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SummitTIMES

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

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**Violence during
BJP-sponsored
bandh in WB;
1600 people
arrested**

KOLKATA, SEP 26 (PTI): Scattered incidents of violence, including torching of buses and clashes, occurred and 1,600 people were arrested during the 12-hour bandh called by the BJP in West Bengal Wednesday to protest the death of two students in North Dinajpur district. BJP workers clashed with Trinamool activists and fought pitched battles with police at some places during the shutdown, which the saffron party claimed was a success due to "people's support" and called it off two hours ahead of schedule.

However, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the shutdown as a "complete failure" saying the people of Bengal have rejected the "culture of shutdown and bandhs".

Normal life remained largely unaffected in the metropolis and the adjoining districts. But in North Dinajpur, the scene of the September 20 clash between the police and protesters in which the two students were killed, the shutdown made its impact.

BJP supporters torched a state bus at Canning street in central Kolkata, police said. Stone pelting incidents were reported from Shyambazar and Sealdah areas in the metropolis.

Two-day World Tourism Day celebration gets underway

GYALSHING, 25 SEPT (IPR): The two-day 'World Tourism Day' celebration organized on the theme 'Tourism and Digital Transformation' commenced at Pelling Senior Secondary School ground today. The event is organized by West Sikkim Tourism Society in coordination with District Administration (West), Tourism Department Government of Sikkim, Pelling Tourism Development Society and various tourism stakeholders of West Sikkim.

Chief guest Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia inaugurated the function. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), PD Rai was the special guest accompanied by Minister, NK Subba, MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, Special Secretary



(Tourism), Namrata Thapa, DC (West), Dr. AB Karki, SP West, representatives from different

travel agencies from around the country and tourism stakeholders were also present on the

first day of the event.

The highlight of the event

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State Child Rights Commission conferred 3 awards in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 26 SEPT [IPR]: Chairperson, Sikkim State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Deekila Bhutia accompanied by the members of the commission and DCPO (South), Roshnita Gurung received three prestigious awards namely Bharat Excellency Award, Rising Women of India award and North-east Golden awards in the field of Child Protection at India International Centre, New Delhi on

25 Sept. The function was hosted and organised by the Friendship Forum of India during a seminar on Economic Growth and National Unity and had the presence of various experts and accomplished personalities from the field of education, health and social sciences and social work.

The awards were conferred from the hands of former Governor of Tripura and Chattisgarh Lt. General Krishna Mohan Seth.

51 runners race in Low Altitude Monsoon Marathon

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

Fifty-one runners from within and outside the State participated in the Low Altitude Monsoon Marathon held at Pelling in West Sikkim today. The 6 KM marathon, held on the theme, 'Go Organic', was part of the state-level World Tourism Day 2018 celebration which got underway in Pelling today.

The marathon had participants from different parts of Sikkim along with runners from Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Kurseong.

In men's category, Bi-



kash Bhujel stood on the first position clocking in at 23:41 minutes, while another runner from Kalimpong, Uttam Bhujel, finished on the second position with a timing of 24:11 minutes and Hemant Limboo from

Darjeeling came third at 25:23 minutes.

Likewise, in women's category, Anjali Subba from Gangtok finished the marathon on the first position with timing of 33:14 minutes and Siksha Rai from Darjeeling

came second with a timing of 34:20 minutes and Chandra Kala Sharma from Gangtok third at 35:15 minutes.

The marathon was flagged off by the Tourism Minister Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia.

Regional workshop to strengthen workplace response to combat HIV prevalence

GANGTOK, 26 SEPT (IPR): A two-day regional workshop on strengthening public private sector response in National AIDS Control Program (Phase IV) began in the capital today.

Organized by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with Sikkim State AIDS Control Society (SSACS), the workshop is being held in Sikkim for the first time and has the participation from NACO officials, ILO officers, SACS officers from all the North Eastern states and partner organizations.

The workshop was



formally inaugurated this morning by Health Minister AK Ghatani.

In his inaugural address, the Minister shared statistics on HIV/AIDS prevalence in the State and reiterated that it has been under control because of active intervention from all quarters and extensive focus on Information, Education

and Communication.

He called for more effort to mobilize involvement of both public and private sector to strengthen HIV and AIDS prevention activities primarily for workers whether engaged in formal or informal sector.

He urged the officials and representatives of in-

turn to pg03



Lachenpa youth clean up Yartse Gumbo area in North Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:

Youth from the village of Lachen, North Sikkim, undertook a clean-up exercise in the high altitude areas above Lachen from 23 to 26 September and recovered around eight big sacks of garbage from the

area where the much sought after caterpillar fungus, locally known as the yartse gumbo, grows during monsoons.

A WWF press communiqué informs that the 9-member team was led by Phuchung Lachenpa and included Palden Lachenpa, Kassang Lachenpa,

Gokul Lachenpa, Surjay Lachenpa, Kunga Lukjung Lachenpa, Norchen Lachenpa, Sonam Tshering Lachenpa and Changba Lachenpa.

Villagers from Lachen, Lachenpa and other areas throng to these high altitude pastures in search of the prized fungus

which has a high market value owing to its purported medicinal properties.

With people going up in large numbers and camping in makeshift tents, these fragile and pristine areas that are home to an array of important flora

turn to pg02

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LIVE PERFORMANCES

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Pasal

Nagaland team studies Mangan's Organic Waste Convertor

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 26 SEPT:

The Ministry for Development of North East Region has shortlisted Mangan Organic Waste Convertor (OWC), managed by the Mangan Nagar Panchayat, as one of the best practices under Swaach Bharat Mission of the State Government.

To study and understand the practice adopted in Sikkim, a team led by Atul Basumatary, Director, DoNER, and Tarachu Filthu, Deputy Director, UD&HE, Nagaland, visited Mangan on 25 September.

The team was received by MNP President Zangmoo Bhutia and staff.

The purpose of visit was to see if these practices could be replicated in Kohima, Nagaland.

The team visited the composting unit of the OWC where Sonam Palden Bhutia, SI, explained its working and demonstrated the different types of composting.

They were pleased with the initiatives taken by MNP and the district administration and are now looking forward to replicate the same in Nagaland.

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Lachenpa youth clean up Yartse Gumbo...

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and fauna are heavily impacted, WWF points out.

Important species such as the snow leopard roam these areas, along with other enigmatic species. Requirement for firewood for cooking and heat during the collection trip that could last from 5 to 10 days is a major concern, along with the non biodegradable trash being left behind, the release adds.

To minimise these impacts, Lachen Dzumsa has been working to bring about sustainable practices during the collection process with support from WWF-India. Kerosene stoves to minimise firewood usage have been distributed, and strict instructions for bringing back all the trash are given during sensitisation programmes organised every year before the onset of the cordyceps collection season with the communities.

The idea behind conducting a clean up after the collection season was mooted during a learning trip to Bhutan organised for the Lachenpa community by WWF-India in 2017, where similar exercises are organised by the community involved in cordyceps collection.

The current clean up exercise was jointly organised by Lachen Dzumsa



NSS Day observed at Mamring School

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

National Service Scheme Unit of Mamring School, East Sikkim, observed NSS Day on 24 Sept. The NSS was started in Gandhi Ji's birth centenary year 1969. The motto of NSS is "Not me but You".

As per a press release, the programme started with a speech delivered by NSS volunteer, Pratikshya

Pradhan of class XI focusing on the history and background of NSS. It was followed by a short street play by volunteers on the theme "Not me but you" which was directed by Mr Bikash, NSS PO of the school.

Principal of the school, Prahlad Sharma, addressed the school wherein he highlighted the importance of selfless work one can contribute to society. Further he

appreciated the programme and motivated the students for better performance in future.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Sanjay Pathak of Class XI. The programme was hosted by Pranay Ghimiray of Class XII.

After the programme, a cleanliness drive was launched as per the action plan provided by NSS Office, Gangtok.

Input distribution and training by KVK South at Khop

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim, organized a daylong input distribution and training programme at Khop village which has been adopted for doubling of farmers' incomes by 2022.

Wilson Rai, SMS (Soil Science), briefed the gathering about the importance of soil testing and soil health management in organic farming. Dr. Nation Chamling, SMS (Agronomy), detailed organic package and practices of pea.



Dr. Chewang N. Bhutia, SMS (Animal Science), encouraged farmers to adopt improved breeds of pig to fetch more income while IP Shivakoti, Sr. Scientist & Head, urged farmers to adopt technologies disseminated by KVK and work in coordination towards doubling of farmers income by 2022.

Hari Gurung, Zilla Panchayat, urged the farmers to opt for scientific and modern farming. The farmers were

provided with pea seeds, potato and Hampshire piglets.

The programme also included a cleanliness drive in the village as part of Swachhata Hi Sewa.

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PM's speech has exposed misuse of funds under SDF Govt: SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on 24

Sept at Pakyong has revealed that the State received huge amounts of money from the Centre which contradicts the Chief Minister's statements on lack of funds hampering development in Sikkim.

SKM has demanded that the State Government clarify on how funds provided by the Centre were used.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling stated that as per the PM Modi, an



amount of Rs 350 crore was provided for eight projects for river conservation from Gangtok to Singtam and another Rs 150 crore for Rani Khola, Rs 1500 crore for the national highway and another Rs 2.5

Rashtriya Poshan Maah at EMRS Swayem



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

A review of activities carried out by the Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department towards observing the 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' was held today at EMRS Swayem, North Sikkim.

The programme was attended by Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, North Upa Adhyaksha T. Bhutia, Di-

rector, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Gopal Sadhwani, Panchayats, senior officials from HRDD and Welfare Department, faculty members and students of EMRS and the local public.

Mr Sadhwani briefed the meeting about the 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' being observed throughout the month of September by the Ministry of Women and Child and also briefed about the involve-

ment of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in this event.

He highlighted that the Poshan Abhiyan was launched on 08 March, 2018 with the aim to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight.

The Deputy Speaker expressed gratitude towards the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for deputing Mr Sadhwani to Sikkim for the successful review of the Abhiyan.

Awareness on 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' by ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra

GANGTOK, 26 SEPT [PIB]: ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim, Ranipool conducted awareness program on 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' at KVK Marchak. The program was attended by 30 progressive women farmers from seven Self Help Groups viz., Pragati SHG, Azambari SHG, Kanchan SHG, Sunakhari SHG, Lotus SHG, Surya SHG and Kalyan SHG of Yangthang village on the concept of 'Green Sikkim and Clean Sikkim'. As per the mission of the Government of India, this cleanliness program was organized by KVK for better sanitation practices in farming system integrated with the home wastes on 26 Sept.

The programme was undertaken in the leadership of Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR- NOFRI, Tadong, Gangtok and guided by Dr. Raghavendra Singh, Sr. Scientist and Head (I/c), KVK, Ranipool. Addressing to the farmers, Dr. Raghavendra Singh highlighted about the different proj-

ects of the Government of India, which has been making various efforts to improve cleanliness as well as sensitize people for healthy environment. He reiterated the importance of clean agriculture farming under organic system. He also told the farmers to maintain clean and hygienic environment in the animal house as a bio-security measures to control different livestock diseases and production of quality animal products for better human health.

Dr. P.K. Pathak, SMS (Animal Science), Dr. J.K. Singh, SMS (Plant Breeding), Dr. Manoj Kumar, SMS (Agronomy) and Boniface Lepcha, SMS (Horticulture) briefed about the benefits of sanitation and personal hygiene. They also taught simple methods to the farmers to clean and wash hands after agricultural field operations. They interacted with the farmers about the improved production technology of

Rabi crops to enhance the production and productivity in the locality.

At the end, inputs support system through distribution of vegetable pea variety Pusa Pragati, Onion variety Agrifound Dark Red, Palak variety All Green, Coriander variety X-47 along with biopesticides viz., Neem based formulation and Copper Oxy Chloride was done among the farmers to encourage them to adopt agricultural activities for their livelihood improvement. The program was ended with KVK Marchak Farm visit to see the performances of different standing crops with proper package of practices in the field where the farmers showed a keen interest to visualize the success of the agriculture production technologies under organic system.

Bina Tamang, SRF (NICRA-TDC), ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim, Ranipool helped in the successful execution of the program.

crore for repairing, upgradation and carpeting of other roads in Sikkim, Rs 1500 crore for electrification and transmission line improvement, Rs 14000 crore to six hydel power projects in Sikkim, Rs 40 crore for the convenience of pilgrims of Mansarovar Yatra and others.

On the same, Mr Khaling has demanded that the government show the works done using these funds provided by the Centre. He alleged that the condition of Rani Khola and

river at Singtam is not good despite such huge amounts provided by the Centre.

"Now the State Government should answer the people on the use of such funds provided by the Centre," he said.

He further questioned the deplorable state of roads and electricity supply despite the Centre giving funds for the same.

Mr Khaling also demanded that the MoU of six hydel power

turn to pg03

Two-day World Tourism Day celebration gets...

contd from pg01

was the panel discussion held on different aspects of tourism industry and scopes of tourism in Sikkim. The experts, representatives of popular travel agencies such as Make My Trip, Booking.com, Yatra.com and heads of well-known chains of hotels of India, presented their distinct views and ideas regarding promotions and development of tourism in the state of Sikkim through effective activities based on tourism with participations of people in fruitful way. The panellists shared that Sikkim could capitalize on its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and its serene environment for development of tourism in the state.

MP, PD Rai in his brief address stated that he learnt a lot from panel discussion regarding mechanism related to

tourism and he expressed the need of comprehensive work to be done on development of sustainable tourism through involvement of people in progressive way. He expressed that an easy means of livelihood could be created through tourism sector. He also mentioned the necessity of technologies for making tourism a global venture. He added that state's sustainable tourism goal could be achieved when all mechanisms work in tandem to propel the tourism sector of the state.

Adarsh Jha, national head of Yatra.com expressed that promotion of tourism depends upon technological assistance and active involvement of people. He added that availability of well-connected tourism network help to propel the tourism prospects of any state in

the country.

Ugen Chopel from Chumbi Group of hotels mentioned that in spite of having won national and international accolades in tourism sector, Sikkim has failed to take advantage of such accolades to take the sector to a newer level. Stressing the need of promotion of Sikkim with a distinct catch line in tourism sector to ensure uniqueness of the state, Mr. Chopel said that catch line adopted by other states of the country have become effective in terms of promotion and propagation of tourism. He further spoke about the need of popularizing traditional food items, products and distinct cultural heritage of Sikkim for propagation of state's tourism sector.

Other expert panellists opined that provision of proper transport network, avail-

ability of hotels and homestays with proper hospitality management are key factors that contribute towards development of tourism. The panellists also expressed that tourism industry could act as a gateway to employment opportunities for people if the industry is managed in proper way.

Speaking about technical necessity for making tourism industry far reaching and advantageous to people, the panellists expressed that advancement of technologies have contributed a lot for development of tourism industry and acquiring knowledge about technologies have become essential for the people working in the industry. They also spoke about efficiency of technology to cater services related to tourism in easy and prompt way.

The panellists answered different questions raised by individuals involved with tourism in relation to issues pertaining to tourism sector.

At the outset, president of organizing committee, Sushil Tamang, speaking about the objective of the World Tourism Day celebration, informed that effort is on to make the celebratory event informative and constructive for the tourism stakeholders of state. He added that in order to make tourism a prosperous sector, activities based on tourism are most needed.

On the occasion, the organizing committee felicitated Minister, NK Subba and MP Lok Sabha, PD Rai and awarded persons involved with tourism sector and other personalities for their contributions towards the society.

Gangtok on Thursday, 27 Sept

Temp: 28°C/15°C
Forecast: A morning thundershower in parts of area; otherwise, time of clouds and sun.
Sunrise: 05:23 AM
Sunset: 5:26 PM

PM's speech has exposed...

contd from pg01

er projects for which, the PM had said, Rs 14000 crore was provided, be made public.

Accusing the government of corruption, the party reiterated its demand for CBI inquiry into the same.

SKM nari morma chief convener, Kala Rai has demanded stringent and immediate action against an employee of a pharma company who was recently arrested for molesting a minor girl. She also demanded proper treatment and counselling of the victim and further demanded that the company take responsibility for educating the victim girl.

SKM vice-president, Uttam Lepcha questioned the silence of SDF Cheli Morma on this case and alleged that the ruling party is silent as the victim is from a poor family.

Governor meets visiting young farmers from Manipur

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:

Governor Ganga Prasad today met a group of 25 comprising of farmers from Manipur and officials of 4 Assam Rifles at the New Raj Bhavan here.

The farmers group has been facilitated on a 10-day educational tour on organic farming in Sikkim by 4 Assam Rifles as part of its Civic Action plan in Manipur.

The group had arrived here on 24 Sept. A brief insight into the tour was given by Captain Nadeem Khan, who is leading the group, and two farm-



ers, including a girl, also shared their experience of the tour in Sikkim so far.

The Governor ex-

pressed happiness on meeting the young farmers from the Northeast and urged the group to

make the most of the opportunity they have received to learn and promote organic farming in

their own state.

Stating that organic farming was the only sustainable way of farming, considering the environmental and climate change threats, than the conventional way of farming, he underlined that the Northeast could become a hub of organic farming if it pooled knowledge and resources and came up with effective collaborations in the right direction.

The Governor also wished the group a very memorable stay in Sikkim. Col. Ankur Sharma, Black Cat Division, was also present on the occasion.

SMIT gears up to host Concourse-2018

SUMMIT REPORT

Rangpo, 26 Sept: With the aim to provide a platform to students of senior secondary level to exhibit their innovation and knowledge, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology here at Majhitar is gearing up to organize Concourse-2018 on 26 and 27 October.

Started in the year 2016, this event has seen participation from schools from in and around the state and is expected to grow even grander this time around.

Comprising of two categories - Science Project Competition and Quiz - winners of each competition will receive an HP Notebook while the

second and third place holders will receive Kindle devices. Schools from all over the country have been invited to participate in the event which is being organized as part of World Science Day which falls on 10 November.

The Science Project Competition, Aviskrit, aims at bringing out ideas to solve present-day problems of energy crisis, pollution, sanitation and hygiene. The interschool Quiz, Curiosity, will be a general quiz.

Only students of science stream shall be allowed in exhibition, but quiz is open for all streams, informs program coordinator, Prof. (Dr.) NK Bhattacharya.



Governor's Medals conferred on 36 NCC cadets

GANGTOK 26TH SEPTEMBER (IPR):

Governor Ganga Prasad today conferred medals to 36 NCC cadets from the State for their participation in various national and state level events.

The function, held at the Ashirvaad Hall, Raj Bhavan, was also attended by HRDD Minister RB Subba, Commandant 3 Sikkim NCC Battalion Brig Sanjiv Saini and senior State Government officials.

"I am delighted to be here to present NCC medals to these young students," the Governor remarked, adding, "I am so happy to know that soon after becoming the 22nd State of the Indian Territory; NCC was formed in Sikkim in 1976. I came to know that NCC unit was set up in all the four districts of Sikkim and in 2011, the first NCC Battalion was formed in the state. I was informed that the strength of NCC in Sikkim has crossed more than nine thousand and it is one of the highest in our country."

Congratulating the awardees, the Governor also pointed out that NCC provides a wide range of opportunities and unique experiences to develop leadership and life-skills and that this will be an exciting journey of learning and growth for all those who have joined NCC.

He also thanked Col. Mangat Saini and other officers who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the NCC fraternity.

The Governor said that he was elated that such an event was being held for the second time in Sikkim and urged the young cadets to be even more re-

sponsible and serve the state/ country with zeal, dedication and pride.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Additional Chief Secretary GP Upadhyaya said that the event was a historic moment for Sikkim as it was being organized for the second time.

Mr Upadhyaya highlighted that the Governor's Medals Presentation Ceremony began in Sikkim last year and used to earlier be held in the Kolkata Raj Bhawan. This move to Sikkim has been possible in due to the guidance and leadership of the HRDD Minister, he said.

36 cadets from different institutions across the state are being recognized for their professional excellence and devotion to duty since joining the National Cadet Corps, he added.

There are currently about 7,000 NCC cadets in Sikkim spread across all the Senior Secondary Schools and 116 Secondary Schools.

Three categories of Medals were awarded today - 18 Gold Medals, 10 Silver Medals and 8 Bronze Medals. Each medal is accompanied with a cash component and a certificate.

Gold Medals were awarded to cadets participating at National Level who represented the Directorate team in Republic Day camp and Thal Sainik Camp in New Delhi.

Silver Medals were awarded to the cadets who presented ceremonial salute to the Governor and Chief Minister or commanded contingents in State level Republic Day and Independence Day parades.

Kalimpong Krishak Kalyan Sangathan questions GTA tenure extension

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 26 SEPT:

Kalimpong Krishak Kalyan Sangathan, an organization working on social issues here has sent a representation to the Governor of West Bengal, seeking an appointment to express their grievance regarding the tenure of Board of Administration, GTA which is being extended time and again.

The Gorkhaland Territorial Act of 2011, however, says that the tenure cannot exceed the stipulated period of six months, says Bishnu

Chettri [general secretary of KKKS].

"This goes against the very essence and ethos of the Act," he states further adding that this topic should be discussed.

It was later learnt, that once the appointment is confirmed with the Governor of West Bengal, a team of nine representatives from KKKS will meet the Governor.

"We will try to seek a clarification regarding the contradictions of the GTA Act. If nothing happens, we will also knock the doors of the court," said Mr Chettri.



Vote for The Mountain Souls feat. Gaurdeep!

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:

The Mountain Souls feat. Gaurdeep has made it to the finals of the reality TV show Dil Hai Hindustani season 2 on Star Plus. The music band consists of Tenzing Dhonyoe from Kalimpong, Lakpa Sherpa from Darjeeling and Hitesh Pradhan from Siliguri along with Gaurav Meena and Pradeep Sati, two

beatboxers from Jaipur and Delhi respectively.

The winners will be declared on 30 Sept and voting lines are open till 28 Sept. Coming forward to support the band, a fan club has been formed in the Hills and they are campaigning for the band in Gangtok as well. The reality show has music director Pitram, singer Sunidhi Chauhan, and rapper Badshah as judges.

Regional workshop to strengthen workplace...

contd from pg01

dustry to give utmost priority to health and well-being of the employees.

He expressed hope that the workshop will be result-oriented and deliberate on every aspect of HIV intervention in the world of work, both in public and private sectors.

He urged all the participants to actively participate in the workshop so that the learnings can be translated into action on ground.

In conclusion, the Minister directed senior officers of the Health Department to formulate State-specific rules in line with the HIV/ AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act 2017 notified by NACO.

Speaking on the occasion, Zug Castillo Brigitte, Senior Technical Specialist, ILO, Geneva, stressed that workplaces have a vital role to play in mitigation of HIV and AIDS.

It is the place where we spend a better part of the day and adequate intervention at the workplace is crucial to tackle the challenge, she highlighted.

She also spoke on the importance of working in close coordination with the Government, agencies like the UN and ILO, NGOs and community-based organizations, and partners.

She added that the workshop would deliberate on the need for adequate awareness at the workplace and industries, and ways to address issues faced by HIV/AIDS infected people in the workforce.

Deputy Director General, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Dr. Naresh Goel, in turn said that elimination of HIV/AIDS by 2030 features in the Sustainable Development Goals and added that it can be achieved if all stakeholders and partner agencies used their resources and contributed passionately.

Sharing recent data released by United Nations for poverty alleviation, Dr. Goel lauded Sikkim for achieving maximum reduction in poverty (over 80%) as compared to other States.

He added that factors such as low poverty rate, less disturbances and high per capita income (better prosperity) have kept the prevalence of HIV and AIDS under control in the State of Sikkim.

"All these factors make us believe that Sikkim will be the first State to eliminate HIV and AIDS way before 2030," he stated.

He further said that the country-wide data released recently by NACO have shown encouraging decrease in new infection and prevalence of HIV

and AIDS.

He said that NACO has also adopted the 'fast track targets' to be achieved by 2020. It advocates for raising the level of awareness among the public and the stakeholders, encourage people to go for testing, seek treatment if required, and adherence to the treatment.

Dr. Goel further said that the NACO model is evidence based, outcome focused, community driven and people centric, and involvement of partners is its mainstay. He added that a lot of public health initiatives use the NACO model.

He also shared two landmark developments at the policy level at NACO in the past two years. One is "Treatment for All" (irrespective of CD4 counts) and the other is the HIV/AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act 2017 centred mostly around stigma and discrimination.

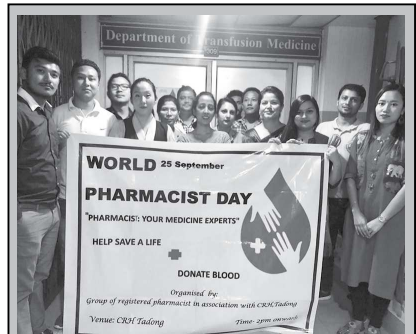
He urged the State AIDS Control Societies to create an environment in their respective States to formulate state-specific rules in line with the Act.

Earlier, Director, Health Services, Project Director, SSACS, Dr. Uttam Pradhan, in his welcome address, said that the State is taking all measures to mitigate the challenge of HIV and AIDS at the workplace. He expressed hope that this workshop would help sensitize the industries and other stakeholders to prioritize activities in their respective workplaces.

The inaugural session had the presence and participation of Principal Director Health Dr. Pempa Tshering Bhutia, Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Suraj Chettri, senior officers of the Tourism and Labour Departments, Government of Sikkim, senior officers from NACO and ILO, officers of State AIDS Control Society of all North Eastern States, members of NGOs and representatives from various Industries.

The workshop will deliberate topics like data analysis of positivity trends, global experiences, mainstreaming HIV in different Departments, sharing of good practices in Industries, HIV/AIDS Act 2017, NACO strategy on world of work response, experience by SACS on partnering with industries, access to services, and state specific action points to strengthen world of work response.

The participants are also scheduled to visit National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd Teesta-V Power Station, Baluatar in East Sikkim on the concluding day of the workshop to understand the perspective and level of commitment and support of the management.



BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT SINGTAM

SINGTAM, 26 SEPT: A group of registered pharmacists of Sikkim, in association with the Central Referral Hospital, organised a blood donation camp to commemorate World Pharmacist Day here on 25 September. A total 16 people donated blood which was then handed over to the blood bank at CRH. [Yogen Thatal]

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SummitTIMES

Jai Kisan?

More than Organic Mission required to assist farmers

When seventy per cent of the population, that majority living in rural Sikkim which registers agriculture as their profession, is extended less than 3% of the loans advanced by banks in Sikkim, one knows that an inexcusable denial is afoot. As per stipulations governing banking practices in the country, loans to the agriculture sector should constitute at least 18% of the total advances released by banks. In Sikkim, this figure stood at a dismal 2.90% as of 31 March 2016 as per data featured in the 39th State Level Banker's Committee. It would have been all well if the under-performance by banks was because farmers in Sikkim were so well off that they did not need loans to improve the productivity of their farms. But that is obviously not the case. Public sector banks achieved only 37.90% of the target they set up for themselves for agriculture sector loans. But wait, the figure gets even more dismal when one realizes that although 37.9% of the targeted loans were disbursed, these covered only 13.1% of total beneficiaries they had aimed to cover. One cannot understand this hesitation when one also notices that recovery for agricultural loans was at a handsome 63.5% for Sikkim against the dismal 14.9% for loans to industry. If agriculture receives the right boost in the form of adequate loan support, rural Sikkim will prosper. That much any one can figure out. But what confounds is why that is not happening.

Of course, the situation of fewer new generation hands taking up the proverbial plough is not unique to Sikkim. Census 2011 informs us that 42% of the nation's farmers would, if given the choice, quit agriculture. It is into this frame that Sikkim's situation needs to be viewed. There might not be desperate poverty among the farmers in Sikkim, but the sector has obviously plateaued out and is now on the decline which is why fewer families have the new generation tilling the fields. This is not to suggest that the children of farmers should remain farmers, but is an argument to highlight that dignity needs to be brought back to the sector and more youngsters allowed the chance to leverage their wider exposure, keener scientific temperament and higher ambitions to revolutionise agriculture in Sikkim.

The State Government, to its credit, has undertaken the right policy decision by pursuing the Organic Sikkim mission and identifying horticulture and floriculture as thrust areas for the rural economy. Organic Sikkim, even as it strives to resuscitate agriculture to its original, un-poisoned by pesticides roots in Sikkim, also capitalizes on a growing respect for organic products in the world market. But it will take more than awareness workshops by "service providers" to deliver the real results. Such a turnaround can begin if capital formation in agriculture and allied sectors is accelerated. Sikkim has the benefit of being in a situation where agriculture loans are required not for sustenance but to propel the sector to a new level of prosperity. The investment is required because as per the Agriculture Census of 2010-11, 77% of the farmers in Sikkim fall in the small and marginal category, working on average farm sizes of 0.64 hectares. The general consensus on the minimum size of farmland to allow a farmer the space to "do well" is at least one hectare. Hence, for farmers to prosper, or even remain relevant, they will need to invest in their small land-holdings and improve productivity through better irrigation, improved seeds, wider diversification and adding sources of livelihood like poultry and animal husbandry. This should ideally come through agriculture loans.

To draw a positive from even the current status of poor banking support for agriculture, this situation allows Sikkim the benefit of learning from the horrors of farmer indebtedness which has torn through wide swathes of farmlands across the country. If the policy-makers decide that banking support for agriculture should be expanded, they should first ensure that fiscal prudence and financial planning is instilled in rural Sikkim. Urban Sikkim already has a very poor track-record of loan repayments, but that spectrum has the cushion of salaries and commerce to tide them over, rural Sikkim is not as privileged, but its resilience is a strong asset to keep the loans safe and serviced if the people are first informed about banking and loan repayment processes.

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

South Sudanese football: colonial legacy sheds light on present day fortunes

CHRISTOPHER TOUNSEL
theconversation.com

On July 9, 2011, South Sudan seceded from Sudan to become the world's newest nation. That weekend, its new national football team played a match in the capital Juba. Within months, the Confederation of African Football granted the squad provisional membership, and in July 2013 President Salva Kiir named the team Bright Star. Emphasising the importance of unity as a necessary element for national development, Kiir opined that sports should be encouraged to promote that goal.

While the team may be in its adolescence, Sudanese football is a vestige of the country's colonial past stretching between 1899 and 1956 in what was known as the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium. My recently published journal article explores this history, and examines how the game was linked with various ethnic, religious and political projects.

South Sudan has been through a tumultuous time since 2011 independence. Understanding the game's early influences can help shed light on the current context. These insights are as enlightening as they are discouraging.

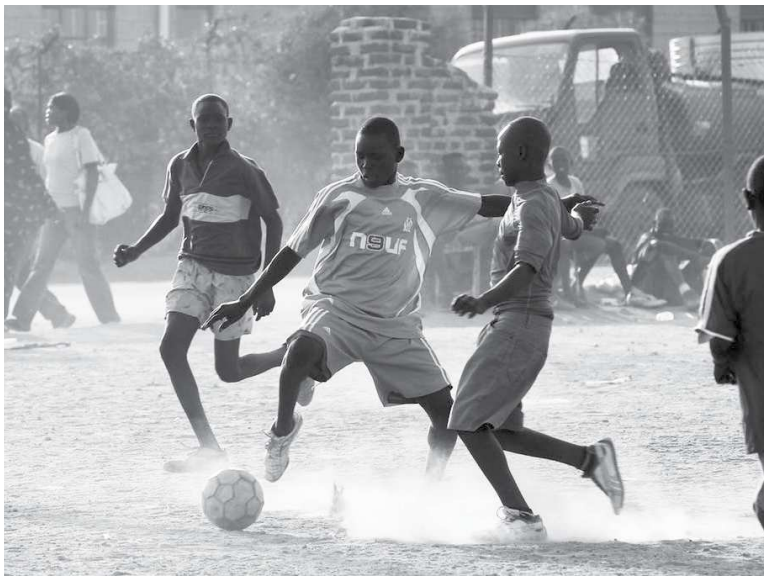
FOOTBALL IN COLONIAL SUDAN

In the early 20th century, football in what is today Sudan was played at Khartoum's elite Gordon Memorial College. Gordon played annual matches against the Khartoum Military School. Sudan's oldest football stadium was built in Atbara in 1927, and the Sudan Football Association was established in the 1930s. The number of clubs quickly rose from 36 in the 1936-1937 season to 103 in 1945-1946.

In Southern Sudan, the growth of football was linked with Christian missionaries who entered the South in the early 1900s following the destruction of the Mahdist regime. Football was played at the Church Missionary Society's first Southern mission site at Malek and at Yei, where African and non-African participants competed.

The Nugent missionary school was the king of Southern football during the colonial years. An elite and multi-ethnic intermediate school, the pitch became a site where inter-ethnic competition was encouraged.

Sudan, still jointly ruled at this point by Britain and Egypt, joined FIFA in 1948. This was years ahead of its independence – which came in 1956 – and membership in the United Nations and Arab League. Six years later it discussed a plan with Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Africa for an African



confederation during the FIFA Congress in Bern.

Sudan's early independence years were marred by civil war between Southern rebels and the Northern-based government. Political power had been centred in Khartoum during the colonial era. During the early independence years the government sought to fashion the country as an Arab and Islamic state. Southerners rebelled and a state of war persisted until 1972.

Interestingly enough, the war years corresponded with the golden age of Sudanese football. Sudan hosted the first African Nations Cup, were runners-up in 1959 and 1963, and won it all against Ghana in 1970.

POST-INDEPENDENCE SUDAN AND FOOTBALL'S POSSIBLE MEANING

Conflict resumed in 1983 following President Jafaar Nimeiri's decision to institute Sharia throughout the country. While the John Garang-led Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army/Movement led the war against Khartoum, Southerners were also embroiled in internal ethnic conflict. The most infamous of these conflicts occurred between the largest ethnic groups, the Dinka and the Nuer.

The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended formal hostilities and a referendum ushered in independence for the South. But ethnic factionalism persisted and erupted into a new civil conflict in December 2013. The main combatants were groups loyal to Riek Machar (a Nuer) and President Kiir (a Dinka). After a host of failed cessation agreements, both men recently agreed to a new peace agreement that reinstates Machar as vice president.

To what extent, then, has football shaped the present context? How might Sudan's footballing past inform South Sudan's present and future?

SPORT AS A UNIFIER

One easy answer is that the sport will be a much-needed unifier. At the multi-ethnic Nugent School, the pitch was a space in which people from varying ethnicities could compete in the same space, according to the same rules, with the same objectives in mind.

The national team's composition and the encouragement of a national league with players, fans, and officials of diverse ethnicities could convey the important political message that unity is possible in one of Africa's most fragmented states.

But Sudanese football history also suggests that expectations should be tempered. Nugent School football wasn't always peaceful. One contentious match between Azande

and Dinka squads saw a British referee line both teams up and inflict corporal punishment to encourage them to behave. In addition, although players of multiple ethnicities competed with one another, the teams were still divided along ethnic lines.

Despite this, it's useful to consider that the Sudanese national team during its early post-colonial years enjoyed great success despite the regional maelstrom then wracking the country. This shows that winning on the pitch did not reflect unity or success off the pitch.

AFRICAN FOOTBALL'S POLITICAL CAPITAL

In today's Southern Sudanese political climate, success in the next African Cup of Nations or — if one can dare to dream — qualifying for the 2022 Qatar World Cup may wield more symbolic importance than anything else. If the last 30 years are any indication, it will not make Machar and Kiir any more likely to put aside their personal and political differences; differences that have so often resulted in bloodshed.

And yet, there are obvious examples of sport's capacity to rally African nations together (if at least temporarily). The 'Invictus' rugby team during Mandela's presidency, the stoppage in Ivory Coast's civil war during its team's World Cup run, and the recent election of Liberian football legend George Weah as president are some examples that speak to African football's political capital.

Whether the Bright Star comes to represent a shining light for the young, war-torn nation remains to be seen.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of History and African Studies, Pennsylvania State University]

The risks of a new Cold War between the US and China are real: here's why

universes during the Cold War.

This meant the dynamic of competition was driven by power politics and ideology alone – the tempering effect of shared economic interests simply didn't exist. Today, so the argument goes, their economic interdependence is a powerful brake on the worst instincts of the two countries.

While China and the US are in competition, the two countries have also established an extensive range of bilateral mechanisms to manage their complex relationship. There are around 1000 meetings between the countries every year, ranging from summit level down to mid ranking officials, covering issues from trade and investment to coastguard and fisheries.

The two countries know they have to work hard to ensure the competitive dynamic does not spiral out of control. And of course, both sides' nuclear weapons act as a great disciplining force, ensuring even the most heated of relationships can remain short of outright conflict. Asia also has a wide array of institutional mechanisms such as ASEAN and the East Asia Summit that regularly discuss their common concerns and build a sense of regional trust.

Yet, in spite of their many meetings, in which there is much discussion but little agreement, there are good reasons to think a Cold War 2.0

might be a good deal closer than we realise. The US and China are plainly entering into a period of significant geopolitical rivalry. Each has ambitions that are mutually incompatible. Beijing wants a south-east Asian region in which it is not beholden to US primacy, while Washington wants to sustain its regional dominance.

The two also find it extremely difficult to see the world from the other's perspective. Washington does not seem able to grasp that even though Beijing benefited from US primacy in the region, it will not forever accept a price-taker's position in the regional order.

For its part, Beijing simply does not believe Washington's claim that it wants China to achieve its potential, and that this can occur without meaningful changes to the current international order. When that is added to the nationalism that is a powerful political force in both countries, the prospects of a bleak geopolitical future seem very real.

The trade war escalation is one of the most worrying developments. Not only does it signal a more turbulent and less dynamic period in the global economy, it represents the victory of nationalist politics over shared economic interests. More importantly, it may presage a return to a less integrated global economy.

Trump evidently wants to rip up

global supply chains and turn back the clock to the days of mercantilist approaches to economic development. Most worryingly, due to China's behaviour in the past — stealing IP, predatory approaches to foreign investment and refusing access to its vast markets — Trump's tariffs have a surprising level of support in business circles in the US.

The risk is not only one of sustained tension between the world's biggest economies, but significant division between the interests of the two most important countries. If the golden straitjacket of economic interdependence is gone, the prospects of geopolitics and nationalism winning the day are significantly enhanced. China also sees in the tariffs a confirmation of its long-held suspicion that the US is intent on keeping the country from fulfilling its potential.

Worryingly, there is widespread complacency in the region. We used to think great power politics had been banished by globalisation. We were wrong. We thought Trump would come to his economic sense when elected. Wrong again. And now the escalation of trade conflict is undermining the most important link between the US and China – their shared economic interests.

We must not fool ourselves again. High intensity geopolitical competition is increasingly likely. Unless the US and China can step down from the escalatory cycle they are on, we are sliding into another period in which great power rivalry, militarised competition and dangerous nationalism once again dominate the region.

[the writer is Head of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of International Relations at La Trobe University, La Trobe University]

Mizoram remains cut off due to highway blockade

AIZAWL, SEP 26 (PTI): Mizoram remained cut off by road from the rest of the country Wednesday with the opposition Mizo National Front(MNF) staging a 12-hour blockade on the vital NH-54 in Kolasib district, police said.

The Kolasib district unit of the MNF organised the road block in protest against the bad road condition of the national highway, the life-line of the state.

Vehicles were not plying on NH 54, linking the landlocked state with the rest of the country, after the blockade began at 5am.

No untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the district, the police said.

Assam govt buys 60K Deendayal biographies for Rs 1.6cr

GUWAHATI, SEP 26 (PTI): The Assam government on Wednesday said it has purchased 60,000 books of the 15-volume biography of BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya worth Rs 1.6 crore.

In a written reply to a query by the Leader of the Opposition, Debabrata Saikia, Cultural Affairs (Library and Archeology) Minister Keshab Mahanta said the government has purchased the books for different libraries, educational and other institutes.

"The government has supplied the biography of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, containing 60,000 books of 15 volumes with 4,000 copies each," the minister said.

The Directorate of Libraries spent Rs 1.6 crore for the purchase on the advice of Cultural Affairs Department, he added.

The books were purchased from New Delhi-based publisher Prabhat Prakashan.

"The government has not taken any proposal to purchase biographies of other persons like the case of Deendayal Upadhyaya," he said.

Centre approves Rs 8,606 crore for border infrastructure and management

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI): The Centre has approved Rs 8,606 crore for 60 projects being implemented under the umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) to meet special development needs of people living in those areas, officials said Wednesday.

The projects are being implemented in 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan,

Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The umbrella scheme Border Infrastructure and Management containing 60 projects and with an outlay of Rs 8,606 crore has been approved, a home ministry official said.

The projects are implemented in 111 border districts to meet special development needs of border population with focus on people living within 50 kms of the international border.

The schemes include construction of roads, schools, primary health centres, promotion of rural tourism, border tourism, promotion of sports activities, cleanliness mission, protection of heritage sites, supply of drinking water, community centres, connectivity, drainage, to enable sustainable living in border areas, another official said.

Construction of helipads in re-

mote and inaccessible hilly areas which do not have road connectivity, skill development training to farmers for the use of modern and scientific technique in farming, organic farming are some of the other areas where the projects are being implemented.

India shares borders with Pakistan (3,323 km), China (3,488 km), Nepal (1,751 km), Bhutan (699 km), Myanmar (1,643 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km).

Calcutta HC directs Bengal govt to ensure normalcy during BJP bandh

KOLKATA, SEP 26 (PTI): The Calcutta High Court Wednesday directed the West Bengal government to ensure that normal life is not hit in the state during the 12-hour bandh called by the BJP to protest death of two students in a clash in North Dinajpur district.

While observing that the Constitution recognises the right to peaceful protest, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Debasish Kar Gupta and Justice Sampa Sarkar directed that action must be taken against people indulging in violence.

The high court directed the state DGP, IG and district magistrates to ensure that general public are not intimidated by the bandh organisers, and that there is no blockade of rail and road traffic.

The BJP called the 12-hour bandh from 6 am



on Wednesday to protest the killing of the two students at a school in North Dinajpur district's Islampur in a clash with the police during a demonstration over appointment of teachers.

Passing an order on a PIL against the shutdown, the court directed that essential services like hospitals, telecommunications, milk and other necessary supplies

are maintained, and schools and colleges are allowed to function.

It also directed the central government to ensure that railways and metro railway services are unaffected.

The court asked the West Bengal government to publicise through electronic media helpline numbers for the general public during the bandh period.

illegal and the Supreme Court having upheld the same, the BJP has called the shutdown.

Advocate Ashish Sanyal for the BJP said that the party has called upon people to participate in the bandh out of their own volition, and has no plan to prevent anyone from participating in their vocation.

He told the court that if anyone, taking advantage of the situation, indulges in disruptive activities, the administration must take action.

Appearing for the state government, Advocate General Kishore Dutta submitted that the administration has taken all steps to ensure normal public life, and maintain law and order, and assured that appropriate steps would be taken in case of any disruption.

Additional Solicitor General Kaushik Chanda, representing the Centre, said that the Railways, Metro Railway and central government offices in the state are functioning normally.

Ali, who is also a Trinamool Congress MP, submitted that despite the Kerala High Court holding that bandhs are

Tripura fish supply hit hard as Bangladesh-imports stalled

AGARTALA, SEP 26 (PTI): The fish-loving citizens of Tripura are facing a harrowing time with Bangladeshi exporters stopping the supply of fish to the state early this month over alleged extortion demand by anti-socials.

With only a fortnight to go before the start of the Durga puja festival, the snapping of supply has led to the increase in the prices of fishes like 'rohu', 'katla', and 'pabda' in the state, which is dependent on arrival from Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bangladesh.

The supply was stopped after suspected goons allegedly stopped some exporters from entering the state after they refused to pay 'tola' (extortion money) at the Agartala-Akhaura integrated-checkpoint on September 4. A sizeable amount of fish enters the markets through the checkpoint, a customs official on the condition of anonymity on Wednesday.

Around 10,000 kg of fish, therefore, got spoiled, resulting in the loss of around 37,000 USD (approximately Rs 26,87,495 at current rates), he added.

When the Indian traders contacted their counterparts in Bangladesh, they clearly stated that if a responsible government official from India give a written assurance against any illegal interference in the trade in future, only then would they resume fish exports, the official said.

"There was a meeting of the exporters from Bangladesh in their country on September 17, during which they

raised a question about how would they be compensated for their loss on September 4," an executive of the Agartala Exporter and Importer Entrepreneur Sangha said.

The joint director of the state fisheries department, Abani Debbarma, said roughly 70 per cent of the total consumption of fish was produced in the state and the rest comes from Bangladesh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

The total consumption of fish per year in Tripura is 92,000 million tonnes, of which 72,276 million tonnes are produced in the state and the rest comes from outside, including Bangladesh. The per-capita fish consumption is around 22 kg in the state.

Speaking on the issue, ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's state vice-president, Pratima Bhowmik, said she would take the initiative to solve the problem. "I will hold a meeting with the exporters and importers of the state to discuss how the problem can be solved. I am hopeful a solution will come out," she told PTI.

A fish trader, Adhir Das, who sells fish at the Battala Market, the capital's main market, said, "The price of fish is soaring every day, because production in the state is not sufficient for consumption. We are facing livelihood problem because there are hardly any customers. We are facing the problem for the last one month."

When contacted, Selim Shah, economics professor at Tripura University, said, "Tripura is not self-reliant in fish production."

Odisha distributes 150 laptops to visually impaired students

BHUBANESWAR, SEP 26 (PTI): Odisha minister Prafulla Samal Wednesday distributed 150 laptops among students with blindness who were pursuing higher education.

Samal, the minister for Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), said the newly created SSEPD Department is trying its best to bring about comprehensive development of people with disabilities.

The laptops are equipped with JAWS (Job Access With Speech) software, which is a computer screen reader programme for Microsoft Windows.

The software allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a refreshable Braille display.

Samal said the laptops will aid the students immensely in their studies.

From this year onwards, free lap-

tops would be provided to 250 such beneficiaries and the fund size has been enhanced from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 2 crore a year, he said.

Niten Chandra, secretary, SSEPD, appealed the corporates to spend at least 5 per cent fund of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the empowerment of people with disabilities.

He added that Odisha is now among six states in the country which has a separate department and independent officer for people with disabilities at block and district level.

Susanta Mohapatra, Director, SSEPD, said that in joint collaboration with the National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled (NCSCDA), Bhubaneswar, pre-recruitment coaching for such persons will be given for competitive examinations.



National workshop on mathematical and statistical software

SUMMIT REPORT GANTOK, 26 SEPT:

A week long workshop on mathematical and statistical softwares is being held at Sikkim Government College, Tadong. The workshop has been organized by the Department of Mathematics in a collaborative effort with SRM University Sikkim and technical support from Department of Computer Science, SGC Tadong, informs a press release.

This workshop, sponsored by Rashtriya Uchhatar Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA), began on 22 Sept and will end on 28 Sept. First five days would be held at SGC Tadong and last two days at SRM University Sikkim. As per the release, the workshop aims to introduce math-

ematical and statistical softwares to the students, research scholars and faculty members of various colleges and Universities of Sikkim. The workshop includes topics like SPSS, MATLAB, R, LaTeX etc.

Resource Persons from ISI Kolkata, SMIT and Sikkim University are sharing their expertise with the participants.

The week long workshop aims to introduce the basics of these softwares and also to highlight its multitudinous usage in research on various subjects. It includes both theoretical and practical sessions.

First day of the workshop was reserved for registration of participants and software installation for the partic-

ipants. It was conducted by the faculty members of Department of Mathematics, SGC, Tadong.

The workshop was formally inaugurated on 24 Sept in the presence of Vice Chancellor, Sikkim State University Prof. (Dr.) G. K Niroula Chhetry as the chief guest.

Also present were DK Pradhan [Director Higher Education, HRDD] along with Dr. Bina Pradhan [Principal, SGC, Tadong] and Dr. D. Purohit [HOD Mathematics] as guests of honour. Students, faculties and research scholars from SGC Tadong, SGC Namchi, SGSC Chakung, SGC Burtuk, SMU, Sikkim University, SRMUS and other institutes are participating in the workshop.

SC refuses to refer to 7-judge bench its 2006 verdict on SC/ST job promotion

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI): The Supreme Court Wednesday said its 2006 verdict putting the benefits of quota in job promotions for SC/ST employees need not be referred to a seven-judge bench.

The apex court also turned down the Centre's plea that overall population of SC/ST be considered for granting quota for them.

The unanimous judgement was pronounced by a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra.

The bench, also comprising Justices Kurian Joseph, R F Nariman, S K Kaul and Indu Malhotra, said states need not collect quantifiable data on backwardness of SC/ST for giving quota in job promotion to SC/ST employees.

The bench did not comment on two other conditions given in the 2006 verdict which dealt with adequacy of representation of SC/ST in promotion and not to disturb administrative efficiency.

The court's verdict came on pe-

titions seeking that a seven-judge bench reconsiders the court's 2006 judgement which had put conditions for granting quota benefits in job promotions for SC/ST employees.

The bench had reserved its verdict on August 30 after hearing various stakeholders, including the Centre, on the matter.

A five-judge constitution bench, in its 2006 verdict in the M Nagraj case, had said the states are bound to provide quantifiable data on the backwardness of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), the facts about their inadequate representation in government jobs and the overall administrative efficiency, before providing quota in promotions to members of these communities.

The Centre and various state governments have also sought reconsideration of this verdict on various grounds, including that the members of the SC and ST communities are presumed to be backward and considering their stigma of caste, they should be given reservation even in

job promotions.

The Centre has alleged that the verdict in the M Nagraj case had put unnecessary conditions in granting quota benefits to the SC and ST employees and sought its reconsideration by a larger bench.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, had strongly argued in favour of granting quota to SC and ST employees, saying there was a presumption of backwardness in their favour.

He had said the SC and ST communities have been facing caste-based discrimination for long and the stigma of caste is attached to them despite the fact that some of them have come up.

During one of the hearings, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who represents those opposing quota in promotions, had told the bench that earlier there was presumption of backwardness with regard to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities.

Corrigendum: the R.O. No. issued by IPR Dept, Govt. of Sikkim against Election Department advertisement under caption "Advertisement for Empowerment of National level Master Trainers" published in SummitTimes vol 3 no 248 dt. 20.9.18 & vol 3 no. 249 dt. 21.9.18 should have been written as R.O. No. 316/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 19.9.2018 instead of R.O. 316/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 19.9.2018. Error is regretted. - Editor.

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Anand beats Ragger as Indian men crush Austria 3.5-0.5

BATUMI (GEORGIA), SEP 26 (PTI): World rapid champion Viswanathan Anand put it past Markus Ragger in a brilliant positional game as the Indian men's team cruised to a 3.5-0.5 victory over Austria in the second round of the 43rd Chess Olympiad here.

Back to the Olympiad after a gap of 12 years, Anand was precise in calculation and brilliant in judgement giving away nothing to Ragger who was all at sea defending a difficult position out of the opening on Tuesday evening.

P Harikrishna, on the second board, benefitted from a late blunder by Valentin Dragnev after Vidit Gujrathi ensured an Indian lead with a fluent victory over Andreas Diermair. On the fourth board, B Adhiban was held to a draw by Peter Schreiner.

With their second 3.5-0.5 victory, the Indian men remain in joint lead on four points with 40 other teams and will next take on Canada.

The Indian women scored a 4-0 victory defeating Venezuela on all four boards. On the top board, Grandmaster D Harika was stretched but not hassled by Sarai



Carolina Schez Castillo.

On the second, Tania Sachdev played a clean game to outwit Amelia Hernandez Bonilla. Eesha Karavade was in her elements against Tairu Manuela Rovira Con-

terras and national champion Padmini Rout defeated Corals Patino Garcia to complete the whitewash.

With 33 teams leading in this section, the Indian women will be next facing Serbia that might pose

a better challenge.

The second day in the biggest chess event was again not devoid of upsets and top seeded Russia became the first major casualty in the women's section losing to Uzbeki-

stan by a narrow 1.5-2.5 margin.

The Uzbek women did well to hold the first three boards and then pulled the plug on the last board as higher rated Russian Natalija Pogonina was outdone by Nodira Nadirjanova.

Anand played the Italian opening that has been finding a lot of favour in top level chess these days. Banking upon an idea played by Grandmaster S P Sethuraman in December last year, Anand found the going easy in a strategic battle when Ragger went wrong in his planning.

With his minor pieces better than his opponent's, Anand made a foray on the queenside and despite swapping of pieces at regular intervals the advantage for him remained intact. Ragger resigned on the 47th move when he faced loss of a pawn. "He probably could have resisted better," Anand said after the game citing some important moments where black might have equalized with accurate moves.

Vidit Gujrathi played the Ruy Lopez and Diermair simply fell prey to a simple tactic resulting in serious material deficit while

Harikrishna kept on pushing for more in an equal endgame and was duly rewarded.

Among the Indian women, Harika replaced Humpy on the top board and outplayed her opponent in her trademark style.

Eesha Karavade had to do little as her opponent made many positional errors right from the beginning while Padmini Rout also faced little resistance.

After a rather topsy-turvy opening game, Tania Sachdev also found her form and squeezed out a fine victory thanks to some wily manoeuvres.

Indian results: Open: India (4) beat Austria (2) 3.5-0.5 (Viswanathan Anand beat Markus Ragger; Valentin Dragnev lost to P. Hari Krishna; Vidit Gujarati beat Andreas Diermair; Peter Schreiner drew with B. Adhiban).

Women: India (4) beat Venezuela (2) 4-0 (D. Harika beat Sarai Carolina Schez Castillo; Amelia Hernandez Bonilla lost to Tania Sachdev; Eesha Karavade beat Tairu Manuela Rovira Contreras; Corals Patino Garcia lost to Padmini Rout).



Bayern leak late goal to lose 100 percent record

BERLIN, SEP 26 (AFP): Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich dropped points for the first time this season as Felix Goetze scored a late equaliser for Augsburg at his old club in Tuesday's 1-1 draw.

Bayern were cruising to a home win, which would have left them four points clear, before Goetze nodded home the equaliser four minutes from time. Despite the draw, Bayern stay two points clear of second-placed Werder Bremen.

With star striker Robert Lewandowski on the bench, evergreen Arjen Robben gave Bayern the lead three minutes after the break at the Allianz Arena.

When Bayern winger Serge Gnabry chested down the ball, Robben, 34, snapped up his pass and rounded the defence to smash home a goal off his left.

Franck Ribery, 35, who replaced Gnabry,

had the ball in the Augsburg net with 10 minutes to go, but Thomas Mueller was ruled offside.

With time almost up, second-half sub Felix Goetze, younger brother of fallen Germany star Mario, popped up with a shock equaliser having only left Bayern in July after four years in Munich.

When Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer dropped a corner, Dutch defender Jeffrey Gouweleeuw smashed the ball across the goal and Goetze nudged it home to stun the hosts.

Elsewhere, Schalke, last season's runners up, remain bottom of the league after suffering their fifth straight defeat, crashing 1-0 at Freiburg.

Schalke had an early goal disallowed for offside and Freiburg striker Florian Niederlechner broke Royal Blues hearts with a goal just after the break.

Hoffenheim, who host Pep Guardiola's

Manchester City next Tuesday in the Champions League, sealed a 3-1 away win at Hanover 96 thanks to goals by new signing Joshua Brenet, Pavel Kaderabek and Ishak Belfodil.

Striker Niclas Füllkrug scored Hanover's consolation and had the ball again in the net with ten minutes left, but the video assistant referee spotted an offside.

Earlier, Werder Bremen moved up to second with a 3-1 win at home to Hertha Berlin, who dropped to third.

Not even a superb goal by Manchester City reject Javiro Dilrosun could prevent Hertha suffering their first defeat of the season and relinquish second place.

First goals by forward Martin Harnik and defender Milos Veljkovic, plus a late Max Kruse penalty, saw Bremen climb.

Werder took the lead when new signing Harnik,

31, back in Bremen after spells at Stuttgart and Hanover, scored on 11 minutes following a mix up in the Hertha defence.

Bremen went into the break 2-0 up when Nuri Sahin swung in a corner and central defender Veljkovic smashed home the header on 45 minutes.

Berlin pulled a goal back on 53 minutes when Dilrosun, a constant threat on the left wing, fired home from a tight angle off the gloves of Bremen's goalkeeper, to briefly lift Hertha's spirits.

However, Bremen captain Max Kruse converted a penalty on 66 minutes and although Dilrosun's fantastic through-ball nearly resulted in a goal for Davie Selke, it was too little too late for Hertha.

Bremen join Bayern and Borussia Dortmund, who host Nuremberg on Wednesday, as the only unbeaten teams in Germany's top flight.

Don't want to get fined: Dhoni takes round about dig at umpires



DUBAI, SEP 26 (PTI): "I don't want to be fined," said Mahendra Singh Dhoni as umpiring howlers became as much a talking point as Afghanistan's dogged resilience in the exciting tie between the two sides in what was an inconsequential Asia Cup match here.

Dhoni and Dinesh Karthik were given leg before by the on-field umpires -- Gregory Brathwaite of West Indies and Anisur Rahaman of Bangladesh -- even though TV replays clearly indicated that the ball was missing the stumps in both the cases.

Dhoni was dismissed by part-time off-spinner Javed Ahmadi and the delivery seemed to have gone over stumps while Karthik's dismissal of Mohammed Nabi was bigger blunder as the ball missed the leg stump by a couple of feet.

Kedar Jadhav's run-out was also a case of bad luck as his bat got stuck near the crease while he was dragging it in. India were set a target of 253 and the match ended in a tie after the team was bowled out for 252.

"There were a couple of run-outs, and a few things we can't talk about because I don't want to get fined for it," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation, his irritation

quote palpable.

Any public criticism of umpiring decisions invites sanctions from the ICC and Dhoni chose his words very carefully.

However, the stand-in captain was magnanimous in his praise for Afghanistan.

"Their (Afghanistan's) cricket has improved a lot. The way they have continued from the start of the Asia Cup, it is commendable and we have enjoyed their cricket. It is one country that has risen through the ranks very well," Dhoni said. Dhoni felt that Afghanistan excelled in all departments of the game.

"They batted extremely well too. The wicket slowed down later, but they bowled extremely well throughout the game and their fielding was tight too."

Dhoni was quick to point out that India were not playing their full-strength side also needed to be factored in.

"I wouldn't say we went wrong in the chase. To start off, it was like a handicap in golf. We didn't go with a full-strength side. Not enough spinners on this wicket. The first over that a fast bowler bowls, they need to extract swing. We didn't hit the back of a length

area, and we gave away too much initially with the ball."

He praised the Indian openers KL Rahul and Ambati Rayudu for providing a solid start.

"We got off to a very good start with the bat, but the wicket slowed down over the course of the game, so someone should have continued with the bat. Shot-selection is something that we need to work on. It's good that it's a tie, but they played really well."

"The Afghanistan guys played really well. 250 was a very good score on this wicket. We could have been on the losing side because of quite a few things that didn't go for us, so I'm happy with the result."

Centurion Mohammed Shahzad was, however, a bit dejected that Afghanistan couldn't register a victory.

"I'm not very happy, we have slogged for 6 hours at the ground without result, but I am happy with the performance of the team. We have a flight tomorrow, so I thought of playing my game freely."

"I am feeling proud, because I have played an innings like this against the best side in Asia. I haven't played well throughout the tournament, but I am happy that I played well in this one."

Book seeks to decode the enigma called Tiger Woods



NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI): Tiger Woods, who just clinched his first PGA title in five years, is the most mysterious athlete of his time, an enigma obsessed with privacy who mastered the art of being invisible in plain sight, of saying something while revealing virtually nothing, says a new book on the champion golfer.

Investigative journalists Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian have come out with a biography of Woods, packed with behind-the-scenes details of the Shakespearean rise and epic fall of a global icon.

"Tiger Woods" offers a 360-degree look at Woods' entire life to date, closely examines his roots and the vital role his parents played in his epic rise, fall, and return.

The authors say Woods' greatest victory is not in golf but rather in his journey back into the light, and for the first time in many years, into life.

In 2009, Woods was a transcendent star of almost unfathomable fame and fortune living what appeared to be the perfect life - married to a Swedish beauty and the father of two young children.

Winner of 14 major golf championships and 79 PGA Tour events, Woods was the first billion-dollar athlete, earning more than USD 100 million a year in endorsements from the likes of Nike, Gillette, AT&T and Gatorade.

But it was all a carefully crafted illusion. As it turned out, Woods had been living a double life for years - one that exploded in the aftermath of a late-night crash that exposed his serial infidelity and sent his personal and professional life off a cliff.

In "Tiger Woods", Benedict and Keteyian dig deep behind

the headlines as they seek an answer to the question that has mystified millions of sports fans for nearly a decade: who is Tiger Woods?

The book, published by Simon & Schuster, draws on more than 400 interviews with people from every corner of Woods' life - friends, family members, teachers, romantic partners, swing coaches, business associates, Tour pros and members of his inner circle.

According to the authors, Woods will forever be measured against Jack Nicklaus, who won more major championships.

"But the Tiger Effect can't be measured in statistics. A literary comparison may be more fitting. Given the full spectrum of his awe-inspiring gifts, Woods was nothing less than a modern-day Shakespeare. He was someone no one had ever seen or will ever see again," they say.

"The Woods family dynamic," they say, "made Tiger the most mysterious athlete of his time, an enigma obsessed with privacy who mastered the art of being invisible in plain sight, of saying something while revealing virtually nothing."

Indian national aware of alleged plot to kill Sri Lankan President arrested

COLOMBO, SEP 26 (PTI): An Indian national who was aware of an alleged plot to assassinate Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has been arrested, a court was told.

The Indian national, identified as M Thomas by Lankan media, was arrested on Tuesday from the residence of the Anti Corruption Movement operations director Namal Kumara, who exposed the assassination plot, CID Chief Inspector Ranjith Munasinghe informed the Fort Magistrate Court.

Magistrate Jayaratne instructed the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) to further interrogate Thomas and report the findings to the court.

Thomas was arrested when he visited Kumara's home at Warakapola in the south western region.

Kumara had revealed that former in-charge of the Terrorist Investigation Division DIG Nalaka de Silva had discussed with him the alleged plot to kill Sirisena and the former Defence Ministry Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the court was told.

Silva was questioned by the CID on Kumara's revelations. He has been transferred out of the terrorism bureau pending investigations.

Thomas who was taken into custody for his alleged links to Kumara, arrived in the country on a tourist visa, which he overstayed, the court was told.

Meanwhile, the court has ordered to check the authenticity of sound tapes which Kumara had produced purported to be conversations between him and Silva.

India postpones Pak experts' inspection of two hydropower projects in J-K: report

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, SEP 26 (PTI): India has postponed the scheduled inspection of its two hydropower projects on the Chenab river by Pakistani experts following the fresh tension in bilateral ties and cancellation of foreign ministers' meeting in New York, according to a media report here Wednesday.

The Indian authorities postponed the inspection by Pakistani experts and said that it would not be possible due to the local-body elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Dawn news quoted a source as saying.

After the bilateral talks on the Indus Waters Treaty last month in Lahore, India rejected Pakistan's objections on the construction of the 1,000MW Pakal Dul dam and 48MW Lower Kalnai hydropower projects on the Chenab river and invited Pakistani experts to visit the sites to address their concern.



The experts were scheduled to inspect the two hydropower projects by October but India cancelled it, citing some local issues, the report quoted the source as saying.

"It seems to be a fallout of the recent tension emerging with the cancellation of the talks by India as other issues are normally affected in a larger context in such situations," the senior official, on condition of anonymity, said.

India called off the meeting between Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, citing the "brutal" killing of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir and the release of the postal stamps "glorifying" Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani.

The source said the Indian delegation had agreed to get the two projects inspected by

Pakistani experts this month.

"Through a letter, India confirmed October 7 to 11 for the inspection of the projects by a three-member Pakistani team headed by the Indus Water Commissioner," he said.

India said that since the administration of the respective districts in Kashmir would be busy holding the local-body elections till October 5, the inspection would only be possible from October 7 to 11, the source said.

"But now the Indian authorities have postponed the scheduled inspection, stating it wouldn't be possible due to holding of Panchayat elections in the state by the respective district administrations. They didn't give us new dates as they just stated to coordinate with Pakistani authorities soon," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Mehr Ali Shah expressed disappointment over the postponement and said that when something is mutually agreed at the state level, it should not be delayed or deferred on petty issues.

"Postponement of our visit for inspection of India's two hydropower projects at Chenab basin is an element of surprise for us despite the fact that the delegation, which visited Lahore and held meeting with us last month, had agreed to allow us inspection of the same in the last week of the ongoing

month. Later, they confirmed October 7 to 11. But they further postponed this schedule," Shah said.

"We request our counterparts to fulfil their commitment they had made during their visit to Lahore last month," he said.

The talks on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in Lahore last month was the first official engagement between India and Pakistan since Imran Khan became Prime Minister on August 18.

India and Pakistan signed the IWT in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory.

The water commissioners of Pakistan and India are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers.

India, G4 nations voice concern over lack of progress in long-pending UN Security Council reform

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 26 (PTI): India and the G4 nations voiced concern over the lack of substantive progress in the long-pending Security Council reform, saying it is time to finally initiate text-based negotiations to safeguard the legitimacy and credibility of the powerful UN organ.

The G4 nations, India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, have been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council, and support each others' bids for the permanent seats in the top UN body.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj hosted her counterparts Aloysio Nunes Ferreira of Brazil, Heiko Maas of Germany and Taro Kono of Japan at a meeting of the G4 nations held Tuesday at India's Permanent Mission to the UN on the margins of the 73rd session of the General Assembly.

In a joint statement after the meeting, the four nations reaffirmed their commitment to multi-lateralism.

"It was time to finally initiate text-based negotiations during the 73rd session of the General Assembly" in line with the standard operating procedures of the UN General Assembly, the ministers said.

They stressed that adapting the United Nations to the contemporary needs of the 21st century necessarily required reforming the Security Council.

"They stressed the need to safeguard the legitimacy and credibility of this UN organ which deals with international



peace and security," the statement said.

The G4 Ministers reaffirmed the need for an early reform of the Council including the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership to enhance its legitimacy, effectiveness and representativeness.

They said that the current composition of the 15-nation Council does not reflect the changed global realities and stressed that the UNSC reform is essential to address today's complex challenges.

The ministers reiterated their support for Africa's representation in both categories of membership in a reformed and expanded Security Council.

"As aspiring new permanent members of a reformed Council, the ministers reiterated their commitment to work to strengthen the functioning of the UN and the global multilateral order as well as their support for each other's candidatures," it said.

Reviewing progress on the UNSC reform at the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN), they said substantial progress had not yet been achieved even though next year would mark 40 years since the inscription of the item 'Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and

other matters related to the Security Council' on the agenda of the General Assembly.

"Despite an overwhelming majority of UN member states supporting Security Council reform, the IGN has not produced substantive progress over the 10 years since its launch in 2009," the statement said adding that the ministers emphasised the need to revitalise process of the Security Council reform.

The four leaders welcomed the commitment of President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces to the reform process and expressed their readiness to extend full support to her with a view to launching negotiations based on a text comprising all positions and proposals by the member states.

The ministers agreed that all aspects of the comprehensive reform had been thoroughly discussed several times in the IGN and the General Assembly.

They reiterated their commitment to working with other member states to realise the shared vision of the overwhelming majority supporting the initiation of text-based negotiations in a democratic and transparent manner.

The G4 will intensify dialogue with other member states, especially like-minded countries and groups to achieve meaningful progress in the upcoming IGN session, the four ministers said, adding that they are determined to redouble their efforts towards securing concrete outcomes on the UNSC reform during the current session of the General Assembly.

Rouhani says Trump seeking Iran leadership 'overthrow'

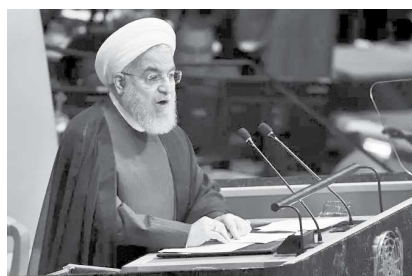
UNITED NATIONS, SEP 25 (AFP): Iranian President Hassan Rouhani accused his US counterpart Donald Trump of trying to topple his government Tuesday as he poured cold water on the idea of resuming talks with Washington after its pull-out from an international nuclear accord.

"It is ironic that the US government does not even conceal its plan for overthrowing the same government it invites to talks," Rouhani said in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

"For dialogue to take place, there is no need for a photo opportunity. The two sides can listen to each other right here in this Assembly."

"I am starting the dialogue right here, and state, in unequivocal terms, that the question of international security is not a toy in American domestic politics."

Rouhani took the podium a few hours after Trump called for Iran's isolation in his UN address, accusing the lead-



ership of Iran of sowing "chaos, death and destruction" as he defended his decision to ditch the Iran nuclear accord.

The five remaining parties to the 2015 accord -- France, Britain, Germany, China and Russia -- agreed during a meeting in New York late Monday to set up a payment system to preserve business ties with Iran despite US sanctions.

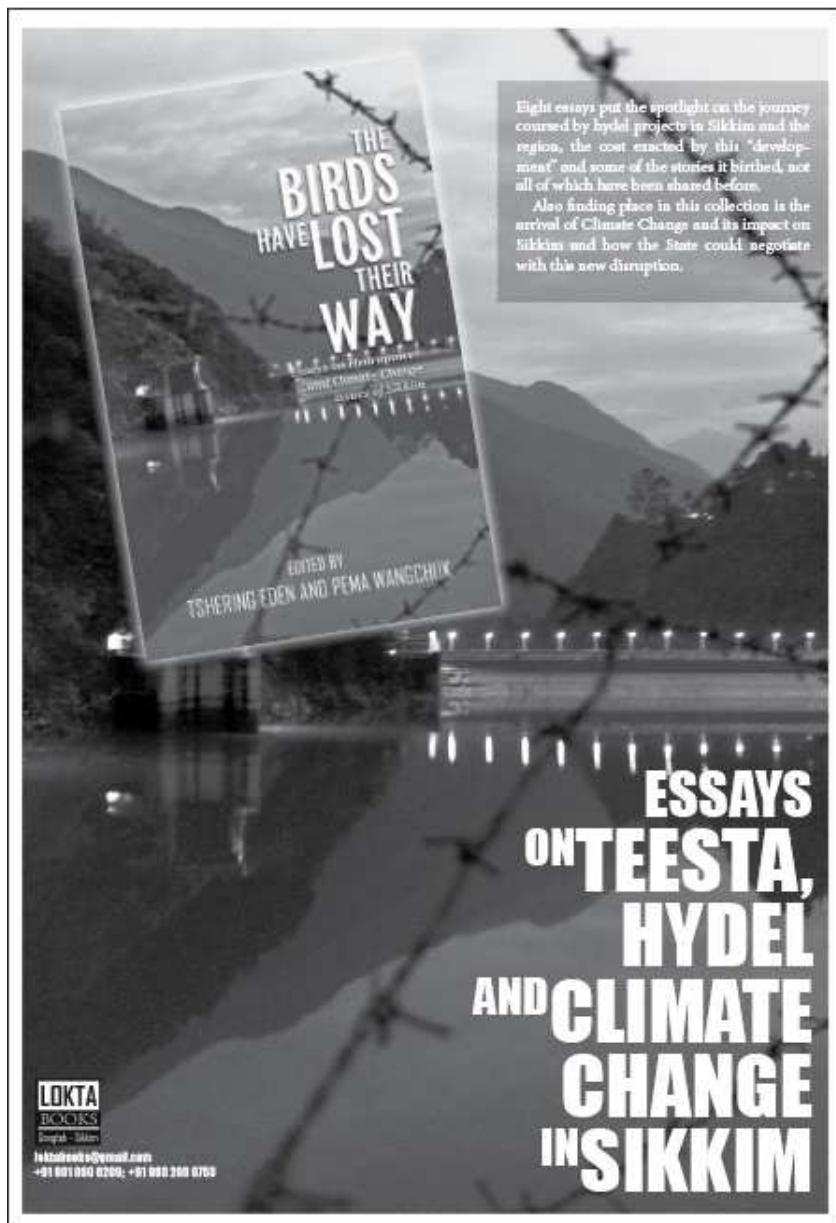
The Iranian leader said he was pleased that the international community did not follow the Trump administration's "unilateral and illegal withdrawal from the JCPOA," the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as the nuclear deal is known.

"Unlawful unilateral sanctions in themselves constitute a form of economic terrorism," said Rouhani.

Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal in May, to the dismay of European allies, Russia and China which had invested years in negotiations to achieve a milestone agreement on keeping Iran's nuclear ambitions in check.

In his UN address last year, Trump bashed the nuclear deal as "an embarrassment," signalling that the United States was ready to walk away.

Trump and Rouhani declined to meet on the sidelines of the General Assembly session.



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A STAR SELFIE! Actor Bradley Cooper stops for a photo op during the premiere of *A Star Is Born* in Los Angeles.

Shah Rukh Khan praises 'Tumbbad'

MUMBAI, SE 26 (PTI): Shah Rukh Khan has lauded "Tumbbad", saying the horror film is a "well-crafted" piece of art.

The period horror, directed by Rahi Anil Barve and Adesh Prasad, features "Ship of Theseus" star Sohum Shah in the lead.

Shah Rukh took to praise the film, which recently had its premiere at the Venice Film Festival, on Twitter.

"Saw bits of this extremely well-crafted film. A genre we normally don't push boundaries in. Wishing my friends the best with this venture and hope you all watch it and enjoy it. #Tumbbad the Trailer," he wrote.

The film has been produced by Aanand L Rai, who is directing the actor in his next "Zero".



Actors Rajkummar Rao, Sonakshi Sinha and Arjun Kapoor have also praised "Tumbbad".

"Phenomenal #TumbbadTrailer Congratulations @s0humshah @aanandlrai sir #PankajKumar @rahianil

@ErosNow @cypplOfficial @Kanupriya222," Rao wrote.

Sinha called the film "a must watch".

Kapoor said the trailer of the film appears both "intriguing and terrifying" at the same time.

"Tumbbad" is an Eros International and Aanand L Rai's presentation and a Little Town Films production in association with Colour a Yellow Productions.

The film has a release date of October 12.

'Brahmastra' will take cinema to next level: Alia

MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI): Alia Bhatt said her upcoming fantasy-adventure trilogy "Brahmastra" will be a step ahead in terms of filmmaking.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the series is produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

"We are very excited for the film. It is a step ahead. This will take cinema to another level. I am excited for next year," Alia told reporters at an event on Tuesday.

The film also features megastar Amitabh Bachchan and will see Ranbir Kapoor playing a character with special powers.

Alia will also be seen working with father Mahesh Bhatt in "Sadak 2", which co-stars Sanjay Dutt, Pooja Bhatt and Aditya Roy Kapur.

Talking about collaborating with Bhatt for the first time, the actor said, "It's beautiful, it's amazing. It's a dream come true.

"My father is directing me. One can't



ask for anything better. It's going to be very special," she said.

While first part of "Brahmastra"

is slated to be released on August 15 next year, "Sadak 2" will hit the screens March 25, 2020.

Lisa Ray to come out with memoir in 2019

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):

One of India's first supermodels, Lisa Ray will pen her memoir next year, chronicling her journey from being an actor, her fight with cancer, to attaining motherhood through surrogacy.

"The untitled memoir is an unflinching and deeply moving account of Lisa's nomadic existence: her entry into the Indian entertainment industry; her relationship with her Bengali father and Polish mother; movie sets and the Oscars; her battle with eating disorders; being diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma; her spiritual quest; and the heartaches and triumphs of her journey. It is also about Lisa's search for love, publisher HarperCollins India says.

Lisa has had a long career in the entertainment arts spanning multiple countries and films including the Oscar-nominated "Water", television ("Top Chef Canada") and modelling.

When diagnosed with a rare blood cancer in 2009,



she chose to share her experiences in a blog called 'The Yellow Diaries' which led to her first book (her forthcoming memoir). She is a well-known advocate for cancer awareness through her writing and public talks.

Lisa recently announced the birth of her twin daughters - Sufi and Soleil - via surrogacy, writing and speaking about it as a way to normalise fertility options and choices for others.

"Writing my story has transported me through a myriad of experiences and

worlds, and the emotions of a life lived close to the bone. I've been working on this a long time and, after the birth of my twins, it feels like my third baby," Lisa says.

According to Diya Kar of HarperCollins, "Lisa's memoir is candid, brave, and inspiring. We are delighted that we will be publishing the story of her remarkable journey - from being 'discovered' at 16 to being diagnosed with cancer at 37, this is a brutally honest account of one who's lived life on her terms."



ANUPAM KHER WISHES MANMOHAN SINGH ON B'DAY, SAYS HE WILL LIKE 'THE ACCIDENTAL PRIME MINISTER'

MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI): Anupam Kher wished former prime minister Manmohan Singh on his birthday Wednesday and said he will like the actor's performance in "The Accidental Prime Minister".

He was born in Gah, now in Pakistan, on September 26, 1932. Kher, who essays Singh in the film, took to Twitter to share his thoughts, saying his portrayal is "full of sincerity and honesty".

"Respected #DrManmohanSingh! Here is wishing you a very happy and healthy birthday. May be I will get an opportunity to have a

cup of tea and a piece of cake with you if you ever watch our film.

"I promise, you will like my portrayal. It is full of sincerity and honesty. Regards," the actor wrote.

The film is based on the book of the same name, written by Sanjay Baru, who served as the media advisor of Manmohan Singh from 2004 to 2008.

It is being made in English and Hindi by debutante Vijay Ratnakar Gutte and it produced by Bohra Brothers.

Remo puts his next film 'on hold' for TV show

MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI): Filmmaker Remo D'Souza has put the shooting of his next project on hold till he completes filming his reality show "Dance Plus".

The "Race 3" director features on the fourth season of the show as a super judge.

During the auditions, one of the contestant, who is a huge fan of his "ABCD" movie series, asked the director about his next project.



To this, Remo said, "I have kept my project on hold and will begin shooting in January for my movie since I wanted

to give undivided attention to both the projects!"

The Star Plus show is scheduled to air on October 6.

ARIES: Don't get discouraged if it seems like everyone but you is getting a piece of the pie. Aries. Your time will come, but it probably won't be today. While you may want to sink into tender feelings and sensitivity, others may want to float on the surface and dabble in fantasy worlds. Feel free to escape in your own world for a while, but don't be surprised if others don't follow.

TAURUS: Make some room for long communications with good friends, Taurus. This is an important day to get the word out to people you love. Keep things light and energetic, which you do well anyway. Express your showmanship and make sure your bright presence lights up every room you enter. The world is your stage, so act the role you enjoy

the most - your true self.

GEMINI: You may be the party-pooper today unless you do something to remedy your serious tone, Gemini. This is a day for light, social activities and fun-loving times with friends. Don't worry if things don't seem rational. Sometimes it's the unlikely route that ends up being the best. Don't discount the fanciful and bizarre. Take a walk on the wild side.

CANCER: You're the missing piece of the puzzle today, Cancer. As a result, people will look to you for answers. The good news is that you'll have them at the ready. Trust yourself. Information and new ideas may be flying around, and you may be called upon to make sense of it all. Don't be afraid to err on the side of the fanciful.

LEO: You may run into trouble if you penetrate too deeply today, Leo. Keep things light and energetic if you can. Ironically, the harder you push to get something done, the more roadblocks you're apt to encounter. Things will flow easily if you're willing to let them. Give up some control and let a more whimsical energy lead the way.

VIRGO: Give your adventuresome, world-traveling spirit room to soar, Virgo. This is a good time to embrace and express your dreams. Write them down, talk to others, and say them out loud. Communication and information are key elements today. Things may move quickly, so stay alert and tuned into the energy that's buzzing all around you. The best things in life may come on a whim.

LIBRA: Stop planning and start doing. There may be pressure to leave your normal routine and do something on a whim, Libra. Although this may not be your usual way to do things, it certainly isn't a reason not to. Let your mind explore new realms. Feel free to pick up loose pieces of an old dream that you left hanging in midair. Rekindle your passion for life.

SCORPIO: The answer for you today is "yes." Explore, reach out, and expand your mind to the far corners of your world and beyond, Scorpio. There's no need to be tied down to reality. Don't restrict yourself to linear thinking. Take time out and enjoy the clouds. Information you receive should be extremely helpful in the pursuit of your wildest dreams.

SAGITTARIUS: Today you should take action in areas where you usually keep quiet, Sagittarius. The more you explore your mind, the safer you'll feel in your external reality. Be confident of your dreams. This is a day to connect with others about the things that feel most pleasurable. Indulge and enjoy. Take action. You have everything you need to make it all start working for you.

CAPRICORN: There's a light, uplifting flavor to the day, Capricorn, which you should latch onto and take charge of. You'll find that there's a rather dreamy yet expansive quality to this energy that encourages you to soar higher and achieve more. Jump on opportunities, but be careful that you don't act based on misguided information. Pipe-dreams will get you nowhere.

AQUARIUS: Try not to take things too seriously today, Aquarius. Realize that the best plans are sometimes the ones that were never made in the first place. Keep the lines of communication open and don't discount things that sound off the wall at first. Dream big and don't restrict yourself by thinking that your radical ideas have no basis in reality.

PISCES: This is a tremendous day for you, Pisces. You may find that dreams really can come true. Make sure you stay abreast of communication and periodicals. Let your fingers dip into many different pies and keep a notepad handy. Your brilliant strokes of inspiration may come on a whim, so be ready to receive them. The genius within you yearns to spring forth.