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Summit TIMES

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SDF will sweep by-election if authorities ensure free & fair environment: Chamling

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

Sikkim Democratic Front president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, shared with confidence that if the by-election was held in a free and fair environment, SDF will win all three seats.

He, however, expressed the worry that the manner in which the administration has been functioning, it was unlikely that the by-elections will be free and fair. He further stressed that given this scenario, the poll prospects of his party were not as big a worry for him as the injustice being foisted on the people of the State due to such violation of their fundamental rights.

Addressing a press conference here this eve-



ning, Mr Chamling underlined that it was the primary duty of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha government to protect the fundamental rights of the people.

Creating a safe environment for people to exercise their franchise was necessary, he said, while

adding that the SKM Government has moved in the opposite direction by trying to terrorise them.

"This is murder of democracy and violation of the Model Code of Conduct," he added.

Pointing out how his campaign team was attacked recently at Pok-

lok-Kamrang and how the SDF candidate was attacked and even his own daughter injured in political violence unleashed by a desperate SKM, Mr Chamling rued that even the police and district administration had capitulated on their duties and responsibilities.

"Even I was not allowed to campaign freely in Poklok-Kamrang," he said, while adding that the fear under which the lay people were living must be stifling since even a Chief Minister of 25 years was not safe in today's Sikkim.

Poklok-Kamrang is a

high stakes constituency since SKM president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], is one of the candidates and needs to win this election to continue as CM.

Mr Chamling today alleged that the law and order situation in Poklok-Kamrang was so vitiated that there was every possibility of booth capturing by the ruling party here.

In this regard, he added that the SKM government has been misusing the government machinery to serve its political needs.

The SDF president mentioned that the party has already informed the concerned authorities about these developments but has not been received a positive response or even assurance from them.

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Vote to save Sikkim, urges Delay Namgyal



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

Independent candidate of Gangtok constituency, Delay Namgyal Barfungpa today campaigned along MG Marg with his supporters and interacted with people.

Addressing the media today, he ran down BJP's entry into Sikkim stating that the way it happened was very wrong.

"If the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party had fielded its candidate I would not have contested but the SKM-BJP seat sharing alliance is really unacceptable. The political strategy of the BJP has been of bulldozing its way through and it's not just limited to Sikkim... they have done it

in the past in different states of the nation," said Mr Barfungpa.

"We cannot say that the BJP is in Sikkim politics today without any hidden agenda. I fear tomorrow, if they win the West Bengal election, they might even go for Sikkim-Darjeeling merger," he stated.

Talking about his manifesto, he said that he wants the existing old STNM hospital to offer super-speciality services free of cost.

"The Chogyal had given the land for a hospital and not for anything else," he added.

Mr Barfungpa requested the voters of Gangtok to vote to save Sikkim.

Trials begin for Annual School Sports Competitions 2019-20

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim is organizing Block Level Trials/Competitions, District Level & State Level Competitions for Under 17 Boys & Girls at various BAC Centers, four District Head Quarters & State Level at Gangtok from 16 Oct to 16 Nov under Annual School Sports Competitions 2019-20.

The competitions will be held in Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Karate, Taekwondo and Table Tennis.

Further, there will be Trials for Basketball and Swimming at District

Level and State Level by respective Associations in collaboration with Department.

All the interested student players born on or after 1-1-2003, studying in classes 6 to 12 are requested to take part in the Trials/Competitions. The Physical Education Teachers and Assistant Directors Sports at Block Administrative Centers are facilitating the participation.

For further details of schedule of Trials & Competitions, kindly visit website www.syasikkim.org. The selected players from State Level shall participate at 65th National School Games organized by School Games Federation of India.

ECI deposes special observers after SDF complaint on poll violence

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

The Election Commission of India, following an SDF petition detailing the violence that has visited Poklok-Kamrang in the build up to the by-election, has deputed Special Observers to oversee the election process in the constituency, an SDF press release informs.

The ECI action came after SDF spokesperson, former Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, met the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners and submitted a party representation explaining the situation in Sikkim.

SDF had also sought that the by-election be deferred by four weeks to ensure a level playing field for all the parties and ECI directions to local authorities and police officials

to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

Mr Rai highlighted that since Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] was one of the candidates in the fray from Poklok-Kamrang, his party was indulging in "many electoral offences" to ensure victory for him.

Mr Tamang, it may be recalled, qualified to contest elections at the last minute when, a day ahead of the last date to file nomination papers and day after the SKM and BJP entered into a seat-sharing alliance, the ECI reduced his period of disqualification enough for him to be able to contest the by-election.

Mr Rai highlighted that Poklok-Kamrang is a safe seat for the SDF which has held it since 1994 and this was driving SKM to desperation.

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HSP condemns Rijiju's statement on WB Govt



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

Hamro Sikkim Party today condemned Union Minister of State, Kiren Rijiju's statement accusing the West Bengal government of obstructing development in Sikkim. The party also alleged that not only the ruling party but Sikkim Democratic Front is also working in coordination with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing a press conference today, HSP working president, Bhaichung Bhutia, expressed his sadness over the Union Minister and senior BJP leader not speaking out regarding any of the pending demands of the State with the Central Government.

"Instead, his state-

ment that various developmental works of Sikkim has been hampered or disturbed by the attitude of the State Government of neighboring state of West Bengal will mislead the people of Sikkim," said Mr Bhutia.

Mr Rijiju allegedly made the statement recently in Sikkim while campaigning for the BJP candidate for the upcoming by-election.

He also urged the independent candidates of various constituencies to unite and support one candidate so that votes are not distributed.

"Hamro Sikkim Party will never allow BJP to form Government through back-door entry," said the HSP working president.

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Cleaning up Tsomgo

GANGTOK, 18 OCT: Pokhri Samrakshan Samiti Tsomgo with the support of the Forest Department cleaned the surroundings of Tsomgo lake today. A team headed by Sangay Sherpa of the Samiti collected plastic waste strewn around the lake.

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P. S. GOLAY

For By-Elections
10th POKLOK KAMRANG CONSTITUENCY



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Published by Press and Publicity Cell, SKM

Modi misleading nation on Article 370 vote: Congress

MUMBAI, Oct 18 (PTI): There was no vote in Parliament on the abrogation of provisions of Article 370, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was misleading the nation on the issue, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma claimed here on Friday.

Addressing a press conference ahead of the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls, Sharma said the Congress did not need a certificate from the BJP on patriotism, as two of its prime ministers sacrificed their lives in the fight against terror.

Modi and the BJP have been targeting the Congress during the campaign for Assembly polls, claiming that the grand old party opposed the scrapping of Article 370.

"Article 370 was a temporary provision which was to go in a span of time. Parliament only needs to be notified about it. On August 5-6, the government informed Parliament and there was no vote.

"The voting was on Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill 2019 that sought to bifurcate it into Union Territories.

The Congress opposed the bifurcation," he claimed.

Hitting out at the PM and BJP for targeting Congress on the J-K issue, he said, "The BJP and the PM should stop playing with sentiments of the people. Congress doesn't need a certificate on patriotism and how to counter terrorism.

"Two (Congress) PMs sacrificed their lives fighting terrorism and protecting the integrity of the country," he said.

He said the Indian Army belonged to everybody and not to any particular party, and lashed out at BJP leaders for claiming that then prime minister Indira Gandhi exploited the victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan to garner votes.

"The Congress led by Indira Gandhi won 2/3rd majority in the Lok Sabha polls held in March 1971 whereas the Indo-Pak war took place between December 3-16 that year," he pointed out.

Criticising BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that history needed to be rewritten from India's point of view, Sharma said "history can't be changed". Referring to BJP's contention that J-K was only now fully integrated with India, Sharma said, "The Constituent Assembly of the state was dissolved 65 years ago with a resolution that accession to India was final and irrevocable."

He said BJP's poll manifesto promise to bestow Bharat Ratna on Veer Savarkar showed that the party's celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was a "farce", and termed the demand as one made with an eye on Maharashtra polls.

"Why was no decision (on Bharat Ratna for Savarkar) taken in the past five-and-half years? Why was it (the award) not given during (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee's tenure as PM?" he asked.

Chamling campaigns in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

Sikkim Democratic Front president Pawan Chamling interacted with the people of Gangtok constituency during his election campaign here on Friday.

He was accompanied by SDF's Gangtok candidate R Ongmu and other senior leaders, party workers and supporters. On the occasion, he also released the party's manifesto for the constituency.

In his address to the people, Mr Chamling asserted that voting was an important democratic responsibility and that the people should choose their ballot wisely.

He pointed out that only the SDF party was fielding a woman candidate for the by-elections in keeping with its policy of inclusive politics



and principles.

Mr Chamling stressed that everyone needs to come forward to protect democracy and save Sikkim and its future.

He said that SDF was in direct fight with the SKM-BJP alliance

to save Sikkim. He also alleged that SKM had sold two BL seats to save the chair of its Chief Minister.

He also scoffed at the idea the SKM-BJP alliance was to promote Sikkim's interests and pointed

out that SDF never made such compromises and still managed to work in close coordination with the Centre in all the years that it was in government.

He also accepted that SDF cannot form the gov-

ernment by winning the three constituencies and added that victory for SDF will be a reiteration of the people's rejection of opportunistic politics and the beginning of something good for Sikkim.

Last round of training for Presiding and Polling Officers I



NAMCHI, 18 Oct (IPR): The last and final round of training for the Presiding and Polling Officers I deployed for the bye-elections for 10 Poklok-Kamrang was held at the conference Hall of Zilla Panchayat Bhawan Namchi today.

The resource persons for the day were SDM Gyalshing (HQ), Tushar Nihare who is the Mas-

ter Trainer and SDM Yangang, Sangay Gyatso Bhutia who is the Nodal Officer and Training Co-ordinator.

During the course of the program, a hands-on training on preparation of control unit, fixing of green paper seals in the control unit, closing and sealing of control unit and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail was also conducted.

Karva Chauth Selfie Contest

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 18 OCT: Paschim Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwadi Yuva Manch organised Karva Chauth Selfie Contest on the occasion Karva Chauth, a press release informs.

General secretary of PBSPMYM, Dheeraj Nahar informed that with the special support and supervision of president Vipul Sharma, 38 couples participated in this contest.

The judges were

secretary Sikkim Photographic Association, Sanjket Agarwal and Brand Ambassador of 1-Plus Mobile India, Yogesh Manhaas.

Lalita Chaudhary and Vinod Chaudhary were selected for Judges Choice Special Award.

Biswanaath Bhansali and Archana Bhansali of Rishra Branch were given 1st prize while Rohit Saraogi and Deepa Saraogi of Kolkata won the 2nd prize in Selfie Photo Contest.

Oil companies defer snapping fuel supplies to Air India

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (PTI): State-owned oil companies on Friday decided to defer snapping fuel supplies to Air India after the national carrier promised to adhere to the schedule of clearing past outstanding dues, officials said. Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had on October 5 written to Air India that they will stop supplying aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to its aircraft at six major airports from October 18 if it didn't honour its payment commitments.

"It (Air India) has made a request not to stop supplies and promised to make regular payments. In view of their commitment, we have decided to defer the decision to terminate

supplies," an official at one of the fuel retailers said.

Air India owes the three firms over Rs 5,000 crore in past fuel bills and had first in June and again in September agreed to pay this amount in monthly installments of Rs 100 crore. But Air India failed to honour its commitment, leading to the October 5 notice.

IOC Director (Finance) Sandeep Kumar Gupta had earlier this week stated that the Rs 100 crore monthly payment was beside the airline being put on cash-and-carry where it was given fuel only against cash payment. Air India owes IOC about Rs 2,700 crore in unpaid fuel bills. This includes Rs 450 crore of interest. Its outstanding towards the three oil firms is about Rs 5,000 crore including interest.

Former Gangtok Mayor extends support to HSP

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

Former Mayor of Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC), KN Topgay today announced his support to Hamro Sikkim Party and its candidates for the upcoming by-election.

This was announced during a press conference held on Thursday at the HSP headquarters in Gangtok.

Addressing the conference, Mr. Topgay said that though he is still with the SDF party, he has decided to extend his support to HSP as SDF has betrayed the people of Sikkim and disrespected the mandate given by the people of Sikkim.

He said that the 10 MLAs of SDF joining BJP and two others joining the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is immoral and against the people's mandate.

He said that there is no option left other than HSP as all other parties in Sikkim are betraying the peo-



ple. He said that he has no objection to the SKM-BJP alliance but the back-door entry by BJP into Sikkim's politics is not correct and unacceptable.

He informed that he along with his supporters from Gangtok will extend support to HSP and its candidate.

Mr. Topgay has not officially joined the Hamro Sikkim Party but has only extended support to the party.

Speaking on the occasion, HSP working president, Bhaichung

Bhutia expressed his gratitude to Mr. Topgay for extending support to HSP and said that senior and experienced leaders like Mr. Topgay are not well received and respected by other big parties in Sikkim.

He also expressed hope that Mr. Topgay will provide guidance to HSP in days to come. HSP spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari has said that the party is very much hopeful that Mr. Topgay will formally join the party after the by-election.

Computer training for SHGs in West Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 OCT:

Six weeks Skill Development Training Programme on computer fundamentals started at Mangalbaria in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The training programme organised by West District NGO's Federation is funded by the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Gangtok.

The inaugural programme was attended

by Panchayat President of Takuthang-Chuchen GPU, Dinamit Lepcha as chief guest.

A total of 25 trainees from 25 Shelf Help Groups (SHGs) one each member from 25 SHGs are undergoing the skill development training program.

West District NGO's Federation president, Dr. D.K Gurung said that the prime objective of this skill development training program is to make

SHG members aware of computer fundamentals.

"We selected 25 SHGs this time and one member from each of these 25 SHGs is being trained. Recently SHGs of the state were provided with laptops by the state Government and some SHG members have no knowledge about computers. The training will help them make good use of the laptops," he said.

The program started will conclude on 30 Nov.

SDF will sweep...

"They can take my life but they cannot end my politics with such acts. My work for Sikkim and its people is not hidden from anyone and the golden era of Sikkim during 25 years of SDF government cannot be forgotten," he said.

He stressed that the people should vote wisely to save Sikkim.

Responding to allegations that the 10 SDF MLA joining BJP was engineered by him, Mr Chamling said, "I had instead advised our MLAs not to go to other parties and work as a responsible opposition for the people and to protect their rights, but they went against my suggestion."

He added that this allegation was irrational and not borne out by facts on ground.

"SDF continues to work sincerely and independently. We have fielded candidates for all constituencies going to by-polls while the SKM-BJP alliance exposes beyond doubt that it is the SKM which has sold out to BJP," he pointed out while adding that a senior BJP leader, Padam Chettri, recently accepted that BJP took the SDF MLAs to weaken Pawan Chamling.

On the argument that the SKM-BJP alliance will help fulfil Sikkim's long-pending demands, Mr Chamling said that it was the responsibility of the Centre to address these issues and that it was wrong to make seat-sharing a condition for these issues to be resolved.

While insisting that SDF has accepted the verdict of the people and was committed to deliver on its role as a responsible Opposition party, he countered that SKM appears to have forgotten its responsibility as the party in government and remains obsessed with blaming the previous SDF government for everything.

"And while they seek to distract the people with such noise, Sikkim's interests are being compromised," he said, pointing out that while SKM cries itself hoarse alleging without evidence that the SDF government had diluted Article 371F, its alliance with BJP has created a very real possibility that the conspiracy to merge Sikkim with Darjeeling will gain traction. "Sikkim will then become a district," he said.

He advised SKM to concentrate on governance instead of obsessing with threatening people and leaders.

"Just allegations don't make anyone guilty," he commented, while adding that instead of constantly screaming CBI, the State Government should bring the CBI into Sikkim and that he would welcome the move as well.

HSP condemns...

Expressing confidence over winning the by-election, Mr Bhutia said that he has been getting positive and overwhelming response from the voters of Gangtok.

He said that this election is about saving Sikkim and the people of Gangtok will vote wisely and will not waste any of their votes. He has urged the voters of Gangtok to come forward to vote for Sikkim on 21 Oct.

The press conference was also addressed by other leaders of the party.

ECI deposes...

In his representation to the ECI, Mr Rai alleged that SKM has "created an atmosphere of fear and as a result the SDF leaders, volunteers and supporters have not been able to campaign in an effective manner."

This environment also raises fears that the voters will not be allowed to exercise their franchise freely, Mr Rai had alleged.

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East holds final round of training for by-poll



GANGTOK, 18 Oct (IPR): The last and final round of training on various poll related procedures and the handling and functioning of EVMs and VVPATs for Presiding and Polling Officers as a team was held at the conference hall of Zilla Bhawan,

Sichey, today. Master trainer, Mahesh Sharma, Joint Secretary briefed the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers about their fixed roles and responsibilities with respect to the smooth and successful conduct of the polling process.

Sharma also informed in details the newly introduced M3 Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) replacing M2 EVM for the Bye-Election. Outlining the various roles and responsibilities designated to each polling official, he stated

that the duty of the polling parties is to ensure that voters are able to cast their votes in secret, free from influence and in a calm atmosphere and added that they are responsible for the conduct of polls and for this they must have excellent

knowledge of the voting procedure. He further stressed that the Polling Parties must be well conversant with all the details and instructions provided in the Polling Manual of the ECI.

New instructions of the Election Commission of India on Mock poll along with the formats were highlighted. The process of the conduct of mock polls with 50 votes per machine on the day of polls was emphasized and all the necessary procedures pertaining to the polling process was demonstrated.

Hands-on training on the functioning of the EVM and VVPATs to the Polling Officers and help them get familiarized with the functioning of the machines was also carried out during the training.

SICA president declines seat on IPL Governing Council



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 Oct: Sikkim Cricket Association [SICA] president, Lobzang G. Tenzing has declined the offer sit on the IPL Governing Council as a Member, preferring to remain SICA president, a post he would have to give up if he chose to become an IPL Governing Council Member.

A SICA press release informs that Members of the Northeast Cricket Development Committee, in a meeting held on 12 Oct 2019, unanimously decided that president of Sikkim Cricket Association, Lobzang G. Tenzing would contest for the post of Joint Secretary in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) election, as a representative of NECDC.

The election is to be held on 23 Oct for five executive posts and one councillor of BCCI Apex council, and two IPL Governing council members.

“However, due to the pressure of certain influential groups Mr Tenzing was subsequently offered the position of IPL Governing Council Member on 13 Oct at a late-night meeting held in Mumbai, attended by all the members of the BCCI,” the release states.

Mr Tenzing declined the offer, as he felt that he would be able to contribute more being in the Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) than as a mere member of the IPL Governing Council Member.

As per the new constitution of BCCI, one person can only take one

post; he would have had to resign as president of SICA, had he accepted the offer as the IPL Governing Council Member, the release mentions.

The Secretary of Mizoram, Mamon Majumdar accepted to take up the position as a member of the IPL Governing Council.

The Northeast Cricket Development committee (NECDC) was constituted in the year 2016, with the consensus of the six states of the Northeast that is Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland and Mizoram. The committee is headed by Neiphiu Rio, the then President of Nagaland Cricket Association and Currently the Chief Minister of the State of Nagaland.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy to visit NE states

HYDERABAD, Oct 18 (PTI): Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy on Friday said he would undertake his maiden visit to northeastern states for three days from October 20 to review law and order situation and meet Governors, Chief Ministers and other top officials.

“I am visiting northeastern states for three days from tomorrow, on 20th, 21st and 22nd. I am going to that region for the first time after becoming Minister of State for Home,” he said. “I will re-

view law and order problems in that area. I will have meetings with Chief Ministers, Governors, our para-military (forces), local police DGPs and IGs,” he told reporters here.

Kishan Reddy, Lok Sabha member from Secunderabad here, was speaking during a ‘padayatra’ undertaken by him in his constituency as part of BJP’s nation-wide ‘Gandhi Sankalp Yatra’ to propagate the ideals of principles of Mahatma Gandhi to mark his 150th birth anniversary.

Success of ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ to be yardstick for civic poll candidates: TMC

KOLKATA, Oct 18 (PTI): The performance of party workers in effective implementation of ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ (Tell Didi) will be a yardstick for selection of TMC candidates in the civic polls in West Bengal to be held next year, party sources said.

They said only those aspirants who impress the TMC leadership with their performance will be given tickets to contest polls to Kolkata Municipal Corporation and 107 municipalities.

The Trinamool Congress leadership has also decided to conduct a survey to assess its support base and penetration of the BJP in 107 municipalities of the state and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) that will go to polls in 2020.

The elections to civic bodies are being tipped as “mini assembly elections” ahead of the crucial 2021 assembly poll in West Bengal.

Speaking to PTI on condition of anonymity, TMC sources said the ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ initiative and the survey results will act as a filter in the exercise of selecting can-

didates and weeding out the undeserving aspirants. “The third phase of Didi Ke Bolo began early this week. So it is likely to be over by December and the internal party survey will also be concluded by January next year.

“The reports will be submitted to our party supremo Mamata Banerjee and also to the top leadership and after that, the list of candidates will be prepared accordingly,” a TMC leader said.

According to party sources, the results of the 107 municipal polls and the KMC, covering nearly 60 per cent of the state, will act as an indicator of a possible outcome of the 2021 assembly poll.

The municipal polls have acquired more importance due to the BJP making deep inroads in the state and emerging as the main challenger to the ruling TMC by pushing the Congress and the Left Front to distant third and fourth position respectively.

The BJP, in the 2019 Parliamentary election, bagged 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state, just four less than

the ruling TMC. The TMC’s tally has come down from 34 in 2014 to 22 seats in this election.

Following the TMC’s Lok Sabha polls performance, which was below expectation, the party had appointed poll strategist Prashant Kishor and his team I-PAC to shore up its popularity in the state ahead of the 2021 assembly election. The ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ initiative is a brainchild of Kishor.

The Trinamool Congress on Wednesday launched the third phase of ‘Didi ke Bolo’ initiative to reach out to people and over 600 block and town presidents of the party were asked to visit more than 2,000 villages and municipal wards across the state.

In the first phase of the initiative, a helpline number and a website - didikebolo.com - were launched by TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on July 29.

Close to 500 senior TMC leaders and MLAs had conducted outreach programmes in 1,022 villages in the first phase of the initiative.

In Srinagar, over 90k people availed Internet facility at 20 kiosks



SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (PTI): Over 90,000 people, mostly students, availed free Internet facility at 20 kiosks set up at the deputy commissioner’s office here, officials said on Friday.

The officials said the students availed the facility to register for various competitive examinations and access other academic information, besides to know their results or download admit cards for different examinations at the local and national level.

“Till date, 90,000 people, mostly students, availed the services of Internet facilities in the kiosks free-of-cost, besides contractors also availed the services to submit tenders for various developmental activities,” the Srinagar district administration said in a statement.

The prominent exams for which students were facilitated in making registration included the GATE, the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) NET and the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET), they said.

Internet facility has been shut down across Kashmir since August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir’s special status under Article 370 of the Constitution. However, the state administration has set up Internet kiosks in every district in the valley to facilitate students and people.

The officials said the Internet facility was also used by students for filling admission forms and making applications for scholarships at national and international institutions. The state administration has set up six terminals with operators at the tourist reception centre (TRC) to provide Internet facility.

The administration has also made the Internet facility available at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at district headquarters where e-tendering facilities are being provided to contractors as well.

The facilities are open and available to users from 8 am to 9 pm at TRC Srinagar and from 10 am to 7 pm at NIC at DC Office Srinagar and other district headquarters.

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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR
SOUTH SIKKIM NAMCHI

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Date: 18/10/2019

NOTICE

With reference to section 126 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 the campaigning period shall end 48 hours before the time fixed before the close of poll i.e. at 05:00 P.M on 19th October 2019. Therefore all contesting candidates are hereby directed to comply with the following instructions of the Election Commission of India (as per Chapter 8 of the Manual on Model Code of Conduct):

- No person shall –
 - Convene hold or attend to join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election; or
 - Display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph television or radio or other similar apparatus; these restrictions do not extend to the publication of advertisements by political parties and candidates in print media.
 - Propagate any election matter to the public by holding or arranging the holding of any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto in any polling area.
- After 05:00 pm of 19th October 2019 no campaign can take place within the constituency, presence of political functionaries and party worker who have been brought from outside the constituency and who are not voters of the constituency should not remain present in the constituency.
- On the date of poll in that constituency each contesting candidate is entitled to use three vehicle only, one for his own use one for the use of his election agent and one vehicle for use of his workers or party workers. In a four wheeler vehicle not more than 05 persons including driver, will be allowed to move on the day of poll. It is further clarified that on the day of poll the vehicle allotted for use of candidate or his election agent will not be used by any other person.
- All permission of vehicles for campaigning purposes are valid till 05:00 pm. of 19th October, 2019 except three vehicles as mentioned above.

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Accident Care

More needs to be done in response to accidents and mishaps

Imagine a scenario in which a road mishap, say in remote West Sikkim, leaves a group of people injured and in immediate need of medical attention ranging from the routine first-aid to specialist interventions. You do not even have to stretch your imagination if you have been following news on a regular basis and are aware of such accidents in different parts of Sikkim. While accidents cannot be averted with certainty, what can be assured is that accident victims receive the required medical attention sans the red tape and without having to bounce through a circuitous route to medical attention. But that is invariably what happens.

Continuing with the scenario outlined earlier, the injured will first be rushed to the nearest PHC if they are far from the district hospitals. There can be no qualms with this since trained medical attention is necessary in the early hours to establish the nature of injuries. Of course, it would be ideal if the first responder teams to accident sites included doctors and paramedics so that such diagnosis could be made on the spot. After this, the injured will be taken to the nearest district hospital where they will be checked again and then, if required, referred on to STNM Hospital in Gangtok and chances are that from here they will be driven onwards to CRH down in Tadong. The more complicated cases will then be referred out of the State to Siliguri or Delhi.

From the time of the accident to their eventual discharge from hospital, the victims (the less injured ones) of a road mishap end up spending more time on the road, moving from one 'referral' to the next, than they spend recuperating or coming to grips with their trauma and grief. Sikkim's roads are a punishment for even able-bodied passengers, the trauma that injured bodies suffer careening from one medical inspection to the other should not be wished on anyone. The doctor with referral powers at the final end of the state is just as capable as the doctor who must have attended to the accident victims first. Why then, should the power to refer patients out of the State not rest with the first doctor itself depending on her prognosis. That would cut down on travel time substantially, and time is of essence in such cases, all will agree.

There is still more that needs to be done when it comes to handling accident trauma cases. Accidents, as mentioned, cannot be avoided, but what defeats all explanation is the scenario which definitely confounds everyone – the level of medical assistance available for accident victims in Sikkim. This basic facility remains unattained even though by now, speciality wings should have been added to district hospitals and even Primary Health Centres here at least on paper. Given the hilly terrain, poor driving etiquette and unreliable roads, every PHC in Sikkim should have reasonably advanced infrastructure and manpower to attend to accident cases. Tourist destinations in high altitudes [like Nathula and Gurudongmar] should have personnel and equipment to attend to visitors with high altitude sickness symptoms. This facility, one may add here, need not necessarily be provided and maintained by the Government and could even be sponsored by tourism stakeholders; after all, it is tourists who develop complications there, with the residents mostly acclimatized. Agreed the army assists in times of emergencies, but this should still be a service that is more accessible and specifically dedicated to tourist emergencies. These should already have been in place, and yet, one stares at a reality where in the event of a medical emergency, a victim's fate depends on the presence of mind of the people around, the speed at which the referral can be typed out and the road worthiness of the ambulance which zips the victim from one referral pit-stop to the other. Unfortunate...

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Space may soon become a war zone – here's how that would work

GARETH DORRIAN & IAN WHITTAKER
theconversation.com

At an upcoming summit in early December, NATO is expected to declare space as a "war-fighting domain", partly in response to new developments in technology.

If it does declare space a war zone, NATO could start using space weapons that can destroy satellites or incoming enemy missiles. But what is this technology and how could it enable a war?

In a recent first for space technology, Russia has launched a commercial satellite specifically designed to rendezvous with other satellites. The purpose of this vehicle is peaceful: it will perform maintenance tasks on other satellites in orbit.

The fact that commercial companies have this capability probably means that it already exists for global military powers. This has caught the attention of NATO. If a country or company can manoeuvre its own satellites into close proximity of others, then it can do so for military or sabotage purposes – potentially without detection.

Another development is France's recent announcement that it will build "bodyguard" satellites armed with either machine guns or lasers. This follows an announcement that the US will launch a space force in 2018. Many other nations may soon follow suit.

ELECTRONIC WARFARE

But how would sabotage and warfare happen exactly? One method involves firing an intense beam of microwave radiation at an object. In fact, such concepts have been tested before by the police as a means of bringing a speeding car to a halt by disabling electrical devices on the vehicle.

Such a concept deployed on satellites would constitute a "directed-energy weapon", enabling nations to disable other countries' satellites without creating large clouds of orbital debris. You could potentially make such an attack look like an accident and deny involvement.

The use of "radio jamming" to disrupt radar and communications dates back to World War II. By swamping a radio receiver with, effectively, radio noise, one can obscure the reception of genuine signals and render the system inoperative. This is a little like trying to spot the light from a candle against the glare of car headlights.

Satellites are thoroughly tested for self-generated radio noise before going into space. But if a "hostile" satellite nearby were to deliberately direct broadband radio transmissions at the target satellite, then communications could be completely

disrupted.

Space-based electronic warfare is likely to become an increasing concern for military planners. In fact, many military services on Earth now depend on space technology to work.

KINETIC KILLS AND LASERS

By far the most obvious method of interfering with a satellite is a solid projectile. Moving satellites have very high kinetic energy and momentum.



If a slower moving object can be placed briefly in the path of a satellite, then the resultant collision will be particularly devastating.

These so called "kinetic kills" have previously only been used to take satellites out of commission at the end of their life, with the US, Russia, China, and India demonstrating their ability to perform this. This type of removal consists of a ground-launched missile aimed at the satellite. If aimed at an adversary satellite, such a missile would be fairly obvious and could be tracked by other nations using radar.

A more subtle method would be to destroy a satellite owned by the country or company launching the missile and aim to produce as much debris as possible, which then lies in the orbital path of the intended target. This could look like an accident and actually accidentally occurred in 2007.

As far as kinetic weapons in space are concerned, machine guns are generally problematic due to the recoil involved. If the weapon is fired at any angle which is not in the exact direction of the orbital path the satellite is travelling along, then a torque will be applied, rapidly changing the direction of it. The idea of kinetic weapons has been attempted before. The Soviet space station Salyut-3, for example, was armed with a rapid fire cannon in the mid 1970s.

Lasers are also being considered as defensive weapons, with the idea being to take out attacking

satellites' solar panels. With no power, the satellite will be unable to communicate with the ground station and is essentially lost. The recoil from a laser is much smaller and the lack of atmosphere would allow them to perform better than on the Earth's surface.

A laser could be used to blind instrumentation on an opposing satellite thereby reducing the efficacy of either rendezvous or aiming software.

The most likely satellites to be targeted would be those dedicated to communication or observing. With the newest research satellites able to take images down to a 30cm resolution, military versions are likely to be even better. A nation with no communication facilities or ability to observe others will never know who has launched an attack against them.

But what would a space war look like from Earth? While sci-fi films have conditioned us to believe that space lasers would use visible light, shorter wavelengths actually produce more power. Any observers on the surface would be unlikely to directly see any effects from space warfare, unless a kinetic kill actually breaks a spacecraft up – with debris lighting up as it re-enters the atmosphere.

That said, attacks could still affect our lives on Earth, disturbing GPS, television services and even cash withdrawals.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

The use of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in space is currently banned under the Outer Space Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty. But not all nuclear armed nations have ratified the latter, including the US and North Korea.

A small number of nuclear tests in space were conducted in the 1960s including Starfish Prime. These resulted in artificial radiation belts forming around the Earth which were still detectable decades after the event – posing a danger for astronauts.

These radiation belts also disabled half a dozen satellites in low Earth orbit. If the results of Starfish Prime are anything to go by, then clearly it would take only a handful of nuclear detonations to make space unusable for any satellites for decades to come.

Given the options now becoming available, it seems important to remember that, under the Outer Space Treaty, space is supposed to be used only for peaceful purposes and remain the domain of "all mankind".

[Gareth Dorian is Post Doctoral Research Fellow in Space Science, University of Birmingham; Ian Whittaker is Lecturer in Physics, Nottingham Trent University]

Five ways rudeness can actually be a positive experience

AMY IRWIN & CERI T TREVETHAN
theconversation.com

From swearing to insults, most of us have experienced rudeness in some form or another at work, out in public or online. Much of the research examining rudeness has focused on its negative effects and with good reason – there are plenty of them.

We know that rudeness is a stressor with adverse impact on well-being, job satisfaction and work performance, so you'd be forgiven for thinking that it is both insidious and a wholly negative experience. But surprisingly, our recent study into the experience of rudeness within a mental health context found that it can also be viewed positively, or at least used in a positive way.

We interviewed 18 mental health professionals (including counsellors, clinical psychologists, and rehabilitation and family support workers) to explore their experience of rudeness at work. We asked them to identify uncivil behaviour, discuss how they responded to it and consider their coping strategies. The results indicated that mental health workers experienced a range of behaviour they considered rude, from clients not turning up to appointments, to insults and swearing during sessions.

In addition to the negative impact this behaviour could have, interviewees reported that dealing with rudeness could also have a positive influence on both professional development and client relationships. This

finding led us to explore this further – could the experience of rudeness have benefits as well as negative consequences in certain circumstances? Our investigation identified five potential positive aspects of rudeness.

1. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mental health workers indicated that they thought the experience of dealing with rudeness could aid their personal development. Specifically, they felt they gained important insights into why some clients behaved rudely, and learned techniques to defuse or deal with rude behaviour. This led to increased confidence in their ability to work successfully with a range of clients. Viewing rudeness in this way aligns with the idea of stressors as challenges that can be used as learning opportunities.

The extent to which rudeness can be framed as a positive challenge is thought to be influenced by the attribution of the behaviour – in other words, why has someone acted in this manner? Did they intend to cause harm or did some external force prompt the behaviour?

Mental health practitioners in our study perceived that the rudeness was caused by the client's illness, current situation or traumatic events from the past. Understanding the root cause enabled the practitioners to view the behaviour as part of the session and relationship development, rather than as an attempt to cause harm.

2. ENHANCING RESILIENCE

Linked to the idea of interpreting rudeness as a challenge to be over-

come is the development of enhanced coping mechanisms. Learning the skills required to develop emotional resilience is increasingly seen as important in the helping professions.

More widely, recent research reports that challenge appraisals of rudeness at work were linked to higher levels of job satisfaction and increased learning. This links to the theory that exposure to challenging stressors at work can help people build resilience. This can, in turn, help workers to develop coping strategies and increase their self-confidence. Dealing successfully with rudeness at work could therefore have a positive impact on workers' confidence and coping, potentially reducing the stress of similar interactions in the future.

3. BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Developing rapport and understanding is an important aspect of relationship building within and beyond the workplace. A strong rapport is an important aspect of therapeutic relationships, has been linked to better learning in peer-tutor relationships, and can reinforce solidarity within social groups.

Although many relationships begin with politeness, that decreases over time as exchanges become more informal and rapport grows. Later on, communication can include insults, name-calling and teasing – all designed to signal confidence in the relationship and an increasing level of trust.

4. FORMING GROUPS

Impoliteness, swearing and insults can also be a sign of group mem-

bership. This tends to occur within organisations where groups or sub-cultures develop, each of which can have defined linguistic rules, such as swearing for emphasis.

This type of social swearing or insults – sometimes referred to as "banter" – can function as a stress reliever and can make groups closer, even improving worker motivation and morale. But this can only occur where the organisational culture and leadership permits this type of behaviour.

5. HUMOUR

In some of the examples above, the use of rudeness is acceptable because it is deemed humorous. The idea is not to cause harm but to make people laugh. Humour of this type can be a crucial part of an effective therapeutic process as well as relationship development. The important point is that this is mock rudeness, often directed at well-known figures, with the obvious intent of poking fun.

Although experiencing rudeness can often be upsetting and stressful, it is not always completely negative. In certain circumstances, it can actually improve and strengthen relationships. In terms of personal and professional development, it can also foster resilience and the capacity to cope confidently with difficult people.

[Amy Irwin is Lecturer in Psychology, University of Aberdeen; Ceri T Trevethan is Lecturer in Psychology & Clinical Psychologist, University of Aberdeen]

BJP minister says Abhijit Banerjee is Left-leaning

PUNE, OCT 18 (PTI): Union minister Piyush Goyal on Friday dubbed Nobel laureate economist Abhijit Banerjee as "Left-leaning", and said as his suggestion of basic income scheme was rejected by Indian voters, there was no need to "accept what he thinks".

Indian-American Banerjee, who has been critical of the Narendra Modi government's economic policies, won the 2019 Nobel for economics.

He had endorsed Nyay, the minimum basic income scheme promised by the Congress during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"I congratulate Abhijit Banerjee for winning the Nobel prize. You all know that his thinking is totally Left-leaning," Goyal said at a media briefing here.

"Banerjee supported 'Nyay' and people of India rejected his ideology," Goyal said.

He added that it was a matter of pride that an Indian won the Nobel prize.

"But it is not necessary to agree with what he says and especially when the people of this country rejected his suggestion, there is no need to accept what he thinks," the Union minister said.

Asked whether he



thought Banerjee's views on the state of Indian Economy were biased, Goyal said the reporter should pose this question to Banerjee himself. Banerjee had recently said that Indian economy was on shaky ground, adding the data currently available does not hold any assurance for economic revival anytime soon.

Asked about Reserve Bank's Rs 1.76 lakh crore surplus transfer to the Central government, Goyal said that it was not the government which took the money.

"It was a committee, presided by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan, and other members who took the decision on the surplus money with RBI. It is neither the govern-

ment had to take it nor did the government take it," he said.

Goyal added that they also know a little bit about the economy.

"As on today, RBI has Rs 10 to 11 lakh crore reserve.

I have studied it in detail," he said, adding there is no purpose to have such a high reserves.

Looking at the size of the balance sheet of RBI, it has disproportionately high reserves and there is little possibility that it will utilise this kind of high reserves in the lifetime, he said.

"The reserves are so high that even if the rupee value comes down to Rs 50 from Rs 71 against dollar, it will not affect the Indian economy," he said. He added that everyone

knows what is the possibility of the value of the dollar going down to Rs 50. "So it is baseless to say that the government took the reserves. The committee decided on a small portion from the excess reserve of RBI," he added.

The Union minister said he personally thought that the committee could have decided to transfer more. "I would like to inform you that the major chunk of Rs 1.76 lakh crore is the profit from this year and the amount which makes the reserve is a very small amount," he said.

On former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh's claim that Maharashtra's economy was going backward, Goyal said Singh, an acclaimed

economist, does not realise in what "hopeless condition" his government had left India in 2014 and how in the last five years the situation was transformed in Maharashtra and rest of the country.

"During his regime, big scams such as telecom, coal scam took place. He was coal minister and Minister of State was working under him. I was also coal minister and I was surprised that how such files were approved, how the coal blocks were allotted and how the basic tenets of transparency were compromised by him," he said.

Naming Commonwealth Games scam, Adarsh housing scam and the irrigation scam in Maharashtra, Goyal said Singh's only answer to them was they were "compulsions of coalition politics".

It was a matter of shame that a prime minister talked about "compulsion of coalition politics" rather than "national interest" to save his government, the BJP leader said.

Goyal, who is Railway Minister, also ruled out the privatisation of the Indian Railways. "Indian railway is the country's asset and it will remain India's asset," he said.

Bengal allows student body polls in 4 varsities



KOLKATA, OCT 18 (PTI): After putting student union polls on hold for over two years in four state universities, the West Bengal government has allowed the varsities to conduct elections whenever they deem appropriate.

A letter in this regard was sent by the assistant secretary of state for Higher Education Department to the vice-chancellors of Jadavpur University, Presidency University, Rabindra Bharati University and Diamond Harbour Women's University on Thursday.

"With reference to the communication received from your end and consultations with different stakeholders, I am directed to inform you that you

may hold the elections to the Students' Union/Students' Council as deemed fit," the letter read.

"We have issued a notification to hold students' union elections in the unitary universities (varsities that act as a single unit without any affiliated college under it). The schedule of the polling will be decided by the university administration concerned," Education Minister Partha Chatterjee told reporters.

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar termed the move as positive and said the state government should ensure students union elections in all the universities and colleges.

Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad

(TMCP), the students' wing of the ruling TMC, welcomed the move.

"This is a welcome development that the state government has removed road blocks in holding students' union elections in four universities," TMCP president Trinankur Bhattacharya said.

He hoped that after elections in the four unitary universities, the state government will gradually hold student body polls in other colleges and universities as well.

The students of Jadavpur and Presidency universities had staged demonstrations in 2017 and 2018 demanding that the students' union polls be held.

JNUSU plans protest against closure of PSR Rocks

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 (PTI): The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union on Friday said it will organise an all-night vigil against the closure of PSR Rocks by administration.

Meanwhile, a varsity official said the Parthasarathi Rocks area has a rocky terrain and was frequented by couples and groups of men late night. In order to prevent any untoward incident, the varsity closed down the area on Wednesday.

In the latest of such attacks, the administration has built a wall to block the entrance of the Parthasarathi Rocks, commonly known as PSR, which is a ridge area frequented by students, the students' union said.

The JNUSU has called on the students to participate in an all-night vigil at PSR area on Saturday so that they can reclaim it. "The area has always

been accessible to all JNU students at all times. No untoward incident or any such occurrence has happened which could even remotely explain the rationale of such a move.

"The administration has not even cared to bring a circular to inform, let alone explain away such a step," they said. The students' union also claimed that there has been a reduction in the number of security guards after the contract was handed over to a different company.

"Since then, the number of security guards on campus has reduced. PSR is one of the places which was left unguarded and now has been put off limits for students," they said. The JNUSU said they will protest against the move.

The students' union also claimed that they have not been invited for an Inter-Hall administration meeting scheduled for October 28 to

discuss about hostel rules. The meeting was scheduled for Friday, but was cancelled.

The administration also brought out a draft hostel manual encompassing changes in the rules and regulations of hostel life, they said.

This manual has "atrocious provisions" like 11.00 pm curfew on movement outside hostels, warden's permission for adults to stay out of campus and removal of preference in allotment of hostel for SC/ST, OBC and physically handicapped students.

The JNUSU said they reject all the moves by the administration to curb down on freedom.

Meanwhile, a varsity official said, "The PSR Rocks area was closed after some unidentified persons broke the gate that was erected. Students who wish to go there can seek permission and go.

Penguin festival to celebrate readers' love for classics

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 (PTI): Book lovers and reading enthusiasts are in for a treat as publisher Penguin Random House India returns with the 2nd edition of its Classics Festival.

Starting from November 1 across eight Indian cities, the "Penguin Classics Festival: There is one for everyone" will celebrate the readers' love for classics by showcasing a range of books from Penguin US Black Classics, UK Black Classics, Modern Classics, Indian Classics, Vintage Classics and a selection of Premium Classics.

Each of the stores in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Kochi, Chandigarh and Hyderabad will display a wide selection of classics books and run sales promotion on this specially curated selection for the readers.

In addition to the books, the customers will also have the chance to own some bespoke merchandise, especially designed for the festival, bringing the charm of Penguin Classics into their lifestyles, the publisher announced.

"We look forward to sharing dynamic and diverse voices from the US Penguin Classics program along with our wid-

er international scope of classic literature to show that from the depth and breadth of Penguin Classics, there is one for everyone," Elda Rotor, vice president and publisher, Penguin Classics said.

During the period of the festival, the publisher will also conduct a 'Penguin Classics Essay Contest' inviting readers to submit essays on selected topics.

The winner of the contest will win a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 for each the two runners up along with certificates.

Manoj Satti, AVP- International Product & Sales, Penguin Random House India, said that given the last year's "astounding response from readers and retailers", they will be adding "500 new titles from the US Classics list." "We are also seeking new ways to connect and engage with our customers and launching a new writing competition which will encourage people to write and share with us.

"As custodians of one of the finest collections of literature that not only made history but also is steeped in it, we feel it is our duty to make these books accessible for the readers, existing and potential," Satti said.

Guv expresses reservation about one JU Honoris Causa recipient, relents later

KOLKATA, OCT 18 (PTI): West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday voiced reservations about one of the four Honoris Causa recipients this year during a 'court' meeting of Jadavpur University, but relented later saying there should be "wider consultation in future".

Recipients of Honoris Causa, an honorary degree awarded by the university, were finalised at the meeting of the 'court', the highest decision making body of JU.

Dhankhar, also the Chancellor of JU, stepped into the campus for the first time after he "rescued" Union minister Babul Supriyo who was mobbed by angry students there on September 19.

The governor who came to the campus at 11 AM also talked to the students after the 'court' meeting.

"Unanimously the court took the decision and we also said in future there should be wider consultation," Dhankhar said about finalising names of four eminent personalities to be conferred honorary D Litt and D Sc at the Convocation on December 24.

The 'court' meeting which lasted for over an hour was also attended by the pro-vice chancellor, registrar and heads

of different departments.

Though the names of the recipients were not officially announced on Friday, officials who attended the meeting said the Chancellor had initially expressed reservations about one of the four.

Omprakash Mishra, Head of the Department of International Relations, said the governor was requested to take note of the unanimous decision of the 'court' which finalised the names for the awards.

Asked whether the governor had agreed to the proposal, Mishra said he made it clear that henceforth, he should be included in the decision-making process.

"Keeping in view the interest of the institution, I am happy everyone cooperated. We will extensively chalk out the plans so that JU gets institution of eminence tag with involvement of students and faculty," he told reporters.

About his meeting with representatives of the students, Dhankhar said, "I personally interacted with them. Students raised their demands. Students are deeply concerned about issues like entry of outsiders".

Dhankhar referred to an earlier Calcutta High Court order regarding entry of outsiders and

police picketing inside the campus and said these must be implemented.

He said the students raised the issue of having a gender cell in the university and the demand is justified.

Asked about his comments on September 19 that the VC should call the police inside the campus, he said, "I had told the VC the situation must not get out of control".

On September 19, Babul Supriyo was shown black flags and heckled by a section of students at the university. He was also prevented from leaving the campus, prompting Dhankhar to rush there. A group of men, allegedly ABVP workers, also vandalised properties of the JU on that day.

"I came here for the interest of students. Peace on campus cannot be negotiated. Students complained against entry of outsiders. I empathise with the students, alumni and faculty on the issue. I have raised issues which are of concern to everybody," he said.

"I exhausted all steps and you must keep in mind there has to be someone to interact with students. They are impressionable minds. But there has to be a structured process to address certain things," Dhankhar said.

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Not a dead rubber: India to go for the kill in Ranchi

TAPAN MOHANTA
RANCHI, OCT 18 (PTI): It would have been a dead rubber but with valuable World Test Championship points on offer, India would be eyeing victory while South Africa would be desperate for some consolation in a wretched tour when the third and final Test starts here on Saturday.

There are 40 points on offer and a 3-0 series whitewash, both of which India would be targeting against the hapless visitors.

Dominating the Proteas in all the departments, India won the first Test in Visakhapatnam by 203 runs before inflicting an innings and 137-run defeat on the hapless visitors in Pune to regain the Freedom Trophy.

India, who have 200 points from four games, have a massive 140-point lead over nearest rivals New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the WTC standings. Skipper Virat Kohli has also made it clear that there is plenty to play for in the final Test and the team cannot afford a drop in intensity.

Going into the game, India have very few holes to plug, be it their batting or bowling.

The home team could not have asked for more from their top-order with Rohit Sharma showing



why he is such an impact player as he feasted on the South African bowlers with twin hundreds in the first Test while opening for the first time.

The Mumbai's opening partner Maynak Agarwal on the other hand went on to convert his maiden hundred into a double in Visakhapatnam and followed it up with another century in Pune.

Then it was the turn of 'King Kohli' who came

to the party in the Pune Test with a career-best double hundred -- a majestic 254 not out -- and made it look like a routine job.

Rohit will be eyeing a big score after not firing in the first innings of the Pune Test while Cheteshwar Pujara, who has scored two fifties in the series, would be looking to cross the three-figure mark.

That India have lost only 16 wickets while routing South Africa in

both the Tests sums up their dominance.

Toss has also been kind to India so far and things are likely to get more exciting if the stroke of luck favours Faf du Plessis in the final Test.

The last time South Africa toured the India, rank-turners had welcomed the side but this time both the pacers and spinners have been able to extract something out of the pitch.

Umesh Yadav made a fine comeback in the Pune Test to return with fine figures of 3/22 with some brief hostile spells as wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha who took some breathtaking catches to aid to the pacer's tally.

Kohli played an extra pacer in Umesh at Pune by benching Hanuma Vihari but only time will tell what combination he chooses for the final Test. South African cap-

tain Faf du Plessis has already predicted the Ranchi pitch to be a turner, bringing Kuldeep Yadav into contention as the third spinner.

South Africa batsmen showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but they let themselves down in Pune.

It was only the tailenders who showed some character and frustrated the Indian bowling. Du Plessis has urged experiences players like

Dean Elgar, Quinton de Kock and Temba Bavuma to bat with responsibility.

Their batting woes are further compounded by the absence of opener Aiden Markram who has been ruled out of the third Test with an injury.

The pace attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander and Anrich Nortje has also not been as effective as expected while the Indian pacers have managed to provide the breakthroughs.

With their senior-most spinner Keshav Maharaj also ruled out, South Africa will find it tougher to stop the Indian juggernaut.

Squads:

India: Virat Kohli (c), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill.

South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Temba Bavuma (vc), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, George Linde, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi Seccord.

Match starts: 9.30 am.

ISL set to start with grandeur opening ceremony

KOCHI, OCT 18 (PTI): The Indian Super League 2019-20 will kick off with a gala opening ceremony, including performances by Bollywood actors by Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Sunday.

Two-time champions ATK will take on old-rivals Kerala Blasters FC in the opening game of the sixth season.

Also performing before the match will be the internationally acclaimed Indian dance group -- Kings United.

Kings United, winners of the recent World of Dance competition, will be adding a football flavour to dance with an energetic choreographic piece on various football kicks and moves celebrating the Hero ISL highlights.

Anchored by actor Dulquer Salmaan, the ceremony will start at 6:00 pm.

Mary Kom's academy gets new ring with Goodyear's support

IMPHAL, OCT 18 (PTI): Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom's boxing academy here has found fresh support from tyre manufacturer Goodyear India, which helped bring up a new ring and some other infrastructure at the facility as part of its CSR initiative.

The ring was formally inaugurated by Mary Kom and her husband Onler Kom, who is a co-founder and Managing Director of the academy along with Goodyear India's Finance Director Mitesh Mittal here on Thursday.

Besides this, the company has also supported the first phase construction of Dining Hall and Kitchen at the academy.

"In 2018 2019, we decided to explore a new area in our CSR Initiative by contributing to the promotion of rural sports development with the purpose of nurturing the best Indian talent in sports," Mittal said.

The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP, recently fetched a record eight medal at the world championships, finishing with a bronze.

This year, she also won gold medals at the India Open in Guwahati and the President's Cup in Indonesia.

Dabang Delhi to face Bengal Warriors for PKL title

AHMEDABAD, OCT 18 (PTI): Dabang Delhi KC will take on Bengal Warriors in the final of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 7 to be played here on Saturday.

PKL will have a new winner as both the teams are playing their first final.

The match will be played at EKA Arena by TransStadia here.

Coaches of the two teams are upbeat about the performances of their respective teams and claimed that the final will be amazing to watch, no matter who ends win-

ning the title.

"No one knows who will win as both teams are equally good. Our players will do their best," said Dabang Delhi KC's coach, Krishna Kumar Hooda.

Hooda even expressed confidence that the tournament would give a few players the chance to secure their place in the national team. Notably, Bengal Warrior's coach B C Ramesh was a national player when Hooda was the chief coach of the Indian team.

"For tomorrow's

match, I believe that both raiders and defenders need to give their best. Along with hard work, luck also plays its role. I am glad that two new teams are playing the final. We will show the world how to play real kabaddi," Ramesh said.

Dabang Delhi KC made to the final by defeating defending champions Bengaluru Bulls 44-38 in the semi final, while in the second semi final Bengal Warriors edged past U Mumba 37-35 in a tightly-fought contest to book a place in the summit clash.

KARACHI, OCT 18 (PTI): Sarfaraz Ahmed was on Friday sacked as Pakistan's Test and T20 captain with Azhar Ali and Babar Azam elevated to leadership roles for the upcoming tour of Australia.

In an official announcement on Friday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that experienced batsman Ali would lead the Test side in the two Tests in Australia while Babar Azam would be the captain in the three T20 matches Down Under.

Sarfaraz has been captain in all three formats of the game since the last two years and led Pakistan to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title.

In Tests and ODIs, Pakistan's ranking has slipped under his captaincy while they were whitewashed in the recent T20 home series against Sri Lanka.

Sarfaraz, who was the toast of the nation after Pakistan beat India in the Champions Trophy final, has had a torrid time in the Test and ODI formats in the last two years when Mickey Arthur was



the head coach.

He came under fire recently when a depleted Sri Lankan team swamped Pakistan 3-0 in the T20 series in Lahore.

With his own form suffering with the bat, speculations were rife that the new head coach chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq would move to make changes in the captaincy in the three formats but no one was expecting Sarfaraz to be sacked so quickly.

It was expected he would be retained for the three T20 matches in Australia in early November although indicators were there

Misbah would recommend to the PCB to have Ali lead the Test side in place of Sarfaraz.

Sarfaraz also mucked up in the ongoing National T20 Championship in Faisalabad where he backed out of leading the Sindh team and preferred to focus on his batting and allow Test batsman Asad Shafiq to lead the team.

The PCB said the squad for the Australian tour would be announced on October 21.

The PCB also released a short statement from Sarfaraz.

"I wish the best for both Azhar and Babar in

their new endeavours and I must thank my coaches, fellow players and the selectors for having supported me a lot in my tenure as captain," Sarfaraz said.

This is the first experience for Babar, 25, to lead the national team in any format.

He has been Pakistan's leading scorer in the last two years in the white ball formats and is also slowly establishing himself in Test cricket.

Babar, who hails from Lahore, already has hit 12 hundreds in 95 limited over matches for Pakistan.

Ali has led Pakistan in One-day Internationals between April 2015 and February 2017, winning 12 and losing 18 matches.

He stepped down as ODI captain and was replaced by Sarfaraz in February 2017 after a 1-4 loss in Australia.

Azhar, 34, who has played in 73 Tests and 53 ODIs was a surprise choice as captain of the ODI squad after the 2015 World Cup as he had not played any ODIs in two years time.

Liverpool have nothing to lose in title race, says Van Dijk

LONDON, OCT 18 (AFP): Liverpool have nothing to lose in the Premier League title race despite amassing an eight-point lead after just eight games, according to defender Virgil van Dijk.

The European champions are in pole position to end a 30-year wait to win a league title, but Van Dijk believes the pressure is still on Manchester City to win the league for a third straight year.

"I don't think we

have anything to lose," Van Dijk told Sky Sports ahead of Sunday's trip to Manchester United.

"Man City are the champions, they're defending their title and we want to get it. In my point of view, we just have to go for it.

"We definitely need to enjoy it and be full of confidence, especially with the way we've got these points, having not had the best games but still getting the wins."

City's shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves have allowed Liverpool to surge ahead thanks to their perfect start to the season.

However, Van Dijk remains wary of Pep Guardiola's men, who overturned a seven-point deficit to pip Liverpool to the title by a point last season.

"There are so many games left, you can't really think about it (winning the title) -- it's

not realistic," added the Dutch captain.

"I don't watch Man City's games but I have family and friends who text me or say something, especially after the Wolves game.

"That's just part of life but we've learnt from last year that we don't have to look to the others until the end of the campaign. So far, we have been doing well but Man City are definitely not going away.

Junior boxers notch up 21 medals at Asian C'ships



NEW DELHI, OCT 18 (PTI): Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the Asian Junior Championships, clinching a bumper tally of 21 medals, including six gold and nine silver, to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

The Indian men's squad fetched two gold, three silver and an equal number of bronze, while the women claimed four gold, six silver and three bronze medals to round off a stupendous performance on Thursday evening.

The team ended top in terms of medals won

but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) which had a better gold count of eight.

The gold-medallists among men were Vishvanath Suresh (46kg) and Bishwamitra Chongtham (48kg).

The top women finishers for the country were reigning national champion Kalpana (46kg), Preeti Dahiya (60kg), Tanshbir Kaur Sandhu (80kg) and Alfiya Tarannum Pathan (+80kg). The silver medals were claimed by Yogesh Kagra (66kg), Jaydeep Rawat (66kg) and Rahul (70kg).

Among the women, Tamanna (48kg), Tan-

nu (52kg), Neha (54kg), Khushi (63kg), Sharvari Kalyankar (70kg) and Khushi (75kg) picked up silver medals.

The bronze-medallists' list for women comprised Rinku (50kg), Ambeshori Devi (57kg) and Mahi Lama (66kg). Vijay Singh (50kg), Victor Singh Shaikhom (52kg) and Vanshaj (60kg) claimed bronze in the men's competition.

An unprecedented 26 countries competed in the continental event, which was open only to boxers born in 2003 or in 2004.

The number of participating pugilists stood at 239, including 170 men and 69 women.

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EU leaders turn focus to climate, budget issues

BRUSSELS, OCT 18 (AP): After agreeing on terms for a new Brexit deal, European Union leaders are meeting again on Friday to discuss other thorny issues, including the bloc's budget and climate change.

No decision is expected on the next long-term budget for 2021-2027, though, a topic more divisive than Brexit.

Leaders need to find a compromise that satisfies countries in favour of minimal spending, those arguing that it must at least be maintained at the current level and others fighting for increased contributions from members states to compensate for Britain's planned departure. The Finnish presidency of the council is expected to present a draft including a proposal on the overall level of financing.

A top French diplomat said the draft will be contested, insisting it's crucial to keep a high level of funding in order to maintain the same level for agriculture and increase money for climate, inno-



vation and migrations issues. Some other big net contributors, including Germany, disagree and are trying to limit spending from 2021.

The diplomat, who was not authorised to be identified publicly, said that to keep the next budget at its current level, member states will need to contribute at least 1.16 per cent of their gross national income.

The European Commission has set an objective of 1.11 per cent

for an overall budget of 1.113 trillion euros, while the European Parliament has proposed 1.30 per cent.

In the wake of the United Nations' climate change summit, the Council will continue talks on its goal of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 and leaders will also discuss the agenda of priorities set up by incoming European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen. In June, EU leaders failed to agree

on a plan to make the bloc's economy carbon neutral by 2050.

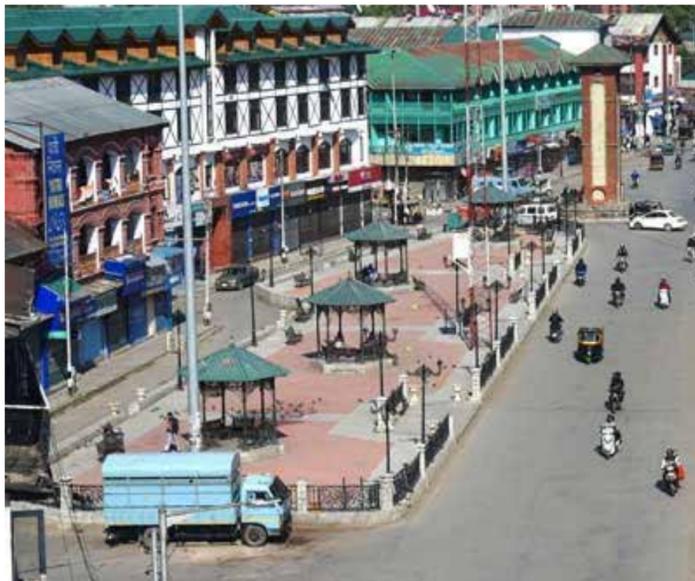
Several large European countries including Britain, France and Germany have backed the target, but coal-reliant countries in the east, such as Poland, blocked consensus on the proposal, which entails an almost complete phase-out of fossil fuel use.

Meanwhile, after winning the support of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Brit-

ish Prime Minister Boris Johnson has returned to London to try to secure backing from his fractious Parliament.

Johnson will now need to convince lawmakers who rejected the previous deal sealed by his predecessor Theresa May three times to vote for the divorce deal he negotiated. "We all hope that what we decided yesterday will also be accepted in Westminster," Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel said.

Kashmiri Pandits brief US lawmakers on situation in Kashmir



LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCT 18 (PTI): Ahead of the next week's Congressional hearing on human rights situation in South Asia, Kashmiri Pandits residing in various parts of the US held a briefing for US lawmakers and their aides on ground realities in the Valley and violations of their rights for the past several decades.

Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna, Congressmen Mike Thompson, Zoe Lofgren, Mark Desaulneir and Doris Matsui along with Chairman of House of Foreign Relation Committee, Elliot Engel, attended the congressional briefing at Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo in her opening statement emphasised that India and the US, the two largest democracies in the world, need to work to strength democracies.

The event 'Kashmir the Way Forward,' was organised by Indo-American Community Federation in collaboration with Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA) and the US-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC).

The Asia-Pacific and Non-Proliferation Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee has scheduled a hear-

ing on human rights in Kashmir and other parts of South Asia on October 22.

KOA president Shakun Malik talked about the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and the discrimination faced by Kashmiri women, minorities and weaker sections of the society due to Articles 370 and 35A.

The government ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5 and split it into two union territories, saying the move would help ensure that people of the state get the same constitutional benefits as the rest of the country and spur development.

During the briefing, a group of Kashmiri Pandits shared the stories of victims of terrorism in 1990-1991.

The most dangerous framing of the issue in the US media reporting is fanning religious polarisation with the use of the Hindu-Muslim binary, said Surinder Kaul, international coordinator of Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora.

Jeevan Zutshi from California, who hosted the briefing event, emphasised that the way forward for Kashmir is to ensure that people of all religions, including minorities live peacefully

in Kashmir with justice, security and economic opportunities for all and hoped that US congress passes a resolution endorsing Kashmiri Pandit "ethnic cleansing".

Dr C Shaykher, a cardiologist from Florida, spoke about misconceptions about Hindutva and touched upon the historical perspective of Kashmir with emphasis that Kashmiri Hindus have a five thousand years of documented civilisational legacy.

Jeff M Smith, research fellow from Heritage Foundation think-tank, who has previously visited Kashmir, was touched by the stories of Kashmiri Pandit victims and wondered why these stories of genocide and ethnic cleansing have not been covered by the western press while Pakistan's narrative about Kashmir has been getting wide press coverage.

Bharath Gopalaswamy talked about the geopolitics of Kashmir and sympathised with the Kashmiri Hindus for their massive displacement from their roots.

A brief video presentation about current life in Kashmir depicting the gradual return to normalcy in Kashmir, including business in hospitals and schools were part of the event.

Sanctions on Turkey no longer necessary: Trump

WASHINGTON, OCT 18 (PTI): President Donald Trump has said that America's proposed economic sanctions on Ankara are no longer necessary after the US and Turkey struck a deal for a five-day cease fire in Syria.

As per the deal announced by Vice President Mike Pence in Ankara on Thursday, Turkey will suspend its operations for 120 hours to allow Kurdish fighters to withdraw from a designated safe zone along the Turkish and Syrian border.

Protesting Turkey's military offensive in northeast Syria, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to slap sanctions against Turkish officials, raising of steel tariffs and ending negotiations on a USD 100 billion trade deal.

Sanctions won't be necessary because Turkey is doing what they're doing, Trump told reporters on Thursday as he congratulated his Turkish counterpart President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for reaching a deal with the United States.

He's a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He's a strong man. He did the right thing. And I really appreciate it. And I will appreciate it in the future, Trump said, describing the cease fire as a great news.

Termining it as an incredible outcome, Trump said that Turkey had a legitimate problem on the 22 mile (34 kms) strip for many years.

"They had terrorists, they had a lot of people in there that they couldn't have. They've suffered a lot of loss of lives also. They had to have it cleaned out, he said.

But once you start that, it gets to a point where a tremendous amount of bad things can happen. So, a process started and we started

to negotiate. I think that obviously, the sanctions and tariffs were going to be very biting. I'm glad we don't have to do it. We will be taking them off very quickly, Trump said.

We've gotten everything we could have ever dreamed of and we are also going to be able to bring our people back home we will be able to have control of ISIS, we will be able to do whatever we have to do to get the rest of ISIS wherever they may be. They are never going to be ruling us, he said.

Trump also thanked the Kurds for agreeing to abide by the ceasefire.

This is a solution that really well, it saved their lives frankly. It saved their lives. So, we've done a great thing for our partner. If we didn't go this unconventional tough love approach they could have never gotten it done. They have been trying to do this for many, many years. You could have never gotten it done, he said.

Talking to reporters in Ankara, Pence said that all military operations under Operation Peace Spring will be paused and it will be halted entirely on completion of the withdrawal.

This also includes an agreement by Turkey to engage in no military action against the community of Kobani.

In addition, the United States and Turkey have both mutually committed to a peaceful resolution and future for the safe zone, working on an international basis to ensure that peace and security defines this border region of Syria, he said.

Further, Turkey and the United States mutually committed to the Defeat ISIS activities in northeast Syria. This will also include an agreement renewed today to coordinate efforts on detention facilities and internally displaced persons in formerly ISIS-controlled areas, Pence said.

Backlash grows over China sea map in 'Abominable' film

MANILA, OCT 18 (AFP): Backlash is growing in Southeast Asia over a scene in the animated film "Abominable" that features a map of the South China Sea showing Beijing's contested claims in the flashpoint waterway.

The Philippines' foreign secretary has called for the controversial segment to be excised, while Vietnam this week pulled the film altogether.

China has long laid claim over most of the resource-rich and strategic sea with its so-called "nine-dash" line, a steady source of regional tension.

The Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and other nations in the region have staked claims that overlap with the area inside China's line, which sweeps up waters close to its neighbours' shores.

The scene in the film about a Chinese teenager helping a yeti return to his home -- co-produced by US outfit Dreamworks and China's Pearl Studio -- shows a map featuring Beijing's U-shaped line.

The cartoon opened in Philippine and Indonesian theatres earlier this month, but the adverse reactions in the Philippines didn't surface until later.

"Of course they should cut out the offending scene which will show our displeasure better than if we unconstitutionally ban it as some suggest," Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin tweeted Wednesday, writing in upper case.

He said censors should "cut out crudely" and substitute the deleted segment "with a hectoring lecture".

Malaysian film censors have reportedly ordered the offending portion be stripped from the picture.

Vietnam's main cinema franchise CGV said on Monday it would no longer show the film after it was notified about the map, with the South Korean-owned firm calling it a "serious issue".

Vietnamese state media also quoted the head of the country's censorship body saying she was

sorry for letting the error slip through.

China claims the majority of the South China Sea, often invoking its so-called nine-dash line as a supposed historical justification to the waters, a key global shipping route.

However, a 2016 arbitral tribunal ruling said China's claim was without basis. Beijing has ignored the ruling.

The Philippines' film regulation board gave the go-ahead for "Abominable" to run without restrictions and cinemas have shown it from October 2 with no controversy, according to the country's largest cinema chain.

Philippine House of Representatives member Lawrence Fortun called for a ban or the scene's removal.

"Aside from the disinformation and confusion it can create, its showing on Philippine soil will also have a negative bearing on our integrity as a country and nation," Fortun said in a statement on Thursday.

Johnson returns to London to drum up support for Brexit deal

London, Oct 18 (AP): After winning the backing of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in London Friday looking to secure enough support to get the deal through the fractious British Parliament. Johnson returned overnight for what is expected to be a busy day attempting to persuade lawmakers to vote for the divorce deal at a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament.

It is expected to be a knife-edge vote.

Johnson's Conservative Party doesn't have a majority in the 650-seat House of Commons so he will have to rely on support from other parties and independent lawmakers to get over the line. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab started drumming up support early.

"We've got a real opportunity now to get Brexit delivered faithful to the referendum, move on as a Government, and lift the clouds of Brexit," he told the BBC. Raab said the government has not given up hope of winning the support of its



Northern Ireland ally the Democratic Unionist Party, which has rejected the new deal. But the chances of that appeared slim. The DUP's Brexit spokesman, Sammy Wilson, said Johnson's Brexit package was bad for Northern Ireland.

"I can give you absolute assurance we will not be voting for this deal when it comes before the Commons tomorrow," he told the BBC.

to back a deal in order to honor the June 2016 Brexit referendum result.

If Johnson's charm offensive manages to corral enough votes to pass the deal, Britain would leave the EU in an orderly fashion on October 31.

If lawmakers reject the deal as they did three times with an earlier deal presented by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May a law passed earlier this year compels the prime minister to ask the EU for another extension.

Asked Thursday what he would do if Britain seeks an extension, European Council President Donald Tusk said he would consult the other 27 EU nations in order to reach a decision leaving open the prospect of another delay.

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SUPER JUNIOR RELEASES "SUPER CLAP" MUSIC VIDEO: Iconic K-pop boy band Super Junior has finally dropped the much-awaited music video for their lead single "SUPER CLAP!" The song which is part of their new album *Time Slip* was released earlier in the week on 14 October. The music video was initially scheduled to be released on the same day but was postponed out of respect for Sulli's recent passing.

Angelina Jolie says her children are 'not interested' in acting

LOS ANGELES, OCT 18 (PTI): Angelina Jolie says none of her six children aspire to become actors, including daughter Vivienne who once appeared in her film.

The 44-year-old actor shares her children -- daughters Zahara, 14, Shiloh, 13, and Vivienne, 11, and sons Maddox, 18, Pax, 15, and Knox, 11 -- with ex-husband Brad Pitt.

Talking to *People* magazine, Jolie, who is currently promoting her film "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil", said

she has encouraged her children to take up acting but they all have other interests.

"I tried. Viv still can't believe I made her a princess. None of my kids want to be actors. (They're into) business, humanitarian affairs, things like that. Nobody was interested," Jolie said.

Vivienne featured as the younger version of Elle Fanning's Aurora in 2014 film "Maleficent".

"Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" released worldwide on Friday.

I'm an unabashed fan of chick flicks: Arjun Kapoor

MUMBAI, OCT 18 (PTI): Actor Arjun Kapoor says he is not ashamed to admit that he is a big fan of "chick flicks".

In the latest episode of his Instagram series "Arjun Recommends", the actor addressed a common criticism that he has faced over recommending only a certain type of films.

"A lot of people have asked me if I'll only like to recommend a certain kind of films because I'm a guy. But I just want to say that I have been a fan of chick flicks. I'm unabashed (about it)," he said in his Instagram post.

The actor then urged his fans to watch *Ministry of Kaling* and *Emma Thomp* son's "Late Night" and romantic comedy "Long Shot", featuring Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen in the lead.

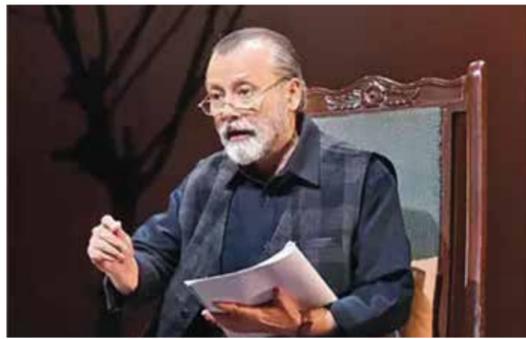
In a statement, Arjun said he has always found chick flicks as "thoroughly enjoyable films".

"I have actually binged on chick flicks and I'm not ashamed to admit it. Trust me, a lot of men watch chick flicks as they are thoroughly enjoyable films. I love sharp-witted, skilfully written chick flicks because they are out and out entertainers and totally worth the time or money invested to watch them," he said. He said films such as "Devil Wears Prada", "Breakfast at Tiffany's", "Pretty Woman", "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Love Actually", are among his all-time favourites.

"I love this genre thoroughly because they have delivered some of the best cinema that we have all seen and grown up on. So, I'm all for good chick flicks, anyway," Arjun added.



Pankaj Kapur turns author with debut novel 'Dopehri'



NEW DELHI, OCT 18 (PTI): Thespian Pankaj Kapur takes on a new role of an author with his first novel "Dopehri", which he has performed on stage many times, coming out next month.

The book, set in Lucknow and originally written in Hindustani, will be published by HarperCollins India and release simultaneously in Hindi and in English.

Amma Bi is an elderly widow who lives alone in her deserted Lucknow haveli. Every afternoon, at precisely 3 o'clock, she hears the sound of unknown footsteps. Every afternoon, she peeks out ... but no one is there.

In a state of growing panic, Amma Bi considers moving to an old-age home, before finally taking in a lodger - a winsome young woman named Sabiha. Her arrival fills Amma Bi's lonely world with love and laughter, and Jumman, the household help, is transformed as well.

And when Sabiha finds herself in trouble, Amma Bi must draw on hidden reserves of skill and empathy in order to resolve the situation.

"Dopehri" is a wonderfully evocative work of great

charm, wry humour and quiet power, a story that readers will fall in love with, the publishers said. Kapur, said "Dopehri" is set in the streets of Lucknow and "takes us through the journey of Amma Bi's loneliness to self-discovery. I have performed it previously on stage. I hope people enjoy reading it as much as they have enjoyed watching it on stage".

According to Udayan Mitra, publisher (literary) at HarperCollins India, "For many years we have admired Pankaj Kapur as one of the most accomplished actors we have. With 'Dopehri', readers will discover a new side to Pankaj ji's extraordinary talent: that of a truly exceptional writer. 'Dopehri' is an absolute delight to read."

Senior Commissioning Editor (literary) at HarperCollins India, Rahul Soni said Pankaj Kapur is a born storyteller and he brings a "raconteur's flair to the telling of this heart-warming, life-affirming tale of finding companionship and purpose in the unlikely of places".

"Dopehri" reveals a compelling new side to the legendary actor," he added.

'Tarzan' actor Ron Ely's wife killed; son shot by deputies

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. (AP) — "Tarzan" actor Ron Ely's wife was stabbed to death in their California home by their 30-year-old son, who was then shot and killed by sheriff's deputies, authorities said Wednesday.

Deputies summoned to the home by a 911 call found Valerie Lundeen Ely, 62, dead with multiple stab wounds shortly after 8 p.m. Tuesday, a Santa Barbara County sheriff's statement said.

The deputies talked to Ron Ely and identified his son, 30-year-old Cameron Ely, as the suspect, and found him outside the home in Hope Ranch, a suburb of luxury homes outside Santa Barbara, authorities said.

Cameron Ely posed a threat to deputies, four of whom opened fire and killed him, the statement said. It did not say what he had done that was threatening.

Ron Ely, 81, played the title character on the NBC series "Tarzan," which ran from 1966 to 1968.

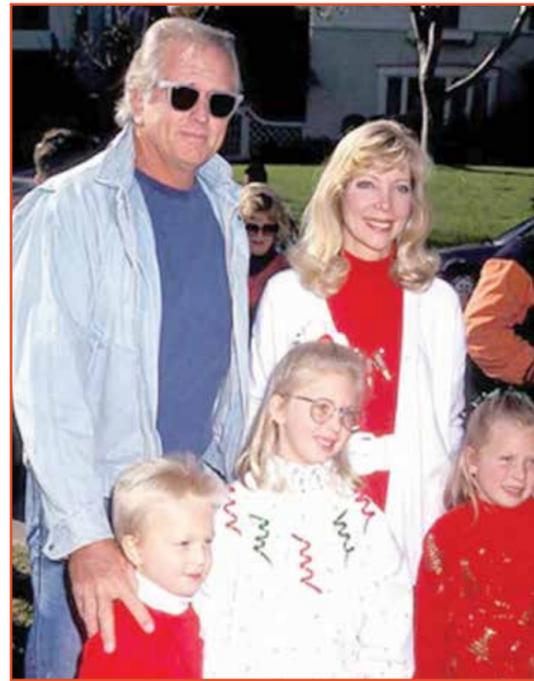
He was host of the Miss America pageant in 1980 and 1981 and later married Valerie Ely, a former Miss Florida. The couple had three children.

There was no report of Ron Ely being injured. Authorities confirmed he was at the home during the stabbing and the shooting, and an earlier sheriff's statement said an elderly man in the home was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

The home where the killings took place is one of two addresses listed in public records for Cameron Ely. It is not clear whether he had been living with his parents.

The tall, musclebound actor Ron Ely was not quite as well-known as Johnny Weismuller, the Olympic swimmer who played "Tarzan," the character created by novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs, in movies in the

1930s and 1940s. But Ely formed the image of the shirtless, loincloth-wearing character remembered by many in the baby-boom generation. Ely said in interviews that he did



his own stunts on the show, working directly and precariously with the tigers, chimps and other wild animals that were Tarzan's friends and servants.

Ely's Tarzan didn't speak in the monosyllabic grunts often associated with the character. He was instead an educated bachelor who had grown sick of civilization and had returned to African jungle where he was raised.

Ely also played the title character in the 1975 action film "Doc Savage: The Man of Bronze," but otherwise had mostly small roles in TV and films including the 1958 movie musical "South Pacific."

Ely retired from acting to focus on his family in 2001. But he returned briefly in 2014 in the TV movie "Expecting Amish."

Deepthi Naval honoured with Excellence in Cinema Award at MAMI festival



MUMBAI, OCT 17 (PTI): Veteran actor Deepthi Naval was honoured with the Excellence in Cinema Award at the opening ceremony of the 21st Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star on Thursday night.

She was presented the award by filmmaker Vishal Bharadwaj and actor Deepika Padukone.

"I am quite nervous, I am overwhelmed with this award. I am grateful to Jio MAMI Mumbai festival for giving me this honour," Naval, who got a standing ovation

from the audience, said after receiving the award.

Quoting from Naval's poetry, Bharadwaj said, "When you feel like saying a lot of things that time too do not feel like saying anything."

Naval made her acting debut with "Junoon" in 1978. In her career spanning over 40 years, she has acted in more than 60 films. Some of her iconic films include "Kamla", "Chashme Baddoor", "Mirch Masala", "Rang Birangi", "Firaq", "Leela" and "Memories in March".

She was last seen in Zoya

Akhtar's web-series "Made In Heaven". The 20th Jio Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Mumbai Film Festival began Thursday night and was attended by Bollywood celebrities like Deepika, Bhardwaj, Karan Johar, Taapsee Pannu, Kiran Rao, Nandita Das, Sudhir Mishra, Tannishtha Chatterjee and others.

The eight-day festival boasts of over 190 films, including over 50 debuts, 13 world premieres, spanning 53 countries and 49 diverse languages.

ARIES: "Going with the flow is responding to cues from the universe. When you go with the flow, you're surfing life force. It's about wakeful trust and total collaboration with what's showing up for you." A Danielle LaPorte quote to inspire you to let go of rigidity and ride the cosmic wave in style. What you will discover when you relinquish control: things find their way into your existence seamlessly.

Tip: Ride the cosmic wave in style.

TAURUS: You know exactly what you want, Taurus. Don't doubt yourself or settle for less. Taking time to contemplate will give you clarity on your next move. What you will discover in the process: some people don't deserve a space in your sacred circle. Give yourself permission to say goodbye to unhealthy relationships. If you feel like you are too close to the situation, seek professional help.

Tip: It is time to rip off the band aid.

GEMINI: Long distance relationships require twice the time and effort, Gemini. Not to mention, a greater degree of commitment.

Schedule your virtual dates in advance if you can. Even better, plan a holiday where it's just the two of you so you can be fully present. The not-so-good news is that you may not be able to go on that vacation immediately given your schedule. But that doesn't mean you can't find interesting things to do in your own city.

Tip: Your relationship requires a little more effort.

CANCER: "The wound is where the light enters." A Rumi quote to awaken you, dear Cancer. Let this breakdown be a breakthrough in your journey, one that teaches you the importance of self-love and takes you closer to the light. Remember, the present is where the magic is at. Release the bonds of a life long gone.

Tip: To feel is to heal.

LEO: You are moving towards the calm that follows a storm. Take the time and space you need to deal with the aftermath. Loss is never easy, and grieving often takes a physical and mental toll. Keep in mind that what you are experiencing is but transient. Continue to count the blessings and hold space for the

healing to take place.

Tip: The only person you need to depend on is yourself.

VIRGO: In his bestseller, Dr Gary Chapman spoke about five love languages: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, and physical touch. What's your love language, Virgo? More importantly, what does it take to make your partner feel loved? This week, let the language of touch takes precedence over everything else. But if you think physical contact is only about pleasure, think again. Try holding your partner's hand and gaze softly into their eyes.

Tip: Explore the language of touch.

LIBRA: "Which way do I go from here?" "Is this relationship worth fighting for?" You already know the answer to this one. By not listening to your intuition, you are creating internal conflict. Remember, if you don't stand up for yourself, nobody else will, Libra. Some of you may be at odds with a loved one, unsure of what to do next. Take some time alone to weigh the pros and cons, and then

open the channels of communication.

Tip: Trust your inner wisdom.

SCORPIO: This day calls for action. Get proactive about the life you're trying to build, whether it's by yourself or with your partner. A milestone moment may be on the cards for coupled Scorpions. Think tying the knot, moving in together, or building or refurbishing their dream home. Family planning may become a priority too. Everything is happening according to the divine plan. Relinquish control.

Tip: A milestone moment is on the cards.

SAGITTARIUS: If there's one thing your circumstances have taught you, it's that we live in a benevolent Universe. Open yourself to help, Sagittarius, and trust that it will come to you in the most unexpected ways. You are moving to a better place and so are your relationships.

Tip: You are transitioning to a better place.

CAPRICORN: There is a reason they call it 'making love'. Your body is not for sale, Capricorn. Giving it away for the pleasure of the other will only bring you pain. Let go

of the idea that sex will help you create love.

The cards are also pointing towards codependency and other unhealthy patterns that are keeping you chained to the darkness.

Tip: Accept nothing less than what you deserve.

AQUARIUS: Enough with the fleeting romances, Aquarius. Deep down even you want something that stays longer than your perfume, and the Universe is giving you a chance to do just that. Move past the negative belief that long-term relationships will curb your freedom. It's about rising, not falling in love, right?

Tip: Make way for commitment with a capital 'C'.

PISCES: Was it a mistake or an opportunity to grow, learn and become a better human being? Pisces, you have the strength, courage and wisdom required to tide over your circumstances and make positive changes. As you do, let go of the past and forgive those you need to. Remember, you are only freeing yourself in the process. Single Pisceans, sweatpants is not a cute look on you. Take your favourite bodycon out for a night about town.

Tip: Let go of the past.