

# SummitTIMES

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

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## Dikchu HEP developer finally holds awareness sessions on water release protocol and advance warning systems

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

DIKCHU, 11 JUN:

A series of public awareness sessions on disaster management and the process of release of water from the reservoir of the Dikchu hydel project was held by Sneha Kinetic Power Project Ltd. along areas downstream from the dam site.

SKPPL, it may be recalled, has constructed and manages the 96 MW Dikchu Hydro-Electric Project here and was recently in the news when, despite having being commissioned in March earlier this year, it still has no warning systems in place to alert people downstream.

After a group of people were nearly washed away by unannounced release of water from the



reservoir recently, the High Court had stepped in with a suo moto PIL and directed that proper warning systems be put in place.

In follow-up, awareness sessions were held at various places on safety measure and water releasing protocol from

the reservoir especially for people living downstream of the HEP below Lingdok where the reservoir of the said project is located.

A stretch of 6kms from the confluence of Ratey Chu and the Bakcha Chu below Lingdok 9th Mile where the dam

of the said project is located, and the power house complex located at Dikchu Bazar comes under sway of sudden rise in water level when the sluice gates at the dam are raised to drain overflow from the reservoir.

The awareness ses-

sions were held at Dikchu Senior Secondary School, Lower Rakdong, Dikchu Bazar and the Dikchu Naya Bazar. Similar sessions were held for the people of Lingdok and 9th Mile on 10 June, Saturday. The awareness was conducted by the SKPPL officials who also undertook door-to-door visits to ensure that the word got out.

The people were advised not visit the riverside and remain alert for the sound of sirens which will be blared before water was released. This, it may be recalled, is the first time that such an effort has been made by SKPPL.

## Sushma Swaraj flags off Kailash Mansarovar yatra 2017

NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today flagged off the first batch of pilgrims bound for the annual Kailash Mansarovar yatra for this year.

Swaraj told the pilgrims to take care to not "sully" the route leading up to Kailash Mansarovar during the holy journey.

"The reverence we have for Lord Shiva, we should have similar respect for his abode. Therefore, please do not sully the road that will lead you to Lord Shiva," she told the pilgrims at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan here.

A total of 1,430 devotees will undertake the pilgrimage in 25 batches this year. Eighteen batches, each comprising around 60 pilgrims, will visit Kailash Mansarovar through the more arduous Lipulekh Pass route, while seven batches with 50 pilgrims each will take the newly-opened Nathu La route through Sikkim.

The yatra will continue for the next four months.

The MEA had received 4,442 appli-



she said.

Swaraj said the Indian government was making constant efforts and improvements to make the journey more convenient for the pilgrims.

"But it is a gradual process and we are doing a bit more every year," she said. Swaraj, who underwent a kidney transplant in December last year, asked the pilgrims to seek blessings on her behalf as well.

"I underwent the operation but by God's grace I could recuperate within months. Since you all are going to seek blessings of Lord Shiva, I'd request you to seek some blessings for me too as I myself haven't gone to Kailash Mansarovar, ever, and am not sure if I ever will," she said.

## GST Council lowers tax rates for 66 items

NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI): Tax rates on certain kitchen items like pickles and mustard sauce, as well as movie tickets costing up to Rs 100 have been lowered as the Centre and states today reduced levies on 66 items.

Movie tickets costing Rs 100 and below will now attract 18 per cent tax, as against 28 per cent proposed earlier, while those above Rs 100 will continue to attract 28 per cent GST.

Kitchen use items like pickles, mustard sauce and morabba will attract 12 per cent GST, as against 18 per cent proposed earlier. Also, tax rates on cashew nuts have been cut to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

The GST Council also decided that traders, manufacturers and restaurant owners with turnover of up to Rs 75 lakh can opt for a composition scheme and pay taxes at the rate of 1, 2, and 5 per cent respectively.



## Darj hills brace for fresh Mamata-GJM face-off

DARJEELING, JUN 11 (PTI): The verdant Darjeeling hills today braced for a fresh confrontation between the Mamata Banerjee government and the influential Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) which has called an indefinite shutdown of government offices from Monday and renewed the demand for Gorkhaland.

GJM president Bimal Gurung has asked tourists to leave the hills because of the possibility of occurrence of "untoward" incidents.

The GJM, an ally of the Centre's ruling NDA, has called an indefinite shutdown of state government and Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) offices, but kept educational institutions, transport and hotels out of its purview. The GJM, which heads the GTA, has also issued a diktat to banks to open only twice a week.

The Trinamool Congress gov-



ernment, on its part, ordered all its employees and those of the institutions receiving grants-in-aid from it to attend office on all days till the agitation continues, warning that absence from duty will be considered a break in service.

"All state government offices in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts will remain open and all employees should report for duty on each day till such bandh is not withdrawn," a government

notification said.

"Any absence will be considered as a break in service and no salary will be admissible unless covered by reasonable grounds," the notification said.

The GJM had on Friday called a 12-hour bandh in the hills against the Mamata Banerjee government's decision to introduce Bengali language in schools in the hills, a day after Darjeeling, the picturesque

north Bengal town known the world over for its tea industry, witnessed large-scale violence.

A day before, GJM supporters and workers had clashed with the police and set ablaze several government vehicles during widespread protests over introduction of Bengali language in schools in the hills.

Army had to be called out to stage flag marches in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong to restore peace.

The sensitive language issue provided the spark which reignited the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

"The government has encroached on our identity, our language Nepali. We will never tolerate it," Gurung said, adding "we are ready to court arrest, we will have to go to jail for the sake of the agitation."

turn to pg02

## ISL to unveil two new teams on Monday

MUMBAI, JUN 11 (PTI): The Indian Super League (ISL) organisers will unveil two new teams on Monday, and they will be part of the 2017-18 season and beyond.

Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), organisers of the Indian Super League, will announce the winning bids for the new teams.

The winning bidders will be enrolled and awarded the right to participate in the ISL starting from the upcoming season.

An independent panel conducted the tender process, which commenced from May 12, 2017 through 'Invitation To Bid' (ITB) and evalu-

ated the bids to maintain an open and transparent process.

Consulting firm E&Y is expected to complete by Sunday the evaluation for all the bids received during the ITB procedure and present its results on Monday.

The bids were invited from prospective team owners in 10- Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Cuttack, Durgapur, Hyderabad, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Ranchi, Siliguri and Thiruvananthapuram.

As per the timelines declared in ITB and to maintain the transparency in the process, the organisers closed the window for bid submission on May 25.

## Are unhealthy diets fuelled by the great Green Revolution?

PALLAVA BAGLA

NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI): A recent study suggesting that the poor are increasingly falling prey to diabetes is alarming since it is this class of people who cannot afford quality treatment and really depend on public distribution system through ration shops.

With the ration shops mostly distributing rice and wheat, these high carbohydrate cereals are propelling a new and very worrying wave of diabetes in the country.

The linkage to the Green Revolution, unhealthy diet is only beginning to be understood.

India is considered the diabetes capital of the world with about 70 million already afflicted by this disease.

But what is most worrying is that till now diabetes was considered to be a disease of the more affluent but a new paper in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology says that India's diabetes epidemic is shifting and is likely to disproportionately affect economically disadvantaged groups.

The researchers say the findings

should cause concern in a country where most treatment costs are paid out-of-pocket by patients, and highlight the urgent need for effective prevention measures.

"This trend is a matter of great concern because it suggests that the diabetes epidemic is spreading to individuals who can least afford to pay for its management," said R M Anjana, lead author of the study, Vice-President, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation.

The Indian Council of Medical Research - India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study is the largest nationally representative study of diabetes in India and includes data from 57,000 people across 15 states.

Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and also a diabetologist, says "every third or fourth patient visiting a hospital or healthcare centre for any clinical complaint happens to be a diabetic". He adds that with India today comprising nearly 70 per cent of population which is below 40 years of age and at the same time, the rap-

idly spreading diabetes in young poses a huge challenge.

The genesis of the unfolding diabetes epidemic has its roots in the way the country has progressed a food starved country has become a food surplus country and this happened due to great strides made by the Green Revolution.

But the Green Revolution accelerated growth only for the wheat and rice crops. It is these high glycaemic value cereals that then became the backbone of the Public Distribution System, as a consequence over the last few decades a whole generation of Indians has grown up eating rice and wheat as the primary sources of energy.

In traditional Indian eating habits, what are unfortunately dubbed coarse, cereals had a preponderance.

Millet, jowar, sorghum, red rice, brown rice were the preferred foods but when the PDS flooded the market with cheap polished rice and wheat, not only did these healthier cereals slowly die out but they even became un-remunerative for the farmers. This vicious cycle is today fuelling an

unfolding cyclone of diabetes.

Anjana says "unhealthy diet and physical in-activity alone contribute to half of the diabetes epidemic and to add to that the adoption of a westernised diet is accelerating the diabetes problem."

Junk and fast food are now available in most urban slums and villages, pizzas, chowmein and momos are today common place on roadside eateries.

Anjana says "industrialisation, mechanisation, urbanisation and globalisation are all contributing to the diabetes bomb that is waiting to explode."

According to the new study, the prevalence of diabetes across the five states they analysed was 7.3 per cent and rates varied from 4.3 per cent in Bihar to 13.6 per cent in Chandigarh.

Almost half of the people in the study did not know they had diabetes until they were tested.

On average, diabetes was twice as common in urban areas (11.2 per cent) compared to rural areas (5.2 per cent).

Overall, diabetes was more common among people with higher socio-economic status, compared to people with low socio-economic status. However, in urban areas in seven states - most of which rank among the more economically advanced states - diabetes was higher among people from low socio-economic status.

For example, in urban areas of Chandigarh, the rate of diabetes was 26.9 per cent for among people from low socio-economic background, compared to 12.9 per cent for people from high socio-economic backgrounds.

The changing lifestyle of Indians is making them move away from traditional healthy foods as Anjana says "the availability, accessibility and affordability of junk food is the biggest problem for India".

Fortunately, Anjana says, all of this can be reversed with the right kind of awareness and by making fruits, vegetables and healthy cereals all being made available in ration shops.

## Madhesi party announces fresh anti-election protests

**KATHMANDU, JUN 11 (PTI):** A key Madhesi party in Nepal today announced fresh protests to disrupt the second phase of local polls after it failed to reach a consensus with the government of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba over an amendment to new Constitution.

A meeting was held at the Singha Durbar secretariat between Nepal's ruling coalition and representatives of Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N) to bring all disgruntled parties on board for the second phase of local level elections.

During the meeting, the government expressed commitment to immediately amend necessary rules and regulations.

However, the party refused to participate in the polls slated for June 28, saying the ruling parties did not address their key demands.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, senior leader of the Nepali Congress Ram Chandra Paudel said: "An understanding has been reached to amend some laws to create environment conducive to bring the RJP-N on board the elections".

Anil Jha, a leader of the RJP-N said that they would not participate in the elections until an amendment was made to the constitution.

Prime Minister and Nepali Congress President Deuba, Deputy Prime Ministers Bijay Kumar Gachchhadar and Krishna Bahadur Mahara also attended today's meeting.

Some Madhes-centric parties have opposed the elections until the Constitution is amended to accommodate their views: more representation in parliament and redrawing of provincial boundaries.

## Darj hills brace for fresh Mamata-GJM face-off

**contd from pg01**

Blaming Banerjee for the renewal of the Gorkhaland demand by his party, Gurung said, "We will stick to our demand for a separate state and continue with the agitation for achieving it. Mamata Banerjee has forced us to renew the statehood demand, we will achieve it."

Meanwhile, police today arrested five GJM supporters for their alleged involvement in Thursday's violence.

The GJM has been concerned about the rise in TMCs popularity in the hills after the latter won the Mirik municipality in the recently held civic bodies elections, and also opened its account in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong, a first for a political party from the plains in many years.

The government's decision for a "special audit" of funds allotted to GTA also riled Gurung's GJM, which has controlled the territorial administration since 2011.

Banerjee had warned

# Monsoon making steady advance, expect a 'good week' ahead: IMD

## MET OFFICE PREDICTS HEAVY RAINS IN SIKKIM OVER NEXT FEW DAYS

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** The southwest monsoon is making a steady advance into Maharashtra and West Bengal and the weatherman has predicted a "good week" ahead.

India Meteorological Department Director General K J Ramesh said monsoon is in an "active phase" and has reached Mumbai, Mahabaleshwar (in Maharashtra) and several parts of the Konkan region, apart from

Bijapur district in north Karnataka.

"There is also a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal and this will take the monsoon to several parts of West Bengal.

"The coming week will be very good for the advance of monsoon on the western side and east India, Ramesh said.

However, there will be no significant change in maximum temperatures over most part of the country during the next 24 hours and mercury is likely rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius over plains of northwest India thereafter.

The IMD last week upgraded its initial monsoon forecast from 96 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) to 98 per cent, which comes in the range of "normal" rainfall.

The monsoon reached Kerala on May 30, two days ahead of its normal schedule.

"Favourable conditions are developing for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra.

"It is expected to advance to interior Karnataka and remaining parts of Rayalaseema, some

parts of Telangana and some more parts of Coastal Andhra Pradesh, central and north Bay of Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya and some more parts of West Bengal and Sikkim during next 2-3 days, the IMD said.

It also predicted "heavy to very heavy rainfall" at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya, Konkan and Goa and Coastal Karnataka tomorrow and "heavy" rains over West Bengal and Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, central Maharashtra, Marathwada and Kerala.



## HEAT BRINGS OUT HUMANITY

**SINGTAM, 11 JUN:** Singtam Bazaar's Marwari Seva Samiti has installed a water booth opposite Parnami Mandir to provide drinking water to the people and commuters as the summer sun spares no one from thirst, sweat and of course the heat. The Samiti has employed a woman to run the booth. She reportedly earns Rs 110 per day for her service. The booth which was installed on 03 June is scheduled to run until 20 June. **[from YOGEN THATAL]**

## Anger brewing among UP potato farmers

**ALIGARH (UP), JUN 11 (PTI):** Anger is brewing among farmers in this district on multiple scores including the issue of non-remunerative prices for potato and the longstanding dispute with farmers in bordering Haryana over some farmlands.

The resentment has been simmering for several years but has flared up recently as Aligarh farmers feel that since both state governments belong to the BJP, there is no reason that it cannot be resolved by the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

There were reports of protests in at least two different parts of the district including Tapal during past 24 four hours.

# India helping Nepal to set up police academy

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** India is helping Nepal to set up a national police academy near Kathmandu at a cost of Rs 550 crore which will provide training to 410 Nepalese police officers annually.

The academy at Panauti, 35 km south-east of Kathmandu, will be on the lines of Hyderabad-based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel NPA, the alma mater for the officers of the Indian Police Service.

The feasibility study for the national police academy (NPA) was done by the NPA, Hyderabad, while India's Ministry of Home Affairs is doing consultancy service for the project monitoring and quality assurance services.

Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs is the executing agency and coordinating with the government of India-nominated officials in a joint project monitoring committee.

"India is providing Rs 550 crore towards construction of the academy. As of now, 350 police officers from Nepal undergo training in India every year. The new academy in Nepal will cater to the training of 410 Nepalese police officers annually," an official said.

India provides substantial financial and technical

development assistance to Nepal, which is a broad-based programme focusing on creation of infrastructure at the grass-root level, under which various projects have been implemented in the areas of health, water resources, education and rural and community development.

In recent years, India has been assisting Nepal in development of border infrastructure through upgrade of roads in the Terai areas; development of cross-border rail links at Joghani-Biratnagar, Jaynagar-Bardibas, Nepalgunj Road- Nepalgunj, Nautanwa-Bhairhawa, and New Jalpaigudi-Kakarbhitta; and establishment of integrated check posts at Raxaul-Birgunj, Sunauli-Bhairhawa, Joghani-Biratnagar, and Nepalgunj Road- Nepalgunj.

India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation characterised by open borders and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture.

India shares a 1,751-km-long border with Nepal that touches Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

# Peace returns to Mandsaur, Chouhan ends fast

**MANDSAUR/BHOPAL, JUN 11 (PTI):** In ferment for the last several days, Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur, the epicentre of a violent stir by farmers, remained peaceful today, prompting Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to end his indefinite fast.

Chouhan, who began the fast yesterday to calm frayed tempers of the farmers demanding a loan waiver and remunerative prices for their produce, announced a slew of schemes for their benefit but issued a stern warning to those who engaged in "incendiary activities".

There was no curfew in all three police stations areas of Mandsaur city for the second day today, but prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPC banning assembly of more than four people remained in force in the entire district.

Curfew will, however, continue in Pipliamandi police station area, about 15 km from Mandsaur district headquarters, where the killing of five farmers in police firing on June 6 led to sudden escalation of violence and arson that spread to several other districts of Madhya Pradesh.

"The situation is peaceful and there are no reports of violence so far," Collector OP Srivastava and SP Manoj Singh said.

Chouhan, under relentless opposition attack over the farmers' stir, broke his fast about a day-and-half into it with a glass of coconut water offered by former MP chief minister Kailash Joshi.

"Peace has been restored in MP and no case of violence has been reported yesterday and today," Chouhan said before ending his fast.

"In a state where agriculture has flourished, it is impossible that farmers would indulge in violence on such a scale. While any pain to farmers is unacceptable, those who have engaged in incendiary activities will be severely dealt with.

"Those whose properties have been damaged will be compensated, but it will be investigated who were behind

this violence. I began this fast in accordance with 'Rashtra dharma' (duty towards the nation) as in the name of farmers' agitation some people created a situation that caused me worry," he said.

BJP leaders have been accusing the Congress party of having stoked the agitation.

On being asked whether he had agreed to the demand for loan waiver, Chouhan, however, avoided a direct reply, maintaining he had told the farmers what he had to say.

During his fast, Chouhan had met 15 delegations of small farmers and 236 of big cultivators.

BJP's state unit president Nandkumar Singh Chauhan claimed the family members of those killed in Tuesday's police firing had yesterday met Chouhan and requested him to call off his fast. The kin of four out of five men killed in firing had met Chouhan at the fast venue.

BJP general secretary Kailash Vijaywargiya claimed the farmers requested Chouhan to end his fast and even said they were ready to withdraw the agitation.

Before ending his 28-hour fast, Chouhan announced a slew of measures for the benefit of farmers and declared purchase of any farm produce below the minimum support price (MSP) will be treated as crime.

"Any purchase of farm produce below the MSP declared by the Centre would be considered a criminal act in MP," Chouhan told a gathering at BHEL's Dussehra Maidan here, the venue of his fast. He said agricultural land would now be acquired only with the consent of farmers concerned.

He said 'Kisan Bazaar' would be set up in all municipal areas and a cooperative institution on the lines of the Amul Dairy Cooperatives of Gujarat will be set up across the state.

The chief minister said the government was in the process of setting up a Rs 1,000-crore Price Stabilisation Fund to purchase farm produce at the MSP.

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NSCN(IM) forgives Khaplang for his “political mistakes”

**KOHIMA, JUN 11 (PTI):** The NSCN (IM) today said it had forgiven late NSCN(K) supremo S S Khaplang for all his alleged political mistakes. “We have forgiven S S Khaplang for all the political mistakes and crimes he had committed, however grave they may be”, NSCN-IM general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah said in a statement here. “Based on the declaration made by our former chairman late Isak Chishi Swu on forgiveness and reconciliation, we have forgiven Khaplang,” he said. He consoled the bereaved family. Various Naga political groups, Lok Sabha MP Neiphiu Rio, Naga tribal organisations and political parties in the state have mourned Khaplang’s death.

Challenging reservations many hold against reservations

**PRAGATI THAPA**  
Many young girls and boys would be surprised if I told them that reservations were introduced in the Constitution of India to “address the historic oppression, inequality and discrimination” faced by the members of some communities. I say this because unfortunately for our generation, we are only introduced to reservation when one of our classmates has a lower cut off or another gets the job that we feel we deserved more. This somehow comes in the way of our freshly baked understanding of equality. I mean, if we received the same education as them why should they have it easier, right? After questioning a lot of friends about this issue, it became apparent that most felt that reservation is not being utilized appropriately because they looked at it only from an economic perspective. If an ST family

had the resources to send their child to the same best school, that is proof that they do not need reservation anymore, right? But, let’s go back and understand why reservations were created in the first place. It was They were not created to make these communities economically independent, but to uplift every aspect of their lives, to compensate for all the times they weren’t allowed to step into our houses and all the times we assumed they were uncivilized. It was to create an environment where these communities are socially accepted assimilated. Now, I don’t know how far reservations have succeeded, but condemning them only on the basis of the few financially strong members we see is not justified. What we don’t know is that there is an ocean of difference between the general community and the reserved



community. For most of them, their parents are were first generation college graduates. Of course, this is also true for economically poor backward communities but for different reasons. They were denied access and opportunities because of the oppression they faced and the social stigma hierarchies attached to it. Also , for the scheduled castes, their positions in society were such that ideas of education and doing anything outside of menial jobs were

unheard of. For the scheduled tribes, they had to change their lifestyles and adapt to the society that the majority had created. Reservation is only one of the ways in which we can make this transition easier. Most youngsters feel that a possible solution to reducing their feeling of resentment towards this policy could be to carve out a creamy layer within these communities. A petition asking the Supreme Court to look into this matter said that: “Ninety nine percent castes have not benefited at all during the last 64 years of the reservation policy. Rather, it has resulted in creation of a vested interest class among the SCs and STs which are behaving like upper castes with extremely backward Dalit communities.” This perfectly sums up the problem that resonates with all the young minds today. In fact, the Parliament should consider it as a simple

piece of legislation can save the unity of the country from disintegrating. Also, when we talk of reservation we often only talk about the communities closest to us but it is imperative to understand the conditions of these communities throughout the country. The suicide of Rohit Vemula , the Una incident and various others are still continuing proof that we have not been able to create an equal society. Gujarat even reported a five-fold jump in crimes against Dalits in 2015. As a society, we clearly have a long way to go and hence calling reservations a “sham” only because you feel victimized by it is hindering the creation of a society that Ambedkar and million others initially dreamed of. [The writer, a resident of Gangtok, passed her class XII boards some weeks ago and is now hoping to secure a berth in the B.Com. course offered at Delhi University]

Requests falling on deaf ears, Champasari residents spend Sunday repairing road themselves



**SAURABH RAI SILGURI, 11 JUNE:** Residents of Champasari Gram Panchayat Unit today took upon themselves to repair the deplorable road

leading to Sishabari Village near Milan More after repeated pleas to the government and municipal fell on deaf ears. A social organization, Sishabari Kalyan Samity led the repair works

with the villagers investing both time and labor. According to a member of the Sishabari Kalyan Samity, the villagers repaired one kilometer stretch of the road today.

Many minor accidents have taken place on this road and with the monsoon fast approaching the residents know that this is temporary solution to prevent potholes turning

into lakes. The people have demanded immediate sanctioning of Sishabari arterial road to a metal road and have urged the concerned department to take action.



Menla Ethenpa is new SFA president

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 JUNE:** Sikkim Football Association held their annual general meeting at Football House here today. 41 members of the association attended the meeting and cast votes to elect the new president and general secretary, a press release from the association informs. The election was conducted by SFA chairpersons R. Ongmu, Chung Chung Bhutia and Susan Lachungpa who are also the members of SFA Election Commission along with Deputy Director of Sports and Youth Affairs Department, CL Rai and Sikkim Olympic Association treasurer, Dawa Tamang. Menla Ethenpa was elected the new president of SFA.

Football Federation as its Deputy Chairman, Competition Committee and we all hope that this will be a turning point for Sikkim Football,” SFA member, Shyam Pradhan, said. Mr Ethenpa is presently a member of the newly formed Indian Football Development Board constituted by AIFF. Nanga Tshering Bhutia was elected as the General Secretary of the association.



GRAND OFFER RAMOLA CELLULAR LALL MARKET ROAD GANGTOK

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IMI Dr R.S. Tolia Award 2017: Call for Nominations Open

The Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), a pan Himalayan civil society initiative working for sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and ensuring prosperity of the people in the region, has announced the Dr R.S. Tolia Award for 2017 in memory of its founding President Dr R.S. Tolia who passed away on 6th December 2016. Dr R.S. Tolia, IAS (Retd.) was the former Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand. He also served as the first Information Commissioner of Uttarakhand. In addition to being the top administrator in the state, he was a staunch advocate for holistic mountain development that must be rooted in the mountains. Throughout his lifetime, Dr Tolia was committed to the cause of development of the Indian mountain systems and communities. His vision and commitment for the formation of a pan-Indian mountain movement not only unified diverse mountain states of India but also inspired others. In the spirit of unifying committed individuals and institutions for integrated action for the mountains of India, Dr Tolia conceptualised the idea of IMI, got like-minded people on board and led it from the front as its founding President. His deep understanding of the links among people, cultures, livelihoods and mountain environment influenced a generation of researchers, organizations and policymakers. He was a true mountain person and believed that there must be safe, sustainable and equitable mountain development. IMI has instituted the Award for encouraging passionate individuals to carry forward the cause of integrated mountain development. The purpose of the award is to recognize and reward the exemplary work of individuals whose work has created an impact / has the potential to impact sustainable prosperity and well-being of the people of the Mountain states in India. In exceptional cases organizations will also be considered for the Award. The value of the Award is Rs. 1 lakh cash, citation and a medallion. A jury with eminent persons working for social development in the country has been appointed to carry the selection process for the award. The call for nomination is now open and applications will be accepted till 30 June 2017. The details and the nomination form can be viewed on the organisation’s website: <http://inmi.in/get-involved/dr-r-s-tolia-award-2017/> Interested individuals/organisations can download the nomination form and send in their application along with a recent CV by 30th June 2017 to [pd.imi@inmi.in](mailto:pd.imi@inmi.in).

KUSTE SHEGU



The Kuste Shegu of our beloved mother Late SANGAY DOMA BHUTIA (Dokham Anyola) of Central Park, Namchi South Sikkim who Left for heavenly abode on 30th April 2017 falls on 16th June 2017. All the relatives , friends and well wishes are requested to join us for offering prayers at our resident at our residence at Central Park, Namchi, South Sikkim. We would also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all those who supported the family at the time of bereavement. **Palden Bhutia (son), Palchen Bhutia (grandson), Lezang Bhutia (grandson) Mob: 98323-25811, 85091-21459**

**ADMISSION OPEN**  
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3:15 pm Evening / 4:30 pm Evening  
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## Yellow Journalism

*This mainstreaming needs to end if free thought is to survive*

Yellow journalism, or “yellow press”, refers to an unethical, irresponsible brand of journalism given to hoaxes, altered photographs, screaming headlines, “scoops”, frauds, and endless promotions of the newspapers themselves. This term was first used in the 1890’s to describe the competition between two rival New York City newspapers, the World, and the Journal. In 1883, Joseph Pulitzer purchased the New York-based newspaper, the World. With its vivid, sensational reporting and excellent crusades against political corruption and social injustice, Pulitzer made the World, the largest newspaper circulation in the country. One of his most famous staff writers was Nellie Bly. Bly was best known for her “stunt” stories. An example of one of her “stunts” was when she pretended to be insane and committed herself to the New York Blackwell Island Asylum. When she was released after ten days, she wrote a story exposing the asylum’s poor conditions. The story sparked calls for reform from all around the US! All this is now in the domain of investigative journalism, but the brash, in-your-face style that it patented got branded yellow journalism and soon worked into its present meaning of intentionally biased reporting.

Yellow journalism, it must be borne in mind, is not about lying, anyone can challenge an obvious untruth, it is about insidious planting of stories which morph the truth to mean whatever the editor or whoever is backing/ planting the story wants projected. In that sense, Yellow Journalists are more insidious than liars. They use rhetorical tricks to make insinuations look like facts and bias look like objectivity. Yellow Journalists have figured out the tricks of the trade well. They know that one can prove anything, depending on which evidence is conveniently ignored. They frequently omit details that could ruin their story by contradicting their preordained conclusions. Such deliberate omissions are much harder to counter than other journalistic fallacies. Such journalism uses “reliable sources” and terms such as “alleged,” “possibly” and everything else in the dictionary that can save them in the courts of law to lead a reader on to believe a supposition as a fact. Most readers, actually it is mostly viewers nowadays, skip through the reports and few bother to read between the lines. When a paper decides to play dirty, this limited attention span can be exploited to its hilt. The first couple of paragraphs can be sensationalised and filled with conjecture while the “other side” can be included somewhere towards the end, tucked away in an innocuous page where the story continues. Any student of journalism would point out here that this is how a story should begin anyway, with the most interesting “angle” highlighted and centre-staged. And this is exactly why yellow journalism is so difficult to tackle. The line dividing investigative journalism from activist journalism and yellow journalism is very fine.

When it comes to the powers that be, irrespective of how much they might complain about bias, yellow suits them very well, because this is the shade which is the most pliable. Tune into the television and the news that broadcasts is disgustingly slanted, shallowly packaged as nationalist (although even that is problematic when it comes to news) and offensively dismissive of crediting the audience with any intelligence. But TV noise seems to be working when it comes to selling manufactured positions as the only self-respecting option available to citizens. And that is worrying, especially when this is backed by all arms of the State being deployed to muscle out any difference of opinion. What is being done to the Roys of NDTV is wrong and condemnable, but much worse has been done along the margins where much stronger conflicts of ideology and developmental models have been playing out. There too, yellow is being backed against B&W, and continues to infect the public domain. One hopes that the media solidarity for NDTV against the process of cleansing yellow away from journalism all over the country, especially in places where facts and unbiased analysis are most desperately required.

PRADIPTA TAPADAR

**KOLKATA, JUN 11 (PTI):** Traditional money lenders in the city for ages, the Kabuliwalas, are slowly getting lost in the bylanes of Kolkata due to mushrooming of chit funds, micro finance companies and easy banking system.

“Money lending is no longer a profitable business for us, like it used to be 25-30 years ago. Chit fund companies, easy banking system have been taking a toll on our business for last several years. Lastly demonetisation has dealt a heavy blow to our business. Now we are harassed when we ask for payment of our loans. I want to go back and settle in my own country before I die,” Omar Mansoor, a 60-year-old Afghan money lender, told PTI.

The story is same for 45-year-old Reza Khan, who will be moving back to Kabul next month, after he lost a huge amount of money in the lending business.

“Nowadays if we go to seek our payment, those who have borrowed money from us, threaten us with police and use local politicians to harass us. Most of us have gone back to Kabul,” Khan said.

The Afghans are commonly known as Kabuliwalas - people hailing from Kabul, Afghanistan- in West Bengal.

The Kabuliwalas were immortalised by Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, in his iconic short story, “Kabuliwala” in 1892.

Kabuliwalas, are known for their distinctive physical features such as tall, well built, piercing eyes and rugged faces.

Long before Afghans left their homeland to escape the Taliban oppression, the Kabuliwalas started coming to Bengal in the late 19th century and early 20th century to sell dry fruits. The profit they made by

## Opinion

# Traditional money lenders ‘Kabuliwalas’ a vanishing tribe



selling dry fruits was ploughed into the money lending business.

Soon after Independence in 1947, when the formal trade between the countries began, the Kabuliwalas found their market for dry fruits shrinking and permanently switched over the business of money lending. Many of them were licensed money lenders.

But things started changing in the 1980s, after Marwari, Punjabi and Bengali communities entered the money lending business.

With the advent of easy banking system, mushrooming of chit funds and micro finance companies, the Kabuliwalas are out of their business and struggling to make ends meet.

Such is the dismal state of Afghans in the city that the number

of Afghans have come down from 10,000 in Kolkata in 2001 to less than 1,800. A large number of them have gone back to Afghanistan after the situation improved there following the country’s first parliamentary elections in 2005.

There are only 15 Afghan kothis, or Afghan tenements left in city - where these Pathans live with others of their communities.

While some Afghans now live with their families, although most of the Kabuliwalas still prefer to keep their family in their homeland.

According to Mullah Khan, who has been in business of money lending for last five decades, says in the last decade the monthly interest charged by Afghan moneylenders has dropped from 7-8 per cent to 3-4

per cent but the cases of default are still on rise, prompting them to devise their own know-your-customer norms. But that too have been of little help.

Although many of their close friends have left for Afghanistan, there are still a few who wants to stay back in Kolkata, but have shifted to new business such as real estate and retail.

“Retail and real estate are good profit making business.

Most of us are not very educated so we won’t be able to get a job if we go back to Kabul. And my father is buried in Kolkata. I can’t leave him behind and go. We are spending a lot of money on the education of our children so that they don’t have a future like us,” Zabbar Ahmed said.

## Indian Milieu and the President

DR.PRADEEP TANDON & PROF EHSANUL HAQ

There is growing level of materialism, consumerism, degeneration of values, craze for westernised living as against the Indian culture and tradition in the generation next. In almost every country, a small minority of dominant class thrives at the cost of the masses and gap between them persists promoted by the modern technology. The Presidents has the special role to play, depending on his constructive vision to resolve the dilemma of development and the growth of binary tensions. Those who are visionary and take the spirit of development within the cultural frame of reference of Indian society would always incorporate a liberal, secular, democratic and egalitarian dimensions in their scientific approach to development with full faith in citizenship rights and liberty.

Our country cannot afford to ignore the contributions of leadership provided by the senior citizens who accumulate throughout their life-long experiences, virtues and valuable socio-political capital through various formal, as well as, informal sources of knowledge and experience and place themselves at the service of the nation throughout their life with selfless interest and abundance of dedication. It is the physical maturity coupled with social capital accumulated is needed to lead the country. A person with abundance of cultural capital of knowledge, competence, experience, skill, socio-cultural-spiritual sensitivity and attitudinally a balance of mind and constructive vision is needed to provide an appropriate direction to the process of India’s development in order to make the development sustainable to the problems the common men and women are confronted with. Providing a

constructive direction to the nation is possible only if the person has a sound base of modern knowledge in physical and natural sciences organically linked with historically evolved cultural and spiritual traditions.

The President of the country has to be a visionary personality with far greater sense of personal and social responsibility, particularly in a situation ridden with different kind of social tensions. In certain regions, for example, acute tension continues to exist between violence and the message of peace through developmental mechanism. Only if such visionary scholar-leaders with strong academic and scientific outlook and holistic approach to the nation and its diverse traditions are chosen to the highest position, the country would certainly move much faster towards an integrated, inclusive and sustainable development where everyone would get the opportunity to sow and reap the harvest of development. As soon as a person attains Presidential position, it becomes the first and the foremost priority to keep aside the personal, ideology and the carry over effect of social background factors in the pursuit of national goals.

Only a competent and visionary person with scientific approach to life can make best use of such a neutralised and value-free idea beneath the slogan, not only at the national but also at the international levels through a method of peace and non-violence which is a powerful weapon of integrating and uniting people to come together to participate in the process of development. The President of the country should have not only the national but also the international recognition for his/her scientific approach of peace and non-violence and peaceful coexistence. It is through his/

her recognition at different levels that the person at the helm of the affairs can lead the world and the international community towards a peaceful coexistence. Only the virtuous President [with virtues like vision, competence, knowledge, ability and scientific, effective and integrative approach (integrating science, technology, culture and spirituality), balance of mind and versatile personality] would be able to provide constructive leadership and protect the nation from the divisive forces of peace and non-violence.

In this sense, the President is very near to the Creator of the universe because the President and the Creator neither create nor promote social differences. They tend to cement the differences to evolve the society in an integrated whole. And therefore, a President is expected to be a visionary person and that vision is an attitudinal property which grows out of the attainment of formalised, as well as, informalised quantum of knowledge in science, socio-cultural studies and humanities. A person may gain knowledge, experience and certain vision by virtue of being in politics for a longer time but that kind of knowledge, experience and vision has neither formal basis nor rooted into the basic formal structure of knowledge. And therefore, it is important to identify who is the person with genuine academic credential with higher degree of specialisation in specific field of knowledge, particularly physical sciences and technology combined with deep cultural and spiritual understanding of Indian society.

[Dr. Pradeep Tandon is ex-Research Associate, School of International Studies, JNU; Prof Ehsanul Haq is presently Chair Professor, JMI, New Delhi, formerly Professor, Dept of Sociology, JNU, New Delhi]

## Neel Mukherjee deals with displacement, migration in new book

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** Man Booker Prize shortlisted novelist Neel Mukherjee touches upon the subjects of displacement and migration in his new book which will hit bookstores on July 6.

“A State of Freedom”, published by Penguin Random House, is a novel of multiple narratives and explores the urge to escape the life we are given for something better.

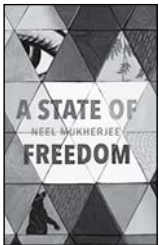
different circumstances from a domestic cook in Mumbai to a vagrant and his dancing bear, and a girl who escapes terror in her home village for a new life in the city find out the meanings of dislocation, and the desire for more.

Moving between the reality of this world and the shadow of another, the novel delivers a devastating and haunting exploration of the unquenchable human urge to strive for a different

ferent life, the book’s blurbs says.

‘A State of Freedom’ prides open the central, defining events of our century - displacement and migration - but not as you imagine them, it adds.

London-based Mukherjee is the author of two novels ‘A Life Apart’ (2010), which won the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain Award for best novel, and ‘The Lives of Others’ (2014), which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Costa Best Novel Award, and won the Encore Prize for best second novel.



## Moving story of Girmityas told through song, animation video

KUNAL DUTT

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** The painful story of ‘girmityas’ -- indentured labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, who were taken away overseas by colonial rulers to work on sugar plantations, has now come alive in a new animation video.

Titled ‘Girmitya Kantraki’, the project features a song sung by an Amsterdam-based pop artist, whose great grandfather from India was also taken away as an indentured labourer to work in Suriname, then a Dutch plantation colony.

While there have been books published and documentaries made on the subject, this is perhaps the first attempt to narrate the moving tale of ‘girmityas’ while paying tribute to their struggles, descendants of many of whom have

achieved great heights.

The project was conceived by National Award-winning filmmaker Nitin Chandra, who did extensive research on the subject including the storyboarding for the animation.

“From mid-19th century to about 1920, millions of Indians, mostly from Bihar and UP were taken as indentured labourers to various British, Dutch and French colonies.

“This video pays tribute to all those who were taken away. And, also salutes their indefatigable spirit which passed on to their descendants,” Chandra told PTI.

“In the video, Raj Mohan (artist) pays tribute to them by playing his own great grandfather, who was taken away to Suriname from Chhapra in north Bihar.

“We have chosen Bhojpuri language for the song, because these labourers mostly hailed from Bhojpuri-speaking regions, and even after being uprooted from their homeland, they preserved their language and culture,” he said.

‘Girmitya’ is a corrupt form of ‘agreement’ -- an agreement under which thousands of labourers were taken away by the colonial rulers to work in the plantations of Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.

“And, ‘Kantraki’ is the corrupt form of ‘contract’ under which these labourers were indentured through ‘arkatias’, Indian agents who would lie to them and trap them in a vicious cycle of exploitation in cahoots with the British rulers.

turn to pg05

# All 30 candidates of Super 30 cracks IIT-JEE Advanced

**PATNA, JUN 11 (PTI):** Mathematician Anand Kumar's Super 30 has once again created a record as its 30 out of 30 candidates cracked the II-JEE Advanced examination, results which were announced today.

"I am happy that my 30 out of 30 candidates have cracked II-JEE Advanced this year.. Now time has come to give Super 30 some much-needed expansion. We will now organise tests for selecting the students in different parts of the country and give all the details on the website," the Super 30 founder said.

Talking to media persons after the results, Kumar attributed his yet another success story of Super 30 to the hard work and perseverance of his students and said that its time to expand his famous 'Super 30' in the country.

Kumar's Super 30 provides free coaching along with fooding and lodging to students of underprivileged sections of the society.

Super 30 has completed its 15 years of journey during which it has sent 396 out of 450 candidates to IIT, Kumar said adding that it coached 450 candidates in 15 years, 30 candidates every year.

Among the 30 students of Super 30 who have cracked prestigious IIT-JEE Advances 2017, there



are wards of from landless farmer, egg seller, unemployed father.

There are several inspiring tales that has emerged from the Super 30 coaching institute this year too.

Be it the story of Kevlin, son of an unemployed father, or roadside egg seller's son Arbaaz Allam, a farm labourer's son Arjun or landless farmer's son Abhishek, they all stand tall having overcome the stiff odds of poverty and deprivation to make it to IIT and become an inspiration for several others like them.

Kevlin's father Deepak is unemployed. He teaches yoga to people, but still his earning is not enough to make both ends meet. But Deepak knew that the only way to get out of the life of poverty is through education.

Today, the tears of joy continue to roll down his cheeks as he sits with

mathematician Anand Kumar. "I had heard of Super 30 almost 10 years ago and since that day I dreamt of seeing my son here to realise my dream.

Today my son has realised it," Deepak said while thanking Anand for making his dream come true.

Arbaz's father sells eggs in Bihar's Biharsharif district. But he never lost heart.

He always aspired to be at the top to change the course of his life.

"Anand Sir made me feel confident about my abilities.

He boosted my confidence. Now, I think it is a matter of few years when my father will not have to sell eggs braving the chilly winds of winter nights. I will also have a house where I will live with my father and mother," said Arbaz.

Kaushlendra Kumar of Nalanda is a landless farm labourer. Today he is proud of his son Arjun Kumar and Super 30. Arjun proudly recounts how his journey from a village school devoid of even basics took him to Super 30 and now he plans to step into IIT. "It is due to programmes like Super 20 that make even students from underprivileged sections dream of IIT. Now after engineering I plan to go in for UPSC," Arjun said.

# Khaplang's death may change the insurgency theatre in NE

**ACHINTA BORAH**

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** The death of NSCN-K chief S S Khaplang may pave the way for peace talks with the hardline Naga rebel group, bringing about a possible change in the insurgency theatre in the Northeast.

77-year-old Khaplang, who had also led the United Liberation Front of Western South East Asia (UNLFW), a conglomerate of several insurgent groups, was instrumental in the recent step up in the attacks against security forces, besides running an arms racket.

He was opposed to a peace dialogue with the Centre.

While opinion is divided on how the insurgency situation will evolve in the Northeast, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said a peace dialogue with the NSCN-K is possible if the organisation gives up violence and secessionist activity.

"Khaplang was the main person who was supporting and facilitating insurgency in the Northeast and had a clout. He was a Myanmar citizen and hence there was a problem. His death will definitely have impact in the region," he told PTI.

Rijiju said the central government will rehabilitate all Indian citizens in the Naga group if they abjure violence.

"We appeal to all the Indian Nagas in the NSCN-K to surrender and return to the mainstream. We will rehabilitate them," he said.

Rijiju, however, said he cannot talk about Myanmarese citizens, who are part of the NSCN-K.

Khaplang was a Hemi Naga from Myanmar.

Executive director of the Guwahati-based Centre for Development and Peace Studies, Wasbir Hussain, said Khaplang was the most important player in the in-



sumrgy theatre in the Northeast and he abrogated the peace talks with the central government two years ago.

"His death raises questions whether his successors are more belligerent than him," he said.

Hussain said the Nagaland government had some time ago claimed that it was in touch with Khaplang to bring him back to the peace process and the rebel leader had apparently agreed to it provided the talks centered around "substantive" issues.

"Now the question is whether Khaplang's successors will keep that apparent commitment or whether the group will step up attack on the Indian state," he said.

Hussain said it will be also significant to see whether Khaplang's departure from the scene will impact the activities of the rebel umbrella United National Liberation Front of Western South East Asia.

"This is because Khaplang and the anti-talks faction of ULFA leader Padesh Baruah were the two main movers and shakers of this potent rebel platform," he said.

Editor of the Dimapur-based English daily Nagaland Page, Monalisa Changkija, said it was too early to say whether peace will re-

turn to the Northeast following the death of Khaplang.

Changkija said if the NSCN-K leadership goes into the hands of Nagas belonging to Nagaland, there is a possibility of holding peace talks.

"Why would Government of India talk to someone from Myanmar. It will take time some time to get a clear picture.

It is difficult to predict just a day after Khaplang's death as to how the situation will evolve," she said.

Khaplang, who had engineered many attacks on the security forces including the killing of 18 Army soldiers in Manipur in 2015, died on Friday at Takka in Kachin province of Myanmar.

Khaplang, along with Isak Chishi Swu and Thuingaleng Muivah, had formed the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in 1980.

However, Khaplang split and formed his own group NSCN-K in 1988 following differences with Swu and Muivah. Swu died in June 2016 in a Delhi hospital.

The faction headed by Swu and Muivah has been carrying on a peace dialogue with the central government since 1997.

Khaplang had also entered into a ceasefire agreement with the central government in 1997, but abrogated it on March 28, 2015.

The NSCN-K was involved in the killing of 18 Army soldiers in an ambush in Manipur on June 4, 2015.

Following the Manipur ambush, the Indian Army had carried out cross-border raids on NSCN-K camps located inside Myanmar killing several militants.

Subsequently in September 2015, the government declared the NSCN-K an unlawful organisation for five years.

# Echoes from the valley: Stories by Assamese women writers

**DURBA GHOSH**

**GUWAHATI, JUN 11 (PTI):** Women authors have contributed immensely in enriching modern Assamese literature and now 11 short stories by some eminent authors have been translated and compiled in a new book.

"Echoes from the Valley: Stories by Assamese Women Writers" represent evolving trends in the short story genre of modern literature and has been translated and compiled by journalist Parbina Rashid.

"After sifting through hundreds of stories, I zeroed in on these 11, not because the others were any less in terms of literary value, but because these when put together completed the picture of an intriguing culture," she says.

This anthology is an attempt to understand the evolution of women in Assamese society through the eyes of these 11 writers, starting from Sneha Devi, who wrote in the first half of the 20th century to Nirupama Borgohain, Indira Goswami followed by Arupa Patangia Kalita, Rita Chowdhury, Anuradha Sarma Pujari to young writers like Moushumi Kandali and Juri Borah Borgohain.

"Keeping the central theme as woman and her struggle, both within and without, these stories have managed to trace how

women have developed their consciousness about themselves as individuals," Rashid says.

As the restricted 'woman's space' in the family and the society has gone through a slow but gradual evolution over the years, these selected stories are put under three sub-heads to give a particular direction to that movement - mute yesterday, transitional today and abstract tomorrow.

"These stories may have been written by three generations of authors and represent several decades of socio-cultural scenario of Assam but I have tried to maintain a connection between the old and new, without the generation gap becoming too prominent," Rashid says.

'Mute yesterday' represents Assamese society from the 1950s to the 80s, a period when women paid a heavy price at the altar of customs and traditions and the stories include Sneha Devi's 'Katha aasil' (Let's Talk), Indira Goswami's 'Sanskar' (Purification) and Nirupama Borgohain's 'Midasar Tragedy' (Midas' Tragedy).

The second category, 'transitional today' focuses on the latter half of the last century when customs and traditions still played an important role but the women protagonists of this period were confident enough to protest

against injustice - both subtly and sometimes with aggression.

The stories included in this section are Rita Chowdhury's 'Aadha' (An Incomplete Story), Anuradha Sarma Pujari's 'Banphoolar Keitaman Din' as (A few days in Banphool's life), Monikuntala Bhat-tacharjya's 'Kachar Pyramid' (The Glass Pyramid) and Arupa Patangia's 'The Two Sides of the Hillcock'. The third category 'abstract tomorrow' comprises stories from 2000 onwards by young emerging writers who are not afraid to experiment with either the narrative or the subject.

The stories included in this category are Anuradha Gogoi's 'Haath' (The Hand), Moushumi Kandali's 'Kalindi Tumar Krishna Jalrakhi' (Kalindi, Your black currents), Geetali Borah's 'Darialit Jonak' (The Moonlight) and Juri Borah Borgohain's 'Parthivi' (Urge).

Asam Sahitya Sabha president and Sahitya Akademi award winning author Dhruba Jyoti Borah says the stories in the book have a universal human appeal.

Author and editor of Assamese weekly Asom Bani Dileep Chandan says the book is a testimony to the contribution of women writers to the prose genre in Assamese literature and is sure to carve its own place in the literary arena.

# Moving story of Girmitiyas told through song, animation video

**contd from pg04**

"In the video, Raj, wears an arm band, which carries the name of his great grandfather. We did the video shoot in Mumbai when he (Raj) was in India, and the setting depicts the harsh conditions they had to live in.

"But, while conceiving the project, we realised the story of girmitiyas has to be retold and capturing 1850s and 1920s, I thought it was only possible through animation," the 36-year-old filmmaker said.

At the 63rd National Film Awards, 'Mithila Makhaan', directed by Chandra, won as the Best Film in Maithili language. The Patna-born film-

maker, now based in Mumbai, says the biggest challenge was to render the emotions of the characters depicted while using animation graphics.

"People's idea of animation in India, is still very much that it a cartoon for children or that it is non-serious.

"But, we worked on reflecting the emotional contours on the faces of characters seen in the video, whether labourers climbing the ship that took them away, or their suffering while travelling through oceans," Chandra said, adding, "the animation took two months to complete".

The song's lyrics also capture the pathos of the

labourers -- 'Saat samundar paar karike, ek nava des ke sapna dekahike... le gaye dur suriname bataiye ke (Across seven seas, selling a dream to us... they took us to far away Suriname).

But, many of the descendants of indentured labourers rose high in life and became an inspiration for people.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, whose ancestors were taken away from Bihar, went on to become the first prime minister of Mauritius.

He was also a freedom fighter there and his bronze statue was unveiled by his son, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, also former prime minis-

ter of Mauritius, in Patna few years ago.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had recently attended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in honour of current Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth during his India visit. Kumar had described the ties between Bihar and Mauritius as an "emotional bond".

Raj Mohan himself has become an accomplished artist. As a singer and poet in "Sarnami-Bhojpuri language" he travels to Suriname, French Guyana, South Africa, Maritius, India and several European countries to perform.



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant





## Manu Joseph's new novel takes on 'entire system'

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** Author Manu Joseph takes on the entire system, not just politicians, the bureaucracy, law enforcement officials and lackeys, but also investigative journalists, social activists, social media champions, and the common man in his new novel.

"Miss Laila, Armed and Dangerous" will be published under HarperCollins' Fourth Estate imprint in September.

The novel begins with a building collapse in Mumbai. In the debris is a man who is mumbling something in delirium.

It appears that he is passing on the real-time movements of a young Muslim couple. Elsewhere, a young intelligence agent is assigned to shadow two terror suspects, one of whom is a teenager and the sweetheart of her street, Laila.

Taking up a slice of recent history that is replete with social, political, communal and gender tension, Manu proceeds to lampoon the entire system, the book's blurb says.

"Miss Laila, Armed and Dangerous" is pervasive in its satire, wicked in its humour, broad-based in its canvas but

bitingly particular in pithy aphorismic dismissals of the signposts of 21st century India.

Udayan Mitra, Publisher (Literary) at HarperCollins India, says "Miss Laila, Armed and Dangerous" is at once a desperately brave, and wildly, uproariously funny book that could only have come from Joseph's pen.

"People will be talking about and debating over Miss Laila for a long time; we at HarperCollins India are thrilled to bring this terrific book to readers," he says.

Says Joseph about his book, "I have come to understand that the people at HarperCollins India with whom I collaborate are not merely practical professionals but also extremely emotional and passionate, and intelligent promoters of my stories.

"I am sure they are as passionate about all the books they publish but I can only speak of what I have seen first-hand. I feel lucky to be in their care for the third time."

Joseph's previous books "Serious Men" and "The Illicit Happiness of Other People" garnered rave reviews and won and were nominated for several national and international awards.

## Messi lords over new Bengali film on football

**KOLKATA, JUNE 11 (PTI):** Argentine football star Lionel Messi is the spirit of a new Bengali film, where the soccer wizard serves as a metaphor for Bengal's passion for the sport.

Director Ringo Banerjee explained that with the film 'Messi' he intended to capture Bengal's almost instinctive love for football reflected in the game played in every nook and corner of the state - from villages to towns to cities.

Asked how the Argentine wizard featured in the scheme of things, the director told PTI, "Messi stands for hope, aspiration, courage and dream present in the heart of every teenager."

Soumitra Chatterjee's grandson Ronodeep Bose, who was recently injured in a road accident, is the 'Messi' of his 'para' (locality) team.

The film, released on June 9, is currently running in single screens and plexes.

In every team there is a Messi who can take 30 degree instep and unfurl a kick, two popular tricks tried in para football matches by his fans, and we must document this phase of para football in a fictional format, the director explains.

"In every para foot-

ball there is a fighter who can turn around the matches at any moment and the film is all about these undiscovered little talents in the alleys of Kolkata, who are not always spotted by big clubs in the city and are finally lost," the director said.

Ringo said that there had been a very few films in the past over the subject and observed in this connection that many works of late sports journalist-turned writer Moti Nandi needed to be made into films, not just 'Striker' and 'Koni', two successful films based on the novels written by the writer.

One of the para football clubs, which takes part in the 'Para Football Tournament' of the Kolkata Police, helped arrange the live match shoots which occupy over 70 per cent of the film.

Two football-playing characters, Ronodeep and Aryann, took part in workshops supervised by coach and former first division player of the Kolkata football league.

Popular actor Prosenjit lauding the efforts of the director said, "At times the subject is more important than anything else. Not all films should be aimed at making money."

# After upset wins, Pakistan, Lanka square off for CT semis spot

**CARDIFF, JUN 11 (PTI):** Their campaigns back on track after upset wins, Pakistan and Sri Lanka face each other in their concluding Champions Trophy group match in a virtual 'quarter-final' here tomorrow.

Both the teams lost their opening matches but bounced back into reckoning after producing two of the tournament's biggest upsets so far.

Pakistan suffered a 124-run thrashing at the hands of arch-rivals and defending champions India but then notched up an upset win over world number one side South Africa to stay alive.

Sri Lanka too suffered a heavy 96-run defeat at the hands of South Africa but came up with a stunning batting show to shock India by seven wickets to place themselves in contention for a semifinal berth.

Pakistan bowlers, except for Mohammad Amir, were hammered by the top-order Indian batsmen but they made amends against South Africa whose batting line-up has several match-winners like A B de Villiers and Hashim Amla.

Left-arm spinner Imad Wasim (2/20) and paceman Hasan Ali (3/24) bowled beautifully to restrict the Proteas to a meagre 219 for 8.

Babar Azam (31 not out)



and Shoaib Malik (16 not out) got Pakistan ahead of their required run-rate to secure a 19-run win under the Duckworth-Lewis method when rain stopped play with their side 119 for three off 27 overs.

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed had attributed the win against South Africa to good bowling against a strong side and he would look for another such display against the Lankans tomorrow.

The Pakistani side also had the luxury of playing in front of

a partisan crowd in Birmingham. It is unlikely to have the same support in Cardiff tomorrow and it will have to be seen how much it impacts on the team performance.

"The crowd was supporting us and that's why the players were boosted," captain Sarfraz Khan had said after the win against the Proteas.

Sri Lanka looked pedestrian in their opening game defeat at the hands of South Africa, failing collectively in the absence of their captain Ange-

lo Mathews.

The return of Mathews seemed to have inspired the Lankans in their match against India as they pulled off a dramatic win over the defending champions who apparently had no chinks in their armour until the loss.

Set 322 to win, Sri Lanka knocked off the runs with eight balls to spare thanks to contributions from Kusal Mendis (89), Danushka Gunathilaka (76) and Mathews (52).

Both Pakistan and Sri Lan-

ka are upbeat after their upset victories and it's difficult to pick a favourite for tomorrow's match.

History, however, favours Pakistan as they have won twice as against one by Sri Lanka in Champions Trophy. Overall, in the 147 matches the two sides have played against each other, Pakistan have won 84 as against 58 by Sri Lanka. One match was tied while four games ended as 'no result'.

Most of the matches in this event have been affected by rain and if a washed out happens tomorrow, it will be a complex calculation to decide who make it to the semifinals.

The Teams (From):

Pakistan: Sarfraz Khan (capt.), Ahmed Shahzad, Azhar Ali, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Imad Wasim, Junaid Khan, Mohammed Amir, Mohammed Hafeez, Shadab Khan and Shoaib Malik.

Sri Lanka: Angelo Mathews (capt.), Upul Tharanga, Dinesh Chandimal, Niroshan Dickewalla, Chamara Kapugedara, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Thisara Perera, Sekkuge Prasanna, Nuwan Pradeep, Suranga Lakmal, Lakshan Sandakan, Lasith Malinga, Asela Gunaratne, Nuwan Kulasekara.

Match Starts 3pm IST.



## FC Pune beat Bagan to lift u-19 IFA Shield

**KOLKATA, JUN 11 (PTI):** Mohun Bagan's continued its trophy-less run as they suffered a 0-3 thrashing against FC Pune City at their home ground in the U-19 IFA Shield final, here today.

Gani Ahmed Nigam struck a brace while super sub Balkar Singh scored the third goal to hand the Indian Super League

franchise, FC Pune City's U-19 side a glorious win at Mohun Bagan ground.

The loss meant Mohun Bagan failed to win a trophy this season with the senior team finishing second best in I-League and Federation Cup.

Once a premier tournament in the Indian football calendar running into 121st

edition, the Shield has been reduced to an U-19 affair three seasons ago.

Pune's forward Gani drew the first blood from close range after being fed from the right by Omega Vanlalhrutalunga.

Minutes later, he doubled the lead from a spot kick, while some sloppy goalkeeping by Sanjay Bhattacharya saw Mo-

hun Bagan concede a third with the ball going in between his legs.

Coached by Spanish coach Roger Lamesa Grau, Pune showed fine promise with Gani leading from the front with four goals from five matches en route to winning their second title in two months. They won the Goa Super Cup in May.

This was also their second win over Mohun Bagan, having beaten the Kolkata side in the group B league with Gani scoring the solitary goal.

Pune started off with a 1-0 win over Tata Football Academy and downed Minerva Punjab 3-1 to top the group and ousted AIF XI in shootout in the semis.

## Raj village beats summer-crisis, becomes water-sufficient

**ANBWESH ROY CHOUDHURY**

**KOLILA JOGA (RAJ), JUN 11 (PTI):** Battling water woes, a nondescript village in Rajasthan has scripted a success story from becoming parched to water sufficient, with tillers here expecting to double their income from summer crops.

Two years ago, Kolila Joga in the desert state's Alwar district was dependent on trickling government water supply and tankers to quench the thirst of its residents and livestock.

However, this time, a water harvesting project has helped this hamlet of 1,500-odd families get its name struck out from the list of water-starved habitats of the state.

In early 2016, youngsters and abled men in three shifts,

with spades and hoes, started digging everyday to a turn a tiny pond into a water body that could suffice their needs during the summers.

The efforts were soon noticed, and the district administration decided to bring their project under a state scheme for rain water harvesting.

"Earth movers and excavators were deployed and just before the monsoon, the small pond was turned into a 26-hectare water catchment area with a capacity of 7,630 cubic metres," says Hiralal Singh, Superintendent Engineer of Rajasthan Watershed Department.

Seeing the success of Kolila Joga, more villages have applied for the scheme, and these would be covered by this year-

end, he said.

Kalila Joga was one of the first villages that was brought under state's water conservation scheme Mukhyamantri the Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan (MJSa), and since its launch in 2016, 7,740 villages have been covered and 2.3 lakh works have been completed, including restoration of 'baolis' - historic step-wells.

"The catchment has allowed double cropping. This was unthinkable before. Farming has increased by 30 per cent and we expect our earnings to grow by 60 to 80 per cent," says village sarpanch Bhup Singh.

"Not only is our village safe from drought, but it has also stopped the migration in

the summers," he says, adding farmers and youngsters stayed back to grow bajra and wheat.

Helping recharge ground water and the villages 10 tube-wells throughout the year, the pond, Meena says, has saved her from walking miles everyday to get potable water.

"There is enough water to last us till the monsoon arrives," she says.

Rajasthan by 2020, plans to built water conservation structures, tanks, catchment areas and check dams, and undertake de-silting of large water bodies in 21,000 villages under the MJSa.

Officials said none of the villages covered till now have reported "severe water crisis or drought situation".

However, Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje feels it will take a dedicated state machinery to achieve the target.

"Despite Rajasthan being dry and its geography posing multiple challenges to agriculture, the results have been good. But there is much more to be done," she said.

The scheme was launched the same year Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for water conservation in villages to thwart drought.

"Rajasthan has had its share of droughts and agrarian problems. But schemes like MJSa and summits like Rajasthan Global Agritech Meet has drawn more investments, public and private, into the agriculture sector," she said.

# Kashmir's lone museum opens for public

**SRINAGAR, JUN 11 (PTI):** Kashmir's lone Shri Pratap Singh museum is a treasure trove for art lovers, history enthusiasts and curious minds as it houses rare artifacts and items of historical significance, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the state.

Situated on the banks of river Jhelum in Lal Mandi area of the summer capital here, the museum was established in 1898 AD by then Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Pratap Singh, in his summer guest house, largely based on collections transferred from the state "Toshkhana" (palace treasury).

A century later, the museum got a new building adjacent to the old one.

Though it has not been completed yet, the museum was thrown open for public recently owing to widespread demands from different quarters.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid in 2008 by then chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and the construc-



tion project was handed over to the Police Housing Corporation (PHC), which was scheduled to complete it in two years' time.

Approximately 80,000 artifacts and objects ranging from archaeological items, sculptures, numismatics items, decorative art, weapons, paintings, anthropological and natural history items and textiles are housed in the museum.

The three-storey building has 10 major galleries archaeology, numismatic, decorative art, jewellery, culture and society, arms and armoury, textile, painting, manuscript and natural history.

It provides a multi-layered history of the cultural heritage of the state.

The ground floor exhibits the antiquity of a man in Kashmir followed by the developments that gave rise to the settlements around 5,000 years ago.

"The work of art in terracotta, as old as second century BC, stone and bronze showcases the archaeological development and the vastness of the cultural heritage of the state, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir, Mohammad Shafi Zahid told PTI.

Zahid said the new

museum complex is designed in a way that a visitor starts his journey of Kashmir's history corresponding to the start of 5,000 years.

The visitor then follows the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and other eras.

"The archaeological gallery narrates the history of a man in Kashmir from around two million years down up to 5,000 (BP-before present) when he settled down and built villages to introduce farming for sustenance and invented arts and crafts.

"The terracotta gallery is exhibiting the works of art from first to eighth centuries that mostly remained associated with the Buddhist faith in Kashmir," he said.

The director said the museum has sculptures of various Hindu deities from eighth, ninth and tenth centuries, carved in single stones.

The bronze sculptures from ninth century exhibited in the museum belong to various religions.

The numismatic gallery in the museum has been arranged in a way that shows a visitor the evolutionary development of coins starting from third century BC.

"P u n c h - m a r k e d coins, Greek-era silver coins, Mughal, Afghan and Dogra-era coins are on display in the museum and narrate the evolution of currency at different stages along with the political and economic situation of the country," he said.

The museum, the director said, has one of the richest artifact collections in India.

"There are many unique and rare collections in the museum. For instance, the Gilgit manuscripts with painted covers of the seventh century regarding Buddhism, a rare bilingual birch bark document in Sharda and Persian of the 16th century relating to the purchase of land and a copy of Shahnamah Firdausi (world's longest epic poem written by a

single poet), he said.

Zahid said while most of the galleries have been transferred to the new complex, there are some like the painting, manuscripts and natural history galleries which are still housed in the old building.

"Once the construction is over, we will shift all of the items to the new building which offers healthy environment for prolonging the life of the collections," the official said.

The new building has large open spaced reserves and new display techniques for dissemination of knowledge.

"The new complex is disabled-friendly, has children's discovery rooms, auditorium and a seminar hall. The museum also provides guided tours to the visitors," he said.

The director said while there was some damage to the organic items like paper-machie in the 2014 floods, the inorganic items are completely safe.

## 10.52 lakh bogus PAN cards cannot be termed miniscule number to harm economy

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** As many as 10.52 lakh "bogus" PAN cards of individual income tax assesses, which is around 0.4 per cent of the total such documents, cannot be termed a "minuscule" number to harm the country's economy, the Supreme Court has said.

The apex court said that it has come on record that 11.35 lakh duplicate or fraudulent permanent account numbers have been detected and out of these, 10.52 lakh cases pertain to individual assesses.

It made the observations in a 157-page judgement while upholding the validity of section 139AA of the Income Tax Act making Aadhaar mandatory for allotment of PAN cards and filing of tax returns.

The court, however, put a partial stay on its implementation till its Constitution Bench addressed the larger issue of right to privacy related to Aadhaar.

Section 139AA of the Act provides for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar or enrolment ID of Aadhaar application form for filing of income tax returns and making application for allotment of PAN with effect from July 1 this year.

"It was sought to be argued (by the petitioners) that persons found with duplicate/bogus PAN cards are hardly 0.4 per cent and, therefore, there was no need to have such a provision," a bench headed by Justice A K Sikri said on Friday.

"We cannot go by percentage figures. The absolute number of such cases is 10.52 lakh, which figure, by no means, can be termed as minuscule to harm the economy and create adverse effect on the nation," the bench, also comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, said.



Passengers were evacuated from a UK-bound plane via emergency slides after concerns over an onboard conversation that included "terrorist content". The easyJet flight from Slovenia diverted to Germany where it made an unscheduled landing on Saturday evening. A backpack was later blown up and a witness said two men were led away from the aircraft in handcuffs. Reports later said a third man had been detained. German police said passengers reported the men had been having a discussion that included "terrorist content". Some 151 passengers left flight EYZ3246 on the emergency slides after "the pilot had been informed about a suspicious conversation on board". After being evacuated, passengers were taken to a gate to be checked by police and the airport said experts had "blown up" a piece of luggage.

## Exit from Jharia coal belt to cost railways Rs 2,500 crore

**NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):** The Indian Railways is staring at a possible loss of over Rs 2,500 crore annually due to imminent closure of the 41-km long line between Chandrapura and Dhanbad as the land around the section in Jharia coalfields has started caving in due to underground fire.

Rail traffic on the section will be completely suspended from June 15. The closure of the section in Jharkhand will affect the daily movement of 37 passenger and freight trains resulting in a loss of about Rs 7 crore a day.

Jharia, one of India's biggest coalfields is estimated to have nearly 80 cases of underground fire since 1916.

According to experts, unsafe and illegal mining has led to fire in coal deposits under the surface of the Jharia coalfields. The continuous fire now pose a serious risk to the population living in the area and a threat to rail transport.

The Director General of Mining Safety has stated in its reports that land around the coalfield has finally started caving in and public utility assets

including the age-old railway tracks are no longer safe now.

The PMO held a meeting last month with officials from the Railway Ministry, the Coal Ministry, the Jharkhand government and other ministries concerned to take stock of the situation and in principle it was agreed upon to shift all utilities and railway line from the affected area.

"We have been asked to consider the exit plan from Jharia coalbelt to draw up its diversion path for the Dhanbad-Chandrapura line," said a senior Railway Ministry official who attended the meeting.

The meeting chaired by Nripendra Mishra, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, was also attended by senior officials from the Geological Survey of India and NITI Aayog to discuss the action plan to divert the double line from the area.

Besides the goods trains that carry excavated coal from the mines, the affected 37 pairs of daily train services some of the important trains include the Howrah-Ranchi Shatabdi Express, Patna-Ranchi Janshatab-

di Express, Dhanbad-Pataliputra Express, Hatia-Gorakhpur Maurya Express, and Dhanbad-Alappuzha Express.

There are a number of problems associated with the task of closing down the Dhanbad-Chandrapura line, said the official.

Drawing out a completely new line entails acquiring of land, ensuring alignment with the existing network, setting up rail tracks and station infrastructure which will take a minimum of three years.

Though multiple committees and expert groups have advised the government ways to douse the underground fires since nationalisation of mines began in 1971, only around 10 fires out of 80 have been extinguished using different methods.

Railways is also mulling the possibility of keeping the track alive by mitigating fire-related circumstances at the most vulnerable points by pushing nitrogen foam mixed with water through boreholes in affected mines; filling up of cavities with sand and mud to cut-off oxygen supply and sprinkling water to lower temperatures.

Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner A Dodge has said that he had received a letter from the PMO in this regard and a meeting with the Dhanbad divisional rail manager and other officials would be held soon to chalk out the further course of action.

Executive director (civil engineer) of the railway board, Anil Kumar Lahoti, had written to the General Manager of the East Central Railway, D K Gayen, for the closure of the railway line due to coal mines fire and subsidence in Jharia coalfield.

Lahoti, in his letter, said the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) had submitted a report on the railway line, saying a 14-km stretch of the total 38 km track was the "most dangerous" due to the underground mines fire.

"So, having considered DGMS' reports based on inspection and study, the (Railway) board has decided to stop operation of passengers and goods traffic with effect from June 15. So take immediate and necessary action accordingly," the letter said.

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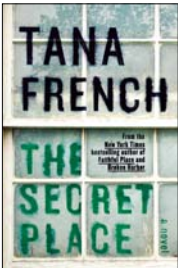
**FLAT FOR RENT:** 2BHK including toilet-bathroom, located above Accountant General's quarters, Development Area. Contact **9734764711** for details.



HOLLYWOOD HIKE: Singer Joe Jonas and Game of Thrones star, Sophie Turner donned matching Under Armour athletic wear during a romantic hike in Hollywood.

THE SECRET PLACE BY TANA FRENCH

The Secret Place, the fifth installation in Tana French's Dublin Murder Squad series is by far our favorite French mystery. A French mystery has a certain ingredient many lack, which is interesting and exhilarating descriptive passages! Plus, we love French's take on

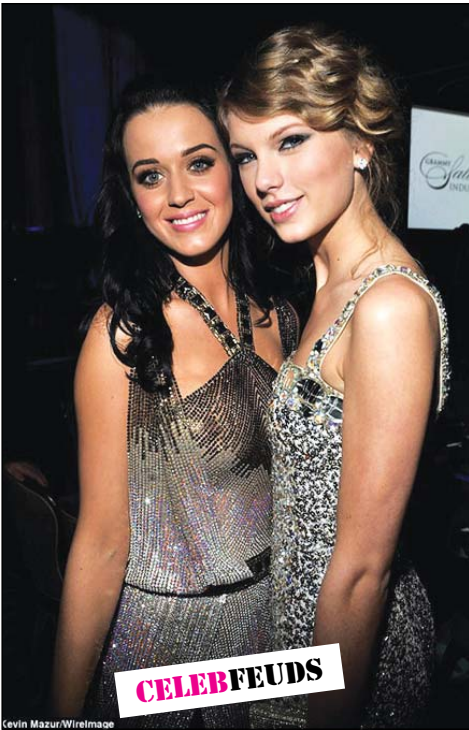


BOOK OF THE WEEK

the world of teenage girls. A boy was found dead over a year ago at a girls' boarding school in the suburbs of Dublin with the caption: I KNOW WHO KILLED HIM. One morning, 16-year old Holly Mackey brings detective Stephen Moran a board called, "The Secret Place," which is a safe haven where students can pin their secrets anonymously. With the addition of a pin, which alludes to the

boy's death, it seems that every clue, which is discovered leads Detective Moran to Holly's group of friends and family. Soon, the underground and secretive world of girls is exposed and proves to be far more obscure and cruel than expected. Without a doubt French has mastered the politics of being a teenage girl. If YA lit is not your thing, but if you love mysteries and thrillers, you will revel in French's haunting study of the crazy, complicated, borderline obsessive and interesting world of friendship and loyalty in the realm of teenage girls.

KATY PERRY 'FORGIVES' LONGTIME POP RIVAL TAYLOR SWIFT AND SAYS SHE 'LOVES HER'



Katy Perry announced she wants to finally end her three-year feud with pop rival Taylor Swift during her promotional 'Witness World Wide' livestream on Saturday. 'I am ready to let it go!' the 32-year-old Swish Swish songstress told Thrive Global Podcast's Arianna Huffington before breaking into the 2013 Disney anthem. 'I forgive, I forgive, I forgive her and I'm sorry for anything I ever did, and I hope the same from her.'

The 13-time Grammy nominee continued: 'I think it's time. There are bigger fish to fry, and there are real problems in the world. You know what I'm saying? And I love her, and I want the best for her. And I think she's a fantastic songwriter.'

Katy - whose parents are Pentecostal pastors - went on to bless the 27-year-old 10-time Grammy winner 'on her journey.' 'If we, both her and I, can be representatives of strong women that come together despite their differences, I think the whole world is going to go like, "Yeah, well we can do this,"

Perry (born Katheryn Hudson) mused. 'I don't know. Like maybe I don't agree with everything she does and she doesn't agree with everything I do, but I just really truly want to come together in a place of love and forgiveness and understanding and compassion.' The Bon Appetit belter's frenemy frustration was rehashed, yet again, because Taylor decided to release her entire back catalogue to all streaming services the same day as her new record. Katy-Cats and Swifties battled over Twitter about whether the I Don't Want to Live Forever singer's move was designed to upstage the release of the buzzcut blonde's fifth studio album Witness. According to TMZ, their 'Bad Blood' stemmed from three of Swift's back-up dancers quitting her Red Tour in 2014 to join Perry's Prismatic World Tour. Taylor went on to complain about a 'straight-up enemy' pop star in her Rolling Stone cover interview that September. 'She did something so horrible,' the This is What You Came

For songwriter said without naming names. 'I was like, "Oh, we're just straight-up enemies." And it wasn't even about a guy! It had to do with business. She basically tried to sabotage an entire arena tour. She tried to hire a bunch of people out from under me.' Shortly after, Katy tweeted a Mean Girls reference: 'Watch out for the Regina George in sheep's clothing.'

The Chained to the Rhythm singer will next headline the UK's Glastonbury Festival in Pilton on June 24 alongside the Foo Fighters, Run the Jewels, and The National. Meanwhile, Swift warned the Super Saturday Night audience inside Houston's Club Nomadic back on February 4: 'I'm only doing one show in 2017, and as far as I know, this is that show.'



12TH JUNE WORLD HISTORY

1429: Joan of Arc led the French Army to successfully capture the English Commander, William de la Pole, during the Battle of Jargeau in the Hundred Year's War 1550: King Gustav I of Sweden founded the city of Helsinki. The city, which is currently the capital of Finland, was a part of Sweden at that time 1843: Sir David Gill, a Scottish astronomer known for measuring astronomical distances, was born on this day 1942: On her 13th birthday this day, Anne Frank received a diary. She wrote her experiences in it during the German occupation of Netherlands in the World War II which later was released posthumously after her death titled 'The Diary of a Young Girl' 1964: Anti-apartheid leader

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of 'sabotage' in South Africa 1994: World's largest twin-jet Boeing 777 made its first slight INDIAN HISTORY 1761: Balaji Bajirao (Nana Saheb), the third Peshwa of the Maratha Empire died after losing in the Battle of Panipat. 1894: Basushottam Vishwanath Bapat, internationally famed Pali language expert, translator, and editor, was born. 1952: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly decided to terminate hereditary monarchy. 1960: In New Delhi, 783 Sikhs were arrested while demonstrating for an independent Sikh state.

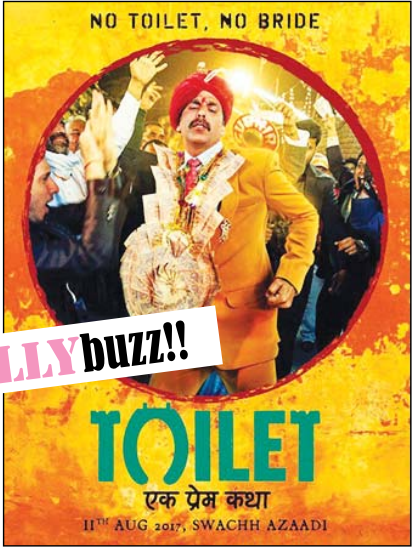
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"DUH! WELL, OF COURSE IT'S YOU AND NOT ME!"

AKSHAY KUMAR'S NEW POSTER OF TOILET: EK PREM KATHA SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Akshay Kumar's much awaited and talk-of-the-town film, Toilet: Ek Prem Katha is all set for its trailer release tomorrow. And Akshay is creating the hype as he releases posters of the film now and then. The latest poster sees him dancing the avatar of a groom, but the catch is in the caption of the poster which reads "No Toilet, No Bride"



Except for addressing the topic of open defecation, now we are made to think if the movie has anything to do with the bride dumping the groom for not providing a toilet.

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT

SCIENTISTS ARE BURYING THOUSANDS OF GREEN TEA BAGS IN SOGS TO MEASURE HOW WETLANDS FIX CARBON.

CH, THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE IT TASTE BETTER.

BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

I MADE WREN'S PEDIATRICIAN APPOINTMENT BEFORE I KNEW YOU GUYS WERE GOING TO BE OUT OF SCHOOL TODAY.

THAT'S OKAY. HAMMIE AND I WILL BE JUST FINE ON OUR OWN FOR A WHILE.

I'VE BEEN DYING TO TRY OUT THE CHAINSAW DAD GOT FOR CHRISTMAS.

RIGHT!

OOH! CRAFTS!

(GET DRESSED!)

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: You may be sensitive, Aries, but you're also persistent. The waves you've surfed in the past few weeks have only strengthened your resolve. However, you will have to be satisfied with this past period of thrills. The weeks ahead will be much quieter. Use the time to regain some control over your life and work hard to simplify your attitudes. TAURUS: Perhaps the last few weeks impressed you as one of the most intense periods yet in this year. You will certainly admit that anything related to affairs of the heart was endowed with profound and lasting meaning. It's now time for a physical and psychological rest in order to let you fully integrate your experiences. The weeks ahead offer a calm and quiet oasis. GEMINI: The day ahead will suit you, but you mustn't expect miracles. Now is a time of healing. In the weeks ahead you will restore harmony to your energies and regain your fitness with improved diet and lifestyle. Your emotional life gets an overhaul as well, as you find the courage to confront certain unsettling issues. CANCER: Yes, Cancer, you haven't finished all the cleaning up that remains in many areas. You're going to have to get your papers in order, pay off old debts, face physical or moral obligations, and fix technical problems. That's a lot of work! Fortunately, once it's done, your emotional baggage will be considerably lighter, enabling you to go farther and faster. LEO: The astral energy says there's a time for everything. We tend to repeat certain tasks we like doing, while those we dislike we try to get out of the way as quickly as possible. It seems reasonable, but the Universe reminds you that you should make as much space in your life for what you don't like as for what you do, because each task is related to the other in some way. VIRGO: Reality isn't always as exciting as you'd like it to be, Virgo. But isn't this because you interpret reality in a particular way? You rarely look at things in detail, because fundamentally, details don't interest you. But if you look around, you will discover that the details of a truly epic event are currently unfolding before your eyes. Put some new lenses in your glasses! LIBRA: The planetary energies are encouraging you to make some adjustments regarding your social ambitions. You may desire to change professions or your circle of friends. This is trickier than you might think, as the culture of your current world is an extension of you. You're drawn to what's familiar. Your natural tendency will be to go back to where you came from. SCORPIO: This planetary energy is going to test your recurring desire to go to the other side of the world or have a ready exit in any relationship. You do this so you won't feel trapped and, above all, so you won't be dependent. This is one of your strengths, Scorpio, but it's also one of your weaknesses. Throughout the next few weeks you will be pushed to involve yourself more intimately with others. SAGITTARIUS: Why do you find relationships difficult, Sagittarius? You know interactions with others help you learn and grow. This is the case for everyone. But for you, especially, relationships are important because they help keep you grounded. Too often you dream about reality rather than confront it. Today's aspects are going to insist that you make a greater effort with the people closest to you. CAPRICORN: The end of one cycle signals the beginning of a new one. Today, you will embark on a new period of understanding that harmonizes your energies. You may have taken more risks than usual lately as you exposed emotions you normally keep hidden. Did you overdo it or could you have gone even further out on that limb? You have a period of clarity ahead to think about it. AQUARIUS: Have you noticed a certain strain on your emotions, Aquarius? You're resilient, but even you have found all the recent intensity a bit too much. You can relax now. The next few weeks promise to be calmer. Sunnier skies will gradually return. Your efforts will concentrate on your love life. You know you need security and stability. If you work steadily, you will attain those goals! PISCES: The past few weeks may have seemed Earth shattering. Pisces. You may still be trembling slightly as you head into the coming weeks. Fortunately, the current astral configuration promises to be calmer, although not necessarily less intense. You will be able to apply recent decisions regarding your domestic life and finally settle some important matters.