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# SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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## HRDD sign MoU with NIOS for training of untrained elementary teachers

**NEW DELHI, 09 JUL [IPR]:** Secretary of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), C Dharuman, and Director-cum-State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, HRDD, Bhim Thatal, today jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the State and the Central Governments in order to successfully carry out the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India sponsored 18-month-long online and open distance learning mode of the Diploma in Elementary Education [D.El.Ed].

It may be noted here, as per the Right to Education Act, implemented in 2010, the basic minimum qualification to become a Primary teacher is D.El.Ed., a two-year course to be pursued after Class 12 through NCTE recognised institutes like the DIET and to become a Graduate teacher is BA/BSc with B Ed. The RTE Act categorically specifies that elementary teachers must have these professional qualifications as the Act guarantees Right to Education freely and compulsorily up to the age of 14 years to be imparted by professionally trained teachers.

The MHRD, in August 2017, started the two-year D.El.Ed. programme for elementary untrained teachers both in government and private schools through the NIOS by shortening it to 18 months excluding the practice teaching programme that they are already teaching.

The amendment to the RTE Act in 2017 has mandated that all such elementary teachers who do not have much professional qualification must

turn to pg02

## Governor attends 67th Plenary Session of NEC, raises various issues pertaining to NE States

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 JUL:**

Governor Shrinivas Patil today participated in the 67th Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council [NEC] held at Shillong in Meghalaya.

The two-day Plenary Session of the Council was chaired by Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, who is also the Chairperson of NEC. The session was attended by Governors and Chief Ministers of all eight North Eastern States along with Minister of State for DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singh, and other officials, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

The Governor apprised the delegates about the geographic en-



tity of the NE States which is unique in the country

with rich blend of varied resources, bio-diversity,

culture, ethnicity and linguistic aspects. The

region is also strategically important. The

turn to pg02

## Health Minister inaugurates Singha Devi Temple in West Sikkim



**GYALSHING, 09 JUL [IPR]:** Health Minister-cum-MLA of Salghari Zoom Constituency, West Sikkim, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, inaugurated the newly established Singha Devi Temple at Dokshing Ghumauney [Ward No. 1], under Mabong Segeng Gram Panchayat Unit, in West Sikkim today.

After the inauguration ceremony, Mr Ghatani offered prayers and extended wishes for peace, prosperity and healthy lives to the people. He also interacted with devotees and requested them to take ownership in maintenance of the pilgrimage centre and its premises.

Thereafter, he inaugurated a house constructed under Chief Minister Rural Housing Mission [CMRHM-Phase I] at Mabong Sigeng GPU and handed it over to beneficiary, Binod Rai.

In another programme in a row, the Minister handed over cheques to the beneficiaries of Sigeng Road. A total amount of Rs 1,10,49,218 [One Crore Ten Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Eighteen] was handed over to 21 beneficiaries from the locality.



## INCESSANT RAINFALL DAMAGES MANGAN PUBLIC GROUND

**MANGAN, 09 JUL:** Mangan public ground in North Sikkim had been upgraded and renovated only a few years back but heavy rainfall in the past few weeks has left the ground in deplorable condition. The entire stretch of the northern side of the gallery collapsed on 08 Jul. The debris and rubble has also occupied some portion of the ground. Apart from this, a crack has also developed on the road leading to Pentok allowing the movement of only light vehicles along the stretch. The concerned department is yet to visit the spot to take stock of damages and undertake further mitigation of the slide. "It is disheartening to see that a newly constructed wall has been damaged," expressed one of the residents of Mangan. The current condition of the only ground in the town that hosts the popular Independence Day football tournament organized by North District Football Association [NDFA] raises doubts over the possibility of the tourney this year. [Wangchuk Bhutia]

## No company for the old: Survey finds one fourth of elderly Indians living alone

**NEW DELHI, JUL 9 (PTI):** It has been some time since India's population breached the one billion mark, but a recent survey has revealed that this overwhelming sea of people has done little to make the elderly less lonely.

Working on the sample size of 10,000 elderly people, Delhi-based NGO Agewell Foundation found that almost every fourth elderly -- 23.44 per cent of the respondents -- was living alone in the country.

"Almost every second elderly (48.88 per cent) is living with their spouse only, while about 26.5 per cent are living with their children or other family members," the survey reported.

The condition is worse in urban areas,

where 25.3 percent of elderly people are found living alone in comparison to 21.38 per cent in rural areas.

It was also observed that a larger number of older persons preferred to live alone or with their spouse only. And though they enjoyed their independence, problem for them lies in their being "financially dependent" on others.

"Only 36.81 were financially independent in the autumn of their life," the survey claimed.


On the other hand, 68.24 per cent enjoyed ideological independence, 60.54 per cent psychological independence, 69.54 per cent social independence and 61.81 per cent physical independence.




During the survey, about 88.5 per cent of the elder said they needed healthcare services to ensure their independence in old age.

"There is an urgent need to make every older person financially independent in old age, so that they can afford long-term care and palliative care, whenever they need it."


"Provisions for ensuring independence in old age and long term / palliative care for frail elderly must be made at all levels family, community and government," Himanshu Rath, founder of Agewell Foundation, said.

Conducted during the months of May and June this year, the survey was spread across 20 states of India.

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## SDF condoles

**GANGTOK, 09 JUL:** Sikkim Democratic Front has expressed deep condolences on the demise of Rinchen Doma Bhutia, mother of SDF social media secretary, Barap Namgyal Bhutia. She passed away today at the age of 64 years at Central Referral Hospital in Tadong.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity secretary, Krishna Lepcha, informs that she was suffering from different ailments and had been undergoing medical treatment at CRH, Tadong.

Late Bhutia had delivered her duties and responsibilities sincerely and had retired few years back as Office Superintendent [OS].

SDF has offered its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and has paid homage to the departed soul. The party has further offered its prayers for the departed soul.

Late Bhutia has left behind her husband, Dawa Namgyal Bhutia, three sons and two daughters along with friends and relatives, the release adds.

## Training for EMRS teachers of West & North districts concludes

**GANGTOK, 07 JUL [IPR]:** Six-day training programme for Science and Mathematics teachers of Eklavya Model Residential Schools [EMRS] of West and North districts concluded at State Council of Educational Research & Training [SCERT] centre in Gangtok on 07 Jul. The programme was organised by SCERT and was funded by Welfare Division, Social Justice, Women Empowerment & Welfare Department.

The prime objective of the training was to build the capacity of teachers on content and methods of teaching Science and Mathematics. It was also aimed at helping teachers effectively in dealing with difficult concepts of Science and Mathematics through various activities.

Resource persons for Science were Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari [Biology], Parijit Sutradhar [Physics] and Dr Satyadip Chhetri & Tshering Wangdi



Bhutia [Chemistry].

Likewise, SB Singh and Rajiv Philip were the resource persons for Mathematics.

Apart from Science and Mathematics, sessions on important areas like Learning Outcome and Inclusive Education was taken by Dr Genevive Syangbo and Anjali Rasaily respectively.

The valedictory session of the workshop be-

gan with a presentation of report of the weeklong training programme by Deputy Director, SCERT, Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari.

He urged teachers to motivate students and arouse interest in them for learning to learn science and mathematics and requested them to translate the knowledge and experience gained in the training to action during their classroom transactions.

In the interactive sessions, participants not only shared their reflections about the training but also raised their problems and challenges with Director, Dr Rabin Chhetri, officials and faculty of SCERT.

They thanked SCERT and Welfare Department for providing the training which was first of its kind in their service period.

Dr Chhetri, who at-

tended the event as chief guest, highlighted various initiatives started by SCERT to help teachers in their classroom teaching. He urged participants to bring their problems and challenges regarding classroom teaching to the notice of SCERT so that the same can be effectively addressed. He also presented certificates to the participating teachers.



## Pugilists prep for State Boxing Championship

**SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 09 JUL:**

More than 20 pugilists are attending the Summer Boxing Coaching Camp 2018 at DIET Hall in Gyalshing, West Sikkim. The twenty-day camp is being organised by Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, West Sikkim from 01 Jul and will conclude on 20 Jul.

Young passionate pugilists are being trained under boxing coach,

Vabiya Gurung, in the camp.

It may be mentioned here, the main objective of the camp is to spot and promote promising young boxers from different corners of the State. The camp will also prepare boxers for the upcoming 16th State Sub-Junior & Junior Boxing Championship scheduled to be held from 20-22 Jul in Gangtok, East Sikkim.

## SKM intensifies party activities across Sikkim

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 09 JUL:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha conducted its flag hoisting cum door-to-door campaign today at Nangeything, under Khamdong Constituency, East Sikkim in the presence of Zone-I Incharge, Anand Lama, general secretary, Neelu Chettri, working president, Navin Karki, vice president [labour front], PR Subba, and Constituency Level Committee [CLC] executives, an SKM press release informs.

Meanwhile, Constituency level workers of Shyari Constituency also held their coordination meeting at Pabuk-Naitam in Gangtok, East Sikkim in the presence of acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha, and chief coordinator, Sonam Lama.



During the meeting, 11 active youths from Shyari Constituency joined SKM, as per the release.

Intensifying its activities in West district, SKM formed its 44-member Block Level Committee

today for Singling Block, under Soreng Chakung Constituency, West Sikkim with Ashok Subba as its president in the presence of CLC president, Binod Basnet, youth convener, Suk Raj Subba, and other CLC

executives, the release adds.

Likewise, SKM also formed its Constituency Level Committee for Rangang Yangang Constituency in South Sikkim in the presence of District vice president,

Teni Doma Bhutia, CLC president, Tengayla Bhutia, and others.

The release informs that 13 families joined the party officially leaving several other political parties.

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## SKM expels TD Kazi

**GANGTOK, 09 JUL:** The Disciplinary Committee of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, in consultation with the party high command, today announced the expulsion of one of its member from Lingee, South Sikkim, TD Kazi, from all posts including primary membership of SKM with immediate effect for his constant indulgence in anti-party activities, an SKM press release informs.



## KVK South conducts training for Manghim farmers

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 09 JUL:**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim organised a daylong training programme for farmers of Manghim, South Sikkim today wherein Subject Matter Specialist [Horticulture], Yangchenla Bhutia, detailed the farmers about the

use of Arka Citrus Special in Sikkim Mandarin for management of micro nutrients. Likewise, SMS [Plant Protection], Praveesh Shivakoty, demonstrated the preparation of Bordeaux mixture for management of fungal diseases, a press release informs.

## Governor attends 67<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session...

cally located with very long international border demanding special attention of the Government of India, he added.

He participated in the deliberations on the agendas which included issues concerning Sikkim vis-à-vis NE States on various topics like tourism, organic farming, agricultural marketing and shared Sikkim's experience and expertise in organic farming and floriculture with the rest of the sister States.

The Governor also shared his views on NE culture, music, food and handicraft products that are unique and will have a positive impact on rest of the country.

"People will learn more about NE. This way NE can create a bigger sense of its existence and importance in the minds of other fellow Indians," the Governor expressed.

Addressing the session, the Governor raised issues concerning Sikkim with regard to tourism infrastructure, border trade, road network, railway and air connectivity which is still proving to be the biggest bottleneck for faster

growth and development of the region.

He stated that the vision of Prime Minister and his concern towards the specific problems of NE States will certainly fast track the developmental process in the region. He motivated the member States of NEC to work hand in hand with the Centre's Act East Policy.

The Governor also highlighted an important issue of NE States in the forum with regard to the provision of additional funds for the States to meet its committed liabilities of the ongoing projects as well as to take up new projects, especially iconic projects and institutes proposed by the NEC in its proposal to Ministry of DONER earlier.

He also placed the issue of sports sector which has been delinked from the NEC's purview. He further assured the commitment of the Government of Sikkim to continue supporting the efforts of the Government of India especially the NEC which has helped in all round development of the region.



## West District Planning Committee meets

**GYALSHING, 09 JUL [IPR]:** West District Zilla Panchayat today organized a meeting on 'District Planning Committee' at the conference hall of Zilla Bhawan in Kyongsa, West Sikkim. The meeting was chaired by Adhakshya, Zilla Panchayat, Devika Subba, Upadhakshya, Ashok Gurung, and District Collector-cum-Sachiva, WDDP, Dr AB Karki.

Adhakshya, Ms Subba, in her address said that each person in relation to the Planning Committee should work whole heartedly and in accordance with the norms of the Government. She also stressed on making the vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling of a 'Tuberculosis Free Sikkim' successful in West district and urged all to work effectively and collectively in their respective areas.

Upadhakshya, Mr Gurung, also spoke on a similar note stating that the Standing Committee which has been formed for overseeing works for

the betterment of the public should be more aware of the facilities provided by the Government and communicate the information to the public.

District Collector, Dr Karki, while addressing the gathering, said that the Zilla Panchayat of West district should emerge as number one in Sikkim and should prove to be a model for other districts to follow. He spoke strongly on the initiative of 'Chalk and Blackboard Free' classrooms which has already been started in the district.

He further advised the Zilla Panchayats along with the officials of line departments to work in coordination and suggested making annual achievement reports for the public to see the accomplished works in their respective areas.

During the meeting, various issues relating to the development of the district and individual areas of West Sikkim were discussed amongst the participating Zilla members.

## Animal Husbandry Dept and SLDB conduct plantation drive in Ralong



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 09 JUL:** Department of Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries & Veterinary Services and Sikkim Livestock Development Board [SLDB] organised a plantation drive on the occasion of Paryavaran Diwas on 07 Jul at Intensive Siri Cattle Rearing Unit in Ralong, South Sikkim.

The daylong plantation drive was attended by Secretary, Dr Kumar Bhandari, Principal Director [AH], Dr RK Tamang, Directors, Dr PK Pradhan and L Lachungpa, Additional Directors and SLDB CEO along with other officials and staffs of AHLF&VS Department and Forest Department, local Panchayats and the general public.

A press release from the department informs that around 2000 saplings of ornamental plants, fodder tree and fodder grasses were planted on the occasion.

Chief Executive Officer, SLDB, Dr Sanjay M Gajmer, highlighted the necessity to conserve Siri breed and A2 milk and further spoke on the activities of the board for the conservation programme.

Mineral mixtures, oats seeds and saplings of CO3 and CO5 fodder grassers were also distributed to members of Siri Breeders' Society, the release adds.



## Sterilization of feral dogs in Lachung

**SUMMIT REPORT MANGAN, 09 JUL:**

To control the sudden increase in the number of feral dogs at Lachung and Lachen, especially at Thangu and Gurudongmar, in North Sikkim, Veterinary Surgeon from Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health [SAR-AH] division, Dr Tenzing Bhutia, performed sterilization surgery on feral dogs of the concerned areas at Lachung on 08 Jul. Eighteen dogs were operated upon successfully and were later released.



Gangtok on Tuesday, 10 July

Temp: 26°C/19°C  
Forecast: Dull abd dreary followed by a couple of thundershowers in the evening.  
Sunrise: 04:48 AM  
Sunset: 6:34 PM

WB Edu min announces salary hike for para teachers

KOLKATA, JUL 9 (PTI): West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee today announced hike in the salary of para teachers effective from March 1, 2018.

Para-teachers are those who assist teaching in schools and are not full-time teachers.

Chatterjee announcing the pay hike at a rally of TMC para-teachers wing, said 22,085 of them at the primary level and 26,585 at the higher secondary level will be benefitted by it.

He said, parateachers in primary schools will get a monthly salary of Rs 10,000 from the present Rs 5,954, from now on, while those in higher secondary schools will draw Rs 13,000 every month from Rs 8,500 at present with effect from March 1, 2018.

Women para-teachers will get maternity benefits and their retirement age would be 60 years.

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Pharma students conduct cleanliness drive in Shantinagar

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

Ten students of Himalayan Pharmacy Institute (HPI), Majhitar in association with Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti organized Swachh Bharat Summer Internship Orientation programme today at Shantinagar in Singtam, East Sikkim.

The orientation programme

included rally conducted from the badminton court at Rani Khola Walkway to Singtam Bazaar old Iron Bridge and was followed by sanitation and cleanliness awareness drive, a press release informs.

During the cleanness drive at Rani Khola Walkway, the participants collected two sacks of waste that included chips wrappers, broken glasses, etc.

Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti president, Krishna Chettri, congratulated the HPI students for visiting Shantinagar for a good deed.

The students of HPI also conducted sanitation awareness programme in Shantinagar later during the day wherein they demonstrated hand-washing techniques.



MUSS felicitates Shekinah Mukhiya

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

Three-day summer spiritual youth camp of Manaw Utthan Sewa Samiti (MUSS), Sikkim held at the community hall in Namchi, South Sikkim concluded on 08 Jul in the presence of SLA Speaker, KN Rai, as chief guest accompanied by Voice India Kids 2018 finalist, Shekinah Mukhiya, as guest of honour and MUSS North-East re-

gion incharge, Mahatma Akhilesh Baiji.

On the occasion, Voice India Kids 2018 finalist, Ms Mukhiya, was also felicitated by MUSS for her achievement.

In her address, Ms Mukhiya encouraged youth to be bold enough to follow their dreams.

"Nothing is impossible in life if we focus on our dreams and follow it with dedication," she expressed. She also extended

gratitude to the people of Sikkim for their support and in helping her reach the finale of Voice India Kids 2018.

The MUSS also felicitated its present and past members for their contributions towards the organisation. Land donors for the construction of Ashrams in different parts of the State were also felicitated by the chief guest and spiritual leaders, a press release

informs.

In his address, chief guest Mr Rai encouraged youth to be efficient and capable in every field and stressed upon the need for spiritual knowledge to move forward in life.

Likewise, spiritual leaders, Akhilesh Baiji and Gyan Baiji, expressed that spiritual knowledge is the basis of life and urged all to follow the right path in every step of their lives.

China successfully launches 2 satellites for close ally Pakistan

BEIJING/ISLAMABAD, JUL 9 (PTI): China today successfully launched two remote sensing satellites for its "all-weather" ally Pakistan, which will also help the two countries monitor progress as they build the strategic USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The launch of the two satellites marks yet another space cooperation between China and Pakistan since the launch of PAKSAT-1R, a communication satellite, in August 2011.

The satellites -- PRSS-1 and PakTES-1A --- were launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China at 11:56 am using a

Long March-2C rocket, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan. It is the 17th satellite developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) for an overseas buyer, it said.

A scientific experiment satellite, PakTES-1A, developed by engineers of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), was sent into orbit using the same rocket.

After entering orbit, the PRSS-1 is in good condition with its solar panels unfolded smoothly, according to the CAST.

The PRSS-1 will be used for land and resources surveying, monitoring of natural disasters, agriculture research, urban construction and providing remote sensing information for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of the Chinese government.

The satellites will play a positive role in the development of Pakistan's economy and improve the lives of people. Alongside, it will also provide space remote sensing information services for the CPEC, which is flagship project of the BRI.

Memorial Service

Romans 14:8 "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."



(JANUARY 17, 1936 TO JULY 3, 2018)

Celebrating the beautiful life of Senior Elder Andrew Rai.

Your kind presence is requested at his Memorial Service at the

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim (EPCS).

Church Road, Gangtok. On Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 02.00 p.m.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
NO: 45/RM&DD/E-TEN DATED:05/07/2018  
INVITING FOR BIDS

1. The Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites percentages rate tender under single cover system from the eligible class of contractors enlisted with the SPWD for execution of work as detailed below:

SL. NO	NAME OF WORK	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE	BID VALUE
1.	2	3	4	5
1.	Construction of ADC (Dev) Office at Namchi, South Sikkim.	Rs.50,000.00	Rs.11.10,225.00	Rs.4,44,08,716.00

The date and time of tender and submission of completed bid document are as under.  
i) Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal by the Department: 09/07/2018.  
ii) Last date for submission of bids online by the Bidders: 04/08/2018, 1400 hours.  
iii) Date of opening of bids: 06/08/2018 10:30 AM onwards.

2. Eligible Contractors having experience in the construction of building works and consider themselves capable to undertake execution of the project may download the details and bidding documents from the e-procurement portal i.e. [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) w.e.f. 09.07.2018.

3The completed tender documents must be uploaded in the e-procurement portal on or before 04/08/2018, 1400 hours. The bank receipt towards the cost of tender form is to be deposited in the head of .....& the bid security amount @2.5% of the bid value should be submitted in the form of TDR drawn in favour of Sr. AO, RM&DD, Govt. of Sikkim.

4The department reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RM&DD.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IMPORTANT EVENTS

NAME OF WORK	CONSTRUCTION OF ADC OFFICE AT NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM
Amount put to Tender	Rs.4,44,08,716.00
Date of uploading of bidding documents and other important events in e-procurement.	09/09/2018
Last Date and Time for uploading of bids in E-procurement portal.	04/08/2018, 1400 hours.
Date and Time of opening of bids	06/08/2018 10:30 onwards.
Place of opening of bids	Office of the Superintending Engineer (P), Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.
Approval of Bid	10/08/2018
Communication of Approval	11/08/2018.

R.O. No. 184/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 dt. 6.7.2018.

HRDD sign MoU with NIOS for training of untrained...

contd from pg01

acquire this only through the NIOS on or before 31 Mar, 2019 failing which, they will not be able to continue as elementary teachers.

A total of 4405 such untrained teachers from government and private schools in Sikkim have enrolled themselves in the NIOS for this programme in 2017 and their 1st year examination has already been conducted. They are currently registering for their 2nd year programme.

The programme in Sikkim is being conducted by the Samagra Shiksha in collaboration with the SCERT.





# SummitTIMES

## Repairs for Now

*But long-term needs solutions*

The skies have been opening up after sun-down of late, and any drive along NH-10 in Gangtok after it has rained introduces one to new potholes, routine sinks and the occasional bag of sand with a red flag stuck to it to mark a potential hazard on the roads. These are usually repaired in time for the morning rush and hence a majority of Gangtokians don't even know of what a steady shower at night does to the roads here. Reports are also coming in of even the early monsoon rains cleaving away retaining walls and cleaving away slopes.

The monsoon has been erratic thus far, its lashings varying in intensity over parts of Sikkim, as over the rest of the country. And yet, even this fits-and-starts season of downpours has been strong enough to convert culverts into raging rapids and jhoras into torrents bringing down boulders, washing away bridges, sweeping away road formations and catching the concerned agencies wrong-footed, yet again. The monsoon remains moody, but its impact on daily life in Sikkim remains consistent in its ability to impose disruptions. The fragility of Sikkim's mountains contribute to the instability of the roads as does the precariousness of the buildings here, but the most substantial role in the annual ritual of road-blocks is played by the continuing prioritizing of repairs over solutions and the triumph of ignorance over science.

Deploying bull-dozers to clear out debris and investing tonnes of stones and crores of rupees in erecting retaining walls are at best, short-term measures for immediate relief. Unfortunately, these have been the only engineering skills applied to the annual assault of slush and debris that roads here come under. Much more refined science should have been applied to fortify Sikkim's roads by now and the level of preparedness should have evolved into a multidisciplinary exercise. The problem is obviously not only in the intensity of the monsoons or the vehicular stress on the roads. Worsening the situation is the degradation of the catchment areas, the weakening of the jhoras and streams [through quarrying and encroachments, for example], the obvious seismic activity [which, it appears, no one bothers to keep track of or share information on], and, of course, the still only sketchily understood reasons behind load limits for different roads. Those responsible for the care of roads have to realize that roads can be tended properly only if all these aspects are factored in and the reasons behind at least the traditional trouble-spots understood better.

Solutions will have to then be devised through interventions in all fields and not just by throwing more stones and more crores into repairs. Even the technology deployed for repairs appears to be as archaic, if not older, than the vintage of the roads themselves.

The alternate highway sanctioned for Sikkim will be helpful, but one must keep in mind that even this alternative will snake through the same hill, and will be managed by the same agencies, ergo, will be beset by the same problems and limitations. Repairs are necessary, but for the long run, customized solutions are required.

# Thai cave boys: the psychology of surviving underground

SARITA ROBINSON  
*theconversation.com*

When 12 young footballers and their coach entered the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand, it was supposed to be a fun outing after football practice. But when a torrent of flood water rushed in after heavy rain, the group became trapped on a small rock shelf deep inside the cave's vast network of tunnels.

It was nine days before two British divers, John Volanthen and Richard Stanton, located the group – mercifully alive and apparently in good physical and mental health. But how do people cope with such life-threatening events? And why is it important to focus on psychological, as well as physiological impact?

When the boys first became aware that they were facing a life-threatening situation they would have experienced a number of physiological reactions. Fight or flight responses, such as an increase in heart rate, would have kicked in immediately, designed to help us stay alive.

But despite their physiological benefits, these neurochemical changes can affect our brain, and impair our mental functioning. During the initial stages of an emergency situation our brains may perform poorly, potentially resulting in poor decision-making and memory failures. Fortunately, when the flood waters came crashing in, the Thai footballers and coach appear to have remained level headed.



Found after nine days. Now rescue plans have begun.

They were able to control feelings of panic, and made the rational decision to find a safe place and wait.

As the immediate danger from the flood waters receded, more long-term survival needs will have come into focus. Everyone knows that the human body has basic physical requirements: an adequate supply of food, water and warmth. What people often forget is that brain function is also sensitive to environmental factors. When exposed to the elements, dehydrated, hungry, or suffering from sleep deprivation, the human brain cannot function within its normal operating parameters.

In these conditions people can make poor decisions which can put

them at risk. The Thai footballers seem to have managed to keep themselves hydrated, and although they were clearly hungry when they were found, they appeared cognitively intact, looking alert and asking appropriate questions. Again, this shows that the boys and their coach managed to stay both physically and psychologically healthy during the nine long days they spent waiting in the dark.

In a survival situation, your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Maintaining a positive attitude is crucial: people who remain optimistic are more likely to think that adverse events are controllable, and so are more likely to undertake positive behaviours to try and survive. Pessimistic thinking increases feelings of anxiety and helplessness, which can stop people from trying to proactively improve their situation.

In extreme cases, people can give up mentally, withdraw into themselves, and even die. This is known as psychogenic death, essentially giving up. From the early footage, the footballers seem to have managed to stay positive while awaiting rescue. They are seen laughing and joking with the divers –

a very promising sign.

Another way to maintain mental strength is to draw on any social support available in the situation. This can be a friend or family member: anyone you feel you can count on in a time of need. It is thought that this kind of support can act as a buffer, and when we face danger in good company we perceive the situation to be less threatening than we would if we were alone. The fact that the Thai footballers have been able to draw on each other through their ordeal will have been a big boost to their mental health.

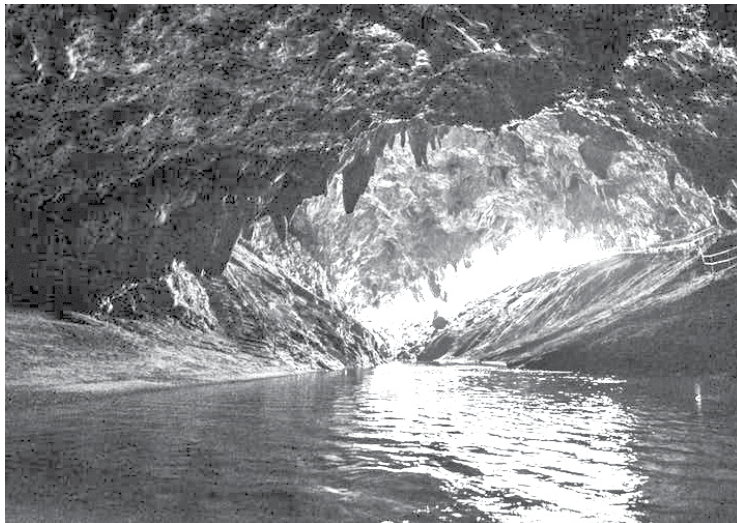
Currently the footballers appear in good spirits, so the next challenge is to remove them safely from the cave. Two main options have been put forward. First, teaching them to swim and use diving equipment, so they can leave the cave the same way their rescuers came in. Or option two, to leave the boys in the cave for the duration of the rainy season, which could last four to five months.

This is certainly possible, and we know that people frequently live, and adapt well in extreme environments. Sailors on submarines or yachts can spend long periods living in cramped conditions, as long as their basic needs are met and they adjust psychologically to their living conditions. In fact, in 2010 a group of 33 Chilean miners survived 69 days before they were rescued.

Once, hopefully, the 12 boys and their coach are rescued they will need to re-adapt to their everyday lives, and some are worried that they might suffer long-term mental health problems as a result of their experience. To this day some of the Chilean miners report struggling to hold down jobs and some experience harrowing flashbacks to their time spent underground.

Hopefully the boys won't be trapped for nearly so long. And, while they may experience short-term adverse effects, it's likely that with the support of their friends and family, they will recover. In some cases people have even reported experiencing positive outcomes after being exposed to traumatic events. Nevertheless they should be closely monitored after their ordeal, and if after a period of watchful waiting psychologists are still concerned, then psychological support can be offered.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Central Lancashire]*



The entrance to Tham Luang cave in happier times.

# Islamic State has survived 100,000 bombs and missiles and is still active

PAUL ROGERS  
*theconversation.com*

Shortly after the fall of the Syrian city of Raqqa in October 2017 – the centre of the Islamic State (IS) caliphate – US President Donald Trump announced that IS had been defeated and the war was won. Nine months later it is far from clear that IS is finished and extreme paramilitary Islamist movements are increasingly active in several regions.

IS had taken over much of northern Syria and Iraq, including Mosul, by mid-2014 leading President Barack Obama to order intensive air strikes to limit its spread and aid the Iraqis and others to push it on to the defensive. For close to four years an extraordinarily intensive air war was fought, principally by the US but aided by France, the UK and some other European and Middle Eastern powers.

According to the latest data from the Airwars monitoring group, over 1,424 days of air strikes, 107,814 bombs and missiles have been used against 29,741 targets in Iraq and Syria by the US-led forces. Pentagon sources speak of at least 60,000 IS paramilitaries killed but Airwars also reported 6,321 civilians killed.

The figures do not include the impact of hundreds of Russian air strikes in Syria and information from the heavily bombed cities of Raqqa, and Mosul in Iraq, suggest that many thousands of bodies of civilians are still buried under the rubble.

The war did have the desired effect and Iraqi, US, French and other ground forces, greatly assisted by Iran-linked militias, have successfully taken back most of the territory formerly controlled by IS. The caliphate is certainly gone – at least for now – but many other developments suggest that this is little more than a pause



in a very long irregular war.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

We have been here before. President George W Bush declared the Taliban regime in Afghanistan terminated and al-Qaida dispersed within four months of the 9/11 attacks and promptly broadened the "war on terror" to include an axis of evil of rogue states with Iran the first target.

The war against the Taliban and IS goes on in Afghanistan and is approaching its 18th year, with the new US Commander in the country, General Austin Scott Miller, recently telling the Senate Armed Service Committee that there had been some progress but that: "I can't guarantee you a timeline or an end date". Miller is the 17th commander of US forces in the country since 9/11.

Bush also led the US and its coalition partners into the Iraq War in March 2003. Baghdad fell to coalition troops within three weeks and Bush gave his "mission accomplished" speech three weeks later. Instead, the war went on for seven years.

Osama bin Laden was killed by US special forces in 2011 but al-Qaida continues in several countries. Obama thought the Iraq War had died down sufficiently for the US to withdraw troops by the end of 2011 but within two years IS had come from nowhere to pose a new regional threat, with the UK's head of MI5 saying earlier this year that the risk of attacks in Britain remained as high as ever.

## IS IS STILL A THREAT

The current situation is that IS continues to exist in spite of its huge losses. It con-

trols sufficient territory in eastern Syria for the Iraqi government to see it as a threat requiring the construction of security fence on the border between the two countries.

IS also continues to put out intensive social media propaganda encouraging attacks on Western states and it is actively linked with groups in Egypt, Somalia, Yemen and the Philippines.

In Syria and Iraq it appears now to have reverted to guerrilla warfare. The line to its supporters is now that the four year "caliphate" was primarily a symbol of what could be achieved against the overwhelming forces of the Crusaders and their Zionist supporters – a symbol for the future.

Perhaps most indicative of that future is

the current level of western military operations across the Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa. Britain and France are the main European states involved, not least in Mali, Niger and Nigeria. But US Special Forces are at the forefront of a bitter, yet almost entirely unreported, series of wars which also include Somalia, Kenya and Tunisia.

A brief report by Politico published some details that US special forces had been involved in direct military action.

The report states that despite military spokespeople claiming the American role in Africa is limited to "advising and assisting" other militaries, the truth is that for at least five years, Green Berets, Navy SEALs and other commandos "operating under a little-understood authority" have planned and controlled missions – putting them in charge of their African partner forces. One Green Beret officer told Politico: "It's less, 'We're helping you,' and more, 'You're doing our bidding.'"

Where IS and other extreme movements now seem to see their future is wherever there are large numbers of people on the margins – especially bitter and resentful young men – who have enough education to know that their life chances are scarcely better than zero and are all-too-ready converts to an attractive if extreme cause.

What the wars against IS, al-Qaida and the other movements show is that military responses may seem to work in the short term but don't change much. That will only come by addressing the underlying socio-economic and environmental factors that are so helpful to these movements. That is not a message that western elites want to hear and so the wars will go on.

*[the writer is Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford]*





LET’S FOOTBALL

It’s vacation time. The summer holidays present a golden opportunity to indulge in some football play with FIFA World Cup fever on a high. Kids at Malbasey in West Sikkim definitely have no reason not to play football. [REBYNA RANA]

Four members of a ‘terrorist outfit’ arrested from north Bengal: Police

KOLKATA, JUL 9 (PTI): The West Bengal CID has arrested four alleged members of a new “terrorist outfit” from Naxalbari area in north Bengal for “plotting” to conduct serial blasts in several government buildings and on railway tracks on August 28, a senior police officer said today.

The four arrested persons have been identified as chief Nirmal Roy and members Kandarpa Das, Ratan Adhikary and Dipi Prasad Roy of the newly formed terror outfit Greater Coochbehar Liberation Organisation (GCLO), he said.

The four were arrested by the CID sleuths late on Saturday night from Roy Para under Naxalbari police station area, he said.

The state CID had been tracking Nirmal Roy, a resident of Dhubri district in Assam for last few days after he posted a message on Facebook and Youtube about setting up of the new outfit GCLO with an objective to form a new state of Kamtapur/Greater Coochbehar through armed rebellion, the police officer said.

“On noticing Nirmal Roy’s post on the social networking sites, we started tracking him and used a decoy to invite him for a meeting. He fell into the trap and we nabbed him along with the three others,” he said.

The police said GCLO member Kandarpa Das is a resident of Ghogapar in Assam, while Ratan Adhikari belongs to North Khagrabari in Coochbehar district and Dipi



Prasad Roy from Netaji-para in Jalpaiguri district.

During their questioning, the four have revealed that they were planning to carry out serial blasts in several government offices and on various railway tracks on August 28, the day on which the Coochbehar Maharaja had signed the Merger Agreement with the then Governor General of India, C Rajagopalachari in 1949 and which is known as ‘Merger Day’.

“We are in touch with the Assam police and are trying to find out if they

had identified their targeted buildings and railway tracks for the serial blast on the Merger Day,” he elaborated.

“Nirmal Roy had also planned to call a bandh on July 31. We are trying to find out who all he has roped in for the outfit, which he claims is his brainchild. We are also investigating whether GCLO has got assistance from other rebel groups,” the officer said.

An FIR has been lodged Naxalbari police station regrading this, the officer added.

Knowledge of Assamese must for working in Assam: Literary body

MORIGAON, JUL 9 (PTI): Assam Sahitya Sabha, the apex literary body of the state, has said anyone wanting to work in Assam must know Assamese or any of the local mother tongues.

The Sabha president warned that if they do not know the languages, they will not be allowed to work in the state, in both the public and private sectors. The Assam Sahitya Sabha president Paramanda Rajbongshi was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting here yesterday.

“Right from the fourth grade to the topmost level, irrespective of being in private or government sector, people who are working in Assam must know Assamese or any of the local mother tongues”, he said.

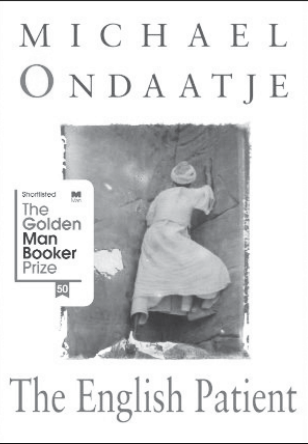
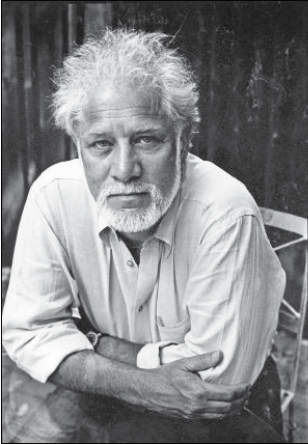
He, however, did not specify the local mother tongues spoken in the state, which is inhabited by 28 ethnic communities.

The Sabha president said at present, the indigenous people of Assam are going through a crisis with their identity and language under threat.

“The Assam Sahitya Sabha cannot allow the local mother tongues to die. We will not listen to anyone, anymore. This is a warning to all. Everyone must be careful”, he said.

The Sabha chief also urged the Assam government to take steps on the issue and implement it.

The century-old organisation has been raising the issue of using Assamese language in the state and had asked government and private institutions, business establishments, financial institutions, to use the language on hoardings and nameplates.



Ondaatje’s ‘The English Patient’ wins Golden Booker Prize

LONDON, JUL 9 (PTI): Sri Lanka-born Canadian literary icon Michael Ondaatje’s ‘The English Patient’ has won the special one-off Golden Man Booker Prize to mark the 50th anniversary of the prestigious literary award here.

‘The English Patient’ is a tale of love and conflict during World War II.

The 74-year-old author beat the Man Booker Prize’s previous 51 winners including Indian-origin VS Naipaul for his 1971 winner ‘In a Free State’; Salman Rushdie for ‘Midnight’s Children’ (1981), Arundhati Roy for ‘The God of Small Things’ (1997); Kiran Desai for ‘The Inheritance of Loss’ (2006); and Aravind Adiga for ‘The White Tiger’ (2008).

“Not for a second do I believe this is the best book on the list or any other list that could have been put together of Booker novels,” Ondaatje said at the awards ceremony at London’s Southbank yesterday.

He said he suspected the 1996 Oscar-winning adaptation of his novel, starring Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche and Kristen Scott Thomas, probably had something to do with the result of the public vote.

Previously, ‘The English Patient’ had shared the 1992 Booker Prize with Barry Unsworth’s 18th century slave tale ‘Sacred Hunger’.

All 51 previous Booker winners were considered by a panel of judges, who whittled them down to one from each decade. The public then voted on their ultimate favourite and settled on Ondaatje’s war-time romance.

Judge Kamila Shamsie said it was “that rare novel which gets under your skin”.

“It moves seamlessly between the epic and the intimate one moment

you’re in looking at the vast sweep of the desert and the next moment watching a nurse place a piece of plum in a patient’s mouth,” she said.

Baroness Helena Kennedy, Chair of the Booker Prize Foundation, added: “It is a compelling work of fiction both poetic and philosophical and is a worthy winner of the Golden Man Booker.

“As we celebrate the prize’s 50th anniversary, it is a testament to the impact and legacy of the Man Booker Prize that all of the winning books are still in print. I’m confident that this special book, chosen by the public, will continue to stand the test of time and delight new readers for many more years to come.”

The 50th anniversary of the prize is being marked globally with Man Booker author events at international literary festivals across the world.

In 2008, the Booker Prize held a similar competition for its 40th anniversary, when the public voted for Salman Rushdie’s ‘Midnight’s Children’, which originally won in 1981.

The Golden Booker award marked the end of the Man Booker 50 Festival on the banks of the river Thames in London.

The Man Booker Prize is sponsored by Man Group, an active investment management firm.

“The Golden Man Booker celebrates the literary brilliance that the Man Booker Prize has championed over the last five decades, and we are delighted to celebrate the important role it continues to play in inspiring literary endeavour,” said Man Group CEO Luke Ellis.

The Booker Prize for Fiction was first awarded in 1969 and has been sponsored by Man Group since 2002.

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**Anthyesti Kria**

The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Biraj Rai, S/o late I.B. Rai & Smt. Suk Lachi Rai of Ranka, Rai Gaon, East Sikkim who passed away on 07.07.2018 falls on 12th July 2018 (Thursday). All family members, well-wishers and friends are requested to join the family members for the prayer ceremony to be held on above mentioned date at their residence at Ranka Rai Gaon, East Sikkim.

**Bimal Rai (elder brother),  
Sumitra & Niruta (sisters)  
Mob: 9832304740, 7908673616**

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## FC Pune City sign Gabriel, Shankar for 2018-19 ISL season

**PUNE, JUL 9 (PTI):** Indian Super League (ISL) club FC Pune City today signed winger Gabriel Fernandes and defensive midfielder Sampiringaj to strengthen their squad for the 2018-19 season of the tournament.

Gabriel, who last played for East Bengal in the I-League, enters the ISL with the FC Pune City after a gap of two years, a media release issued by the club said.

FC Pune City CEO Gaurav Modwelsaid, "Gabriels speed and agility on the wings gives the team good options."

Fernandes started his youth career with Dempo and Sporting Goa. In 2012, he joined the Mumbai FC.

The 30-year old made his ISL debut with the FC Goa in 2014 and joined Mumbai City FC in the next season.

Since then, the winger has played in the I-League for Salgaocar, Churchill Bros and East Bengal.

Sampiringaj comes in to the FC Pune City fold after having an impressive outing for the Bengaluru FC leading up to a national call for the U-23 side.

The Karnataka-born player began his professional career with the HAL and later signed with Pailan Arrows followed by a stint at the DSK Shivajians (on loan).

After getting the young midfielders signature, Modwelsaid, "Shankar is a hard-working player, who is good on the ball and is technically sound, which adds a lot of quality in the way that we want to play our football."

Sampiringaj made his India U-23 debut against Uzbekistan in a 2016 AFC U23 qualifier in Bangladesh. The young midfielder appeared for the Kerala Blasters FC in the 2015 ISL season.

# Morgan laments batting collapse, says England were 20-30 runs short

**CHETAN NARULA**

**BRISTOL, JUL 9 (PTI):** England captain Eoin Morgan said his side was 20-30 runs short in the lost third T20 International against India and blamed the death-overs' batting collapse for the score, which wasn't enough despite being steep.

Rohit Sharma scored his third T20I hundred as India chased down 199 with seven wickets in hand to pocket the three-match series 2-1.

"We were probably 20-30 runs short. 225 or 235 would have been more of a difficult chase (on that ground). India never really got away from us, but we struggled to take wickets (during the chase)," said Morgan.

"They kept up with the rate, and then it was a position in the 16th or 17th over they could take the game away from us which is disappointing. (But) Jason (Roy) and Jos (Buttler) were brilliant up front and almost gave us a licence to allow ourselves to think about 220," he added.

England lost four wickets for



46 runs in the middle overs that restricted their momentum, and in the death overs they lost another five wickets in the space of 14 balls.

For India, while Rohit did the job with the bat, all-rounder Hardik Pandya picked up four wickets for 38 runs and was instrumental in pulling things back for India.

"Pandya kept it simple (on a tough ground). He hit good lengths and we didn't hit it. The execution of our shots didn't re-

ally match up. On a good wicket, and a small ground, we should be better than that. India were probably on top of their game today, and we weren't.

"We were just short. Those 20 or 30 runs we missed out on in the back-end of our innings cost us," said the skipper.

"This series has been pretty competitive, probably barring the first game, which they (India) dominated. It doesn't necessarily expose us in one area, but it allows us to grow as a team.

I don't think we have to play a completely perfect game every time. We proved that at Cardiff."

England were not able to get breakthroughs throughout the Indian innings, with a crucial 89-run third-wicket partnership between Rohit and Virat Kohli setting the tone for the victory.

Morgan said there were key things to learn from the game which the hosts would take into the three-match ODI series strating July 12.

"I was just chopping and changing trying to find a wicket, trying to be as unpredictable as we could but it didn't work. India stuck to banging in a hard length until they went to yorkers towards the end. That's what we tried to replicate, because on this ground, taking wickets is a priority," he said.

"But I am pretty confident, going forward, we won't be hung over on this series loss. It doesn't mean we are going to go and have a divine right to win a game of cricket. We have to remember all the hard work we put in to beat good teams, and India are one of those.



## How can you be selective in accepting SC verdict: Kejriwal to LG

**NEW DELHI, JULY 9 (PTI):** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today wrote to Lt governor Anil Baijal wondering how he can be "selective" in accepting the Supreme Court judgement on power tussle between the Delhi government and the Centre.

In the letter, Kejriwal urged Baijal to implement the apex court's order in letter and spirit and asserted that the Ministry of Home Affairs does not have powers to interpret the order.

He also urged the L-G to approach the Supreme Court immediately for clarification, in case of any confusion while saying "but kindly don't violate the order of the apex court".

"But how can you be selective in accepting the judgement? Either you should take a position that all the matters now would be placed before regular bench and therefore, you would not implement any part of the order. Or you should accept the whole order and implement it.

"How can you say that you will accept this para of the order but not accept that para of the same order?" Kejriwal said in his letter.

The chief minister today approved the 'Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana' -- a scheme to enable 1,100 senior citizens from each Assembly constituency in Delhi to undertake free pilgrimage -- overruling

all objections raised by the L-G.

"Mukhyamantri Teerth yatra yojana approved. All objections overruled..." Kejriwal tweeted.

The chief minister had last Friday told reporters that the lieutenant governor does not agree that control of the services department should be handed over to the Delhi government and that it was the first time in India's history that the Central government had openly refused to obey the apex court's order.

Addressing the media after a meeting with Baijal, the first after his nine-day sit-in, he had said the LG had sought advice from the Ministry of Home Affairs and was told that services should not be given to the Delhi government.

This would lead to anarchy in the country, Kejriwal had said.

Hours after the Supreme Court's landmark judgement earlier this week, the Delhi government introduced a new system for transfer and postings of bureaucrats, making the chief minister the approving authority.

However, the services department refused to comply, saying the Supreme Court did not abolish the notification issued in 2016 which made the MHA the authority for transfers and postings.

# Iran can give good fight to India in Asiad kabaddi: Rishank

**MUMBAI, JUL 9 (PTI):** Star raider Rishank Devadiga expects Iran to give reigning champions India a run for their money in the men's kabaddi competition at the upcoming Asian Games.

According to him, even teams like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and South Korea will not be pushovers in a sport largely dominated by India.

"In the Asian Games, all teams come well prepared. You can't judge the teams on the basis of their performance in the Dubai Masters, because Iran had sent their junior players, but the main team will represent them in the Asian Games," Devadiga told PTI here today.

"The teams from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are good. Even the South Korean team is good. These teams can give us good competition in the Asian Games."

"They will come to the Games after doing their analysis. I cannot say, but Iran team can give a good competition



to India," he remarked.

The kabaddi star was speaking after the #Raid-ForGold, an initiative by Mashal Sports Pvt Ltd, was launched to support the Indian kabaddi team at the Asian Games to be hosted by Indonesia from August 18 to September 2.

Prodded further on why Iran could pose a tough challenge, Dev-

adiga said, "Iran have brought up a lot of changes to their game in the past years. Indian players are skillful and technically (sound)."

"They (Iran) have presently adapted to this technique and made changes (in style of play). Their players also play in the Pro Kabaddi League. This time their team will be good and will be

a good competition for India and even we are ready for it."

India clinched the title in the recently held Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 tournament by defeating Iran in the final.

India are aiming for their consecutive 8th gold at the continental Games and, according to Devadiga, the team will

go to the event aiming to wrap up yet another gold medal and establish their superiority once again.

"In our minds, the thing is to play well and win matches. We are going to the Asian Games and we should go with the thinking that we will bag the gold (medal)."

"So the Indian team has gone with this very mindset and in future also we will play likewise," the 26-year-old attacker added.

He said the tournament in Dubai showed the players were in good form and that will help the team in the Asian Games.

"The preparation is going good because we had the fitness camp twice. We went to Dubai for the Dubai Masters (tournament) and all players are fit and in form.

"This is an advantage for us. May be our camp for the Asian Games will start next week and the focus will be on these upcoming Games," he signed off.

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# Parents satisfied with quality improvement in Delhi govt-run schools: ASSOCHAM survey



**NEW DELHI, JUL 9 (PTI):** Schools in the National Capital Region (NCR) must emulate the model of Delhi government-run schools in terms of making much-needed improvements to facilities and teaching methods, noted a parents' satisfaction survey conducted by ASSOCHAM.

The state governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Rajasthan having thirteen, seven and two districts that, along with NCT of Delhi, make up the NCR, must take a cue from Delhi government and allocate large chunk of their budget to education, according to the survey conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Social Development Foundation (ASDF).

The industry body interacted with about 3,250 parents in districts falling in NCR whose children are studying in local government schools.

The survey was conducted during summer holidays in May-June to ascertain the views of people in general about their level of satisfaction in government schools of their respective districts.

"Almost all the parents were of the view that Delhi government is doing a commendable job for bringing overall improvement in the school education as every parent wants schools with good amount of facilities in their own area.

"Many of them said that through various media reports and views of their relatives and known people they have learnt about Delhi government model of schools that have undergone a metamorphosis of late," the survey said.

Releasing the findings of the survey, ASSOCHAM secretary general DS Rawat said, A lot is being done in the education sector both at the Centre and state government levels in Delhi. With Delhi govern-

ment providing state-of-the-art facilities, improving infrastructure and quality of education, other state governments must follow suit to help shape a bright future for our children.

During the survey parents were also asked about how satisfied they were with various aspects of the school their child currently attended, including the school overall, the teachers, academic standards, order and discipline, facilities and the way the school staff interacted with parents.

"Majority of respondents in all the districts said there were many areas that need to be improved. Some said that proactive approach was needed to ensure wholesome development of children, equal focus on education and extracurricular activities, conducting classes in creative writing, dance, theatre, fine arts and other such subjects by hiring specialised teachers," the survey report said.



# Ambulance leaves Thai cave on 2nd day of rescue operation

**MAE SAI, JUL 9 (AP):** An ambulance with flashing lights left the site of a flooded cave in northern Thailand where a youth soccer team has been trapped for two weeks, just hours after the second phase of a rescue operation was launched today.

The ambulance drove toward a helipad, where a helicopter was seen taking off shortly after to the cheers of the crowd below. The same process was used yesterday for at least one of the four boys rescued in the first attempt at getting the 12 boys and their coach out of the underground complex.

Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said the second phase began at 11 a.m. and authorities "hope to hear good news in the next few hours". Nine people remained trapped in the cave, including the team's coach, as today.

"All conditions are still as

good as they were yesterday," Narongsak told a news conference. "The boys' strength, the plan today we are ready like before. And we will do it faster because we are afraid of the rain."

Authorities have been rushing to extract the boys, ages 11-16, and their coach from the cave as the annual monsoon bears down on the mountainous region in far northern Chiang Rai province.

Workers have been laboring around the clock to pump water out of the cave, and authorities said today that heavy downpours overnight did not raise water levels inside.

The four boys pulled from the cave Sunday in an urgent and dangerous operation that involved them diving through the cave's dark, tight and twisting passages were happy and in good health, authorities said.



"This morning they said they were hungry and wanted to eat khao pad grapao," Narongsak said, referring to a Thai dish of meat fried with chili and basil and served over rice.

Still, the four were undergoing medical checks in a hospital in the provincial capital and were not yet allowed

close contact with relatives due to fear of infections. Relatives were able to see them through a glass partition, the governor said.

The boys and their coach went exploring in the massive Tham Luang Nang Non cave on June 23 after a soccer practice, and were cut off when a rainstorm flooded

the cave. A massive international search operation was launched and it took 10 days to locate the boys, who had taken shelter on a dry slope deep in the complex.

The search and rescue operation has riveted people both in Thailand and internationally, with journalists from across the globe traveling to

this town along the border with Myanmar to report on the ordeal.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda had said today that the same group of expert divers who took part in Sunday's rescue would return to extricate the others because they know the cave conditions and what to do. He had said fresh air tanks needed to be laid along the underwater route.

Authorities have said extracting the entire team from the cave could take up to four days, but Sunday's success raised hopes that it could be done faster.

Yesterday's mission involved 13 foreign divers and five Thai navy SEALs. Two divers accompanied each of the boys, all of whom have been learning to dive only since July 2, when searchers found them.

Cave rescue experts have said they consider an under-

water escape to be a last resort, especially with people untrained in diving.

The death of a former Thai navy SEAL underscored the risks. The diver, the first fatality of the rescue effort, was working in a volunteer capacity and died on a mission to place air canisters along the passage to where the boys are, necessary for divers to safely travel the five- to six-hour route.

There were several concerns that prompted authorities to move forward with the plan to dive the boys out. One was that it was unknown how safe and dry the area where they had taken shelter would stay as Thailand's rainy season, which lasts until at least late October, picks up pace.

The other, and perhaps more worrying, was that oxygen levels in the complex were falling close to dangerous levels.



## UK's Brexit minister resigns, denies plans to topple Theresa May

**LONDON, JUL 9 (PTI):** Britain's Brexit minister David Davis today resigned from the Cabinet stating policy differences over Prime Minister Theresa May's exit plan from the European Union (EU) but insisted that he had no plans of backing a revolt against her.

The resignation is a blow to May as she seeks to win over Eurosceptic MPs to her proposed Brexit vision, which would form the basis of the UK's position in ongoing talks with the EU.

The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU said he remained "unpersuaded" about the government's negotiating position, just days after May had rallied her Cabinet to a crucial away day at her country retreat, Chequers, to thrash out a "collective" position on the issue.

In his resignation letter, Davis said it looked "less and less likely" the Conservative party would deliver on the Brexit result and the commitment to leave the EU Customs Union and Single Market dubbed by many as a "soft" Brexit.

"The general direction of policy will leave us in at best a weak negotiating position, and possibly an inescapable one," Davis wrote.

"I am also unpersuaded that our negotiating approach will not just lead to further demands for concession," he said in the letter addressed to May.

He ended the letter by saying that May needs "an enthusiastic believer in your approach, and not merely a reluctant conscript".

While he accused May of giving away too much, too easily to negotiators in Brussels, Davis insisted that he still believes she is the best person for the job of delivering Brexit.



**T**wenty-four people were killed and hundreds injured when a train packed with weekend passengers derailed in northwest Turkey due to ground erosion after heavy rains, officials said today. The train, with over 360 people on board, was travelling from the Edirne region on the Greek and Bulgarian borders to Istanbul's Halkali station on Sunday when six carriages derailed in the Tekirdag region. Turkish media quoted Health Minister Ahmet Demircan as saying 338 people required hospital treatment after the accident with 124 still hospitalised. The transport ministry said that the train, carrying 362 passengers, had derailed as recent heavy downpours caused the ground beneath the track to erode away. The train derailed outside the village of Sarilar in the Corlu district of Tekirdag.

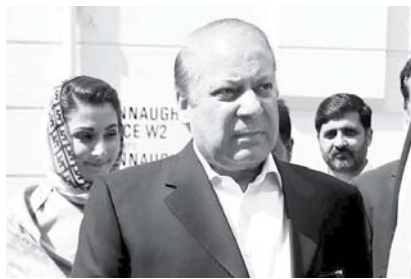
## Sharif, his daughter will be arrested on their arrival at any airport in Pak: Minister

**M ZULQERNAIN LAHORE, JUL 9 (PTI):** Ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz will be arrested on their arrival at any airport in Pakistan as they have been convicted in a corruption case, a senior minister said today.

Maryam last evening shared her flight details to return to Pakistan with media persons. She said she will reach at Lahore airport on Friday at 6:15 pm by Ittehad Airways' flight EY-243.

"The government will implement accountability court's order in letter and spirit and arrest Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz on their arrival at Lahore airport," Law Minister Ali Zafar told reporters.

"Let me make it clear that the law enforcement agencies will arrest Nawaz and Maryam on airport to implement the court's order," he said.



The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has also announced that it will arrest the father and the daughter on their arrival in Lahore on Friday.

"On the announcement of the Sharif family that Nawaz and Maryam are arriving in Lahore on Friday at 6.15 pm we have written to the Punjab government to coordinate with NAB for their arrest at the airport," a NAB official told PTI today.

He said the NAB would not allow Sharif to lead a rally. "We will make sure that Sharif

and Maryam do not leave the airport and arrested there," he said.

The accountability court Islamabad on Friday last handed down 10 and 7 years rigorous imprisonment to Sharif and Maryam respectively in the Avenfield properties corruption case filed by the NAB.

Maryam was given 7 years imprisonment for abetment after she was found "instrumental in concealment of the properties of her father" and one year for non-cooperation with NAB.

Sharif's son-in-law

Capt (ret.) M Safdar who has been given one year jail term for not cooperating with NAB, and aiding and abetting Sharif and Maryam has been arrested and sent to Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

Meanwhile, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurenzeb said Sharif and Maryam will arrive in Lahore on Friday via Abu Dhabi on a foreign airline.

"PML-N workers from across the country will gather in Lahore to welcome their leaders," she said.

Sharif along with Maryam had gone to London last month to see his ailing wife Begum Kulsoom Nawaz. She is suffering from lymphoma (throat cancer). She has been on a ventilator since June 14 after suffering a cardiac arrest in London.

Sharif said Kulsoom may regain consciousness before he leaves for Lahore on Friday.

## Reuters reporters to face Myanmar trial for 'breaking' secrecy law

**YANGON, JUL 9 (AFP):** Two Reuters reporters accused of breaking Myanmar's draconian secrecy law during their reporting of the Rohingya crisis must face trial, a judge ruled today, on a charge that carries up to 14 years in jail.

Myanmar nationals Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, were both "charged under the state secrets act", Judge Ye Lwin told the court, setting a first court date for July 16.

The pair have been held in custody for nearly seven months for pre-trial hearings. They were arrested in December and accused of possession of leaked sensitive material linked to security operations in crisis-hit Rakhine state.

Reuters says the pair are innocent and were simply doing their job by reporting on a massacre of Rohingya Muslims and has urged the judge to dismiss the case.

But Judge Ye Lwin decided the prosecution

had shown enough proof that they men were "collecting evidence" from state officials to proceed the case to trial.

The legal action against them has been lambasted by rights groups and foreign observers as an assault on media freedom and an effort to stifle reporting on the Rohingya crisis.

During pre-trial hearings the prosecution argued the reporters tried to access "secret papers" and therefore deserved punishment under the British colonial-era secrecy law.

The reporters say they were entrapped by police -- a version of events seemingly backed up in court by a whistleblowing cop who testified that officers were ordered to set up the reporters.

The pair had been investigating a massacre of ten Rohingya Muslims at Inn Din village in Rakhine state during last year's military-led crackdown on Rohingya militants.

Before Reuters pub-

lished its report on the massacre, Myanmar authorities admitted 10 Rohingya men had been arrested and killed illegally at the village, later prosecuting several members of the security forces.

But Myanmar has been at pains to say Inn Din was an isolated incident and not part of a wider campaign of ethnic cleansing directed against the Muslim Rohingya, as the UN and US have alleged.

Wa Lone, who has issued a defiant "thumbs up" to waiting journalists at each court appearance, vowed to fight the case.

"We have the right to a defence. The court did not decide we are guilty," he said.

In court, Kyaw Soe Oo denied any wrongdoing saying "I worked as a journalist according to the ethics." Army operations in August 2017 forced more than 700,000 Rohingya, who are denied citizenship in Myanmar, to flee to Bangladesh.



### GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANIZATION HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES AND F.W. DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The H.C. H.S. & F.W. Department, Government of Sikkim invites Tenders from Manufacturers or their authorized dealers/ Indian subsidiaries/ direct importers having a place of business in any of the States of India for the "Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of Digital X-Ray Machine (Philips) at STNM Hospital, Gangtok."

Details of the RFP can be obtained from the Sikkim Government website [www.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.sikkim.gov.in).

sd/-

JOINT DIRECTOR (CHSO).

R.O. No. 188/opr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 9.7.2018



### DIRECTORATE OF STATE LOTTERIES FINANCE, REVENUE & EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

No: FIN/DSSL/656/2017-18/(Part File)/154 Date: 09/07/2018  
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR 08 (EIGHT)  
WEEKLY ONLINE LOTTERY DRAWS  
(PART A)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Directorate of Sikkim State Lotteries under Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department, Government of Sikkim invites Tender/ Bids from eligible Proprietorship/ Partnership Firms/Companies registered under the law for appointment of Marketing Agent for marketing and sale of 08(Eight) Sikkim Online weekly lotteries per day (Part-A).

For more details please visit the Government website [www.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.sikkim.gov.in).

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R.O. No. 190/opr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 9.07.2018

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**VIP ACCESS!** Michael Douglas, 73, puts on a stylish display in a funky tortoise print shirt as he enjoys VIP backstage access at the 2018 Formula 1 Rolex British Grand Prix in Silverstone.

## Captain Marvel: Brie Larson posts picture marking 'last day' of filming

It might have taken Marvel more time than DC but we are closer than ever for a female-stand alone movie in the MCU. Captain Marvel has wrapped up the shooting, as per lead actress, Brie Larson's latest social media posts.

Brie took to her Twitter handle and Instagram profile and shared a picture of a clapboard placed on her shooting calendar. The hint about the wrap comes from the fact that on the calendar July 6 has been marked as the 'last day'. Moreover, the clapboard has been autographed by all the crucial crew members, as if to celebrate the wrap-up. The pictures hand painted on the calendar might serve as further hints for the plot of the film.

Captain Marvel went on floors on March 27. It was first teased in the MCU, in a post-credits sequence of Avengers: Infinity War. In July, Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige had revealed that Captain Marvel will be set in the early 1990s. He was at the San Diego Comic-Con where he spilled the beans that directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck's film will



show Carol Danvers and her alter ego fighting enemies almost three decades ago.

"There is an unexplored period of the Marvel Cinematic Universe that we wanted to showcase. Almost anything else is a spoiler other than to say that the '90s would be a fun period to make a superhero movie in," he had said.

Set for release in the US on March 8, 2019, Captain Marvel is co-directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who's known for films like Mississippi Grind

and Half Nelson. The movie also stars Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn and Djimon Hounsou, alongside Brie.

Music composer Pinar Toprak is on board to work on the superhero movie. She said in a social media post, "It's an incredible honour to be a part of the Marvel Universe... I have so many people to thank for helping me on this journey but first and foremost, my incredible agents Laura Engel and Richard Kraft for believing in me from day one."

don't waste it.

**GEMINI:** Try not to be smothering today, Gemini. You may want to seek comfort in the company of others but find that this only produces grouching on the part of all involved. Curb your tendency to find fault in loved ones. Your best bet is to focus your energy on tasks you've had on the back burner for some time. Tackle projects that need special attention and the most discipline.

**CANCER:** There's a damper on your emotions today that could leave you feeling like a pot of simmering water, Cancer. Just by knowing there's a lid on things you're likely to heat up more quickly than usual. Try to hold your temper. A furious rage will get you nowhere. Concentrate your energy on getting your material affairs in order. Deal with finances, investments, and

long-term security planning.

**LEO:** It could be hard for you to feel connected to anyone today, Leo. You're probably better off keeping to yourself. If you're feeling sad or depressed, it's best to work through these feelings on your own. Other people aren't apt to be too sympathetic to your situation. You're better off sticking to your work in order to keep the demons out of your head.

**VIRGO:** You may feel a sense of restriction to the day, but in truth, this is for your own good, Virgo. You'll find that your acute sense of discipline comes in handy today as you tackle work with incredible enthusiasm. Your goals aren't far from your grasp. Stay focused, and don't let the ticking clock pressure you. Hastiness will lead to careless mistakes. If you're going to do a job, do it right.

**LIBRA:** Find comfort in your work today, Libra. Although it may sound ridiculous, you'll find that getting things checked off your list is the most rewarding activity of the day. Try not to be too critical of others. Focus on your own tasks at hand. Mountains that seem too daunting will continue to grow bigger until you take the first step. Your perseverance will be an inspiration to others.

**SCORPIO:** Get your head out of the clouds, Scorpio. You'll find out that nitpicky details you failed to attend to earlier are now coming back to haunt you. Don't postpone your work any further. The time to take care of the job is now. Balance your checkbook and do your laundry. Clean your bathtub and go shopping. The more you accomplish today, the better you'll feel about yourself tomorrow.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today you need to finish whatever you didn't get done yesterday, Sagittarius. Themes of the journey include discipline and paying attention to the sand slipping through the hourglass. The more you're able to accomplish, the better you'll feel about yourself. Stagnant energy in your life signals that it's time to get things moving. Don't waste another moment waiting for someone else to find the solution for you. Take the initiative.

**CAPRICORN:** Put aside frivolity for a day, Capricorn. This is an important time to prepare for the future. Don't take another step forward before you know you're on solid ground. This is a good time to secure your goals on a piece of paper. Writing them down in ink will help you manifest them in your life. Think about the long-term harvest. Security and grounding are key themes of the day.

**AQUARIUS:** People may be a bit critical of you today, Aquarius, and you would do well to hear what they have to say. Be receptive of feedback from others so that you may establish a healthy ego. It's important to keep your sense of humility in check. You might find that you're feeling rather critical as you see people moving like sloths compared to your lightning quick mind. Be patient with others.

**PISCES:** Maintain your psychic shield today, Pisces, because you'll need it. People's comments may seem harsh even if they mean well. Your best defense against the critical tone of the day is to use other people's criticisms as constructively as you can in order to build a stronger foundation from which to work. Process this energy in a positive frame of mind and use it to get things done.

## KYLIE JENNER REVEALS SHE'S HAD ALL HER LIP FILLER REMOVED!

Kylie Jenner has shocked fans by revealing she has had all of her lip filler removed. The 20-year-old revealed she had done so after countless followers remarked that a photo she posted of herself on Sunday looked like "the old Kylie".

The reality star first got lip fillers at age 16, after a boy remarked he was surprised she was such a good kisser with her "small" lips.

"I got rid of all my filler," she responded with worried face emojis.

And fans were quick to also send their support for the star, with many commenting that she looked better than ever before.

"This is the first time actually commenting on your page im just hear just to say you look truly gorgeous without your fillers," wrote one.

"You are so much CUT-ER!!! without your fillers," shared another.

The photo saw Kylie flaunt her post-baby body in a form-fitting black singlet and high waisted pants alongside her friend Anastasia Karanikolaou.

The makeup mogul has previously revealed she first became insecure about her



© Kylie Jenner/Instagram

naturally small pout after a boy she kissed commented that he was surprised she was a good kisser even with small lips. She was just 15 years old at the time.

Looking back on the moment, she said on her spin-off show, The Life Of Kylie, "I had really small lips, and it was, like, one of my first kisses, and a guy was like, I didn't think you'd be a good kisser because you have such small lips".

"I took that really hard," she revealed to her therapist on her spin-off show.

The 20-year-old went on to say: "Just when a guy you like says that... I don't know, it just really affected me. I didn't feel desirable or pretty."

She began overlining her lips with lip liners before undergoing fillers when she turned 16. But Kylie continued to deny she had received fillers.

"I feel like everyone has been talking about it for months, so I'm kind of sick of it," she told E! News in 2014. "My pictures, I put them out a lot. I think big lips are awesome."

Finally, on a 2015 episode of Keeping Up with the Kardashians, Kylie came clean about her lip fillers.

"I have temporary lip fillers," she admitted. "It's just an insecurity of mine and it's what I wanted to do. I want to admit to the lips, but people are so quick to judge me on everything, so I might have tiptoed around the truth, but I didn't lie."

She later admitted she may have initially gone 'too far' when she started the injections.

"When you first get them done, you're like, 'Oh, it could be a little bit bigger on that side'. I'd go back and be like, 'They went down' and think they could be bigger. But I went too far. It was very painful," she told Complex.

In 2015, Kylie gave fans the chance to emulate her pillow-like lips when she launched her wildly successful lip kit range. Kylie Cosmetics now includes concealer, eye shadow, and blush products.



## JB & Hailey Baldwin engaged as singer pops the question on Bahamas getaway!

Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin are engaged after reigniting their romance a little more than a month ago, according to reports on Sunday.

Eyewitnesses claim the 24-year-old Sorry hitmaker got down on one knee proposing to the 21-year-old model at a resort in the Bahamas on Saturday night.

TMZ reports two women said they were at a restaurant when Bieber's security told everyone to put their phones away as something special was about to happen. The two witnesses then saw Bieber propose in front of everyone. Witnesses said that everyone was salsa dancing, and a video posted by a fan on Instagram showed the couple in a celebratory mood as they dance together at the resort.

Bieber's dad, Jeremy shared a sunset snap of the pop star on Sunday with the caption, "@justinbieber proud is an understatement! Excited for the next chapter!"

The star's mother also made a comment on Twitter

Saturday, writing, "Love Love Love Love Love Love."

After the news broke, a source told People, "It's kind of a surprise, but kind of not. Justin has been extremely happy these past few weeks. He has known Hailey for a long time. This might seem sudden, but they know each other very well."

Bieber has been practically inseparable from the Tommy Hilfiger model in recent weeks who he dated briefly in 2016 after being friends for years. Their public displays of affection have become more frequent with the duo not feeling shy to share kisses and hugs in front of onlookers.

Last month, the Love Yourself crooner played a prank on paparazzi when he pretended he and Baldwin were engaged by wearing a wedding band on his left hand. Shortly after a source dismissed speculation insisting to TMZ that it was merely a gag and that the couple had "no immediate plans to exchange vows".

## 'THE FAULT IN OUR STARS' REMAKE 'KIZIE AUR MANNY' FIRST POSTER OUT!

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who has impressed us with his acting skills in films like Kai Po Che and MS Dhoni - The Untold story, is all set to kick start shooting of his upcoming film titled Kizie Aur Manny from today in Jamshedpur along with her leading lady, Sanjana Sanghi. The romantic drama is the official remake of Hollywood blockbuster 'The Fault in Our Stars' and marks the directorial debut ace casting director Mukesh Chhabra.

Sushant announced the title on his official Twitter account by revealing the poster and captioned it, "#Kizie-AurManny @sanjanasanghi96 An adaptation of The Fault in our Stars. @johngreen @foxstarhindi Directed by @CastingChhabra Music by @arrahan Shoot starts today"

Talking about the poster, we see Sushant and Sanjana aka Kizie and Manny sitting on the top of the bus in a romantic gesture where Sanjana has kept her head on SSR's shoulder. The twist in the poster comes up as we see Sushant wearing a Rajinikanth mask. By looking at the poster, we must say the makers have tried to put a complete effort in giving this romantic drama a Bollywood touch.

Academy Award-winner AR Rahman has been taken on board to compose music for the much-awaited adaptation. We know how music played a huge part in the original part as it took the narrative forward, so we must say that AR Rahman is an apt choice for the romantic venture. AR Rahman and Fox Star Studios had previously collaborated for Slumdog Millionaire for which the music maestro bagged two Academy Awards.

Talking about his collaboration with Fox Star Studios, AR Rahman said, "I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Fox Star Studios and Mukesh Chhabra on many projects in the past and they have all been great experiences. When I heard the narration of their Indian adaptation of Fault in Our Stars and especially how music is so beautifully woven into the narrative I got quite excited. I am looking forward to creating music for this heartwarming venture."

