



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Chamling convenes post-poll meeting with legislators

VISHNU NEOPANEY

GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

Sikkim Democratic Front party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, is informed to have convened a post-poll deliberation meet with all the party legislators here at Samman Bhawan this evening.

The SDF party president has also congratulated voters and expressed his gratitude to all who reposed their faith in the SDF by voting handsomely in favour of its candidates in the recent Panchayat polls.

Mr Chamling has said that the party's resounding performance was the victory of the Sikkimese people.

He has also extended gratitude to the State Government officials who were responsible for conducting the elections in a fair and peaceful manner.

It is learnt that the party will also be looking at the close calls where the party's candidates won or lost by small margins. As many as four panchayat wards were decided by a coin toss/draw of lots when two candidates polled exactly the same number of votes.

SDF is expected to deliberate all these issues in the closed door meeting which began at 5 p.m. this evening.

Party sources also informed that the party will deliberate on the prospective poll agendas for the next Assembly election.

One USG Centre sealed, show cause notices for others

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

A team from the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee constituted under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994, in a recent visit, found that many private clinics in the State were violating the provisions of the Act. The team visited the state from 01-04 Nov to inspect and monitor the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act 1994, informs a press release.

Among the private clinics, the USG clinic at Ruchi Diagnostics & Clinic Pvt. Ltd was sealed and the necessary documents were seized for violating the PC&PNDT Act on 01 Nov.

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Sikkimese films have started having a pan-India effect: Takapa

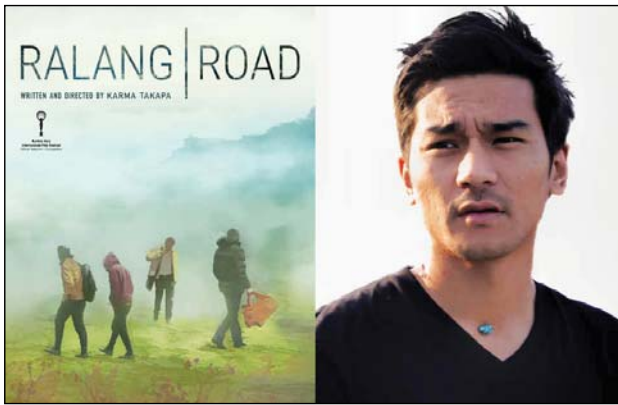
RADHIKA SHARMA

DHARAMSHALA, Nov 6

(PTI): Karma Takapa, who has ventured into full-fledged filmmaking with "Ralang Road", says, like him, his state Sikkim is in its initial stages of exploring cinema.

The director says there has been a constant flow of filmmakers coming and making films in Sikkim and it is having a pan-Indian effect.

In an interview with PTL, Takapa says, "Sikkim film industry is in its nascent stage. You have people making films but we aren't really talking about building our own industry like Bengali, Marathi



or even Bhojpuri.

"The filmmakers have a certain level of support that has allowed them to

flourish. And because of that they have been able to create films that have had a pan-India effect. It may

not have as strong a reach as Bollywood but numbers that we are talking about are quite huge in

terms of the region."

Earlier, the writer-director co-helmed the 2015 Chhattisgarhi film "Mor Man Ke Bharam" with Heer Ganjwala and Abhishek Varma.

Takapa says with mainstream Bollywood names such as Priyanka Chopra venturing into Sikkimese cinema, it gives a much-needed kickstart to films in terms of finance and recognition.

"Obviously, Sikkim would want more big-budget Bollywood projects to come and work there... Produce films. It's great for the tourism and at the end

of the day, we're talking revenue. It's always a plus point.

"This gives you some hope as you don't have an inherent audience, which I mean in terms of the population. So you hope that it opens up to a larger number of people - the idea of the so-called world cinema."

He says it further helps as then films start visiting festivals and people on ground recommend them through word-of-mouth.

"But the money spending audience will only go and watch the film if there is a connect with the language in which the

film is made, something that happens strongly in Marathi or South Indian cinema," he adds.

"Ralang Road", made in Nepali language, was screened at the sixth edition of the Dharamshala International Film Festival yesterday.

It is a one-day story about four strangers of different age groups, who come together due to some coincidences that lead to both dramatic and humorous in a span of one day.

Takapa hails from Borong village in South Sikkim and the title of the movie has been drawn

turn to pg02



RUSFC WINS SUPER CUP 2017

GANGTOK, 06 Nov: Royal United Sikkim Football Club became the champions of the Play 24 7 Super Cup 2017 played here at Paljor Stadium. In a contesting final match played this evening, Sikkim Premier Division League 2017 champion, Royal United Sikkim FC edged past the State Sports Academy by a solitary goal. Karan Rai scored the winning goal for Royal United Sikkim FC in the 54th minute. The tournament, organised by Sikkim Football Association from 04 Nov, had the top four teams of Sikkim Premier Division League 2017 fighting for champion's title. [Sagar Chettri]



Marathon Man bags silver at Hyderabad Ultra Marathon

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

Amar "Marathon Man" Subba, has won a silver medal in the Hyderabad Ultra Marathon held on 05 Nov. He finished second in the 50 KMs run in veterans' category covering the distance in 4 hours and 50 seconds.

Speaking over the phone, Mr Subba expressed his happiness and satisfaction on finishing the run in second position. He stated that the competition

was tough but he gave his best.

"I have been participating in such events at this age to encourage and motivate youngsters to live a healthy and productive life," he said. Mr Subba is 49 years old.

He also encouraged young runners to continue to work hard to represent the country in coming days.

Mr Subba has thanked all supporters and well wishers for their support and encouragement.

Independent India's first voter, 100-year-old Negi upbeat to vote once more

SANJAY GANJOO

KINNAUR (HP), Nov 6

(PTI): Sixty-six years ago, in 1951, a young Shyam Saran Negi made history when he exercised his franchise in scenic Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district becoming independent India's first voter.

Decades have passed leaving wrinkles across the over-100-year-old retired school teacher's face yet his enthusiasm remains undiminished as he prepares to again cast his vote.

"My father is preparing to cast his vote on November 9 for the state Assembly polls," his youngest son Chander Prakash told PTI over the phone.

Negi, who has never missed voting in any state or general election, is a VIP of sorts as there is full media glare when he goes out to vote. Even the administration will roll out a red carpet when he walks into the polling booth this time.

"My father still remembers the day when he cast his vote for the first time. He still gets the same joy



and thrill each time he exercises his franchise," said Prakash, the youngest among nine siblings.

Polls were held in Chini or present day Kalpa in Kinnaur district, which borders Tibet on the east, before other parts of the state in 1951, anticipating heavy snowfall in higher altitude areas, when Negi first voted.

His house is in Kanang Saring in Kalpa, famous for its high-quality apples, and situated at an altitude of

nearly 10,000 feet.

Negi, who is a big fan of former Prime Minister, late Lal Bahadur Shastri, says people should vote for good leaders as it will help country develop. He recalls how times have changed since he first voted.

"I still remember the time when there were only a few schools and one had to walk long distances to reach them. Now, you find schools in the remotest of towns. And what gives me happiness is that there is a great focus on girls' education now as opposed to the time when they were restricted indoors," he says.

Negi's grandson Deepak Kumar says his grandfather is a role model for the younger generation, as he keeps on exhorting them to vote and elect good leaders. He was even appointed a brand ambassador by the state election commission.

According to Prakash, Negi often calls himself a "frog in the well" as he has travelled only once outside Himachal and that too up to Haridwar.

"He lives in a world of his own. He loves listening to the radio and keenly follows the news. However, he is not fond of watching TV," Prakash said. These days he walks with the help of a stick and mostly remains indoors as winter is round the corner, he said.

"He eats less these days, but is fond of drinking tea," Prakash added.

Kinnaur Deputy Commissioner Dr Naresh Kumar Lath, who is also the district electoral officer, said a red carpet will be rolled out to facilitate Negi to cast his vote without any hassle.

"He will be given a rousing reception near the polling station gate in Kalpa. He will be honoured with a traditional Kinnauri cap, a shawl and mementoes," Lath said.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kalpa, Dr Avaninder Kumar said "We have made all arrangements to facilitate him reach the Kalpa-2 polling station from his home. He will also be dropped at home after he exercises the franchise."

SPCC congratulates new Panchayats

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 NOV:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has congratulated all the winning candidates of the Panchayat Election held on 03 Nov. The party has also congratulated all independent candidates who fought against SDF in the elections. The party has urged all elected Panchayats to work honestly for the people of their respective areas.

One USG Centre sealed, show cause notices for others

contd from pg01

Show cause notice is being sent to all the USG clinics in and around Gangtok for not properly maintaining the Form F, PNDT registers and also for denying services to pregnant mothers. The centers have been directed to rectify these shortcomings within 15 days, the release mentions.

The visiting team has further recommended suspension or cancellation of registration of these USG Centers if they have not rectified these shortcomings within the stipulated time.

The four-member team comprised of Ajay Kumar Singh [Under Secretary, MoHFW], Dr Sudhir Sachar [IRIA], Dr Neelam Singh [Activist] and Dr Rajanikant Contractor [FOGSI].

Sikkimese films have started...

contd from pg01

from the road that connects the place to Ralong. "A good portion of the film has been shot on that road.

The story has more to do with the characters and play of weather than the geographical ideas. We were trying to find the duality in the film which is completely in sync with the weather in the state."

Takapa says there are only two theatres in the state - both single screens and in Gangtok, the Sikkim capital.

He says, "Smaller films have to jostle with big blockbusters for space every weekend with just two screens in the state."

The director says quite like every other state in India people in Sikkim are crazy about films and they are trying to get a release for "Ralang Road" in the state soon.

"They may not like the film but they turn up at theatres to support you. We are getting a positive response from people about the theatrical release. But the most important part is to get it out in Sikkim so that people can see it. Probably we will be able to do it in a month."

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Voters share views on recently concluded Panchayat polls

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 06 NOV:

The recently held Panchayat polls has once again helped the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] consolidate its hold over the State.

The party's performance in the East and West districts has been exceptional while there is a sense of dissatisfaction with results in South and

North districts where independents allegedly supported by some opposition parties have gained ground among the voters.

A voter from Saramsa, Renu Pradhan, says, "In a democracy, people are supreme with Panchayat being the grassroot leader at the village level."

She also stressed on overall development of villag-

es and urged Panchayats to come up with new innovative ideas for progress.

Columnist Dewakar Basnet says, "I am happy that the Panchayat elections were conducted successfully. Also glad that the atmosphere during and after the results was peaceful and that the best people, as per democratic principles, won their respective seats. Sikkim has always

been a peaceful state and we kept that intact."

However, the 76% voting turnout seemed unsatisfactory for many.

Dewakar Basnet comments, "My only little comment is that we are a high voter turnout State. We could not reach 80% this Panchayat election which is a little disappointing."

With the Panchayats play-

ing a decisive role in almost all matters related to development of rural areas, the elected Panchayats now have a huge burden of expectations to bear.

Student leader, Patrush Lepcha, held that power decentralisation has given lots of functions to Panchayats. Adding further, he says that Panchayats should be the main mediator between the

public and the policy makers so that the needs of the villages can be fulfilled as much as possible.

A young voter, Karma Denzongpa, states, "So now the election is over. Elected Panchayats should work for everyone irrespective of which political party they belong to."

"Being a Panchayat is not a privilege but a responsibility," stresses Karma.



HRD participates in National Workshop on School Education

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 NOV:

Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim participated in the National Workshop in School Education held in New Delhi today. The workshop is being held on themes like Digital Education-Teacher Learning, Student Learning, Physical Education, Value Education, Life Skill Education and Experiential Learning, an HRDD press release informs.

Additional Chief Secretary

GP Upadhyaya, who is also the HRDD Secretary, who co-chaired the session on Value Education sub group, spoke about several initiatives being taken by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and the HRDD in order to improve upon quality education and better human resource in the State. He spoke about the teacher-guardian concept in the schools where in a teacher takes care of about 10 students in the school and gives personal attention to their needs.

He also spoke about the concept of organic farming in the school curriculum, value based talks by teachers in the classroom with the students, students being encouraged to speak in the morning assembly and other public gatherings. He further mentioned the special initiatives of the HRDD under which students are helping illiterate parents and elderly persons to read, write and do simple arithmetic.

The workshop was addressed by Union Minister

for Human Resource, Prakash Javadekar. It was attended by Ministers of State, MHRD, Satyapal Singh and Upendra Kushwaha, other high level officers like by Secretary [SE&L], Anil Swaroop, Chairperson [CBSE], Anita Karwal, representatives from all states, various NGOs and other related organisations from all over the country.

Special Secretary and Director, School Education, HRDD, MT Sherpa, is also participating in the workshop, the release adds.

More than 2 lakh attend NE Fest in New Delhi

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 NOV:

To celebrate the essence of North East India and bring it closer to the mainland, the fifth edition of North East Festival was organized at IG-NCA Ground in Janpath, New Delhi from 03-05 Nov. The event aims to highlight the positive aspects of the region which is full of talents, resources and success stories.

A press release informs that more than two lakh people from Delhi-NCR, NE communities and foreigners attended the festival. Since 2013, a group of young and dynamic people and NE communities have been trying to bring the NE closer to mainland India through the festival.

North East Festival's Brand Ambassador and an icon from NE, Anshu Jamsenpa, who is a world record holder and five time Everest, was present for the festival in all three days in an attempt to promote tourism and culture of NE.

The rock battle finale marked the beginning of the final day. The previous days witnessed



semi-final rounds of the battle with 10 bands performing each day, with band Knight Shades of Delhi winning the battle and a cash prize of Rs 50,000 on the third day.

500-year-old Anka Bhaona Ram Bijoy [Assamese dance-drama form] performed by Natun Kamalabari Sattri of Majuli enthralled the audience in the afternoon at the amphitheatre. The festival showcased the food, fun and fashion of

India's NE along with performances by singers like Zubeen Garg, Papon, Girish & the Chronicles, Aloba Naga & Borkung Hrangkhaw, JeliKayi and more for three days.

Special Police Unit for North East Region [SPUNER] branch of Delhi police also attended the festival with Delhi Police organising a quiz competition which drew large number of participants.

The fifth edition pre-

sented approximately 30 folk dance forms and a separate stage just to showcase the folk and fashion of the north eastern region wherein with the support of DC Handloom, Government of India, NEHHDC presented around 20 designers showcasing handloom products. Many Export houses and agents interacted with the designers. The festival was a platform to approximately 150 local weavers and

artisans to spread textile magic and top designs of the states.

It may be mentioned here, the NE Festival this year has been a collaborative attempt of IG-NCA, NEHHDC, various Governments of North Eastern States and driven by well-known Socio Cultural Trust, Trend MMS which also organizes the famous Rongali Festival of Assam and Colours of North East in Mumbai.

Pradesh went on a three-day leave today to protest against the state government's failure to fulfill their long-pending demands, including hike in salary and grants during maternity leave.

Making a strong pitch for "equal pay for equal works", the teachers, under the aegis of All Arunachal Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Teachers' Association (AASSATA), said they were underpaid and could barely afford proper education and food for their children.

The association requested the state government to increase their salary in line with

7th Pay Commission's recommendations and Bidol Tayeng Committee reports.

AASSATA had also been demanding grants during child care or maternity leave, its president Tarak Agug Tarh said.

In a statement issued by the association today, Tarh said 6815 teachers from 2030 primary and 1003 upper-primary schools in the state are participating in the protest peacefully.

"The sole responsibility for the losses incurred by the state, owing to the protests of the SSA teachers, lie on the government," he asserted.

Paradise Papers: Indian names tumble out for tax haven links

NEW DELHI, NOV 6 (PTI):

More than 700 Indian names, including those of politicians, corporates and celebrities, today figured in the leaked 'Paradise Papers' detailing business dealings of "the world's most powerful people and companies" in offshore tax havens.

Regulatory and enforcement agencies swung into action by promising a multi-regulatory probe soon after the names started tumbling out as part of the latest global expose by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), even as several of those named denied any wrongdoing. The Indian names include Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan, defaulter businessman Vijay Mallya, corporate lobbyist Niira Radia, film star Sanjay Dutt's wife Dilnashin, Union minister Jayant Sinha and Rajya Sabha MP R K Sinha, the ICIJ's media partner in the country, The Indian Express, said.

The ICIJ, which worked with 95 media partners globally for the investigation, said it explored 13.4 million leaked files from offshore law firms, majorly Bermuda-based Appleby, and company registries in several secretive tax jurisdictions.

Among the 180 countries represented in the data, India ranked 19th in terms of number of names (714), while Sun

Group, founded by Nand Lal Khemka, figured as Appleby's second largest client with as many as 118 offshore entities.

The ICIJ said the 'Paradise Papers' reveal the offshore activities of some of the world's most powerful people and companies and the files were obtained by the German newspaper Suddeutsche Zeitung.

It, however, put out a disclaimer that "there are legitimate uses for offshore companies and trusts" and it does not "intend to suggest or imply that any people, companies or other entities included in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database have broken the law or otherwise acted improperly".

ICIJ also said that many people and entities may have similar names and suggested that the identities of those named in the database should be confirmed based on addresses or other identifiable information.

The Indian names also included those associated with the Sun-TV-Aircel-Maxis case, Essar-Loop 2G case, SNC-Lavalin in which Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was named and then cleared and a case against Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy; as also entities linked to Rajasthan ambulance scam that names an entity called Ziquista Health-

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*Gangtok on
Tuesday,
07 Nov*

Temp: 24°C / 09°C
Forecast: Comfort-
able with sunshine.
Sunrise: 05:50 AM
Sunset: 4:48 PM

Flavours of France at Kolkata Book Fair

KOLKATA, Nov 6 (PTI): The 42nd edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair, the venue of which was shifted to Central Park in Salt Lake from Milan Mela Ground, would have France as the 'friend' country, the organizers said today.

The general secretary of the Publishers and Booksellers Guild, Tridib Chatterjee, said the annual event has always had a 'theme country', but this year the fair would have a new venue and a 'friend' country.

"The French representatives had requested the guild during the closing ceremony of the last fair to call France a 'friend' country and not a 'theme' country, considering the close ties between the nations," Chatterjee told reporters on the sidelines of 'Aapeej Bangla Sahitya Utsob 2017' here.

The general secretary also clarified that the fair was being moved out of Milan Mela to carry out maintenance work of the ground.

"Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had informed the guild in July that the venue of the fair would have to be changed as the Milan Mela was in need of an overhaul," he said.

The CM had suggested we look for an alternative place to host the event.

"We found the Central Park in Salt Lake suitable in terms of ambience, facilities and communication. It was, however, not clear if the size of the fair would remain intact or shrink as the measurement work was still on," Chatterjee said.

He, however, expressed hope that the fair would return to Milan Mela in 2019, once the maintenance work was over.

The book fair, to be held between January 31 and February 11, would be inaugurated by the chief minister.

The annual event was shifted to Milan Mela from Maidan following a high court order.

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SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

ICFAI University, Sikkim, is all set to organise the second edition of ICFAI Runathon 2017 to be held on 12 Nov here in the capital. Around 300 runners from Sikkim and outside are scheduled to participate in the marathon. The theme for the second edition of marathon is 'Run to Stop Drug Abuse'.

This was announced during a press conference of ICFAI University, Sikkim today, which was addressed by the University Registrar, Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, and a faculty member, Nima Tenzing, who is also the coordinator of the event. On the occasion, the organisers also launched T-shirts and



bibs of the event.

Event coordinator, Mr Tenzing, informed that the event has an open half-marathon of 21 KMs

with 5 KMs run for students and leisure run for interested participants. The marathon will be flagged off from Paljor

Stadium and will follow the route to District Administration Office, Manbir Colony, Tashi View Point and Himalayan Zo-

ological Park and back to the starting point.

Runners in 5 KMs marathon will need to cover the route upto

Manbir Colony and back to the starting point.

He informed that volunteers and medical assistance will be present throughout the route.

Mr Tenzing further informed that the marathon has already registered more than 250 runners from Sikkim, Darjeeling and Siliguri and some queries have also been made from Bhutan. He mentioned that the event is likely to have 300 runners.

The event will have the participation of popular runners of Sikkim, Amar Subba, Chung Ching Bhutia, Shanti Nepal and Abhishek Prasad, who will be running in the marathon for some distance just to motivate and encourage young participants.

The Registrar stated that the event is also aimed at creating awareness on drug abuse among masses. He added that the main aim of the event is to promote local runners through such platforms and to encourage the young in sporting events.

"The naturally blessed Sikkim has a very good environment for running events, so we have planned to make this event wider and grander and with better prize money in coming years by inviting popular runners from different parts of the world," said Mr Venchungpa.

The first edition of the event last year had Child Abuse as the theme and had 300 runners had registered.

Newly formed Kpg District Working Committee takes over GJM office

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 06 Nov:

The first meeting of Kalimpong District Working Committee was held in the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha party office here today and this newly formed committee has taken over the office which was earlier being used by the Bimal Gurung faction of the party.

Speaking at a press

conference on Sunday, Binay Tamang had said that he has cleared all the pending bills of the party office.

"The electricity bills were not paid along with the rent, and the small-time employees who worked on daily wage basis were not paid since the last nine months. We cleared all the bills," Mr Tamang had informed.

In the meeting held today, the responsibilities of the district committee members were discussed while members also deliberated on the meeting scheduled to be held here in two days time.

"On the 9th of this month Gorkha Janmukti Morcha will be organising a mass-meeting at 10 a.m. at the motor stand. Permission from the ad-

ministration's side is to be obtained shortly and we invite everyone from Kalimpong to attend the meeting. We should not look at party or individuals at this point of time; people should rather understand the reasons for Gorkha Janmukti Morcha settling for GTA," said the new spokesperson of the district committee, Bhuvan Khannal



SELLING GREENS FOR A LIVING

"SELLING FRESH GREEN VEGETABLES on the streets of Gangtok is my only source of income," says Ram Bahadur Chhetri [70]. He has been selling packets of vegetables to stall owners of Lal Bazaar and on the streets of the capital at Rs 50 per packet with a profit of Rs 5 per packet since the past six years. He originally hails from Nepal and came to Sikkim 16 years ago in the hope of making an earning to take care of his family back in his country. He has also worked as a 'namley' [porter] during his younger years.

[Rebyna Rana]

Building damaged by 2011 quake yet to be dismantled

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 06 Nov:

The sweepers' quarter located in Ward No 03 which was supposed to be dismantled five years ago still stands with work yet to be taken up. The 2011 earthquake had damaged the structure following which those residing in the building were asked to vacate it and orders for dismantling the building were passed. The building poses a threat to other houses located around it.



Deposit substantial amount to prove bonafide: SC to Jaypee

NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (PTI): The Supreme Court today refused to allow Jaypee Associates to deposit Rs 400 crore with its registry as against Rs 2,000 crore directed by it, and asked the real estate firm to submit a substantial amount to prove its bonafide.

The real estate firm which was asked on September 11 to deposit Rs 2,000 crore with the apex court registry by October 27, rushed to the top court, saying no company possessed such a huge amount of "liquid" fund and urged that it should be allowed to deposit Rs 400 crore by Friday.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said Rs 400 crore was a paltry sum and the firm will have to deposit substantial amount to establish its bonafide.

"Arrange whatever money you can arrange, but it must be a bonafide exercise," the bench, which also comprised Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, said when the counsel for the firm said the shareholders' consent would be needed to sell the assets of the group.

The bench then said that the firm may consider depositing at least Rs 1,000 crore by November 13 with its registry.

The top court had on September 11 directed the Jaypee Asso-

ciates to deposit Rs 2000 crore by October 27 and asked the NCLT-appointed interim resolution professional (IRP) to take over its management and work out a plan to protect the interests of homebuyers and creditors.

It had also restrained the managing director and directors of Jaypee Infratech Ltd from travelling abroad without its permission and asked the parent company, Jaypee Associates, to deposit the money.

The top court had asked Jaypee Infratech to hand over the records to the IRP for drafting of a resolution plan indicating protection of interests of over 32,000 hassled home buyers and creditors.

It had also stayed any other proceedings instituted against Jaypee Infratech for any purpose in any forum like the consumer commission, as IRP has been given control of the company's management.

The court had allowed Jaypee Associates to raise Rs 2000 crore by selling land or properties and deposit them in the apex court registry by October 27.

The court had also appointed senior advocate Shekhar Naphade as amicus curiae to assist the proceedings of the IRP, which will submit a resolution plan indicating how to safeguard the interest

of home buyers and secured creditors.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board, had said that 627 units have been delivered to home buyers since the proceedings against the company began.

Homebuyers including one Chitra Sharma had moved the apex court saying that around 32,000 people had booked their flats and they are now dying and paying the installments.

The top court had on September 4 stayed the insolvency proceedings against the real estate firm at National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Flat buyers, under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016, do not fall in the category of secured creditors like banks and hence they can get back their money only if something is left after repaying the secured and operational creditors, Sharma, in her plea, said.

Hundreds of home buyers have been left in the lurch after the NCLT, on August 10, admitted the IDBI Bank's plea to initiate insolvency proceedings against the debt-ridden realty company for defaulting on a Rs 526 crore loan, the plea said.

Paradise Papers: Indian names...

contd from pg02

care (with Congress leader Sachin Pilot and former minister P Chidambaram's son Karti as early honorary/independent directors).

In a series of tweets, Sinha, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, denied any wrongdoing on his part.

Interestingly, Bachchan wrote a long blog yesterday, hours before the 'Paradise Papers' were published, explaining that he has always cooperated with the "system", even though he did not directly refer to the latest leaks.

The Indian names on the list included a number of listed entities, some of which saw their shares falling, while regulatory officials said they would look into any wrongdoing on the part of such companies or their promoters with regard to alleged fund diversion and corporate governance lapses.

Official sources also said that a multi-agency group of investigative bodies probing the 'Pan-

ama Papers', an earlier trove of leaked data released by ICIJ, would look into the latest Paradise Papers leak.

Some of the names, including that of Bachchan, had figured in Panama Papers as well.

The main opposition party Congress took the opportunity to accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "betraying" the people with "zero action" against black money stashed abroad and demanded resignation of Union minister Jayant Sinha and BJP MP R K Sinha.

Rights group Transparency International called for stricter measures to regulate the financial sector and their participants, including real estate brokers, lawyers and bankers.

US-based think-tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI) said MNCs should be required to publicly report their number of employees, facilities and their revenue on a country-by-country basis to help check tax abuses.

The ICIJ said the Par-

adise Papers reveal offshore interests and activities of more than 120 politicians and world leaders, including Queen Elizabeth II whose private estate indirectly invested in a rent-to-own loan company accused of predatory tactics.

Besides, 13 allies, major donors and cabinet members of US President Donald Trump appear on the list, including Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' interests in "a shipping company that makes millions from an energy firm whose owners include Russian President Vladimir Putin's son-in-law and a sanctioned Russian tycoon".

It further said the leaked files from Appleby include details of tax planning by nearly 100 multinational corporations, including Apple, Nike and Uber.

The political names on the list included Shaukat Aziz, who was Pakistan's prime minister from 2004 to 2007, after serving a five-year stint as the country's finance minister.

SummitTIMES

Embrace Plurality of Opinions

...even if mass media would have you shun them

Prime-Time on Indian TV news channels makes for stressful viewing with the shallow-jingoism and mock-conscientiousness of frowning celebrity anchors who have become caricatures of themselves or poor imitations of the bigger stars and the finger-pointing self-righteousness of party spokespersons who fulminate only to earn brownie points with their respective masters. While very little is achieved by way of informing the audience, the hypnotic spell of real-time quarrels entering homes gets the TRPs soaring, urgently dramatic music completing the experience and convincing people that something important was playing on TV. Since the suggestion of sensationalism can fool only for so long, occasionally, newsrooms manufacture sensational situations as well and almost always, they pander to the lowest common denominator of the ideology in power because they command the most brainwashed of lumpen elements to unleash and sustain another news cycle. The superficial nationalism of TV news crews was earlier focused on Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Arundhati Roy, and then moved to the likes of Kanhaiya and other left-leaning youth and now just rails against anyone who calls out the dangerous pontification that has come to define national discourse.

Most times, the media instigation plays circles around its own hyperbole, and occasionally they muddy the waters enough for pressing concerns to swim out of the public domain. Unfortunately, we have also become a nation where agenda is set by the belligerence of 24x7 TV news channels and the slew of soundbytes and studio fulmination often lead to ill-advised action and almost always succeed in distracting people from the core issues facing the nation. Every time that happens is a sad day for democracy, because the only attitudes being increasingly reinforced are intolerance, insensitivity and the impassivity of the mainstream which instigates so many mutinies in our country.

The idea of India was always to embrace plurality, not only of people and communities, but also views and opinions, increasingly however, the focus has been more on homogenising everything, starting from defining what is Indian to heckling multiplicity out of public discourse. For a long while it was the government which engaged in this exercise of compartmentalisation, but of late, mass media has joined the bandwagon as well, allowing vocabulary like “splittist, extremist, hardline, controversial, inflammatory” to infiltrate their reportage without adequate attention paid to how such identifiers can bias audiences towards a particular opinion. Has anyone noticed how the brainwashing efficacy of noise on TV has made even “liberal” a character flaw?

Responsible professionalism has fallen victim to the demands for sensationalism which is why the basic tenets of freedom and democracy need to be reiterated often. No one should have an issue with the fact that free citizens have a right to hold independent opinions and broadcast them. Even if one were to ignore the principles of democracy, it follows for civil people to realise that while everyone has the right to hold opinions and share them, none has the right to foist or force these opinions on anyone or instigate violence.

CYNTHIA HOOPER
theconversation.com

“AND WHAT, EXACTLY, is there to be celebrating?” snapped Vladimir Putin’s press secretary on Oct. 25, a little more than a week before the 100th anniversary of what, in Soviet times, was lauded as the country’s greatest victory.

On Nov. 7, 1917, Vladimir Lenin seized power in St. Petersburg. Soviet authorities glorified that day as the dawn of the world’s first successful communist revolution – and the creation of the first country to promise racial, gender and even economic equality.

In 1967, to honor the Soviet Union’s first half-century, leaders staged countrywide displays of mass jubilation. They ordered sausages be made with the number “50,” in white fat, running through every slice.

But today, though Lenin still remains embalmed and on show in a giant mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow is strangely silent. Putin – whose grandfather cooked for Lenin – has simply called the event “ambiguous.”

Why this official disinterest, even as the upcoming centennial generates global headlines?

Perhaps because if you wish to project an image of a strong state and united people, then it’s awkward to toast the overturning of a seated government and beginning of civil war. All the more when Bolshevik actions in 1917 can be compared to those of Euromaidan protestors in 2014 Ukraine, who ousted a pro-Russian president in a move the Kremlin condemned as “an anti-constitutional takeover and armed seizure of power.”

While he’s capable of acknowledging the complexity of the Soviet origin story, Putin apparently sees no need to broadcast such confusion. Instead, he promotes an idea of “Russian greatness” in which history is used selectively, not to inform as much as to inspire. The Russian Revolution, however politically inconvenient, is no exception.

A POPULAR UPRISING IN NAME ONLY?

In the Soviet era, the tricky thing about Revolution Day was that it was a holiday celebrating an uprising of the masses that didn’t, in fact, actually happen.

On that day, Lenin’s followers stormed into all of two buildings in the capital city of the Russian Empire. Occupying only the Winter Palace and the Central Telegraph Office, they proclaimed a government in the name of the people.

Exactly how the Bolsheviks managed to go from controlling two buildings to taking over an empire that spanned one-sixth of the world is, ad-

mittedly, quite a story. But there’s no getting around the fact that the initial, much-exalted Soviet “revolutionary moment” was little more than a coup. It was conducted by a ragtag group of political extremists who understood, at the time, that they were emphatically not acting with the support – or awareness – of most Russian citizens.

But if the Soviets struggled to recast Nov. 7 as a day when the poor turned against their rich oppressors, Russia, 100 years later, now has to grapple with the fact that it’s a capitalist country, a place where, according to Credit Suisse, 111 people control almost 20 percent of the country’s wealth. It’s also a nation that’s been ruled for 17 years by the same man – one who’s about to declare his candidacy for what would be a fourth presidential term.

At a time when Putin is keeping a tight lid on any potential opposition, the last thing the Kremlin wants to do is condone the violent overthrow of an oppressive, undemocratic regime.

FILLING A SYMBOLIC VOID

Most pressing is the desire to project state power and national pride.

These aims were already evident in 2005, when Putin canceled the Nov. 7 holiday altogether and replaced it with a Nov. 4 “National Unity Day.”

To the extent that the Kremlin is acknowledging the upcoming centennial at all, it is with this theme of solidarity in mind. On Oct. 26, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs tweeted that it will host an international conference titled “100 Years of the Russian Revolution: Unity for the Future.” The message of the event is clear: Focus on achievements to come rather than past conflict.

It’s not that Putin or his people are anti-Soviet. Putin, in his own memoir, has unapologetically cast himself as a patriot, eager to serve in the KGB and incensed when the Berlin Wall was allowed to come down in 1989. He has called the disintegration of the USSR a “geopolitical catastrophe.”

Above all, he has been deeply critical of the Yeltsin era and the early years of Russia’s transition from communism to capitalism. During this period of mass economic hardship, Russia’s natural resources were auctioned off for laughably small sums.

The collapse of the Soviet Union also left a huge symbolic void. Faced with a history of submission – first to ruthless and opulent tsars, and then to ruthless and slightly less-opulent Soviet dictators – Russians found themselves with little to be proud of.

EVERYTHING IS GREAT

Putin and his people changed that, but largely by cherry-picking their way through the past.

For the president, the Soviet era wasn’t about repression. Nor was

it about the upending of traditional order. Instead, he portrays it as a giant modernization project, marked by the defeat of Nazi Germany, the launching of the first satellite into space, and advances in education and industry.

But in contemporary Russia, the aristocratic era that the Bolsheviks swept away isn’t depicted as all that bad, either.

Recent films of the period tend to ignore the fact that, in 1917, at least 80 percent of the population were abjectly poor peasants laboring in a country that possessed only 165 tractors. (At the time, 85,000 were operating in U.S. fields.) Instead, such dramas celebrate the beauty, broad spirit, sense of honor and daring of the Russian aristocracy (including the ability of great men to absorb prodigious amounts of alcohol).

The horrific violence involved in transforming this imperial empire into a Union of Soviet Socialist Republics tends to be glossed over.

Take, for example, the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. There, dancers telling a story of Russian history needed only a brief interlude of darkness and snow to move from a ballroom waltz – a nod to a famous scene in Leo Tolstoy’s novel “War and Peace,” which celebrates the country’s defeat of Napoleon – to an acrobatic march amid giant pieces of machinery.

In the blink of an eye, glamorous aristocrats defending their empire from invasion morphed into smiling proletarians carrying ladders and building up their country.

A RIGHT AND A WRONG WAY TO DO HISTORY

Such “happy stories” can be sustained only by discouraging critical examination.

Soviet censors used to argue that open discussion of past wrongdoing could serve only to demoralize the people, tarnish their achievements and weaken the regime. Kremlin pronouncements today remain in line with such principles.

Here it’s worth remembering that Putin comes out of the same security milieu as did Lavrenti Beria, a notorious leader of Stalin’s secret police and a lifelong proponent of doing whatever it takes to promote state power. After Stalin’s death, Beria warned his fellow Politburo members against any public critique of the great leader.

He scorned Nikita Khrushchev’s ideas of reexamining the cases of political prisoners serving time in labor camps and setting free those found to have been unjustly condemned. Release prisoners early for economic reasons, he argued, but never, ever admit the government made a mistake.

Beria lost the succession struggle, only to be unjustly condemned and shot as a spy. But his ideas live on.

This year the Kremlin did not participate in local services commemorating the anniversaries of two hostage tragedies and a nuclear submarine accident that took place during Putin’s presidency. All three incidents involved controversial government responses that the Kremlin has never acknowledged as flawed. In April, Moscow officials angrily rejected a finding by the European Court of Human Rights that Russia had been guilty of “serious failings” in its handling of one – a shootout at an elementary school in Beslan, in which 330 people were killed.

This strategy of denial extends into the cultural sphere. For example, a new British film, “Death of Stalin,” hasn’t yet been licensed for screening in Russia – but it’s already received blistering reviews in the Russian press. Various sources have deemed the political satire “more like a circus performance of clowns than a movie,” a “provocation” and “a new form of psychological warfare.”

In contrast, the minister of culture recently extolled an upcoming, domestically produced movie called “To See Stalin,” about the man who designed the Soviet T-34 tanks in WWII. He called it “a great example of correct Russian film.”

Coverage of the revolution in state-sponsored media outlets similarly tends to downplay any unsavory aspects. Rather than focus on class conflict and coup, programs highlight the admirable qualities of the various the Russian leaders involved: Leon Trotsky, Lenin and even the last Russian tsar, Nicholas II. They aim to make citizens feel proud of their past, however problematic that past might be.

As Putin remarked last December in regard to 1917: “It is not permissible to drag the schisms, animosity, insults, and callousness of the past into our contemporary life.”

The Soviet-era politician Leonid Brezhnev was less circumspect.

Rejecting a poet’s appeal for permission to publish a diary recounting the terrors of Nazi invasion, Brezhnev proclaimed: “The main truth is that we won. All other truths fade before it.”

That is the message the Kremlin sends today. The mistakes, abuses, and countless individual tragedies of history should not drag the country down.

All should be subsumed within an overarching narrative of Russian glory.

[the writer is Associate Professor of History, College of the Holy Cross]

Westminster harassment: this is not just about sex, it’s about power

RAINBOW MURRAY
theconversation.com

From the time I was asked to write this piece to the time I started typing, another MP has been suspended. The Westminster sex scandal is unravelling so fast that there may be further resignations by the time you read this. As with the Harvey Weinstein allegations, women are becoming more emboldened to say #MeToo. What has been so taboo for so long is finally coming out.

And it’s ugly. Ministers, backbenchers, Conservatives, Labour – the one thing that all of those implicated thus far have in common is that they are all men. And their alleged misdemeanours range from touching knees and using inappropriate language to sexual assault and rape.

This raises three obvious questions: How did this happen? Why was it condoned for so long? And what can we do to stamp it out?

It happened because men have more power than women. This is true almost everywhere and it is particularly true in Westminster, where men outnumber women by more than 2:1. And it’s often women without power – female staff members, junior party members and interns – who are the primary targets. The power of office and the broader patriarchal culture bestow upon men a sense of entitlement. Parliament is their space – sex, and women, are their pleasures to be had. And women in politics, whether in the media or the Commons bars, are objectified,

sexualised, trivialised. They are not afforded dignity and respect.

Perhaps most importantly, men did this because they could. Because it was deemed “acceptable” – not by the women at the receiving end, for whom it was never ok, but by the culture of silence that permitted and condoned such behaviour.

SILENCE IS PART OF THE SYSTEM

Which leads us to question two: why was it condoned for so long? And the short answer is party loyalty. Voters generally don’t like to hear that their MP enjoys assaulting women. It creates a scandal. And, as is patently clear now that the scandal finally is breaking, it’s bad news for all concerned. Heads roll. Seats are lost. Leaders are criticised. Voters are appalled.

And so the women affected are instructed to stay silent. Don’t make a noise. Don’t embarrass the party. Don’t rock the boat. Just stay quiet – oh, and next time avoid getting in a lift with him.

What about the whips? Why didn’t they punish MPs, even if discreetly? Well, knowledge is power – and remember, this is all about power. Knowing the dirty secrets of MPs gives the whips power. It gives

them blackmail material. When they are refusing to toe the party line on a key vote, it helps to have some “kompromat” on them. The aim is not to stop them being naughty, but merely to use knowledge of the naughtiness as a threat to dangle over their heads at key junctures. None of which helps women one iota.

And that’s not all. When women do speak out, they get slut-shamed. Like somehow it was their fault. Because they wore a skirt. Because they wanted attention. Because they were willing to do anything to advance their career. The despicable treatment of women including Kate Maltby by the Daily Mail is a stark reminder of what happens to women when they’re brave enough to blow the whistle. For some women, the repercussions of speaking out are like being assaulted all over again.

DRAWING THE LINE

So that leaves us with the question of how to make this stop. Talking about it is a good start – although it’s not enough. In France, women started talking about it in 2011 after the scandal broke about Dominique Strauss-Kahn, but six years later, fresh allegations



arising post-Weinstein show that the problem endures.

So what else can we do? Well, for starters, we need more women in parliament. When parliaments feminise, the culture changes. When women become more empowered, men become less entitled – and it becomes harder for them to get away with such behaviour.

Defending the current composition of parliament as meritocratic has never sounded more daft. Obviously, not all men are sex pests, and many of our male MPs are good, decent, hard-working representatives. But with a long and growing list of Tory men to avoid in a lift – and at least four men also facing allegations on the opposition benches – we have to ask ourselves if the current crop of MPs really is the best we could do. And if not, then it’s time for a change.

Last but not least, we could force parliament to implement the recommendations made by political scientist Sarah Childs in her report “The Good Parliament”. She sets out how to make parliament a diverse, inclusive and professional environment that is a welcoming workplace for everyone. These include guidelines on “what constitutes unacceptable and unprofessional behaviour”, with proper sanctions for those who break the rules. We have the solutions – maybe now is the time to force parliament to act.

[the writer is Professor of Politics, Queen Mary University of London]

Slight intensity tremor hits Nepal's Bajhang district

KATHMANDU, NOV 6 (PTI): A slight intensity earthquake, having 4.5 magnitude on the Richter scale, today hit Nepal's far-west Bajhang district, officials said.

Its epicentre was situated at the depth of 10 km, close to Kanda village, they said.

According to the National Seismological Centre (NSC), this was not an aftershock of the Gorkha earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25, 2015, but a new one.

The Gorkha earthquake was followed by 487 aftershocks, having the magnitude of 4 or more, in the last two-and-a-half year, they added.

Author Dalim Das to get Munin Barkotoki Literary Award

GUWAHATI, NOV 6 (PTI): Short-story writer Dalim Das has been selected for the 23rd edition of Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2017 for his collection 'Hari Jadu Madhu'.

The name was announced today by Mee-naxi Barkotoki, the managing trustee of Munin Barkotoki Memorial Trust here.

The annual award, instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese, carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a citation and a plaque, a release issued by the Trust said.

The Trust was formed in the memory of renowned writer, critic and journalist Munin Barkotoki.



Tri-Nation motorcycle expedition leaves for Myanmar

AIZAWL, NOV 6 (PTI): Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla today flagged off the Assam Rifles' Tri-Nation motorcycle expedition team from here as the 33-member group left for Myanmar.

The team had already vis-

ited Bangladesh and travelled through five north eastern states before reaching Mizoram, an official statement said.

The 2150 km long expedition is covering the two neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar and six Indi-

an states of Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura.

The chief minister expressed hope that the expedition would bring the two 'strategic partners' closer to India.

The expedition began from Shillong on October 30 last and the team had reached the Mizoram-Assam border town of Vairengte after travelling through five north eastern states.

The expedition was expected to end on November 22.

Benami assets worth Rs 1833cr attached; CBDT's strong action to continue

NEW DELHI, NOV 6 (PTI): The Income Tax Department has attached benami assets worth Rs 1,833 crore so far as part of its "sustained action plan" against such properties, the CBDT said today.

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Sushil Chandra told PTI that the I-T department would continue taking "strong" action against benami asset holders under its sustained action plan and that this action "will not stop".

"I can assure you that this probe will not end. We are obtaining more data and information from all available avenues on such assets. More such instances and assets will be identified and strong legal action will be taken," he said.

Official data, updated till October, shows that assets worth Rs 1,833 crore have been attached



by the I-T department, for which it issued over 517 notices and made 541 attachments.

The maximum of such cases, at 136, have been booked in the Ahmedabad region, followed by Bhopal (93), Karnataka and Goa (76), Chennai (72), Jaipur (62), Mumbai (61) and Delhi (55).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a recent election rally in Himachal Pradesh, also

Rs 1,000 notes, the two highest value banknotes of the time, from circulation on November 8 last year, the I-T department had warned people against depositing their unaccounted banknotes in accounts maintained by someone else.

Such an act, it had said, would attract criminal charges under the Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, applicable on both movable and immovable properties.

The I-T department is the nodal department to enforce the Benami Act in the country.

The department started initiating actions under the new Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 from November 1 last year.

The law provides for a maximum punishment of seven years in jail and a fine.

After the prime minister announced the withdrawal of Rs 500 and

Assam to host AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship

GUWAHATI, NOV 6 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said people of the state have highlighted their hospitality by helping the government organise world-class sporting events here.

The International Boxing Association's (AIBA) Youth Women's World Boxing Championship would be held in Guwahati from November 19 to 26 where 193 registered boxers from 39 countries would participate and the prestigious competition will be held in India for the first time.

"Many world-class tournaments are being organised in Guwahati regularly now and many more such tournaments are going to take place in the city in the near future," Sonowal said while launching the official logo, mascot and anthem for the forthcoming championship.

The government would develop 500 playgrounds in the state during 2017-18 and state-of-the-art sports stadiums will soon be constructed in Dibrugarh, North Lakhimpur and Sualkuchi in Kam-

rup, he said.

The state government's focus has been to identify sporting talents from rural areas and nurture them for achieving success at the national and international level, Sonowal said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre is giving a big push to sports and the state government is also committed to make Guwahati the sports capital of the country," he said.

The tournament would also be the qualifying competition for the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2018, according to officials, an AIBA statement said.

The championship would also mark the beginning of the journey for women boxers to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the statement said.

Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom, the state's leading boxer Shiva Thapa and singer Zubeen Garg have been appointed as brand ambassadors of the championship.

Journalist Vinod Verma's bail plea rejected

RAIPUR, NOV 6 (PTI): A court in Chhattisgarh's Raipur district today rejected the bail plea of senior journalist Vinod Verma, who is in judicial custody after his arrest in connection with a case of alleged blackmailing and extortion.

The court of Judicial Magistrate First Class Bhavesh Kumar Watti rejected the bail application, Verma's lawyer Faisal Rizvi told reporters.

The defence sought bail on various grounds, including lack of evidence, he said.

The court said the arguments put forward could not be discussed

during a hearing on bail and that the charges against the journalist were serious, Rizvi added.

The defence would now move the sessions court for bail, he said.

Special Public Prosecutor Suresh Prasad Sharma said he opposed Verma's plea, contending that he could influence the witnesses and tamper with the evidence, if granted bail.

Verma is currently in judicial custody till November 13.

He was sent to judicial remand on October 31, after three days of police custody.

Xi-Trump talks will define future China-US ties: officials

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, NOV 6 (PTI): US President Donald Trump's talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping this week will define the future course of the relations between the world's top two economies, officials here said today.

Trump's first presidential visit to China from Wednesday will be the first by a head of state since the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which conferred a second five-year term on Xi.

The Xi-Trump talks will define the future of the China-US ties, a report in the state-run Xinhua news agency quoted top officials as saying.

Trump, who started his first Asia tour yesterday, is currently in Japan and will arrive in Beijing on a three-day visit on Wednesday after visiting South Korea tomorrow.

"We have everything that is required for a state visit, but we want more than that," Chinese ambassador to the United States崔天凯 said.



Apart from the red-carpet ceremony, formal talks and banquet, Xi, 64, and Trump, 71, will have some informal get-togethers, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang said.

Though the details of these informal arrangements have not been made public, Cui said that there will be "some special arrangements" for Trump and the first family to learn more about the Chinese history, culture and people.

During Trump's stay, the two

presidents will have sufficient time for a "top-level, strategic conversation" which is "extremely important for the development of bilateral relations", Cui said.

Xi and Trump spent over seven hours in talks in April in Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in the US state of Florida where the two leaders worked out a 100-day plan to boost economic cooperation.

After a deal to reopen the Chinese markets to the US for beef in July, American beef is back on Chi-

na's menu. China says the action plan has produced some tangible results.

Progress in bilateral cooperation has also come via four high-level dialogue mechanisms focusing on diplomacy and security; the economy; law enforcement and cyber security; and social and people-to-people exchanges.

Trump has said the massive trade deficit in bilateral trade is a shame, and has been pressuring China to open Chinese markets more for US products and firms.

US goods and services trade with China totalled to an estimated USD 648.2 billion in 2016 in which China had a lion's share with about USD 478.9 billion exports. The US exports to China stood at USD 169.3 billion, according to US trade figures.

The informal arrangements will create a good atmosphere for a sound working relationship and personal friendship between the two leaders, said Da Wei, director of the Department of American Studies at the China Institute of Con-

temporary International Relations.

Trade cooperation and the Korean Peninsula are among the key topics for Trump's discussions in Beijing. Trump has been pressuring China, North Korea's close ally, to prevail on its dictator Kim Jong-Un to ramp down his nuclear programme.

The two leaders will also discuss major issues of common concern, Zheng said, noting that the meeting is of great significance to Sino-US relations and to peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Also expected to figure in Trump-Xi discussion is the US' new South Asia policy which is piling up pressure on Pakistan, China's all-weather ally, to dismantle terror safe havens.

China is also apprehensive about the US trying to work out a quadrilateral with India, Japan and Australia.

Japan has proposed the four countries to work out a new Silk Road plan to counter China's ambitious and multi-billion dollar Belt

Festival to showcase films made by children

NEW DELHI, NOV 6 (PTI): Short films made by kids aged 7-16 years under the 'Little Directors' programme, an initiative of Children's Film Society India (CFSI), will be showcased at the upcoming International Children's Film Festival.

The 20th edition of the film festival will be held in Hyderabad from November 8.

As part of the Little Directors programme, which was started during the 18th International Children Film Festival in 2013, the kids made 3 to 5 minutes long short films.

The programme was recently introduced in rural areas of Bihar and will move to Rajasthan in December.

During the Bihar leg of the programme, CFSI, in partnership with World Bank-DIME and Asian Centre for Entertainment Education (ACEE) conducted workshops for the rural and underprivileged children in Bihar.

Introduction and discussion on eight important issues related to water, sanitation and gender with respect to Bihar was undertaken with children.

Besides this, the children were also provided training on storyboarding, budgeting, shooting and editing (post production) during the workshop.

As a part of training, CFSI films like Pinti Ka Sabun (a film on hygiene), Bandu Boxer (a film on rural development) and Pani Re Pani (a film on water sanitation) were shown to the children.

"Our concept 'Little Directors' has been one of the most unique experiments anywhere in the world being conducted in a professional environment through trained experts.

"Since we launched this concept, it has become a star attraction in our festivals. We are extremely happy that this programme was supported by World Bank and they will be undertaking an impact evaluation study based on this programme," Shravan Kumar, CEO CFSI, said.

United boss Mourinho defiant after Chelsea defeat

LONDON, NOV 6 (AFP): Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho insisted his side's Premier League title ambitions were still intact despite a 1-0 loss away to former club Chelsea on Sunday.

Alvaro Morata's 55th-minute goal at Stamford Bridge was enough to give reigning champions Chelsea victory and leave United eight points behind in-form leaders Manchester City.

"We are second -- not fifth, sixth or seventh or eight," Mourinho told Sky Sports after his third straight loss at Stamford Bridge since he became United manager.

"We have several teams in a more difficult position than we have. Eight points is eight points. We went through a very difficult phase with important matches against Tottenham, Liverpool and Chelsea without important players."

The Portuguese manager added:



"The game was controlled by us and the game was controlled by them. We had chances and they had chances and with the first goal they were able to bring more people to defend.

"We tried to change the direction of our game, we created chances to equalise but we couldn't. We had chances. If I remember (Romelu) Luka-

ku shot in the first half and in the last part of the game with the (Marcus) Rashford shot...We had lots of chances to score goals," Mourinho said.

Victory saw Chelsea move to within nine points of top spot and eased the pressure on the London club's Italian manager Antonio Conte following a 3-0 loss away to Roma in the Champions League

earlier this week.

"It's an important victory," said Conte. "When you play against Manchester United it's always a massive game. This type of win is important for our confidence. We showed great desire and passion to win this kind of game.

"We can win or lose but our spirit must be this. Last season our

spirit was in every game -- we started this season with a lot of problems. We were up and down. This game showed if we want we can."

Chelsea defender David Luiz was not even on the bench for this match and Conte was coy when asked if the Brazilian, in his second stint with the Blues, still had future with the west London club.

"I don't know," Conte replied. "He has to work really hard otherwise they are on the bench or in the stand."

Meanwhile Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas, who said the Blues might have won by an even bigger margin, was proud of the team's resilience.

"It is fantastic to defend well but this is a team full of fantastic players and we need to take advantage of that," he said. "We played like a big team, defended like a big team and we have to be proud.



Sharan breaks into top-50, Sania drops out of top-10

NEW DELHI, NOV 6 (PTI): The consistent Divij Sharan broke into the top-50 for a career-high ranking while Sania Mirza dropped out of top-10 for the first time since March 2014 as the latest ATP and WTA charts were issued today.

The left-handed Sharan reached the final of the last three tournaments he participated in, winning the ATP 250 European Open while ending runner-up at Challenger events in Brest and Tashkent with different partners.

He is ranked exactly 50th after gaining a place.

The 31-year-old Delhi player did not let his split with long-time partner Purav Raja affect him as he consistently did well on the Tour despite not having a stable partnership.

Now India has two top-50 players in doubles with Rohan Bopanna (15) leading the chart. Purav Raja (62), Leander Paes (70) and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan (97) are the other top-100 Indian players.

"I made my first ATP point in 2003. It's been a long and exciting journey since then. There has been a lot of hard-work, sacrifices, experiences, travel, decisions, ups and downs but most importantly I am grateful for the opportunity to do what I love doing the most which is playing tennis," Sharan told PTI from Bratislava in Slovakia.

Sharan, who has won 19 ITF Futures titles, 13 Challenger trophies and three ATP Tour titles, said now he has the "belief that he can win a Grand Slam".

"The guys to whom we are losing close matches are the ones who are winning Slams. We have beaten them too sometimes, so I feel I am up there and can win a

Grand Slam," he said.

"I have been employed by Indian Oil since 2004 and their support has been massive through most of my career. Head and Adidas have also been providing my racquets and kit for the last four years," he added.

Sharan said his next goal is to make the top 30 so that he can play the ATP 1000s, the Master series events.

"It's good motivation and encouragement," Sharan, who reached pre-quarterfinals of the French Open this year, said.

Also making good progress in the doubles is Vishnu Vardhan, who jumped 16 places to touch his career-best ranking of 118. Vardhan and his partner N Sriram Balaji (139) had won the Shenzhen Challenger on Saturday to earn 90 ranking points each.

In the singles, Yuki Bhambhani (140) continues to lead the chart and is followed by Ramkumar Ramanathan (148), Prajesh Gunneswaran (255), Sumit Nagal (331) and Balaji (350).

In the WTA charts, Ankita Raina is India's top-ranked player at number 281 and is followed by Karman Kaur Thandi (307) and Pranjala Yadlapalli (483).

In the doubles, Sania was today placed at number 12 following a loss of three places.

Sania figured consistently in top-10 since March 17, 2013. The last time she featured outside top-10 was on March 3, 2013.

The Hyderabad-based world number one in doubles through the entire 2016 season. Her slide started this season, which she began as number one but could not qualify for the year-end WTA Finale, where top-eight pairs and top-eight singles players compete.

Indian women hockey team ranked 10th in world after triumph

LAUSANNE, NOV 6 (PTI): The Indian women's hockey team today broke into the top-10 in the FIH world rankings following their Asia Cup title triumph in Japan.

The India team gained two places in the ranking table to be placed at number 10 behind Korea and ahead of Spain.

The chart is being led by European champions Netherlands, who have maintained their top position, and are followed by England and Pan American Cup champions Argentina.

USA have dropped down to seventh, with 2017 Oceania Cup winners Australia replacing them in fourth position. New Zealand and Germany also leapfrogged USA, taking up the fifth and sixth position respectively.

Chile made considerable



gains, moving up five positions from 20th to 15th after they picked up the silver medal in this year's Pan American Cup.

Along with Chile, the Czech Republic (now 19) and Singapore (35) were amongst the biggest risers for the women, all

moving up five positions.

The India's men's team has maintained the sixth position in the latest rankings.

Flavours of France at Kolkata Book Fair

KOLKATA, NOV 6 (PTI): The 42nd edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair, the venue of which was shifted to Central Park in Salt Lake from Milan Mela Ground, would have France as the 'friend' country, the organizers said today.

The general secretary of the Publishers and Booksellers Guild, Tridib Chatterjee, said the annual event has always had a 'theme country', but this year the fair would have a new venue

and a 'friend' country.

"The French representatives had requested the guild during the closing ceremony of the last fair to call France a 'friend' country and not a 'theme' country, considering the close ties between the nations," Chatterjee told reporters on the sidelines of Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob 2017 here.

The general secretary also clarified that the fair was being moved out of Milan Mela to carry out main-

tenance work of the ground.

"Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had informed the guild in July that the venue of the fair would have to be changed as the Milan Mela was in need of an overhaul," he said. The CM had suggested we look for an alternative place to host the event.

"We found the Central Park in Salt Lake suitable in terms of ambience, facilities and communication. It was, however, not clear if the size of the fair would

remain intact or shrink as the measurement work was still on," Chatterjee said.

He, however, expressed hope that the fair would return to Milan Mela in 2019, once the main-tenance work was over.

The book fair, to be held between January 31 and February 11, would be inaugurated by the chief minister.

The annual event was shifted to Milan Mela from Maidan following a high court order.

Focus on Dhoni's batting order as India face NZ in decider

C SHYAM SUNDAR

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 6 (PTI): Mahendra Singh Dhoni's batting position will be under spotlight as India aim to go for the kill against a gutsy New Zealand in the third T20 International despite weather threatening to play spoilsport.

The series is level at 1-1 and just like the preceding Australia series, where the series decider T20 at Hyderabad was a washout, there are chances that the 'winner takes it all' encounter against the 'Black Caps' could meet the same fate with forecasts of rain by the Meteorological department.

The Virat Kohli-led India team has been on a roll in recent times but has faced stiff resistance from an enterprising New Zealand, usually known to punch above its weight.

It will be nearly three decades (29 years) since the city witnessed an international match and it has become all the more significant after calls to replace Dhoni from



the shortest format gaining momentum.

Former India great VVS Laxman in no uncertain terms has said that while Dhoni can still be a part of ODIs, it's time to groom someone new in the shortest format.

While 49 off 37 balls with a strike-rate of 132 may not be all

that bad but the former captain's inability to rotate strike during the past one year has been a cause of concern.

In Dhoni's innings, he had scored 26 runs in boundaries from five deliveries (3x6, 2x4) and managed only 23 from the remaining 32 deliveries, which is far less than

run a ball.

It will be interesting to see where Virat Kohli and chief coach Ravi Shastri slot Dhoni in the next game.

A school of thought suggests that Dhoni will be suited at No 4 in case India lose early wickets as it will give him time to settle down.

The Indian team's performance has been one of contrast in the first two games.

They outplayed New Zealand in the first T20 International by 53 runs and then were crushed by 40 runs in the second game where Colin Munro took the bowling apart with a blistering hundred.

While batting --- save Kohli's 65 off 42 balls was disappointing, the bowlers also did not cover themselves in glory with the fielders also having a below-par day.

Dropped catches hurt India's chances too while debutant Mohammed Siraj had a rough time. However, the good work by Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar helped keep New Zealand below

200.

It remains to be seen if the team management gives Siraj another opportunity in a crucial game or opts for an extra batsman in his place.

Kohli admitted after the loss at Rajkot that the batsmen were not "good enough" and stressed the need for all to chip in. The visiting New Zealand side, which came into the T20 series as the No.1 ranked side, has since been displaced by Pakistan. The Kiwis, however, can regain the top spot by beating India in the final game.

Captain Kane Williamson was happy after the team turned things around after the loss in game one.

"I guess it was a contrasting performance from the last game. An improved performance on all sides, we need to keep doing this to beat India here and going on to the next game, we need to repeat this," Williamson said after the win in Rajkot.

The Kiwis have been competitive and lost the ODI series nar-

rowly and proving to be difficult customers in the T20s too. While the batsmen have done well to counter the Indian bowlers, especially the spinners along with seamer Trent Boult have put their hand up when it matters the most.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi, who wasn't part of the original squad, has been a revelation and kept the India batsmen under check with his clever variations.

Boult rocked the host team's top-order in Rajkot, getting Rohit Sharma and Dhawan cheaply, which proved vital in the final analysis.

Newcomer Shreyas Iyer looked good during his knock of 23 but an indiscreet shot selection cost him his wicket.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya has gone off the boil since the back-end of the Australia series but the captain defended him.

The hard-hitting Pandya won't mind a return to form in a high-stakes game Tuesday.

26 killed in mass church shooting, Trump blames deranged person for it

HOUSTON, Nov 6 [PTI]: A former US Air Force airman wearing a tactical gear and using an assault rifle opened fire on worshippers at a Sunday service at a church in Texas, killing at least 26 people and injuring 20 others in the latest gun-related massacre to shock the country.

The suspect wearing all black started firing at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs just after the Sunday morning service began, officials said. He was armed with a Ruger military-style rifle.

The victims ranged in age from 5 to 72, and among the dead were several children, a pregnant woman and the pastor's 14-year-old daughter. It was the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history.

Authorities confirmed that the church shooter was a heavily armed white male, in his 20's, but refused to name him. But the media identified the gunman as Devin Patrick Kelley, 26, who was discharged from the US Air Force in 2014.

Police said the gunman crossed the street in his vehicle, got out and began firing using a Ruger AR assault-type rifle.

He then moved to the

right side of the church, continuing to fire and then into the building.

As he left, he was confronted by a resident who grabbed his rifle and then began to fire at him as he fled. The resident then chased the shooter who left the scene in his vehicle before leaving the road at the border with Guadalupe County.

He was found dead inside the vehicle, although authorities are not sure if the shooter died from a self-inflicted wound, or whether it was from the resident.

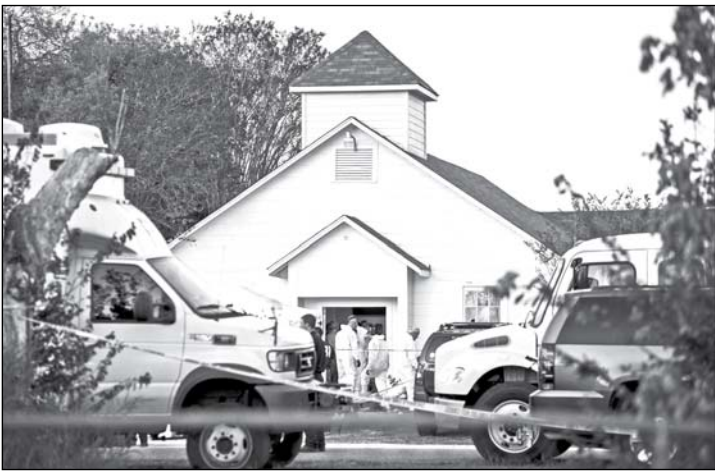
"The exact circumstances of the gunman's death are still under investigation. The wounded individuals were transported to San Antonio Medical Centre and University Hospital in San Antonio," the Texas Department of Public Safety said in a statement said.

The San Antonio FBI branch said there was no indication of the gunman's motive.

In a brief statement, the Pentagon said the suspect was an airman "at one point," but additional details about his time in the Air Force were not immediately available.

The US officials said the suspect lived in a San Antonio suburb and doesn't appear to be linked to organised terrorist groups. The officials said investigators are looking at social media posts Kelley may have made in the days before Sunday's attack, including one that appeared to show an AR-15 semiautomatic weapon.

Kelley was previously a member of the US Air Force and served at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico from 2010 until his discharge, according to Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek. The Air Force did not



provide a date or condition of the discharge.

Some media outlets reported that he was dishonourably discharged and court martialled in May 2014. The reasons for his discharge remain unclear.

President Donald Trump, who was in Japan on the first leg of a 12-day Asia tour, expressed condolences to the victims of the mass shooting and also called Governor Gerg Abbott.

He condemned the shooting as an "act of evil" and said Americans would pull

together.

"And through the tears and through the sadness, we stand strong, oh so strong," he said.

"In dark times, and these are dark times, such as these, Americans do what they do best and pull together," Trump said, but dismissed the need for guns control.

Trump said the gunman had a "mental health problem" and that this "is not a guns situation".

"Preliminary reports show a very deranged individual who's been having

a problem for a very long time," he said. "We have a lot of mental health problems in our country."

Trump said it was fortunate that another person on the scene had a firearm, otherwise "it would have been much worse."

The shooting has devastated the small Texas town in the east of San Antonio, described as a place where "everybody knows everybody" and sent shockwaves across the US, as the nation confronts a breaking point over race and gun violence.

Less than a thousand people live in Sutherland Springs and officials believe that the number of people who are injured and killed make up about ten per cent of the entire population.

"While the details of this horrific act are still under investigation,...I want to send our sincerest thoughts and prayers to all those who have been affected by this evil act," Governor Abbott said during conference.

Former President Barack Obama expressed his condolences over the incident and said, "We grieve with all the families in Sutherland Springs harmed by this act of hatred, and we'll stand with the survivors as they recover."

"May God also grant all of us the wisdom to ask what concrete steps we can take to reduce the violence and weaponry in our midst," he said.

It's the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history -- and the fifth deadliest in modern US history.

The shooting comes just a month after a gunman in Las Vegas opened fire on an outdoor music festival, killing 58 people and wounding hundreds in the deadliest mass shooting in recent US history.

On June 12, 2016, a heavily-armed gunman opened shooting inside a nightclub in Orlando. 49 people were killed in the shooting with the attacker pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group, which later claimed its responsibility.

In December 2015, a radicalised Muslim couple stormed a Christmas office party in San Bernardino and gunned down 14 people, while wounding 22 others.

Texas witnessed its worst shooting in 1991 when a man drove his pickup truck into a Cafeteria and opened fire, killing 23 people and injuring 27 others.

Trump warns time for 'patience' on N Korea is over

TOKYO, Nov 6 [AFP]: The time for "strategic patience" with North Korea is over, US President Donald Trump warned today, after winning Japan's backing for his policy of considering all options to rein in the rogue state.

Trump described the North's nuclear programme as "a threat to the civilised world and international peace and stability" on the second day of his Asia tour dominated by the crisis.

The President has signalled in the past that Washington could look beyond a diplomatic solution to the North's nuclear weapons ambitions and consider military intervention.

"The era of strategic patience is over," he declared alongside his host, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

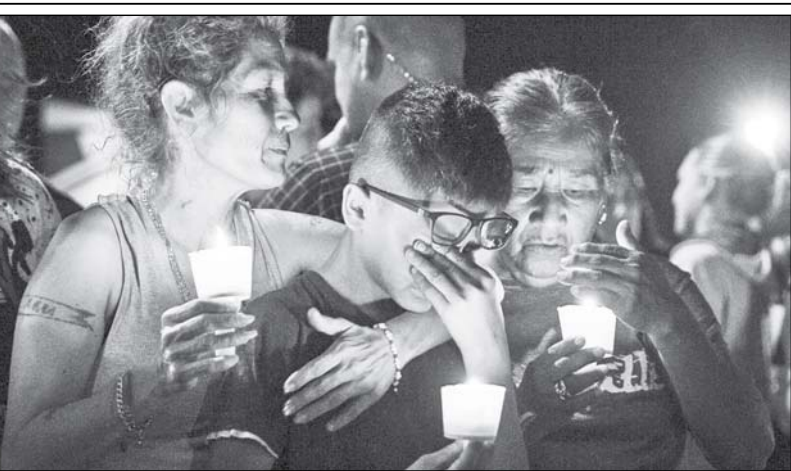
Under former President Barack Obama, the US had ruled out engaging the North until it made a tangible commitment to de-nuclearisation.

Washington hoped sanctions pressure and internal stresses in the isolated country would bring about change but critics said the policy gave Pyongyang room to push ahead with its nuclear ambitions.

Close ally Abe echoed Trump's remarks, voicing Japan's support for Washington's policy that "all options are on the table" to deal with the North Korean threat -- including military force.

Abe, whose country is in the firing line of North Korean missiles, also announced Japanese sanctions on the assets of 35 North Korean groups and individuals.

The United Nations has adopted multiple rounds of sanctions against the reclusive North, the most recent in September following its sixth nuclear test and a flurry of missile launches.



More than 100 people gathered after dark for a prayer vigil on a grassy street corner within sight of the church where the deadliest mass shooting in Texas' history occurred. Mourners participated in a candlelight vigil held for the victims of a fatal shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas on 05 Nov. Attendees, including Texas Governor Greg Abbott, lit candles while some wept and others hugged Sunday night. They could see the church sign lit up and emergency lights flashing.

Huge leak of documents reveals Queen's offshore investments

LONDON, Nov 6 [PTI]: Millions of pounds from the private estate of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II have been invested in offshore tax haven funds, a huge new leak of financial documents have revealed, but the monarch's estate managers defended the investments by calling them "fully" legitimate.

The 91-year-old monarch's investments appear among a series of high-profile names to feature in the Paradise

Papers, a leak of 13.4 million files from two offshore service providers and the company registries of 19 tax havens.

The Duchy of Lancaster, which provides the Queen with an income, held funds in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda British overseas territories with no corporation tax and at the centre of the offshore financial industry.

A small amount from the funds ended up in the

company behind BrightHouse, a chain accused of irresponsible lending, and retail chain Threshers, which went bust owing 17.5 million pounds in UK tax.

A spokesperson for the Duchy of Lancaster said: "We operate a number of investments and a few of these are with overseas funds. All of our investments are fully audited and legitimate. The Queen voluntarily pays tax on any income she

receives from the Duchy."

The Duchy added the BrightHouse holding now equates to only 3,208 pounds and it was not involved in fund investment decisions and claimed that it had been unaware the retail featured in the investments.

"The Duchy's investment policy is based on advice and recommendations from our investment consultants and asset allocation rather than tax strategy," said Chris

Adcock, the duchy's chief finance officer.

"The Duchy has only invested in highly regarded private equity funds following a strong recommendation from our investment consultants," he said.

The documents show the Duchy of Lancaster put 5 million pounds in the Jubilee Absolute Return Fund Limited in Bermuda in 2004, with the investment coming to an end in 2010.

China objects to Sitharaman's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

BEIJING, Nov 6 [PTI]: China today objected to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's first visit to Arunachal Pradesh, saying her tour of the "disputed area" is not conducive to the peace and tranquillity in the region.

Sitharaman yesterday visited forward army posts in remote Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh bordering China to take stock of the defence preparedness.

"As to Indian Defence Minister visit to Arunachal Pradesh, you must be very clear about China's position," Chinese Foreign Minis-

try spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing.

"There is a dispute on the eastern section of the China- India boundary. So this visit by the Indian side to the disputed area is not conducive to the peace and tranquillity of the relevant region," she said in a response to a question.

The Indian side should work with the Chinese side to make contribution to properly revolving the issue through dialogue and create enabling environment and conditions, she said.

"Hope India will work China for the shared goal, seek a solution acceptable to both sides and accommodate our concerns in a balanced way," she said.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet and routinely objects to top Indian officials' visit to the area.

The Line of Actual Control [LAC] between India and China stretches to 3,488 kms. Both sides have held 19 rounds of talks by the Special Representatives to resolve the dispute.

~ SummitTIMES ~
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3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0577 2843 3612 4083 4374 5160 6171 6268 8497 9552	
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5th Prize Rs.120/-	
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Kylie Says Photos of Her Were Photoshopped as Pregnancy Rumors Continue



While Kylie Jenner remains mum about reports that she is allegedly pregnant, when photos of her looking larger than usual were posted on Sunday, she was just not having it.

The Daily Mail posted exclusive paparazzi pics of Kylie, Kris and sister Kourtney Kardashian on Sunday at a small airport, where a private jet awaited them. Kylie, 20, wore a black Yeezy "Calabassas" sweatshirt and matching sweatpants.

"We are awaiting confirmation on her much talked about pregnancy and in this latest outing we are starting to see a bit of a growing baby bump," the Daily Mail wrote.

"First of all if you're going to photoshop my photos blogs/paps!! Check for the

crooked lines in the background. 2nd photo is clearly altered," Kylie tweeted, alongside a collage of some of the photos seen on the website.

The photos were taken by a photographer from X17Online, which responded to the reality star's tweet, saying the pics are "100% REAL! No Photoshop, #nofilter, no additives, no preservatives—all organic and all REAL!"

The Daily Mail has stated in their story, "DailyMail.com can confirm the pictures have not been digitally altered."

Kylie also posted on Snapchat a photo of herself wearing the same outfit while standing inside what appears to be a convenience store with sister Khloe Kardashian,

who E! News learned in September is pregnant with her and boyfriend Tristan Thompson's first child together. Also that month, multiple reports said Kylie is expecting her first child with boyfriend Travis Scott. They and their reps have neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

Also on Sunday, Kylie, Kourtney, Khloe and sister Kim Kardashian, who is expecting baby No. 3 via a surrogate, posted on Snapchat photos of their giant candy and other snacks haul; Pictured were plain Pringles, Funyuns, Cheetos, Milk Duds, Hostess Donettes, Watermelon Jolly Rancher Chews, Haribo Gummy Bears, Fig Newtons and...a box of Playtex Tampons.

Kylie captioned one of her pics, "Girls Trip."

Kris, who turned 62 on Sunday, is not seen in the Snapchat pics.

She and Kim had a mother-daughter night the day before at the 2017 LACMA Film + Art Awards.

"Happy Birthday to my best friend @krisjenner," Kim wrote on Instagram on Sunday. "Couldn't have asked for a better mom! Literally don't know how you do it and manage us all and be the best grandma and have the best outlook on life! I'm so grateful for you!!! Love you so much!"

DAENERYS TARGARYEN AND KHAL DROGO ARE BACK TOGETHER! AGAIN!



Emilia Clarke, who plays the Mother of Dragons, posted on her Instagram page on Sunday a photo of her with her arms around Jason Momoa, who played her late Dothraki husband, her sun and stars. Based on their enormous grins, the appearance of a bottle and her curious caption, it appears the two went out drinking. Now that's what we call an epic deleted scene.

"When life is so good that your sun and stars is in your city...you loose your eyes and gain 5 grins [and gins] where until now they'd only been one... [grins- there's always more gins]," the British actress wrote. "@prideofgyssies YOU ALWAYS MOTHER OF DRAGONS MAIN MAN #lookoutjonsnowdrogosgotyournumber #happinessishere #hawaiianhakahunkoffunshutsdownlondon."

The actor, who recently married the real love moon of his life, Lisa Bonet, later posted a couple of with Clarke on his own Instagram page.

The two were also joined by his Justice League co-star Gal Gadot. Both the actress, who reprises her role as Wonder Woman, and Momoa, who makes his debut as Aquaman, are in London to promote the movie. The DC superhero ensemble film is set for release on 17 Nov.

"Crazy mad insane LOVE for this queen it's truly like bubbles of giggles are in our bellies when we are together," Momoa wrote. "It's a shame we don't get to see each other as much as we would like but when we do I feel like a f—king KHAL love u @emilia.clarke always forever Yer Jalan Atthirari Anni #getreadyherecome #GO-Tohana #slaps mahalo @bullchinashope1_ for always taking care of me @cristian.bullinachinashop you make it a home away from home brother. Aloha Drogo."

"And then this happened," he wrote, alongside a photo of him with Clarke and Gadot. "I'm so honored to know these two amazing women queens goddesses @gal_gadot @emilia.clarke Wonder Woman aka amazing mother

warrior aka saves my ass all the time in JL And Khalessi aka mother of F—king dragons aka my boo aka moon of my life. Even I have to fanboy out sometimes. #icantbelievevetheyloveme #drogodanywonderwoman #boomforeal. Aloha fanboy."

She and Momoa have reunited offscreen several times over the past few years. In 2015, Clarke posted on Instagram a photo of the two laughing and cuddling.

"Well I guess the sun rises in the west and sets in the east then huh?" she wrote at the time. "Paris fashion week just kicked off..."

In 2016, Momoa showed his support for his former co-star after HBO aired an episode that showed her character unleashing her wrath upon some bonehead Dothraki who dared to challenge her...and ending up naked.

"Hahahahahahahahaha. I love GOT. Don't f—k with my boo," he wrote on Instagram. "Hahahahahahahahah @emilia.clarke love u Moon of my life ALOHA DROGO."

In an interview with Rolling Stone earlier this year, Clarke said that she first met Momoa in a hotel lobby in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

"I walked in and from the others side of this enormous

lobby I hear, 'WIFEY!' she said. "And this huge Hawaiian man comes bounding over to me, picks me up and genuinely gets me in like a rugby tackle to the floor. It was only when he picked me back up and kinda dusted me off, I was like, 'Who are you?'"

Production on the eighth

and final season of Game of Thrones began last month and is set to continue through next summer. In September, Clarke dyed hair platinum blond to match her Game of Thrones character's locks after years of remaining a brunette under the long, braided wigs she wears onscreen.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

07TH NOV

WORLD HISTORY

1783: Britain's last public hanging takes place at Tyburn, near Marble Arch.

1917: The Bolsheviks seize power in Russia. The provisional government of Alexander Kerensky is overthrown by forces led by Lenin in a coup d'état.

1924: The Socialist Government in Britain headed by Ramsay MacDonald goes to the Royal Palace to hand over to King George their seals of Office to be distributed to the new Conservative ministers headed by the Prime Minister Baldwin, and including Winston Churchill as the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1929: The Museum of Modern Art in New York City opens to the public.

1956: General Dwight D Eisenhower is re-elected President of the United States in the biggest Republican win since Abraham Lincoln's in 1860.

1975: Dr Tiede Herrema, a Dutch industrialist kidnapped by the IRA more than a month before, is freed.

1983: A bomb explodes at the United States Senate building.



Members of a group claiming to be the 'Resistance Conspiracy' - in protest to U.S. military involvement in Grenada and Lebanon - claim responsibility.

1989: East German leader Egon Krenz prepares to choose a new government after mass resignations of Communist ministers.

1999: Tiger Woods becomes the first golfer since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win four straight tournaments.

2000: Former First Lady Hillary Clinton makes history when she wins a New York Senate seat.

INDIAN HISTORY

1858: Bipin Chandra Pal, Indian activist, was born.

1888: CV Raman, physicist and Nobel Prize winner, was born.

1954: Kamal Haasan, Tamil actor and director, was born.

2000: Chidambaram Subramaniam, Union Minister of Defence and Finance, passed away.



STARRY NIGHT! Honoree Angelina Jolie accepts the Hollywood Foreign Language Film Award for 'First They Killed My Father' onstage at the 21st Annual Hollywood Film Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in California.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT YOUNG ANYMORE WHEN YOU FALL ASLEEP DURING THE COMING ATTRACTIONS."

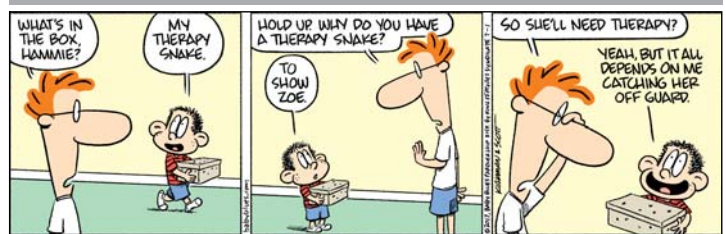
ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



better off you'll be tomorrow.

SCORPIO: Get involved with the energy of today so you don't get left out of the loop. Your contribution to the group is important. You should foster positive relationships among all parties. Think big. You can do no wrong by expanding your mind out into the minds of others. Make a commitment to quench your thirst for knowledge and freedom through information.

SAGITTARIUS: You can add more tools to your toolbox today. Express your concerns and you'll find helpful remedies present themselves. Keep the lines of communication open and let the

information flow. There's a great expansiveness that comes when you think for yourself - and think big. Don't get bogged down with the emotional side of things. Concern yourself with the facts.

CAPRICORN: Join others before you make your big travel plans. The smallest idea can be quickly transformed into a huge plan of attack, thanks to the prevailing winds of the day. There's a light, communicative feeling in the air encouraging cooperation. If you find that people aren't chiming into the group effort, you may want to excuse them from the group.

AQUARIUS: Don't get stuck doing just one thing today. The

more varied your activity, the easier it will be for you to integrate the different pieces of the puzzle. This is a day to think big. The more you know, the greater an asset you'll be when it comes time to solve the biggest problems. Learn how to multitask effectively.

PISCES: You might be in a whirlwind today, and there will be information buzzing around asking you to do this and go there. You're the one most perfectly suited to deal with the tone of the day. Stay lively and upbeat. Don't get stuck on any one thing. Keep the energy moving. The answer will be right there waiting for you.

ARIES: You might be jumping around today. This is one of those situations in which you don't want to stay in one place for too long. Each place is an individual step that leads to where you want to go. Keep your eyes focused ahead and keep on going. Stagnating will leave you lost in the middle of nowhere.

TAURUS: Your audience will be attentive to you today. Take the lead and others will follow. Be yourself and project your voice into the auditorium of eager listeners. Information will flow freely, and you shouldn't discount any ideas from the peanut gallery. Be open to questions and comments from

others. Their participation is vital to your performance.

GEMINI: You could feel confident today, and you should have a strong idea of exactly what it is you want. Information is power. Others are working to wield power over you. Don't let them get away with it, especially today. Encourage synergistic behavior among all parties. You can accomplish a great deal by working together instead of against one another.

CANCER: Your mind will expand today. You'll feel like there's a ton of information crammed into your head that needs processing. Regarding big projects, try to

finish them as quickly as you can. The best policy is to pace yourself. If you wait until the last minute to finish, the quality of your work will suffer. Make a plan and maybe even a timeline. Set small deadlines as you go along.

LEO: Try not to read too much into other people's words today. You may have spent hours tearing apart every off-the-cuff remark. You may build up a wild scenario in your head regarding what that person is thinking. Instead of trying to sneak up on the answer through the back door, try the direct approach. Simply ask your question.

VIRGO: Long-term trends are coming to an important climax

now. This dramatic period is highlighted by the added amount of information being thrown your way. Try to make small adjustments to your direction that incorporate this new information. Be aware of the prevailing winds and your relationships will be much better off.

LIBRA: Take a break from what you're doing. Look at what people are doing around you. Check your plans in relation to those of others and see if there's a way you can combine forces and kill more birds with fewer stones. Cooperation instead of competition is the lesson that needs to be emphasized today. The better you learn this today, the