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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CS and State Relief Commissioner update Governor on West landslides

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava, accompanied by State Relief Commissioner, Ambika Pradhan, called on Governor Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhavan this evening to provide updates on the disaster that struck two villages of Yuksom block in West Sikkim on 16 September.

As per a Raj Bhavan release, the Chief Secretary submitted the report sent to the government by West District Collector on the extent of damage caused by the landslide and status of rescue and rehabilitation initiated by the district administration and State government. The Chief Secretary also briefed the Governor on the rehabilitation of displaced families both on short term and long term basis by the State

Government.

The Governor expressed his concern on the status of villagers currently accommodated at relief camp at Yuksom following the calamity triggered by incessant rainfall and enquired about the facilities and amenities being provided in the relief camp. He stressed on the need to implement effective and efficient rehabilitation measures since the rescue process is over including relocating the habitation at the suitable place.

As an immediate relief, the Governor announced to contribute in Chief Minister's Relief Fund and dispatch the relief material such as blankets, packaged food items, and mats for providing succor to the distressed families. He also expressed his deep sadness and grief on the loss of life of one elderly lady on the said calamity.

Darap School takes inspiration from Greta Thunberg



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Darap Senior Secondary School organised #FridayForFuture demonstration in Darap today which was participated by teachers and students, a press release informs.

The demonstration was inspired by climate change activist Greta Thunberg.

Students used slogans like "Declared Climate Emergency", "Change the System not the climate", "We want fossil fuel on ground", "Make pro-Environmental Policies", "Plant Trees Save Life", etc.

They also demanded that the Government make sustainable development policies. The rally started from Govt Sr Sec School, went till 5th Mile Darap and returned to Darap School.

As Lunar night falls, hopes of waking up Chandrayaan-2's lander are all but over

BENGALURU, SEP 20

(PTI): Hopes of re-establishing contact with India's moon mission Chandrayaan-2's lander seems to be all but over with its 14-day mission life set to end and the Lunar night falling early Saturday.

Lander Vikram, with rover Pragyan housed inside it, lost communication with the ground station on September 7 during its final descent, just 2.1 kms above the lunar surface, minutes before the planned touchdown on the Moon.

Since then, the Indian Space Research Organisation has been consistently saying all possible efforts were being made to establish contact with the lander, though the hopes kept fading with the lunar night phase approaching.

It was stated that the lander made a hard landing.

The lander, designed to execute a soft-landing on the lunar surface, and rover have a mission life of one Lunar day, which is equivalent to 14 earth days that ends Saturday.

ISRO has said once the Lunar night falls, there would be no sun-

light for the lander to generate power for its working and also it was not designed to operate in the heavy cold temperature of Moon during the phase.

However, there has been no official word from the ISRO on the eve of night fall.

The space agency had on Thursday said a national-level committee comprising academics and ISRO experts are analysing the cause of communication loss with Chandrayaan-2 lander.

On September 8, ISRO said the lander was spotted on the lunar surface by camera on-board of the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.

The orbiter of the India's second lunar mission continued to perform scheduled science experiments to "complete satisfaction" and performance of all its payloads were "satisfactory", it has said.

ISRO from the day of losing contact with the lander had been upbeat about the performance of the orbiter.

Till date 90 to 95 per cent of the Chandrayaan-2 mission objectives have been ac-

complished and it will continue contributing to Lunar science, not withstanding the loss of communication with the Lander, ISRO had said on September 7.

It had also noted that the precise launch and mission management has ensured a long life of almost seven years instead of the planned one year for the orbiter.

The orbiter carries eight scientific payloads for mapping the lunar surface and study the exosphere (outer atmosphere) of the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-2 is a Rs 978 crore unmanned moon mission with the satellite alone costing Rs 603 crore while the launch vehicle Rs 375 crore.

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1 successfully launched the 3,840-kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the Earth's orbit on July 22.

The spacecraft successfully entered the lunar orbit on August 20 by performing Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) manoeuvre, and on September 2, 'Vikram' successfully separated from the orbiter.

MLA lays foundation stone of Indoor Gymnasium at Soreng

SORENG, 20 SEPT (IPR):

The foundation stone laying ceremony program for the construction of Indoor Gymnasium building at Soreng was conducted by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department at Soreng, West Sikkim.

MLA, Aditya Golay attended the program as chief guest. He was accompanied by Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling along with Secretary of Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Kuber Bhandari, Director, NK Pradhan and Addl Chief Engineers, Hari Shanker Sharma and Shanti Tamang along with other Engineers

for Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

Addressing the gathering MLA Soreng Chakung appreciated the project funded by Khelo India. He mentioned that the Project when completed would cater to the needs of young and talented players of not just the Soreng-Chakung Sub Division but the State as well.

He encouraged the Sports Department to nurture new talents and make the state proud through their collaborative efforts and hard work. He also congratulated extended his best wishes to the Secretary and the engineering wing



for their works.

The Secretary presented the welcome address where he briefed the gathering on the stipulated cost of the project and the vision of the de-

partment for the following years.

The Project consists of facility for Multi Purpose Indoor Games with accommodation facility for 20 Boys and 20 Girls

for residential Events. The cost of the project is Rs 7.90 crore and is stipulated to be completed within 18 months under the contractor Santosh Sharma.

JU incident becomes latest flash point between TMC, BJP

KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI): The Jadavpur university incident on Thursday when Union Minister Babul Supriyo was heckled and later freed by Governor Jagdeep Dhankar from hold up put by a section of students, on Friday triggered a new round of face-off between warring BJP and the ruling TMC.

The BJP locked in an intense rivalry with the TMC since general election vented ire against the state government over the episode, whereas the ruling party directed its criticism at the Governor for rushing to the University which it said is expected to provide justice to the university's vice-chancellor, professors, students, who were beaten

up during and the after the minister's visit there.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who returned here on Friday after a three-day trip to Delhi, where she had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also Union minister Amit Shah, did not speak anything on the JU incident.

Governor Dhankar justified his visit to the university to rescue the union minister, saying he waited for "sufficient time" after speaking to the Chief Minister and left for the institute after "the situation did not show any change".

On TMC secretary general's claim made in a statement that he visited the varsity

turn to pg02

Opera Entertainment Presents
Limb Feature Film

RED CARPET SHOW
21 SEPTEMBER 2019
@ Manann Kendra Bhawan Gangtok at 12 Noon

Produced by MONI TAMLING B. RAJ LIMBOO

Directed by KISHOR SUBBA
Screen Play Dialogue SAGAR KERUNG

THE TLANG थेटलङ्
लिम्बू कथानक चलचित्र

Cast BISHAL SENEHANG, DIBYA LIMBOO

Story DEEDMAN LIMBOO (HONDOK) Choreographer DINESH LIMBU (MANGMU) Music KULBA SUBBA, RAJU ANGDENBE, PABIN ANGDENBE, MONI TAMLING Lyrics DEEDMAN LIMBOO (HONDOK), SAGAR KERUNG, DILSING MENYANGBO, YADAN SERMA Singers MANU NEMBAANG, BISHNU CHEM JONG, YADAN SERMA, SITA SINGAK, MONI TAMLING, GANGA PHYAK, SANCHAMAN LIMBU, RAM ANGDENBE, MIJIRA LIMBU, BALKRISHNA LIMBU, SANGITA MASRANGI Background & Music Arrange MONI TAMLING Graphics ALAG INFOSYS Casting PRABIN DHAKAL Editing/Camera/Drone HEMAN TAMANG Colour Correction KIRAN RAJ THAPA Equipment KOSHI VISION FILMS Makeup KRISHNA SUBEDI Light Crew RANJIT LAWAR, MANIRAJ PHURUMBOD, BADAL SUBBA, YEHANG LIMBU

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Drama competition on Poshan Abhiyan at Namchi

NAMCHI, 20 SEPT (IPR): As part of the celebration of Poshan Maah, a drama competition on Poshan Abhiyan under Namchi Block Administrative Centre (BAC) was held at the auditorium of Namchi Senior Secondary School today.

The competition was organised by Social Justice and Welfare Department South in collaboration with Education Department.

It was attended by Principal, Namchi Senior Secondary School, Lakpa Gyalpo Sherpa as the chief guest and was accompanied by District Programme Officer cum AD Nutrition (S), Jyotshna Khatiwara, AD Education Namchi BAC, KB



Gurung, teachers and students from participating schools.

Head Master, Phalidara Junior High School, Suresh Kumar Subba, Head Master, Purano Namchi, Bikash Manger

and District Programme Officer were in the panel.

Students of Namchi Senior Secondary School, Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School, Namchi New Secondary School and Singithang Junior

High School participated in the drama competition.

Similar programmes were also held in other Block Administrative Centres namely, Namthang, Poklok Nan-

dugaon, Ravangla, Sikkim, Sumbuk, Temi Tarku and Yangang in the district.

While outlining a brief objective of Poshan Maah, District Programme Officer said that this abhiyan was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi with a vision to address malnutrition

The best drama was bagged by the students of Namchi New Secondary School followed by Namchi Girls Senior Secondary, Namchi Senior Secondary and Singithang Junior High Schools. The chief guest and other dignitaries presented the certificates to the winner and runners up team respectively.

Science Carnival at Rangpo Senior Secondary School



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Area MLA cum Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly, LB Das inaugurated Atal Tinkering Lab, 25 Unit toilet Facility Building, E Class room cum E Library along with Science Carnival at Rangpo Senior Secondary School today, a press release informs.

Forty-four models along with models from ATTC, SMIT and ITI Rangpo were exhibited in today's science carni-

val organised by Rangpo Senior Secondary School. Principal, Dr Hanna Yonzan highlighted the performance of the school in different events in state, National and international events in her Speech.

Students, Asish Dangal and Ayush Ranjan were felicitated for representing the school in national and international level program. Different industrial units who supported the development of the

school were also felicitated during the program.

Cipla Foundation awarded scholarship to the class toppers of Class X and Class XII. Top Models were also awarded by the school today.

Area MLA cum Speaker, Mr Das appreciated the concept and initiative of the school for providing better platform to the students in his speech and assured support from the government, the release mentions.

NIELIT Gangtok commemorates Gandhiji's birth anniversary with lecture

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT)-Gangtok organized a lecture on "Gandhi's thought on Peace Education and its relevance in 21st Century" by Dean, Prof (Dr) NK Paswan, School of Social Sciences and Professor Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Sikkim University on 19 Sept, 2019. The lecture was held to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a press release informs.

The event was held at the premises of NIELIT, Gangtok at Sichey, Gangtok as part of the activities taken up by NIELIT across the country at all 41 locations under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India to focus on the life, work and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and their importance and relevance in the modern society.

The session was attended by distinguished guests from the aca-



demia including Librarian, Prof AS Chandel and Finance Officer from Sikkim University, Debashish Pal, Principal, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Prof (Dr) Bina Pradhan, Principal Sikkim Government Law College, Prof (Dr) Ganeshji Tiwari, Burtuk, along with the officials of NIELIT, Gangtok and students.

Director-in-charge of NIELIT, Arup Chattopadhyay, Gangtok in his welcome address mentioned that NIELIT is commemorating the 150th birth anniversary

of Mahatma Gandhi at Pan India level through various programmes during July 2019 to October 2020 to highlight Gandhian thoughts on environment, non-violence and satyagraha, cleanliness, Swachha Bharat and water conservation that are increasingly becoming more relevant in today's world.

The talk delivered by Prof Paswan deliberated on the threats and hatred faced by the peoples of the modern world and how the teachings of Gandhi may

alleviate the misery and bring peace through the practice of Satyagraha or holding onto truth and non-violence in daily life.

He cited that India still ranks low on the Global Peace Index (GPI), finishing at 141 among 162 countries and explained how the situation might improve through the implementation of the ideals of Gandhi like a classless society, freedom and equality for all, dignity of labour, anon-violent social order and through development of a sense

of social responsibility among the citizens.

The talk was followed by a lively dialogue among the audience and the eminent invitees. Prof Bina Pradhan raised concern about the increasing violence in all strata of life irrespective of the country being a developed or developing one like India. The only solution to this was practice of self-contentment which is preached by every religion which should be imparted at a very early stage of life, she observed. Prof Chandel suggested that moral education should be restored at the school level to bring such contentment and peace in oneself. To this, Debashish Pal shared his experiences to highlight that there should be some level of exposure and competition in everybody's life to inculcate both self and social responsibility.

The ceremony ended with the formal vote of thanks by Scientist, Khagendra Sharma, NIELIT Gangtok.

Sensitization Programme on JJ and POCSO Acts

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

A Sensitization Programme on "Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012" as per the directions of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLISA was held at Chintan Bhawan, East Sikkim, today.

The programme was organized for the District Child Protection Unit Officers/Officials from the Social Welfare Department, Police Department, Panel Advocates, Sikkim SLISA, Peshkars and the staff of the Juvenile Justice Boards of all the Dis-

tricts, Teachers, Faculty Members and Students of Universities, Colleges and Senior Secondary Schools from Gangtok, East District, a press release informs.

The sensitization programme was an effort to make the participants aware that the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 are special Acts for the protection of children and that it is the responsibility of every State Government to provide necessary services to children as laid down under the JJ Act 2015 and the JJ Model Rules 2016.

The Resource Person, Benoy Sharma, Chief Judi-



cial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge (East) at Gangtok, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge (North) at Mangan (additional charge) and Secretary, DLSA, North deliberated on the topic "Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children)

Act, 2015" while Panel Advocate, TR Barfungpa, Sikkim SLISA deliberated on the topic "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012".

The Working Sessions were followed by Interactive Sessions be-

tween the participants and the Resource Persons.

The welcome address was delivered by Member Secretary, Sikkim SLISA, Sonam Palden Bhutia while the vote of thanks was proposed by Under Secretary, Sikkim SLISA, Praveen Pradhan.

JU incident becomes...

without informing the government and accusing the governor of adopting a "partisan approach" in blaming the West Bengal government for the ruckus, Dhankar termed the statement as "unfortunate".

Dhankar, who is also the chancellor of the university, said, "Obviously he (Chatterjee) did not know of the developments between the governor and the DGP/CS as also the conversation with the CM. The (TMC's) stand in the release is factually incorrect," he said.

He expressed relief that his visit to the institute brought an end to the "unwholesome situation," a Raj Bhawan statement said here.

A day after the incident, Supriyo, Union minister of state for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, described his attackers as "cowards and hooligans" who would be found soon, but would not be dealt in a similar manner rather "rehabilitated mentally".

Zeroing in on a picture of a student pulling him by his hair, Supriyo in a tweet, wondered what action

would the Mamata Banerjee government take against the student for assaulting him without any provocation.

"This is the guy who led the assault in #Jadavpur University.. we will find him out and then see what @MamataOfficial does to him in terms of charging him for assault without ANY PROVOCATION whatsoever from our/my side," he tweeted.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh alleged that the Jadavpur University campus has become a hub of anti-nationals and communists and said "our cadres" would conduct a Balakot-like surgical strike to destroy it.

The protest against the minister was held by workers of Leftist unions of the university and some members of the TMC when Supriyo had gone to address a seminar organised by ABVP, affiliated to the RSS.

Accusing the TMC government of sitting idle till the minister got killed in the institute, Ghosh said he would write to Union Home Minister Amit Shah de-

scribing the incident.

"The Jadavpur University campus is a hub of anti-national and communist activities. This is not the first time that such an incident has happened there. Just like our security forces conducted surgical strike to destroy terror camps in Pakistan, our cadres would also carry out the same type of surgical strike to destroy anti-national hubs in JU campus," Ghosh said while addressing a press conference.

Ghosh supported the governor for rushing to the university campus to save Supriyo from the mob inside the JU campus.

He also demanded immediate resignation of Jadavpur University Vice Chancellors Suranjan Das for failing to control the situation inside the campus.

TMC leader and minister Partha Chatterjee said the state government will punish those who assaulted the students of Jadavpur University and ransacked the campus on Thursday.

Govt slashes corporate tax to 25.17 pc for domestic cos

Goa, Sep 20 (PTI): In a major fiscal booster, the government on Friday slashed effective corporate tax to 25.17 per cent inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies.

Making the announcement, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the new tax rate will be applicable from the current fiscal which began on April

1. Sitharaman said the revenue foregone on reduction in corporate tax and other relief measures will be Rs 1.45 lakh crore annually.

This, she said is being done to promote investment and growth. In effect, the corporate tax rate will be 22 per cent for domestic companies, if they do not avail any incentive or concession. The changes in the Income Tax Act and

Finance Act will be made effective through an ordinance. The minister also said companies opting for 22 per cent income tax slab would not have to pay minimum alternative tax (MAT). Sitharaman further said, new domestic manufacturing companies incorporated after October 1, can pay income tax at a rate of 15 per cent without any incentives.

~ SummitTIMES ~
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West observes Poshan Maah with mass rally

GYALSHING, 20 SEPT (IPR): A mass rally on Poshan Maah was organised at Soreng, Mangalbaria, Sombaria, Rinchenpong and Naya Bazaar in order to deliver message on 'Sahi Poshan' by CDPO and team ICDS today.

The rally was flagged off by Area MLA, Aditya Golay along with ADC Soreng, Gayas Pega; CDPO Soreng, Dorjee Doma Bhutia; DE Roads and Bridges, Tara Subba; AE Roads and Bridges, Suman Chettri; RO/AD, BB Rai; BDO Soreng, Sabina Subba; Dy Di-



rector (Education Department), HB Shanker; Bazaar Inspector, Shanta Sharma, Panchayat President, members of Soreng GPU, staff SDAC

and other community members.

Before the rally, CDPO, Dorjee Doma Bhutia gave a short briefing on Poshan

Abhiyan followed by Signature Campaign at Soreng.

Poshan Abhiyan was launched by Prime Minister of India, Narendra

Modi in order to bring holistic development in children. The whole month of September 2019 will be dedicated to promotion of nutrition and health considering the importance of nutrition and health for growth and development of the children.

The activities will be carried out in convergence with other Departments like Social Welfare, Health, Education and other line departments under the supervision of the District Administration.

Hand Hygiene awareness at CRH



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT: Hand Hygiene awareness programme was conducted in Central Referral Hospital, Tadong today. The programme was jointly organised by the Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC) CRH and Schulke India Pvt Ltd. The company specializes in hygiene and preservation

and their mission is to fight disease and contamination before they emerge, a press release informs.

HICC, CRH has also been conducting regular awareness on hospital infection control. This programme along with hand hygiene awareness, also demonstrated the use of hand hygiene evaluation tools

like glow germ and UV torch. These tools help to demonstrate the effectiveness of hand rub and hand wash.

HICC, CRH is involved in active surveillance of various hospital acquired infections. Due to this patient care has improved and the rate of hospital acquired infections is very negligible, the release mentions.

TNA team wins INTACH quiz contest

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT: Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Sikkim Chapter organized an All India Quiz Contest for students of Class VII to X on 19 Sept. The contest saw the participation of 72 students from nine schools located in and around Gangtok, a press release informs.

In his opening remarks, Convenor of INTACH Sikkim Chapter, PK Dong talked about the role and objectives of INTACH in creating awareness about the values of heritage and the need for conserving them for the benefit of our posterity.

He also said that this Quiz Contest was being organized by INTACH on all-India basis, primarily for stimulating the interest of young school children in heritage, both national and local.

In today's contest, the top four teams who made it to the On-the-Stage

final rounds were two teams from Tashi Namgyal Academy consisting of Hardik Prasad with Tashi Wangmu Bhutia and Soyen Dhakal with Sumiran Pradhan; two teams from West Point Senior Secondary consisting of Rohit Kumar Gupta with Rishikesh Sharma and Anjali Kumari with Rimpa Mazumdar.

In the final round the team that ultimately scored the highest marks was the Tashi Namgyal team comprising of Soyen Dhakal and Sumiran Pradhan. The team consisting of Rohit Kumar Gupta and Rishikesh Sharma from West Point School secured the second position. The quiz master for the day was Bina Sharma [PGT from Enchey School].

All the students who participated in today's Quiz Contest were given certificates by Mr DB Shrestha [IFS (Rtd)], a Life Member of INTACH].

Forex kitty slips USD 649 mn to USD 428.96 bn

MUMBAI, SEP 20 (PTI): The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 649 million to USD 428.96 billion in the week to September 14, mainly on account of a drop in the value of foreign currency assets and gold holdings, as per the weekly RBI data released on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, total reserves had increased by USD 1 billion to USD 429.608 billion. The reserves had touched a life-time high of USD 430.572 billion in August.

Expressed in US dollar terms, the foreign curren-

cy assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and the yen held in the forex exchange reserves.

During the week, value of gold reserves declined by USD 249 million to USD 27.103 billion, according to the data. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund dipped by USD 2 million to USD 1.432 billion during the week.

The country's reserve position with the Fund increased USD 11 million to USD 3.630 billion, the data showed.

ICCR plans series of events to boost India's soft power

NAGPUR, SEP 20 (PTI):

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has planned a slew of programmes to promote the country's 'cultural identity' worldwide and boost its soft power, the organisation's president, Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, has said.

Sahasrabuddhe, who is also BJP vice-president, said the ICCR will organise programmes like 'Understanding India' and 'Destination India' in the coming months.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday night, he said these initiatives are aimed at increasing India's soft power and promote its 'cultural identity' across the world.

Sahasrabuddhe said the ICCR has its centres in around 37 countries, where the post of directors, lying vacant for


several years, have been mostly filled.

"Now, the government has appointed directors in almost all centres," he added, stating noted author Amish Tripathi has been made director of the Nehru Centre in London.

Speaking about 'Understanding India', the senior BJP leader said this one-week course is for anyone who is curious to know about the country and understand its culture.

'Destination India', on the other hand, is a conference which will be held in Pune in January 2020, said Sahasrabuddhe, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP.

The meet is being organised by the ICCR, an autonomous organisation of the central government, to improve footfall of foreign students in the country, he said.



IDBI BANK

Gangtok Branch, TSE-ka Commercial Complex, Near Pvt Taxi Stand, Gangtok, Sikkim, Pin-737101, Board Line 1 : 03592-649094

This is to inform you that the locker holders of our Gangtok Branch relating to the following locker account have failed and neglected to pay the prescribed locker rent for a long time in spite of our various notices and demands made to them, the bank will be at liberty to break open the said locker in the event of non-payment of rent. Accordingly, it has been proposed to break open the said lockers on 05-10-2019 by serving the formalities and the respective locker holders are advised to approach the branch before the due date and settle the dues to avoid action. The charges for break open would be borne by the renters and the bank reserves the right to take legal action for the recovery of the same along with the rent arrears / other charges etc.

S No	L	Locker No	Due From	Name and Address
1	51-7	01-04-2013	San Bahadur Gurung, IRB Bahadur, Singtam, NHPC, Sikkim, Pin -737101	
2	51-8	01-04-2013	Binita Lama, Middle Sichey, 32 Gangtok, Sichey, C/o Dhakal Shop, Gangtok, Sikkim, Pin-737101	
3	51-9	01-04-2013	Anilava Chakraborty, Deorali Lami Chaney Building, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd, Gangtok, Sikkim, Pin-737101	

Date: 21-09-2019 Sd/- Authorized Officer

Place: Gangtok IDBI Bank Ltd., Gangtok Branch

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OBITUARY

Mrs. PhupuLhamu Tenzing, 99, of Central Point Lodge building, Gangtok, Sikkim passed away peacefully in her sleep on 17 Sept, 2019 at Manipal Referral Hospital. She is predeceased by her husband, late KezangTenzing, her eldest daughter, late Doma Pazo, two sons, late TN Tenzing (former DGP/Sikkim Police), late SW Tenzing (former Chief Secretary /Govt of Sikkim) and her grandson, late Tsewang Penjo Pazo.



A remarkable Lady who was ahead of her times, she firmly believed that a good education for her fatherless children would allow them to face the world on equal terms and they didn't disappoint her.

Fearlessly independent she lived by her principles till the end. We celebrate her long and fruitful life.


Special thanks to the doctors and staff of Manipal Hospital for their concern and compassionate care and to friends and relatives who visited and showed their concern during her brief stay in the hospital.

She is survived by her daughter, Wangmu Tenzing, daughter in law, Dr SaradaTenzing, grandsons - Jigme Pazo, Karma Gyurme, Kuncheok Tenzing and Tshering Namgyal and granddaughters - Tshering Palmo, Karma Choden Tenzing and Sonam Donka, daughters in law - Wawa Kreditsu, GuineeTenzing and great grandchildren - Rinchen, Jigmela and Aria. Her caretaker, Lal Bahadur Tamang.

The funeral is on Friday, 20 Sept, 2019 at 8.00am.



SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Old Tourism Complex, MG Marg GANGTOK - 737101
Fax: 03592-207572
Email: spsc-skm@nic.in
Website: www.spscscm.gov.in



Reference No: 82/EXAM/SPSC/2019 Date: 18/09/2019


NOTICE

On the basis of the marks obtained in the Physical Endurance Test (PET), Written Examination and Viva-Voce/ Interview for filling up of 02 (two) posts of Sub-Inspector, Excise (Abk) as advertised vide no: 13/SPSC/EXAM/2018 dt: 07/06/2018 under Excise (Abk) Department through direct recruitment, the following candidates are hereby declared qualified in order of merit and the names are recommended for appointment.


ROLL NO.	NAME OF CANDIDATES
101	DINESH SIVAKOTI
158	KARMA SONAM BHUTIA

The candidature of the candidates as shown in the list is **provisional**, subject to the police verification, medical fitness and verification of all required documents by the State Government.

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



SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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Fax: 03592-207572.
Email: spsc-skm@nic.in
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No: 79/EXAM/SPSC/2019 Date: 12/09/2019

NOTICE

The Sikkim Public Service Commission announces the result on the basis of the marks obtained in the Class-room Demonstration, Academics and Viva-Voce/ Interview for filling up of **04 posts of Assistant Professor (Botany)** through Direct Recruitment, as advertised vide no: 20/SPSC/EXAM/2018 dt: 21/12/2018 followed by Notice No: 33/SPSC/EXAM/2019 dt: 01/04/2019. The following candidates are hereby declared qualified in order of merit and the names are recommended for appointment.

Regd.No	Name of Candidate	Carried forward
Bot-001	BISHNU KUMAR SHARMA	01 post in OBC(CL) category
Bot-004	PHURBA LHAMU SHERPA	
Bot-002	MANOJ KUMAR PRADHAN	

The candidature of the candidates as shown in the list is provisional, subject to police verification, medical fitness and verification of all required documents by the State Government.

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

R.O. No. 197/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20, Date: 20/09/2019

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT GANGTOK - SIKKIM

No.328/L&P.A.P/2019

Dated: 22/8/19

NOTICE

In continuation of Notice No. 40/LLPAD/19 dated - 14/02/2019 applications are invited for the post of Assistant Government Advocate-cum-Assistant Public Prosecutor from the interested Advocates having more having more than one year of regular practice in the Bar. Interested Advocates are required to submit the details as under:-

1. Applicant should disclose in the application, the total number of cases having handled/ conducted for the last one year with detailed case number and cause title thereof along with other testimonial documents.
2. Certificates of Presiding Officer of the concerned Courts where they are practicing should also be enclosed with the application.
3. The application shall be summarily rejected if the same is not supported by documentary evidence/certificate in respect of 1&2 above.
4. Application in sealed cover should reach the Office of the LR-cum-Secretary, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Third Floor, new Tashiling Secretariat, Block-B, Gangtok, Sikkim -737103, on or before 23.09.2019. The department shall not be responsible for non-receipt of application on time due to postal delay or otherwise.
5. After due scrutiny of the application, the date, time and venue for the interview shall be intimated subsequently.
6. No. TA/DA shall be admissible for appearing in the interview.
7. The applicants who have submitted application pursuant to notice no. 40/LL&PAD/19 dated:- 14/02/2019 need not apply again.

Sd/
Under Secretary to the Government of Sikkim.
Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department.

R.O. No. 193/IPR/Pub/Classi/19-20

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Allow Students to Think

Open doors, don't spoon-feed

What Sikkim requires its schools to create are sensible citizens who can think for themselves, weigh options and make practical decisions. In these times of fake news and manufactured consent, an open mind willing to learn and analyse will be required to side-step the shackles of time-serving mediocrity. And we would all wish that for the next generation, won't we? The one place where clear thought can be honed into an instinct is the classroom – allow the education system to adopt genuinely learning-friendly practices and future generations will dazzle with their confidence and carry Sikkim forward. Don't do so, and a majority will remain hesitant and unsure, seeking out charlatans to form their beliefs, ideologies and pursuits.

If education was approached with the aim to open minds, not suppress inquisitiveness, the quality that everyone seeks to infuse into the system will become a reality. What the present system delivers, and this is a national malaise, is infectious indecisiveness. Students are not encouraged to enquire or seek clarifications and every effort is made to drill them into an army of monotony, their uniqueness and differences brushed over by soul-sapping rigour and mind-numbing routine. It is rare to find students with wide-ranging interests any more. In fact, the syllabus and pattern of education does not even allow children the space to develop any meaningful interests any more. Even when these interests are displayed at annual day functions they are mostly hobbies decided for them by the teachers or “talents” singled out by them for display. Student projects for interschool competitions are prepared by teachers and every intonation of a poetry recital for competition dictated to them. We just won't allow them to make their mistakes and learn from them or stand by the side in case assistance is required; we believe that we are serving them by hand-holding them through their years in school, college, university, and if we have the “contact”, even their employment.

More and more teachers are so scared that students will “fail” them that they end up spoon-feeding them. At the other extreme are teachers who see no hope in their students so they don't get involved at all. In both scenarios, the student meets the same fate – a confidence stamped down even before it could develop. A good way to start delivering Sikkim a more confident generation would be to allow students to discover more things by themselves and in doing so, they will also discover the confidence required to think and decide for themselves later in life.

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Climate change: children are carving out a place in politics – now adults must listen and act

ELEANOR BYRNE, BENJAMIN BOWMAN & CHLOE GERMAINE BUCKLEY
THECONVERSATION.COM

There's no doubt that young people today are driving action on climate change. The #FridaysforFuture school strikes are arguably the most dedicated and sustained direct action in a generation. School pupils have kicked off an international movement committed to addressing the injustices, mass extinctions and environmental damage caused by climate change – while also building global networks, speaking out in public and holding the adults around them to account.

As more adults and institutions join the protests, it seems the agency of these young people is finally being recognised. But conversations about climate change still appeal to authorities for answers – whether calling for politicians to act, or for people to listen to scientists.

Of course, listening to experts and holding politicians to account is an important part of what climate activists need to achieve. But it's not the only part. As the schools strikes continue to gain momentum, it's time to think about how young people can be meaningfully involved in shaping the future of our planet.

Unfortunately, there are still significant barriers preventing children from making their voices heard in democratic societies – not least the way they are represented in the media. As academics interested in children in politics and culture, we're exploring these issues as part of a project called Europe and the Child - Crisis, Activism, Culture. So far, we've found that cultural images of children involved in activism reveal adult desires and anxieties, rather than providing real empowerment.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg captured the world's attention when she was invited to address world leaders at the UN conference on climate change in December 2018, at just 15 years of age. Since then, her school strikes have become a global phenomenon. Through international media coverage and meetings with high-profile political figures, Thunberg has brought the climate emergency into view, right at the heart of political power in the West.



agency into view, right at the heart of political power in the West.

Thunberg has explained that her actions were inspired by the Parkland students' protests against gun violence, while the school strike model builds on the walkouts and sit-ins by African-American students during the civil rights era.

Thunberg is not the first young person to address the UN climate conference. Kathy Jenil-Kijiner, a Marshall Islands poet and activist, has called for urgent action as rising sea levels threaten her home, as has young diplomat Yeb Sano from the Philippines. Global climate injustice cannot be fully understood without listening to, and empowering, young people from around the world.

Thunberg's role as spokesperson for the younger generation is fraught with difficulties. As a child herself, Thunberg has insisted that the blame for the current climate emergency – and the responsibility for fixing it – lies with older generations. Yet adults and establishment figures have repeatedly sought to position her either as a prophet and a child saviour, or as a naive puppet of interested parties.

For example, writer and activist Naomi Klein praised Thunberg for

her moral clarity, arguing that she is one of the youth voices that has “burst through the bureaucratic language with which we shield ourselves from the reality of the stakes, the extraordinary stakes of our moment in history”, and that young people have found a sense of agency in Thunberg's school strikes, and her insistence that no one is too small to make a difference.

Conversely, Thunberg has also been subjected to a series of attacks from right-wing establishment figures and climate deniers, doubting her sincerity and ridiculing her appearance and her way of speaking, with reference to her Asperger's diagnosis. Some of those criticisms have also been levelled at the school strikes movement, with politicians calling young participants “truants” and “puppets”.

A STORY OF EMPOWERMENT

Beyond the media coverage, there has also been a surge in fiction and non-fiction books published about the climate crisis for young people. Some publishers have called this “the Greta effect”, though the environment has been a concern in children's literature since at least the 1970s, exemplified by Dinosaurs

and all that Rubbish by Michael Foreman.

In contrast to that classic parable – which seeks to educate its readers – recent books including Lily Dyu's Earth Heroes and Martin Dorey's Kids Fight Plastic present children as saviours of the planet.

It's positive that books by adults are recognising the agency of young people and seeking to empower them further. But this rhetoric also burdens young people with the responsibility for change, while political institutions afford them little power.

It's not enough to put children on the covers of newspapers and call them “heroes”. It's not even enough to listen to the concerns they're raising through the global strikes for climate action. Adults in positions of authority need to give young people the means to change the world and create their own visions for the future.

[Eleanor Byrne is Senior Lecturer in English, Manchester Metropolitan University; Benjamin Bowman is Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University; Chloe Germaine Buckley is Senior Lecturer in English, Manchester Metropolitan University]

I stand with the climate striking students – it's time to create a new economy

JULIA K. STEINBERGER

THECONVERSATION.COM

I initiated a letter of support to climate striking students – an English version of the German letter coordinated by ecologist Gregor Hagerdorn, signed by more than 1,000 academics – for many reasons.

My role as a university lecturer means that I am committed to fostering better lives and opportunities for each generation. I am also a parent, so when I consider the request from youth, including my students and child to stand with them, I am naturally inclined to give their case fair consideration.

But I am a scientific researcher, too. The first, core demand of the striking students, led by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, is to “unite behind the science”. How could I not recognise the significance of this demand in a landscape too often dominated by short-term sensationalism, rather than the core challenges facing society and the living planet?

But there's a deeper, more fundamental reason to support the global strike for climate, grounded in my own field of political and ecological economics.

My research focuses on how, if at all, we can create an economy that is focused on achieving human well-being and avoiding damage to the environment. The current landscape is not good. No country yet meets most needs of citizens at a sustainable level of resource use.

But my research also shows that it is possible to do this and more. We have the capability to meet basic needs and achieve high levels of human well-being at modest levels of energy use. And beyond this moderate amount, there is no reliable relationship between energy use and well-being. In many cases, added energy can even harm human health and well-being through air pollution, climate impacts, road accidents, and lack of exercise.

A rapid, radical reduction in energy demand could perhaps fulfil both goals of addressing climate breakdown and enabling our students and children to live good lives. So why is this option not debated and put forward through an ambitious policy agenda?

A DIFFERENT FUTURE

The answer is both simple and profound. My



research area remains marginal, and its results neglected, because to accept it would require a fundamental transformation of the prevailing economic philosophy. We would need to pay less attention to growth and profit as the measures of prosperity, and replace them with sufficiency and equity – a fair division of resources to provide what is sufficient for well-being and not more. After centuries of entrenchment, that's no easy feat.

But neoclassical economics itself is not the main culprit in our planetary predicament. When we look deeper, and seek to understand the factors underpinning the rise in consumption culture that drives our energy use, we are confronted with a problem of the way production relates to politics.

The production, pricing, and consumption of goods and services are not simply driven by the natural balancing of supply and demand. The economy is best understood as a social and political arena. In this arena, highly productive industries invest heavily in advertising to artificially grow consumption. As my upcoming research will show,

they coalesce in aligned mega-sectors, such as the automotive, road-building and real estate industries, all of which wield outsized political influence, and have a vested interest in trapping consumers in car-intensive, road-intensive, suburban housing.

The paradox of high resource use that results in little or no human benefits has its roots in the very structure of our political economy, and the industries that are some of its most important mainstays. Transforming this structure means challenging these sectors, and finding ways to counter their excessive influence in our democracies.

This is why we must support the students' strike this Friday, and every Friday for the foreseeable future. Significant change will not come into being without protests and solidarity movements that rigorously question unacceptable modes of living and politics. It is time for all of us to wake politicians, businesses, and institutions up to the immense task of transforming our societies.

[the writer is Associate Professor in Ecological Economics, University of Leeds]

Ganguly inaugurates cricket-themed restaurant in Kolkata



KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI): A cricket-themed restaurant displaying more than 100 memorabilia was inaugurated by former India captain Sourav Ganguly here on Friday.

“I have seen several cricket-themed restaurants in other countries like Sri Lanka, UK. But this one is different as it has so many authentic memorabilia. It’s a must-visit place for ardent fans of cricket and food,” Ganguly said while inaugurating ‘Pavilion’ at Park Circus.

The restaurant displays more than 100 cricket memorabilia, including signatures of legends like Sachin Ten-

dulkar, Virat Kohli, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, VVS Laxman, Shahid Afridi, Chris Gayle, David Warner and almost all prominent members of the present Indian team and Indian Premier League stars, a statement said.

The massive collection of cricket memorabilia has been collected by Moin Bin Moksud, who has worked with several IPL franchises.

“The idea of Pavilion came to my mind when I visited MCC Museum. I wanted to give Kolkata an authentic place to watch cricket,” Moksud said.

The restaurant serves traditional Tandoori, Indian and Chinese cuisine.

We need to look beyond Dhoni now, Pant is my choice for World T20: Gavaskar

NEW DELHI, SEP 20 (PTI): Former captain and batting legend Sunil Gavaskar believes that time has come for Indian cricket to “look beyond Mahendra Singh Dhoni” and invest in youth going into next year’s World T20 in Australia.

However, there has been a raging debate on the options available as Rishabh Pant has not been able to grab his opportunities. But he remains Gavaskar’s “top-choice” going into the marquee event next year.

Asked if Dhoni should be picked for the Bangladesh tour, Gavaskar replied in the negative.

“No, we need to look beyond. Mahendra Singh Dhoni at least doesn’t figure in my team. If you are talking about the T20 World Cup, I will certainly think about Rishabh Pant,” Gavaskar told ‘Aaj Tak’.

For Gavaskar, if Pant doesn’t do well, then Sanju Samson is the next best option.

“If I need to have an alternate option, then I will think of Sanju Samson because Sanju is a good ‘keeper as well as a good batsman.

“If I have to think of the T20 World Cup, I would think about youth as we need to look forward. Dhoni has made great contribution to Indian cricket but it’s now time to look beyond him,” the iconic opener said.

Later on the ‘India

Today’ channel, Gavaskar said: “I think he (Dhoni) should be going without being pushed out.”

Dhoni, who is yet to announce his international retirement, took a two-month sabbatical from the sport after the ODI World Cup but the current selection committee has already indicated that it doesn’t want to look behind.

However, Pant’s inconsistency and poor shot-selection is hurting the team’s interest as head coach Ravi Shastri had recently pointed out. Batting coach Vikram Rautour too reminded the team’s youngsters about the difference between a “fearless and careless” approach.

Gavaskar, on his part, wants to check whether the young keeper-batsman is batting at the correct number.

“What is Rishabh’s position in batting order -- No 4 or 5? Going in to the World T20 in Australia, we will know his (batting) position better,” Gavaskar said.

But Gavaskar acknowledged that there will be scrutiny since he started his international career on a rousing note.

“The way he (Pant) started his career in Tests, it was so good and it is obvious that he will be scrutinised. I think whatever is happening is for his good as he can rectify the mistakes he is making.

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Bru refugees place fresh demands on repatriation

AIZAWL, SEP 20 (PTI): The MBDPF, an umbrella organisation of the Bru refugees lodged in six relief camps in North Tripura, has made several fresh demands to return to Mizoram.

The ninth and final repatriation process will begin from early October.

Signed by its president A. Sawibunga and general secretary Bruno Msha, the Mizoram Bru Displaced People’s Forum (MBDPF) has submitted a letter to Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Thursday here and suggested for rearrangement of 14 proposed resettlement villages in Mamit district.

There are “no sufficient lands for habitation” in the proposed resettlement villages in Mamit district, the organisation said.



They suggested that the Bru refugees should be resettled in one village in south Mizoram’s Lunglei district and six villages in Mamit, in lieu of the proposed 14 villages.

The organisation also demanded that the villages, proposed for resettlement of the Bru refugees, should be jointly inspected by the MBDPF leaders, heads of the families and state gov-

ernment officials before commencement of the repatriation process.

Freedom should be given to the displaced Bru families to settle in any districts - Lunglei, Mamit and Kolasib at Mizoram-Assam border, the MBDPF said.

They also demanded reidentification of 1,218 families who did not turn up during the second phase of identification in July this

year.

Some families, who were rejected by the officials during July re-identification as not belonging to bona fide residents of Mizoram, should also be reconsidered and given the same rehabilitation package, the letter said.

The Centre had approved an amount of Rs 350 crore for the ninth phase of Bru repatriation from six relief camps of

neighbouring Tripura.

The displaced families who migrated to Tripura from Mizoram in the wake of the murder of a youth at Bungthum village by Bru militants on November 13, 2009, three days before the first phase of repatriation, should also be included and rehabilitated, the letter said.

The Centre and the governments of Mizoram and Tripura have made multiple attempts to repatriate the Brus to their home state since 2009, but the majority of them stayed back in the relief camps, citing inadequate rehabilitation package.

Thousands of Brus fled to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of a communal tension triggered by the killing of a forest guard by militants inside Dampa Tiger Reserve.

Manipur, Odisha enter Sr Women’s NFC semis

PASIGHAT (ARUNACHAL PRADESH), SEP 20 (PTI): Defending champions Manipur thrashed Jharkhand 15-2 to sail into the semi-finals of the 25th edition of the Hero Senior Women’s NFC football tournament here on Friday.

Manipur skipper Bala Devi rounded the Jharkhand goalkeeper and scored a routine goal in the eighth min-

ute, which, eventually, opened the floodgates.

After that, it was a Manipuri onslaught as the pumped in nine goals in the first 45 minutes.

Bala, who led the team from the front, completed a hat-trick in the 26th minute and added another three before the referee blew half-time whistle.

Prameshwori joined

the party in the 17th minute before Daya Devi completed her brace inside the first-half only.

After the breather, the Manipuri girls scored another three in six minutes to cross the double-digit mark.

Bala Devi, finally, left the ground having scored 10 to take her tally to 19 from four matches.

Jharkhand’s goals

were scored by Neel Lakra and Sangita Kumari.

Meanwhile, last year’s finalists Odisha ended hosts Arunachal Pradesh’s fairytales run in the second quarter-final of the day with a comfortable 5-0 win.

In the semifinals to be held on Sunday, Manipur will play Tamil Nadu while Odisha will be up against Railways.

Sushil’s World Championship return after eight years lasts just one bout

AMANPREET SINGH NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN), SEP 20 (PTI): Veteran Sushil Kumar’s return to the World Championship after eight years lasted just six minutes as he lost his opening bout to Khadzhimurad Gadzhiev of Azerbaijan here on Friday.

Using all his experience, the wily Indian had raced to a 9-4 lead but conceded seven points in a row to his opponent to lose his 74kg qualification round bout 9-11.

The Azerbaijani wrestler later lost his quarterfinal bout to USA’s Jordan Ernest Burroughs, resulting to Sushil’s ouster from the championship.

The 36-year-old two-time Olympic medalist has been struggling for long as he had made a first round exit from the 2018 Asian Games as well.

He recently returned to the mat for the first time since his defeat in Jakarta when he competed at an event in Minsk, Belarus where he had finished fifth.

Sushil employed a four-point throw after trailing 0-2 to take the



lead and further consolidated it with another four-point throw, which came from a difficult position.

The Azerbaijani wrestler’s camp challenged the throw but lost the call, giving one additional point to Sushil for a 9-4 lead at the break.

However, the second period belonged to Gadzhiev who first pushed Sushil out with a throw and then scored off a takedown move and took the lead with a gut wrench from ground position.

Ryan Phillippe and Billie Lourd to guest star in Will & Grace’ final season

LOS ANGELES, SEP 20 (PTI): Actors Ryan Phillippe and Billie Lourd have been roped in to make a guest appearance in the upcoming final season of NBC’s Will & Grace .

According to NBC, Phillippe will be playing himself, while Lourd will play Fiona, a character described as an edgy, self-confident modern woman who’s outspoken and irreverent.

Will & Grace co-cre-

ator Max Mutchnick revealed on Instagram that Lourd’s character is the granddaughter of Bobbi Adler, who was played on the show by Debbie Reynolds, Lourd’s real-life grandmother.

It’s Hollywood royalty on the Will & Grace’ stage this week. I loved Debbie, I loved Carrie and I love this apple who did not fall far from her trees, Mutchnick wrote on his post.



Reynolds appeared as Grace’s mother, Bobbi Adler, on 10 episodes of the sitcom’s original run. She died in December 2016 at age 84, just

quotas through Bajrang Punia (65kg) and Ravi Dahiya (57kg).

In the non-Olympic categories, Karan lost his 70kg Qualification bout 0-7 to Ikhtiyor Navruzov and was ousted wen the Uzbek lost his quarterfinal.

In 92kg, Parveen won his first bout by technical superiority against Korea’s Changjae Su but later lost 0-8 to Ukraine’s Liubomyr Sagaliuk.

Sagaliuk’s defeat in quarterfinals shut the repechage door on the Indian.



States’ water woes echo in NZC meet chaired by Shah

CHANDIGARH, SEP 20 (PTI): Haryana on Friday told a Northern Zonal Council meet, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, that it was being denied its full share of Ravi-Beas water by Punjab which, in turn, asserted that it has no surplus water to share.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar lodged the complaint in the NZC meeting convened to deliberate upon and resolve various inter-state disputes of northern region, including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal, Rajasthan and Delhi.

Describing Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal as the lifeline of Haryana, Khattar said his state was facing acute water stress as against the demand of 36 million acre feet, it has only 14.7 MAF of water available with it.

NZC vice chairman and the meet host, Khattar said Haryana is giving extra water to Delhi in compliance of the Supreme Court’s orders from its own share of Yamuna waters, but Punjab is not delivering his state its full share of the Ravi-Beas waters.

“The water supply from Yamuna has been dwindling over recent years and it is most unfortunate that more than one thousand villages in Haryana and millions of hectares of the state land are bereft of water,” Khattar told reporter as having asserted in the NZC meet.The proceeding of the meet was not opened to media.

Denying that his state has any surplus water, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh expressed concern over the water crisis faced by states amid their depleting ground water and sought cooperation among them for conserving water.Shared my deep concern with the NZC about the growing water crisis in all States, especially regarding the depletion of ground wa-

Book to explore history of medicine

NEW DELHI, SEP 20 (PTI): A new book will trace the origins of path-breaking experiments and discoveries in the evolution of science and medicine spanning over 2,500 years and several geographies, publisher Puffin Books announced.

Written by bestselling author Roopa Pai, the book, titled “From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 Explosive Ideas that Made (and Are Making) Modern Medicine” will hit stands on September 28.

In its 25 chapters, the book explores breakthroughs like vaccination, anaesthesia, X-rays and the germ theory, apart from revolutionary ideas like compassionate care for the mentally ill and mandatory hand-washing for surgeons.

“When I chose this topic to write about, I had no idea that the research would be so enjoyable, or that the story would be so absorbing. I have tried to convey my own wonder and awe to the readers of the book, and I hope they will be just as captivated as I was,” the author said.

ter. While Punjab has no surplus river water to share, we must cooperate to improve water-use efficiency to conserve our most precious resource, the Punjab chief minister said in a tweet after the meeting.

He also raised the issue of drug malady afflicting Punjab and other northern states and sought formulation of a comprehensive national drug policy to tackle this menace.

Raised my concern in the NZC meeting regarding the drug abuse in the Northern States of India, which has become a significant problem. Requested Union Home Minister @AmitShah ji to urgently formulate a comprehensive National Drug Policy for coherent response to this problem, Amarinder said in his another tweet.

Singh also demanded rationalisation of tax rates for fuel in the northern region.

In NZC meeting, called for greater regional cooperation between northern states by evolving a common ecosystem. With GST, there is need for greater rationalization of tax rates in the region, especially on excise, petrol & diesel. Hope we can find common ground soon, Amarinder Singh tweeted.Talking to reporters after the meeting, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the participating states voiced their concern and sought solutions related to inter-state disputes and matters involving the Centre and states.

He said the next meeting of NZC will be held in Jaipur where these discussion will be taken forward.

The meeting was also attended by, amongst others, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, Punjab Governor and Chandigarh UT Administrator V P Singh Badnore, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal.

Let's ruck and roll: Japan wakes up to the arrival of rugby giants

JUSTIN MCCURRY
THEGUARDIAN

The Rugby World Cup megastore in Tokyo's Shinjuku district is doing a brisk business in official merchandise. Wallabies and All Blacks T-shirts have sold out, a shop assistant says, glancing down at two sets of empty shelves. Spotting the flag emblazoned on a miniature rugby ball in the Guardian's basket, she quickly adds: "The England shirts are selling really well, too."

The warm and sustained blast of omotenashi hospitality directed at visiting teams and their supporters this week in Japan has almost made it possible to forget that much of the tournament's success will depend on the hosts, who begin their campaign in the opening fixture against Russia on Friday in front of a TV audience organisers say could reach 40 million – just under a third of the country's population.

The Welsh squad were serenaded with a rousing rendition of Land of My Fathers by 15,000 people at a training session; the All Blacks have been treated to enough displays of the haka to

sustain them during the next six weeks of rugby; and an ear-splitting performance of taiko drumming should have blown away any post-flight cobwebs among the English contingent.

As it prepares for the opening fixture, the stakes could hardly be higher for Japan, both as a team and host of the first World Cup to be held in Asia.

World Rugby had already taken a gamble a decade ago when it awarded the 2019 event to Japan, whose long association with the sport has never been matched by its achievements in the international arena.

Before the last tournament in 2015, hosted by England, the Brave Blossoms had only ever won one World Cup match, against Zimbabwe in 1991, and lost every other by an average of 48 points, including a crushing 145-17 defeat at the hands of the All Blacks in 1995.

Japanese rugby didn't properly announce its arrival as a serious international proposition until 2015 when Eddie Jones's men became the first team in World Cup history to win three matches yet fail to advance to the



knockout stages. Those victories included an astonishing 34-32 defeat of South Africa in Brighton. Four years on, it seems incredible to recall that the match wasn't shown on terrestrial TV in Japan.

What happened next should calm any 11th-hour nerves over how much domestic interest the 2019 incarnation will generate. Having been denied live coverage of the Springboks shock, Japanese TV viewers set a tournament record, with 25 million watching

the team's next match, a 26-5 win over Samoa.

After years of struggling to emerge from the shadow of next summer's Tokyo Olympics, the World Cup has finally penetrated the public consciousness. Almost all of the 1.8m tickets have been sold, with the organising committee president, Fujio Mitarai, confidently predicting that all 48 games will be played in packed stadiums.

The 12 match venues have been shared among rugby heartlands in Kamaishi and Osa-

ka, but also cities such as Kobe and Fukuroi, where the sport barely registered a couple of years ago.

Officials say they are hoping two matches in Sapporo this weekend, including England v Tonga, generate 4.7bn yen (£35m) in revenue, as 80,000 of an expected total of more than 400,000 overseas fans descend on the tournament's northernmost venue.

The World Rugby chairman, Bill Beaumont, believes a "flame

has been lit" with the arrival of the World Cup in Japan. "Interest is phenomenal and more young people in Japan are getting into rugby than ever before," he said on the eve of the tournament.

Bu the groundswell of grassroots support for rugby – Japan's third sport behind professional baseball and football – could easily give way to apathy if the host side's performances fall short of rising public expectations.

Few believe that Jamie Joseph's men – Jap-

anese sport's latest challenge to the notion of a racially homogenous society – can do anything other than put Russia, currently ranked 20th in the world, to the sword at Tokyo Stadium on Friday.

But if their tournament evaporates as quickly as beer fumes on a balmy autumn evening against Pool A opponents Ireland, Scotland and Samoa, the resulting drop-off in local interest will frustrate the vision of World Rugby officials – to spread the rugby gospel across Asia and tap into a potentially huge financial dividends.

According to the Nikkei Asian Review, World Rugby's wish list for the 2019 legacy includes creating 40 million new rugby fans, adding 2 million new players across the region by the end of next year and seeing another Asian team qualify for the 2023 World Cup.

Twenty-four hours before the opening match, supporters, organisers and, very possibly, a large number of neutrals, are clinging onto the hope that Japan will avoid becoming victims of their success in England and

defy the predictions from uncooperative cephalopods.

Recalling Japan's exploits against South Africa, their popular captain, Michael Leitch, neatly summed up just how precarious rugby's place in the Japanese sporting firmament has been.

"When we left for England there were roughly 25 people waving us off at the airport," Leitch said this week, according to Kyodo news agency. "When we came back there were 6,000."

There will be no need for a homecoming this time around, but a place in the quarterfinals – a feat that will require a big win over Russia and leaves little room for blunders against Ireland, Samoa or Scotland – should go some way towards realising Leitch's vision for the sport in the country he has called home since the age of 15.

Reflecting on his side's 2015 post-Springboks loss to Scotland, Leitch added: "Although we lost, we inspired Japan and this time round, at a home World Cup, we have the opportunity to inspire Japan again."

We will soon know if the Brave Blossoms have it in them to seize their moment.

Praneeth out of China Open, India's campaign over

CHANGZHOU, SEP 20 (PTI): B Sai Praneeth suffered a three-game loss to world no.9 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in the quarterfinals to draw curtains on India's campaign at the China Open World Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Friday.

Almost a month after dispatching the Indonesian en route his historic world championships bronze at Basel, world no.15 Praneeth went down to the same opponent 21-16 6-21 16-21 in 55 minutes to end his campaign here.

Ginting will now take on eighth seeded Denmark's Anders Antonsen, who had clinched the silver at the World Championships.

Praneeth, who had reached the finals of Swiss Open early this year, came into the match with a 3-2 advantage in the head-to-head count against Ginting but he ran out of steam after winning the opening game.

Praneeth opened up a 3-0 lead early on and then kept widening the gap, reaching 11-3 at the break.

Ginting tried to make a comeback and was 11-14 at one stage but the

Indian ensured there were no hiccups as he pocketed the opening game comfortably.

In the second game, Ginting galloped to a 9-4 lead after grabbing six straight points and entered the interval with a cushion of 11-5.

The Indonesian continued to rule the roost after the break, jumping to a massive 18-6 lead and soon roared back into the contest.

The decider was a close affair as Praneeth erased a 2-6 deficit to catch up with Ginting and was ahead 11-7 at the breather. A fighting Ginting, however, turned the tables after reeling off six points on the trot to reach 13-12.

The Indonesian kept his hold on the proceedings after that to grab four match points and converted it easily to enter the semifinals.

Last month, Praneeth had reached the semifinals of the World Championships to end India's 36-year wait for a men's singles medal at the tournament.

He emulated legendary Prakash Padukone, who had also won a bronze at the 1983 edition.

Fernandinho is last line of defence as City face Watford test

MANCHESTER, SEP 20 (AFP): Fernandinho stepped seamlessly into Manchester City's backline in midweek to ease Pep Guardiola's defensive woes but the Premier League champions know their stretched resources will be tested by a physical Watford side on Saturday.

The clubs last met in the FA Cup final in May, with City romping to a 6-0 victory to complete the first-ever domestic treble in English football history.

But just four months later Guardiola, whose side are already five points behind Jurgen Klopp's rampant Liverpool, is facing a serious headache at the back, with Aymeric Laporte and John Stones out for significant spells.

Frenchman Laporte, described as the best left-sided defender in Europe by Guardiola, is out until at least February after injuring knee ligaments in the recent win over Brighton.

That left Stones, whose start to the season was hampered by injury, as the only specialist centre-half left



to partner Nicolas Otamendi, a player who has not been an automatic first choice for some time.

England defender Stones, however, suffered a muscle injury in training and reports suggest he could be out for four to five weeks.

City appear to be paying the price for a curious strategy in the transfer market.

Over the past two years they have shown strong interest in Virgil van Dijk and Harry

Maguire, only to balk at paying what turned out to be world record transfer fees for defenders.

Van Dijk went to Liverpool for ?75 million (£93m) while Maguire ended up at Manchester United for \$80m.

Given the vast wealth of the club's Abu Dhabi ownership, and the fact they have broken their own club transfer record in each of the past two summers, such caution when it comes to signing centre-halves

seems curious.

- KOMPANY LOSS - Guardiola also famously spent big on three full-backs -- Kyle Walker, Danilo and Benjamin Mendy -- in a matter of days in 2017 which makes his, and City's, refusal to compete with Liverpool and United for centre-halves all the more baffling.

The upshot of their approach was that they failed to replace veteran club skipper Vincent Kompany, who re-

turned to Belgium.

City's refusal to go toe to toe with their rivals means they face Watford, and new manager Quique Sanchez Flores, with only Otamendi as a fit, specialist central defender.

Watford are bottom of the league but come into the match buoyant after recovering from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 against Arsenal.

At least Guardiola has a ready-made solution, with defensive

midfielder Fernandinho playing at centre-back for the midweek visit to Shakhtar Donetsk, where City won 3-0.

The City manager has long spoken of moving Fernandinho back into that position as his career draws to a close although his hand has been forced by the injuries.

"That's why he is so important for us," said Guardiola after the victory in his side's Champions League opener.

"We don't have many choices. I think he is the only one I have. Other players can play in that position but Fernandinho is a clever player and so intelligent -- an incredible guy."

"He did well the first game he played. Of course he has a lot of experience and personality, and what he says the people follow him in the locker room so it's important."

Right-back Walker is another player who could move into the centre of defence in an emergency but, with Fernandinho in the veteran stage of his career now at 34,

Guardiola is one injury away from a full-

Mason Greenwood's first Manchester United goal earns win over Astana

PAUL WILSON

THECONVERSATION.COM Mason Greenwood came to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's rescue just as the Manchester United manager's faith in his promoted young players was beginning to look misplaced. On his first Old Trafford start, the 17-year-old earned United the points with a coolly struck winner.

Solskjaer had said he was an expert finisher and here he proved it with an important first United goal, though it was significant that by the 73rd minute he was the only teenager left on the field. "If you just get Mason in the box you know something is going to happen," Solskjaer said. "He might not play in the next game

but he'll be important for us this season. He'll get his minutes."

Greenwood became United's youngest ever European scorer, beating Marcus Rashford's record set in 2016. Yet with three inexperienced youngsters in the side and nine changes from the last starting lineup, United had failed up to that point to take a grip on the game, leading to the conclusion that the present crop of youth products may not be quite as ready as the manager had hoped.

Solskjaer had stressed the importance of winning the home games in the group and, as the champions of Kazakhstan are probably the weakest side United will face, he

will need to rethink his selection policy for future matches if he really wants to progress. It was notable that United were best served by old hands such as Nemanja Matic, Marcos Rojo and Rashford. The last is hardly old at 21, though he was a man among boys in this XI.

United signalled their attacking intentions from the outset, with Fred hitting the bar with a thumping 30-yard drive after just three minutes. Remarkably the diminutive Brazilian was not the smallest home player on the pitch, thanks to Solskjaer giving a full debut to the even tinier Angel Gomes. United should have taken the lead 12 minutes in when the 19-year-old's corner

rebounded invitingly off Axel Tuanzebe for Rashford, yet though the striker was onside and only a yard out, he found Nenad Eric in the Astana goal equal to his attempt to hook the ball over the line.

Phil Jones, making his first start of the season, was caught out midway through the first half when Roman Murtazayev turned him neatly and set off towards goal, only to produce the tamest of shots straight at Sergio Romero.

All the pre-match attention had been centred on Greenwood's elevation to the United front line but, though he did produce one shot narrowly off-target, it was Rashford who caused the visiting

defence most problems, especially when running through static defenders to reach Rojo's lofted passes. The old man of the United attack should probably have done better when the left-back's first invitation found him clear in the area, but his touch let him down when attempting to control the ball. The next time Rashford opted for a first-time volley, only to be denied again by Eric's reactions on the line.

Even such a callow United side were clearly superior to their Kazakh opponents – Astana found it increasingly difficult to cross the halfway line – yet the longer the game remained scoreless the more hesitant and laboured the home

side appeared. For all their pressure they could count themselves lucky that Murtazayev is such a poor finisher, for after another Jones mistake had left Marin Tomasov in possession on halfway the Astana forward was given another shooting chance and again put a weak shot far too close to Romero.

Rashford had another close-range chance at the end of the first half, again from Rojo, but this time via a deflection, when to the disappointment of the group of home fans in the "away" seats who kept up a barrage of noise throughout the game, he shot straight into the arms of the goalkeeper.

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Khan likely to meet Trump on Sep 23



ISLAMABAD, SEP 20 (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to meet US President Donald Trump in New York on September 23 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, according to a media report.

Pakistani daily Dawn quoting diplomatic sources said this could be the first of the two meetings Prime Minister Khan is expected to have with President Trump during the UNGA session.

The Khan-Trump meeting will take place a day after Trump along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address more than 50,000 Indian-Americans at the "Howdy Modi!" mega event in Houston.

Khan is expected to be in New York on Sunday evening, when Trump will be addressing the joint rally with Modi.

Both Khan and Modi are scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on September 27.

Khan has vowed to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNGA session.

In Islamabad, the Foreign Office on Friday said Pakistan has taken several measures to keep a sustained focus on the situation in Kashmir.

The Foreign Office in a statement said Pakistan will exercise all options available to ensure that the UN Human

Rights Council actions "meaningfully impact on the ground situation in Kashmir."

In New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale on Thursday said the focus of Prime Minister Modi's week-long visit to the US from Saturday will not be on terrorism, but on highlighting India's achievements and its global role.

Amidst attempts by Pakistan to internationalise Kashmir issue, especially after the scrapping of special status of Jammu and Kashmir, Gokhale asserted that abrogation of provisions of Article 370 was an internal issue and off the agenda at the UN.

Tension between India and Pakistan escalated after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Pakistan has downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

Without mentioning Kashmir, Trump on Wednesday said a "lot of progress has been made in reducing tension" between India and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Modi, during his meeting with President Trump in France last month, had categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation on Kashmir, saying it was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

Pak activist escapes to US; seeks political asylum: report

NEW YORK, SEP 20 (PTI): Gulalai Ismail, a prominent Pakistani women activist accused of treason for her alleged anti-state activities, has escaped to the US where she has applied for political asylum, according to a media report.

The 32-year-old activist, whose name was recommended to be put on the Exit Control List by the Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for her anti-state activities abroad, escaped Pakistan last month and is currently residing with her sister in Brooklyn, the New York Times reported on Thursday.

Ismail, who remained fugitive since late May this year, has not disclosed how she managed to leave the country.

I didn't fly out of any airport. I can't tell you any more. My exit story will put many lives at risk, the report quoted her as saying during an interview.

In November last year, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) was informed that the ISI had recommended putting Ismail's name on the ECL for her alleged anti-state activities abroad.

Following a petition by Ismail challenging the government's decision to put her name on the ECL, the IHC ordered the removal of her name from the no fly list.

The court, however, had allowed the interior ministry to take appropriate action, including confiscation of her passport, in the light of recommendations made by ISI, the report said.

Ismail is worried about her parents in Islamabad "who face charges of financing terrorism and remain under heavy surveillance".

She has reportedly met with various "human rights defenders" in the US and staffs of congressional leaders and garnered support for herself.

"I will do everything I can to support Gulalai's asylum request, Senator Charles Schumer, a member of the Democrat Party in New York, said.

"It is clear that her life would be in danger if she were to return to Pakistan.

Ismail has launched a research and advocacy group called Voices for Peace and Democracy aimed at protecting women in the conflict-hit zones of the world.

Global climate protests begin in Australia before UN summit

CANBERRA, SEP 20 (AP): Tens of thousands of protesters gathered Friday at rallies around Australia as a day of worldwide demonstrations calling for action to guard against climate change began ahead a UN summit in New York.

Some of the first rallies in what is being billed as a "global climate strike" kicked off in Australia's largest city, Sydney, and the national capital, Canberra. Australian demonstrators called for their nation, which is the world's largest exporter of coal and liquid natural gas, to take more drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Global Strike 4 Climate said protests were staged in 110 towns and cities across Australia on Friday, with organizers demanding government and business commit to a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Similar rallies were planned Friday in cities around the globe. In the United States more than 800 events were planned Friday, while in Germany more than 400 rallies were expected.

A similar coordinated protest in March that drew crowds around the world.

The protests are part-



ly inspired by the activism of Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, who has staged weekly demonstrations under the heading "Fridays for Future" over the past year, calling on world leaders to step up their efforts against climate change. Many who have followed her lead are students, but the movement has since spread to civil society groups.

Australian universities have said they will not penalize students for attending Friday's rallies, while Australian schools vary on what action, if

any, they take against children who skip classes to attend demonstrations.

Siobhan Sutton, a 15-year-old student at Perth Modern School, said she would fail a math exam by attending a protest in the west coast city of Perth.

"I have basically been told that because it is not a valid reason to be missing school it is not a medical reason or anything I am going to get a zero on the test if I don't actually sit it," she said.

"Even though we ourselves aren't sick, the

planet which we live on is, and we are protesting and fighting for it," she added.

Siobhan said her math teacher had given her the option to sit the exam before Friday, but she was unable to do so because of her commitments as one of the protest organisers.

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack said students should be in school.

"These sorts of rallies should be held on a weekend where it doesn't actually disrupt business, it doesn't disrupt schools,

it doesn't disrupt universities," McCormack told reporters in Melbourne.

"I think it is just a disruption," he added.

The demonstrations come as Australia's center-left opposition mulls abandoning its policy, rejected at May elections, of reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative coalition won a surprise third term with a commitment to reduce emissions by a more modest 26% to 28% in the same

time frame.

Morrison is in the U.S. for a state dinner with President Donald Trump on Friday and has been criticized for failing to include in his New York itinerary the UN climate summit on Monday, when leaders will present their long-term plans for curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Government lawmaker Craig Kelly on Thursday told students who planned to join Friday's climate strike that "you are being used and manipulated and everything you are told is a lie." "The facts are, there is no link between climate change and drought; polar bears are increasing in number," Kelly told Parliament.

"Today's generation is safer from extreme weather than at any time in human history," he added.

Some companies are encouraging their employees to join the climate strike.

Australian Council of Trade Unions, which represents labor unions, said it supported employees taking time off work to protest.

The council said in a statement that it "must take a stand for our future when our government will not.

Heavy rains wreak havoc in Houston ahead of "Howdy Modi" mega event

By Seema Hakhu Kachru

HOUSTON, SEP 20 (PTI): The stage is all set for the mega "Howdy Modi" event where US President Donald Trump will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will address over 50,000 Indian-Americans, but the torrential rains triggered by a tropical storm have wreaked havoc in Houston, prompting the governor to declare an emergency in several parts of the state of Texas.

Tropical Depression Imelda slammed Texas on Thursday, causing devastating flooding, power outages and prompting urgent rescues and warnings across southeastern Texas for people to stay indoors.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of emergency for 13 counties in southeastern Texas.

"This happened very quickly. It just demonstrates that in this day and time, climate change is real. We no longer have to be concerned just with a hurricane. We have to be concerned with almost any sort of weather system that can quickly evolve into a major storm and produce a great deal of rain," Abbott said.

The National Weather Service said the rainfall was winding down in areas that had been hit the hardest, but some parts of Fort Bend, Harris and Galveston counties were seeing additional 2 to 3 inches of rainfall every hour.

However, the volunteers of the "Howdy Modi" event are upbeat and confident that all the attendees at the sprawling NRG stadium in

Houston will have an experience they will cherish all their lives.

Leading volunteer Achalesh Amar told PTI that over 1,500 volunteers have been working round the clock to make the event a grand success.

"We are going to have a fantastic programme on Sunday," he said.

The mammoth event reflects the growing size, power and complexity of the Indian-American community, both in the Houston area and the US, he said.

US President Trump, along with a number of high-ranking US government officials - including Governors, Members of Congress and Mayors - will join Prime Minister Modi to attend the "Howdy Modi" event on Sunday.

"This is going to be a kind of family celebration. We want to say, 'Look at our community here! We are successful. We are strong. We have done good things for Houston!' We would like Modi to know all of this," organizers said.

Swapan Dhairyawan, president of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), said he has witnessed how Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's visit to India in November 2018 enhanced the bilateral trade.

Dhairyawan said he was confident that Modi's visit to Houston and his meeting with President Trump and top CEOs will "make new inroads in furthering business opportunities in oil

and gas, healthcare and Innovation Houston's three core sectors".

"We need a non-stop flight from Houston to New Delhi. Modi announced a direct flight from San Francisco to New Delhi during his 2015 speech in Silicon Valley, chamber members hope the same happens at Houston," he said.

Jagdip Ahluwalia, founding Secretary and Executive Director of the IACCGH, said President Trump attending the event was a sign of the "growing importance of the US-India relationship".

"From 2018 to May 2019, India moved from being Houston's 9th largest trading partner to its 4th largest trading partner preceded only by Mexico, China and Brazil," he said.

According to the US Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division, the trade between Houston and India is up 82.2 per cent, with Houston exports to India up 106.5 per cent and India's exports to Houston up by 48.8 per cent.

"Modi's last visit to Washington and meeting with Trump led to a multibillion dollar deal by India to buy US crude oil, which was multi billion dollar deal by India to buy US LNG, a lot of which will ship from our region and we are positive Modi's visit to the home of the energy hub, NASA will lead to a new series of bilateral opportunities between our region which IACCGH is here to help facilitate and support," Ahluwalia added.

UN chief could discuss Kashmir issue at UNGA: UN spokesman

By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 20 (PTI): UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres is likely to use the opportunity of discussions during the high-level UN General Assembly session that begins here next week to raise the Kashmir issue, the UN chief's spokesperson has said.

Spokesman for the Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric during the daily press briefing here on Thursday said that the UN chief has underscored the need for dialogue as the only way to resolve the issue and, as part of the solution for the current crisis in Kashmir, to make sure that human rights aspects are very much dealt with, as well.

"On Kashmir, the Secretary General has said previously, he remains

engaged. I think he will also use the opportunity of discussions during the General Assembly to raise it, Dujarric said, responding to a question on the situation in Kashmir.

On Wednesday, Guterres emphasised that dialogue between India and Pakistan is an absolute essential element for reaching a solution on the Kashmir issue, and said his good offices are available should both sides ask for it and called for full respect of human rights.

Well, our capacity is related to good offices, and good offices can only be implemented when the parties accept it. And, on the other hand, it relates to advocacy, and the advocacy was expressed and will be maintained, Guterres said during his

press conference ahead of the UN General Assembly session.

Guterres was asked by a Pakistani journalist about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and what will he do to bring a solution to the Kashmir issue.

I go on with a clear opinion that human rights must be fully respected in the territory, and I go on with the clear opinion that dialogue between India and Pakistan is an absolutely essential element for the solution of the problem, he said.

India has always maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is its integral part and ruled out any third party mediation, including either from the UN or the US, saying it is a bilateral issue with Pakistan.

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‘Fukrey’ animated show to premiere on Discovery Kids

FRIENDSHIP + MASTI = FUKRAPANTI



MUMBAI, SEP 20 (PTI): Discovery Kids has tied up with Excel Entertainment to bring back popular characters of Bollywood film “Furkey” in animated form.

Titled “Fukrey Boyzzz”, the show will revolve around the animated avatars of beloved characters of Hunny, Choocha, Laali and Bholi Punjaban along with all the other characters in the movie.

“Fukrey Boyzzz” will be launched in 6 languages, English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada only on the Discovery Kids Channel.

“For the first time ever, Excel Entertainment will be extending itself to developing content for kids with ‘Fukrey Boyzzz’. This is a huge step forward for us and brings with it, its own sense of accomplishment,” Ritesh Sidhwani, Co-Founder, Excel Entertainment, said.

Uttam Pal Singh, Business Head of Discovery Kids, hoped that ‘Fukrey Boyzzz’ will be their next big disrupter in the genre.

“The Indian animation industry has done extremely well over the last year and has delivered great IPs however almost all of them are targeted at children ranging from 4-8 years,” Singh said.

“It has the potential to expand our audience base beyond kids with parents watching the show along with them and sharing a great laugh together. We will work with Excel entertainment to skin the full potential of this IP in the most impactful manner,” he added.

“Fukrey Boyzzz” will start on the channel from October 12.

Joaquin Phoenix to star in Mike Mills’ next

LOS ANGELES, SEP 20 (PTI): Actor Joaquin Phoenix is close to lock a deal to star in “20th Century Women” director Mike Mills’ next venture.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, independent entertainment company A24 is in final talks to acquire the project and produce it.

Plot details are unknown for the untitled movie, which will start filming in November.

Chelsea Barnard, Lila Yacoub and Andrea Longacre-White are serving as producers.

Phoenix is currently awaiting the release of his festival-favourite “Joker”. The movie, which recently received Golden Lion Award at Venice Film Festival, will hit the theatres on October 4.

Megan Fox Admits She Had Mental Breakdown After Transformers and Jennifer’s Body

Megan Fox has seen a little bit of everything over the course of her acting career. Fox told Entertainment Weekly about her career after Transformers, and she says that things got exceptionally dark following that initial success. The actress had her big break at 21 in Michael Bay’s first Transformers film alongside Shia LaBeouf. Everything was going well after that first success, but things would quickly turn sour for Fox as she continued to take on roles.

Jennifer’s Body has become something of a cult-horror classic near a decade after the film’s release. That was not the reception around the time that the movie debuted and critics absolutely crushed Jennifer’s Body. What was supposed to be a star turn for the young actress quickly turned into a nightmare. She told EW that she had a psychological breakdown due to the stress and the weight of stardom.

“It wasn’t just that movie, it was everyday of my life, all the time, with every project I worked on and every producer I worked with, it preceded a breaking point for me,” Fox explained.

She continued, “I think I had a genuine psychological breakdown where I wanted just nothing to do. I didn’t want to be seen, I didn’t want to have to take a photo, do a magazine, walk a carpet, I didn’t want to be seen in pub-

lic at all because the fear, and the belief, and the absolute certainty that I was going to be mocked, or spat at, or someone was going to yell at me, or people would stone me or savage me for just being out... so I went through a very dark moment after that.”

Both Fox and Diablo Cody had to carry the commercial failure of the film with them into the next phases of their careers. They have come out the other side and don’t sound all that bitter about their experience with Jennifer’s Body. Time away from the Transformers franchise has done the actress well as she seems happy with her husband Brian Austin Green. Fox has even helped make the documentary series Legends of the Lost with Megan Fox.

“At that time I felt like I was suffering but now having a different outlook and having grown the way that I have grown, it made me a much better human being,” Fox reflected. She’s in a better space mentally, and while that doesn’t excuse the pain caused by various parties over the years, that doesn’t mean she can’t look forward to the future. Some fans still haven’t gotten past the bad blood between the actress and the Transformers franchise. Hopefully, as more time passes some of that relationship can be repaired and she can be recognized as a part of the movies that helped get the franchise rolling.

Paul Dano in negotiations to join ‘The Power of the Dog’ cast

LOS ANGELES, SEP 20 (PTI): Actor Paul Dano is in talks to star along side Benedict Cumberbatch in Jane Campion’s Netflix movie “The Power of the Dog”.

Netflix, which acquired the movie earlier this year from Cross City Films, will release the it in 2021.

According to Variety, the film is an adaptation of 1967 Thomas Savage novel of the same name.

The story revolves around wealthy Montana brothers who are two sides of one coin.

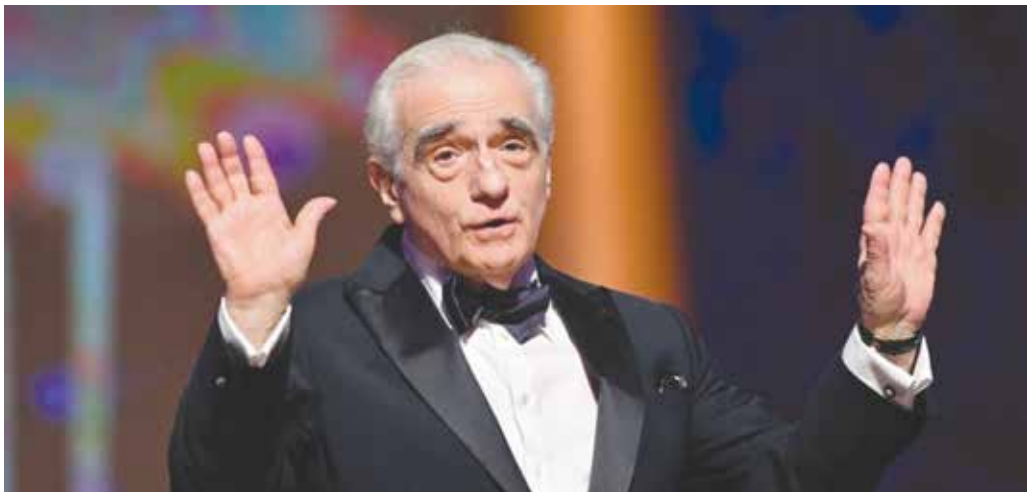
Cumberbatch plays a man who is “stolid, fastidious and gentle”, while his brother is “graceful, brilliant and cruel”. They jointly own one the biggest ranch in the Montana valley, but when Cumberbatch’s character secretly marries a local widow, his brother starts a ruthless war to destroy her by using her effeminate son as a pawn.

See-Saw Films and Big Shell Films/Max Films Production are backing the project in collaboration with Brightstar and BBC Films.



HIP HILARY! The actress, Hilary Duff sports a trendy yet casual outfit while out on a sunny Los Angeles day.

Martin Scorsese to receive Visual Effects Society’s Lifetime Achievement award



Los Angeles, Sep 20 (PTI): Legendary filmmaker Martin Scorsese will be honoured with the Visual Effects Society’s Lifetime Achievement award.

The director will receive the honour at the 18th annual VES Awards on January 29, 2020 at the Beverly Hilton.

“Martin Scorsese is one of the most influential filmmakers in modern history and has made an indelible mark on filmed entertainment.

“His intuitive vision and fiercely innovative direction has given rise to a new era of storytelling and has made a profound impact on future generations of filmmakers. Martin has given us a rich body of groundbreaking work to aspire to,” Mike Chambers, VES board chair, said in a statement.

The Oscar-winning director is currently looking forward to the release of his film “Irishman, which is set to have its world premiere at the New York Film Festival next week.

ARIES:

You are likely to feel disillusioned by what’s going on in the world around you, and that’s okay. Don’t let the Gregorian calendar tell you what you can and cannot do with your emotions. Sometimes you just have to put on a kaftan, light some incense, and let them bad vibes go. Turn inwards. Connect with your inner yogi. Do some pranayama. Breathe in the good chi. Journal your thoughts. Sip on chamomile tea. Before you know, the storm will have passed.

Tip: Soul-searching finds its way to the top of your to-do list.

TAURUS:

This is a big week for you on the career front, if only you’d be cognisant to what’s taking place around you. There’s no doubt that you’re in demand, Taurus. But do all of these projects deserve your time and attention? Something to think about before you say yes. On the other hand, separating the week from the chaff will help you move closer to the big dream. Remember to stay focused. Clear the clutter, both within and without, to be able to channel your energy in the right direction.

Tip: Act from a space of awareness.

GEMINI:

If we didn’t trip and fall every now and then, we wouldn’t learn to put our big girl pants on and grad-

uate to the next level. What doesn’t break you makes you stronger and helps you move closer to your dream, right? This phase of your life requires a greater degree of innovation. Finding new ways to do the same old things could be the key to initiating monumental change. The Universe is giving you a second chance, Gemini. Don’t blow it.

Tip: Let innovation become your magic word.

CANCER:

A daily affirmation to change your life: “I am increasingly magnetic to health, wealth, abundance, prosperity and money.” Replace lack with abundance and resentment with gratitude. Know that all your needs and wants will be taken care of as you move forward from here. But the transformation you are going through is both internal and external. Some of you may unexpectedly receive the big fat pay check as an affirmation that you are on the right track as far as your career is concerned.

LEO:

Things didn’t pan out the way you wanted them to. Now what? Disappointment comes when we become too attached to the reward, Leo. You have the choice to let go of the suffering, once and for all, and turn your attention towards the blessings. Remember, there is a lot you have learned on this journey, which can be applied

to your next big venture.

Tip: Focus on what you have gained in the process.

VIRGO:

Virgo, you are in the midst of a massive ascension—one that’s making you rethink the way you live your life. Remember, it all starts with the body; your sacred vessel in the earthly realm. Are you giving her the love and care she deserves? Do your squats, eat your greens, and keep your thoughts clean. For some of you, this is a time to embrace the yogi lifestyle.

Tip: Rise.

LIBRA:

Friday brings with itself the reminder that you are invincible as long as your heart and mind are in unison with one another. Resolve the inner conflict first, Libra. It is time to get back to the basics, reduce the load, and simplify things before you move ahead. Given that you are walking down the road less travelled, you need to be prepared for how demanding the journey might be. This is a new beginning and it will take a lot from you before it gives back. But give back, it will, and how!

SCORPIO:

“Stop chasing the money and start chasing the passion.” A Tony Hsieh quote to awaken you, dear Scorpio. Today brings with itself the reminder that it’s never

too late to start over or start something new. Don’t let age deter you from moving forward. This phase of your requires a greater degree of optimism and enthusiasm. Be willing to take the kind of risks you never have knowing that there will be magnificent results.

Tip: Your journey to greatness has begun.

SAGITTARIUS:

No great work of art can be created without re-treating into ‘shunya’ or the womb space. The beginning and end of all creation. You are learning the importance of listening to your inner wisdom and being receptive to the cosmic currents of inspiration. Understanding the balance between ‘doing’ and ‘being’ promises to change your life, Sagittarius. Make a conscious effort to refuel your creative reserves this weekend. Go for an aromatherapy session, for instance, or a walk in the woods.

Tip: Take the weekend to rejuvenate.

CAPRICORN:

The moonlight has a way of making everything look more beautiful as it conveniently hides the flaws. Take the unseen into contact too. There’s a lot transpiring underneath the shiny surface that you are unaware of. Remember, your emotions could be your worst enemy at this point. Keep your feet firmly planted on the ground

in order to make practical decisions.

Tip: Safeguard your interests first.

AQUARIUS:

Don’t blame the weather for your blues, Aquarius. What you are experiencing is a burnout: mental, physical, emotional. Honour the needs of your body and beware of pushing against the flow. Make healing a priority, especially if you are recovering from an illness of any sort. For some, an unpleasant encounter with a co-worker or client could pull the rug from underneath your feet. The pain is inevitable. But the good thing is, you now know the face of the enemy.

Tip: Do not let yourself get caught up in the notion that only those who are busy are doing something worthwhile.

PISCES:

You are surrounded by seemingly wonderful opportunities, but not all of them promise to deliver. Make practical decisions, Pisces. Don’t let your emotions overrule. There’s a good chance you know what your final destination is but you’re not being able to put in the work required to get there. How can you practice patience in a world that swears by instant gratification? For starters, clear out both the physical and emotional clutter.