to do just that.

Tip: It is better to be safe than sorry.