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# SummitTIMES

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

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## Governor and CM extend Bhanu Jayanti greetings

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 12 JUL:

Governor Shrinivas Patil has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Bhanu Jayanti 2018.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "I join the people of Sikkim and Nepali community worldwide to pay my homage and respect to Ādikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya. Celebration of Bhanu Jayanti in Sikkim has gained significance beyond a literary event and into a celebration and display of harmony, unity and brotherhood prevalent among different ethnic communities of the State over the last few decades.

The deeds and contribution of Bhanubhakta has been acknowledged by scholars and litterateurs around the world with his literary works translated in all major languages. Among Bhanubhakta's literary prominence, he will be remembered for his immortal epic Ramayana- the tale of

turn to pg02

## Assembly sees heated discussion over Land Rights Bill

OPPOSITION  
MISLEADING  
SHERPA  
COMMUNITY: CM

NITESH R PRADHAN/  
SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 12 JUL: Sikkim Legislative Assembly today witnessed heated exchange of words between the treasury and opposition benches on the last day of the Assembly session.

The discussions were centred around Sikkim Regulation of Transfer of Land [Second Amendment] Bill tabled by the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling and the Private Member's Resolution "Protecting the land of Sherpa under the provision of Revenue Order No 1 of 1917"



moved by SKM MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha. Both the bill and the private member's resolution were themed around the protection of Sherpa land from alienation.

Forest Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha

lashed out against the stand of the two SKM MLAs, Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama, on securing land rights for the Sherpa community within the purview of Revenue Order No. 1.

He stated that such a stand poses a great threat to the protection of rights of the minority Bhutia Lepcha communities. SKM MLA [Sangha], Sonam Lama, had stated that the Sherpas feel insecure and being part

of the larger Bhutia definition, they should also get their land rights within the purview of Revenue Order No. 1 of Article 371F.

Both SKM MLAs stated that the bill should be passed only

after consultations and discussions with the concerned stakeholders.

Member of the House, RN Chamling, had also said that members of Sherpa community were not happy with the bill and hence it should not be passed.

The Forest Minister, however, welcomed the move of the government to table a separate bill in the house to protect the Sherpa community's land and stated that it is a strong bill where even the BL community cannot buy their land.

This was also reiterated by the Chief Minister and Leader of the house, Pawan Chamling, who stated that no one can now buy land of the Sherpas except members of the

same community hence protecting alienation of Sherpa land.

He added further that this bill is even stronger than Revenue Order No. 1.

MLA BB Rai, further reiterating the government's position stated that Sherpas cannot get land rights within the purview of Revenue Order No. 1 which is directly protected by the Constitution under Article 371F. He alleged that demanding the protection of Sherpa land under Revenue Order No 1 is just vote bank politics.

The treasury benches unanimously criticized the opposition for misguiding the Sherpa community to which the Sangha MLA aggressively retorted that they must

turn to pg02

## 2-day Assembly Session concludes, 3 Bills passed

Sagar Chettri  
Gangtok, 12 Jul:

Three bills introduced on the first day of the Assembly Session on 11 Jul have been passed today on the final day of the two-day long Seventh Session [Part III] of the Ninth Assembly of Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

The Sikkim Lokayukta [Amendment] Bill, which was introduced by the Minister for Law, Legal, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Department, RB Subba, has

been passed without any discussion.

Likewise, another bill the Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University [Amendment] Bill, which was also introduced by RB Subba, who is also the Minister-in-charge of Human Resource Development Department, has also been passed without any discussion.

The Sikkim Regulation of Transfer of Land [Second Amendment] Bill, which was introduced by Chief Minister

Pawan Chamling, who is also the Minister-in-charge of Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, has also been passed by the House after a discussion.

The First Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 2018-19 was passed today. The Separate Demands for Grants was presented in the House by the Chief Minister who is also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department, on the first day of

the session on Wednesday.

During the Financial Business, Leader of the House, Pawan Chamling, also the Minister-in-Charge Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department, moved the Demands for Excess Grants/ Appropriation for the Expenditure of the State Government on 11 July, which was passed by the House.

Likewise, the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, Bill No. 15, was introduced by the Minister-in-Charge Finance, Revenue and

Expenditure Department for the Demands for Excess Grants and Appropriation for the Financial Year 2011-12, which was passed by the House.

The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, Bill No. 15 of 2018 for the Demands for Excess Grants and Appropriation for the Financial Year 2011-12 was placed by the Minister-in-Charge Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department, which was considered and passed by the House. He also introduced the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, Bill

No. 16 of 2018 for the First Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2018-19, which was considered and passed by the House.

The CM also presented the Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of State Bank of Sikkim for the year ended 31st March, 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the House. Likewise, the Speaker KN Rai presented the Annual Report of Ecclesiastical Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim.



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## Sikkim girls in NE zone team for Inter Zonal One Day Cricket Tourney

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 JUL:

Sikkim girls Nur Pandi Lepcha (Leg Spinner) and Songkit Lhamoo Lepcha (Wicket Keeper) have been selected to represent Northeast/Bihar Zone team in the Inter Zonal One Day Cricket Tournament to be held from 16 to 25 July at Chennai, informs a press release.

The tournament will be conducted by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) under the patronage of National Cricket Academy (NCA) as per the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) One Day matches rules.

Six teams i.e. North Zone, East Zone, West Zone, South Zone, Central Zone and Northeast/Bihar Zone, will be playing again each other in this tournament, the release mentions.

"It is a proud moment for both Sikkim and Sikkim Cricket that our players have been selected by the selectors for the Inter Zonal One Day Cricket Tournament and we are confident that our players will prove themselves in their respective roles. It is the dedication and hard work on field by these players that has been counted today. We wish them luck for the upcoming tournament," said president of Sikkim Cricket Association, Lobzang G. Tenzing.

According to the performances of the players in the Inter zonal One Day Tournament, the next batch of players will be selected to attend under-19 camp at National Cricket turn to pg03

## Farm equipment distributed in Chakung under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan

GANGTOK, 12 JUL: Under the Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan, farm machineries and equipment were distributed for agriculture mechanization in the Hills to farmers at Gram Prashasan Kendra in Chakung, West Sikkim, a press release informs.

Demonstration on usage of Power Tiller, Grinder and Chaff Cutter was also presented by resource persons from Food Security & Agriculture Department.

The programme concluded with the distribution of 33 Power Tillers, 10 chaff cutters, 04 power sprayers, 13 multipurpose grinders and 03 brush cutters to 38 farmers of Singling, Dodhak and Malbasy.

# Monks and public of Chungthang thank CM for area's development

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 12 JUL:

The monk body of Chungthang Monastery in North Sikkim along with the public and Panchayats of Chungthang have expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his government for undertaking various developments in Chungthang Sub Division through a note of gratitude extended in a public meeting held today at the monastery.

During the programme, 22 beneficiaries were also handed over token of GCI sheets, pressure cookers and LPG connections



under schemes sanctioned earlier by the CM during his meetings with monks across the State.

Today's function was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Chungthang,

Subash Ghimerey, head of Chungthang Monastery, Sambuk Lama, former Zilla Adhakysha, North, Khamsoom Lepcha, monks, Panchayats and the general public.

It may be mentioned here, the newly appointed SDM Chungthang, who was Block Development Officer for Chungthang earlier, had been looking after 200 REDRH and

CMRHM constructions in the area which are now almost complete. Construction of only 40 houses remains at its last phase. The public of Chungthang are exulted over recommencement of the SDM's service.

A massive plantation drive was also conducted by the public and the monks at the monastery premises, and dustbins were also installed.

The monks of Chungthang have further passed a resolution to ban Styrofoam products for wrapping cho [Prasad] while encouraging all to use only local organic products for prasad.

# Union Home Minister launches BADP Online Management System

NEW DELHI, 12 JUL [PIB]:

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh held an interaction with Field and State Level Officers implementing Border Area Development Programme [BADP] here in New Delhi today.

During the interaction programme, relevant issues regarding implementation of BADP and making it more effective were discussed in detail.

Mr Singh stressed that the border population is strategic asset to the country and important element to maintain border security. He emphasised that all out efforts must be made to improve social and economic infrastructure to ensure that these people continue to live in border villages. He mentioned that the government accords utmost priority to social and economic well-being of border population and to provide them all facilities like connectivity, safe drinking water, schools, hospitals and other facilities to ensure sustainable living in these areas.

He assured Centre's continued assistance to States to strengthen infrastructure and development activities under the BADP.

It may be mentioned here, the outlay under this



programme has been increased to Rs 1,100 crore in 2017-18 from Rs 990 crore in 2015-16. For comprehensive and all-round development of border villages, it has been decided to develop 61 model villages for which Rs 126 crores have been released to the State Governments. Additional funds will also be made available as per requirement. Each model village will provide all basic facilities like primary health centre, primary education, community centre, connectivity, drainage, drinking water, etc. to enable sustainable living in border areas.

On the occasion, Mr Singh launched BADP Online Management System for better planning, monitoring and

implementation of various projects under BADP.

Border States can submit their respective Annual Action Plans online and receive approvals from Ministry of Home Affairs in electronic mode which will bring in transparency in the sanction process and improve quality of planning and implementation, it is informed.

The BADP covers 111 border districts in 17 States to meet special development needs of border population with focus on people living within 50 kms of the International Border. A total of Rs. 13,400 crore has been released since the programme was initiated in 1986-87.

Senior officers from all 17 States and District Magistrates

from 25 border districts attended the programme. Presentations were given by State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal highlighting major achievements under the BADP and steps taken by the State Governments to improve quality of life for border population. Mr Rajnath Singh also interacted with around 25 District Magistrates who spoke about the specific issues relevant to their districts.

Also present for the event were Hansraj Gangaram Ahir [MoS, Home], Kiren Rijiju [MoS, Home], Rajiv Gauba [Union Home Secretary] and BR Sharma [Special Secretary, Border Management].

# Governor and CM extend Bhanu Jayanti greetings

contd from pg01

Lord Rama, through which he has been able to bridge the cultural gap between the communities of the Himalayan hills and mainland India.

On this special occasion, I urge my fellow Sikkimese to continue fostering the cross cultural harmony

engrained in our way of life since ages while working towards the enrichment of the great Nepali language."

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have also extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Bhanu Jayanti.

In his message, the CM has said, "Bhanubhakta Acharya is a man who needs no introduction. He is an inspiration not only for writers but also for all those who believe in the power of the vernacular language. His greatest work was his translation of the 'Ramayana' from Sanskrit into Nepali

language. We must always remember his invaluable contribution to Nepali literature and the crucial role that he played in bringing Nepali literature to the forefront.

Let us take time to understand and acknowledge that the work of this renowned literary legend is not just

a scholarly material to be read in schools and colleges; but also for us to remember that this extraordinary writer was the pioneer to kindle the spirit of literature and illuminate minds through his great work. We must thus do our duties as responsible citizens to keep up the legacy of the 'Adikavi'."

# Assembly sees heated discussion over Land Rights...

"prove" as to how the opposition has misled the Sherpas.

Minister TW Lepcha, while stating that such stand of the opposition can dilute Article 371F, thereby hampering the interest of not just one but the entire Sikkimese population.

To the suggestions made by the SKM MLA, KN Lepcha, that all stakeholders should have been consulted before the bill was presented, the CM stated that his government is willing to consult not just with the Sherpa community but also with the Bhutia and Lepcha communities including all other groups identified within the greater Bhutia definition like Kagatey, Yolmo, Dhotapa, Tibetan, etc.

Member, Ugen Nedup, also welcomed the bill and said that the opposition is contradicting

itself as they have been accusing the government of diluting the Old Laws of Sikkim and now are demanding the dilution of the Old Laws.

While mentioning that SDF government has provided equal protection to every community and section of the State, Mr Nedup stated that it is time for people to understand and recognize the political party in favour of Bhutia and Lepcha communities.

Member, DR Thapa, expressed that it was the duty of a legislator to protect the interest of every person but the demand of the opposition Members will dilute the Revenue Order No 1. On the same, he alleged that the opposition knows the facts but is only raising the issue to gain political mileage. He further

added that it is not healthy to play with the Old Laws of Sikkim just to gain political mileage. He stressed that everyone should work in the interest of the people of Sikkim.

Responding to queries raised by opposition Members, the CM stated that this bill will ensure that people are not rendered landless. He stated that even if all Members of the House wanted to, the State cannot protect the land of Sherpas under Revenue Order No 1 because it is purely a Central and Parliamentary subject.

To bring forth such a proposal even after knowing all facts is just to mislead and deceive members of the Sherpa community for votes, he stated.

He added that such a proposal is not in the interest of

either the Sherpa community or Bhutia and Lepcha communities but will only dilute Revenue Order No 1.

The CM further announced that the State Government will take opinion from members of Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepali communities on Revenue Order No 1.

The sole Sherpa representative in the State Assembly, DN Sherpa, from the ruling SDF party, welcomed the bill and thanked the CM for presenting it in the House which he added would ensure the rights of the Sherpa community in the State.

As for the private member's resolution, the Speaker, KN Rai informed that the discussion on the Resolution was recorded in the House.



# ATMA-East conducts training on bee farming in Parakha

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 JUL:

Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA], East, conducted a daylong training on bee farming at Parakha Block in East Sikkim today in the presence of Gangep Ward Panchayat, Nim Tshering Bhutia, as chief guest and Panchayat president, Latuk Chochenpheri, KB Karki, as guest of honour, a press release informs.

Deputy Project Director, ATMA, Rachana Gurung, highlighted the activities of ATMA and urged all to work hard and follow up on the initiatives taken up by the State Government in farming on a regular basis.

Likewise, Deputy

Director, Horticulture, Bhanu Bhakta Sharma, stressed on working in collaboration with ATMA for better Bee management.

He further assured to provide vegetable nurseries for SHGs and develop vegetable clusters.

Panchayat president, Latuk Chochenpheri and Mr Karki, extended gratitude to ATMA for conducting the training and supporting the farmers of the area.

During the technical session of the programme, resource person Tika Maya Gurung shared her experience of working with ATMA and detailed the technical and theoretical aspects of Bee farming.



# KVK South distributes rice bean seeds at Khop

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 JUL:

Krishivi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim conducted daylong training cum input distribution programme at Khop in South Sikkim. Subject Matter Specialist [Extension], Meena Pradhan, detailed the farmers about the formation of

farmers' club and getting financial assistance for 3 years from NABARD. Likewise, SMS [Agronomy], Dr Nation Chamling, highlighted on organic packaging and practices of Rice Bean. The farmers were benefitted with inputs like rice bean, manure like Richforti plus and hermetic storage bags.



# Omkareshwr Shivalaya Mandir inaugurated in Aarigaon

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 JUL:

Pandit Shiva Pokhrel inaugurated Omkareshwr Shivalaya Mandir at Aarigaon under Yangthang constituency in West Sikkim on 11 July.

Land for construction of the temple was donated by Chandra Lal Dahal of Aarigaon in the memory of his wife, Late Hima Devi Dahal, who had passed away in 2008.

The construction of the temple had

commenced in 2014 and has been completed with financial assistance from Ecclesiastical Affairs Department and villagers and devotees, the release adds.

Also present for the inauguration were Chairperson, Gyalshing Municipal Council, IK Neopaney, Zilla Panchayat member, Yangthang, San Moti Subba, Panchayat president, Chandra Kala Subedi, and the general public, a press release informs.

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**Gangtok on Friday, 13 July**

**Temp:** 25°C/18°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly cloudy, a thunder shower.  
**Sunrise:** 04:49 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:33 PM

## IJAC urges State Govt to institute 'Pawan Pratibha Puraskar'

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 JUL:** The Investigative Journalism Award Committee (IJAC) held a meeting led by its chairperson, SK Bardewa, wherein the committee has requested the State Government to institute the State level 'Bhanu Puraskar' under the caption 'Pawan Pratibha Puraskar' for the Bhanu Jayanti celebration on 13 Jul, a press release informs.

The committee has put forward the request in order to promote persevering litterateurs, musicians and artists at par with Bhanu Puraskar to mark the year when Chief Minister Pawan Chamling became the longest serving CM of the country.

"Thus, on this day, we should eventually celebrate the acquisition of grand historical political achievement of holding the longest tenure as CM in India," the committee adds in the release.

## Sikkim girls in NE zone...

contd from pg01

Academy in Bangalore. During the U-19 (Girls) Zonal Cricket Academy Camp held on 23 April to 13 May 2018, 25 talented players were selected from Northeast/Bihar zone to attend the camp. The players were selected according to their performance in the National tournament that was held at Dhanbad from 01 to 09 November 2017 conducted by BCCI.

Out of 25, four girls from Sikkim namely Nur Pandi Lepcha (Leg spinner), Songkit Lhamoo Lepcha (wicket-keeper), Neema Yanki Lepcha (medium pace bowler) and Tshering Yangdan Lepcha (batsman) were selected to attend the camp. At the end of the 21-day camp, 3 matches were held where the 25 girls were divided into 2 teams and monitored by National selector Lopamudra Banerjee along with the appointed coaches and support staff.

On the basis of the individual player's performance in those 3 matches, 15 players were selected to represent from Northeast/Bihar Zone team of which two of Sikkim's players Nur Pandi Lepcha (Leg Spinner) and Songkit Lhamoo Lepcha (Wicket Keeper) have been selected.

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# NEDFi awareness camp for MOVCDNER stakeholders

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 JUL:**

North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. [NEDFi], in association with Food Security & Agriculture Department and Horticulture & Cash Crop Development Department, organized an awareness camp for all stakeholders on Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region [MOVCDNER], a scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, here today at Krishi Bhawan, a press release informs.

Around 38 farmer producers organizations [FPOs] from all districts of the State participated in the event.

A detailed presentation on various



subsidy benefits under MOVCDNER scheme and the process to avail them was given by NEDFi Manager, Mr Sonowal.

The main objective of the scheme was to develop a commodity-specific organic value chain in the State, it is informed.

The presentation was followed by a one-to-one interaction session held between the FPOs registered

under MOVCDNER and the officials from NEDFi and Sikkim Organic Mission regarding the process and conditions in availing the financial assistance along with the subsidies available for setting up of various post harvest infrastructure components under MOVCDNER scheme. The discussion was followed for availing of collateral-free loans under CGTMSE

schemes.

The NEDFi officials also mentioned that being a premier development financial institution, it also provides financial assistance to micro, small, medium and large enterprises for setting up industrial, infrastructure and agri-allied projects in the North Eastern region of India.

The meeting was attended by government

representatives - BK Rai [Director, Sikkim Organic Mission], SR Bhutia [Additional Director, SOM], AK Behera [Manager, SIDBI], DR Sharma [Deputy Director, MSME-DI], Reena Shrivastava [Additional General Manager, NERAMAC], Pakumani Das [AGM, NEDFi], Popy Sonowal [Manager, NEDFi] and NEDFi branch officials.



## Live webcast of PM interacting with SHG members at ICAR

### GANGTOK, 12 JUL [PIB]:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had direct interaction with members of Self Help Groups [SHGs] across the country through video conferencing today which was broadcast live on Doordarshan.

The PM interacted with women SHG members under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission [DAY-NRLM], Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gramin Kaushalya Yojana [DDU-GKY] and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes [RSETIs].

During the programme, the PM expressed happiness over the experiences of SHG members, especially on the positive change at grassroot level of the rural

economically vulnerable society.

In this connection, a programme was organized by ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim to show the live web cast to members of SHGs of different villages of East Sikkim at the conference hall of ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute in Tadong under the leadership of Joint Director, Dr RK Avasthe, and Senior Scientist and Head [In charge], KVK East, Dr Raghavendra Singh.

A total of 75 SHG members from Lingtam, Dikling Pachekhani, Losing, Tasithang, Amba and Rumtek-Sajong villages of East Sikkim and other government officials attended the event.

During the programme, the

PM interacted with members of 09 SHGs of different parts of the country.

The programme was followed by farmer-scientist interaction programme coordinated by Subject Matter Specialist [Animal Science], Dr Prasanta K Pathak, SMS [Plant Breeding], Dr JK Singh, and SMS [Agronomy], Dr Manoj Kumar.

The interaction session was followed by field day programme on 'Organic Production Techniques of Sesame in Hilly Region' organized at Research Farm of ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong wherein ICAR improved production techniques of various crops, fruits and vegetables were demonstrated.

# Sikkim boy Pho Pen has his eyes set on culinary glory

### YOUGAN TAMANG

**GANGTOK, 12 JUL:**

**"FOOD IS THE WORLD TO ME.** I consider it to be my friend thus I make and treat food with much love, compassion and care," says 20-year-old Pho Pen.

Pho Pen Obed Sangay Lepcha is an aspiring chef, food enthusiast, food researcher, food critic and a food entrepreneur from Gangtok. Born to parents Roshni Sangay Lepcha and Daniel Sangay Lepcha, Pho Pen started baking and cooking at an early age of 11.

According to Pho Pen, his grandmother was the one who immensely inspired him towards understanding food and different food cultures.

"I used to watch my grandmother prepare my favourite cake in a pressure cooker. That is how I understood the local techniques of preparing delicious food. I try and apply the same techniques in my food making," he adds.



Pho Pen completed his fundamentals from Kyi-de-Khang School, Bahai School and Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School. At present, he is learning culinary art at a hotel management institute in

Chandigarh.

Before indulging in culinary art, he was a student of retail management which he feels was his choice in order to learn retail and business that would help him in his future food entrepreneurship and business plans.

When asked about his interest in food culture, Pho Pen says that his love for food is immense, he prepares food with honesty. He likes experimenting with food and amalgamating different kinds of cuisines.

"Presently, I am experimenting on the fusion of Sikkimese and French cuisines. People in Sikkim are quite naive in terms of food. They tend to eat whatever is placed on their table. I want people in Sikkim to not just consume food but eat and enjoy healthy food, thus, in future I may come up with a huge venture where I can serve the best of health and flavour to my people," adds Pho Pen.

Pho Pen also runs an online food business with the name 'Kifeast' which offers gourmet cuisine in Gangtok.

He has published his well crafted food menu on various social media handles and has been receiving good response from people. He believes in serving freshly cooked food and also delivers orders himself.

He is the only child of his parents who have been very supportive towards his passion in cooking and food business. He aspires to have his own restaurant in the future while also providing employment to people with regular workshops on cooking and food research.

In his message to the young people in Sikkim, he says, "It is very important for young people to follow their heart but dedication, commitment and consistency is much needed. Work hard and you will have your results soon."



## Nirmal Chhetri joins FC Goa

**MARGAO, JUL 12 (PTI):** FC Goa has signed Sikkimese defender Nirmal Chhetri from NorthEast United FC ahead of the upcoming edition of Indian Super League.

Chhetri has been a veteran in the ISL since its inception, playing for Kerala Blasters FC and NorthEast United before joining the Gaurs.

The full back started his senior career with Air India back in 2006 before playing for both Bengal giants, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan respectively. He scored three goals for Mohun Bagan, including one on his debut.

He was loaned out to Mohammedan SC in 2013. In 2014, ISL side Kerala Blasters sought the services of the defender who joined them and helped the

team to reach the finals where they lost against ATK.

Chhetri then moved to NorthEast United FC where he played the 2016 and 2017 seasons before moving to Goa to join the Gaurs.

"The entire country noticed the brand of exciting football that FC Goa played last season and now I have the chance to be a part of it. Coach Sergio (Lobera) did wonders last season and I'm happy to be under his tutelage going forward," Chhetri said about his new team.

Head Coach Lobera was also full of praise for his new recruit.

"Nirmal is a player who will bring experience to this squad. He can play in any position across the back four and can assist in attack as well," he said.



### SINGTAM FLYOVER ALMOST COMPLETE!

**SINGTAM, 12 JUL:** With workers putting in extra hours, the flyover at Singtam connecting the town to Singtam District Hospital is almost complete. The old iron flyover will soon be operative with its brand new look. [YOGEN THATAL]

## Mamata seeks permanent solution for problems in tea gardens

**JALPAIGURI (WB) JUL 12 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today stressed on a permanent solution for the problems plaguing the tea gardens in north Bengal and formed an expert committee to find out a solution. She said that the committee, under Chief Secretary Malay De, would submit its report after going through the problems at the tea gardens, thus help in finding out a solution.

"I want a permanent solution for the tea gardens. Nobody has ever thought of any permanent solution regarding the problems, raging at the tea gardens, for ages. Even the Centre has failed to keep up to its promise, made prior to the last Assembly elections, about opening the closed tea gardens," Banerjee told reporters here at the Uttarkanya.

**LOST:** Certificate of Identification [Col] and Tribal Certificate of Bal Hang Limboo, son of Sancha Raj Limboo resident of Rimbik ward no 03 under 11 Darap Nambu GPU West Sikkim lost on 30/7/2013. If found please please contact: **7719319098**

### GRATITUDE

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the Funeral and the Memorial Service of **Late Senior Elder Andrew Rai** for their kind and invaluable presence. We also extend our gratitude to all who visited our home and comforted us during our time of bereavement. We regret our inability to thank each one individually, but we are indeed grateful to each individual for all help extended and all the love showered on us.

Mrs. Srikumari Rai, wife (Bulu Gurama) and Lulam family, Development Area



# SummitTIMES

## Learn From the Adikavi

### Make Language Relevant

Language is not just to keep idle conversations going; it is also about communicating ideas and thoughts, sharing information and sowing new thoughts. Towards that end, the written word becomes the vehicle on which language rides on its desired journey, carrying ideas and information to build consensus and fashion opinions. Writing also fills the role of recording the times they are written in, and for making them the mirrors that reflect situations contemporaneous to the times they emerged from. Sikkim has been celebrating Bhanu Jayanti in grand fashion for a while now. From state-level functions to observations at the district and down to the village level, the day continues to hold a special meaning for people across the State. As Sikkim celebrates the 198th birth anniversary of Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya, it becomes necessary to deliberate over where the language is positioned and how well it is delivering on its desired ends.

First, one should delve on why Bhanubhakta inspires such unconditional devotion, a celebration so strong that his significance tends to overshadow even his writings. What is it about Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya, who breathed his last in 1868, that continues to command awe and respect of Nepali speakers well into the 21st century? Why is he lionized as the First Poet, when there must surely have been Nepali poets before him?

Bhanubhakta is obviously the most celebrated of all Nepali writers because he was the first who was about the people. When he translated the Ramayana from Sanskrit to Nepali [still known as Khas bhasa at that time], he cemented his place in history from the public gratitude that his contribution invoked in that it made the religious text accessible to the people. He wrote for them, at a time when such niceties were not considered necessary, or even encouraged. That is why even though his works were published many years after his death, he continues to be lauded as the second unifier of Nepal, the one who united the people by giving them something worthwhile in their shared language. When he was translating the Ramayana, he must have known that few among the target audience would be able to read his work. Education, after all, was still an elite luxury in Nepal at that time. But he stayed with the task nevertheless, and what he managed with his translation was make the epic accessible to the lay people who, till then, whenever they attended a Ramayan path, would have not have been able to understand anything that was being recited in Sanskrit. Even if they could not read, they could understand every time Bhanubhakta's translated work was read out to them.

The Adikavi knew what he wanted and it must have been for this reason that he always traveled with his translated work tucked under his arm, which is how he is represented in paintings and celebratory statues to this day – with the Book tucked under his arms. He is believed to have recited passages from his translation every time he found a willing audience.

In doing so, he demolished the exclusivity that members of his caste had created when it came to access to faith. In that sense, he was a major reformer and demands every bit of patronage his memory commands today.

The times have changed since and any true celebration of the Adi Kavi's memory should include an exercise in soul searching to figure out whether the language that Bhanubhakta made more relevant more than two centuries ago is being nurtured adequately by those responsible for its health. When Bhanubhakta made the epic accessible to the people in 19th century Nepal, he dismantled what in today's context would be the information barrier. Time to look within and analyse whether the language is communicating as responsibly and staying true to reaching information and ideas to the speakers and readers...

### WRITE US:

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

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CHARLES LEWIS  
*theconversation.com*

The man best known for founding the digital classified listing service Craigslist recently gave a New York City journalism school US\$20 million. His gift was big enough to prompt rebranding at what will now be called the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.

Newmark's big gift made a big splash, but charitable gifts that support the media are pretty common. Some 6,568 foundations gave nonprofit media outlets a total of \$1.8 billion distributed between 2010 and 2015, according to a recent study.

All that largesse is responding to the loss of hundreds of newspapers and 35,000 newsroom employees since 2006, according to Pew Research Center analysis of federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data. I believe this workforce erosion endangers all Americans because accurate and timely information is the lifeblood of any democracy. As Thomas Jefferson said, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

#### NONPROFIT MEDIA PROLIFERATION

Back when I founded the Center for Public Integrity, one of the country's oldest and largest nonpartisan, nonprofit investigative news organizations, at my home in 1989, it was just the third of its kind in the whole country. Two decades later, when I co-founded what later morphed into the Institute for Nonprofit News, there were at least 27 of these operations.

According to Sue Cross, the institute's executive director and CEO, there are approximately 270 U.S. nonprofit news sites today, 165 of which are annual dues-paying members of her organization. Some are small with a handful of staffers. A few are much bigger.

After the cable TV entrepreneur-turned-philanthropist H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest bought Philadelphia's two largest newspapers – The

ROBIN PETTITT  
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When Theresa May gathered her cabinet at Chequers on July 6, it seemed she would face one of three possible outcomes. Perhaps least likely was the Cabinet agreeing on a detailed and realistic plan that would be acceptable to both Remainers and Leavers in the Conservative Party, never mind to the EU's 27 member states. Slightly more likely was a welter of resignations among the Cabinet's heavyweight Leavers. Finally, there was the most likely outcome: that the meeting would produce a fudge which pushed most decisions further down the road.

By the time the Cabinet members emerged from their country house retreat, it looked like May had managed to combine option one with a large helping of fudge, which seemed to be quite a coup for a prime minister not used to success. However, it's becoming rapidly apparent that the real outcome was May's nightmare: major resignations, albeit in slow motion.

The departures of David Davis and Boris Johnson clearly rip apart what appeared to be the makings of a fragile Brexit ceasefire among some of the big players in the Conservative Party. That ceasefire has now collapsed into open conflict and chaos. And while it's foolhardy to make any firm predictions at the moment, it's clear that May has a major crisis on her hands.

In more "normal" political times, her leadership would be in mortal peril, especially given she lost her parliamentary majority in 2017's disastrous snap election. (Indeed, any Conservative prime minister

who lost their majority in an election called because of massively favourable opinion polls wouldn't usually last a few days, never mind more than a year.) But these times are far from "normal" – and as it stands, it's difficult to see who in their right mind would want to take over from May right now considering the mess

they would inherit.

#### DOWN BUT NOT OUT

That mess is only partly of May's own making. The main cause of chaos is the near impossibility of creating an agreement on Brexit, and there is no obvious alternative leader who could do better. The gap between Leavers and Remainers is



Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News and their joint website, philly.com – in 2016, he donated them to the Philadelphia Foundation. The nonprofit Lenfest Institute for Journalism, to which he has donated \$129.5 million, oversees the papers.

I expect nonprofit daily news sites of that kind to become more common due to the collapse of commercial newspaper and television newsroom staff levels, which have weakened news coverage capacities.

#### WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Public media operations like National Public Radio, Public Broadcasting Service and individual broadcast stations get nearly half of the media funding foundations parcel out: \$800 million, or 44.3 percent of that \$1.8 billion distributed between 2010 and 2015, according to a study from the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and Northeastern University's School of Journalism.

National nonprofit media organizations such as ProPublica and the Center for Investigative Reporting took in \$220 million. Local nonprofit news outfits pulled in \$80 million, and university-based journalism initiatives drew \$36 million in grants over this same period.

In general, national nonprofit media outlets attract more funding than local news operations.

This lack of support for local news is coinciding with an increase in the number of "news deserts," regions without viable commercial or nonprofit news organizations.

This serious problem isn't a surprise, given the disparities in terms of everything from the quality of trained medical personnel and facilities, to online internet access and per capita income between America's rural and urban communities.

#### DRIVING GROWTH

Why are foundations, individual philanthropists and now states pouring more money into the media? The answer is very simple. Without credible news and information, and

thus a public that's at least somewhat informed about the uses and abuses of power, a healthy democracy is not possible.

Maybe because his website took a big bite out of newspapers' classified advertising revenue by digitally connecting buyers and sellers, which makes him at least indirectly responsible for some of the media's decline, Newmark is clearly worried about that problem.

"In this time, when trustworthy news is under attack, somebody has to stand up," he told The New York Times. "And the way you stand up these days is by putting your money where your mouth is."

Cross, a former Associated Press executive, says donations to her organization's member organizations began to surge at the end of 2016.

"Initially we thought that might be prompted by reaction to (President Donald) Trump's attacks on the press," she told me. "We now believe it is a broader and more sustained growth in nonprofit news fueled in good part by community concern over continuing losses of reporting by the traditional press."

*[the writer is Professor, School of Communication; Executive Editor, Investigative Reporting Workshop, American University School of Communication]*

## Who's to blame for Theresa May's meltdown – and where will it end?



simply too great for that – so provided May does not give up in frustration (which would be understandable) it is unlikely that a serious challenge will emerge.

Boris Johnson might be the most likely challenger, but has not exactly covered himself in glory considering his undiplomatic language about business, declining to make good on his promise to lie down in front of bulldozers to obstruct a third Heathrow runway, and seemingly flip-flopping repeatedly over whether to support May's plan.

Jacob Rees-Mogg is perhaps a more likely contender, as a supporter of Brexit who seems like he might be perfectly comfortable with a no-deal Brexit. However, he has so far shown no signs of seriously wanting to take on the responsibility of the highest political office, and seems happy to keep sniping from the backbenches.

While May is certainly in a precarious situation, the absence of banner-barer leading the charge for a clear and widely supported alternative position to the Chequers deal makes her relatively safe for now. A challenge can certainly not be ruled out, but despite misgivings about the deal, there does not seem to be much appetite for a leadership contest amongst rank and file MPs.

All things considered, especially given she faced no challengers after her humiliation at the 2017 election, May limping on is probably the most likely immediate outcome. But no prime minister this badly wounded can limp along forever.

*[the writer is 11Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics, Kingston University]*



Mamata seeks permanent solution for problems in tea gardens

**JALPAIGURI (WB) JUL 12 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today stressed on a permanent solution for the problems plaguing the tea gardens in north Bengal and formed an expert committee to find out a solution.

She said that the committee, under Chief Secretary Malay De, would submit its report after going through the problems at the tea gardens, thus help in finding out a solution.

"I want a permanent solution for the tea gardens.

Nobody has ever thought of any permanent solution regarding the problems, raging at the tea gardens, for ages. Even the Centre has failed to keep up to its promise, made prior to the last Assembly elections, about opening the closed tea gardens," Banerjee told reporters here at the Uttarkanya.

Today, she held a meeting with representatives of the tea gardens.

She also held a meeting senior ministers such as state Labour Minister Moloy Ghatak, Arup Biswas and senior officials of her government.

The state government also proposed a daily wage of Rs 176 for the tea garden workers pending finalisation of the minimum wages.

This year the state government had announced two interim hikes of Rs 17.50 and of Rs nine, taking the daily wage to Rs 159.

Meanwhile, the largest tea producing state of Assam, last week, had announced issuing a possible notification on an interim hike of Rs 30, with retrospective effect from March 1 this year, which would take the current daily wage of tea garden workers from Rs 137 to Rs 167.

Banerjee also lambasted the culture of strike at the tea gardens and said it finished the work culture there.

Living in camps, thousands of Bru-Raeng children in Tripura have never heard of school

**NEW DELHI, JUL 12 (PTI):** About 7,000 children from the Bru-Raeng community in North Tripura have never been to school and they are living in makeshift camps that lack basic facilities of healthcare and hygienic living conditions, according to child rights body NCPCR.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights conducted a survey to understand the living conditions of children in the camps and devise a

pathway for repatriation and rehabilitation of the Bru-Reang tribe to Mizoram.

The Bru-Reang tribe were displaced from Mizoram following an ethnic riot with the Mizos in 1997 and were given shelter in makeshift camps in north Tripura. Their number originally swelled to 50,000, but came down to 29,000 after a section of them returned to their villages in Mizoram.

According to Priyank Kannongo, Member

Education NCPCR, the biggest issue for these people living in the camps is that they have no aspirations and nothing to look forward to.

"The concept of education is alien to these children and they are not aware of what schools are," said Kannongo.

The majority of education institutions in and nearby the camps lack basic infrastructure, he said.

"About 25 per cent of the interviewed education volunteers are

not qualified as per the norms of the Right To Education Act 2009. And almost 34 per cent of the respondents said that the medium of instruction in the institutions is not their mother tongue," according to the NCPCR in a report.

In terms of healthcare, only two Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are functional and available for the total population of the community living in all six camps of North Tripura.

A majority of the

respondent neither benefitted with any health camps, nor received any subsidised medicine from the authorities, the NCPCR said in the report.

Families living in the camps do not have access to basic necessities of life such as clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and electricity, it said.

"Only 12 per cent of the population has vocational skill and the majority of people are working as daily labourers or

relying on forests for their livelihood," said Kannongo.

Also, the residents of the camps are not receiving any benefits of various state subsidised schemes and programmes, including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MNREGA), he said.

"Several members of the community do not have proper identification documents such as Aadhar Card, Voter Id Card, Birth

Certificate etc. due to which they face various problems in their daily lives and in accessing financial and banking services," he added.

The report made recommendations to governments of Mizoram and Tripura on a variety of parameters to inculcate aspiration in the community and asked the states to take steps to rehabilitate the community back in their home, where they would have a sense of belonging, Kannongo said.

Kpg Craft Training Centre inaugurated at Sitong-1 Tea Estate

**SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 12 JUL:**

In a bid to revive the old glory of Kalimpong Arts and Crafts, Mani Trust, a social organization of Kalimpong, has taken the initiative to revive the traditional crafts of Darjeeling hills and promote sustainable livelihood under its Initiative - Employment Opportunity for Livelihood Sustainability (EoFLS).

Mani Trust, with the support of West Bengal Khadi & Village Industry Board, is opening Kalimpong Crafts Training Centres in different parts of Hills. Thus far, a total of 21 such centres have been inaugurated in the



Darjeeling Hills.

Another such centre was inaugurated today at Sitong-1 Tea Estate, under Kurseong Block, Kurseong Sub-Division in the presence of Mani Trust Chairman, Subash Mani Singh.

Local women will undergo a three-month long training in handloom weaving and will be provided a stipend of Rs 3000 per month for the duration of the training.

In his inaugural address, Mr Singh said, "The goal of the

institution is to empower rural women to become self-employed and economically stronger. Even before our country's independence, Kalimpong Arts & Crafts used to export its handmade products to different countries but during the agitation in the mid-80s, it lost its glory. In order to bring back Kalimpong's heritage, we are establishing Kalimpong Craft Centres in the hills. Within two years, we aim to provide training to 2000 beneficiaries. 50% of this target has already been achieved."

Under the current scheme, women will also be given special classes

on pattern designing.

Once fully trained in designing, the women can start production on their own after provision of production centres, raw materials and funds.

Recently such a production centre was inaugurated at Suruk in Kalimpong by West Bengal Khadi & Village Industries Board Chief Executive Officer, Mrityunjoy Byandypadhyay.

Mr Singh further highlighted the market aspects of the goods produced by rural women under Mani Trust's brand 'Kalimpong Crafts' and in sales outlet of WBKVIB.

Mamata accuses BJP of targeting Missionaries of Charity

**KOLKATA, JUL 12 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today accused the BJP of targeting the Mother Teresa-founded Missionaries of Charity and maligning it.

Banerjee's accusation of the BJP followed the arrests of a sister of the religious order and a woman staffer of Nirmal Hriday, a shelter home run by it, in Ranchi last week for allegedly selling a child born to a minor inmate to a couple from Uttar Pradesh.

"Mother Teresa herself set up Missionaries of Charity. And now they are also not being spared. Malicious attempts to malign their name. The Sisters are being targeted. #BJP want to spare no one. Highly condemnable. Let MOC continue to do their work for the poorest of the poor(sic)," she tweeted.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has ordered a probe by the Jharkhand State



Child Protection Commission into the alleged selling of a baby by the staff of the shelter home.

Police yesterday rescued one more child, also allegedly sold by the Ranchi shelter home, from Jharkhand's Simdega district taking the total number of rescued children to three.

"Of the four children allegedly sold (by the shelter home), the third child was rescued today from Simdega. A

few people have been detained for questioning in this regard," Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police Anis Gupta earlier said.

He said search for the fourth child was on.

The chairperson of Ranchi unit of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Rupa Verma, had filed a complaint against Nirmal Hriday staffer Anima Indwar for allegedly selling an infant boy to the couple from UP.

Nirmal Hriday provides shelter to girls rescued through the CWC.

Following this, the CWC shifted 22 children from Nirmal Hriday and Shishu Niketan, also run by the order. The shelter home was also sealed.

The Missionaries of Charity headquarters in Kolkata had issued a statement last week, saying it would take necessary action to find out the truth.

"We are shocked at such news, which totally goes against the value and ethics espoused by the Missionaries of Charity (MOC), the nuns and its founder. The MoC is looking into the allegations against the accused employees in Jharkhand with all seriousness," Sunita Kumar, a spokesperson of the foundation, had said.

Kumar had also said that the Missionaries of Charity had stopped putting up children for adoption three years ago.

7 girls rescued from traffickers in Assam; woman arrested

**GUWAHATI, JUL 12 (PTI):** Seven girls were rescued from a running train in Assam when they were allegedly being taken to Mumbai, an official of the Northeast Frontier Railway said today.

A woman was arrested by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in this connection.

After getting specific information, RPF personnel of Rangiya division boarded the Down Guwahati-Lokmanya Tilak Terminal Express on July 10 and rescued the girls, NF Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Pranav Jyoti Sharma said.

"The RPF rescued four girls from one coach. Three more girls were rescued from another coach along with one woman trafficker. They were being taken to

Mumbai on the pretext of giving them employment at a fish factory," he added.

The seven girls were brought to Rangiya for further appropriate action.

The 40-year-old arrested woman, who hailed from Baska district of Assam, said during interrogation that she was taking the girls to Mumbai on commission basis, Sharma said.

Earlier in May, four girls and two women were rescued by the RPF while they were being allegedly trafficked at the Rangiya railway station in Kamrup district.

Girls from Assam are generally taken to big cities on the pretext of providing them jobs and then forced into prostitution.

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Discrimination against gays will go if criminality of section 377 is removed: SC

**NEW DELHI, JUL 12 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today said the social stigma and discrimination attached to the LGBTQ community would go if criminality of consensual gay sex is done away with, while maintaining that it would scrutinise the legal validity of section 377 of the IPC in all its aspects.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the 158-year-old penal law, also rejected a proposal of lawyers, seeking retention of section 377, that public opinion should be elicited on the matter, saying it did not want a referendum but would go by constitutional morality.

The bench took note of the vehement opposition

of these lawyers and their allegation that the Centre has taken a "U-turn" in the case.

"On the mere concession of the Centre, we will not say that the section is ultra-vires. We will have to analyse every aspect. We will do a detailed analysis of Section 377 and its constitutional validity," the bench, which also comprised Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, said.

"We will try to see whether section 377 of the IPC can stand the test of fundamental rights enshrined under Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom of speech and association) and 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution," the bench said. It also objected to the submission of lawyer Manoj George that the Centre has

made a U-turn on its stand and said that several verdicts including the one on right to privacy have come in the meanwhile and it would not be appropriate to call it a "U-turn".

The court observed that an environment has been created in the Indian society over the years that has led to deep-rooted discrimination against the community which has also adversely impacted their mental health.

The bench asked lawyer Maneka Guruswamy, who was appearing for a petitioner, whether there was any law, rule, regulation, bye-law or guideline which barred or restrained homosexuals from availing any right which are available to others.

"There are no such provisions," she said.

The bench then said the

LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) community faced the stigma because of the criminality attached to consensual same-sex relationship.

"Once the criminality (under section 377) goes, then everything will go (social stigma, discrimination etc)," it said.

"Over the years, we have created an environment in the Indian society which has led to deep-rooted discrimination against people of same sex involved in a consensual relationship and this has impacted their mental health also," the bench said on the third day of crucial hearing to decide the constitutional validity of Section 377 of the IPC.

Section 377 refers to 'unnatural offences' and says whoever voluntarily has

carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to pay a fine.

Referring to the provision of the Mental Health Care Act, the bench said "it also recognises the fact that such persons cannot be discriminated against on the ground of sexual orientation".

The observations came when senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for one of the intervenors, said mere striking down of section 377 will not serve the purpose as the LGBTQ community were being discriminated against on various counts.

"This community feels

inhibited as they do not even get proper medical care because of the prejudice," Justice Malhotra said, adding even medical professionals do not maintain confidentiality.

The advancing of arguments remained inconclusive and would resume July 17.

Yesterday, the government had left it to the apex court to test the constitutional validity of section 377, urging that issues like gay marriages, adoption and ancillary civil rights of LGBTQ should not be dealt by it.

Taking note of the Centre's submission that other issues like gay marriages, adoption and ancillary civil rights of LGBTQ community should not be dealt, the court said it was not considering all these issues.

The bench had said it would test the validity of the law in relation to the consensual sexual acts of two adults and if it decides to strike down the penal provision then it would remove "ancillary disqualification" of LGBTQ community members which can join services, contest elections and form associations.

Lawyer Guruswamy had yesterday referred to reports of Indian and American psychiatric bodies and said homosexuality was a normal sexual orientation.

Terming the law as a "terrible colonial legacy," she had said it violated Articles 15 (discrimination on sex), 14 (equality), 19 (liberty) and 21 of the Constitution and has a "chilling effect" on the sexual minority.



# Forlorn but proud, fans applaud England despite defeat

LONDON, JUL 12 (AFP): An initial wave of elation turned to heartbreak as 30,000 beer-soaked fans in London’s Hyde Park on Wednesday watched England lose an early lead in the World Cup semi-final against Croatia and come up short once again.

“I’m really, really sad,” said a tearful Laura Russon, 31, clutching an empty bottle of cider.

“But I’m still 100 per cent proud of them.”

Crowds of glum-looking fans swiftly streamed out of the venue, as some stayed behind to applaud the young team’s surprising success in Russia.

Early on in the game, optimism had ruled.

Under the clear blue skies of a beautiful summer’s evening, beer rained down as fans celebrated an early England goal in their first semi-final appearance in 28 years - a prospect which had seemed virtually impossible at the tournament’s outset.

“This is the first time in my life England have made it anywhere near this far,” said 23-year-old Murad Huseynov, draped in a red and white St George’s flag.

“It feels like history.”

Over half the current squad



were not even born when England last played a semi-final in world football’s top tournament, while manager Gareth Southgate was born four years after their last final in 1966.

Shaun Bailey, a 48-year-old IT worker, reminisced about watching England lose their last semi-final, in 1990 to then-West Germany “on a wooden TV balanced on a Coke machine” while at university.

“Times have changed -- it was 28 years ago,” he said, noting

the current team’s style differed

from the individual stars like Paul “Gazza” Gascoigne who grabbed headlines then.

“We haven’t really got the players now, but we’ve got the team,” he said.

The Hyde Park screening was the largest of its kind for an England game since 1996, when the country hosted the European Championship and the team made the semi-finals.

The 30,000 free tickets were snapped up within minutes in a ballot held Monday afternoon by

organisers the British Summer Time (BST) festival.

It postponed a planned event at the park site to allow fans to watch the game on several giant 94-metre by 11-metre screens.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who helped organise the event, asked for a family-friendly atmosphere after instances of disorder following England’s quarter-final victory over Sweden on Saturday.

He arrived shortly before kick-off to a joyous scene of free-flowing beer, oversized inflatable footballs

bobbing around the crowd -- and the now ubiquitous chorus of “Football’s coming home”.

England’s resurrected Euro ‘96 campaign song by the Lightning Seeds was even performed by the band ahead of the game to a rapturous reception from the largely youthful crowd decked out in England shirts and flags.

England’s only goal in the game sparked scenes of pandemonium, only to be replaced with eerie silence as Croatia equalised early in the second half and then snatched victory in extra time.

As the game dragged on, the crowd tried to rally the team from afar, launching into several renditions of the national anthem “God Save the Queen”.

“The atmosphere’s been absolutely electric,” said Michael Grant, 36, a London property developer.

“A lot of people haven’t experienced anything like this in a long time.”

Up and down the country, an estimated 30 million people watched the game on television, packing anywhere with a screen, from pubs, bars and restaurants to rooftop screenings, outdoor spaces and cinemas.

- ‘BROUGHT EVERYONE TOGETHER’ -

For some, England’s success in reaching the last four has brought a much-needed sense of unity in a country still wracked by divisions over Brexit.

“It’s brought everyone together at a time when they needed it,” said teacher Louise Smith, 34, as she celebrated the game in Hyde Park with friends.

“It’s been really nice to see that.” The team’s unexpected advance through the competition has coincided with weeks of uninterrupted sunshine across the country -- equally rare in rain-sodden England.

It had left some wondering if this is the new normal.

“You don’t get success in football and good weather in England,” said Nikki Langley-Essen, 38, a London events manager enjoying the novelty of both.

“What’s going on?”

As fans left Hyde Park -- now a sea of rubbish -- 27-year-old Henry Ludlam was optimistic for what lies ahead for England.

“It’s such a young team and there’s so much chemistry for the future, he said. “In four years, we’re going to be unstoppable.

## Two IndiGo planes avert mid-air collision over Bangalore airspace

MUMBAI, JUL 12 (PTI): Nearly 330 passengers had a narrow escape after two IndiGo planes averted a mid-air collision over the Bangalore airspace on Tuesday, prompting authorities to launch a probe into the incident, industry sources said.

The aircraft involved in the incident were operating on Coimbatore-Hyderabad and Bangalore-Cochin routes.

An IndiGo spokesperson confirmed the incident. The Hyderabad-bound plane had 162 passengers while the other aircraft was carrying 166 passengers.

Sources told PTI that the vertical separation between the two aircraft was only about 200 feet and a mid-air collision was averted after the Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) alarms went off.

Sources said Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) has started an investigation into the incident that happened on July 10.

“The TCAS-Resolution Advisory system was triggered on two of our aircraft operating Coimbatore-Hyderabad and Bangalore-Cochin routes, respectively, on July 10, 2018.

“Following normal procedure this has been reported to the regulator,” the airline spokesperson said in a statement.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the aviation regulator.

## Sri Lanka skipper, officials out of South Africa Tests

COLOMBO, JUL 12 (AFP): Captain Dinesh Chandimal and two top Sri Lankan cricket officials have agreed to sit out the Test series against South Africa pending sanctions, the International Cricket Council said today.

Chandimal, coach Chandika Hathurusingha and manager Asanka Gurusinha had pleaded guilty to violating the spirit of the game last month during Sri Lanka’s second Test against the West Indies.

The ICC said a judicial commission hearing ended overnight, hours before the first Test against the visiting South Africans was due to start at Galle today but a decision would be announced “in due course”.

“In the interim, Chandimal, Hathurusingha and Gurusinha, who have pleaded guilty, have agreed not to participate in both Tests v SA,”



cricket’s governing body said on Twitter.

“This will be credited against sanction imposed by commissioner.” The trio were charged by ICC chief executive David Richardson for their involvement in the Sri Lankan team’s refusal to take the field in St. Lucia on the third day of the second Test, which caused a two-hour delay in the start of play.

Sri Lankan were protesting the award of five runs to the West Indies after Chandimal was caught tampering with the ball during the

previous day’s play.

Chandimal missed the third and final Test after losing his appeal against a one-match ban and a fine equal to his match fees.

Match referee Javagal Srinath had said Chandimal applied an artificial substance to the ball in violation of the ICC Code of Conduct.

Chandimal was suspected of using saliva and a sweet that he had in his mouth to tamper with the ball in an attempt to make it spin more. His act was caught by TV cameras.

## Pacquiao beware! I’m going home with my belt, says Matthyssse

KUALA LUMPUR, JUL 12 (AFP): World welterweight champion Lucas Matthyssse saluted Manny Pacquiao on Thursday but vowed to beat the Filipino boxing legend when they square off on Sunday. “He is a great champion but he still hasn’t faced ‘The Machine,’” Argentina’s Matthyssse told reporters at a packed press conference in Kuala Lumpur ahead of their WBA title clash.



NEW DELHI, JUL 12 (PTI): Intensifying its crackdown on fake and automated accounts, Twitter has said it will remove suspicious accounts from users’ followers to give a “meaningful and accurate” view of follower count.

Weeding out the ‘locked accounts’ could potentially trim the roster of followers displayed on many profiles, the company warned.

The move follows users reportedly inflating their followers on Twitter with automated or fake accounts, buying the appearance of social influence to bolster their political activism,

business endeavours or entertainment careers.

“This is another step to improve Twitter, and ensure everyone can have confidence in their followers,” Twitter said in a statement.

Twitter said many users now will see drop in follower count but did not give exact number of users affected.

As it is, Twitter is becoming more vigilant about any abuse of its platform for spreading misinformation and has been removing fake accounts by the millions.

It said, over the years, it has ‘locked’ accounts after

detecting “sudden changes” in account behaviour. The platform thereafter reaches out to accounts’ owners for validation and password reset, pending which such accounts remain in a locked state “with no ability to log in.” “This week, Twitter will be removing these locked accounts from follower counts across profiles globally. As a result, the number of followers displayed on many profiles may go down,” it warned.

Twitter said it wants its users to have confidence that the follower numbers are “meaningful and accurate.”

“Most people will see a change of four followers or fewer; others with larger follower counts will experience a more significant drop. Twitter understands this may be hard for some, but it believes accuracy and transparency will make the platform a more trusted service for public conversation,” the statement added.

The most notable changes in follower counts will be visible in the “next few days”, it said but added that follower counts may continue to change more regularly as part of its ongoing work

## Croatia on fire after World Cup ‘miracle’

Zagreb, Jul 12 (AFP): Tears and cries of joy, hugs and chants, firecrackers and flares -- Croatia was on fire late Wednesday after their victory against England set up a first ever appearance in a World Cup final.

“Croatia in World Cup finals! It is so beautiful! Miracle of all miracles in Russia!” the state-run HRT television commentator Drago Cosic shouted ecstatically.

Croatia beat England 2-1 in extra-time thanks to a Mario Mandzukic goal in the second period of extra-time to book a date with France in Moscow on Sunday.

Thousands of fans gathered at the country’s largest fan zone in Zagreb’s main square, braving intermittent rain to cheer on the “Fiery Ones” (Vatreni) on a giant screen.

“We can be proud and happy ... we don’t want to stop here,” Croatia’s star player Luka Modric told HRT - ‘Like lions -

“Only great teams can be so courageous and make a comeback after trailing 1-0 against England,” Mandzukic said.

“We were losing and we returned, we were like lions.” Local media praised the players as heroes.

“Perisic and Mandzukic heroes -- Miraculous Croatia shocks England and makes it to the World



Cup final for first time in history!” said the Tportal website.

“Dalic’s team played another dramatic match and with a new miraculous victory made its fans proud again!” “Bravo! Everyone should celebrate ... Dalic’s Fiery Ones achieved the biggest success in Croatian football history!” commented Sportske Novosti paper online.

“We brought down the English! Croatia is in World Cup final! Bravo our heroes, bravo! Deep bowl,” said the Vecernji List paper online.

The paper noted that in a “drama of extra-time Croatia beat England and on Sunday it will decide with France who plays the best football on the planet.

“Well, that’s Croatia, don’t have any doubt

about it.”

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of fans throughout the country, from the northern port of Rijeka to Dubrovnik in the south, or in the eastern city Osijek, celebrated the victory on the streets and squares, singing popular fans songs and waving Croatia red-white-blue flags.

“This is a highly emotional evening! I’m so proud, a big victory for all of us!” said Fran Kulic, 23, celebrating with friends in downtown Zagreb.

Milena Bacic, a 36-year-old teacher, dressed in red-and-white jersey with Modric’s name was dancing with her friends and said she intended to “party till dawn”.

“Play my Croatia, when I see you my heart

is on fire!,” a popular song was played all day long on radio stations while waiters, shop workers, TV presenters and nurses donned red-and-white jerseys.

Some stores closed early to enable employees to watch the match, with various concerts, plays and cinema screenings cancelled.

For the past few weeks Modric’s side have been feted as national heroes for their run to the last four in Russia.

They matched the feat of their predecessors in 1998 who reached the semi-finals in the country’s first World Cup as an independent nation.

But last night Dalic’s players did even better, securing a historic first World Cup final for the country of about four million people.

## Twitter to purge locked accounts from users’ follower count; warns of potential drop in followers

to “proactively identify and challenge problematic accounts”.

Twitter said upon detecting abrupt changes in account behaviour, it locks the account and contacts the owner for a confirmation on whether they still have control of it.

“These sudden changes in account behaviour could include tweeting a large volume of unsolicited replies or mentions, tweeting misleading links, or if a large number of accounts block the account after mentioning them.

“The platform sometimes

lock an account if it sees e-mail and password combinations from other services posted online and believes that information could put the security of an account at risk...Until Twitter confirms that everything is ok with the account, Twitter will lock the account, which makes the account unable to Tweet or see ads,” it explained.

In the majority of cases, these accounts were created by “real people” but the platform cannot establish that the original account owner still has control and access to it, the statement noted.



10 dead, hundreds of houses destroyed in Afghan landslide: officials

**KABUL, JUL 12 (AFP):** At least 10 people were killed and hundreds of homes destroyed in northeastern Afghanistan after melting snow triggered a landslide, officials said Thursday.

A mountain lake in Panjshir, a province known for its snowcapped peaks north of Kabul, overflowed and caused a landslide, Omar Mohammadi, spokesman for the disaster management ministry, told AFP.

"We have deployed everything at hand to help the people," Mohammadi said.

"Some people are missing."

Villagers using shovels and other tools were desperately searching for survivors as rescue teams were deployed to the area, he said.

Disasters such as avalanches and flash floods often hit in mountainous areas of Afghanistan as snows melt in the spring and summer.

Chinese professor suspended following misconduct complaints

**BEIJING, JUL 12 (AP):** A leading Chinese university has suspended a prominent primatologist in a victory for China's slow-building #MeToo movement.

Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou said in a today statement on social media that it would suspend Zhang Peng and revoke his honorary titles after confirming two complaints from female students.

The university did not disclose the allegations, but said it had "zero tolerance" for teacher misconduct and would resolutely safeguard students' legal rights.

Zhang held visiting positions at the University of Wisconsin and University of Kyoto and had been inducted into a prestigious national fellowship program in China.

The #MeToo movement has slowly gained traction on Chinese campuses despite facing bouts of censorship. A few prominent professors have been dismissed for sexual misconduct in recent months.

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Not educating girls costs global economy USD 15-30 trillion: World Bank

**LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JUL 12 (PTI):** Not educating girls or creating barriers in their school education globally costs between USD 15 trillion to USD 30 trillion, the World Bank said as the UN marks 'Malala Day' today.

Less than two thirds of girls in low-income countries complete primary school and only one in three girls completes lower secondary school, the World Bank said in a new report 'Missed Opportunities: The High Cost of Not Educating Girls'.

"The loss in human capital wealth incurred today because many adult women did not benefit in their youth from universal secondary education



(defined as 12 years of schooling) is estimated to range between USD 15 trillion to USD 30 trillion globally," said the report released on the eve of the United Nations 'Malala Day'.

On an average, women who have a secondary education are more likely to work and they earn almost twice as much as those with no education, it said.

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest ever Nobel Laureate, who was shot in head by the Taliban militants for campaigning for female education in 2012 in Pakistan's Swat Valley, spoke at the UN on her 16th birthday on

July 12, 2013, to call for a worldwide access to education. The UN had dubbed the event as "Malala Day".

Malala, who turned 21 today, said, "When 130 million girls are unable to become engineers or journalists or CEOs because education is out of their reach, our world misses out on trillions of dollars that could strengthen the global economy, public health and stability."

"If leaders are serious about building a better world, they need to start with serious investments in girls' secondary education. This report is more proof that we cannot afford to delay investing in girls," said the Malala Fund co-founder.

According to the report, today some 132 million girls around the world between the ages of 6 and 17 are still not in school - 75 per cent of whom are adolescents.

"We cannot keep letting gender inequality get in the way of global progress," said World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva.

"Inequality in education is yet another fixable issue that is costing the world trillions. It is time to close the gender gap in education and give girls and boys an equal chance to succeed, for the good of everyone," Georgieva said.

According to a World Bank analysis, women's educational attainment has a large potential impact on their lifetime fertility and population growth, both directly and through a reduction in child marriage and early childbearing.

In the 18 countries for which simulations were carried with demographic projection tools, the average reduction in population growth was estimated at

-0.18 percentage points, it said, adding that the reductions in annual population growth rates are, however, different depending on which country is considered.

"In India, the largest of the 18 countries, the reduction was estimated at only -0.08 percentage point because the country has already gone through much of its demographic transition," the report said.

"For perspective, India's annual population growth rate is currently at 1.2 per cent per year, versus more than two per cent and in some cases three per cent or more per year for many other countries included in the simulations," it said.



Thai cave rescue site to become a museum

**MAE SAI (THAILAND), JUL 12 (AFP):** Rescuers who pulled a young Thai football team from deep inside a flooded cave were dismantling their worksite today, as plans emerged to turn the spot into a museum in tribute to the daring operation.

At least one film production house was already working on a scheme to make a Hollywood treatment out of the heroics of divers, cavers and medics who risked their lives to free the "Wild Boars".

Stunning footage of that rescue was released yesterday showing the youngsters - aged 11 to 16 - being stretched to safety.

They were also seen sitting cheerfully in their hospital beds, where they are being kept in isolation until doctors

are sure they did not pick up any nasty diseases during more than two weeks in the dark.

Workers were today packing up the industrial water pumps, heavy-grade machinery and construction equipment at the mouth of the Tham Luang cave, which had been a high-tech command centre during the 18-day ordeal.

Rescue chief Narongsak Osottanakorn told reporters the site would ultimately be converted into a museum showcasing the clothes and equipment used during the dramatic rescue.

"I believe it will become another highlight in Thailand," he said. "Tourists will come visit." About 50 people were working at the site,

National Park ranger Pinitpong Wongma told AFP, adding that he expected work would continue until at least Sunday.

"Nobody is allowed to go inside the cave at all even though there is still a lot of equipment there because water levels have been rising since the rescue mission," he said.

The rescue of the "Wild Boars" team was still being celebrated in Thailand as the 12 boys and their 25-year-old coach recovered in a local hospital.

The Nation newspaper called the operation a "Triumph of global cooperation" on its front page Thursday while the Bangkok Post published a collage of images of those involved under the heading "You Are Heroes."

The saga started on June 23 when the players walked into the Tham Luang cave complex after football practice and were trapped when monsoon flooding blocked their exit.

Nine days later British divers found the dishevelled and hungry group perched on a ledge four kilometres (2.5 miles) inside the cave.

Over the following week, experts from around the world descended on northern Thailand and rescuers pumped out more than 50 Olympic-sized swimming pools-worth of water.

A huge media pack of more than 1,000 journalists gathered at the mouth of the cave feeding audiences all over the globe with every twist and turn of the dramatic rescue until its joyful conclusion on Tuesday.

The huge international interest in the story sparked immediate talk of books and films.

Michael Scott, the managing partner of faith-based production house Pure Flix, said the company intends to pursue a film about the against-the-odds mission.

Scott, who lives in Thailand and went to the site in Chiang Rai as the boys were being pulled to safety, made the announcement late Tuesday on Twitter in a video.

"We're here really looking at this as a movie that could inspire millions of people across the globe," Scott said.

India must build new Chicago every year till 2030 to meet its urban demand: Hardeep Puri

**United Nations, Jul 12 (PTI):** India will have to build a new Chicago every year to meet its massive urban demand as 40 per cent of the country's population is projected to reside in urban areas by 2030, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said.



Addressing the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development here yesterday, the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs asserted that India's development goals will be met in an inclusive manner anchored in the human rights.

Puri said nearly 600 million Indians will reside in urban areas by 2030, the target year for achieving UN's ambitious development agenda.

"To lay further emphasis on India's urban prospects - from now till 2030, India has to build 700 to 900 million square meters of urban space every year. In other words, India will have to build a new Chicago every year from now till 2030 to meet its urban demand," Puri told the UN forum attended by diplomats, top UN officials, civil society member, urban planners and national stakeholders.

He stressed that India still had to build 70 per cent of the new urban infrastructure required by 2030 and this has to be green and resilient.

Puri linked the success of the 2030 Development Agenda to India's national success in achieving the Sustainable Development goals, saying that "if India succeeds, the 2030 Agenda will succeed."

"The Millennium Development Goals succeeded because China was able to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and I say with equal conviction," that India is well on its way to achieve its 2030 Agenda.

"India's national development goals... policy initiatives for inclusive development converge well with the SDGs, and India will play a leading role in determining the success of the SDGs, globally," Puri said.

He asserted that India will achieve its development goals, including the SDG Goal 11 of sustainable cities and communities, in an inclusive manner anchored in human rights.

"We will resettle people in slums on an as-is-where-is basis, that is they will be resettled where they are living," he said.

Two Indian-origin women on Forbes list of America's richest self-made women

**YOSHITA SINGH NEW YORK, JUL 12 (PTI):** Indian-origin technology executives Jayshree Ullal and Neerja Sethi have made it to the Forbes' list of America's 60 richest self-made women, with 21-year-old reality-TV star and entrepreneur Kylie Jenner the youngest to be featured in the power list.

Ullal is ranked 18th in the list of 60 self-made women, having a net worth of 1.3 billion dollars while Sethi is ranked 21st with a net worth of 1 billion dollars.

"America's top female entrepreneurs have shattered ceilings and scaled new heights, creating companies and building fortunes in everything from genetic testing to aerospace. Increasingly these self-made starters are tapping social media to cement their brands

and build businesses ever more quickly. That in turn has helped the nation's most successful women become richer than ever before, Forbes said.

Born in London and raised in India, Ullal, 57 has been president and CEO of Arista Networks, a computer networking firm, since 2008.

The publicly-traded company recorded revenues of USD 1.6 billion in 2017. Forbes said Ullal owns about five per cent of Arista's stock, some of which is earmarked for her two children, niece and nephew.

Sethi, 63, is the vice president of IT consulting and outsourcing company Syntel, a company she cofounded with her husband Bharat Desai in



1980 in their apartment in Troy, Michigan.

Starting out with an initial investment of just USD 2,000, they pulled in a mere USD 30,000 in first-year sales. Syntel racked up USD 924 million in 2017 revenues and has 23,000 employees, 80 per cent of whom are in India, Forbes said.

The combined net worth of the 60 women on the list is a record USD 71 billion, 15 per cent more than in 2017. The minimum net worth to

make Forbes' fourth annual ranking of these top women jumped 23 per cent to a record USD 320 million.

Twenty-four of these women are billionaires, another record, up from 18 last year. Seven newcomers joined the ranks, including four Instagram-savvy makeup moguls. The richest of these new faces is billionaire Anastasia Soare, whose cosmetics company Anastasia Beverly Hills, best known for beautifying eyebrows, now has more than 17 million followers on Instagram.

The youngest is Jenner, who turns 21 in August. Half-sister of Kim Kardashian West, who is also on the list for the first time, Jenner has leveraged her massive social media following (110 million followers on Instagram) to build a USD 900 million cosmetics fortune in less than three years.

That makes her worth more than twice as much as her more famous sister, Forbes said.

Taking the number one spot is Diane Hendricks, a Wisconsin billionaire who owns ABC Supply, one of the largest wholesale distributors of roofing, siding and windows in America.

The vast majority of list members hail from California 27 altogether. Although 17 list members made their fortunes in fashion and retail, 13 including Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg built fortunes in technology, while 10 including Oprah Winfrey and Taylor

Swift made it in media and entertainment, Forbes said.

The list also includes immigrants who have achieved success and created wealth not only for themselves but for their employees too.

Fourteen of the top 60 women entrepreneurs were born outside of the US, including Eren Ozmen, the majority owner of aerospace and defence business Sierra Nevada Corp who is now gambling hundreds of millions to take on Elon Musk and others in space.

Ozmen arrived from Turkey in her 20s and held down several part-time jobs while attending business school, selling homemade baklava at a bakery and even working as a night janitor at Sierra Nevada, years before she and her husband bought it.





**END OF THE ROAD!** Modern Family star Sarah Hyland was spotted filming final scenes for her upcoming movie, *The Wedding Year*, in Downtown LA.

## NEVE CAMPBELL OPENS UP ABOUT HER ABSENCE FROM HOLLYWOOD

Neve Campbell has reflected upon her decision to disappear from films at the peak of her career, saying she “needed a minute” away from Hollywood.

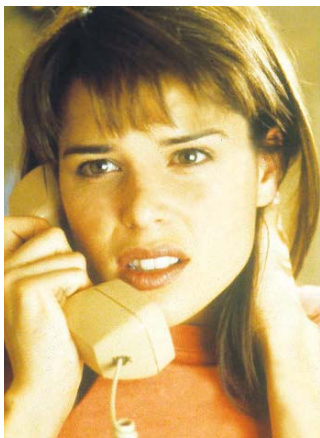
The 44-year-old actor, best known for headlining the “Scream” series, said she was being offered a string of similar “horror roles” which hastened her sabbatical.

During “The Late Show...”, host Stephen Colbert asked her, “Ten years ago, you had the world on a string And then you left! You went to London. Why don’t you like us, Neve Campbell?”

“I just needed a minute,” Campbell replied. “It was a long minute. It was a good minute.”

“In my 20s, it all hit so fast and so big that it was a little overwhelming. Wonderful, obviously, and I’m very grateful for it, but it got to a level, also, where the kinds of things that I was being offered were not the things I wanted to do. I was constantly being offered horror films, because I was known for horror films, or bad romantic comedies,” the actor said.

“I just wasn’t interested in the scripts and I was feeling a bit unhappy with the things that were coming to me and I was



feeling a little bored of the whole thing and I thought, ‘I want a change,’ she added.

Campbell, who will next be seen in “Skyscraper”, said she went to London, where she was “completely anonymous”.

The actor also said that she had no idea how Hollywood worked before she got into show business in the late ‘90s.

“I was pretty clueless because I was



a dancer. I just didn’t know American pop culture at all and suddenly I became an actor and suddenly these things were happening to me,” Campbell said.

The actor will be seen playing Sarah Sawyer, the wife to Dwayne Johnson’s Will Sawyer, in the Rawson Marshall Thurber-directed “Skyscraper”. The film releases worldwide on July 13.

## Cardi B welcomes baby girl Kulture Kiari Cephus with husband Offset!

On Wednesday morning the Bronx-born rapper took to Instagram to share the happy news.

The Bodak Yellow hitmaker, 25, was seen holding her naked chest as she displays her baby bump with flowers surrounding her.

Her note read: “Kulture Kiari Cephus 07/10/18 @offsetyrn.”

Her husband Offset’s real name is Kiari Kendrell Cephus.

The night before, she shared an Instagram story where she wrote, “Set it off then,” which seemed to be a hint that she was either going into labor or had just had the baby.

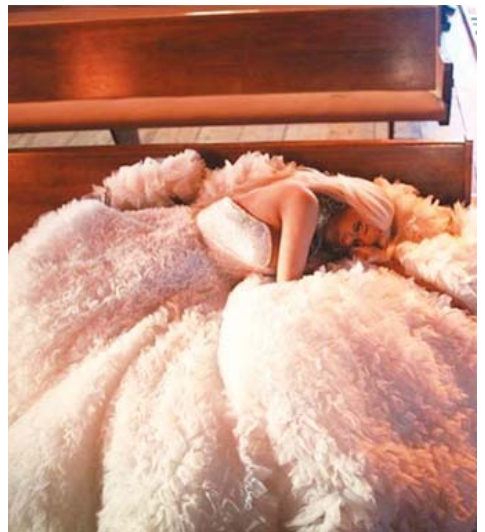
Cardi B revealed during an episode of Saturday Night Live in April she was expecting her first child with Offset, 26, after months of speculation she was with child. And this summer news leaked that she wed Offset in secret in September at home just hours after he proposed.

Cardi B confirmed the nuptials on her Instagram account lashing out at haters who had accused her of having a baby out of wedlock. This is a first child for Cardi.

Offset is the father of three children from previous relationships – two sons, Jordan and Kody, and a daughter Kalea Marie.

Last week, Cardi, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, admitted she’d had to impose a “limit” on her eating because her cravings for junk food were getting out of control.

She tweeted: “I hate red



Doritos but for some reason I want red Doritos with sour cream and cheese and guacamole OMG I want it Soo bad but I already ate my limit of junk food today.”

Cardi has been very vocal about her struggles with pregnancy on her social networking site and admitted earlier this month that she’s been desperate to get “jiggy” in the bedroom with her husband before her baby arrives but she gets out of breath.

She has also been very outspoken with her haters on social media. On Saturday, the 25-year-old rapper took to Instagram to call an internet troll “a bucket of disappointment”.

Cardi had shared a photo from her baby shower where she is sitting in her husband Offset’s lap.

One internet troll decided to use the opportunity to take a shot at the reigning Queen of hip hop, commenting on the photo, “All that money and the baby shower look like a bucket of CORN”.

The Be Careful rapper wasn’t having it, however, and she quickly eviscerated the follower: “It was beautiful and we was happy. Your mom waited a whole nine months for you to be ugly and a bucket of disappointment.”

Cardi also dropped a new song on Friday and shared a video of herself rapping to it at the base of a stairway. Titled Who Want that Smoke? the Lil Yachty-lead track features the MotorSport rapper along with her husband. She dons a pretty, off-the-shoulder, floral dress from Target as she dances and lip syncs to the song.

## Four Weddings & a Funeral sequel could be in the works!

It’s been 24 years but there might be a sequel on the cards for 1994 romantic comedy *Four Weddings And A Funeral*. The news comes after the original cast including Hugh Grant, 57, Andie Macdowell, 60, and Anna Chancellor, 53, got together and ended up discussing a second installment.

Anna, who played Duck Face, told *The Mirror*: “We had a reunion at (writer) Richard Curtis’s house, and Andie was there. It’s mad that it came out 24 years ago. Not all of the cast came to the reunion, but there were about 10 of us. We haven’t all kept in touch but I have with Andie MacDowell. Andie hadn’t seen Hugh for a long time, it was really touching. And Richard gave a speech. It



was fantastic.”

Anna said that the group did discuss making another movie but nothing has been confirmed yet.

“We talked about a follow-up but I don’t think there is going to be one. It was one of my first films, so everything was amazing, but this generation are not so familiar with the film,” said Anna.

The 1994 romantic comedy is one of the most

successful films in British cinema.

The movie followed lovable Englishman Charles (Hugh Grant) and his unlucky in love pals. Charles falls for American beauty Carrie (Andie MacDowell) at a wedding - but thinks she’s not interested when she returns to the States.

Though they seem destined to remain apart they continue to bump into each other at a handful of nuptials and one funeral.

In the meantime, Anna’s Duck Face is jilted by Hugh’s Charles - twice. The movie has become a cult hit and Anna admitted she’s still called Duck Face by fans.

She adds: “I still do get called Duck Face by people all the time.”

**ARIES:** The fantasy world that you’ve built for yourself is a pleasure to behold, Aries. People frolic in your world and have a grand time. Your presence delights people with pleasure. Today, however, this world may be threatened by harsh realities coming in the form of electronic information. This force is powerful and apt to be quite erratic and spontaneous. Be prepared to stand your ground.

**TAURUS:** It may be difficult to stay grounded today with all the information flying around and the emotions roiling in your heart. Try not to take things too seriously, Taurus. This is the key to maintaining a level head throughout the day. Do things with passion, and take care of any detective work that needs to be done. There are important facts coming to you from unexpected sources.

**GEMINI:** You may get pushed around by two very powerful camps today, Gemini. Since you’re the kind, diplomatic, and sensitive one, you make the perfect target for more abrasive and opinionated people. You may want to side with the cold, hard facts presented to you, although there’s a great deal of emotional power stirring the pot. Things may not be as clear as they seem at first glance.

**CANCER:** You’re apt to trend a bit more on the wild side today, Cancer. There’s a wave of powerful energy working to give strength to your ego and self-confidence. Use this boost to the best of your ability. You’ll need it. There is a strong, fact-oriented force working to combat your aims. You’ll find that it’s equally powerful and stubborn. Cut through the fantasy and uncover the truth.

**LEO:** A good tactic for you today would be to convert your fears into motivation for positive action. There’s a great deal of energy at your disposal, Leo, so don’t waste it. Be aware that this is one of those times in which the smallest comment or insult could set off a huge chain reaction of misinformation or battles. People are quite emotionally charged, so be careful where you step.

**VIRGO:** You’re likely to face conflicting reports today, Virgo. Information may be tainted with emotion, so be careful about going with the choice that shouts the loudest. You may be getting secretly pigeonholed into a place where you don’t want to be. Heed the internal warnings you receive. This is a good day to do things passionately. Take care of any detective work that needs doing.

**LIBRA:** You may be seduced by fantastic promises that offer wonderful things and fanciful rewards. But beware of anything with lots of bells and whistles, Libra. There may be a great deal of talk but not much to substantiate such wonderful claims. Don’t be surprised if people with intense emotions are stepping up to put in their two cents about how you should run your life. Don’t forget who is boss.

**SCORPIO:** People are apt to be quite emotional when it comes to the appearance they wish to project today, Scorpio, so be careful where you step. It’s your job to see through the trendy makeup and fashion that hide the true personalities of the people who insist on wearing these masks. The key is not to be fooled by those who hide behind a facade built more by society than by themselves.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Sagittarius, don’t be surprised if some of your fantasies and dreams are put on trial today by a harsh force that cuts right to the truth of the matter. People are apt to be extra passionate about things. Most aren’t going to be impressed with Disney-esque plans. You can try your normal approach of simply ramming ahead with your plans, but a better approach might be to be more strategic.

**CAPRICORN:** You’ve reached an emotionally climactic point right now, Capricorn, and you could find some harsh opposition coming at you for no apparent reason. There is a stubborn, strong, oppressive force today, and you should be aware that the more rigid your viewpoint, the harder it will be for any resolution at all. Compromise is an essential virtue of the day.

**AQUARIUS:** Be careful not to be too

cavalier today, Aquarius. It would be wise to adopt a more serious tone than you normally would. You might be inclined to be careless with your words, but people are going to take you very literally. Make sure you say things that you actually mean. Your attention to fashion and pop culture may conflict with a force that’s asking you to focus on things of deeper spiritual value.

**PISCES:** You have the sensitivity to pick up on what’s going on in every situation today, Pisces. What you’re apt to find are powerful emotions coming into conflict with extremely strong opinions. Welcome to the battle between the head and the heart. On this day you may be more apt to side with the heart. Realize that this arena is quite heated and that the forces at work are extremely stubborn.