



Summit **T**IMES

IN HIS I-DAY MESSAGE, CM REITERATES COMMITMENT TO ENSURE DIGNITY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL SIKKIMESE

Grievance Surveyors soon at every ward

Chamling spells out additional benefits and allowances following pay revision

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:**

In his Independence Day message to the people of Sikkim, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has reiterated the vision of the State Government to transform the State into a "fully self-reliant and self-sufficient entity at the same time to make Sikkim prosperous and progressive so that the people can live a full life with dignity and freedom."

In his message, the CM also details the achievements of the State Government and while extending is I-Day greetings, also puts on record: "We have continued to derive inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru and other great leaders of the past. Today, let us pledge to work and protect the Independence won through the great sacrifices made by the martyrs. Let us today pledge to work hand in hand and to contribute our mite to the process of nation building."

He also mourns the passing away of former Rajya Sabha MP from Sikkim and Ambassador of India to Mongolia, Karma Topden, and former MLAs Laxuman Lepcha and Gopal Lamichaney, all of whom passed away in recent months.

Stating that Sikkim's progress under the current government has been "devised by a development strategy in a planned manner based on ground realities and on its natural strengths and opportunities," the CM comments that "the last 24 years of governance has been most rewarding."

"The State endeavours to move ahead in development with total focus on its mission to serve the State and its people," he states, as he goes on to enumerate data and statistics to back his claim.

In his I-Day message, the CM also informs that the State Government has mooted a proposal for appointment of Grievance Surveyor in each ward in every village.

The grievance surveyor will reach the doorsteps of each and every household to listen to the grievances and note down other



requirements. The information will then be shared with the Departments through the respective Block Development Officers for further consideration and sanction.

He also announces in his message that Sikkimese students undergoing hotel management courses at the Institute of Hotel Management, Sajong Rumtek, will be exempted from paying any fees from the new session.

As part of the loan recovery drive and to provide fiscal relief to the beneficiaries, he CM has announced that persons who have

availed loans of Rs 50,000 or less under the CM Self Employment Scheme in the past, will be exempted from paying of the loan amount and their loan amount waived off.

Those who have availed loans of more than Rs 50,000 will be given a special 50% rebate on the principal amount plus interest if they repay the loan within the next 60 days;

Meanwhile, loanees who have since been absorbed in government service shall be given special window to clear the principal loan amount within 60 days without any interest.

Addressing an issue which has

been discussed substantial and has come in for a lot of criticism from the Opposition camp, the CM addresses the recent pay revision and spells out the "range of additional benefits and extra allowances introduced for the overall welfare of the serving as well as retired government employees".

Transport Allowance, for instance has been increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1000 per month for sub-ordinate services and officers of lower level state services; For the first time in Sikkim, Leave Travel Concession has been introduced once in a block of four years; Protective base line of minimum Rs. 3500 of House Rent Allowance introduced for lowest level employees as against Rs. 1800 under the Central Government; Incentive of 1 to 2 additional increments to Staff Nurses with higher professional qualifications; Introduction of Heavy Vehicle Allowance of Rs. 1000 per month to SNT Drivers; Enhancement of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG) from Rs. 10 Lakhs to 20 lakhs; Enhancement of Medical Relief to pensioners from

Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000 per month as against the revised Rs. 1000 at the Centre; Risk allowance to fire services personnel up to the rank of sub-inspectors and linesman under Energy and Power Department has been introduced at the rate of Rs. 500 per month. For other specified categories, the increase has been over 300 % from Rs.100 to Rs. 800; Band Allowance to Police Band at the enhanced rate of Rs. 300 per month introduced; Minimum pension and family pension revised from Rs. 3700 to Rs. 9000.

The last 24 years of governance in Sikkim has not only been full of unprecedented people friendly policy interventions but has also left an indelible imprint on the contemporary national and international socio-political canvas. Sikkim has earned its name not only in India but internationally.

The CM's address also goes over the various initiatives undertaken by the State Government and the many projects that are currently underway, underlining the achievements and successes of the government here.



State's first Health & Wellness Centers inaugurated at Dentam and Soreng

GYALSHING, 14 AUG [IPR]: Sikkim's first two Health & Wellness Centers Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services under Ayushman Bharat [Aspirational District Sikkim] Programme were inaugurated at Dentam and Soreng in West Sikkim respectively.

Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, inaugurated the Dentam Center in the presence of Additional District Collector [Development], Surat Gurung, Sub Divisional Magistrate and Block Development Officer of Dentam, health Officials and

other dignitaries. In Soreng, the Health and Wellness Center was inaugurated by Health Minister, AK Ghatani, in the presence of Minister for Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, and other officials. Mr Subba stressed

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Risks Sumsi students face to access education catches HC notice

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 AUG:**

The High Court of Sikkim has taken suo motu cognizance of a photo-caption published in local Nepali daily, Hamro Prajashakti, about the risks that children of Sumsi under Lingi-Paiyong GPU have to face in their daily commute due to the absence of a bridge across Changay Khola forcing students to ford the river on foot while going to school.

The village is yet to get a road although one is under construction at present. Even the new road, however, will just go up till Changay Khola.

The newspaper had reported that the demand for a bridge has been long pending and that around 3 to 4 years ago, a student had lost his life after being swept away by

this khola.

While taking suo motu cognizance on the newsitem, the High Court issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary, and the Human Resource Development Department directing that a status report on the matter be filed within four weeks.

The division bench of Sikkim High Court of Acting Chief Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, while taking note of the news-report, observed that the Right to Education Act of 2009 was envisioned to enable every child to access quality education irrespective of his/her socioeconomic background and other barriers in order to achieve an egalitarian society.

Every child has a right to live with dignity which can be assured through education and should s/he be deprived of this, s/he is also deprived of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution and freedom of speech and expression and as envisaged under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Hence, no impediment should refrain a child from attaining the rights provided to him by the Constitution, the Court observed.

The Right to Education has been inserted in Article 21A of the Constitution of India to provide for right to access education amongst the fundamental rights of the children aged up to of 14.

The purpose of the Right of Children to Free and Com-

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दक्षिण सिक्किमको सुम्सी र अन्य गाउँलाई जोड्ने छुट्टी खोला उर्लिँएर आफूले विद्यालयले बस्ने खोला तरेर स्कूल जानुपर्ने बाध्यता। यहाँ लगातार कम्पा पुल निर्माणको निम्ति माग गरिए पनि अहिलेसम्म पुल निर्माण गरिएको छैन। विगत ३-४ वर्ष अघि यही खोलाले बगउटेर एक विद्यार्थीको ज्यानसमेत गएको थियो।

Pic: Hamro Prajashakti

Convict demanding open debate is hilarious: SDF on Golay's challenge

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has countered that SKM party president, PS Tamang [Golay], has been trying to bend the truth by presenting half-baked arguments on sensitive issues in a very deceptive manner.

An SDF press release issued by its general secretary, DB Katwal, mentions that in his statement on the implementation of the 5th Pay Commission recommendation, Mr Tamang has tried to show that the SDF government has not taken up any welfare measures for state government employees, which was inherently false, and a claim motivated by wrong intentions.

In reality, the State Government has been consulting with representatives of government employees to implement the 5th Pay Commission. The SDF government has implemented the rec-

ommendation of all pay commissions during its tenure so far with approval of government employees of Sikkim, the release points out.

The release also mentions that the SDF government has almost completed the process of regularizing MR and WC employees of the State in phase-wise manner.

The ruling party criticized SKM of being a photocopy party that has been picking up programmes from SDF and other progressive parties in the past, only to spin its own claims later.

On the issue of labour contract system, the release mentions that welfare measures taken by the SDF government for workers ranged from transportation allowance, to arrangement for skill development training in factory itself, annual increment for workers on evaluation of their work, house rent allow-

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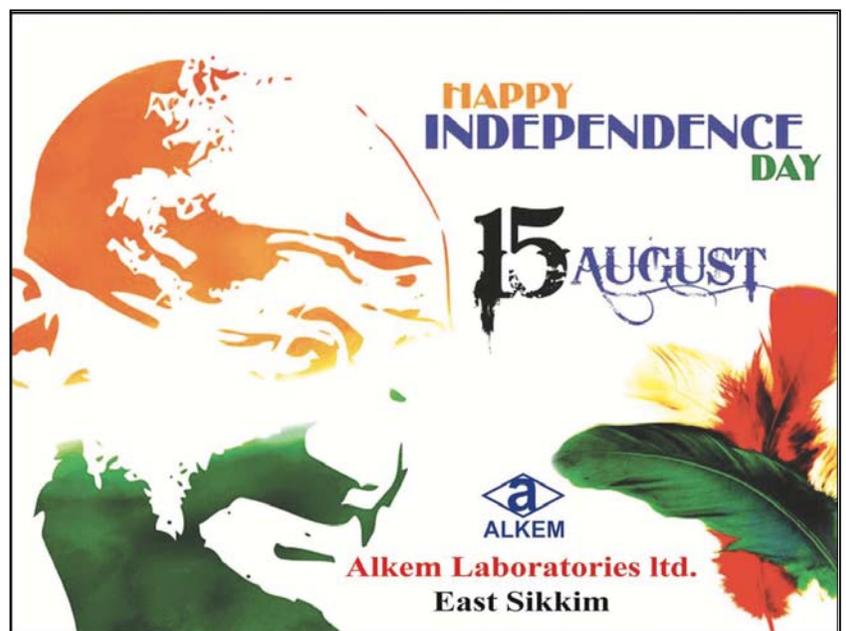
In death, Chatterjee keeps his pledge, donates body and eyes

KOLKATA, AUG 14 (PTI):

The body of former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, who passed away yesterday morning, will be used for educational purposes by medical students, a senior doctor at the SSKM hospital said today.

Chatterjee's body was last evening donated to the anatomy department of the SSKM hospital here by his family

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In death, Chatterjee keeps his pledge, donates body and eyes

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members. The veteran leader passed away at the age of 89 following multiple organ failure.

"The body has been embalmed to protect it from decomposition. Before that, a surgeon from the plastic surgery department retrieved Chatterjee's skin, which could benefit not just medical students, but also patients with burn injuries," Dr Asis Ghoshal, head of the anatomy department at the hospital, said.

Much like his mentor and former West Bengal chief minister Jyoti Basu, Chatterjee had pledged to donate his body in early 2000 at the age of 73. Basu passed away in 2010 at the age of 95. Ghoshal said the former speaker's corneas were donated to the Priyamvada Birla Aravind Hospital.

"Every part of Chatterjee's body will be used for education and research programmes. We are preserving his bones and organs as per norms," he added.

Green Defenders of Sikkim resolve to keep rivers flowing free

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

An awareness workshop on The Free Flowing Rivers of Sikkim was held at Darap, West Sikkim on 12 August.

Organised under the banner of ACT (Sikkimese Rivers) and supported by Affected Citizens of Teesta, Sikkim Ornithological Society and Save Sikkim under one banner as The Green Defenders of Sikkim.

The function was attended by Director, South East Asia International Rivers Organisation, Samir Mehta, Jiten Yunnan, Manipur Research Centre, DIO West Aaron Lepcha, Principal Geyzing Govt College Kessang W. Bhutia, Zilla Panchayat Lingdong Barfok GPU Rinzong Lhamu Lepcha, Panchayat President Lingdong Barfok Chungden Lepcha, Principal Geyzing Govt College, NGOs - PTDA Pelling Tourism Dev Asso., Ningwaphu Sanstha Darap Sidibung, Sikkim University Phd/Research Scholars, Geyzing Govt College Students & youths from Rimbi, Darap & the adjoining villages.



The main aims & objectives of the program were to have Green Warriors which aims the movement to be called as "Pro-River Movement" not "Anti Dam".

The main motive of this movement is to keep the present free flowing Rivers safe & flowing where constructions haven't taken place yet.

The organisers informed that the aim was to put forward peaceful and hopeful requests to the State Government as well as all political parties of Sikkim to consider letting

the remaining rivers Free Flowing in their upcoming election manifestos.

"We believe that only if the environment is healthy can we continue other petty issues," said one of the organisers.

It was informed that the aim is to spread awareness to the far corners of the state regarding the importance of Free Flowing of Rivers which is so important for keeping the natural process functioning.

They have also started that this program from Darap West Sikkim

from under which a tunnel will pass

It is also where Rimbi flows below and is popular among tourists.

The river basin is also one of the top hotspots for butterflies in the State where many rare and endangered species have been recorded. A dam has been proposed on this river too but the construction hasn't begun yet and the organizers aim to convince authorities to let the river flow free here.

"We aim to keep all such rivers free flowing in the State for the health

of the environment, not just today but for our future generations," informed the organisers.

The event had the presence and participation of people from different fields- panchayats from the ruling party from Dzongu and Darap, independent panchayats and Zilla members, research scholars, institutional heads, people involved in tourism sector, environmental activists, lay villagers, NGO representatives, college and school Students, all coming together under one roof for a healthy environment and Free Flowing Rivers of Sikkim.

As for the future course of action, they have decided to move further North towards Lachen and Lachung where there are free flowing rivers still but which could be heading to get choked.

"We shall visit all the places in Sikkim, both affected and non-affected, and carry out mass awareness campaigns/programmes," said Nosang M Limboo, Convenor, Green Defenders of Sikkim.



District level Youth Parliament held in Namchi

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

National Service Scheme [NSS] unit of Namchi Government College, in collaboration with NSS Cell, Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, conducted a district-level Youth Parliament on 13 Aug, a press release informs.

Sponsored by the Regional Directorate, NSS Guwahati, the District Level Youth Parliament was held at the auditorium of Namchi Government College and altogether eight institutions from South and West districts, namely B.Ed. College [Soreng], Sikkim Government College [Gyalshing], DIET [Gyalshing], ITI [Kamrang], Namchi Government College [Kamrang], DIET [Namchi] and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan [Namchi] participated.

The event featured debates on issues like corruption, Beti Bachao Beti Padoo Abhiyan, good governance, Swachhata, environmental protection, Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana, National

Security, communalism and casteism.

Seven parliamentarians were selected based on the points scored by them in the District Level Youth Parliament held in Namchi wherein Ram Kumar Subba from Namchi Government College bagged the first position followed by Bijay Rai, also from Namchi Government College, securing the second position, Nina Lepcha from B.Ed Soreng in third position, Sanjay Rai from NYKS Namchi in fourth position, Bibek Sharma from Namchi Government College in fifth position and Shreya Sharma and Rippon Lepcha from Namchi Government College bagging the sixth and seventh positions respectively.

It may be mentioned here, the selected parliamentarians will now participate in the State level Youth Parliament to be held in Gangtok and those selected at that level will go on to participate in the National Level Youth Parliament 2018 to be held in New Delhi, the release adds.

SAATHI conducts offsite trng for eight government schools

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] conducted an off-site training for 89 students of Sang Senior Secondary School, Dentam SSS, Hee-yangthang SSS, Bermiok Tokal SSS, Nandugaon SSS, Tashiding SSS, Darap SSS and Khechuperi SSS at Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure & Eco-Tourism [IHCAE] in Chemchey, South Sikkim from 10-13 Aug.

A SAATHI press release informs that Everester & Asst Director, IHCAE, Kazi Sherpa, covered session on life skills while trained teacher coordinator



from Sang SSS, Gyaltsen Sherpa, conducted session on basics of counseling.

Likewise, experience sharing session was co-ordinated by Uday C Rai from Serenity Home, Gangtok), peer pressure

session by SAATHI coordinator, Saran Rai, legal aspects of drug abuse by Sub Inspector, Ravanga PS, CK Subba, medical aspects of drug abuse by trained teacher coordinator, Namcheybong, Praneet Thapa,

and communication skills session was done by psychologist, Pragyan Deep Dewan.

The camp concluded with confession round, feedback, badging and pledging sessions, the release adds.

SPCC extends I-Day greetings

GANGTOK, 14 AUG: Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has extended best wishes to the people of Sikkim and the country on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day of India.

A press release issued by SPCC president, Bharat Basnet, conveys that the party has remembered and paid deep tribute to all freedom fighters of the country for their sacrifices and contributions towards the nation to give freedom to the people of the country.

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR SHRINIWAS PATIL

"We have come to be recognised as an exemplary State"

On this auspicious occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Independence of our great nation, I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Sikkim and to my fellow countrymen. It is also a solemn occasion when we pay tributes to the brave and gallant freedom fighters, whose ultimate sacrifice secured us the freedom from the foreign rule.

The country, over the decades has since traversed a long way and has developed into one of the biggest economy today. The democratic values which have been enshrined in the Constitution have been carefully nurtured, upheld and followed with good socio-economic outcomes. India today is an emerging economic super power.

Sikkim joined the Indian mainstream in 1975 as the 22nd State of the Union and has since done exceedingly well in all sectors. We have come to be recognised as an exemplary State and a model for others to emulate.

However, this momentum of progress have to be sustained and the pace of development need to be further accelerated. I appeal to the people to participate in the State's journey towards development and prosperity by working hand in hand with the Government.

Peace, tranquillity, harmony and the warmth of the people is Sikkim's USP and an example for other Indians. The rule of law is a dominant principle of governance and a tool to ensure economic prosperity and social justice. My government has ensured full security and equitable opportunity to the marginalized people and economically backward classes helping them enjoy with pride, the fruit of development and prosperity like their brethren.

Since inception, my government has been a pro-people and development oriented. We have since been steadfast in pursuing our goals of comprehensive development, quality delivery of services promoting peace and

harmony among the Sikkimese society all along. Today, we have a Government that delivers on its promises establishing an enviable track record of development. Today the entire nation looks towards Sikkim as a model State for its most innovative and new programmes across sectors.

This is the result of positive thinking, prudent action and honest purpose of my government. Sikkim has succeeded in emerging as a progressive State in the country and has set the benchmark for numerous development programs undertaken across various sectors over the decades. Organic farming, achieving ODF status, environmental conservation measures, clean energy, tourism, education and health are some sectors where Sikkim has emerged as a front runner. Ours is the first State in the country to constitute Climate Change Commission in January 2008.

We are also the first State to promote the concept of Capacity Building in the country. With an aim of comprehensive development backed by world class infrastructure and a well defined mission statement in place, Sikkim is poised to take a quantum leap towards its goal of becoming a fully developed State.

My Government's policy of sustainable development through environmental conservation have borne rich dividends. The forest cover has increased to 47.80%. The recent inscription of the Khangchendzonga National Park as India's first World Heritage Site under the Mixed Category by UNESCO is a proud moment for not only Sikkim but for the entire Country.



Sikkim was declared as the first Organic State in January 2016. A lot of activities and events have taken place since then. As the second phase of Organic Sikkim Mission, we are focusing on increasing yield, sale outside the State and use of technology for promoting production of premium value added products. In addition, efforts are being made for aggressive branding and marketing of "Organic Sikkim" brand through GI tagging, appointing Brand Ambassadors and linking with Homestays and Wellness Tourism. Further, we are forging distribution ties-ups with institutional buyers, other countries and e-commerce players.

My Government has also imposed a ban on sale of inorganic vegetables from outside the State. Apart from its initial hiccoughs, it has been a success. Sufficient organic vegetables are available in the markets today. The ban has also been instrumental in encouraging the local farmers to grow more organic vegetables for domestic consumption.

The State has made substantial progress in formulating health care measures over the decades. Schemes like the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Checkups for Healthy Sikkim (CATCH) aims to provide comprehensive health care on an annual and periodical basis. Under Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh, all Sikkimese people are entitled to cash/cashless treatment benefits of up to Rs. 2,00 lakhs. Further, government servants are availing reimbursement facility for medical treatment up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

On 30th July, 2018 my Government

launched the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination campaign to vaccinate girls aged 9 - 14 years against Cervical Cancer. With this, Sikkim became the first State in the country to officially launch this vaccine in all districts. This programme has been initiated in collaboration with the UNICEF and the WHO.

This year my Government has initiated the Chief Minister's Start Up Scheme (CMSS) which is a credit linked promoter's contribution financial assistance scheme. It aims to provide for front ended promoters financial contribution assistance component of 25% for the bank approved projects. The scheme provides for a total investment of up to Rs. 20.00 lakhs in any sector including agriculture, horticulture, food processing, animal husbandry, handloom & handicraft etc.

These trades have to be promoted by any local unemployed youth or school dropout in the age group of 18 to 40 years. In case of some conditional non-manufacturing sector projects, the admissible financial assistance under CMSS shall be 35%. So far, the Government has received 1,484 applications which have already been recommended to the banks. The banks have sanctioned 232 proposals so far.

Women empowerment has remained the top priority of my Government. Rights and dignity have been guaranteed to all Sikkimese women with the implementation of many women friendly policies. 30% reservation for women in State Government jobs and 50% reservation in the Panchayat and urban local bodies have been granted. Under the Unmarried Women Pension Scheme since July 2017, a monthly pension of Rs. 2,000/- is being provided to BPL unmarried women who have attained the age of 45 years.

Positive intervention and initiatives have been taken aimed at the welfare of the weaker section with focus on the marginalised section such as differently-abled persons,

old aged persons, SCs and STs, children and women. The Widow Remarriage Scheme, the State Resource Centre for Women and establishment of Family Counselling Centre are some measures taken by my government for the empowerment and betterment of women.

Peace, security and political stability has been ensured by my Government. In addition, the Government has undertaken innumerable pioneering initiatives like devolution and decentralisation of power to PRIs, various cleanliness initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan etc. The annual tree plantation programme all over the State, ban on felling of trees, ban on use of plastics, ban on use of fire crackers and stubble burning have substantially improved the qualitative index of environment of the State.

My government's policies have not only been people friendly, but also eventful and memorable considering their outcomes. As a result, Sikkim has been able to leave an indelible imprint on the contemporary national and international socio-political canvas. My government's hard work and people friendly policy initiatives have brought international recognition and accolades for our small and beautiful Himalayan State.

On this joyous occasion, I congratulate the Police Gallantry Award winners, the sportspersons and other achievers who have brought laurels and done the State proud. I call upon you all to remain united, dedicated and committed to your duties thereby contributing your share to the development of the State.

I once again greet the children, the NCC, the police personnel and the para-military jawans who are actively taking part in celebration today. I want you to give your 100% in whatever you do and help realise the vision of my government to transform Sikkim into a better and more prosperous State.

JAI HIND

Gangtok on Wednesday,

15 Aug

Temp: 26°C/17°C

Forecast: Cloudy, a couple of thundershowers.

Sunrise: 05:06 AM

Sunset: 6:14 PM

State's first Health...

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upon health care facilities provided by the State Government to the people of Sikkim and added that Sikkimese people should understand extraordinary dedication of the State to improve health status of people.

Further, Health Minister, Mr Ghatani enlightened people on the expanded service delivery package in the health and wellness center including care in pregnancy and childbirth, neonatal and infant health care services, childhood and adolescent health care services, family planning and other reproductive health care services, comprehensive management of communicable disease, screening and comprehensive management of NCDs, basic ophthalmic care services, ENT, mental health ailments, basic dental health care, basic geriatric health care services and emergency medical services.

In Dentam, Mr Subba congratulated the public of Dentam and surrounding areas on the launch of the wellness center. He mentioned that the State's top priority has always been health and education. He also applauded the swift and proper construction of the upcoming building for the Dentam PHC.

He further stated that diabetes and pressure related ailments are a major concern for the public which the Government is looking after by providing steps towards controlling it as much as possible. He also stated that the Dentam PHC has been an example in the State and urged the health officials to make the Health Center more appealing aesthetically so that the patients feel better physiologically.

During the launching of the Wellness Center at Dentam, free Anti-Diabetic and Anti-Hypertensive Drugs were also distributed to the patients by chief guest, Mr Subba.

Risks Sumsi students face to...

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pulsory Education Act, 2009 (Act of 2009), is to ensure that every child between the age of six to fourteen years is assured of education and the State Government is to discharge this obligation.

The students of Sumsi village have to travel more than three hours one way to reach Lingee Senior Secondary School and nearly two hours to reach Sokpey Junior High School every day.

The High Court has requested senior counsel N. Rai, assisted by Sudha Sewa, Advocate, to assist the Court as "Amici Curiae" in the matter and directed the registry to supply a copy of the newspaper report and other documents to the Amici Curiae.

Vloggers manny7 and similarly8teen join Mr Sikkim Manhunt as official vlogging partners

NITESH R PRADHAN/
YUGAN TAMANG
GANGTOK, 14 UG;

Vlogging, a relatively new tool of communication here, has now set the imagination of netizens on fire!

In recognition of the paradigm shift in the field of communications, Mr Sikkim Manhunt has partnered with young Vloggers of Sikkim, Manean Lepcha and Avantika Gurung, popularly known as manny7 and similarly8teen in their Instagram handles with a combined follower strength of lakh-plus coupled with many YouTube subscribers.

"They are now influencers in their own right particularly among the young," states one of the organizers, Nirmal Mangar.

With a direct audience reach, Manean and Avantika, both college students have partnered with Mr Sikkim as official vlogging partners. They have also shot a video for the manhunt which is to be released soon.

While on location, both the vloggers have talked about various aspects of the pageant.

"It's done in a humorous way which we feel can connect more with the youths," says vlogger, Avantika Gurung aka similar-



ly8teen.

Adding that vlogging can give a boost to any kind of event or product, Avantika stated that this year's Mr Sikkim Manhunt has completely changed the dynamics of a pageant in Sikkim with the event appealing across the cross section of youths from all backgrounds particularly those hooked to social networking.

The organisers have stated that such platforms in the virtual world provide for a new way of communication to reach out which is proving to be beneficial for the vloggers as well as the organisers. Platter is full for the two official vloggers of Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt with their day starting and ending with continuous promotion of the event to their lakh plus followers. "We hope to bring a little

piece of our world to the pageant and enjoy this continuous learning process," stated Manean Lepcha aka manny7.

"This is also for the first time in any event that vloggers have been given official status as partners realizing the great power they wield as modern day influencers," expressed the organisers, GBT entertainment, the Accelerator and Sikkim Chronicle.



Mevedir conducts training on Madhyam compost

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Mevedir organized Ward level training for farmers of Samthang village, under Malbasey GPU, in West Sikkim on 13 Aug in the presence of ex-Panchayat, Nayan Tshering Lepcha, as chief guest, a press release informs.

Mevedir master trainer, Binita Tamang, briefed the farmers on Madhyam as a composter and the culture of bacteria which helps to decompose the biomass into

good compost. During the demonstration session, she informed that the Madhyam composter contains different type of aerobic bacteria which helps the biomass to be decomposed in a short period of time.

Chief guest, Mr Lepcha, encouraged the farmers to adopt organic technologies and make use of proper compost and requested the Mevedir master trainers to provide such trainings for farmers of the GPU in the future as well.

Delayed salaries SSA employees up in arms up North

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Around 90 Sarva Siksha Abhiyan staff, frustrated to the point of desperation by the continuing delay in the release of their salaries, descended on the HRDD office here on 13 August demanding answers and explanation.

Their salaries, they informed, have been released late for the past three months, and this month, even two weeks on, there is no sign of their salaries arriving.

The SSA staff were

informed that the salary cheques are released from the Gangtok office and the district office has to collect them in person. The staff members today questioned why this process keeps getting delayed.

And they also learned today that the salary cheque for this month was not accepted by the bank. The SSA staff questioned who is to be blamed.

Now that the matter has come to the fore, it remains to be seen what come of it.

NSS and SAATHI units of Mangshila School host interschool marathon

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 14 AUG:

National Service Scheme volunteers in collaboration with Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] club of Mangshila Senior Secondary School, North Sikkim, organized an interschool marathon as a part of the 72nd Independence Day celebrations today.

The 4 KM run was flagged off from Mangshila SSS by former Principal, Chungkipo Lepcha, who is also the president of the School Management Committee, in the presence of Principal, Ganesh Chandra Dahal.

Teams from eight



schools - Ralak Junior High School, Eklavya Model Residential School, Tibuk JHS, Jusing Primary School, Namok JHS, Thingchim Secondary School, Swayem JHS and Mangshila SSSS participated in the marathon.

In the boys' category, Mona Hang Limboo of Thingchim SS secured the first position while Sanju Hang Limboo and Amrit Limboo of Mangshila SSS

came in second and third positions respectively.

Likewise, in the girls' category, Anu Limboo of Mangshila SSS took the first place with Bina Ku-

mari Subba of Thingchim SS and Menuka Subba of Mangshila SSS securing the second and thirs positions respectively.

The winners of the marathon were awarded prizes and certificates.

President of Mangshila I-Day Celebration Committee, Sancha Raj Subba, informs that the main objective behind organising the marathon was to spread awareness on benefits of fitness activities in order to prevent the younger generation from indulging in substance abuse and alcoholism.

Convict demanding open debate is hilarious...

contd from pg01

ance under Rule 20 (1)(b) Sikkim Labour Protection Act, 10-days paid casual leave and personal accident insurance and others.

The SDF party further mocked Mr Tamang's challenged for an open debate at Paljor Stadium as hilarious. On the same, the ruling party stressed that there was no moral cri-

teria for putting up with nonsensical debates with a party which is led by a person who just completed a prison sentence following conviction in a corruption case.

The release adds that the SDF has been working consistently to provide tribal status to 11 left-out communities of Sikkim and to reserve seats for Sikkimese Nepali

in the State Assembly. However, Mr Tamang has remained silent on this issue.

The SDF release further alleged that Mr Tamang's argument on organic farming and other issues were baseless. The ruling party has strongly refuted and condemned all allegations placed forward by SKM president.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

MEMO NO: 600/ED/R&B/18-19 **DATE: 13/08/2018**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (East-II), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, invites tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of CLASS III GRADE enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	COST OF WORK PUT TO TENDER (IN RS.)	EARNEST MONEY @ 2.50% (IN RS.)	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (IN RS)	COMPLETION TIME
1	CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM LOWER DALAPCHAN KAFLAYTAR TO KERABARI VIA SUNTALAY TO DARAGAON IN EAST SIKKIM	1,63,26,714.00	4,08,168.00	30,000.00	24 Months

Time schedule:

1	Date of submission of complete application with Bank receipt/challan for issue of tender documents (excluding tender form)	11th September 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm) Office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.
2	Date of issue of tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest money)	12th September 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm) Office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.
3	Last date and time for submission of Tender	14th September 2108 (10.00am to 1.00pm) At the office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok
4	Date and time for Opening of Tender	14th September 2018 (2.30pm). At the Office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.

For any further queries i/c conditions of contract, office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER **DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (EAST-II)**
Roads & Bridges Department **Roads & Bridges Department**
Pakyong Sub-Division **Gangtok**

R.O. No.: 277/IPR/PUB/Class/2018-19 **Date: 14/08/2018**

SummitTIMES

The Greater Freedom
71 years on, it's time
to want more

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of our Independence, let's make an attempt at putting into perspective our freedoms.

More than seventy years of self rule later, the only freedom which we can guarantee ourselves is our political freedom, and even that is being increasingly straitjacketed. Political freedom is not complete in itself because equally necessary is economic, and more importantly, social and cultural independence. This is a pertinent issue in the country today where rapid development in various fields and the filtering in of air signals from the west have created serious fragmentation of society and given rise to touchy social issues which are multi-dimensional in nature. There is now a dispensation in office which sees the nation as one-dimensional and extends only conditional tolerance to diversity even as it pushes pointless disruptions which distract and confound. All the more reason then to take a pause and reflect on what promise the 15th of August 1947 held for citizens of a new country.

People's wants and aspirations have become more intricate. Today the world is no longer uni-polar in nature. Together with the development of human thought, all areas of human development have also become broader and more inclusive even if governments of late have become more closed and divisive. Hence, political freedom alone is not enough for the all round development of the individual or the society.

Today we are celebrating our freedom from oppressive British colonial rule but should we just limit our definition of freedom only to political sovereignty? If anything, political freedom, while giving us the right to choose our representatives has also, indirectly, allowed caste and communalism to stifle our social, cultural and intellectual legroom. The practise of vote bank politics – a natural fallout of “democracy” – by our politicians has made each and every move, whether by a politician or the individual of the community he favours, suspect. A society existing in an environment of suspicion and mistrust is fooling itself if it considers itself free. Even the lynch mobs, which even though they might think they are free now to enforce their vileness, are, for instance, being played by agent provocateurs and lack even free will.

In the past few years the concept of freedom in India has experienced a regression especially due to the rise of certain politico-religious pressure groups and the moral police. Globalisation has taught us about open markets and open economy; about privatisation and cable TV. At a time when the government is attempting to relinquish the responsibility of economic activity and is withdrawing from the economic sphere, making the term ‘public sector’ almost inapplicable, the extension of various groups, owing allegiance to political parties, into the social domain and attempting to regulate our private lives is undesirable and confounding. Censorship in any form does not gel with the concept of a democratic polity and a free people. This is ironic because this control is arriving at a time when there are more and more platforms available for free expression.

India as a country and Indians as a people are awaiting the second phase of independence, the greater freedom. This greater freedom can only be delivered by us, citizens of India. It is a difficult task as there is no tangible body to overthrow and this is also probably the reason why most of us do not realise our subtle subjugation. We can begin by grasping the concept and then demolishing the devices and instincts which are trying to impose instead of governing, dictate instead of consulting and manipulate instead of convincing.

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

Rohingya crisis: a year since it shocked the world, what's changed?

ABDULLAH YUSUF
theconversation.com

This August marks a full year since one of the 21st century's worst refugee crises gripped the world's attention. In 2017, an unprecedented number of Rohingya Muslim refugees began fleeing Myanmar's Rakhine state for neighbouring Bangladesh, after Myanmar's military launched a crackdown in response to attacks on border posts by Rohingya rebels. This crisis is, as rightly pointed out by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, “a humanitarian and human rights nightmare”; the United Nations described the military offensive in Rakhine that provoked the exodus as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”.

A full year later, the plight of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people is as abject as ever. In June 2018, Myanmar's government signed an agreement with the United Nations that will lead to the “voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable” repatriation of some 700,000 Rohingya refugees back to their homes, or their place of choosing. At the same time, Myanmar's civilian and military powers seem to have entirely ignored international condemnation of the crackdown and allegations that it amounted to ethnic cleansing, and Aung San Suu Kyi's government is still insisting that only refugees with the correct identity documents can return.

Small wonder then that the Rohingya themselves remain pessimistic. A recent Amnesty International report on the crisis stated that former Rohingya villages – some of which had been burned to the ground – are now the site of new construction, including new roads and infrastructure for the military. Amnesty fears that the new construction makes it even less likely that the roughly 1m refugees who fled to Bangladesh will ever be able to return to their homes.

But even if the repatriation agreement is accepted at face value, without the oversight of the United Na-



tions, Myanmar's military cannot be trusted to broker the conflict-affected population's competing demands fairly. It already stands accused of widespread violence against Rohingya Muslims within Rakhine state. The post-repatriation time will remain a period during which the big challenge will be about how to restore relationships across the divides in question.

And this challenge seems almost impossible. The agreement between the UN and the government of Myanmar is far from detailed, and violence against the Rohingya population is far from over, Rohingya refugees are hardly been to return home.

The reality is that without a deal on work rights, citizenship and so on, there are deep concerns that Rohingya refugees will be repatriated only to face a situation barely changed since they fled. In the meantime, the monsoon season has already started in Bangladesh, and there are grave concerns for the safety of the refugees. The situation is serious: caught between extreme weather, funding shortfalls and uncertainty about their future, the Rohingya refugees are still living in a humanitarian catastrophe.

DERELICTION OF DUTY

This disaster was created by the

Myanmar government's brutal policies. A recent report by the organisation Fortify Rights confirmed that Myanmar's military systematically planned a genocidal campaign to rid the country of Rohingya Muslims. But the United Nations Security Council has avoided the “G” word since the exodus began in August 2017; to formally utter it would, in principle, have committed the council's members to robust action that they are clearly unwilling to take.

As long as China and Russia are on Myanmar's side, an intervention by the Security Council seems out of the question. Neighbouring India also shares no love for the Rohingya. Meanwhile, the rest of the world is still struggling to bring relief to the refugees. For the Rohingya refugees however, repatriation is not an option but an imperative, the only alternative to the limbo of protracted displacement.

The job of implementing the sustainable repatriation and reintegration of the Rohingya refugees obviously falls to Myanmar itself. So far, the government has done nothing to indicate that it will take that responsibility seriously – and beyond token humanitarian assistance, the countries of the

global north have made no major commitment to resolve this crisis.

Somewhere along the line, it has been forgotten that Rakhine is one of Myanmar's poorest and least developed states. According to World Bank estimates it suffers a poverty rate of 78%, dramatically higher than the national average of 37.5%. And since 2012, as communal violence between Buddhist and Muslim communities swept Rakhine, the authorities dramatically intensified their crackdown, deploying excessive lethal force, conducting mass arrests, and blocking aid to displaced Muslims.

The Rohingya are discriminated against in many ways, and are denied legal rights to challenge this discrimination. Their demand is not for an independent state per se, but rather for identity and recognition within the state. The Rohingya crisis is therefore not only a humanitarian emergency, but also concerns issues of security, identity and development. Unless these challenges are addressed, the long-term reconciliation processes in both communities will always be more conjecture than reality.

[the writer is Lecturer in Politics, University of Dundee]

How soccer games can help protect wildlife

COURTNEY HUGHES
theconversation.com

A whistle blows and young men in brightly coloured jerseys race towards a soccer ball on a grassy field in Erat, a community that lies within the boundaries of Korup National Park in southwest Cameroon.

It might be hard to believe, but this is an excellent example of community-based wildlife conservation in action.

Increasingly, conservation organizations around the world are using sporting events to help promote conservation awareness, encourage wildlife and environmental stewardship practices and foster positive relationships among community, government and non-profit organizations.

One such example is Korup Rainforest Conservation Society (KRCS) in southwest Cameroon's Korup National Park, an area rich in biodiversity and human culture. It is home to Preuss's red colobus monkey (*Piliocolobus preussi*), drill (Mandrillus leucophaeus), pangolin species and forest elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*).

But there is also conflict, including direct human-wildlife conflict from crop-raiding wildlife, human safety risks and human-human conflict between those who harvest bushmeat for sustenance or illegal trade.

LOCAL WILDLIFE TEAMS

Conservation concerns are typically addressed with more traditional biological and ecological techniques, such as wildlife population monitoring and response to human disturbance. But we also know that for conservation efforts to be successful, people must be engaged in solutions.

It's important to build relationships based on trust, reciprocity and exchange. But this can be challenging when tensions run high.

KRCS started hosting soccer games to create space for building relationships — and promote conservation over conflict.

Soccer games are socially significant in communities across Cameroon and many other African countries. The game reflects a sense of nationalism and it's easy to play with limited equipment.

KRCS uses soccer to promote community-based conservation. Soccer focuses energy and engages people in opportunities to connect in ways that may not be addressed by direct conservation

messaging. An example is naming teams after animals — the Drills, the Mangabeys — to foster affinity for local wildlife.

Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, these soccer games offer a space for villagers, KRCS staff and park rangers to learn from each other and gain perspective into each others' lives.

During and after the games, players have the opportunity to hear about the work KRCS and park rangers do in the area. Likewise, villagers can offer their local knowledge, concerns and livelihood needs. There are even opportunities for villagers to become involved in KRCS's training, where they can learn skills that can help them find jobs, like working for the park or KRCS.

BROAD REACH

Other groups also use soccer games to create a common ground, build positive relationships and promote collective action. In Tanzania, Peace for Conservation uses Sports for Social Change to organize soccer matches among communities.

The games provide a social venue to share information and teach villagers about the importance of elephant and rhino populations in the Serengeti National Park area. Villagers also learn how to become involved with anti-poaching patrols and other locally relevant conservation efforts.

The soccer teams can benefit too. They receive jerseys and soccer balls for future games. Fans take home brochures and posters on species and conservation, raising awareness and encouraging stewardship.

When possible, Peace for Conservation also provides monetary prizes that communities can use for infrastructure projects.

VIDEO ASSIST

Board games and video games can also be used to promote conservation. They can be especially powerful in conveying important conservation messages.

Players can learn via simulations of real-life scenarios and outcomes.

“Operation Ferdinand” is an example of a graphics-based video game recently used to address human-wildlife conflict that occurs in villages throughout Mozambique's Niassa Reserve area.

The game teaches best practices for livestock husbandry and reducing conflict with predators, and discourages the use of poison. The game is highly experiential and controlled by the players themselves. Facilitators from the Niassa Carnivore Project are on hand to answer questions and give guidance.

While still in the early stages of development and testing, this game can teach people conservation concepts and practices in an interactive and interesting way. Importantly, the game promotes fun and enjoyment, and the ability for players to achieve success, important aspects in game-based learning.

That said, the costs and technical expertise associated with developing a game can be high, which may leave organizations reluctant to invest, especially with many other priorities.

JUDGING SUCCESS

As a volunteer, I've been privy to some of the benefits of games for conservation. Tensions among government authorities, NGOs and villagers can be eased, and space for productive dialogue can be created. Games also encourage appreciation for local wildlife species, new and fun learning opportunities, and local participation to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

Other benefits include developing educational scholarships for extremely disadvantaged young children, and providing health care or health equipment for people in need.

However, this is still a growing area in conservation science and practice, where evaluation on the relationship between games, or other locally relevant social enterprise, and conservation efforts is needed.

Now that KRCS, Peace for Conservation and Operation Ferdinand have built their foundation — the community connections, the teams, the fans — scientists like myself can work towards determining if all the good stuff that comes from playing a game also extends off the field.

[the writer is Conservation Biology PhD Candidate, University of Alberta]



Ex-VGCL Students to take on UBFC at Ravangla I-Day football finals

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 AUG:

Ex-VGCL Senior Secondary School students will take on UBFC in the finals of open football tournament here at VGCL SSS playground in Ravangla, South Sikkim on 15 Aug. The tournament is part of the sub-division level 72nd Independence Day Celebration at VGCL SSS playground.

The semi-final matches of the tournament were played on 13 Aug in the presence of former Minister, CB Karki, as chief guest.

In the first semi-final match, Ex-VGCL stu-



dents edged past VGCL students 3-2 while UBFC defeated Future Star, Dozok, 3-0 in the other

semi-final match. The I-Day celebrations on 15 Aug will have Minister for Energy &

Power, DD Bhutia, as chief guest. The tournament carries prize money of Rs 70,000 to winners and Rs 40,000 to runner-up, as informed by member of IDCC Ravangla, Bishnu Rai.

Security beefed up in Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya for I-Day

GUWAHATI/KOHIMA, AUG 14 (PTI): Security has been beefed up in Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya to ensure peaceful and violence free Independence Day celebrations tomorrow.

Assam Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia today said a multi-layer security arrangement has been put in place across parade grounds after receiving inputs of militant movements on the eve of Independence Day.

"We have got inputs of militant movements in few districts, mostly the border ones with other states. The district

SPs have been asked to give organised multi-layered security system in and around the parade grounds in the state," Saikia told PTI here.

The police has identified the vulnerable areas and extra emphasis have been given on those locations, he added.

"Night dominations have been ensured by joint teams of security forces across these places. Apart from these, the regular patrolling have also been intensified," Saikia said.

Stating that proper security arrangements have been put in place across the state, the top

cop informed that he is hopeful of a peaceful Independence Day celebrations this year.

"I have also spoken to my counterparts in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur on possible militant movements along the inter-state borders.

We have decided to carry out joint patrolling by forces of the states in the border districts on both sides," Saikia said.

The Independence Day will be centrally celebrated in Assam at the Veterinary College Playground, Khanapara in the state capital.

Police recovers 3 IED devices, arrests 2 Maoist cadres during Nepal bandh

KATHMANDU, AUG 14 (PTI): Three improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recovered and two Maoist cadre were arrested from various parts of Nepal during the nation-wide general strike called by the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) today, police said.

The Nepal Communist Party (Maoist), led by Netra Bikram Chand 'Biplav', had given the strike call for today in protest against the arrest of a senior leader and party spokesperson Khagda Bahadur Bishwokarma 'Prakanda' by the police on the charges of extortion last week.

The IEDs were found at Naikap Balkhu bridge of Chandragiri Municipality, Nayapati of Gokarneshwor Municipality and Jamal of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the police said.

The Nepal Army's special bomb disposal unit has defused IEDs planted at Naikap Balkhu bridge and Nayapati.

Police arrested two cadres of the Maoist party, Usha Kiran and Tara Sanjel, from Jamal area of Kathmandu and recovered a bomb from them, they added.

Early in the morning, security forces defused two bombs which were found from different places in Bhaktapur district, situated in the east of Kathmandu.

Security was intensified in and around Kathmandu in view of the shut down. However, there was no visible effect of the strike in Kathmandu valley, as markets remained open and public transport service was functional, the officials said, adding though schools and colleges were closed.

The police had yesterday arrested another party member for allegedly issuing threats to keep the schools in Dolakha district closed during the strike, according to a media report today.

According to the police, Shyam Pakrin was arrested for threatening various schools in district headquarters Charikot over telephone, the Kathmandu Post reported.



Kalimpong District Traffic Police today organised a Save Drive-Safe Life sticker campaign with Kanyashri enrolled students of Saint Philomina.

Presidency teachers urge students to withdraw agitation



KOLKATA, AUG 14 (PTI): A group of 36 teachers of the Presidency University has jointly urged the agitating students of the institute to withdraw their 12-day-old stir promising them to monitor renovation work of the Hindu Hostel building.

Altogether 50 students have been on an indefinite sit-in at the university campus demanding that they be allowed to stay at the Hindu Hostel which has been on renovation for the past three years.

Ayan Chakraborty, an activist of students' body Independent Consolidation (IC), today said 36 teachers handed over yesterday a joint letter to the agitating students who comprises members of the IC, SFI and a few others who are not affiliated to any union.

"In the letter, the faculty members urged us to withdraw the movement stating that it is affecting the normal functioning of the institute and promised to monitor the renovation work of the Hindu Hostel," Ayan said.

They requested the students to withdraw the agitation and go back to the rented premises at Newtown, about 18 km away from the university, for the time being.

"But we turned down their request to withdraw the sit-in as don't agree with the teachers' views that the agitation has been affecting the functioning of the university in any way," Ayan added.

He said, "We are attending classes regularly. We are not disrupting the academic or administrative work. We are just staying at a particular place in the campus."

The students, who have brought pillows and mattress and were taking bath in the campus turning it into a hostel, demand that they be allotted rooms in the Hindu Hostel, which is under renovation.

The Hindu Hostel, adjoining the College Street institution, had been shut down for repairs on July 29, 2015 and 150 boarders were shifted to a rented accommodation at New Town, which is around 18 km from the university.

The Presidency authorities had last year assured the students that all the six blocks of the hostel would be opened for the boarders after completion of renovation work by the first week of August.

Upal Chakraborti, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and one of those having signed the letter, said the teachers will continue the dialogue process with the students and university authorities.

A university spokesman said Vice-Chancellor Anuradha Lohia already explained to the students that the renovation work will take five months to complete and urged them to reconsider their decision.

The university hoped the students will understand the situation and cooperate with the authorities, he said.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

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3261 3634 3635 3649 3651 3805 3835 3930 4017 4207

4269 4319 4730 4732 4914 4919 4920 5036 5163 5235

5415 5475 5536 5562 5624 5671 5802 5907 5933 6035

6122 6157 6237 6347 6463 6533 6695 6783 6815 7047

7096 7195 7218 7232 7243 7254 7373 7470 7483 7492

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Leopard cub enters Maha home, dozes off beside two children

NASHIK, AUG 14 (PTI): In a strange occurrence, a leopard cub managed to make its way underneath the hem of a mosquito net inside which two children were sleeping and dozed off beside them till their mother got alerted to its presence early today in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

The incident happened in Dhamangaon area of tribal-dominated Igatpuri taluka in the district, the official said.

Forest Circle officer Gorakshyanath Jadhav said that the three-month-old cub may have entered the house of Manisha Barde under the cover of darkness when she opened the main door early today morning.

"At around 5:30am today, Barde found the leopard cub sleeping beside her two children on the ground inside the mosquito net. She carefully took the children out of the net without disturbing the leopard. She then raised an alarm which alerted other villagers," said Jadhav.

Jadhav said that a team of forest officials arrived at Barde's house and rescued the leopard and brought it to the department's local office. He said that it would be released into the forest later as per procedure.

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Facebook to air LaLiga matches for free in Indian subcontinent

MUMBAI, AUG 14 (PTI): Spanish football league LaLiga today said social media giant Facebook will air the matches in Indian subcontinent for free for three years.

The three-season deal commences with the 2018-19 campaign kicking off on August 17. "Now with Facebook, LaLiga has broken new ground, signing its first broadcast agreement ever with a social media platform," it said in a statement.

All 380 first division matches of Spain's top-flight football league will be available for free to people on Facebook in eight countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The Facebook community in the eight countries will be able to watch LaLiga Santander coverage on a live and on-de-



mand basis through multiple devices. The matches would be available on the official LaLiga Facebook page as well as individual club pages, the statement added.

In addition to the live matches, shoulder programming, including a full range of weekly

preview shows and highlights, will be offered.

"We are thrilled to team up with Facebook to bring the millions of LaLiga fans in the Indian subcontinent even closer to the action. LaLiga sets the standard for football in the world and we are delighted that more

people than ever before will have the opportunity to watch our matches live and for free through Facebook in the region," said Javier Tebas, president, LaLiga. For major matches, viewers can see interactive studio coverage hosted by Joe Morrison.

"We see this as a great opportunity to not only bring people together around world-class football, but also help LaLiga reach new audiences and grow its visibility in a key development market," said Peter Hutton, head - global live sports programming, Facebook.

India couldn't have practised more, there aren't 10 days in a week: Bayliss

LONDON AUG 14 (PTI): England coach Trevor Bayliss has defended India's much-criticised preparation for the ongoing Test series, saying the beleaguered visitors couldn't have fit in more practice than what they did before the disastrous first two games.

India trail 0-2 in the five-match series, which will continue in Nottingham with the third Test starting Saturday.

"The simple fact is, teams like Australia, India and England play so much cricket. I'm sure everyone would love to play more warm-up matches than they do. You simply can't fit them in," Bayliss told reporters here.

"Somewhere along the lines the players have to have some sort of rest. Most will play all the games but to keep putting more practice matches in, it's almost impossible. It's just the way it is," he reasoned.

India played just one practice match before the series, a game curtailed to three days from the originally planned four days. The preparation has been roundly criticised by the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, who has questioned the logic of not having more build-up matches. Bayliss said his team faces similar dilemma while travelling.

"We play the practice match-



es that we do and get asked the same questions if your preparation right. Well, we'd love to have a few more games. But there aren't 10 days in a week," he said.

Reflecting on England's performance, Bayliss said he was satisfied with every aspect of the show so far.

"The first Test was a dog-fight, and this one looked like being the same at four or five down in the first innings. Jonny Bairstow and Chris Woakes batted extremely well, and then the bowlers did the business again," said Bayliss.

Bayliss would like helpful conditions at Trent Bridge as well, on account of home advantage, and also for the fact that it would help demoralise sub-continental sides.

"In these types of conditions (like Lord's), I don't think it'll matter what the wicket is like. Here there's always a little bit of grass on the wicket. With the

overhead conditions, it's the big thing," he explained.

Bayliss acknowledged that elements played a favourable role for his team in the second Test where England got to bat in bright sunshine and bowl under an overcast sky.

"...things fell our way: winning the toss, overcast the first day and a bit clear on the second day when we batted. There wasn't as much swing the second day but some movement off the wicket, which is difficult to handle. Then it started to swing a little bit again.

"Certainly the conditions were in our favour but we've been to other parts of the world where you lose the toss and you've got to deal with it. I would like the conditions to be in our favour every single time," he said.

Bayliss said the swing challenge in England is similar to the spin challenge on the sub-continental dust-bowls.



Kohli's plea to fans: Never give up on us

LONDON, AUG 14 (PTI): Embattled India captain Virat Kohli called on the fans to back his team following consecutive losses to England in the ongoing Test series, hoping that they "never give up" on the side.

"Sometimes we win and other times we learn. You never give up on us and we promise to never give up on you either. Onwards and upwards," read a message on Virat Kohli's official facebook page.

The brief post was accompanied by a picture of the Indian team in an on-field huddle.

The Indian team lost the opening two Tests of the ongoing five-match series by heavy margins with the much-vaunted batting being a major let-down.

Kohli, after a hundred in the first Test, also experienced a dip in form in the second match and was troubled by an old back problem.

Following the innings and 159-run loss at the Lord's, the skipper admitted that the team combination was "a bit off" when questioned specifically on selection decisions so far but insisted that the side would bounce back.

"(At) Two-nil down the only option is to come out positive, make it 2-1 and make it an exciting series from there," Kohli had said.

The third Test starts this Saturday in Nottingham, following which the Indian team for the remaining two matches would be named.

Federer 'anxious' ahead of return in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, AUG 14 (AFP): Roger Federer said he is eager to make his start at the Cincinnati Masters as the world number two begins his delayed summer hard-court season.

With the US Open a fortnight away, the 37-year-old Swiss is keen to test his form prior to the August 27 kick-off of the last Grand Slam of the season.

The 20-time major winner skipped Toronto last week to pace himself with the tournament at Flushing Meadows followed by the Laver Cup in Chicago in mid-September.

"I've trained hard, I'm anxious. I chose to skip Toronto for the health of my body," the seven-time Cincinnati champion said. "I don't want to be hurt,

there is too much to play." But the Swiss admitted that sitting out competition is difficult.

"Watching from afar is tough," said Federer, who will start against Peter Gojowczyk after the German beat Portugal's Joao Sousa 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

"But that's part of growing older, you've got to take care of the body.

"It's nice to be back and I hope to have a good tournament." Federer last played a match on hardcourt 141 days ago, when he lost in the Miami second round to Thanasi Kokkinakis before skipping the clay season and returning on grass.

He said that while he would prefer not to take weeks away, it has now become a necessity in prolonging his fabled career.

Serena Williams breezes past Gavrilova, Pouille ousts Murray

CINCINNATI, AUG 14 (AFP): Serena Williams re-established her customary superiority, hammering Daria Gavrilova 6-1, 6-2 to reach the second round of the Cincinnati Masters.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion showed full recovery in her first match since suffering the worst defeat of her career two weeks ago in San Jose when she was crushed 6-1, 6-0 in 51 minutes by British No. 1 Johanna Konta.

But the 36-year-old was all business Monday as she cleaned up on Australian Gavrilova, with Williams winning an 11th straight match here.

"I'm feeling pretty good tonight. It's never easy, no matter what the scoreline says," Williams said.

"I definitely felt relaxed after the first break, but you've got to keep going and try to go in for the whole thing." Though she has not played the tournament in three years, Williams lifted back-to-back titles in 2014 and 2015 after losing the 2013 final to Victoria Azarenka.

Andy Murray's injury come-



back was sidetracked as the three-time Grand Slam champion lost 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to Lucas Pouille.

But fellow injury patient Stan Wawrinka opened with a defeat of 12th seed Diego Schwartzman 6-2,

4-6, 6-3.

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic survived a stiff test, needing nine match points to outlast Steve Johnson of the US 6-4, 7-6 (7/4). Djokovic is coming off a

third round loss at last week's Toronto tournament.

Murray, returning from January hip surgery, was unable to get past the French 16th seed, hammering his preparations for the US

Open starting on August 27

"Physically, I felt okay. It's quick conditions here," Murray said. "He was a little bit sharper than me out there.

"I maybe wasn't reacting as quickly to some shots I would have liked," Murray last played 11 days ago in a Washington third-round match which took him three hours to win and ended at 3 a.m.

The 31-year-old two-time Wimbledon winner is working his way back slowly and felt he could not subject his body to a quarter-final just over 12 hours later, prompting him to withdraw from that event.

"After Washington, I took four, five days off the tennis court. I did a lot of training, a lot of rehab.

"As the year goes on, I'll be able to get a little bit more consistency on the practice court and on the tennis court." Pouille had lost his previous three matches to Murray, the last at Dubai in 2017.

Spanish 13th seed Pablo Carreno Busta started his week with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 defeat of France's Richard Gasquet, while Japan's Kei Nishikori put out Russian Andrey

Rublev, 7-5, 6-3.

Peter Gojowczyk of Germany defeated Joao Sousa 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 and will next line up against seven-time winner Roger Federer, at second the highest seed in the field after the withdrawal of Rafael Nadal.

- SHAPOVALOV ADVANCES - Canadian Denis Shapovalov beat US tournament debutant Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 7-5 Sam Querrey beat ninth-seeded American compatriot John Isner 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5).

In the women's first round, Azarenka made her first appearance here since 2015 count as she defeated Spanish veteran Carla Suarez Navarro 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-4.

Double Grand Slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova continued her 2017 injury comeback, beating Swiss Stefanie Voegele 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/5).

US Open finalist Madison Keys, seeded 13th, defeated wild card Bethanie Mattek-Sands 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4; France's Kristina Mladenovic advanced when Julia Goerges retired hurt trailing 6-4, 3-2.

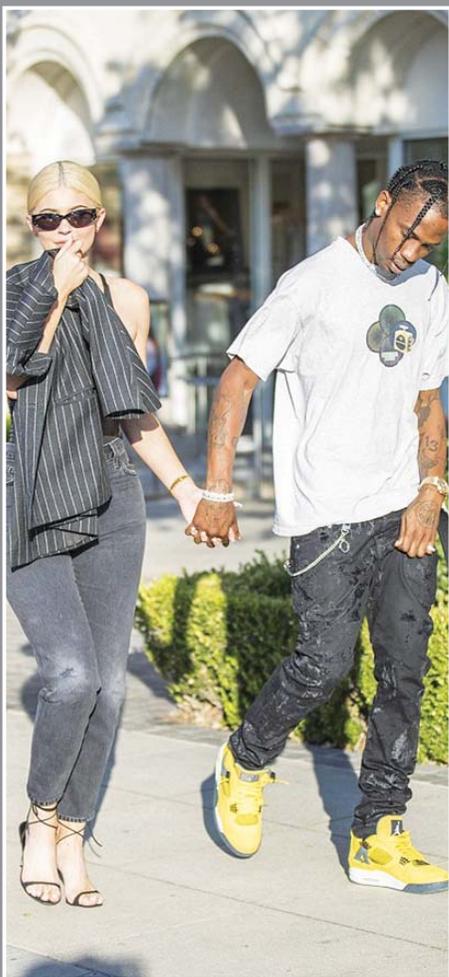
72nd Independence Day Celebration

“*L*et us today pledge to work hand in hand and contribute our might towards nation building. Let us stay united and allow peace and tranquillity to prevail **”**

- Pawan Chamling



Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Sikkim



SHOPPING SPREE! After celebrating her 21st birthday with a lavish party, Kylie Jenner showed no sign of taking a break from the spotlight as she stepped out with her baby daddy Travis Scott for shopping.

“My Dad”

- DEEPA POKHREL SHARMA
Kyongsa Government Senior Secondary School, Gyalshing

Dear dad,
If anyone asks me about my best friend,
Then I would say it's my dad.
If anyone asks me about my first love,
Then I would say it's my dad.
Dad, I have learned many lessons from you,
Which you never taught but your actions taught me.
Your every single step to lean forward,
Makes my dream come nearer to me.
Dad you never express your needs,
You struggle a lot,
You live for us,
You never express but I know.
You make day and night together,
Not for your dreams but for mine.
You wake up early morning and work till late night.
It wasn't easy to do so,
But you did it and never let me know.
You provide me dress for every festival,
But your dress seems years old.
You brought me gifts on my every birthday,
But you don't even know,
What was your last gift and who gifted it to you?
And when I asked you dad,
You simply replied "It was you
and your mom gifted me".
Dad you always live as an ordinary human,
But you make me feel like a princess
in my dreamland.
You lived in pain,
But you let me smile.
Dad, you have done so much for me and you still do.
I know, I can't repay back everything you gave me,
But I will make sure that I will never let you down.
Dad, I want to let you know,
That your princess loves you more and more...
Love u Dad
You are Divine...

...
Yes, I am exhausted.
Exhausted of the voices screaming "No"
Exhausted of the people rolling their eyes.
Exhausted of the silent pleas for help.
Exhausted of pitying myself.
Finally, I understand that all the darkness and negativity
In my mind can be blamed to an illness.
After 4 long years, I felt a relief run through me.
Like the cold rain running down your back on the evening of a sticky July weather.
Since then, I have learnt to appreciate my scars
I earned them, They prove how I didn't give up
Just like a tiger, I am a fighter
Fighting against the chaos
I have learnt to love the half moons under my eyes
As the two halves of the halo above my guardian angel's head.
No, I haven't fully found peace yet
I am trying, not yet giving up hope.
Holding on to the heartbeats of the ones who haven't given up on me,
I am just beginning to learn and dance to the music of the universe
It may take some time, but i have faith I'll make it.

[Chemik Choden, TNA, Class XI]



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



D.B. Chauhan
President
BJP Sikkim Pradesh

Congratulation

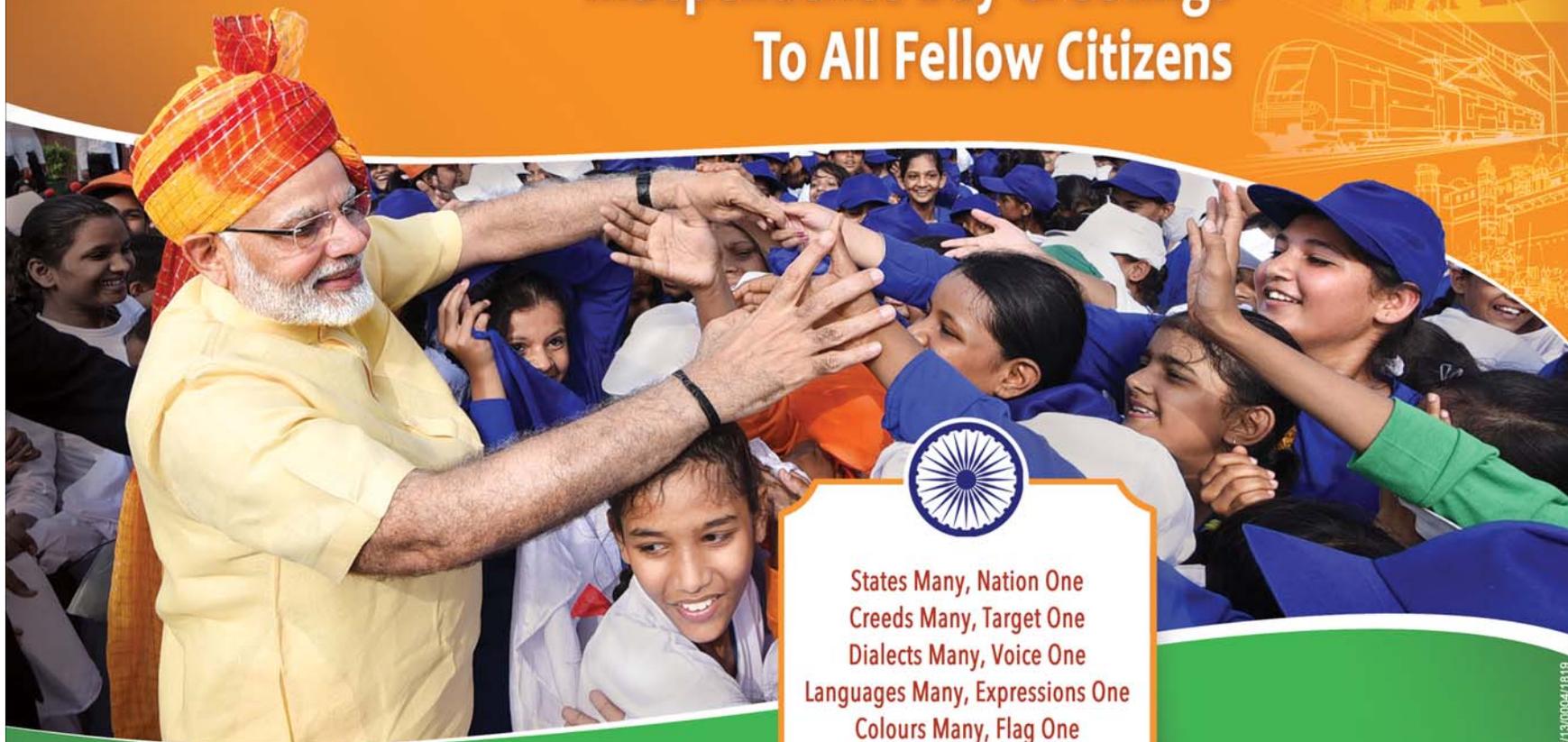
Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh
Heartily Congratulates to all the citizens on the
occasion of 72nd Independence Day.

**Bharat Mata ki jai
Bandhay Mataram**



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

Independence Day Greetings To All Fellow Citizens



States Many, Nation One
Creeds Many, Target One
Dialects Many, Voice One
Languages Many, Expressions One
Colours Many, Flag One
Societies Many, India One
Customs Many, Culture One
Livelihood Many, Resolution One
Paths Many, Destination One
Faces Many, Smile One

“Let us work for a New India; an India which would
make our valiant freedom fighters proud.”

- Narendra Modi

72nd
Independence Day