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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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BJP becomes main opposition in Sikkim Assembly

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

In a turn of events which had been in the offing for a while now, ten Sikkim Democratic Front legislators today officially joined Bharatiya Janata Party in New Delhi in the presence of BJP working president, JP Nadda, and senior leader, Ram Madhav.

With this, the party which had been in government for 25 years and which had won the popular votes in the assembly elections earlier this year, has been reduced to an effective strength of one in the Legislative Assembly. And, a party which has not won any election at any level in Sikkim thus far, has been handed over the status of the single-largest Opposition party in the State.

Voters in Sikkim had awarded SDF 15 constituencies, and since two of these had to be released for by-elections, the party had an effective strength of 13 in the 32-member Legislative Assembly here.

It may be recalled that

10 SDF MLAs JOIN BJP IN DELHI



two other SDF MLAs, GT Dhungel [Upper Tadong] and Em Prasad Sharma [Namcheybung] had already parted ways from the party high command and sit in the Assembly as SDF-2. With ten of the remaining eleven having decamped to BJP, SDF president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling,

is now the only SDF legislator in the Assembly.

The 10 MLAs who will now wear BJP colours in the Assembly are: DT Lepcha [Gnathang-Machong], NK Subba [Maneybung-Dentam], KS Lepcha [Rinchenpong], Tashi Thendup Bhutia [Barfung], Farwanti Tamang [Melli], Raj Kumari Thapa [Ran-

gang-Yangang], Ugen T Gyatso [Tumin-Lingee], KB Rai [Chujachen], DR Thapa

doing the rounds in the past few weeks of SDF legislators joining BJP.

evening today where its spokespersons confirmed the news and

merged with BJP.

However, they also stated that they will comment on its MLAs joining BJP only after discussing and consulting with leaders and cadres of the party at the grassroot level.

SDF spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, said that the 10 legislators have not resigned from the party and

did not give any intimation of their decision to join BJP.

BJP is interested in bringing about a stable government in the State but SDF will stand with Sikkim and its people, said SDF spokesperson, PD Rai. His reference was in the context of SKM not having the numbers to give Sikkim a stable government. SKM currently as 16 MLAs, exactly the halfway mark, SDF has one, there are two in SDF-2, and BJP now has 10. With by-elections slated for three constituencies, politics could get even more contested here.

As things stand though, BJP, which had contested only 13 of the 32 assembly seats in elections earlier this year, and had received less than two percent of the votes with all its candidates losing their deposits [because they did not receive even 6% of the votes polled], is now the main Opposition party in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly occupying 31% of the seats.

PARTY STILL ALIVE, HAS NOT MERGED WITH BJP: SDF

[Upper Burtuk] and Pintso Namgyal Lepcha [Dzongu].

This has confirmed the chatter that had been

While news of the joining broke in the morning, SDF held a press meet later in the

also clarified that these legislators have joined BJP individually and that the party has not been

SKM scoffs at capitulation of SDF MLAs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, which must have been watching developments in New Delhi with a keen eye, refrained today from commenting directly on ten SDF MLAs joining the BJP.

SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, was quoted

NOT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT BUT DISINTEGRATION OF SDF: KHALING

ed in media reports as saying that he would not like to comment on the whys and wherefores since this was an internal matter of the SDF.

That did not, however, stop him from commenting that the latest development was another evidence of the fact that SDF was never a party about the people.

That such a huge shift was carried out without taking party workers or supporters into confidence was proof that SDF did not care much for people's sentiments or opinions.

On the question whether BJP now having debuted in the legislative assembly as an opposition party would affect SKM's working relation with the BJP government at the Centre, he said that BJP was a national party running the country and SKM a regional party running Sikkim. There was no reason why this working relationship should be affected, he said.

He also scoffed at the idea that the SDF deluge into BJP was a "political development."

"This cannot be called a political development. It is the disintegration of the SDF," he said.

Sikkim-BJP welcomes acquisition of SDF MLAs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, welcomed the joining of 10 SDF legislators into BJP as being in the interest of the Sikkimese and for the development and progress of the State as a whole. He expressed hope that the ten legislators will now play the role of a strong opposition in the State Assembly.

He confirmed that ten legislators officially joined Bharatiya Janata Party at the BJP national headquarters in New Delhi today in the presence of working president, JP Nadda, and national general secretary, Ram Madhav.

Speaking to media persons, Mr Chauhan said that these legislators desired to join BJP in the interest of Sikkim and the party high-command also took this decision in



the interest of the people of Sikkim and for the development and progress of the State.

"We are hopeful that these 10 MLAs will deliver on the role of a strong opposition in the State Assembly and the party high command has also given strong directions to them to essay the role of a constructive opposition. We will provide positive criticism in the works of the State gov-

ernment," he said.

Responding to media queries on the possible power tussle in the state unit with the arrival of the MLAs, Mr Chauhan said that BJP was a party run by the organisation and follows the principle of nation first, party second and self last, so no person can influence the party organisation.

"That said, we will work with our legislators to expand and strength-

en the BJP organisation in the State," he said.

"Time will tell whether BJP forms the government in the State or not, but for now our legislators will raise the voice of the people in the Assembly. The party will now focus on the upcoming by-elections," he added.

Mr Chauhan informed that he was in constant touch with the national general secretary since yesterday on this issue.

Coordination meeting deliberates on development of Mamley Kamrang as Model GPU

NAMCHI, 13 AUG (IPR):

A coordination meeting organised by Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to discuss the agenda for the upcoming launch of Mamley Kamrang as a model GPU under South District scheduled for 16 August was held at Officers Club here today.

The meeting had the presence of Secretary (Agriculture), Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary (Horticulture), DK Bhandari, DC (South), Ragul K, ADC (South), Satyen Pradhan alongside HODs of various departments under South Districts, Officials of various line departments, stakeholders and representatives of Mamley Kamrang GPU.

Nodal Officer MK Pradhan addressed the meeting and explained that a model village is envisioned as a sustainable community that is able to generate and maintain the available

resources necessary to improve its level of well being by strengthening the sustainability pillars of livelihood, infrastructure and services of the chosen village.

He presented a brief overview of what is being planned for Mamley Kamrang by way of change and development of infrastructure in terms of healthcare, sanitation, education, water and power supply, child development, agricultural and horticultural development and so on and also spelled out the role of a District Level Monitoring Committee which will monitor the implementation of the schemes and programmes in the said GPU.

Secretary (Agriculture), Khorlo Bhutia in his address stated that the concept of a 'Model Village' which has been conceptualized by the Chief Minister, who is also

turn to pg02

26,081 get MR vaccination in South



NAMCHI, 13 AUG (IPR):

As reported by South District Hospital, as of 12 Aug, a total of 26,081 children have been vaccinated under Measles Rubella Vaccination (MRV) in the district.

The details of MRV provided in various places are as follows, Namchi - 4535, Jorethang - 4323, Yangang - 3523, Namthang - 3065, Melli - 2991, Temi - 2103, Ravangla - 3237, Tokal Ber-

miok - 2304.

It may be mentioned here that statewide launch of MRV campaign was held in July. Similarly, in Namchi this program was launched at New Secondary School and children from the age group of 9 months to 15 years have been given the vaccination. This vaccination aims to build immunity for both Measles and Rubella disease amongst the children.

Aakraman vs Sikkim Himalayan for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 AUG:

Sikkim Aakraman Football Club will stake on Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club in the finals of the Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup here at Paljor Stadium on Thursday.

The final clash was set up after Sikkim Aakraman FC knocked out defending champions, ARC Shillong, 2-0 in the second semifinal match played today. Sikkim Himalayan SC had beaten Kalimpong XI 5-0 in the first semifinal match played yesterday.

Today, both teams played an attacking game with constant attacks and counter-attacks from the start.

Eric Amoh snatched an early lead

for the home team in the 7th minute and his teammate, Karan Rai doubled the lead in the 13th minute.

ARC Shillong players launched some strong attacks but missed the net in the first half.

Both teams got some good opportunities again in second half but failed to capitalize any into goals. When the final whistle blew, Sikkim Aakraman was through to the finals 2-0.

Now, two premier division clubs of the State will clash in the finals scheduled to kick off at 1:30 PM on 15 August.



Mani Trust raises funds for Kurseong cancer patient

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 13 AUG:

Mani Trust, a social organization of Kalimpong under Support For Life mission, had organized a donation camp for cancer patient Deepmala Tamang, wife of Pankaj Tamang, resident of Naya Dhura, Kurseong.

Godam Dhura Gram Sudhar Samity had approached Mani Trust for help following which permission was taken from Kurseong Municipality with Order number 622/M/Gen to hold a fund raising camp for 10 days at two different places in Kurseong.

In 10 days donation camp organised in Kurseong from 22 July



to 01 Aug, an amount of Rs.135,337 was collected.

Today a cheque of Rs.135,337 was handed over to the family of Deepmala Tamang

at a programme held at Kurseong Arts and Crafts Center.

The cheque was presented in the presence of Mani Trust Chairman,

Subash Mani Singh, Managing Trustee, Bina Lwagoon, Secretary, Utpal K Roy, Darjeeling Trustee, Ranjana Pradhan, Kurseong Trustee, Chun-

na Subba, Asst. Health Secretary, Pranita Subba, President of NF Railway Pensioner Association's, B.B.Thapa and members, representatives of

Godam Dhura Gram Sudhar Samity and electronic media.

The trust showed its gratitude by offering souvenir to NF Railway Pensioner Association and Hiran Thikhatri for supporting the fund raising camp. Certificates were offered to the volunteers who helped during the fund raising camp.

The Trust's Chairman, Subash Mani Singh thanked all those who donated selflessly and to all the volunteers and others who gave their precious time for the fund raising camp. He appealed to the Samaj to send representatives in future for such camps if organized for others.

Speaker visits Central Pendam Sr Sec School



WEST PENDAM, 13 AUG (IPR): Area MLA cum SLA Speaker, Lall Bahadur Das paid a visit to Central Pendam Senior Secondary school today.

The main focus of the visit was to take stock of the situation of the school and take decision for the overall welfare and benefit of the students. Accountability of teachers, students, administrators and other members were also taken into account to work

towards analyzing, evaluating and strategizing for the long run of the school.

The Speaker interacted with the Principal and teachers and addressed all the problems faced by the institution. Later he visited Pendam Football Academy and met with the team wherein he interacted with the Executives.

The Speaker gave assurances for all the possible help and expressed commitment in fulfilling all issues at the earliest.

Spices Board invites applications for annual award

GANGTOK, 13 AUG (PIB): Every year, Spices Board honours Cardamom (Large & Small) farmers who harvest the maximum crop from their plantation. There will be three awards for both Large and Small Cardamom i.e., One First prize and Two Second prizes of which one is exclusively for women farmers. The award consists of cash prize of Rs 1 lakh as first prize and Rs 50,000 as second prize along with a certificate of merit.

Spices Board invites application from the farmers of both Cardamom (Large) and Cardamom (Small) for Productivity Award, for 2019 crop season. Interested farmers shall submit their application along with supporting documents viz., proof of land ownership, copy of Cardamom Registration Certificate/RTC/Chitta adangal, brief note on cultivation techniques adapted, to the nearest Spices Board's office on or before 25 Aug, 2019.

Agri Minister attends I-Day Football Tourney at Tashiding



TASHIDING, 13 AUG (IPR): Agriculture Minister, Lok Nath Sharma attended the 73rd Independence Day Celebration Football Tournament 2019 as the chief guest at Tashiding Senior Secondary School today.

In the quarter final match played today, Munal Football Club registered victory against Dhupidara by 3-1 goals to enter the semi-final of Late Man Singh Chettri Memorial Football Tournament.

Minister Mr Sharma, in his address, said that the people of Sikkim now know the true significance of independence with the formation of the new government in the State. He also urged the gathering to imbibe patriotic feelings and to

accomplish noble deeds for the welfare of the state. The Minister also encouraged unemployed youth to adopt agriculture as a profession.

On the occasion, Independence Day Celebration Committee (IDCC), Tashiding extended sincere gratitude to the Minister for his presence and felicitated him with a Letter of Appreciation. Mr Sharma took the opportunity to plant a sapling in the school premises. He also visited Yatri Niwas wherein he interacted with the local people and listened to their grievances.

The programme also saw colourful cultural programme of various communities.

Denzong Dragons and Singiksa in finals of Mangan I-Day Men's Open

MANGAN, 13 AUG (IPR): Ecclesiastical Affairs Minister, Sonam Lama, attended the second semi final football match of the 73rd Independence Day Men's Open MLA Cup, 2019 at Mangan public ground, Mangan today.

Minister, Mr Lama was accompanied by the Superintendent of Police, Sonam Gyatso Bhutia who is also the president of North District Football Association.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister, Mr Lama extended his gratitude to the people of North Sikkim for bringing SKM into the Government and assured that the ruling Government would work in the interest of the State without any political interference. He also called the public of the district to



approach his department for any developmental works or grievances for which he will always be there positively.

The second semi final was played between Denzong Dragons and Dzongu Football Federation where the Denzong Dragons won the match

in a penalty shootout and entered the finals in which it will face Singiksa on 15 August.

The second semifinal of women's open football was played between Hee-Gyathang Sr. Sec School and Mangan Police Station where Chung Kipu Lepcha was present

as the chief guest. Mangan Police Station won the match in a penalty shootout and entered the finals. The final match will be played between Mangan Police and NSFA. Earlier, NDFA also felicitated Minister, Sonam Lama and Chung Kipu Lepcha with a souvenir.

NSSS wins U-14 I-Day tourney at Namchi



NAMCHI, 13 AUG (IPR): Namchi Senior Secondary School has won the 73rd Independence Day Under-14 Football Tournament, the finals of which was held at Singithang playground today.

The tournament was attended by District Collector (South), Ragul K as the chief guest along with officials from various departments, students and local gentry.

The Under-14 final match was played between Melli Senior Secondary School (MSSS) and Namchi Senior Secondary School (NSSS). The NSSS team emerged as the winner of the

tournament by scoring two goals against one. Adrin Pradhan from MSSS was adjudged as man of the match.

Similarly, the second semi-final match of Men's Open Football Tournament was played between Red Panda Namchi and Sports Authority of India (SAI) Namchi in the second half of the day.

Red Panda team scored two goals against one to enter the finals.

It may be mentioned here that the finals of Men's Open Football Tournament will be played between Red Panda Namchi and Sikkim Kamrang Football Club on 15 Aug, 2019.

Rs 200 cr deficit in conducting class 10 and 12 board exams forced fee hike: CBSE

NEW DELHI, AUG 13 (PTI): A deficit of over Rs 200 crore in conducting board examination for class 10 and 12 has forced the CBSE to hike fees, according to officials. Early board results, measures to make examination leak proof and error-free evaluation have imposed a financial burden on the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), they said. The passing on the responsibility of conducting competitive examinations like the JEE and the NEET to the newly-formed National Testing Agency (NTA) has also left it in a fund crunch, the officials said.

The CBSE last week notified an increase in the examination fees for class 10 and 12, registration fees for class 9 and 11 and migration fees.

"The fee hikes are required for self sustenance, and to maintain the quality in examination, evaluation and overcome a financial deficit of around Rs 200 crore," the board's secretary Anurag Tripathi said. The CBSE spends around Rs 500 crore annually to conduct examinations for class 10 and 12, according to him.

"There has been a deficit of around Rs 200 crore every year in the past few years. However, we were able to neutralise that deficit by conducting competitive examinations, including the JEE and the NEET, but these have now been passed on to the HRD Ministry's National Testing Agency," Tripathi said. "Hence, we have no

option, but to increase fees. We cannot compromise the quality of examination," he said.

The CBSE is an autonomous and self-financing body and the move will now bring it to a no profit no loss situation, the board's secretary said.

"The decision to hike fees was taken after due consideration of all factors by the Governing Body of the CBSE and the fees has been increased after a gap of five years," he added. Last week, the fees for Class 10 and 12 general category students was doubled from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500 for five subjects. SC and ST students in Delhi, who were paying Rs 375 earlier, will now pay Rs 1,200 for five subjects. In a special arrangement in the national capital, these students were paying only Rs 50, while the Delhi government was paying the rest of the amount as subsidy.

The CBSE's examination cost has seen a huge increase due to several measures, including deployment of over 5,000 observers and deputy superintendents at all centres to ensure there is no cheating, Tripathi said.

He said cost increased as there was a 40 per cent increase in the number of evaluators. Due to this, "we were able to deliver the result one month early this year, increase in honorarium of evaluators and proper training of evaluators to ensure zero errors in evaluation process," Tripathi said.

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Coordination meeting...

scheduled to launch the programme on 16 August, will see a GPU in each of the four districts of Sikkim being developed as such.

Termining the move as a transformative and notable one, Mr Bhutia explained that rendering holistic development in the model and smart GPU will happen through integrated approach that is being adopted by the nodal department.

He also underlined that the nodal Department's aim towards identifying the needs of the villagers and priorities and defining activities that can mobilize the community by use of resources from running government schemes.

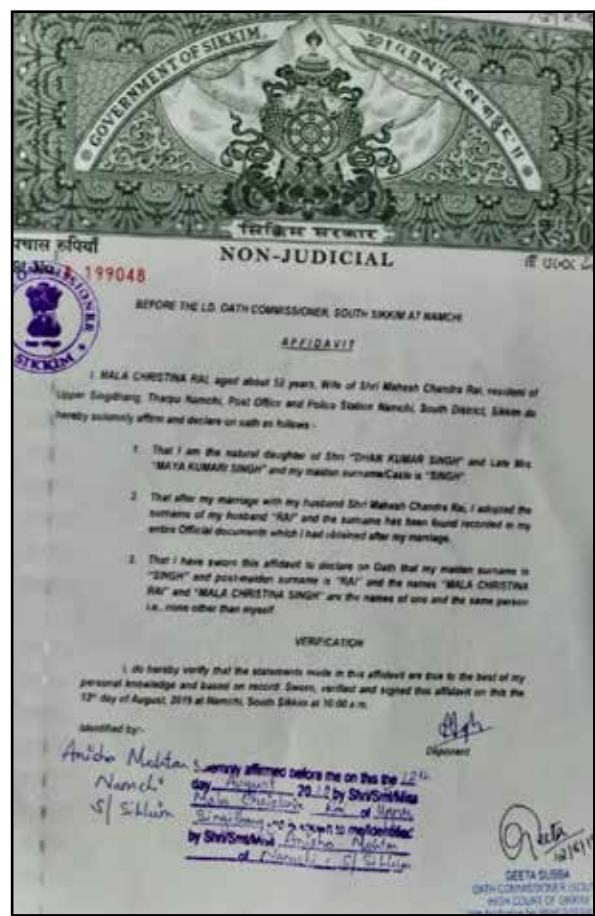
He called for active participation and cooperation from all line departments and stakeholders to achieve the goal of transforming Mamley Kamrang GPU as one of the significant Model GPUs.

The meeting also saw Secretary (Horticulture), DK Bhandari shedding light on the economic scope of tourism in the model GPU which will aid the youth and public of the area become self-sufficient and self-reliant.

He also stressed the significance of some unique characteristics which will make Mamley Kamrang a unique Model GPU whose model will be worth emulating in the adjoining regions.

DC (South), Ragul K, in turn, assured all help from departments in South District which will be working in convergence with the nodal department to mobilise their resources to make Mamley Kamrang GPU a model GPU under the district.

Later, suggestions were discussed by the officers and representatives of various departments.



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

Mr. Subash Lama
Proprietor

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Rahul Dravid has no conflict of interest case: CoA

MUMBAI, AUG 13 (PTI): The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Tuesday cleared Rahul Dravid's appointment as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), ruling that there is "no conflict of interest" case against the former India captain.

Lt General Ravi Thogde, the new member of the CoA, said the ball is now in BCCI Ombudsman-cum-ethics officer DK Jain's court.

"There is no conflict on Rahul's case. He has got a notice and we have cleared his appointment. We had seen no conflict, but if the Ombudsman finds any conflict, we will give our response to the Ombudsman stating why we found no conflict," Thogde said after a CoA meeting here.

"After that he (Ombudsman) has to consider. It's a process and it will continue." Dravid, one of the most respected figures in Indian cricket, found himself embroiled in a conflict of interest case after his appointment at NCA since he is an employee of India Cements which owns the Chennai Super Kings franchise in the IPL.

Dravid, who was in Mumbai prior to Tuesday's CoA meeting, has sent his reply to Jain but it could not be ascertained if he has resigned from his post. While appointing him, the CoA had made it clear that Dravid will have to relinquish his post as vice-president of India Cements or be on leave until he completes his tenure. Dravid did not resign, instead, he sought leave without pay from India Cements, prompting MPCA life member Sanjeev Gupta to persist with his complaint against Dravid.

Thogde stressed that the NCA needs to be of international standard under Dravid. "There are a few things that needs to be done at the NCA. There are shortage of grounds and staffs, including coaches. There has to be continuity. "Someone of Dravid's stature will have to ensure that the NCA is of international standard. He has given his vision and we are fully in support of his vision. We will work together."

The CoA also discussed the upcoming BCCI elections in Tuesday's meeting, besides the appointment of various coaches of the national team.

"We discussed about the upcoming elections. There were discussions with (Electoral Officer) N Gopalaswami and certain things have been resolved. A code has been drawn out," Thogde said.

Asked about the state cricket bodies which are yet to come on board for the elections, he said, "There will be minor delays but there is still ample time. We just took a review and most of them will join by then."

"I don't see such a great difficulty in getting it done. Some of them are yet to register their constitutions. More than 24-25 bodies who have fallen in line. The intentions are to hold the elections around the date which has been set (October 22).

Governor meets PNGS Atal Tinkering Lab team



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 AUG:**

In separate engagements, Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad granted audience to a group of students and teachers from Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior Secondary School, Gangtok and a delegation from Remanti Sangeet Academy, Gangtok, today, a press release from Raj Bhavan informs.

It was a courtesy call by the students belonging to the famous team of Atal Tinkering Lab at Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior

Secondary School who have won the prestigious Robotex Nationals held in Ahmedabad on 28 July this year. The team is heading to Shanghai, China on 14 Aug, 2019 to compete in the global competition, the release mentions.

It may be mentioned that the Atal Tinkering Lab of PNG comprises of instructor, Ivan Dorjee Lepcha and three immensely talented students namely: Purna Pradhan, Sushmita Sharma and Batseba

Lepcha, all belonging to Class XII Science section of the school.

The team has won the Robotex Nationals and bagged the opportunity to represent the country at the global stage.

The Governor expressed his delight on the achievements of students and blessed the students and the instructor for the future competition. He said that by winning the national competition on Robotics, the team has brought fame and goodwill for the

school and Sikkim in general. It is the reflection of hard work and dedication of the team and also the glimpse of talent that Sikkimese youth and students possess, the Governor added.

In another engagement, the Governor launched an audio video of National Anthem, produced under the banner of Remanti Sangeet Academy, Gangtok. The video features four vocal students of Remanti Sangeet Academy. It was an initiative of Remanti Sangeet Academy to provide platform to the talented young girls and an extension towards promoting the national campaign of Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao.

The Governor expressed his pleasure on releasing the video and extended best wishes for the academy and its students for their future endeavour. He also blessed the students for their bright career and future. On the occasion the students tied Rakhi on the Governor.



I-Day preparations in Namchi

NAMCHI, 13 AUG (IPR): SP (South), Prawin Gurung briefing parade commanders for the 73rd Independence Day celebration at Singhithang ground in Namchi.

Sri Satya Sai Sewa Sangathan Sikkim delivers relief to Assam

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 AUG:**

Sri Satya Sai Sewa Sangathan, Sikkim, today shared details about relief works the organization has undertaken in flood-hit Assam.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSSS-Sikkim president, Punam Pradhan, informed that the Sangathan, in coordination with the Sai Sangathan in Assam, carried out relief activities in the flood-affected area of Dhubri in Assam where lakhs of people are suffering and have been displaced by the floods.

Mr Pradhan said the 59 volunteers from Sikkim trained in disaster management took part in the relief work at Dhubri.

Before going to Assam, the Sangathan carried out a relief collec-



tion drive across Sikkim and people came forward to donate food items, cash and clothes. More than Rs 6.5 lakh worth of materials and cash was raised, it is informed.

The Sikkim team also held free medical camps which were attended by more than 700 victims.

They also bleaching powder and phenyl in the waterlogged areas to guard against spread of epidemics. Every affected household was also provided candles, biscuits and mosquito repellents.

This is not the first

time that Sri Satya Sai Sewa Sangathan Sikkim is carrying out such relief activities, having done so during the Nepal Disaster and the 2011 earthquake in Sikkim as well.

"As our spiritual teaching goes, service to men is service to God. We, following the enlightenment of our God, are doing it with sincerity. We would also like to thank one and all who supported our effort. We are hopeful of receiving similar cooperation in near future too," Mr Pradhan said.

"World championship adds spice to Test clash"

GALLE, (SRI LANKA), AUG 13 (AFP): New Zealand start their world test championship campaign against Sri Lanka on Wednesday and captain Kane Williamson said that vying for a place in a world final will add to the competitive edge in future series.

Williamson's side return to cricket action in Galle exactly a month after their cruel World Cup defeat by England, with the Kiwi skipper

welcoming the addition of a new potential title. After several delays, the world championship was finally launched at the end of last month. The world's top nine ranked teams will compete over two years for a place in the final at Lord's.

"It's a welcome addition to the Test format, bringing that context into every Test match that you play," Williamson told reporters.

"Every time you play any team it's very, competitive, but now there's that added carrot where in two years time everyone is vying for an opportunity to play in a Test Championship final, which will be a really exciting thing to be a part of." New Zealand are currently ranked number two in Tests and a 2-0 series win over Sri Lanka will help them claim top spot from India.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT (WELFARE DIVISION)

KALYAN BHAWAN, TADONG, LUMSAY.
projectsjewd@gmail.com

Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP: 2019-20
(Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means) at
www.scholarships.gov.in portal

TIMELINE:

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Last Date for submission of online application for fresh scholarship (first time applicant) and Renewal scholarship (applicant who has got scholarship during 2018-19) by students. | Pre -Matric scholarship | 15 th October 2019 |
| | (i) Post -Matric Scholarship & (ii) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship. | 31 st October 2019 |

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- Detailed 'Instruction' for filling in online application and 'Frequent Asked Question (FAQs)' are available on the National Scholarship Portal homepage.
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For Universities/ Institutes /Colleges/Schools:

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For detailed information- Visit the website of Ministry of Minority Affairs, i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in Samadhaan Helpline (Toll Free)-1800-11-2001 (Timing 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday, expect holidays).

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Additional Secretary (scholarships)
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Date: 14.8.2019**

TEMI TEA MR. SIKKIM 2019 MANHUNT

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17th & 18th AUGUST

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MR. SIKKIM MANHUNT

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**
SOOCHANA BHAWAN, 5th MILE, TADONG.
GANGTOK- 737102

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Celebration of Independence Day, 2019 will be held at Paljor Stadium on 15th August, 2019. Being a national function, the programme will be attended by Honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim along with other high ranking dignitaries.

Due to security reasons, carrying of water bottles are strictly forbidden at the venue. Further, all Govt. employees, PSUs and members of public representatives are requested to carry their a respective identity cards to gain access to the venue.

IPR Department
Government of Sikkim.

Shocking, Not Surprising

Time to worry when political shifts stop shocking

The Bharatiya Janata Party has snuggled its way into the Sikkim Legislative Assembly. For a party which has never been elected to any position in the State, came a distant third in the Assembly elections with none of its candidates saving even their security deposits, BJP now occupies ten seats in Assembly here. The capitulation of SDF legislators has been staggering in its numbers and urgency. Where, till yesterday, the party had 13 [effectively 11] MLAs in the House, it now has only one. SDF president Pawan Chamling finds himself back where he was when he began his revolt in 1993-94, the sole member of the Opposition. Yes, there will be those who will argue that BJP is now the majority Opposition party in the State, but that is a forced equivalent given that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is not only a part of the NDA, but its leader has gone to some lengths of late to reiterate the alliance SKM enjoys with BJP. The two SDF MLAs who decided against staying with SDF when their colleagues were pouring into BJP don't count as Opposition either since they have more than publicly announced their SKM leanings. Now that SDF has technically been reduced to three legislators, the path has also been cleared for these two MLAs to officially join SKM since the anti-defection law no longer applies to them in SDF's reduced numbers. As for Mr Chamling, now that all the cards have been laid on the table, he should show his hand and place his bets. He has remained incommunicado ever since he accepted the assembly results with rather gracious equanimity, perhaps waiting for the inevitable flights to play out. Those who still remain with him need to hear his position and plans. If he has resurgence in mind, as he must surely have, he needs to share it with more people and make more public displays of his intent for his support base to feel reassured.

And make no mistake, Mr Chamling has a substantial support base. He did lead SDF to a larger share of the popular vote this year even if the number of votes did not translate into a larger seat share. In that sense, Election 2019 was a weird one for Sikkim. The party which won the highest number of votes did not win the numbers required to form the government, the party which formed the government also brought an extra member into the House and a party which did not receive even two percent of the votes has inherited 31% of the Assembly seats. As a daily cartoon commentary in a national daily was called, "O tempora! O Mores!" Yes indeed, what times, what customs! Elections, projected as the biggest festival of democracy in our country have delivered a hangover which just refuses to go away, muddying the political waters so much that the electorate must be wondering why they even bother to vote since their supposed "representatives" are so vulnerable that compromises are easy for them to strike and accountability a lost virtue.

One could argue about the ethics, or rather the lack thereof, of the politicking underway in Sikkim, but that would be a waste of printers' ink and newsprint because none of the actors in the play underway appear even remotely bothered even about the optics of what is playing out. For the people, it is important now that they demand that "leaders" before they are awarded party tickets to contest Assembly elections should have cut their teeth in more grassroots engagements for the party to prove that they are about the people and the party. Those who decide party tickets should have enough experience to see which leaders are too exposed to not capitulate at the slightest pressure and which leaders enjoy at least some semblance of genuine fondness and support in their constituencies. Leaders handpicked by leaders above them have won elections in Sikkim, but have never stayed the course because their political careers are tied to their seniors and not the support of their people. Once the party goes out of power, such leaders have nothing left to fall back upon and strike deals to either make the best of the remaining term or buy protection against "victimization." The voters find no space in all these calculations. Of course, not everything is as cut and dried as this, but this is largely how party politics plays out here. But now, as the electorate realizes that it can rock the boat rather effectively, it should demand more accountability, lesser self-aggrandizement, more resolute commitments, more consistent communication and less compromised positions from its leaders.



The roots of America's white nationalism reach back to this island's brutal history

J.M. OPAL
theconversation.com

The vicious ideology that allegedly drove a gunman to kill 22 people in El Paso, Texas last week could be traced back to a tiny island on the eastern fringe of the Caribbean Sea.

As England's most famous and profitable colony in the 17th century, Barbados shaped many of the rules and ideas of the future United States. That includes the toxic mix of white privilege and resentment that has plagued the United States ever since. **FROM SERVANTS TO SLAVES**

The planters who came to this island in 1627 treated everyone badly. As one English overseer recalled, "I have seen such cruelty [done there] to servants, as I did not think one Christian could have done to another."

Most of these British servants had agreed to work for five years on the island's tobacco and cotton farms. But in the 1640s, during Britain's civil war, thousands of POWs, vagrants and orphans were also "spirited" to Barbados and sold to the highest bidder. Very few returned.

During that same decade, English merchants gained access to west African slave depots. Responding to the island's insatiable labour demands, these merchants sent ships full of people from Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde to Barbados. The planters put these slaves to work making sugar, which resembled cocaine both in its power to addict users and to enrich producers.

The big planters soon calculated they could wring the most profits from Africans. Many of the Black slaves had previously worked on Portuguese-occupied sugar islands in West Africa and were less susceptible to the deadly yellow fever that killed thousands of white servants in a 1647 outbreak. Growing criticism in England and some

colonies of the practice of "spiriting" freeborn Englishmen to the Americas also shaped this decision.

In 1661, the island's assembly passed two historic acts, one that rejected bondage for "any Children of the English Nation" and one that embraced it for "brutish" Africans.

Henceforth, white meant freedom. Black meant slavery.

FROM ISLAND TO CONTINENT

The Barbados model then spread to British North America, sometimes via word-for-word cribbing of the 1661 laws. South Carolina in particular was as much a colony of Barbados as it was of England. Its haughty elite invited whites to see themselves as members of a ruling race whose manifest destiny was to conquer the New World.

But dangling such unlimited powers before the whole Euro-American population turned out to be self-defeating for the British colonists.

This was especially true for those who later spurned the Crown and declared themselves to be entirely free and independent. Refusing any limits on their pursuit of wealth, the most ruthless owners eventually took over the best lands and the most slaves, leaving many whites with little more than their racist sense of entitlement.

This moment came quickly on tiny Barbados. As one wealthy planter noted in 1666, men like him had already "wormed out" the humble colonists. Many poorer merchants then moved on to other colonies, where they gained a reputation as both proud and bitter.

Things were different in the new United States, because even before the Louisiana Purchase it was some 5,000 times larger than Barbados. But no matter how much land they stole from the Indigenous inhabitants, the spectre of Barbados and South Carolina — places with enslaved Black majorities — haunted American citizens.

Many opposed slavery but not out of sympathy for the enslaved. They opposed slavery because they desired an all-white nation, where everyone was equal because everyone was superior.

These fears and fantasies of white supremacy in America have pushed many people to vigilante violence and racial terrorism. This happened in the 1860s, as Black Americans emerged from slavery, and again a century later, as racial minorities demanded real equality. It's happening again today.

"YOU WILL NOT REPLACE US!"

Convinced that people like them built America, the white nationalists of the 21st century hate both non-white "others" and "cultural elites" who don't care enough about blood-and-soil privileges. They are convinced that the world is theirs and at the same time, that the world is against them. They embrace conspiracy theories filled with dark reflections of the distant past.

The alleged El Paso shooter believed in the idea of the "great replacement, in which whites are replaced by an "other" workforce of low-wage immigrants. Unable to identify with non-white workers, the alleged shooter named them as mortal threats to the way things should be in America — that is, with him on top.

Now more than ever, we need to see that white nationalism came out of some of the darkest corners of American and British colonial history. It's a product of past decisions rather than something natural or inevitable.

It's a tangle of lies, greed and fear that we can dissect, confront and overcome.

In moments of despair, we might take a lesson from Barbados. Independent since 1966, the island nation has become a true democracy, a decent society that has awoken from the long nightmare of its past.

[the writer is Associate Professor of History and Chair, History and Classical Studies, McGill University]

Memory and attention difficulties are often part of a normal life

JACQUELINE ANDERSON
theconversation.com

From young adults to people in their 60s, everyday functioning in today's world can place high demands on our attention and memory skills.

Memory lapses such as forgetting an appointment, losing our keys, forgetting a distant relative's name or not remembering why you opened the fridge can leave us believing our thinking skills are impaired.

But you might be too hard on yourself. Tiredness, stress and worry, and feeling down or depressed are all common reasons adults experience attention and memory difficulties.

ATTENTION AND MEMORY SYSTEMS

Attention and memory skills are closely connected. Whether we can learn and remember something partly depends on our ability to concentrate on the information at the time.

It also depends on our ability to focus our attention on retrieving that information when it's being recalled at a later time.

This attention system, which is so important for successful memory function, has a limited capacity – we can only make sense of, and learn, a limited amount of information in any given moment.

Being able to learn, and later successfully remember something, also depends on our memory system, which stores the information.

CHANGES IN ATTENTION AND MEMORY SKILLS

In people who are ageing normally, both attention and memory systems gradually decline. This decline starts in our early 20s and continues slowly until our 60s, when it tends to speed up.

During normal ageing, the number of connections between brain cells slowly reduce and some areas of the brain progressively work less

efficiently. These changes particularly occur in the areas of the brain that are important for memory and attention systems.

This normal ageing decline is different from dementia and Alzheimer's disease, which cause progressive changes in thinking skills, emotions and behaviour that are not typical of the normal ageing process. Dementia comes from a group of diseases that affect brain tissue and cause abnormal changes in the way the brain works.

If you're concerned your memory difficulties may be a symptom of dementia, talk to your GP, who can refer you to a specialist, if needed, to determine whether these changes are due to normal ageing, dementia or some other cause.

If you experience persistent changes in your thinking skills, which are clearly greater than your friends and acquaintances who are of a similar age and in similar life circumstances, see your GP.

NORMAL ATTENTION AND MEMORY DIFFICULTIES

Broadly, there are two main reasons healthy adults experience difficulties with their memory and/or attention: highly demanding lives and normal age-related changes.

A person can be consistently using their attention and memory skills at high levels without sufficient mental relaxation time and/or sleep to keep their brain working at its best.

Young adults who are working, studying and then consistently using attention-demanding devices as "relaxation" techniques, such as computer games and social media interaction, fall into this group.

Adults juggling the demands of work or study, family and social requirements also fall into this group.

Most adults need around seven to

nine hours of sleep per night for their brain to work at its best, with older adults needing seven to eight hours.

The second common reason is a combination of ageing-related brain changes and highly demanding work requirements.

For people in jobs that place a high load on thinking skills, the thinking changes that occur with normal ageing can become noticeable at some point around 55 to 70 years of age. It's around this time age-related changes in the ability to carry out complex thinking tasks become large enough to be noticeable. People who are retired or don't have the same mentally demanding jobs generally experience the same changes, but may not notice them as much.

This is also the age many people become more aware of the potential risk of dementia. Consequently, these normal changes can result in high levels of stress and concern, which can result in a person experiencing even greater difficulties day to day.

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS CAN TAKE ITS TOLL

Feeling down and sad can affect memory and concentration. When a person is feeling worried and/or down regularly, they may become consumed by their thoughts.

It's important to recognise how you're feeling, to make changes or seek help if needed. But thinking a lot about how you're feeling can also take a person's attention away from the task at hand and make it difficult for them to concentrate on what is happening, or remember it clearly in the future.

So feeling worried or down can make it seem there is something wrong with their memory and concentration.

BOOSTING YOUR ATTENTION AND MEMORY SKILLS

There are a number of things that

can be done to help your day-to-day memory and attention skills.

First, it's important to properly rest your mind on a regular basis. This involves routinely doing something you enjoy that doesn't demand high levels of attention or memory, such as exercising, reading for pleasure, walking the dog, listening to music, relaxed socialising with friends, and so on.

Playing computer games, or having a lengthy and focused session on social media, requires high levels of attention and other thinking skills, so these are not good mental relaxation techniques when you are already mentally tired.

It's also important to get enough sleep, so you are not consistently tired – undertaking exercise on a regular basis often helps with getting good quality sleep, as does keeping alcohol consumption within recommended limits.

Looking after your mental health is also important. Noticing how you are feeling and getting support (social and/or professional) during longer periods of high stress or lowered mood will help ensure these things are not affecting your memory or concentration.

Finally, be fair to yourself if you notice difficulties with your thinking. Are the changes you notice any different to those of other people your own age and in similar circumstances, or are you comparing yourself to someone younger or with less demands in their life?

If you have ongoing concerns about your attention and memory, speak with your GP, who can refer you to a specialist, such as a clinical neuropsychologist, if needed.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Clinical Neuropsychology, University of Melbourne]

IT notices to Durga Puja committees to make them surrender to BJP: TMC

KOLKATA, AUG 13 (PTI): The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of sending IT notices to the Durga Puja committees to intimidate them and make them surrender to the saffron camp.

Accusing BJP of “political double standards” for alleging that TMC was trying to stop Durga puja in Bengal, it said in reality it is the saffron party which is trying to do so.

The TMC held a day-long dharna here in protest against central government’s decision to serve IT notices to Durga puja committees.

“During the Lok Sabha poll campaign they(BJP) used to allege that our government had tried to stop Durga Puja in the state. This was completely false and politically motivated.

It is the BJP government which is trying to do it now by sending IT notices to Durga puja committees. This is po-



litical double standards,” TMC secretary general and state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee told reporters.

The sole intention of sending IT notices to the puja committees is to intimidate them and make them surrender to the BJP so that its leaders can control them, he alleged.

“They (BJP) had initially planned to

take over these committees but failed. So now they are trying to threaten puja committees with IT notices. Most of these committees conduct Durga Puja with subscription taken from locals and handful of local advertisements. We fail to understand what it has to do with the Income Tax department,” Chat-

terjee said.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee had on Sunday criticised the Centre for issuing income tax notices to several Durga Puja committees in the city saying festivals should be exempt from levies.

She had also announced that the women’s wing of the party

- ‘Banga Janani Brigade’ will lead the eight-hour long dharna.

BJP had criticised TMC’s decision to hold the protest and accused a section of its leaders of laundering money “looted” in the chit fund scams in the state through the puja committees.

“Why are they(TMC) so afraid if the IT department is looking into the source of money (of the puja committees) if there is nothing wrong in it? Most of the Durga puja committees in Kolkata are controlled by TMC leaders. And they use these committees to launder black money and cut money,” senior BJP leader Mukul Roy had said.

TMC has termed the allegations as baseless.

Post the Lok Sabha elections, the two parties have been rushing to gain control of the city’s prominent pujas, a time-tested medium to reach out to the people.

Assam’s Dikom Tea Estate brand fetches ‘record’ Rs 75K per kg



GUWAHATI, AUG 13 (PTI): A rare variety of tea from Upper Assam’s Dikom Tea Estate set a new record on Tuesday as it was auctioned for Rs 75,000 per kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC), an official said.

The tea, ‘Golden Butterfly’, was purchased by city-based Assam Tea Traders, GTAC Buyers Association Secretary Dinesh Bihani said.

“In the tea sector, this auction centre has created an image of a place where records are meant to be broken and history is meant to be re-written”, Bihani said adding that this “exceptionally rare and special tea” was sold through J Thomas and Company. The GTAC is

emerging as a centre for showcasing high-priced Assam speciality tea, he said. The centre is providing an opportunity to sellers who want to sell their tea at remunerative prices, Bihani said.

An exotic tea is judged by its aroma, taste and colour and this tea is characterised by extremely mellow and sweet caramel flavour, Assam Tea Traders’ owner L K Jalan said.

Recently, GTAC witnessed two big records last month, when the orthodox variety ‘Maijan Golden Tips’ fetched a price of Rs 70,501 per kg and one kilogram of Manohari Gold, another specialty orthodox tea variety, was sold at Rs 50,000.

Member of banned outfit arrested in Assam

DIPHU (ASSAM), AUG 13 (PTI): A member of the outlawed Dimasas National Liberation Army (DNLA) has been arrested in Assam’s Karbi Anglong district and arms and ammunition recovered from his possession, the SP said.

Jidung, who was earlier an active cadre of the United People’s Liberation Front, had surrendered in 2016. He later joined the DNLA, Upadhyay stated. Jidung was mainly responsible for recruiting new cadres and training them in specialised weapon handling. He was also involved in extortion, and arms dealing with the NSCN (IM), the SP added.

Gaurav Upadhyaya said. A 9 mm pistol, its magazine and three rounds of ammunition were recovered from his possession, the SP said.

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Nok Air to start Guwahati to Bangkok flight service



GUWAHATI, AUG 13 (PTI): Thailand-based budget carrier Nok Air on Tuesday said it will start direct non-stop flight service from Guwahati to Bangkok twice a week from September 22.

The flights will be on Thursday and Sunday from Guwahati, while the service will be on Wednesday and Saturday from Bangkok, the company said in a statement.

Nok Air will connect Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport to four more popular destinations in Thailand -- Chaing Mai, Chaing Rai, Phuket and Hat Yai -- via Don Mueang International Airport.

“Guwahati is not only an important business hub, but also a city with immense tourism potential. Nok Air, the Thai budget airline, is focused on providing quality service and comfort to all our passengers,” Nok Air Chief Commercial Officer Thaveechai Ashar-

eyaphadkul said.

The company has informed that the flight will depart Guwahati at 1:40 am and will arrive at 6 am in Bangkok, from where it will leave at 11:30 pm and reach Guwahati at 0:40 am.

“Nok Air has announced a special introductory offer for a limited period, which includes complimentary hot meals and 20 kg free baggage allowance,” it added. The flight is now open for bookings and can be done through online portals and travel agent, the statement said.

“The visa on arrival service will provide a hassle-free experience for all our passengers and this facility is offered to the tourists at Bangkok,” Nok Air said.

Nok Air is a budget carrier under the management of Nok Airlines Public Company Limited.

It is currently operating both in the domestic and international sectors.

Manipur’s 9-yr-old green ambassador wants to create awareness on nature conservation

IMPHAL, AUG 13 (PTI): A nine-year-old girl, who has been appointed as the state’s green ambassador after a video showing her crying over felled trees won hearts on the Internet, said she wanted to be a forest officer when she grew up and generate awareness on environment conservation.

The video clip, which went viral on social media, showed Valentina Elangbam, a resident of Hiayanglam Makha in Kakching district, weeping inconsolably as two Gulmohar trees that she had planted four years ago have been chopped down.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh had announced her appointment as the green ambassador last week.

“She cry for felling down of 2 trees which she planted when she was only in class 1. We

rushed at her place and tried to console her providing more saplings. Now She will be the State government’s “Green Ambassador” for CM’s Green Manipur Mission “let’s follow her, save nature (sic),” he had tweeted.

The CM had also ordered the forest department to gift 20 saplings to Elangbam to compensate for her loss.

Expressing gratitude over her appointment, the nine-year-old said she would reach out to people and explain to them the importance of conserving the environment.

“I don’t understand why most people do not care about the importance of preserving our environment. I want to become a forest officer when I grow up and reach out to them and tell them it was necessary,” she said.

Tripura CM asks misguided youth to join mainstream

AGARTALA, AUG 13 (PTI): Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Tuesday called upon tribal youth, who were still pursuing the wrong path, to join the mainstream for the speedy development of the state.

The chief minister was speaking after welcoming 88 militants of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), who surrendered arms, in Dhalai district’s Ambassa.

“Today’s surrender of 88 NLFT militants proves that the path they had adopted long ago was not the right one. Now, time has come for those, who are still misguided, to join hands to speed up development to make Tripura the best,” he said.

Criticising the previous governments for having neglected the welfare of the indigenous people, the chief minister



said, “With Modjis slogan ‘Sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas’, we want to boost the socio-economic condition of the tribals.”

A process has been initiated to raise two Indian Reserve (IR) battalions for the state which would create 2,200 jobs, he said.

“The surrender of the 88 NLFT militants will ensure lasting peace in the state. If peace prevails, the state will prosper,” Deb said.

Her father, Premkumar, said the Class 5 girl waters trees and flowering plants every day before going to school.

“Elangbam had been nurturing several flowering plants and trees near our place for the past few years. The two Gulmohar trees were felled due to a road widening project. We could not have stopped it,” he said.

A statement issued by the state Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) said Elangbam has been appointed as ‘brand ambassador’ for ‘Chief Minister’s Green Manipur Mission’ for one year “in recognition of her immense love and affection for trees and to generate mass awareness on conservation of environment”.

It also said that Elangbam will be a part of the government-sponsored plantation programmes.

The surrendered insurgents deposited three carbines, one mortar, six SLRs and four Chinese rifles.

The NLFT surrender comes after the Centre, the state and the insurgent outfit signed an Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) in New Delhi on August 10.

As per the MoS terms, the surrendered militants will be rehabilitated as per the package announced by the Union Home Ministry, a senior police official said.

This is the first major surrender of militants after the BJP-IPFT government came to power in March 2018 and the third since Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhwl-led Tripura National Volunteer (TNV) and Ranjit Debbarma-led All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) laid down arms in 1988 and 1993 respectively.

Duration of Maths, English & Science classes extended in Odisha schools

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 13 (PTI): Odisha government on Tuesday decided to increase the duration of classes in three subjects - Mathematics, English and Science - in all state-run schools.

School and Mass Education minister Samir Ranjan Dash said the decision to extend the duration of classes was taken after reviewing the performance of students in the matriculation (class 10) examination.

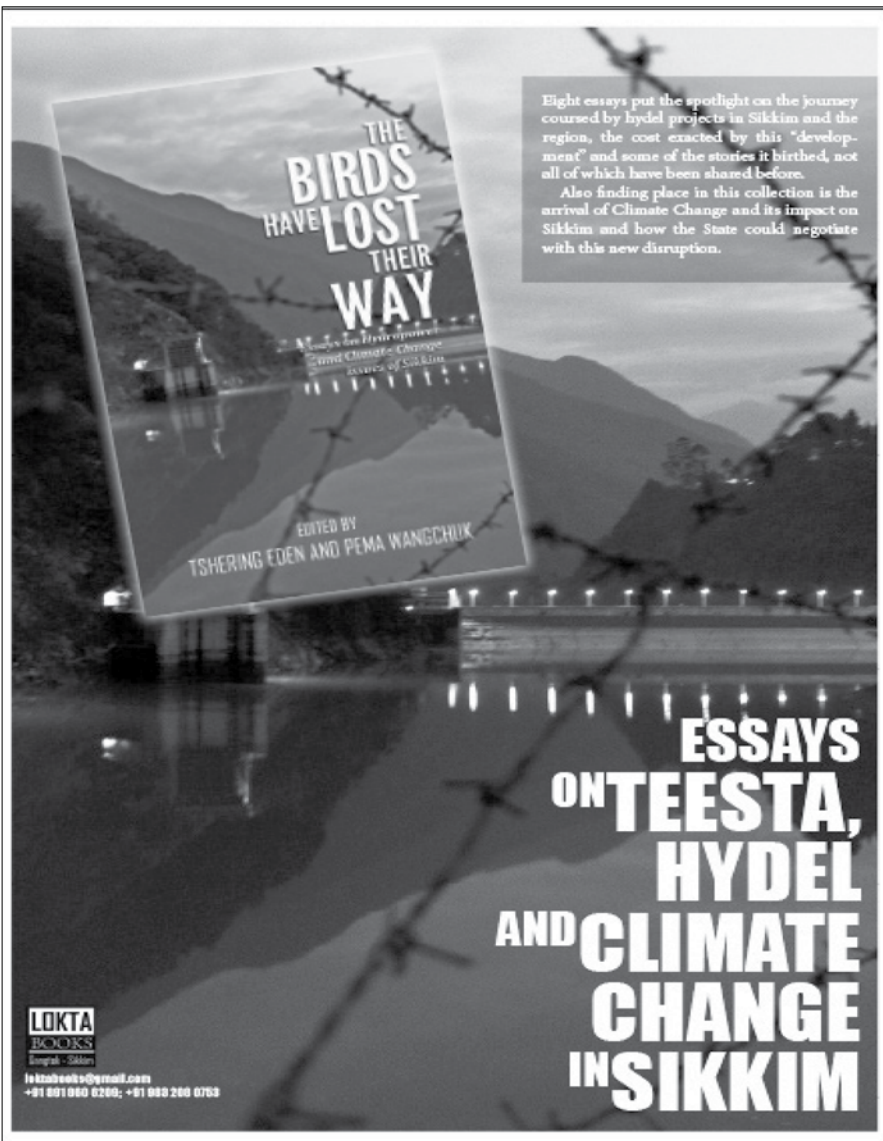
The standard of students in the three subjects needs to be improved. So “It has been decided to extend duration of classes in english, mathematics and science subjects from existing 45 minutes to 90 minutes,” he said.

Dash, who recently visited several state-run schools in Delhi, said there is a need to improve standard of english

in the state run Odia-medium school.

“To start with, we have decided to launch a pilot project where one school in each district will be identified for giving emphasis on english subject. The students’ performance in examination will be judged before extending it to other schools,” the minister said. According to sources in School and Mass Education department, most of the students in Odia-medium schools fail in english language. Therefore, special emphasis needs to be given on the subject.

Eminent educationist Niranjan Panda said the students of Odia-medium schools do not get much time for english subject. Since this is a foreign language, the students need to be more focused in order to score better in the subject, he said.



How El Paso’s soccer community is turning loss into action

CHRISTIAN ARAOS
theGuardian

Had his career gone to plan, Sebastián Velasquez would probably not have been in El Paso last Saturday.

Velasquez showed promise in his first three seasons playing in MLS but alcoholism drove him to leave for rehab in 2015. Sober for four years, he signed for El Paso Locomotive FC of the USL Championship in June after a brief stint in South Korea. He was in the gym preparing for a game that evening when a teammate texted him about a shooting at the Walmart near the Ciela Vista Mall. He made it home to his girlfriend and two children where he learned of the mass shooting. His coach told him the game was postponed.

“I didn’t sleep that night,” Velasquez said. “I stayed up and thought about what I would do in that situation. When you’re a father, you’re always thinking about what would I do if someone pulls out a gun. ... That’s something you can expect at any moment in time.”

Usually on game days like last Saturday’s, Velasquez and his teammates would run into Larry Durbin and other members of the 8th Notch – the Locomotives’ supporters group – and have a chat. After the shooting, they messaged each other to see if everyone was OK. An 8th Notch member had been inside the Walmart, though was unscathed. By the end of the weekend, Durbin, who teaches at a local high school and coaches the girls’ soccer team as well, knew everyone in the supporters group was fine. But on



the first day back in class, he saw how distraught his players were over the loss of a classmate who had been killed.

“It hit them pretty hard,” he said. “They’ve been with some counselors and they just had a memorial for that person on Monday. That was tough and they’re a little better, but you can still see it in their eyes.”

The 8th Notch were there when Durbin’s team lost to the eventual state champions last season and they will be there for a Local Legends game tentatively scheduled for Sunday at the high school. Proceeds from that game will go to victims as well as the Paso del Norte Soccer League. Four coaches of the Fusion – an independent girls’ team in the league – were wounded as they were preparing for their fall season fundraiser. One assistant coach died and a 15-year-old player for another boys’ team was killed as well. Before the shooting, Paso del Norte was an increasingly successful youth league that had overcome tight budgets and long road trips to compete at the highest levels

of American youth soccer. “We were celebrating because two weeks ago, two of our teams went to the Presidents’ Cup and came back as national champions,” board member Francoise Feliberti said. “We were planning to do all kinds of fancy stuff to honor them at the beginning of the season and ... OK, we’re still going to do fancy stuff, but we’re also going to do something for the team and the player that was shot inside the Walmart.”

A group of Arsenal fans started a GoFundMe for Paso del Norte that Velasquez found and tweeted out. It has raised over \$24,000 as of Friday morning. The Locomotive, together with the El Paso Chihuahuas and the MountainStar Sports Group, pledged to donate \$150,000 to victims. Another GoFundMe page has been set up by the South Texas Youth Soccer Association, of which Paso del Norte is a member. That page has raised almost \$19,000 as well.

“We wanted to make sure that the kids that are in El Paso can play,” Jennifer Davis, the executive director of South Texas Youth Soccer said. “We’ve

seen that when kids who have been in tragedies get on the field, they forget all that. It helps them escape for a while and feel normal to just play soccer again. We want them to get back on the field so they can play the game that they love and feel that passion again.”

Davis said she also reached out to Chris Canetti, a man who by his own admission has had “too much experience” in planning responses to tragedies. Canetti, president of Houston’s 2026 World Cup Bid committee, arranged a donation to survivors of the Santa Fe shooting when he was president of the Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash. He also organized the Soccer Night in Newtown event after the Sandy Hook shooting. David, Canetti and Velasquez are planning a charity friendly that they hope involves current and retired American and Mexican men’s and women’s players.

Velasquez has received the Locomotive’s blessing to take the lead on organizing the event while also training for their match against top-of-the-table Phoenix Rising FC this weekend.

When he was a boy, Velasquez split his time between South Carolina and Medellín, Colombia, where he was taught about ‘invisible borders’, the lines separating neighborhoods where rival drug gangs fought from where the city was safe. After last Saturday’s shooting, his friends in Medellín asked him how the United States got so dangerous.

“That just means that the people from my country think the people here are crazy, while the people here think that we’re mass murderers and drug dealers. That’s the crazy perspective that this country has come to. I got my US citizenship when I was 18 and it’s given me opportunities and safety. We think the US is so much safer but now we’re talking about 251 mass shootings and it’s become an unexpected. It’s not like in Medellín where you know where not to go. Here you go to grocery mall, you go to a grocery store or you go to a school and you don’t know if your kid is coming back or your parents or you and that’s scary.”

Velasquez and his

girlfriend found El Paso to remind them of the places they grew up and are looking to find a home to raise their newborn daughter and his four-year-old son. When he asked for ideas for a date night, his teammates recommended crossing the border to Juárez, Mexico. The images of the cartel violence that plagued the city came to his head, but they told him it’s where they go for a nice dinner.

When he became a father, Velasquez vowed to stay sober.

“I don’t want my kids to grow up in this situation and I don’t want to sit at work while my kid is at school and think if something bad is going to happen,” he said. “That’s not what this country is about. This country is diverse and soccer players are diverse. You have 26 players on a team all from different places, you go to America and it’s made up of millions of people from different places and you have to figure out how to live as one and be as safe as you can. It’s the same situation with a soccer team and when times get hard you have to make change with action.”

Eng hope Archer is on target against Smith in second Ashes Test

LONDON, AUG 13 (AFP): England are set to field a revamped attack featuring fast bowler Jofra Archer as they try to finally get Australia’s batting star Steve Smith out cheaply and level the Ashes in the second Test at Lord’s.

Holders Australia, bidding to win their first away Ashes series for 18 years, humbled England last time out thanks in large part to Smith, who returned to this level following a 12-month ban for his involvement in a ball-tampering scandal with two centuries as they cruised to a 251-run first Test win at Edgbaston.

England have only twice won the Ashes after losing the opener -- when all-rounder Ian Botham turned the 1981 series on its head with several superb solo efforts, and in the thrilling 2005 contest which they edged 2-1.

Defeat at Edgbaston was made worse for England by the fact that James Anderson, their all-time leading wicket-taker, broke down after bowling just four overs with a calf injury that has ruled the 37-year-old swing specialist out of a Lord’s encounter starting Wednesday.

“We are very aware that England played without James Anderson, one of their best players and we got lucky,” said Australia coach Justin Langer.

“That’s the truth of it, with him not playing. He’s a brilliant fast bowler, one of the all-time greats, so if he only bowls four overs for the match then we got lucky there.

“Here at Lord’s there’s different conditions and different pressures so we just have to make sure we’re right for this Test match,” added the former Australia opener, who played at the ‘home of cricket’ for English county Middlesex.

Anderson’s absence means England are set to give a Test debut to Archer, who will be returning to the ground where he bowled the dramatic Super Over that sealed a thrilling World Cup final win over New Zealand last month.

But the 24-year-old, coached at Sussex by former Australia pacerman Jason Gillespie, has played just 28 first-class matches and Langer was looking to his batsmen to wear Archer down in a way that’s not possible in a one-day international, where bowlers are restricted to a maximum of 10 overs.

“It’s the same for everyone in Test cricket, get them into their second, third and fourth spells,” Langer said.

- **‘MORE READY THAN EVER’** -

But a defiant Archer insisted he was ready for the challenge, having proved his fitness for Sussex in a 2nd XI match against Gloucestershire during which he took 6-27 in the first innings and then scored 108 after a side strain ruled him out of contention at Edgbaston.

“I’ve played a lot more red-ball cricket and it’s my preferred format,” Archer said. “I’m more ready than I’ve ever been.

“I bowled 50 overs in one game for Sussex and am the one usually bowling at the end.

England are also set to field left-arm spinner Jack Leach, who scored a career-best 92 in the one-off Test win over Ireland at Lord’s last month, after Moen Ali was dropped following the off-spinner’s lacklustre display at Edgbaston.

Analysis by CricViz shows Smith averages a modest 34.90 against left-arm spin compared to a superb overall Test mark of nearly 63.

But as for suggestions Smith had an inherent weakness when confronted with this type of bowling, Langer replied: “No, I don’t buy into it.

“He has got this incredible ability to solve problems.” Australia could rotate their attack at Lord’s, with left-armers Mitchell Johnson and Josh Hazlewood looking to test an England top order prone to collapse.

“Whether it’s a green top or a dry wicket, we have really good options,” said Langer.

“We have six high-class fast bowlers and we’ll work out what’s going to be best for this Test match and the whole series.”

Perisic joins Bayern on one-year loan from Inter Milan

BERLIN, AUG 13 (AFP): Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich have signed Inter Milan and Croatia winger Ivan Perisic on a one-year loan deal, the club confirmed Tuesday. “Ivan will help us immediately with his many years of international experience,” said Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic.

“He is technically gifted and flexible in attack,” Perisic, 30, is widely considered to be Bayern’s back-up option after their bid to sign Leroy Sane was derailed by the Manchester City winger’s recent knee injury. The 2018 World Cup finalist had already confirmed the transfer to German media after he was spotted undergoing a medical check in Munich on Monday.

According to Bild newspaper, Bayern have paid five million Euros (5.6m) for the Croatian international, with the option to buy him outright for around 20 million Euros at the end of the season. Perisic is a familiar name in Germany, having won the Bundesliga title with Borussia Dortmund and the German Cup with Wolfsburg earlier in his career.

Dhawan under pressure as India look to seal series

PORT-OF-SPAIN, AUG 13 (PTI): Opener Shikhar Dhawan would be desperate for a big knock after four consecutive failures as India eye another series victory when they clash with the West Indies in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

With scores of 1, 23, 3 in the Twenty series and single-digit score of 2 in the second ODI, Dhawan’s comeback post injury has been far from ideal.

Troubled by in-coming deliveries, twice Dhawan lost his wicket to pacer Sheldon Cottrell.

Since Dhawan is not part of the Test squad, the Delhi left-hander would like to finish the Caribbean assignment on a high.

There is another mini-battle brewing in the Indian batting line up for the number four slot with Shreyas Iyer putting tremendous pressure on Rishabh Pant.

Pant has enjoyed the backing of the team management, especially skipper Virat Kohli but his repeated failures and Iyer’s 68-ball 71-run knock in the second ODI has made things different.

Pant’s temperament is cause of concern as he



threw away his wicket on numerous occasions. Any team would prefer a level-headed batsman for that crucial position and by his knock on Sunday, Iyer has made a strong case for himself.

Even legendary Sunil Gavaskar has vouched for Iyer for the number four slot. He wants Pant to drop down to number five as he feels the wicketkeeper batsman is best suited to provide the late impetus. Elsewhere on the batting front, Kohli would look to carry on with his good batting form after hitting a brilliant 120 off 125 balls in the second ODI.

Kohli anchored In-

dia’s innings in Iyer’s company after openers Dhawan and Rohit Sharma were dismissed cheaply. Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the star for India with the ball in the last match with impressive figures of 4 for 31 from eight overs and the pacer would look to carry on his fine form in the coming matches of the tour. Bhuvneshwar’s pace colleague Mohammed Shami (2/39) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/59) also chipped in wickets but the left-arm spinner went for some runs and he would be hoping for better display in terms of economy rate.

Although teams don’t

prefer changing their winning combinations, Kohli might give Navdeep Saini a run in the last ODI by resting Shami.

West Indies, on the other hand, would be desperate to save the series with a win.

But for that to happen, West Indies’ batting unit will have to take more responsibility. It’s time talents like Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran rise up to the occasion for West Indies cricket to thrive.

After the final ODI, the two teams will battle in a two-match Test series, starting August 22 at North Sound, Antigua.

TEAMS (FROM):

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Navdeep Saini

West Indies: Jason Holder (capt), Chris Gayle, John Campbell, Evin Lewis, Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran, Roston Chase, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Keemo Paul, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas, Kemar Roach.

Match starts at 1900 IST.

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Body found in hunt for missing teen in Malaysia: charity

SEREMBAN, AUG 13 (AFP): A body has been found in the hunt for a Franco-Irish teen in Malaysia and it is likely the missing girl, a charity said Tuesday, 10 days after she disappeared from a rainforest resort.

Nora Quoirin, 15, went missing on August 4, a day after checking into the resort with her London-based family.

They suspected she was abducted but Malaysian police classified it as a missing person case.

More than 350 people were deployed to hunt through dense jungle next to the Dusun Resort, not far from Kuala Lumpur, backed by helicopters, drones, sniffer dogs and divers.

Shamans conducted rituals in an effort to locate her while the investigation was assisted by police from Britain, Ireland and France.

The Lucie Blackman Trust, a UK charity that supports the families of British people missing overseas, said a body had been found. "At this time we cannot confirm it is Nora. However it sadly seems likely.

Investigations are underway to confirm identity and cause of death,"



said a statement from the group. The charity did not give further details. Malaysian officials did not immediately comment. As news emerged a body had been found, police vehicles were seen racing to an area not far from the resort.

The discovery came a day after her family offered a 50,000 ringgit (11,900) reward, donated by a Belfast business, for information that could lead to her return. The schoolgirl "is so precious

to us and our hearts are breaking. We are appealing to anyone who has information about Nora to help us find her", said a family statement.

At one point, her mother Meabh fought back tears as she made an emotional speech thanking the search team, with the girl's French father Sebastian by her side.

The 12-acre (five-hectare) resort where the teenager disappeared from is next to a patch of thick jungle

and in the foothills of a mountain range.

Her family said it would be extremely unusual for the reserved youngster to have wandered off on her own.

She has a condition called "holoprosencephaly", which means she has a smaller-than-normal brain, and has limited verbal communication and cannot write more than a few words.

She attended a school for young people with learning and communi-

cation difficulties.

While officially treating it as a missing person case, police did not rule out other possibilities.

An open window was found in the cottage where the family was staying at the resort.

Police have questioned a number of people, are examining fingerprints found on a window, and looking into reports that villagers heard a truck early on the morning that the girl disappeared.

Indian-origin ex-policeman jailed for sexual offences with underage girls

BY GURDIP SINGH SINGAPORE, AUG 13 (PTT): An Indian-origin former national serviceman with the Singapore Police Force was sentenced to two years' jail on Tuesday for preying on underage girls online and involving them in sexual acts. A R Arun Prashanth, 25, committed sexual acts on three of his five victims who were then aged 12 to 15, and was found to have snapped more than 700 upskirt photos of unknown women with his mobile phone, the Straits Times reported.

Before handing down the sentence, District Judge Kessler Soh told him: "I hope you realise that what you had done had caused serious harm to the five young girls."

On July 31, Arun, who is now jobless, pleaded guilty to one count each of sexually penetrating a minor, performing an obscene act on her and procuring the commission of an obscene act by another underage girl. He also admitted to four counts of insulting a woman's modesty. These seven charges involved two minors and four unknown women.

Twenty-one other charges for similar offences involving three other young girls and several unknown women were considered during sentencing. The victims cannot be named due to a gag order, the report said. Sometime between

February and March 2016, Arun sent a message to a 12-year-old girl through Instagram and they exchanged mobile phone numbers when she responded in April that year.

He started sending her lewd messages several times a day soon after. The court heard he had also told the girl on at least two occasions that he was a policeman.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Kwang Jia Min said: "The accused pestered her for naked pictures or videos of herself showering. He also pressed her to meet him at his house or hotels for 'cuddles' or sexual intercourse. (The girl) felt harassed by the accused and she would try to ignore him. However, she would feel bad for not replying and she replied at times."

The girl relented on May 8, 2016 after he repeatedly harassed her.

The DPP said that the girl later regretted giving in to his request and felt depressed. Arun got to know another girl through a WhatsApp group chat in 2016 and messaged her separately in October that year. He told the 14-year-old that he was from the Home Team (also considered as part of police force) and she told him her age when he asked for it.

He pestered her to meet up but she rejected him and later blocked him on WhatsApp as she

found his messages "very annoying". Despite this, Arun continued to send her messages through Instagram, the court heard.

On February 3, 2017, she sent Arun a text message, telling him that she would be playing truant and he invited her to his home in Hume Avenue near Upper Bukit Timah Road in suburb northern Singapore. When she arrived, he took her to his bedroom and performed an obscene act on the girl. The court heard that the driver noticed the teenager was trembling and asked her about what had happened. She told him about her ordeal and he drove her to Sembawang Neighbourhood Police Centre to lodge a report.

Officers arrested Arun at his home the next day and they uncovered 720 upskirt photographs of unknown women on his mobile phone during an investigation.

Urging the judge to sentence Arun to at least two years' jail, DPP Kwang said that he had stripped his 12-year-old victim of her innocence, causing her to suffer psychological harm. Arun's lawyers Edmond Pereira and Harjeet Kaur had stated in their mitigation plea that their client was a first-time offender and asked the court to sentence him to 20 months' jail.

Offenders convicted of sexually penetrating a minor can be jailed for up to 10 years and fined.

US Congressman apologises for not consulting Indian Americans on Kashmir letter to Pompeo

BY LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, AUG 13 (PTT): In an unprecedented move, a senior US Congressman has apologised to Indian Americans for not consulting them before shooting off a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to express his concerns on the situation in Kashmir after India scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congressman Tom Suozzi in a letter to Pompeo on August 9 said the action by the Indian government in Kashmir "risks provoking mass social unrest..."

"These new restrictions on the autonomy of the state and the rights of Kashmiris could also embolden extremists and terrorists to act," Suozzi said in his letter after India scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Agitated over the letter, several Indian Americans, who constitute a significant part of Suozzi's Congressional District in New York and had played a key role in his election and fund raising, flooded the office of the Congressman with angry messages.

Suozzi called an emergency meeting of Indian Americans, which was attended by more than 100 Indian community members, who demanded the lawmaker to withdraw his letter. Suozzi in a statement said, "On Sunday, I met with 100 of my Indian-American constituents regarding my recent letter to Secretary Pompeo expressing my concerns about recent developments in Kashmir."

"Based upon my meeting it is clear that

it was a mistake to not consult with some of my Indian-American friends and supporters before I sent the letter. I should have. I am sorry. If I had met with them before sending the letter, I would have framed my concerns differently, Suozzi said.

He said that throughout his career in public service, he has been an ardent supporter of India, their sovereignty, and have always stood with them in their fight against terrorism.

The US-India relationship will be one of the most important over the next 50 years and beyond, he said, adding that he has spent his time in Congress promoting and elevating this relationship and will continue to do so.

"India, the world's largest democracy, remains critical for regional security and peace. The current situation in Kashmir presents some very serious challenges. The US should seek to be helpful in securing safety and peace for all people, Suozzi said.

Moving forward, I will make sure to solicit the input of all of my constituents who have a vested interest in Kashmir and work towards a peaceful region that roots out terrorism and corruption as well as respects human rights. It is my hope, that recent developments in the region will eventually lead to this," Suozzi said.

Indian Americans said this was a statement in the right direction, and sought a follow up letter from him to Pompeo.

It is a statement in the right direction, said Jagdish Sewhani, the President of the American India Public Affairs Committee.

Don't live in 'fool's paradise'; not easy to get support of UNSC, Muslim world on Kashmir: Qureshi

BY SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, AUG 13 (PTT): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has asked his countrymen not to live in a "fool's paradise" as he highlighted that it will not be easy for Islamabad to get the support of the UN Security Council as well as from the Muslim world against India's decision to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Addressing the media in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Monday, Qureshi asked Pakistanis to "wage a new struggle" to get the support of the UNSC members.

"You (people) should not live fool's paradise. Nobody will be standing there (in the UNSC) with garlands in hands...Nobody will be there waiting for you," he said.

India has categorically told the international community that its move to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution removing the special status to Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and has also advised Pakistan to "accept the reality".

Without naming any Muslim country, Qureshi also said the "guardians of Ummah (Islamic community)" might also not back Pakistan on the Kashmir issue due to



their economic interest.

"Different people in the world have their own interests. India is a market of (over) billion people...A lot of people have invested there (India). We often talks about Ummah and Islam but the guardians of Ummah have also made investments there (India) and they have their own interests," he said.

Qureshi's statement came two days after Russia becomes the first UNSC member to back India's move on Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the changes in the status are within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

"We proceed from fact that the changes associated with the change in the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and its division into two union territories are carried out within the framework of the Con-

stitution of the Republic of India," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia said in a response to questions on Friday last.

The US has also maintained a neutral stand on the issue, saying that there is no change in its policy on Kashmir as it called on India and Pakistan to maintain restraint and hold direct dialogue to resolve their differences. China, the all-weather ally of Pakistan, has objected to the formation of Ladakh as Union Territory by India. However, at the same time, Beijing has told Qureshi that it regarded both India and Pakistan as "friendly neighbours" and wants them to resolve the Kashmir issue through UN resolutions and the Simla agreement.

Qureshi had air-dashed to Beijing on Friday last week to seek Islamabad's support on Kashmir.

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Women's cricket to be part of Birmingham CWG, confirms CGF

MELBOURNE, AUG 13 (PTT): Cricket will come back to the Commonwealth Games roster for the first time since 1998 with the inclusion of women's T20 for the 2022 edition in Birmingham, the Commonwealth Games Federation and the ICC announced on Tuesday.

Cricket has made just one appearance at the CWG previously, with men playing in 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, where South Africa finished on top of the podium. The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games will take place from July 27 to August 7 and the cricket competition will feature eight international teams.

"Today is an historic day and we are delighted to welcome the sport of cricket back to the Commonwealth Games," said CGF President Dame Lou-

ise Martin. "This is a truly historic moment for women's cricket and for the global cricket community, who were united in their support of this bid," read a statement from Manu Sawhney, Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council.

All eight match days will be held at Edgbaston cricket ground, which played host to a number of memorable matches during the ICC men's World Cup this summer, including England's semi-final victory over Australia. ICC said it was delighted and honoured that the Commonwealth Games Associations voted to include women's T20 cricket at Birmingham Games. "We are delighted that women's T20 Cricket will be part of Birmingham 2022, an event that represents the biggest female and

para sport programme in Commonwealth Games history. Today's landmark announcement is another indication of the extremely bright future for women's cricket," Tom Harrison, ECB Chief Executive Officer, said.

The ICC and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) had submitted their bid to include women's cricket in CWG in November at the Executive Board meeting of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in Birmingham. The ICC will be responsible for the competition terms and the conduct of cricket, by way of providing match officials and ensuring matches are played as per the laws of the game. The CGF and Birmingham 2022 will be responsible for delivery of the CWG 2022.

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VIDEO NEWS SECTION

‘Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar’: Penguin announces book on Indian cinema legend

NEW DELHI, AUG 13 (PTI): On cinema legend Sridevi’s 56th birth anniversary, Penguin Random House India have announced a book on the life of the actor.

The book, titled “Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar”, is written by author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak and approved by the actor’s producer husband Boney Kapoor.

According to a press release issued by the publication house, the book recounts the life and times of the iconic actor who changed how women stars were perceived in the male-dominated film industry.

The book will be published under the Ebury Press imprint of Penguin Random House in October 2019 and is available for pre-order on e-commerce websites.

“I have always been a huge admirer of Sridevi and this book gave me the perfect opportunity to celebrate the journey of India’s beloved screen goddess. “It was wonderful interacting with various film personalities that she worked with over the years, and put together their memories and stories into a narrative that charts her saga from a child star to India’s first female superstar,” Satyarth said in a statement.

The writer revealed that the book will delve deep into Sridevi’s iconic body of work in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada cinema. “I am sure this comprehensive narrative

on Sridevi will be embraced by millions of her fans from across the globe. I am indebted to Penguin for sharing my vi-

pillar of strength in helping me realise my dream,” he added.

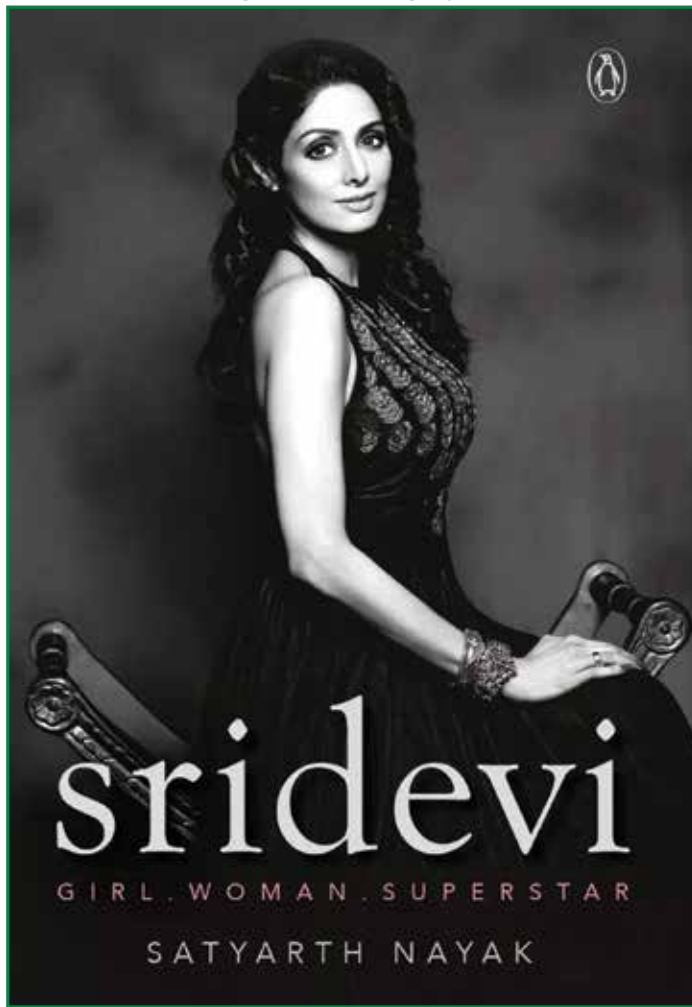
The book will not only chronicle

Sridevi’s journey and successes in the Indian film industry but also her innings after her big screen comeback in 2012 with “English Vinglish”.

Milee Ashwarya, Publisher, Ebury Publishing and Vintage Publishing, Penguin Random House India, said only a few actors can match the screen presence, comic timing, versatility and beauty that Sridevi stood for.

“Sridevi by Satyarth Nayak is a tribute to the actor and a gift for her fans. I would like to congratulate and thank Satyarth for painstakingly researching and beautifully narrating the life journey of one of India’s most iconic actors. I am delighted and excited to be publishing the book,” she added.

Sridevi passed away at the age of 54 in February 2018 in Dubai.



Princess Diana musical to have Broadway premiere in April 2020

LOS ANGELES, AUG 13 (PTI): A musical, titled “Diana”, based on the life of the Princess of Wales is set to make its Broadway debut in April next year.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the musical is directed by Christopher Ashley.

It will begin performances at New York’s Longacre Theatre on March 2, 2020, with an official opening set for March 31.

The Joe DiPietro-David Bryan production focuses on Diana’s marriage to Prince Charles and the pair’s separation.

Actor Jeanna de Waal will play the titular role, while Roe Hartrampf will essay the part of Charles.

Erin Davie portrays Camilla Parker Bowles and Tony winner Judy Kaye plays Queen Elizabeth.

Kelly Devine is the choreographer while Ian Eisendrath serves as the music supervisor.

Diana died in 1997 after a car crash in Paris.

Shari Headley returning for ‘Coming to America’ sequel

LOS ANGELES, AUG 13 (PTI): Actor Shari Headley is set to collaborate again with Eddie Murphy for Paramount’s upcoming sequel to 1988 romantic comedy “Coming to America”.

The 55-year-old actor will reprise her role as Lisa McDowell, the love interest and eventual wife to Murphy’s Prince Akeem.

According to Deadline, Craig Brewer is directing the film and the production is set to start later this month.

The original focused on a Prince Akeem, from the fictional African nation of Zamunda, who comes to New York, and gets a job at a Mc-

Donald’s while trying to find a life partner.

The follow-up will again follow Akeem, now set to



be crowned as the king of Zamunda, as he returns to America after discovering he has a son he never knew about, a street-savvy Queens local Lavelle.

The film is slated to release on December 18, 2020.

Murphy is producing the project with Kevin Mishner and Kenya Barris.

20 Years Of Taal: Anil Kapoor Shares Memories From The ‘Unforgettable Extravaganza’



Subhash Ghai’s musical Taal resonates with today’s generation through its iconic songs such as Ramta Jogi, Taal Se Taal Mila and Kahin Aag Lage Lag Jaave among others. As the film clocked 20 years on Tuesday, Anil Kapoor shared a special post on his Twitter profile. In his tweet, the 61-year-old actor shared a snippet from his “favourite” song Ramta Jogi and he wrote: “Even after all these years, Ramta Jogi takes me right back to the unforgettable music and the extravaganza of Taal.” He added, “20 years of Taal.”

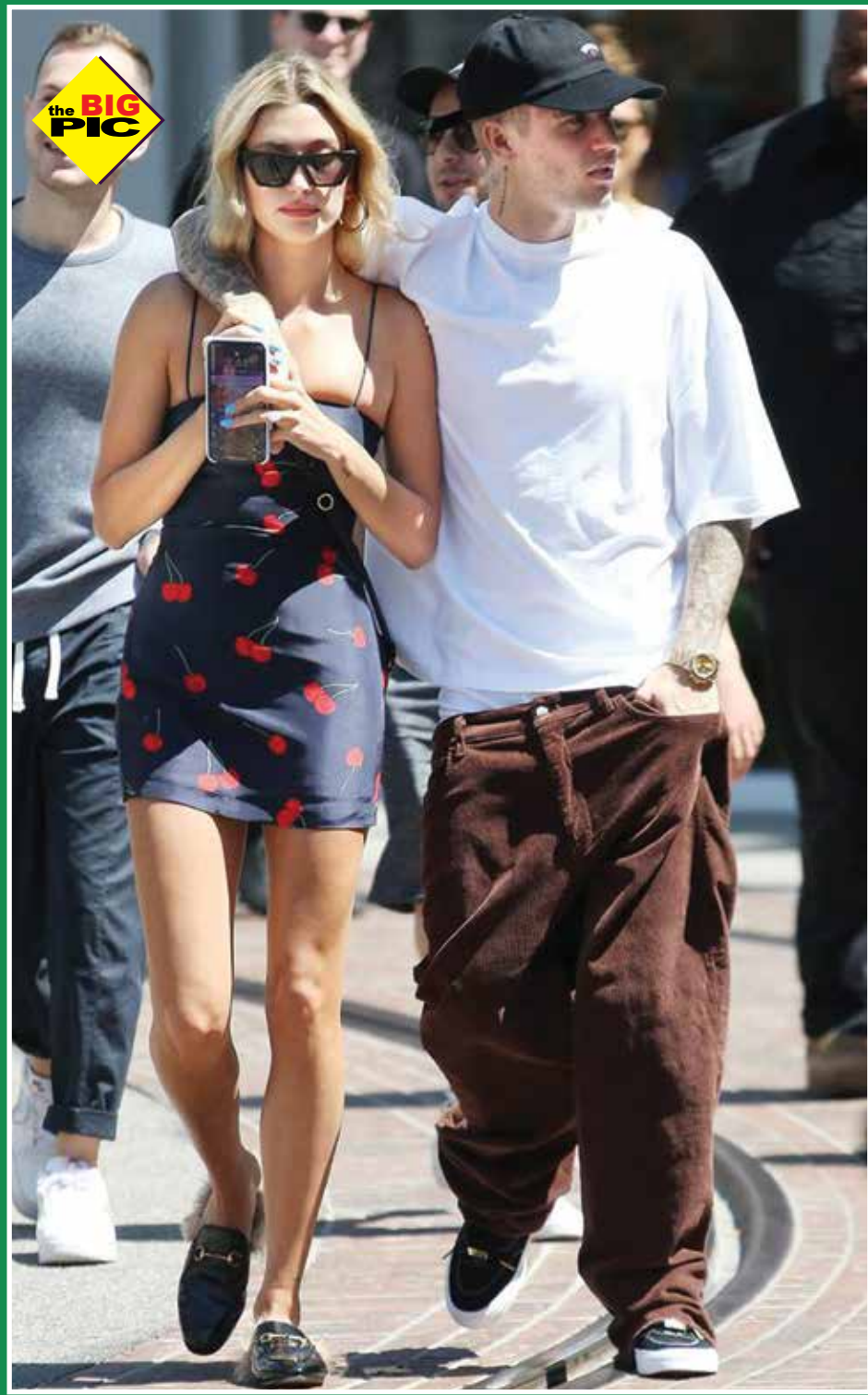
Other than Anil Kapoor, the Subhash Ghai-directed musical also featured Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Akshaye Khanna in leading roles. The 1999 film also starred veteran actor Amrish Puri and Alok Nath in pivotal roles.

The actor also has Pagalpani in the pipeline.

ceptionally well at the box office. Several years after its release, the film screened at the 2005’s Ebertfest: Film Festival and the 2014 International Film Festival of India in the Celebrating Dance in Indian cinema section.

Besides Taal, Anil Kapoor and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan have worked together in the 2000 film Humara Dil Aapke Pass Hai and the 2018 musical Fannee Khan, which also starred Rajkumar Rao.

Anil Kapoor’s last release was Indra Kumar’s comedy film Total Dhamaal. The actor has an impressive line-up of films, which includes Karan Johar’s period drama Takht, co-starring Kareena Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Janhvi Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. He will also be seen in Mohit Suri’s Malang, co-starring Aditya Roy Kapur and Disha Patani.



SUMMER LOVIN! THE COUPLE, HAILEY BALDWIN & JUSTIN BIEBER WAS SPOTTED OUT AND ABOUT IN SUNNY LOS ANGELES WITH JUSTIN HOLDING ON TO HIS GIRL.

Akshay not finalised for ‘Ikka’: Jagan Shakti

MUMBAI, AUG 13 (PTI): Director Jagan Shakti says while the writing work on “Ikka” is almost done, no actors are attached yet, including superstar Akshay Kumar.

Jagan, who has directed Akshay in the upcoming Independence Day release “Mission Mangal”, was rumoured to collaborate with the actor again in “Ikka”, remake of the 2014 Tamil blockbuster “Kaththi”.

When asked about the same, Jagan told PTI, “It’s still in the discussion process, it’s not finalised who will do it. The writing is done. We will get to know who’s doing what because Akshay sir is also busy. So nothing is finalised.

“No star cast is locked. Akshay sir wanted to see what it is, but again, it’s all about dates and other things

which need to be figured out. As soon as it’s all fixed, I will let everyone know,” he added.

The original was directed by AR Murugadoss and featured Vijay. Jagan said while he is simultaneously writing

sir is my guru and I loved the script of ‘Kaththi’. It’s a very big scale commercial film... It’s a very big challenge and I want to give it my all.

“I had committed to this long back. I am very thrilled



a science fiction film, the remake has got him excited.

“I want to explore that subject because Murgadoss

about it because I want to explore my action and song side and make it into a spectacle,” he said.

ARIES: If you don’t know where you are going, no road will take you there. Aries, set an intention about the kind of love you would like to manifest and let it find you instead. Shift your focus away from what you don’t have to bring about a change in your vibrations. Rams who are playing the dating and mating game, clarity is your magic word. If you don’t see a happily-ever-after with them, that’s okay. Make sure you convey this to your beloved(s).

Tip: Let clarity be your magic word.

TAURUS: What if your outer reality is simply a reflection of how you perceive yourself? Things to do today: take the self-love game a notch higher. When in doubt, turn inwards and give yourself the strength you are seeking from others. Affirmations to help you: ‘I am powerful.’ ‘I am worthy.’ ‘I deserve to love and be loved.’ Repeat these mantras as you look in the mirror and watch the magic unfold. Tip: You deserve to be loved.

GEMINI: Hope and healing are on the cards, Gemini. Your body is adjusting to a new frequency. Giving yourself time and space is the best way to recalibrate. Some of you may be

suffering from a case of lost love, or are in the process of letting somebody go. Remember, you have the best people in your life. Allow yourself to lean on them when the going gets tough.

Tip: Give yourself the time you need to rest and recover.

CANCER: Some of you may be connecting with a power player. Whether this is a good or bad thing depends entirely on your circumstances. Do you feel seen and heard in this relationship, or are you constantly having to put your needs on the backburner? There’s only so many sacrifices one can make. That’s something to think about, Cancer.

Tip: Restore the balance in your relationships. **LEO:** After a period of ‘may be’ and ‘let’s see’, you and your beloved are finally hitting the accelerator. Both movement and progression are showing up on the cards. Things will organically advance to the next level no matter where you are. Leos who are in a long distance relationship, this is the time to take that big step. See how you can move closer to the one.

Tip: Things are progressing to the next level.

VIRGO: Spending quality time together doesn’t have to break the bank, Virgo. Think

less takeout and more home cooked meals. There’s something about being in your sacred space that allows you to be the most authentic version of yourself. Some of you may be going through massive changes on the personal front, which could be reflecting in all of your relationships. Want to revisit the rules of engagement? Have the conversation you have been putting off—this will help you write a new chapter in your relationship.

Tip: Have ‘the talk’.

LIBRA: Be gentle with yourself when the secrets come to the fore. None of this is your fault, Libra. You could not possibly have pre-empted this. The good about knowing the truth is that it gives you clarity on where you stand in their life. Be sure to ground your energy, Libra, lest the ebb and flow of emotions gets the better of you. You will have no choice but to be your own pillar of strength in these turbulent times.

Tip: You will know the truth soon enough.

SCORPIO: Three words: truth, honesty and integrity. See how and where you are shying away from your most authentic self with the other. For some, this may be a time of bring-

ing the skeletons out of the closet. How do you feel about their secret, Scorpio? Does this mark the end of a certain relationship, or is there a way to work things out? Taking time off from each other is the only way to figure things out.

Tip: Trust that secret will soon come to the fore.

SAGITTARIUS: In his 1992 bestseller, Dr Gary Chapman talks about five love languages: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, and physical touch. What’s your love language, Sagittarius? More importantly, what does it take to make your beloved feel loved? Pay attention to the cue you are receiving from them. This will help you decode their feelings better. This week, the language of touch takes precedence over the others. Try holding your partner’s hand and gaze softly into their eyes. Even better, lay your head in their lap as they talk to you about their day.

Tip: Speak the language of love.

CAPRICORN: Things to do tonight: put your phone on flight mode and cook up a storm. Nothing says ‘I love you’ than being present to one another. Practice active listening. Share your stories (and secrets) with one

another. What if this is the secret to strengthening your bond? Single Capricorns, things are about to get heated up. Overheard at the cosmic conference: stay open to love.

Tip: Be present to one another.

AQUARIUS: This is the week to get intoxicated on love, Aquarius. Continue to prioritise ‘we time’. There’s so much you are yet to learn about each other. Just be sure that you’re being seen and heard though. Every relationship requires a certain degree of compromise. But if you’re the only one making a sacrifice, you know you’ve got a problem here.

Tip: Get to know each other on a deeper level. **PISCES:** What’s a foolproof way to open the gates of hell? By bottling up your emotions and keeping your most authentic self from being seen and heard. You know exactly what you don’t want to do today, Pisces. Trust that you’ll be a happier person when you share what’s going on in that crazy head of yours. If you are feeling conflicted about the future of certain relationship, express your emotions. They won’t know how to be there for you unless you allow yourself to be vulnerable.

Tip: Allow your true self to be seen and heard.