



**WHY MICHELLE PFEIFFER HAD TO STAY 'READY' WHILE WORKING WITH ANGELINA JOLIE ON 'MALEFICENT 2' (EXCLUSIVE)**  
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**MAY BE NOT PROHIBITION, BUT SOME LIMITS WON'T HURT**

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**PLAYING JAMES BOND HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE: DANIEL CRAIG**

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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## All candidates clear scrutiny in East Sikkim



**GANGTOK, 01 OCT (IPR):** The scrutiny of nominations for By-Elections in East district was held today in the office of the Returning Officer, East district, Raj Yadav in the presence of General Observer.

A total of 14 nominations for two assembly constituencies were scrutinized and all nomination papers were found to be valid with no rejections.

The names of the candidates whose nominations were accepted are: Nuk Tshering Bhutia - SDF- Martam Rumtek; Sonam Tshering Venchungpa - BJP - Martam Rumtek; Mingma Tshering Sherpa - SRP - Martam Rumtek; Nima Lepcha - HSP- Martam

Rumtek; Passang G Sherpa - Independent - Martam Rumtek; Sonam Tashi Bhutia - Independent - Martam Rumtek; Mechung Bhutia - Independent - Martam Rumtek; Chewang Dadul Bhutia - Independent - Martam Rumtek

Delay Namgyal Barfungpa - SNPP - Gangtok; Yong Tshering Lepcha - BJP - Gangtok; Rinzing Ongmu Bhutia - SDF - Gangtok; Song Tshering Lepcha - SRP - Gangtok; Bhaichung Bhutia - HSP - Gangtok; Karma Yenthen Chankapa - Independent - 27-Gangtok

The last date for withdrawal of candidatures is 03 October from 11 pm till 3 pm and symbol allotment for Independent candidates will take place after that.

## The Gandhi Imprint: India's cinematic muse down the ages

**MUMBAI, OCT 1 (PTI):** Mahatma Gandhi minced no words for his disdain for cinema, describing it as a "corrupting influence", but his imprint on celluloid has been indelible and varied, going from shades of black and white to technicolour.

Gandhi, whose beliefs inspired an entire school of thought, influenced films down many decades, some based on his life, others on the values he inspired in society and many in which he's the silent backdrop -- literally a picture on the wall -- to the hero's moral conflict.

From "Jagriti" in 1954 to "Lage Raho Munnabhai" in 2006, the arc is long.

Hindi poet Kavi Pradeep eulogised Gandhi in the "Jagriti" song, "De di azadi hamein bina khadag, bina dhaal, sabarmati ke sant tune kar diya kamal" (You gave us freedom without using any weapons, o saint of Sabarmati, you are great), words which underscore reverence for the man and still reverberate.

Other films of the era recall the complex idealism that Gandhi represented. The 1957 Dilip Kumar starrer "Naya Daur" deals with the man versus machine debate. And V Shantaram's "Do Ankhen Barah Haath", released the same year, focuses on the rehabilitation of six criminals by a humane jail warden.

More recently, "Lage Raho Munnabhai" gave new meaning to "Gandhi"

higiri" through the story of a simple-hearted goon who finds guidance in Gandhi's teachings.

Indian heroes until the 1980s were modelled on Gandhian ideology, taking up the torch of socialism, fighting oppression and abstaining from materialistic pursuits such as money and sex, according to Sanjay Suri, journalist and author of "A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema".

"The hero must mandatorily be shown to face wealth to then turn away from it. He must be shown to face sexual possibilities to then turn away from these two. In this double about-turn lies his heroism," Suri writes.

There is an entire genre of films based on chapters from Gandhi's life. The most famous -- and most successful -- is Richard Attenborough's 1983 Oscar winner "Gandhi" with Ben Kingsley in the central role.

While "Gandhi" takes a sweeping view of Gandhi's life, right till his assassination, many films have chosen to focus on specific phases.

In "Gandhi, My Father", Khan dwells on the troubled relationship between Gandhi and his eldest son Harilal. Shyam Benegal's "The Making of the Mahatma" focuses on his South Africa years.

There are other films in which Gandhi plays a prominent role -- "The Legend Of Bhagat Singh", "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: turn to pg02

## High Court reverses Headmaster's acquittal in POCSO Act case, sentences him to 3 yrs RI

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

The High Court of Sikkim has reversed the acquittal of pedophile Headmaster of a Government Primary School and convicted him for offences committed under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and sentenced him to 3 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000.

While delivering the judgment on an appeal by the State against the acquittal, the division bench of the High

Court headed by Acting Chief Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan directed the convicted Headmaster to surrender before the Special Judge by 11AM on 01 Oct and undergo the sentence imposed on him by the High Court.

The bench cancelled all the bail bonds of the Headmaster and directed that 'should the accused fail to surrender, the Special Judge shall initiate necessary steps.'

The Headmaster has been found

guilty for offences under Section 9(c), 9(l), 9(m) and 9(o), punishable under Section 10 of the POCSO Act.

The appeal against the acquittal argued that prosecution witnesses, including the victim, had presented sufficient materials to establish guilt but these had not been taken into consideration.

The defendant's lawyers meanwhile had argued that there was delay in the lodging of the FIR and the evidence on record indicated discrepancies in the

statements of the Prosecution Witnesses and the Medical Report.

The High Court bench, in its judgment observed, "...there is also no reason to doubt the statement of the victim whose evidence of sexual assault by the respondent on her has been cogent and consistent. True it is therefore that no penetrative sexual assault has been established, yet, the fact of sexual assault on the victim is proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

## Rs 9 cr up-gradation of Mangan Football Stadium



**MANGAN, 01 OCT (IPR):** A joint inspection for up-gradation of Mangan Football Stadium with other facilities was carried out today.

The inspection was led by the Area MLA-cum-Roads and Bridges Minister, Samdup Lepcha along with Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs (S&YA), District Collector, Kuber Bhandari, North, Additional Secretary, Tenzing T Kaleon, S&YA, Director, Shanti Tamang, S&YA, SE, Narendra Pradhan, DEs, AEs, JEs, Engineers from Education Department, Road and Bridges and representatives from Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department and North

District Football Association.

After the joint inspection of existing ground the file along with relevant measurement books was handed over by the Education Department (Engineering Cell) to the Sports and Youth Affairs Department in the presence of the Minister, Secretary, S&YA and other officers.

As informed, the up-gradation of Mangan football stadium will be constructed like a FIFA Standard play ground at total cost of Rs 9 crore under LNCPR, which shall include facilities like Hostel Block, Gallery Block, Quarters, Gymnasium Hall, Approached

Road and Parking, VIP Pavilion etc. The competent authority has given two years for work execution to Contractor, Kunthup Dawa Lachenpa.

Furthermore, the existing road above the ground will be diverted to extend the breadth of the playground and to construct the Gallery Block.

Minister, Mr Lepcha has directed the Secretary alongside Contractor not to compromise on quality work at any cost. Apart from this, Mr Lepcha also inspected the alternative route which will replace the existing road once the up-gradation work begins.

## Tibetans protest near Chinese embassy

New Delhi, Oct 1 (PTI): Several people from the Tibetan community staged a protest near the Chinese embassy here on Tuesday on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The protest started at around 10:30 AM. Members of the Tibetan community, including workers of the Tibetan Youth Congress, participated in the protest at



Kautilya Chowk near the Chinese embassy, police said.

"A total of 44 protesters, including 26 male

and 18 female have been detained," said Eish Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi).

## Training on commercial cultivation of orchids for officers from MP, Kerala, Odisha and Meghalaya

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT (PIB):**

A week-long national-level training program on 'Commercial Cultivation of Orchids' was organized under the leadership of Director Dr DR Singh, ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong, at ICAR National Research Centre for Orchids from 24 to 30 Sept.

The programme was attended by officers from different states like Mad-

hya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Meghalaya and some officials from the institute itself.

Theme-based lectures on orchid farming, conservation tools for native orchids in Sikkim Himalayas, organic farming, nutrient management, orchid based farming system, Post-harvest management and value addition, DUS Testing, role

of orchids in Ayurvedic medicine, role of NHB in orchid promotion, entrepreneurship development, Central Government Schemes, etc. were delivered along with practical demonstrations on propagation of orchids, potting and re-potting, IT and ICT application by the officers of NHB, Gangtok, MSME, Gangtok, ICAR and BSI, Gangtok.

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## Gandhi Jayanti greetings from CM

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] has extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

In his message, the

Chief Minister conveys that Gandhi Jayanti is a day when we should rededicate ourselves to Gandhi Ji's ideals of non-violence, peace and tolerance.

The Chief Minister states that in recent times, Gandhi's message

of truth, nonviolence and peace have become more relevant.

The CM has urged the people of Sikkim to imbibe wisdom from the valued teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and strive to translate his ideals into practice.

## CM attends pre-Gandhi Jayanti celebration at Dodak



**DODAK, 01 OCT (IPR):**

Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] attended the pre-Gandhi Jayanti celebrations held at Dodak Secondary School today. He was accompanied by Minister-cum-area MLA, MN Sherpa, Press Advisor to CM, CP Sharma, Confidential Secretary to CM, Bikash Basnet, PRO to CM, Ratnamani Pradhan and officers of Soreng subdivision.

The daylong event began by paying of tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi by the Chief Minister which was followed by cultural extravaganza.

Mr Golay in his address thanked the organising committee for inviting him for the event. He elaborated on the importance of Mahatma Gandhi and said that he connected India, in letter and spirit, in thought and action.

In the 21st century, the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi remain as essential as they were in his time. He also mentioned about the Swachata Abhiyan which was launched by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 02 Oct, 2014 which aims at brining improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.

The Government of Sikkim in its effort to fulfill the dream of PM, Narendra Modi and to combat the issues of climate change has adopted various measures like putting a ban on usage of mineral water bottles at public events and adoption of various schools by the Cabinet Ministers and top level officers for maintenance of sanitation and cleanliness.

ness.

He also expressed his immense happiness in adopting Soreng Senior Secondary School in his effort towards Swachata Abhiyan.

Mr Golay further reiterated the stand of the present government and said that they are working for the development at large of the state and for the Sikkimese people.

He thanked the people for their never ending support and trust on him and said that he would always uphold the values and love of the Sikkimese people and work diligently for their upliftment and development of the state.

At the end he acknowledged the various demands placed by the people of the area and assured that it would all be looked into after the model code of conduct.

ty, increased susceptibility to disease, impaired physical and mental development, and reduced productivity.

Medical Officer, Dr Roshna Thapa, Soreng PHC briefed the audience about the importance of health & hygiene in daily life especially for lactating mother and babies. She urged the gathering to practice hygiene to prevent diseases and in turns it will lead to good health, especially cleanliness and good disposal of waste water and drinking water supply. While speaking on anaemia Dr Thapa briefed the audience about its causes and the preventive measures.

There are many causes of anaemia, out of which iron deficiency accounts for about 50 percent of anaemia in children and women of reproductive age-group, she added. Dr Thapa said that women in the childbearing years are particularly susceptible to iron-deficiency anaemia because of the blood loss from menstruation and the increased blood supply demands during pregnancy.

Speaking on this occasion, the Principal BED College Soreng, Sabita Subba who was also the Chief Guest appreciated the programme and urged the participants to spread the messages in their respective area.

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

Block level closing programme of Poshan Maah 2019 held from 01 to 30 Sept under POSHAN Abhiyaan was organised by Singtam Rural Project (East) ICDS Division, SJ&WD at Duga BAC, East Sikkim, today, a press release informs.

During the programme, CDPO (SJ&WD), Y Pradhan informed that POSHAN Abhiyaan strives to reduce the level of stunting, under nutrition,



anaemia and low birth weight in children. It also focuses on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating

mothers, to address malnutrition holistically, she added.

Speaking as the chief guest, BDO Duga,

IB Chettri, thanked all for organising the programme at the BAC.

Activities conducted on the day includ-

ed Healthy cooking Demonstration by AD, Nut and CDPO, Healthy food Pyramid demonstration by AWW, Plantation drive fruit trees and flowers in BAC premises, Thank You card distribution, Signature campaign and Pledge.

The programme was attended by Health Department, RMDD, HRDD, Forest Department and PHE took part in the programme along with CDPO, supervisors, ANMs, ASHA Anganwadi workers, BAC staff and invitees.

## ICAR-NOFRI observes Hindi Chetana Mās

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

ICAR-National Organic Farming Institute, Tadong celebrated Hindi Chetana Mās from 01 to 30 Sept, 2019. The inaugural ceremony was held on 09 Sept, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Joint Director, Dr RK Avasthe, ICAR-NOFRI, a press release informs.

In his inaugural address, he highlighted the historical perspective of Rajbhasha Hindi and its origin from Sanskrit, and expressed satisfaction over the efforts being made by ICAR-NOFRI for implementation of Hindi in different official activities by involving all the staff members of the Institute.

Dr Raghavendra Singh, Sr Scientist (Agronomy) and Head KVK, East Sikkim and Vice Chairman Official Language Implementation Committee appealed to all staff members to actively participate in various events being organized during the month of September 2019 and adopt Rajbhasha in their routine official work.

He also highlighted the use of Hindi in training programme for the



benefit of farming community and publication of extension material in Nepali, Hindi and English.

Sr Technical Officer, Surendra Mohan Kandwal, Member Secretary, Official Language Implementation Committee highlighted the various activities carried out at the Institute level and events/competition being organized during the Hindi Chetana Mās like Essay Writing, Debates, Noting and Drafting in Hindi, Extempore debate competition, Administrative and Technical glossary, Painting competition for the children of the Campus etc.

On the occasion of

Hindi Divas on 14 Sept, 2019, District Collector East District, Raj Yadav was as the chief guest.

In his address he highlighted the importance of Hindi Language and its present status.

He appreciated the efforts being made by the ICAR-NOFRI in implementation of Rajbhasha Hindi and complimented the Institute. On the same day he also attended the valedictory session of five-day off-campus Training Programme on "Technology Advances for Organic Production of Horticulture Crops" jointly organized by ICAR-NOFRI, Gangtok

and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

abad. He raised concern over the lack of interest in youth to adopt organic farming.

The closing ceremony of Hindi Chetana Mās was held on 30 Sept wherein Chief Election Officer, Ravindra Telang, Sikkim was the chief guest. In his speech he underlined his long association with the ICAR-NOFRI and its journey from Regional Centre to National Institute.

Sr Scientist (Agronomy) and Head, Dr Raghavendra Singh, KVK revealed the year round activities being made by this Institute and contribution of Rajbhasha Unit of this Institute.

Sr Technical Officer, Surendra Mohan Kand-

wal, Member Secretary, Official language Implementation Committee highlighted the contribution and active participation of staff members of this Institute and Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the various events/competition organized during the Hindi Chetana Mās.

At the end of the programme prizes were distributed by the chief guest and Joint Director to the winners of different competitions held during the Hindi Chetana Mās. The entire Hindi Chetana Mās was coordinated by Sr Technical Officer (Rajbhasha), SM Kandwal. Dr. Ashish Yadav proposed the vote of thanks.

## Poshan Maah concludes in Soreng

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT (PIB):**

Field Outreach Bureau, Gangtok, in coordination with ICDS Women & Child Welfare Division organised Poshan Maah at BED College, Soreng.

The inaugural programme started with pledge-taking on Poshan Maah administered by the Principal of BED College, Soreng, Sabita Subba.

Speaking on the occasion, Asst Director, Dipendra Rai, Nutrition Board, spelt out the Paanch Sutra and its components which include 1000 days of child anaemia, diarrhoea, hand wash and sanitation and nutritious food as poor nutrition can lead to reduced immuni-

ty, increased susceptibility to disease, impaired physical and mental development, and reduced productivity.

Medical Officer, Dr Roshna Thapa, Soreng PHC briefed the audience about the importance of health & hygiene in daily life especially for lactating mother and babies. She urged the gathering to practice hygiene to prevent diseases and in turns it will lead to good health, especially cleanliness and good disposal of waste water and drinking water supply. While speaking on anaemia Dr Thapa briefed the audience about its causes and the preventive measures.

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Speaking on this occasion, the Principal BED College Soreng, Sabita Subba who was also the Chief Guest appreciated the programme and urged the participants to spread the messages in their respective area.

### Training on Commercial Cultivation of Orchids concludes

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

A week-long National Level training program on 'Commercial Cultivation of Orchids' was organized at ICAR National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong from 24-30 Sept, 2019.

The training was organised with the assistance of Program Leader, Dr DR Singh; Course Director, Dr LC De; Training Coordinators, Dr TL Bhutia, Dr SS Biswas and Dr BP Mallikarjuna, a press release informs.

The programme was conducted for the benefit of farmers, FPOs, State Officials and Technical Officials of the country.

Various lectures on orchid farming were delivered along with practicals by the officers of NHB, Gangtok, MSME, Gangtok, ICAR-NEH Region RC, Tadong, BSI, Gangtok and ICAR NRCO, Pakyong. Officials from Bhopal, MP, National Horticulture Board, Gangtok, farmers from Kerala, Shillong and Chalamthang, Sikkim participated in the training programme.

### The Gandhi Imprint..

The Forgotten Hero", "Viceroy's House" and the TV show "Samvidhaan" being some of them.

Various actors have played the man. Darshan Jariwala ("Gandhi, My Father"), Surendra Rajan ("The Legend Of Bhagat Singh"), "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero", "The Last Days Of The Raj" and web show "Bose: Dead/Alive), Neeraj Kabi ("Viceroy's House" and "Samvidhaan"), Rajit Kapoor ("The Making of the Mahatma") and Dilip Prabhavalkar ("Lage Raho Munnabhai").

Naseeruddin Shah, who played Gandhi in "Hey Ram", has written about his efforts to get Kingsley's role in his autobiography "And Then One Day".

"I later deducted that Ben had in fact already been cast as Gandhi and this whole process of tom-tomming all of us being tested and sneaking the news to the press in India that I had been chosen was a masquerade conducted to pre-empt objections that inevitably would have arisen if a white actor were announced straightway," Shah wrote.

In a 1926 article in Young India, Gandhi wrote that German papers accused him promoting a film company when he had never even been to a cinema. He said he refused to be "enthused about it and waste God-given time in spite of pressure sometimes used by kind friends".

"They tell me it has an educational value. It is possible that it has. But its corrupting influence obtrudes itself upon me every day. Education, therefore, I seek elsewhere," he wrote.

Gandhi watched just a few film in his life, including Vijay Bhatt's "Ram Rajya" in the 1940s.

According to Khan, Gandhi was against the "escapist" nature of movies and would have changed his opinion had he lived longer and seen biographies.

"He was a biography person. He wanted people to get inspired by great lives and do something interesting in their own. He did not want people to escape from life, he wanted them to confront life," Khan told PTI.

Benegal said his 1996 film "The Making of the Mahatma" is about Gandhi's process of understanding things and the story of his evolution.

"I do believe Gandhi's influence has been very profound on Indians. It may not necessarily show on the surface but somewhere it has to do with the idea of compassion, a sense of humanity," Benegal added.

Rohini Hattangadi, who played Kasturba in "Gandhi", said she did not immediately understand the magnitude of the film.

"When I was selected for 'Gandhi', the first thing that came to mind was, 'What kind of a film will be made?'... After I got the role, I read his autobiography and realised, this is the life one should follow," Hattangadi told PTI.

Darshan Jariwala, who enacted the role of Gandhi in "Gandhi, My Father", believes the Mahatma's "basic anguish" on communalism, economic disparity and casteism are still valid.

"As a nation we tend to appropriate when convenient to us and when it is not, then we tend to justify it with some other philosophy. His basic anguish about Hindu Muslim unity still remains valid, his basic preaching against casteism still remains valid.

### Contesting by-poll as Independent due to SKM-BJP alliance: Chewang Dadul

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

Independent candidate for Martam-Rumtek by-election, Chewang Dadul Bhutia today said that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha betrayed party workers and voters of the constituency by joining hands with Bharatiya Janta party.

Mr Bhutia is a senior SKM leader who has chosen to contest the by-polls as an independent candidate.

If SKM had contested the by-election in Mar-

tam-Rumtek and not had an alliance with BJP, I would not have contested the election, he said further adding that party supporters and public urged him to file his nomination against the SKM-BJP candidate.

He further said that SKM had lost the last assembly poll in Martam-Rumtek by only 84 votes and would have won the by-poll with a huge margin.

According to Mr Bhutia, he wanted to contest the 2014 and

2019 elections from Martam-Rumtek, but had bowed down to the party's decision to field Dr Mechung Bhutia in 2014 and Sonam Venchunga in 2019 from the constituency.

He said that he along with his supporters has no ill-will against the SKM party, but are against the alliance with BJP.

Mr Bhutia has urged the voters of Martam-Rumtek to vote for Gas-Cylinder, his election symbol.

### Indian Army and PLA celebrate Chinese National Day at Nathula

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 OCT:**

Ceremonial Border Personnel Meetings (BPM) were organised at Nathu La, Bum La and Kibithu today to celebrate Chinese National Day, an official press release informs.

The BPM mechanism has evolved into an important interface where local issues get discussed and are resolved thereby fostering confidence amongst the border-guarding troops, the release adds. This ensures prevalence of peace and tranquility along

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## Plastic waste management campaign kicks off today

GANGTOK, 01 SEPT (IPR):

During the Independence Day Speech on 15 Aug, 2019, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi called upon the nation to action for plastic waste management and to observe Swachha Hi Sewa (SHS) from 11 Sept to 27 Oct, 2019 with a focus on plastic waste management as its main theme.

The campaign is scheduled as per the following timeline:

11 Sept-01 Oct - Preparation & awareness generation.

02 Oct - Nationwide Shraam Daan and National pledge.

02-27 Oct - Recy-



cling & effective disposal of collected plastic.

As per the direction of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim has commenced with the programme in col-

laboration with Gangtok Municipal Corporation.

Accordingly Swachhta Hi Sewa was conducted at Thakurbari and TIC Gangtok on 01 Oct, 2019. Awareness regarding collection and segregation of garbage was also conducted

and general secretary SH&RA was requested to encourage their members to segregate wet and dry garbage before disposal.

Special plastic Shramdaan drives shall be conducted in tourist destinations all over the

State. All district Tourism offices have been mobilised to make the campaign successful.

The Department would like to convey gratitude to everyone for their support and co-operation viz: Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation, Tourism stakeholders, including General Secretary, SH&RA, Hotel Lotus Retreat, Rasoi, travel agencies - Snoopy, Sunrise, Lords, Let's Go, Altitude, Desire Sikkim, Wisdom, Blue Sky, Mountain Top and making today's programme a success. We expect the same co-operation and support in future also.

## NE farmers on Organic Farming tour call on Governor



### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

Governor Ganga Prasad was visited today by a group of 50 farmers from North East States and officers of Assam Rifles at Raj Bhavan.

The team, comprising of 31 male and 19 female farmers, is currently

undertaking a 20-day Organic Farming Tour of Sikkim sponsored and conducted by Assam Rifles as a part of its Civic Action Programme.

In his brief address to the farmers, the Governor highlighted how organic farming has brought Sikkim to the

attention of the world and opined that the entire North East Region can be transformed into an organic farming hub.

He also urged the farmers to use their learning from the tour to facilitate the transformation of agriculture in their respective localities and states.

## Governor's greetings on Gandhi Jayanti

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 OCT:

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim, a Raj Bhavan press release informs.

In his message, the Governor has said, "As the world congregates to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the apostle of non-violence and truth, whom we fondly call Bapu, it is also the time to dedicate ourselves towards spreading and working on his message of truth, peace and non-violence. Gandhiji's teachings of simplicity and healthy living are the treasure for life to be propagated in its right spirit which can solve many problems that we are facing today in our day to day life.

In today's world, our homes and surroundings are cluttered with such materials, decorations and furniture,

which one can very well do without. In Gandhiji's words, 'they are nothing but means of harbouring dust, bacteria and insects.'

At a time when we are vowed to the clarification of 'Swachh Bharat' as envisioned by Gandhiji to be dedicated on his 150th Birth Anniversary and have since come a long way to achieve it, we must also reflect upon our way of living. Swachhata has direct correlation with our thoughts, deeds and productivity, besides its bearing on our health.

Let us not allow dispensable materials and belongings that are harmful for our environment and sustainability, stifle our homes, workplaces and surroundings. Let's take Gandhiji's teachings in right perspective and practice ways and means to ensure the use of available resources for gainful activities with less emphasis on material possessions."

## Young civil servants address career guidance seminar

GANGTOK, 01 OCT (IPR):

A seminar on career guidance for students was held at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College auditorium hall today with Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, GP Upadhyay, as chief guest.

The programme focused on bringing awareness and providing guidance to the youth of Sikkim with regard to various government exams, career options, preparation strategies and struggle-sharing.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest welcomed all the resource persons and explained that the seminar was aimed to enlighten students on various career opportunities and assist them in discovering their strengths. He added that career development was a gradual process which takes time, effort, perseverance and planning and that the concept of career development begins with self development. Anant Jain, IAS batch of 2018 (Assistant Collector, East Sikkim), Sagar, IPS batch of 2019 (B.Tech: IIT Dhanbad), Ajay, IPS '19 (B.Tech: NIT Allahabad), Subhanshu, IPS '19 (B.Tech: IIT Delhi) and Vaibhav, IRS '18 (Assistant Commissioner Income Tax) were present as resource persons and shared their knowledge, experience and struggles.

## LFC Thasa beats Namphong 2-0 in Dikchu

### SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 01 OCT:

The second day of the open men's football tournament organized as part of the 78th Foundation Year celebrations at

Dikchu Senior Secondary Schoolsaw 10th Mile Namphong take on LFC Thasa with LFC Thasa emerging victorious 0-2.

Achuk Lepcha was present as the

chief guest accompanied by Khem Lall Sharma, Headmaster, Sokpay Primary School, as special guest.

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## Government of Sikkim Office of the Director Pension, G.I.S. NPS Finance Department Gangtok.

Ref no: 282/PGIPF

Date: 12/09/2019

## NOTICE


Notice is hereby given to all Pensioners including the Family pensioners that the Office (PGIPF) will be holding Pension Adalat in the District and Sub-Division of all the Districts in the month of January 2020. It is therefore requested that Grievances, if any, regarding their Pension should be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Pension on or before 15th November 2019. Only those grievances shall be entertained which is/are addressed to the Nodal Officer, Pension and as regards to their Pension only.

The date for the Pension Adalat shall be notified later.

R.O. No. 203/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20  
Date: 26.9.19

Sd/

Nodal Officer, PGIPF.



**RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
GANGTOK**

**Plastic Waste Management Campaign**

As per the call made by the Government, all the Government, government undertakings and Private Institutions in the state are organizing campaign to be free from Plastic Waste as per the schedule given below:

CALANDER: SWACHHATA HI SEWA 2019	
11 <sup>th</sup> September – 1 <sup>st</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness generation across towns and villages.</li> <li>Preparation for collection, disposal of plastic waste.</li> <li>Shramdaan for general Swachhta</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationwide Shramdaan for plastic waste collection &amp; segregation.</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> October – 27 <sup>th</sup> October (Diwali)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycling and effective disposal of the collected plastic waste.</li> </ul>

All are requested to participate in the SHRAMDAAN being scheduled on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 in your locality.

Rural Development Department  
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 206/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20      Date: 30.9.201

## INVITATION

**“Truth always prevails and it is always to the benefit of all. Falsehoods are always lies, the palm cannot block out the Sun.”**

➤ **Guru Hazoor**

**Swami Bal-Tapasvi Sadhguru Om Nanda Master God Angel will be presiding over a special heavenly ceremony**

**“Blessing (Wang)”**

**Oct. 12, 2019**

**Jorethang, South Sikkim**

**We heartily welcome all the people, youth, intellectuals and scholars to kindly attend this special ceremony.**

**Organizer: Heavenly Nirvana Path India / Sikkim**

**Contact: 9733286880/9733084983/9733029159**



## SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OLD TOURISM COMPLEX, M.G. MARG, GANGTOK, SIKKIM - 737101 Fax: 03592-207572

Email: [spsc-skm@nic.in](mailto:spsc-skm@nic.in)  
No: 84/SPSC/EXAMS/19

Website: [www.spsscsm.gov.in](http://www.spsscsm.gov.in)  
Dated: 26/09/2019

### ADDENDUM TO ADVERTISEMENT NO: 02/SPSC/EXAM/2018 DATED: 12/03/2018.

In continuation to the above Advertisement inviting applications for filling up of 06 (six) posts of **Assistant Professor for the Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies (SHEDA)** under Education Department through Direct Recruitment, this is to inform all concerned that **1 (one) more post of Assistant Professor (Buddhist Philosophy) has been added.**

**Accordingly, the last date of filling of the application form (online) by the eligible candidates for the added post is till the midnight of 13th Oct, 2019.**

**Age:** The applicants should have attained the age of 21 & should not have exceeded 40 years as on 31/08/2019 I terms of Notification No: M(3)/(55)/GEN/DOP/Pt-III Dt:03/07/2017. **(Applicable only for the additional post).**

Rejection list of candidates who do not qualify for the post as per the advertised criteria will be uploaded in the SPSC website on 18th Oct. 2019. If any of the rejected candidates have any reservation on the rejection of their application, they should submit their grievances along with justification to the office of the Controller, SPSC w.e.f. 21st Oct 2019 to 25th Oct 2019.

Other conditions remain unchanged. Eligible candidates may visit official website of the Commission @[www.spsscsm.gov.in](http://www.spsscsm.gov.in) for further information & submission of application through online mode.

Sd/-  
(Yangchen D. Tamang) SCS,  
Controller of Examinations  
Sikkim Public Service Commission.

R.O. No.205/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date:30.9.2019

## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT GANGTOK.

Memo No. WS&PHE/1893/19-20/353

Dated: 30.9.19

**Sub: Corrigendum of Notice Inviting Tender No: 388/WS/PHED/345 Dated:12.09.2019.**

With the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct from 21.09.2019 to 7.10.2019, corrigendum to the above NIT has been directed on time schedule and is placed as below:-

### TIME SCHEDULE

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Date of submission of application with Challan/Bank Receipt for issue of tender documents (excluding tender form) | : 04/11/2019 to 07/11/2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. |
| 2. Date of issue of tender form on submission of TDR (as earnest money)  | : 08/11/2019 & 11/11/2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  |
| 3. Date and time for submission of Tender form   | : 12/11/2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon             |
| 4. Date ad time for opening of tender  | : 13/11/2019 from 1:30 PM.                           |

Sd/-  
Divisional Engineer (GWS), PHED  
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 207/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20      Date: 30.9.19



## Battle the Bottle

Gandhi Jayanti, given the Bapu's campaign against the bottle, offers a good occasion to speak of drinking issues. The occasion is made even more relevant given that Gandhi Jayanti this year comes so close to the festive season of Dasain and the string of celebrations that will follow. So yes, the festive season is upon us; a season which will be as much about piety and loving your family as it will be about excesses. The cops had been on the case at a time, playing occasionally with their breathalyzer toys. They were trained on it but no longer stop vehicles or direct people to blow into the equipment at random. One could argue about the many levels at which such random stopping [without any apparent reason] for random checks is wrong, but that we leave for another day.

For now, let's return to alcoholism since the topic has been broached. This problem is not talked about enough probably because it is substance abuse and HIV/ AIDS which receive funding, leading unfortunately to a situation where Sikkim's battle with the bottle is not discussed with any seriousness as a problem anymore.

But a problem it is.

Many people tend to identify alcoholism as a traditional dispensation of the hill people. This is an ill-informed preconception since alcoholism [as a wide-spread problem] is most definitely a recent challenge; it could not have arrived here more than half a century or at the most six decades ago. Alcoholism really becomes possible with the arrival of the IMFLs [India Made Foreign Liquors] since the local brews required too much work and time to be manufactured in enough quantities to feed the alcoholism on a scale that is now possible and also common. It is hence wrong to begin any discussion on alcoholism by mentioning that it is a traditional weakness of the Hill People. Yes, the people tipped and must have also gotten drunk occasionally because communities here allowed 'drinking', but that cannot be construed as meaning additive levels of drinking. The prejudice, however, because it serves so many businesses so well, has been allowed to set in and after it was ignored in the initial years [of IMFLs and other mass distilling units arriving], spread rapidly to ingrain itself in the society. The damage wreaked by alcoholism cannot be stressed enough and media here should carry forward its success with getting the problem of substance abuse addressed [to some extent] and report more effectively and widely on the abuse of alcohol which is just as impairing. The media, when even it overlooks the problem of alcoholism in the society, ends up reflecting the social acceptance of this malaise as something bequeathed by culture.

Few people are disturbed in Sikkim when a colleague turns up for work reeking of alcohol. The only response that an alcoholic evokes are snide remarks and behind the back jokes. There is still no worried concern, or so it appears. Sikkim's indifference towards this problem will weigh heavy on its collective conscience some day. Many excuse alcoholism with the argument that the person is earning enough to indulge himself/ herself.

While there is no denying the fact that substance abuse is a serious concern, alcoholism, because not enough seem to be taking it seriously, is even more worrying. Even if one were to keep the emotions aside, the impact alcoholism has on the economy should attract corrective action. Most people turn alcoholic in what should be the most productive years of their lives, both professionally as well as a family. When their faculties are compromised, as alcoholism is wont to do, their work suffers as does their family. Those who argue that alcohol boosts creativity or allows them to relax, if their dependence is severe, are only peddling excuses to cover up for their weakness and the rest find refuge in these excuses to cover up for their vacuity towards the problem. Too much is put at risk with this indifference because like with all social problems, alcoholism does not affect only the individual but has the entire family suffering. While the younger 'addict' makes the elders of the family suffer guilt pangs, an alcoholic, because in most cases they are working members of the family, end up abusing the family [because they have more 'power' and control]. Sometimes, while the elders can just ignore the rants of an alcoholic, the younger ones are scarred forever by the trauma. This is a social problem and requires the community to step forward and engage proactively in its battle against the bottle. Sadly, in Sikkim, even the war-cry has not been sounded yet...

### 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)

# Reasserting proper relationships of accountability in the Age of Greta

TERESA KRAMARZ  
theconversation.com

She sits small on the large stage. Her face contorted trying to contain emotion as she labours to push her words out; on the brink of crying. She tells those listening: "This is all wrong, I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean."

And this is what we see and hear as we watch Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old girl who just one year ago started a global climate movement, speaking to world leaders' meeting in New York for the United Nations Climate Summit.

The adults on stage watch her, the audience watches, the young people outside the UN holding signs watch, and that moment on stage in which she holds so many of us at the edge of our seat is played over and over in an endless chain of social media tweets and likes. We all watch with some mixture of fascination, awe, inspiration and curiosity.

Yet there is a line past which Thunberg's activism can become spectacle. The young person, who in her own words has felt the loss of her childhood because of empty promises from state leaders who were supposed to be the keepers of a healthy planet for her generation, becomes a human sacrifice that none of us should accept.

### UNACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE

Her suffering - for our collective benefit - becomes part of what we used to deem an unacceptable sacrifice, and in this time of desperate politics, adults allow it to continue. It is time that Thunberg, who sparked millions of people to action, got some rest. It is time for proper accountability relationships to be redrawn between citizens and their political representatives, consumers and producers, civil society organizations and their members, children and adults.

This article is directed at the adults left in the room.

After all, when our states raise taxes or run deficits, wage war abroad or build infrastructure at home, freeze



wages or create training programs, legislate clean water or relax industrial waste pollution, we don't rely on our children to scream loud enough for our governments to create the change we need.

We have accountability mechanisms in place. We agree on shared purposes, establish who is going to be held to account, to whom and for what. Then we regulate processes, standards and sanctions.

In our regular lives, we read to become better informed and ask political candidates hard questions during election campaigns. We join organizations, discuss the issues with our neighbours on our street and create or sign petitions. Once these political demands have been articulated, we hold public leaders and private companies to their promises by naming, shaming or leaving them.

We vote with our ballots and with our wallets as consumers to orient social action. We try to buy goods produced responsibly and shun those suspect of being socially or environmentally damaging. We take legal action when required. We cajole each other to keep defending agreed goals in our workplace and our neighbourhoods.

### COLLECTIVE ACTIONS

Our best social achievements are the products of relentlessly negotiating goals and then enforcing them until we accomplish peace, a liveable

wage or a safe place to live and thrive. Though many of these hard-fought battles have been preceded by untold human suffering and environmental disasters.

Just as we have mechanisms to create rules and assign responsibility for public, private and voluntary action in our diverse societies, we also have established modes of sanctioning rule-breakers who individually, and for private benefit, undermine our collective public goods. These accountability mechanisms of our everyday lives need to reassert themselves in the most comprehensive way possible as we face an existential threat to our planet.

This week has been about a collective will to prioritize our quality of life over "endless economic growth," in Thunberg's own words, and in some cases setting up specific accountability metrics.

### PERFORMING ACCOUNTABILITY

City mayors, including Toronto's John Tory, have declared climate emergencies, joining 800 other cities around the world who have done this so far. Companies are supporting the climate strikes by closing stores, temporarily ceasing operations and launching their own digital strikes in which their websites go dark.

Giants like Amazon are pledging to drastically reduce their carbon emissions ahead of their own tar-

gets. Pension funds and insurers are committing to carbon neutral portfolios by 2050. Some academic institutions, like the University of California, are also divesting from fossil fuel holdings their billions of dollars in pension funds and endowments.

Some media outlets are changing the language they use when reporting on climate, introducing into their style guides wording like "climate crisis" instead of "climate change."

Some professors are cancelling their regular classes and holding teach-ins, open and participatory fora for lecturing and debating large social issues that are reminiscent of ones that helped galvanize student protests against the war in Vietnam.

Children, who are so much at the core of this fight, have resorted to domestic courts and complaint mechanisms in international conventions. Most recently they have filed a complaint to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, against the five largest emitting states that are signatories of the convention. They accuse states of violating their rights by subjecting them to the devastating effects of climate change.

To reassert proper relationships of accountability, the next steps must include ensuring compliance and effecting sanctions wherever failures to deliver results start to emerge. After all, we cannot set standards if we as citizens, consumers and members of civil society are not equally committed to enforcing them.

Just as we sanction those who undermine our political resolve for peace, equity or human security we have to sanction with all the accountability mechanisms we already have at our disposal those who undermine carbon emission standards and maximum carbon budgets. Adults must reassert and enforce the collective will - not marvel at a young person's self-control on a global stage to get that work done.

*[The writer is Associate Professor Munk School of Global Affairs and Co-director Environmental Governance Lab, University of Toronto]*

# What fictional superheroes can tell us about devotion and why we believe in gods

THOMAS SWAN & JAMIN HALBERSTADT  
THECONVERSATION.COM

The relentless supply of movies about superheroes and supervillains is difficult to ignore. Some people can't get enough. Others hope to avoid them. But psychological researchers see a cultural phenomenon worthy of study.

Fictional characters with supernatural powers are often based on mythical gods and goddesses, fighting an ancient battle between good and evil with abilities that violate our intuitive expectations about the world.

In our recently published research, we asked 300 study participants to describe features of fictional supernatural beings and we compared them with features of the gods people worship. We found some striking differences that provide clues as to why some beings attract religious devotion, while others do not.

### WHAT MAKES RELIGIOUS BEINGS SPECIAL

The question of why religious beings are special is more puzzling than it first appears. Initially, it seems obvious that an ancestral spirit that, for example, reads minds and walks through walls, could be an object of worship. We expect minds to be private, living things to die, and solid objects to be impermeable. Entities that defy such expectations - which researchers call "folk theories" - are remarkable and memorable.

The problem is, many other entities violate our folk theories in the same way. Some superheroes can read minds and walk through walls as well, and yet these characters rarely elicit belief. Still other entities with superhuman powers, such as Bigfoot, vampires or werewolves, are occasionally believed in, but not prayed to.

Why don't people worship such entities, which defy our expectations just as well as Jesus, Allah and Zeus do?

Our work points to an answer that has been proposed by philosophers and psychologists for centuries, from David Hume to Sigmund Freud. We believe in gods because it is comforting.

When we asked participants about the traits they ascribe to supernatural religious figures, we found that, on average, they rated them as more beneficent than fictional beings



that people do not worship. In other words, religious beings are better equipped to improve people's lives in significant ways than fictional characters with superhuman abilities.

### THE COMFORT THEORY

Religious beings were also found to routinely defy folk theories about psychology in particular - possessing abilities such as omniscience, mind-control, telepathy and precognition - rather than defying folk theories about biology (such as regeneration) or physics (flight).

In our current research, we found people believe that beings with such psychological abilities are better equipped to help us. This may be because threats to our species have become increasingly social over evolutionary time. Detecting deception, maintaining one's reputation and avoiding social exclusion have become more significant concerns than avoiding predators and finding shelter. Religious beings with the ability to mitigate these social threats should be particularly appealing.

Other features pointed to the comfort theory in less obvious ways. We found that abilities attributed to religious beings were more ambiguous than those attributed to fictional characters. For example, omnipotence and weather control certainly defy expectations, but which ones, and how many? Is god manipulating a storm with his mind, or physically pulling it into position? This ambiguity may best be described with the

phrase "God works in mysterious ways."

Research has shown that when we want to believe in something, such as personally possessing a positive trait, it helps if the trait is ambiguous (e.g. sophisticated) rather than precise (e.g. punctual). This gives us latitude to interpret a variety of evidence in its favour.

The same argument can apply to gods we want to believe in. One person may prefer the god that pulls storms into position. Another may prefer the telekinetic god. If both interpretations are allowed, the god can be made to fit what each person finds plausible. Ambiguous features therefore make it easier to believe in comforting gods.

### GODS ARE NEITHER HEROES NOR VILLAINS

The final feature of religious beings we discovered is that they do not easily fit into the superhero or supervillain categories that often distinguish fictional beings. Gods are more beneficent, but they are also more ambivalent, than fictional characters.

They have the ability to reward, but also to threaten and punish. While a mix of carrots and sticks undoubtedly helps gods enforce religious and moral rules, we suggest that ambivalence is also crucial for eliciting religious rituals and prayers, which in turn reinforce belief.

Indeed, there is little point in beseeching a purely benevolent or malevolent god: the former will always grant your request, and the latter never will. Only an ambivalent god can be swayed by an act of faith or a faithfully performed ritual.

A similar account might help explain why polytheistic religions typically contain a mix of positive and negative gods, the latter of which provide little comfort on their own.

In summary, gods are more beneficent, ambivalent, ambiguous and psychologically astonishing than fictional characters and, notably, these are precisely the traits that encourage belief. So even if you shudder at the thought of yet another Marvel movie, the fictional universe has taught us quite a bit about what makes gods special and what motivates some of us to believe in them.

*[Thomas Swan is Assistant Research Fellow, University of Otago; Jamin Halberstadt is Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Otago]*



## MCL suffers Rs 2.6cr loss due to stir over goat's death



**BHUBANESWAR, OCT 1 (PTI):** The Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) said it suffered a loss of Rs 2.68 crore due to agitation over the death of a goat.

The stir occurred at Talcher coalfields over the demand of local residents for Rs 60,000 as compensation for the death of the goat, killed in an accident with a coal transportation tipper, the MCL said in a statement.

A mob led by some residents of a neighbouring village halted coal transportation and despatch work at Jaganath Sidings number 1 and 2 at Talcher coalfields from 11 am on Monday, it said. Work resumed only at 2.30 pm after the intervention of senior officials and the police, the

statement said.

This three-and-half-hour illegal stoppage of work caused an estimated loss of Rs 1.4 crore on account of coal transportation to the sidings and Rs 1.28 crore on account of despatch through the Railways, the release said.

Besides the estimated loss of Rs 2.68 crore, the government exchequer also suffered a loss of Rs 46 lakh due to this stoppage of work, it said.

The company has lodged an FIR with the local police station for necessary action against those responsible for the illegal obstruction of work, the statement said.

Such illegal obstructions to coal mining operations not only act against the economic

growth of the nation but also create hurdles to the country's aspiration of becoming a five trillion dollar economy, an MCL spokesperson said in the statement.

Coal mines are restricted working zones where only people who are authorised, trained and have the knowhow of the mines are allowed to enter to perform their job while general movement is totally prohibited, he said.

However, some people from the peripheral localities are deliberately trespassing into the coal mine and the overburden areas to pick coal, firewood and are even bringing their livestock for grazing, which remains a cause of concern, he added.

## Calcutta HC grants anticipatory bail to Rajeev Kumar

**KOLKATA, OCT 1 (PTI):** In a relief to former Kolkata Police commissioner Rajeev Kumar, the Calcutta High Court granted anticipatory bail to the senior IPS officer in connection with the multi-crore-rupee Saradha chit fund scam on Tuesday, saying it was not an appropriate case for custodial interrogation.

A bench comprising justices S Munshi and S Dasgupta said if Kumar was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the case, he would have to be released immediately on bail by an appropriate court on two sureties of Rs 50,000 each.

Observing that Kumar had cooperated with the central probe agency, which is investigating the case, the bench said it was not an appropriate case for custodial interrogation of the petitioner.

It directed Kumar, who is currently the Additional Director General of the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID), to cooperate with the investigating officers.



It also directed Kumar to make himself available before the investigating officers in the case for questioning on a 48-hour prior notice by the CBI.

On September 21, a pre-arrest bail plea of the IPS officer was rejected by the Alipore District and Sessions Court.

The CBI has issued multiple notices to Kumar since May 27, asking him to appear before it for questioning as a witness in the Saradha chit fund scam.

However, he did not appear before the CBI investigators and sought more time on every occasion, citing various rea-

sons.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of Rs 2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.

The IPS officer was part of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the West Bengal government to investigate the scam, before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014, along with other chit fund cases.

The Saradha chit fund scam was unearthed in 2013 during Kumar's tenure as the Bidhannagar Police commissioner.

In January, the Centre and the West Bengal government were locked in an unprecedented standoff after a CBI team reached Kumar's official residence for questioning him but had to retreat as the local police detained its officers.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee came out in Kumar's defence and started a sit-in protest against the Centre's move.

The Supreme Court had, on February 5, prevented the CBI from taking any coercive action against Kumar and directed him to cooperate with the agency for questioning at a "neutral

place".

He was then quizzed by the agency for nearly 40 hours over five days at its office in Shillong in February.

The apex court had, on May 24, refused to extend the protection from arrest to Kumar, which it had granted to him earlier, and asked him to approach the Calcutta High Court or the trial court for seeking relief in the case.

The CBI had then summoned Kumar on May 27 for questioning in connection with the Ponzi scheme, against which he had moved the Calcutta High Court.

A vacation bench of the high court had, on May 30, granted Kumar an interim protection from arrest and coercive action by the CBI. The protection was extended from time to time.

The high court had, on September 13, vacated its interim order granting Kumar protection from arrest. It had also rejected his prayer for quashing the CBI notice that sought his appearance for interrogation in the case.

## Six NDFB(S) militants nabbed in Assam



**GUWAHATI, OCT 1 (PTI):** Six militants of the National Democratic Front of Boroland (Songbijit), including the outfit's self-styled cultural secretary, were apprehended and a cache of arms recovered from their hideout during a raid in Assam's Kokrajhar district on Tuesday.

The apprehensions were made during a joint operation by the Indian Army and the Assam Police at Ripu Reserve Forest in the district, a Defence statement said.

Based on specific information about the presence of NDFB(S) militants in Raimana area near Akshaiguri, troops of the Sikh Light Infantry regiment laid multiple ambushes on the intervening night of Monday

and Tuesday when they noticed six individuals moving suspiciously in the area, it said.

On being challenged, the militants tried to escape by taking advantage of darkness and thick foliage but the troops reacted swiftly and nabbed the six persons, the release said.

Spot questioning of the nabbed persons revealed they are NDFB(S) militants trained in Myanmar, it said.

The apprehended persons are Bahaigya Basumatary alias Belarwm, the outfit's cultural secretary and also the deputy finance secretary, Ranjola Wary alias Gobla, Rubiram Goyary alias G Rwmwgmw, Julesh Musharay alias M Juji-

ang, Sailen Borgoyary alias B Sibithao and Rajesh Narzary alias N Railang, it said.

The statement said the nabbed persons revealed the location of a temporary camp close to the apprehension spot.

One M16 assault rifle, six 7.65 mm pistols, twelve magazines, ammunition, medicines, rations and other combat materials were recovered, it said.

While three of the militants are from Kokrajhar district, the remaining three belong to Chirang district, it said, adding the apprehended persons were a handful of the NDFB(S) militants active in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD)

Religion is a personal matter. There are many sects among the Hindus, who can opt for any choice. Tantriks believe that no puja is complete without sacrifice. We do not want to hurt anyone's religious beliefs, Nath said.

A division bench of the Tripura High Court comprising Chief Justice Sanjoy Karol and Justice Arindam Lodh had pronounced on September 27 that "no person including

area of Assam.

The release said the Army strove for over three months to nab these militants, adding the apprehension is a major setback for the outfit's activities in Kokrajhar district.

Due to tough living conditions, sustained pressure by the security forces and lack of support from the locals, most of the NDFB(S) cadres are disillusioned and demoralised, it said.

The statement said the security forces will continue exerting pressure through sustained operations till all the NDFB(S) militants are neutralised.

The NDFB(S) outfit is accused of perpetrating massacres in Assam.

the state shall be allowed to sacrifice any animal or bird within the precincts of any of the temples within the state of Tripura."

However, despite the Tripura High Court banning sacrifice of animals and birds for religious reasons in all temples of the state, the practice continues unabated in the renowned Tripureswari temple in Gomati district.

## TMC MLA Sabyasachi Dutta joins BJP

**KOLKATA, OCT 1 (PTI):** Senior TMC MLA and former Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation Mayor Sabyasachi Dutta Tuesday joined BJP in the presence of BJP national President Amit Shah here.

Dutta was handed over the party flag by BJP state president Dilip

Ghosh, at a seminar on NRC presided by Shah.

Later on Shah hugged Dutta and welcomed him to the party.

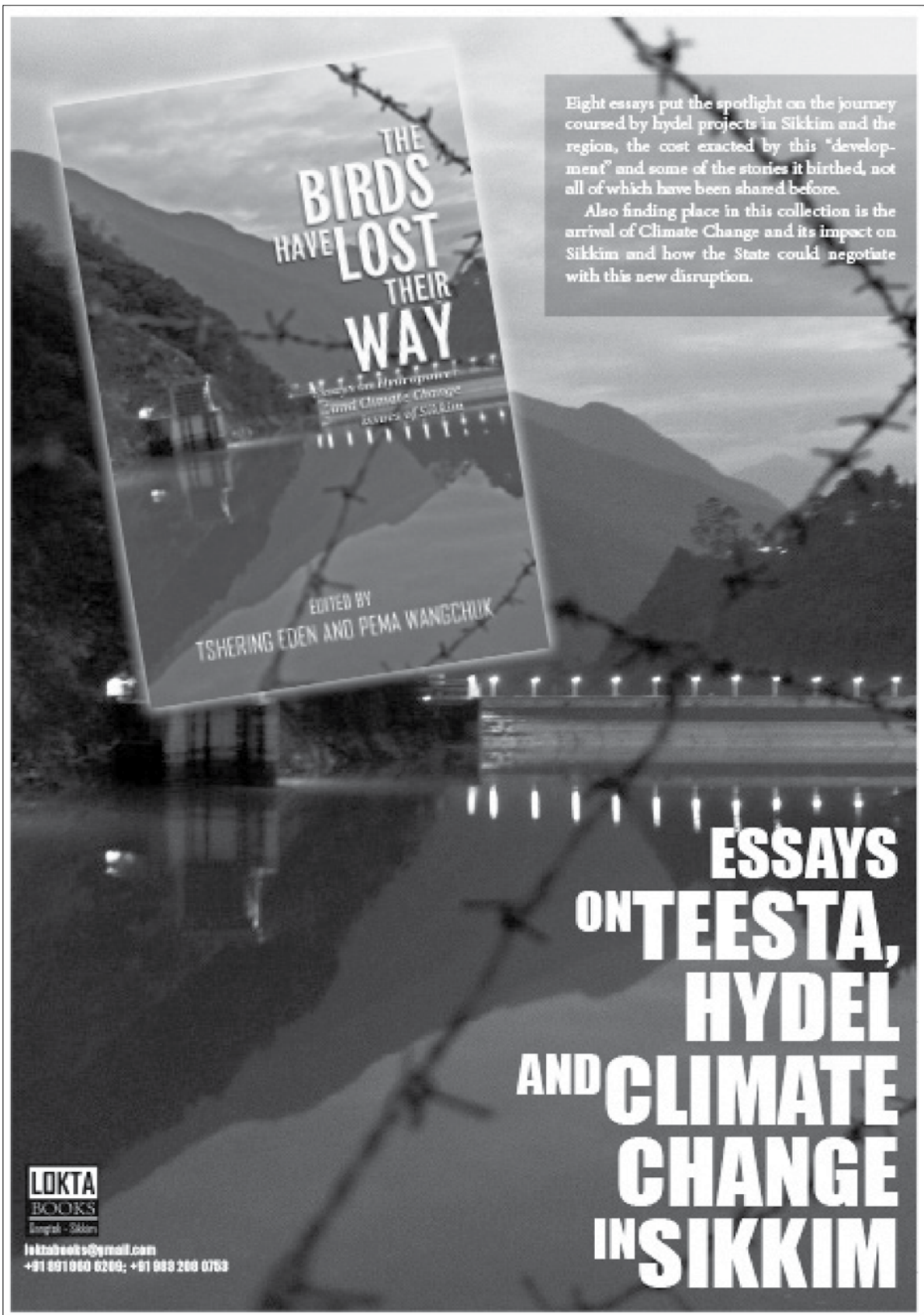
"For me the country and its interests is much bigger than personal or a party's interests. India has achieved new heights under the leadership of Prime minister Narendra



Modi," Dutta said.

Dutta, who was at loggerheads with the TMC leadership, resigned

from his post as mayor of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation in July this year.





# Aubameyang denies Man Utd morale-boosting win over Arsenal

**MANCHESTER, OCT 1 (AFP):** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's second-half strike, awarded by VAR, denied Manchester United a much-needed win to kickstart their season as Arsenal emerged from Old Trafford with a 1-1 draw.

Scott McTominay's stunning strike to give United the lead was a rare moment of quality in a poor first-half on Monday.

However, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men could not hold out for all three points as Aubameyang's goal just before the hour mark was allowed to stand despite the Gabon international being initially flagged offside.

United have now won just two of their last 12 Premier League games dating back to last season and sit 12 points adrift of leaders Liverpool just seven games into the campaign.

A point is enough to edge Arsenal back into the top four on goal difference and maintain their three-point advantage over United, who move up to 10th.

For many years the clashes between these sides were the Premier League's marquee fixture.



tures. United and Arsenal were the champions of England for nine consecutive seasons between 1996 and 2004.

However, the fact the were facing off a Monday night because neither are in Champions League action later this week was reflected in a first 45 minutes devoid of quality.

It took 28 minutes for either goalkeeper to be tested as Arsenal's Bernd Leno saved well low to his left to deny Andreas Pereira after a solo run.

United have not scored more than one goal in any match since the opening day of the season and, even against an Arsenal defence that had conceded nine goals in their

last four league games, looked toothless when not afforded space to counter-attack into.

Arsenal, though, played right into the hosts hands in the final five minutes of the first-half.

Firstly, Marcus Rashford wasted a huge chance when played in behind by Paul Pogba's through ball with the Gunners furiously protesting for a free-kick against the Frenchman as he dispossessed Matteo Guendouzi.

Arsenal then had the chance to strike on the counter-attack themselves as from a United corner the visitors burst forward through Bukayo Saka and after his effort was palmed away by David

de Gea, the Spaniard got back in position to block Guendouzi's follow-up effort.

But from the resulting corner, it was United who took the lead.

Daniel James led the counter from one end of the field to the other and after his cross just evaded Rashford, the England international cut the ball back to the edge of the box where McTominay smashed into the top corner.

That was the first goal United had scored a goal from open play at home in the first-half this season.

But they soon needed a second as Arsenal struck back after the break thanks to VAR.

Saka pounced on a loose pass deep inside

the United half and fed Aubameyang, who had been flagged offside, before dinking the ball past De Gea.

However, replays showed he was clearly played outside by Harry Maguire and his eighth goal of the season was allowed to stand.

Seconds later, Unai Emery's men were unlucky not to be in front when Saka's shot from Callum Chambers's cross was deflected just over by Victor Lindelof.

Attack looked like the best form of defence for Arsenal as their backline never looked comfortable at holding out for a point.

Pogba fired inches wide from the edge of the area before McTominay somehow didn't score his second of the night with a free header six yards out from a corner.

Leno produced a fine save to turn a piledriver from Maguire over as the world's most expensive defender tried to atone for his earlier error.

But the German goalkeeper's best save of the evening came at the death as he flew to his left to turn Rashford's powerful free-kick to safety.

## AB de Villiers to make Big Bash debut with Brisbane Heat



**SYDNEY, OCT 1 (AFP):** South African great AB de Villiers will make his debut in Australia's Twenty20 Big Bash League during the 2019-20 season after signing with Brisbane Heat, the team announced on Tuesday.

The 35-year-old prolific batsman will join the Heat for the second half of the eight-team competition that runs from December to February.

Coach Darren Lehmann said he was "over the moon" to have the opportunity to work with de Villiers for the first time.

"World class players

don't just come along every day and to have a player of AB's stature and skill in the BBL is a fantastic outcome for everyone, not just the Heat," he said.

"He's a 360-degree player, great skills, outstanding temperament and an insightful leader."

De Villiers played 114 Tests, 228 one-dayers and 78 Twenty20s in a 14-year career for the Proteas before retiring from international cricket in 2018.

He starred for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in this year's Indian

Premier League, scoring 442 runs at an average of 44.20 with a rapid strike rate of 154.

He said the decision to join the Heat for the BBL from January, including the finals should they qualify, was an easy one to make.

"They play the kind of brand that I want to be associated with. It's quite aggressive, they go after the attack, and I'm looking forward to going to the Gabba," de Villiers said.

"It's a beautiful cricket field. It's a great wicket and games are always of a high quality."

## Champaran: Where mall meets Mahatma but there's reverence and remembrance too

**MOTIHARI/BETTIAH (BIHAR), OCT 1 (PTI):** The fields and bylanes of villages and urban settlements that gave birth to the Champaran satyagraha echo with the name of the Mahatma, but along with reverence for the man who shaped India's freedom is also callous neglect of his legacy.

In a letter to his British disciple Madeleine Slade, who came to be known as Mirabehn, Mahatma Gandhi famously called Champaran the place that introduced him to India.

The 1917 Champaran satyagraha, in which Gandhi spotlighted the plight of indigo farmers, is sometimes known as India's first civil disobedience movement.

But today, as the country celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of the man who inspired generations with his policy of 'ahimsa' and his principles on life, governmental and public neglect and rampant urbanisation have eclipsed history in more than one place.

The Hazarimal Dharmshala in Bettiah where Gandhi stayed is dilapidated, a huge shopping mall and other commercial establishments dwarfing the structure.

Declared a protected monument by the Bihar government and proudly displayed on the Gandhi circuit page of the State Tourism Development Corporation, the dharmshala presents a sorry sight.

A swarm of flies from piles of garbage greets visitors, flying in the face of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which draws its inspiration from Gandhi's emphasis on cleanliness.

Bettiah is now the headquarters of West Champaran district.

The house of advocate Gorakh Prasad, Gandhi's first stop in Motihari, about 45 km away, is also in a state of utter decrepitude.

However, there are other places where care

is taken to preserve the legacy of Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi transformed Champaran, which takes pride in being the place where, in a way, his journey towards attaining unparalleled greatness started, Brajkishor Singh, secretary of the Gandhi Sangrahalaya memorial and museum in Motihari, told PTI.

The Gandhi Sangrahalaya is one of the numerous places named after the Mahatma in Motihari. There is also the spic and span Bapudham railway station that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year.

It was due to Bapu's association with the place that people like Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan - fondly called the Frontier Gandhi - took the trouble to visit this remote north Bihar district. Many years later, Subhas Chandra Bose, too, addressed a huge public meeting at the Ramna Maidan here, Singh, who is in his 90s and is a former state minister, said.

He said Gandhi's association with Champaran did not end with the satyagraha for the indigo farmers. He also set up a number of ashrams and schools.

When north Bihar was ravaged by a devastating earthquake in 1934, Gandhi was back with an army of followers, most notable among them being Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Singh said.

I am thrilled at the thought that this museum is the very spot where Gandhi stood in front of the sub divisional magistrate, refusing to leave the district or secure release by furnishing a bail bond of Rs 100. The calm courage moved the British officer to the extent that he let off the Mahatma despite his reluctance to fulfill any of these conditions, Singh said.

A stone pillar, designed by the acclaimed Nandalal Bose, stands at the exact spot Gandhi did on April 18, 1917, his first satyagraha.

Gandhi was unaware of the very existence of Champaran until he visited in 1917, three years after his return to India in 1914.

I must confess that I did not know then even the name, much less the geographical position, of Champaran, and I hardly had any notion of indigo plantations. I had seen packets of indigo, but little dreamed that it was grown and manufactured in Champaran and at great hardship to thousands of agriculturists, he later wrote in his autobiography The Story of My Experiments With Truth.

He came to Champaran thanks to Rajkumar Shukla, a landowner from Champaran, who was up in arms against the oppression of indigo farmers by the East India Company.

According to Motihari-born academician B N Pandey, it is not just the buildings which have suffered neglect.

Gandhi's visit gave Champaran worldwide fame. But many heroes have remained unsung. All know about Rajkumar Shukla

(But) Shukla got an audience with Gandhi because of Braj Kishore Prasad, whose daughter Prabhavati married Jayaprakash Narayan. Although he belonged to adjoining Saran, I wonder why Champaran has no landmark named after Braj Kishore babu, he said.

He added that any number of people should get credit for making the plight of indigo farmers a matter known well enough before Gandhi came here.

The 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi is indeed an occasion for celebration. So was the centenary of Champaran Satyagraha launched by Bihar government two years ago with much fanfare. But the land awaits due recognition for these unsung heroes whose contributions were less known, but by no means smaller, Pandey added.

## AIFF conducts mental conditioning session in Goa

**NEW DELHI, OCT 1 (PTI):** The All India Football Federation, in coordination with Premier League and Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) conducted a mental conditioning session in Goa with the U-17 women's team coaches and players.

India will host the next FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2020. The senior women's team coaches and staff were also in attendance.

The sessions were conducted by Richard Beeby, currently PGMOL International Development

ment Manager who has been partnering with federations and leagues; and Liam Slack, a renowned sports psychologist, winner of International PHD Award 2014 on 'Mental Toughness in Elite Football Officiating'.

"We covered the key topics within the area of 'mental toughness' including reviewing personal pride, passion, purpose leading towards enhancing performance," Slack stated.

"As with all sports, particularly in a challenging professional



environment, having resilience to cope with a range of demands is essential. Strategies to assist include 'mental toughness', a subject which is increasingly

growing in importance for sports - men and women - to perform at their maximum," he added.

It was during the build-up to the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017

that AIFF had arranged for a psychologist to help and stay with the team.

Coach of the Indian U-17 women's national team, Alex Ambrose said that "the players have acknowledged the need of mental conditioning and have responded with immense results".

Maymol Rocky, head coach of the senior women's team, said the "workshop helped immensely in knowing how mental preparation can help in either boosting the performance or reducing the performance of the team".

## Rohit begins life as Test opener, Saha in for Pant

**BHARAT SHARMA Visakhapatnam, Oct 1 (PTI):** Limited overs phenomenon Rohit Sharma starts life as a Test opener but the embattled Rishabh Pant will not be there when India begins the experiment with the first match against South Africa here on Wednesday.

At Pant's expense, Wriddhiman Saha will play his first international match in 22 months after India captain Virat Kohli confirmed that the Delhi keeper-batsman was being dropped from the first Test of India's home season.

While India will be desperately hoping that Rohit replicates his limited overs success in the traditional format, the build-up to the experiment has not been ideal to say the least with the batsman failing to score in the only warm-up game before the series.

But it won't surprise many if the stylish opener scores a 'daddy hundred' here, like he is used to in the blue jersey.

Rohit is in the form of his life and many former India cricketers, including Yuvraj Singh, believe that the Mumbaier should be playing in all formats and

given a long run as a Test opener.

He could not be accommodated in the middle-order in the two Tests in the West Indies but now with K L Rahul dropped due to lack of runs, Rohit opening the innings could be a blessing in disguise for India.

In the net sessions ahead of the first Test, all eyes were on Rohit who seemed very much determined to make the most of the opportunity and improve his Test record.

In 27 Tests, he has made 1585 runs at 39.62 while he is the owner of more than 10,000 runs in limited overs cricket.

Kohli backed Rohit on the eve of the match, assuring him enough opportunities. "...if he does that (succeeds in the opening role), then our batting order at the top becomes more lethal. It is difficult to have a player like that to not start every time," said Kohli. "...if he comes into his own then the whole batting order looks a completely different batting order anywhere in the world."

Another talking point in the run-up to the series was the fight for the keeper's slot between Pant and a fit-again Saha.



The prospect of playing on rank turners coupled with Pant's indifferent form with the bat in recent times has opened the door for the technically sound Saha.

"Saha is fit and fine to go. He is going to start the series for us. His keeping credentials are for everyone to see. He has done well with the bat whenever he has got a chance. According to me he is the best keeper in the world," said Kohli at his pre-match press conference.

The captain also confirmed the availability of seasoned spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. Ashwin, who is yet to play

international cricket since he injured himself during the Adelaide Test win last December, was not part of the Tests in the West Indies. The rest of line-up looks settled with India fielding two pacers and as many spinners. If the wicket is turning, Hanuma Vihari will be expected to contribute as the third-spinner.

Jasprit Bumrah's absence is a big blow but trust Ishant Sharma and Mohammad Shami to do the job for India. Only one spinner featured in the playing XI in the West Indies, Ravindra Jadeja, and Ashwin will be partnering him here.





**YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
THE MAHATMA**

*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself  
in the service of others”*

*-Mahatma Gandhi*



Department of Information & Public Relations  
Government of Sikkim



## Love the action hero tag: Tiger Shroff

**RADHIKA SHARMA**

**NEW DELHI, OCT 1 (PTI):** Tiger Shroff says being branded as an “action hero” is a blessing, not a stereotype for him as the actor believes the genre has given a sense of identity to him.

The actor, best known for the “Baaghi” franchise, is set to star in action entertainer “War”, alongside Hrithik Roshan.

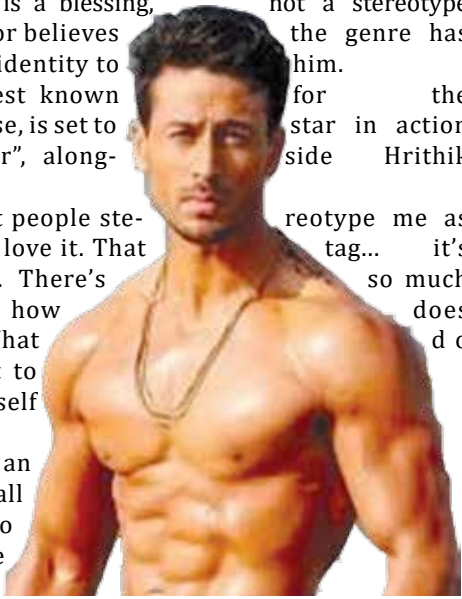
“The fact that people stereotype me as an action hero, I love it. That tag... it’s such a blessing. There’s competition so how one stand out? What you do different to segregate yourself from people?”

“You need an identity. We all actors work too hard to create that niche and identity for ourselves,” Tiger told PTI in a telephonic interview.

Directed by Siddharth Anand, “War” chronicles the story of an Indian soldier, Khalid (Tiger), who is assigned to eliminate a senior agent and his mentor Kabir (Hrithik) who has gone rogue.

In an earlier interview, Siddharth told PTI, he would have scrapped the film had Tiger not come on board.

The 29-year-old actor said, coming from the director,



it was a “huge compliment”.

“He’s helped me through and through the film. If it weren’t for him, I wouldn’t have been able to stand in front of Hrithik sir.

“He held my hand and I’m thankful to him and producer Aditya Chopra for presenting me in such a different light. A huge thanks to Hrithik sir as well. He has been a sort of mentor to me even off screen,” he said.

Tiger said the audience should expect the unexpected from the film, which is slated to be released on October 2.

“Siddharth is greedy about bringing his vision to life. It could be the biggest large-scale ever, when he’s narrating this to you, ‘You think how is he going to pull that off?’ And then he actually does that.

“He’s known for large-scale films, exotic locations and spectacular visuals. He’s only got better. The emotion, the content that he’s got with this film... It’s not superficial, it will keep you thinking. There are fantastic twists and turns.”

Post “War”, Tiger will be return with the third installment of “Baaghi” series.

The actor promised “three times the action on a bigger canvas” that would see his character fight for a “bigger cause”.

“What’s cool is that I’m reuniting with Shraddha who was there in part one and I get a chance to work with Ritesh Deshmukh who is a fantastic actor. It will have different dynamics and challenges for my character,” he added.

Produced by Yash Raj Films, “War” also stars Vaani Kapoor.

## Playing James Bond has been a wonderful experience: Daniel Craig

**LONDON, OCT 1 (PTI):** British star Daniel Craig says playing iconic fictional spy James Bond has been ‘one of the best, most wonderful experiences’ of his life career.

In a video from the wrap party of the upcoming Bond movie “No Time To Die”, Craig, who will bid adieu to the character after the film’s release, also thanked the team behind the projects.

‘I just want to say, and I am really quite drunk now so I won’t go on for long, this has been one of the best, most wonderful experiences I have ever had.

‘You have all done the most amazing job. I could not be more proud to work with every single one of you on this production. I would like to thank you for this evening, for Barbara (Broccoli, producer), for putting it on. Thank goodness, we did this tonight,” Craig said in a over 50-seconds-long clip.

The 51-year-old star made his first appearance as the suave spy in 2006’s “Casino Royale”, and went on to reprise his role in 2008’s “Quantum of Solace”, 2012’s “Skyfall”, and 2015’s “Spectre”. “No Time To Die”, directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, will hit the theatres April 8, 2020.



## Aim to entertain with story relevant in today's times: John on ‘Satyameva Jayate 2’

**MUMBAI, OCT 1 (PTI):** John Abraham on Tuesday said the idea behind “Satyameva Jayate 2” is to bring forth a story that is both engaging and relevant.

The actor is coming back for the 2018 movie’s follow-up, which will also star Divya Khosla Kumar.

“I genuinely enjoyed the story and telling of the original film. I could tell it was a story that the audience will find engaging. With ‘SMJ2’, the aim, once again, is to entertain the audience with a story that’s relevant in today’s times,” John said in a statement.

Divya, who is returning

to acting with the Milap Zaveri-directed film, said she was waiting for the right film to come her way.

“I didn’t want to act in a film just for the sake of it. For me, what mattered was the story and the role, and I got the right opportunity with this film,” she added.

Divya made her acting debut in 2004’s “Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Saathiyon”. She later turned to direction with films such as “Yaariyan” and “Sanam Re”.

Produced by T-Series and Emmay Entertainment & Motion Pictures, “Satyameva Jayate 2” is slated to be released on October 2, 2020.

## Justin Bieber, Hailey Baldwin get married again in lavish ceremony

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 1 (PTI):** Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin have tied the knot, again.

Sources close to the couple told People magazine that Bieber, 25, and Baldwin exchanged vows at Somerset Chapel in Bluffton, South Carolina.

The ceremony was attended by 154 guests, which included Ed Sheeran, Kylie and Kendall Jenner, Usher and Baldwin’s uncle Alec Baldwin.

The wedding was followed by a larger ceremony at Montage Palmetto Bluff resort.

The couple got married in secret last September, two months after the singer proposed to Baldwin, 22.

## Why Michelle Pfeiffer Had to Stay ‘Ready’ While Working With Angelina Jolie on ‘Maleficent 2’ (Exclusive)



Michelle Pfeiffer is dishing on what it’s like to perform in front of the camera with Angelina Jolie.

The Hollywood icons star together in Maleficent: Mistress of Evil, and some of their costars have described witnessing the two in action like watching a “masterclass in acting.”

Reacting to the compliment, Pfeiffer says that the pair enjoyed a nice “energy” during their scenes together, then noted how important it was to come prepared!

“It was a really, really nice energy,” Pfeiffer, 61, told ET’s Nischelle Turner at the film’s premiere in Los Angeles, California, on Monday evening. “She was very present and very ready for whatever you threw at her. And, you had to be ready for whatever she was going to throw at you. I was!”

The film hits theaters on Oct. 18, and sees Maleficent (Jolie) go to war with Queen Ingrith (Pfeiffer.)

With their time together as a cast coming to an end, Pfeiffer shared how much the actors had all enjoyed doing press together earlier in the day.

“It was so fun. Today we did a big press conference with the whole cast and it was a little bit [like] going back to that dinner scene, when we were all there in the scene together,” she said. “We had so much fun working together.”

The actress was enjoying seeing premiere guests dressed up in costume for the screening, but struggled to decide on her favorite outfit from the Maleficent films.

“It depends on my mood,” she says. “It’s a really good question. I think at different times, I [feel like different characters.] I’m Aurora sometimes.”

“I look at the service of mankind same as devotion to almighty.”  
-Mahatma Gandhi

On the 150th birth anniversary of The Father of the Nation,

# Mahatma Gandhi

India pays homage.

2 October

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