



**GOVERNOR MEETS NYK  
VOLUNTEERS IN TRAINING**  
pg 03

**FROM REPRESENTATIVE  
TO PARTICIPATORY**  
pg 04

**VIGYAN UTSAVAM  
CONCLUDES AT SRM UNIV**  
pg 03



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Limboo feature film 'Thetlong' gets gala premiere in Gangtok



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

Limboo feature film, "Thetlong," got a gala premiere among a galaxy of VIPs and artistes here at Manan Kendra today.

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, was present as the chief guest accompanied by PHE Minister Bhim Hang Limboo as guest of honour, and Principal Secretary, Printing & Stationery Department, BR Limboo, president of All India Limboo Mahasanga, SR Khajum, SYSSC president SP Limboo and former Speaker CB Subba and SKM Nari Shakti chief convener Kala Rai, vice-president SKM Cha-

lak Sangh Rajney Gurung and PRO (HQ) SKM Junu Chettri as special guests along with a host of international and local artists.

The movie has been produced by Opera Entertainment with Moni Tamling as producer and singer.

Premiere Show Committee president Sushila Limboo presented the welcome speech while Mr Tamling introduced the movie to the audience.

The chief guest congratulated the team for their effort heralded the production as a new milestone for artistic expression in the State.

## Handsome turnout by SDF on Chamling's birthday

Former CM calls on people to have faith in party, calls on party workers to use next five years to make party stronger

### ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

Sikkim Democratic Front president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, turned 70 today with a celebration which provided his party supporters to turn up in large numbers at his residence next to the SDF Bhawan here on Indira Bypass to wish him and also mark "Garibi Unmulan Diwas" that the party has traditionally observed on this day over the years.

A regular stream of well-wishers and supporters started arriving at his residence from across the State today and SDF registered a rather strong turnout after a rather extended period of keeping a low profile.

Speaking to media-persons this morning, Mr Chamling, thanked each and everyone for the birthday wishes sent to him through various media

and in person.

He has also thanked the people of Sikkim for reposing faith in him and his leadership and allowing him the opportunity to serve the people for almost 25 years as Chief Minister.

"I am not a Chief Minister anymore but have not stopped serving and working for the people of Sikkim. I am working for the people of Sikkim in many other ways. I will never hesitate to speak for the betterment of the people of Sikkim," he said.

Mr Chamling refused to make any political statements today and the closest he got was to remind the people that his government ensured peace and safety to all people here.

He did however assure the people that SDF still operated on the principles and objectives on which it was founded in the year 1993 and urged the people to have



faith in the party.

Meanwhile, the party celebrated Gareeb Unmulan Diwas in grand manner at SDF Bhawan.

An SDF press release issued by the party spokesperson, JB Darnal, informs that the SDF president underlined that the programme was not political on but it a social engagement and thanked his parents, his family, party workers and colleagues.

He called on party workers to continue advocating for the people of Sikkim and remain strong and firm with the party.

He reminded them that SDF might have lost the elections, but has not lost its politics or principles and stressed that these qualities will sustain the party.

He stressed that the party was not formed to make Ministers and

MLAs but to work for the underprivileged and the under-represented called on party workers to respect that the people of Sikkim have brought a new government in Sikkim through a democratic process and hence it was their duty to appreciate the good works and protest the wrongs.

On the initial months of the SKM Government, Mr Chamling remarked that SKM failed to fulfill

its promises and said that the people should protest if the party misleads or lies to them.

He claimed that SDF ran a good government and rued that the present dispensation has no work culture. He further contended that people-centric works of Rs 5,000 crores sanctioned by the SDF government before the elections were presently well in progress and that the SKM government has been taking credit for these works.

Mr Chamling also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been doing unprecedented work and that if the people here suffered any injustice, it would be brought to the PM's notice.

Reminding party workers of SDF's commitment to "Pavitra Kranti," he said that the people have provided the party with the opportunity to make the party further **turn to pg02**

## SC Gupta appointed Chief Secretary

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

SC Gupta, a 1986 batch IAS officer, currently the Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary in-charge of Home Department holding additional charge of Finance, was today appointed Chief Secretary, a post he will take charge of on 01 October following the

retirement of the present incumbent, AK Shrivastava.

Mr Gupta, an Office Order issued today, will continue to hold charge of Home Department.

His responsibilities at Finance Department will go to Additional CS, VB Pathak, who will also continue to hold charge as Development Commissioner.



BEFORE



AFTER

### YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 22 SEPT:

It is very often that one comes across bylanes overrun by litter and surreptitiously dumped garbage. That is an eyesore that too many towns growing into runaway urbanization have become inured to. What is rare though is to find a resident, a businessperson at that, roll up his sleeves and spruce up such spaces which everyone else appears to prefer to leave ignored.

Just such a vision awaits itinerant visitor will find at a lane behind Ward No 2 of Singtam, which, until Sheikh Ossim decided to do something about it, was cramped with litter and waste.

Confronted with the filth and unwilling to continue waiting for someone to do something about it, Mr Ossim had the walls painted, fixed the lights, got the drain cleaned and then went a step further and lined the lane with 50 flower pots.

Now, from a time when people would have to hold their noses and dodge piles of garbage, residents actually enjoy walking through the lane.

"People talk about crores and then hesitate to contribute even a few thousands to do something about the civic facilities around them," shares Mr Ossim when asked what motivated him to take the initiative.

"This is my hometown and I will run my business here forever so showing a little concern as a citizen is my duty," he adds by way of explanation.



AFTER



## Gorkhas not to visit Foreigners' Tribunals to prove citizenship: community body

**GUWAHATI, SEPT 22 (PTI):** The Gorkhas, whose names have been excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, will not visit Foreigners' Tribunals to prove their Indian citizenship, a community body said on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here, Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) national president Sukhman Moktan said that Gorkhas being tried in the Foreigners' Tribunals (FT) will be an "insult to us for being Indians," he said.

"We can file defamation suit against the system for challenging the citizenship of Gorkhas and Nepali speaking population being taken to

FT", Moktan, who heads the only registered national organisation, representing 10.5 million Indian Gorkhas in 22 state units and five zones, said.

The BGP had organised a week-long tour across Assam to meet the victims of the Gorkha community who were not included in the NRC and directed to appeal against it at Foreigners' Tribunals.

During the visit to 18 districts that ended on Sunday, Moktan said they found that names of many Gorkhas had been left out from the final NRC list.

"We met NRC victims and arbitrarily marked D Voters and their descendants whose citizenship

is challenged and are being directed to go to FT as per NRC guidelines while a recent Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification exempts the Gorkhas.

"This is an attempt of a few vested interests within the system to disrespect Indian Gorkhas who are actually original inhabitants as is proved by our historically and mythologically recorded presence since centuries," Moktan said.

Nirmal Kumar Pun, BGP secretary general said, "No Indian Gorkhas should be left out of the NRC. As a vigilant civil society organisation, the BGP will play a vital role as it is a judiciary monitored process".

On being asked whether the BGP is planning to take the state government to High Court for the delay in filing fresh writ petition to uphold the MHA notification, Nityananda Upadhyay, president, Assam State Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) said, "BGP is a party to the NRC case in the Supreme Court of India.

"If the Government of Assam does not do its duty as directed by the Union of India, the BGP will take a policy decision to take the matter to the Supreme Court and make the state government party to it and contest the case to ensure that Gorkhas are not taken to Foreigners' Tribunals."

## Assam wins Yonex-Sunrise North-East Zone Inter State Badminton Championship

### SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

Assam lifted the team championship in senior category of Yonex-Sunrise North-East Zone Inter State Badminton Championship 2019 here at the Paljor Stadium indoor badminton hall today.

Manipur emerged as the runner-up and Nagaland and Mizoram stood on third position in the team championship.

Similarly, Manipur became the team champion in junior category of the championship, while Assam emerged as the runners-up and Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram stood on third position.

The four-day long championship concluded



today with Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] as the chief guest.

A total of 160 shuttlers from all the eight North Eastern States participated in the championship organised by the Badminton Association of Sikkim [BAS].

Isharani Baruah and Maini Baruah from As-

sam became the champions of girls' doubles while Suraj Goala and Angshuman Gogoi from Assam emerged winners of boys' doubles.

Maheshwari Devi Kshetrimayum from Manipur became the champion of girls' single and the boys' single final was won by Bidyasa-

gar Salam from Manipur.

In women's doubles, Priya Devi Konjengbam and Purnima Devi N from Manipur became the champions and junior mixed doubles final was won by Vilinda Chanu Huidrom and Sirzeet Moirangthem from Manipur.

**turn to pg02**

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# Kunzang Choda is 5th Mr Martam Strength Lifting and Inclined Bench Press champion

## SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

Kunzang Choda Bhutia today lifted his way to become the 5th Mr Martam Strength Lifting and Inclined Bench Press champion. Hissay Zangpo Bhutia came in the first runner-up at the daylong event organised by Martam-based Pema's Gym and Health Club of international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia, at Martam.

A total of 25 lifters, aged 15 to 60, participated in different categories of the championship which had RDD Minister, Sonam Lama, as the chief guest accompanied by Namcheybong MLA, Em Prasad Sharma, Political Secretary to the Chief Minister

Jacob Khaling and SKM party in-charge of Martam Rumtek constituency Sonam Tshering Venchungpa among other dignitaries.

The event also included the felicitation of former Indian football team skipper Bhaichung Bhutia and founder of Sikkim Chronicle, Nirmal Mangar, and senior journalist of Sikkim Express and state correspondent of Eastmojo, Dechen Ongmu Bhutia for their contributions towards society.

In his address, the chief guest commended Pema Dorjee Bhutia for organising the championship consistently in a rural area over the years to encourage local youth in sports and towards healthy activities.

He mentioned that such championships



provide a proper platform for the sportingly inclined and also assured to provide all possible support from the state

government to bring out more skilful and talented sportspersons from the State.

Likewise, Pema Dor-

jee Bhutia, who is also the chief coach of Sikkim Strength Lifting Association, mentioned that the main objective behind the championship was to provide a wider platform to talented participants from rural area and take them to a higher level of competition.

Winners of different categories are: Chewang Namgyal Lepcha in 58 kg, Rohan Pradhan in 62 kg, Hissay Zangpo Bhutia in 68 kg, Kunzang Choda Bhutia in 72 kg and Wilson Darnal in 85 kg. Suren Rai adjudged as the Most Disciplined Lifter of the championship, while the prize for Best Dress went to Chewang Namgyal Lepcha and prize for regular gym attendee was bagged by Rajiv Rai.

## Onion prices surge to Rs 70-80/kg; Centre mulls imposing stock limits



### NEW DELHI, SEP 22

(PTI):

The Centre is mulling imposing stock limits on onion traders as the retail prices of the key kitchen staple have shot up to Rs 70-80 per kg in the national capital and other parts of the country owing to supply disruption in the wake of excess monsoon rains in the major growing states, according to sources.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, retail onion prices rose to Rs 57/kg in Delhi, Rs 56/kg in Mumbai, Rs 48/kg in Kolkata and Rs 34/kg in Chennai last week. The prices were quoted at Rs 60/kg in Gurgaon and Jammu during the same period.

However, trade data showed retail onion prices skyrocketing to Rs 70-80 per kg towards the end of the last week from Rs 50-60/kg in the previous week.

Onion prices are on the rise despite several measures taken by the central government to boost supply.

"The government has taken several measures in the last few weeks to improve the domestic supply and check further increase in prices of onion. However, retail prices have suddenly shot up in the last 2-3 days because of supply disruption due to excess rains in

the growing states," a source told PTI.

It is a short-term supply disruption and if the situation does not normalise in the next 2-3 days and prices rise, then the government may consider seriously imposing stock holding limits on onion traders, the source said.

According to the Met Department, main onion producing regions especially Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, eastern Rajasthan and western Madhya Pradesh have received excess monsoon rainfall in the last two days.

Right now, stored onions are sold in most parts of the country as fresh kharif (summer) crop will hit the market from November onwards, traders said.

Traders further said that there is enough supply of stored onion of the previous year's crop in the country but its transportation has been affected because of heavy rains.

Much of the onion is stored in Maharashtra, where rains disrupted the transport of the kitchen staple to other parts of the country, said a wholesale trader from Lasalgaon in Maharashtra, Asia's largest onion market.

At wholesale market of Lasalgaon, onion prices rose to Rs 45/kg last week, when compared with less than Rs 10/kg in the year-ago period.

The Centre has taken several measures to arrest the prices of onion in Delhi and other parts of the country. It is offloading onion from its buffer stock through agencies like Nafed and NCCF which are selling at around Rs 22/kg and state-run Mother Dairy at Rs 23.90 per kg in the national capital

The state governments have been asked to boost supply in their states lifting central buffer stock. Some states like Delhi, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh have shown interest so far.

The Centre has a buffer stock of 56,000 tonnes of onion, of which 16,000 tonnes has been offloaded so far. In Delhi, 200 tonnes a day is being offloaded.

Besides, the Centre has discouraged export of onion by increasing the minimum export price and withdrawing incentives. It is also cracking down on black-marketeers.

Besides rains, prices are under pressure on likely fall in kharif production of this year owing to less planted area under onion on account of excess rains, the sources added.

## Founders, with a heavy heart, blow final whistle on United Sikkim Football Club

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

United Sikkim Football Club has been shut down after a journey of 15 years. Founders of the club, Bhaichung Bhutia, Arjun Rai and Sherap Lepcha, announced Sunday that United Sikkim FC will cease to exist from today.

USFC was formed in the year 2004 and turned into a professional club for a year in 2011.

United Sikkim FC was the first club from Sikkim and the second from the North East to play the in the I-League.

Making the announcement to down shutters on the club, Bhaichung shared that it was a very difficult and painful decision but one that had to taken after thorough discussions on different aspects.



He said that it has been a great 15 years peppered with proud and difficult moments.

The club worked hard to build a brand name for Sikkim in Indian football which made the decision to shut down all that more difficult.

Bhaichung men-

tioned that the decision to shut down the club has been taken for two major reasons.

"We want to now focus more on grassroots football by organising coaching camps and tournaments at that level. Secondly, there has been huge conflict of

interest since two of us are now a part of Sikkim Football Association," he explained.

Bhaichung and Mr Rai are presently in the executive body of SFA.

He explained that it was not fair for other clubs if they continued running a club which

also plays leagues and tournaments organised by SFA.

He remarked that this conflict of interest also made it difficult for them to take decisions on matters related to football clubs and the association and now it would be easier for them to take such decisions.

He expressed deep gratitude to all players, fans and other supporters for being a part of the USFC family for the past 15 years.

United Sikkim FC lifted the Sikkim Premier Division League four times and won the Independence Cup twice along with winning the ONGC Cup and LD Kazi Cup and is the only club from Sikkim to participate in IFA Shield and Durand Cup and winner of second division I-League.

## Petrol price jumps Rs 1.59/ltr, diesel Rs 1.31/ltr after Saudi attacks

### NEW DELHI, SEP 22

(PTI): Petrol prices have soared by Rs 1.59 a litre and diesel by Rs 1.31 in the last six days -- the most since daily price revision was introduced in 2017, as a massive strike at Saudi Arabian oil facilities jolted oil markets.

Petrol price was on Sunday hiked by 27 paise to Rs 73.62 a litre in the Delhi market -- the benchmark for national rates, according to a price notification by state-owned oil firms.

Price of diesel was increased by 18 paise to Rs 66.74 per litre in Delhi.

This is the sixth

straight daily increase and has taken the cumulative price hike since September 17 to Rs 1.59 per litre in case of petrol and Rs 1.31 for diesel.

Global oil prices shot up the most since the Gulf war in the immediate aftermath of the unprecedented drone missile strikes on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that disabled 5 per cent of the global supply.

Oil prices have cooled since the spike on September 16 but remain on the edge.

Attackers using low-flying drones and cruise missiles knocked out 5.7 million barrels of production, or about 60

per cent of what Saudi Arabia currently produces. It was the largest supply disruption in history. On Monday, Brent oil futures soared 15 per cent.

Analysts have warned that the style of the attacks on Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities may add a permanent risk premium to oil and gasoline prices.

While Saudi Arabia is saying it can quickly bring supply back online, experts say the shock to the global oil market will be felt for years.

India depends on Saudi Arabia for a fifth of its oil imports and has been in constant touch

with Kingdom officials on securing its supplies.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday spoke to Saudi Arabia's new oil minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman to discuss the supply plan. Saudi Arabia, according to Pradhan, has assured India of meeting all its committed oil supplies.

Saudi Arabia, which is India's second-largest oil supplier, sells close to 2 million tonnes of crude every month. Of this, 1.2-1.3 million tonnes of supplies for September have already been taken and the rest too has been assured.

However, Saudi has

sought deferment of some LPG supplies, but they have assured to make up for all the quantities, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) Chairman Sanjiv Singh said, adding any shortfall can be bought from Qatar.

Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) has already tendered for import of LPG in October, possibly to make up for the shortfall from Saudi Arabia.

India buys around 2,00,000 tonnes of LPG every month from Saudi Arabia. Industry sources said Saudi Arabia has cut throughput at its refineries to meet its crude oil supply commitments.

### Assam wins Yonex-Sunrise..

Isharani Baruah from Assam emerged champion in women's single and Orijit Chaliha again from Assam was champion of men's singles.

Jaji Charu and Pinky Karki from Arunachal Pradesh won the mixed doubles final while Unilkumar Leishangthem and Kh Punsiba Singh from Manipur became champions of men's doubles.

In his address, Badminton Association of India [BAI] general secretary, Ajay Kumar Singhania, congratulated the entire BAS team for successfully conducting the championship and remarked that the North East Region has been producing quality and top-ranking players for the country.

In his report on the championship, BAI joint secretary, Dr Wati Julu Jamir, who was also the observer of the championship, congratulated the entire team of BAS for organising a championship of international standards and suggested that Sikkim host the national championship by adding some required infrastructure.

BAS president, C Zangpo, expressed gratitude towards the State government and the CM for extending support to ensure a grand success of the championship and also thanked BAI and its executive members and all organisations and individuals who provided support.

He appealed to all parents of players to continue supporting and motivating their children so that they can grow to the next level.

Earlier, the welcome address was presented by BAS general secretary, Sukanta Das.

The final day of the championship also included the performance of Chabrun dance by students of Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School and Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepali dances by students of Paljor Namgyal Girls SSS.

## Ker HC strikes down college hostel rule prohibiting mobile use

KOCHI, SEP 20 (PTI): In a significant verdict, the Kerala High Court has held that discipline shall not be enforced by blocking the ways and means of students to acquire knowledge, as it directed readmission of a girl student expelled from her college hostel for opposing a regulation on use of mobile phones.

The court allowed the petition filed by the 18-year old undergraduate student of an aided college under the Calicut University, challenging her expulsion from the hostel for not

obeying rules prohibiting inmates of the girls hostel from using mobile phones between 6 pm and 10 pm.

"I am of the view that imposing such restrictions is unreasonable and therefore the respondent shall readmit the petitioner in the hostel without any further delay," Justice P V Asha said in her order on Thursday.

The judge struck down hostel rules enacted by the college preventing inmates of girls hostel from using mobile phones between 10 pm and 6 am.

The court said when

the Human Rights Council of the United Nations has found that right to access to Internet is a fundamental freedom and a tool to ensure right to education, a rule or instruction which impairs the said right of the students cannot be permitted to stand in the eye of law. As per university regulations as well as the University Grants Commission regulations, the college is bound to run a hostel to enable students reside near the institution in order to enable them to have sufficient time to concentrate on their studies, it said.

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### Handsome turnout by SDF..

stronger in the next five years and advised party workers to make good use of this opportunity and time.

The release informs that the senior vice-president and North District in-charge, DB Thapa, presented the welcome address while students of the first batch of the Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme expressed gratitude towards Mr Chamling for providing them the opportunity to study at the best schools.

The programme has included a cultural performance and it was also addressed by general secretary [organisation], LM Bhattarai, with the vote of thanks proposed by west district vice-president, SP Kafley. The programme was conducted by secretary [organisation] Amos R Lepcha.

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# Governor meets NYK volunteers in training



## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

Governor Ganga Prasad today met with a group of 60 National Youth Volunteers from all four districts of Sikkim at a special event held at the New Raj Bhavan.

The visiting group was led by Madhavi Agarwal, Member, Board of Governors, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, and Sebasis Banerjee, Zonal Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sikkim, a press communiqué from Raj Bhavan informs.

Also in the group were the District Youth Coordinators.

This batch of 60 youth, drawn from 30 blocks across four districts, is undergoing a 15-day National Youth

Volunteers Induction Training at Sikkim Co-operative Union (SICUN) headquarters at Assam Lingzey.

The volunteers will be trained on leadership skills, basic life skills, social service, role of youth in transforming society, capacity building etc and will be serving in the respective blocks for the next two years under NYKS supervision.

Ms Agarwal briefed the Governor on the broader aims and objectives of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan while Mr Banerjee provided a brief overview on the training module and schedule of the induction training.

The Governor, in his brief address, called on

the volunteers to become agents of transformation in society towards achieving the vision of a New India.

He urged the youth to lead the society on campaigns and missions of national importance such as Jal Sangrakshan, doubling farmer incomes by 2022, ban on single use plastic, Swachhata and Sanitation Campaign, prevention of substance abuse and alcoholism among youth etc. and bring transformation in society for better and sustainable future.

The Governor also conveyed his best wishes to the volunteers for a bright and successful future as volunteers in their respective spheres of work in society.

# Vigyan Utsavam concludes at SRM Univ

## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:

The two-day SRM Science fest, "Vigyan Utsavam '19," concluded with the participation of 500 students from schools, colleges and universities of Sikkim and outside.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Secretary KS Shrivastava and the fest included special lectures on biodiversity, flora & fauna, wildlife, conservation and nano technology by experts like Dr Bharat Basistha, Usha Lachungpa and Dr Sudarshan Tamang along with the presentation of models and posters by the participating students.

Duga Senior Secondary School came first in the school-level model competition followed by Chujachen Senior Secondary



School and Biraspati Parsai Government Senior Secondary School.

The school level Poster competition was won by West Point Senior Secondary School with Tashi Namgyal Academy and Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School coming in second and third respectively.

TNA won the interschool quiz competition with West Point School coming second and Deorali Girls' Government Senior Second-

ary School coming third.

In the college-level model competition, Department of Zoology, SRM University, Sikkim, came first followed by the Departments of Zoology [Sikkim University] and Department of Physics, SRM University, Sikkim, coming joint second and Department of Zoology, NBBDC College, ranking third.

Similarly, the college-level Poster Competition was won by the Department of Botany,



SRM Sikkim, followed by NBBDC Department of Zoology and Department of Chemistry and Department of Physics SRM University Sikkim.

The college-level quiz had Dept of Mathematics, Namchi Government College, come first followed by NBBDC Department of Botany and Government Pharmacy College.

Vice Chancellor, SRM University Sikkim, Prof Satish Kumar, in his closing remarks, stressed that this was not the end but a begin-

ning to newer goals. He also announced that ten models from the lot will be selected for improvisation and SRM University would support the funding.

He assured that the university's support would be there to encourage young talent in various ways.

Prof Satish also said that SRM was planning to make the event bigger by inviting participants from the North Eastern States too in the coming years.

## Barmer accident: Collector, SP removed, inquiry ordered

### JAIPUR, SEP 22 (PTI):

The Rajasthan government on Sunday shunted out the Barmer collector and the superintendent of police, and ordered an inquiry after three persons were killed in an accident during a National Rally

Championship race.

They have been put under 'awaiting posting orders', according to a release issued here.

Police said Arjuna awardee Gaurav Gill and his navigator were booked on Sunday on charge of culpa-

ble homicide not amounting to murder after their car rammed into a motorcycle during the race in Barmer killing a couple and their son. The release said as per primary information available, no permission was granted for the event and

no security measures were taken. The government has ordered an inquiry by the divisional commissioner into the matter. The divisional commissioner will submit a report to the home department in seven days, it said.

## CPI(M) and Congress stage road blockades

AGARTALA, SEP 22 (PTI): A day ahead of the by-election to the Badharghat Assembly seat, opposition CPI(M) and Congress on Sunday staged road blockades at two different places here alleging that their supporters were attacked by BJP activists in the constituency.

The BJP has denied the CPI(M) and Congress allegations.

BJP spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharya said no BJP supporter or activists were involved in the incident of attack in Badharghat constituency.

"We are not aware of any attack on CPI-M activists and no activist of BJP is involved in attack, if anything had happened as such," Bhattacharya told reporters.

The Badharghat assembly constituency is located in West Tripura district and the state capital Agartala also falls under it

Secretary of the CPI(M) West Tripura district, Pabitra Kar said alleged that five party



workers were injured in an attack by BJP supporters near a booth office at Siddhi Ashram area in the morning.

"The BJP workers attacked our supporters with lethal weapons in which five persons were injured. They also intimidated many voters, who are our supporters. We have lodged a complaint in the Amtali police station here," Kar told reporters.

Senior Congress leader, Subal Bhowmick in a press conference at the Congress Bhavan here alleged that the goons

of the BJP unleashed a reign a terror in the constituency and they also threatened the voters of dire consequences if they turned up to polling stations for casting votes.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Arindam Nath said police received complaints from CPI(M) and Congress, but no one was injured in the incidents so far.

"According to a preliminary investigation, no one was found to be injured," the DIG said.

"But, both the parties staged a road blockades in two separate places of

Siddhi Ashram area here. But we convinced them to withdraw the blockades by giving assurances that adequate security arrangements would be provided in the constituency for smooth conduct of the elections, he said.

The by-election to the Badharghat constituency was necessitated due to the death of ruling BJP MLA Dilip Sarkar in April this year.

The BJP has fielded Mimi Majumder for the seat while Bulti Biswas is the CPI(M) candidate. Ratan Das is the Congress candidate.


## 18 die due to rain-related incidents in UP

### LUCKNOW, SEP 22 (PTI):

As many as 18 persons across the state have died in various rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh, a government official said here on Sunday. In a statement issued here, the official said that five persons died on Sunday, while 13 were killed on Saturday.

"Three persons died in Kaushambi due to lightning strike while one person died due to a wall collapse in Amethi. Another person drowned in Banda," the statement said.

On Saturday, three persons died in Sonbhadra due to lightning strike and an equal number of people died in Ballia due to drowning in flood water, the statement said.



**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
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**PUBLIC ADVISORY**

In addition to the Public Advisory published in the local newspapers, vide R.O No.570/IPR/PUB/CLASI/18-10 dated 03.01.2019, it is reiterated and brought to the notice of all concerned that a B.Ed Degree course is conducted only through Regular Classes as per NCTE norms. A regular B.Ed candidate has to pursue the course by attending the classes for two years as a regular student in an NCTE approved Institution under a UGC recognized University.


Correspondence/Distance B.Ed course is allowed only through IGNOU on a pan India basis.

Any other mode of obtaining B.Ed Degree other than the process mentioned above shall be treated as non-admissible. Any Institution running unauthorized study centres for imparting B.Ed course shall be liable for action as per norms.

Director

Date: 19/09/2019 Exams, Scholarship & Text Book Section

**R.O.No. 201/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Date: 20.9.2019**



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

**PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

**No: 388/WS/PHED/345** **Dated: 12/09/2019**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed tenders in percentage rates are invited on behalf of Governor of Sikkim for the work mentioned below from the APPOPRIATE CLASS of registered contractors enlisted under SPWD within the territorial jurisdiction as indicated wide Memo no. 515/ R&B/ Secy./ Dated 12/06/2018 and having experience in such works should reach the office of the Divisional Engineer (GWS), Public Health Engineering Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim as per the schedule given below:

**DETAILS OF TENDER**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Cost of work put to tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of tender documents (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Territorial jurisdiction
1	2	3		5	6	7
1	Providing dedicated water supply to Medical College, Sichey and STNM Hospital at Sochyangang from Seleph Tank Gangtok, East Sikkim.	1,63,61,100.00	4,09,028.00	30,000.00	12 months	Gangtok Municipal Corporation

**TIME SCHEDULE**

1	Date of submission of application with Challan/ Bank Receipt for issue of tender documents (excluding tender form)	:	14/10/2019 to 17/10/2019 from 10:00AM to 3:00 PM.
2.	Date of issue of tender form on submission of TDR (as earnest money)	:	18/10/2019 & 21/10/2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
3.	Date and time for submission of Tender form	:	22/10/2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
4.	Date and time for opening of tender	:	23/10/2019 from 1:30 PM
5.	No tender shall be entertained after the expiry of the above schedule date and time.		
6.	Tender form/ documents could be obtained from the office of the Divisional Engineer (GWS), PHED. The prescribed Non-transferable tender documents (excluding the tender form) can be obtained on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of tender documents (Non refundable) under the Head "0215 W/S & Sanitation 800-Other receipt" Cost of tender form" and submitted the same along with attested the copies of the following documents:- a) An application signed by the contractor for availing the Tender Documents. b) Validated/ Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. Note: It is necessary to produce original copy of the above documents certificate for verification at the time of issue of tender documents.		

Sd/-  
Divisional Engineer(GWS), PHED  
Government of Sikkim  
dt. 16.09.2019

**R.O. NO. 190/IPR/PUB/Classi./19-20 Date: 16/09/19**



## From Representative to Participatory

*Time to reinforce democracy*

Sikkim has been enjoying representative democracy for four decades now, and it is time that this structure was reinforced further with a more participatory form of democracy. It is time not only because democracy has matured in the nine Assembly elections the people have participated in, but also because there are too many conflicting ideas being thrown up which can be addressed only if the people invest involvement in democracy beyond the casting of votes.

But what is participatory democracy all about?

Essentially, it involves informing, discussing and listening. These are actually prerequisites of a democracy, but most tend to end their participation with the ballot. Voting is admittedly a good habit, and Sikkim continues to set new records in as far as electoral participation is concerned, but democracy requires more. While elected leaders are fine for governance, when tricky issues need to be resolved, the people have to increase their involvement. It is however not easy for the people to set up such engagements on their own. And this is where the role of the elected representatives becomes more important - they have to initiate the process of participatory democracy. And this has to be more nuanced and refined than the mad scramble of mohallah sabhas that AAP briefly experimented with in Delhi. Even Sikkim used to have janta darbars at one time, but it quickly became clear that these were becoming more about individual complaints and grievances than community or wider issues. But if people were to find platforms and organizations through which they could express more meaningfully and coherently and with wider consensus on issues which babus or politicians would rather not take a call on their own, there would be fewer instances of inspired conspiracy theories to confuse and confound every one. It serves the purpose of elected representatives to know where the people stand on different issues and also because then they can truly understand the aspirations of the people and act accordingly. By doing so, they not only serve the people better but also secure their own political futures more resolutely.

The task is not easy though; the public does not and will not speak in one voice, but with many voices, raising different demands. And while a multitude of demands is not a problem, conflicting demands and conflicting interests pose a problem. Within any area there are many communities and with every issue, there are many lines of conflict. What the mediator has to look for is the other common factor - the lines of cooperation and begin the process from there. The development of participatory democracy, if successful, would extend the range of voices beyond those normally heard.

The importance of discussion in participatory democracy is to establish awareness about different positions, to test them against each other and against wider concerns and to see whether, through discussion, new positions can be reached which, even if they cannot reconcile differences, at least explore how far they can be accommodated. It is the responsibility of elected representatives to aid this process and in the end, if required, balance, mediate and judge the differing views. Of course, the people can side-step even such supervision by ensuring that they behave even when they disagree, disapprove or dislike. Ideally, such engagements are moderated by civil society organizations, but since Sikkim still awaits such groups, it will have to be the elected leaders who step up and initiate. Politicians are taking initiative, but at present, it is only to serve their own ambitions. We still don't have leaders supporting deliberations of the more unbiased kind. And Sikkim is the poorer for it. But if more leaders found the courage to support discussions without any preconditions, they will be participating in a healthy engagement and a welcome change from their usual responses which is to please and placate the people, but never, at least not so far, to engage them.

### WRITE US:

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

# Greta Thunberg's voice speaks just as loud as her words

DAMIEN POLLARD

THECONVERSATION.COM

*"Do you think they hear us? We'll make them hear us!"*. This was the rallying call Greta Thunberg gave to 250,000 people in New York's packed streets, and millions worldwide who were taking part in the largest climate protest in history. In political chambers and on the streets, her cutting and inspiring words have awakened countless people to the climate and ecological emergencies. But beyond them, her voice contains a message that's just as powerful.

The sound of Thunberg's voice has become as distinctive as her bluntly precise rhetoric and diminutive figure, as evidenced by her recent uncredited opening monologue on indie rock band The 1975's album, *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships*.

There's a certain poetic justice here. After first learning of the environmental crisis facing the planet, Thunberg was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, depression, and selective mutism, and describes herself as "only talking when necessary". The very presence of her voice in the public sphere alone therefore signals the urgency of the climate and ecological crises.

And in making her voice heard, its unique characteristics tell their own important story.

### THE SONIC FINGERPRINT

The human voice is like a fingerprint made of sound waves. Unique to each speaker, its composition is determined by an array of factors ranging from the size, age and sex of the speaker's body to their emotional state and social background.

As a result, when a person vocalises, the voice connects the individual to the collective. When we speak, we carry and communicate our own personal identity to the community we enter. When we listen, we're listening not only to the meaning of the words



spoken but also the non-linguistic information communicated by the speaker's sonic fingerprint.

The most salient characteristic of Thunberg's vocal fingerprint is perhaps her age. Just as Malala Yousafzai's youthful tones gave her drive for female education such sway, Thunberg's voice is a clear reminder of her 16 years - and by extension, the adolescence of the thousands of school strikers she has galvanised. She frequently frames the climate crisis as a generational conflict between the adults who are exacerbating the problem and the children who will pay the price. It is the youth in her voice, over and above her chastising words, that makes this role reversal so powerful.

The political landscape surrounding the climate and ecological crises is constantly changing. So is the human voice. How she alters her approach to public speaking as her voice shifts into adulthood could be important if

she is to keep having an impact - she will only sound like a student for so long.

### A VOICE THROUGH A CROWD

The wide reach of Thunberg's public speeches also turn an issue too often expressed with faceless statistics and global trends into a human one.

On paper, it would be easy to write off Greta's words as another opinion among many. But as well as physical characteristics, our voices communicate our emotions. Thunberg's terse and sombre monotone makes tangible the emotional significance of the deepening crisis facing her generation.

In embodying the issue of climate breakdown, Thunberg's voice also makes it personal. When she speaks, we are reminded that she is one individual - and that her actions alone inspired hundreds of thousands to join her. As the title of her recent collection of speeches says, *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*.

Thunberg and her followers argue for systems change, but they do so as a chorus of individual voices. The quarter-million strong unified chant of Thunberg's name at New York's climate strikes reminds us that when individuals are empowered and brought together, they can each play an important part in tackling climate and ecological breakdown.

The voice is not just a vehicle for language. The unique sounds of every human voice tell their own story alongside the words they carry. For Thunberg, this is the story of a generation let down and determined to effect change - whether leaders like it or not.

As the movement she started continues to gain momentum, this message will underpin everything she and her followers say. Whether people are listening is another story.

*[the writer is PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge Centre for Film & Screen, University of Cambridge]*

# Don't bet on the UN to fix climate change - it's failed for 30 years

MARC HUDSON

theconversation.com

We're constantly encouraged to think of the next big climate summit, conference or protest as the most important one, the one that is about to make the all-important breakthrough. The UN's Climate Action Summit on September 23 in New York is no different. The UN's Secretary General António Guterres is calling on world leaders to come with concrete and realistic plans to bring their national net carbon emissions down to zero by 2050.

But amid the hype, it's worth putting this UN summit in context against the history of 30 years of such international meetings. Is it a vain hope for 197 countries to agree on any meaningful climate action at all, especially when it involves so much money and power?

Scientists knew from the late 1950s that carbon dioxide was building up and that this could be a problem. By the late 1970s, they knew it would be - it was just a question of when. By 1985, at a workshop of scientists in Villach, Austria, the answer became "sooner than we thought".

Scientists and activists mobilised and in 1988 the stars aligned. An American drought, a NASA scientist called James Hansen willing to stick his neck out and an international conference in Toronto meant politicians had to respond.

On the 1988 American presidential campaign trail, George Bush Senior promised to convene a global conference on the environment at the White House to "talk about global warming". But when it finally happened it wasn't truly global.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was born the same year, endorsed by the UN general assembly, and produced its first report in 1990. By then, there had been fine declarations of motherhood-and-apple-pie in various European cities, such as the Hague and Bergen. However, negotiations towards an international treaty to do something about climate change itself did not begin until February 1991. The world's media largely ignored them, as the 1991 Gulf War was underway.

### UNFCCC BIRTH PANGS

Very little progress was made - a sign of things to come - and with a hard deadline of May 1992 approaching, a month before the world's nations were to gather in Rio de Janeiro for an "Earth Summit", powerful countries were at loggerheads.

The birth pangs of this search for an interna-



tional UN treaty on climate change still shape what is and isn't possible today.

The sticking point was - and still is - what the US government, and the business lobbies behind it, would find acceptable. The French government was keen that any treaty include actual commitments to reduce CO2 emissions, with targets and timetables for the rich nations. The Bush government warned that if these were included in the text they would not attend the Rio summit, leaving any treaty languishing. The French blinked, the UK acted as a middleman, and a deal was done.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) became law in March 1994, two years after the Rio summit.

The French, and others, had hoped that once the UNFCCC was signed and ratified, they could quickly address the question of rich country commitments to reduce CO2 emissions. But this didn't happen.

When the Kyoto Protocol, which extended the UNFCCC, was agreed in 1997, despite the fact that carbon trading and other economic instruments within it were designed to keep the Americans happy, no serious commitment to reductions was made. The Americans then pulled out of the implementation process of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, when George W Bush became president.

The process staggered on and there was another helping of motherhood-and-apple-pie at Copenhagen in 2009. Finally, in 2015 a non-binding Paris Agreement was cobbled together, based on a previously discarded "pledge and review" mechanism, which has created an endless round of promises

that haven't been met.

The scientist who had warned that climate change was upon us in 1988 - James Hansen - called the Paris Agreement a fraud, and since 2015, many nations are failing to meet their Paris commitments. Even if they did, global average temperature rise this century would be far in excess of the two degrees above pre-industrial levels that the deal is supposed to ensure.

The US pulled out of the Paris agreement in June 2017. A clear pattern has emerged.

### THE ROLE OF THE UN

Some would argue that trying to get 197 countries to agree on anything is a fool's errand. For 20 years, critics such as the international relations expert David Victor have questioned whether the UN is the appropriate venue for climate negotiations. Victor argues that such a forum is inevitably going to lead to gridlock. He's not alone in this - as early as 1983 some policy analysts in the US were saying that such a global problem could not be solved because of the complexity of its politics.

The counter argument is that if a deal is agreed outside of the UN process, between the world's major emitters - the EU, US and China - then it will be perceived as illegitimate, and will likely involve an even greater reliance on speculative technologies than the current Paris Agreement.

Ultimately, it becomes a matter of trust: do those already suffering the impacts of climate change trust those who have caused it to sort it out.

In my experience of talking to people who work in and around the UNFCCC's bodies, many speak knowledgeably without hesitation, deviation or repetition about the alphabet soup of climate change acronyms, but are completely oblivious of much of this awkward history. Yet what happened - straightforward veto power by the US of anything that would look like real action - remains with us today, and it doesn't help to pretend otherwise.

Whether the world can a transition to sustainability - the stated aims of both the UNFCCC and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - remains to be seen. But the stakes could not be higher. If political, economic, technological and cultural solutions aren't now found, the outlook for humanity - and the other species we share this planet with - is exceptionally bleak.

*[the writer is Researcher, University of Manchester]*



# Exclusion of Hindu Bengalis from Assam NRC changing political narrative in Bengal

**PRADIPTA TAPADAR KOLKATA, SEP 22 (PTI):** The spectre of NRC implementation is fast turning Bengal into a political battleground, with the TMC appearing to have an advantage over the BJP after the omission of a large number of Hindu Bengalis from the register in saffron party-ruled Assam.

The demand for the NRC exercise to weed out infiltrators has been gaining momentum since last year in the state, which shares over 2000-km-long border with Bangladesh.

However, the publication of the final NRC list in Assam, which left out over 19.6 lakh people - of which around 12 lakh are Hindus and Bengali Hindus - has changed the political narrative in the state to a great extent.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been on the offensive by milking the issue of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as an "anti-Bengali" move on the part of the saffron party.

"What does the omission of 12 lakh Bengalis and Hindus from Assam NRC show? It shows that it is a tool to target Bengalis. The BJP which claims to be the champion of Hindus and its rights should first answer how come Hindus and Bengalis were omitted from the list.

"The figures prove that their main target was Bengalis," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said.

BJP national pres-

ident Amit Shah, who had repeatedly said that the exercise would be conducted across India, is expected to address a seminar on the issue here on October 1.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who met the Union home minister in Delhi over the matter early this week, has been building strong public opinion against the exercise. The TMC supremo had led a rally against NRC on September 12 here.

Last month, the West Bengal Assembly had passed a resolution against NRC, with Banerjee vowing not to allow its implementation in Bengal.

TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the register has not just divided the masses, but also made people refugees in their own country.

"The BJP has said if it comes to power, it will implement NRC in Bengal. So the people of Bengal are conscious enough to decide what is good and bad for them. The party should first explain why Bengalis and Hindus have been excluded from the list," Bandyopadhyay said.

The ripple effect of NRC in Assam has already been felt in Bengal, especially in districts bordering the neighbouring state, with panicked people lining up at government offices to get documents in place.

Two recent deaths in the state have been attributed to the panic swirling around the citi-



zenship register.

The TMC leadership has blamed the BJP for creating anxiety over NRC in Bengal.

Banerjee, however, iterated that the exercise will not be allowed in the state and the BJP would have to get past her if they tried to touch anyone.

The promise of NRC implementation, which has been a major plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha polls, is considered by its leaders as a plausible factor that led to the rise of the party in Bengal, having bagged 18 parliamentary seats earlier this year.

Nevertheless, the exclusion of around 12 lakh Hindus from the final NRC list in Assam has put the saffron party in a precarious situation.

The party has now said that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would be implemented first, which would provide Hindu refugees Indian nationality, and then the process to oust "Muslim infiltrators" would be carried out.

"The illegal Bangladeshi Muslims pose security threat to the inhabitants of the state and the

country," state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh told PTI.

During the 1971 Liberation War in Bangladesh, millions of people had fled the country and moved to India, particularly in Bengal and the northeast region.

"In Bengal, we would first implement citizenship bill and then the NRC. The TMC is just trying to create a panic to reap political dividends," Ghosh added.

According to sources in the TMC, the Mamata Banerjee-led party is trying to play the "anti-Bengali card" in Bengal, ahead of the 2021 Assembly polls.

"After our setback in the Lok Sabha polls, where our tally dropped and BJP's grew by leaps and bounds, we have been looking for an issue to counter their narrative. The NRC has given us that issue," a senior state TMC leader told PTI.

BJP's refugee cell chief Mohit Roy conceded that the final NRC list in Assam is a setback for the party, but assuaged all fears by saying Hindus, who have been left out of the list, will be secured

through the implementation of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

The contentious bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, to grant Indian nationality to people of minority communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The NRC issue serves dual purpose for the ruling party -- firstly it would help unite the Bengalis against the BJP, a section of which had drifted towards the saffron party during the Lok Sabha polls, and then it would further cement its base among the 30 per cent Muslim population in Bengal, the TMC sources said.

A deciding factor in nearly 80-100 of 294 assembly seats in the state, minorities, especially Muslims, are likely extend their support to the TMC, as they are opposed to NRC in Bengal, the ruling party's Muslim leadership has claimed.

The BJP leadership, on the other hand, feels the TMC's plans to use NRC to regain its lost ground won't yield any results "as the Banerjee-led party has lost the plot in Bengal and the state is yearning for a change in 2021".

Opposition Congress and CPI(M), however, are of the opinion that both the BJP and the TMC are using the matter to serve their own political interests with utter disregard for the suffering for the masses.

## Nok Air launches Guwahati-Bangkok flight service



**GUWAHATI, SEP 22 (PTI):** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday flagged off Nok Air's Guwahati-Bangkok flight here and hoped that the introduction of the service will help in strengthening bilateral relations between Assam and Thailand.

The introduction of the flight is not just an extension of airline route but more importantly a futuristic gesture, which will go a long way in strengthening bilateral relations between Assam and Thailand, Sonowal said at the flagging off ceremony at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here.

The Nok Air flight will reach Don Mueang Airport near Bangkok in three hours time and offers a convenient connection twice a week for

both business and leisure travellers.

"Connectivity has always been a major bottleneck in optimum realization of the growth prospects of the region and with this in view, the Centre has taken up steps to connect six South East Asian destinations from Guwahati under UDAN scheme", Sonowal said.

The first Guwahati-Dhaka flight by Spicejet under International Air Connectivity Scheme was flagged off on July one this year and this flight marked the roll-out of UDAN- International, pioneered by Assam Government with Viability Gap Funding of Rs 100 crore.

In the next few months, flights connecting to Kathmandu, Yangon, Hanoi and Kuala Lumpur will also commence, he

said. Last year Druk Air Royal Bhutan Airlines introduced Paro-Guwahati-Singapore flight.

The Centre has also taken a historic decision to bring 19 destinations in the North East, including five cities in Assam, under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN-2 which would significantly facilitate regional air connectivity by making air travel affordable for the masses, Sonowal said.

Bangladesh and Bhutan governments have already set up their consulates in Guwahati and 10 ASEAN nations are also expected to follow suit soon, Sonowal said.

The Act East Policy of the Government of India gives new hope for growth of the region, he added.

## Virus attack kills four elephants at Nandankanan Zoo

**BHUBANESWAR, SEP 22 (PTI):** Four elephants have died at the Nandankanan Zoo here after being infected by a virus, prompting the Odisha government to seek assistance from experts of Assam and Kerala.

All the four calves died of Endotheliotrophic Herpes Virus within a span of one month.

"The state government has contacted experts in Assam and Kerala where similar virus has killed several elephants in the past," Forest and Environment Minister of Odisha, B Karukha, said on Saturday.

Since there is no such vaccine to check the spread of the virus, the state government has sought assistance of experts to contain further outbreak.

Out of the eight elephants in the zoo, the Endotheliotrophic Herpes Virus claimed lives of four



jumbos so far, the minister said.

Efforts are on to save the remaining jumbos, Arukha said, adding, the latest elephant death was reported on Friday night when a female elephant calf, 'Gauri', succumbed to the EEHV (Elephant Endotheliotrophic Herpes Virus).

Gauri was brought to the Nandankanan Zoo from Athagarh Forest Range in 2012.

Out of the remaining four elephants, three are adults.

The EEHV mostly affects elephant calves be-

low 15 years of age.

Since most of the elephants were brought from different forests of the state, blood samples will be collected to ensure that the EEHV has not spread to the wild also, the minister said.

All precautionary measures are being taken to save lives of the remaining elephants in the zoo, the Deputy Director of Nandankanan Zoo, Jayant Das, said.

It is not clear whether the virus has also affected the remaining elephants, he said.

## Indian boxers closing in on Kazakhs and Uzbeks: Santiago Nieva

**NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI)** Indian boxers' unparalleled performance at the just-concluded men's world championship shows they are "closing in" on traditional powerhouses such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, High-Performance Director Santiago Nieva has asserted.

India recorded their best-ever finish at the marquee tournament in Ekaterinburg, Russia by claiming a silver and a bronze through Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) respectively. Before this, the country had never won more than one bronze in a single edition of the showpiece.

"We have done what we came for. We won medals, performed better than last time. The targets were achieved," Nieva told PTI in a telephonic interview from Ekaterinburg.

"Countries like China and Azerbaijan, which are good, are going back without a medal while we have improved our tally, it has significance. We can be proud," he said.

"I was expecting a determined show but to tell you frankly, I am surprised at the intensity. Our expectations have not just been met but surpassed," added national coach C A Kutappa.

India was among nine countries, out of a total of 78, which had a finalist in the tournament. The country

was tied with England and the United States of America in having one finalist in the mega event, the Kazakhs and the Cubans had two, while the Uzbeks topped with four in the summit clashes.

India had four boxers in the quarterfinals, two of them losing intense contests.

"We still have a lot of work to do but we are closing in. We believe we can be at par with the likes of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. We are heading in the right direction," Nieva said.

"I am confident that when the world championship comes to Delhi in 2021, we will have more medals than ever," he added.

Dissecting individual performances, Nieva pointed out the distinctness of Panghal and Kaushik's styles.

"Amit is a very busy boxer and he always gives the impression that he is upto something. He improvises quickly and can really surprise opponents. Manish is dogged. He sticks to counter-offence and forces his rivals to adapt," he explained.

The diminutive Panghal defeated a Kazakh, Saken Bibossinov, en route the finals before meeting his match in Uzbekistan's Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov, who beat the Indian 5-0.

"Amit always fights bigger and stronger

boxers but never seems fazed. They find it hard to figure him out. He is very deceptive," Nieva added.

Asked what exactly has worked so well this time for the Indians, Nieva said, "clean punching."

"No matter what you are trying to execute, whether straights, uppercuts or hooks, make sure they are clean hits. The boys are responding well to this," he added.

The Argentina-born Swede, who has been with the team since 2017, also praised debutant Sanjeet (91kg) and Asian silver-medallist Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg). The two finished as quarterfinalists after producing some gutsy performances.

Bisht, in fact, fought with a cut above his right eye in the quarterfinals but did not look perturbed against Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Peter McGrail of England.

"They showed big hearts. They were unfazed by the stature of their rivals and that's what is very important. You respect your rival but don't get intimidated by his CV," Nieva said.

"Indian boxers are fearless in that sense. We are also working on ensuring control. It is important to be fearless but it is equally important to take a step back when the situation demands. These are aspects that we are building on to strike the right balance," he added.

## Encourage 10 friends over phone to check their houses for dengue larvae: CM appeals to people

**NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI):** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday appealed to people to encourage 10 of their friends over the phone to check their houses for dengue larvae, as part of the city government's '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' campaign.

Delhi minister Gopal Rai said he urged his friends to inspect their houses. His colleague, Rajendra Pal Gautam also tweeted pictures of him cleaning a water pot as a measure against mosquito-breeding.

"Another Sunday - Another day to check your house for Dengue larvae. But this time, I took it up a notch. I called up 10 of my friends and urged them to inspect their houses as well," Rai posted on Twitter.

Kejriwal also urged people to circulate the message on WhatsApp groups.

"Today, after checking my house for 10 minutes, I called 10 of my friends and encouraged them to check their houses. This time we have to defeat dengue. #DilliKeChampion,"

he tweeted.

In a video posted on Twitter, Kejriwal can be seen inspecting his house for mosquito breeding.

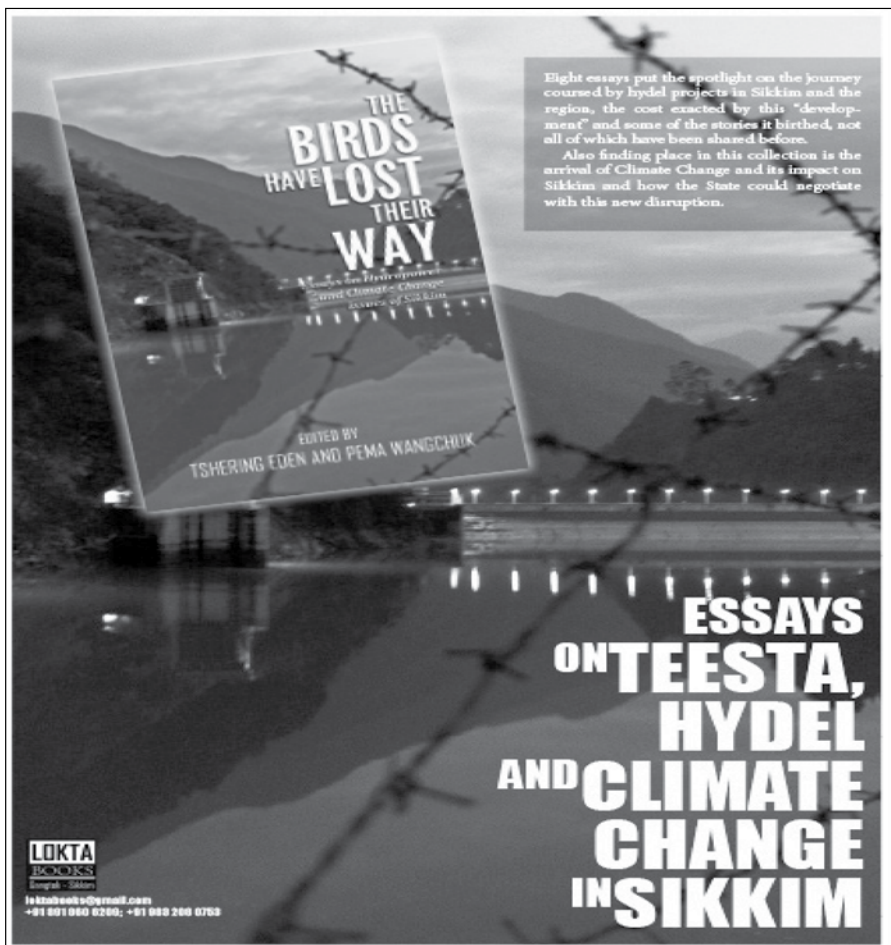
"From today onwards, we will do one more thing. Call up 10 of your friends and relatives and urge them to inspect their houses. Post the message on WhatsApp groups also and write, 'I have inspected my house for dengue. You also do the same'. This will help you become a champion against dengue," he said in the video.

The number of dengue cases recorded till September 7 stood at 122, with 30 of these reported in the current month and 52 in August.

Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four deaths due to the disease were recorded by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates the data on vector-borne diseases in the city.

Both the Delhi government and the local bodies have been cautioning people against breeding of mosquito larvae in and around their houses.

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**news@summittimes.com**





# Lukaku helps keep perfect Inter top with derby triumph

Milan, Sep 22 (AFP): Romelu Lukaku fired Inter Milan back top of Serie A with the second goal of a 2-0 derby win that extended their perfect start to the season at the expense of city rivals AC Milan.

Belgium striker Lukaku and Marcelo Brozovic's second half strikes gave Inter their fourth win in as many games, putting them two points ahead of Juventus after the champions' came back from a goal down beat Verona 2-1 thanks to Aaron Ramsey's first Serie A goal and a Cristiano Ronaldo penalty.

Antonio Conte's Inter were looking for a boost after their dismal 1-1 draw in their Champions League draw against Czech outsiders Slavia Prague.

And they hit back in a fiery Milan derby with Belgian striker Lukaku heading in his third goal in four games with 12 minutes remaining after Brozovic's 49th-minute

opener.

"At 26 years old, I needed and wanted a coach like this, one who motivates me every day," said Lukaku of Conte.

"My relationship with Conte is very strong, he's a really good coach because he's someone who helps players to develop a lot.

"I'm really happy to be here and to be wearing this shirt."

Milan could thank Gianluigi Donnarumma for keeping the match goalless in the first half after he denied Lautaro Martinez, Lukaku and Danilo D'Ambrosio. Lautaro had a goal ruled out after 35 minutes for being marginally offside.

But the breakthrough came four minutes after the break when Stefano Sensi set up Brozovic, whose deflected shot beat Donnarumma and was confirmed after consultation with VAR.

Lukaku sealed the win and a perfect 12 points from four games



when he guided Nicolo Barella's cross home with a glancing header, as AC Milan slip to ninth place with six points.

"We came from a performance in the Champions League that left us with a bitter taste, but gave us more impetus to

face the derby in the best way," said Conte.

"It is a deserved victory, I am happy for our fans, because the derby is always the derby."

- BUFFON BACK -

Juventus had trailed in Turin to Miguel Veloso's goal before Wales

midfielder Ramsey pulled the champions level in the 31st minute, with Ronaldo's spot-kick ensuring the win for the hosts just after the break.

It got Maurizio Sarri's side back to winning ways after last weekend's Serie A stalemate

at Fiorentina and a 2-2 Champions League draw at Atletico Madrid mid-week.

Italian goalkeeping legend Gianluigi Buffon returned to the Juventus goal after spending a season in Paris Saint-Germain to match Paolo Mal-

dini's Italian record of 902 club matches.

Buffon's appearances have been spread across three clubs -- Parma, Juventus and PSG -- with Maldini having spent his entire career with Serie A rivals Milan. But the 41-year-old could not keep a clean sheet and was beaten by Veloso after 21 minutes.

Amid confusion in front of the Juve goal after Simone Di Carmine missed a Verona penalty, and Darko Lazovic's rebound rattled the bar, Veloso pounced to rifle a long range strike past Buffon.

But Ramsey got the champions back on level terms 10 minutes later on his full debut, with a deflected effort past Verona goalkeeper Marco Silvestri. Ronaldo put Juventus ahead from the spot with just his second goal this season three minutes after the restart, having missed two chances before the break.

Juve held on thanks to Buffon, who denied Mattia Zaccagni and Lazovic in front of goal after 89 minutes, while Veloso was denied a brace by the post.

"After the Champions League the team was tired, but the important thing was to win. Let's take these three points and go ahead," said Ronaldo.

Verona are 12th with four points from as many games. Cagliari and Brescia are seventh and eighth respectively, with each on six points, after the Sardinian side saw off Genoa 3-1 on Friday and newly-promoted Brescia snatched a tight 1-0 win at third-from-bottom Udinese.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli travel south to promote Lecce on Sunday after seeing off European champions Liverpool 2-0 on Tuesday, while third-placed Bologna can join Juve on 10 points with a win over mid-table Roma.

## Barcelona's poor start continues with surprise defeat by Granada



**MADRID, SEP 22 (AFP):** Barcelona threw on their stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save them from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

Messi was still not deemed fit enough to start at Los Carmenes while Fati, the 16-year-old who has lit up La Liga in recent weeks, also began the game on the bench on Saturday.

But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored again, Alvaro Vadillo converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a handball.

Barcelona have now won only two of their opening five league games and none away from Camp Nou, this their second loss already, just one fewer than the three they suffered during the entirety of last season.

With seven points on the board, this is their worst start to a season since 1994.

"Obviously I am worried," said coach Ernesto Valverde.

"Because we are not getting good results and when that happens in two or three games, it means we are not playing well."

Instead, Granada go top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before.

They will stay there until Sunday, when Sevilla, Real Madrid or Athletic Bilbao could overtake them.

Barcelona are sixth, grasping onto the consolation of Messi's second substitute appearance in

five days that now suggests he has finally recovered from the niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August.

Their problems though are unlikely to be solved simply by their captain's return.

Junior Firpo's error two minutes into his first start for the club gifted Granada their opening goal and set the tone for a chaotic night in defence.

And up front, Antoine Griezmann was quiet again, with little in any of the combinations to suggest Ernesto Valverde has yet worked out who will form his best attacking trio and in what positions.

"In the end, the coach is responsible and I feel responsible," Valverde said.

"I always think you can win or lose but at least you have to deserve to win when you lose, and today it hasn't been like that."

Firpo's mistake came early, as he shaped to play a long ball over the top back to his goalkeeper. Instead, the lively Roberto Soldado stole possession and slipped in Antonio Puertas.

- MESSI IMPACT LIMITED -

With Firpo on the floor, Gerard Pique scrambled across but Puertas' shot only looped up off the defender to the back post where Azeez headed in.

Granada seemed hungrier than Barca and their dominance persuaded Valverde to make two changes at half-time, Messi and Fati replacing Carles Perez and Firpo.

Messi won a free-kick 30 yards out but hit it straight at the wall while Marc-Andre ter Stegen fumbled a cross and had

to react quickly to claw it back off his own line.

Any hopes of a Barca comeback were dashed in the 66th minute as Vidal handballed at the end of a scramble in the box and Vadillo made no mistake with the spot-kick.

One break saw Messi supply Fati but the teenager took too long and then Messi tried himself but his shot was straight at the goalkeeper. In the end, Granada were comfortable winners.

Atletico could have returned to the top of La Liga but were frustrated by a determined Celta Vigo.

After coming from two goals down to salvage a point against Juventus in the Champions League on Wednesday, Atletico failed to sustain the momentum in a match of few chances at the Wanda Metropolitano.

Diego Simeone's side won their opening three league games but are now two without a victory, following last weekend's shock defeat away at Real Sociedad.

This latest setback leaves Simeone with familiar questions to answer about his side's attacking threat.

Summer signing Joao Felix started before being replaced by Alvaro Morata in the second half, the Spanish striker available again after recovering from a knee injury.

But neither Felix nor Morata, or their partner Diego Costa, could conjure up the decisive opening, with full-backs Renan Lodi and Kieran Trippier by far the team's most creative outlets.

Atletico drop to third in the table while Celta climb to 14th.

## Don't want award for myself, but please honour my coach: Amit Panghal

**POONAM MEHRA**

**NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI):** Ignored for the Arjuna award due to an "inadvertent" doping violation in 2012, trail-blazing Indian boxing ace Amit Panghal (52kg) said he does not care for personal honours but pleaded for a Dronacharya award for his formative coach Anil Dhankar.

Panghal became the first Indian boxer to claim a silver medal at the just-concluded World Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia. He is also an Asian Games and Asian Championships gold-medallist.

However, he has not been considered for Arjuna award due to a failed dope test back in 2012, for which he served a one-year ban. The "inadvertent" violation was during the treatment he

underwent for chicken pox that year.

"I don't really care for awards for myself but I would be grateful if Anil Dhankar, my formative coach is considered for the Dronacharya. He has shaped me in my early years and had it not been for him, I would not be the boxer that I am today," Panghal told PTI.

"I began boxing in 2008 and Dhankar sir has been my rock ever since. Even now, it is Dhankar sir that I go to when I need guidance on any matter. An award for him would be an award for me too. In fact, it will make me happier," he said.

The 45-year-old Dhankar has never been involved with any of the national teams but was a national level medallist during his time as a box-



er. He was thankful to his ward for the affection.

"I have actually known him since 2005. To me, he is family. I have a close relationship with all his family members and he is like my own child. I still remember how skillful he came across despite being so small. He has made me very proud," he said.

The Boxing Federation of India has vowed to nominate Panghal ev-

ery year till the time his name is among the winners.

"The BFI insists it will keep nominating me, I am thankful for this consideration. But all I want to do is win medals for India and I am glad I am able to do that wherever I compete," he said.

"As long as I am winning medals for the country, personal awards do not matter to me," he added.

The 23-year-old Naib Subedar in the Indian Army has been in the form of his life for the past two years. And even a change in weight category -- from 49kg to 52kg has had little impact on his performances.

By his own admission, he was wary of how things would pan out after the jump but a gold medal at the Asian Championships and the silver at the world showpiece has all but buried any skepticism in his mind.

The next big assignment for him would be the Asian Olympic Qualifying tournament in China next February.

"It is another challenge and I am trying to better myself for it. Power in punches would be crucial and I am working towards it," he said

## Book traces evolution of campaigning in Indian elections

**NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI):** A new book traces the evolution of election campaigns in India by focusing on key players, rise and fall of political parties, role of digital and technology platforms, and emergence of fake news impacting poll outcome in the country and across the world.

In The Game of Votes: Visual Media Politics and Elections in the Digital Era, author Farhat Basir Khan argues that tradi-

tional ways of poll campaigns are no longer effective or enough to gain the attention of voters.

Political branding, image management, crisis communication, data analytics, microblogging, and most importantly, short crisp videos hold the key for today's elections, he says.

In the early general elections, political parties used newspapers, public meetings and door-to-door canvassing to convey their messages, policies, manifesto and information about the party.

With rapid advancement and industrialisation, the traditional methodologies of electoral campaigning also changed dramatically and gave rise to an even higher proliferation of

modern media technologies, he says.

The book traces the changing political and media landscape beginning with the tepid elections of the 1950s to the feverish social media-driven elections of the 21st century, from the heady post-Independence Nehruvian era to the frenzied victory of Narendra Modi in 2019.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee has written the foreword to the book, published by SAGE, terms it as a reflection on the mood swings of the "unpredictable but very intelligent" Indian voter.

The book looks at the role of technology platforms, micro-profiling voters, clash of personalities and the rise of the national champion' - all of which have been dealt with in detail," he writes.

The book discusses the art of forging political alliances, the overwhelming influence of social media companies in global politics, the menace of fake news and the worldwide rise of right-wing politics.

The unpredictable rise of brand Modi, his inexplicable persona, style of politics and vote-conversion abilities are contrasted with the



losing sheen of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, loss of confidence in the Congress and electoral reverses for the party, it says.

The book also looks back at former US president Barack Obama's and incumbent Donald Trump's elections where social media, particularly Facebook, played a major role in the campaigns.

What the pundits had not reckoned with was the impact the newer kid on the block - WhatsApp will have, considering its mega role in making viral news elements that are volatile, insidious and fake, Khan, faculty member at AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, says.

He critically looks at how new media companies and platforms have been used to the hilt by

election campaign managers.

The book highlights the fact that the social media has not just become a daily battleground for fake news but has spread its tentacles around the core of Indian democracy - its free and fair elections.

According to Khan, social media helps to overcome the barrier of means in communication that in turn enables strengthened relationships between voters or advocates and politicians. And when it comes to election campaigns, social media becomes the digital version of the election rallies held on the ground.

There are, however, repercussions - trolls, shaming, morphing and social bullying are the other side of the story. Yet, it allows the politician to focus on the target voter group more

earnestly than on field where they are an inseparable part of the crowd, he says.

He argues that the BJP's way of using social media is different.

It pushed as much information as possible to saturate and overwhelm the mind of an average Indian with information, not really allowing too much space for further consideration, and driving him to opt for a hurried, if not impetuous, decision on who he chooses to govern the nation for next five years.

In one of the chapters, Khan tries to decipher the visual imagery in the newspapers during the 2014 Indian elections.

The patterns that emerged from the analysis are a clear indication of a robust and well-thought photographic communication strategy in place; it does not seem to be just happenstance or coincidence.

The BJP was the only party with visible and consistent patterns in their use of photographs. They maintained a constant flow of photographic communication in both the newspapers depicting their focus on the use of newspapers for dissemination of messages, he writes.



*US likely to escalate trade war with China if no deal is agreed soon: Trump's advisor*

**BEIJING, SEP 22 (PTI):** The US is likely to ramp up pressure on China by raising existing tariffs if a trade deal is not reached soon between the two countries, a key White House adviser has said.

The world's two largest economies have been locked in a bruising trade war since Trump in March last year imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods.

In response, China, the world's second largest economy after the US, imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on USD 110 billion of American goods.

Michael Pillsbury, adviser to the White House on China policy, said that Trump would likely escalate the trade war by raising existing tariffs, if no deal is reached.

In an interview in Hong Kong on Thursday, Pillsbury said that Trump had been remarkably restrained in the pressure he has brought to bear on China in the trade field.

Both sides so far have held 12 rounds of talks but failed to work out a deal as China continued to resist Trump's demand for intrusive verification mechanism to supervise Beijing's promise to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) technology transfer and more access to American goods to Chinese markets.

Trump delayed a planned tariff hike on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods as a "gesture of good will" ahead of China's 70th year of National Day celebrations on October 1.

The two countries are preparing for the next round of trade talks in Washington in October.

Does the president have options to escalate the trade war? Yes, the tariffs can be raised higher. These are low level tariffs that could go to 50 per cent or 100 per cent, Pillsbury was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Sunday.

Trump's critics were wrong to assume the President was just bluffing when he threatened an all-out trade war, he said.

There are other options involving the financial markets, Wall Street, you know, the president has a whole range of options, he said.

Pillsbury said Trump was not seeking to cripple US-China trade, instead positing that he wanted to increase the level of trade to rectify the deficit.

Meanwhile, a veteran Chinese economic policymaker has for the first time revealed intrusive American demands saying that US is trying to colonise China with a trade deal.

Li Deshui, a former chief of China's statistics bureau, wrote in an article that that the US had specifically demanded that China amend its domestic laws and proposed to establish a permanent bilateral office to debate Beijing's economic policies.

In addition, Washington had requested a one-sided enforcement mechanism that allowed it to impose sanctions on China if it was unhappy with economic policies, but China could not retaliate, Li was quoted as saying by the Post.

## Determined Hong Kong protesters head home before tense anniversaries

**WASHINGTON, SEP 22 (AFP):** Prominent Hong Kong protesters were flying home from Washington Saturday night buoyed by international support and determined to press on with their struggle well beyond two looming anniversaries.

In an interview with AFP, Joshua Wong, 22, and pop star Denise Ho, 42, downplayed the personal toll of standing up to authoritarian China and its pro-Beijing leadership in the global financial hub.

They have become the faces of a protest movement which is leaderless and whose activists take to the streets masked, partly to protect themselves from reprisals in their push for universal suffrage and an independent inquiry into alleged police abuses.

Wong and Ho are returning to Hong Kong after raising awareness in the United States, Germany, Taiwan and Australia about the pro-democracy protests that have continued for more than three months despite escalating rhetoric from Beijing.

Next Saturday is the fifth anniversary of the 79-day Umbrella Movement, which Wong helped spearhead after Beijing rejected a call for universal voting rights in the former British colony.

**UNITED NATIONS (UNITED STATES), SEP 22 (AFP):** US President Donald Trump will stand before the United Nations on Tuesday to declare his country top of the world. But with diplomatic troubles building, his annual boast may ring hollow.

Trump's political brand is as well known inside the United Nations as his businessman version is to the rest of New York: brash, unabashedly self-promoting, and all about claiming the win.

At this year's UN General Assembly, the former real estate tycoon won't disappoint.

"We'll say the United States is the greatest country in the world. It's never been stronger and it's never been better," he said in a mini-review of his speech.

Oh -- and that Americans "certainly have one of the great presidents in our history."

Trump's declaration last year that he had "accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country" triggered laughter in the cavernous UN hall.

Headlines like "The Whole World Laughed at Trump" followed, to which Trump insisted that diplomats were chuckling with, not at him.

## EU's Juncker says not too late for Brexit deal

Madrid, Sep 22 (AFP): There is still time for London and Brussels to make a Brexit deal, outgoing European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said in remarks published Sunday, as the clock runs down to a October 31 deadline.

Juncker also told the



ny.

Ho said she worries about what might happen around that date because police have been rejecting requests for marches even though "it is in our rights to peacefully assemble." By not allowing the rallies, authorities are violating the Basic Law that underpins the city's semi-autonomous status, she said.

"I do think this is a situation that might go on for quite a bit of time, and one of the ways to stop it is probably really to get the international communities come together to voice their concerns over this issue," Ho, short-haired and wearing a military-style jacket and heavy boots, told AFP in an interview.

Three days after the Umbrella Movement commemoration will be the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Peo-

ple's Republic of China, but Ho said she does not think China's communist rulers would want any clashes on that day. Nor would they deploy People's Liberation Army troops, she said.

"But then you have to understand that these Chinese police are already here, they are already infiltrating the Hong Kong police force," said Ho, whose music has been banned in mainland China for her activism.

"We do expect there will be a huge number of people who would be going on the streets" to protest on October 1, she said.

The Hong Kong demonstrations, which drew millions, began against a now scrapped plan to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland. They grew into a wider campaign for democracy, fueled by

animosity towards the police, with hardcore protesters turning to violence.

Under the terms of the 1997 handover deal, the city has rights and liberties that do not exist on the mainland, including an independent judiciary and freedom of speech, but demonstrators say freedoms are being eroded by Beijing.

In Washington, Wong testified with Ho before the US Congress in support of a bill aimed at defending civil rights in Hong Kong.

Wearing a sports coat over his T-Shirt, Wong told AFP it is significant "and remarkable" that the US administration "really pay much more attention to Hong Kong protests compared to five years ago." Part of the reason, he said, is the much larger scale that has seen thousands of

tear gas rounds fired, 1,500 activists arrested and around 200 -- including himself -- prosecuted.

"Even I've been arrested, jailed for 120 days, the price I pay is really small," said the bespectacled Wong, noting that some protesters with riot-related charges could face 10 years behind bars.

"More important is the solidarity of Hong Kong people encourage me (to) continue in this fight, and my responsibility and my role is to let the voice of Hong Kong people" be heard globally, said Wong, an activist since his early teens.

Ho, who also joined the Umbrella Movement and in addition became an advocate for LGBT rights, says she is unable to get brand or corporate sponsorships and even has difficulties finding concert venues in Hong Kong but "I don't really think it is a sacrifice."

She says the protesters "need to keep our spirits up" but remain determined and very strong despite the "very long battle ahead."

Although the government is not backing down, "they have really played out all their cards."

"So I guess at some point they do have to give in. It's just a matter of time."

## Trump to boast to UN about US success, but troubles mounting

facilities last weekend.

Trump has left everyone guessing, announcing still more US sanctions on Friday -- but so far resisting war.

In Afghanistan, Trump hoped for a big, dramatic win.

His diplomats spent months in painstaking negotiations over getting nearly all the last US troops out of the country after two decades of war.

But earlier this month, Trump tried to bring Taliban leaders over to the United States for face-to-face talks, only to cancel the whole thing at the last minute.

On the economic front, Trump's all-or-nothing battle with China has the whole world holding its breath.

As usual Trump has sought to develop close relations with his counterpart, President Xi Jinping, but neither that friendship nor his aggressive use of tariffs has produced decisive results so far.

At the United Nations, the US president might want to consider the risks of his instincts to tear up the old rules books, said diplomacy expert Jeffrey Feltman at the Brookings Institution.

Because "if the US leaves a vacuum in the leadership of the UN, others will fill it."

## Trump, Biden spar over Ukraine after whistleblower complaint

**WASHINGTON, SEP 22 (AFP):** Joe Biden accused Donald Trump Saturday of "an overwhelming abuse of power" and called for an investigation into accusations the US leader pressured his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate the presidential candidate's son.

Biden's allegations prompted a swift rebuke from Trump, who himself accuses the Democratic frontrunner of wrongdoing in Ukraine during his time as vice president under former president Barack Obama.

The back-and-forth recriminations stem from a Washington Post report stating a whistleblower complaint had been filed over Trump's communications with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and a "promise" allegedly made by the US leader.

Trump allegedly pressured Zelensky to investigate possible corruption involving Biden and his son Hunter, who had worked with a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father was vice president.

Trump has urged media to "look into" Biden's comments in early 2016 when the then US vice president said the Obama administration would freeze 1 billion in US loan guarantees unless Kiev fire its top prosecutor, who was looking into the gas company.

"This appears to be an overwhelming abuse of power, to get on the phone with a foreign leader who is looking for help from the United States and ask about me," Biden told reporters on the campaign trail in the state of Iowa.

"I know what I'm up against, a serial abuser. That's what this guy is," Biden continued. "If he sees any threat to his staying in power, he'll do whatever he has to do. But this crosses the line."

Biden had on Friday demanded Trump immediately release the transcript of a July 25 call with Zelensky while saying reports that the president sought to coerce his Ukrainian counterpart, if true, amounted to "clear-cut corruption."

Trump slammed the allegations as "ridiculous," and on Saturday accused Biden on Twitter of having demanded, during his time as vice president, "that the Ukrainian Government fire a prosecutor who was investigating his son."

He also accused news outlets of fabricating "a story about me and a perfectly fine and routine conversation I had with the new President of the Ukraine. Nothing was said that was in any way wrong, but Biden's demand, on the other hand, was a complete and total disaster."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prys-taiko denied that there was any pressure from Trump in an interview on television station Hromadske.

"I know what they were talking about and I think there was no pressure," he said.

"It was a long and friendly discussion, and it dealt with many questions that in many cases needed serious answers," he said.

On Saturday, Trump posted a video montage of media reports, which included a clip of Biden saying he'd asked that the prosecutor be dismissed.

Biden has said the call had nothing to do with his son.

"I've never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings," Biden said. "Everybody looked at it and said there's nothing there."

"Trump is doing this because he knows I'll beat him like a drum and using abuse of power and every element of the presidency to try to do something to smear me," Biden, who is leading Trump in most polls, said.

Trump also excoriated media outlets whose reporting brought the alleged events to light.

"The Fake News Media nowadays not only doesn't check for the accuracy of the facts, they knowingly make up the facts. They even make up sources in order to protect their partners, the Democrats," he posted on Twitter.



A year later, with Trump beset by setbacks from North Korea to Iran and Venezuela to China, will his Big Apple bragadocio get a better reception?

A senior administration official told reporters ahead of the assembly that Trump would work to "affirm America's leadership role in the rules-based international system."

But the US president prefers to go it alone, preferring bilateral deals to coalitions, negotiating with enemies and clashing with friends.

On Monday, he'll skip a big climate change summit organised by the UN secretary general. Trump, who promotes fossil fuels and derides the need for renewable energy, also missed climate change talks at

the recent G7 summit in France.

While at the UN, he'll meet separately with around a dozen leaders.

But of them, the only European representative currently on the list is Boris Johnson, the prime minister running the chaotic Brexit process of trying to pull Britain out of the EU.

There will be intense scrutiny of a meeting on Wednesday with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump is alleged to have attempted to persuade the Ukrainian to investigate one of his 2020 presidential challengers, Joe Biden.

A larger-than-life figure, Trump believes that his personality enables him to succeed where conventional diplomacy fails.

He has tested this most spectacularly in North Korea, holding an unprecedented three summits with dictator Kim Jong Un to try and persuade him to abandon his flourishing nuclear weapons program.

However, Kim shows no signs of budging on the central demand, leaving Trump open to criticism that he has been played.

On the explosive standoff with Iran, Trump has taken the opposite route by piling pressure on the crumbling economy and seeking to wreck an international deal meant to defuse tension over the country's nuclear industry.

Speculation is rife over whether he will order military strikes on Iran to respond against the bombing of Saudi oil

he said.

Juncker said he had not been surprised when a majority of Britons in 2016 voted for a departure from the bloc, because they had been told by elites for decades that political union was a "Federalist folly" and that a common market was sufficient.

But it was a regret that the Commission kept out of the referendum campaign when asked to by then-prime minister David Cameron, Juncker said.

"We at the Commission decided not to intervene, at the request of David Cameron, and that was a big mistake," he said.

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# Try best not to let criticism get to me: Shraddha Kapoor

**MUMBAI, SEP 22 (PTI):** Shraddha Kapoor has had two big releases in past one month -- "Saaho" and "Chhichore" -- with the former receiving negative reviews but good box office numbers and the latter getting both critical as well as commercial success.

The actor, who was away from the big screen for almost a year filming back-to-back projects, said while success and failure are part of an artist's journey, she doesn't let the negativity over-power her.

"As an actor, you will always face criticism, even if there are hits. 'Saaho' has become a mass entertainer and people are loving it even if the initial reviews were not great, there will always be criticism for the work I do. I try my best not to let it get to me.

"And as for 'Chhichore', I'm over the moon for the responses we got from everyone. I choose projects depending on how well I can connect to the roles and 'Chhichore' was no exception. I'm really glad that I got on board with the movie," Shraddha told PTI in an interview.

Her next release is "Street Dancer 3D" with Varun Dhawan and the actor is excited about the project.

"We have put our heart and soul into making 'Street Dancer' with countless hours of training and practice. I loved working on 'ABCD 2' and 'Street Dancer' takes it one step ahead."

"Street Dancer 3D", directed by Remo D'Souza and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Divya Khosla Kumar, Krishan Kumar and Lizelle D'Souza, is all set to release on January 24.

The 32-year-old actor is also looking forward to reunite with Tiger Shroff and Sajid Nadiadwala for "Baaghi 3".

"I recently started shooting for 'Baaghi 3' and it's so much fun to be part of a franchise. Working with the same cast and crew has a different level of comfort to it."



Meanwhile, a lot of celebrities have expressed their disappointment over felling of over 2700 trees in Aarey forest in suburban Mumbai to build a metro car shed and the actor also supported the movement.

"We are all of the same society. I will be affected by this as much as anyone else. I felt strongly for the cause that I took stand for it. We all have to work and act together as one has to face these challenges and overcome them with success; this is the need of the hour.

"We cannot wait for someone from our homes or society or social circle or industry and the likes to extend their support and then take action. The problem is now, and the solution must also be right here, right now for a better and fairer world," Shraddha added.

The actor believes celebrities are today becoming more socially responsible and vocal.

"We do have celebrities joining in slowly and steadily as the awareness for global concerns is increasing. More often than not, most of the influential lot realise their responsibility and that they have to be able to make a difference and contribution for the better."

Shraddha, who is an ambassador for beauty brand The Body Shop, believes it is essential for celebrities to endorse a product to stay connected with their fans and at the same time high-

light some causes.

"Endorsing any brand, in fact, gives us the opportunity to utilize the platform that we have earned, for good causes.

## I have always believed in marriage: Sarah Hyland

**LOS ANGELES, SEP 22 (PTI):** Sarah Hyland says it was fun playing a character who doesn't believe in the institution of marriage, a polar opposite of who she is, in rom-com "The Wedding Year".

The "Modern Family" star said playing Mara, a commitment-phobic woman who attends a series of nuptials with

her boyfriend (Tyler James Williams) was eye-opening.

"I have always believed in marriage. I fortunately have parents who are not divorced and who have had a very loving and healthy relationship from the get-go. So if you don't believe in marriage, that was a big deal breaker for me before I got

engaged.

"It was a lot of fun to delve into the psychology of Mara's views because I didn't fully understand it. It was a lot of fun to be able to go into her ticks and see why she's wired the way that she is. I know a lot of people like that, so it was really fun to be able to talk about their

experiences with their parents and really create this character," Hyland told The Hollywood Reporter.

She also served as an executive producer.

"The Wedding Year" is in theatres, barely two months after Hyland got engaged to "Bachelor in Paradise" star Wells Adams.

## Sean Bean thinks Richard Madden would be perfect as next Bond

**LONDON, SEP 22 (PTI):** Sean Bean is battling for his "Game of Thrones" co-star Richard Madden as next in line to play James Bond.

Bean, who played Ed Stark, father to Madden's Rob in the hit HBO series, said the young actor is fit to play the iconic role, reported Digital Spy.

"Richard Madden's got everything required to play the role. He's strong, he's masculine and he's also got a soft underbelly. He's vulnerable. And he's good looking, and Scottish. I always sensed he was a very fine actor," Bean said.

"He had a lot of presence. You could see he had a lot of stuff going for him. But they were all very, very good," he added.

Apart from Madden, names like Idris Elba, Tom Hardy and Tom Hiddleston have been thrown in the mix to essay the new Bond after Daniel Craig confirmed "No Time to Die" will be his last appearance as Agent 007.

Commenting on the speculation last year, the "Bodyguard" star said the rumours are "just noise".

Elba, too, dismissed the reports as rumours.

## Getting more offers of content driven films now, says Amyra Dastur



**MUMBAI, SEP 22 (PTI):** Actor Amyra Dastur says she is happy with the way her career is shaping up.

The actor, who made her acting debut in 2013 film "Issaq", believes she is getting better opportunities now.

"I am very happy with the films that I am getting. I feel now I have started working more. I am given better opportunities and better roles as well.

"I pick up from what is offered to me. And if somebody is not offering me the right role and right film then I am not going to choose. But the doors are opening up, I am getting more content films now," Amyra told PTI.

The actor added that she doesn't get bogged down by the criticism or let the praise get into her head.

"Everybody is entitled to have an opinion. You will have some people, who think you are not a good actor because you are pretty. There will be people, who can see past your appearance and take you seriously. You will have pros and cons. I feel when you are willing to work hard, which I do."

Amyra, who has been part of films like "Kung Fu Yoga", "Rajma Chawal" and "Judgemental Hai Kya", said she is careful about picking up roles.

"I believe in slow and steady. I have been playing slow here. That is working at the end of the day. I am in no hurry, no rush. I will always choose quality over quantity."

The actor, who played Ali Fazal's love interest in Sanjay Dutt's recently released film "Prassthanam", said she was waiting to do a commercial film.

The 26-year-old actor said she gave audition for her part and director Deva Katta was convinced she was apt to play the role of an NRI girl.

"My character is an NRI from America, she comes to India to write her political thesis paper. She meets Ali, who is part of this huge political family and they get into a relationship while his family is crumbling. She is a ray of sunshine who gets into the dark-violent world."

The movie also features Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff and Chunky Pandey.

## Miley Cyrus, Kaitlynn Carter split after month of dating

**LOS ANGELES, SEP 22 (PTI):** Miley Cyrus and Kaitlynn Carter have gone their separate ways a little over a month after they started dating.

According to Us Weekly, the relationship ended as the singer went to Las Vegas on September 21, with her mother, Tish Cyrus and her elder sister, Brandi Cyrus to attend the iHeartRadio Music Festival, where Miley was set to perform.

Kaitlynn of "Hills: New Beginnings" fame stayed home where she was seen relaxing as per her Instagram Stories.

The duo were first linked

in early August, when they were spotted kissing on vacation in Italy.

Their photographs started doing the rounds on social media hours before Miley confirmed her separation from actor, now former husband Liam Hemsworth on August 10 after less than eight months of marriage.

The actor and longtime boyfriend Brody Jenner had announced their own split just a week earlier.

Kaitlynn was also seen wearing a ring with the letter 'M' when the former couple attended New York Fashion Week in early this month.



**MONSTA X is back with a new English single, "Love U"! Shownu, Wonho, Minhyuk, Kihyun, Hyungwon, Joohoney, and I.M. just dropped their new single and it is blowing up. The song is a smooth, electro-pop number that shows a different side of the K-pop boy band's musical abilities, not to mention the warm fuzzy lyrics that seem to speak directly to their audience.**

**ARIES:** Goals! Goals! Goals! Today's Aquarius new moon invites you to dream without limits. Where would you like to be in six months' time? What would you like to have accomplished? Get the manifestation ball rolling NOW. This lunar light could also bring a wave of fresh faces into your world. Keep expanding your social network and trying new experiences on for size.

**TAURUS:** You're movin' on up, Taurus, as today's new moon in Aquarius hits your tenth house of ambitions and accelerates your ascent up the ladder. Even if your lofty goals aren't doable in their current form, don't abandon them. It may simply be a case of paring down to a more basic 1.0 plan. Create a solid foundation that you can easily build on later.

**GEMINI:** If you find yourself at a crossroads with a key relationship on Saturday, Gemini, don't panic. You'll know which way to turn without a GPS. Diplomatic Venus in your partnership house teams up with game-changer Uranus, bringing on a

make-it-or-break-it moment. Suddenly the fog lifts, and you'll have the clarity to decide whether or not to ink the deal, move in together or whatever next step you're deliberating.

**CANCER:** Today's skies feature a new moon in Aquarius and your smoldering eighth house, amping up your magnetic mojo. Are you in a relationship that's been progressively deepening? You could take a concrete step to make it into an official "thing." If you've been struggling with someone who can't make a firm commitment, it's ultimatum time.

**LEO:** It takes two to make a thing go right! And as today's Aquarius new moon sparks your seventh house of partnerships, your desire for a real commitment could heat up. Newer romances might move into "official" territory, and longtime couples get a titillating reboot. In business, a collaborative venture or contract negotiation may pick up speed. Explore all kinds of synergies. Joint missions could reach dynamic duo status over the coming six months!.

**VIRGO:** Today's new moon in Aquarius electrifies your sixth house of healthy living, launching a six-month phase of increased vitality. Take the first steps toward clean eating, regular fitness regimens or forming a positive new habit. Don't try to do this "perfectly." Focus on establishing a sustainable routine that can bring long-lasting results, even if they don't come overnight.

**LIBRA:** Your love life gets a shot of mojo, courtesy of a new moon in Aquarius and your passion sector. Single? Never mind waiting for The One to right-swipe you. Slide into the driver's seat and seek out promising prospects. Your amorous efforts might be rewarded before the corresponding full moon on August 15. Fame could also come knocking under this lunar lift. Be proactive and make sure the world is aware of all the amazing gifts you have to offer.

**SCORPIO:** There's no place like home as today's Aquarius new moon in your domestic fourth house beams into Chateau Scorpio. Besides ensuring you have

at least one little corner you can call your own, you'll be inspired to feather your haven with brand-new decorative touches. If you're looking to move, pore over the real estate listings—the place of your dreams could emerge. A powerful woman or mother figure may assume a stronger role in the next two weeks!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today's Aquarius new moon revs up your communication house, sparking synergies with like-minded people. Seize the day and join forces on a trial project. Your combined efforts could reach a high point by the corresponding full moon this August 15. If a course or workshop related to writing, media or DIY skills catches your eye, sign up! As the zodiac's eternal student, this won't just banish the winter blues, but might also help you bank a profitable new skill!

**CAPRICORN:** Make it rain, Capricorn! Today's new moon in Aquarius electrifies your second house of finances, launching a six-month cycle of prosperity. Get clear on what you'd like to accomplish during this lunar-powered phase and put an action plan in

place. Use these moonbeams to advance your ambitions, and you could reap the rewards by the corresponding full moon on August 15.

**AQUARIUS:** Your fresh start is here, Aquarius! Today, 2019's only new moon in your sign marks your "official" New Year. Like a ribbon-cutting ceremony for your resolutions, this lunar lift instructs you to invest in your grand goals and given them your all. By the time the corresponding Aquarius full moon rolls around on August 15, your star could be shining brighter than ever!

**PISCES:** Has a once-important situation in your life passed its expiration date, Pisces? It's time to start letting go. Today's Aquarius new moon activates your twelfth house of release and healing. Slowly (but surely) close the door on relationships you've outgrown. And say goodbye to past pain! Whether a self-destructive behavior or a toxic relationship, you now feel prepared to remove it from your life. You might want to cut off all ties, but cold turkey usually isn't successful. View it as a process, one that lasts until the corresponding full moon on August 15.