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SummitTIMES

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

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Special training session with Pratima for TNA boxers

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

State boxing coach, Pratima Gurung, gave basic training to members of Tashi Namgyal Academy

Boxing Club on Saturday.

The recently-established boxing club at TNA has more than 200 students and has been conducting basic train-

ing for more than two months now.

Ms Gurung mentioned that she has been giving boxing demonstration and training at various schools

and places around the State to promote boxing. She is confident that this initiative will bring out promising pugilists in the near future.

Darjeeling situation tense on 53rd day of GJM shutdown

DARJEELING, AUG 6 (PTI): The situation in Darjeeling remained tense today, though no incident of violence was reported since last night.

The police and security personnel kept a strict watch on the situation on the 53rd day of the indefinite shutdown in the hills, called by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha

(GJM) over its demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

A police contingent was seen marching towards the Singhmari area in Darjeeling and going up to Patlebas, a stronghold of GJM supremo Bimal Gurung, from where a number of incidents of violence involving the GJM activists and police

have been reported in the last two months.

The GJM and the other hill parties staged a human chain protest near the Darjeeling railway station against police atrocities on their workers and to demand an immediate withdrawal of the forces from the hills.

A similar human

chain protest was also held at Sukhna near Siliguri today.

The GJM also took out rallies demanding restoration of the Internet services, which have been banned in the hills since June 18.

The participants in the rallies carried black flags and placards demanding Gorkhaland.

Heavy rainfall likely in NB dists for 5 days

KOLKATA, AUG 6 (PTI): The Met department today forecast heavy rainfall in sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal for the next five days, with the intensity likely to increase from Wednesday.

The sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Cooch-behar, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar

many receive heavy rainfall till Tuesday, the regional Met department said.

After this, the intensity would increase to very heavy rainfall in isolated places in these places of north Bengal.

The southern districts of the state in Gangetic West Bengal, which received light to moderate

precipitation in some places since yesterday, are likely to remain cloudy for the next few days with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers.

The metropolis has remained generally cloudy with one or two showers, recording 9.4 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 8.30 AM today, the weatherman said.

Vijender offers to return title, wants peace with China

MUMBAI, AUG 6 (PTI): In an act of great gesture, Vijender Singh has offered to return his WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title to Chinese Zulpikar Maimaitali in lieu of peace at the Indo-China border.

Vijender, a double champion in pro boxing, has urged India and China to maintain peace at the border.

The 31-year-old Olympic bronze medallist's grew in stature last night by not just outslugging Maimaitali in a close bout to annex the dual WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight and WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title, but by also urging for peace.

"To India-China friendship (I dedicate my title), because tension on the border is not good, because



I see on social media, news, it keeps getting on and on and that's not good. I give this title to peo-

ple, peace, it's all about friendship, Hindi-Chini bhai bhai," Vijender said during a media interaction.

Vijender's comments came in the backdrop of the stand-off between India and China.

He won the thrilling 10-round bout by one of the closest unanimous decisions 96-93 95-94 95-94 to maintain his unbeaten streak at the professional boxing.

The bonhomie between the two boxers was evident as Zulpikar hugged Vijender and made him wear his cap. Vijender also returned the gesture by offering his belt to the Chinese boxer.

Vijender said, "He (Zulpikar) gave me that cap, he said I asked him for the cap and he gave it to me, I simply gave him the belt but he couldn't understand it."

The Beijing Games bronze med-

allist admitted that he did not expect the fight to go down the wire.

"The fight was really good, I didn't expect (it will go all the way), it was 10 rounds, at times the Chinese products last a little long, it was an amazing fight and fun! The fight was tough and a lot of blood oozed out, but finally win was ours, it was nice," he said. During the fight, the southpaw hit Vijender below the belt and the Indian said that he was disturbed by it.

"As you have seen, 3-4 times he (Zulpikar) hit below the belt and that disturbed me, that was a foul and the referee gave him a warning.

"It's painful and it disturbed your game, you have planned in the mind and when you get that

kind of below the belt punches, that distracts you. He is young kid, strong kid, but it's all about winning," said Vijender, who was floored on numerous occasions.

Asked if he was confident of winning, the Indian said, "I am a positive person and I never think of losing, it's all about scoring and rounds, the first six rounds were so good, my coach (Lee Beard) was saying it's going round to round and winning every round (was important)." Vijender also said he wants to challenge for the world championship soon.

"Just pray for me, one day I will be a world champion. I would like to thank everyone who came for this fight. It was great to see you all," he signed off.

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Premiere Screening of the Tales of Tribes

(a collection of short animated folktales, including *Nye Mayel Kyong* from Sikkim) produced by the Adivasi Arts Trust will be held at The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT).

We solicit the pleasure of your company at the Premiere Screening at NIT, Gangtok on 10th August 2017, at 2.00pm.

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Shrinivas Patil will inaugurate the ceremony as the Chief Guest



Buyer-Seller Meet under Mission Organic Value Chain Development concludes

GANGTOK, 06 AUG (IPR): The two-day Buyers Seller Meet under Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD) of the Sikkim Organic Mission wrapped up on Saturday.

The valedictory function was attended by SOM executive director, Dr S. Anbalagan, senior officials from the Horticulture Department, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO) of all the Districts of the State and six companies (buyers) from different parts of the Country.

The valedictory function had an interactive session with the producers and FPO board members, which was followed by signing of Letters of Intent (LOI) between the buyers and the FPOs in the presence of Departmental officials and RIs.

The function was organized by Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department, Government of Sikkim in co-ordination with International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA), a research institute headquartered in Bengaluru which was the knowledge partner for the two-day meet.

UNICORN (Hyderabad), NED SPICE (Kochin), ORGANIC LRM (Delhi), AVT McCormick (Kerala), E Lite (Hyderabad), and SUS AGRI (Delhi) were the six buyer companies participating in the BSM. Executives of these companies dealing with import and export of organic agriculture produce were present to participate in the deliberations and engage with the Farmer Producer Organizations of Sikkim.

Sangramis thank all for love and respect extended to departed leader

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

Sshad held a press conference today at Gangtok to thank all for their support and condolences on the passing away of SSP president, former CM, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, and to update the people on the party's future programmes.

The press briefing was addressed by SSP working president, Rajendra Upreti, and general secretary, DB Basnett.

The SSP leaders expressed the party's gratitude towards the people, organizations, State Government and Governor Shrinivas Patil for the respect and love extended towards the departed former Chief Minister.

"We thank all who came forward and paid



rich tribute to our departed leader and also attended his funeral. We will be sending out gratitude letters to the Governor, Sikkim Government, departments including Sikkim Police, organizations and associations," the SSP general secretary informed.

The party is observ-

ing a mourning period of one month during which all its political programmes have been suspended, it was further informed.

"We are presently in mourning period and the Sangram flag is flying at half-mast at our party office. There will be no political activities or com-

ments from the party till 16 Aug," said SSP working president, Rajendra Upreti.

After the official mourning period ends, the SSP will begin work on addressing the immediate issue of the vacant post of the party president and also on taking the party forward.

"We are holding discussions within the party on who will take the responsibility of the SSP president and also our future programmes," said Mr Upreti, adding, "We will hold a high level party meeting on deciding the new leadership after the mourning period ends."



Training on investigations under Forest Laws for Foresters

GANGTOK, 06 AUG (IPR): Sikkim Judicial Academy, on 05 Aug, organized a training programme on investigation of cases under the Forest Laws for officers of the Forest Department at Sikkim Judicial Academy in the High Court Premises here.

The training was attended by Block Officers, Range Officers and Divisional Forest Officers.

SJA Director, KW Bhutia, and Principal Chief Research Officer-cum-Additional Director, Sikkim Biodiversity Board, Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Usha Lachungpa were the resource persons of the programme.



22-seater bus flagged off for District Prison

NAMCHI, 06 AUG (IPR): Additional District Collector (South), Subash Rai, accompanied by Chief Medical Officer (South), Dr DS Kerongi, flagged off a 22-seater bus provided by the Home Department at the District Prison, Boomtar, on 05 Aug.

The District Prison at Boomtar was established in the year 2006 and has a capacity of accommodating 50 inmates.

The centre houses convicts and under-trial prisoners of South and West Districts. The provision of bus service for the prison will resolve transportation issues of the prison inmates who travel to and fro from Gyalshing every now and then for cases.

The prison adminis-

tration under the charge of Superintendent of District Prison, Santosh Pradhan has established a dispensary, legal aid clinic, video conferencing room for the overall welfare and benefit of the inmates residing in the prison. Further projects involve vertical extension of the building, installation of CCTV cameras in the prison premises.

Superintendent of District Prison, Santosh Pradhan, Joint Director (Agriculture Department, South Sikkim), BD Rai, Additional Superintendent of Police (South), Linda Palmo, District Child Protection Officer (South/West), Roshnila Gurung alongside staff and inmates of District Prison, Boomtar attended the inauguration function.

Mission Jyoti gathers steam in South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 06 AUG (IPR):

South District Police Department, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Integrated Child Protection Scheme of the Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department on child victim of sexual offence, drug abuse and suicide organized a daylong awareness programme on Mission Jyoti: 'Flame of Fearlessness' at Namchi Public School auditorium on 05 Aug.

Senior Superintendent of Police (South), Pratap Pradhan, Additional Superintendent of Police (South), Linda Palmo, District Child Protection Officer (South/West), Roshnila Gurung, NPS principal, Reverend Father George A.D'Souza alongside police personnel, school staff and students of NPS attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Senior SP explained the Mission Jyoti programme as a catalyst for positive change towards eradication of drug abuse, suicides and child abuse in the society. He further underlined the dire need of a robust mechanism that can help and motivate people to have a positive approach towards life.

ASP Ms Palmo who was also a resource person of the event elu-



cided the aims and objectives of Mission Jyoti through a Power-Point presentation in which she spoke about how the programme is can generate ample awareness along with campaigning on child abuse, drug abuse and suicides.

She also made the announcement of the establishment of 'Child Friendly Unit' in Namchi Police Station to create a conducive environ-

ment for victims of child abuse visiting the police station.

DCPO, ICPS Ms Gurung spoke in detail about ICPS with regard to Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. Raising concern over the higher-than-average increasing crime rate against children in the state, she provided various case studies of abuses on children and the provisions available for the aid and rehabili-

tation of the children in distress.

The DCPO also informed the gathering about Childline 1-0-9-8 service which is a 24 hour toll-free tele-help-line for suffering children and advised the children to report cases of child abuse, child labor and sexual offenses if they or their acquaintances have been victims of such crimes.

The program also saw the handing over of

a Jyoti Complaint Box which will henceforth be installed in the school to take note and resolve cases of crimes against children

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sunset: 06:20 PM

BJP-Sikkim forms forum to study funds utilization by govt depts

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has established a study forum to gather details on overall functioning and funds-utilization of each and every government department in the state.

The newly formed wing of the party plans to submit Right to Information (RTI) applications with the concerned departments and seek information for comparative analysis impact studies, authentication and check the use of funds, findings which it will then place before the public, a press release from the party informs.

The party has sought inputs for the initiative at their email id- bipsikkimunit@gmail.com, Facebook handle, thevoicebipsikkim or contact them at-03592 251198.

The party has also requested the concerned officials to provide correct and sufficient information without any prejudice.

"The information will not be based for any sort of investigation and harassment of the government servants," the party has assured.

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Tadong School SAATHI Club hosts community outreach prog

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

Tadong Senior Secondary School's 'SAATHI Club' organised a Community Outreach Programme on 05 Aug at its school premises.

Parliamentary Secretary, Human Resource and

Development Department, Shyam Pradhan attended the function as chief guest accompanied by the GMC councillors of Tadong, SAATHI Club members, School Managing Committee members, staff and students of the school.

Students of the host

school and those from Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School shared their experiences and took part in an open house discussion moderated by Jiwan Rai.

SAATHI president, Tempo Bhutia spoke on the importance of how

the community can come forward and help get rid of societal problems. The chief guest also shared his experiences and reiterated that unless everybody in the community join hands the problem of substance abuse is going to consume the entire nation.

Corporate-backed footpath inaugurated at Mamring



NAMCHI, 06 AUG (IPR): Namthang-Rataypani MLA, Tilu Gurung inaugurated a kilometre-long footpath at Mamring on 05 Aug with District Collector (South), Raj Yadav, South District Administration officials, panchayats in attendance along with the local residents.

Companies like V-Guard, Microlab, Swiss Garnier, Godrej, Zydu and Sipa contributed funds for the construction of this public footpath.

The work of developing the foot-

path was completed under the supervision of Mamring Development Society.

The companies' altogether contributed Rs 60 lakhs for the construction work along with installation of solar lights at various points along the footpath. Further extension of the footpath will be carried out very soon, it was informed.

The contributing companies were felicitated by the Mamring Development Society.



GOVERNOR MEETS CJI

GANGTOK, 06 AUG: Governor Shrinivas Patil met the Chief Justice of India, Justice JS Khehar at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi on 04 Aug and exchanged warm greetings, a press communiqué from the Raj Bhawan informs. During a brief exchange of pleasantries, the Governor invited Justice Khehar to visit Sikkim in the near future, the release adds.

I-Day football at Tashiding

YUKSAM, 06 AUG (IPR):

Two matches were played on the fourth day of the ongoing Independence Day Open Senior Boys Football Tournament at Tashiding School playground on 05Aug.

In the first match, played between Yak Football Club and Arithang



Football Club, the former emerged victorious 5-0 to progress further in the tourney.

Similarly, in the second match, KCC Football Club lost to Tashiding School (Blue

team) 0-6.

On the occasion, the fixture of Constituency Level Women's Foot-

ball Tournament was also drawn and is scheduled to begin from 07 Aug.



Role-play compt on Adolescence Education

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), under the National Population Education Programme (NPEP), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT),

New Delhi organized a district-level Role Play Competition on 'Adolescence Education' at District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) center at Gyalshing, West Sikkim on 04 Aug, a press release informs.

Eight schools from

the district participated in the competition with Sombaria Senior Secondary School emerging victorious as the district champions. Yuktom Senior Secondary School and Chumbong Secondary School came in second and

third respectively.

District Programme Coordinator, Aroona Pradhan informed that the top two place holders of the competition will represent West district in the State level competition, reads the release.



Co-curricular diversions at Phalaichadara JHS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

Phalaichadara Junior High School, as part of its co-curricular activities, organized a series of events at its school premises on 04 Aug, a press release informs.

The day began with a weekly yoga practice followed by an inter-house debate competition between Maenam House and Singbha House which was won by the former team.

A cleanliness drive

was also held later that day as a part of Swachhata Pakhwada.

Students were also taught how to make Do It Yourself (DIY) raakhis as a part of creative class, the release further informs.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Demolish Stereotypes

From celebrating a mythical event to making new introductions

Sikkim will celebrate Tendong Lho Rum Faat on Tuesday. The festival, always a very localized event, was almost lost and had become a reduced form of itself until it re-appropriated its position of significance with the declaration of a State Holiday, state-wide celebrations and revival of and patronage for the traditional worship on Mount Tendong itself. Since then, the scale of the celebration has varied, but the mood and momentum it set off, has thankfully sustained. This can be counted as one of the developments which set off the snowball of Lepcha nationalism (in a good way, and not the chest-thumping shallow machismo besetting the country at present) which has seen the community grow in confidence and pride over the past decade and a half.

This process of recovery should continue. The Lepchas need to rediscover more about themselves as a people because only then will it be possible for them to demolish the many myths created about them that even many of them had started subscribing to. Take the belief that Lepchas lack a scientific temper, for instance. What fallacy! Apart from the fact that hunter-gatherers, because of the very nature of their lifestyles, are among the richest repositories of traditional knowledge, there are also enough recent historical instances which establish the traditional 'scientific temper' that the Lepchas intuitively imbibed. At a time [in the 1840's] when the British were just discovering the botanical treasures that Sikkim contained, the Lepchas had already named all plants here and even fleshed out an exhaustive knowledge base on the virtues of every herb. The information that every Lepcha kid once grew up with could provide enough data for present-day academics to make a career out of. Their understanding of nature was so respected by the British that ever since Dr. Joseph Dalton Hooker endorsed their acumen, Lepchas became essential support staff for every botanical or anthropological expedition launched by the British in regions ranging from nearby South East Asia to distant Africa. And that brings us to the other myth that Lepchas are lost when pulled out of areas and regions they are familiar with, that they are not resourceful enough. Absolute hogwash! British documents record that the only survivors of an ill-fated mission to Congo in end-19th century were the three Lepcha "collectors" accompanying the expedition! Not only did they survive disease and violence that wiped out the rest of the expedition, they also made it back to Darjeeling! And then, the most common myth – that the Lepchas are timid and non-confrontational. The only general to defend Sikkim's frontiers successfully was a Lepcha. Till he was leading Sikkim's defences, even the numerically stronger Gurkhas could not make any substantial inroads into Sikkim. Fickleness is another character trait that is attached to the Lepcha people. One only needs to ask the State Government and power developers who have had to contend with one of the longest, most consistent, protests in State, whether this is an accurate description.

The stereotyping probably resulted from well-meaning writers trying to romanticize their introduction to the autochthons of Sikkim in a bid to attract more compassion for them. Over time, unfortunately, even the Lepchas started believing these stereotypes about themselves. They have been delivering fresh introductions of late, and the process should continue.

Indian media's treatment of Gorkhaland stir is the latest proof of the tyranny of distance

THE PHRASE 'TYRANNY OF DISTANCE' IS A TOOL FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA TO JUSTIFY THE DENIAL OF DEMOCRACY TO A LARGE MAJORITY OF INDIANS.

MONALISA CHANGKIJA

The Media Rumble, held at Delhi, on July 21 and 22, 2017, was a sort of coming face-to-face with what I assume to be some perceptions and perspectives of "mainland" India's media vis-à-vis the Northeast. The tyranny of distance was definitely evident during the Rumble - so no, it wasn't by accident that I was a panelist in the session, 'Tyranny of Distance: From Kashmir & Chhattisgarh to Northeast and the South of Vindhya', on July 21. The session wasn't what I had expected but it wasn't a disappointment either although I had hoped to say much more than what I did, and what I could. And, what I had hoped to say was not about my experience as a media person in Nagaland but draw the attention of the national media to issues confronting Nagaland, the Northeast - particularly the demand for Gorkhaland. What I had hoped to say was to introduce to the national media numerous other issues that are so much larger than insurgencies in my region - about issues that spawn insurgencies and fan the fires of insurgencies. And issues so much more than the spectacular scenic beauty of our hills and dales, or the curse of floods and landslides that visit us every monsoon, or of the deluge of illegal immigrants and few such issues the national media somehow associate the Northeast with.

I had put down my thoughts in 681 words to introduce some of the issues we feel strongly about in the Northeast, which doesn't seem to have occurred to the national media to focus on or highlight, even when it occasionally reports on insurgency-related and/or political events. You see, these do not occur in vacuums; after all, we too have centuries of history (and culture and traditions), which continue to cast their long and dark shadows over us. And when newer histories, cultures and traditions started casting their long and dark shadows simultaneously with the old, the result is an inscrutable Northeast - to the rest of the country and evidently to the national media. It is interesting, and significant, that the perceptions and perspectives of the national media à propos the Northeast is strikingly similar to that of the governments at the Centre since Independence.

This may sound like playing the victim but it is actually an assertion that the present national and international scenario demand both the central government and the national media unlearn and re-learn about the Northeast. We are not just the gateway to eastern countries for Corporate India to do business with, as envisaged by the Act East Policy ostensibly - more importantly, we are the principal theatre of India's aspirations, and necessity, to be the foremost Asian leader - and, naturally a major global power. Perhaps because of knowledge-deficit about the geography, history, politics, economics, cultures and socio-psychological profiles of this region, Northeast's import to the Indian Union is not fully comprehended therefore in-depth study and analyses of our issues have not been prioritised?

So, what did my 681-word thoughts say? Here they are:

Somebody came up with this poetic phrase - tyranny of distance - and we immured ourselves to it. It became our comfort zone from which we justified our failures to uphold the tenets of democracy, of a free, open, tolerant and forward-looking society so today we find ourselves in the most embarrassing situation of being the world's largest democracy but jostling each other to get a seat on the cart that would take us back much beyond the times when democracy and the idea of nationhood were nebulous aspirations of this nation.

The tyranny of distance is a very convenient rationalisation and validation of those in governance and the media to explain why the majority of Indians has been denied and deprived the fruits of democracy - why the majority of Indians still await our "tryst with destiny". It is the tyranny of our minds that creates distance within this country, not distance that creates this tyranny.

And so let us talk of the tyranny of economics, politics and the culture of classism and casteism that define and dictate the fundamental interface in this nation. Let us talk of the tyranny of the culture of building walls on the foundations of our belief-systems, which have set the trajectories of our economics and politics, our systems, structures and quality of governance and the biases and prejudices thereof. Let us talk of the tyranny of this culture of majoritarianism permeating into every structure and system of democracy - not least the media, which unfortunately we have reinforced and perpetuated by being followers, not leaders of thoughts, ideas, concepts, ideologies and opinions.

Let us also talk about the tyranny of ignorance of the politics, the economics, the cultures, the agony and the ecstasies of Indians living in the peripheries of the nation - and delve into the tyranny of disinterest to know us. Yes, let us talk about the tyranny of the politics and economics of our disenfranchisement, the tyranny of fringing us and the tyranny of not acknowledging our existence, our personhood. Let's talk about the tyranny of disallowing, thus disowning us from the table of governance and development. Let us talk about the tyranny of the abandonment of our peripheralised citizens to the tyranny of small town economic and political tyrants, who not surprisingly also double up as the repositories and custodians of regressive and repressive cultures, customs and traditions. Let us talk about the tyranny of the gun that threatens, kills and silences, and is empowered to rape the human spirit, brutally and repeatedly, in the name of national interest - which must necessarily make us talk of the tyranny of racism and the tyranny of corruption that breed in the polluted waters of unaddressed discrepancies and discrimination, as also in the contaminated stagnant swamps of unresolved discords.

These are some of the tyrannies that the comfort zone of the tyranny of distance distance us from - to conveniently situate our justifications for our failures to uphold the tenets of democracy, of a free, open, tolerant and forward-looking society and to enable and empower all Indians have their "trysts with destiny". If we are talking of the tyranny of distance from the geographical perspective, with the technology at our disposal today, we really have no case - unless we are now looking at creating the tyranny of technology.

All travelers, to and fro Dimapur-Kohima, are forced to divert from the highway to the byways passing through numerous little villages where no

boundaries exist between the picturesque terraced rice fields and what passes off for roads. Popping up and down like popcorn in my vehicle on these pretend-roads on my way down from Kohima the other day, while I drank in the elegantly insolent feral Nagaland, the theme of this session hit me. It then occurred to me that distance is not the tyranny but our fear, reluctance, refusal, cowardice and our lack of the courage of conviction to believe in the infinite possibilities to build roads to bridge this distance. These are the real tyrannies and tyrants we need to vanquish.

While each Northeastern state has its own set of seemingly unbridgeable "tyrannies of distance" that are so much more than the few issues we are identified and associated with by the central government and, unfortunately, the national media, perhaps at the moment what requires the national media's undivided attention is the "tyranny of distance" the movement for Gorkhaland is confronting. History, politics, economics, culture and plain common sense side with and support the movement of the people who live in the entire Darjeeling-Kalimpong-Dooars region, which history has tragically tied to the state of Bengal since Independence. Lives have been lost and life has come to a standstill because of the desire for a homeland - which must be underscored "within the Indian Union". Yet, neither the central government nor the national media has paid the attention this movement deserves. Yes, understandably, in the larger scheme of national power-politics, we the peripheralised, we the disenfranchised, do not matter but in the larger interest of the Indian Union, we the peripheralised, we the disenfranchised, must matter for we stand in the first line of fire, literally and otherwise. Perhaps, more so the desired, the demanded, Gorkhaland - a land which has no medical and engineering schools, no central university, no institutes to impart scientific knowledge and expertise to develop agriculture and allied activities - in short, a land infrastructure and human development has circumvented. A land and a people, whose desire and demand for a homeland has been reduced to a mere law and order problem, whose issues and grievances are being dealt with the gun, like all issues of the Northeastern regions are inevitably reduced to and dealt with.

It is very easy, most convenient - normal - for state political dispensations to cite "foreign hands" when their inefficiency and ineffectiveness in governance are exposed - consequently development-deficit, resulting in protests against the various dimensions of the "tyrannies of distance". It is also very normal for electoral politics to take precedence over constitutional guarantees, safeguards and obligations - for such has become the characteristic of the Indian polity. But these are the very "normals" that are the critical threats to the Indian Union - not peoples' movements and demands for homelands, which are upshots of disregarding constitutional guarantees, safeguards and obligations. India is a huge country, a nation that must continually keep its tryst with destiny, which can be done only by bridging the tyranny of distance in the form of the tyrannies of insensitivity and majoritarian machismo. The national media must rumble to vanquish these tyrannies because the small people, the little people in the country's peripheries need their voices to be amplified by and through the national media.

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How does a country become a country?

An expert explains

REBECCA RICHARDS

theconversation.com

Within the space of a week this autumn, the people of Catalonia and Kurdistan will be asked if they want to live in an independent country. If these two referendums result in declarations of independence, what happens next? It may seem straightforward that Kurdistan, Catalonia, or even both would become the world's newest countries. But it's not that simple.

International law states that people have the right to determine their own destiny, including political status. Our right of self-determination is enshrined in the UN Charter, and clarified in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This could be taken as the right to have sovereign statehood recognised by the international community. However, it's most often interpreted as the right of a population to determine how they are governed and who governs them. In other words, self-determination in today's world most often pertains to choices within an existing country rather than as a path to new statehood.

This is partly because the laws on self-determination were mostly written during the period of decolonisation. That historical context cannot be ignored when interpreting their purpose. During that time, colonial powers were taking steps towards dismantling their empires. They had become expensive to

maintain and political pressure was growing within the colonies themselves.

CREATING A COUNTRY

Another complicating factor in setting up a country is the fact that, for one territory to become a new state, another already existing sovereign state must lose some of its territory. That would violate the laws and norms of territorial integrity. These are some of the oldest and most steadfast rules underpinning the international system.

Recognition of a new state essentially means legally recognising the transfer of sovereignty over a territory from one authority to another. An international body, including the UN, cannot just take away territory without the permission of the original "host" state. To do so would be a violation of one of the defining rules of the system of states.

Kosovo, for example, declared independence from Serbia in 2008 but even to this day it doesn't have sovereign statehood - despite more than half of the UN's member states recognising its independence. This is largely because Serbia still claims sovereign control over the territory, although other factors are certainly also at play. In the same way, Iraq would have to relinquish sovereign control over territory in order for Kurdistan to become a state.

There are obvious competing and contradicting legal principles here. In at least one instance, these contradictions appear together

within the same law. Indeed, what we find is that there is no clear legal path to obtaining sovereign statehood. There is also no legally established mechanism for who determines whether a territory becomes a sovereign state. So we have to look at previous examples to work out how it's done.

The world's most recent states are South Sudan, which was recognised in 2011 and East Timor, which was recognised in 2002. In the early 1990s, there was a wave of new states due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the breakup of Yugoslavia. In 1993, Eritrea also became a state after a decades-long war with Ethiopia, which had annexed Eritrea in 1962. Prior to that, the world's new states emerged out of the shifting or collapse of empires, most notable with the end of colonialism.

For East Timor and South Sudan, and in many ways Eritrea, statehood was part of attempts to resolve another problem: violent conflict. In all three cases, the host state (Indonesia for East Timor; Sudan for South Sudan; Ethiopia for Eritrea) agreed to relinquish control of the territory as part of negotiated peace agreements.

All of these new states obtained sovereignty after the disappearance of their former sovereign power, or with the permission of their former sovereign power. What they all have in common is that they became states in order to resolve some kind of problem, meaning there was some international bene-

fit to their recognition. For the world's newest states, their recognition was more of a political act than a legally defined process.

WHEN IS A STATE RECOGNISED AS INDEPENDENT?

Although it's not clearly laid out in law, a territory essentially becomes a sovereign state when its independence is recognised by the United Nations. As the largest and most inclusive multilateral organisation, its sanctioning of sovereign statehood makes sense.

But while procedures for admitting new members are clearly laid out in the Charter and in the rules of the UN, these rules pertain to new members that are already sovereign states. Yet again there is ambiguity in the process that aspiring states must go through in order to become sovereign.

Becoming an internationally recognised sovereign country is not a clear or straightforward process. In many ways, it is determined by power and the international political climate of the day. And a surprising number of entities exist as unrecognised states, many for decades, without recognition of sovereignty.

If Catalonia or Kurdistan declare their independence this autumn, they may get sovereign statehood if their host states agree. If not, though, they could choose to declare their independence, and to exist as an unrecognised state indefinitely.

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Sikkim chess players in Siliguri for tourney

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

A 32-member team of Sikkim Chess Association is all set to represent the State at the 2nd Badal Bhattacharjee Memorial All India FIDE Rating Open Chess Tournament to be held from 06-11 August at Uttar Banga Marwari Bhawan in Siliguri.

The team members, accompanied by SCA general secretary, Mahindra Dhakal, who is also an international arbiter, left for the tourney today.

The week-long tournament is being organized by Marwari Yuva Manch, Siliguri, in association with Darjeeling District Chess Association. The tournament carries a Rs 3 lakh prize kitty.

SKM

concerned with rise in sexual crimes

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has expressed concern over the increasing numbers of sexual crimes in the State.

The party states that such incidents have been besmirching the name of Sikkim and pose a threat to the security of children and women here.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling alleges that the State government has not taken any initiative to bring these crimes under control and remains busy in publicizing that Sikkim was secure for women and children.

The party has stressed that the State government needs to take strict action to control such incidents.

The party has appealed to the concerned authorities to give justice to victims of such violence in the State.

Turuk

felicitates Best teacher and student

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

A daylong programme was hosted at the Block Administrative Centre conference hall at Turuk in South Sikkim today by the Turuk-Ramabong GPU to felicitate various personalities of the GPU for their devoted service to the people. The highlight of the programme was the handing over of the best teacher and best student of Turuk Secondary School awards. The programme was sponsored by the Turuk Ramabong GPU and had area MLA Tulsi Devi Rai present as the chief guest.

UNESCO worried about world heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railwa

KUNAL DUTT

NEW DELHI, AUG 6 (PTI):

The UNESCO has cautioned that the damage caused to the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) due to the Gorkhaland agitation may put in peril the World Heritage tag it earned in 1999.

Two prime stations Gayabari and Sonada were torched while an arson attempt was made on Elysia Building -- the headquarters of the DHR during the pro-Gorkhaland bandh that entered its 54th day today.

"The DHR heritage toy train is already very vulnerable given the natural environmental surrounding and landslide and other disaster threats it faces. And, now this social turmoil has added another layer of vulnerability to it," said Section Chief and Programme Specialist for Culture at UNESCO New Delhi Office Moe Chiba.

"We are very worried about the DHR as after the UNESCO tag, it is a heritage symbol of outstanding universal value.

And with all the damage caused to it during the strike, the World Heritage status enjoyed by it, may come up for review in the next World Her-

itage Committee meeting in 2018," she told PTI.

Indian Railways and UNESCO are currently working on preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the DHR, work on which had begun in mid-2016.

An office for the CCMP, with a team of experts, was set up in June last year in a room of the 1896-built Kurseong Station that falls midway on the 88-km-long narrow-gauge railway network between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

The ongoing agitation for a separate Gorkhaland has halted the project operation in the hill town and UNESCO has opened a temporary office for it in its headquarters premises in Delhi.

"Around June 8, the stir began in Darjeeling and we continued for a few days but finally, the situation became difficult and on June 12, we closed our CCMP project office in Kurseong.

"We evacuated our staff and asked them to go back to their hometowns and work from there and later set up a CCMP office at the UNESCO Office in Chanakyapuri," Chiba said, adding, "as soon as the area is made

accessible, our team will visit Darjeeling to assess the extent of damage caused to this World Heritage".

Delhi-based conservation architect Aishwarya Tipnis, part of the CCMP project team, said DHR was inscribed in the UNESCO list nearly 20 years ago, and it is "Asia's first industrial heritage site to earn the coveted tag".

"DHR is a complex cultural landscape, which impacts the everyday life of a large population. And, the unfortunate events of deliberate damage caused by arson attacks on Sonada, Gayabari stations and 'Elysia' brings to light an important question regarding the protection of world heritage sites in conflict situations in our country," Tipnis told PTI.

"We are very hopeful that the situation normalises soon enough," she said.

After DHR, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) and the Kalka-Shimla Railway (KSR) were successively accorded the UNESCO tag, and the three have been collectively designated as the Mountain Railways of India.

The only other railway property which enjoys the World Heritage status in India is colonial-era Victoria

Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) station in Mumbai.

"The objective of the CCMP is to provide a framework for management of the world heritage site with the various stakeholders -- the railways, local administration, civic bodies, NGOs, tour operators -- and people in general and an idea to collaboratively work towards its preservation and development by defining roles and responsibilities," Tipnis said.

According to the architect, if the DHR model of preservation goes as it is being planned, it will become a "yardstick of conservation" for various other projects in the field.

Chiba said proper guidelines will be prepared for maintenance of DHR, its vintage steam locomotives, machinery and historic stations and other buildings, and other conservation-related aspects.

Tipnis, who is a heritage consultation expert in the multi-disciplinary team said the CCMP is also preparing a conservation strategy for restoration of Ghoom Station, which house a museum.

"The work includes documentation, mapping, condition assessment

and conservation strategy. The DHR is country's pride, and a proper conservation plan will go a long way in preserving it for posterity," she said.

Set up in 1881, the DHR is administered by the Guwahati-based Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Co. remained effective until it was taken over by the Government of India on October 20, 1948.

Throughout that period, Gilanders Artbutnot & Co., one of the oldest managing houses in Calcutta, handled its financial, legal and purchasing interests, according to official website of the DHR.

Asked if the damaged stations and buildings of the DHR can be restored, Tipnis said, "Yes we have all the drawings and data and we should be able to restore them. However we need to make an assessment of the damage as soon as we can."

The indefinite strike has paralysed normal life in Darjeeling and cries for separate Gorkhaland have replaced the whistling sound of the chugging steam engines that otherwise echo through the picturesque hills and tea gardens.

SLYA establishes branch at Pachey Kyong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association (SLYA) on 05 Aug constituted a branch at Pachey Kyong under Navey-Shotak Gram Panchayat Unit in North Sikkim, a press release from the SLYA general secretary, Lobsang Chopel Lepcha informs.

"Being deprived of modern facilities like roads and proper electricity system, the village predominantly inhabited by the Lepcha community, had been facing with the problem of social,



economical, cultural and political backwardness since ages. With an objective to liberate the Lepcha community form such backwardness the educated youth of the village had taken the initiative to organize themselves under the banner of Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association," reads the release.

Chundi Lepcha, Garap Lepcha and Topgay Lepcha were elected as advisors of the newly formed branch with Neema Tshering Lepcha elected as the first president of the branch. Similarly, Mingma Tshering Lepcha and Jumthee Lepcha were elected general secretary and treasurer of

the branch respectively.

The members who were nominated as office bearers to head the newly formed Pachey Kyong branch of Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association under Navey-Shotak GPU were welcomed with khadas and made aware of the association's aims and objectives.



GANGTOK, 06 AUG: Sumiran Pradhan of Tashi Namgyal Academy and Sneeha Pradhan of Namchi Public School won gold at the 03rd Cadet National Taekwondo Championship in Agra from 04-06 Aug. The duo won the gold in mixed pair Poomsae category, a press release informs.

Christian groups deliver ration to Algarah



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

A team of United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim (UCWSS), South District committee and Namchi Prayer Fellowship distributed essential food materials at Santook Mirik in Algarah on Saturday.

The team delivered 32 bags of rice, 55 kgs of salt, 55 kgs of cooking oil and

other food items.

It is informed that distribution was also attended by Sabhasad, Kalpana Tamang.

The team has UCWCC vice-president, Rev Silash Rai, south district coordinator, Samson Khawas and vice-convenor, Pastor Jeewan Thapa along with Yanki Lepcha, Rebecca Thapa and Sumitra Rai.

Dzongu meeting coordinates preparations for Tendong Lho Rum Faat and I-Day

SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 06 AUG:

A coordination meeting was held today at Passingdang Block Administrative Centre in Dzongu, North Sikkim among the panchayats and the sub divisional officials to take stock of preparations for Tendong Lho Rum Faat and Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting was chaired by area MLA, Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, accom-



panied by Sub Divisional Magistrate (Dzongu), Tshering Dorjee Bhutia and the panchayat members. The Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration which is scheduled to be hosted at Lingdong.

The Dzongu SDM updated the meeting about the sub-divisional level Independence Day celebration at Hee-Gyathang and also took the opportunity to detail the functioning of government policies and programmes in the area.

Strength-lifters haul home 27 medals from Guwahati event

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 06 AUG:

The Sikkim Strength Lifting Association team has returned with a rich haul of 27 medals from the 24th Senior National Men and Women National Strength Lifting and Incline Bench Press Championship 2017 held from 27-30 July at Guwahati, Assam.

A 48-member SSLA team comprising of 39 men and nine women represented Sikkim at the tournament. The team was accompanied by Shradha Rasaily as the team manager.

The state team bagged six gold, six silver and 15 bronze medals and also won the title of Best Dress.

Likewise, two Sik-



kim players also set new national records in the championship.

In sub-junior category, Kalzang Sangay Bhutia set a new national record of 180 kg in hecklift, breaking previous record of 162 kg.

Likewise, Joseph Sharma set a new national record of 60 kg in bicep curling against the previous record of 52.5 kg in sub-junior category.

At a function held here at White Hall complex on Sunday, SSLA felicitated

its medal winners.

While congratulating the team, SSLA publicity secretary, Pema Wangdi, encouraged them to continue with their form and performance to do even better in upcoming competitions.

MYM Prerna members celebrate Rakshabandhan at Freedom Rehab

GANGTOK, 06 AUG: Marwari Yuva Manch, Gangtok Prerna Branch celebrated Raksha Bandhan with members of Freedom Rehabilitation Center here at Tathangchen on Sunday.

On the occasion, Prerna Branch members tied Rakhis to those at the Freedom Rehabilitation Centre. Freedom Rehabilitation Center caretaker, KC Nima expressed gratitude towards Prerna Branch.

"Everyone is overjoyed with your presence and got the love and care which they need. Want you all to visit again, and again," he said.

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Ivory skeleton for Travancore king to study anatomy

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 6 (PTI): At a time when western treatment methods were not popular here, a ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore got a human skeleton carved out of ivory to study anatomy and osteology over a century ago.

As social customs barred him from “touching” corpses and bones, Uthram Thirunal Marthanda Varma, the then King, who had a great affinity for English medicines and treatment system, got the replica of human skeleton made from ivory in 1853.

Created by a craftsman from Travancore, the skeleton, having astonishing similarity with original human skeleton and impeccable perfection in its measures, is now kept on display at the Natural History Museum on the zoo campus here.

Museum authorities say that a research is underway to ascertain the identity of the skilled craftsman who carved the ivory skeleton with “so much precision and still remains an unsung hero in the annals of history”.

The museum’s records showed that the model was “executed in 1853 by local workmen under commands of His Highness Uthram Thirunal Marthanda Varma Maharaja for scientific study”.

The younger brother of visionary King Swathy Thirunal, Uthram Thirunal, who had ruled Travancore during AD 1846-60, had a great fancy for the European style, fashion, dress, occupation, furniture, amusements, medicines and treatment system since infancy.

According to historian Malayinkeezhu Gopalakrishnan, the ivory skeleton can be viewed as a monument of the evolution and spread of the English treatment system and medicines in the tiny princely state.

It can also be viewed as a fine example of Travancore’s exemplary legacy in ivory craftsmanship which had even amused the British, he said.

No hooray in Bolt’s last hurrah! winner Gatlin booed

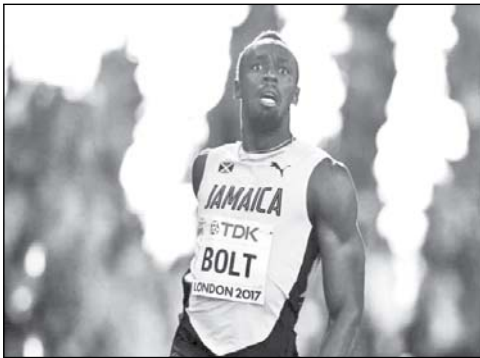
LONDON, AUG 6 (PTI): The immortalised Usain Bolt left the scene a mortal after all. When the world was about to exhaust its stock of superlatives of all manner to adorn the Jamaican sprint king, athletics’ greatest pantomime villain, Justin Gatlin, came to its ‘rescue’ by gatecrashing Bolt’s farewell competitive dash in 100m.

At the end of one of the most anticipated World Championships 100m final, the scoreboard at the Olympic Stadium flashed that Gatlin had taken gold in 9.92sec 0.02 clear of American Christian Coleman, who took silver, and Bolt who claimed bronze a further 0.01sec behind.

Albeit a bit late, it was a sort of ‘proof’ that Bolt, who have produced superhuman feats that the world had come to take for granted, is, human after all, having once prompting scientists to claim, after studies, that he ran faster than a speeding bullet train.

At the end of it, Gatlin won, was booed; Bolt did not lose: chants of ‘Usain Bolt Usain Bolt’ reverberated across the stadium as he quit a sport in peril for long.

Running in his last individual competitive race, the 30-year-old Bolt could not recover from a poor start as he crossed the finishing line in 9.95 seconds, to the stun-



ning silence of a full capacity stadium on the second day of the competitions.

Bolt, who is expected to be part of the Jamaican defence of the 4x100m relay title on August 12, was the second worse off the blocks in the eight-man field at 0.183 seconds while Coleman had the best at 0.123 seconds and Gatlin second best at 0.123 seconds.

The towering Bolt was unusually too far behind Gatlin and Coleman.

He never had a great start throughout his illustrious career, but athletics fans around the world got used to watching him close in on the more explosive starters before pulling away from them race after race for nearly a decade.

But this time, in his farewell race, the moment of

blinding light was missing.

It was not a perfect ending for Bolt, the greatest sprinter of all time, at a venue where he had won three gold medals in the 2012 Olympics as Gatlin tore apart his farewell script.

The 35-year-old American, who was banned twice early in his career for doping offences, is not among the fans’ favourites.

Bolt had never previously lost a World Championships 100m final he had started, with the only blemish being his false start in Daegu in 2011.

As he got beaten, the facial expression told everything and he was seen gesturing to the crowd that he could not win this time. Once the timings flashed at the giant scoreboard, he regained his composure and clapped towards

the crowd. He hugged Gatlin, Coleman, and then headed for a lap of honour to thank the crowd.

“This place is wonderful and I appreciate this crowd so much. It is just one of those things. Thank you to London for all your love and appreciation,” Bolt said.

“It (the atmosphere) was wonderful. I knew they would come out. I’m just disappointed I couldn’t do better for them but that’s how it goes sometimes. The support has been outstanding throughout the years.”

Talking about the poor start, Bolt said, “My start is killing me. Normally it gets better during the rounds but it didn’t come together. And that is what killed me. I felt it was there.

“It was rough. A little bit stressed. But I came out like at any other championships and I did my best. Thanks for the support. I could never expect this from any other crowd. They are what pushed me to do my best.”

Despite struggling for fitness and form in his valedictory season, Bolt had still been favourite to secure his 20th global gold. He has already won eight Olympic and 11 World Championships gold. He has been grappling with a back problem this season and had run sub-10 sec-

ond only once this year before London -- in the Monaco leg of Diamond League Meeting series on July 21.

Gatlin was booed all through the championships -- in the heat, in the semifinal and again in the final, his doping past making him the villain of a troubled sport. But, after taking his revenge on Bolt in a spectacular fashion, he, for once, put a finger to his lips.

Bolt took a lap of honour with crowd chanting ‘Usain Bolt! Usain Bolt!’ while Gatlin lied down the track. The American seemed to be laughing and crying at the same time.

After removing the running shoes, he draped himself with the American flag and quietly disappeared.

Gatlin, Olympic 100m champion in 2004 and double world champion in 2005, had served two doping bans. After his second positive test, for testosterone in 2006, he avoided a life ban after cooperating with the authorities, accepting an eight-year suspension that was reduced to four on appeal.

“It’s just so surreal right now - I jumped in the crowd and went wild. Usain has accomplished so much in our sport and inspired others like Coleman to come out and compete in the champion-

ships. Usain said ‘congratulations, you deserve it’.

And that’s from the man himself. He knows how hard I work.

Tonight was all about the W (win) and I managed to sneak it.”

On the booing he has faced during the competition, Gatlin said, “It’s not about the crowd. I tuned it out through the rounds and stayed the course. I kept my energy through the semis and came to the final to do what I do.

“The people who love me, they’re cheering for me. They’re at home cheering for me and my coaching manager is cheering for me, and that’s what I’ve been focusing on. I thought of all the things I would do if I won, and I didn’t do any of that.

“It was almost like 2004 all over again (for my Olympic title). I won by a little margin, and to be able to come across the line is amazing.”

On Bolt, he said, “We’re rivals on the track and we’ve had a rivalry on the track throughout the years but in the warm-up area we were joking and having a good time and he said to me ‘congratulations, you work hard for this, and you don’t deserve all these boos.

“So I think for all that and inspiring throughout my career he’s an amazing man.”

Blue Whale: Underground, unknown and dangerous

NEW DELHI, AUG 6 (PTI): Despite demands for a ban on a game that is believed to have pushed a 14-year-old Mumbai boy to suicide, it may not be possible to bar the Blue Whale Challenge, an Internet expert said.

The ban issue was recently raised in the Maharashtra assembly and in the Rajya Sabha by members who called for provisions to remove such games from websites.

But the Challenge is not a game that can be downloaded on a phone or a website and therefore banned, Udbhav Tiwari from Centre of Internet and Society here said.

“Since there is no application or one specific website for the challenge, it can’t really be banned -- not unless you completely ban the internet,” Tiwari told PTI.

Efforts by PTI to locate the game -- on Play Store and a series of websites -- yielded no results. The challenge can only be undertaken when its creators get in touch with would-be users.

All downloads for Blue Whale led to children’s games that require an animated whale to cross various

barriers.

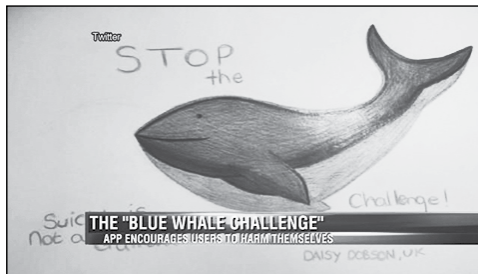
Another Blue Whale challenge game, the link for which was provided to PTI by a cyber security expert, turned out to be a positive alternative for the notorious challenge, with players being asked to take part in motivational tasks such as doing push ups. The game ends with a message telling players that their life is precious.

But the deadly Blue Whale is a 50-day-challenge, which is believed to have originated in Russia and claimed over 130 lives across Russia and the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, where it is said to be trending.

Mumbai boy Manpreet Sahani, who allegedly jumped from the terrace of his seven-storey building on July 30, could be the challenge’s first victim in India.

The game gives a task a day -- each one potentially fatal -- to the player for 50 days.

The tasks range from “carve with a razor ‘f57’ on your hand”, and “wake up at 4.20 am and watch psychedelic and scary videos that the curator sends” in the initial days, to going to the “rail



tracks at 4.20 am”, “not talking to anyone else”, and finally “jumping off a high building to take your own life” on the 50th day.

Driven by a series of hashtags connected with the game, the curators apparently spot their victims based on their posts on different online forums.

“The administrators of the challenge use different online forums to reach out to their victims. It can be Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp or any other online forum,” Tiwari said.

For instance, a journalist from NB Bishkek news (Kyrgystan) writes in a personal account on the website about registering on Instagram as a teenage girl, and then making

“a couple of naive posts, depressive photos” and specific tags.

“After a day, they knocked on my face. - Are you in Game? - Yes,” the journalist writes on NB Bishkek news.

What would make a teenager seek out this challenge in the first place? Psychiatrist Sameer Malhotra explained that they were at an “impressionable” age, where “validation from the world around” seemed imperative to them.

“For them, the external environment becomes a source of inspiration, which is why they are willing to do anything to prove/justify/live up to a certain image,” he said.

There was also an increase in risk taking behaviour during adolescence, Dr Malhotra from the Department of Mental

Health and Behavioural Sciences at Max Super Speciality Hospital here said.

“People in such situations and with such vulnerable behavioural patterns often lose control, resulting in self harm,” he said.

Those participants who might have expressed a desire to quit the “game” midway were apparently threatened.

A February report by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a US government-funded broadcasting organisation, said one of their correspondents who had signed up for the challenge as a 15-year old asked what would happen if she wanted to get out.

The curator replied, “I have all your information. They will come after you.”

Tiwari advised parents to use online tools to regulate surfing to keep an eye on children’s Internet activities.

“It’s not possible to keep children away from the internet today. The best thing to do is keep an eye on the websites they surf, the content they are looking up on Google,” he said.

Mumbai-based psychologist Harish Shetty called for “gadget hygiene”.

“There should be rationing of the gadget time by keeping a watch on what children do and don’t. Parents should ask the children to play with their hands and legs and not with their fingers,” he said.

Instagram and Facebook have come up with measures where a user is directed to a help page when they search for hashtags related to the blue whale challenge.

“Posts with words or tags you’re searching for often encourage behavior that can cause harm and even lead to death. If you’re going through something difficult, we’d like to help,” reads the page on Instagram.

It gives a user three options -- “Talk to a friend”, “Contact a helpline” and “Get tips and support”.

Investigators in the West are hoping to zero in on the people behind the game.

One of its founders is believed to be a 22-year-old Russian, Filipp Budeikin, who was arrested last November for allegedly inciting teenagers to take their lives.

He had reportedly said the challenge aimed at “cleansing society” by eliminating “people who are worthless”.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR OSTRICH EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:05/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 81C 60714

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 60714 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

000515 18656 22895 49606 66587

67592 88936 95284 98471 98514

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

03823 14833 25722 32041 56579

79548 82157 78627 90154 92501

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0087 1156 1737 3358 3965 4511 4540 5752 6717 8079

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0926 2338 3770 3876 6442 7193 7604 8428 8497 9449

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0355 0442 0475 0811 0887 1005 1193 1218 1533 1665

1709 1797 1878 1990 2011 2240 2297 2560 2612 2728

2844 2869 2884 2910 2931 3024 3040 3045 3087 3187

3320 3345 3385 3393 3501 3674 3818 3836 3920 3968

3997 4066 4173 4181 4234 4343 4423 4454 4474 4500

4801 4885 4960 4999 5057 5066 5191 5200 5201 5407

5523 5580 5718 5820 5885 5946 6108 6152 6173 6839

7059 7071 7121 7173 7204 7416 7568 7648 7772 7838

7955 8193 8287 8322 8348 8359 8489 8509 8547 8663

8670 8730 9012 9350 9381 9528 9532 9831 9849 9903

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR GENTLE

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:05/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 85H 39831

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 39831 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

13407 16798 18230 25375 28204

30808 36152 65970 77093 80011

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

25811 26159 27710 38272 45515

62431 91018 95511 96585 97730

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

2878 3693 3856 5053 5067 5869 6872 7850 8999 9591

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0415 2931 3316 4687 5129 5938 6981 7547 8653 9131

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0181 0341 0409 0644 0677 0750 0910 1115 1218 1375

1427 1583 1594 1930 1993 2001 2061 2110 2120 2238

2409 2412 2515 2700 2756 2838 3087 3090 3149 3251

3385 3567 3577 3784 3900 4052 4099 4200 4304 4608

4654 4656 4657 4809 4949 5036 5100 5136 5143 5499

5716 5809 5836 5997 6059 6105 6234 6237 6754 6894

6959 6983 6986 7228 7335 7470 7575 7905 8060 8175

8273 8451 8485 8529 8551 8576 8629 8877 8972 9002

9022 9024 9025 9054 9081 9103 9146 9314 9389 9429

9473 9480 9540 9590 9744 9775 9785 9939 9940 9943

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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PROSPECT MORNING

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:05/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92H 77632

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 77632 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

45208 48458 49930 50170 53924

65352 71611 75403 81042 86004

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

03220 19591 25124 26955 49415

59666 61013 80713 81128 84810

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0085 0139 0954 1207 1767 2086 4535 8748 8944 9234

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0352 0396 2051 2750 2892 3451 3711 4465 5293 8197

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0029 0301 0459 0494 0572 0708 0737 0819 0835 0890

0952 0973 1004 1391 1809 1818 1877 2013 2439 2671

2863 2933 2987 3053 3069 3376 3383 3413 3666 3699

3756 3772 3850 3953 3990 4057 4157 4175 4333 4396

4695 4755 4767 4802 4892 4953 5158 5394 5496 5516

5517 5636 5794 6005 6046 6049 6077 6083 6102 6117

6138 6305 6311 6453 6644 6647 6719 6737 6849 6909

6967 7115 7339 7581 7641 7722 7928 8035 8058 8120

8289 8342 8469 8664 9105 9240 9260 9371 9397 9469

9476 9487 9507 9510 9529 9761 9816 9820 9896 9976

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New Venezuela assembly fires dissenting attorney general

CARACAS, AUG 5 (AFP): A new assembly loyal to President Nicolas Maduro fired Venezuela's attorney general, a vociferous critic, in its first working session today, bolstering criticism it is acting to create a "dictatorship."

The body, the Constituent Assembly, made the sacking its first order of business since a widely condemned election a week ago. It also said the ousted chief prosecutor, Luisa Ortega, will face trial for "irregularities" while in office.

"This is not a personal, political lynching, just carrying out the law," said one of the assembly's most prominent members, Diosdado Cabello.

Earlier, dozens of soldiers had roughly barred Ortega, 59, from entering her offices, prompting her to say "this is a dictatorship." She left as a passenger on a motorbike before she could be arrested and later said she did not recognise her dismissal. Ortega was a thorn in President Nicolas Maduro's side for months, after breaking ranks with him over the legality of the Constituent Assembly.

Her sacking was widely expected, but its swiftness -- and the fact it was a unanimous vote -- showed the assembly was keen on taking aggressive, pro-government actions right out of

the gate. Mexico and Peru immediately condemned Ortega's dismissal.

Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil also took action over the new assembly, declaring Venezuela was indefinitely suspended from the South American trading bloc Mercosur for its "rupture of the democratic order."

Maduro responded in an interview with an Argentine radio station that "Venezuela will not be taken out of Mercosur -- never!"

He accused his Argentine counterpart, Mauricio Macri, of trying to impose a "blockade" on Venezuela. He also railed against US President Donald Trump's "imperialist" administration, which slapped sanctions on him over the new assembly.

America, he charged, wanted to get its hands on Venezuela's oil reserves, the largest in the world. But in Washington, Trump's national security advisor, H.R. McMaster, ruled out foreign military intervention, and said Washington did not want to give Maduro a pretext for blaming Washington for his mounting woes.

The country's economic and political crisis, he said, is "on Maduro's shoulders -- he is the one who has caused it, and he's the one who's perpetuating it."

Japan marks 72 years since Hiroshima Atomic Bomb

TOKYO, AUG 6 (AFP): Japan today marked 72 years since the world's first nuclear attack on Hiroshima, with the nation's traditional contradictions over atomic weapons again coming into focus.

The anniversary came after Japan sided last month with nuclear powers Britain, France and the US to dismiss a UN treaty banning atomic weapons, which was rejected by critics for ignoring the reality of security threats such as North Korea. Japan is the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking at the annual ceremony at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park near the ground zero, said Japan hoped to push



for a world without nuclear weapons in a way that all countries can agree.

"For us to truly pursue a world without nuclear weapons, we need participation from both nuclear-weapons and non-nuclear weapons states," Abe said in his speech at the annual ceremony.

"Our country is committed to leading the international community by encouraging both sides" to make progress toward abolishing nuclear arms, Abe added without directly referring to the UN treaty. Japanese officials have

criticised the UN Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty as deepening a divide between countries with and without nuclear arms. None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons took part in the negotiations or vote on the treaty. Japanese officials routinely argue that they abhor nuclear weapons, but the nation's defence is firmly set under the US nuclear umbrella.

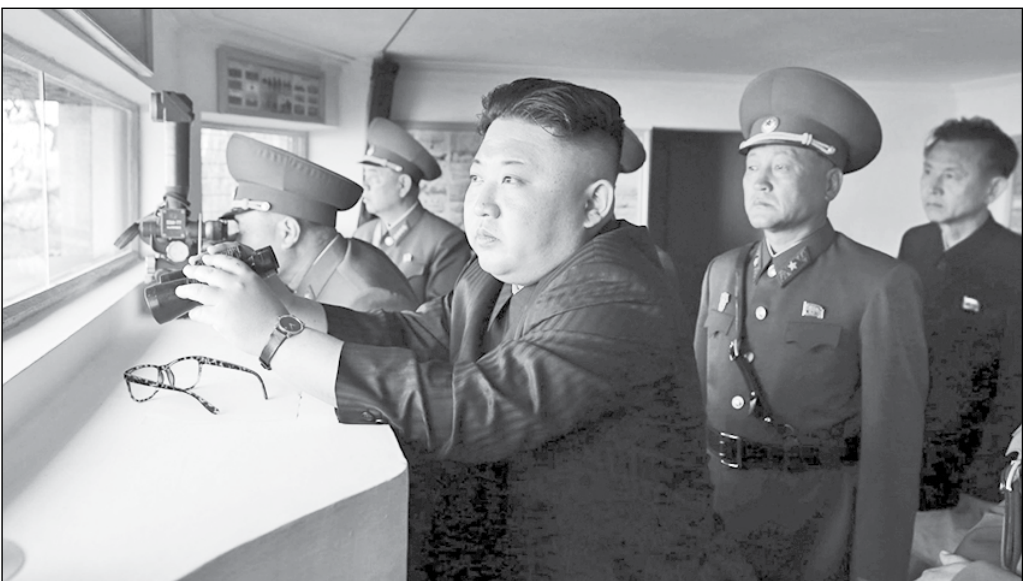
Japan suffered two nuclear attacks at the end of the World War II by the United States -- in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and in Nagasaki three days later.

The bombings claimed the lives of 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 74,000 people in Nagasaki. Some died immedi-

ately while others succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses weeks, months and years later.

Japan announced its surrender in World War II on August 15, 1945.

Many in Japan feel the attacks amount to war crimes and atrocities because they targeted civilians and due to the unprecedented destructive nature of the weapons. But many Americans believe they hastened the end of a bloody conflict, and ultimately saved lives, thus justifying the bombings. Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit Hiroshima in May last year, paying moving tribute to victims of the devastating bomb.



The UN Security Council has unanimously backed a new resolution imposing fresh sanctions on North Korea in retaliation for its controversial nuclear programme. Among the sweeping measures is an export ban aimed at depriving Pyongyang of \$1bn (£767m) in annual revenue - around a third of its export earnings. Kim Jong Un's regime will be banned from selling coal, iron and iron ore, lead and lead ore, fish and seafood. It will also be prevented from increasing the number of workers it sends overseas - whose earnings are another source of revenue for the regime. President Trump said the move would have a "very big financial impact" on the reclusive state.

UNSC adopts tougher sanctions on N Korea over missile launches

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, AUG 6 (PTI): The UN Security Council unanimously backed a US-drafted resolution to strengthen sanctions on North Korean exports in response to Pyongyang's intercontinental ballistic missile tests. The 15-member body yesterday strongly condemned North Korea's ballistic missile launches on July 3 and 28 which the country has stated were of "intercontinental" range.

The US-drafted resolution includes the strongest sanctions ever imposed in response to a North Korean ballistic missile test and targets its main exports, slashing their annual revenue by USD 1 billion.

"The Security Coun-



cil increased the penalty of North Korea's ballistic missile activity to a whole new level. North Korea's irresponsible and careless acts have just proved to be quite costly to the regime.

"This resolution is the single largest economic sanctions package ever leveled against the North Korean regime. The price the North Korean leadership will pay for its

continued nuclear and missile development will be the loss of one-third of its exports and hard currency. This is the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation," US Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Nikki Haley said.

"The United States is taking and will continue to take prudent defensive measures to protect ourselves and our allies. Our annual joint military exercises, for instance, are transparent, and defense-oriented. They have been carried out regularly and openly for

nearly 40 years. They will continue.

"Our goal remains a stable Korean peninsula, at peace, without nuclear weapons. We want only security and prosperity for all nations including North Korea. Until then, this resolution and prior ones will be implemented to the fullest to maximize pressure on North Korea to change its ways," she said.

The Council reaffirmed previous Council decisions that North Korea not conduct further launches using ballistic missile technology, nuclear tests, or any other provocation. The UNSC moved to significantly

strengthen the sanctions on North Korea, imposing a full ban on the export of coal, iron and iron ore from the country. Previously these items could be exported for livelihood purposes, for a limited amount.

The Council also prohibited countries from increasing the total number of work authorisations for North Korean nationals. It banned new joint ventures or cooperative entities with North Korean entities or individuals as well as additional investments in existing joint ventures.

Member States are requested to report to the UNSC, within 90 days of the adoption of this resolution, on concrete measures they have taken to effectively implement this resolution. The Council also designated several additional individuals for a travel ban and assets freeze, as well as designating entities for an assets freeze.

On the political front, the Council calls for resumption of the Six-Party Talks and reiterated its support for the commitments set forth in the Joint Statement of September 2005 issued by China, North Korea, Japan, south Korea, Russia and the United States.

Wheelchair-bound man arrested with 250 gold bars in Bangladesh

DHAKA, AUG 6 (PTI): A 48-year-old wheelchair-bound man has been arrested at an airport in Bangladesh while trying to smuggle 25 kg gold into the country, custom officials said, calling it the biggest haul of the year.

Jamil Akter, a native of Nilphamari, flew to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport here from Singapore yesterday.

He had kept 250 gold bars worth 12.5 crore taka in a vest kept between his legs, Dhaka Tribune reported.

"Acting on a tip-off, our team confronted the man when he was crossing the green channel on a wheelchair, pretending to be unwell," Dhaka Customs House Preventive Team Assistant Commissioner Ahsanul Kabir was quoted by the report.

"He denied having any gold initially, but admitted to it later, during interrogation. We found 250 gold bars in a vest kept between his legs. The man has a chips shop in Singapore.

He went in and out of the country 13 times in the last six months," the customs official added. Customs officials were preparing to hand over him to police after filing a criminal case. Another team found 6 kg gold abandoned in a flight of US-Bangla Airlines.

I-Day Football and tug-of-war begins in Jorethang

JORETHANG, 06 AUG (IPR): The 71st Independence Day South-West 04th MLA Football Challenge Cup and the 1st Tug of War competition was officially kicked off at Jorethang playground today.

Speaker KN Rai attended the function as chief guest accompanied by Health Minister, AK Ghatani.

Delivering his speech the chief guest commended the efforts and support of the Independence Day Celebrations Committee alongside the public of Zoom Salghari constituency for organizing the football tournament which he said paves the ideal path to redirect the youth away from antisocial elements.

12 local teams have registered for the tournament.

The first day of the tournament saw the IRBn team play against Milan Samaj. IRBn emerged victorious 1-0.

Deepen Khawas of Milan Samaj team was declared the player of the match.

Similarly, Drivers' Association Jorethang won the Tug of War contest against the Muscle Hut Gym team.

Anthyesthyi Kriya

The Anthyesthyi Kriya of **Sabitri Pradhan** who left for heavenly abode on 29 July, falls on **10 August [Thursday]**. All relatives and well wishers are requested to join us to offer prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Ranipool Marchak, Near Tendong Petrol Pump.**

Govind Pradhan & Devi Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Tek Narayan Pradhan & Daya Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Hari Pradhan & Rita Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law) and all Pradhan Family

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HAWK EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:06/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 82H 30171
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 30171 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

10158 12828 18856 28955 67255

79515 85059 92579 94330 98943

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

05560 13035 35760 43932 57195

69651 70841 84399 89827 98806

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0647 1062 2008 3553 4132 4190 5880 7102 7154 9697

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0639 0907 1653 1970 2476 2613 4043 6675 7375 8869

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0069 0091 0129 0157 0203 0445 0451 0462 0470 0479

0608 0621 0748 0863 0918 0979 1134 1213 1221 1229

1321 1535 1668 1914 2304 2422 2528 2549 2582 2701

2751 2794 2944 3061 3113 3267 3279 3345 3525 3851

3947 4047 4085 4142 4170 4188 4284 4356 4474 4561

4670 4673 4683 4728 5137 5184 5222 5289 5554 5569

5586 5794 5881 6078 6168 6214 6240 6349 6397 6484

6596 6694 6714 7014 7111 7381 7420 7457 7613 7620

8029 8063 8321 8361 8428 8440 8658 8793 8824 8940

8983 9109 9144 9336 9534 9587 9593 9637 9682 9770

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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LUCK MORNING

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:06/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 99G 25784
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 25784 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

18974 37942 42757 55712 57213

59442 63844 66085 73367 87981

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

17099 33431 35832 37381 52947

59143 60239 61222 73089 78521

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1591 2431 3821 4424 6661 7896 8398 8751 8868 9846

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1212 2303 2520 3674 6084 6968 7144 7618 8083 8165

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0041 0077 0289 0383 0416 0442 0583 0677 0771 0960

1138 1220 1303 1412 1431 1532 1576 1821 1855 1911

1948 1999 2136 2211 2220 2249 2513 2644 2816 2886

3088 3113 3198 3213 3361 3386 3461 3523 3629 3675

3962 4066 4259 4260 4352 4411 4577 4580 4791 4832

4841 4883 4970 5284 5329 5705 5753 5998 6036 6069

6158 6216 6250 6278 6526 6555 6567 6655 6663 6713

6758 6853 6855 6967 7095 7186 7212 7625 7720 7795

7835 7841 7944 8089 8335 8676 8677 8822 9184 9204

9312 9484 9592 9662 9767 9820 9831 9854 9903 9925

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DISNEY'S LIVE-ACTION 'ALADDIN' FINDS ITS JAFAR

Former 'SNL' star Nasim Pedrad also joins the live-action remake, which has Will Smith playing Genie.

Marwan Kenzari, the actor who is poised to break through as part of the all-star cast of the upcoming Murder on the Orient Express, is in negotiations to star as the villain in Disney's live-action remake of Aladdin.

At the same time, former Saturday Night Live comedienne Nasim Pedrad has landed a role created specifically for the new movie. Will Smith is toplining as the wish-granting genie while Mena Massoud will play the title character, a street rat who ends up over his head when he pretends to be a prince in order to win the hand of Princess Jasmine, played by Naomi Scott.

The story, which aims to follow that of Disney's 1992 animated clas-



what's
TRENDING

cosmopolitan city inspired by locations and cultures from the Middle East to India and China.

If a deal makes, Kenzari will play Jafar, the grand vizier to the sultan of the Agrabah who wants to use the genie for his own nefarious plans. The character is in the pantheon of the most recognizable Disney villains and was voiced by Jonathan Freeman in the animated movie.

Pedrad will play Mara, the handmaiden and friend to Jasmine. The part is described as a comedic supporting role. Guy Ritchie is directing the project from a script by John August (Big Fish, Corpse Bride). Dan Lin, who worked with Ritchie on Sherlock Holmes, is producing.

Aladdin is set to begin shooting in August in London. Aladdin will be the latest installment in Disney's long line of lucrative live-action adaptations of their classic animated films, which include the upcoming Mulan movie, from director Niki Caro, and Jon Favreau's The Lion King. Relative newcomer Mena Massoud and Power Rangers star Naomi Scott have booked a flight on a magic carpet.

Massoud has secured the coveted role of Aladdin, while Scott will be playing Jasmine in the Guy Ritchie-directed Aladdin movie.

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**THIS DAY
IN HISTORY**

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

**07TH AUGUST
WORLD HISTORY**

1620: French king Louis XIII beat his mother Marie de Medici at the Battle at Ponts-the-Ca, Poitou.

1782: General George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers. Washington authorized the award of the Purple Heart for soldiers wounded in combat.

1802: Napoleon Bonaparte ordered the re-instatement of slavery on St. Domingue (Haiti).
1820: The first potatoes were planted in Hawaii.
1903: Louis Leakey, anthropologist, archeologist and paleontologist, was born in Kenya. He believed that Africa was the cradle of mankind.

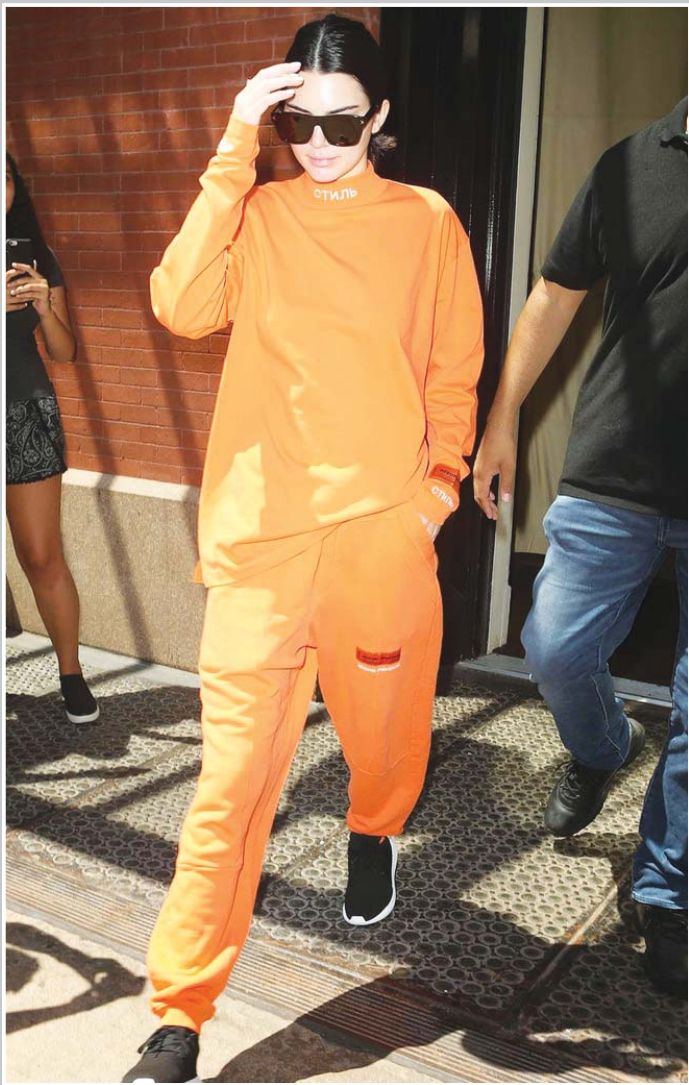
1942: The Nazi 36th Police Battalion, made up of ethnic Estonians, massacred some 2,500 Jews at Novogrudok, Belarus.

INDIAN HISTORY

1861: Abanindranath Tagore was the principal artist and creator of "Indian Society of Oriental Art" and the first major exponent of Swadeshi values in Indian art was born in Jorasanko Kolkata.

1905: Indian National Congress adopted a resolution to boycott all the British goods.

1941: India's Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore passed away in Kolkata. He was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Tagore was known not just as a writer, but also as a poet, philosopher, painter, educator and social reformer who has been credited with changing the landscape of literature and music of Bengal. He was also the composer of two National Anthems; Jana Gana Mana for India and Amar Shonar Bangla for Bangladesh.



ORANGE CRUSH: Kendall Jenner wore a bright Heron Preston sweat suit as she left her hotel in NYC.

WINTER COMES FOR STAR INDIA



GAME OF THRONES SEASON 7 EPISODE 4 LEAKED ONLINE; TRACED TO BREACH AT STAR INDIA

Winter came for Star India as hackers released the upcoming episode of Game Of Thrones Season 07. Last week, it was reported that hackers had stolen 1.5 terabytes of data from television network HBO's servers. The development harked back to the now infamous 2014 Sony hack, however, the HBO incident seems to be of even greater magnitude. The hackers had leaked unreleased episodes of HBO's shows Ballers and Room 104. They further threatened to leak unseen episodes of the channel's global hit series, Game of Thrones.

While HBO had kicked its cyber-security measures into high gear in an attempt to minimize the damage from the hack, it now emerges that episode 4 from season 7 of

the show — titled The Spoils of War — was leaked online. The episode is scheduled to be telecast on Sunday night, 6 August, in the US (and Monday morning, 7 August, in India).

But Star India has confirmed that the leak was not caused by the HBO hackers and that it was a breach on their part.

"We take this breach very seriously and have immediately initiated forensic investigations at our and the technology partner's end to swiftly determine the cause. This is a grave issue and we are taking appropriate legal remedial action," said a spokesperson of Star India, as reported by The Verge.

Game of Thrones season 7 can be streamed on Hotstar every Monday at 7.30 am and is telecast on Star World every Tuesday night at 11 pm.

BAAHUBALI 2 COMPLETES 100 DAYS AT THE BOX-OFFICE

In today's time, a movie hardly lasts at the theatres for a week or two, Baahubali 2 has completed 100 days at the box-office. The movie has been unfazed by the releases of many big budget films like Salman Khan's Tubelight,

BOLLYBUZZ!!!

Shah Rukh Khan's Jab Harry Met Sejal and Anil Kapoor's Mubarak. This film has no stopping!

While its no big news that the film has become one of India's highest grossing movie, this news is only a cherry on the top, isn't it? Well, Karan Johar himself took to his social media handles to share this news.



THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Aries, you finally begin to feel like you're making progress. You're intent on completing some projects that have long been in the works. After many hours of concentration and focus, you make the last adjustments and proclaim it finished. You can expect to be rewarded for your efforts. Your skills are extraordinary. You can enjoy a real sense of satisfaction. Celebrate a little!

TAURUS: This is a passionate, creative day, Taurus. Your blood is hot and passion is on your mind. With luck, you have a significant other who can benefit! If not, you will have to find another way to burn off that energy. Invite a close friend for

a jog. You're in the mood to socialize. If you can't have physical intimacy, be satisfied with emotional closeness.

GEMINI: You may feel a bit short on inspiration today, Gemini. Don't be discouraged! Start whatever project is in question, even if your thoughts are elsewhere. During the course of the "bad" work you may churn out at first, your muse gently alights on your shoulder. It sometimes takes a little discipline to lead to delicious rewards!

CANCER: Cancer, you may feel like you're running in several directions at once. You're so scattered that you don't feel like you're accomplishing anything important. That's

just the nature of the day. You have many loose ends to tie up. It's hard to concentrate on the big picture when you're out of groceries. Do whatever maintenance needs doing so you can move on to bigger things.

LEO: Today you may be inspired to have a little fun with your looks, Leo. You may wish to change your haircut or experiment with different colors or styles of clothing. It would be fun to get out of your routine, even if it just means donning funky sunglasses or bright Hawaiian patterns. You will feel lighter and more flirtatious.

VIRGO: Today's energy has you rethinking all areas of your life, Virgo. If you aren't as challenged by your job as you think you should be, per-

haps it's time for a change. The trick for you will be figuring out what it is that you want to do. You have a tremendous amount of creative ability. If you aren't using these talents, why not explore a career that would let you develop them further?

LIBRA: You're ready for dramatic change in your life, Libra. It isn't that you're dissatisfied with your career or personal life. Rather, you feel like you're missing out on something great, if you only knew what. Be receptive to whatever opportunities arise and explore them all. You may find the answers you seek through travel or more education. Bring a friend if you're afraid to explore on your own.

SCORPIO: Scorpio, expect to meet someone new who will be a tremendous influence in your life - probably in your career. If you've been frustrated by your lack of progress up the corporate ladder, take heart. This new person may be able to show you another way up. In spite of your frustration, you should continue to work in your usual manner. You're on the right path, even though you may doubt it now.

SAGITTARIUS: You've been on a wild ride for several months, Sagittarius - all that excitement in your personal life and career! If major changes for the better haven't yet occurred, know that they will. A promotion is in order, most likely

accompanied by a raise. Don't act so surprised - you've had this coming for a long time. Celebrate tonight with someone dear to your heart.

CAPRICORN: Foreign lands and new opportunities beckon today, Capricorn! Keep your eyes and ears open as these opportunities may come to you from an unusual or unexpected source. You're ready for a change of some kind in your personal or professional life. It's up to you to take steps in whatever new direction you decide to go. Don't rule out a few classes as a way to further your career.

AQUARIUS: The astral energy indicates that you may have extra money in your pocket, Aquarius.

Take care to invest this money wisely rather than spend it all. You will be happier sacrificing short-term gratification for future financial gain. Positive relationships and socializing are indicated this evening. Make a point to get together with close friends and loved ones.

PISCES: This will be an interesting day provided you keep your eyes and ears open to the opportunities that arise. Don't be afraid to take on new challenges. Even if you feel unsure about your abilities, embrace the chance to test them. If others think you're up to the challenge, you should give yourself the same benefit of the doubt! New friends are indicated - make a point to smile.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME... I SAID TONIGHT IS THE BALLET, TOMORROW IS THE HOCKEY GAME."

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

