

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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EMRS Gangyap girls win NE Basketball C'ship again

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

EMRS Gangyap girls lifted the North East Basketball Championship for the 8th consecutive time today at Guwahati. The team's captain, Norzom Bhutia has been selected as the best player. The boys team of the school secured 4th position, however, they were adjudged as the most disciplined team.

Artisans with Rs 20 lakh turnover exempt from GST registration

HYDERABAD, SEP 9 (PTI): The GST Council today exempted artisans and folk artists with an annual turnover of up to Rs 20 lakh from registration under the just introduced Goods and Services Tax (GST).

West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra said besides exempting artisans, the 21st meeting of the highest decision making body of the GST exempted clay idols from the tax. Also, no registration would be required for inter-state job works, he said.

"For artisans, artists, folk arts and tribal arts, no registration will be required up to Rs 20 lakh (turnover).

Clay idols are exempt now," he said, adding that "job work inter-state, you don't need any registration now up to Rs 20 lakh turnover."

On government work contract, the tax rate has been reduced to 12 per cent from 18 per cent. "That will save government a lot of tax."

A committee of ministers has been formed to look into technical issues facing the GST-Network, the IT backbone and portal for registration and tax returns under the GST regime.

"GSTN has major problems. We had much discussions and all that has to be settled and a committee of ministers has been formed along with a committee of officers," he said.

The panels would look into the glitches, he said. "Small and medium enterprises are suffering today, this has to be corrected."

Jammu and Kashmir Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu said the deadline for filing of sales return or GST-1 for the month of July - the first month of implementation of the new tax regime, has been extended by a month to October 10. Drabu said hike in cess on cars was not discussed.

On the functioning of GSTN, he said it "is a real concern. We have

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Chamling presented OWA Grand Prix Award in Germany for pioneering Organic Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was conferred the Grand Prix Award for his pioneering work in transforming Sikkim into an Organic State during the One World Award ceremony held at Legau in Germany on 08 Sept.

A press release informs that the award was jointly handed over by Federal Minister of Bavaria State, Dr Gerd Muller, and German Organic pioneer and Managing Director of Rapunzel Naturkost, Joseph Wilhelm. The other winner of the OWA Grand Prix Award was United World Colleges.

The One World Award, ini-

tiated by Mr Wilhelm in 2008, honours people, projects, initiatives and innovative ideas that promote ecological, economic and social improvements and that encourage justice in the world. The OWA award is endowed with a total prize money of 45,000 Euro.

The awards are presented every three years by the organic food producer Rapunzel and IFOAM, the global umbrella organization of organic movements.

Five finalists were shortlisted this year namely: Nasser Abufarhal [Palestine], the pioneer of the Fairtrade and organic farming movement in Middle East; Amin Babayev

[Azerbaijan], the soil scientist & founding father of his country's organic movement Professor; Shamiso Mungwasha [Zimbabwe], the (young) organic and Fairtrade pioneer; United World Colleges (UWC) with its institutions in Freiburg Germany and Pune India and; Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

The OWA Jury members Nnimmo Bassey (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, Nigeria), Roberto Ugas (IFOAM Organics International, Peru), Vandana Shiva (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, India) and Joseph Wilhelm (Rapunzel Naturkost, Germany) have not only approved the final

nominees, but also decided who will be endowed with the OWA Grand Prix.

The OWA Grand Prix comes along with 25,000 Euro prize money as well as the 'Lady OWA' statue.

A short documentary on organic farming in Sikkim was screened before the presentation of the award.

During his acceptance speech, the Chief Minister recounted the journey of Organic Sikkim undertaken 14 years ago for ensuring clean air, water and appropriate climate as a fundamental human right. He called for larger collaboration and cooperation as working for clean air and

green environment is not a question of politics. He also called upon the world communities and governments to work together to overcome this universal crisis.

"It is a matter of great pride for the people of Sikkim and India, that our humble endeavour from a Himalayan state has been recognized by the famed International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement. I am thankful to the distinguished Jury members for judging me as one of the Grand Prix Winners for the One World Award 2017," said Mr Chamling.

Environmental activist and member of the selection jury,

Dr Vandana Shiva, while introducing Mr Chamling to the audience explained the reasons for giving the final decision to confer the Grand Prix Award [given once in every three years] on Mr Chamling. She said that he has been the only politician to have obtained the love and support of the people for five consecutive terms with his hard work, making Sikkim fully Organic unlike other politicians who are still struggling in this process.

The CM was accompanied by Minister of Agriculture Development, Somnath Poudyal, and Secretary, Khorlo Bhutia, along with other officials, the release adds.



Mangan thana sets up child-friendly room

MANGAN, 09 SEPT [IPR]:

A child friendly room has been set up at Mangan Police Station which was formally inaugurated by Senior Superintendent of Police North, Shammi Rai.

SI, Karma Euden Kaleon, briefed the gathering on the concept of setting up such a room at the Police Station at Mangan. She said that when children visit the police station along with their parents to lodge complaints or as victims of various crimes, there is tremendous mental stress on the children.

The children are fearful of the police station atmosphere and therefore there is a need to create a conducive atmosphere. A child friendly room provides such an atmosphere where the minds of the children are distracted by the playful environment of the room. The room is not to be used for interrogation but only for entertainment. Ms Kaleon informed



that when children come to the room a lady attendant from the police station would make them comfortable and look after their well-being.

SP North, Mr Rai said that such a concept is common in developed countries but not in our country. Children grow up fearing the police

and there is a need to change this perception, he added.

Providing such children friendly rooms would help leave a positive impression on young minds who could grow up to be more law abiding and cooperative, said Mr Rai.

The child friendly

room was set up with contributions from Officers and local public. SI Karma Euden Kaleon thanked the District Information Officer, IPR North for providing chairs, Kesang Saring for painting the room and Principal NSA for providing beds for the room.

NE Healthcare Summit 2017 concludes

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

The second day of the North East Healthcare Summit 2017 being organized by the Public Health Foundation of India [PHFI] in partnership with the Ministry of Development of the North East Region [DoNER], the Government of Sikkim and the Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital [STNM] was held at Chintan Bhawan in the capital today.

Leading health care professionals, hospitals, government health departments from all North East States, academia, multilateral, bilateral organisations and other stakeholders took active part in the summit and will, through the outcomes of the summit, provide a roadmap to develop technical assistance to the state governments of the North-East States engaging civil society partners for implementation of public health projects and programs in NE.

The welcome address was presented by

the Medical Superintendent-STNM Hospital wherein he informed the gathering about the achievements of STNM Hospital during its 100 years of serving Sikkim.

Director General-cum-Secretary, Healthcare, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Dr K Bhandari, said that while Sikkim is doing well in the field of primary and secondary healthcare, there is a problem when it comes to tertiary healthcare.

He further congratulated STNM Hospital for its glorious 100 years growing from a relatively small hospital to a hospital with large facilities for all.

He also highlighted the policies of the state government with regard to various health related policies of the State.

Chief Secretary, AK Srivastava, congratulated the hospital for their swift action in the recent accident tragedies and held that attitude change is a must in both bureaucracy and employees for proper services to be de-

livered to the public.

Member of Parliament, PD Rai, said that there is still room for building more muscles for healthy policy at all levels. He also stated that as an MP, he along with other dignitaries will try to bridge the gap between the Centre and the State.

Complimenting the Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, he said that the Ministry is working towards better understanding of the North East. He also complimented the leadership of the State for adopting innovative health policies.

Health Minister, AK Ghatani, who attended the programme as chief guest, said that there is an urgent need for awareness and sensitization on various aspects of health. He also said that there is an urgent need to protect the human rights of mentally ill patients while treating them.

Mr Ghatani also appealed to the attending delegates especially at

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Gangtok on Sunday, 10 Sept

Temp: 25°C / 17°C

Forecast: Mainly cloudy and cooler with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm.

Sunrise: 05:18 AM

Sunset: 05:47 PM

Bank employee accused of outraging modesty of woman

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT: One 27-year-old employee of Syndicate Bank in Namchi has been arrested on charges of outraging the modesty of a woman who had met the accused for a job interview on 08 Sept.

According to the victim, during the interview the accused asked her to change her dress and return.

As directed, she went back to the office wearing a different dress.

However, the accused started commenting on her dress and told her to put on a shirt that reveals her cleavage. Following this the victim reported the incident at Namchi Police Station.

Tipper falls off road at Sangkhola

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT: A tipper truck loaded with bricks tumbled approximately 130 ft down the road at MK Turning in Sangkhola, Singtam on 08 Sept. The driver lost control of the vehicle while reversing the truck. He has been evacuated to CRH Manipal.

Teen accused of sexually assaulting minor

Gangtok, 09 Sept: One 17-year-old boy has been accused of sexually assaulting a 5-year-old minor on 06 Sept in South Sikkim. The accused has been apprehended and remanded at Juvenile Observation Home in Namchi.

NE Healthcare Summit 2017 concludes

Contd from pg01

tending health officials from other north east states and other organizations to work towards the improvement of healthcare services in the region, and come up with a time bound whitepaper which can be implemented immediately.

One the sidelines of the summit, a Healthcare Media interactive workshop was conducted as a pre-cursor to the Summit, that provided media with nuances of healthcare criticalities and development in the state, and the Northeastern region so that reporting on health issues can be strengthened and acknowledged actively in publications.

NPS girls win ARCEIS Kho-Kho tourney for seventh time

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

For the seventh time in a row, Namchi Public School has become the champion of the ARCEIS Kho-Kho Tournament for girls. This year, the tournament was organized by St Joseph's Convent School in Martam.

The defending champions defeated St Joseph's Convent School, Martam in the finals, a press release informs.

Principal of NPS, Fr George A D'Souza, felicitated the team members for their splendid performance along with coach, Anup Chakraborty, and manager, Sushila Lepcha, for training and guiding the team and making NPS a force to reckon in a sport like Kho-Kho.

The schools that had participated in the tournament were St Joseph's Convent School-Martam, St Xavier's School-Pakyong, Namchi Public



School-Namchi, Holy Cross School-Tadong, St Mary's Convent School-Gyalshing and Ivana Memorial School- Rangpo.

Fr D'Souza also felicitated NPS '5 & Below Boys' football team members and coach, Alen Bhutia, for winning the ARCEIS

5 & Below Football Tournament that was held at St Mary's Convent School, Gyalshing. Justinmani Lingkhim Rai from team

NPS entered his name in the record books by scoring 17 goals in six matches during the tournament, the release adds.

Raj Bhavan bids farewell to retired Joint Secretary



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

At a brief function held at New Raj Bhavan today in the presence of Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady Rajanidevi Patil, the Raj Bhavan family bid farewell to Joint Secretary to the Governor, Shivalall Ghimirey, on his retirement on superannuation.

Mr Ghimirey served for 25 years in various capacities at Raj Bhavan Sikkim and retired on 31 Aug 2017, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

While addressing the function, the Governor acknowledged his long and distinguished service at Raj Bhavan Sikkim and extended best wishes for a healthy and fulfilling retired life. Stating that experience and knowledge of Mr Ghimirey will certainly benefit the youth and the society, the Governor also urged him to guide young boys and girls in their career pursuits.



Workshop for advocates by Sikkim Judicial Academy

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a Workshop for Advocates on Professional Ethics and Etiquette in Court Rooms today at Sikkim Judicial Academy, High Court Premises in Gangtok.

Judge-High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, who is also the Judge In-Charge of Sikkim Judicial Academy and Senior Advocate-Gangtok, A Moullick, were Resource Persons for the said programme, a press release informs.



Governor inaugurates SBI ATM at Raj Bhavan premises

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

Governor Shrinivas Patil today inaugurated a State Bank of India ATM service near Children Park in Raj Bhavan premises.

A press release received from Raj Bhavan informs that Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Governor, R Telang, Regional Manager-SBI

Gangtok, Sandeep Kumar Chowbey, officers and staff of Raj Bhavan, bank officials and the general public were present on the occasion.

The Governor thanked the bank officials for the ATM service and expressed that the service will ease out the difficulty of cash transactions for Raj Bhavan officials and staff besides the general public.

District Task Force for Immunization meets in Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 09 SEPT [IPR]: The Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare organised a meeting of the District Task Force for Immunization under the central scheme of Intensified Mission Indradhanush [IMI], a strategic movement for improving vaccination coverage in identified districts which falls under the Pragati initiative.

The meeting was conducted at the conference hall of the District Hospital of Gyalshing. Chaired by District Magistrate, Kapil Meena, the meeting was called on to fulfill the Prime Minister's goal of beyond 90% full immunization in districts by December 2018.

During the meeting, Mr Meena said that even with limited resources and manpower, the Health Department of West District is doing



well. He also announced that another inter-departmental meeting will be soon called to work in convergence for the IMI.

He asked the Departments to give high priority to this flagship scheme and coordinate with each other. He extended his full support in this regard

and urged all the Departments of West District to cooperate.

Various issues and problems that needed attention relating to the achievement of the beyond 90% full immunization in districts were discussed during the meet. The main issues, howev-

er, were lack of proper manpower and accessibility due to vastness of West district.

It may be mentioned

here, West district of Sikkim has been identified as the 'High Priority District' in 2014 by the Government of India which

has remained unchanged till date.

State Immunization Officer, Phumzay Denzongpa, addressed the meeting with a brief presentation on the central scheme. She also encouraged the departments to do the needful in achieving the said goals and make West District an example. She further spoke about various shortcomings of the district while assuring that the issues of manpower and allocated resources will be put forward.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dr T Wongyal, Additional Director/DRCHO West, Dr T Namgyal, Deputy Director-Human Resource De-

velopment Department, PL Subba, Child Development Project Officer, HB Shankar, Medical Officers of Primary Health Centres of the district and other officials.

The issue of Scrub Typhus was also discussed in the meeting.

The CMO-West informed that 49 such cases have been reported in the district with four patients being confirmed dead due to scrub typhus. He said that medicine for scrub typhus has been made available at all PHCs and PHSCs.

Earlier, the DM visited the wards in Gyalshing District Hospital and met with the patients in different wards.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Take a Minute. Change a Life

If only it was so simple. And maybe it is

Today, 10 September is World Suicide Prevention

Day and this section returns to this frequently visited theme again. As per the World Health Organisation, as many as 8 lakh people commit suicide every year and around 25-times more attempt suicide. The numbers paint a scary picture and make this a challenge requiring the world's attention. Remember, apart from the 8,00,000 lives lost to avoidable reasons, there are 2 crore others who have tied a noose for themselves or attempted some other form of ending their lives! If their triggers are left unattended, they will be among the statistics of those who 'successfully' self-destructed in the coming years. They are also clearly grappling with serious issues and even if those around them do not notice (or choose to ignore) the suicidal tendencies, they cannot be left untouched by the deep trauma of such conditions. When one takes this aspect also into consideration, then the impact of suicides and suicidal tendencies multiplies many times over because each victim and person at risk is part of a family, belongs to a circle of friends, goes to school, college or office and touches many lives on a daily basis and no matter how consciously one tries to camouflage the condition, it does get out and affect others; and with every death to a suicide, everyone associated with the person is hit by a sense of guilt at not having intervened in time. Hence, as much for the lives that can be saved through some timely intervention as also to save those left behind from wracking guilt, the theme for WSPD this year needs to be taken to heart. World Suicide Prevention Day is being observed across the world today reflecting the sentiment - 'Take a minute, change a life.'

What is being underlined through this theme is our collective responsibility as a community to look out for those struggling with suicidal thoughts, notice their condition and engage with them in a non-judgmental way, hear them out, offer sound counsel if we can and help them access professional assistance. Suicide is a vexed problem facing Sikkim which is why more people here need to spare a minute to muster the resolve to get engaged. Studies across the world have borne out that most times, all that it takes to pull a person back from the brink is a gentle word of support, even a gesture conveying that they need not suffer in isolation.

This section has spoken often about how Sikkim is seeking to address the challenge of suicides without having figured out why so many here ending their own lives. That is an important data analysis to undertake and should be done soon, but today, let's also focus on the need to remove the stigma still associated with suicides and suicide attempts, not just on the victims but also on their families. This stigma stops many from seeking help and also denies the community the opportunity to learn and prepare for the challenge. It is important that people who have lived through a suicide attempt to be able to share their experience more widely and teach others about the value of human engagement. Societies which have sought the assistance of survivors to inform the suicide prevention programmes have learned that words and actions of others are important mediums of saving lives. Those who have overcome suicidal tendencies have often spoken movingly about reaching the point where they could see no alternative but to take their own life, and about the days, hours and minutes leading up to this. They often describe realising that they did not want to die but instead wanted someone to intervene and stop them. Many say that they actively sought someone who would sense their despair and ask them whether they were okay. That is where the investment of a minute to notice these signals becomes important. The agencies engaged in addressing the problem of suicides can help by informing people at large about how they should respond and act when they notice someone around them struggling with such dark thoughts, because, let's also accept that most of us do not know how to face such situations. And because we do not know, we choose to ignore.

As the WHO message for the day share, "Life is precious and sometimes precarious. Taking a minute to reach out to someone – a complete stranger or close family member or friend – can change the course of their life."

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Opinion

Why UN sanctions against North Korea's missile program failed

DANIEL SALISBURY
theconversation.com

The past few months have seen the coming of age of North Korea's nuclear weapons capability.

For most of the last 20 years, the international community has been struggling to stop this from happening.

A sixth nuclear test on September 3 – of what was possibly a hydrogen bomb – followed July's two successful tests of an intercontinental ballistic missile with the capability to hit the U.S. The same month, the U.S. intelligence community assessed that North Korea's arsenal consists of "up to 60" weapons, and that the country had successfully manufactured a compact warhead capable of being mounted on a missile.

My research on how nation states illegally obtain missile technologies and my experience conducting outreach related to U.N. sanctions give me some insight into the methods North Korea used to make illicit procurements and the limitations in using technology-based sanctions to prevent them.

TECHNOLOGY-BASED SANCTIONS

In 2006 – following North Korea's first nuclear test – the U.N. Security Council prohibited the "supply, sale or transfer" of "items, materials, equipment, goods and technology" that could contribute to the country's missile program.

Efforts to prevent North Korea's acquisition of missile technology by certain nations – notably the United States – had been underway since the 1990s. However, the U.N. sanctions went further by placing standardized legal requirements on all states to prevent the development of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction programs.

These sanctions are "universal." That means they are obligatory for all states around the world. Each nation is responsible for implementation within its borders. Missile, nuclear and military technologies are regulated through national export control systems. Governments must grant an export license for the exports of certain goods and technologies. This allows governments to do a risk assessment on transactions and minimize the diversions to undesirable uses, such as weapons of mass destruction programs or human rights abuses.

In theory, all countries should have the capacity to implement these technology-based sanctions. Having an export control system has been mandatory for states since the passage of U.N. Security Council resolution 1540 in 2004. However, more than a decade after this resolution was passed, many nations – particularly developing ones – are still struggling with implementation.

This has led to uneven execution of missile-related sanctions on North Korea. A recent report has de-

scribed the U.N. sanctions regime as a "house without foundations," noting that not a single element of the sanctions regime "enjoys robust international implementation."

SOURCES OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY

As North Korea's missile program has advanced, its sources of missile technology have evolved.

North Korea began by importing full missile systems and seeking to reverse-engineer or replicate them. For example, after procuring short-range Scud missiles from Egypt in the late 1970s, North Korea "reverse-engineered" them by the mid-1980s. The 1990s saw North Korea develop the Nodong, a scaled-up Scud design. It also experimented with longer-range missiles in the late 1990s and mid-2000s. These Taepodong missiles drew together elements of the shorter-range systems such as their engines. The Taepodong-2 allegedly had an intercontinental range, although it was never successfully tested.

Since taking power in 2011, Kim Jong Un has accelerated North Korea's missile program. In the past year alone, the country has tested four seemingly new missiles for the first time – including a submarine-launched ballistic missile and an intermediate range ballistic missile, as well as the ICBMs tested in July. Kim has also made significant progress in developing the nuclear warheads the missiles are designed to carry. The sixth nuclear test undertaken in early September – by far the largest of those conducted by the country – was the fourth carried out under his leadership.

The country has also sought to learn how to produce required parts and components at home. North Korea's program is opaque, but some episodes provide insights into where the country has been obtaining its technology.

Rocket debris salvaged from the sea following a satellite launch in December 2012 suggested an ongoing reliance on the international market place for parts. A 2013 U.N. report suggested the rocket had used modern components sourced from China, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S., as well as "cannibalized" Scud components and other 1980s vintage Soviet parts.

Since then, North Korea has continued to pursue more advanced manufacturing technologies. Footage from the leadership's frequent factory visits has shown that North Korea has acquired advanced machine tools of use in missile and nuclear programs. Photographs from a parade in April 2017 suggest that North Korea's new submarine-launched ballistic missile was constructed with wound filament. This material is lighter and stronger than aluminum, and a significant step forward in capability.

Recent discussion over the possible Ukrainian or Russian origin of North Korea's rocket engines has

been heated, with the argument refuted by some experts. This reflects a broader debate regarding the genesis of the country's recent successes: Was it the result of imported technology or testimony to North Korea's ability to master advanced WMD technologies themselves?

EVADING SANCTIONS

To make these advances in their missile program, North Korea has had to evade sanctions and the broader scrutiny of the international community. Their illicit procurement techniques include using front companies, obscuring the end user, falsifying documentation and mislabeling cargo. A 2017 U.N. report notes that North Korea's evasion techniques are "increasing in scale, scope and sophistication."

North Korea's military and weapons of mass destruction procurement networks are global in nature. According to one study, they have touched more than 60 countries.

Due to geographical proximity, historic relationship and broader trading links, China has played an unparalleled role in these networks. Many middlemen and procurement agents have operated in China, and increasingly – as the country's private sector develops – its manufacturers have been a source of technology. A series of revelations in early 2017 demonstrated that Chinese manufacturers and Chinese-North Korean joint ventures are benefiting North Korea's missile program – including with machine tools, components and materials.

THE EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS?

Observers might rightfully ask: Have sanctions failed? This question is complicated. It might be more useful to consider what the effects of sanctions have been.

The primary objectives of technology-based sanctions have been to slow and prevent North Korea's nuclear and missile development. The recent ICBM tests clearly prove these measures have not prevented North Korea's missile development. Whether they slowed progress is debatable. As U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley recently observed, they are unlikely to change North Korean behavior.

What is undeniable is that sanctions have had unforeseen consequences. Research suggests that sanctions could have made North Korea's procurement efforts more sophisticated as Chinese middlemen monetize the risk.

Americans tend to view North Korea as an inward-looking, economically isolated state cut off from the international community. However, the country's illicit networks – including those supplying its missile program – are global, adaptive and resilient. That makes them difficult to shut down.

[The writer is Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, Harvard University]

'Is truth overrated?' What the experts say

theconversation.com

OBJECTIVITY AND TRUTH IN THE FAKE NEWS ERA MARYANNE REED

Seek the truth and minimize harm. That's how we instruct young journalists to prepare for the profession. Until recently, factual, objective reporting has been the mantra of modern journalism. But is objectivity a relevant concept in the era of fake news, filter bubbles and alternative facts?

In dealing with a less-than-truthful presidential administration, mainstream media has become more adversarial. News articles and broadcasts sound like editorials, with journalists labeling President Trump a "liar" and warning citizens about what they describe as dangerous tilt toward fascism. The masthead of the venerable Washington Post now says, "Democracy Dies in Darkness," a strongly worded statement reflected in its sharply critical coverage of the Trump presidency.

It may be time for a recalibration of the notion of objectivity. In recent years, the concept been watered down by the practice of "balanced" reporting. Each side is given equal time, regardless of the relative merit of their arguments, creating false equivalencies and confusing the public.

Perhaps, journalists should apply their craft using a more scientific approach. Scientists, too, seek the truth. But they pursue evidence based solutions, regardless of TV ratings, circulation numbers or social media "likes."

Journalism could adopt a similar approach as it struggles to regain its relevance. The best way forward is not necessarily a return to objectivity. Rather, it is through a rigorous approach to seeking and telling the truth – one that relies on real facts and the preponderance of evidence. Our profession and our democracy depend on it.

[Maryanne Reed is the dean of the Reed

College of Media at West Virginia University.]

POLITICIANS LIE; DEMOCRACY NEEDS TRUTH CHRISTOPHER BEEM

Last month, The Washington Post's Fact Checker published an updated accounting of all the false and misleading claims made by President Donald Trump since he assumed office: 1,057: an average of five per day.

That is, to be sure, a big number. But does it really matter? George

rest of us to agree with, dispute or even assess what he says. When this happens, debate becomes increasingly pointless. And at some point, democracy itself is imperiled.

If Arendt is right, then lies do matter. Especially now, telling the truth is a deeply political act. *[Christopher Beem is the managing director of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy at Penn State University.]*

THE LABEL 'ANTI-SCIENCE' TROY CAMPBELL



Orwell famously said, "political language... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable." Orwell speaks for most of us: To be a politician is to lie. And therefore many will ask: Five times a day, or 25 – What difference, really, does it make?

Hannah Arendt was a political philosopher and a Jew who escaped Hitler's Germany and settled in New York. In her essay, "Truth and Politics," she asked this very question. She argued that democratic society requires that we agree on two things. First, that there are such things as facts. And second, that we should strive to present those facts as best we understand them. In other words, we should try to tell the truth.

Why? Because the more a politician – like the president, for example – fails to live up to these agreements, the more difficult it becomes for the

Today, a person who denies climate change or any fact agreed upon by the scientific community is often immediately labeled "anti-science." However, people who deny individual scientific facts may be more friendly toward science than we think.

A 2015 Pew Research poll found that 79 percent of Americans felt that "science had made life easier for most people."

When, how and why science is denied, ignored or pushed aside has less to do with a complete distrust of the scientific method and more to do with trust of individual sources, misinformation, isolated instances of motivated denial or even what my colleagues and I call a "flight from fact" rather than a straightforward "denial of fact."

Almost every single person denies science at sometime. When I was

younger, I denied the findings of the doctor who diagnosed me with hypoglycemia. Labeling me, then the top science student at my high school, "anti-science" would have been ludicrous. Rather, I was biased and motivated to deny an individual scientific fact that meant I would have to give up all my favorite foods.

It is bias, motivations, polarization and echo chambers that cause the real problems around science acceptance. And unfortunately, the simplified label "anti-science" often covers up these problems and prevents us from communicating scientific truth.

If we love science, then we need to start being more scientific about science denial.

[Troy Campbell is an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Oregon.]

SUPPOSEDLY NEUTRAL INFORMATION SPACES AND TRUTH DAN KLYN

In monetized information space, the truth isn't overrated – it doesn't rate at all. Senator Ted Stevens got it almost right: These

places aren't so much a series of tubes as they are a panoply of rectangles. And from smartphone apps to television studio sets, the arrangement of the information in these rectilinear spaces is set up to seem "neutral."

Since the time of Vitruvius, Western conceptions of space have taught us that what's at the top is tops, the utmost. This archaic spatial hierarchy has followed us into digital space. Horizontal streams of news and information flow at the bottom without regard to value. But what's at the top of the screen – that's still special.

So, is this special space reserved for what's most true? No, something more important goes there – the content that's most likely to make money.

[Dan Klyn teaches information architecture at the University of Michigan.]

Ensure safety of people from Northeast and also keep an eye on their activities, Karna HM tells police

BENGALURU, SEP 9 (PTI): Karnataka Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy today directed the police to ensure the safety of people from the Northeast in the city while at the same time "keep an eye" on their activities. He said people from the Northeast work in different fields in the city and have

formed various associations. "We need to give them protection. At the same time, we need to keep an eye on them," Reddy said in his maiden address to the police since taking over as the home minister last week. Regarding foreign students, the home minister said they indulge in "illegal activities" in

certain parts of the city which should also be curbed. Reddy's remarks come in the wake of stray attacks on people from the Northeast and also incidents involving alleged assault on people of African origin some months back. He also asked the police to work towards ending 'goonda-

ism' from the city. "I do not know how you are going to end 'goondaism' but you have to achieve it. Make them run away from the state. I do not want anti-social elements loitering around schools and colleges and harassing girls," he said. Reddy gave directions to

check money-lending business, beggary, gambling, sale of psychotropic drug substances, robbery and extortion in the markets. He also asked officers to refrain from civil dispute cases and focus only on better policing. He emphasised on strengthening intelligence at the police station level.

SpiceJet adds Dibrugarh to its network

NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): Low-cost carrier SpiceJet today announced Dibrugarh as the latest addition to its domestic network with daily flights on Silchar-Guwahati-Dibrugarh route from October 3.

This makes the airline the first to offer daily direct air connectivity between Guwahati and Dibrugarh, SpiceJet said in a statement.

It will be offering an all-inclusive introductory fare of Rs 2,199 on the Guwahati-Dibrugarh route and Rs 1,898 on the return leg.

With the new flights SpiceJet will now operate a total of 26 flights in and out of North East and a total of eight flights within the region, it said.

SpiceJet serves 50 destinations, including 7 international ones with a fleet of 35 Boeing 737NG and 20 Bombardier Q-400 aircraft.

3 Assam districts still flood-affected



GUWAHATI, SEP 9 (PTI): Three Assam districts were still affected in the latest wave of floods, which has claimed 75 lives.

An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report said, altogether 172 villages in Morigaon, Dhemaji and Nagaon are affected with Morigaon being the worst hit.

Around 28,600 people in the three districts are still affected and 11,115 hectare crop area inundated, the report said.

No fresh death due to the deluge has been reported today.

As many as 159 people have lost their lives in this year's floods.

While the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat, the Dhansiri river at Numaligarh in Golaghat and Jia Bharali river at NT Road crossing in Sonitpur, the ASDMA said.

Nadda seeks land from state to set up hospital in north Bengal

ALIPURDUAR (WB), SEP 9 (PTI): Union Health Minister J P Nadda today said the Centre would provide funds to set up a big hospital in north Bengal if the state government arranges for land and other infrastructure.

Nadda, also a senior BJP leader, said this to reporters to a question on setting up of big hospitals like those in New Delhi and south Indian cities.

The minister who was at Birpara in Alipurdur district to hold 'Chintan shibir' with local BJP workers, also said that the third phase of Mission Indradhanush

is complete and fourth phase work in on.

Mission Indradhanush is a central government initiative to ensure full immunisation of all children in the country.

To a question, he said that the Centre with assistance from the state government would tackle the menace of dengue.

Meanwhile, Women working as Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) under the union government today submitted a memorandum to Union Health Minister J P Nadda here demanding that they be paid on a par with their counterparts in the state government.

Nadda, who was at Birpara in Alipurdur district to hold 'Chintan shibir' with local BJP workers, assured them to look into the matter.

The ANM workers of the central government said they get a salary of Rs 11,380 while their counterparts working under the state government get around Rs 23,000.

The job profile of central and state ANM staff are the same, they said.

Local BJP leaders also urged him to arrange for a blood bank, operation theatre and specialist doctors at Birpara State General Hospital.

Smoke in Drukair plane, passengers evacuated at Kolkata airport

KOLKATA, SEP 9 (PTI): A Paro-bound Drukair plane, with 68 passengers and crew members on board, was evacuated after the commander received information of smoke being emitted from the aircraft at the airport here today.

All the 61 passengers were deplaned at the tarmac itself through emergency chutes soon after the push back of the aircraft this morning, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport director Atul Dikshit said.

According to an Indian Coast Guard release here, its Commandant K

R Arjun and Deputy Commandant Pankaj Mishra, who were at its hanger, saw smoke being emitted from the aircraft soon after it was pushed back for taxiing and alerted the authorities.

Coast Guard officials provided first-aid to approximately 20 passengers with bruises, cuts and sprains, it said.

The Coast Guard rushed its ambulance unit and duty team, and provided assistance to the passengers and the crew and guided them to a safe apron area, the release added.

Subsequently, sup-

port team of the Airports Authority of India reached the spot and took over the formalities of evacuating passengers and further necessary clearances.

The airport fire fighting team could not immediately ascertain the cause of the smoke, the airport director said said.

The Airbus A319 had 61 passengers and seven crew members on board, a source said, adding that the aircraft was grounded for further inspection.

Airline officials were not immediately available for comments.

States red flag problem faced by traders on GSTN portal

HYDERABAD, SEP 9 (PTI): State finance ministers today red flagged the glitches in the GST Network's (GSTN) portal faced by traders while filing their maiden returns for July.

Ahead of the GST Council's meeting here today, West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra said even as GSTN said that it can handle 3 billion invoices, the glitches in the portal show that GST was implemented in haste.

The 21st meeting of the GST Council is being held here to discuss technology glitches in GSTN portal, imposition of higher cess on luxury and SUV cars and reduction tax rates on about two-dozen items.

Jammu & Kashmir Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu said that the issues faced by GSTN are operational and technical, and these would have happened even if the GST was implemented a year later.

Drabu suggested that a group of ministers be formed to look into issues faced by taxpayers on GSTN portal. Mitra suggested that a

white paper be brought out on the preparedness of GSTN - the company which is the technology backbone of GST.

Due to huge rush of July GSTR-3B return filing on the penultimate date, the GSTN software witnessed glitches and the last date of filing was extended.

Also the date of final return filing for GSTR-1 was extended to September 10 in view of rush in invoice uploading.

State finance ministers are also expected to raise various issues flagged by traders and businesses in today's meeting.

So far, over 45 lakh GSTR-3B, 17 lakh GSTR-1 and over 13 crore invoices have been filed on GSTN portal.

Among other issues, the council will discuss quantum of hike in cess on a range of cars from mid size to hybrid variants.

The Council in its last meeting on August 5 approved a hike in cess on mid, large size cars, SUVs, hybrid and luxury ones to up to 25 per cent, from earlier 15 per cent.

Following that an Ordinance to hike the cess rate has been promulgated and the GST Council will now look at the quantum of hike on such cars.

The council will also consider lowering tax rates on over two dozen products, including idli/dosa batter, dried tamarind, custard powder and kitchen gas lighter after anomalies in their fixations were pointed out.

The council will also formulate a mechanism to deal with businesses that are deregistering their brands post GST to avoid taxes.

The fitment committee has proposed to the GST Council to consider May 15, 2017, as the cut off date for considering as a registered brand for the purpose of levy of GST, irrespective of whether or not the brand is subsequently deregistered.

Unbranded food items are exempted from GST, whereas branded and packaged food items attract 5 per cent rate.

Hence, many businesses are deregistering their brands to avoid the levy.

BRD college tragedy: Police make 4th arrest, nab clerk

GORAKHPUR, SEP 9 (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh police has nabbed a clerk of the BRD Medical College in connection with the death of dozens of children at the state-run hospital last month, the fourth arrest in the case.

Sudhir Pandey was named in the FIR filed in the case and was arrested from near Khajanchi Chowk under the Shahpur police station area here last night on a tip-off, Superintendent of Police Anirudh Siddharth Pankaj said today.

Pandey is the fourth accused -- nine have been named in the FIR -- to be arrested in connection with the case, the SSP said.

Investigating Officer Abhishek Singh said Pandey was produced in a court today which sent him in 14-day judicial custody.

He said a manhunt is on to arrest the other accused. Earlier, the police had arrested the then principal of the college Rajiv Mishra, his medico-wife Purnima Shukla, and Dr. Kafeel Khan, the then nodal officer of the 100-bed Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) ward of the college.

Following the deaths, mostly of infants, cases were registered

under various sections of the IPC, Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Medical Council Act against nine people, including the doctor couple, Dr Khan, anaesthetist Dr Satish, pharmacist Gajanan Jaiswal, clerk Sudhir Pandey, assistant clerk Sanjay Kumar Tripathi and gas suppliers Uday Pratap Singh and Manish Bhandari.

Mishra was suspended as principal of the medical college on August 12 after the deaths were reported. He resigned the same day taking moral responsibility.

There were allegations that the deaths happened due to disruption in oxygen supply as the vendor had not been paid for several months.

While the Uttar Pradesh government vehemently denied that shortage of oxygen led to the deaths, a high-power probe committee headed by Chief Secretary Rajive Kumar indicted Mishra and others of laxity and other charges.

The medical college attracted global attention when more than 60 children died at the hospital within a span of a week last month.



Festival promotes culture of North-East India

NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): A two-day festival to promote the art, culture, heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India was inaugurated here today.

'North East Calling', organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under its 'Destination North East' series, is showcasing the rich heritage of the seven sisters through their music, dance, art and craft.

A music festival with bands playing music from the region, along with a cultural night featuring dances of the north-eastern states have been organised as part of the festival.

Jitendra Singh, who inaugurated the festival at the India Gate lawns here, appealed to the public to come and visit the festival and understand the richness of culture of North East.

"Such events will not only enrich the economy and culture of North Eastern region, but will also bring the rest of India more closer to the North East.

"These events, that too in the heart of National Capital, help the artisans and people of North East to showcase their talent," he said.

The development, upliftment and growth of North East has been on the priority of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

Singh also launched 'North East Venture Fund', a joint initiative of Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd, that seeks to promote entrepreneurship and start-ups in the region.

The North East Tourism Development Council to promote sustainable tourism in North East India, was also launched.

"The focus has not only been bringing North East closer to the rest of country, but also to bring rest of India closer to the North East," he said.

The festival also features a handloom demo show, exhibiting the clothes of North-East, as well as a range of food stalls serving delicacies from the seven states.

Sarkar LF chief ministerial candidate in next assembly polls

AGARTALA, SEP 9 (PTI): The CPI-M in Tripura today said Manik Sarkar would return as chief minister for the fifth consecutive term, if the ruling Left Front wins next year's 60-member state assembly elections.

"We have no doubt about forming the next government.

Manik Sarkar would be the chief minister of the eighth Left Front Government in Tripura. He is physically strong and capable of running the government efficiently," state CPI-M secretary Bijan Dhar told reporters here.

The state assembly elections are scheduled to be held in February next year.

Replying to a question, he said there is no bar in the party constitution that a person would not be able to contest elections or hold the post of chief minister for more than two or three terms.

When his attention was drawn to the fact



that senior party leader Sitaram Yechuri was not allowed to contest in the Rajya Sabha for more than two terms, Dhar said it is the convention in CPI-M that one member would not contest from from the RS for more than two terms.

"Moreover, a party general secretary cannot hold any parliamentary post because he is supposed to concentrate more on party building. Harkishen Singh Surjeet was elected as party general secretary and never contested for a Rajya Sabha seat," Dhar said.

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Slain Colonel Mahadik's wife joins Army as an officer

CHENNAI, SEP 9 (PTI): In an inspiring example of grit and courage, the wife of Colonel Santosh Mahadik, who was killed fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir nearly two years back, today joined the army as an officer after 11 months of gruelling training.

38-year-old Swati Mahadik, a mother of two, was commissioned in the Army as an officer in the Army Ordnance Corps.

Her husband Col Mahadik, a recipient of the Sena medal for gallantry, was killed in an anti-terror operation in Kupwara in north Kashmir in November 2015.

He was an officer from the Army's elite 21 Para Special forces and according to his colleagues, he was known for always leading from the front.

Following her husband's footstep, Swati had joined the Army's Officers Training Academy (OTA) in October last year.

"Swati Mahadik was today commissioned as an officer after she completed her training at the OTA in Chennai," said a senior Army officer, who did not wish to be named.

He said Swati will join the Army Ordnance Corps in Pune.

Another woman -- Nidhi Dubey -- was also commissioned as an officer today. Nidhi had also lost her husband who was a Naik in the Army.

Vasundhara Raje launches world's first processed olive tea

JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 9 (PTI): Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje today launched the first processed olive tea, produced from the olive plants in Rajasthan.

The 'Olitia' tea has been produced by Olitia Foods Pvt Ltd following an MoU signed between the state government and the company during the Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2016.

While launching the tea Raje said this innovative product would earn an international identity to the olive produced by Rajasthan farmers.

She said that the state government's efforts for promoting olive cultivation in Rajasthan started yielding positive outcomes.

The target of doubling farmers' income by 2020 could only be achieved by implementing such innovations, she said.

The chief minister also tasted the olive tea and praised it.

During this, she was shown other agri-processed products being produced in Rajasthan.

She urged for better marketing of such agri-products so that the hard working farmers earn good returns.

State Agriculture Minister Prabhulal Saini said that being an antioxidant and anti-diabetic drink, the olitia tea is very good for health.

He further shared the details of increasing trend of olive production in the state.

Director of Olitia Foods Dharampal Garhwal said this was the world's first processed olive tea. Countries like UK, USA and Gulf Countries had shown deep interest into this product, he said.

Man Utd can swagger to league title, says Mourinho

LONDON, SEP 9 (AFP): Jose Mourinho says recent history proves it takes a defensive mindset to win the Premier League, although he insists his Manchester United side can buck that trend.

In one of his by-now frequent and thinly veiled critiques of his former club Chelsea, Mourinho pointed out that his successor Antonio Conte employed a defence-first, counter-attacking style to win last season's title.

And while the United manager says his side are capable of following that example, he also wants to ensure they play in a positive fashion.

"We try to play the best we can," Mourinho said on Friday. "We know that if you look in a pragmatic way, you see the last winners of the Premier League, they did not play attacking football.

"They played defensive football and counter-attack football. So, according to the



results, that is the way to win the Premier League.

"We try to play according to the qualities of our players.

We try to play positive, we try to play good, but we try to win."

United, renowned for their swashbuckling style under

former manager Alex Ferguson, have made a strong start to the Premier League season, winning their opening three

games and scoring 10 goals in the process to top the table.

But, talking at United's Carrington training ground on the eve of a potentially difficult visit to Stoke City, Mourinho insisted his team are not afraid of a hard, defensive battle.

"If one day to win we have to play defensive football, we have to do it," said Mourinho.

"If we go to Stoke and Stoke in some moments of the match, they put us under pressure and they are dominant, we have to be humble and we have to be pragmatic and we have to face the reality.

"If you ask me, are we going to go there and play with seven at the back, like some teams do, five plus two? No, we're not going to do that. We're going to try and play well and score goals. But if our opponent is better than us and dominant, we are humble enough to transform our way of playing to play for a result."

Mourinho has praised the club's management for leaving him with a stable squad, in contrast to a number of United's rivals who have struggled with the distractions created by big-name stars coming to the end of their contracts.

United have employed a policy of adding an additional, optional year at the end of all deals, meaning that the only players currently with less than 12 months remaining on their contracts are veterans Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Michael Carrick.

Mourinho also praised Everton manager Ronald Koeman for his handling of the controversy surrounding former United club captain Wayne Rooney following his arrest and charge for a drink-driving offence.

"I'm really happy that Ronald Koeman thinks in this simple way that I do too and has already said he's going to play tomorrow," said Mourinho.

US Open men's doubles winners push equality

New York, Sep 9 (AFP): Dutchman Jean-Julien Rojer and Romania's Horia Tecau pressed for social justice and racial equality on Friday after winning the US Open men's doubles title for their second Grand Slam crown.

The 12th-seeded duo defeated Spanish 11th seeds Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez 6-4, 6-3 to win their first US Open.

Their other Slam trophy came at Wimbledon in 2015.

After the triumph, Rojer -- wearing a yellow shirt bearing a drawing of the Statue of Liberty -- said the clothing was inspired by last month's confrontation between extreme right demonstrators and counter-protestors in Charlottesville, Virginia, that left one person dead.

"The idea came after the tragic incident in Charlottesville and we came up with this line promoting peace and freedom and liberty," Rojer told spectators.

The Dutchman said he has another shirt with



people locking arms in a civil rights march.

"Hopefully we're moving in that direction," Rojer said.

"I've been here since I was 12 years old. It's a great country. I'm happy they let me in and that I get to do my job here.

"Hopefully we'll create these opportunities for everybody."

His comments come as US President Donald Trump has tightened immigration policies and after he spoke of "very fine people" on both sides in

Charlottesville, shocking even some political allies.

A violent white supremacist rally opposing removal of a statue of General Robert E. Lee sparked a global outcry when neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan supporters and others openly marched and confronted counter demonstrators.

Heather Heyer, 32, was killed and 19 others injured when a far-right supporter ran his car into the crowd of counter demonstrators.

"I just wanted to have

the conversation going and promoting again, just freedom and justice, liberty for everybody on gender issues, on racial issues which we deal a lot with in this country," Rojer said.

"I feel in tennis we don't say much about it, but this is just tennis... and especially I think it's symbolic to be here."

Racial confrontations, including African-Americans killed by white police officers, also bother Rojer, who comes from the Dutch Caribbean is-

land of Curacao.

"First time I noticed color was when I came to the US, sad to say that, when I was 12, because we don't grow up with that back home," he said.

"It's stuff I know that goes on. I read the news and I see a lot of unfair stuff going on. Some of these people don't have a voice to defend themselves and this kind of stuff, but it just really came about after Charlottesville and I thought it was a good message."

Tecau added that as champion athletes they had an obligation to spread a message of racial equality and social justice.

"We're viewed as role models for a lot of the people," he said. "It's nice to send this message and spread it, because you have a lot of people that look up to you.

"It's important to see we're not just athletes competing for Slams and prize money and glory. In the locker room, everybody is the same. We're all friends and all compete against each other.

Nadal downs Del Potro, faces Anderson for US Open title

NEW YORK, SEP 9 (AFP): Rafael Nadal moved one win away from a third US Open title and 16th Grand Slam crown Friday when he defeated weary Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, the 2010 and 2013 champion in New York, will be playing in his 23rd Slam final and third this year, looking to add the US title to his record 10th French Open.

In Sunday's final, the world number one will face 32nd-ranked Kevin Anderson, the first South African in the championship match in 52 years.

Anderson reached his maiden final at the majors by beating 12th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

For 2009 champion Del Potro, Friday's match was one too many as the physical and emotional toll of seeing off Roger Federer in four sets in the previous round left him spent.

"I have had an amazing season after some tough moments with injuries in recent years," said

Nadal, who started 2017 by finishing runner-up to Federer in Australia.

"It's a very emotional year for me. I am in the final again and get the chance to fight for another title which is very important."

Nadal said the key to Friday's win was a change of tactics after the first set. "I played too much to his backhand and I felt he was waiting for me there," said Nadal after his 15th successive Grand Slam semi-final win. I changed it and it worked very well. I made him move more and make it all more unpredictable."

Nadal finished with 45 winners and 20 unforced errors to Del Potro's 23 and 40.

Despite a 4-0 winning record over Anderson, Nadal said he will not underestimate his opponent on Sunday.

"He is a very dangerous player with a big serve and plays very well on this surface. I have known him since we were 12.

"He's had many injuries but the way he has come back is a great example to the kids."

CBI books 19 companies for sending over 400 crore abroad

NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): The CBI has registered a case against 19 companies which have sent over Rs 424 crore in foreign remittances through about 700 transactions, suspecting it to be a case of money laundering through shell companies.

It is alleged that during the year 2015, unidentified officials of Punjab National Bank (PNB), Mint Street branch, Chennai, entered into a criminal conspiracy with 19 accused companies which were

account holders in the branch.

"...in furtherance of the conspiracy, the above said companies were sending foreign exchange to Hong Kong without any genuine business transactions," the FIR, registered last evening, alleged.

It said the accounts thus opened were used for the purpose of sending advance foreign remittances.

"The modus operandi was that the customers got remittances from various other

banks to their accounts by way of RTGS (real time gross settlement). The customer presented their request with a quotation issued by foreign suppliers for 100 per cent advance remittances," it said.

The customer made request for remittance to foreign supplier based on the quotation, it alleged.

"The remittance amount was kept in such a way that it would not exceed the threshold limit of USD 1 lakh for

each remittance in order to circumvent the regulatory requirements and applicability of the RBI," it said.

The CBI said there were 700 advance remittances made for imports through various current accounts opened during the period from January 2015 to May 2015 totalling to Rs 424.58 crore.

"All the advance remittances were routed through NOSTRO (account held by PNB with a foreign bank in a foreign

currency) account maintained with HSBC, New York," it said.

The bank had found that none of units were functioning at the available address.

The RTGS credits emanated mostly from some credit cooperative societies, at Mumbai and other places.

The RTGS transactions were made by the remitter through fictitious persons in whose names accounts could have opened in the co-operative societies in Mumbai.

The remittances were sent in the name of foreign suppliers who had opened accounts in various banks in the UAE, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The remittances were routed through HSBC, New York to these banks, the CBI alleged.

"It is clear that this is a case of money laundering through shell companies and there has been loss of foreign exchange to the tune of Rs 421.58 crore to the country," it alleged.

ATK sign Spanish defender Jordi



KOLKATA, SEP 9 (PTI): Spanish defender Jordi Figueras Montel became ATK's sixth foreign recruit for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League, the two-time ISL champions, announced today.

Jordi, who has played as a central defender for La Liga clubs like Celta, Real Betis and Real Valladolid, will strengthen the defence of ATK.

Besides playing in top tier Spanish league like Copa del

Rey and Russian premier division league Premier Liga and Turkish Super Lig, Jordi also played for Club Brugge KV from the Belgian Pro League which featured in the UEFA Europa League.

"We welcome Jordi to our ATK family. Our coaching staff believes in his abilities as a central defender and feels he will be an ideal fit in our scheme of things for the upcoming season," ATK principal owner Sanjiv Goenka

said in a statement.

Jordi said he was delighted to get a chance to experience Indian football through ATK.

"India is gaining popularity in the global arena post the onset of ISL as we are being able to meet new fans and play some exciting football. I am eagerly looking forward to getting to know my teammates, contribute to our game plan and earn many fans from India," said Jordi.

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Turkey stops 40 Syrian migrants from crossing to Greece

ISTANBUL, SEP 9 (AP): Turkish authorities say 40 Syrian migrants have been stopped from illegally crossing to Greece.

Turkey's coast guard says the migrants, among them 18 children, were stopped yesterday off the western province of Izmir.

In footage filmed from a coast guard boat, the group is seen in a rubber dinghy. As the coast guard vessel approaches, one man lifts and then briefly lowers a small child toward the sea, while another man raises his arms in prayer. The coast guard then pulls in the dinghy and transfers the migrants to its boat.

Turkey and the European Union signed a deal last year to curb the illegal flow of migrants to Greece. Turkey is host to more than 3 million Syrians who have fled the ongoing civil war in their country.

Canada extradites two to India over honour killing

MONTREAL, SEP 9 (AFP): Canada's Supreme Court has ruled that two of its citizens can be extradited to India for their alleged role in an honour killing 17 years ago.

Surjit Singh Badesha, 72, and Malkit Kaur Sidhu, 67, are wanted in connection with the murder of Jaswinder Kaur Sidhu, who was 25 at the time of her death.

The suspects, both Canadian citizens of Indian origin, are the uncle and mother of the slain woman.

Jaswinder Kaur Sidhu's body was found with her throat slit in June 2000 in Punjab state.

Indian prosecutors say that she was the victim of an honour killing planned by her mother and uncle, who furiously opposed the young woman's marriage to a poor rickshaw driver, something the victim had kept secret for a year.

After revealing her marriage to her family, the victim reportedly fled from Canada to India to reunite with her husband, Mithu Sidhu.

The couple was later attacked as they rode a scooter in a village near Sangrur, Punjab in June 2000. Her husband was severely beaten and left for dead while Sidhu was kidnapped and later killed.

Rohingya exodus to Bangladesh nears 3,00,000

COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH), SEP 9 (AFP): Nearly 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state into Bangladesh in the 15 days since new violence erupted, the United Nations said today.

The figure has jumped about 20,000 in a day.

"Some 290,000 Rohingya arrived in Bangladesh since August 25," said Joseph Tripura, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency.

Officials said the UN has found more Rohingya in villages and areas which were previously not included by relief agencies.

Most of the Rohingya are arriving by foot or boat across Bangladesh's 278 kilometre (172 mile) border with Myanmar, a fourth of which is made up by the Naf river.

The UN said there was a sharp increase in arrivals on Wednesday, when more than 300 boats arrived in Bangladesh.

On Thursday the UN had put the number at 164,000.

The Rohingya have long been

subjected to discrimination in Buddhist majority Myanmar, which denies them citizenship.

Myanmar's government regards them as illegal migrants from Bangladesh, even if they have lived in the country for generations.

Refugee camps near Bangladesh's border with Myanmar already had about 300,000 Rohingya before the upsurge in violence and are now overwhelmed.

The tens of thousands of new arrivals have nowhere to shelter from monsoon rains.

The latest figure takes the number of Rohingya refugees who have arrived in Bangladesh since violence erupted last October to 377,000.

Those flocking into Bangladesh have given harrowing accounts of killings, rape and arson by Myanmar's army. The Myanmar authorities deny any wrongdoing.

Most have walked for days and the United Nations says many are sick, exhausted and in desperate need of shelter, food and water.



Mass exodus as Hurricane Irma eyes Florida, batters Cuba

MIAMI, SEP 9 (AFP): After laying waste to several Caribbean islands, Hurricane Irma was barreling today towards Florida, where some 5.6 million people faced orders to evacuate as the monster storm made landfall in Cuba.

Irma - which has killed at least 19 people and devastated thousands of homes in the Caribbean - made landfall late yesterday on the Camaguey Archipelago of Cuba as a maximum-strength Category 5 storm.

The hurricane weakened slightly to a Category 4 hours later, swirling some 245 miles (395 kilometers) away from Miami and packing still powerful maximum sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, according to the US National Hurricane Center.

In Cuba officials reported "significant damage" in parts of the island's center without providing further details, but said there were not yet casualties.



More than a million people on the Caribbean's largest island have evacuated as a precaution, authorities said.

Irma is expected to strike the Florida Keys late today and tomorrow before moving inland, and many residents have joined a mass exodus amid increasingly dire alerts to leave.

"Irma remains an extremely dangerous hurricane!" tweeted the National Weather Service early today.

"It's not too late to get off the Keys!!!" the agency said. "You still have time, this morning, to get out! Please, the Keys are not safe."

According to Florida's Division of Emergency Management

some 5.6 million residents have been ordered to evacuate - nearly a quarter of the state population.

Warning that Irma would be worse than Hurricane Andrew - which killed 65 people in 1992 - Florida's governor said all 20.6 million Floridians

should prepare to flee.

"If you're in an evacuation zone, you should be very cautious, you should get out now," Governor Rick Scott told CNN. "This is a powerful storm bigger than our state."

Bumper-to-bumper traffic was snaking north out of the peninsula, with mattresses, gas cans and kayaks strapped to car roofs.

North of the Keys, in Miami Beach, 82-year-old Cuban-American Orlando Reyes had suddenly to flee his assisted living facility.

"It is frightening," he told AFP at a shelter in Miami.

"We had to leave without a cent, without taking a bath, or bringing anything."

The storm ravaged a series of tiny islands before slamming into the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

French state-owned reinsurer CCR estimated Irma had caused 1.2 billion euros (USD 1.4 billion) worth of damage

to homes, vehicles and businesses in the territories of Saint Martin and Saint Barts.

"Houses are smashed, the airport is out of action," Saint Barts resident Olivier Tous-saint told AFP.

"Upside-down cars are in the cemeteries. Boats are sunk in the marina, shops are destroyed." Meteorologists meanwhile were closely monitoring two other Atlantic storms.

Jose, another powerful Category 4 storm, was heading towards the same string of Caribbean islands Irma has pummeled in recent days.

Katia made landfall in eastern Mexico late yesterday - just as the country was grappling with its worst earthquake in a century - as a Category 1 hurricane.

It was later downgraded to a tropical storm but was still bringing rains that could bring "life-threatening flash floods and mudslides."

Few smart cities will not make big difference, VP

RANCHI, SEPT 9 (PTI): Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu today said unless all cities are made smart it will not make a "big difference" to the country and for this the participation of the people and stake holders is important.

"Only one Ranchi Smart City or hundred smart cities in the country will not make a big difference unless all the cities of the country are made smart. But for this purpose the participation of all the people and stake holders is important," Naidu said after bhoomi puja was held for the Ranchi Smart City.

"Ranchi will be the first Greenfield Smart City of the country where IT, beauty, duty and security everything will be available and so Ranchi Smart City will not only be a lighthouse for Jharkhand but it will be a lighthouse for the entire country," the vice president said.

Stating that the situation in the country must change, Naidu said, electricity comes and goes erratically and this old concept must go. "All the places and houses must have 24x7 electricity."

He said, many developed countries have achieved it so why should India be behind? Naidu said that looking into the development of such countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought in such futuristic plans in the country.

The vice president said that local bureaucracy, local bodies and politicians must work together taking on board the common people to fulfill the

ambitious projects.

Naidu asked the authorities to develop smart city in such a way that it should have both parks and parking facilities. Recycling of waste water should be done so that it can be used for gardening and factories, he said.

He said, in the smart city there should be traffic free zone, more and more solar energy should be used, energy-efficient street lights should be used there should be pedestrian path and more over there should be a

separate cycle track.

Waste management system, efficient education system, efficient traffic system and health amenities are parts of smart cities, he said.

Naidu said, there should be arrangement for advanced weather forecasting in the smart cities.

The vice president said, people of Jharkhand are fortunate to have good weather condition, greenery, labourious people and 40 per cent of the country's mineral resources.

Naidu said, the initial

amount of Rs 500 crore from the central government and additional Rs 500 crore by the local body make only Rs 1000 crore which cannot do much for a smart city. And that is why the Union government has planned to develop smart cities on the public-private partnership.

Under the scheme, private companies and foreign companies can help and participate in the development of such cities, he said.

While reviewing Ranchi Smart City project with

Chief Minister Raghubar Das and the state government authorities today, Naidu said, he suggested to the state government to appoint a CEO for the project and he was told that the CEO would be appointed within a week.

Naidu said that such an ambitious project must be executed with transparency, accountability and participation from the people. And if this mode is adopted, the people will always be ready to contribute in the form of taxes.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim. Contact 9434117687 for further details and to arrange site visits.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR OSTRICH EVENING	
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward	
Draw No:6 DrawDate on:09/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 84D 66117	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 66117 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
03115 03120 06623 07367 13174	
13565 15861 26057 57616 76572	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
09527 39548 43714 49220 52306	
53031 56781 68024 92373 94969	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
0218 2738 2917 4708 5352 6557 7230 8402 8458 8883	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
2338 4609 4697 5083 5775 6485 8042 8391 8748 8929	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
0042 0139 0164 0269 0341 0354 0393 0609 0610 0704	
0994 1020 1174 1178 1192 1195 1279 1412 1543 1561	
1588 1620 1901 2082 2156 2157 2498 2506 2714 2729	
2786 2899 3054 3111 3288 3385 3399 3437 3448 3486	
3501 3545 3899 4184 4205 4279 4361 4624 4838 5033	
5151 5152 5271 5346 5419 5507 5566 5599 5653 5657	
5672 5696 5719 5728 5782 5789 5938 5941 5955 6354	
6384 6512 6574 6745 6890 6964 6981 6986 7150 7287	
7379 7453 7459 7477 7614 7744 7773 8345 8484 8543	
8580 8726 8891 8973 9060 9102 9448 9549 9728 9897	
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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR PRIZED MORNING	DEAR GENTLE
Draw No:1 DrawDate on:09/09/17	Draw No:6 DrawDate on:09/09/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 91L 38534	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 38534 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
04626 12103 12802 35814 44577	
51022 59704 66782 78090 88186	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
04142 16823 16846 29777 31605	
33955 34757 49124 51606 54137	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
0462 1700 3200 3567 3952 4341 6381 7325 8064 8794	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
1063 1841 3125 3373 5374 5915 8375 9331 9454 9864	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
0098 0099 0232 0239 0380 0748 0777 1492 1505 1711	
1778 1860 1861 1872 1939 1992 2157 2170 2284 2398	
2607 2655 2764 2816 3001 3076 3121 3126 3203 3318	
3472 3672 3760 3776 3894 3970 4180 4213 4528 4803	
4949 5075 5090 5105 5148 5576 5585 5623 5658 5707	
5756 5762 5892 5895 5917 6065 6181 6237 6258 6273	
6375 6441 6490 6597 6614 6648 6663 6681 6756 6931	
6934 6957 6995 7034 7156 7275 7410 7504 7507 7785	
7956 8088 8094 8163 8379 8445 8479 8661 8668 8853	
9043 9127 9328 9573 9631 9656 9729 9762 9794 9930	
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• KIM KARDASHIAN WEST SLAMS SURROGATE RUMOURS

The 36-year-old reality star - who already has North, four, and Saint, 21 months, with her rapper spouse - has "seen a lot of things" being reported about her rumoured third child which is she is thought to be having via a surrogate, but has slammed the speculation, saying the family will let the world know "when [they're] ready".

Speaking to E! News, Kim said: "I've definitely seen a lot of things, we've never con-

firmed anything. So, I think when we're ready to talk about it we will, and I think it's super invasive when people are just ... So many details out there, and like I've never heard this, I've never heard this. Like whatever. We have not confirmed it, and that's that. I'll let you know when we're ready."

Recently, it was reported the rumoured surrogate is carrying a baby girl for the pair, which is thought to be arriving in January 2018.

A source said: "They are so excited about their future baby girl. They can't wait to add a new addition to their family and are just so incredibly happy."

The insider also claimed that the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star and the 'Famous' rapper - who have been married since 2014 - have been extremely involved in the pregnancy so far.

They added: "Kim and Kanye have been incredibly involved in the surrogate process. Kim has been super adamant



that the surrogate sticks to a healthy diet.

"Kim and Kanye both want the healthiest baby possible and are making sure the surrogate is abiding by the routine they've set for her."

Kim was advised against getting pregnant again by doctors after the birth of her youngest child Saint, as she had suffered life-threatening complications with both of her previous pregnancies.

• IT MOVIE GETS A SEQUEL

The new IT movie opened yesterday and by all accounts the flick is pretty good as it currently sits at 90% at Rotten Tomatoes.

Movie theater chains are also hoping IT performs well at the box office as this Sum-

mer has been pretty slow; IT is expected to rake in around \$60-70 million for its opening weekend.

More good news comes in that you won't have to wait another 27 years for IT to return as word of a sequel comes from THR.

The site reports the IT sequel is in the works at New Line Cinema with one of the screenwriters on IT, Gary Dauberman, returning in addition to director Andy Muschietti.

The report also mentions the IT sequel is being referred to as "Chapter Two."

It is now in theater starring Bill Skarsgard as Pennywise the Clown, Finn Wolfhard, Owen Teague, Jaeden Lieberher, Nicholas Hamil-

ton, Steven Williams, Megan Charpentier, Sophia Lillis, Wyatt Oleff, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Stephen Bogaert, Ari Cohen, Jack Grazer, Chosen Jacobs and Javier Botet.

When children begin to disappear in the town of Derry, Maine, a group of young kids are faced with their biggest fears when they square off against an evil clown named Pennywise, whose history of murder and violence dates back for centuries.

• LADY GAGA SAYS SHE'S TAKING A 'REST' FROM MUSIC AFTER TOUR

The pop star was at in Toronto for a pair of concerts and to premiere a Netflix documentary about herself, "Gaga: Five Foot Two." The film, playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, chronicles her life, February's Super Bowl performance and her struggle with chronic pain.

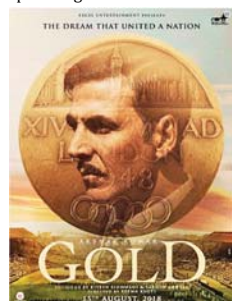
Gaga teared up speaking to reporters about her health issues. "It's hard," she said,

lining but with your love, my clouds got a lining of gold. As my age turns gold, here's the poster of a film close to my heart," Akshay shared on Twitter along with the poster.

Gold, backed by Excel Entertainment and directed by Reema Kagti, is about India's first Olympic medal win as a free nation in the year 1948 at the 14th Olympic Games at London. It will release on Independence Day, 2018.

In sync with the theme, the poster features Akshay's side profile caught in a golden circle. It is superimposed on the iconic Olympic rings and XIV Olympiad London 1948.

The tagline reads: 'The Dream That United A Nation', and behind the film's title is a sprawling stadium.



ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



OUT & ABOUT! Leona Lewis looks in great spirits as she heads to lunch in Beverly Hills in high-waisted statement flares and a tiny white crop top...

ARIES: If someone you know is going through a rough time, Aries, they could come to you for support or advice. People see you as genuinely concerned and a good friend, especially when times are tough. You've probably earned their respect through your caring and helpfulness. By being such a good friend, you're surrounded by people who will be there for you when you need them.

TAURUS: With some leisure time on your hands, you'll find an opportunity to start fresh in some area that has challenged you, Taurus. Find the courage to examine your attitudes toward adverse situations. Armed with your new knowledge,

you might have a new insight that allows you to approach an old problem in a different way. You'll discover that you have more power than you thought.

GEMINI: Today you might want to try something completely new, Gemini. If you've never done this before, why not try expressing yourself through dance? Even if you're convinced you have two left feet, you might be surprised. Whatever your style, there's a type of dance you can do, whether it's as simple as the twist or as flamboyant as flamenco. You'll feel great, and it's good exercise.

CANCER: If you're not already so inclined, Cancer, why not try expressing yourself through song?

Even if you're convinced you have a tin ear, you might be surprised at what happens if you just let yourself go. Do you feel silly singing out loud? Then be silly. Ham it up and have some fun. Even if you're tone deaf, you'll have a great time, and that sort of feeling is infectious.

LEO: Leo, you may discover today that you have a talent for something you've never even thought about before. If you always stick to what you know, how will you ever experience anything new? Trying this unexplored area doesn't mean you have to excel in it. As long as you're completely absorbed and having fun, you'll enjoy a positive experience. Don't shy away from this. Go with it!

VIRGO: It's a new day, Virgo, a good day to let your caring side show. Take the time to smile and chat with as many people as you can. They will be drawn to your friendly personality and you'll all enjoy your time together. If someone is having a rough day, let him or her know you care. Spend a few minutes listening to the problem and show you really understand.

LIBRA: Today brings the opportunity to see things as they are and not as you'd like them to be. It's easy to fool yourself sometimes, but you can only get away with that for so long before the truth comes out. There comes a time when you need to face things. Any time is an

excellent time to start fresh. Take your time and trust in yourself.

SCORPIO: Today your creativity might be stimulated by some free time, Scorpio. You can try and save it for later, but you may not feel the same way then. Try to apply your creativity to a faster or more efficient way to do a particular job or make a dull job more exciting. If you can't give in to that urge now, write down your ideas and plan to return to them soon.

SAGITTARIUS: You probably have a knack for listening to other people and noticing when they need help or a shoulder to cry on, Sagittarius. Today may be excellent for you to help another person

"but it's liberating too."

She later told The Associated Press that she will finish her current tour, which runs through December, and then take some time for herself.



"When this tour is over I will take a little down-

time from myself, and then I'll get back to doing what I love," she said. "I'm never not making music. I'm never not creating. I just am excited to spend some time reflecting on that past ten years and getting excited about what I want to create next."

The singer said at the earlier press conference that she'll still be creating during a break from music. "It doesn't mean I don't have some things up my sleeve," said Gaga.

Gaga recently shot a remake of "A Star is Born," co-starring Bradley Cooper.



10th September WORLD HISTORY

1588: Thomas Cavendish returned to England, becoming the third man to circumnavigate the globe. 1882: The first international conference to promote anti-Semitism met in Dresden Germany.

1894: London taxi driver George ("Mac") Smith became the first man to be fined for drunk driving.

1914: The six-day Battle of the Marne ended, and the German advance into France was stopped.

1977: Convicted murderer Hamida Djandoubi, a Tunisian immigrant, became the last person to date to be executed by the guillotine in France.

1984: British scientist Alec Jeffreys and colleagues discovered that x-ray images of bits of DNA showed patterns unique to individuals.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

INDIAN HISTORY

1872: Ranjitsinghi, famous cricketer who played for the English cricket team and the ruler of Nawanagar, is born.

1887: Govind Ballabh Pant, the second Chief Minister of United Province and the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, born in Khoont village on the slopes of Shyahi Devi hill near Almora.

1923: Popular Bengali playwright, story writer and poet Sukumar Ray passed away in Moshua (now in Bangladesh).

1976: Indian airlines plane Boeing 737 was hijacked from Palam Airport Delhi by group of 6 people from Kashmir headed by Syed Abdul Hameed Dewani. The plane was landed to Lahore Airport to refuel and all the hijackers were arrested and were extradited to India.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES

