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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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BIMSTEC MEET HELD AT CHINTAN BHAWAN

Neighbourhood-first sentiment reinforced

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 24 APR:

Indian Chamber of Commerce [ICC] in association with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organized a programme on "Integrating BIMSTEC [Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation] 2018" on the theme, "Fulfilling priorities of Neighbourhood First and Act East Policy of India" at Chintan Bhawan here today.

It may be mentioned here, BIMSTEC is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia and South East Asia, having a population of 1.5 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of \$2.5 trillion [2014].



The BIMSTEC member States—Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal—are

also among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal. The event included three sessions on different themes

focusing on foreign policies, economy, connectivity, tourism, trade, disaster management and the importance of

North East Region of India to BIMSTEC.

The inaugural session had Tourism Minister, Ugen

Gyatso, as chief guest accompanied by Information Minister of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu, as guest of honour.

In his address, Mr Gyatso, while welcoming the BIMSTEC delegation, stressed on the policy of inclusive and holistic development that Sikkim is known for with practices including the Organic Mission.

He also added that States in the North East like Sikkim will greatly benefit from the Act East policy.

"With a trade of over 75 trillion in the BIMSTEC region, every member must share in the rewards," he added.

With regard to connectivity, he advised the regional grouping to develop a motor vehicle agreement which will

further cement economic and people-to-people ties in the region.

He appealed to the youth to take part in such international groupings and lead the future with novel initiatives.

He also thanked the Bangladesh Information Minister for his visit to the Himalayan State.

The Bangladesh Information Minister, Mr Inu, expressed happiness on his first visit to Sikkim and also conveyed good wishes to the people of Sikkim from Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and people of Bangladesh. He also thanked the State for the hospitality accorded to him on his visit.

Mr Inu stressed on the **turn to pg02**



Telang takes charge as CEO-Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 APR:

The Election Commission of India, in consultation with the Government of Sikkim, has nominated Ravindra Telang as the Chief Electoral Officer of Sikkim vice Tenzing Gelek. Mr Telang joined office as Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim with effect from 23 Apr, a press release from the Election Department informs.

CBSE Class 12 economics paper re-test today

NEW DELHI, APR 24

(PTI): The Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct a re-test of Class 12 economics paper on Wednesday, nearly a month after it was leaked triggering widespread outrage and confusion among students across India.

In Sikkim, 2,298 candidates had opted for Economics in the class XII boards 2018.

After reports of the leak surfaced on March 28, the CBSE announced it will re-conduct the examination on April 25.

Then, there were also reports of the CBSE's Class 10 mathematics paper being leaked, but the board decided against a re-test of the Class 10 paper. **turn to pg02**

New Digital X-Ray machine inaugurated at STNM

GANGTOK, 24 APR [IPR]: Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, inaugurated a newly installed Samsung Digital X-Ray machine at the Radiology Department in STNM Hospital, Gangtok today.

He also inspected two Ultrasound [USG] machines installed a month ago in the hospital which have been donated by Samsung India.

The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health Department, Vishal Chauhan, Medical Superintendent, STNM Hospital, Dr KB Gurung, heads of various departments of STNM Hospital and other officials.

Senior Radiologist, Dr KN Sharma, informed that the diagnosis process will further be strengthened technically with clearer image quality with the installation of the X-Ray machine.

Mr Ghatani also inter-



acted with the concerned staff of Blood Bank & Radiology Department and further took stock of the operation of MRI and CT scan machine.

It may be mentioned here, a USG machine which was installed earlier in Radiology Department will be shifted to Gynecology

Department while the USG machine presently installed at Gynecology Department will be installed at one of the health centres.



2nd review meet on women's empowerment in NE States held at Chintan Bhawan

GANGTOK, 24 APR [IPR]:

The second review meeting to deliberate on the socio economic and political empowerment of women in North Eastern States, organised by the National Commission for Women [NCW] in association with Sikkim State Commission for Women [SSCW], was held at the conference hall of Chintan Bhawan today.

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha [Sik-

kim], PD Rai, attended the programme as chief guest while Chairperson of NCW, Rekha Sharma, presided over the meeting in the presence of representatives from the Women Commission and Social Justice Departments of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Sikkim. The meeting was also attended by Member, NCW, Alok Rawat, along with Chair-

persons of the Women Commissions of the participating States.

The meeting deliberated in detail the various women related schemes of the state governments and how they can best be implemented in close coordination with the respective State Women Commissions.

Member, NCW, Mr Rawat, in his address, shared experiences from **turn to pg02**

Bestselling author Joshua Pollock interacts with media in Gangtok

SUBASH RAI

GANGTOK, 24 APR:

"HEARTFULNESS AND ORGANIC are synonymous because both deal with purity, nature and peaceful heart," said Joshua Pollock, co-author of the 2018 best seller book 'The Heartfulness Way- Heart Based Meditations for Spiritual Transformation.'

Mr Pollock said this today during a brief introductory session on his book with media persons of the state here at Heartfulness Meditation Centre situated at ICAR Complex, Tadong.

Mr Pollock and Kamlesh D. Patel, widely known as Daaji have authored the book which was released on 18 Jan earlier this year by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, and till date more than 1 lakh copies have been sold online.

According to Mr Pollock, when



Chief Minister Pawan Chamling explained to him the organic initiative taken up by Sikkim this morning he

felt overwhelmed and decided to co-ordinate with the state government to spread the message all over

the world.

Talking about the book, he said, "The book teaches us the essence of prayer and yogic transmission to demystifying the act of meditation through practical tips. This book will enable us to live beyond the filters of our sensory limitations and discover unity within ourselves."

He further said that just reading books cannot help to achieve inner-heart satisfaction and listening to others talk is also fruitless but practicing meditation from the inner heart will earn the real goal.

On the relation between meditation and lifestyles, he said Heartfulness never forces anyone to change their lifestyle but one can enjoy both simultaneously.

Replying to a query on growing suicidal tendencies, drug abuse and other ills in the State, R. Telang, senior

member of the Heartfulness Meditation Centre said, "Sikkim has achieved material development in very short span of time and this has changed the lifestyle of the youth drastically."

According to him, Sikkim's younger generation knows the art of experiment and experience, if they add meditation as one more ingredient in their life, most of the problems of Sikkim can be solved.

The book is priced at Rs. 300 and available online at Amazon.com. The author Daaji was a well-known Pharmacist in New York for over three decades before being named as the fourth guru of the Heartfulness lineage.

Mr. Pollock is a Heartfulness trainer and practitioner from United States. He is also an accomplished Western classical violinist and has given music in Bollywood films like Ghajini.

CBSE Class 12 economics...

contd from pg01

per, saying the examination was "largely an internal segment" of school education system.

"The candidates will appear (for the exam) from the same allotted centres using the same admit card," a board official said today.

For conducting the re-test of the economics paper, the board had said "Class 12 exams are a gateway to higher education and various professional competitive exams which have limited seats... Therefore, giving undue advantage to a handful of beneficiaries of the alleged leak of the economics paper would not be in larger interest of the students."

Earlier this month, the CBSE had said it found no impact of the Class 10 mathematics paper leak after an assessment.

The reports of leak of the CBSE papers had caused disappointment among students across the country last month.

In Delhi, students held protests, accusing the CBSE of negligence and demanded immediate action against the guilty.

Investigators made arrests in several parts of the country in connection with the case, including in Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh.

They claimed to have arrested the main conspirators behind the leak from Una town in Himachal Pradesh. The three people were staffers at a school in the town.

The Class 12 economics paper was leaked on March 23 - three days before the scheduled date, according to Delhi Police.

The leak was exposed after an envelope containing four images of the hand-written economics paper was delivered to the CBSE Headquarters in Delhi on the evening of the scheduled date of examination - March 26.

"Temi's beauty can be introduced better through paragliding"

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 24 APR:

Offering a picturesque landscape with its sprawling lush green tea gardens, Temi Tea Estate in South district is now picking up pace to become the new address for paragliders.

After its recent launch in Temi, around 17 commercial paragliding flights have been conducted till date by three commercial paragliding pilots.

One of the pilots, Nim Tshering Lepcha [26], hails from Leek village in Dzongu, North Sikkim, and has participated in various paragliding competitions.

A Sikkim University graduate, Nim Tshering completed his advanced course in paragliding from Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh in the year 2015 following which he attended Simulation of Incidents in Flight [SIV:



Simulation d' Incident en Vol] course in Thailand in 2016 and secured an international license from Delhi in 2017.

He also participated in the 1st Sikkim Paragliding Red Panda International Accuracy Open Championship [CAT II] in 2017.

Nim Tshering is also the proprietor of an adventure sport agency, "365 Adventure Stop", located at Pelling in West Sikkim.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Nim Tshering said, "My flying experience at Temi has been one of a kind. A landing site amidst the lush green

tea garden is something out of the ordinary in Sikkim. When I tried the first test flight earlier this year, I witnessed a panoramic view of the entire tea garden from above. It was quite a view!"

"Temi has the potential to become a major paragliding destination

which will further contribute towards employment generation. Its historical relevance and natural beauty can be better introduced to tourists through paragliding, I feel. This place can be a great paragliding tourism spot," expressed Nim Tshering.

Govt sanctions Rs 90 lakh for land acquisition for two district sub-jails

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, APRIL 24:

The State Government has sanctioned Rs 90 lakh for acquisition of land for construction of two district Sub-Jails, one each at West and North districts. The Home Department transferred the sanctioned amount for land acquisition to the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department on a priority basis, it is informed.

The sanction came after the Sikkim High Court initiated a PIL hearing on condition of inmates and housing and other facilities including infrastructure available in Sikkim since 2015.

The division bench of the High court today directed the State Buildings and Housing Department to prepare a contour map of West as well as North districts on or before 30 Apr 2018 and submit it to the concerned Authority for further action.

The bench further directed that thereafter, the concerned authorities are to complete preparation of the Detailed Project Report [DPR] and Blueprint Plan within two

weeks i.e. by 15 May 2018 next month and submit it for further action.

Chief Justice SK Agnihotri and Justice Meenaskhi Madan Rai also further directed that the concerned authorities consider suggestions made by the Jail Authorities inclusive of the structures for skill development, detoxification and rehabilitation of Under Trail Prisoners of substance abuse and medical clinics with separate accommodation for males and females, library and room for Para Legal Volunteers besides what rectified order may be deemed necessary for proper functioning of the Jail, adding that arrangements may also be considered for outdoor recreation and organic farming for the inmates.

At present, Sikkim has only one district jail - at Namchi in South Sikkim - and one Central Jail at Rongyek in East Sikkim.

The land which was earlier acquired for the construction of a district jail at Omchung, Gyalshing in West Sikkim fell under subsidence zone and was found unsuitable for construction. There is no proposal for a

district jail in North Sikkim as of now.

While the construction of the sub jail had been taken up in the year 2005-06, it was only 6 years later that the government woke up to the fact that there had been a miscalculation and wrong assessment of the project leading to the constitution of a fact finding committee.

In May 2012, the State government had set up a committee to examine the issues with regard to the damages of District Prison at Omchung, Gyalshing. The high powered committee was headed by the Secretary, Roads & Bridges department as chairman and included Secretaries of Buildings & Housing, Water Security and PHED, the Principal Director, Mines and Geology; DIG, Prisons; Additional Secretary, Land Revenue and the Chief Engineer, Building & Housing.

With the identification of a new location for construction of new District Sub-jails, a detailed geological report has also been given by the State Mines and Geology Department with a rider to take precautionary measures as suggested by them.



MoS MSME visits GFPF

GANGTOK, 24 APR (IPR): Minister of State (Independent charge), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Giriraj Singh visited the Government Fruit Preservation Factory (GFPF) at Singtam this evening as part of his two-day visit to Sikkim.

He was received by Secretary, Commerce & Industries, Arvind Kumar, Managing Director GFPF, Pawan Awasthy,

and other officers of the Department and GFPF.

The Minister visited the factory production unit and examined the processing units there.

He also took stock of various Sikkim Supreme products and inquired about their market value.

The Minister of State will be making a series of field visits during his stay in Sikkim over the next two days.



4 years since announced, Singtam still awaits an indoor recreational spot

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 24 APR:

The unavailability of space for recreational activities in Singtam has been attracting the focus of the public towards the Chief Minister's address during the 2014 election campaign with regard to the old government food godown under Food & Civil Supplies Department located at Singtam Bazaar.

The CM had announced that the old government food godown will be transformed into an indoor stadium for the people of Singtam appointed with a badminton court, library, gym

hall and others facilities.

Despite the calendar year having reached 2018, not even a foundation stone or starting work like dismantling of the old structure has begun.

"It's 2018 and not even a foundation stone for the proposed structure has been laid till date. The old government food godown still stands there idle. Some people have been trying to play dirty politics in the name of the building's dismantling work which is not good for the people of Singtam Bazaar," shared one of the locals of Singtam.

2nd review meet on women's empowerment in NE States held at Chintan Bhawan

contd from pg01

his tenure as an IAS officer of the Sikkim Cadre for 38 years. He expressed his gratitude to the State of Sikkim for the valuable learnings and lauded the women empowerment schemes and initiatives in the State.

Chairperson, NCW, Ms Sharma, expressed happiness at the positive developments in women's empowerment through a series of meetings with the NE States. Going through the various commitments made by each State in the previous meetings, she reviewed the action taken report of each State. She shared her observations about the status of socio economic and political developments of women in the NE States.

She further suggested that women in the NE States should be encouraged to

participate and contribute in the tourism and hospitality sectors. She shared that the NCW will lend the required support to facilitate capacity building programmes in this area.

Speaking on the occasion, MP, Lok Sabha, Mr Rai, congratulated the NCW for coming up with the Study Report on the status of empowerment of women in the NE States and recommendations thereof.

"The NCW is doing their best to align each of the States on one common ground to ensure that they grow collectively," he stated.

"At the National level, we often come across incidents of heinous crimes against women and girl children to the extent that an ordinance had to be brought out by the Central Government. We have to create an

environment to deal with such incidents and create a peaceful environment," he added.

He suggested that the Study Report prepared by the Commission should also incorporate Sustainable Development Goals, more specifically goal no. 5 which pertains to gender equality.

"In Sikkim there is a sense of peace and security and all round development which has happened through good governance and consistent leadership. The schemes and programmes and unique initiatives of the state government to bring about women's empowerment have not happened overnight but through a long and arduous process, strong political will and translation of policies into action," said Mr Rai.

Touching upon the issue of declining

total fertility rate in Sikkim, he appealed to the Chairperson, NCW to provide suggestions and studies as a solution to this challenge.

Speaking on the need to encourage women towards tourism and hospitality sector, he suggested that an entrepreneurship or start up exercise for the entire NE States on a common platform can be organised to get maximum participation and accelerate the process of women's empowerment.

Chairperson, SSCW, Rehna Rai, highlighted the unique initiatives of the state government for the empowerment of women while Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Sarala Rai, shared the various good practices and schemes

for women being implemented by the Social Justice Department of the state government.

Earlier, Member Secretary, SSCW, Yousha Lachenpa, gave a brief background of the 1st Review Meeting held in 2017 in Shillong, Meghalaya. She informed about the Study Report on the Social Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in the NE States compiled in the year 2016. Today's meeting, she informed, was a follow up of the previous meeting and an effort to revisit the Study Report and provide necessary inputs to strengthen it.

Each participating State made brief presentations on the action taken and way forward and shared the innovative programmes and schemes implemented in the respective States.

Neighbourhood-first sentiment reinforced

turn to pg05

key factor of togetherness that binds the entire BIMSTEC region. He also highlighted his country's policy to engage with neighbours first and to bring 21% of world population that lives in the BIMSTEC region together.

He further highlighted India's Act East policy and thanked PM Narendra Modi for his active role in taking BIMSTEC to newer levels of cooperation.

"String regionalism is survival strategy and there is a paradigm shift from state security

to human security," he added.

He also asked the countries to turn rivers of sorrow into waters of hopes and held that it is now time to act.

"We should export and import from neighbours first," he said while highlighting regional trade.

Speaking on the global issue of terrorism, he held that multi-country cooperation was key to destroying terrorism and his country has cracked down on all elements of radicalism in Bangladesh strongly. Stressing on making BIMSTEC market-induced, he

added that there is a need to remove such barriers by addressing certain bilateral issues between countries or at least to keep aside their differences for the greater good of the entire region.

Liberalisation of visa policies, strengthening transportation, digital connectivity, harnessing of shared water resources and neighbourhood-first are some key policies that need to be pursued actively by BIMSTEC and its member nations, he stated.

He mentioned Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna

basin that stretches across India and Bangladesh is a good example of turning rivers into hope for the people.

Speaking separately to media, the Bangladesh Information Minister said that he is delighted to see that Sikkim is a developed area with more development work still ongoing in the State.

He further praised the people of the State as friendly and termed the State as a peaceful tourist destination.

Director General, ICC, Dr Rajeev Singh, in his welcome address, remarked that the pro-

gramme will discuss all areas of convergence in the BIMSTEC regions. He also highlighted the Act East policy of India with NE being given due importance.

He also said that Sikkim can reap rich dividends with the regions engagement with neighbouring countries with greater connectivity through roads, air and waterways and the region must now identify relevant areas of mutual cooperation.

Ambassador, M Shahidul Islam, who is also the Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat, while addressing the function informed that

BIMSTEC, founded in 1997, aims to develop connectivity among the member countries through various areas of mutual cooperation.

President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry [IBCCI], M Ahamad, held that regional grouping seeks to link ecology from Himalayas to Bay of Bengal. He laid stress on promotion of tourism and exploration of ideas like Buddhist Circuit for the BIMSTEC countries where Sikkim can be a part with its rich Buddhist heritage.

The programme was also addressed by Chairman, Act East Council, ICC, Rajat Nag, who said that people to people contact is one of the chief motives of BIMSTEC with better connectivity of Sikkim and the NE with neighbouring countries.

The event also had the release of Knowledge Report.

Joint Secretary [BIMSTEC & SAARC], Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Piyush Srivastava, along with delegates from member countries, officials and students were present for the programme.

**Gangtok on
Wednesday,
25 Apr**

Temp: 23°C / 10°C
Forecast: Pleasant
with times of clouds
and sun with show-
er in the evening.
Sunrise: 05:02 AM
Sunset: 6:05 PM

Health Dept cancels Savi Health Science pharma company's license

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 APR:**

After M/s Pristine Life Sciences pharma company situated opposite Bhanu Park, NH-10, Singtam, East Sikkim, faced closure, a second pharma company in Sikkim has been served notice for immediate closure for allegedly violating air and water pollution while the company's license to operate was also cancelled on 20 Apr, last week.

The Health Department has cancelled the license of M/s Savi Health Science Pharmaceutical company at Majitar, Rangpo, East Sikkim, stating that there is serious non-compliance of the provisions laid under the schedule-M of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945.

The Health Department Secretary, in the closure order, has said, "You are directed to discard all the processed tablets, capsules & sterile products as per Sikkim Pollution Control Board norms with intimation to the office of the undersigned."

During an inspection by the State Pollution Control Board officials following High Court directions found that the said M/s Savi Health Science Pharmaceutical Company at Majitar, Rangpo had not followed norms as prescribed and had suspended their operation since 10 Mar, last month.

M/s Savi Pharmaceutical company has two units in Sikkim under the name and banner M/s Savi Health Science and M/s Savi Health Care both have been ordered to suspend operations for violating air and water pollution norms.

The Heartfulness Way co-author calls on CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 APR:**

Co-author of the best-selling book, The Heartfulness Way, Joshua Pollock, called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today.

During the interaction, the CM shared his vision of the Organic Mission in Sikkim and its significant contribution to human welfare. He further underlined that the Organic Philosophy was based on principles of peace and non-violence and that it should extend to the purity of thought and action without limiting it to food alone.

In this context, it was suggested that Sikkim has the ideal environment for a world-class wellness center



which include elements of yoga and meditation to promote spiritual tourism. This interfaith

center will attract both domestic as well as international seekers of spirituality.

Mr Pollock briefed the CM about the activities of The Heartfulness Institute and shared

with him the vision of Kamlesh D Patel [fondly known as "Daaji"] which is in sync with vision of the CM.

"Due to these common values, there is great potential for a fruitful partnership between the Government of Sikkim and the Heartfulness Institute. Such a partnership would be of great benefit to the people of Sikkim and the world," Mr Pollock added.

He gave a brief introduction to the book which contains a dialogue between a seeker and his spiritual guide, revealing the transformative practices of Heartfulness.

The Heartfulness Way is available on Amazon.in and at all leading local bookstores.



Joshua Pollock and NCW Chairperson call on Governor

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 APR:**

Author of the international bestseller The Heartfulness Way and motivational speaker, Joshua Pollock, called on Governor Shrinivas Patil at Raj Bhavan today. Mr Pollock is in Sikkim to interact with the enthusiasts of 'Heartfulness', an easy way of meditation propagated by Heartfulness Guru, Kamlesh D Patel. He also presented a copy of the book to the Governor during a brief meeting, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

The Governor expressed his pleasure on meeting him and enquired about the mission of Heartfulness. He showed his keenness of having a centre in Sikkim which will attract both tourists and meditation enthusiasts alike, benefiting the State. He also urged the author and the mission to collaborate with meditation enthusiasts in Sikkim and authorities which can contribute to the overall happiness of Sikkimese people.

Mr Pollock gave a brief insight into the activities of Heartfulness in India and abroad and also outlined how it is

transforming the lives of people the world over.

Later in the evening today, Chairperson of National Commission of Women, Rekha Sharma, also called on the Governor at Raj Bhavan. It was a courtesy call by the NCW Chairperson who is on a three-day visit to Sikkim. She was accompanied by Member, NCW, Alok Rawat, and Senior Coordinator, M Lilabati.

During a brief interaction, the Governor gave a brief insight into the history of Sikkim and Raj Bhavan. He also urged the Chairperson to make efforts to sensitize and train the police fraternity in the country to deal with issues related to women.

Ms Sharma was all praise about Sikkim as the safest and women friendly State in the country. She also lauded the people and the government for consistently working towards the empowerment of women folk and hailed Sikkimese women as one of the most empowered in the country. She also stated that the country should learn from Sikkim as far as the issues of safety of women and empowerment is concerned.

Minister AK Ghatani urges expediting construction of Sowa Rigpa Centre

Gangtok, 24 Apr [IPR]:

Health Minister Arjun Kumar Ghatani led an inspection visit to the ongoing construction of Sowa Rigpa Centre at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology [NIT] complex in Deorali today. He was accompanied by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health Department, Vishal Chauhan, Director-NIT, Tashi Densapa, Additional Chief Engineer, LD Lamtha, Divisional Engineer, Sangey Diki Bhutia, and other officials.

The Minister visited the ongoing construction site of Academic Block, staff quarters and hostel block of the Sowa Rigpa Centre. Further, he instructed the concerned officials to expedite the construction process



without compromising quality of the work as envisioned by the Chief

Minister. The Minister and the Secretary also interacted

with the students who have been attending an orientation programme

on Sowa Rigpa/ Amji [Tibetan Science of Healing].

2ND MAHENDRA KARKI MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2018

Ganesh Limboo's hatrick powers Apex FC over United Kurseong FC



**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 24 APR:**

A hatrick by Ganesh Limboo helped Apex Football Club of Kalimpong reach the semi-final round of the ongoing 2nd Mahendra Karki Memorial Invitational Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In a contesting quarter-final match played today, Apex FC outplayed United Kurseong Football Club 03-01.

Interestingly, this is the second consecutive hatrick for

Ganesh in this tournament. He scored his first hatrick to register a 3-2 victory against Siniolchu Football Club, Namchi.

The match, however, began in favour of the Kurseong team when Prayash Pradhan snatched the lead for United Kurseong in the 15th minute. This lead was short-lived, as within two minutes, Ganesh Limboo slammed home the equaliser for Apex FC in the 17th minute.

Both the teams got some good opportunities to take the

lead but missed the net and the first half ended with the score level at 1-1.

The second half was full of attacks and counter-attacks but both the team foiled many chances until Ganesh completed his hatrick in the 80th and 85th minute to secure a commanding 3-1 victory for his team.

Sikkim Police has already reached the semifinals of the tournament by defeating the defending champions, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club, in the

first quarter-final match. Now, Apex FC will take on Sikkim Police on 27 Apr.

On 25 Apr, the third quarter-final match will be played between the State Sports Academy and United Brothers, Kalimpong.

Due to regular thunderstorms in the evening hours, the organisers have announced that the final match of the tournament will be played in the afternoon and not under floodlights as previously scheduled. The final match is scheduled for 30 Apr.



KMEWS Kitam organizes career counseling for school students

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 APR:**

Kitam Manpur Employees Welfare Society [KMEWS] of Kitam, South Sikkim, in collaboration with Gram Panchayat of Kitam Manpur GPU organized a daylong career counseling programme for the students of classes X, XI and XII of Kitam Senior Secondary School today at the school auditorium hall in Kitam, a press release informs.

Deputy Director, Human Resource Development Department [South], DB Subba, at-

tended the event as resource person. Speaking on the topic "Motivational Talks on Career", he encouraged the students be more skillful in any field of their choice. He also addressed various issues of the students and stressed on the importance of mental and emotional exercises and personality development.

Panchayat president, Savitri Chettri, in her address, urged the students to follow the guidelines presented by the resource person and assured to extend all possible support.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Planning Well Means Preparing for the Worst

Not everything can be left to fate because history carries enough lessons

An evening of torrential downpour over the weekend scoured the roads, leaving the pock-marked with potholes and sinks. Driving anywhere in and around Gangtok on Saturday night was fraught with risks with roads in some of the outlying areas even cut-off for the night. It did rain heavy that night, but it was not the rain's fault that roads took such a battering – what was reinforced was the failure of the capital's drainage system (if at all it can be called that). These are technically not even the nor'westers yet and are still erratic westerly disturbances, but even if these carry such potential for damage, one shudders to think what June and July have in store. It is never too late to start learning, and it is even more apt when the worries of manmade disasters are discussed on the eve of the anniversary of what is probably the worst catastrophe of development. On that note, let us try and learn from the past in a distant land.

On 26 April in 1986, the world's worst nuclear fallout took place at Chernobyl in what was still USSR. It was not a nuclear bomb that released radiation several times higher than the atom bombs detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but a peaceful nuclear power plant. Most people have forgotten Chernobyl and to jog memories a bit it is worth recording that Chernobyl had state of the art [even by present standards] safety mechanisms in place. The whole incident was a horrific accident; an experiment that went wrong with no mala fide intent. An area extending 30 KMs on all sides of the reactor remains heavily poisoned, with officials estimating that it would not be safe for human life again for another 20,000 years. On an aside, tourists though can make quick daytrips to the area which is also seeing some civil works to further contain the ground zero.

The reason remembering Chernobyl makes sense in Sikkim is because the State too is on a heightened development mode, a condition made risky by the short-cut engineering and still dodgy civil works. The lesson to be learnt from Chernobyl is not that things "go wrong," rather, it is that things "could always go wrong." We learn from the past, and not always our own, not to abandon ideas, but to avoid the mistakes. Sikkim has identified hydel as one of its thrust sectors for the economy. No one can fault this attention since better lettered experts have zeroed in on this option. What the State needs to ensure is that all worst-case-scenarios are identified and back-up plans worked-in in advance. This process has to be frank and open and every fear, no matter how far-fetched it sounds, addressed and prepared for. It is still not too late to commission a study on post-hydel project situations [studying especially the already commissioned projects]. This study could delve into how the affected people adjusted to new lifestyles, how they managed their compensation kitties, how the projects affected the socio-cultural environment, what kind of unexpected fallout came about etc. And it could also project the potential catastrophes that these manmade interventions can wreck. We get a sense of this aspect being addressed from the several NDRF disaster drills being undertaken at settlements along rivers which have hydel projects upstream. While these drills are welcome, one wonders if there is any science being deployed to the scale of manmade disasters being prepared for.

Here, one would also like to reiterate that if the hydel lobby was so worried with the risks posed by the Mantam lake to projects downstream, how is it that the dams, which hold back much more water, are not flagged for the risks they pose. Again, not necessarily because of faulty design, but because of scenarios they are not adequately prepped for like a mega-quake of a massive landslide into the reservoir itself.

Agreed, our country does not believe in such preparations, but that does not mean that Sikkim should not? The area of study is still very manageable and even a small team of dedicated scholars [it has to be scholars, not bureaucrats or ex-hydel sector employees] can carry out such a study and the findings could end up ensuring that development happens at minimal human cost in Sikkim, and the State continues to show the nation how things should be done.

It is time that Sikkim realized that uninformed decisions and not preparing for the worst leaves everyone vulnerable. Take Gangtok's example, it was allowed to urbanise in a free for all, and now, everything from fighting fires to fleeing earthquakes to avoiding landslides and repairing roads presents a logistical nightmare. Had the planners planned at least with the obvious threats in mind, Gangtokians would not find themselves in a situation where all they can do is build and pray. All developmental works for the future should rely more on planning and not just the grace of guardian deities.

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How autocrats rig elections to stay in power – and get away with it

NIC CHEESEMAN & BRIAN KLAAS
theconversation.com

If a government wants to be considered a respectable democracy on the world stage, it must pass a litmus test: holding multi-party elections. But while more elections are being held around the world than ever before, the average quality of democracy around the world has fallen for the last ten years. The reason is that authoritarian leaders have learned how to rig elections.

When we started researching this phenomenon, we expected to find the elections these leaders held were vulnerable to manipulation. Looking into flawed elections in countries such as Belarus, Kenya, Thailand, Uganda, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe, we've come across all kinds of rigging strategies, from excluding opposition candidates from the ballot to getting the dead to vote.

But what we show in our new book, *How to Rig an Election*, is much more startling. Elections aren't just failing to remove unpopular autocrats from power; they can actually make it easier for dictators to maintain political control. In other words, authoritarian regimes that hold elections are more stable than those that don't.

When confronted with the possibility of multi-party elections, authoritarian leaders typically fight against it tooth and nail. Many only relent when they are forced to do so by the weight of domestic opposition or an international ultimatum. But once elections get underway, it's easier for these leaders to rig them and see them through than it is not to hold them at all.

Elections can make autocrats' lives easier in several ways. When personal dictatorships and one-party states get into political difficulties, they risk uniting different opposition groups into broad pro-reform coalitions; after all, people find it easier to unite against a common enemy. But once a dictator allows multi-party elections, it becomes relatively easy to divide and rule, manipulating personal, ethnic or religious tensions to split and weaken the opposition.

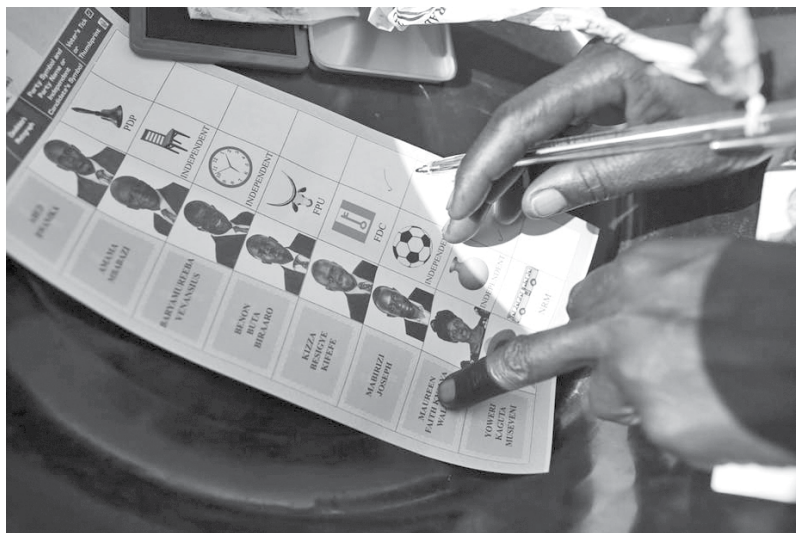
Equally, autocrats who refuse to hold elections often find it difficult to access the funding they need to sustain their regimes, especially if Western governments punish human rights abuses by turning off the aid tap. But once elections are held, the tap is usually turned back on – even if the elections aren't exactly high-quality.

Authoritarian rulers can also use elections to "crack the whip" within their own parties, putting ambitious potential rivals in their place. Campaigns are also useful devices for mobilising party activists and leaders, helping to renew stale elites and staving off political decay. Without a cause to rally around every few years, autocrats' vital political bases are susceptible to atrophy.

And fortunately for these sorts of leaders, elections are disappointingly easy to rig.

STITCHED UP

In the course of our research, we found that between 2012 and 2016, more than two-thirds of elections in Africa and almost half of all elections in Asia and post-Soviet Europe featured significant vote-buying. Worse still, more than a third of elec-



tions in all of these regions saw state violence targeting opposition parties and their supporters.

Despite this, elections are rarely condemned by international monitors – in part because rigging is becoming harder and harder to detect. Whenever monitors come up with new strategies to detect tried and true rigging tactics, dictators and despots innovate.

Authoritarian leaders do sometimes lose elections. In Gambia in 2016, when President Yahya Jammeh lost to opposition leader Adama Barrow after 22 years in power, it kickstarted a process of international pressure and negotiation that ended with his peaceful deposition and exile. But this remains the exception, not the rule.

As a result, governments that hold elections in an authoritarian context are actually more likely to survive from one year to another than authoritarian regimes that refuse to. This is something that we should care about whether we think that promoting democracy is a good thing or not, because poor quality polls do far more harm than just keeping bad leaders in power.

WHY ELECTIONS MATTER

In many of the world's new democracies, elections are such high-stakes events that rigging them can lead to political violence and harm national identity.

The exclusion of candidates of a certain ethnicity or religion may alienate entire communities from the political system, paving the way for civil conflict, as in Cote d'Ivoire. And clear evidence of ballot box stuffing may trigger opposition clashes with the security forces, as in Kenya, whose flawed 2007 election led to more than 1,000 deaths.

At the same time, desperation to win power may encourage candidates to use violence as a means to keep rivals away from the polls, as in Kazakhstan, where the opposition alleged that one of its leaders, Zamanbek Nurkadiylov, was assassinated by the government to prevent him from contesting elections in 2005.

Crucially, it's not just national elections that

can put a strain on peace and stability. In Brazil, 22 people were murdered in the run up to the local government elections of 2002, leading 410 towns to request additional security from the police.

With such harrowing stakes, what can be done to defend democracy?

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

There are many important organisations around the world trying to promote democracy and ensure better quality elections, but all too often they lack the international backing that they need to have an effect. This is because international support for high quality democracy and free and fair elections is on the wane.

For one thing, authoritarian states like China and Russia are becoming bigger players in international politics, and they certainly don't exert pressure on governments that fail to hold high quality elections. And for another, the election of Donald Trump in the US has called into question the willingness of the world's most powerful nation to defend democracy either at home or abroad. Trump's open embrace of authoritarian strongmen from Turkey to Egypt to the Philippines sends a reassuring signal to would-be despots in the rest of the world who might once have feared American sanction.

As a result, instead of defending democracy, recent international developments have made it easier to rig elections. This trend threatens to erode the credibility of the election as an institution; worse still, it might undermine global public support for democracy itself.

But while there are many ways to rig an election, there are also many ways to save democracy. Right now, the despots are winning the battle – but if the world rallies behind it, democracy may yet win the war.

[Nic Cheeseman is Professor of Democracy, University of Birmingham; Brian Klaas is LSE Fellow in Comparative Politics, London School of Economics and Political Science]

How images change our race bias

S. BRENT RODRIGUEZ-PLATE
theconversation.com

Images are not static. They grab our attention, incite desire, alter our relations to others, and tweak our beliefs, as they usher us into new worlds.

When "Black Panther" was released, Baye McNeil, a former Brooklynite now living in Japan, was thrilled. As he told *The Japan Times*, he joined "a group of palpably positive brothers and sisters" at a Tokyo theater. Collectively they were transported to the land of Wakanda. As an exile in Japan and a black man in a country with very few people of African descent, he and his friends entered, as he described, "a bountiful realm of invigorating messages and restorative images" that provided him with a sense of connection and belonging.

Baye McNeil was not alone. Back in the U.S., the writer Carvell Wallace explained how the movie's fictional nation of Wakanda operated in very real ways to provide a world that African-Americans could aspire to, both as a place rooted in the past, as well as the future. Whether it's a blockbuster movie or 2-year-old Parker Curry looking up at Amy Sberald's portrait of Michelle Obama, the images we all see matter.

Seeing is not just believing. Seeing changes what we believe, about ourselves and about other people, including constructions of race.

LEARNING TO SEE

In his essay, "To See and Not See," the late writer and neurologist Oliver Sacks describes how seeing is not as easy as lifting our eyelids. Instead, as he said, "When we open our eyes each morning, it is upon a world we have spent a lifetime learning to see. We are not given the world: we make our world through incessant experience, categorization, memory, reconnection."

In other words, to have vision is one thing; to see is another.

My research investigates how we learn to see. I'm interested in the ways people use images, but equally interested in the ways images use people and change their perception.

We begin to imagine other people and how they appear, before we shake their hands, and well before any relationship might occur. We create mental models of others based on our past experiences, and these models influence any new encounters, whether we are conscious of them or not.

Cognitive psychologist Jeffrey Zacks, in his book "Flicker: Your Brain on Movies," offers this fascinating idea that can be either disturbing or offer positive feelings:

"Whether we experience events in real life, watch them in a movie, or hear about them in a story, we build perceptual and memory representations in the same format."

Indeed, studies in cognitive sciences show that our neural system does not easily differentiate between images we see on screen and images we see in "real life." Baye McNeil

and Carvell Wallace were under no illusion that Wakanda was not a real place, but the power of images is such that people can feel things in the world of cinema. Those feelings can transfer back into life outside the theater.

CHANGE OUR IMAGES, CHANGE OUR SEEING

It is precisely because our ability to see is largely learned and heavily influenced by media images, that we can also relearn how to see. A number of studies in cognitive sciences in recent years have shown how people can, for example, reduce racial biases through practices of seeing.

Psychologists have long documented the "own-race bias," also known as "other-race effect," the inability of humans to recognize and distinguish faces of people from races other than their own.

Indeed, studies have shown that already by nine months, infants demonstrate such perceptual narrowing. This occurs because babies in their first year are exposed primarily to close family members who tend to be of the same ethnic and racial background. For evolutionary reasons, this narrowing allows for quicker processing of relevant sensations by eliminating other competing neural processes. Our ancestors needed to distinguish their own kin more than they needed to recognize people from other places.

Today, a number of researchers are exploring the reversibility of the

own-race bias, pointing out again the plasticity of our neural system.

One research group used bodily illusions, such as setting white people in front of a computer screen that generates an image of that person, but makes light-skinned people appear darker-skinned. When tested later for racial biases, the biases diminished.

Another group used picture books to forestall the emergence of own race biases by showing images of Chinese people's faces to Caucasian infants. After seeing more images of people from another race, the infants could continue to distinguish the other race faces better than a control group.

Still another study used clips from the movie "The Joy Luck Club," asking a group of white Americans to put themselves in the place of the main Chinese-American character, June. Subsequent tests found a reduction in implicit prejudice toward "out-groups" in general.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

Because images matter, the types of images we see matter even more. Flat, two-dimensional images change our perception in the world beyond the movie theater; outside the picture books.

Of course, we can't hook up a general population to computers and virtual reality environments that change our racial appearance or set up control environments for our children to have such experiences. But we can choose the images we see on a regular basis.

turn to 05



After howlers, umpires told to be more vigilant

NEW DELHI, APR 24 (PTI): Taking strong exception to a few umpiring howlers in the ongoing IPL, the league's chairman Rajiv Shukla is learnt to have told match referees to speak to umpires about staying more vigilant during matches.

"These things do happen sometimes but still the IPL chairman has spoken to match referees and asked them to speak to the umpires," a source close to Shukla said on the sidelines of the match between Kings XI Punjab and Delhi Daredevils here last night.

The match between Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad saw a seven-ball over two weeks ago.

There was a clear no ball bowled during the game between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, but it escaped the umpire's attention.

To minimise errors, the umpires have apparently been advised to take the help of technology, if needed.

Another official involved with the Indian Premier League said nobody is "infallible".



Argentine Biglia's World Cup in doubt after back injury

MILAN, APR 24 (AFP): AC Milan midfielder Lucas Biglia could miss the World Cup this summer with Argentina after suffering a severe back injury during the Italian club's defeat to Benevento at the weekend.

The 32-year-old was forced off the pitch after 72 minutes in Milan's shock defeat to 10-man Benevento and the club confirmed Biglia has fractured two vertebrae in his back.

"AC Milan inform that Lucas Biglia reported a severe lumbar trauma due to an injury during Saturday's match against Benevento," the club said in a statement.

"The player has undergone medical examinations that highlighted a fracture of the transverse processes of the first two lumbar vertebrae.

A detailed prognosis will be issued in the coming days upon completion of all medical tests."

The former Anderlecht midfielder moved to the San Siro this season on a 17-million-euro deal after four years with Serie A rivals Lazio.

RCB-CSK to renew rivalry at Chinnaswamy

BAPU NARAYANKAR

BENGALURU, APRIL 24 (PTI): Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings will renew their intense rivalry after two years when they face-off in the Indian Premier League here tomorrow.

With CSK not playing in the previous two seasons, fans on either side were robbed of IPL's most celebrated rivalry.

Though Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK lead RCB 13-7 in the overall head-to-head record, both teams have won three games each out of the seven played at the high-scoring Chinnaswamy Stadium with one producing a no-result.

Dhoni's men have been much better than RCB in their comeback season, winning four out of the five games they have played so far. The Virat Kohli-captained RCB have won two out of their five matches and would be eager to maintain momentum after the win against Delhi Daredevils at home last week.

Good news for the hosts is that AB de Villiers is in devastating form, which he exhibited in the last match when he enthralled his fans with a



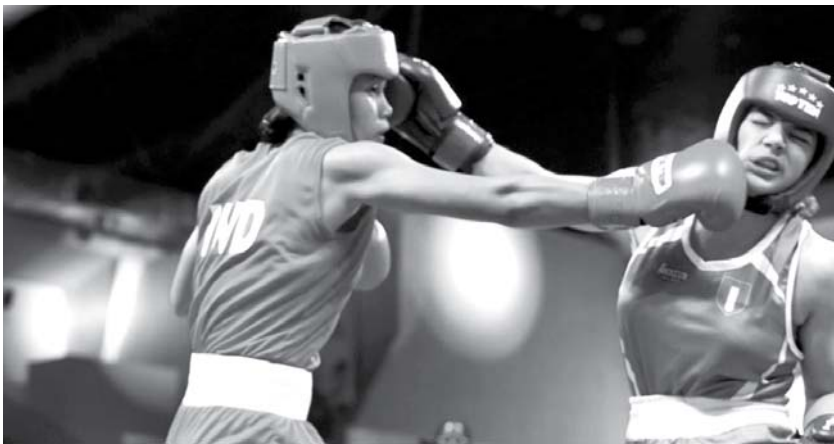
whirlwind unbeaten 39-ball 90 to power his team to a convincing win over Daredevils.

He produced a vintage innings and single-handedly chased down the 175-run target with two overs to spare to bring RCB's campaign back on track.

Kohli's quickfire 57 and unbeat-

en 92 against Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians respectively also has boosted RCB's confidence.

The pair of Kohli and de Villiers has scored 2,361 runs in the IPL, next only to Chris Gayle-Kohli who have amassed 2,787 runs. Shikhar Dhawan-David Warner combine are placed third with 2357 runs.



Five Indian boxers enter Asian Youth Championship semis

BANGKOK, APR 23 (PTI):

Five Indian women boxers assured themselves of medals, two of them also inching closer to qualifying for this year's Youth Olympic Games in Argentina, after advancing to the semifinals of the Asian Championships here today.

Anamika (51kg) and Astha Pahwa (75kg) were assured of medals and remained in the hunt for booking a berth to the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires.

For women, four weight categories -- 51kg, 57kg, 75kg and 60kg -- will feature at the Games and from the ongoing event, the top-four will make the cut.

While Anamika defeated Mongolia's Mungunsaran Balsan, Astha Pahwa got the better of China's Xiyue Wang. Both the boxers won in unanimous verdicts.

However, world championships gold-medallist Sakshi Choudhary (57kg) and

Jony (60kg) bowed out of medal and Olympic berth contention. Sakshi was beaten by Thailand's Panpatchara Somnuek, while Jony lost 2-3 to Kazakhstan's Mariya Gladkova.

In other weight categories, Lalita (69kg) defeated Vietnam's Thi Giang Tran, while Divya Pawar (54kg) sailed past China's Xueqing Cao.

Also advancing to the semifinals were Nitu Ghanghas (48kg), who defeated China's Zhifei

Hu.

The ongoing tournament also features male boxers in nine weight categories. The top four will qualify for the Youth Olympics.

Each country is entitled to a maximum of two women and three men qualifiers and if it ends up achieving more than that, the nation in question will have to pick among the qualifiers.

The Youth Olympics are scheduled from October 6 to 18 later this year.

Need one win to set ball rolling, says disappointed Plunkett

NEW DELHI, APR 24 (PTI):

Down but not out. That's what pacer Liam Plunkett tried to convey while summing up the mood in the Delhi Daredevils camp after suffering yet another loss in the Indian Premier League.

Delhi Daredevils came agonisingly close to breaking their run of reverses, only to lose by four runs to Kings XI Punjab at the Ferozeshah Kotla last night.

"It was really disappointing to lose such a close game. I think we should have won this match. It is really frustrating for all of us," Plunkett said at the post-match press conference.

"It was a match we could have won... We are really disappointed."

Having lost five out



of their six matches, bottom-placed Daredevils host Kolkata Knight Riders on Friday.

"We will still believe in ourselves and we know we can win. It is a matter of one win to set the ball rolling. I think we can do it in our next match," said Plunkett.

Drafted in for the injured Khagiso Rabada, the Englishman made instant impression on

his IPL debut, returning with impressive figures of 3/17 in four overs.

"It was a great feeling to finally get a game in the IPL. I wanted to perform well for the side and I am extremely happy that I was able to take crucial wickets on my debut in the competition, he said.

From the beginning, we knew that the wicket will assist bowlers and this was really similar to the turf I played on during the 2016 ICC World T20. I played three games for England at this venue and that experience helped me in getting accustomed to the situation," said Plunkett.

Kings XI Punjab's Andrew Tye was relieved after the team managed to prevail in a game that

went down to the last ball. "Defending a low total is not always easy but we bowled tightly to win the game," the Australian pacer said.

Tye said it was a conscious decision to have young off-spinner Mujeer ur Rahman bowl the last over from which Delhi needed 17 for a win.

"The way (Shreyas) Iyer and (Rahul) Tewatia were batting, we needed to break the partnership.

"So, I bowled the 18th over and our young spinner bowled the final over. Shreyas was the man, who could have done the job, especially the way he was batting. But we managed to get him out and luckily, Mujeer did the job for us," Tye, who picked up two wickets, added.

FIFA subjects 2026 Morocco World Cup bid to fresh scrutiny

GENEVA, APR 24 (AP): Morocco's World Cup bid is facing fresh scrutiny this week with the arrival of another delegation from FIFA after an initial task force found deficiencies in the proposals for the 2026 tournament.

In a downbeat conclusion to the visit by the inspectors last week, Morocco's bid leader acknowledged it had to improve the quality of the submission made to FIFA in March because inadequacies were identified by football's governing body.

The previously unplanned second inspection of Morocco is an indication of the more rigorous process introduced by FIFA following criticism in 2010 that World Cups were awarded to the riskiest nations in 2018 (Russia) and 2022 (Qatar).

There will also be closer scrutiny of human rights of the bidders before the vote on June 13 when Morocco is currently due to be taking on a joint challenge from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Associated Press revealed last week Morocco did not declare its anti-LGBT law to FIFA in the human rights risk assessment included in the bid book. The documents - along with the North American submission - will now be scrutinized for any gaps by human rights experts.

"That process involves an expert third-party assessment of the robustness of the human rights content of both bids that will directly inform the administration's own evaluation," Rachel Davis, who sits on FIFA's human rights advisory board, told the AP.

ers for his team.

Also Ambati Rayudu would like to continue with his good performance as he has been the highest individual run-getter (201) for his side in five matches with 79 being the best knock.

Suresh Raina (118 runs so far), who is an important member in CSK's batting line-up, will be expected to score big runs again. Also keen to perform will be Dhoni (139) and Dwayne Bravo (104).

Against a power-packed CSK batting, RCB must tighten-up their bowling having conceded 200 plus runs twice at home.

The spin duo of Yuzuvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar, who have taken 5 and 4 wickets each, respectively, would be itching to put up a better show tomorrow, given the well-documented fact that CSK are struggling against spin this season. They have lost 10 wickets to them and only managed to score at 7.70 runs per over.

RCB all-rounder Chris Woakes has been outstanding so far, picking up 8 wickets. Umesh Yadav also been equally good with eight wickets in his kitty.

"We are confident that the process will result in a fair assessment of the human rights situation in all four countries involved in the bids, and a roadmap for how to deal with any deficiencies that FIFA will then require the successful bidder to commit to," Davis, who is managing director of the Shift human rights organization, said an evaluation of the human rights in the bidding nations will be included in a report to the FIFA Council, which will also assess the verdict of the evaluation task force. A bid with low scores can be blocked by the council from advancing to a vote of up to 207 football nations at the FIFA Congress on June 13.

While Morocco has said it needs to spend almost 16 billion on infrastructure for the 48-team World Cup, including building or renovating all 14 stadiums, North American does not require any tournament-specific building work. Morocco bid president Moulay Hafid Elalamy said at the end of the FIFA inspection that officials "made some remarks on the conditions of some of the stadiums." T

The new batch of technical staff being deployed from FIFA HQ to Morocco did not make a similar follow-up visit to North America after the task force inspected the rival bid's facilities this month.

"Following the visit of the 2026 bid evaluation task force to Morocco last week, it was decided to have an additional working visit this week to complement the initial analysis of the task force and clarify some aspects of the bid," FIFA told the AP.

Musical performances at Qutub Minar on full moon nights

NEW DELHI, APR 24

(PTI): With the majestic Qutub Minar as its backdrop, a three-part monthly series will bring together different traditions of Indian music on full moon nights here.

'Under the Banyan Tree on A Full Moon Night' will mark the advent of the full moon in the months of April, May and June, respectively, starting from April 29 at 1AQ, near Qutub Minar.

Organised by Teamwork Arts, the music con-

cert will open with sitarist Azeem Ahmed Alvi, Hindustani classical vocalist Ujwal Nagar, and Sufi qawwals Qutbi Brothers representing the vibrancy and richness of Indian musical tradition.

With a poetic blend of moonlight and music, music aficionados of the city will be able to enjoy Baithak-style evenings along with an intimate experience with the like-minded and an opportunity to engage with the musicians as well.

"Each time we put together a programme, our endeavour is to bring before the enthusiasts once-in-a-lifetime experiences, that they may cherish eternally. Our team's expertise in designing a particular event includes a deep understanding and appreciation for the arts and artists, the minutiae of what makes an incomparable experience as well as the pulse of the audience," Sanjoy Roy, managing director Teamwork Arts, said.

Modi-Xi will not sign agreements at Wuhan Summit but build consensus to resolve bilateral issues: China

BEIJING, APR 24 [PTI]: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will not sign any agreements or issue a joint statement at the Wuhan summit this week but they will try to build mutual trust and reach important consensus to resolve the outstanding issues, a top Chinese official said today.

Prime Minister Modi will travel to China on April 27 for an informal summit with President Xi in the central China's Wuhan city.

"Both sides have agreed not to sign an agreement or release any joint document but reach important consensus to resolve outstanding issues," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuan-you told the media here on the two-day summit.

This informal summit is the first of its kind and there is no precedent in each other's country, he said, explaining why both the leaders opted to hold the summit. "At the informal summit, the two leaders will have heart-to-heart discussions on overarching issues and try to build mutual trust and consensus to resolve outstanding differences," Kong said.

Asked whether the Dokalam issue and the boundary dispute will figure in the talks, Kong said Dokalam happened because of lack of trust.

"The two countries need to create conditions and trust between them to resolve the boundary issue," he added. Kong said both President Xi and Prime Minister Modi have strategic vision and historical responsibility.

"Both of them have been widely supported by their people. Both leaders have attached great importance to India-China relationship and have devoted a lot of energy to grow this relationship.

"Over the past few years they met 10 times, visited each other's capitals and home towns. They also met at multilateral occasions," he said, adding that every time they had very good talks and reached important consensus.

At the informal summit, they will have strategic communication on the major changes in the international landscape unseen in more than 100 years. They will have in-depth exchange of views on the issues of overarching long-term and strategic importance in the bilateral relations, he said.

Such exchange of views will deepen the mutual trust between the two countries, set the direction and set objectives for the further growth of bilateral ties. It will also open up new prospects in China-India cooperation. Such informal summit will not only benefit the two countries and peoples but will also deliver peace and development in the region and beyond, he said.

Trump admin toughens H1-B visa procedure

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, APR 24 [PTI]: The Trump administration is working on proposals to streamline the H-1B visa procedure, the most sought after by Indian IT professionals, to focus on attracting the best and the brightest foreign talents, according to a top federal agency official.

The proposed regulation also aims to intensify efforts to crackdown on H-1B visa fraud, said Francis Cissna, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director in a letter to Senator Chuck Grassley.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is working on two proposed regulations to improve the H-1B programme. The first regulation proposes to establish an electronic registration programme



for petitions subject to numerical limitations for the H-1B non-immigrant classification.

"This rule is intended to allow USCIS to more efficiently manage the intake and lottery process for these H-1B petitions," said Cissna.

The later is dated April 4, the content of which was first reported yesterday by Axios news website.

"The second regulation will propose to revise the definition of specialty occupation, so as to increase focus on obtaining the best and the brightest foreign nationals via the

H-1B programme and to revise the definition of employment and employer-employee relationship to better protect US workers and wages," Cissna said.

In addition, Department of Homeland Security will propose additional requirements designed to ensure employers pay appropriate wages to H-1B visa holders, it said.

The USCIS is also drafting a proposed rule to remove the International Entrepreneur Rule (IER), as announced in the regulatory agenda. Due to the court order which inval-

idated the IER delay rule, the International Entrepreneur Final Rule is currently in effect.

"We have not approved any parole requests under the International Entrepreneur Final Rule at this time," it said.

Briefing the Senator on its efforts to prevent fraud in H-1B, Cissna said USCIS now has a dedicated email addresses to make it easier for the public to report suspected fraud and abuse in the H-1B and H-2B programmes. Other steps that the USCIS has previously announced include establishing a more targeted approach in our H-1B employer site visit programme.

"We initiated these targeted site visits to help us determine, among other things, whether H-1B-dependent employers are actually paying their workers the statutorily required salary to qualify for an exemption from recruitment attestation requirements," it said.

The USCIS is also expanding its administrative site visit programme to include L-1B petitions.

"We are initially focusing on em-

ployers petitioning for L-1B specialised knowledge workers who will primarily work offsite at another company or organization's location to ensure that they are complying with the requirements from the L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2004. These requirements were meant to help prevent United States workers from being displaced by foreign workers," the USCIS said.

Cissna said it also published a policy memorandum that instructs officers to apply the same level of scrutiny to both initial petitions and extension requests for non-immigrant visa categories. The guidance applies to all non-immigrant classifications filed using Form r-129, Petition for a Non-immigrant Worker.

The previous policy instructed officers to give deference to the findings of a previously approved petition, as long as the key elements were unchanged and there was no evidence of a material error or fraud related to the prior determination.

"The updated policy guidance rescinds the previous policy. Under the law, the burden of proof in establishing eligibility for the visa petition extension is on the petitioner, regardless of whether users previously approved a petition," it said.



A fire tore through a karaoke lounge in southern China today, killing 18 people and injuring another five in a suspected arson case, police and state media said. The blaze took place after midnight in a three-storey building in Qingyuan City, Guangdong province, and was put out shortly before 1:00 am local time, according to the police. A preliminary investigation found that the fire was caused by arson, the Qingyuan public security department said on its Weibo social media account. The police statement did not describe the location of the fire but the official Xinhua news agency said it occurred in a KTV house, or karaoke lounge. Deadly fires are common in China, where safety regulations are widely flouted and enforcement is often lax.

UNSC ‘increasingly unable’ to respond to security challenges: India at SCO

BEIJING, APR 24 [PTI]: The UN Security Council is "increasingly unable" or "sometimes unwilling" to respond to the current security challenges with tragic consequences, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said today as she pushed for the reform of the world body's powerful organ.

Swaraj, during her address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation [SCO] Council of Foreign Ministers meeting here, raised the issue of global terrorism and protectionism.

India along with Brazil, Germany and Japan has been seeking expansion of the permanent and non-permanent seats of the UNSC to make the powerful UN body more representative and reflective of the changing global order.

Continuing to push for the reform and expansion of the UNSC, she said: "it is clear to many of us that the Security Council is increasingly unable, or sometimes unwilling, to respond to the security challenges of our times, with tragic consequences.

"We must not lose sight of the fact that reforms of the UN will be incomplete, without reforms in the Security Council to make it more representative of contemporary realities".

"Since 2008, the international community has carefully nurtured the ongoing Inter Governmental Negotiations at the UN to take our discussions on UNSC reforms forward," she said. An overwhelming majority of members have expressed their desire to see these negotiations continue on the basis

of a text, Swaraj said.

China, which is part of the veto-wielding permanent five members along with the US, Russia, France and the UK, has not openly supported India's bid for a permanent seat in the reformed UNSC, and instead called for a "package solution" accommodating "concerns and interests" of all parties.

The meeting was also attended by foreign ministers Wang Yi of China, Khawaja Muhammad Asif of Pakistan, Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan, Abdyldaev Erlan Bekeshovich of Kyrgyzstan, Sergey Lavrov of Russia, Sirodjidin Muhridinovich Aslov of Tajikistan, Abdulaziz Khafizovich Kamilov of Uzbekistan, and Secretary General of the SCO Rashid Alimov among others.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR SINCERE MORNING Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:21 DrawDate on:24/04/18 1st Prize Rs.26.01 Lakhs/- 90C 28598 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 28598 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	DEAR LOVED Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:21 DrawDate on:24/04/18 1st Prize Rs.26.01 Lakhs/- 84C 53125 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 53125 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	DEAR PARROT EVENING Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:39 DrawDate on:26/04/18 1st Prize Rs.26.01 Lakhs/- 86G 28693 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 28693 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 15872 24020 32943 38185 50860 63112 66450 67372 86122 97900 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0321 0458 1316 2383 3954 5147 5893 7338 8682 9616 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0124 1538 2713 3275 3354 4224 4792 5058 6547 7350 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0000 0086 0283 0287 0434 0493 0540 0613 0625 0659 0759 1033 1054 1184 1292 1471 1499 1543 1612 1619 1666 1719 1933 1993 2318 2419 2482 2485 2695 2958 2994 3318 3350 3448 3456 3539 3608 3637 3640 3935 4025 4029 4320 4596 4607 4618 4646 4686 4851 4927 4937 5071 5240 5265 5444 5842 5867 5969 5978 6203 6420 6481 6504 6565 6614 6646 6698 6991 7190 7236 7436 7444 7677 7707 7894 7939 7957 8032 8443 8527 8588 8656 8759 8777 8858 8968 9192 9298 9319 9338 9339 9383 9445 9527 9592 9736 9760 9803 9820 9826	2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 08727 09364 27651 37986 45828 49283 51828 55422 81325 83763 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0078 0094 1867 4022 4099 4972 5644 5951 6344 7511 4th Prize Rs.250/- 1089 2179 2386 5450 5727 6789 6938 7237 7549 9135 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0177 0269 0541 0628 0865 0901 1026 1040 1063 1122 1142 1184 1374 1514 1620 1658 1712 1803 1820 1836 1924 1931 1962 1969 2019 2083 2110 2133 2152 2193 2258 2469 2598 2746 2913 2943 2989 3020 3341 3385 3429 3655 3985 4009 4070 4487 4488 4690 4861 5094 5206 5207 5252 5336 5724 5842 6060 6083 6266 6321 6364 6376 6743 6832 6915 6998 7015 7064 7067 7167 7374 7430 7454 7465 7575 7580 7668 7671 7709 7878 7890 8199 8203 8210 8463 8471 8481 8601 8612 8928 9050 9120 9230 9277 9294 9362 9776 9798 9864 9988	2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 05511 20765 26404 40079 48560 64722 77655 86153 88580 91913 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2404 4795 4840 5549 5837 6304 6457 7627 7911 8301 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0516 1648 2284 4549 4915 5646 6393 8060 9232 9571 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0156 0279 0404 0428 0752 1114 1121 1160 1163 1221 1229 1272 1538 1650 1681 1858 1892 2048 2242 2292 2796 2823 2853 2891 2948 2955 3013 3234 3322 3334 3351 3392 3437 3688 3776 3817 4018 4139 4191 4269 4283 4326 4427 4727 5077 5162 5172 5286 5309 5362 5363 5467 5509 5530 5661 5707 5742 5786 5856 5945 5955 5999 6164 6359 6473 6573 6704 7133 7170 7171 7221 7224 7281 7430 7465 7472 7582 7620 7643 7668 7804 7880 7951 7988 8081 8089 8174 8211 8382 8561 8881 8916 9155 9189 9301 9311 9518 9588 9889 9990
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE		

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
LABHLAXMI TAURAS
Draw No:12 DrawDate on:24/04/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3027
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 4119 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3770
4th Prize Rs.300/- 3837 5th Prize Rs. 201/- 1905
6th Prize Rs.100/-
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1382 1398 1399 1407 1409 1418 1453 1462 1490 1498
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Draw No:12 DrawDate on:24/04/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 5435 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 4839
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 1964 4th Prize Rs. 501/- 4998
5th Prize Rs.200/-
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6th Prize Rs.100/-
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EXTRA TOUCH OF GLAM! Standing tall in a pair of open-toed heels, Katy Perry posed outside the studio with her fellow judges Lionel Richie [R] and Luke Bryan [L], who also stepped out in style.

The Venom trailer slimes its way online and finally shows Venom!

Sony has unleashed the full trailer for Venom - and Venom is actually in it, this time.

Fans who complained about only seeing Tom Hardy and some black goo in the first trailer get what they wanted this time. The second full trailer for Venom was released Monday night, and unlike the first one, it actually showed the title character.

When the first trailer came out in February, some fans complained because it showed star Tom Hardy only in his role as Eddie Brock, and not his alien symbiote. No worries this time. The new trailer delivers Venom in all forms, from black goo to full-on monstrous creature who really needs to see an orthodontist.

As part of Sony's attempt to launch a Spider-Manless Spideverse [he's still bound to the MCU and so can't appear in any Sony-only films], we see Venom as the product of Dr Carlton Drake's [Riz Ahmed] experimentation with an alien symbiote.

When Eddie, a reporter, attempts to investigate what he suspects are experiments fatal to their test subjects, he himself comes into con-



tact with the symbiote and it starts to take over.

We also get a glimpse of Michelle Williams and Jenny Slate, though Woody Harrelson seems noticeably absent. Could that add fuel to the rumours he's playing Carnage?

Venom was first introduced to the Marvel world in 1988 via Spider-Man and made his movie debut in 2007 Spider-Man 3, where the character was played by

Topher Grace.

Venom — the first movie in Sony's Spideverse — will be followed soon after by Silver & Black, which centres on the superheroes Black Cat and Silver Sable and will be directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood. No casting has been announced.

Directed by Zombieland's Ruben Fleischer, the movie reaches cinemas 05 Oct, 2018.

ARIES: Change is in the air, Aries. Whether it's a dramatic change of faith or a major shift in your life's goals, prepare yourself for a profound transformation. It's likely due to the fact that you now have more freedom to do what you want, when you want. Perhaps a financial windfall has made this possible. Take care to choose your new path wisely. It doesn't offer you the choice of returning to your old lifestyle. **TAURUS:** It's time to refill the well of your soul, Taurus. You spend so much of your life in service to others that it's only natural that you feel drained sometimes. Rather than try to push past this feeling and go on as though nothing is the matter, consider it a sign that something is amiss. Admit if you're feeling

unappreciated. You've spent too much time putting the happiness of others before your own. It's time to change your priorities.

GEMINI: You would make an excellent judge, Gemini. You're able to consider all aspects of a situation. This is a bit of a blessing and a curse, because it can make it difficult to come to a decision. Today you could face the challenge of reconsidering past decisions. Once-binding contracts need to be reviewed and new ones created. Prior commitments need reevaluation. This is tiring but necessary if you're to move forward.

CANCER: Just because one person is no longer a part of your life doesn't mean that all people are unreliable. People change,

as do situations. It's possible that this person was no longer a healthy influence on you, in which case the departure is for the best. You're going to have to become more adaptable, Cancer, because there are more changes on the horizon, especially where your career is concerned.

LEO: It can be hard to release old habits and beliefs even as new, better ways of thinking struggle to gain a foothold. It's time for you to do this, Leo. You might find it difficult to confide your feelings to another, but a frank conversation with close friends will do much to ease your mind. There's no question that you're changing. Your friends will show you that this transformation is positive.

VIRGO: You always suspected that your job was making you crazy, but it never occurred to you that it could make you sick, too. Is it really worth it, Virgo? You may be asking yourself this question today. Fortunately, your talents apply to several professions. Why not take a closer look at other fields? One way or another, it's clear that change is coming. You might as well be the one who directs it.

LIBRA: Just how long has it been since you indulged in a big helping of your favorite guilty pleasure, Libra? It's time to let the youngster in you come out and play today. Eat that chocolate, read those mindless magazines, or skip down the sidewalk. You've been taking life much too seriously lately. Even grownups

are entitled to indulge in the pleasures of youth from time to time. **SCORPIO:** If you feel like you're trying to push a square peg into a round hole, you're probably right, Scorpio. Whether you're having personal or professional difficulties, there are times when it just doesn't pay to try so hard. In fact, it's often a sign that there is something fundamentally wrong with the relationship. Try to take more of a philosophical attitude, Scorpio. If it's meant to work, it will.

SAGITTARIUS: Things aren't always as they first appear. People you thought you knew well and circumstances that you thought you understood thoroughly now seem anything but straightforward. Has the world

really changed that much or has your perception altered somehow? It's time to direct this "altered" vision inward. You're ready for a change, Sagittarius. Perhaps it's time to dust off that resume.

CAPRICORN: Difficult as it may be for you to face all those projects you've left undone, Capricorn, know that you'll be free to move on once they're complete. People from your past figure prominently now. Perhaps they come forward to repay an old debt or possibly claim repayment from you. Don't abandon your dreams. Once you've cleared a path for them, they're more likely to come true.

AQUARIUS: You could have a "eureka!" moment today, Aquarius, as events from your past un-

expectedly bubble to the surface of your mind and crystallize in a surprising new way. Suddenly, you have a clear understanding of how these past events affect your present behavior. You can use this new knowledge to bring about change. There is clearly a situation at work or at home that is in need of transformation. **PISCES:** Sometimes it's easier to tend to life's mundane details rather than lift your eyes and see the big picture, Pisces. For example, it's likely that you've grown complacent at work. Could it be that you aren't at the right job or in the right career after all? Bussing yourself with trivia isn't the way to avoid answering the question. It's imperative that you face it head on and make the necessary changes.

SJP claims she has “never uttered an unfriendly word” to SATC co-star...

Sarah Jessica Parker has denied ever uttering an unkind, unsupportive, or unfriendly word towards Sex And The City co-star Kim Cattrall as their feud rumbles on. Her words, in which she denied there was ever a “catfight” between them, seem a little odd after Kim branded her a “cruel hypocrite” and indicating there WAS a row.

However, Sarah Jessica, 53, says she wants to “redefine” her feud with Kim, 61, rather than reignite it.

She told Vulture: “I’d just like to remind everybody that there is no catfight. I have never uttered an unkind, unsupportive, unfriendly word, so I would love to redefine it. I’ve always held Kim’s work in high regard and always appreciative of her contributions. If she chooses not to do the third movie, there’s not a lot I can do to change her mind and we must respect it. That’s the only thing I’ve ever said about it, you know?”

And whilst Sarah and her co-stars Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon are disappointed about not making another Sex In The City mov-



ie, she has “moved on”.

She added: “The three of us have shared our disappointment that we’re not making that movie, not just on our behalf but our crew, but also just the people that have been vocal about wanting to see it.

But we still live in a free country where people get to make choices, and sometimes the answer is ‘no’, and the only way to respond for me is to respect that. But, no, there is no catfight, there never has been a catfight. I’ve never fought with someone publicly in my life, nor would I. And I spent time with all of the women on the set.

People need to recall that

it wasn’t just two women on the set fighting, because that just never happened. We are enormously proud of what we got to do...”

Back in February, after years of speculation about on-set warring, Sarah Jessica’s former co-star Kim lashed out at her branding her a “cruel hypocrite”.

But in a new interview with People, presumably given before Parker was criticised by Cattrall on Instagram and published this week, the mother-of-three insists there was no fight between the two actresses.

Parker, 52, reflected on the fall-out after the third Sex And The City movie was

shelved last year as she told the magazine: “It’s really funny because I never talked about it, except [to say] that some of us were disappointed. But I never responded to the conversation Kim had with Piers Morgan, where she said things that were really hurtful about me.”

She continued: “I couldn’t imagine anyone else playing that part. So there was no fight; it was completely fabricated, because I actually never responded. And I won’t, because she needed to say what she needed to say, and that is her privilege.”

Dailymail.com reported in September that Cattrall, 61, was the reason Sex And The City 3 had been “torpedoed” due to her “diva demands”, while the rest of the cast; Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis had all signed on eager to move on with production.

The next month Cattrall sat down with Piers Morgan and revealed she had a “toxic relationship” with the other stars and said Parker “could have been nicer” about the situation.

TAKE A BOW! PRESENTING RANBIR KAPOOR AS SANJAY DUTT!



The teaser of Sanju, the biopic on actor Sanjay Dutt, arrived on the internet on Tuesday. Ranbir Kapoor plays Sanjay Dutt and almost nails it. Ranbir Kapoor looks freakishly like Sanjay Dutt but he’s unable to pull off the Khalnayak actor’s deep voice.

But by the end of the one-and-a-half you’ll be impressed by the efforts Ranbir has put in to suit the role. The teaser reveals that Sanju will narrate all facets of Sanjay Dutt’s life - from his drug addiction at the age of 22 to his tryst with the law in connection to the Mumbai Blasts, his “308 girlfriends” [it says so in the teaser], his days spent in the “windowless jail” to the days he spent in posh suites with “sweeping view.” Sanju aims to encompass all sides of the “shocking story of a man who lived many lives.”

Ranbir’s father Rishi Kapoor shared the film’s first poster, in which Ranbir appears as Sanjay Dutt from different phases of the actor’s life. Rishi Kapoor’s verdict: “Interesting.”

Of the portrayal of Sanjay Dutt in the film, Ranbir Kapoor earlier told news agency PTI that it’s not a “propaganda film” trying to portray him “as God.”

Ranbir Kapoor said: “We are trying to show a very human side of Sanjay Dutt, his perils, his downfall, his will to fight... how he handled his mother’s death two days before the release of his debut film, his relationship with his father. These were human conflicts in his life.”

Sanju will hit the screens on 29 Jun.



Kylie Jenner gushes over Stormi’s sleepy smile...

Her fans were unimpressed when she left baby Stormi at home to live it up at Coachella. But a week post Palm Springs and Kylie Jenner is busy bonding with her baby.

On Monday, the 19-year-old reality shared a few of their special moments on Snapchat, alongside shots of her svelte post-pregnancy figure. Kylie, who gave birth roughly three months ago, seemed completely enamored with her bundle of joy as they cuddled on the patio of her Calabasas home.

“Our hair both a mess but...,” Jenner said in her snap as she nestled Stormi.

The new mom, who was dressed in a white hoodie and black leggings, was makeup free in her social media posts.

“She has the prettiest lit-

tle hands,” Kylie said about a zoomed in photo of Stormi’s tiny fingers. Her infant could be seen wearing an adorable cherry-printed shirt.

As time passed, baby Stormi fell into a deep sleep that left her...giggling. “Are you smiling in your sleep?” Kylie said in the precious video as she rubbed her daughter’s head.

Boyfriend and baby daddy Travis Scott was not there for the cute moment.

The Life Of Kylie star is set to launch her makeup collaboration with sister Kourtney Kardashian on Tuesday. She has been teasing the palette and lipstick collection ever since week-end one of Coachella.

Both Kourtney and Kylie attended the Palm Springs festival with their significant others.