



SummitTIMES

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

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Power Deptt officials arrested for negligence

NAMCHI, 25 OCT [IPR]: With regard to the recent demise of a 60-year-old resident of Ravangla, South Sikkim due to electrocution, an FIR has been lodged at Ravangla Police Station against the Power & Energy Department today.

Assistant Engineer, Karma Bhutia, Junior Engineer, Anujla Bhutia, Lineman Dozang Lepcha and Line Assistant Hem Kumar Rai were all arrested and detained for interrogation.

Will extend deadline to link Aadhaar with schemes: Centre to SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 25 (PTI): The deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail the benefits of various government schemes has been extended till March 31 next year for those who do not have the 12-digit biometric identification number, the Centre today told the Supreme Court.

It told a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra that extension of the deadline from December end this year till March 31, 2018, would apply only to those persons who do not have Aadhaar and are willing to enrol for it.

"We (Centre) have decided to extend it till March 31, 2018," Attorney General K K Venugopal told the bench, which also comprised Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud.

The petitioners challenging the Centre's move to make Aadhaar mandatory for welfare schemes termed the linking of the identity number with bank accounts and mobile numbers as illegal and unconstitutional, while one of their lawyers strongly objected to the CBSE's move to make it mandatory for students to appear for exams.

Venugopal told the court that no coercive action would be taken against those who do not have Aadhaar but were willing to enrol for it and added that they would not be denied the benefits of social welfare schemes till March 31 next.

In a note given to the court, the government has said that "those who have Aadhaar are required to seed/link their Aadhaar with SIM card, with bank account, PAN card and other schemes where section 7 notifications have been issued".

"The government will be open for the deadline
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Gangtok decks up for Chhath Puja

SANDEEP PRASAD

GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

Chhath Puja is observed over a period of four days and is dedicated to the Sun God, Lord Surya, and his wife, Usha. Over the days, pujas are performed to acknowledge their blessings and support in sustaining life on earth. Chhath, this year, is being celebrated from 24-27 Oct.

The Bihari community of Sikkim celebrates this auspicious festival with great fervor every year.

However, in Gangtok this

year, the community was initially gripped by tension as the usual venue of the celebration i.e., Thakurbhari Mandir had been listed off due to the ongoing construction work there.

In order to address this problem, the Bihari Jagran Manch Chhath Puja Committee has taken the car parking space near Thakurbhari Mandir on lease for the celebration of the festival, thus, bringing good news to the Biharis in the capital.

"Because the Mandir is under construction, we have arranged a

new venue for the festival celebration just near the Mandir. There is no need to worry now," said a committee member, Birendra Prasad.

It is also informed that youth from each Bihari household in Gangtok have volunteered for the preparation led by committee member, Jitu Prasad

In Tadong where during previous years elder people of the area organized the event at Tadong Durga Mandir, this year the responsibility has been passed on to the

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Barun Bhujel, in custody GJM councillor, dies

KOLKATA, OCT 25 (PTI):

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) councillor Barun Bhujel, who was arrested in June died at the state-run SSKM hospital here today.

"Bhujel had chronic liver problem and pancreatitis. He died early today. Post-mortem is being done", Manimoy Bandopadhyay, superintendent of SSKM hospital said.

Superintendent of police, Kalimpong, Ajit Yadav said that Bhujel, a GJM Councillor from Kalimpong, was arrested on June 16 for his alleged involvement in arson and violence in the hills.

"He was in judicial custody. For the last one month he had complained about problems of the liver and the pancreas.

He was admitted to North Bengal Medical College. Last week he was taken to Kolkata and was admitted to SSKM for treatment.

Now the actual reason for his death will be known after post mortem," Yadav told PTI over

phone.

GJM chief Bimal Gurung alleged that police torture had led to Bhujel's death and that there was delay in his treatment.

Gurung, in an audio message from an undisclosed location urged the people of the Hills to hit the streets in protest and observe a day of mourning.

"Barun was one of the first to be arrested by police.

We express our condolences. He gave his life to the fight for Gorkhaland. It was police torture and deliberate negligence in his treatment which ultimately led to his death," Gurung said.

Meanwhile in Kalimpong, as word spread of his demise early in the morning, the market shut down and his supporters put up black flags in the town area.

His family has alleged that Mr Bhujel died due to torture

He was sent to Bagrakot jail after arrest and his family members today contended that he

was bleeding from his head when he was taken to Bagrakot back in June.

Biren Bhujel, the deceased leader's younger brother, also alleged today that Mr Bhujel was tortured in Bagrakot jail.

The family also claimed today that they were informed about Mr Bhujel's failing health very late. The family said that he had been critically ill for a long time but they were informed only on the day he was admitted to North Bengal Medical College (from where he was taken to Kolkata).

"Our family had gone to see him... he was caged, his hands were cuffed and he was treated inhumanely. He was suffering from pancreatitis. He was in pain," stated cried Biren Bhujel.

Mr Bhujel leaves behind his wife, two daughters, parents, two brothers and one sister. He was elected as a ward commissioner twice in the civic elections. He was 40 years old.

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Kushang Subba on football and how Gangtok Boys Club changed his life

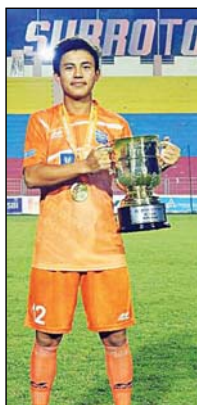
SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

A young promising footballer, Kushang Subba from Sikkim aims to play at the professional level and play for his country. He is presently in SAIL Football Academy, Bokaro, on a three-year contract deal.

15-year-old Kushang is the son of Purna Bahadur Subba and Bala Pradhan of Arithang, Gangtok in East Sikkim. He plays in the right-winger position and Bhachung Bhutia and Messi are his inspirations.

He started playing



football at the age of 10. Impressed by his skill

and love for the game in the winter football coaching camp, he was recruited by Boys Club for regular training in 2012. He started training under his first coach, Sunny Rai of Boys Club and later trained by other coaches of the club.

Kushang played for U-14 and U-15 teams of Boys Club in various tournaments and also played for the club in the B and C division leagues of the State. He attended a two-day trial of SAIL Football Academy in February this year at Paljor Stadium and he along

with goalkeeper, Kunga Jorden Lachungpa from Sikkim got selected for the academy.

The duo joined SAIL Football Academy, Bokaro in April this year.

Kushang has already played for the academy in various tournaments in different parts of the country. He was also a member of the champion Jharkhand team of prestigious Subroto Cup 2017.

"Boys Club helped me a lot to hone my skills and game to reach to this present position. The club not only gave me the

best training but also provide me bigger platforms to play for the club in the State leagues and other tournaments," Kushang said. He thanked Boys Club and its coaches and especially his first coach, Sunny Rai. "We have been getting the best training, coaching and facilities at SAIL Football Academy and also getting chance to play in prestigious tournaments across the country," he said.

Kushang aims to be a professional footballer and play for the country in near future.

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Two Sikkimese lads in A&A Team for Eastern Zone U-19 Cricket tourney

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

Anwesh Karan Sharma and Dinesh Kumar Dhoobi from Sikkim have secured berths in the playing-XI for the Under-19 Cricket Tournament 2017 in the Eastern Zone matches.

The duo had previously played in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy for Associate & Affiliate Team, which is a combined team of Bihar and North East States of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal

Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim, informs a Sikkim Cricket Association press release.

The release informs that both players also attended a seasoning camp at National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru for a week.

"This is a matter of pride for Sikkim that Cricket has also got our representation," the release says.

It is informed that the duo will be playing
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Seoul-stirred Sikkim has an ARMY cheering for BTS

BONU RAI

GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

We all are aware of the fresh-faced phenomenon of Korean Pop Culture [K-Pop], more correctly referred to as "Hallyu" or the Korean Wave, giving its way into global popularity including India with North East region of our country having a long history of being Seoul-stirred.

Many artists believe and have stated in many interviews that a loyal fan base is core to achieving stardom; "fandom" is what they call it exactly, and with social media adding perks to it, relationship between artists and fans is quickly changing, and becoming more intimate.

So how big is the K-Pop fandom in our State of Sikkim? Earlier this month, a first-



of-its-kind meet was held in the capital that had fans of a South Korean boy band, popularly known as BTS, flocking to Gangtok from all over the State.

BTS, The Bangtan Boys/ Beyond The Scene, is a young K-Pop boy band formed in the year 2013 under Big Hit Entertainment and consists of seven members namely Kim

Nam Joon [Rap Monster], Kim Seok Jin [Jin], Min Yoon Gi [Suga], Jung Ho Seok [J-Hope], Kim Tae Hyung [V], Park Ji Min [Jimin] and Jeon Jeong-guk [Jungkook].

Their popularity truly exploded globally when they took the world by storm after winning the "Top Social Artist Award" against popular artists like Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, etc., during the 2017 Billboards Music Awards on 21 May earlier this year. All this thanks to a massive fan base that stretches across the globe and go by the name - the ARMY [Adorable Representative MC for Youth].

The BTS and its ARMY seem to have a bond that is one of a kind with the BTS writing a song just for their fans as a show of gratitude on their 3rd Year Anniversary in 2016 entitled "I Know". And with this, the Billboard declared BTS's fandom, ARMY, to be the best one around.

Many of us might be un-

aware, but Sikkim has its own BTS ARMY, an army of like-minded youth sharing similar choice of music and love for the band, and they share their like-mindedness via Instagram through an IG account that goes by the name @bts.sikkim.

Bts.sikkim was started by a group of six young students of Standard XI-XII from Tashi Namgyal Academy and Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School, aged between 16-17 years.

With the aim to bring together the BTS ARMY of Sikkim on one social platform and spread awareness about the presence of the band's fandom in India, they organized the aforementioned fan meet on 01 Oct at Infinity
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Gangtok decks up...

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youths led by members of Tadong Chhath Puja Committee, Sandeep Prasad and Sobrath Gupta.

The festivity in air moves on to Ranipool where preparations are on full swing near Seti Pool while for the Bihari community of Singtam, Golitar is being prepped up for the celebration on a grand scale.

The devotees will offer 'arghya' to the setting sun on Thursday evening and the rising sun on Friday. Chhat Puja, it may be recalled, is a restricted holiday in Sikkim.

Vegetables, fruits and other natural products are offered to the Sun God on the last two days, and 'thek-ua' - a delicacy made out of fine flour, ghee and sugar -- is the main 'prasad', which is then distributed after the offerings.

Kushang Subba on football...

contd from pg01

"With the development of professional football in the country I would sweat our hard to make my career in the football," he said.

Boys Club coach, Sunny Rai stated that Kushang was a very disciplined and hardworking player and has full potential to be a professional footballer. He also appreciated the improvement in him after joining SAIL FA.

"We extend our best wishes to him to play better and see him in the I-League and ISL in the near future," he said.

Cooperative society claims it can resuscitate stalled Teesta Stage VI hydel project

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

Multi-State Energy Consumers' cum Producers' Cooperative Society Limited today claimed that it has put in place processes to revive the at-present defunct 510 MW [170x3] Teesta Stage VI hydel project which was being developed by Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Pvt Ltd. (LTHPPL) at Singtam. The Cooperative Society has hinted that the State

and Union Ministry of Finance, including the lead banks, have given the green signal to go for revival with a view to recover their bad investment. This is expected to come through in the next four-five months, it was stated today.

Simon George Lama, chief promoter of the Cooperative Society in question, today informed that the Cooperative Society has proposed Rs. 1,855 Crore for revival of the

project stating that the cost of the bought-out consideration and equity share of 49% of defunct HEP promoter and loans from lead banks of Rs. 1,575 [after 30% discount from lenders on interest earned as of now from Rs. 2250 crore] which is overdue since 2013.

He said that once the Multi-State Energy Consumers' cum Producers' Cooperative Society Limited takes over the defunct power project, it

will be completed by the end of 2022 and will be developed using technology from Norway.

The State Government had awarded the Teesta Stage VI to LANCO Hydro Power Project on a build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis in 2006.

The power developer has failed to revive the project since the earthquake setback of 2011 and is severely reeling with financial crunch and cost

overruns. The state government has already waited six years for the developers to revive the project.

However, the State Government has not yet terminated the agreement with the defunct power developer.

Mr Lama informed today that the Cooperative Society has already approached the State and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission with new plans and claims that the plan was feasible.



Hydel projects are positive source of revenue: Lachen-Mangan MLA

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 25 OCT:

Sikkim Democratic Front today organized a panchayat election meeting at Malling ward under Lachen-Mangan constituency in North Sikkim.

The meeting was attended by area MLA, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, former Upadhakshya, NT Lepcha, Mangan Nagar Panchayat Councillor Karma Jigdal Bhutia, Zilla

member Mark Tshering Lepcha, ward panchayat candidates from the party and the public.

Zilla panchayat candidate in his address thanked the SDF party for giving him the opportunity to contest for elections and requested the gathered party supporters for support and suggestions to work positively in the future.

Former Upadhakshya Mr

Lepcha urged the public to support the party candidates.

The area MLA, in his address, challenged the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha to come out in the field and campaign to contest in the panchayat elections.

"SDF party has already set a development target for Sikkim. We won't compromise the development of Sikkim," he added.

He also called on people of the Lachen-Mangan constituency to show support for Hydro Electric Power projects in the district to secure the future of the State.

"HEP projects are a positive source of revenue and with them in our district the future of our youth is secure. It is a positive development scheme and we want your support," the MLA told the gathering.

GAC condemns Law Minister's remarks against independent panchayat candidates

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

Gorkha Apex Committee has condemned statements attributed to Law Minister RB Subba at an election meeting yesterday.

Mr Subba, while addressing a gathering at Neso village in Mangshari-Makarjong yesterday, is alleged to have said that the Sikkim Democratic Front would not take independent candidates into the party fold should any of them win in the upcoming panchayat polls.

GAC, in a press release issued today, has said that the statement made by the Minister was 'undemocratic' and 'dictatorial'.

"Such a dictatorial remark is not just an insult to the Constitution of India but is an open violation of model code

of conduct as well," the release reads.

The committee has further urged the State Election Commission to 'not sit as a mere spectator' and take required action.

"Law Minister, R.B Subba should not forget that the panchayats are the representatives of the people and not the SDF party. To threaten the public in the name of developmental activities and schemes are totally uncalled for. SDF party is not the sole custodian of Sikkim," the release further reads.

The GAC has also accused the SDF and Bharatiya Janata Party of conspiring to delay the Limboo-Tamang seat reservation process and goes on to say that SDF blaming BJP for LT seat delay is just a means to 'divert the public attention'.

Barun Bhujel, in custody GJM councillor, dies

contd from pg01

His body is expected to be brought to Kalimpong on Thursday.

The death has also been condemned by the Jana Aandolan Party.

"It's not right for anyone to die in custody like this in the largest democracy. This is a shame. Barun didn't receive good treatment

hence his health deteriorated. If such a death had occurred outside Bengal, the ADG, SP etc. would have been suspended by now," said Dr Harka Bahabur Chettri, the JAP president, adding that JAP would approach human rights organizations to investigate the death.

[with additional reporting from our correspondent]

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email

news@summittimes.com

Seoul-stirred Sikkim has an ARMY cheering for BTS

contd from pg01

Futsal in Gangtok.

With K-Pop based dance competitions and other related fun games being the main feature of the event, the State BTS ARMY fan meet was supported by Sikkim-based online blogging hub, Sndwch. More than 50 BTS fans from all over Sikkim gathered at Infinity Futsal to celebrate their dedication towards the band.

"We know there are other popular South Korean bands too like EXO, Big Bang and SHINee among others but BTS means more to us because they stay true to themselves. Most of all, we can see their dedication towards their passion and they express what we, their ARMY, mean to them," says one of the organizers of the Sikkim BTS ARMY fan meet, Tsheten Yangden Bhutia, who is a 16-year-old student of TNA [Std XI].

"Organizing this event along with my companions was a great first-time experience for me. I learned a lot throughout this meet and made tons of friends who shared similar feelings for BTS. I feel proud to call myself a part of the BTS ARMY and that there are so many BTS supporters in our State. BTS has changed my life in ways I cannot express and I want to share the same with others too. The one thing that will be on my bucket list is to cheer for BTS on their LIVE show with light sticks held high and feel the power and vibes of BTS ARMYs from every nook and corner of this world around me," expresses Ms Yangden.

When asked about the language barrier, she held that the language does not bring any difference to the BTS ARMY as long as they feel and understand their eclectic music.

"Binge-watching Korean movies and dramas helped us pick up many commonly used Korean words and to be honest, the language difference has

never affected our love for our boys," adds Ms Yangden.

She further informed that bts.sikkim is planning to organize next BTS fan meet this December.

"We are hoping to receive a larger crowd in December. I just want all Sikkim BTS ARMYs to unite and help our boys with love and support in every way. Let us not give up hope. Our dream to meet them will surely come true someday!" exclaims Ms Yangden with utmost confidence.

The stronghold of BTS fandom in Sikkim became evident when a resident of Namchi, Pranica Gurung, when asked if she followed BTS exclaimed, "ARMY Fighting!"

Yes, she apparently ended up being a huge fan of the K-Pop boy band, regardless of not following a BTS fan page on social media.

A recent buzz in the BTS fandom world is the band being nominated under five categories at the upcoming Mnet Asian Music Awards '17 [MAMA 2017] which is an annual award show produced by Korean TV Channel, Mnet, scheduled to be held on 25 Nov. The voting lines are open worldwide via sites namely mwave and Qoo10 till 28 Oct and each day, one vote per id generated through various social sites like Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, etc., is accepted.

"I have begged my friends and family members to sign up and cast their votes in favor of BTS for the MAMA 17. I myself have voted more than 20 times till date," says Ms Gurung.

With this, it is clear that the boom of K-pop, Korean culture in general, has grown into something more as it had made other nationalities love everything about Korean, and even Asian culture. There are already a lot of people that have welcomed the K-pop culture, Sikkimese being amongst them all.





SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Corruption Hurts the Already Vulnerable

That's a good enough reason to say No More

The Corruption Perception Index, published annually by Transparency International, a corruption monitoring organisation based in Berlin, was released in January at the beginning of this year. As this year too draws to a close, so begins the routine of taking stock and reminiscing over the year gone by and that brings us to pause a while on corruption and the nation. As per the Corruption Perception Index released this year, India has slipped to the 79th spot from its all-time high of 76 registered in 2015. On this index, the higher you rank, the cleaner is the system, or at least the perception of it. India's slide could either be because other nations have become cleaner, or we, as a nation have become more corrupt. Both scenarios are possible, and given the crores being offered to even minor players to switch political allegiance and the lakhs of crores of tax-payer money being announced to bail out corrupt banks and the disgustingly rich, it is the latter which appears more plausible. The list is for 176 countries, with Denmark on No. 1 position as the cleanest society and Somalia at the bottom end as the most corrupt country. India shares the 79th slot with three other countries – Belarus, Brazil and China, all of which have scored a 40 on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Over two-thirds of the 176 countries and territories in this year's index fall below the midpoint of the scale (along with India) with the global average score of a paltry 43, indicating endemic corruption in a country's public sector. As a country, we are even more corrupt than the global average for corruption.

While there are enough arguments to question the process by which Transparency International works out its list, these are only precision issues, and the world at large agrees that the list is accurate. The TI report reveals that although India's ranking has slipped, its corruption perception has improved slightly for the better. We had scored 38 in 2015, but even this slight improvement is nothing to write home about, since, as mentioned, as a nation we continue to be more corrupt than the average for the world as a whole.

That said, what is significant about the TI rankings is that the Corruption Perception Index, started in 1995, has been instrumental in creating awareness and triggering debate on corruption. But that is for governments and societies more conscious about their image. Bhutan, for example, is ranked a respectable 27th with "first-division-marks" of 65 points. What is significant is that in 2009, Bhutan was ranked 49th. While the neighbour has shown marked improvement, we remain sloppy. There is clear unanimity in our country that corruption is widespread, all pervasive and attendant to every arm of the government. Unfortunately, we approach corruption with a fatalistic attitude – accepting it as unavoidable and trapping ourselves in a rut where palms need to be greased even for routine works. Where corruption was at one time required to push through works which would put the concerned officer's future and career at risk, in our instinct to jump the line and aversion to make the system work, we have now created a monster which needs to be fed even to process what should be ours by right.

Someone recently argued that corruption is ingrained in our culture by pointing out that we routinely bribe even Gods for favour ["Bhaka! anyone?], so bribing mortals does not weigh too heavy on our conscience. But it should. What most of the debates and chest-beating on corruption overlook is that it is not just an inconvenience, it is much worse, because now that it is institutionalised, it worsens the realities of the most vulnerable sections of society. A corrupt system makes no difference between skimming from a multi-crore construction project or siphoning grants and aid meant for victims of natural calamities or subsidies marked for the underprivileged. Kickbacks and embezzlement compromise the effectiveness of such necessary public expenditure as poverty alleviation, education, environment conservation, public infrastructure creation, aid etc. While economies with a vibrant private enterprise can cushion corruption with some resoluteness, societies which are more dependent on government dole and grants to finance multiple challenges, suffer the most crushing blow because of the denial which corruption causes. These are also invariably societies which are less empowered and thus less likely to make a noise about graft, and in their desperation, more likely to continue feeding the monster even larger shares. By accepting and indulging corruption, we have painted ourselves into a corner and the only escape is if we realise that the slivers which reach us are not enough for the boxed in crowd, put our feet down, and collectively say "No More"...

It's not just O'Reilly and Weinstein: Sexual violence is a 'global pandemic'

VALERIE DOBIESZ & JULIA BROOKS
theconversation.com

The recent exposure of widespread sexual predation in the American media industry, from Harvey Weinstein to Bill O'Reilly, has elicited shock and sparked debate on violence against women in the United States.

Sexual harassment isn't the exclusive domain of show biz big shots. It remains alarmingly prevalent nationwide, even as other crimes are generally decreasing nationwide.

In the U.S., a 2006 study found that 27 percent of college women reported some form of forced sexual contact – ranging from kissing to anal intercourse – after enrolling in school. This sexual violence is heavily underreported, with just 20 percent of female student victims reporting the crime to law enforcement.

Nor is sexual harassment limited to the United States. The U.N. has called gender-based violence a "global pandemic." As experts in emergency medicine and legal research at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, we believe it's important to acknowledge that this issue transcends national borders and class boundaries to touch the lives of roughly 33 percent of all women worldwide.

A WORLD OF TROUBLE

According to World Health Organization estimates, one in three women worldwide will experience either physical or sexual violence in her lifetime, many of them before the age of 15.

In fact, for many rural women, their first sexual encounter will be a forced one. Some 17 percent of women in rural Tanzania, 21 percent in Ghana, 24 percent in Peru, 30 percent in Bangladesh and 40 percent in South Africa report that their first sexual experience was nonconsensual.

Intimate partner violence is also pervasive globally. In one World Health Organization study, 22 to 25 percent of women surveyed in cities in England, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Zimbabwe reported that a boyfriend or husband had committed some form of sexual violence against them. Globally, up to 55 percent of women murdered are killed by their partners.

Violence against women takes many forms, ranging from psychological abuse to the kind of sexual predation, sexual assault and rape allegedly committed by Harvey Weinstein. Honor killings, physical attacks, female infanticide, genital cutting, trafficking, forced marriages and sexual harassment at work and school are also considered gender-based violence.

Rates range from country to country – from 15 percent in Japan to 71 percent in Ethiopia – but violence is, in effect, a ubiquitous female experience. Sexual violence is committed at particularly high rates in crisis settings like war zones, refugee camps and disaster zones.

In these places, even humanitarian workers are not immune. Dyan Mazurana and her colleagues at Tufts University found that many female development-aid staffers in places such as South Sudan, Afghanistan and Haiti had experienced disturbing rates of sexual assault, often perpetrated by their



Women in crisis settings, such as refugee camps and war zones, are particularly likely to experience sexual assault.

own colleagues.

EXPLAINING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

So what's driving this pervasive phenomenon? Research reveals that there are multiple causes of sexual violence, among them gender inequality and power differentials between men and women.

For example, sexual violence occurs more frequently in cultures where violence is widely accepted and where beliefs about family honor, sexual purity and male sexual entitlement are strongly held.

Even in many countries that rank well on gender equality, including in the United States, weak legal sanctions against perpetrators of sexual violence can encourage and effectively condone such behavior.

So can cultural acceptance. Weinstein's sexual predatory behavior was longstanding and well-known within the film industry, yet he was allowed to continue his abuse with impunity – until women began speaking up.

Likewise, Fox News renewed Bill O'Reilly's contract even after he and the company had made at least six multi-million-dollar settlements with women who filed sexual harassment claims against him. Awareness of a problem is one thing; taking action is quite another.

Men with lower educational levels, or who have been exposed to maltreatment or family violence as children, are more likely to commit sexual violence themselves.

That's because violence begets violence, a relationship that's abundantly clear in the kinds of conflict zones where we work. Mass rape has long been used as a weapon of war, and has been well-documented during conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia and South Sudan.

Among the most salient cases are the Rwandan and Bosnian genocides. According to the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Refugees, up to 500,000 Rwandan women were systematically raped in 1994 as part of an ethnic cleansing strategy, while tens of thousands of Bosnian women and girls were systematically raped between 1992 and 1995.

Teens are sleeping less– but there's a surprisingly easy fix

JEAN TWENGE
theconversation.com

Something is stealing teens' sleep.

In a newly released analysis of two large national surveys, my co-authors and I found that the number of U.S. teens who reported sleeping less than seven hours a night jumped 22 percent between 2012 and 2015. Sleep experts agree that teens need at least nine hours of sleep a night. But by 2015, 43 percent of teens reported sleeping less than seven hours a night on most nights – meaning almost half of U.S. teens are significantly sleep-deprived.

What could have raised sleep deprivation among teens to such unprecedented levels? Some factors are easy to rule out. For example, we found that the amount of time teens spent working, doing homework and participating in extracurricular activities held steady during those years.

But there was one large change in teens' lives between 2012 and 2015: More owned smartphones.

IT STARTS AS AN ALARM CLOCK...

Today's teens – whom I call "iGen" – are the first generation to spend their entire adolescence with smartphones.

In our analyses, we found that teens who spent more time online and on social media were more likely to sleep less. Time spent watching television had a much weaker link to fewer hours of sleep, and teens who spent more time with their friends in person or on sports or exercise actually slept more.

Time spent online, however, was the one teen activity that both increased during the 2010s and was linked to shorter sleep, making it the most likely cause of teen sleep deprivation. Seventeen- and 18-year-olds – who spend more time online than younger teens – were also the most sleep-deprived: The majority, 51 percent, slept less than seven hours on most nights by 2015.

The link between time spent online and less sleep was considerable.

Spending five or more hours a day online (vs. one hour) upped the risk of sleeping too little more than 50 percent. Spending three hours a day (vs. one hour) upped the risk nearly 20 percent.

Smartphones – which the majority of Americans owned by the end of 2012 – allow mobile and instant internet access. It's difficult to prove what causes what in an analysis like this, but it seems much more likely that teens' increased smartphone use between 2012 and 2015 led to less sleep than less sleep leading to more smartphone use.

Why might smartphones cause teens to sleep less? Unlike other electronic devices such as TVs and desktop computers, smartphones (and tablets) are easily carried into the bedroom and held by hand in bed.

Most of the students I interviewed for my book "iGen" told me they kept

their phones within reach as they slept, in part, because they all used it as their alarm clock.

Many also told me that their smartphones were the last thing they looked at before they went to sleep at night. That's a problem, because answering texts and scrolling through social media is mentally and emotionally stimulating, which leads to disturbed sleep. Others told me that they also regularly reached for their phones, often just out of habit, when

they woke up in the middle of the night.

There's a physiological response as well: The blue light emitted by smartphones and tablets simulates daylight, inhibiting the brain's production of melatonin, the hormone that helps us fall asleep and stay asleep.

And that's if teens try to go to sleep at all.

A 2014 study found that 80 percent of teens admitted to using their phones when they were supposed to be sleeping – a practice some call "vamping." Some said they stayed up most of the night when their parents thought they were asleep.

SOME SIMPLE LIMITS

Sleep deprivation can have serious consequences for teens.

Those who don't sleep enough perform more poorly in school and are at greater risk of developing obesity. Sleep deprivation is also linked

to mental health issues including depression and anxiety among both teens and adults.

When conducting research for my book, I found that iGen teens are more likely to be depressed and anxious than previous generations. If smartphones cause teens to sleep less, and less sleep leads to depression, sleep deprivation might explain why teen depression increased sharply after 2012 – exactly when smartphones became common, and exactly when sleep deprivation began to increase among teens.

What can be done? Later start times at high schools have significant positive impacts on teen sleep, but school start times aren't something parents and teens can control.

In contrast, limiting smartphone use before bed is a strategy that can be immediately implemented (ideally for the whole family, adults included). A "no phones in the bedroom after bedtime" rule can work. If your family uses phones as alarm clocks, buy inexpensive alarm clocks. Put an app on phones that shuts them down during certain hours, or leave phones and tablets in another room overnight. Suggest reading a book, taking a bath or writing in a journal in the hour before bed.

Your teens will probably get some more sleep – and they might find themselves healthier and happier as well.

[the writer is Professor of Psychology, San Diego State University]

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Centre to invest Rs 6000 crore to improve quality of ITIs

SHILLONG, OCT 25 (PTI): Union Minister Anant Kumar Hegde today said the Centre will invest Rs 6000 crore in association with the World Bank to improve the quality of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country.

The Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said the Centre wants to take these ITIs to every community and rural development block in the country

“To strengthen these ITIs we have started a new scheme with an investment of around 6000 crore in coordination with World Bank to improve quality of some institution which are performing good. In rural areas also we are planning to take ITIs there,” he told PTI at the sideline of an inspection of the ITI centre here.

Hegde said the Centre was forced to de-affiliate around 400 ITIs due to their poor and deteriorating quality.

“It has come to my knowledge that ITI quality is substandard, we were forced to disaffiliate few ITIs since the quality is not good,” he said.

The Union minister was here to take stock of functioning of various ITIs and also took feedback from the people about the functioning of these institutes in the state besides other skill development institute in the region.

The Skill Development Ministry has begun monitoring the ITIs with a view to maintaining their quality standards and also introduced voluntary self grading by the institutes.

Won't link my mobile phone number with Aadhar: Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA, OCT 25 (PTI): Opposing linking of Aadhar with mobile phone number, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said she will not comply with it even if her phone connection is snapped.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) accused the Union government of “autocratic” rule and said her party will “have to play a role so that BJP is removed from power” at the centre.

“They (Centre) are interfering in the people's rights and privacy. Aadhar number should not be linked with one's mobile phone. I will not link my Aadhar number with my mobile even if my connection is snapped,” she said at the extended



core committee meeting of the TMC.

“They (Centre) have unleashed an autocratic rule in the country. No one can raise voice against them, else I-T, ED, CBI will be unleashed,” Banerjee alleged.

She said the TMC will

protest even if all its party leaders are sent to jail.

“We are not cowards,” she said. The Department of Telecom (DoT) had through a March 23 notification called for linking of mobile numbers with Aadhaar.

Banerjee said that the

TMC does not want to be in power in Delhi but “we have to play a role so that BJP is removed from power at the Centre”.

The TMC chief, who had vociferously criticised demonetization, alleged that “it is a big scam”.

“There should be in-

vestigation. Manmohan Singh, Yashwant Sinha everybody is criticising demonetisation. Are all of them wrong?” she asked.

She said that November 8, the day on which demonetisation was announced last year, will be observed as black day by the TMC.

The TMC chief also had a word of caution for her party leaders and said that anti-party activities will not be tolerated.

“I track everything in the party organisation. Workers are our strength, not the leaders,” she said.

Banerjee said that the TMC has “emerged through a lot of struggles and sacrifices and it is not so weak that one can finish it”.

Most hospitals in Arunachal don't have facilities for disposal of bio-medical wastes: CAG

ITANAGAR, OCT 25 (PTI): Most of the hospitals and nursing homes in Arunachal Pradesh don't have facilities for disposal of bio-medical wastes, according to a recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The CAG report which was tabled in the state assembly this month highlighted that in 10 government hospitals treatment plants were installed. But they remained non-functional due to lack of trained manpower, technical defects, lack of fund for maintenance besides shortage of power.

The Centre had framed the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998 under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which prescribed the procedures for treatment and disposal of bio-medical waste generated by hospitals, nursing homes, dispensaries and clinics.

The report highlighted various drawbacks with the Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APSPCB) as the board did not have the state level data on health care establishments which is required for compliance of rules and regulations of the Bio-Medical Waste.

The report pointed



out that out of only 12 out of 437 health care establishments are functioning with authorisation issued by the APSPCB.

The report further stated that 12 hospitals inspected did not observe the standards prescribed in the rules for disposal of bio-medical waste.

The CAG findings revealed that in the state hospital at Naharlagun, near here, bio-medical waste treatment plant was installed in June 2004 at a cost of Rs 70.88 lakh under central assistance was subsequently dismantled in June 2012 to accommodate construction of 300 bedded hospital at the site and no replacement had been provided since then.

In general hospital Pasighat, where the plant

was installed on June 2004 at a cost of Rs 70.88 lakh, was lying idle since September 2009 due to technical defects, it said.

Subsequently, another plant at a cost of Rs 68.50 lakh funded under National Rural Health Mission was approved in December 2013 but remained incomplete even after two years of its sanction, the report said.

Another treatment plant installed at General Hospital Aalo at a cost of Rs 22.89 lakh in 2009 under NRHM, was not functional since its installation due to unsatisfactory installation and lack of trained operator.

The plant was dismantled and a new plant at a cost of Rs 50 lakh taken under NRHM during 2015-16 remained incomplete.

Similar was the fate of the plants installed in General Hospitals at Ziro, Bomdila, Tezu and Khonsa, the report added.

The report further stated that a joint inspection of 12 test checked hospitals was conducted with representatives of APSPCB and the hospital authorities where it was revealed number of deviations from the prescribed procedure for disposal of bio-medical waste.

In some hospitals, bio-medical waste were disposed with solid waste and in some government hospitals the waste were disposed of by burning in open space in hospital premises or disposed of by burning in local made chullah in hospital premises.

The CAG report has

recommended the state government to adopt mechanism for enlisting all the health care establishments functioning in the state for issue of authorisation and effective monitoring of their functioning.

It also suggested for preparing a detail plan for establishment of bio-medical waste treatment plants in government hospitals and also takes necessary steps to operationalise the existing idle plants through budgetary provisions.

The report further suggested the government for ensuring that all the health care establishments dispose bio-medical waste in compliance with the prescribed standards to prevent adverse effect on human health and environment.

Training sessions for East Dist POs and FPOs concludes

GANGTOK, 25 OCT [IPR]: The first round of training of Presiding Officers and First Polling Officers for the upcoming panchayat elections was conducted on 23 and 24 October at Modern Secondary School.

The preparation and commissioning of Electronic Voting Machines to be used in the elections to Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies was conducted today.

It has also been decided that the Certificate of Election to the candidates who have been elected uncontested shall be given on 27 Oct.

Meghalaya HC expresses dissatisfaction with NHAI over failure to repair highway

SHILLONG, OCT 25 (PTI): The Meghalaya High Court has expressed dissatisfaction with the National Highway Authority of India over its failure to repair a kilometre stretch of road at Umsning town in Ri-Bhoi district and directed the NHAI to complete the maintenance work at the earliest.

“Having examined the affidavit and the attached report and photographs and having heard the amicus curiae as also ASG (Additional Solicitor General), we are constrained to state total dissatisfaction over the manner of dealing with the matter by NHAI,” a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Dinesh Maheshwari said in an order yesterday.

Admitting that that there had been heavy downpours in the last few days, the Bench said, “Indisputably, the bad part of the highway in question... has remained in a very bad shape for last more than a couple of years and it could hardly be appreciated that NHAI

had not taken appropriate steps to provide motorable conditions.”

NHAI Project Director in an affidavit filed before the court had purportedly informed of the repair works undertaken earlier this month but the downpours since October 18 last had damaged the bituminous work again.

Amicus curiae in the case, S Panthi, submitted that he had visited the site many times and the stretch of the highway continues to remain in bad or rather very bad shape.

The Bench, apart from directing the Panthi to visit the site, which is on the Shillong-Guwahati highway about 38 km from here, everyday and to draw up daily report with photographs and videography.

It also directed the NHAI to provide suitable vehicle to amicus curiae Panthi and to also pay him Rs 1000 as daily allowance.

The next hearing on the matter has been scheduled on October 31.

Bengali music playlist debuts on iTunes

KOLKATA, OCT 25 (PTI): Apple Inc's iTunes has just released its first-ever Bengali music playlist featuring 25 playback hits.

Some of the top artists featured in the album are Arijit Singh, Shalmali Kholgade, Shreya Ghoshal, Vishal Dadlani, Shaan, Neha Kakkar, Anupam Roy and Jeet Gannugli, among others.

iTunes Bengali music features hits from films like Bolo Dugga Mai-ki, Yeti aObhijaan, One,

Bojhena Shey Bojhena, Gangster, Besh Korechi Prem Korechi, Ami Je Ke Tomar, Love Express, Parbona Ami Charte Toke, Bindaas, Haripada Bandwala, Tomake Chai, Shona Bondhu, Zulfiqar and Yoddha.

“It feels great that Apple's iTunes, in its inaugural playlist dedicated to Bengali songs, has chosen all songs from the SVF Music catalogue,” Shree Venkatesh Films' co-founder Mahendra Soni said.

No 'Choti' baat: Bihar girl wins int'l acclaim for enhancing Musahars' lives

PATNA, OCT 25 (PTI): A 20-year-old girl from Bihar has made her native Bhojpur District proud by winning international acclaim for her efforts to uplift the Musahar community, considered one of the lowest and most downtrodden in the state's caste-ridden society.

Choti Kumari Singh, hailing from an impoverished upper caste Rajput family, has won Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award from the Switzerland-based Women's World Summit Foundation.

Choti started helping with social and educational work among Musahars in her own village of Ratanpur in 2014, after joining a programme run by the Mata Amritanandamayi Math of the spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Aamma). The programme aimed at



adopting 101 villages across the country to make them self-reliant models of sustainability, according to a release issued by the Math.

Choti is the youngest person to receive the USD 1,000 (Rs 65,000 approx.) award since it was instituted in 1994 to honour women

around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of quality of life in rural communities.

Mostly working as landless labourers, the Musahar community suffers from poverty, near-total illiteracy and lack of personal hygiene. Child marriages are rampant and school attendance is negligible.

When the programme was introduced at Ratnapur in 2014, Choti started offering free after-school tuition classes for children.

“It was a herculean task to bring Musahar children to the classes because their parents did not show the slightest interest in educating them. I went door to door gathering children and trying to convince the parents, Choti says.

Choti initiated self-help groups wherein every woman saves Rs 20 a month, which is deposited in a common bank account for starting home-based activities. The tuition classes proved

to a huge success with 108 children enrolled. This is no mean task in a village with a population of less than 1,000 people. Initially, the Musahar villagers were hostile. They used to drink, gamble and verbally abuse me. However, once they started observing the positive changes brought by our work, the situation became relatively favourable, Choti recalls.

At the tuition centre, Choti began giving basic lessons in hygiene and cleanliness. At first, the children were reluctant and habitually took bath only once a fortnight.

I had a tough time making them sit through the classes. Some of them even came to the class drunk. But with time, their attitude changed, Choti says.

The Mata Amritanandamayi Math has adopted five

villages in Bihar and already commenced work in two of them Ratanpur and Hadiabad. Tuition classes were started in 2014 with students also participating in regular yoga and meditation sessions.

Free healthcare is being provided in these villages, and a trained health-worker is ensuring that all pregnant women get the required ante-natal care and that all newborn children are vaccinated.

The Math has installed hand pumps and helped women construct toilets. Consequently, the two villages of Ratanpur and Hadiabad have been verified and declared as Open Defecation Free by the government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Hadiabad, in fact, became the first village in the entire Bhojpur District to gain this special status.

New tool to improve Indian monsoon forecast

WASHINGTON, OCT 25 (PTI): Scientists have developed a new tool for objectively defining the onset and demise of the Indian Summer Monsoon - a colossal weather system that affects millions of people annually.

The researchers from Florida State University in the US developed a method that uses rainfall rates to mark the span of the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) at any given location throughout the affected region.

For generations, scientists have struggled to produce a model for reliably defining the duration of the monsoon.

No existing system has allowed researchers to reliably define the parameters of the season at this fine a scale, researchers said.

"Current weather forecasting and monitoring protocols focus attention on monsoon onset at one location - specifically the state of Kerala in the southwest corner of the country - and extrapolate for the rest of the region," said Vasu Misra, associate professor at Florida State University.

"We have gone down to specific locations, we have covered the whole country, and we have objectively defined the onset and demise dates for any given year," said Misra, lead investigator of the study published in the journal Climate Dynamics.

The lack of a clear, granular and objective benchmark for ISM onset and demise for all areas of the country has been a longtime source of consternation for people, researchers said.

In some parts of the country, the torrents of rain that characterise monsoon season account for more than 90 per cent of the total annual precipitation, they said.

Researchers said that many rhythms of Indian political and agricultural life can be destabilised by dubious or false claims of monsoon onset.

"That leads to tremendous amounts of frustration and confusion for the general public and for the people who are trying to monitor the monsoon because nobody has really gotten down to do it at a granular scale," Misra said.

The new system, which ties the onset of the monsoon to location-specific rainfall thresholds, can work to allay that frustration, he said.

Up until now, regional meteorological departments have relied on their own ad hoc criteria for determining ISM onset, which can often lead to contradicting claims.

A more inclusive method will allow officials and researchers throughout the country to define the monsoon season using a standardised system that, through rigorous testing, has been shown to capture ISM evolution comprehensively. Anchoring the definition of onset and demise solely in local rain rates eliminates the need to rely on less accessible atmospheric variables, researchers said.

England send Brazil packing out of FIFA U-17 World Cup

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH

KOLKATA, OCT 25 (PTI): Rhian Brewster struck a sensational hat-trick, his second in as many matches, as England handed pre-tournament favourites Brazil a stunning 3-1 defeat to cruise into their maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup final here today.

Brewster, who had scored a hat-trick in his side's 4-1 decimation of the USA in the quarterfinals on Saturday, scored in the 10th, 39th and 77th minutes in front of a shell-shocked 63,881 Brazil supporting partisan crowd here.

The triple strike took Brewster to seven goals, the highest in the tournament, and the Liverpool youth team player has once again shown that he is the best predator on show in the mega-event. This is the first time that a player has scored two hat-tricks in the same edition of a tournament.

Brazil, who were seeking their fourth title, were finally outwitted and outplayed by a more tactical and resilient side and they bowed out of the tournament with a heart-break.

In fact, England, who created history by reaching their maiden semifinals in their fourth appearances, were clearly the better side today as they did not allow Brazil to impose on them in the match, which was shifted out of Guwahati at the last minute due



to poor playing conditions of the pitch following incessant rain.

England played an open game and had almost equal possession at 46 per cent and their attacking trio of Phil Phoden, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Brewster created a lot of problems for the Brazil defence, exposing their vulnerabilities for the second time after the Germany match.

England had five shot on target while Brazil had nine but the South American champions were uncharacteristically wayward and showed shyness before the goal at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The famous creativity of Brazil was not there to be seen today as England had better domination of the mid-field play.

Pocket dynamo Alan did his bit as he was the fulcrum of most of the Brazil attacks but the final pass rarely came today and even when it came, the strikers could not finish.

The Carlos Amadeu side had come with a lot of promise and wherever they had played -- in Kochi, Margao and here -- they were the crowd's favourites but they will return heartbroken and empty handed.

They met with a scare

against Germany in the quarterfinals and had to rally from one goal down to win the match 2-1. But today there was no rally of that kind as England shut the game on them early.

Brazil had lost in the quarterfinals in the last edition in Chile in 2015.

England were in front in the 10th match to the stunning silence of the partisan Brazil supporting crowd.

Callum Hudson-Odoi did a fine job cutting in from the left flank and his pin-point cross was prodded towards goal by Brewster, who managed to stay onside.

Brazil keeper Brazao could only push it out again and Brewster sent the ball into the empty net on the rebound to score his fifth goal of the tournament. Just a minute before, Brewster's extended legs missed a square pass from Phoden.

Unlike the quarterfinal match against Germany last week, Brazil did not take much time to restore parity as they did it just 11 minutes later.

In the 21st minute, after a neat exchange of passes with Marcos Antonio, Paulinho drilled a low shot which England keeper could not stop. The rebound went to England center back and captain Joel Latibeaudiere, whose heavy touch gave a lurking Wesley to blast into the open net in a jiffy.

In the 30th minute, a long ball from Vitao found Brenner onside and the England goal in front but he sent his shot wide after the angle was closed down by the onrushing goalkeeper.

It was the turn of England to put pressure and that led to the former again taking the lead in the 39th minute.

After England switched the play nicely to the right, Foden sent a pass inside the Brazil box for an overlapping run for Sessegnon. The Fulham boy got to the by-line, managed to get the ball across.

And after Brazil captain

Vitao failed to deal with a deflection, Brewster was the quickest to react and fired home from close range.

The second half was a frantic tussle for supremacy and both sides had almost equal number of chances. Brazil had the first decent chance of the second session in the 50th minute and Marcos Antonio's long shot off a Paulinho pass from outside the box was parried by the goalie.

Four minutes later, it was the turn of England to have a go at the Brazil goal. Hudson-Odoi ran down the right and crossed perfectly for an unmarked Brewster in the centre but the Liverpool lad headed it over the bar.

At the hour mark, Brazil managed to thread short passes from defence to attack and Paulinho gave the ball onto Brenner who was waiting at the edge of the box. But the resulting shot was again parried away by Anderson.

In 64th minute, Alan split the England centre backs with a wonderful through ball and found the run of Yuri Alberto but the substitute, who came in place of Brenner in 60th minute, could not take the shot under pressure from a defender.

Brewster struck in the 77th minute after substitute Emile Smith Rowe got the better of his marker at the right flank and sent a perfect cross for the Liverpool boy to send the ball crashing to Brazil net.

Barca reserves cruise towards Cup last 16

MADRID, OCT 25 (AFP): A much-changed Barcelona made light work of third-tier Real Murcia to take a commanding 3-0 lead into the second leg of their Copa del Rey last 32 tie.

With the likes of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta handed the night off, Paco Alcacer, Gerard Deulofeu and Jose Manuel Arnaiz, on his debut, took their chance to grab the goals for the holders.

"I'm happy because today we played with people from the B team and those that haven't played as much and it was a good test for them," Barca coach Ernesto Valverde told BeIN Sports Spain yesterday.

Barca have now won 12 and drawn one of their last 13 games in all competitions, but took their time to break down their humble hosts.

Indeed, Murcia should have gone in front when Fernando Llorente blasted over from inside the area midway through the first half.

Alcacer headed home his first goal since netting in last season's Cup final a minute before half-time from Deulofeu's looping cross.

The former Everton winger scored his first Barca goal against Malaga at the weekend and quickly added a second with a fine individual run and finish seven minutes after the break.

Arnaiz was the only one of Barca's young-



sters who have shone for Barca B this season in the second division, a tier above Murcia, to be handed a debut by Valverde from the start.

And the 22-year-old showed why when he cut inside to fire into the far corner from outside the area four minutes later.

"He's a confident player," added Valverde.

"He's good in one-on-one situations, has a good shot and for him to debut with the first

team and score a goal is great for him and the team."

With the second leg at the Camp Nou in just over a month's time now a formality, Barca can concentrate on maintaining their four-point La Liga lead and securing a place in the last 16 of the Champions League before the Cup continues in January.

Valencia, Barca's closest challengers in La

Liga, continued their fine form as Rodrigo and Dani Parejo, from the penalty spot, struck in the final nine minutes to secure a 2-0 first-leg lead at Real Zaragoza.

Sevilla shrugged off three straight defeats to cruise towards the last 16 with a 3-0 win at Cartagena.

Eduardo Berizzo's men had shipped nine goals in being thrashed at Spartak Moscow and Valencia in the past week.

However, first-half goals from Pablo Sarabia and Joaquin Correa settled their nerves before Luis Muriel rounded off the scoring six minutes into the second period.

Malaga's search for a win this season continues, however, as they conceded twice in stoppage time to lose 2-1 at second-division Numancia.

Recio's free-kick had put the top-flight side, who have just one point from their first nine league games, in front.

Numancia didn't level until the 93rd minute through Nacho Sanchez, but there was still time for Alberto Escassi to hand them a lead to defend at La Rosaleda in five weeks' time.

Another late goal from Christian Santos handed Alaves a 1-0 win at Getafe.

And a double from Sergio Leon secured a 2-1 win for Real Betis away at Cadiz.

BCCI suspends Pune Curator after tampering claims in sting

NEW DELHI/PUNE, OCT 25 (PTI): The BCCI today suspended the curator of Pune's cricket stadium after he was seen on a TV sting operation claiming that he could tamper with the pitch ahead of the second India-New Zealand ODI.

However, the match, second of a three-game series, went ahead as scheduled after an ICC observer approved the track following an inspection. Maharashtra Cricket Association President Abhay Apte made the announcement barely half an hour before the toss.

In the sting operation by India Today TV, curator Pandurang Salgaonkar is seen and heard speaking to an undercover reporter, who poses as a bookie, while standing on the pitch of the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

The 68-year-old Salgaonkar is seen agreeing to tamper with the pitch to suit the requirements put forth by the reporter. India Today TV said the video was shot last evening.



It is not clear how Salgaonkar, a former pacer and one-time India prospect, could have tweaked the pitch with just a few hours to go before the match later today.

"Pandurang Salgaonkar has been suspended from the Maharashtra Cricket Association's curator's post with immediate effect," BCCI acting Secretary Amitabh Chaud-

hary told PTI.

"The MCA has also suspended Salgaonkar from all other positions in the association. An inquiry Commission will also be constituted by MCA. At BCCI, we reiterate that we have zero tolerance towards any corrupt activity," he added.

What has left senior BCCI officials baffled is that Sal-

gaonkar allowed a self-confessed bookie to accompany him to the main match pitch. Under BCCI rules no unaccredited persons, including journalists, are allowed near the pitch.

"The BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) under Neeraj Kumar will have some answering to do. Here a random man comes, doesn't have an

all-access area pass and is taken to the main pitch by the curator," a BCCI official said.

Asked if the ACU unit should be answerable as to how an outsider got access to the pitch, Chaudhary said, "...everyone associated with the ACU would be answerable. In any case a very select few have access to the centre of the pitch."

When contacted, BCCI acting President C K Khanna said he is writing a mail to Kumar so that his team gives an update on the incident.

"It's a pity that both former MCA President Ajay Shirke and current president Abhay Apte had helped Salgaonkar have a career after retirement. He gets Rs 65,000 salary per month from the MCA and also a BCCI pension. He is among BCCI's independent curators. We are feeling bad for both Abhay and Ajay. Salgaonkar let them down badly," added an official.

Salgaonkar, a former Maharashtra speedster, was considered a genuine India pros-

pect in early and mid '70s.

He toured with the Indian team for an unofficial series against Sri Lanka back in 1974. Sunil Gavaskar's autobiography 'Sunny Days' mentions him as being a genuine prospect who was unlucky not to don national colours.

The former pacer took 214 wickets in 63 first-class games.

The Pune pitch had been under the spotlight earlier as well. It had been rated poor by the ICC after an India-Australia Test match in February.

The Australians had hammered India by 333 runs on a turner where the home team was bowled out for 105 and 107 in two innings. The game itself had ended inside three days.

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly also expressed his shock.

"I don't know how he can tweak the pitch in one day and prepare it accordingly for a bookie. I don't know in what context he was saying this," Ganguly said.

Xi secures 2nd term as head of China's ruling Communist Party

K J M VARMA

BEIJING, OCT 25 (PTI): President Xi Jinping today secured a second term as the head of the ruling Communist Party of China as the new leadership that will rule the world's second largest economy for the next five years was unveiled, cementing his status as the most powerful man to lead the country in decades.

Xi, 64, who was elected in a closed-door vote to head the Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, introduced the new leadership in an elaborate ceremony at Beijing's massive Great Hall of the People with no clear indication of a successor.

Premier Li Keqiang retained his seat on the all-powerful seven-member committee, which has five new faces.

The five new members in the ruling council are Li Zhan-shu, 67, vice premier Wang Yang, 62, leading Communist Party theoretician Wang Huning, 62, party organisation department head Zhao Leji, 60, and Shanghai party chief Han Zheng, 63.

The new faces replaced leaders who had reached an informal retirement age of 68. The age of the new leadership gives an indication that none



of them could succeed Xi at the next party Congress in 2022.

The announcement follows the end of the week-long Communist Party National Congress, the biggest event in China's political calendar, which is held every five years. Xi and Li, 62 walked along with members of the new Politburo Standing Committee before a media event telecast live across the world.

Xi in a brief address after introducing the new committee said, "Over the past five years we have set out a broad agenda, some tasks have been completed while others need more work."

"With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. In this new context, we must get a new look and, more importantly, make new

accomplishments," he said.

He spoke about the China entering new era of modernisation.

"As I look ahead to the next five years, I see several important junctures and signposts," Xi said.

Stating that the coming five years between the 19th and the 20th Party Congress is the period in which the timeframes of the two Centenary goals will converge, Xi said, "Not only we must deliver the first centenary goal, we must also embark on the journey towards the second centenary goal."

"Peace and development are precious and should be valued. The CPC will work with other countries for shared future and the noble cause of peace and development of all humanity," he said. Over the past five years, China's GDP rose from 54 trillion yuan

(USD 8.2 trillion) to 80 trillion yuan, contributing more than 30 per cent of global economic growth.

Xi also thanked the national and international media for working hard in reporting about the party's key Congress.

Though the ruling Communist Party of China is guided by the collective leadership principle, Xi who emerged as the post powerful leader with his ideological thoughts incorporated in the party Constitution and declared earlier as "core leader" has acquired a higher status than other members of the Standing Committee and party, therefore expected to have his way on all policy matters.

Xi, who heads the party, presidency and the military has stamped his authority with massive anti-corruption campaign and the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to spread China's influence in the world.

The once-in-five-years Congress of the CPC on its final day yesterday approved Xi's ideology to be written into its Constitution, which is in addition to the title of "core leader" conferred on him last year that analysts say enhances his leadership status above other lead-

ers of the party.

Xi's concept of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" was added to the party's Constitution, elevating him on par with modern China's founder Chairman Mao Zedong and his successor Deng Xiaoping.

Till now, only the thoughts of Mao and his successor Deng were enshrined in the Constitution of the world's longest ruling Communist Party, interpreting the complex doctrine of Marxism with Chinese characteristics. The thoughts of Deng, China's reformist leader, were added posthumously.

The thoughts of two of Xi's predecessors, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, were mentioned in the Constitution but not their names. This makes Xi only the third leader to have his thoughts on governance enshrined, which will now be part of school textbooks all over China.

Xi's confidant Zhao Leji was elected secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the CPC.

Zhao was elected at a plenary session of the CCDI, at which the CCDI also elected its deputy secretaries and Standing Committee members.

Myanmar, Bangladesh vow to cooperate to return Rohingya

YANGON, OCT 25 (AFP): Myanmar and Bangladesh have agreed to work together to repatriate hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees, officials said, but details remain thin as the humanitarian crisis deepens.

Ties between the neighbours have been severely strained by army-led violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state that has driven more than 600,000 Rohingya into Bangladesh since late August.

The exodus has saddled one of Asia's poorest nations with a massive humanitarian crisis, with refugees too terrified to return to Rakhine.

Dhaka and the UN have accused Myanmar's army of ethnic cleansing and called for the full repatriation of the Muslim minority, who have crammed into makeshift camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district.

Washington is also pressing for targeted sanctions against Myanmar military officers involved in the violence.

After talks in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw yesterday, Bangladesh's Home Ministry said Myanmar had agreed to stop the outflow of Rohingya and take back all refugees.

"Myanmar has agreed to stop continuous entry of displaced Myanmar nationals in Bangladesh and to bring normalcy back to the Rakhine State," the Home Ministry said in a statement.

But Myanmar offered a more measured commitment, saying only

that refugees would need to be scrutinised for proof of their roots in Rakhine state.

"We cannot say when we are going to receive (the refugees)," Tin Myint, from Myanmar's Home Ministry, told reporters after the meeting.

"We will accept after scrutinising... we will check whether they really stayed in Maungdaw and Buthidaung," he said, referring to the hardest-hit districts in Rakhine that are now nearly empty of Rohingya residents.

That criteria may be difficult to fulfil for the Rohingya who bolted from Myanmar soldiers and Buddhist mobs who they allege drove them out with a massive campaign of arson, murder and rape.

Also, Myanmar has rendered the Rohingya stateless with the government refusing to recognise them as a distinct ethnic group.

Myanmar has vehemently rejected accusations of ethnic cleansing and defended the army campaign as a legitimate response to August 25 attacks by Rohingya militants.

Previous Myanmar government statements have suggested that any Rohingya with links to the militants would be barred from returning home.

Even if the reparation plan goes forward, there is widespread concern over what the Rohingya will return to, since many of their villages have been razed by fires.

'There is trust deficit between Pak, US over Afghanistan'

ISLAMABAD, OCT 25 (PTI): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif has acknowledged that there is a "trust deficit" between his country and the US over the issue of Afghanistan even as he asserted that the two countries were talking to bridge their differences.

Asif's remarks came after Secretary of State Rex Tillerson during his whirlwind visit here outlined the US' new South Asia Strategy and the vital role that Pakistan can play in working with America and others to facilitate a peace process in Afghanistan that can bring stability and security to the region.

"Yes there is a trust deficit...but we are talking," Asif said in response to a question.

"Having said that, (I should say) there is a willingness on both sides to bridge this (trust) deficit," he told BBC Urdu yesterday.

The foreign minister also said that the US and international forces had failed to end the conflict in Afghanistan despite their more than a decade long efforts.

"They (US) must do some self-accountability also. Why have they lost 45 per cent of the Afghan



territory in the last 10, 12 years," he asked.

Asif also said that Pakistan was not dependent on the US aid as it has been getting only a "trickle" of the assistance. He said Pakistan was also not looking for military hardware from the US.

"We do not get any military hardware from the US. We are not like in the past when we were their proxy," he said.

Separately, talking to Geo TV, he said that Pakistani leaders told Tillerson that there were no terrorist safe havens in Pakistan.

"Terrorist attacks are not planned or executed from Pakistani soil, there are no terrorist safe havens in Pakistan, and we made this clear to the US delegation," Asif said.

He said the Pakistani leadership firmly holds on

to the stance that it is not protecting or supporting the Haqqani network.

"We emphasised again and again that their [US] assessment [about Pakistan] is wrong," he said.

"We are not responsible for the increase in the drug trade in Afghanistan or the increasing [Afghan] territory occupied by terrorists," Asif said.

Tillerson paid a short trip to Pakistan yesterday and held a detailed meeting with civil and military leaders in Islamabad.

According to a statement by the US embassy, he asked Pakistan to "increase its efforts to eradicate militants and terrorists operating within the country."

Pakistan regularly denies that it hosts terrorist groups fighting the US and Afghan forces in Afghanistan.



Saudi Arabia's crown prince has pledged a "moderate, open" country, in an attack on the Gulf country's ultra-conservative clerics. Speaking during a rare public appearance at an economic forum in the capital Riyadh, Mohammed bin Salman said Saudi Arabia was "returning to what we were before - a country of moderate Islam that is open to all religions and to the world". The heir to the throne said the kingdom will work to defeat extremism and make sure young Saudis live in harmony with the rest of the world. "We will not spend the next 30 years of our lives dealing with destructive ideas. We will destroy them today," he said. "We will end extremism very soon." The crown prince's statement represents the most direct attack by a Saudi official on the country's influential conservative religious circles, who have had extensive influence on policy in recent decades.

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2330 2346 2436 2587 2647 2655 2911 3082 3159 3183
3443 3484 3497 3529 4050 4080 4082 4113 4155 4173
4361 4415 4476 4506 4593 4634 4663 4738 4767 4990
4996 5037 5089 5132 5206 5293 5327 5453 5597 5670
5671 5678 5707 5855 5995 6197 6377 6464 6498 7370
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0029 0062 0190 0283 0292 0377 0388 0417 0485 0562
0640 0762 0847 1014 1021 1036 1085 1116 1202 1239
1241 1814 1824 1891 2068 2089 2195 2265 2538 2545
2752 2872 2913 2930 2948 2956 2969 3176 3364 3434
3946 3947 3965 4064 4157 4742 4830 4851 4892 4897
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BEAUTY IN THE GENES: Bella, Gigi and Yolanda Hadid stunned at V Magazine's dinner in honor of Karl Lagerfeld in NYC.

APP DATE

WHATSAPP TO LAUNCH GROUP VIDEO, VOICE CALLS AFTER ROLL-OUT OF LIVE LOCATION FEATURE

Last week WhatsApp launched the live-location tracking feature and now the company is launching group video calls for its users. The application is already the most popular title on both iOS and Android but it's planning to become the go-to app when it comes to communication.

The group calling feature hasn't made it to the final built yet but is expected to do so in a few months' time. According to WaBetaInfo, a website that tests all new WhatsApp features claimed that the application will be launching a group video and voice call feature.

This new update might feature in WhatsApp's next update for beta users. The site claims that the 2.17.70 beta version will come with this new feature. Along with this feature, the update will also carry a new update that will help with an easy transition between phone numbers. If a user changes their number, WhatsApp will notify all contacts on their list about the change.

WhatsApp has been aggressively introducing new features within their application and is also stepping in the social media realm by introducing features like stories. The consistent rise in a smartphone's computational power is enabling applications like WhatsApp to delve into other genres of communication.



Though many popular applications offer services like conference video and voice calls much before WhatsApp, the sheer size of the user-base makes the feature an instant hit. The application has 1 billion daily active users and around 1.3 billion monthly active users.

The Live Location feature was also offered by various applications like Messenger, Google Maps, Telegram etc. but with WhatsApp adopting it, the feature might finally get a broader audience.

To use the Live Location feature one will have to tap on the paperclip icon next to the chat box. The location can be shared in the form of chat. It can be sent to WhatsApp groups as well as individual chats.

To keep a track of how many people or groups are getting the live location updates, one can check in the Account Privacy settings. In terms of WhatsApp groups, if various participants have shared their live location, all locations will be visible on a single map.

PADMAVATI'S FIRST SONG IS HERE AND DEEPIKA PADUKONE KILLS IT IN HER 20-KG LEHENGA

Ghoomar is the first song from Padmavati that was released today and has already become a rage on the internet thanks to Deepika Padukone and her 20-kg lehenga. Padmavati's first song, Ghoomar is out, and just like the trailer, it's a treat for the eyes. Deepika Padukone, who plays Rani Padmini, looks ravishing and does the traditional dance form with elegance and effortless grace.

After a slow start, the song quickens its pace, and the dancers twirl faster, and seem to be enjoying the

dance. It does leave one in quite a trance! It's a feat, no doubt, considering they're dancing in extremely heavy lehengas. Combined with stunning cinematography, the whole scene is a visual treat.

We can only make guesses here, the dance looks like a welcome presentation for Shahid Kapoor, who plays the role of Maharana Rawal Ratan Singh, Deepika's husband in the film. The film, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, also stars Ranveer Singh as Alauddin Khilji, and is set to release on December 01.



SALMAN KHAN AND KATRINA KAIF LOOK ALL THINGS BADASS IN THE NEW TIGER ZINDA HAI POSTER



On Diwali, Salman Khan gave us a sneak peek into the highly anticipated Tiger Zinda Hai by releasing the first poster of the film. This week got more exciting for his fans with a new poster of the film with Katrina Kaif in it.

The new poster has both of them wallowed in a combat mood. While Salman Khan holds a machine gun, Katrina looks deadly in her spy avatar holding two guns, both ready to take down forces of their nemesis. The post-

er also has a helicopter crashing into the back, gun totting Salman-Kat, by the looks of it we can say the movie is going to be filled with some thrilling action scenes.

Salman who plays the role of a RAW agent Tiger also tweeted in regard to the poster, he wrote: "Tiger is Back! #TigerZindaHai @TigerZindaHai." Katrina Kaif essays the role of a Pakistani spy, Zoya. According to reports, the actress has been back-breaking herself for the stunts in the film and it has definitely paid off!

The film is a sequel to Ek Tha Tiger and is helmed by Ali Abbas Zafar. The action-based film is slated to release on December 22.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

26TH OCTOBER

SPACE MOON PHOTOS 1959: The first photographs are seen on earth of the far side of the moon when the Lunik III, a Soviet satellite which are sent back to earth via radio signals.

WINSTON CHURCHILL ELECTED 1951: The conservative party led by Winston Churchill has won the latest general election in Britain defeating the Labour party led by Clement Attlee.

THE BEATLES 1965: The Beatles were made members of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by the Queen in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

SOUTH KOREA PRESIDENT SHOT 1979: The President of South Korea, Park Chung Hee and five others including the president's bodyguard are shot dead by the chief of his intelligence service, Kim Jea Kyu.

ISRAEL JORDAN PEACE TREATY 1994: Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty to end 46 years of war. The treaty was signed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali of Jordan and the ceremony was attended by



President Clinton. **SOVIET UNION 120 HOSTAGES KILLED 2002:** Russian Special Forces storm a theatre where 50 chechnyn rebels have held 7,000 hostages for three days, during the raid most of the terrorists and 120 hostages are killed. **INDIA NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS PASSED 2006:** India passed a law aimed at protecting women from domestic violence. The law aims to stop physical violence related to dowries and violence committed against women from partners, husbands, and in-laws.

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BABY BLUES

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ARIES: A long-awaited romantic encounter may be canceled or prove less rewarding than you'd hoped. Doubts about the future of this relationship could come up. This isn't the day to make any final decisions about serious matters like this. Wait a few days until you feel a little more confident and then make up your mind.

TAURUS: A visitor to your home might bring unreliable information. Don't take at face value whatever this person says. As far as romance is concerned, your passions are high and your need for intimacy about the same. It's unlikely that you'll have any truly romantic encounters today, at least satisfying ones. If

the opportunity comes your way, it might be best to make a date for a later time.

GEMINI: A passionate letter or phone call could come from a close friend or romantic partner. The person may be confused and rather emotionally tormented. Be kind! If you've been thinking about doing some writing, this is the day. Your imagination is flying high. Let the words flow and don't get too caught up with grammar and structure now. You can edit later.

CANCER: You could have an artistic talent that you haven't yet tapped. Today events might occur that cause you to want to try. This is a good time, as your inspiration

is high. Don't judge yourself too harshly if your efforts don't quite fit your expectations. Cut yourself some slack. More experience is needed before you can really fit your vision to your skill.

LEO: Family members may want to make changes in your home, such as remodeling, redecorating, or refurbishing, but there could be disagreements about the changes needed. Everyone will have a different idea. This isn't a good day to make such plans. It's unlikely that any agreement will be reached now. Put off the planning until another time.

VIRGO: Miscommunication with a romantic partner could have you

either writing or reading love poetry or a story of some kind. It's more important that you clear up the misunderstanding with the special person in your life. Cheer up. Don't let your insecurity get the better of you. All isn't as bad as it seems. The end of the day could bring a passionate reconciliation.

LIBRA: A close friend or group with which you're associated could have money troubles. You might be asked to help, but be careful. It's doubtful that the person or organization will be able to pay you back. A goal that you've been working toward could get stalled, but this isn't the day to try to jump-start it. You may lack information. Take a day

off and then fix it.

SCORPIO: You like people but sometimes you can be very critical. Today you may have a hard time integrating yourself into a group. The group dynamic may not appeal to you. All you want to do is break away. Try to overcome that feeling and observe your resistance. Try to find your place in the group and play along without faking it.

SAGITTARIUS: Confusion about metaphysical or spiritual matters could have you seeking clarity through research. Talking with friends could prove beneficial, but it's important to remember that they could be as perplexed as you. Interesting discussions and technol-

ogy will make a difference. A friend may prove untrustworthy, so be careful about the people you share confidences with now.

CAPRICORN: A new sort of bond may form with someone you consider a friend. Perhaps you discover a mutual interest or suddenly see your friend in a new light. This can be beautiful, but before you make any commitment, make an effort to get to know the person a little better. Your image of him or her might be clouded by idealism. You might not see the person objectively.

AQUARIUS: Something important to you is changing. You're beginning to doubt whether there's a future in it or not. It may be a career or

a romantic relationship. Confusion may dominate your thoughts today. You aren't comfortable with an uncertain future. You need to give this a lot of thought before deciding. Hang in there.

PISCES: Vague physical discomfort could have you feeling out of sorts. Most likely you aren't really ill. You're tired and stressed, but you can make it through the day. Disillusionment with someone you've admired could also be on your mind. You could be seeking someone else for a role model. You'll feel better tomorrow!