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SummitTIMES

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CM urges students to aim to be the best in the world

Addressing SAATHI annual meet, CM assures that Govt sensitive to problem of addiction problem, applauds SAATHI initiative

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling urged students to develop a growth mindset and aim to become the best students of the world. He further encouraged them to explore their full capacity and potential by pursuing their respective areas of interest.

He was speaking as the chief guest of the valedictory function of the three-day Annual Meet of Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] at Saramsa in



East Sikkim today.

He said that SAATHI was working tirelessly to eradicate drug use in schools and has been able to help many students battled this problem. He thanked the initiative taken up by SAATHI in order to restore the positive mindset among students. He expressed that

until and unless we found a cure for this problem, the upcoming generation will find it difficult to adjust in society.

Addressing huge gathering of students from across the State, the CM stressed the need of citizens to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility to make

Sikkim the Best State of the world in all sectors. He added that everyone needs to contribute towards making this possible and towards the nation-building exercise.

He encouraged students to change the mindset that makes them pursue only government jobs. He highlighted that

government jobs have limited scope and since the young have a multitude of interests and passions, not all of them can evolve to their full capacity and potential in government jobs.

He encouraged students to choose careers in line with their interests

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State Govt announces Rs 3 lakh each for families of Pulwama martyrs

Govt offers to sponsor education of children of the martyrs as well

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today announced an ex-gratia of Rs 3 lakh each to the families of CRPF soldiers martyred in a terrorist attack at Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir.

He also announced that the Sikkim Government would sponsor the education of the children of all the martyrs of this terrorist attack if the Government of India allows it to.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the valedictory function of the three-day annual meet of Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] at Saramsa in East Sikkim today.



On the behalf of the people of Sikkim, the CM strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on CRPF and

further expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He also paid rich tribute to all martyrs.

No Seats, No Election: LTVC

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTV] has contended that the entire election process will be unconstitutional if the Limboos and Tamangs were not given their due Constitutional right to reserved seats since they are now included in the Scheduled Tribes list.

The committee has stressed its stand of 'no seats, no election'. Towards this end, the LTVC approached the Supreme Court on 13 Feb with a petition seeking a stay order on assembly elections in Sikkim until the seat reservation issue of the two communities was resolved.

An LTVC press release points out that Limboos and Tamangs got tribal status in 2003, and on that moment itself became entitled to seat res-

ervation [by virtue of being STs] in the Legislative Assembly. This constitutional right has however remained pending for the past 17 years due to what the organization sees as the failure of the State government.

The organization sees the Sikkim government's seat reservation formula based on the Burman Commission Report as "defective" and rejects the alternative interim formula increasing the Assembly strength to 40 seats as only creating a hurdle for LT seats.

Having already gone through three assembly elections without their reserved seats, LTVC rues that the situation is likely to remain unchanged even in 2019.

The organisation has further alleged that the SDF, CM and SILTAC were misleading

the people and falsely claiming that the LT seat reservation file was lying with the PMO. As per a recent letter and RTI replies received on 17 January this year from MHA, the matter was still under consideration in MHA, LTVC has claimed.

"CM is answerable now for delay in LT seats as we saw many promises and speeches made in between by the CM, Ministers, MLAs, SILTAC and SDF party stating LT seat reservation will be given before 2019 election," the release states.

It is added that CM even went to the extent by giving word publicly that he will take retirement and end his political career if he fails to keep his promise of securing LT seats before 2019 elections.

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SKM MLAs to boycott assembly session

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

SKM MLAs Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam have decided to boycott the ensuing interim budget session for what they see as "suppression of the voice of the people's representatives to voice people's voice time and again" in the casual attitude with which the

concerned authorities were handling legislative matters.

An SKM press release informs that MLAs are supposed to be given ten days clear time for submission of questions before the assembly convenes. With the interim budget session of Sikkim Legislative Assembly is scheduled for 18 and 19

February, this time was not offered to the SKM MLAs, the release contends.

"...legislatures are been deprived of this privilege for two consecutive sessions stating that there is no time. This is blatant murder of democracy and against the principle of parliamentary democracy," the SKM press release reiterates.

Dist-level sports comptt concludes in North Sikkim



MANGAN, 17 FEB [IPR]: The District Level Sports Competition, which had commenced here on 11 February, concluded today at Mangan Public Ground.

The competition was organised by the Khelo India District Committee

under the chairmanship of the District Collector Karma R Bonpo and Deputy Director Janim Lepcha, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, as member secretary.

The competition was held on the theme, "Sports for Peace and Development".

Competitions were held block-wise in different categories viz Under-14 Athletics, Football, Table Tennis and for Under-19 competitions were held in Athletics, Badminton, Football, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Volleyball, Boxing and Archery.

Residential facilities were provided to all the participants from remote areas.

Earlier, a special coaching camp was also held for students from different blocks in various sports disciplines during the winter vacations.

Adhoc teachers likely to revert to protest mode even as CM appeals for rational approach

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

The demand of adhoc teachers for regularization and continuous service, a matter which had settled down after a series of talks and negotiations with the Human Resource Development Department, appears headed for protest mode again.

Sources inform that the organization representing adhoc teachers has called for a

meeting on Monday to discuss the future course of action.

The matter, it may be recalled had appeared to have settled after the HRDD had endorsed demands raised by the protesting groups and forwarded it to the Chief Minister. The organization had also appealed to all adhoc teachers to report to their schools and join their duties, it may be recalled.

There had however



A file foto of adhoc teachers protesting at the HRDD head office in Gangtok

been a lot of chatter on social media about intents and commitment

of the department and the State Government towards addressing the

issues in earnest and a possible return of the protest even as the mat-

ter was under consideration of the State Government as things stand was being talked about.

Should the meeting of the adhoc teachers planned for Monday go ahead, there will be more clarity on the issue.

These developments come in the backdrop of the Chief Minister's first public comments on the regularization demand.

Addressing an official function today at

Saramsa, the CM, on the demand of teachers seeking service regularisation, pointed out that education was in the concurrent list and hence the State government was required to work as per rules and criteria prescribed by the Centre on such matters.

While he did not say that the demand was not possible to be met, he did mention that pressure

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Accepting that the officer was entitled to his personal views, the release advises that he should refrain from expressing these as a representative of the State attending a seminar.

"He should be aware that he has no right to

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Minerva refuse to travel to Srinagar, forfeit I-League match against Real Kashmir

NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (PTI): Defending champions Minerva Punjab FC Saturday forfeited their I-League match against Real Kashmir FC in Srinagar after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) yesterday turned down their request to relocate the fixture in the aftermath of the Pulwama terrorist attacks.

The match was scheduled for Sunday and Minerva said its foreign players have been advised by their respective countries' embassies to pull out. "...we regret to inform you that this is not a risk that we are ready to take hence we shall not be travelling to the turbulent region," the Punjab club said in its letter to the AIFF.

Minerva also said that it did not receive the security assurances it had sought from the AIFF following the attack on Thursday which led to the death of 40 CRPF personnel. It is being termed as the deadliest terrorist strike in three decades in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Considering the extraordinary circumstances following the Pulwama attack just 20Km from Srinagar Airport, the Ministry of Home affairs need to approve the football match being held. If the CRPF convoys are not safe, then we are very soft targets for such attacks," the club stated.

"We had asked for written assurance and permission from Ministry of Home Affairs which we still haven't got from your or Home team's end. Please note that our foreign players have already received Travel Advisory Warnings from their respective embassies asking them not to travel to Srinagar till further notice," it added.

Minerva once again urged the AIFF "to delay the match for at least a fortnight till situation in the valley is settled." "...alternately we are ready to play in Delhi, Chandigarh or any other neutral venue," the club said.

Earlier, I-League CEO Sunando Dhar said local security authorities in Srinagar gave the go-ahead to hold the match at the TRC Ground. He said the AIFF was assured of all the necessary security arrangements for the players and officials by the local authorities. "Our officials are already in Srinagar in preparation of the match. I have spoken to the match commissioner and he told me that the situation in Srinagar is currently normal. The local security in-charge of the match has also assured full security to the players, officials and all those related to the match," Dhar told PTI on Saturday.

"We have been assured that the whole security bandobast of players' transport from the airport to the team hotel and for travelling from the team hotel to the ground and return on match day will all be provided. So we have decided to go ahead with the match," he added.

SDF rejects BJP claims of Rs One lakh cr central funds as laughable

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has rejected the claim of Sikkim-BJP president, DB Chauhan, that Sikkim received funds to the tune of Rs one lakh crores of rupees from the Centre in the past four years as totally baseless and false.

The ruling party asserted that Mr Chauhan, who has been failed to make even five permanent members in the party even after being the state president for the last five years, has now proved his weakness even in arithmetic by giving such baseless statements.

An SDF press release

issued yesterday by its general secretary, Chudamani Mishra, stresses that it was really surprising how Mr Chauhan has been leading the state unit of the BJP without having any idea on central grants are given to the State government and State revenue and the account of annual income

and expenditure and development investment.

The release adds that if Mr Chauhan was to study the annual budget books of Sikkim for the last 20 years kept in the record room of the State Assembly library, the amount might still not cross Rs one lakh crores.

The release adds that

it would be better for Mr Chauhan to study the growth rate and financial management of the State from an expert instead of organising a press conference to give such ridiculous accounts.

The SDF has strongly refuted the baseless statement so near the elections.

Dist-level TT and volleyball tourneys in South

**SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 17 FEB:**

District-level Table Tennis and Volleyball tournaments were organized here recently by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department under the Khelo India initiative. While the TT team championship was held at the Indoor Gymnasium Hall here on 14 and 15 Feb, the volleyball tournament was held at the Namchi Primary School volleyball ground.

The Under-19 Boys TT Team championship was won by Pabong Sec School, followed by Rabong Sr. Sec. School and Mamley Sec. School and Temi Sr. Sec. School. In



Under-19 Girls, Temi Sr. Sec. School won the tournament with Namchi Girls Sr. Sec. School on

second position.

The district-level volleyball tournament U-19 boys category was

won by Temi BAC (Temi SSS) with Namchi BAC (Kitam SSS) as runners up. In Under 19 Girls,

Namchi BAC (PabongSS) emerged winners, followed by Namchi BAC (Namchi Girls SSS).

Decided to add new features to our convoy movement to and from Kashmir: CRPF DG

NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (PTI): The CRPF has decided to tweak the standard operating procedures (SOPs) framed to secure its convoys, in the wake of a "new threat" where an explosives-laden vehicle was detonated by a terrorist alongside the force's bus in Pulwama killing 40 personnel, the chief of the paramilitary force said Sunday.

"We have decided to add new features to our convoy movement to and from Kashmir," CRPF Director General R R Bhatnagar told PTI after undertaking a two-day tour of the Valley in the wake of the February 14 attack, the worst against security forces in Jammu and Kashmir in three decades. "Apart from traffic control, there will be changes in the timings of convoy, their halt locations and movement in coordination with other security forces like the Army and the J-K police," he told the news agency.

He said two convoys have been run after the attack at Latoomode in Pulwama and these new measures are being tested and implemented as part of the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Home Minister Rajnath Singh, after his tour to the Valley post the blast, had said it has been decided that movement of civilian vehicles will be restricted when convoys of security forces move in Jammu and Kashmir.

The DG said over the

last two days he and his commanders in Kashmir have "discussed an laid down a new strategy" to not only secure the movement of convoys but also to enhance security measures for regular operations. "I would not like to go into the specifics but we are formulating some strategies. This is something that we have done in the past and these things are dynamic.

"In view of this new threat, where a suicide bomber is suspected to have come close to our vehicle and detonated explosives, strategies are being worked upon," Bhatnagar said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) chief said there was no ambush on any CRPF convoy in the last two years and the effort is to neutralise such threats as much as possible.

Asked if there was an intelligence input suggesting that a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (IED) could be used by terrorists in Kashmir to hit the forces, Bhatnagar said that he would not talk about things related to operations and intelligence. "A senior official, however, said there was no "specific input" and such an attack was completely new for the security forces in the Valley.

The DG, when asked about sending all troops from Jammu to Srinagar on aircraft to avoid the vulnerability of road movement, said there is "no alternative" to convoys.

Adhoc teachers...

was being exerted on the State Government on the verge of elections to regularize services. He also stressed that teachers should understand the need for them to also conduct themselves as teachers and deliver better on their responsibilities.

He also stressed that Sikkim's teachers should be happy and thankful to the State government for having always worked in their interest and for having continuously opened new opportunities for them in schools. In this regard, he rued that instead to being thankful, some teachers have been indulging in politics.

SDF convenes coordination meeting in Mangan



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

Sikkim Democratic Front convened a coordination meeting at its district party office here today.

The meeting was

chaired by senior vice president in-charge for North, Rajya Sabha MP Hissey Lachungpa, Forest Minister Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Kabi Lungchuk

MLA Ugen Bhutia along with SNT chairperson, who also happens to be the SDF District president Pintso Namgyal Lepcha and a host of other party functionaries and office-bearers.

CRPF jawan alleges assault by policemen; cops deny charge

PUNE, FEB 17 (PTI): A 28-year-old CRPF jawan alleged that he was "assaulted" and "handcuffed" by police personnel in Baramati taluka here on Sunday without any provocation when he went to invite them for a condolence meet for the 40 CRPF soldiers who were killed in the Pulwama terror attack.

However, a senior police officer strongly refuted the allegations levelled by the jawan, Ashok Ingawale, a resident of Songaon village, who is currently on leave.

The officer in turn alleged that it was Ingawale who got into a brawl with the policemen.

The incident took place at Pune's Baramati rural police station.

Talking to PTI, Ingawale, who claims to be posted in Jammu and Kashmir, said he was part of a small 'mandal' (community group) in his village and it was decided to hold a condolence meeting for the slain CRPF soldiers during a

Shiv Jayanti programme on Tuesday. "On Sunday afternoon, I, along with my cousin, who recently retired from the Indian Army, and one more youth, went to invite the senior officers of the Baramati police station for the February 19 programme," he said.

"However, we were stopped by a couple of police personnel who used intimidating and arrogant language," he added.

Ingawale, who went to the police station with the other two on a two wheeler and in his uniform, claimed he showed his identity card to the police personnel and offered to pay the fine for triple riding, but they did not listen to him.

"They further alleged I was drunk. The police personnel then took me to a room where there was no CCTV camera. There I was beaten up by 10 to 15 police personnel, my uniform was torn and I was handcuffed," he alleged, adding that the

policemen even abused him. Ingawale also denied that he was drunk.

"There is no question of me being drunk because I have been working for the cause of alcohol de-addiction in the area. So the allegations levelled by police are baseless and need to be investigated," he said.

The CRPF jawan added that he had lodged a complaint against the "high-handedness" of police at the Baramati police station.

Additional Superintendent of Police Sandip Pakhale refuted Ingawale's allegations.

He said Ingawale indulged in triple riding and when the personnel at the police station stopped him, he started using intimidating language. "When he was taken inside the police station, he got into a brawl with the policemen and damaged chairs," Pakhale said.

He claimed Ingawale himself went into the lockup to show that he had been arrested.

SDF condemns Pulwama attack

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has offered deep tribute to soldiers martyred in a terrorist attack on 14 February at Awantipora, Pulwama in Kashmir. More than 40 CRPF personnel were killed in this terrorist attack.

An SDF press release

issued yesterday by its general secretary, Kavita Subba, conveys the party's stand that such a terrorist attack was an inhuman and highly condemnable act.

The release adds that the entire country was in deep shock and sorrow and conveys the party's condolences to the bereaved families.

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CM urges students...

and passions to be truly successful and happy in life.

He shared his confidence that Sikkimese students have the potential and capacity to be the best scientists, researchers, artists and successful personalities in a myriad of different areas, hence limiting their ambition to a government job would stymie their potential.

He encouraged students to be competitive, positive and consistent in their hard work.

He stressed that the State government has provided all facilities and opportunities to students to get the best and complete education.

He applauded the SAATHI initiative and what it has achieved among students.

While mentioning the various scholarships and programmes of the State government, the CM urged students to increase their capacity by taking full advantage of opportunities created by the government for students.

He added that the government has been working to ensure no one is left behind in the State. On the same, he stated that the government has provided the equal protection, reservation and scholarship to everyone in the state so students need to work hard and build their capacities to take full advantage of these opportunities.

The CM mentioned that this was a competitive and fast-changing world and students need to rise to the challenge.

Speaking on the role of teachers in a student's life, the CM stated that teachers have an important role to prepare capable human resource from the State as per the needs of the time. He stressed upon the need of highly skilled, life-oriented and job-oriented education for students.

The CM contended that teachers and students in Sikkim were having the best time at present, but if the reins of the State fall in the wrong hands, then the State would have Gunda Raj and government employees would have to pay 'Gunda Tax'.

He stressed that unrest in the State would create problems for everyone which was why change should be constructive and not for destruction.

"I have never misused the power given by the people of Sikkim but has always used it to serve them and fulfill their every hope and aspiration," he added. He said leaders should be able to provide solutions instead of just criticising and instigating the people.

While mentioning that the State government has decriminalised the use of contraband substances, he mentioned that the government recognizes that drug addiction was a disease and could be treated.

He added that the government has made policies to make Sikkim a substance abuse free state. On the same, he also urged parents to give adequate love and care and time to their children and remain in constant touch.

He further urged teachers to take the full responsibility of students to guide them better.

Mr Chamling mentioned that the State government has been taking everyone together. On the same, he announced that next SDF government would make more programmes to bring the LGBTQ&I community into the mainstream.

He further that sex education would be introduced in schools in the next government.

No Seats, No Election...

LTVC has also called upon the two communities to distinguish between the value and significance of SDF promising to field five candidates from the community and five seats reserved by the Constitution.

SSS scoffs at Govt..

comment or express his views on the constitutional provisions as granted under Article 371F to the people of Sikkim," the release concludes.

The Principal Secretary is alleged to have commented that the Registration of Companies [Sikkim] Act of 1961, an old law, was obsolete and redundant. He was clearly not aware of the passion with which Old Laws are seen in Sikkim or the complications vis a vis Direct Tax Laws that would affect companies here should this old law be repealed or replaced.

CAEPHT hosts technology and machinery demonstration mela

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 FEB:

A Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela was organized by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centers of Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture (ESA), Farm Implements and Machinery (FIM) Plasticulture Engineering Technology (PET), and Utilization of Animal Energy (UAE) operating in the College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology, Ranipool, on 15 Feb.

During the programme, three video films on demonstration of various tools, implements and machinery; use of plastics in Agriculture; and post harvest processing of ginger and other products were screened for farmers.



Farm machinery suitable for hill agriculture of Sikkim like mini tractors, light weight power tillers with different attachments like cultivator, multi-crop seed drill, puddler and potato digger, bullock-drawn implements such as wedge plough, single row and two row animal drawn planter, Bio-fertilizer cum maize planters, multi-functional animal

drawn units, manually operated ergonomically designed hand tools and other devices (Large cardamom harvesting knife, improved ladder for harvesting of oranges and pears, manually operated threshers, chaff cutter with safety devices and winnowers), small engine operated equipment and light weight rice threshers were displayed and demonstrated during the mela.

Use of solar energy through various gadgets was also displayed.

A working model of micro-irrigation system operated by gravity was a point of attraction at the mela, informs in a press release issued by Dr NS Chauhan, Prof. & PI-ESA Around 200 farmers from all four districts attended the programme, the release adds.

Farmer suicides: 90k farmers counselled in 14 Maha districts

Mumbai, Feb 17 (PTI): The Maharashtra government has said more than 90,000 farmers in 14 "suicide-prone" districts of the state have been provided "counselling" under its project 'Prerna'.

Prerna, which has been underway since 2015 to stop farm suicides, comprises social workers, psychiatrists and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist Scheme) workers among others who counsel farmers suffering depression.

An official release from the government identified these districts

as Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Hingoli, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad, Parbhani in Marathwada and Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washim, Yavatmal and Wardha in Vidarbha.

It informed that, in the last three years, 2,000 medical officers, 10,000 semi-health staff and 20,000 ASHA workers have been trained on mental health as part of the project.

These personnel, post training, have surveyed the 14 districts for counselling, the statement quoted state Health Minister Eknath Shinde as saying.

The release said 12,700 personnel have been trained as part of the project, adding that the 14 districts now have a total of 20,913 ASHA workers.

It said these ASHA workers survey villages and contact the project's helpline number in case a farmer is in need of counselling.

The release said about 26,000 calls had been received on helpline number 104.

It added that 8,000 farmers were treated individually while while 6,000 were counselled publicly.

India hikes import duty on Pakistani goods to 200 pc

NEW DELHI, FEB 16 (PTI): Taking strong economic action against Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack, India Saturday raised the customs duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from the neighbouring country, including fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products and mineral ore.

The decision would significantly hit Pakistan's exports to India, which stood at USD 488.5 million (around Rs 3,482.3 crore) in 2017-18 as it would drastically increase the prices of its goods here.

"India has withdrawn MFN (most favoured nation) status to Pakistan after the Pulwama incident. Upon withdrawal, basic customs duty on all goods exported from Pakistan to India has been raised to 200 per cent with immediate effect," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in a tweet.

The two main items imported from Pakistan are fruits and cement, on which the current customs duty is 30-50 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

Slapping an import duty of 200 per cent effectively means almost banning the imports from Pakistan, official sources said.

India on Friday revoked the MFN status to Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack. The country invoked a security exception clause of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to withdraw this status. Both the countries are member of this organisation.

India can also restrict trade of certain goods and impose port-related restrictions on Pakistani goods.

Items which Pakistan exports to India include fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products, bulk minerals and ores, finished leather, processed minerals, inorganic chemicals, cotton raw, spices, wool, rubber product, alcoholic beverages, medical instruments, marine goods, plastic, dyes and sport goods

Royal split: Princes William and Harry prepare to go separate ways

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, FEB 17 (PTI): Britain's Princes William and Harry, known to be very close, are preparing to go their separate ways, seeking a more independent path from each other in terms of their charity work and royal duties.

Courtiers hope that a formal separation of their staff may also help ease some recently-reported tensions between the brothers and their wives Kate Middleton and Meghan Markle, according to The Sunday Times.

The princes, grandsons of Queen Elizabeth II, are expected to create separate "courts" before the birth of Prince Harry's first child, due in April or May.

Until now they operated via what was referred to as a joint royal household but now they will carve out more distinctive roles for themselves.

The brothers will op-

erate through separate staff and communication teams, a move seen as a way for them to seek out a more independent path from each other in terms of their charity work and royal duties.

The division of their shared household after 10 years reflects their increasingly different responsibilities, with William set to take on additional duties as a future king after father Charles.

Harry and his pregnant wife Meghan the Duke and Duchess of Sussex will shortly move from Kensington Palace to Frogmore Cottage, on the Queen's Windsor estate. However, their new office and staff is expected to remain at Kensington Palace.

"William and Harry are working to make sure the Sussexes have an office that can support their family when they move to Frogmore this spring. This work has been under way since be-

fore last year's wedding (of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle)," a royal source was quoted as saying.

The main division for William, 36, and Harry, 34, will be of their communication teams.

"There is a gulf in the style and approach to the type of work that William and Kate will increasingly do as future head of state and consort, and Harry and Meghan, who have more of a blank canvas with their roles," another royal source said.

Prince Charles, who funds his sons' household and official work from his Duchy of Cornwall income, is understood to have insisted that the division be "cost neutral".

The brothers and their wives will continue to work together on their charitable royal foundation, Heads Together which supports mental health, veterans, conservation and vulnerable young people.

BJP using Pulwama terror strike to attack opp parties, alleges Omar

SRINAGAR, FEB 17 (PTI):

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party has "politicised" the Pulwama attack and was "using it to attack opposition parties".

Abdullah's remarks come after BJP president Amit Shah, at a rally in Assam, said "the sacrifice of CRPF personnel won't go in vain as it's not the Congress government which is at the Centre, it is the BJP which is at the Centre".

"The BJP & their pet channels shouldn't play victim now when the opposition does its political duty by highlighting the failures of the government. It's the BJP that has politicised the Pulwama attack & is using it to attack opposition parties. #Shame," Omar wrote on Twitter.

Kejriwal to visit Puducherry CM sitting on a dharna against Lt Governor Kiran Bedi

NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (PTI): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will visit Puducherry on Monday to meet his counterpart V Narayanasamy there who is sitting on a dharna outside the Raj Nivas, an official said here Sunday.

Narayanasamy, his cabinet colleagues and legislators belonging to the Congress and the DMK continued their dharna for the fifth day on Sunday protesting Lt Governor Kiran Bedi's "negative stand" towards his government's proposals awaiting her approval.

A senior Delhi gov-

ernment's official said Kejriwal, accompanied by his deputy Manish Sisodia, will meet the Panducherry chief minister at the protest venue around 12 noon Monday.

The Lt Governor and the government headed by Narayanasamy have been at loggerheads over various issues ever since Bedi assumed office in May 2016.

Narayanasamy has accused Bedi of not approving his government's 39 proposals for welfare schemes, including a free rice scheme, and on administrative matters.

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ANTYESTI KRIYA

The Antyesti Kriya of late Seeta Gautam, wife of I.K. Gautam (Ex Jt. Commissioner, Excise Deptt.), who left for heavenly abode on the 8th of Feb. 2019 falls on the 20th of February 2019 (Wednesday).



All relatives, friends, family and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence opposite Tamang Gumpa, Sichey, Gangtok.

Sons: Pramod Gautam, Binod Gautam, Subodh Gautam

Daughters-in-law: Dr. Tara Gautam, Mala Gautam, Dr. Kritika Sharma

Dewars: S.K. Gautam, R.P. Gautam, R.K. Gautam, H.K. Gautam

Daughter, son-in-law: Roma Gautam, Suresh Adhikari

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Reference No: 21/EXAM/SPSC/2019

Dated:15/02/2019

NOTICE

On the basis of marks obtained in the Class-room Demonstration & Viva Voce/Interview for filling up various faculty positions in Sikkim Government Pharmacy College, Sajong, East Sikkim under Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim as advertised vide no: 19/SPSC/EXAM/2019 Dated: 21/12/2018 through Direct Recruitment, the following candidates are hereby declared qualified in order of merit and the names are recommended for appointment.

For the post of Lecturer/ Assistant Professor		
Sl No.	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	SUBJECT
1.	ANGILA THEENGH	(PHARMACOLOGY)
2.	SHAILEE DEWAN	(PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY/ ANALYSIS)
3.	BANDANA SHARMA	(PHARMACEUTICS)
4.	PEM LHAMU BHUTIA	(PHARMACOLOGY)
5.	ANISH PRADHAN	(PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY/ANALYSIS)
6.	SONAM BHUTIA	(PHARMACOGNOSY)
7.	ANAMIKA KOIRALA	(PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY/ANALYSIS)
8.	JIRAN SHARMA	(PHARMACEUTICS)

The candidature of the candidates as shown in the list is **provisional**, subject to the police verification, medical fitness and verification of all required documents by the State Government.

Sd/-

(Bimal Rai. Smt)

Controller of Examinations
Sikkim Public Service Commission.

**R.O. NO. 702/IPR/Pub/Class./18-19
Date: 16.2.2019**

WB BJP leader among three held for his daughter's kidnapping

LABHPUR (WB), FEB 17 (PTI): A local BJP leader, Suprabhat Batyabyal, and two others were arrested in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Sunday in connection with the kidnapping of his daughter, a senior police officer said.

Batyabyal's daughter, who was kidnapped at gunpoint on Thursday, was "rescued" from Uttar Dinajpur district, he said.

In a joint operation with Uttar Dinajpur police, a police team from Birbhum traced the 22-year-old woman to Dalkhola railway station area on Sunday morning, the officer said.

Batyabyal and two of

his associates were arrested after preliminary investigation indicated that they played a role in the kidnapping, he added.

"We have rescued the girl from Dalkhola this morning. She is fine and we are talking to her to find out what had actually happened. We have also arrested the girl's father who seems to have played an important role in the kidnapping," Birbhum Superintendent of Police Shyam Singh told PTI.

Asked about the motive behind the kidnapping, Singh said, "There are two aspects to it. There is a family problem, gaining political

mileage could also be the motive. We are probing the matter. We are grilling the three."

Batyabyal, who switched to the BJP from the Trinamool Congress around five months ago, was detained on Saturday night. Police came to know about his daughter's location after questioning him, a district police source said.

Before joining the TMC, Batyabal was a district committee member of the CPI(M).

His daughter's kidnapping had sparked tensions in Labhpur, with protesters blocking the Suri-Katwa road for three days.

Merit Deserves Scholarship

The inspirational quality of CMMSS should not dim

Around this time every year, the list of students selected for the Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme is released. The number of students benefitting from this scheme has grown rather consistently for every batch and now, a decade into this scheme, the bouquet must be really big and colourful. Each year, the cream of the academic crop is picked from government schools across that State and sponsored to pursue education at institutions which would otherwise have been beyond the means of the students and their families.

The only criteria for selection is merit, and that is a wonderful, and also rare, thing to have in an environment otherwise obsessed with reservations and quotas. It is another matter that the CMMSS pie is also being apportioned into quotas, but more on that some other time. For now, let's congratulate the latest group of young, fresh out of class V students who have secured for themselves the opportunity of studying in much better schools purely because that they (the students) are "so good". Such life-changing success so early in life is a rare feat and an opportunity to convince the students that it is okay to "dream big".

More youngsters should be encouraged to think big – that is the right message to share with them because thinking big underlines the exceptionally salutary Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme under which they have been selected. The scheme is barely into its ninth edition, and although the more urban centres in the State remain largely unaware of its reception, it has sent out a surge of excitement and enthusiasm in rural Sikkim. More and more parents and teachers of students enrolled in government schools in junior grades are shaking off the despondency of having to live with mediocrity and are working with their wards, sharpening their academic wits and motivating them with the opportunities now available to them, to aspire for better. The prospects created by the merit scholarship scheme have proven exceptionally effective towards inspiring a keener interest in the learning process of students in government schools and more students and parents are gearing up to seize the opportunity.

This is a welcome development, and while the genuine interest in investing in the future generation was by itself enough to merit the scheme celebratory status, the positive effect it has had on parents, teachers and students makes the CM's Merit Scholarship Scheme even more praiseworthy.

What has made the intent behind the scheme even more admirable is the willingness of the policy makers and the executive to make honest course corrections to refine the scheme and keep it transparent. The reference here is to the dodge attempted by a government school teacher who managed to show his ward, studying in a private school, as a government school student to win a berth in the merit list. The teacher and others involved were suspended from service and the merit list corrected to ensure that only children who had begun their education in government schools and remained there, received the chance to compete for selection. That was in the earlier years of the scheme. Since then, things have not been as earnest and there have been some wobbles. But that is expected in any ambitious programme being executed by less than inspired officers. The idea, however, still holds strength and its inspirational quality has not dimmed. That is praiseworthy.

It is however important that the "merit" aspect of the scheme and the transparent process are sustained, because in the event that these are subverted, the intended beneficiaries will be made to suffer a double denial in that while they are invited to dream big, they are refused a level playing field. Maybe, in later years, an open scholarship test (open to private school students as well) with fewer seats can be held so that more can partake from this distinguished effort. After all, not too many private schools offer exceptional education. That said, it goes without saying that the CM's Merit Scholarship Scheme ranks among the best initiatives undertaken for the young in Sikkim. It is exciting to think of how many more confident, proud and open minds this scheme can groom for the State in the coming years.

This scheme deserves a definite two thumbs up! And this brings one to wonder why it has not attracted wider comment from the people at large and their civil society or even the political spectrum which might be in the Opposition but is still in Sikkim?

Must the President be a Moral Leader?

MICHAEL BLAKE
theconversation.com

The best presidents – including figures such as Abraham Lincoln and George Washington – are celebrated not only as good leaders, but as good men. They embody not simply political skill, but personal virtue.

Why, though, should anyone expect a president to demonstrate that sort of virtue? If someone is good at the difficult job of political leadership, must they demonstrate exceptional moral character as well?

CHARACTER AND DEMOCRACY

Voters disagree about the extent to which the president must demonstrate moral leadership. Scholars who study political ethics disagree as well.

Those who insist that the president must be virtuous often begin with the thought that a person in that office will face new and unanticipated problems during his or her term. A president whose decision-making is informed by a consistent character; will, in the face of new challenges, rely upon the lessons that have built that character.

As scholar James David Barber wrote, the best way to understand a president's likely responses to a crisis is to understand what that president values most highly.

Abraham Lincoln, for instance, consistently and publicly referred to the same set of moral values throughout his life – values centered on a deep, while imperfect, belief in the moral equality of people. These principles provided him with guidance throughout the horrors of the Civil War.

A president whose decisions are not grounded in the right sort of ethical values may be less well-equipped to respond well – and, more importantly, might be frighteningly unpredictable in his or her responses.

Other political ethicists have emphasized the ways in which democracies can fall apart in the absence of personal virtue. Conservative thinkers, in particular, have argued that political institutions can only function when all those who participate within them are capable of compromise and of self-government. Rules, to put it simply, don't work unless people governed by those rules care about them and voluntarily choose to abide by them.

If this is true of citizens, it is even more true of the president, whose opportunities to damage the system through unprincipled actions are so much greater.

VICE AND EFFICIENCY

These arguments have been met with powerful objections. Political philosophers – including, most prominently, Niccolò Machiavelli – have argued that the nature of political life requires a willingness to demonstrate habits of character that would ordinarily be understood as vices. The good leader,

insisted Machiavelli, is morally right to do what is usually taken as wrong. He or she must be cruel, deceptive and often violent.

The philosopher Arthur Applbaum refers to this as role morality. What a person is right to do,



argues Applbaum, often depends upon the job that person is doing. The good lawyer, for instance, may have to bully, browbeat or humiliate hostile witnesses. That is what a zealous defense might require. Machiavelli notes simply that, in a hostile and brutal world, political leaders might have similar reasons to do what is usually forbidden.

Modern philosophers such as Michael Walzer have continued this line of reasoning. If the world is imperfect, and requires a politician to lie, cheat or otherwise do wrong in the name of doing good, then there is sometimes a moral reason for the politician to do that wrong.

George Washington, for example, was quite happy to engage in deception, if that deception would help protect the United States. He consistently sought to deceive his adversaries about his intentions and his resources – and, importantly, sought to deceive his own subordinates, reasoning that a lie must be believed at home for it to be useful abroad.

A president who refused to engage in this sort of deception, argues Walzer, would be choosing to keep his or her conscience clear, instead of providing some genuine and concrete help to others. Walzer's conclusion is that a good political agent must often refuse to be a good person. It is only by sometimes doing what is ordinarily wrong, that the politician can make the world better for all.

VIRTUE, VICE AND THE PRESIDENCY

These ideas have, of course, been a part of many long-standing debates about presidential morality. Henry Kissinger, for instance, defended the Nixon administration's decision to seek the firing of the special prosecutor, based upon the need for that administration to present itself to the Soviet Union as both powerful and unified.

It was not necessary, Kissinger wrote later, that the American leadership displayed personal virtue. It was enough that their decisions enabled a society in which the American people were capable of demonstrating that virtue.

More recently, many evangelical supporters of President Trump have used the Biblical story of Cyrus the Great, an ancient Persian king, to explain their continued support for the president. Although Cyrus was not himself Jewish, he chose to free the Jews held as slaves in Babylon. Evangelical leader Mike Evans noted that that Cyrus, like Donald Trump, was an "imperfect vessel," whose decisions nevertheless made it possible for others to live as God wished them to.

So, too, some evangelicals argue that President Trump's own seeming lapses of virtue might not disqualify him from the presidency – so long as his decisions enable others to lead lives exemplifying the virtues he does not always show himself.

EFFECTIVE VICE

These debates – between those who seek a president who models ethical virtue, and those who would regard that desire as misguided at best – are likely to continue.

One thing that must be acknowledged, however, is that even the best defenses of presidential vice cannot be taken to excuse all forms of moral failure.

Machiavelli, and those who follow him, can at most be used to defend a president whose vices are effectively able to create a more ethical world for others. Not all sorts of wrongdoing, though, can plausibly be thought to have these effects.

Some vices, such as an outsized confidence, or the will to use violence in the name of justice, may be defended with reference to the ideas of Machiavelli or Walzer.

Other ethical failings, however – such as a vindictive desire to punish perceived enemies – often seem less likely to lead to good results. This sort of failure, however, appears to be common among those who have sought the presidency. It is a failure, moreover, that does not depend upon party affiliation.

In recent years, for example, both Lyndon Baines Johnson and Richard Nixon took particular delight in humiliating and degrading their political adversaries. Both, perhaps, might have been better leaders, had they been more reflective about when and how to wrong.

In presidential politics, all parties might at least agree on this much: If there is sometimes a reason to seek an ethically flawed president, it does not follow that all ethical flaws are equally worth defending.

[the writer is Professor of Philosophy, Public Policy, and Governance, University of Washington]

Adolescents have a fundamental need to contribute

ANDREW J. FULIGNI
theconversation.com

No longer children but not yet adults, adolescents need opportunities to learn and prepare for their entrance into the broader society. But, as schooling increasingly extends the adolescent period and teenagers get dismissed as supposedly selfish and irresponsible, has society forgotten an important developmental need of our youth?

As a developmental scientist who focuses on adolescence, I reviewed dozens of studies and found that this age group has a fundamental need to contribute to others – to provide support, resources or help toward a shared goal. Contributing helps them achieve autonomy, identity and intimacy – important milestones on the way to adulthood.

As teenagers grow up, their brains are developing in ways that appear to support the increasingly complex ways of thinking and behaving that underlie giving to others. And being able to make meaningful contributions predicts better psychological and physical health among youth as well as adults. I believe it's time to move away from outdated stereotypes of adolescents as only selfish and dangerous risk-takers and to consider how they are ripe for learning about contributing to others and their communities.

IT'S HUMAN NATURE TO GIVE, EVEN FOR ADOLESCENTS

For decades, economists and other scientists have asked thousands of people to play experimental games that ask people to give and share money and other resources with one another. These studies have consistently shown that adults generally will provide some resources to others – some estimates put the average at around 30 percent of their allotments – even if they don't know the recipients and expect nothing in return.

Adolescents are generous, too. Several labs around the world have reported on the tendency for youth to share at least some of their money or rewards with others in these games,

even at a cost to themselves. Studies in the Netherlands suggested that adolescents aged 9 to 18 will make a costly donation to friends between 50 and 75 percent of the time. They'll donate even to strangers at a cost to themselves between 30 and 50 percent of the time. In research our team has conducted, American adolescents agreed to give money to family at a loss to themselves about two-thirds of the time.

Add in the fact that teenagers consistently report their friends as their most frequent source of emotional and social support, and a picture emerges of adolescents as a group primed to contribute to others.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENTS FOR GOOD

The adolescent brain gets blamed for a lot of bad behavior, such as delinquency and substance use. But this reputation is undergoing a rehabilitation.

Neuroscience research shows that brain regions related to reward – such as the ventral and dorsal striatum – become more sensitive during the teen years. At the same time, they're strengthening connections to brain areas relevant for cognitive control, like the prefrontal cortex. Together these developments in the growing brain may be instrumental in the exploratory learning, creativity and cognitive flexibility essential to becoming an adult.

These regions and networks, as well as those relevant for thinking about other people, have been implicated in prosocial and giving behaviors. Our team's studies have shown that several regions – such as the ventral and dorsal striatum and the dorsolateral and dorsomedial prefrontal cortex – are active when adolescents make costly donations to their family. Among youth who place great importance on helping family, we saw even more activation in additional regions related to social cognition and in the connections between them. Other researchers have obtained similar results.

These are the very same neural networks that undergo the most change during the adolescent years.

The networks seem to be active during the complex decision-making – to whom, when, how much, do they really need it? – that can be involved in sharing resources, support and effort with others. It's tricky to work through these kinds of difficult questions. The developing brain may enable youth to learn how to make the computations necessary to answer them.

GIVING BENEFITS THE GIVER, TOO

Contribution helps givers and receivers. More and more evidence links giving and doing things for others with improved psychological and physical health. Volunteering and providing assistance has been correlated with lower mortality, fewer health problems and less depression.

And of course adolescents experience such benefits, as well. In an intriguing study, researchers randomly assigned one group of youths to participate in a program providing support and companionship to the elderly. Compared to a control group of teens, these adolescents later had lower circulating levels of inflammation – a marker known to be associated with a variety of chronic health problems.

Another study observed that helping others on a daily basis improved the mood of youth, particularly for those who suffered from higher levels of depressive symptoms. Our team even observed that adolescents were significantly happier on days in which they helped their families, due in part to their sense of fulfilling an important role in the family.

HELPING MEET THE NEED TO CONTRIBUTE

Providing youth with the opportunity to make contributions to others would seem to be a win-win: Youth gain skills and maintain well-being while communities benefit from their efforts. But are adolescents currently offered such opportunities in their daily lives?

First think about the home setting. Do families give adolescents a chance to participate in decision-making that affects themselves and their relatives? Do youth make instrumental contributions to their families,

whether through daily chores or in more substantial ways like helping siblings with schoolwork?

In the school environment, do students feel as if their opinions are valued and their suggestions are considered? Are there enough slots in student leadership and extracurricular activities to give all students the opportunity to participate?

In the broader community, people must be welcoming of adolescents' unique contributions, even when they may differ from the adults'. Are quality programs – those that allow youth to have a say – equitably available to the ethnically and economically diverse youth of today? Several national organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs of America and 4-H aim to make it so, but limited resources can be a significant hurdle.

Figuring out ways to promote youth contribution can be challenging. Decisions need to be made about the appropriate type and amount, and responsible adults sometimes need to limit what adolescents can and should do. For example, participation in student governance would be positive, but taking on excessive job responsibilities that interfere with schooling and sleep would be detrimental. These decisions likely vary according to the norms and values of each community. And people must make a conscious effort to confront parochialism, by which adolescents and adults tend to give and do more for others like themselves.

Nevertheless, at a time in history when many economies no longer depend upon child and adolescent labor, perhaps the understandable desire to protect youth has led many people to forget an important ingredient in the period of life often called the "apprenticeship for adulthood." Adolescents appear to be primed to give and contribute to others. They and our communities could benefit greatly if we collectively find more opportunities for them to do so in their daily lives.

[the writer is Professor of Psychiatry & Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles]

12th edition of World Sacred Spirit Festival to begin from Feb 22

NEW DELHI, FEB 17

(PTI): Soulful poetry of Mira Bai, Kabir, and Amir Khusrau sung to the tunes of instruments from Sweden, Mongolia, China, and Rajasthan will enthrall music lovers at the 12th edition of World Sacred Spirit Festival (WSSF).

Organised by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, the spiritual music festival will begin on February 22 at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

With artistes from India, Argentina, Iran, China, Mongolia, Sweden, Scotland, France, Anatolia, Spain, and Algeria, the three-day festival will showcase the spiritual significance of music that transcends communities, cultures, and creeds.

"It is the aim of WSSF to highlight soulful music that inspires and awakens the divine in us. It immediately brings purity into our system that inspires spiritual expression as sound reflects and affects faith and values," the organisers said in a statement.

The musical extravaganza will witness 'Timeless poetry of Kabir and Amir Khusrau' by Shujaat Khan, 'Darbari Qawwali' by Andaz Brothers, and classical guitar by Lautaro Tissera Favaloro from

Argentina among others.

The soaring rhythms of the young violinist Ambi Subramaniam, the son of L Subramaniam, will meet Rajasthani Manganiyar traditions in an ensemble jugalbandi.

Some of the other highlights of this year's festival are 'Raga on the Lake' by Mohammad Aman presenting Khayal; 'Learning Music' with Langa and Manganiyar Children and Nawab Khan; Flamenco with the Langa Tradition by Jackson Scott of Spain; Music from Anatolia Telli Turnalar; and Jodhpur Qawwali Ensemble by Irfan Tufail.

"Music always plays the most sublime role in bringing about world harmony, for music embodies the universal spirit and the oneness of our creation. Sufi and sacred traditions of music transcend the barriers of nations, nationalities and religions.

"Music embodies the universal truth that we see in universal love, universal light, universal awareness and universal wakefulness. This year too, we are bringing some of the world's finest for you to have an even more exhilarating experience of elation," Maharaja Gaj Singh II of Jodhpur- Marwar, said.

The festival will come to an end on February 24.

Jobless growth, rural indebtedness, urban chaos have made aspirational youths restless: Manmohan

NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (PTI):

The "jobless growth" has slipped into "job-loss growth", which, together with rural indebtedness and urban chaos, has made the growing number of aspirational youths restless, former prime minister Manmohan Singh said Sunday, as he hit out at the government for failing to uplift the economy to its potential. Singh asserted that the domestic challenges of India's economy were daunting in their complexity and devastating in their impact on the society.

In his convocation address at the Delhi School of Management, he said the "grave agrarian crisis, the declining employment opportunities, the pervasive environmental degradation, and above all the divisive forces at work" were some of the challenges facing the nation. "Suicides of farmers and frequent farmer agitations reflect the structural imbalances in our economy which call for serious in-depth analysis and political will to address them," the senior Congress leader asserted.

"The jobless growth slipping into job-loss growth, together with rural indebtedness and urban chaos have made the growing aspirational youths restless, he said.

The attempts at creating additional job opportunities in the industrial sector have failed as industrial growth is not picking up fast enough, he alleged.

In a scathing attack on the government, Singh said the small and unorganised sectors which were vibrant and contributing to generation of wealth and employment opportunities

have grievously suffered in the wake of the "disastrous" demonetisation and "slipshod" introduction and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"Well thought-out policy and implementation strategies are required to stimulate industrial and commercial sectors. Knee-jerk reactions and off-the-cuff announcements of grandiose schemes and unproductive projects have manifestly failed to uplift the economy to its potential," he alleged.

Singh said one of the areas of major concern in the endeavours to promote employment-oriented industry is the gap between the skills that the industry needs and the skill-sets that the graduating students possess. "We are living in a fast-changing world. On the one hand we are getting more and more integrated with the world economy and exposed to the global markets, and on the other hand we face massive economic and social challenges at home," said Singh, who was the prime minister from 2004-2014.

Changing equations among global powers and fluctuations in the markets for petroleum products and other industrial commodities and the financial markets affect India's economy more than ever before, he argued.

"Needless to stress, it is a testing time for our democratic spirit, our patience and tolerance, our capacity of managing contradictions, our resolve of ensuring inclusive growth a strong, equitable and sustainable growth," he said.

Pulwama attack: CRPF cautions people against fake pics aimed at spreading hatred



NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (PTI):

The CRPF Sunday cautioned people against "fake pictures" being circulated online of body parts of its 40 soldiers killed in the Pulwama attack, the deadliest terrorist strike on security forces in Kashmir Valley in three decades.

"It has been noticed that on social media some miscreants are trying to circulate fake pictures of body parts of our martyrs to invoke hatred while we stand united.

"Please DO NOT circulate/share/like such photo-

graphs or posts," the force said on its official Twitter handle @crpfndia.

It asked people to report any such content by sending an email to web-pro@crpf.gov.in.

Officials said a number of such photographs of badly mutilated bodies were being circulated and the development was brought to the notice of force officials after which the advisory was issued.

The paramilitary force, that has deployed about 65,000 personnel as part of 61 battalions in Jammu and Kashmir,

issued another advisory on bogus messages being circulated on social media vis-a-vis Kashmiri students based in various places in the country.

"Fake news about harassment of students from Kashmir is being propagated by various miscreants on social media. CRPF helpline has enquired about complaints about harassment and found them incorrect.

"These are attempts to invoke hatred. Please DO NOT circulate such posts," it said in its second post on Twitter.

Investigators suspect the attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel in Pulwama on February 14 was executed by a 'lone wolf' Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist by blowing up a 20-kg-strong RDX mix explosive, laden in a car, next to a troop-carrier bus plying as part of a convoy on the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

The impact of the blast was so strong that the bodies of the soldiers were blown to smithereens and flung many feet away from the site of explosion.

14 more Delhi hotels to shut over fire safety violations, 71 establishments face action in 4 days



NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (PTI): The Delhi government has cancelled fire safety certificates of 14 more hotels in Karol Bagh area, taking the total number of such establishments to 71.

Delhi Home Minister Satyendra Jain said, "A total of 71 NoCs have been suspended so far. We will not compromise with fire safety. Human lives are precious and their safety has to be given top priority." The AAP government had in the past few days cancelled fire safety certificates of business establishments for various violations in Karol Bagh, where a massive fire at a hotel recently killed 17 people, and ordered their closure.

The government had issued instructions to municipal corporations and police asking them to seal these establishments in the wake of violations of fire safety norms.

The fire department had on February 13 inspected 23 hotels, out of which 13 were found to be violating fire safety norms.

On Thursday, 22 hotels were checked, out of which 17 were found to be violating laid down rules. On Friday, Jain, who heads the fire department, said that this drive would continue across the national capital.

FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

Between Transformation and Conservation

RONGNYOO LEPCHA

It had been eight years since I last visited this place. The last time I was here was when my grandmother on the maternal side passed away. The place is as rugged as I remember white soil, beige grass swaying in the wind and autumn coloured trees. Since we always visited the village during winters, I remember only the cold winter wind blowing hard in the mornings and evenings. We used to play in the white soil when we were children till our legs and cheeks were chapped.

This is my mother's village situated far from the main town of Kalimpong. We would have to walk for miles to reach my mother's home. We rode the bus going towards Siliguri which would drop us at 27th Mile and then we had to take the ropeway to cross Teesta. I still remember the urge to jump, as the single seats with the capacity to hold two to three people swayed as people climbed on, with nothing but a single thin iron bar in the front as the only safety feature.

It would take us to the far end of Shep Khola. On the way we could see that water glittering in the sunlight as it moved. The forest below would be alive with wild fowls foraging with their young ones, sometimes we could see Porcupines and on other times just the stillness of the forest. As we got down we had to walk hours on a kutchra path used by the villagers on the other side of Teesta to come to town. The journey took several hours of trekking with our loads.

For years, this was the only route to my mother's home. Then, slowly the road came in. A kutchra road was sculpted through the hills which went through Lava, Kafer and finally reached Suruk. It took almost five hours through this route. After some years, another route was opened through Relli and this shortened the travel time to three hours. Now, with the NHPC Dam on Teesta, from 27th Mile we can reach Suruk within two hours.

This saves a lot of time for the people and with this accessibility, the village is finally blessed with electricity. It is another matter that Suruk has had electricity only for three years even though it was promised ages ago.

I still remember an electricity post being brought into the village in 2006 when I was spending my winter vacations there. Electricity reached the village only in 2016, ten years after all the preparations and promises were made. Inability on the part of the governing bodies or just disinterest? It's hard to say, but looking at the development of the neighbouring areas it is pretty clear it's the latter.

As roads came, many received employment and the opportunity to earn beyond subsistence farming. People started leaning towards more profitable equacts and are slowly casting aside the traditional crops and agricultural practices, and why not? Everybody



has to earn in order to survive in the fast developing world. Cardamom and Tiger Grass are the main produce of the village which are sold to merchants from Siliguri. The Tiger grass is carefully plucked during the harvest season in the winters, and dried for several days, and then sold.

For many years, the village had its own struggles



connecting with the outside world and now, finally, the dream has become a reality. But the same road that connected it to the outside world has also taken away something. The younger generation have all travelled out of the village in search of better education and better employment opportunities. The village is left only with the older generation and the very

young, creating a gap of knowledge as there is no one to pass the knowledge. The traditional knowledge is held by the older generation, which, by the time people realise will have passed on and since the next generation is not present to grasp the knowledge it will not be passed on to the next.

There are many consequences which came along with development. The dam has had an adverse effect on the climate of the village. People in the village say they are facing much colder and severe winds during the winter. This might be only a slight change, but for the environment of that place it will have an adverse effect in times to come. Some species of flora and fauna will not be able to cope up with these changes and will perish. Also because of the dam, migratory fish cannot travel upstream to the tributaries to lay their eggs so they are no more fish in the tributaries. I still remember the time before the dam when there was an abundance of fries which could be seen during the winter. As it was the hatching period, every stream used to be full of fries.

Because of the changes in the environment, the cultural practices of the village and the community will eventually change. No more fish means no more practice of traditional fishing techniques and the change in environment will eventually lead to the loss of the indigenous crops, ultimately the traditional ways will change. All these at the cost of development. We cannot blame people for changing, we cannot stop changes, we cannot stop development, but as researchers we can only focus on documenting what is still there and the only help we can give is by spreading awareness. It is truly a predicament that on one hand we all crave to be equipped with the latest technologies and want development and on the other we want the old ways to survive, expecting people of the rural areas to preserve the old ways but in this we forget we are all equally human and they also deserve the taste of development as much as we do.

[the writer is a researcher with the Deptt of Anthropology, Sikkim University]

Sri Lanka sensation Perera hailed for Test-winning heroics

COLOMBO, FEB 17 (AFP): Kusal Perera became a national hero in Sri Lanka on Sunday after scoring an unbeaten 153 to guide his country to a sensational first Test victory in South Africa.

The country's cricket legends and politicians lauded Perera, who has become a linchpin for the ailing national side since fighting off doping charges in 2016.

Former skipper Kumar Sangakkara, who had staunchly defended Perera when he was suspended in December 2015, called the performance at Kingsmead in Durban on Saturday "unreal". "What an amazing win," Sangakkara said on Twitter. "One of the best if not THE best overseas win by (Sri Lanka). Kusal Janith Perera was unreal."

Sangakkara stood by Perera when he was wrongfully accused of



doping in 2015. The International Cricket Council lifted the suspension in 2016 and apologised for the botched testing.

Another former Sri Lanka skipper Maheela Jayawardena said on Twitter: "What a beauty!

One of the best innings under pressure." Jayawardena said Perera, who put on a last wicket partnership of 78 had shown "intelligence and mental strength".

Perera scored 67 in an unbroken last-wicket

stand with Vishwa Fernando which gave his underdog team a sensational victory.

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe also took to Twitter to hail the

win. "Congratulations to our cricket team on snatching a victory from the jaws of defeat," Sirisena said.

"Kusal Janith Perera makes mother Sri Lanka very proud today! Keep fighting! "Great spirit by @kusaljperera and all the youngsters #SAvSL," added Wickremesinghe while thanking the national side which has been the butt of jokes due to poor recent results.

"U beauty", said Sports minister Harin Fernando on Twitter.

Sri Lanka won the World Cup in 1996 and since has been plagued by management scandals, allegations of corruption and player squabbling.

They were swept 3-0 in a home Test series against England last year and were then beaten in Australia and New Zealand.

Kohli maintains top spot in ICC Test batsmen chart, Pujara on third spot



DUBAI, FEB 17 (PTI): India captain Virat Kohli remained on top while teammate Cheteshwar Pujara managed to hold on to his third position in the latest ICC Test rankings, where Sri Lankan Kusal Perera made a quantum leap of 58 places.

Kohli is leading the chart with 992 rating points ahead of New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson (897 points) and Pujara (881). Besides Kohli and Pujara, no other Indian feature in the top 10 list.

The left-handed Per-

era has reached a career-best 40th position after 15 Tests, scoring 51 and an unbeaten 153 that guided his team to an improbable win, partnering in the highest ever unbroken 10th wicket stand in a winning cause in first-class cricket.

He added 78 runs for the last wicket with Vishwa Fernando (six not out) to beat an 83-year record set by the Australians against Madras in February 1936.

In the bowlers' list, Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins has overtaken Kagiso Rabada to

grab the top spot.

Cummins is the first from his country since Glenn McGrath's pole position in the list, back in February, 2006.

Cummins is leading the bowlers table ahead of England's James Anderson and Rabada of South Africa.

Among the bowlers list, India's Ravindra Jadeja is placed at the fifth spot with 794 points. Jadeja also features in the all-rounders' list at the third position ahead of West Indies' Jason Holder and Shakib-Al Hasan.

Tefera sets indoor world record in 1,500m



BIRMINGHAM, FEB 17 (AP): Ethiopian teenager Samuel Tefera broke a 22-year-old indoor world record in the 1,500 meters on Saturday, clocking 3 minutes, 31.04 seconds at the Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix.

The 19-year-old Tefera, who won the indoor world title in the distance in Birmingham last year, went past countryman Yomif Kejelcha as the duo entered the final bend and had the stronger finish to win by 0.54 seconds. He shaved 0.14 off

the old mark of 3:31.18 set by Moroccan great Hicham El Guerrouj in February 1997.

"I can't believe that," Tefera said. "I'm delighted with the outcome and to have the world record is a special feeling."

Kejelcha had said before the meet that he was aiming to break the record, after coming within 0.01 seconds of setting a new world mark in the indoor mile last week at the Millrose Games.

El Guerrouj still holds the outdoor world record of 3:26.00, set in 1998.

Britain's Laura Muir also pleased the home crowd by beating the national women's indoor record in the mile, which had stood since 1988.

Muir finished in 4 minutes, 18.75 seconds, shaving more than 5 seconds off the old mark set by Kirsty Wade 31 years ago. It was the third fastest indoor mile of all time by a woman. "To run one of the fastest runs ever, a British record and a win in your final race before the (European) championships is perfect," Muir said.

Yamaguchi has good chance of winning All England title: Morten Frost



Guwahati, Feb 16 (PTI): PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will be once again gunning for their elusive All England title but legendary Dane Morten Frost wants to bet on Japanese Akane Yamaguchi, walking away with the coveted silverware at the blue riband event next month.

India will look to break an 18-year-old jinx, when Saina and Sindhu take court at next month's Championship. Frost believes that although there won't be any clear favourites but he is read to stick his neck out for the young Japanese woman.

India's last All England champion was current chief national coach Pullela Gopichand in 2001 while the legendary Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to achieve the rare feat in 1980.

"It is totally unpredictable in women's singles where anything can happen. In all honesty, you have to accept that Tai Tzu Ying has not really performed when it matters. I'm a great fan of her game you get tears in your eyes when she plays such a beautiful game. But she hasn't won any big title," Frost told reporters.

Frost, an All England 'legend', having played eight finals and won four of them, observed as to why he doesn't consider Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu as a contender while zeroing in on Yamaguchi.

"... and then you have a player like (Akane) Yamaguchi she can beat them all on a good day. She can run them to the ground. When you look at the All England, it's a slow hall, you have to work really hard. It's definitely in favour of a player of the style of Yamaguchi," said the 60-year-old Dane.

"You would never say she would be the favourite to win, especially if you see her performance in last 4-5 tourna-

ments. But to me, if she is well-prepared, she is definitely one of the favourites," he added.

Talking about men's singles, Frost named Kento Momota and Chen Long as two players who are expected to reach last four stage.

"There are some players more favourite than others. Kento Momota is up there, he is playing very consistently, I will be surprised if he is not there in the semi-final.

"I think Chen Long will also be in semi-final. Whether (Viktor) Axelsen can raise his game is a question mark. At the moment, he is not playing so well. Shi Yuqi is very much up and down. Also Ginting can create an upset, so that's how I see it."

Frost feels India should be proud of producing players such as Saina Nehwal, P V Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap and Kidambi Srikanth.

"The big breakthrough in Indian men's singles was through Kashyap. He was the first one to make himself notice. Saina came as well in women's singles and became good role model and that had a great influence on what happened in last 10 years," he said.

With four titles in 2017, Srikanth emerged as the brightest face in India's men's singles and Frost said it is a phenomenal.

"If you look at the playing abilities of players from different countries, it is phenomenal. When it comes to men's singles -- Lee Chong Wei, Lin Dan and Peter Gade, Taufik Hidayat and so on - they have been dominating for long time. So the mere fact that you have one payer who is winning big international title, you should be thankful.

"I think Sameer (Verma) is coming nicely, he is 11 or 12 in the world, which is pretty awesome."

Frost was in Guwahati to spot talent at the Senior Nationals as part of a 90-day coaching assignment with Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy and Olympic Gold Quest, singled out Assam's Ashmita Chaliha as one for the future.

"I must say I was very impressed with Ashmita," Frost said of the 19-year-old, who gave Sindhu a good fight before losing 10-21, 20-22 in the semifinals.

"I think she's got enough potential to make sure you push her to go and play international badminton. I am not talking about big tournaments, but lower-level international tournaments to get her some exposure, to give her opportunity to grow and gain experience.

"She's got a lot of beautiful shots, she plays a very nifty game. She has got beautiful technique." Frost, however, said player "burn out" is a major issue in most countries.

"Every single country has the same issue. How to translate the juniors into seniors. We all have a million world champions when they are 12. But when they are 18-19, suddenly there is maybe only one left," he rued.

"A lot of players are burning out. It is always about maintaining the hunger to win titles. For many, it could be advantageous to peak a bit later than so early. Of course, Lee Chong Wei is odd one out but a lot of players are stopping at 27-28 because they don't find the motivation to carry on," he said.

India have struggled to do well at the All England championship but Frost has won the prestigious title four times in eight final appearances.

"I was stubborn enough. I think it's very important to be stubborn as a sportsperson. I learned that very early in my so-called career.

Boult, Mahmudullah fined for misconduct



CHRISTCHURCH, FEB 17 (AFP): New Zealand bowler Trent Boult and Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah have been fined for breaching cricket's code of conduct during the second

one-day international in Christchurch. Boult was fined 15 percent of his match fee for an "audible obscenity" while Mahmudullah was fined 10 percent for "abuse" of equipment for striking the fence with

his bat while leaving the field after his dismissal, the International Cricket Council said Sunday.

Both players had one demerit point added to their disciplinary records of a first offence.

ICJ to hold public hearings in Kulbhushan Jadhav case from Monday amid fresh Indo-Pak tensions

The Hague, Feb 17 (PTI): Amidst fresh Indo-Pak tensions, top legal eagles of the two countries will present their arguments in the high-profile Kulbhushan Jadhav case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) here from Monday during four days of public hearings.

Jadhav, a retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017.

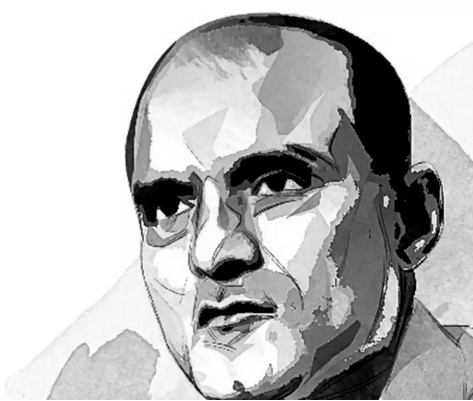
India moved the ICJ in May the same year against the "farfical trial" by the military court of Pakistan against 48-year-old Jadhav.

India first approached the ICJ on May 8, 2017 for the "egregious violation" of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 by Pakistan by repeatedly denying it consular access to Jadhav.

A 10-member bench of the ICJ, which was set up after World War II to resolve international disputes, on May 18, 2017 had restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav till adjudication of the case.

The ICJ has set a timetable for the public hearing in the high-profile case from February 18 to 21 in The Hague.

The hearings at the ICJ will take place four days after one of the worst terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 41 CRPF soldiers. The terror attack happened when a sui-



cide bomber of Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) blew up an explosive-laden vehicle near a convoy of CRPF buses in Pulwama district on Thursday.

India on Friday summoned the Pakistan high commissioner to issue a very strong demarche over the terror attack. On Saturday, India hiked the customs duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from Pakistan, following revocation of the Most Favoured Nation status following the Pulwama attack.

Former solicitor general Harish Salve is expected to represent India while Pakistan will be represented by Barrister Khawar Qureshi at the ICJ.

While India will argue first on February 18, Pakistan will get its chance to make submissions on February 19. Then India will reply on February 20 while Islamabad will make its closing submissions on February 21.

It is expected that

the ICJ's decision may be delivered by the summer of 2019.

While maintaining that India remains committed to make all possible efforts to secure and protect the rights of Jadhav, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar did not make public New Delhi would take at The Hague.

"India will present its case before the court. Since the matter is sub judice it is not appropriate for me to state our position in public. Whatever we have to do, we will do at the court," Kumar said last week in New Delhi in response to a question.

Pakistan's Attorney General Anwar Mansoor would lead the Pakistani delegation at the ICJ while Director General South Asia Mohammad Faisal would lead the Foreign Office side.

Ahead of the hearing, a senior Pakistani official said that his country is committed to implement

the decision of the ICJ in the Jadhav case.

"We are fully prepared with our strongest evidence being the valid Indian passport recovered from Commander Jadhav with a Muslim name," the official said.

Both India and Pakistan have already submitted their detailed pleas and responses in the world court.

In its written pleadings, India accused Pakistan of violating the Vienna Convention by not giving consular access to Jadhav arguing that the convention did not say that such access would not be available to an individual arrested on espionage charges.

In response, Pakistan through its counter-memorial told the ICJ that the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 applied only to legitimate visitors and did not cover clandestine operations.

Pakistan had said that "since India did not deny that Jadhav was travelling on a passport with an assumed Muslim name, they have no case to plead."

Pakistan said that India did not explain how "a serving naval commander" was travelling under an assumed name. It also stated that "since Jadhav was on active duty, it is obvious that he was a spy sent on a special mission".

In its submission to the ICJ, Pakistan had stated that Jadhav is not

an ordinary person as he had entered the country with the intent of spying and carrying out sabotage activities.

Pakistan claims that its security forces arrested Jadhav from restive Balochistan province on March 3, 2016 after he reportedly entered from Iran. However, India maintains that Jadhav was kidnapped from Iran where he had business interests after retiring from the Navy. Jadhav's sentencing had evoked a sharp reaction in India.

Pakistan had rejected India's plea for consular access to Jadhav at the ICJ, claiming that New Delhi wants the access to get the information gathered by its "spy".

However, Pakistan facilitated a meeting of Jadhav with his mother and wife in Islamabad on December 25, 2017.

In the pictures issued by Pakistan after the meeting, Jadhav was seen sitting behind a glass screen while his mother and wife sat on the other side. They spoke through intercom.

Later, India accused Pakistan of disregarding cultural and religious sensibilities of Jadhav's family members under the pretext of security by removing the mangal sutra, bangles and bindi of his mother and wife before they could meet him. India also asserted that Jadhav appeared coerced and under considerable stress during the tightly-controlled interaction at the Pakistan Foreign Office.

Cash-strapped Pakistan rolls out red carpet for Saudi crown prince



SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, FEB 17 (PTI): Amid heightened security, cash-strapped Pakistan was Sunday ready to receive Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, whose maiden trip to Islamabad was delayed by a day for unknown reasons.

Unease ran in the government circles in Islamabad that the Saudi prince might call off the trip due to security reasons after building up of tensions between Pakistan and India following a terror attack on soldiers in Kashmir on Thursday, according to officials privy to the developments.

But there was a sigh of relief when the Foreign Office announced on Friday night that the de-facto ruler of the Gulf Kingdom will arrive on Sunday.

No reason was given for the rescheduling of the planned arrival of the prince. However, the duration of two-day was not curtailed, nor the meetings and investment plans.

The crown prince was due to reach Pakistan on Saturday, but his arrival was delayed for a day.

Saudi Arabia on Friday said it stood with India's fight against terrorism and extremism and denounced as "cowardly" the attack carried out by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror group in Jammu and Kashmir that killed at least 40 CRPF soldiers.

The crown prince, who is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Imran Khan,

will be accorded a red carpet welcome and presented a guard of honour at the PM House after his arrival at Noor Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

According to official media, the prince will be received by Prime Minister Khan and members of his cabinet at the air base. He will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation, including members of Saudi Royal family, key ministers and leading businessmen.

This will be his first official visit to Pakistan since his elevation to the position of crown prince in April 2017.

During his visit, Muhammad bin Salman, colloquially known as MBS, will meet President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will sign a number of agreements and MoUs in diverse sectors.

According to Advisor to PM on Trade, Razzak Dawood, agreements worth between USD 10-15 billion will be signed, including one about Saudi investment to build an oil refinery. The refinery once ready will help to save about USD 1.25 billion in imports bills.

The two sides will also set up an advisory council led by the crown prince and the prime minister of Pakistan to follow up the agreement signed so that they are implemented on time.

Special arrangements were made in Islamabad to accord a warm welcome to the prince and his entourage on their arrival.

Big portraits of MBS, King Salman, Prime Minister Khan and President Alvi have been erected on Constitution Avenue in Islamabad.

Banners and posters inscribed with slogans of Pak-Saudi friendship and fraternity have also been put on display along the roads.

A big portrait of the crown prince, 120 feet tall and 45 feet wide, was also installed on the parliament building.

Locally built JF-17 Thunder jets will escort the plane of the prince after it entered Pakistani airspace.

Elaborate security arrangement were made and the routes leading to Red Zone where all important government offices and diplomatic missions were located was sealed for common public.

A four-tier security arrangements have been made for the prince. The outer most tier will be manned by police, the second by paramilitary Ranger, the third by the army and the fourth and inner most by the royal guards of the prince.

The prince will also use about 130 royal guards. A 235-member delegation of the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), led by Pakistan's former army chief General Raheel Sharif, is in the capital to ensure foolproof security.

A holiday was declare for Monday to avoid tension for workers and students as more than 1,000 security check points were set up in the city and at entry places.

Heather Nauert withdraws her nomination for US envoy to UN

WASHINGTON, FEB 17 (PTI): In a surprise move, State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert withdrew her nomination to replace Indian-American Nikki Haley as the top US diplomat at the United Nations, amid criticism by Democrats for her lack of diplomatic experience.

Nauert, 48, a former Fox News anchor, issued a statement on Saturday citing family reasons for her decision.

"I am grateful to President (Donald) Trump and Secretary (Mike) Pompeo for the trust they placed in me for considering me for the position of US Ambassador to the United Nations," Nauert said. "However, the past two months have been gruelling for my family and therefore it is in the best interest of my family that I withdraw my name from consideration, she said.

Naurett said her two years with the administration had been "one of the highest honours of my life and I will always be grateful to the President, the Secretary, and my colleagues at the State Department for their support."

State Department Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino said President Trump will make an announcement about a new nominee soon.

Pompeo said she had performed her duties as a senior member of his team "with unequalled excellence".

British-Indian chef plans restaurant celebrating Northeast cuisine in UK



ADITI KHANNA LONDON, FEB 17 (PTI): One of Britain's well-known Indian chefs, Atul Kochhar, is set to open a new restaurant in the heart of London next month that will celebrate the cuisine of the Seven Sister states of the Northeast of India.

Kanishka, named after the second-century Kushan dynasty king known for his Buddhist values, aims to introduce diners to lesser-known regions of Indian food, showcasing cuisine from the country's more remote territories and borders.

Kochhar, the first Indian chef to receive the prestigious Michelin star, is known for his use of regional Indian flavours alongside British produce.

"Kanishka is a very exciting project for us it's a great opportunity to continue to showcase Indian flavours alongside quality British produce, but also introduce London's diners to the

unique flavours of territories previously unexplored by Indian cuisine in the UK," said Kochhar.

The menu at the new 127-seater restaurant, set for a mid-March opening, will explore the flavours, ingredients and cooking methods of the Northeast states, as well as the influences on these by neighbouring countries such as Nepal, China, and Bangladesh.

It would have a bar, a terrace at the front, and an intimate, 12-cover garden room downstairs.

Using seasonal and locally-sourced British produce where possible, signature starters will include the likes of Kachela Maas a Sikkim inspired venison tartare with mustard oil mayonnaise, naan crouton and onions, with mains such as Samundri Khazana Alleppey a dish of pan seared seafood, Alleppey sauce and smoked cabbage poriyal.

Desserts will also showcase unique Indian flavours with the likes of

a Chocolate Rasmalai, a milk-based dessert popular in eastern India and neighbouring countries.

Expert mixologists at the bar will create signature cocktails such as "Roast Banana Old Fashioned", made from Tandoor-roasted banana with cinnamon, orange and pecan bitters.

"Kanishka's 'World of Imagination' puts the mixing in the hands of the drinker, allowing customers to create their own highball drink from a menu of herb and spice distillates, mixed with a choice of naturally flavoured tonic waters and their spirit of choice," a restaurant spokesperson said.

"For something stronger, an extensive whisky menu showcases over 50 types of whisky, with a unique selection sourced from India," the spokesperson added.

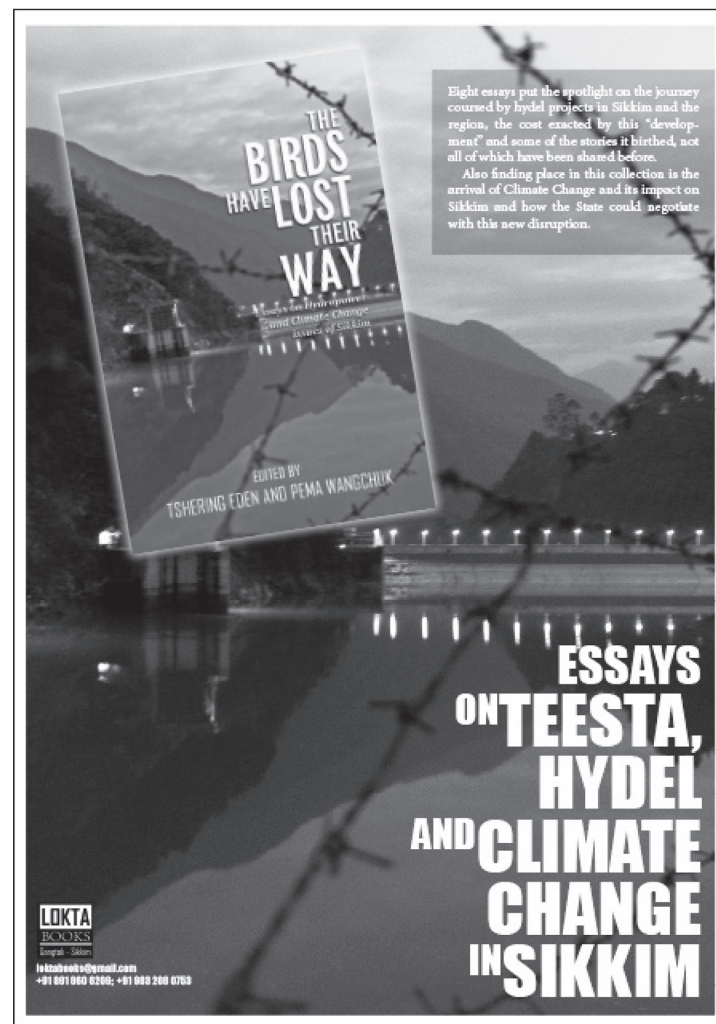
Kochhar first hit the London spotlight upon winning a Michelin star at the acclaimed Tamara diner in London's

posh Mayfair in 2001. He left to open Benares nearby in 2002, which was awarded its own Michelin star four years later. He is also a regular on television cookery shows as an expert chef and a cookery book author.

Kanishka will mark his first venture with Tina English, an innovator of London's Indian dining scene, and claims to be inspired by the ancient Indian ruler's use of Buddhist values of including kindness, fairness, honesty, humbleness and a sense of equality.

The spokesperson said: "These themes are explored through the interiors, designed by Fabled Studio with the aim of creating a nostalgic sense of ritual and tradition."

"Guests will be greeted by whimsical topiary elephants and an antique front door, whilst inside will feature verdant foliage against calming shades of blue and intricate beaded details."





ANGELINA JOLIE: The Oscar winner shows off her glowing smile while shopping on Melrose Ave.

Need to learn mindset of audience to grow as an actor, says Ajay Devgn

MUMBAI, FEB 17 (PTI): Ajay Devgn says content driven cinema is not a new phenomenon in Bollywood and the actor believes the only difference is that such films have started doing well commercially. The actor cites the examples of films such as “Zakham” and those made by Prakash Jha to prove his point.

“We did ‘Zakham’ long back, Prakash Jha has been making such films also for a very long time. Every time they say change has come in terms of content, I wonder why talk about it. Such cinema has started working after multiplexes have come.

“So earlier these films won’t do business but now they have started working and that is the only difference. Things are happening at it’s pace, you can’t decide ‘I will change’ or ‘things need to change,’” Ajay told PTI. In such a scenario, Ajay believes actors “need to upgrade themselves through their work as the taste and preferences of audience is changing.”

“They (audience) are changing and you (actors) have to change with time. Today the way my daughter thinks and I think is completely different. I try to grasp from what she is thinking.

“I try to learn what is the mindset



and thought process of people today. Emotions are the same but the way we emot and they emot is different, they react to things differently. And we need to learn that for cinema and for ourselves.”

The 49-year-old superstar says the audience is only interested to see good cinema right now. “They need to

be engaged, entertained. And entertainment just doesn’t mean laughing. Like ‘Uri: The Surgical Strike’ engages you, you feel the high. It works, it doesn’t have any song or dance. It connects with the audience. The connect should be there with the audience.”

In his over two decade long career, Ajay has starred in films like “Phool Aur Kaante”, “Jigar”, “Vijaypath”, “Dil-jale”, “Pyar Toh Hona Hi Tha”, “Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam” before moving on to projects like “Omkaara”, “Gol-maal” and “Singham” series, “Raid” among others. For Ajay, it is essential to grow as an entertainer and as a human being. “I live in the moment. I always did that and will always do. I need to understand what is happening today. I need to understand what today’s generation thinks and how they react to things as that is the reason you can survive as an entertainer.

“You have to grow with them, understand them and adapt yourself accordingly. Because you are living

in today’s world and not yesterday’s world,” he adds. In the current era, where films headlined by Bollywood bigwigs often failing at the ticket window, Ajay says he decides whether to go for remuneration or profit sharing depending on the film.

“We all are sensible and we know what the budget is. It is about how much the film can afford, if the film has recovered it’s money then we take some percentage (of profit).

“Like if I do a ‘Raid’, I know how much it is going to recover so you decide accordingly so that the pressure is not on the producer and on the film.”

Currently, the actor is busy promoting his upcoming film “Total Dhamaal”. He has an interesting line up including “De De Pyaar De” with Tabu, “Taanaji: The Unsung Warrior”, “Chanakya” with Neeraj Pandey, a biopic on the legendary football coach Syed Abdul Rahim and Luv Ranjan’s film with Ranbir Kapoor.

When legendary Ameen Sayani failed to clear AIR’s Hindi audition test!

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI): Legendary Ameen Sayani started his career as an English broadcaster but when he went for an audition for AIR’s Hindi section, he was told after the test that there are hints of English and Gujarati in his accent and he cannot be recruited.

But Sayani was not someone to be disheartened and went on to become one of India’s most loved radio presenters. Scriptwriter Rakesh Anand Bakshi has come out with a new book “Let’s Talk on Air: Conversations with Radio Presenters” in which he chronicles Sayani’s journey along with 13 other popular radio jockeys including Yunus Khan, Rohini, Mamta Singh, Sayema, Hrishikay Kannan, Anuraag ‘picture’ Pandey and Anmol.

Sayani was born in Mumbai in a multilingual family on December 21, 1932 and further seeped in a ‘Bambai ki khichdi Hindustani bhasha’ (Mumbai’s porridge of Hindustani language).

“My early schooling was at New Era School, which used Gujarati as a medium in the primary standards, with more emphasis on the English language creeping in from fifth grade on,” he says in the book, published by Penguin.

He also started writing small pieces for his mother’s fortnightly journal called “Rehbar” that used three scripts - Devanagari, Gujarati and Urdu.

Sayani says by the age of 13, he had already become a fairly proficient broadcaster in English. He started participating in children’s programmes on the English service of All India Radio Bombay and then progressed to roles in full-fledged radio plays, discussions and multifaceted narrations.

Due to some health issues, Sayani had to be shifted in 1945 from his school in Mumbai to the Scindia School in Gwalior as a boarder to study for the Senior Cambridge examination, the book says.

After independence and on his return to Mumbai, he rushed to All India Radio Bombay’s Hindi section and announced, “You’ve known me for many years as an English broadcaster, but now that India is independent, I’d like to switch over to the Hindi section. Give me an audition, please!”

They smiled and agreed. “I read my script with great confidence, but their answer was, ‘You read well, Ameen, but in your accent there are hints of English and even Gujarati. So we can’t accept you. Sor-

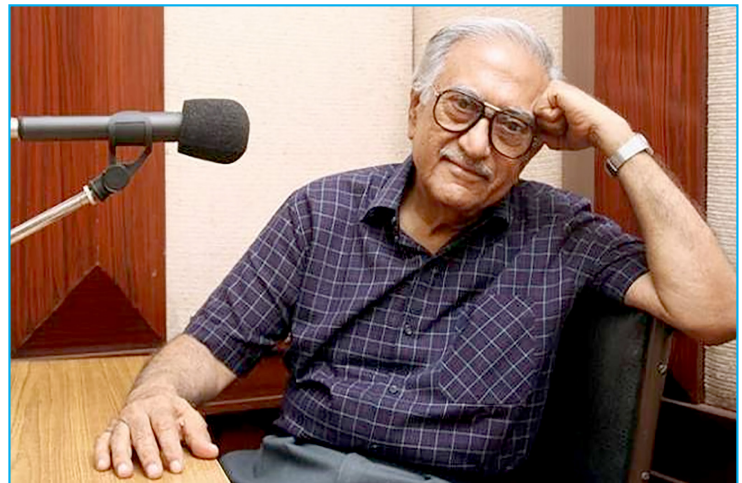
ry!’ I was heartbroken,” recalls Sayani.

However, there was hope.

“When the British left Ceylon, they had donated powerful short-wave radio transmitters that had belonged to Mount-

Hindi accent as he had already been rejected once.

Lady luck, however, smiled on Sayani as he got the job of announcer for the Ovaltine Phulwari programme.



batten’s South-East Asia Command to the people of Colombo. Ceylon took them and created commercial radio services in four languages: Sinhalese, English, Tamil and Hindi. The Hindi programmes proved to be quite popular,” he says.

“This was propelled to new heights when India’s new Minister for Information and Broadcasting, B V Keskar, had for some unknown reason banned all Hindi film songs from AIR. Thousands of great 78-rpm records were disposed of. No announcer was allowed to smile and some of those who had excelled in their sections were transferred to unfamiliar sections about which they were quite ignorant! Within three to four months, AIR’s listenership began to dwindle, and Radio Ceylon began to boom,” Sayani remembers.

It was during this time that Daniel Molina, an American living in Mumbai, saw a great opportunity to create a sole agency in India. He started an ad agency called Radio Advertising Services. To run its production wing, Molina recruited Sayani’s brother, Hamid, who was not only a well-known name in Indian broadcasting but had also served as an executive in two of India’s leading ad agencies. As soon as that happened, Sayani requested his brother to give him a chance in the Hindi section of Radio Ceylon.

But Hamid told him to improve his

During this stint, he, one day, heard about the Binaca Geetmala programme which he grabbed with both hands and the rest is history.

For Sayani, there is really no ideal way to speak on-air. However, he suggests seven Ss that will really help one become a better radio presenter - ‘sahi’ (correct), ‘satya’ (truth), ‘sara’ (simple), ‘spasht’ (clear), ‘sabhya’ (decent), ‘sundar’ (beautiful) and ‘swabhavik’ (natural and rational).

The presenters Bakshi has written about in the book are those who “put a skip in my step, a smile on my lips and tugged at a string in my heart. Some of them were responsible for my returning to listen to radio regularly after a nearly 20-year vacuum”.

Sayani’s shows began to be hosted on Radio Ceylon (which was broadcast from Colombo) in December 1952.

Binaca Geetmala was the first of its kind show in India and was conceived, crafted and hosted by Sayani. It ran from 1952 to 1994, 2000 to 2001 and then 2001 to 2003, with variations in its name.

Sayani has been aired on various stations throughout the world, from Vividh Bharati (All India Radio) to Red FM, Radio City, Big FM, Hum FM in the UAE, Spice Radio in the US, and the BBC in the UK.

REQUIRED FOR CANADA

**Nurses,
Caregivers,
Chef-Waiters-Butchers-Bakers,
Driver,
Farm Workers - Meat Packers
IT PROFESSIONAL**



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sevensseasconsultancy5@gmail.com

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ARIES: Are your emotions derailing your attempts at a healthy lifestyle, Aries? Instead of numbing the pain with a plate of comfort food or zoning out with yet another Netflix binge, get real about what you’re feeling. Avoidance won’t make the angst go away, especially if it’s wreaking havoc on your wellbeing. Reach out to a close friend or trusted relative to work out what’s been bothering you.

TAURUS: Reserve judgment Saturday, Taurus, and if that’s not possible, at least give others an opportunity to tell their side of the story. You tend to put people’s actions under review, but you could be unduly harsh with someone in your life. You never know: That cranky or unfriendly person could be struggling with a tough personal issue. Be compassionate, not critical.

GEMINI: A few frugal moves can go a long way, Gemini. Saturday’s moon in your money house draws your financial goals into the spotlight. If you’ve got your sights set on a high-ticket item, you’re going to need to pull

those purse strings a little tighter. Cut back on restaurant meals or give DIY mani-pedis a whirl. Fill up your travel coffee mug and reusable water bottle at home.

CANCER: A little exaggeration is totally harmless, right? Maybe not. With the moon in your sign Saturday, you’re prone to embellishing, which could raise some eyebrows. Skip the hyperbole lest people question your credibility. Channel that larger-than-life romanticism into one of your creative ventures: a home decor project, song lyrics, a short story. But when dealing with others, keep it real.

LEO: Your snooze button gets a workout Saturday morning as the moon lingers in your sleepy twelfth house. You’ll be a little slow on the uptake, so if you can, put off any challenging tasks until tomorrow, when la luna moves into Leo and reboots your energy. But don’t let hibernation derail ALL productivity. You’ll feel especially creative and compassionate, perfect for dreaming up DIY projects and connecting with loved ones.

LIBRA: FSaturday, the moon illuminates your ambitious tenth house, giving you laser-beam focus. If your career hasn’t been advancing as fast as you’d like, don’t despair. Saturday’s lunar energy puts you back in the driver’s seat, and you’ll start gaining momentum again. Make clarity your goal and take a phased approach. For example: What would you like to accomplish before the end of this quarter?

VIRGO: There’s strength in numbers, Virgo! Skip the solo act and pour your energy into a group effort this Saturday. If you’re part of collective that’s lost its team spirit, deliver a motivational pep talk. Is there a weak link in the chain? Meet privately to get to the bottom of things. If the slacker in question is not invested in the shared goal, you might amicably part ways.

SCORPIO: Tone down the snark, Scorpio. Under Saturday’s outspoken vibes, be extra-conscious of those edgy comments and comebacks. Your zingers could wound a sensitive soul, especially if you dip those poison arrows in truth serum. Ouch! Text

your witty one-liner to a friend instead of posting it as a status update. Or maybe chuckle silently then keep it to yourself!

SAGITTARIUS: Privacy is underrated, Archer, especially on Saturday, when the moon flies below the radar in your eighth house. Catch yourself before you mindlessly invite a friend to drop over for tea when you really just need time for yourself. And honor those confidentiality agreements! When you feel the burning need to reveal a colorful story or share a controversial opinion, count to ten instead!

CAPRICORN: Assess your most important partnerships this Saturday, Capricorn. Are the two of you communicating clearly and deeply enough? With the moon activating your relationship house, it’s a great day to have a heart-to-heart or catch up about much more than the superficial quotidian stuff. Are you on the same page about your 2019 goals and plans? Some compromises may be in order. Single?

AQUARIUS: Saturday’s stars sound the call for healthy living, but avoid the

“no pain, no gain” philosophy. You don’t need to force yourself through a deprivation-based diet or agonizing cardio class. Instead, take a brisk 30-minute walk with a friend or pet. Try a dance class or join an indoor sports team. Apply the same principle to your plate: Research nourishing recipes or sign up for a healthy meal delivery service like Sunbasket. There’s no need to suffer through another iceberg wedge and bland grilled chicken meal!

PISCES: Saturday’s passion-fueling Cancer moon can help you fearlessly express your grand ideas, including a creative project that has the potential to launch you into the public eye. Polish your image and branding, making sure they really reflect your essence. Work with a stylist or graphic designer if you need a savvy upgrade. Romance is on the lunar agenda so reserve the evening for a date night, whether you’re meeting an online prospect or trying out a new restaurant with your longtime love.