



**'STRANGER THINGS' ACTOR  
GATEN MATARAZZO TO HOST  
NETFLIX PRANK SHOW**

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**Improve Public Transport  
to Solve Traffic Problems**

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**I LIKE OBSERVING  
PEOPLE FOR FILM IDEAS:  
DILJIT DOSANJH**



# SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 162 | Gangtok | Monday | 17 June 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

4 from Sikkim  
in final trials  
for Jamshedpur  
FC U-21 squad

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

Four footballers from Sikkim - Boxer Pradhan, Roman Subba, Prashant Chettri and Dawa Lhendup Sherpa - have made it to the second and final trial for the U-21 reserve team of Jamshedpur FC. The trials will be held in Jamshedpur for a week starting 25 June. Jamshedpur FC is an ISL club and already has two Sikkimese footballers in Bikash Jairu and Robin Gurung in the main team. Bikash Jairu had facilitated trials for the Sikkimese footballers. The first trial had taken place at Jamshedpur on 24 and 25 April.

The club has called the four footballers for the next level and they will be reporting to the club on 23 June, it is informed.

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## GOLAY ADDRESSES HIS MAIDEN NITI AAYOG MEET

**'Haphazard' industrialization and 'hazardous' hydel projects behind Sikkim's water woes: CM  
"We have inherited a literally empty exchequer"**

**Govt seeks independent national commission to examine mismanagement of funds and their leakages in Sikkim**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] addressed the 5th NITI Aayog meeting in New Delhi chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Highlighting that Sikkim receives adequate rainfall, Mr Tamang also pointed out that "water pollution triggered by haphazard mushrooming of industrial units near the river beds, unplanned, unviable, hazardous and largely unsuccessful hydel power plants have created a huge imbalance in water availability and distribution."

He stresses that Sikkim, despite plenty of rainfall and major river systems, faces situations of high drought, severe drinking water crisis, and bouts of water insecurity and adds that this has adversely affected the entire agricultural heritage and related livelihood.

Continuing on the theme, the CM added that Sikkim was once "the fresh water capital of the Eastern Himalayas... However due to the prolonged misgovernance, deep rooted corruption and leadership that tried to freely auction every natural resource of Sikkim in the last 25 years, we have reached a sorry and threatening state of affairs today."

Putting all this in the national context, he adds: "We consider all these to seriously impinge upon our national security. Our Government has a formidable challenge to correct these wrongs and provide a new direction."



He then segues into the health of the State's exchequer and while accepting that Sikkim has received "profuse funding" from the Union Government, contends

that "the dire situation of large scale debt and extensive liability" has led to his government inheriting "a literally empty exchequer."

"We remain deeply shattered by the unexplainable and unjustifiable guarantee that the State Govt generously extended to the scores of failed hydel power projects and other ventures. At this juncture, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir, we would like to humbly request the Government of India to kindly make two effective interventions," he had tabled.

The first intervention has sought an independent national commission to examine "the entire mismanagement of funds and their leakages in the last 25 years."

**turn to pg02**

17th Lok Sabha's first session from Monday; budget, triple talaq in focus

**NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI):**

The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha will commence from Monday during which the passage of the Union Budget and other key legislations such as triple talaq will be on top of the agenda for the government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, chairing an all-party meeting on the eve of the first session of the new Lok Sabha, invited heads of all parties to a meeting on June 19 to discuss the "one nation, one election" issue and other important matters.

Noting that there are many new faces in this Lok Sabha, Modi said the first session of the Lower House of Parliament should begin with "fresh zeal and new thinking".

At the all-party meeting, the Congress raised with the government issues of unemployment, farmers distress, drought, and press freedom, while also calling for early conduct of assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The opposition parties demanded discussion on all such issues in Parliament, with the Congress asserting that it is still a "fight of ideologies".

Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress lawmakers Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, K Suresh, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah and TMC leader Derek O'Brien were present at the meeting.

The BJP also held its parliamentary party meet here Sunday with Prime Minister Modi assuring Indians that his government will be at the forefront of facil-

itating legislation that manifests the spirit of "sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas".

A day before the first session of the newly-constituted 17th Lok Sabha, a meeting of the NDA was also held here.

The government had promulgated as many as 10 ordinances for the session which ends on July 26 and will have 30 sittings.

The first two days of the session will be used for administering oath of office to all Lok Sabha MPs. The oath will be administered by protem speaker Virender Kumar. The speaker will be elected on June 19 and the next day the president will address a joint sitting of both Houses.

The budget will be introduced on July 5.

Among the bills that will be introduced, the one on triple talaq could be a contentious one between the government and the opposition.

Addressing the media after the all-party meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi said the prime minister urged leaders of all parties to "introspect whether members of Parliament are able to fulfil people's aspirations as their representatives and the manner in which last two years of the 16th Lok Sabha were wasted".

An all-party meeting is a customary procedure before the beginning of every session of Parliament to ensure its smooth functioning.

Joshi said the government has requested all parties, especially the opposition, for their cooperation for the smooth functioning of both Houses of Parliament.

**ARPAN PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

The first batch of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2019 via Nathula was flagged off from Gangtok today.

The 31-strong [20 males and 11 ladies] first batch includes two liaison officers and was flagged off by the new Tourism & Civil Aviation Secretary, Dr K Jayakumar.

The Yatris had arrived at Gangtok last night and

were received by the officials of the Tourism Department and the Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation.

A special function was organised to sensitise all the Yatris about the do's and don'ts of the Yatra and various security aspects to be taken care of during the 21-day long KMY.

TS Mangang, Commandant of the 48th Battalion of Indo Tibet Border Police (ITBP), briefed the group .

Today, the Tourism Secretary wished all the yatris for a wonderful pilgrimage ahead and expressed hope that everyone completes the yatra successfully.

The yatris are currently camped at 15th Mile on JN Road for acclimatisation process.

STDC has been providing service facilities and hospitality and looking after accommodation during their stay in Gangtok.

**turn to pg02**

## Kailash-Mansarovar Yatris proceed from Gangtok



# GOPAL YONZON SAANJH

## WITH RAM KRISHNA DHAKAL

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# Promises to Keep

**SD TSHERING**

The 2019 assembly election has given a cliff hanger result with SKM winning by a wafer thin margin but this was better than 1979 assembly election result when Sikkim Janta Parishad won 16 seats, Sikkim Congress(R) won 11 seats and Sikkim Prajatantra Congress won 4 seats. Sikkim Janta Praishad formed the government which began Bhandari era. The margin of victory was also not as thin as 2014 when Sikkim Sangram Parishad beat SDF candidate by only 5 votes in Lossong Pacheykani constituency. The number of women candidates has decreased substantially from the highest being 17 women contestants in the 2009 assembly election.

This election has however seen three candidates winning from two constituencies leading to by-election in three constituencies. Considering the small margin of victory and coming by-elections, SKM government will be hard pressed to fulfill its poll promises in view of the appalling economic scenario of the state. During its 25 years of rule SDF government has brought state economy into shambles through corruption, freebies, unplanned projects etc. The road to recovery for SKM government will be an uphill task. There are plenty of financial booby traps laid by the SDF government which SKM government needs to traverse carefully or be blown out of the government. Sikkim has not been able to generate its own revenue. On the contrary, revenue generation has been decreasing and now it is fully dependent on central grants to fund its expenditure restricting the flexibility of development since central grants are given for specific purposes. Share of committed expenditure has risen sharply, further restricting development schemes. Loan burden is Rs 8,819.10 crores as in 2019 and per capita loan burden on every citizen of Sikkim stands at about Rs 1.50 lakhs.

The first hurdle the newly formed government has to cross is fulfilling its election promise of regularizing all non-regular employees, including the new recruits made through ‘One Family One Job’ scheme. This assurance needs careful examination before any attempt is made to fulfill it. The accompanying CAG figures show that Sikkim government’s biggest committed expenditure is on salaries which is nearly half of the government’s entire expenditure. Moreover, Sikkim has the highest government employee to population ratio in the country and it is a known fact that departments are over-staffed and majority of employees are under utilised. Any attempt to go ahead to fulfill this promise without studying the financial implications will be an economic disaster for the new government and would leave them with virtually no funds for development.

The SKM government has already sprung the first booby trap when they announced that new employees under ‘One Family One Job’ joining after the announcement of election code of conduct will be deemed illegal giving the SDF party a sentimental issue for the by-elections. This ‘One Family One Job’ scheme has

many irregularities like multiple beneficiaries from the same family, jobs given to candidates whose family members were holding government jobs etc. These issues need to be tackled properly by constituting a committee immediately lest SDF flare up this issue for by-election propaganda.

The SKM election manifesto further promises to review all hydel projects in the state which is very positive and appreciable plan. On 09 March 2019, Mr Chamling claimed in an interview that the state will generate two lakh crores annually through sale of power making Sikkim financially independent. This claim has proved hollow as the CAG report shows that revenue from power was only Rs

government, ATPIL is implicated as having been favoured unduly in terms of project work allotment. There are also CAG reports against the working of the Sikkim Power Development Corporation Limited (SPDCL) resulting in losses due to wrong policy decisions. A holistic investigation is required in the power sector to root out the rot in this sector. Guilty party needs to be penalized. The new government may like to look into the objections to some projects which the previous government ignored and tackle the pending legal cases related to these projects swiftly.

Further, the long pending issue of Limboo Tamang seats needs a fast resolution by the government by allotting seats

12 seats only. Steps need to be taken to restore the reserved Nepali seats which were abolished in 1979 with reference to the merger agreements and adherence to safe guard old laws. No political party has made any sincere effort in this regard.

The other sentimental issue of bringing the Karmapa to Sikkim will now have to wait since the Karmapa has left India and taken Dominican citizenship. The Government of India no longer recognizes the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje as the legitimate head of the Kagyu sect. The geo politics involving the Karmapa will take a long time to be settled and the people of Sikkim have to be aware of this fact.

During the SDF government, corruption permeated into all sections causing

proposals. Hasty implementation of such decisions may kill the booming hotel industry and deprive the owners of income which can lead to loan defaults since most of the hotels are built with bank loan funding. Any policy towards Hospitality and Tourism sectors has to be viewed judiciously as they are rapidly emerging as the biggest revenue earner for the government. These sectors as best employment generators too. Trained local youth in hospitality could be encouraged to setup their own hotels and home stays by providing soft loans to these entrepreneurs.

The promise to “forgive” loans taken under Chief Minister Self Employment Scheme and educational loans will be detrimental to the state economy. The State

**Trends in expenditure on following components during 2012-17.**  
**Committed expenditure (RS in crore)**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SALARIES OF WHICH	971.01 (54.13)	1,093.88 (55.47)	1,236.37 (55.69)	1,357.66 (57.19)	1,423.47 (56.11)
NON PLAN HEAD	773.95	822.10	936.51	1,029.80	1,068.52
PLAN HEAD	197.06	271.78	299.86	327.86	354.95
INTEREST PAYMENTS	198.92 (11.09)	209.16 (10.61)	239.55 (10.79)	262.07 (10.09)	324.39 (12.79)
EXPENDITURE ON PENSIONS	225.17(12.55)	260.63(13.20)	333.08(15.00)	402.35 (16.95)	446.43 (17.60)
SUBSIDIES	8.41 (0.47)	15.60 (0.79)	14.78 (0.67)	8.03 (0.34)	2.24 (0.09)
Total	<b>1,403.51</b>	<b>1,578.86</b>	<b>1,823.78</b>	<b>2,030.11</b>	<b>2,196.53</b>
<b>As per cent of Revenue receipts</b>					
Salaries	29.53	28.09	30.25	35.88	30.88
INTEREST PAYMENTS	6.05	5.37	5.86	6.93	7.04
PENSIONS	6.85	6.69	8.15	10.63	9.68
SUBSIDIES	0.26	0.40	0.36	0.21	0.05
<b>As per cent of Revenue expenditure</b>					
Salaries	38.73	36.16	36.83	37.25	37.58
INTEREST PAYMENTS	7.93	6.91	7.14	7.19	8.56
PENSIONS	8.98	8.62	9.92	11.04	11.79
SUBSIDIES					

\*Figures in the brackets indicate percentage expenditure to Non Plan revenue expenditure

\*Plan head also includes salaries and wages under CSS programs

**source: CAG report 2017**

<u>STATE GOVERNMENT</u>	
STATE GOVERNMENT REGULAR	37196
<u>STATE GOVERNMENT NONREGULAR</u>	
MUSTER ROLL	13718
ADHOC, CONSOLIDATED,ADHOC,HONARARIUM,COTERMINUS,HOMEGUARD,ELECTED,ETC	19200
<b>TOTAL</b>	70114
<u>PSU</u>	
REGULAR+NONREGULAR	3297
GRAND TOTAL	73411
The total excludes the recent addition from one family one job scheme	

**Source: DESME.**

170.04 crores in 2016-17. Scams in Power sector need urgent investigation. A glaring example of such a scam is Hydel Project Work allotment to ATPIL which resulted in an estimated loss of Rs 2,400 crores to the government. The audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on Sikkim State Finances for the year ended 31 March 2009 lambasted the government for the huge loss to the exchequer resulting from the ATPIL allotment and subsequent cancellation. In the preliminary investigation report that the CBI prepared and submitted to the Sikkim

within the present 32 seats which would provide a faster solution than waiting for the central government to give clearance to expand the seats to 40 which is not likely to happen owing to the bar on delimitation of constituencies till 2026. As per norms laid down by the Delimitation Act 2002, the size of constituencies will depend on population estimated by the first census conducted after 2026. Taking the growth of population of Sikkim, it would not qualify for more seats. However, the government must rebut the SDF argument that 60% of population must contest from

		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SI		435.48	524.92	527.54	566.82	652.56
	Tax Revenue					
	Non Tax revenue	806.96	794.49	698.08	412.99	451.64
	Total	1,242.44	1,319.41	1,225.62	979.81	104.20
II	State’s share of net proceeds of divisible Union taxes	698.48	762.62	809.33	1,870.28	2,069.19
	Grants-in-aid	1,852.40	2,244.41	2,427.00	934.20	1,436.91
	Total	2,550.82	3,007.03	3,236.33	2,804.48	3,506.10
	Total receipts of State I + II	3793.32	4,326.44	4,461.95	3,784.29	4,610.30
IV	Percentage of I to III	33	31	27	26	24

**source: CAG report 2017**

considerable harm to the state economy and the society as a whole. The new government’s promise of appointing a strong Lok Ayukta and allowing the CBI to investigate corruption cases is appreciated. We, the aam janta, are looking forward to see the end of corruption which has been the bane of our state.

The promise of the government of establishing a mini AIIMS in the state is feasible since the infrastructure is available is the new hospital building in Sokethang. However, a prudent planning will be necessary if the government wishes to give a good healthcare service to public. The previous government was only interested in building and ordering equipment than planning for a better health service in the state. Comprehensive manpower planning, medicine purchase and delivery, correct assessment of required equipment and maintenance etc. ought to be planned and analyzed along with proper implementation. Up gradation of PHCs will also improve health delivery in rural areas.

There are some promises in SKM manifesto 2019 which need careful examination. For example, the proposal to give all restaurants and hotels leased to outsiders to local youths need to be analyzed in the context of aversion of local youths to work in the private sector. Capacity to pay and run hotels on lease by locals also needs to be evaluated before implementing such

will lose Rs 94 crores if loans under CM-SES are waived and some more crores under educational loan. Taking in view the weak economic scenario of the state such waivers should not be encouraged. Financial bodies like SIDICO, SABCO etc are already facing financial duress due to non recovery of loans and lack of financing by the government, if such loan waivers are implemented it would be the final nail in the coffin of these financial bodies. Spoon feeding our youth has made them complacent and dependent on the government for everything this practice should stop immediately.

The long awaited ‘Parivartan’ has finally come to Sikkim and expectations of the public are high. The new government will have to move carefully and swiftly to implement their programs. If they are able to even implement half of the 72 promises made in their election manifesto it will be deemed a great success. Before they start their implementation of schemes, the hurdle of winning the by-election looms before them but now the fear factor of SDF has vanished and everyone wants a fresh start the parivartan promised by SKM seems to be on the road to victory. The Sikkimese look forward to a new era of development, communal harmony and peace which the new government has promised.

## SKM convenes CLC meet in Singtam

**YOGEN THATAL**  
**SINGTAM, 16 JUN:** Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today convened its first CLC meeting and thanksgiving program here at the community hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat today.

Area MLA Dr MK Sharma, party vice-president TN Dhakal, accompanied by Uday Singh Golay, the elder brother of the CM, CLC members, party advisors and members were presented for the meeting.

The program was essentially to interact with party workers of Khamdong Singtam constituency and hear out the grievances and problems being faced by the people of the area.

Water and power supply and parking were flagged as the major problems facing the people of Singtam by many speakers.

Mr Dhakal, in his address, also commented on the condition and management of the district hospital at Singtam.

The meeting also emphasized the need for strong foundation and development of CLC and block level committees.

Dog-bite cases and the lack of vaccines at the District Hospital was also addressed by one of the speakers.

The area MLA assured to look into all the issues raised at the meeting.

## UCWSS congratulates new Govt, will call on CM soon

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:** United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim convened its first general meeting of the year on Saturday at its Tadong Head Office, a press release informs.

The meeting was chaired by Pastor Peter Samsher, the UCWSS general secretary, with the opening prayer by Pastor Robin Chettri.

On behalf of UCWSS, the president, Patrus Gurung, offered greetings

and congratulations to the recently formed State Government and Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay].

The meeting was attended by Pastors and Leaders from all over the state. The committee also resolved to call on the CM soon and submit a memorandum detailing their various demands and grievances.

The meeting concluded with prayers led by Pastor Joseph Tamang.

## KUTSE SHEGU

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of Late Doma Bhutia w/o Lakpa Thendup Bhutia who left for her heavenly abode on 01.05.2019 falls on 18.6.2019 (Tuesday). All relatives, friends & well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Below Law College, Helipad, Lower Burtuk, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

**Lakpa Thendup Bhutia(Husband), Kesseng Norbu Bhutia(son) & all family members.**  
**Mob: 9800655921/ 6294186876.**



## GOLAY ADDRESSES HIS MAIDEN...

Next is a “onetime generous financial grant” to the State to recover from all these “debts, laggardness and inequities.”

“With this very hope of restoring confidence and justice only, the people of Sikkim have voted us to form the Government and also to be a partner in the National Democratic Alliance,” he has submitted.

The CM has also sought “well laid out long term plans, physical infrastructures and social amenities” for the for districts of Sikkim under the aspirational districts programme under which all of Sikkim’s districts have been included.

In this regard, he has suggested that South Sikkim be developed for institutions, West for tourism, North Sikkim for a centre of excellence for climate change studies and East district for floriculture, horticulture and light industries.

He has also invited World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the UN agencies and JICA from Japan to come to Sikkim and participate in the aspirational district programmes in a big way.

“In order to integrate the market and take full advantage of the India-ASEAN Free Trade agreement, we could even invite the investors from South East Asian Countries to the North East Region under the newly introduced North East Industrial Development Scheme 2018 (NEIDS) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry,” he has further stated.

While congratulating the PM on his electoral victory, the CM has also assured that Sikkim will “demonstrate a great leap forward in course of next few years with the prudent use of all the resources at its command.”

## Governor greets Sikkim on Saga Dawa

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:** Governor Ganga Prasad has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Saga Dawa.

“May the teachings and ideals of Lord Buddha remain the guiding force in our lives till eternity. Let us pray together on this auspicious day

and strive forward collectively on the path of truth and righteousness, lifting ourselves above the barrier of caste creed, gender, religion and nationality,” he conveys in his message.

Saga Dawa commemorates three events in the life of Lord Buddha - Birth, Enlightenment and Nirvana.

## Kailash-Mansarovar Yatris...

The programme was also addressed by Namrata Thapa, Special Secretary, Tourism Department.

KMY via Nathula had started in 2015 and has been organised continuously since then except in the year 2017 when it was canceled due to the Doklam standoff.

Estate Manager, STDC, Tejpal Pradhan, informs that the STDC has been working tirelessly to provide all required facilities to the pilgrims.

Every year, a total of 10 batches of KMY via Nathula are allowed.

## 4 from Sikkim in final trials...

20-year-old Prashant Chettri expressed his happiness on being called for the final trial.

“We had given a good performance in the first trial and were hoping that we will be called again. Now, we will go again and try to give our best to get selected. We have been playing football for many years and this is a good opportunity to get into a big club,” he said.

He plays as a midfielder.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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



## Governor leads SBJM initiated plantation drive

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

Governor Ganga Prasad today participated in a special plantation drive organised by the Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch at the Indrakill Prayag premises at IBM Rangpo on his arrival from Siliguri.

The Governor was joined by Forest Minister Karma Lodey Bhutia and other officials on the occasion.

SBJM president Swaminath Prasad and other executive members welcomed the Governor on his arrival.



The Governor, while

lauding the initiative taken by Sikkim Bi-

hari Jagaran Manch, appealed to every Sik-

kimese to come forward to sustain the momentum that the state has achieved in increasing the forest cover over the last decade.

He further underlined the need to include fruit trees in plantation drives in order to augment the potential of horticulture in the State and making the plantations economically beneficial for the farming community.

Incidentally, saplings of various tropical fruits were part of the plantation drive today.

### Founder's Day at Sherab Odsal Raldeling Academy



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

Sherab Odsal Raldeling Academy celebrated its 13th Founder's Day on 15 June with a special event hosted at the

school playground at Sunding in West Sikkim.

The celebration coincides with the birthday of Palyul Lahrul Rinpoche who opened the school at Sribad-

am in 2008.

SDM-Soreong, Himmat Rai, was present as chief guest along with AEO HRDD, BAC Kaluk, MK Shankar, as guest speaker.

## SHG team from Nagaland picks up cardamom tips at ICAR



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

A team from Meranglar Self Help Group from Dimapur, Nagaland, visited the Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Spices Board, Tadong, today as part of their three-day exposure and interaction tour of Sikkim to understand technical interventions for better production and processing of spices.

Ashutosh Gautam,

Scientist, Crop Improvement, interacted with the group during their visit to the institute and farm.

He explained organic cultivation of large cardamom, current production scenario, indigenous approaches of sorting and grading being used by farmers here and market dynamics of large cardamom, prices and price fluctuations.

He also discussed the pre-requisites of quality produce, post harvest

technologies in large cardamom, superiority of ICRI Modified Bhatti over traditional ones, the auction system in the state and mechanization in drying and processing of large cardamom.

Ms Moasangla, the Secretary of the visiting group, showed keen interest on technical and financial support offered by the Spices Board for cultivation of large cardamom, a press release informs.

## Rainfall deficiency hits 43 pc; monsoon progress likely in the next 2-3 days: IMD

**NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI):** Monsoon is expected to advance further up north as Cyclone Vayu loses intensity paving the way for the wind system to move towards the Arabian Sea, the weatherman said Sunday.

By now, monsoon should have reached the central India, including parts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, but it is yet to reach Maharashtra. It still remains over Mangalore, Mysore, Cuddalore over the southern peninsula and Passighat, Agartala in the northeast, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The western coast - from Maharashtra to Gujarat - has been receiving rainfall due to the cyclone. Only coastal Karnataka and Kerala have received rains due

to monsoon.

Vayu is expected to cross the Gujarat coast on Monday evening as a depression. This will pave the way for monsoon winds to move up towards the Arabian Sea. Monsoon made an onset over Kerala on June 8, nearly a week after its usual onset date.

"The progress of monsoon was halted due to Cyclone Vayu. As its intensity decreases, we expect monsoon to progress in the next 2-3 days," said Devendra Pradhan, additional director general, IMD.

In its monsoon bulletin, IMD said conditions are becoming favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon to more parts of central Arabian Sea, Karnataka and remaining parts of Tamil Nadu. It is expected to cover more parts of central, north and south

Bay, northeast India, north Bengal and Sikkim in 1-2 days.

The overall monsoon deficiency in the country has reached 43 per cent due to its sluggish pace. IMD's central division which covers Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Goa has recorded 59 per cent of rainfall deficiency while east and northeast India has recorded 47 per cent deficiency.

Rainfall deficiency in meteorological subdivisions west and east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh was 75, 70 and 72 per cent, respectively. Deficiency in Vidarbha is 87 per cent.

According to the Central Water Commission, the water level in reservoirs of south Indian states and Maharashtra is lesser than the average of last ten years.

## Saga Dawa greetings from CM

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], Sarda Tamang and Krishna Kumari Rai have extended warm greeting to the people of the state on the occasion of Saga Dawa.

"I offer my greetings and best wishes to all my fellow Sikkimese people on this auspicious occasion and pray that the festival strengthens mutual love, harmony and unity among all," they convey in their greetings.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

### URGENTLY REQUIRED:

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

### PLOT FOR SALE:

Vacant plot measuring 0.38 Acres for sale at Amdo Golai, Deorali. Contact: 09717191985/097474651223

### INTERESTED TO BECOME A YOGA TEACHER?

**CRITERIA** – Academic qualification of minimum higher secondary pass

Complete yoga syllabus will be provided by SYVC Gangtok absolutely free of cost. After one year of basic training and service (karma yoga)/ volunteering in the Centre, the candidate would be sent for Yoga Teacher Training Course at Shivananda Yoga Ashram. After TTC, the candidate would be appointed on part time basis at the Yoga Centre in Gangtok. College students can also apply. If required, food and accommodation would be provided.

**Interested candidates may contact**

**: Deepa Yoga Centre at**

**Mob: +91 7432043719/ +91 8170953919.**

### LAND FOR SALE

A vacant plot measuring 0.38 Ha. (16552.80 sq – ft) is for sale at Amdo Golai (above the main road), Gangtok. For more information please contact – 9717191985/9474651223.

### WANTED

**HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER .**

**Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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

**Mr. Subash Lama**

**Proprietor**

**Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim**

### BUILDING FOR SALE

A 5 storied building with 3 floor completed having a land area of 30x70 at DABUWA, Melli road (2km from Namchi) is for sale. Rate reasonable. Interested party please contact: **6296370905, 9733284142, 8597088755.**

## Chinmaya Univ students on internship at Spastic Society Sikkim



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

Fifteen students from Chinmaya University, Kerala, including five from Sikkim, are in the State on an internship with Spastic Society of Sikkim.

Today, members of Chinmaya Mission-Sikkim met the 15 students. The students from Sikkim, a press release informs, were nominated

by Chinmaya Mission worldwide head, Swami Swaroopanandaji, for full exemption in fees/ hostel accommodation for three years in the Graduate programme. They shared their learning experience at Chinmaya University where, they shared, East meets West in the field of education. Executives of Chinmaya Mission-Sikkim Centre - Ratna Subba, Lalchand

Khatri, Shobha Sarda and SK Sarda - along with Acharya Smaran Chaitanya, Yuvaveer Tara Prasad, Tanam Subba and Yogacharya attended the programme to inspire more students from Sikkim and North East to join Chinmaya University.

S K Sarda General Secretary, Chinmaya Mission-Sikkim Centre Gangtok



## Sikkim State Legal Services Authority Development Area, Gangtok : Sikkim

**Phone: 03592-207753, Fax: 03592-207753**

## "Message"

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority is organizing National Lok Adalat on Saturday the 13th July, 2019 for the following types of pre-litigation and pending cases viz:

Pre-litigation

- N.I. Act cases under Section 138;
- Bank Recovery cases;
- Labour disputes cases;
- Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- Other (Criminal Compoundable).

Pending in the Courts

- Criminal Compoundable Offence
- N.I. Act cases under section 138;
- Bank Recovery cases;
- MACT cases;
- Labour disputes cases;
- Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- Matrimonial disputes;
- Land Acquisition cases;

(ix) Service matters relating to pay and allowances and retiral benefits;

(x) Revenue cases (pending in District Courts and High Courts only);

(xi) Other civil cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.

Any individual or any department having such matters either pending in Courts/Tribunals /Departments or in pre-litigation stage may approach directly before the Sikkim SLISA, District Lok Adalats or Taluk Adalats for settlement on or before 02.07.2019 at the following address:

1. Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim e-mail: sikkim\_slisa@live.com. Phone No. 03592-207753.

2. High Court Legal Services Committee, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. E-mail: sikkim\_slisa@live.com Phone No: 03592-207753.

3. District Legal Services Authority (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592-284462.

4. Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131.

5. District Legal Services Authority (North), District Court Complex, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234502.

6. Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge -cum- Judicial Magistrate, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234514.

7. District Legal Services Authority (South), District Court's Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone no. 03595 264356.

8. Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, District Court, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145.

9. District Legal Services Authority (West), District Court Complex, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.

10. Taluk Legal services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum- Judicial Magistrate, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.

11. Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim.

12. Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Soreng, Sub-division, West Sikkim. (Published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority)

**R.O. No. 44/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20 Date: 13.6.2019**



## Improve Public Transport to Solve Traffic Problems

*There will after all never be enough parking spaces or roads*

For a brief while many years ago, Gangtok flirted with the idea of a ring road to decongest the capital's roads, but that was before congestion on the roads took over the hill. The time when some planning could have been done is long past and the slopes of Gangtok have since been congested with constructions, and buildings are now so densely packed that new roads, even ring roads of any practical use, will need engineering miracles to come through. But the fact that the planners were considering even improbable options to make getting around Gangtok quicker and less frustrating proves that the traffic situation needs immediate addressing. Anyone who has travelled up to the main town area from any place further than 6th Mile, Tadong, has suffered traffic snarls which start jamming nowadays since as early as 9 a.m. The traffic cops are an increasingly hassled tribe in Gangtok, spending more energy directing traffic than checking traffic violations.

Fact is that traffic is now a problem for Gangtok. Maybe the quickly accepted as obsolete traffic lights at Hospital Dara should be boosted back into service and more traffic lights installed at junctions which have become too heavily populated to be regulated by traffic cops alone.

Of course, it did not require this write up to bring home the point that traffic congestion is a serious problem; anyone who has fumed away irritating minutes stuck in what are now routine traffic jams, praying for parking space in town all the while, has lived the problem many times over.

Okay, so Gangtok has a problem. What are the possible solutions then? The obvious option is more roads. This, however, is not really an option because there is no place left to carve out new arteries or bypasses in the capital. Wider roads then? Unlikely, for the same reason as the one that has shot down the chance of more arterial roads. The parking lots already in place and the more which are coming up would release some dead space from the roads, but the number of vehicles is growing at a much faster clip than parking is being created, so roads will remain cramped. Also, parking lots do not anyway do much to ease the problem of [stagnant] traffic on the roads. There is another option, controlling the number of vehicles. To restrict the numbers by law would be unfair, even repressive, so an alternative approach to discouraging impulsive buyers has to be worked in.

Given the fact that more vehicles [or even the existing numbers for that matter] will require more traffic personnel on the streets and since this will cost money, why shouldn't those who create this requirement be made to pay. Since vehicles also pollute, and more vehicles means more pollution, and since polluting vehicles cannot be banned, it would only be fair that they pay a higher premium for the damage. Of course, this contribution cannot go directly into the required "heads" and could be collected at the time of registration. But even this Singaporean model of 'demand management' can be sidestepped by vehicle owners by making the purchases and registrations across the border.

The only effective traffic management option available to Gangtok for the present and eventually for all of Sikkim, is an efficient public transport system. For all the city-runner services, Gangtok does not have a public transport that even deserves mention. What the planners will also need to do is stop pampering vehicle owners by creating more parking spaces. If the political will can be found to give Gangtok a reliable public transport service, the next thing to do would be to make parking very expensive in Gangtok and penalties for unauthorized parking high enough to pinch. And then, the parking lots should be converted into public spaces for the young. Most of the parking lots were once parks used by kids, and these should be given back to them to open youth clubs, reading rooms, coaching centres or whatever use these blocks of concrete can be used for. This is more than just wishful thinking or impractical day-dreaming.

Just think about the amount of space that can be released and the congestion that can be ended if a truly efficient public transport system was given to Gangtok simultaneously with the policy initiative which makes parking vehicles in Gangtok extremely expensive and shrinks the places where visiting vehicles can be parked...

## Academic Freedom: Universities must take a stance or risk becoming complicit with Chinese government interference

MARINA SVENSSON & EVA PILS  
theconversation.com

This is an important year in Chinese history. It marks the anniversaries of two political movements involving students and scholars: the May Fourth Movement and the Tiananmen Square protests – known in China as the June Fourth Incident.

The May Fourth Movement of 1919 challenged traditional Chinese values and authorities and demanded freedom of speech and democracy. Seventy years later – and 40 years after the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had taken power – students, scholars, and other citizens mobilised again in defence of freedom of speech, human rights, and democratic values. But on June 4 1989, the CCP brutally crushed their movement. The crackdown created a legacy of heavily censored wrongs that cannot be righted while the current system lasts.

After 1989, the Chinese government stepped up its control over students through "patriotic" education campaigns. It also imposed more restrictions on scholars. Yet academics working in universities, think-tanks and NGOs have, over the years, continued to expose and criticise systemic injustices – especially on the internet and social media, although censorship on these platforms has increased under president of China, Xi Jinping.

### STATE PERSECUTION

Since assuming power in 2012, Xi Jinping has more tightly controlled civil society, the media and universities and strengthened ideological indoctrination. New bans and restrictions of research and teaching on topics such as constitutionalism and civil society have further impeded independent scholarship.

Numerous critical scholars have been silenced. Some have gone into exile. Among the courageous scholars who continue to insist on the

freedom to write is law professor Xu Zhangrun. His sharp critique of President Xi's "new era" recently earned him a suspension from his university.

In the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in north-west China, more than 300 intellectuals have reportedly been incarcerated in camps. These camps are thought to hold about 1.1m Chinese citizens from predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities. Among the victims are Rahile Dawut, an expert on Uyghur folklore, and Ilham Tohti, an economist who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2014.

The persecution of these intellectuals has effects well beyond China's borders. It deprives the entire academic community of important critical voices.

### COMMUNIST PARTY INFLUENCE

In 1919 and 1989, foreign universities had only limited exchanges with Chinese universities. Today, they are heavily involved – and invested in joint ventures with China. Many have come to rely on increasing numbers of Chinese students – it's estimated that one in five international students in UK universities are from China.

Some receive support through Confucius Institutes – Chinese government-funded centres of Chinese language and cultural education. Scholars and their institutions are also attracted by research facilities in and grants from China.

The expansion of Chinese academic repression is particularly concerning in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, where civil liberties used to be fairly well protected. In April 2019, Benny Tai, a law professor at Hong Kong University was sent to prison, along with others, for his role in the 2014 Umbrella movement – a peaceful civil disobedience movement.

While Tai awaits the outcome of his appeal, there have already been worrying calls for his dismissal.



al. And his case has had a palpable chilling effect on academic freedom in the city.

In other parts of the world, Chinese pressure is felt in different ways. Self-censorship is of increasing concern, as some scholars and their institutions no longer dare to engage in critical research or to speak up for Chinese colleagues at risk. One of the most striking examples of responsiveness to pressure has been the readiness of international academic publishers to censor their own journals at China's request.

### COLLECTIVE ACTION

It bears noting that many Chinese and Western universities have signed on to the 2013 Hefei Statement. This commits signatories to "the exercise of academic freedom by faculty ... without undue constraint". The European Parliament has expressed its concern about threats to academic freedom and called for initiatives to safeguard academic values in external relations.

But so far, there are no mechanisms to safeguard academic values in co-operation and exchange with repressive countries. To change this, we need a principled commitment to defending academic freedom transnationally. This will require the

adoption of Codes of Conduct, such as those recommended by Human Rights Watch – as well as the creation of university committees on the ethics of global academic engagement.

There also must be transparency about the terms on which universities "engage" with counterparts in countries of concern, including external sources of funding for research and teaching. Intelligent rules and mechanisms to screen out academic funding from problematic sources that would come with strings attached, must also be introduced.

Universities and academics around the world must take a firm stance when academic freedom is threatened abroad. In 2018, Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labour Relations terminated an exchange programme with a Chinese university it said was collusive in persecuting its students. Moves like this are important, because ultimately, the global challenge of defending academic freedom requires collective and institutionalised action.

*[Marina Svensson is Professor of Modern China Studies, Lund University; Eva Pils is Professor of Law, King's College London]*

## Korean language speakers should take pride in Konglish – it's another wonderful example of linguistic diversity

ALEXANDER BARATTA  
theconversation.com

Konglish is the term used to describe the variety of English unique to Korea. It is just one of many varieties of the English language that exists far beyond the borders of so-called "inner circle" Englishes – those spoken in countries such as Britain and the US, for example. As such, Konglish is sometimes met with hostility – even by Koreans themselves – and some regard it as synonymous with errors and failed attempts to learn "proper" English. Examples of additional Englishes beyond the inner circle can be found in India, Ghana and Singapore.

Largely on the basis that Konglish does not match up with the grammar and vocabulary that characterises the standard variety of inner circle English, it is hugely frowned upon by some. But why should it be?

Difference does not mean errors, as once a variety of language has taken hold within a society, then it has – for all intents and purposes – become legitimate. Even within the inner circle of British English, some Britons still roll their eyes at so-called Americanisms, such as "have you been menued yet?" (for the uninitiated, to be given your menu).

Call it what you like, but it's just a different way of using the same language. But if we assert that all varieties of a language must conform to a singular model, then it is easy to indeed label those that don't as somehow incorrect. This may be arguable from a societal point of view – but never from a linguistic one.

### CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING

Adherence to a one-size-fits-all perspective regarding English allows for negativity to persist toward all non-standard varieties of the English language, whether they are British English dialects or in this case, wider varieties such as Konglish.

Instead, we should recognise all varieties of the English language as legitimate, with a time and a place appropriate for their usage. For example, a standard variety of English is undoubtedly the variety we need to pass university entrance exams, write academic essays and produce documents which are otherwise considered "official" – anything from a government-issued article to a cover letter for a job opening.

But there is nothing inherently "better" or more "logical" in the make up of standard English. There are in fact a multitude of contexts in which there are perhaps as many varieties of English to match. In the context of a meeting Koreans might have with close friends, essentially hanging out together, then Konglish would fit just fine.

This approach reflects current trends toward



diversity and equality, albeit from a linguistic perspective. Mess with someone's language and you're essentially messing with their culture. This is not a lesson in political correctness, but linguistic correctness, as all languages exhibit a form of grammar and vocabulary which are predictable and systematic. So to consider only one variety of grammar and vocabulary usage as correct is, linguistically speaking, nonsensical.

Konglish reflects cultural identity, connects with linguistic diversity and above all, is already used to communicate in Korea, which is the ultimate purpose of language.

Below is a very small selection of some of the great words used in Konglish, and worth celebrating.

Skinship: This refers to the act of physical touching, such as that seen between a mother and child, but also among adults, to indicate a deep friendship. I recall in Korea seeing two men who were close friends, with one momentarily interlocking his arms around his friend from behind. Given this practice, it makes sense to have a word to describe it, illustrating the link between language and culture. The joining of the word skin with the suffix ship is no more or less "logical" than words such as relationship and friendship.

Burberry: This word as used in Korea refers to a trench coat, not to the clothing brand per se. This is

not a mistake on any level. It is widely used within Korea and certainly understood. At the end of the day, society tends not to wait for the production of dictionaries and textbooks to somehow legitimise a language and make it official – society does this for itself through linguistic reinforcement on the ground. The word is also an example of linguistic overextension and if we declare this a mistake, then we also need to declare Hoover and Kleenex to be mistakes when used to refer to vacuum cleaners and tissues.

Grand Open: This means grand opening as might be used for the launch of a restaurant or department store. It is seen everywhere in Korea. The fact that it is printed on menus and huge banners draped across new stores shows how a variety of English is made official for its speakers in ways that go beyond textbooks and dictionaries; as such, it is not a grammatical error based on the "missing" suffix of ing.

The days when native speakers of English might have declared "speak English!" may now be replaced somewhat with "speak our English!" If travelling or working overseas, though, we can expect to hear not only foreign languages, but also foreign varieties of English in all its forms.

*[the writer is Lecturer in English Language, University of Manchester]*



Indian Embassy in Kathmandu celebrates Yoga Day at gateway to Mt Everest



**SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JUN 16 (PTI):** The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu on Sunday organised a yoga event to celebrate the fifth International Day of Yoga at Nepal's Thyangboche -- the gateway to Mount Everest.

The main objective of the programme was to highlight the importance of yoga in daily life and to bring peace and harmony across the nations and among people, a press statement issued by the Embassy said.

A large number of people, including Ambassador of India to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri, locals, members of various women and youth organisations, officers of the Sagarmatha National

Park and foreign tourists, participated in the event, it said.

Also, for the first time, Yoga Day was celebrated at the base camp of the Mount Everest.

At 17,600 feet above the sea level, mountaineer Bharat Sharma from Gujarat along with other mountaineers created history by practising yoga at the base of the world's highest peak, the statement said.

International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on June 21 since its inception in 2015. The concept of the Yoga Day was proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) September 27, 2014.

## Living in anonymity, tribals displaced from Chhattisgarh due to violence hope for return

**NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI):** Displaced from Chhattisgarh due to violence and excluded from all social security benefits, a number of tribals living miserable lives in neighbouring states are hopeful of a better future, thanks to a "lesser-used" provision in the Forest Rights Act.

Social activists claim thousands of tribals fled Chhattisgarh around 2004-05 due to Salwa Judum, a militia deployed as part of anti-Maoist operations in the state from 2005 to 2011.

"These tribals are living in deplorable conditions in forests of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, without any access to drinking water and electricity. They get lower wages. Most of them don't have ration cards or voter IDs and cannot prove their citizenship," social activist Raju Rana says.

"These states don't recognise them as tribals. They have no right over forest land and remain excluded from all social security benefits. On a number of occasions, police and forest officials have burnt their settlements to push them back to Chhattisgarh," he claims.

There are around 30,000 people living in 248 such settlements in the forests of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, close to the Chhattisgarh border, tribal rights activist Shubhranshu Chaudhary says.

Now, some of these people want to return to their state, pinning hopes on the new government in Chhattis-

garh and a "lesser-used" provision in the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which recognizes people's right of settlement in forests and gives them a legal document of ownership of their traditional habitation, he says.

"Since their original villages are in the deep jungle, miles away from the main road, and Naxalism continues to be a threat there, these tribals will ask the government to consider their request for land under the FRA provision for 'in situ rehabilitation', where-in alternative land can be given against the one they were forced to leave before 2005," Chaudhary says.

Clause 3 (1) (m) of the Act states, "Right to in situ rehabilitation including alternative land in cases where the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers have been illegally evicted or displaced from forest land of any description without receiving their legal entitlement to rehabilitation prior to the 13th day of December 2005."

Chaudhary claims the provision remains "untouched, as no claim for land titles has so far been made under it".

Facilitated by activists, over 300 such tribals, now living in Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, gathered in Sukma district on June 12 and 13 and filled up forms seeking land rights.

"We have so far filled around just 150 forms for 'in situ rehabilitation' of these tribals. It's a difficult exercise because most of the displaced

## Protesting docs say CM free to choose venue, but meeting should be held in open

**KOLKATA, JUN 16 (PTI):** Agitating junior doctors in West Bengal softened their stand on Sunday and asserted that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was free to decide the venue of the meeting with them, but stressed that it should be held in open.

Banerjee had on Saturday invited the agitators for closed-door talks, but the offer was turned down by them.

Talking to the media after a two-and-half-hour-long meeting of their governing body, a spokesperson of the joint forum of junior doctors said, "We are keen to end this impasse. We are ready to hold talks with the chief minister at a venue of her choice, provided it is held in the open, in the presence of media persons, and not behind



closed doors."

The spokesperson said the venue should be spacious enough to accommodate representatives from all medical colleges and hospitals in the state.

Earlier, the agitators had insisted that Banerjee visit the NRS Medical College and Hospital, the epicentre of the agitation.

"We want to join our duties as early as possi-

ble in the best interests of the common people once all our demands are met with adequately and logically through a discussion.

"We are hopeful that the chief minister will be considerate enough to solve the problems," he said, adding that the strike would continue till a solution was worked out.

Junior doctors across the state are observing a strike in protest against

an assault on two of their colleagues at the NRS, allegedly by the family members of a patient who died on Monday night.

Services continued to remain affected for the sixth day on Sunday in the emergency wards, outdoor facilities and pathological units of many state-run hospitals and private medical facilities in the state, leaving several patients in the lurch.

## Khandu seeks Centre's help to fast track road, rail projects, reform agri sector

**ITANAGAR, JUN 16 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has emphasised the need to fast track communication programmes in the state, while seeking support from the Centre for structural reformation of the state's agriculture sector, an official release said.

Addressing the fifth governing council meet of NITI Aayog, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, the chief minister presented the status of rail, road and air projects in the state.

He also underlined the roadmap for Arunachal's development, with special mention of rainwater harvesting and water management plans, the release said.

Speaking on the 'aspirational districts programme', Khandu briefed Niti Aayog on the achievements and challenges faced by the state in implementing it.

He also shed light on the enormous potential of the state in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors, tourism and hydro power, which, he in-



sisted, if systematically harnessed would take the state to new heights.

The chief minister also sought the Centre's support in modernising the police force in the state, while participating in a discussion on security matters.

Stressing the need for a permanent bureaucracy, Khandu requested the policy think-tank to consider creating a separate IAS cadre for the state.

The pace of development gets affected as the state still functions under Union territory cadre, the CM said.

"Owing to Arunachal's vastness and diversities, the officers posted here need at least two to three years to understand the

pulse of the state. By the time they know, they are transferred, hampering development," he reasoned.

Claiming that the state has been ignored when it came to distribution of foreign funds, Khandu requested Niti Aayog to devise a mechanism to overcome this hurdle and compensate Arunachal Pradesh accordingly.

The CM also urged the Centre to relax the guidelines of its flagship programmes for Arunachal Pradesh.

"The tough and the inaccessible terrain in the state makes it difficult for agencies to implement the programmes as per guidelines," he said.

Armies of India, Myanmar target NE militants in coordinated operation



**NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI):** The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation from May 16 in their respective border areas, targeting several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam, defence sources said on Sunday.

The first phase of "Operation Sunrise" was conducted three months ago along the Indo-Myanmar border, during which a number of camps of north-east-based militant groups were busted.

Myanmar is one of the strategic neighbours of India and shares a 1,640-km border with a number of north-eastern states, including the militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

India has been pushing for a deeper coordination between the armies of the two countries while guarding the border.

Sources said during "Operation Sunrise 2", the armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), the NSCN (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB).

They said at least six dozen militants belonging to these groups were nabbed and several of their camps destroyed during the operation.

The sources said the two sides might launch the third phase of the operation, depending on intelligence inputs and the ground situation.

Besides the Indian Army, troops from the Assam Rifles were also part of the operation.

In June 2015, the Indian Army had carried out an operation against NSCN(K) militants in areas near the Indo-Myanmar border, days after militants killed 18 army-men in Manipur.

In the first phase of "Operation Sunrise", the Indian Army targeted members of the Arawakan Army, an insurgent group in Myanmar, who were opposed to the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project.

The Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project is viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

India entered into a framework agreement with Myanmar in April, 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the project. On completion, the project will help connect the north-eastern state of Mizoram with the Sittoung Port in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

On the Indian side, work is on to extend the Aizawl-Saiha National Highway by 90 km to the international border at Zorinpui. According to security agencies, there were over 50 camps of insurgent groups from the north-east in Myanmar till last year.

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### Number of IDUs on the rise in Tripura

**AGARTALA, JUN 16 (PTI):** The number of Injecting Drug Users (IDU) is on the rise in Tripura in spite of efforts by the state AIDS control society to control the menace, officials said.

The Injecting Drug Users are mostly concentrated in Kanchanpur and Damcherra in North Tripura district and Dhalai district, the officials said.

According to latest statistic available with Tripura State Aids Control Society (TSACS), the number of drug users has gone up from 750 in 2018-19 to around 1000 till date.

The figure was 610 in 2017-18.

But the exact number of IDUs would more than the official figure as drug users often avoid the health workers due to social stigma, the Project Director of TSACS Dr PK Majumder said on Friday.

"We have succeeded to get some die

hard IDUs out of drugs through Opioid Substitute Therapy (OST) but actual number would be much more than the official inputs," he said.

As many as 215 Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) have been fully cured over the past few years because of OST, he added.

Dr Majumder said "The number of IDUs are spreading to new areas like Kanchancherra, Sikaribari and Ambassa city in Dhalai district over the years. Earlier, the menace was concentrated only in Kanchanpur subdivision because of open border with Mizoram."

He said "We are using OSTs at Kanchanpur and Manu to give proper treatment to the drug users but turn-out is not so encouraging. But, still we are working on the mission to rescue the IDUs."

### Man wanted for TMC worker's murder held in Chhattisgarh

**Bilaspur, Jun 16 (PTI):** A man was arrested from Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur city in connection with the killing of a Trinamool Congress worker in West Bengal on June 4, police said Sunday.

TMC worker Nirmal Kundu was shot dead by unidentified bike-borne persons in Nimta area of north Dum Dum municipality, part of North 24

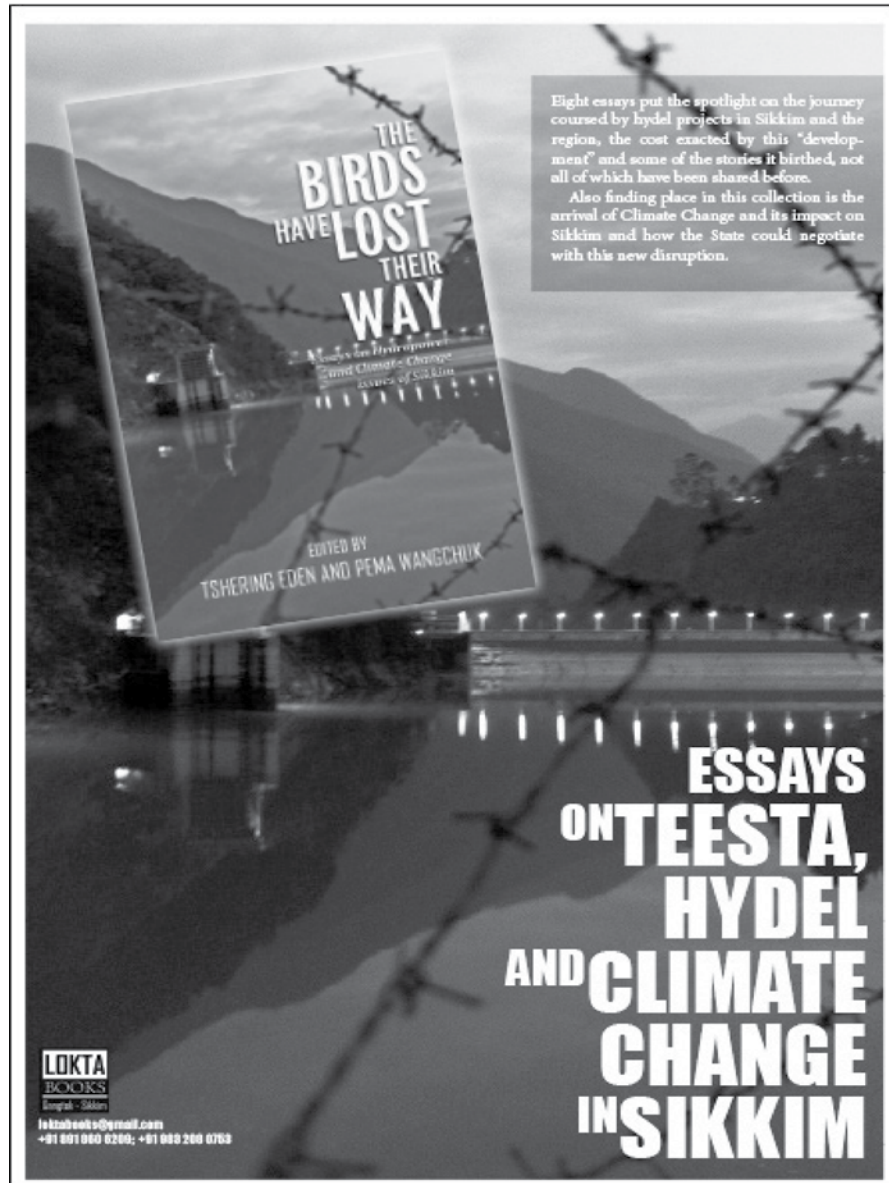
Paraganas district and the area under the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.

The accused, Sudip Das, was nabbed by a team of the West Bengal Police's Crime Investigation Department (CID) on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday from the house of a relative of his friend in Chilhati village here, SHO of Sarkanda Police Station Santosh

Jain said.

"The Kolkata Police got a tip-off about Das' presence in Sarkanda, following which they alerted us. A raid was carried out and he was nabbed," Jain added.

The Kolkata Police got Das' transit remand from a local court on Saturday and took him to West Bengal on Sunday for further investigation, he added.





# England's Karen Bardsley says mixed teams at academies is the way forward for women's football

LOUISE TAYLOR  
THEGUARDIAN

If Karen Bardsley had collected a pound every time a man told her female goalkeepers are rubbish she would be very rich indeed. "Whether it's people feeling threatened by women's football, I don't know," she says in her distinctive Californian accent. "I don't know why some people can't praise when they see something done well – even if it is by a woman. I'm not here trying to burn a bra or anything and say: 'We need to take over,' but give credit where it's due."

The England and Manchester City goalkeeper – who was rested from Friday's 1-0 victory over Argentina – sometimes suspects that patronising comments about the supposed limitations of her female counterparts are really a form of shorthand for dismissing the entire women's game. "It's just a bit of a cop-out, isn't it, just an easy way out," says the 34-year-old, who was born and raised in Santa Monica. "Don't get me wrong, I've seen my

share of bad goalkeeping. I've had my moments too. But I've also seen some excellent female goalkeeping.

"It does frustrate me; it makes me think: 'Come on, let's see you do better.' It would be fun to get the general population doing stuff with us. To say: 'If you think it's so easy, get in goal.'"

Bardsley, who opted to represent England because of family connections in Stockport, believes mixed education is the way to eradicate such prejudice. "Female goalkeepers are seen as equals in academies now," she says. "We're trying to set a good example for the younger boys so they're used to seeing us women around, making great saves and scoring great goals. Just normalising the idea of women playing football is a massive part of what we need to do."

As befits a highly articulate product of California State University, where she majored in graphic design, Bardsley has a compelling blueprint for change. "Boys and girls should play alongside each other in



academies [at professional clubs]," she says. "We've done it in the past but health and safety have stepped in and stopped us. But I did it when I was growing up in the US. I trained alongside full-grown men at college and worked with some great male keepers. It helped me 100% with speed of play, speed of reactions and strength. The mindset they gave me was invaluable."

"If you speak to girls

who play football alongside lads they'll tell you that you almost have to earn the right to play with them. It's annoying that you have to do that, but once you've done it the barriers are down."

Technically, the differences between the sexes are perhaps surprisingly small. "Typically, male goalkeepers play a bit higher," she says. "Their reaction speed in terms of an-

gles and parrying shots means they'll probably be three yards further out than us. But, technically, the set positions are just the same."

Chelsea's manager, Emma Hayes, has reopened a long-running debate about whether female goalkeepers' invariably smaller stature dictates that the frames of their goals should be contracted. "What are the social implications?" says Bardsley. "We've

fought so hard to change the perception of female athletes across the planet and I don't know that it would be beneficial."

Hers is a powerful, distinctive voice epitomised by the opening exchanges to this interview with a handful of journalists on the Normandy coast.

KB: "Bonjour, tout le monde. Are we good?"

Press: "Yes, Deauville's a nice town"

KB: "It looks like a

fake town, doesn't it? Something out of Disneyland or Bicester Village ... But how are we all?"

Press: "Good"

KB: "Feel the energy! Gooood!"

Now at her third World Cup, she feels higher value should be placed on keepers of both sexes. "The constant message I heard growing up was: 'If you're unfit you go in goal,' or: 'If you're crap you go in goal.' How do we change that, how do we give goalkeeping more respect?"

"People have to realise the game has changed loads. Look at Ederson, Alisson and the impacts they've made by playing out, but also being good shot stoppers and having a presence. It's an impactful position now."

"It's about how you influence the back four, how you communicate with those in front of you. Essentially you're a defensive pivot."

Phil Neville's determination to transform England into a slick-passing, ball-monopolising side involves considerable building from the back, with Bardsley and

her colleagues sometimes expected to serve almost as sweeper-keepers. Significant emphasis is placed on their foot-work.

"The longer we can dictate that possession the more momentum we can create and the more opportunities we'll get in the final third," she says. "I don't want to be doing keepy-ups or anything like that in my box, but if I'm needed as an outlet then I'm there for it."

She suspects her role's continuing evolution has not been matched by a wider appreciation of its nuances. "Journalists and pundits need to become more aware of the intricacies of good goalkeeping," says Bardsley, before smiling to herself.

It is the cue for her to issue the small gathering of reporters – assembled before Carly Telford wore the gloves against Argentina – an invitation to join her for some specialist training before Wednesday's final Group D game against Japan in Nice.

It is an overture none has, as yet, dared accept.

## Indian men's recurve team settles for silver in Archery World C'ships

**DEN BOSCH (THE NETHERLANDS), JUN 16 (PTI):** The Indian men's recurve team cracked under pressure against China to settle for a silver in the Archery World Championships here Sunday.

Seeking a maiden gold in the World Championships, India led 27-26 midway into the first set but the trio of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin Jadhav let the opportunity slip later in the summit clash.

The Chinese team of Ding Yiliang, Wei Shaoxuan and Feng Hao produced a solid and consistent performance as they capitalised from the second set to seal a 6-2 win. India thus ended their campaign with one silver and two bronze medals won in the women's compound team and individual events.

The men's recurve team was featuring in the final of World Championships after a gap of 14 years. This was India's sixth silver at the World Championships where the country is yet to win a gold medal.

"Feeling good and also bad. It was a big chance for us. We have won so many silver medals (at World Championships) but we have never won a gold. This time too, we could not able to convert this into a gold," rued Rai, who was also a member the men's recurve team that last won a silver at Madrid 2005.

Rai, along with Jayanta Talukdar and Gautam Singh, had lost to Korea 232-244 in the final of World Championship in Madrid 2005.

"But we have learnt so many things, hope it will help us to rectify our mistakes and change the colour of the medal in future," Rai, a two-time Olympian and 2010 Asian Games individual silver medallist, said.

The men's recurve

team, who had slumped to number 17 in rankings from being number one in May 2011, had also surprised everyone by sealing the Olympic quota place ahead of the fancied women's team.

This was also for the first time since 2014 that the Indian men's team made the final of a world event. India had ended up with a silver at the Wroclaw Stage IV World Cup in 2014 with Rai being a member of the team, alongside Das and Jayanta Talukdar.

Describing this as a breakthrough moment for Indian men's recurve team, the 35-year-old Army archer further said: "We have struggled a lot since last four-five years. Putting us in question mark can we win medals."

"This time we could proved them wrong and hope in future our archers will come to win medals and not just for participation."

Up against the fifth seed China who had upset top seed Korea in the semifinals, the Indian trio lost the first set by a point as the scores were levelled at 53-44.

The young Chinese team spearheaded by 23-year-old Yiliang were at its best in the second set where they shot four perfect 10s to score 58 out of 60 while India wobbled with a score of 51 with Rai slipping to the outer 7-circle to trail 1-3 at the midway stage.

Needing a 10 to seal the issue in the third set, Ding narrowly missed the inner ring for a 56-56 draw that kept India's hopes alive. India needed a win in the fourth set to take the match into the shoot-off but the nerves got on to them as the trio ended with three 8s, while the Chinese shot three 10s to take the fourth set 57-52 and seal the gold by a distance.

## It's defeat of honesty by dishonest: Hardik on LS poll results

**SHIRDI, JUN 16 (PTI):** Congress leader Hardik Patel Sunday described his party's drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls as the defeat of honesty by dishonest people.

He also said that people would rally behind Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, as he is an "efficient leader".

The Patidar community leader, who is here to attend a two-day camp of Youth Congress, was talking to reporters after visiting the Saibaba temple.

Responding to a query on the Congress' performance in the Lok Sabha elections, he said, "There might have been some shortcomings...It is the defeat of honesty by the dishonest."

"But don't worry about our defeat as we are much efficient," he added.

On the question about Rahul Gandhi's leadership, Patel said, "He is as efficient a leader as his father late Rajiv Gandhi, grandmother late Indira Gandhi and great grandfather late Jawaharlal Nehru, all of whom worked for the country. I think people will firmly stand behind him (Rahul Gandhi)."

"When the BJP won the Lok Sabha polls in 2014 people were happy, but in the 2019 elections, people weren't. Farmers have been committing suicides in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions on a large scale during the BJP rule," he said.

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## Want to focus on things impacting world: Amitav Ghosh

**ZAFRI MUDASSER NO-FIL**

**NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI):** Amitav Ghosh, who just won the Jnanpith Award, says he really wants to pay attention to the ways things are changing across the world, including environmental changes, and write about these.

After presenting him the Jnanpith Award on Wednesday, former West Bengal governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi had said Ghosh should consider using his pen to warn Indians about the "inflammability of hatred among communities" in the country.

Gandhi had also urged 62-year-old Ghosh, who became the first English writer to be conferred with Jnanpith Award, to "save the India of Gautam Buddha

and Vardhaman Mahavir from hate".

When asked whether he would consider these issues while writing his next book, Ghosh says right now, what is really needed - not just in India but around the globe - is paying attention to the world and to the ways things are changing, the ways in which the whole world is impacted by all the kind of environmental changes.

Those are the things I really want to pay attention to. Those are the things I really want to write about, he told PTI in an interview.

In 2016, he had come out with a non-fiction title The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable in which he examined the inability at the level of literature, history and

politics to grasp the scale and violence of climate change.

And now his new book Gun Island talks of a world on the brink, of increasing displacement and unstoppable transition.

Ghosh says writers and publishers now face a challenge of finding ways to divert the attention of younger people to books.

We are now in a world where for younger people especially, consumption of news and stories comes through the phone. In a way they are completely tied to the phone. We have to try and think how to make books part of their lives, he says.

According to him, people are forgetting that there is a very short attention span while interacting with a phone.

To read a book you

London, Jun 16 (PTI): In pole position at top of the table to make the World Cup semi-finals, Australia must be tempted to give their key pacer Mitchell Starc a break this week, but the fast bowler said he has no intention of resting.

Starc, who is now joint number two on the all-time list of Australian World Cup wicket takers alongside Brett Lee, said he would not like to take a break considering that he is currently leading the chart with 13 wickets.

"If I'm fit I'd like to play all the games. It's not up to me but it's the World Cup. I definitely won't be putting my hand up to rest," Starc was quoted as saying by ICC website.

Australia have won four out of their five matches at the World Cup, losing just one so



far.

Strac, who starred with figures of 4/55 during Australia's 87-run win over Sri Lanka here on Saturday, said: "I'm just glad we won."

Asked about how he has managed to rise to the occasion throughout the tournament with similar breakthrough spells against West Indies and Pakistan, and now Sri Lanka, Starc said: I do

enjoy the challenge.

The pacer admitted having a higher economy rate than other bowlers but insisted that his aim was to provide breakthroughs for the team.

"It's the challenge at the death, that challenge of trying to win a game for your team or trying to defend a title, I really enjoy that. It's something I work really hard at and it's been a role I've done

for a long time.

"My economy rate might be higher than others, but I'm there to make breakthroughs for the team," explained Starc.

"Test cricket is still the pinnacle for me but the fact I've kept it pretty simple in terms of my gameplay for white ball cricket has held me in good stead through World Cups," he added.

The Australian team's balance has got affected by the recent loss of Marcus Stoinis to injury, but Starc said the all-rounder was doing all he can just by being with team.

"Stoin's in great spirits, he's always got a smile on his face, I think that's why Justin Langer calls him the spirit of the team. He's a great team man who just wants to do well for his mates and be around so he's doing all he can.

ories and experiences of those he meets along the way.

There is Piya, a fellow Bengali-American who sets his journey in motion; Tipu, an entrepreneurial young man who opens Deen's eyes to the realities of growing up in today's world; Rafi, with his desperate attempt to help someone in need; and Cinta, an old friend who provides the missing link in the story they are all a part of. It is a journey which will uphold everything he thought he knew about himself, about the Bengali legends of his childhood and about the world around him.

Gun Island is also a story of hope, of a man whose faith in the world and the future is restored by two remarkable women.



# Massive demonstration chokes Hong Kong as extradition anger boils

**HONG KONG, JUN 16 (AFP):** Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in central Hong Kong Sunday against a reviled extradition law, the latest huge demonstration to pile pressure on the city's embattled leader, despite her weekend climbdown.

The enormous show of force saw protesters chanting "Scrap the evil law!" as they marched through the streets calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam, who paused work on the hugely divisive bill Saturday after days of mounting pressure, saying she had misjudged the public mood.

Thronges of black-clad protesters snaked their way through the city's streets in dense crowds heading to the city's parliament -- a repeat of a record-breaking demonstration a week earlier that organisers said more than a million people attended.

Critics fear the Beijing-backed law will entangle people in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts and damage the city's reputation as a safe business hub.

Although Lam, a pro-Beijing appointee, offered a rare concession on Saturday, she stopped short of committing to permanently scrapping

the unpopular law.

Her gesture was swiftly rejected by protest leaders who called on her to resign, shelve the bill entirely and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets earlier in the week.

"Personally I think she can no longer govern Hong Kong, she has lost the public," Dave Wong, a 38-year-old protester who works in finance, told AFP.

"She has pretended not to hear or see our troubles or the injured protesters, and even called them rioters -- this makes us Hong Kong residents furious," added demonstrator Calvin Wong.

The international finance hub was rocked Wednesday by the worst political violence since before its 1997 handover to China as tens of thousands of protesters were dispersed by baton-wielding riot police.

Many placards in the crowd Sunday accused police of using excessive force.

"You're supposed to protect us not shoot at us," read one banner.

"The police should not use rubber bullets, tear gas, and bean bag rounds to deal with the students," protester Ben Choi told AFP.

Nearly 80 people



were injured in this week's unrest, including 22 police officers, with both sides showing a willingness to escalate their behaviour to levels unseen before in the usually stable business hub.

One man died late Saturday when he fell from a building where he had been holding an hours-long anti-extradition protest.

He had unfurled a banner saying: "Entirely withdraw China extradition bill. We were not rioting. Released students and the injured".

Huge queues formed outside the high-end Pacific Place mall with flowers and written tributes piling up as demonstrators paid their respects.

The extradition furore is just the latest chapter in what many

see as a battle for the soul of Hong Kong.

For the last decade the city has been convulsed by political turbulence between the pro-Beijing authorities and opponents who fear an increasingly assertive China is stamping on the city's unique freedoms and culture.

But opposition to the extradition bill has united an unusually wide cross-section of Hong Kong from influential legal and business bodies, to religious leaders.

Lam's decision to ignore those warnings, and press ahead with the bill even after last weekend's massive rally, has placed her administration under pressure from both her opponents and her own allies.

Advisers and pro-es-

tablishment lawmakers urged her to delay the bill after Wednesday's violence while Beijing began to distance itself from her administration.

Her climbdown was also a rare example of the city's unelected leaders caving to demonstrations, something more recent administrations have been increasingly unwilling to do.

Two months of protests in 2014 calling for the right to directly Hong Kong's leader won no concessions from Beijing and key figures from that movement are now in jail.

But anger over the extradition law has re-invigorated Hong Kong's democracy movement.

Estimates of Sunday's crowd size will not be available until the evening but huge amounts of people were still joining

the start four hours after the rally set off.

Police opened up more roads than usual with demonstrators packing four major arteries on their way to parliament.

Earlier in the day, activists had hung a huge banner from Lion Rock mountain that read "Defend Hong Kong".

Inside China, the internet was being scrubbed of references to the massive rally with entries for Hong Kong on search engines and social media platforms showing no sign of the demonstration.

Police said they had no choice but to use force to meet violent protesters who besieged their lines outside the city's parliament on Wednesday.

But critics -- including legal and rights groups -- say officers used the actions of a tiny group of violent protesters as an excuse to unleash a sweeping crackdown on the predominantly young, peaceful protesters.

"The pro-democracy group will not stop at this point, they want to build on the momentum against Carrie Lam," political analyst Willy Lam told AFP. "They will keep the heat on and ride the momentum."

Cash-strapped Pakistan inks deal with ADB, to get USD 3.4 billion



**ISLAMABAD, JUN 16 (PTI):** Pakistan will get a loan of USD 3.4 billion from the Asian Development Bank for budgetary support, Prime Minister Imran Khan's adviser on finance has said as the cash-strapped country tries to overcome a ballooning balance-of-payments crisis that threatens to cripple its economy.

Of the total amount, USD 2.1 billion would be released within a year of the agreement between the ADB and the finance ministry, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Khusró Bakhtiar was quoted as saying by Dawn.

The loan from the Philippines-headquartered global finance institution was "on a concessional rate", the minister said.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said on Twitter that the ADB will provide USD 3.4 billion to Pakistan for budgetary support.

"USD 2.2 billion will be released this fiscal year (FY), starting in the first quarter of FY 2019-20. This will help the reserve position and the external account," he said in a tweet.

ADB's Director General Werner Leipach and its country director Xiaohong Yang called on Shaikh and discussed with him matters relating to ADB's upcoming operations in Pakistan,

the finance ministry said in a statement.

"The director general (Leipach) briefed the adviser that in addition to strong project portfolio, the bank is also keen to provide balance of payments financing to support the government of Pakistan's structural reform agenda," according to the statement.

Pakistan seeks help to overcome a ballooning balance of payments crisis.

Last month, it reached an agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a three-year, USD 6 billion bailout package aimed at shoring up its finances and strengthening a slowing economy.

The ADB financing would come on top of the IMF loan.

In April, three influential US lawmakers urged the Trump administration to oppose the proposed multi-billion bailout package being sought by Pakistan from the IMF arguing it could be used to repay the Chinese debt.

China is investing heavily in Pakistan under the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Launched in 2015, CPEC is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking China's resource-rich Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea.

## Corruption tainted Guatemala set to elect new president

**GUATEMALA CITY, JUN 16 (AFP):** Corruption-weary Guatemalans are set to elect a new president Sunday after a tumultuous campaign that saw two leading candidates barred from taking part and the top electoral crimes prosecutor forced to flee the country, fearing for his life.

Gang violence, poverty and streams of US-bound migrants have dominated campaigning in Central America's most populous country, where a crowded field of 19 candidates is vying to succeed outgoing president Jimmy Morales.

The country's top anti-corruption campaigner, former attorney general Thelma Aldana, is not among them.

She was expected to poll strongly, but was barred from running last month over allegations of irregularities dating from when she was a barnstorming public prosecutor.

Sandra Torres, a 63-year-old businesswoman and former First Lady, heads into the election as favourite, having built a clear opinion poll lead over second placed Alejandro Giammattei, also 63.

Torres -- candidate for the center-left Unity of Hope (UNE) -- has over 22 per cent of voter preferences in the latest polls, while Giammattei, a doctor running for the conservative Vamos party, trails with just over 11 per cent.

However, neither is seen as likely to poll strongly enough Sunday to avoid a runoff round on August 11.

Analysts believe Tor-

res, a polarising figure since her years as the Central American country's First Lady, would struggle in a second round, given Giammattei's ability to unify the conservative vote against her.

Three other candidates are vying for third place, with indigenous woman Thelma Cabrera building momentum in the closing stages of the campaign.

Guatemala's electorate of eight million is also voting in congressional and municipal elections on Sunday.

Torres' UNE is expected to poll strongly but fall short of a majority in the deeply fractured 160-seat congress.

The ex-wife of late president Alvaro Colom, in power from 2008-2012, Torres has pledged health and education reforms as well as jobs to stem the flow of migration to the US.

She has vowed to oppose abortion and same-sex marriage.

Giammattei has vowed to bring back the death penalty to help crush violent gangs, fight poverty to stop migration and end "disgusting" corruption.

Monitors from the Organisation of American States (OAS), led by former Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís, are supervising the polls.

All police leave has been cancelled and around 40,000 police have been put on alert, while the military has been mobilised to guard key buildings and jails.

Authorities have expressed concern about

possible outbreaks of violence in at least 55 municipalities.

Guatemala has one of the world's highest homicide rates: official statistics put the rate at 22.4 murders per 100,000 people at the end of 2018.

Around half the killings are blamed on drug trafficking and extortion operations carried out by powerful gangs.

Morales, a former TV comedian who won power in 2015 -- beating Torres in the run-off -- is obliged to step down under Guatemala's one-term rules.

His predecessor Otto Perez is in jail for corruption and he himself faces a corruption inquiry into illegal campaign funding.

That was instigated by Aldana and the UN-backed International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) that has put former presidents, ministers and business moguls in jail.

Aldana -- who fled to the United States after receiving death threats -- told AFP her exclusion was orchestrated by those she put in prison and their allies, who saw her as a "hindrance".

Also barred from running was Zury Rios, daughter of late dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, under constitutional rules that prevent his relatives from seeking the presidency.

And this week, as polling stations were being prepared across the country, Oscar Schaad, the electoral court's top prosecutor, said he had been forced to flee the country, citing threats to him and his family.

## Israel PM's wife convicted of misusing public funds

**JERUSALEM, JUN 16 (AFP):** An Israeli court Sunday convicted the wife of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of fraudulently using state funds for meals, under a plea bargain which saw her admit to lesser charges.

Sara Netanyahu was found guilty of exploiting the mistake of another person and ordered to pay a fine and compensation, in a deal approved by Jerusalem magistrates' court justice Avital Chen.

Netanyahu was also

fined 10,000 shekels (2,800) and ordered to reimburse the state a further 45,000 shekels, the latter of which she will pay in nine installments, at her request.

"The deal reached between the sides is worthy and appropriately reflects the deeds and their severity on the criminal level," Chen said in his ruling.

The 60-year-old, a high-profile presence at her husband's side throughout his long tenure in office, was initially charged in

June 2018 with fraud and breach of trust for buying catered meals despite the presence of a cook at the minister's official residence.

The amended indictment, approved Sunday, dropped the graft charges.

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## Times' Russia report is 'virtual treason,' Trump says

**WASHINGTON, JUN 16 (AFP):** US President Donald Trump on Saturday accused The New York Times of "a virtual act of treason," after it reported the US is stepping up digital incursions into Russia's electric power grid.

Current and former government officials have described the classified deployment of American computer code inside Russia's power grid and other targets, the Times reported.

The action is intended partly as a warning but also to leave the US poised to conduct cyberstrikes in the event of a major conflict between the US and Russia, the newspaper said.

Trump tweeted that the accusations were "NOT TRUE," calling the media "corrupt" and repeating accusations that journalists are "the enemy of the people."

"Do you believe that the Failing New York Times just did a story

stating that the United States is substantially increasing Cyber Attacks on Russia," he wrote.

"This is a virtual act of Treason by a once great paper so desperate for a story, any story, even if bad for our Country."

The Times report came after an investigation by US special counsel Robert Mueller of alleged hacking by Russia's GRU intelligence agency and social media manipulation by Russia's Internet Research Agency to benefit Trump's election campaign.

Mueller detailed a disturbing number of contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia ahead of the 2016 poll.

Trump claimed the report cleared him of wrongdoing.

On the question of obstruction of justice, the report did not conclude Trump committed a crime, but Mueller wrote that "it also does not exonerate him."





## Namaste Thailand film festival celebrates Thai culture's diversity

**NEW DELHI, JUN 15 (PTI):** The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand film festival opened Friday with the aim of celebrating “the uniqueness and diversity of Thai culture”.

Organised by the Royal Thai Embassy, the film festival opened with the superhit Thai romantic comedy, “Friend Zone” at the PVR Select Citywalk here.

“We are happy that people turned up in large numbers for the Inauguration and the screening of Friend Zone. Films are no doubt a reflection of a society, as films reflect how people think and the way they tell stories.

“We hope that you will enjoy the unique-

ness and the diversity of the Thai culture and her people, as well as recognize the similarities and linkages between our two cultures,” Chutintorn Gongsakdi, the Ambassador of Thailand, said.

The film depicted a grey zone where relationships are trapped between being friends and lovers.

The three-day festival will also show “2,215”, “Homestay”, “The Promise”, and “The Legend of Muay Thai: 9 Satra”.

The Thai film extravaganza will come to a close on Jun 16 with another romantic comedy “Suddenly Twenty”.

## ‘Stranger Things’ actor Gaten Matarazzo to host Netflix prank show

**LOS ANGELES, JUN 16 (PTI):** “Stranger Things” breakout star Gaten Matarazzo has been roped in by Netflix to host a prank show.

The young actor will also serve as an executive producer on the show.

According to Deadline, the eight-episode show titled “Prank Encounters”, is set to premiere later in 2019.

Netflix describes the series as a “terrifying and hilarious prank show” that takes two complete strangers who each think they are starting their first day at a new job until their paths cross and their part-time jobs turn into full-time nightmares.

Matarazzo essays the role of Dustin on “Stranger Things”. The show’s third season premieres on July 4 and is set in the summer of 1985. It will feature a terrifying new creature.



**BICYCLE SHORTS MAKING A COMEBACK:** Sora keeps it simple with a black and white palette, wearing a longer length short with a long sleeved t-shirt and a top handle box bag. Meanwhile, if you really like to flaunt your legs, opt for a bright or printed pair for maximum impact. To avoid looking like you’re going to the gym, choose a longer length and wear it with a smart shirt, heels and pile on the jewellery.

**ARIES:** If you choose to ignore every bleeping device and message thread for the next 48 hours, don’t apologize, Aries! This is a restful, “me first” kind of weekend. Taking care of yourself and enjoying a few scintillating one-on-ones is all you need to focus on! The moon is in private, internal Scorpio and your eighth house of strong emotions, intimacy and eroticism!

**TAURUS:** With a Scorpio moon activating your partnership realm all weekend, two heads (and hearts) are better than one! What you don’t want, however, is another half who can’t hold their own next to you. When you’re on, you’re a force of nature, Taurus, and anyone who’s going to team up with you needs to be an equal.

**GEMINI:** You might have to assume the mantle of authority today, Gemini, so be ready to step up to the plate. Someone is NOT carrying their weight, and if you don’t say something, nothing is going to change. Ack! Rather than pretending it’s not the case or tiptoeing around the issue, address it directly.

**CANCER:** Even if you’re just running out for coffee or a quick grab-and-go at the farmer’s market, spruce yourself up a little. With the moon in aesthetic Scorpio and your amorous, glamorous fifth house, you could be in for a weekend of surprises. You never know who you might run into at the beekeeper’s honey stall—or where a random conversation might lead.

**LEO:** Home is where your head, heart and hustling hands are all weekend, as the Scorpio moon hovers in your domestic fourth house. Don’t rush to do work that can hold till Monday—and don’t be too quick to tend to a friend who needs a pep talk. You’ve got a dozen household projects that have been in the pipeline for too long already, and now is the perfect time to put your desires front and center. Change that light fixture; put the new bedding on and maybe shop for your dream sofa.

**VIRGO:** Whatever was dragging you down last week, let it go, Virgo! The Scorpio moon is beaming down in your playful third house, beckoning you to get out and

interact with your favorite band of merry-makers. Link up with friends who have the pulse of the cultural scene and mix it up with some let-your-hair-down fun like karaoke or a burlesque show.

**LIBRA:** Are you waiting for this magic moment to arrive where your schedule just opens up? Reality is, you’re the one setting the pace for your life. If you keep go-go-going at breakneck speed, you’re going to burn out eventually. Preempt that from happening, asap. This weekend dangles the perfect carrot. The moon will be in introspective Scorpio both days, giving you a chance to hit reset on those wildly tipping scales.

**SCORPIO:** With la luna floating through your sign all weekend, you have planetary permission to take all the “Scorpio time” you need! Start by looking at your calendar. What do you wish you could magically erase? It’s okay that you’ve come down with a case of reverse-FOMO and want to sit everything out until next week. Anyone who adores you or cares about your wellbeing will understand!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Clear the excess from your calendar and plan to put your own needs and desires first this weekend, Sagittarius. The moon is hunkered down in introspective Scorpio and your internally focused twelfth house for the next two days, and anything too crowded or cacophonous will fry your circuits. Apologize to anyone you might disappoint—or ask if they’re open to shifting plans around!

**CAPRICORN:** Hole up at home base and unplug for the next two days? Sorry, Capricorn—not with the Scorpio moon lighting up your communal eleventh house. People are your priority this weekend, especially the ones whose sense of adventure is matched only by their amazing taste in food and bands! Take the reins and play social director or let your innermost circle know that the Sea Goat is down for whatever fun is in the offing.

**AQUARIUS:** With the moon beaming in your career zone on both Saturday and Sunday, you’ll find it hard to leave work at the office. Even if you’re physically engaged in



porting women and not being pitted against one another or tearing each other down.

At one point, she sings “And we see you over there on the internet/Comparing all the girls who are killing it/But we figured you out/We all know now/We all got crowns. You need to calm down.”

She also sings, “Like can you not step on our gowns” at another.

It’s no secret Swift has love for the women in her squad; however, she’s also ended her beef with other female artists in the industry, including Katy Perry.

Fans still have to wait until Monday to see the full music video. But Swift recently revealed her new album is called Lover, and it looks like she just wants peace and love for all.

# Taylor Swift’s “You Need to Calm Down” Lyrics Decoded

Taylor Swift’s new song, “You Need to Calm Down,” is finally here!

After teasing the single during an Instagram Live yesterday, the 29-year-old singer released the tune on Friday. Along with sharing the lyric video for the instant hit on YouTube, Swift posted some cover art for the song on Instagram. The photo showed a picture of the 10-time Grammy winner rocking a giant back tattoo. The ink featured a bunch of butterflies flying up above a snake—a key symbol from her reputation era.

Swift spoke about her inspiration for the song during a recent interview with Apple Music’s Beats 1.

“I’ve observed a lot of different people in our society who just put so much energy and effort into negativity, and it just made me feel like, ‘You need to just calm down. Like, you’re stressing yourself out. This seems like it’s more about you than what you’re going off about. Like, just calm down,’” she said.

Shutting down the haters: Swift has dealt with her fair share of criticism over the years. While the singer has cryptically addressed her critics before—such as by making fun of the media’s perception of her love life in “Blank Space”—she’s now speaking to them directly.

As she sings in her new tune, “Say it in the street, that’s a knock-out/ But you say it in a tweet, that’s a cop-out/ And I’m just like ‘Hey, Are You OK?’/ And I ain’t trying to mess with your self-expression but I’ve learned the lesson that stressin’ and obsessing ‘bout somebody else is no fun.”

She also tells these social media trolls that “snakes and stones never broke my bones.” This could be interpreted as a reminder that if she can get through the drama before her reputation era (you remember that Snapchat video), she can make it through anything.

Standing up for the LGBTQ community: Swift is showing her support for the LGBTQ community. Back in April, she donated \$113,000 to the Tennessee Equality Project. She also penned a let-

ter to Sen. Lamar Alexander asking him to support the Equality Act and spoke about the bill during her performance at Wango Tango.

Now, the singer is showing her support through her lyrics.

“You are somebody that we don’t know/But you’re comin’ at my friends like a missile/Why are you mad when you could be GLAAD?” she sings, referencing the LGBTQ organization.

She then croons, “Sunshine on the street at the parade/But you would rather be in the dark ages/Making that sign/Must’ve taken all night/You just need to take several seats and then try to restore the peace and control your urges to scream about all the people you hate/’Cause shade never made anybody less gay.”

Eagle-eyed fans also noted that the letters “e” and “a” were highlighted every time they appeared next to each other in a word, which are likely another nod to the Equality Act.

After the song’s release, GLAAD noted it’s seen an increase in donations made in the amount of \$13—a likely reference to Swift’s favorite number.

Throwing shade at Donald Trump? Some fans have interpreted the aforementioned lyric to be a dig at the president. Although, it should be noted Swift hasn’t confirmed this theory herself. As fans will recall, Swift wrote she personally rejected the commander-in-chief’s “stance that his administration, ‘supports equal treatment of all,’ but that the Equality Act, ‘in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights.”

A few social media users also noted Swift released the song on Trump’s birthday.

Back in May, Swift revealed her new music did contain “political undertones,” however, she didn’t specify how or in which songs they appeared.

Promoting women supporting women: In this new song, Swift seems to be promoting the message of women sup-

## I like observing people for film ideas: Diljit Dosanjh

**MUMBAI, JUN 15 (PTI):** Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh says he observes people very keenly as he believes every person has a story to tell, which could be a great idea for a film.

The actor, who next stars in Punjabi film “Shadaa”, says this nature of his has helped him crack a few story ideas.

“I am an observant. I like to observe people. I believe every person has a story that comes out from the way they talk, their opinion, their mindset and their body language. By doing this, I have cracked few ideas for films,” Diljit told PTI.

The actor says he had the initial idea for “Shadaa”, which revolves around person looking for a bride even though he has crossed the desirable age of marriage.

“I felt this can be a nice idea for a film. I discussed the idea with my filmmaker friends, then a team was formed and the story was written.

“In Punjab, we have a friendly environment and whoever gets a story idea, we discuss it openly and work jointly towards it. The script of this was then developed by Jagdeep and he directed the film as well.”

Diljit also reveals that “Shadaa” isn’t the first film whose idea he cracked. He says he had also got the basic idea for his 2012 hit “Jatt And Juliet”.

“I had discussed the idea about a boy and girl and how they are keen to go abroad and stay there, how they both come together forms the story, with my friends and that’s how ‘Jatt And Juliet’ was born.”

“Even for the film ‘Rangroot’, which is based on World War I, I had seen some information and images on the internet and felt this was an apt story to turn into a film.”

Ask him if he plans to become a full-time writer, pat comes



the reply, “No. It is not my job.”

Diljit is one of the most recognisable faces from Punjabi film industry and he believes there is immense potential in the state’s cinema.

“Punjabi cinema is pretty new and it is still growing. We have fewer screens as well. Our films release in about 1200 to 1300 screens. We are trying to reach to a wider audience.

“However, our films do well commercially in the north belt and even internationally. Our attempt is to make good films that are enjoyed by everyone. Also today we have our films releasing on online platforms like Netflix.”

“Shadaa”, written and directed by Jagdeep Sidhu, also features Neeru Bajwa. The film is produced by Atul Bhalla, Amit Bhalla, Anurag Singh, Aman Gill and Pawan Gill. It releases on June 21.

other activities, mentally you’ll still be mulling something you didn’t finish (or complete to your standards) when you logged out on Friday. So here’s a thought: Instead of being an apparition at brunch or your friend’s gallery opening, duck home and devote a finite amount of time to getting this done.

**PISCES:** Get up and get OUT! With the Scorpio moon jetting through your nomadic ninth house, the weekend is like a two-day treasure hunt for all the coolest hangouts. And guess what, Pisces? They might not be found in your zip code. Maybe it’s time to pack a bag for a quick road trip or perhaps a cheap, last-minute flight to a friend two states away. (Cough, cough: Do we feel a Monday sick day coming on?) Or just stay home and play tourist in your own town. Any change of scenery would be an instant mood booster. Check out a different live-music venue; eat at an authentic restaurant in another part of town. Are there any foreign films showing or outsider-art shows you could patronize? On Sunday, indulge your interest in the mystical side to life.