



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Journalist silenced: Amnesty flags concern over free speech

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI):

The killing of journalist Gauri Lankesh by gunmen outside her residence in Bengaluru "raises alarm" about the state of freedom of expression in the country, Amnesty International India said today.

Gauri, who was known for her strident anti-establishment views and writings against Hindu fundamentalists, was never afraid of speaking truth to power, the rights body said.

"Her assassination must be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice. The police must investigate whether she was killed because of her journalism," Asmita Basu, Programmes Director at Amnesty International India, said.

Gauri, 55, was the editor of Gauri Lankesh Patrike, a Kannada weekly. She was widely regarded as an independent and outspoken journalist and activist, and a fierce critic of hardline Hindu groups in Karnataka.

"Critical journalists and activists have increasingly faced threats and attacks across India in recent years. State governments must act to protect those whose voices of dissent are being silenced," Basu said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists has said that there have been no conviction in any of 27 cases of journalists "murdered for their work" in India since 1992, the statement said.

Amit Shah did not talk about Darjeeling at NEDA meet: IPR

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT:

The Information and Public Relations Department has issued a clarification today regarding news reports on the North East Democratic Alliance [NEDA] meeting held at New Delhi on 05 Sept which was attended by the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

The department has clarified that President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Amit Shah, did not talk about or mention anything on Darjeeling.

"However, certain section of the media has purposefully misquoted the facts for their narrow vested interest to tarnish the image of the CM which is totally undemocratic and condemnable," IPR has said.

The release mentions turn to pg02

Pang Lhabsol celebrations in Ravangla

SUMMIT REPORT

RAVANGLA, 06 SEPT:

Ravangla celebrated the 33rd Pang Lhabsol festival at Maney Chokerling Complex here in South Sikkim. The celebration was attended by Cultural Affairs & Heritage Minister, GM Gurung along with Area MLA and Labour Minister, DD Bhutia, advisors, chairpersons, department officials, monks, students and tourists halting at Ravangla.

Addressing the function Culture Minister, Mr Gurung said that Pang Lhabsol was a festival celebrating unity and brotherhood. He highlighted that the festival also signifies the bond between nature and humans. He thanked the celebration committee for organizing the event and applauded



ed the initiative to bind different communities together.

Commenting on providing Scheduled Tribe status

to 11 communities of the State, Mr Gurung said that

the state government is trying everything to make that happen. He urged the people to live together in peace and harmony.

The Minister also condemned the recent activities of West Bengal police officials in the State saying that it was a 'manipulative act on the part of West Bengal administration to allow such activities in Sikkim'.

In view of the ongoing unrest in Darjeeling and the recent West Bengal police and Sikkim police clash, the Minister advised the shopkeepers to maintain stocks of essential commodities before Dussehra to avoid scarcity.

On the Panchayat election which is scheduled to be held after Diwali in Sikkim,

he urged the Panchayat members to prepare for the delimitation process and cooperate with the state government.

The Minister also attended a prayer session at Maney Chokerling Monastery and witnessed the traditional Pangtoed Cham performed there.

The cultural presentation was followed by the final match of the Pang Lhabsol Open Volleyball Tournament between SAP and Temi Boys with the former team winning the tourney. The winners were awarded with cash prize of Rs 80,000 and a trophy. Similarly, the runner up team were handed a cash prize of Rs 40,000 and a trophy.

SFA teams up with EGT Entertainment to host Sikkim Premier League 2017

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT:

Play24/7 Sikkim Premier League 2017 is scheduled to be kicked off on 11 Sept here at Paljor Stadium. The recently elected executive body of Sikkim Football Association has geared up to organise the premier division league of the State in a better and grander manner this year. This was announced during an SFA press conference here at Football House this afternoon.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between SFA and EGT Entertainment Private Limited to further promote football in the State.

This one-year agreement has been signed by SFA president, Menla Ethenpa and Chief Operating Officer- EGT Entertainment Pvt Ltd, Kailash Divecha, in which the latter has agreed to sponsor the football tournaments of SFA during the agreement period.

Eight premier division clubs are in the fray this year.

The participating clubs are defending champion, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club, Royal United Sikkim Sporting Club, State Sports Academy, Sikkim Police, Boys Club, Dzongri Football Club and Pakyong Football Academy.

Addressing the press conference, SFA president, Mr Ethenpa, stated that it was a historic day for Sikkim football as for the first time a company has come forward to sponsor Sikkim Premier League.



mier League. He thanked the company for extending support in the promotion and development of Sikkim football.

Mr Ethenpa informed that during the one-year contract period the company will be supporting SFA with Rs 8 lakh. He mentioned that for the first time SFA will also provide Rs 30,000 to each of the eight premier division clubs.

"For the first time some matches of the premier division this year will be played under flood lights," he added.

The league will be played between 11-25 Sept and top two teams of the premier division league will secure a place in the upcoming Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament scheduled to be held in Oct. It is informed that the premier division league will be followed by Sikkim Super Cup under flood lights, in which only top four teams of the premier division will get entry.

Former Indian football team skipper and SFA advisor, Bhairu Bhutia, who is also the chairperson of the league committee, mentioned that a good standard league would help to take Sikkim football forward and help produce talented professional footballers from the State. On the same, he expressed his gratitude to the company for their collaboration to promote football in Sikkim.

Bhairu informed that it will be compulsory for the participating teams to field at least 6 local players throughout the match and only two foreign players will be allowed on the field. He informed that this year a separate league committee has also been formed to conduct the league in a proper manner and a disciplinary committee would also be formed for the league.

"Our intension is to make Sikkim premier division league the best in the country to produce

talented professional footballers from Sikkim and see more Sikkim players in ISL and I-League in near future," he said.

Bhairu informed that only the champion of the premier division will get a cash prize. He mentioned that Sikkim Super Cup was a knock-out football tournament for the top four clubs of the premier division to be played under flood lights. In this tournament, two semi-finals and one final will be played. He informed that the winner and runner-up team will be awarded with cash prizes.

"This year the league will have good matches, so we would like to request the people of the State to boost the morale of players of their favourite teams with their presence," he appealed.

Likewise, COO-EGT Entertainment Pvt Ltd, Mr Divecha, expressed his happiness on being associated with SFA for turn to pg03

Arrest warrant issued against GJM chief Gurung, seven others

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 6

(PTI): An arrest warrant was today issued against absconding GJM chief Bimal Gurung and seven others for their alleged involvement in the arson and violence reported from Darjeeling on June 8.

"The arrest warrant was issued by the chief judicial magistrate (CJM), Darjeeling on a prayer by the CID. The warrant has been issued against Bimal Gurung and seven others for their involvement in the arson and violence that took place outside the Bhanu Bhawan in Darjeeling on June 8," Ajoy Prasad, Special Superintendent, CID, told PTI.

The others against whom the warrant was issued were GJM general secretary Roshan Giri, GJM Yuva Morcha president Prakash Gurung, Amrit Yonzon, Ashok Chhetri, DK Pradhan, Tilak Roka and Asha Gurung, the GJM Mahila Morcha chief and wife of Bimal Gurung.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) is spearheading the agitation, which has been going on for over two-and-a-half months in the Darjeeling hills over the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

Last week, the West Bengal police had issued



a lookout notice against Gurung for his alleged involvement in various cases, including a bomb blast at the Kalimpong police station, in which a civic volunteer was killed.

On June 8, GJM supporters had indulged in violence and arson while attempting to march to the Raj Bhavan in Darjeeling town, which was hosting a cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the first time.

Following this, the Army was deployed after the protesters damaged police vehicles and set some of them ablaze, prompting the men in uniform to fire teargas shells and lathicharge the violent GJM supporters, who were opposing the "imposition" of Bengali in the schools of the hills.

Independent press can't succumb before myopic opinions: Court

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI): An independent press, which enjoys freedom of expression, cannot be made to succumb before myopic opinions of certain individuals, a Delhi court said today.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abhilash Malhotra made the observation while dismissing a plea to prosecute a leading English daily, alleging that it was promoting enmity between different castes and groups by publishing news of people belonging to certain caste in a sensational manner.

The court said the complaint filed by an advocate lacked merits and it was "nothing but an attempt to encroach upon the freedom of press."

"The press enjoys freedom of expression and an independent and impartial press cannot be made to succumb before the subjective reservations or myopic opinions of certain individuals. The job of editors of newspapers cannot be turned into mere stenography writing only euphonic reports suiting to individual needs," it said.

The court further said the press is

"flawlessly" performing its bounden duty to report the events, criticise the policies, to act as whistle blower and guide the nation towards prosperity.

The plea had alleged that publication of provocative news by the newspaper was promoting enmity, disharmony and hatred among different communities of Hindu society and cited norms set for newspapers for usage of caste and religion.

Public Prosecutor Darvesh Yadav opposed the complaint saying that in the news item, the press had done its duty to bring before the people the

true picture of events and sufferings faced by people belonging to a particular community.

The magistrate, in the order, said the news items relied upon by the complainant merely shows that the newspaper had made a sincere attempt to report the facts pertaining to disputes between different groups on the ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence and language.

"No prejudice has been caused in the maintenance of harmony after such publication. No ingredient at all of causing prejudice to national

integrity has surfaced. The Indian society comprises of caste system.

"Reservations have been recognised to uplift the scheduled communities to bring them at par with the main stream. Our laws have recognised the freedom struggle's principles of 'Antyodaya and Sarvodaya,' the court said.

It added that in cases where there are communal disputes, clashes between people from various castes, religions and factions, the media in order to give a clear picture to the readers have to make certain references.

One accused of Rs 5.7 lakh fraud

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT: Senior Product Executive of Shri Ram Transport Finance Company Limited, Jorethang has been accused of making fraudulent transactions of over Rs 5.7 lakh from several client accounts of the company. The accused hails from Soreng, West Sikkim and was working as a Senior Product Executive at the company and was entrusted with the job of collecting monthly installments from the clients. A case has been registered at Jorethang Police Station by the company manager on 04 Sept against the accused.

Self-medication ends fatal for woman

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT: A 38-year-old asthma patient died from having pain killers and anti-acid tablets to treat a headache and stomach pain on 05 Sept, reports Gyalshing police station. The deceased was a housewife and mother of two.

According to her friend, the deceased was complaining of severe headache and acidity after which she bought her a pain killer and Eno antacid tablet. She was reportedly on an empty stomach and in severe pain.

She then took a bus home after which she reportedly fell unconscious and was rushed to a nearby hospital. She succumbed on the way to the hospital and was declared 'brought dead' by the doctor on duty.

Amit Shah...

Contd from pg01

that Chief Minister Pawan Chamling attended the first session of the NEDA meeting. After the first session of the NEDA meeting, the CM left the said meeting in view of his tour abroad later that day.

Thereafter, Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, attended the second session of NEDA meeting on behalf of the CM as per his direction and took part in the discussion wherein various pending issues of Sikkim, the release adds.

Pang Lhabsol in Lachung

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

LACHUNG, 06 SEPT:

Pang Lhabsol was celebrated here today at Lachung in North Sikkim with great fervor in a programme organized by the Lachung Dzumsa. Special prayers were led by Lachung Rinpoche who also delivered a sermon on the occasion.

The function was attended by Member of Parliament-Rajya Sabha, Hishey La-



chungpa, as chief guest along with Sub Division-

al Magistrate-Mangan, Pema Wangdi Lepcha, District Civil Supplies Officer-North, Palden Lachungpa, and other dignitaries.

Lachung Pipon, Namgyal Wangdi, welcomed the gathering for the function while SDM-Mangan, Mr Lachungpa, highlighted about the importance of Pang Lhabsol festival.

Members of the Lachung Dzumsa have requested the Chief Minister's intervention in implementing Border Area Development Programme [BAPD] schemes in the area. The Dzumsa

has made this request since 2014, they said.

The programme also featured a cultural programme presented by students, Anganwadi workers and senior citizens.

Lachung Dzumsa further spoke about the controversy surrounding Gurudongmar and Chungthang Leh Dho and urged for an awareness programme to be held on the issue.

The function also had traditional games along with a football exhibition match for senior citizens wherein the winners were awarded with prizes.



NATIONAL AWARD FOR THREE SIKKIM TEACHERS

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT: Three teachers from Sikkim have been conferred with National Award during a function held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 05 Sept. Retired Headmaster of Bermiok Passi Junior High School, Bhaila Bhutia, Trained Graduate Teacher of Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School, Nima Lakhi Pulger, and Tshering Yangchung of Holy Cross School, Tadong [CBSE Category], were presented with the awards by Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu. **[Rebyna Rana]**

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Have returned to take forward late Bhandari's legacy: DK Bhandari as SSP president

VISHNU NEOPANEY

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT: "SIKKIM SANGRAM PARISHAD will reorganize to fulfil people's expectations and continue in the footsteps of the Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari," said Dil Kumari Bhandari today.

Ms Bhandari is wife of former chief minister and SSP president, NB Bhandari, who passed away on 16 July earlier this year and has since taken charge of the party as president.

The former Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim, Ms Bhandari addressed the media today wherein she said that she has returned to politics to repay the debt that she owes to the Sikkimese people.

"I am thankful to Sikkim and its people who reposed their faith in me



by choosing me to represent them in the Lok Sabha. I have done whatever I could during my two terms as Lok Sabha MP," said Ms Bhandari.

She said that SSP will not compromise on its ideology or principles and will work to protect the interests of Sikkim.

Not referring to any particular political party she said, if needed, SSP is ready to join hands with other parties without compromising on the basic principle of Sikkim for

Sikkimese.

On her return to politics after a long gap, Ms Bhandari said that she has returned to take forward the legacy left behind by her husband and not for name or fame.

'Bharar khaneyra aagan purne haru sita bhane kunai samjhauta nagarne,' (will not join hands with those who are selfish and work only for political gains) is not her agenda for returning to politics, she added.

On the recent letter written by former Chief Secretary, Sonam Wangdi to the Union Home Minister and others advising against the granting of Scheduled Tribe status to 11 communities of Sikkim and his referring to these communities as 'immigrants', Ms Bhandari said that one

person's apprehensions does not mean that the ST status will be denied to the 11 communities.

Further stating that this was not a new issue, Ms Bhandari said that SDF had made this an issue in 1993-94 to topple the then regime after the Supreme Court's remarks in 1992 on the RC Poudyal and others versus Union of India case.

"Since then SDF has been in power for the last 24 years, what have they done about it?" she questioned.

If Supreme Court's observations were of great concern then Limboo and Tamang and also Nepali language would not have been recognised or incorporated in the Indian Constitution.

On the Gorkhaland movement, she said that

Pained to see politicization of NEDA meet writes Lok Sabha MP

The National Democratic Alliance (NEDA) 2nd conclave was held in New Delhi on 5th September. It was chaired by the BJP national president, Amit Shah. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling on the invitation of Convener of NEDA attended the meeting. He stayed for the entire inaugural session for which he had committed to the BJP National President, Shri Amit Shah. He was happy to see all the five Chief Ministers and greeted each one of them at the meeting. The Sikkim Democratic Front Party is a full member of the NEDA and will be participating in all future meetings.

During his speech Amit Shahji spent considerable amount of time in dwelling on the NER issues and what the Modi Government has done. He was happy to speak about the Organic Mission success of Sikkim as well as the first Open Defecation Free state.



Chief Minister did not hurriedly leave as has been alluded to by Shri DB Chauhan, BJP.

It was fully understood by the convener Shri Himanta Biswa Sharma and the BJP National President Shri Amit Shahji that Shri Chamling would be leaving after the inaugural session. In fact, he found time to meet and greet and speak about issues of our State and the region with NER Ministers present. All gave patient hearing and there was a good sense of camaraderie.

When invited to speak at the round table, I had bought up the same - that how under the promotion of the state of Sikkim as a fully organic state by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that he is receiving the "One World Award" in Germany. I thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

On the question of resolution of the Gorkhaland issues, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has made the remarks on the sidelines of the meeting. He spoke as aforementioned to other Ministers and National Secretaries of the BJP.

We are pained to see the politicization in a derogatory manner of the NEDA meeting attended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the invitation of the National President of BJP, Shri Amit Shah and the convener Shri Himanta Biswa Sharma.

We are committed to the furtherance of the cause and vision of NEDA as outlined in the inaugural address of Shri Amit Shahji. We have offered our whole-hearted support for the same.

PD Rai [MP Lok Sabha and SDF spokesperson]

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For Sikkim's Patron Saint

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He left a struggler, returns a star
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SummitTIMES
Syok Bhair collapses, blocks Kanaka completely
For Sikkim's Patron Saint

Gangtok on Thursday, 07 Sept

Temp: 26°C / 16°C
Forecast: Clouds and sunshine with a shower or thunderstorm around; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:17 AM
Sunset: 05:50 PM

Man arrested for molesting minor

Gangtok, 06 Sept: A case under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 was registered against a 37-year-old man from South Sikkim on 05 Sept by Jorethang police for sexually molesting his 13-year-old step-daughter. The victim reportedly informed her mother that she was being sexually molested by her step-father on a regular basis. The mother then filed a case against her husband. The victim was sent to a nearby hospital for medical examination and the accused arrested.

One booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT: Rangpo Police on 05 Sept arrested a 28-year-old man from Ranipool, East Sikkim under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 for being in possession of contraband substances. The accused was intercepted by the police on patrol duty at Rangpo check post. He was reportedly travelling in a vehicle coming from West Bengal side. After a thorough inspection the police recovered 404 Spasmoproxyvon capsules and 80 N-10 tablets hidden inside a plastic bag from his possession. The accused was accordingly arrested and the recovered items were seized, sealed and sent for chemical analysis.

SFA teams up with EGT...

Contd from pg01

promotion of football in Sikkim. He stated that the company has always been ready to support talents of the State.

The inaugural match of the league is scheduled to be played between Boys Club and Royal United Sikkim Sporting Club on 11 Sept evening under flood lights.

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Three-day North-East Butterfly Meet 2017 held at Dzongu

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT:

A three-day national level butterfly meet, North-East Butterfly Meet-2017 (NEBM-2017), was organized by Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim - Nature Conservation Society (BAMOS-NCS) in collaboration with Butterflies of North Eastern India group from 03 to 05 Sept at Namprikdang, Dzongu, North Sikkim. This was the 4th NEBM in India and for BAMOS it was its 2nd meet, the first being held at Yuksam in 2015.

A BAMOS press release informs that the meet was attended by more than 35 participants from different states of India as well as participants from the state. School students from nearby schools also participated. Renowned scientist and author, Issac Kehimkar and Lepidopterist, Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi were the resource persons.

Minister of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department, Government of Sikkim, TW Lepcha inaugurated the NEBM-2017 while Deputy Speaker of SLA cum Dzongu MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha was the guest of honour.

The programme was attended by Forest Officials, representatives of different agencies like WWF, ATREE, KCC (Yuksam), Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE, Chemchey), Sikkim University, BAC Dzongu, SDO Dzongu, Zilla Panchayat and Gram Panchayat units and local youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister, Mr Lepcha appreciated the initiative of BAMOS-NCS for the conservation of butterflies and moths in Sikkim and congratulated president of BAMOS, Nawang Gyatso Bhutia for his entry into the Limca Book of Records for attracting 95 species of butterflies on his body and presented him the Record Certificate.

Addressing the participants, he said that such types of programmes need



to be organized on a regular basis for the awareness of nature conservation in general and butterflies in particular. The Minister further highlighted the commitment of the Chief Minister of Sikkim towards the conservation of environment through different programmes like Green Mission, 10 Minutes to Earth, Paryavaran Mahotsav, etc.

He also emphasized the potential of the rich biodiversity like butterflies and birds to generate alternate sources of income for the people of Sikkim through sustainable ecotourism. Addressing the gathered students, he advised them to take maximum benefit out of this programme to learn about the conservation of natural resources and consider a career in this field.

As guest of honour, Dy. Speaker of SLA cum Dzongu MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, congratulated BAMOS for conducting a national level Butterfly Meet at Dzongu which would help the people of Dzongu to be aware of the rich butterfly biodiversity. He advised the students to sincerely attend the program.

DFO (Territorial), North Division, TN Bhutia highlighted some parts of the Forest Act which were relevant to the participants for this meet.

The meet was sponsored and supported by Forest department, Kanchedzonga Conservation Committee, IHCAE (Chemchey), ATREE, WWF, BHNS, AARANYAK and Flutters, the release mentions.

During the three days, extensive

survey was carried out during the day while evenings were allotted for presentations and brain storming sessions. Both the resource persons delivered lectures on field study, identification and scientific conservation of butterfly diversity of Sikkim.

Principal Chief Research Officer and mentor of BAMOS-NCS, Usha Lachungpa, highlighted the rich biodiversity of Dzongu and need for quality research conservation in scientific manner.

During the meet, the participants documented 163 species of butterflies among which some were rare species like, Dark Tinsel, Khaki Silverline, Himalayan White Flat, Purple Spotted Flitter, Northern Jungle Queen, Evans Snow Flat, Jungle Glory, the release informs.

SKM condemns former CS's letter on tribal status for left-out communities

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has condemned the letter of former Chief Secretary and BJP state-unit member, Sonam Wangdi to the Union Home Minister and others advising against Scheduled Tribe status for 11 communities of Sikkim. Being the chief advisor of a national party and writing such a letter is very dangerous, the party has said.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary [press & publicity], Bikash Basnet, states that the state-unit of BJP should condemn this letter and write to the Centre immediately otherwise BJP will be responsible if the demand of the 11 communities is not fulfilled.

Since SDF is an ally of the NDA government and member of NEDA, it should also be responsible and answerable on Mr Wangdi's letter, the party has said.

Further, SKM has said that the letter attacks the dignity Sikkimese Nepali.

One arrested for sexual assault attempt on differently-abled girl

SINGTAM, 06 SEPT:

A 35-year-old man from Singtam has been arrested by Singtam Police for attempting to sexually assault a differently-abled 18-year-old girl.

The incident occurred on 02 Sept when the victim was alone at her home. Both her parents had reportedly gone to their respective work places leaving the victim alone at home. The victim fought back and screamed for help following which the accused fled.

The parents filed a case against the accused at Singtam Police Station the same day, however, the accused could not be traced. After some days of searching, the accused was finally brought in on 05 Sept and placed under police custody.

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Cow vigilantism: SC talks tough, asks states to curb violence

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI):

Talking tough, the Supreme Court today asked all states to take stern steps to stop violence in the name of cow protection by appointing a senior police officer as nodal officer in every district within a week and act promptly to check cow vigilantes from behaving like they are "law unto themselves".

Such acts "must stop", directed a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra which asked the states to form a dedicated task force in every district to stop such acts and directed their chief secretaries to file a status report giving details of actions taken to prevent incidents of cow vigilantism.

"The senior police officer shall take prompt action and ensure (that) vigilante groups and such people are prosecuted with quite promptitude," the bench, also comprising Justices Amitava Roy and A M Khanwilkar, said while issuing notice to the Centre and others on the PIL filed by Tushar Gandhi, the great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

"The people should not take law into their hands and they should not behave as if they were law unto themselves. This must stop. Such acts are not permissible," the bench said in a stern message.

The bench asked the Centre to respond to the submission that it could issue directions under

Article 256 (obligation of states and Union) of the Constitution to all state governments on issues related to law and order.

"Steps have to be taken to stop this. Some kind of planned action is required so that vigilantism does not grow.

Efforts have to be made to stop such vigilantism," the bench said, adding "how will they (states) do it, is their business but this must stop."

The court also asked state governments to ensure highway patrolling after it was pointed out that such incidents took place on highways on the pretext that vehicles are carrying beef.

At the outset, senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for Tushar

Gandhi, referred to several incidents of mob lynching and assaults in the name of cow vigilantism.

She said such incidents were "no longer a law and order issue" and have become a nationwide phenomenon which need preventive action.

"We do not want to come to the court after people are dead. Rather, we want people to be saved," she said and referred to the statement of Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar that the central government did not approve of such incidents of people taking law into their hands.

Jaising raised the issue of cooperative federalism and said that such incidents were violative of the concept.

The bench agreed with the contention and said, "efforts should be made to stop this vigilantism".

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, said there was a law and the states should take action in such offences.

The ASG said that even the Centre has categorically said that it did not support any such activity and sought time to peruse the pleas and file a response.

When another senior lawyer Colin Gonsalves, appearing for another petitioner, raised the issue of alleged provocative statements made by leaders of the ruling party, the ASG vehement-

ly objected and said the governments were before the court and not the political party.

"I do take strong objection to all this. This (PIL) is a cheap publicity gimmick and politically motivated," the ASG said.

The court posted the matter for further hearing on September 22 and asked the states and others to file responses in the meantime.

The apex court was hearing a PIL filed by Gandhi seeking various reliefs, including a direction to all the governments to take preventive measures against cow vigilantism.

Besides Gandhi, Congress leader Tehseen Poonawalla had earlier filed a similar petition.

77% of total income of BJP, Cong from unknown sources in FY16

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI):

The BJP and the Congress together saw more than 77 per cent, or Rs 646.82 crore, of their total income coming from "unknown sources" in 2015-16, says a report.

Voluntary contributions and coupon sales were the key income sources for the ruling BJP and the Congress (INC) while the two parties' cumulative total income amounted to Rs 832.42 crore in fiscal 2016, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

A non-government organisation that works for electoral reforms, ADR said the total declared income of the BJP and the Congress stood at Rs 570.86

crore and Rs 261.56 crore, respectively, in 2015-16.

The findings are based on an analysis of the two parties' income and expenditure data submitted to the Election Commission of India.

In 2015-16, the BJP's income from unknown sources was Rs 460.78 crore while that of INC was Rs 186.04 crore.

Income from "unknown sources" refers to those where the source is not declared for donations below Rs 20,000. Such income includes those from sale of coupons, relief fund, miscellaneous income, voluntary contributions and contribution from meetings or morchas, stated the report.

The contribution statements, submitted by the political parties declaring names and other details of donors who contribute above Rs 20,000, are the only known sources of income parties, ADR said.

Among the unknown sources of funding, maximum funds were collected under "voluntary contributions" by the BJP, which amounted to Rs 459.56 crore in fiscal 2016, it said.

The total amount of voluntary contributions, including donations of over Rs 20,000, received by the BJP was Rs 536.41 crore in 2015-16.

As for the Congress, the report said the party collected Rs 167.96 crore

from "sale of coupons" during the same period.

"Total income of seven national parties for 2015-16 was Rs 1,033.18 crore, of which the parties spent Rs 754.45 crore and declared an unspent amount of Rs 278.73 crore (26.98 per cent unspent of total income)," the report added.

Among the seven national parties, the report said the BJP had the highest total income at Rs 570.86 crore in 2015-16,

followed by the Congress at Rs 261.56 crore, the CPM (Rs 107.48 crore), the BSP (Rs 47.39 crore), the Trinamool Congress (Rs 34.58 crore), the NCP (Rs 9.14 crore) and the CPI (Rs 2.18 crore).

According to the analysis for 2015-16, 23 per cent of BJP's total income remained unspent whereas it was 26 per cent in the case of the Congress.

Compared to its total income of Rs 970.43 crore in 2014-15, the

BJP saw the amount fall 41 per cent to Rs 570.86 crore in 2015-16.

The Congress saw total income drop 56 per cent to Rs 261.56 crore in 2015-16, from Rs 593.31 crore in the year-ago period.

The report further said the contribution statements submitted by the political parties declaring names and other details of donors who contribute above Rs 20,000 are the only known sources of income parties.

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SummitTIMES

Another One Bites the Dust

But fundamentalism cannot be allowed to win

Few in the region would have heard of Gauri Lankesh until news arrived of her assassination in Bengaluru on Tuesday evening. She, after all, published a Kannada weekly tabloid which no one here would have read, and apart from occasional commentaries in mainstream publications on issues that disturbed her (as it should all of us) like rising Hindutva fundamentalism, she wrote largely for her "local" audience with a passion which ruffled feathers which last night pulled out a gun. With her death, the 55-year-old journalist, murdered by clearly frustrated right-wing fundamentalists after they ran out of counter-arguments or agencies of the state to keep her down, has now entered conversations in more homes in more parts of the country than her weekly newspaper reached in her home-state Karnataka. It is important that conversations about intolerance that her killing has hopefully triggered do not fizzle out once the reporting has phased out of the news cycles. Right wing aggression can be left unchallenged only for so long before it manifests into full-blown fascism. Jingoism wins easy converts among those fed potent doses of paranoia, and already, too many fence sitters are hopping over to join mobs wanting to reclaim the country and save it from the minorities. Gauri, like others murdered in recent years for holding similar beliefs, noticed the perils of this downward spiral that the country was being sucked into and wrote fiercely to challenge what was increasingly becoming the dominant narrative. She stood up for rational thought in the hope of breaking the rising tide of Hindutva fundamentalism and caste discrimination, attitudes which have swept a disturbing ideology into office in our country. She was obviously succeeding and unfazed despite threats, a conviction under defamation charges brought against her by a BJP leader and getting trolled online; why else would she be put away in a manner reminiscent of how Gandhi was taken away from us and how rationalists have since been dealt by fascists.

Her assassination led to spontaneous protests in Bengaluru and the issue has returned again to television debates and discussions, but it has become urgently necessary for the country to stay with the issue and ensure that dissent is not allowed to be bracketed as antinational and difference of opinion, lifestyle, sexuality or eating habits are not seen as aberrations which need to be weeded out of the society through mob lynchings and/or legislations. This, however, is the sad nadir that our country is hurtling towards with media management giving the impression of mass endorsement because we do not have enough Gauris speaking truth to the people and reminding them about the grander aspirations of democracy like tolerance, empathy and liberal thought. If we continue to hesitate from engaging, and a blacked-out profile photo on your Facebook account is not engagement enough, then intolerance, hate and regressive thought will continue to dominate and there will be no country left for free minds.



As Rohingyas flee Myanmar, India needs to drop religious criteria in its refugee law

NAFEES AHMAD
theconversation.com

More than 90,000 Rohingyas, victims of a new surge of violence in Myanmar, are fleeing the country and pouring into Bangladesh, while 30,000 people are still trapped near the border. At the same time, the government of the prime minister of India – who is due to visit Myanmar this week – has announced that 40,000 Rohingya refugees are to be deported. A plea against this decision, made by two Rohingya asylum seekers in Delhi, is being reviewed by India's supreme court.

According to those supporting the government move, deporting the Rohingya refugees is necessary as their continued presence would encourage Islamic fanaticism. Newspaper columns have argued that the crisis in Myanmar has become a terror concern for India.

But how can India, a country which has hosted refugees ever since its foundation as a nation, deport thousands of people based on their ethnicity and faith? India's refugee policy could provide further insight.

POOR REFUGEE LAWS

India has been hosting large numbers of refugees without any specific law in place since 1971, when a massive flow of people came from war-torn Bangladesh. It relied on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommendations – or

what is also called customary international law.

According to the UN data India takes in between 150,000 to 200,000 people a year.

In the first half of 2014, the UN Refugee agency counted more than 2m people as refugees living in India. They arrived during peak migration crises and conflicts, including partition in 1947, the Tibet crisis of 1959, the creation of Bangladesh 1971, civil wars in Sri Lanka and wars in Afghanistan.

Refugees not only come from devastated neighbours but also from African and Middle Eastern countries such as Congo, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Rwanda, Somalia.

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

To counter such flows, the Indian government developed a new strategy last year. It has proposed amending the Citizenship Act of 1955 and make the naturalisation process easier – except for displaced persons of Muslim faith.

The new bill would indeed benefit people belonging to Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Zoroastrian and Sikh faith, which are considered minority religions in their countries of origin, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, but not Muslims persecuted in their countries of origin, such as the Burmese Rohingyas. Hence the latest proposal to deport Rohingyas.

In India, there are 9,200 refugees

from Afghanistan, of which, 8,500 are Hindus. There are also more than 400 Pakistani Hindu refugee settlements in major Indian cities. These are mainly in Gujarat and Rajasthan – states that border Pakistan.

Other groups who could benefit from the new special status comprise indigenous tribes such as Buddhist Chakmas and Hindu Hajongs from Bangladesh.

PERSECUTED MUSLIMS

Yet, Muslim minorities are also regularly mistreated and seek refuge. Ahmadiyya Muslims, who follow a 19th century prophet Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, face persecution in Pakistan and in Bangladesh. Similarly, Hazaras (mainly found in Afghanistan and Pakistan) are persecuted.

In today's Myanmar, Rohingya Muslims face the wrath of right-wing Buddhist monks and ideologists. In Sri-Lanka, Tamil Muslims are also discriminated against by hardliners who want to impose a Buddhist supremacy.

People from such backgrounds have fled to India. But, according to the new bill, they will not be granted refugee status. Even 14,000 Rohingyas officially registered with the UNHCR could be deported if they are dubbed illegal by the Indian government.

The new proposal infringes the right to equality guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution of India. This prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, caste, creed,

sex or place of birth. It contradicts other fundamental freedoms too.

For example, India grants full protection and assistance through the UNHCR to people (non-Muslims) from Sri Lanka and Tibet, helping them to get documents with a range of legal benefits. On the other hand, refugees from Myanmar, Palestine, and Somalia are seldom helped.

THE ROLE OF THE SAARC REGION

Instead of being pointed to as the country that deported thousands of helpless people such as the Rohingyas, India could actually become a model for South Asia with regard to the treatment of refugees.

For instance, it could use the auspices of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to consider the January 2004 South Asian Declaration on the Refugees and Eminent Persons Group's proposal that formulated an ideal law respecting global human rights standards.

Based on international conventions and on 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees it expanded the definition of "refugee". And India needs a law with a faith-free definition of refugee status to ensure all can be granted security in the world's most religiously diverse country.

[The writer is Assistant Professor, International Refugee Law & Human Rights, South Asian University]

Milk, a Symbol of neo-Nazi Hate

ANDREA FREEMAN
theconversation.com

The U.S.-based white supremacist movement that calls itself the "alt-right" has recently embraced milk as a symbol. In February, shirtless neo-Nazi protesters danced outside Shia LaBeouf's anti-Trump art installation, He Will Not Divide Us, chugging gallons of milk that dripped messily down their chins.

Later, they claimed this act symbolized their opposition to "the vegan agenda."

A poem appeared on an extreme right-wing news site, insisting: "roses are red, barack (sic) is half black, if you can't drink milk, you have to go back."

Other white supremacist discussion threads feature a map of the world tracking lactose intolerance, and academic studies of lactose intolerance in a Slavic population.

New emoji, old symbol

Milk as a symbol of white supremacy has also entered the Twitterverse. In early 2017, it replaced Pepe the Frog as the newest emoji symbolizing white superiority.

Infamous white supremacists Richard Spencer, president of the white nationalist think tank, National Policy Institute, and Tim Treadstone, the extreme right wing social media personality who goes by the name of Baked Alaska, both added milk symbols to their Twitter profiles.

In the box office hit Get Out, a white slave trader slowly sips on a glass of milk in a quiet moment.

I am a critical race scholar and law professor at the University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law. In my law review article, The Unbearable Whiteness of Milk, I discuss the association between milk and white superiority.

It's not a new relationship. Instead, it dates back approximately 100 years. In the 1920s, a pamphlet from the U.S. National Dairy Council explained: "The people who have used liberal amounts of milk and



its products ... " — meaning white people — "... are progressive in science and every activity of the human intellect."

Similarly, the 1933 History of Agriculture of the State of New York declared: "A casual look at the races of people seems to show that those using much milk are the strongest physically and mentally, and the most enduring of the people of the world. Of all races, the Aryans seem to have been the heaviest drinkers of milk and the greatest users of butter and cheese, a fact that may in part account for the quick and high development of this division of human beings."

There is, in fact, a biological basis for Richard Spencer's Twitter boast that he is "very tolerant...lactose-tolerant!"

While most of the world cannot comfortably digest milk, a portion of the white population, originating from cold Scandinavian countries where drinking other species' milk was a survival tool, can digest it

with ease.

However, lactose-intolerance is not the worst of milk's harms. Research links milk consumption to a host of serious health problems, including cancer and heart disease. There are significant [racial disparities in these milk-related illnesses, with groups including [African-Americans, Latinos], Native Americans and Native Hawaiians suffering the worst effects.

U.S. dietary guidelines may be racist

Nonetheless, the U.S. Farm Bill continues to subsidize the dairy industry, resulting in a surplus of milk. In turn, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture urge individuals to consume daily portions of milk products in the federal Dietary Guidelines.

The USDA also disposes of the surplus through its nutrition programs. It distributes milk in the form of free formula to mothers in the WIC (assistance to women and children) program and to public school

students who qualify for free lunches. In both these programs, people of colour are disproportionately represented.

The USDA has also partnered with fast-food companies to create products with higher amounts of cheese, such as Domino's American legends seven-cheese pizza line and Taco Bell's quesalupa. The USDA conceived of and promoted these products, launching them through expensive and coveted Super Bowl advertising spots.

Although white people eat more fast food overall, people living in poor urban communities of colour disproportionately consume fast food in their diets. The decision to introduce more milk into fast-food products therefore has a disparate impact on the health of communities of colour. These communities are far removed from federal food policy-making, with little to no access to the political process, which is subject to regulatory capture.

Widespread belief in personal responsibility for health compounds the problem by making regulatory reform appear irrelevant or futile. The "healthism" paradigm insists that health is a matter of good character, not structural determinants.

Popular racial stereotypes cast African-Americans and Latinos as fat and lazy, lacking the will power necessary to ward off obesity and other food-related illnesses.

These cultural myths mask the systemic inequalities that lead to racial health disparities, and the fact that regulation could alter them. Both the government and the dairy industry thus stand to gain from these racial tropes.

At this moment in history, both white supremacists and federal food policy in the United States are engaging in oppression through milk.

[The writer is Assistant Professor of Law, University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii]

Stadium cancels booking for Amit Shah's programme

KOLKATA, SEP 6 (PTI): The BJP today alleged that a state-owned indoor stadium, where party president Amit Shah was scheduled to attend a programme next week, had cancelled the booking for the event.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal claimed it had nothing to do with it.

"On August 26, we had called up the Netaji Indoor Stadium authorities. They said we were given a pencil (provisional) booking and asked us to come with a no-objection certificate issued by the Kolkata police.

"But on August 30, we were told that the stadium was booked for the entire month, except for the Durga Puja days between September 26-30," state BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu told PTI.

Shah will be on a three day visit to West Bengal from September 11-13.

TMC sources claimed that the booking for the BJP chief's event at the stadium or its cancellation had nothing to do with any of its ministers or leaders.

The stadium officials did not respond to phone calls. The development comes a day after a row erupted over the cancellation of booking for an October 3 event, which was to be addressed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, by a state-run auditorium.

The Sangh and the BJP had denounced it as an act of "vengeance" but the decision was defended by the Mamata Banerjee-led government.

It had set off a slugfest, with the official Twitter handle of the RSS alleging that it was done to "appease jihadi elements" and the TMC government saying the booking was cancelled over "safety and security" reasons as the auditorium would be under renovation and repair around that time.

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Darjeeling tea workers' bonus payout in a limbo

KOLKATA, SEP 06 (PTI): Bonus payout for the Darjeeling tea workers this year is still undecided as the prolong shutdown in the hills has bolted the door for negotiations by the management, workers and trade unions.

"The bonus issue of the workers cannot be discussed among the stakeholders owing to the shutdown which started from early June", Chairman of the Darjeeling Tea Association (DTA) Binod Mohan told PTI. The companies, however,

are legally bound to make the bonus payment despite the gardens remaining inoperational due to the shutdown, Mohan said.

There are about one lakh tea workers engaged in the Darjeeling tea estates out of which

55,000 are directly employed.

The entire Darjeeling crop including the premium second flush was completely destroyed and DTA had estimated that the loss would run into Rs 300 crore as 90 per cent of the produce was to be exported.

The Association has also sought financial assistance from the commerce ministry through the Tea Board to help the managements of 87-odd gardens to see through the workers' expenses due to loss of revenue.

Meanwhile, bonus negotiations for the north Bengal gardens except Darjeeling started yesterday and will conclude today.

Mohan said that the bonus payout for Darjeeling and Dooars gardens were the same.

Cornered Gurung extends olive branch to 'expelled' leaders

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 6 (PTI): Days after expelling Binay Tamang and Anit Thapa from the party, GJM supremo Bimal Gurung today urged the two to come back to the party-fold and unitedly fight for the cause of Gorkhaland.

"Binay Tamang and Anit Thapa should come back to the party-fold and fight unitedly for the cause of Gorkhaland. The situation in the hills is not good, this is not the right time to let the opposition camp take advantage of the differences between us," said Gurung, against whom a look out notice has been issued by the West Bengal police, in an audio message from an undisclosed location.

The development comes within a week after Gurung expelled Binay Tamang and Anit Thapa from the party for "violating" the party line and alleged anti-party activities.

Tamang's announcement on August 31 that the



indefinite shutdown in the hills would be suspended for 12 days from September 1-12, did not go down well with Gurung.

Reacting to the GJM chief's appeal, Tamang said, "Instead of issuing statements from his secret hideout, he (Gurung) should come back to the hills and lead the movement. How can the people trust a person as their leader, if he runs away from the battlefield."

After a near three-month shutdown, a large number of shops today reopened in the Darjeeling hills, braving threats and

intimidation by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM).

This came two days after shops and markets opened for business in Mirik and Kurseong sub-divisions in the hills.

Though business establishments at Chowrasta and Chowkbazar remained closed, markets near the Darjeeling station reopened.

Today, for the first time in the last 84 days, a minister of the state cabinet and a Trinamool Congress leader conducted a rally in the hills.

West Bengal Tourism Minister and senior TMC

leader Gautam Deb urged the people to speak out against the "divisive politics" of GJM chief Bimal Gurung at his peace rally.

"On Monday, shops had opened in Mirik and Kurseong.

Today, this was replicated in Darjeeling. People are against the divisive politics of Gurung. They want peace and stability," he said.

Deb urged the people to help restore normalcy and peace in the hills where the GJM-sponsored indefinite strike entered the 84th day.

The TMC also dis-

tributed food among the people who had gathered in large numbers at the Gadidhura near Sukna.

The GJM leadership, however, refused to comment on the rally.

Two leaders of the GJM's women's wing 'Nari Morcha', Sabita Rai and Pompa Lama, joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) this morning. GJM treasurer of Rohini tea garden Bhimsen Oron along with 150 tea workers also joined the TMC, party sources said.

The search operation to trace absconding GJM chief Gurung, against whom cases have been lodged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), continued in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas.

Picketing by GJM supporters was strengthened in some areas, and posters and leaflets were distributed in support of the strike.

Internet services in the hills have been suspended since June 18.



Six districts of Assam remain flood-hit

GUWAHATI, SEP 6 (PTI): Six districts of Assam remained affected in the flood today even as the number of people suffering in the deluge increased to 62,356 from 45,000 yesterday, according to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

As many as 148 villages were submerged and nearly 6,141 hectares of agricultural land inundated, the report added.

The districts affected by the deluge are Dhema-

ji, Lakhimpur, Chirang, Morigaon, Nagaon in the Brahmaputra Valley and Cachar in the Barak Valley, it said.

The Brahmaputra river in Jorhat, the Dhansiri in Golaghat, the Jia Bharali in Sonitpur and the Kushiara in Karimganj were in spate and flowing above the danger mark, the report

added.

Nagaon was the worst-hit district with 26,426 affected people, followed by Morigaon where 17,000 people were hit by the deluge and Dhemaji with 9,776 affected people.

A total of 8,959 people had taken shelter in 21 relief camps set up by the authorities in the affected districts with relief being provided to them, the ASDMA report said, adding that no fresh death in flood-related incidents was reported today.

As many as 158 lives have so far been claimed by the three waves of floods in the north-eastern state this year.

Damages to infrastructure included breach of an embankment of the Kumatia river in Dhemaji district, resulting in water rushing in and affecting several villages.

Slain journalist Gauri Lankesh laid to rest with State honours

BENGALURU, SEPT 6 (PTI): The body of senior journalist Gauri Lankesh was laid to rest with state honours a day after she was gunned down by unidentified assailants, as the damp weather condition in the city matched the sombre mood.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy, JD (S) MLA B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, multi-lingual actor Prakash Raj, playwrights, theatre personalities, journalists and social activists were in attendance.

Besides, a large number of people thronged the TR Mill crematorium to pay their last respect to Gauri. Rains washing away their tears.

As the body was laid to rest in the Lingayat burial ground in the crematorium, slogans like 'Gauri Lankesh Amar Rahe' and 'Gauri Lankesh Zindabad' filled the air.

Rains could not dampen people's respect for 55-year-old Gauri, known for her Left-leaning and anti-right wing stand.

She was shot dead by motorcycle-borne assailants from close range at her residence here last evening.

The killing has drawn widespread condemnation.

Many spoke about the urgent need to fight intolerance.

"This is not good. We cannot go on gathering at condolences," Ravish Kumar rued.

Student leader Kanhaiya stressed that the times were difficult for journalists and activists.

"But bullets cannot kill ideas," he said.

Ideas are bulletproof: media condemns silencing of dissent

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI): Slain journalist Gauri Lankesh was today held up as a symbol of free speech and dissent, as journalists and activists warned against treating her killing as an isolated incident.

The murder of the editor of Kannada publication 'Gauri Lankesh Patrike' should be seen in the context of a climate of "hate and intolerance" in the country, speaker after speaker said at a condolence meeting attended by hundreds at the Press Club of India here.

Voices in the nearly two-hour-long meeting

also expressed concern over the reaction in social media from a section that greeted Lankesh's chilling murder with glee and tasteless jibes at the political views she held.

"The voices that were celebrating Lankesh's killing are products of the political climate that has been created. We have created a society where it smiles around your corpse," said television journalist Ravish Kumar.

Members of the media fraternity, including the Editor's Guild, as well as rights organisations and student activists, condemned the incident, describing

it as a brutal assault on the freedom of the press.

The press club meet also saw the presence of CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI national secretary D Raja, Dipankar Bhattacharya of the CPI (ML), Aam Aadmi Party's Ashutosh and Sanjay Singh, Congress's Shobha Oza and former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar, among others.

Veteran journalist H K Dua said it had to be kept in mind that Lankesh was killed as she dissented against the "prevailing philosophy" and fought for the right to free speech and the right to report.

The issue of celebratory tweets after Lankesh's killing by social media hate mongers, who were followed on Twitter by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was also repeatedly flagged by the speakers.

They also criticised the Congress government led by Siddaramaiah in Karnataka for having "failed" to bring the assailants of rationalist scholar M M Kalburgi to book till date and also referred to the lack of progress in cracking the murder cases of CPI leader Govind Pansare and rationalist Narendra Dabholkar

in Maharashtra.

Pansare's daughter Megha, who was among the speakers, said the probe into her father's death picked up a little only when the Bombay high court intervened and directed the CBI to redouble its efforts to trace the culprits.

Yechury called for a larger campaign against the "eerie pattern" of assaults and killings while Raja said the incident pointed towards the emergence of "fascism" in India.

The presence of politicians triggered some unease among a section of journalists with television anchor Rajdeep Sardesai stressing the need to ensure that netas should not "hijack" such events.

His view found takers among many others, though there were some who believed that if politicians had come to support the cause of journalists, they should be welcomed.

Kanhaiya, who said Lankesh was a mother-figure to him, referred to the slander campaign against her on the social media, where she has been described by many as a Maoist ideologue.

"Today those who proudly proclaim their allegiance to

a brand of hyper-nationalism should remember that in future they can also be in the line of fire," he said, while political activist Yogendra Yadav held that Lankesh was silenced as she stood for a "culturally rooted secularism".

An outspoken critic of Hindutva politics, Lankesh, 55, was shot dead by unidentified assailants at the entrance of her residence in Rajrajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru last evening.

Lawyer Vrinda Grover, who was present at the protest meet, expressed her horror over the killing, and said, "We are living in very dangerous times".

"This was not a one-off, random case. Lankesh was killed because she stood and fought for ideas of justice and values enshrined in our Constitution -- liberty, equality," she said.

Many spoke about the urgent need to fight intolerance.

"This is not good. We cannot go on gathering at condolences," Ravish Kumar rued.

Student leader Kanhaiya stressed that the times were difficult for journalists and activists.

"But bullets cannot kill ideas," he said.

St Teresa becomes co-patron of Archdiocese of Calcutta

KOLKATA, SEP 6 (PTI): St Teresa was declared the co-patron of the Archdiocese of Calcutta today, 131 years after St Francis Xavier.

"We now officially declare St Teresa of Calcutta as the co-patron of Archdiocese of Calcutta," Vicar General, Archdiocese of Calcutta, Chancellor Fr Dominic Gomes read out from a decree in the presence of the Vatican's ambassador to India, Most Rev. Giambattista Diquattro, bishops from across the state and nuns of the Missionaries of Charity, which was founded in the city by St Teresa.

The solemn and pious occasion, which lasted for an hour- and-a-half, was attended by all the bishops from Bengal, along with nuns, Diquattro and the archbishop in the Catholic cathedral on Portuguese Church

Street in central Kolkata.

A statue of St Teresa was also unveiled inside the church on the occasion by the Vatican ambassador in the presence of the vicar general and archbishop.

St Francis Xavier was declared the first patron when the Archdiocese of Calcutta was established in 1886.

Speaking after the decree was read out, Diquattro expressed Vatican's approval saying, "She (St Teresa) showed us the way of life...as ordained by Jesus Christ."

Archbishop of Calcutta Thomas D'Souza said, "Every diocese in the world has a patron. St Francis Xavier has been our patron here since 1886 when the Archdiocese of Calcutta was established. Since Mother Teresa belonged to our own Calcutta, we have

decided to declare her our co-patron."

The decision was taken to commemorate the first anniversary of St Theresa's canonisation, the archbishop said.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O'Brien, who was present on the occasion, told PTI, "It is a spiritual occasion, a historic occasion and a solemn occasion for us."

The ceremony was also attended by differently-abled children and those from the orphanages run by the Missionaries of Charity. The children sang hymns in the presence of the dignitaries after the mass was over.

A senior nun of the Missionaries of Charity said, "This day reminds us how Mother exuded joy and peace wherever she went. An unflinching faith in god was her driving force."

US braces for another devastating hurricane

WASHINGTON, SEP 6 (PTI): The US today braced for a new record-breaking hurricane that could have potentially catastrophic impact on its coast in Florida, a week after hurricane Harvey devastated major parts of Texas impacting millions of people.

US National Hurricane Center said the category 5 hurricane Irma is expected to landfall in Florida this weekend.

It swept the Caribbean Islands today and is expected to pass through Puerto Rico later in the day.

"A new and it seems to be record-breaking hurricane heading right toward Florida, Puerto Rico, and other places.

We'll see what happens," US President Donald Trump told reporters in his Oval Office during a meeting with Congressional leadership.

According to an estimate by Barclay's, the potential damage due to Hurricane Irma could be to the tune of USD 130 billion.

The hurricane is expected to impact millions of Floridians, including thousands of Indian-Americans who live in the State.

Florida has a vibrant Indian-American population.

"Hurricane looks like largest ever recorded in the Atlantic!" Trump said in a tweet.

"Watching Hurricane closely. My team, which has done, and is doing, such a good job in Texas, is already in Florida. No rest for the weary! said the US President in another tweet.

Trump has approved emergency declaration in the State of Florida, the territory of UD Virgin Island and Puerto Rico.

He ordered Federal assistance to supplement the response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Irma.

Florida State Governor Rick Scott said it is developing as a devastating major storm.

"The Florida Keys should be prepared to start feeling the effects of this storm as early as Saturday. Storm surge and extreme winds are the biggest concern right now. This storm is bigger, faster and stronger than Hurricane Andrew," he told reporters.

Morientes stars as FIFA Legends beat Indian team 5-4

MUMBAI, SEP 6 (PTI): It was a walk down memory lane for spectators at the D Y Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai today with five FIFA legends showing their class and skills, with Spaniard Fernando Morientes netting four goals, as the legends team trounced an Indian outfit 5-4 in an exhibition match.

The 20-minute-match, in which the five legends Morientes, Colombian great Carlos Valderrama, French World Cup winner Marcel Desailly, Mexican Jorge Campos and Nigerian Emmanuel Amunke, took part, was hosted this afternoon to begin the 30-day countdown of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, which is being hosted by India from October 6.

The Indian mixed gender team comprised Steven Dias, Arjuna award-



ee Oinam Bembem Devi, Indian women's national team skipper Ngangom Bala Devi, two boys from Mission XI Million, Union minister Babul Supriyo and Bollywood filmmaker Shoojit Sircar, with

Henry Menezes manning the goal.

But clearly Morientes, who played for top Spanish club Real Madrid in his impressive career, was the cynosure of all eyes as he troubled the

opposition even at his age to score four splendid goals.

He opened the account by slotting home after receiving a pass from Valderrama and did not look back.

His pairing with Colombian great Valderrama also stood out during the first and the second half.

Mexican Campos, the custodian for the visitors, also donned the role of striker in the later half of the match.

Bala Devi's brace helped the Indian team to reduce the margin of defeat and her second goal shot from outside the box was cheered by the over 5,000-strong crowd. She also assisted in one of the four goals scored by the home team.

During the break, the official song for the U17 World Cup was played.

Maharashtra Sports Minister Vinod Tawde, AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das and Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray were among those present to witness the contest.



Indian colts must use U17 World Cup to shine, say FIFA legends

MUMBAI, SEP 6 (PTI): FIFA legends Carlos Valderrama and Marcel Desailly today advised the Indian colts to view the upcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup as a huge opportunity to shine on the international stage and perform to their potential.

"It's a huge opportunity for the Indian U-17 team. If you want to go to Real Madrid, then this is your opportunity.

All the big scouts and agents will be watching, so enjoy and grab this opportunity. You don't get too many opportunities in football. This is their moment to shine and stand out," said Valderrama, who used to be a stand-out performer with his sublime ball skills and hair style for Colombia in the 1980s.

"The Indian team playing at home is something very special. They should be prepared physically and psychologically very well because it is tough to handle pressure playing on home soil," said French World Cup winner Desailly.

"We won the World Cup in 1998 on home soil because we were able to convert that pressure into positive energy on the field and have that extra performance," he remarked while talking to reporters at the D Y Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

Nigerian great Emmanuel Amunke echoed similar views.

"Unfortunately, I haven't seen them play, being the first time they are hosting this event. It is a big encouragement, opportunity for youths to develop their game," Amunke said.

"The U-17 boys need to believe in themselves. Their journey starts here and if they can prove themselves and believe in their ability as a team, play collectively and see how they can make it to the group stage, the op-

portunity would be great for them," the ex-coach of Nigerian U17 team added.

The team of five FIFA legends comprising Amunke, Valderrama, Desailly, Spaniard Fernando Morientes and Mexican Jorge Campos, trounced an Indian select 5-4 in an exhibition match held to start the 30-day countdown for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

The tournament is being hosted by India for the first time and matches will be conducted in six cities Navi Mumbai, Delhi, Guwahati, Kochi, Kolkata and Goa - with the first two games to be played on October 6.

Asked how the All India Football Federation should take the U17 team ahead after the mega event, Desailly and Morientes emphasised on the basics.

"It is a tough programme and you have to start from the beginning. You have to create infrastructure, you have to have good coaches that will serve around the players who enable them to understand and read the game," said Desailly.

"Luckily, they have access to competition now, so it's an opportunity to play at the very highest level and understand the distance that you have made.

"You have to copy the model we (in France) have established in the clubs, to talk about education. That's why we are here to promote football because football is something special," he added.

"Similar to what Marcel said, the critical point is the coach, education and infrastructure, because when you create an environment and eco system conducive to have that transition between the youth and senior level, and that's what Spain and France have demonstrated so far," said former Real Madrid legend Morientes.

Archery Association challenge High Court order

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI): The Archery Association of India (AAI) has decided to challenge the High Court order of appointing former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi as the 'administrator' of the sports body.

A bench of justices S Ravindra Bhat and Najmi Waziri appointed Quraishi, a former secretary in the Sports Ministry, as the administrator-cum-returning officer to look into the affairs of the AAI for four months and conduct elections, in its judgement on August 10.

The judgement came on a plea filed by activist lawyer Rahul Mehra and it tasked Quraishi with the job of resolving the affiliation issues and finalise the electoral college.

While Quraishi gave his verbal consent to Mehra to be the administrator, the de-recognised AAI has refused to accept the order.

"We are going to challenge the order since it is not consistent with law and facts. Some of the facts are not correct, so keeping that in mind, we are going to appeal against the order," AAI Secretary General Anil Kamini told PTI from Hyderabad.

The High Court, in its December 2016 order, had told AAI to hold elections for the various posts.

It said several states were not represented at the general council meeting which was called to amend the AAI constitution. Kamini contended that the AAI too wants fair elections.

"It's not that we did not want elections. We had gone through a process of amending the constitution and our next step was to conduct elections. We had started the process, it's not right," he said.

However, it appears that AAI has not tak-



en this decision by consulting all state associations.

Kulbir Kang, President of the Punjab Archery Association, said the AAI has not taken the right decision.

"They have stopped consulting us. It's a defunct body without any funds. Who is going to pay for it? I don't understand on what basis they will challenge the judgement," Kang said while speaking to PTI.

"Are they doubting the credentials of Mr Quraishi? They should have welcomed the judgement. It shows that they don't want truth to prevail, by hook or crook they want to stay.

These guys have killed the archery and the law has exposed them," Kang added.

The Delhi High Court had said that all the financial transactions by AAI are to be carried out with the prior approval of the Administrator.

The 72-year-old Kang, who retired as a secretary in the Punjab government, said he is willing to quit as President of Punjab Archery Association as per the Sports Code.

"AAI was one of the best-run associations

in the country till 2010-11 but things have dramatically in the last five years or so," he lamented.

The AAI conducted its last elections in November, 2012 and was de-recognised by the Sports Ministry on December 17, 2012 for failing to comply with the Sports Code.

Ignoring the de-recognition, AAI officials continued till their term expired in November 2016.

On the representation of Rahul Mehra, the Court directed AAI to conduct the elections by March 31, 2017 as per the AAI Constitution and Sports Code.

The suspended AAI ignored the orders and convened an Emergency Meeting of General Council on March 15, 2017 to amend its constitution.

The AAI claims that the emergency meeting was convened to amend the present constitution to make it compliant with the National Sports Development Code 2011.

The Delhi High Court, however, set aside the amendments to the present constitution in its judgement on August 11, last month.

The court observed that most of the leading archery states, especially from East and North East, were not present and the 30 days notice period to call the General Council was not observed.

It has been learnt that the Odisha Archery Association is also not aware of the AAI decision to challenge the order.

"I am not aware. The office bearers (of AAI) must have discussed it among themselves. I can't say on the High Court since I have not read it," Odisha Archery Association's Secretary Sradhanand Das said.

Uninhabited Lakshadweep island vanishes, study reports

KOCHI, SEP 6 (PTI): One of the biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands part of Lakshadweep has vanished due to coastal erosion and another four such territories in the sea are shrinking fast, claims a new study.

Parali I island, part of Bangaram atoll, which was 0.032 km² in 1968 has been eroded to an extent of 100 per cent, resulting in its inundation, says R M Hidayathulla in his research work.

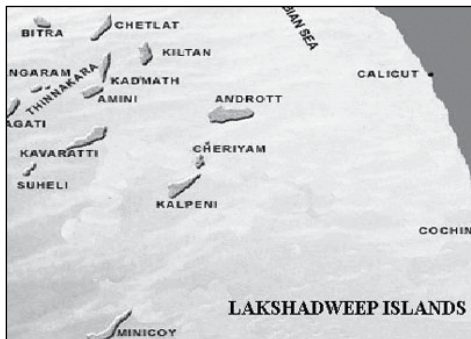
Hidayathulla, who is from Androth in Lakshadweep, was awarded PhD in July this year by Calicut University in Kerala for his work "Studies on Coastal Erosion in Selected Uninhabited Islands of Lakshadweep Archipelago with Special Reference to Biodiversity Conservation."

He conducted studies on assessment of the biodiversity confining to five uninhabited islands --Bangaram, Thinnakara, Parali I, II and III, of which Parali I has been inundated--of Bangaram atoll in Lakshadweep, an archipelago of 36 islands in the Lakshadweep sea.

The study said the complete erosion and inundation of Parali I was pointing to the gravity of issues associated with coastal erosion within the atoll.

On an overall assessment of the changes in the aerial extent of islands using RS/GIS, it has been noticed that all the five islets of Bangaram atoll had undergone coastal erosion, it said.

"The results are indicative of the urgent measures to be



implemented on each islet of the atoll to check further erosion. It is also recommended to check the feasibility of a bio protection strategy using mangroves, in addition to the conventional physical protection measures," Hidayathulla told PTI.

His guide on the environmental studies, C C Harilal, said submergence of Parali I was noticed when he visited the Bangram atoll in 2011.

The data obtained were processed using Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS)

softwares, Harilal said.

"One island has submerg- ed. We can say Lakshadweep now is not an archipelago of 36 islands," he told PTI.

Hidayathulla said the assessment of the extent of geo-morphological changes associated with each island for a period of 45 years was carried out using geospatial techniques.

"Since the absence of this island (Parli I) is noticed in both observations carried out in 2003 and 2007, it is assumed that the island has been subjected to complete erosion during 1968-2003 periods and an assessment of the exact year of its inundation requires data analysis for a span of 35 years extending from 1968," said the

study.

Hidayathulla, in his study, said a general trend in erosion has been noticed in almost all islands he studied.

The magnitude of such events was higher in Parali group, evidenced by the complete erosion and inundation of the island Parali I, the study said.

Noted climate expert Chandra Bhushan hailed the work and said this is one of the very studies done in India to establish the erosion and complete inundation of an island.

"It is now widely recognised that islands and coastal areas are going to get eroded and inundated due to rising sea levels because of increasing global temperature.

India's coasts and islands, which are densely populated, are highly vulnerable," said Bhushan, who is also deputy director general of New Delhi-based advocacy group Centre for Science Environment (CSE).

"With the sea levels predicted to rise further, we should start preparing for building defenses to protect our coastlines and islands," he told PTI.

The magnitude of net erosion was higher in Parali I island (100 per cent), which resulted in its inundation.

Apart from Parali I, net erosion was higher in Parali II (80 per cent), followed by Thinnakara (14.38 per cent), Parali III (11.42 per cent) and Bangaram (9.968 per cent), the study said.



Modi visits Bagan temple in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, SEP 6 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today visited the famous 11th-century Ananda Temple in Myanmar's ancient city Bagan which was damaged in a tremor last year and is being renovated with India's assistance.

The temple, one of the surviving masterpieces of the Mon architecture, is believed to have been built around 1105 by King Kyanzittha, one of the greatest Burmese monarchs. The temple's architecture shows Mon and Indian influence.

"Connecting with history. PM @narendramodi pays respects at Ananda Temple, the most historical and venerated temple in Bagan, Myanmar," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

The temple was first damaged in an earthquake in 1975, and then last year when a 6.8 magnitude quake shook Myanmar.

India and Myanmar signed an agreement in 2010 to restore the Ananda Temple and New Delhi allocated USD 3 million to the project being carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The ASI will also restore a number of pagodas and murals damaged in the earthquake last year.

Modi, in his address with Myanmar State State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, said he was excited to visit the temple and pay tributes to the monuments of religious and historical importance.

According to a legend, King Kyanzittha built the temple after eight monks from India visited him and told him about a cave temple in the Himalayas. The vision of a snowy landscape so impressed the king that he decided to replicate the temple in Bagan.

Five children drown as Rohingya boats sink off Bangladesh

COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH), SEP 6 (AFP): At least five children drowned when boats carrying Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar sank early today, Bangladesh border guards said.

Authorities said three to four boats had sunk at the mouth of the Naf river, which divides Bangladesh and Myanmar's violence-wracked Rakhine state, raising fears there could be many more casualties.

Scores of people have already been killed attempting to cross the Naf border river since a



fresh upsurge in violence in Rakhine on August 25, many using small fishing boats unsuited to the rough coastal waters. Border Guard Ban-

gladesh officer Aloysius Sangma told AFP three to four boats packed with Rohingya refugees had gone down early today.

"So far, the bodies of five male and female children have been found at different locations," he told AFP.

Local police chief Main Uddin said authorities were travelling to the spot to investigate.

More than 125,000 refugees have flooded across the border into Bangladesh. Most are Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority that the government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar largely does not recognise as citizens.



Gurdwara in US vandalised with hate graffiti

WASHINGTON, SEP 6 (PTI): A gurdwara in the US state of California has been vandalised with hate messages scrawled on its walls, including one calling for 'nuking' Sikhs. The incident took place at the Vermont Gurdwara in Los Angeles, also known as the Hollywood Sikh Temple.

A witness confronted the vandal and caught him on cell phone footage walking away from the gurdwara's wall without any explanation, NBC Los Angeles reported.

"I said I was going to call the police on him at which point he said he felt threatened," Karna Ray, the witness who filmed the vandalism, said. "He said, 'I will slit your throat'".

Hollywood police were investigating the hate messages written on the side of the gurdwara. Ray, who is from New York, was visiting a friend on Thursday when he saw the man writing long incoherent messages with a black marker on the pristine white wall of the gurdwara and started recording him with his cell phone.

He then uploaded the video on Facebook and received thousands

of comments. Ray was particularly disturbed by one of three separate passages calling for the "nuking" of Sikhs, according to Fox 11.

According to a Facebook post by Ray, the vandal flashed a razor at him as he made his threat. Ray said the hateful message left on the walls of the gurdwara counters everything the Sikh community stands for.

A member of the gurdwara hoped to invite the vandal to a service so he could experience what the community believes in.

"I would love to invite the person in the temple, make him, show him what he is missing," Sarab Gil was quoted as saying.

Nirinjan Singh Khalsa of California's Sikh Council is in close contact with the Los Angeles Police Department about the case.

"This particular incident isn't a matter of swastikas and 'go home, ragheads,' which we get sometimes," Khalsa said.

"This seems to be a diatribe by someone who may or may not be mentally imbalanced," he said.

Syria govt behind sarin gas attack in April: UN probe

GENEVA, SEP 6 (AFP): United Nations war crimes investigators said today they had evidence that Syrian government forces were behind the chemical attack that killed dozens of people in Khan Sheikhun in April. In the first UN report to officially blame Damascus, the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Syria said it had gathered an "extensive body of information" showing the Syrian airforce was behind the horrific sarin gas attack on April 4.

"All evidence available leads the Commission to conclude that there are reasonable grounds to believe Syrian forces dropped an aerial bomb dispersing sarin in Khan Sheikhun," the report said.

At least 83 people, a third of them children, were killed and nearly 300 wounded in the attack on Khan Sheikhun, a town in the opposition-held northern province of Idlib, it said.

Other sources have given a death toll of at least 87. Syria's government has denied involvement and claims it no longer possesses chemical weapons after a 2013 agreement under which it pledged to surrender its chemical arsenal.

A fact-finding mission by the UN's chemical watchdog, the OPCW, concluded earlier this year that sarin gas was used in the attack, but did not assign blame. A joint UN-OPCW panel is currently working to determine whether Syrian government forces were behind the attack.

But today's report is the first from the UN to officially lay blame for the attack on Damascus. The report also found



that the Syrian government was responsible for at least 23 other chemical attacks in the war-ravaged country since March 2013. The investigators, who have never been granted access to Syria, said they had based their findings on photographs of bomb remnants, satellite imagery and eyewitness testimony.

They determined that a Su-22 fighter bomber, which is only operated by the Syrian air force, conducted four airstrikes in Khan Sheikhun at around 6:45 am on April 4.

"The Commission identified three of the bombs as likely OFAB-100-120 and one as a chemical bomb," the report said, adding that "photographs of weapon remnants depict a chemical aerial bomb of a type manufactured in the former Soviet Union."

The investigators said they had found no evidence supporting Syrian and Russian claims that the chemicals had been released when an air strike hit an opposition weapons depot in the area producing chemical

munitions.

Their report, which covers the period from March 1 to July 7, also found that Syrian government forces had carried out chemical attacks on at least three other occasions since March - in Idlib, Hamah and eastern Ghouta - using weaponised chlorine.

The report is the 14th from the COI, which has been tasked with detailing atrocities in the Syrian conflict that has killed more than 330,000 people since 2011.

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

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2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
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25498 38075 65279 82616 97269
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
07511 16367 16993 17730 35311
37426 60932 67362 67583 75130
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0466 1979 2284 2328 2538 3174 3908 6957 7721 9101
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0117 1812 3202 4015 4724 6651 7780 8153 8366 9068
6th Prize Rs.250/-
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4315 4318 4479 4496 4703 4908 4984 5187 5282 5514
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48018 51149 70641 79019 92711
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
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53873 57830 60975 77548 99637
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
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5th Prize Rs.500/-
0031 2008 2253 4004 4829 5104 5437 6078 7727 8726
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2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
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45589 58982 72945 94693 98567
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
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4th Prize Rs.1000/-
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5th Prize Rs.500/-
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6231 6302 6373 6418 6489 6701 6883 6942 7052 7118
7180 7198 7275 7287 7362 7427 7541 7604 7781 8067
8199 8259 8266 8377 8393 8544 8650 8900 8977 8994
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TURNING HEADS: Jennifer Lawrence stunned in a glamorous gown while walking the red carpet at the 'Mother!' screening during the Venice Film Festival.

ZAYN MALIK, JARED LETO AND MARK HAMILL TOP THE LIST OF BRITISH GQ'S MEN OF THE YEAR

Hello, ladies and gentlemen!

It's that time of year again when the biggest names in fashion, music and culture flock to London for British GQ's Men of the Year awards, which was hosted by Mark Strong at the Tate Modern on Tuesday night.

At the star-studded award show, Star Wars actor Mark Hamill was presented with the Icon prize by Simon Pegg. Ex One Direction star Zayn Malik,



what's TRENDING

who is on the mag's cover, was named Most Stylish Man, but his award was collected on behalf of model Selah Marley.

The editor's special award was given to Netflix drama Stranger Things and Oscar winner and Suicide Squad star Jared Leto was named actor of the year. Former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher was named Rock 'n' Roll Star of the Year.

- Editor's Special Award: Stranger Things
- Creative Maverick: Sergei Polunin
- Special Achievement: Antonio Conte
- Breakthrough Designer: Grace Wales Bonner
- Garage Act: Kurupt FM
- Designer: Christopher Bailey
- Band: Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds
- Breakthrough Actor: James Norton
- Most Stylish Man: Zayn Malik
- Legend: Sir Geoff Hurst
- Woman of the Year: Adwoa Aboah
- TV Personalities: The Grand Tour
- Maddox Gallery Artist: Wolfgang Tillmans
- Comedians: Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon
- Rock 'n' Roll Star: Liam Gallagher

Rita Ora, Gordon Ramsay and Jaden Smith were some of the other celebs who handed out awards to the night's big winners.

Here is a full list of winners from the GQ Men of the Year awards:

- Solo Artist: Stormzy

- Sportsman: Anthony Joshua
- Politician: Sadiq Khan
- Actor: Jared Leto
- Inspiration: Pele
- Icon: Mark Hamill

SONA MOHAPATRA TAKES A DIG AT KANGANA RANAUT FOR HER INTERVIEW REGARDING HRITHIK

Sona Mohapatra who is known for not filtering her words, recently took a dig at Kangana Ranaut by writing an open letter in regards to Kangana's internet breaking interview on ex-flame Hrithik Roshan.

This is not the first time Sona is making news for doing so, she has earlier targeted the likes of Salman Khan and Sonakshi Sinha on social media.

Sona wrote, "Dear Kangana, I have always cheered loudly, in private & in public for you. Long, long before you turned queen et al but your current run across the airwaves re-gurgitating personal details of your love life over & over



again, washing dirty linen in public & more so as part of a professional PR campaign before your film release is in bad taste. No two ways about it. Also, it does a big dis-service to the cause of feminism & fair play."

"Wish you well & wish you would rise above this muck & make your point through actions & your work. Your success doesn't need this tabloid trail. Your well thought out & superbly worded open letters of the past, fearless interviews addressing larger

issues, taking a stand, taking legal recourse are welcome. The current 'circus', not," Sona continued.

And on a concluding note justifying herself Sona wrote, "This is just another opinion in the public domain from one working woman to another, from the heart & on an impulse. There is no PR machinery or team guiding me here. I do believe that there are plenty of feminists in the opposite gender. Men who cheer the cause of outspoken, feisty, fierce & hard working women like you & me. We don't 'need' them as such but let's not forget them & also the thousands of amazing women who fight the good fight on a daily basis with dignity."

ARIES: It might be time to face a recent failure, Aries. No one is exempt from disappointment, of not succeeding at something. It's part of reaching a goal, no matter who you are or what you've done in the past. Even the most accomplished people have had to face this. You aren't alone in your feelings. Give it another shot. Things will work out.

TAURUS: Don't delude yourself, Taurus. While it can be a real temptation to see what you want to see, there's danger in doing so. A pipe dream can only last so long. It's never permanent! Rather than playing this kind of trick on yourself, take off the blinders and face what's before you. Even

if it hurts, it will likely be far less painful now than later. **GEMINI:** Do you need a change of pace, Gemini? If things are beginning to feel boring and you're apathetic, chances are that you do. All you have to do is figure out what to shift. If you're home most of the time, change the furniture around. It can make the house seem new. Consider putting up new pictures or bringing in fresh flowers. Switch your schedule around. This will energize you. **CANCER:** Mind your physical health today, Cancer. Don't push yourself if you're feeling tired and run down. Seriously consider taking a day off from everything to

get the rest your body needs. This can prevent more serious ailments by bolstering your strength and immune system. If you can't take a day off, consider what you'll do when you're forced to take a week because of illness.

LEO: Something out of the ordinary may appeal to you, Leo, especially if life seems dull these days. Nothing says you can't indulge yourself as long as what you're considering isn't dangerous or something you'll regret. To bring some excitement into your life, just think through the means of attaining it. Perhaps all you need is to try a new sport or go out this evening.

VIRGO: It's a great day to set

some goals or review existing ones, Virgo. If you don't have a working list, it's time you started one. Brainstorm without censoring. Let your thoughts flow and write them down. Then prioritize the list, add the steps needed to reach each goal, and consider the time frame. Map out your life and go where you want.

LIBRA: Make yourself available to someone in need of a friend, Libra. Don't turn anyone away even if you're busy or under the weather. Chances are the person who comes to you needs the advice and support that only you can offer. Listening doesn't take that much energy, and that may be all that's required. Leave yourself open to

others.

SCORPIO: Take care of yourself if you feel tired, Scorpio. There's no shame in slowing down or taking a day off if it's needed. If you can spend a day in bed, go for it. This can be more restorative than you know. If some things must get done, delegate or work on a laptop in bed. Take heed when your body tells you it's had enough. Give yourself the rest you need.

SAGITTARIUS: Music can soothe the savage beast, Sagittarius. If you feel rather savage yourself, turn on some music. Dance and sing aloud. You'll be amazed at how this reduces stress and increases energy. Many find it therapeutic when times are tough and

emotions run high. Try it for yourself. Expand your listening range to include many musical styles. You'll be glad you did! **CAPRICORN:** If you feel sluggish today, Capricorn, put on some upbeat music to get you going. Whether it's your favorite tune or the radio, it will help a great deal. Dance a little or sing while you tend to your work. Housework, filing - just about anything goes more quickly with a little rhythm. It also makes it more fun! Bring some enjoyment to your day. **AQUARIUS:** Try then try again today, Aquarius. It can feel terrible to fail at something. Sometimes you just want to hide rather than face the possibility of humiliation.

If success is important to you, you need to overcome your embarrassment and fear. Most people have to try more than once, especially when striving for important goals. Don't give up. Your goals are worthy of the effort.

PISCES: Consider talking with a good friend today, Pisces. Don't let your pride get in the way of getting the support and help you need. If you've made a mistake or fear you've done something wrong, don't walk around with guilt. Sit down with a confidante over a cup of coffee and share what's happening. Remember that everyone ends up in positions like this at some time.

LOL!

TAYLOR SWIFT GIVES RAUNCHY SPEECH AT HER BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING

Taylor Swift made her best friend a blushing bride on her wedding day.

The "Look What You Made Me Do" singer has been staying out of the spotlight lately, but attended her long-time BFF Abigail Anderson's wedding in Martha's Vineyard on Saturday, September 2, and gave a surprising speech. In a clip of the speech that was leaked online, the 27-year-old, who served as a bridesmaid in the wedding, can be heard telling a raunchy story about a bathroom romp between the bride and the groom, Matt Lucier: "She's running after him, there's falling, there's stumbling ... they make it to the bathroom and I can hear sounds that I can never unhear ... and then there's the silence," Swift says in the video as the bride laughs and looks embarrassed. Her childhood friend may be used to Swift's oversharing, as Anderson was also the subject of her 2008 song "Fifteen" from the Fearless album, which is about losing your virginity. "We'll be out of here as soon as we can / And Abigail gave everything she had to a boy who changed his mind / And we both cried," Swift croons about her friend on the track.

It was a big weekend for the Grammy-winning singer, who also dropped her second single "...Ready for It?" from her upcoming album Reputation, on Sunday, September 2. Her first single "Look What You Made Me Do" set a record for the most viewed video in



24 hours after it debuted at the 2017 MTV VMAs. Reputation will be released on November 10.



7TH SEPTEMBER

WORLD HISTORY

1813: The earliest known printed reference to the United States by the nickname "Uncle Sam" occurred in the Troy Post.

1888: The first US incubator was used on a premature infant, Edith Eleanor McLean. It was built by Dr. William Champion Deming at the State Emigrant Hospital, Ward's Island, New York.

1901: The Peace of Peking (Beijing) ended the Boxer Rebellion in China.

1963: The Beatles made their 1st US TV appearance on ABC's Big Night Out.

1979: The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, ESPN, made its cable TV debut. In 1984 it was bought by ABC, which was in turn bought by Disney in 1996.

2001: Venus Williams and Serena Williams reached the finals of the U.S. Open, becoming the first sisters to play for a Grand Slam championship in more than 100 years.

INDIAN HISTORY

1933: Ela Bhatt, lawyer, activist

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

and founder of Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) was born in Ahmedabad. She has received many prestigious such as the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1977), Right Livelihood Award (1984), the Padma Shri (1985), Padma Bhushan (1986), Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters from Harvard University (2001) and the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in 2013 by then President Pranab Mukherjee for her lifetime commitment through her grassroots level work.

1947: Mahatma Gandhi left Calcutta for Delhi; commenced daily visits to riot-affected areas.

1997: In the disputed Kashmir region Indian and Pakistani gunners exchanged artillery fire and 14 villagers on the Pakistani side were reported killed and 5 were reported killed on the Indian side.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

