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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM visits SNT complex in Siliguri



SILIGURI, 29 JUN [IPR]: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] visited the SNT Office located in Siliguri today accompanied by Transport Minister Sanjeet Kharel and Power Minister MN Sherpa.

The Chief Minister was accorded a warm welcome by the officials.

He took stock of the overall situation and enquired about the day-

to-day functioning of the office and grievances of the officials there.

Mr Tamang stated that he would redevelop the entire SNT complex with modern facilities so that it benefits the common people by providing them faster and modern outreach. He assured all help possible from the State government for its betterment and development.

CM confers with Sikkim doctors in Siliguri Golay shares plans to open old STNM for emergency services

SILIGURI, JUNE 29:

(IPR) The Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) met 25 Doctors from Sikkim who are currently practicing in Siliguri at various hospitals. He sought suggestions from these doctors as to how the medical status of the state could be improved so that basic healthcare facilities could be provided for the benefit of the Sikkimese people.

The Sikkimese doctors shared various ideas with the Chief Minister as to the upliftment and improvisation of the current healthcare service in the state which was acknowledged by the Chief Minister with full appreciation. He also raised concern over the growing rate of



diseases such as cancer, kidney problems and heart related issues and solicited their help with valuable inputs so that it can be implemented

in the state.

The Chief Minister also shared the present government's ideas to improve healthcare services with steps

such as using the old STNM for emergency services, availability of generic medicines, better services in district hospitals and

PHCs, appointments of specialists, strengthening of manpower in paramedical and supporting staffs in medical services etc so

that basic healthcare facilities can be availed by the people at large and they will not have to travel afar for their health related issues.

Centre gives 1-yr deadline to states for rolling out one nation, one ration card'

NEW DELHI, JUN 29

(PTI): The Centre

has given a one year deadline till June 30, 2020 to states and Union Territories for rolling out the 'one nation, one ration card' system, under which beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from ration shops in any part of the country.

Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said already 10 states -- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura -- are providing portability of Public Distribution System (PDS) entitlements.

"By next June 30, 2020, 'one nation, one ration card' should be implemented without fail in the entire country. We have written letters to the state government to fast track the implementation of this system," Paswan told reporters.

The new mechanism will ensure no poor is deprived of PDS entitlement if that person shifts from one place to another. The system will also help remove fake ration card holders, he added.

Paswan further said there are 11 states, including Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, which can easily implement the PDS portability within their state as Point of Sale (PoS) machines have been installed in all ration shops.

This is one of the 100-days agenda of the Modi 2.0 government, he added.

Since November 2016, the government is implementing the National Food Security Act, under which foodgrains are supplied every month at highly subsidised rates of Rs 1 3 per kg to over 80 crore people in the country.

15 yr old kills brother for not letting him play PUB-G



Thane, Jun 29 (PTI): A 15-year-old boy from Bhiwandi in Thane district of Maharashtra allegedly killed his elder brother for scolding him over playing PUBG game on his mobile phone, police said.

The boy flew into rage when the victim, Mohammad Shaikh (19), asked him to stop playing the game on his mobile phone this morning, said senior police inspector Mamata D'Souza.

He allegedly banged the head of Shaikh against wall and stabbed him repeatedly with scissors, the officer said.

Shaikh was rushed to government hospital where he was declared brought dead.

A case has been registered under section 302 (Punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), said D'Souza.

PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds is an online multi-player battle royale game.

Bookaroo festival concludes successfully

SHRAVAN CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 29 JUN:

Bookaroo a literary festival in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts successfully organized a two-day fest here at Taktse International School on 28 and 29 of June. The first day of the event witnessed around 500 students from the town: participating in the seminars and sessions delivered by various artists.

Bandana Tulachan, Ruchira Das, Team Tapestry, Chewang Dorjee, Kavita Singh Kale, Priya Kuriyan, Praba Ram, Deepak Dalal, Shruti Rao, Neetu Sharma, Kapil Pandit, and Reshma Thapa Gurung were some of the speakers at the event along with other artists from Nepal and Bhutan.

Theatre, poems, storytelling and art



sessions were held along with a book signing program. The event was categorized according to different age groups of children. Turret, Kahani tree, doodle wall for the age group of 4-6; theatre, crafty corner, and studio for the age group of 8-10.

An exciting feature of the two-day festival was the patchwork curtain art titled "Gorgeous Gangtok" which is a curtain of paintings contributed by students

and Team Tapestry.

The second day of the fest was open for parents, children and other literary enthusiasts.

"We, at Bookaroo, just want to enhance the learning part positively among students and all we want to do is save our folklore and culture of reading. Literature festival of this type will always leave a positive impact among children," said Swati Roy [Founder and President Bookaroo

Fest]. Director, Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts Guwahati, Richa Negi, said that the goal of the fest was to create awareness among students about reading and learning.

"We are glad and thankful to the people of the town for making it such a successful fest and we hope to come back soon with more fun and entertainment," she said.

Veterans football tourney gets underway

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 29 JUN:

Veteran's Football Invitational Tournament 2019 kicked off here at Paljor Stadium on Saturday.

17 teams from within and outside the State are participating in this knock-out football tournament. The inaugural day of the tournament had Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club founder, Tenzing Lamtha, as the chief guest.

In the first match today, Pradhan Nagar Football Club of Siliguri took on Soreng Veterans and emerged victorious 2-1.

In the second match, Namcheybong Veterans outplayed Brothers Veterans 5-1.

And then, TYC Veterans of Gangtok trounced MFC Rumtek Veterans 6-1 in the last match of the day.



The week-long tournament is being organised by Gangtok-based Sikkim Boys Football Club and features veterans' teams from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri, Dooars and different parts of Sikkim.

Sikkim Boys FC general secretary, Milan Lepcha, mentioned that the main objective of the

tournament was to bring together ex-footballers from Sikkim and the neighbouring regions.

He informed that Sikkim Boys FC will also felicitate one player from each participating team during the tournament for their contributions towards the development of football in their respective regions.

Mr Lepcha said that

the club was organizing a veterans tournament for the first time and plans to make it an annual event.

He mentioned that the club has been working to provide a platform and training to young footballers to play in the State league and other tournaments within and outside the State.

In this regard, he

mentioned that Sikkim Boys FC has been promoted to play in the second division of Sikkim League.

He added that another aim of this veterans' tournament was to give people the opportunity to see the game of former national and state level players once again and to take inspiration from them.

Lynching victim Pehlu Khan's sons chargesheeted for cow smuggling

ALWAR, JUN 29 (PTI):

Two years after Haryana resident Pehlu Khan was lynched by cow vigilantes in Rajasthan's Alwar district, police here have filed a chargesheet against his two sons and a truck operator for illegally transporting cattle.

The issue triggered a row with AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi charging that the Congress in power is a "replica of BJP".

Owaisi was reacting to earlier reports that Pehlu Khan was also chargesheeted. Although the case goes back to April 2017 when the BJP was in power in the state, the chargesheet is being filed months after the Congress took over.

"The chargesheet was accepted by the court on May 24 against three persons under

the Rajasthan Bovine Animal Act. Since Pehlu Khan has died, he has not been chargesheeted," Alwar Superintendent of Police Anil Paris Deshmukh told PTI. However, Pehlu Khan's name was mentioned in a summary of the case in the chargesheet, and he was among those booked under the state's anti-cow smuggling law.

The document mentions his name in the column of accused who are not chargesheeted. It makes clear that this is because he is now dead.

Police maintained that the case against Pehlu Khan, his sons Irshad Khan (25) Aarif Khan (22) and truck operator Khan Mohammad stood proved in the investigation.

They were charged under the Rajasthan

Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995.

Pehlu Khan and his sons were thrashed by a mob on the suspicion of cow smuggling in Alwar's Behror on April 1, 2017. Khan died at a hospital in Alwar on April 3. The Rajasthan Police arrested seven men and detained two minors for the attack.

At the same time, a case was also registered against Pehlu Khan and his companions under the Rajasthan Bovine Animal Act, which allows the transportation of cattle only after getting permission from the administration.

Police had then booked 16 people for illegally transporting 36 animals in six vehicles.

turn to pg02

DC inspects Indane bottling plant and IOC unit in Rangpo

GANGTOK, 29 JUN [IPR]: District Collector, East, Kapil Meena, visited the Indane Bottling Plant at Rangpo today.

Senior Depot Manager (SDM), Rangpo Depot, R Sanal, received the DC and briefed him on the operations, safety and security aspects of the depot. The inspected the depot facilities and reviewed operations.

At the LPG plant, the DC was briefed by Plant Manager, Rangpo BP, Suman Tamang, who informed that safety & security related activities were regularly scheduled and conducted in the plant.

The DC was also



informed about the CSR initiatives of Indian Oil in the area like the construction of a toilet block at Govt Secondary School at Singlebong and supply of desktop PCs to Govt ITI School, Rangpo.

Mr Meena visited the Plant facilities and reviewed the Plant Operations along with conducting of Random Quality Check (RQC) of the cylinders being filled in the Plant.

The DC also

inaugurated the 'O' Ring leak detector (OLD) machine and Valve Leak Detector (VLD) machine. Pranabesh Patra, Operations Officer, Rangpo BP, explained the Standard Operating Procedures

(SOPs) of the machines.

The DC appreciated Indane Bottling Plant's and Rangpo Depot's efforts at maintaining continuous supply of LPG and POL products in the state and for practicing safety procedures.

Create chain of command during disasters, ensure India is no 1 in this subject: Shah

NEW DELHI, JUN 29 (PTI): A clear 'chain of command' should be in place when multiple stakeholders get on-board to combat a disaster and government agencies should ensure that India becomes a top-notch nation for managing such emergencies, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Saturday.

Officiating his first public event after taking charge of the ministry, Shah said it is important to quickly develop better resilience and capability against disasters given that India is much prone to catastrophes owing to its varied topography and expanse.

The minister was speaking at the inauguration of a two-day annual conference organised here by the NDRF on capacity building of state disaster response forces (SDRFs) in consultation with home guards, civil defence and fire services.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a federal force of the country and has 12 battalions based across various states for quick response to any emergency, manmade or natural.

Addressing the delegates at the meeting Shah said a chain of command between various agencies, stakeholders and department should be decided and formed when dealing with a

disaster.

"This is very important as I have seen a very chaotic situation emerging in absence of this protocol and order of hierarchy," he said, adding it is a big lacuna in the country's bureaucratic system that no one pays heed to the other till a formal or official order is issued.

The minister said agencies like the NDRF should not rest on their past laurels but strive to do better.

"This is now the time to work and ensure that India becomes the number one country in disaster management. The path to achieve this goal is long but that should be our target. It should be our effort that the world takes note from our best practices and counter-disaster models," Shah said.

He said the NDRF and other similar agencies should "investigate, analyse and pick errors" once they complete an operation, as this exercise will ensure that the work is completed in the true sense.

Shah asked the NDRF, an agency under his ministry, to collaborate with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and develop indigenous equipment to combat disaster not only for Indian agencies but also for neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The Home minister

assured the 12,000 personnel-strong force that the government will fulfil all their requirements for modern gadgets, equipment and infrastructure.

"It is very important to ensure that the motivation of the force's personnel working at the ground level remains high. It is they who commit their lives in the line of duty," Shah said.

He expressed concerns over increasing instances of forest fires, especially in the hills, and stressed upon the NDRF and its sister agencies to find out ways to effectively combat such instances.

He asked the agencies working in this domain to compile data of all disaster-combat equipment in the country, down to the district level, so that this information comes handy when a disaster strikes.

The minister said disaster management and combat was a "completely neglected" issue before 2000 and was taken only seriously after the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat's Bhuj.

At the event, NDRF Director General (DG) S N Pradhan said his force will be able to have its presence in virtually every part of the country by August and they were also working to have a women personnel combat component in every unit.

Criminals roaming around freely in UP: Priyanka

LUCKNOW, JUN 29 (PTI): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Saturday hit out at the Yogi Adityanath government alleging that criminals are "roaming around freely, doing whatever they wish" in Uttar Pradesh, drawing a quick retort from the police.

While the state police claimed a decline in crime, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav joined her in attacking the Adityanath government.

"The government is manipulating data to drive home the point that crime is declining," Yadav said.

State Law Minister Brijesh Pathak, when asked about Gandhi's remarks, asserted that since the formation of BJP government in the state, network of criminals has been broken.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi earlier wrote on Twitter, "In entire Uttar Pradesh, criminals are roaming around freely, doing whatever they wish. Incidents of crime continue to happen but it has fallen on deaf ears of the BJP government. Has the Uttar Pradesh government surrendered before criminals?"

She also tagged along with her tweet news headlines of different crime reports in the state.

Replying to Gandhi's tweet, the state police tweeted, "UP police has initiated strict action in serious crimes. In the past two years, 9,925 criminals were arrested and 81 killed. In action under NSA (National Security Act), property worth Rs 200 crore was seized. There has been a decline in incidents of

dacoity, murder, loot and kidnapping."

"Visible policing, strong monitoring, effective action against hardened criminals & public interaction has enabled us to win the confidence of people. Crime under all major heads is down by 20-35%. We are committed to the safety and security of citizens of the state," it added.

UP minister Pathak said, "The network of criminals has been broken in the state. Our government is acting tough on criminals. There are incidents of crime due to enmity and prompt action is taken by police wherever crime is reported."

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party chief said the state government's claim of crime control was "hollow".

"The UP government's claim of crime control is hollow. Everyday loot, murder and rape is happening in the state, but the government is mum. Police are taking law into their hands and harassing people," Akhilesh Yadav said.

He also alleged that a teenager accused of theft was tortured in the state capital.

"If such is the situation in Lucknow, one can imagine the state of affairs in other districts," he said.

After a video of two inmates flashing a countrymade pistol in the state's Unnao jail went viral on social media, the Samajwadi Party had termed the incident an "open challenge" to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The party alleged that jails in the state were in the pocket of criminals.

2017 in reducing such pollution.

In the light of recent extreme weather events and disasters, the G20 leaders recognised the urgent need for addressing complex and pressing global issues and challenges, including climate change, resource efficiency, air, land, fresh water and marine pollution, including marine plastic litter, biodiversity loss, sustainable consumption and production, urban environmental quality and other environmental issues.

The declaration said that a paradigm shift is needed where the virtuous cycle of environment and growth

Little Flower JHS students learn about traffic management



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 29 JUN:

Traffic and parking problems have become ubiquitous in urban spaces and the only places which have managed to ease the situation to more manageable levels are places where traffic cops and community representatives have worked together.

On these lines, school

children from Little Flower JHS familiarised themselves with theoretical as well as practical aspects of traffic management, ranging from traffic regulation, enforcement and road safety in a daylong awareness at Mangan in North Sikkim on Friday.

Students from classes VII & VIII assisted the traffic police in

monitoring traffic. The students also assisted the Traffic Police in maintaining a fine flow in parking zones and zebra crossings at different places like Rafong Khola, DAC, Hospital junction, above Public Ground and Upper Mangan Bazar i.e. NH31 wherein parking of private vehicles is restricted from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Lynching victim Pehlu...

They were on their way to Nuh district in Haryana from Jaipur when the cow vigilantes stopped two of the vehicles in Behror on the Jaipur-Delhi national highway, thrashing Pehlu Khan and his sons.

Amid the row over the latest chargesheet, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Saturday distanced himself from any role in the investigation.

"Investigation into the case was done during the BJP rule. If any discrepancy is found, we will get the case re-investigated," he said.

"The Congress has not changed its stand on the issue," he added, saying those who indulge in such killings on the pretext of "gau raksha" won't be spared.

Later, the CM tweeted that this was a case separate from the one related to the lynching, and was registered and investigated under the previous government. Since the three accused named in the chargesheet were not present at the time of its submission in December 2018, the district court accepted the "challan" on May 24, he said.

"However, our government will see if the investigation was done with predetermined intentions," he tweeted.

3 booked for installing Ambedkar statue 'without permission'

GORAKHPUR (UP), JUN 29 (PTI): **THREE PERSONS** have been booked for allegedly installing a statue of Dalit icon B R Ambedkar "without permission" at a public place in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district, police said on Saturday.

According to reports, some people constructed a platform at a public place in Domhar village in Sahjanwa area on Thursday night. They started performing a puja after installing Ambedkar's statue on Friday.

When the police reached the spot and tried to remove the statue, which it said was installed without any permission, the villagers opposed it, an officer said.

A s s i s t a n t Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rohan Botre reached the spot and tried to persuade the villagers, following which light force was used before removing the statue, the police said.

importance of providing financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

They recognised that improving resource efficiency through policies and approaches, such as circular economy, sustainable materials management, the 3Rs(reduce, reuse, recycle) and waste to value, contributes to the SDGs, as well as to addressing a wide range of environmental challenges, enhancing competitiveness and economic growth, managing resources sustainably, and creating jobs.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

URGENTLY REQUIRED:

Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444

PLOT FOR SALE:

Vacant plot measuring 0.38 Acres for sale at Amdo Golai, Deorali. Contact: 09717191985/097474651223

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CRITERIA - Academic qualification of minimum higher secondary pass

Complete yoga syllabus will be provided by SYVC Gangtok absolutely free of cost. After one year of basic training and service (karma yoga)/ volunteering in the Centre, the candidate would be sent for Yoga Teacher Training Course at Shivananda Yoga Ashram. After TTC, the candidate would be appointed on part time basis at the Yoga Centre in Gangtok. College students can also apply. If required, food and accommodation would be provided.

Interested candidates may contact

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A vacant plot measuring 0.38 Ha. (16552.80 sq - ft) is for sale at Amdo Golai (above the main road), Gangtok. For more information please contact - 9717191985/9474651223.

WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER.

Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

Mr. Subash Lama

Proprietor

**Hotel Parasol Residency,
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BUILDING FOR SALE

A 5 storied building with 3 floor completed having a land area of 30x70 at DABUWA, Melli road (2km from Namchi) is for sale. Rate reasonable. Interested party please contact: **6296370905, 9733284142, 8597088755.**

G20 members, except US, pledge full commitment to Paris climate deal

OSAKA, JUN 29 (PTI): Nineteen members of the G20, except the US, on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to the "full implementation" of the Paris climate deal, agreeing to look into a wide range of clean technologies and approaches.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders attending the G20 summit in the Japanese city of Osaka agreed to a climate change deal similar to that signed in Argentina last year.

As at the 2018 G20 meeting in Buenos Aires, the new declaration said that the US reiterated its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement "because it disadvantages American workers and taxpayers."

The document said the signatories to the Paris Agreement reaffirmed their commitment to its

full implementation.

To help achieve climate change prevention, the G20 nations "will look into a wide range of clean technologies and approaches, including smart cities, ecosystem and community based approaches, nature based solutions and traditional and indigenous knowledge," the final document said.

The text maintained a "similar" commitment to fight climate change as in previous declarations in Buenos Aires and Hamburg, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at a press conference at the end of the summit.

"We've succeeded after days and nights of negotiations to have again, after all, a 19 to 1 declaration, where the 19 signatory countries of the Paris agreement commit to the same things as we did in Buenos Aires,"

Merkel was quoted as saying by the Politico.

"We say that this process is 'irreversible' and we say that we have made our commitments [to cut greenhouse gas emissions] and will do a review again in 2020 to see whether we must make new commitments," she said.

The leaders discussed urgent problems with pollution, loss of biodiversity and climate change, noting the need for a shift in thinking about financing and the involvement of businesses in innovation and investment in sustainable growth.

But their declaration included a recognition of the US decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on reducing carbon emissions that lead to global warming and noted American progress from 2005 to

NPS wins ARCEIS interschool TT tourney



SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 29 JUN: Namchi Public School's Table Tennis teams [boys and girls] put in a spectacular performance in all four divisions to be crowned champions of this year's ARCEIS

[Association of Roman Catholic Educational Institutions in Sikkim] Inter-School Table Tennis tournament. The tournament was hosted by NPS and this victory makes it two in a row for NPS.

NPS's Aron Portel Biswakarma and Don Bosco School's Kunam Hangma Limboo bagged the Most Valuable Player honours in boys and girls categories for their scintillating performances.

Don Bosco School, Malbasey, was the first runner-up and St Francis' School, Jorethang, the second runner-up. The other team in the tournament was St Xavier's School, Pakyong.

Cannot interfere but will explore diplomatic channels to get shooting back in CWG: Rijiju

PATIALA, JUN 29 (PTI): Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday made it clear that the government cannot interfere in sports matter but promised to explore diplomatic channels to have shooting included in the 2022 Commonwealth Games programme. The minister, who visited the National Institute of Sports (NIS) here, said he is aware of the pullout threat made by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) after the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) left out shooting from sports programme of the Birmingham edition. The IOA had recently said it will not be averse to taking the unprecedented step

of pulling out of the Commonwealth Games. Rijiju's predecessor Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had last year written to his British counterpart as well to the CGF President, urging them to intervene and ensure that the sport remains a part of the 2022 edition. The CGF, however, had left it to the host nation, in this case England, to decide the fate of shooting, which has always been an optional sport. "I know about this pull threat by IOA. But we can't interfere much. But a sport, where India have good chance win medals, we will try and take diplomatic steps to have shooting included,"

said Rijiju. The decision to leave out shooting dealt a big blow to India which had won as many as 16 medals out of 66 in the 2018 Gold Coast CWG, and the IOA said that pulling out of the Games altogether cannot be ruled out. "Shooting is a big sport in India and for many shooters CWG is a stepping stone to Olympics two years later. It is a big setback for shooting as well as Indian sport as a whole. We have made representations to the CGF, and the government has also done that but still shooting has been left out," IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta had said recently.

Last year, National Rifle Association of India president Raninder Singh had called for India to boycott the Birmingham Games if shooting sport is not included in the roster. Meanwhile, after inspecting the facilities at the NIS, Rijiju said that the synthetic track here has outlived its life and the government was planning to relay the track. He said that the government was also exploring the possibility of various tie-ups with corporate houses to absorb national and international players so that they do not have to worry about their livelihood while playing for the country.

Plantation drive held at Chisopani



SUMMIT REPORT
SINGTAM, 29 JUN: A plantation drive was held at the area surrounding Sakyong

Chisopani JHS by Topa Chisopani Jan Kalyan Sangh. The area was first weeked and flowering

saplings then planted. The team was lead by BB Chettri, KB Chettri, Ashok Pradhan and others. SMC president, Bikash Rai and PB Tamang, Advisor, DP Pandey and TR Baniya, school teachers was also present on the occasion.

PC Chacko overturns Sheila Dikshit's move to dissolve all block committees in Delhi

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29 (PTI): A day after Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit dissolved all 280 block-level committees of the party, AICC in-charge of the national capital PC Chacko overturned the decision, a move that hinted differences between the two leaders. Chacko, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of Delhi unit, "stayed" dissolution of block committees and forwarded copies of his order to Congress president Rahul Gandhi as well as Dikshit, party sources said.

Delhi Congress leaders, including Dikshit and Chacko met Gandhi on Friday, who advised them to work unitedly in the wake of Assembly polls in Delhi scheduled to be held early next year. However, Dikshit taking cognizance of a report by a committee

formed by her to probe party's debacle in recent Lok Sabha polls, dissolved all the block committees hours after meeting Gandhi. A group of Congress leaders on Saturday met Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal and Chacko and protested the move to dissolve the block committees. "We told the two leaders that the block committees and their presidents were elected and they can not be dissolved all of a sudden before Assembly elections since it takes a lot of time to form them," said Chatar Singh, who was in the meeting. The Delhi unit of Congress has apparently failed to recover from differences among its leaders, with the "anti-Dikshit group" claiming that the block



committees were dissolved "unilaterally" by her without consulting Chacko. The block committees were elected last year when Ajay Maken headed the Delhi Congress. "The decision to disband the block committees formed under presidentship of Maken is an attempt by Dikshit to stamp her authority by reconstituting them under her leadership," said a senior Delhi Congress leader. The process for constitution of new committees has already begun in view of the Assembly elections in Delhi scheduled early next year, said a leader of Dikshit camp. The differences in the party had surfaced during Lok Sabha polls, when PC Chacko and Maken battled for an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to defeat the BJP. Dikshit and her followers in the party strongly resisted the alliance which finally failed to materialise. Congress lost all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi at the hands of the BJP with huge margins.

4 cops suspended after boy tortured over theft allegation

LUCKNOW, JUN 29 (PTI): Four police personnel were suspended on Saturday for allegedly torturing a 14-year-old boy at an outpost here after apprehending him on suspicion of theft, officials said. The incident came to light when the family of the teenager -- who used to drive an e-rickshaw to help his father, a labourer -- contacted social workers. Pictures purportedly showing swelling and injuries on the child's legs were widely shared on social media.

The boy was picked up by the police on Thursday and taken to the Telibagh outpost under PGI police station following an FIR over an e-rickshaw theft by a suspected teenager, an officer said. According to his family, the boy was tortured and forced to confess that he had committed the crime. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kalanidhi Naithani ordered a probe, where it was found that guidelines of the Juvenile Justice (Care and

Protection of Children) Act were not followed and interrogation was done illegally with the teenager. After a report was submitted in the evening, Naithani suspended Telibagh outpost incharge Rajnesh Verma, head constables Dinesh Tripathi and Sandeep Singh, and another constable, Rajendra Patel, the police said. The SSP said swelling and wounds were found in the medical report and the family members could lodge an FIR if they wanted.

India U-17 women's team smashes Hong Kong U-18 side

HONG KONG, JUN 29 (PTI): The India U-17 women's team rounded off its fourth and final match here with a 4-1 victory over the hosts' U-18 side on Saturday to make it four wins in as many matches. In these four matches, the India U-17 side which is preparing for the FIFA U-17 women's World Cup next year, banged in 18 goals while conceded just three in the process. After the early exchanges, the Indian girls took the lead around half-way into the first half, when Aveka converted a penalty that was won by Lynda. Eight minutes

later, Lynda turned from provider to scorer when she finished off a pass directed to her by Daisy. Nirmala had the chance to make it three with just a couple of minutes of regulation time left at the end of half-time but the youngster's shot, which was placed in the top corner, was expertly saved by the Hong Kong keeper. The home side came out with some impetus in the second half, and pulled one goal back through a Chan penalty. However, India took just five minutes to restore the two-goal lead when Anju slotted it past the keeper.

Odisha govt puts all districts on alert due to forecast of heavy rain



Bhubaneswar, Jun 29 (PTI): The Odisha government put all the 30 districts of the state on alert Saturday in view of the IMD forecasting enhanced heavy rainfall for the next three days, officials said. The step was taken in view of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) indicating the formation of a low-pressure area in north Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas, which is likely to intensify into a depression during the subsequent 48 hours. "Under its influence, enhanced rainfall activity is very likely over the districts of Odisha," Director of IMD, Bhubaneswar H R Biswas said. Due to the likely formation of a low-pressure area over north Bay of Bengal, a squally weather with the wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph is likely to prevail over north Bay of Bengal and the adjoining west central bay from June 30 to July 2, he added.

In an advisory issued to the district collectors, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) B P Sethi said, "Administrative machinery of all the districts has been asked to remain alert to meet any localised flood/waterlogging situation that may arise in the event of extremely very heavy rainfall. Situation may be closely watched." The SRC said Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nabarangpur, Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri and Balasore districts were specially told to remain alert. The IMD advised fishermen not to venture along and off the Odisha coast and north Bay of Bengal during June 30 to July 2. Those who had ventured to the deep sea were advised to return to the coast by June 29 night, the IMD said. Extremely heavy rainfall at one or two places in Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Kendrapada

districts and heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places in the coastal districts, besides in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Kandhamal and Malkangiri have been forecast on Sunday, the department said. It forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall on Monday with extremely heavy rainfall likely to occur over one or two places in Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sonapur and Boudh districts. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur over one or two places of Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Jajpur and Sundargarh districts, the IMD said. J h a r s u g u d a , Sundergarh, Bargarh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Koraput districts are likely to experience heavy rainfall on Tuesday.

Inordinate delay in holding assembly polls in J-K is like scuttling federalism in country: NC

Srinagar, Jun 29 (PTI): The National Conference Saturday expressed dismay over the statement of Union Home minister Amit Shah on the question of conducting assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the "inordinate delay" in holding the polls in the state is synonymous with "scuttling" federalism in the country. It said the people are yearning for a stable government which could protect the identity and territorial integrity of the state. "The central government led by BJP is persistent on ruling the state from the Centre. The move will prove detrimental to the structure of federalism in the country. The

inordinate delay in holding assembly elections in the state is synonymous with scuttling federalism in the country," NC general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar said addressing a series of workers' conventions at Rafiaband and Baramulla. The NC leader said on one hand, the Home minister minced no words to accentuate the peaceful conduct of urban local bodies and panchayat polls and Parliament elections in the state, but on the other hand, he is "denying" a representative government to the state. "We heard the Home minister necessitating on the need of strengthening grass root level democracy in the state. How can the dream

possibly be achieved by delaying the assembly elections? The measure is fraught with undue politicking," Sagar said. The NC general secretary said any further delay in having an elected representative government in the state would "further increase the gap between the government and the people". "The youth of the state in particular stands disenfranchised due to the imprudent policies of the previous BJP-PDP government. The incumbent governor administration is proving equally inefficient. The absence of an elected government in the state has put the identity and integrity of the state on peril.

"Above and beyond, the development has been the prime causality as a consequence of election delay in the state," he said. Speaking on the occasion, NC provincial president, Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani said Article 370 of the Constitution was "a solemn pledge of the constituent assembly of India to the state". "If Article 370 is temporary, then the very edifice built on it is impermanent. The sordid assertions like these aiming at obliterating the identity will add to the disenchantment in the youth. The need of the hour is to strengthen Article 370 and Article 35-A," Wani said, reacting to Shah's statement over the issue in Parliament on Friday.

Shah had on Friday said assembly elections in the state will be held in a democratic, free and fair manner as soon as the Election Commission announces the dates. He had moved a statutory resolution in the Lok Sabha to extend President's Rule in the state for another six months with effect from July 3, which was passed by the House. Shah had also said Article 370 of the Constitution, which extends special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is "temporary in nature" and "not permanent". Wani said the main objective of the NC is to strive towards restoration of pre-1953 situation in the state. "Ours is the only party

Crime Needs Punishment; Victims Need Therapy

Epecially when one is referring to children who have suffered sexual abuse

When the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was still new, and because such crimes were now being registered under POCSO Act, it gave the impression that children were suddenly being preyed upon more by sexual predators. That was probably not the case, because molestation and sexual abuse of children is not a new phenomenon; it has only now been recognized as a separate one. But what the surge in such reports triggered was public outcry over the incidents because the ugliness had been unveiled. Official condemnations and public statements of over-watch seeking that watertight cases be prepared to ensure that the guilty were brought to book became common. Such initiative was new for the State in not only that condemnations of such “heinous crimes” were registered, but also because public stands, an involvement sorely missed in Sikkim thus far, were taken. The involvement one speaks of here is not just at the official level, but also at a social and non-governmental level. These, as mentioned, were not the first time that children had fallen victim to the sexual depravity of predators, but were definitely the first instances of Commissions instituted to look out for the protection of child rights joining issue and people taking notice. Before one scoffs at this as superficial concern, one needs to accept that such crimes need to be condemned publicly for their abomination to be driven home and sustain the pressure on investigation agencies to draft a chargesheet which leaves no loopholes for the accused to escape on technicalities. Unfortunately, in the years that have passed since POCSO Act came into being, one has seen predators walk away free.

That said, public condemnations are still necessary to keep the memory of the crime alive and in doing so facilitate a more complete healing for the victim. This last aspect is probably of the most importance for Sikkim because victims of sexual abuse cannot heal with punishment for the perpetrators; to heal, the victims need therapy, something which remains largely ignored not just in Sikkim, but in India itself. When one reads police case details on sexual abuse, it invariably mentions that the victim was sent for medical examination. This is a physical examination to establish rape, but the victims are also emotionally scarred and need psychological counselling.

The cops know how to nab criminals and process their crimes, handling victims is not a nicety included in their skill-sets; that, is for the society to deliver. Unfortunately, it is bad enough for a population so small to allow such young members to become victims, but what is worse is that there is still no established process by which the healing can be assisted. Public engagements by way of condemnations following such incidents should thus be seen as the first step which need to followed up with the involvement of concerned agencies to formalise how such young victims can be helped to heal. This is important because at present, the healing focuses only on physical treatment, with the families and society at large preferring to ignore the incident. Children have the ability to suppress such trauma, but that only hides their hurt from others and is known to manifest in ways which last much longer than the time that the perpetrators might spend behind bars. They need therapy and counselling to overcome the trauma and to deny them this is to continue making victims of them. Such a process is ideally codified as an official requirement, but to begin one does not need gazette notifications or Acts, a collaborative effort between social organisations and psychiatrists should suffice for a start. The best therapy would ideally come from survivors of such abuse who can be sent for some professional training to help others heal and also help build the defences to protect the young.

Edward Lloyd: 100 years before Murdoch, the father of English tabloid journalism



ROHAN MCWILLIAM
theconversation.com

We live at probably the last moment when press barons such as Rupert Murdoch can hope to shape the political agenda, such are the waning fortunes of the print media. But who founded the popular press – and who created the sensationalist approach of the tabloids?

Some say it was Lord Northcliffe, who established the Daily Mail in 1896. Northcliffe was, however, preceded by the transformative figure of Edward Lloyd. Never heard of him? Lloyd (1815-1890) has never been given his due. He published the first newspaper to sell a million copies and shaped the popular imagination in fundamental ways.

Before he became a Victorian press baron, Lloyd was one of the dominant forces behind the sale of popular fiction to a growing market of increasingly literate working-class people. When we think of the 1840s, we think of the publication of major novels such as Jane Eyre or Vanity Fair. The reality is that many readers were as likely to consume Ada the Betrayed as well as Vileroy, or, The Horrors of Zindorf Castle – both shockers issued by Lloyd’s publishing house.

Hailing from a humble background, Lloyd became a leading publisher in London, promoting a group of hacks who would knock out cheap fiction. He knew what would sell: horrors, romance and thrills.

He launched a wave of “penny dreadfuls” on to the market in the 1830s and 1840s, all assisted by lurid pictures. As Lloyd exclaimed to his illustrators: “There must be blood ... much more blood!”

The best known of these stories was The String of Pearls in 1846 which introduced the enduring character of Sweeney Todd. Even before the serial had finished publication, Sweeney Todd had been taken up by the popular stage.

Audiences loved the barber who murdered men who came to his Fleet Street shop for a shave and gave their bodies to Mrs Lovett next door to be made into meat pies. The dark humour is captured in the words of one character who says: “I’d eat my mother, if she was a pork chop.”

This was not the only ghoulish character to emerge from Lloyd’s offices. James Malcolm Rymer wrote Varney the Vampire for Lloyd, the most important undead character before Dracula. This was a form of distinctly working-class horror fiction, marked by a taste for blood and violence.

NICKING DICKENS

Lloyd had no time for originality. He built up his firm by publishing plagiarisms of Charles Dickens’s works. The reading public was thus treated to works such as The Penny Pickwick, Oliver Twiss and Nickelas Nickelbery. Dickens was outraged by this treatment but was powerless to prevent such works appearing.

It is possible that many working-

class readers first encountered Dickens via a Lloyd plagiarism, rather than one of the author’s own works (a perspective that should make us rethink the initial reception of Dickens).

Cheap newspapers came to dominate Lloyd’s output. Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper was launched in 1842 and became one of the most important newspapers aimed at a popular readership at a time when the press had been forced since 1819 by the government to pay stamp duties (the “Taxes on Knowledge”) which inflated the price of print. He combined serious news reporting with stories of horrible murders, train crashes and aristocratic divorces. In some respects, his newspaper employed the techniques of popular fiction to grab an audience with accounts of true crime.

Lloyd also revolutionised newspaper production by introducing Richard Hoe’s rotary press to Britain, which sped up the process of putting out newspapers and made mass publication possible. With the abolition of the stamp and paper duties by the early 1860s, Lloyd was able to lower the price of his paper to one penny. The popular press had arrived.

YELLOW PRESS

Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper was one of a series of mass circulation Sunday papers, including The News of the World (issued in 1843), which created a newspaper reading habit in increasingly literate workers.

Lloyd was also a great believer in self-promotion. At one point he took to embossing coins with which he paid his workers with a stamp promoting his paper. This was denounced by The Times and an act of parliament had to be passed in 1853, making the defacing of the coinage illegal.

As his newspaper became more popular, Lloyd left his penny dreadfuls behind and was later embarrassed that they had been the source of his fortune. His paper tended to support Gladstone and the Liberal party, helping it to dominate mid-Victorian politics. The Conservative Party identified Lloyd’s as promoting “pernicious doctrines”, which included worker rights, free trade and democracy.

Lloyd died in 1890 but his newspaper remained popular, selling a million copies for the first time in 1896. As it went into the 20th century, the paper was outgunned by new rivals such as the Daily Mail and came to an end in 1931, having appeared for almost 90 years.

Lloyd’s reputation has gone into eclipse and he is seldom remembered. He was, however, a true pioneer. His legacy remains the sensationalism of the popular press but it can also be found in every slasher film, vampire drama and gothic romance from Twilight to the television series Penny Dreadful.

[the writer is Professor of Modern British History, Anglia Ruskin University]

Alan Turing: How the world’s most famous codebreaker unlocked the secrets of nature’s beauty

NATASHA ELLISON
theconversation.com

Getting out into nature may seem a world away from a maths classroom. But the beauty that surrounds us has order – and one of the world’s best codebreakers was the key to unlocking it.

Alan Turing may be best known for creating the enigma machine that decoded German messages in World War II. But the influential scientist thought about the interaction between nature and mathematics in great depth before his untimely death in 1954. In fact, his last published paper became one of the founding theories of mathematical biology, a subject devoted to understanding how nature’s mechanisms work by finding equations that describe them, from species population changes to the way cancerous tumours grow.

Turing proposed that two biological chemicals moving and reacting with each other in a mathematically predictable way could explain shapes and patterns across nature. For example, imagine that a cheetah’s coat is a dry forest with chemical “fires” breaking out all over. Simultaneously, firefighting chemicals of a second type work to surround and contain these fires, leaving charred patches – or spots – in the furry landscape.

Importantly, the speed of the firefighting inhibitor chemical must be faster than that of the spot-creating activator chemical for patterns to be created. Too slow, and

the activator chemical will dominate, leading to uniform colour.

Turing came up with two equations that model what kinds of patterns would be produced as both the concentration of the two chemicals and the speed at which they diffuse changes. However, it was incredibly difficult to solve these complex equations with the primitive computing machines around at the time. Turing did undertake the painstaking task once though, producing a dappled pattern that resembled a cow’s skin.

Aided by modern computers, scientists have shown that Turing’s equations can be used to mimic countless two-dimensional patterns seen across the natural world, from fingerprints and the coats of animals to semi-arid landscapes.

Showing that the reactions and movements of chemicals is actually behind the creation of nature’s patterns was more difficult. For example, we can’t watch how the spots of cheetahs develop in the womb. Even observing the growing angel fish’s remarkable patterns change as they develop from juvenile stage to adulthood doesn’t provide proof that a dance of two activator inhibitor chemicals is at work.

Recently though, Turing patterns in hair follicles, chicken feathers, and teeth-like shark “scales” have all directly been shown to be produced by the interaction between an activator and an inhibitor chemical.

Of course, nature is rarely as



simple as two chemicals interacting in isolation. Scientists have now extended Turing’s theory to explain more complex systems such as mussel beds, which extend for hundreds of metres in a large Turing pattern, and display a completely different type of pattern at a smaller scale. A four-chemical version of the theory also accurately models the formation of ridges in a vertebrate’s mouth.

Interestingly, we can also apply Turing’s work to a whole range of non-visual patterns. For example, my research explores how we use them to model the territory patterns of animals. Instead of describing the concentration and reactions between chemicals, we’ve used similar equations to describe the probability of the location of individuals, and the interactions between each individual and its environment.

As you can imagine, the equations are often highly complex, as multiple factors influence an animal’s movement, from the scent marks and physical presence of other animals to the location of prey and even memory.

But the movement patterns predicted by equations that model these factors compare surprisingly well to the actual movement of animals in an area. As well as being fascinating in itself, research like this can help us understand how changes in the habitat of a species affect wider ecosystems – which could be highly important considering the threat of extinction climate breakdown poses to hundreds of thousands of species.

This method of modelling territory patterns can even be extended to human populations. For example, one piece of research showed that the movement of Los Angeles gang members can be accurately predicted by equations that model the central location of their gang and the graffiti tags of other gangs.

Perhaps not even Turing would have imagined just how many of nature’s beautiful secrets his seminal paper would unlock. And it’s not just mathematical biology to which he made a defining contribution – we have his genius to thank for so much more. Thanks Alan.

[the writer is PhD Researcher, University of Sheffield]

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FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

The Bridge That Connected Me With Nature

MONGFING LEPCHA

As the saying goes, “Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder,” which I take as an ironic way of saying that it is not always that the eyes see beauty because the concept of beauty is something way beyond what the eyes can see.

Every individual’s perception over beauty is different, but the standardization of beauty has somehow mitigated the very essence of how one should understand beauty. For me, beauty is not only about what soothes the eyes but also the soul. Here, the beauty of nature is what I am referring to as I have always been fascinated by it. It took me a while to understand and realize in a meaningful manner that we are a part of this beauty. My research fieldwork at different places, aloof and isolated from the busy city areas made me feel more connected to nature and its beauty. Right from staying in a place amidst cardamom fields, to walking hours into the woods, listening to birds chirping in the morning and in evening, the beetles and crickets surely eased the tiredness. The butterflies on the way made fieldwork majestic. The waterfalls added bliss to the beauty and the waves in barley fields caused by the strong breeze just took my breath away. Waking up on a misty morning to being left spellbound by the serene view of sunset in the evening, not to forget the leeches and the bugs that left me and my fellow researcher wounded on the way.

Everything was just wonderful and left me flabbergasted by the amazing shades of nature. However, there also came a phase which left me helpless. The disaster at Mantam which has still not stabilized fully, for instance. Of course, like me there are many others who are very much concerned about nature and doing everything possible to keep nature safe, yet there are also some who just do not find the beauty of nature attractive enough to make them see the world beyond their self greed. My first article was focussed on the issues of Mantam from a researcher’s point of view as during that time I was at one of the villages on the other side of the river which was cut off. The article sought to shed light on the difficulties which the villagers were facing. It was not just the disaster that had put the villagers in difficult times but the selfish vision of few who prolonged the hours of difficulty. The plight of the innocents were going unseen and given less priority. Last weekend, my fellow researcher also wrote on the same



issue where it is wonderfully mentioned how innocents are always crushed between the never ending greed of politics of the State and the social elites. The suspension bridge which connected the two lands collapsed within a year, the small iron bridge which was installed for the vehicles to move did not last even for three months and when the monsoon gets over the banks turn into recreational areas totally overshadowing the difficult times which lies ahead in the following monsoon season.

Looking from a practical point of view, it is totally sensible to say that the lakes and river banks are yet another beautiful place in the lap of nature which surely attracts many, but the same created by a natural disaster which is disrupting the natural flow of the river should be seen as a wound to nature which needs to be treated instead of making it cancerous for nature. Another point which needs to be analysed carefully is that we humans have this habit of blaming others and keeping ourselves on the safer side instead of accepting the fault and putting effort to correct it. This is in a context that we often blame nature when there is a natural disaster or often take it as a course of nature which cannot be prevented but we fail to realize that somewhere down the line our actions are also responsible for the natural disasters occurring at a great extent. Although I may not have profound knowledge on the geography, geology, mines, technology and so forth yet I know that the interruptions caused by the constructions of

dams have made the lands very vulnerable. I feel that nature should not be put on stake for development, if development is necessary the priority should be given to the sustainable development.

As I believe that we humans are also a part of nature and we have somehow failed to safeguard our own part which is the reason why the nature is becoming ill and reached a phase that the effects of the illness is seen everywhere as climate change and environmental changes which is hampering the existence of all the living beings on earth. I feel nature is upset with us and our actions, as instead of appreciating the beauty and the goodness it provides we are just ruining it with our greed.

The fieldwork connected me to nature but also disconnected me from few of my own species as well. For me the journey till now has ignited the sense of responsibility to safeguard nature and keep the bond balanced for if we do not then we should prepare ourselves to bear the wrath of nature. We should remember that the beautiful rose makes the soul happy till we nurture it well but when our greed makes us pluck it we will surely get hurt by the thorns. It isn’t about a single disaster or a bridge but it is the bridge of understanding and realisation which was generated by the experiences I gained that took me closer to nature or made me feel a part of it so to say.

[the writer is a Research Scholar, Sikkim University]

Mark Tully gets ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ for role in UK-India ties

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, JUN 29 (PTI): Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully was presented with a ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ here for his contributions to the UK-India relationship.

Tully, the former Bureau Chief of the BBC, New Delhi, received a standing ovation on Friday from the gathering as he said that being in India was his karma.

“I owe a great debt to India and I have been rewarded way beyond my expectations,” said 83-year-old Tully, who has been previously knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in the UK and conferred with the Padma Bhushan in India.

The annual UK-India Awards, which celebrate special talents and organisations who use their worldwide influence to strengthen UK-India ties, included wins for British Telecom (BT) in the Social Impact category and Indian hospitality start-up Oyo in the Market Entrant of the Year category.

While British Indian actor Kunal Nayyar best known for his role as Rajesh Koothrappali on the US sitcom ‘The Big Bang Theory’ was named Global Indian Icon of the Year, Indian-origin peer and Cobra Beer founder Lord Karan Bilimoria was presented with a special Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations Award.

Monsoon migratory birds not sighted in Odisha: Ornithologists

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), JUN 29 (PTI): Migratory birds which usually reach the Chilika Lake and other parts of Odisha ahead of monsoon, are yet to be sighted this year, ornithologists said.

The south-west monsoon has already advanced in the state. The pied-crested cuckoo (also called Jacobin Cuckoo), a migratory bird locally known as the “Pika” generally arrive before the onset of the monsoon in the state, said noted ornithologist Uday Narayan Dev.

“I have tracked the arrival of the monsoon with the sight of the pied

crested cuckoo for the last some years in the state and also confirmed the arrival of bird was just ahead of the onset of the monsoon”, he said.

But the particular bird is missing this year, even though the monsoon has already arrived in the state, Dev said.

The black and white bird travels thousands of kilometers from Africa to reach the country during May and June, ahead of south-west monsoon and returns to its home usually after January.

“We can’t say the exact reason of the monsoon bird missing in

the state. It needs deep study”, said Dev, who has authored several books on bird watching and Chilika birds.

Migratory birds such pied-crest cuckoo generally arrive in the state before the Raja festival. The sight of this bird is also considered as the harbinger of the monsoon, ornithologists said.

The farmers in the rural areas in the state start preparation for agriculture work when they hear the sound of the pied crested cuckoo, retired forest officer Sudhakar Mohapatra said.

Over 2,750 admissions in DU on first day

NEW DELHI, JUN 28 (PTI): Over 2,750 students got themselves enrolled in various colleges on the first day of Delhi University (DU) admissions on Friday, according to the data shared by the university. As many as 1,496 admissions were approved, which means that the students were yet to pay the fees, officials said.

They added that 2,758 admissions were done till 10 pm on Friday after the university announced its first cut-off with some colleges still compiling the lists.

The DU announced its first cut-off list for admission to undergraduate courses on Thursday night, with Hindu College pegging the highest score of 99 per cent for Political Science Honours -- a marginal increase over last year.

According to Anju Srivastava, principal of Hindu College, 310 admissions were done on Friday. Thirty-one students took admission to Political Science Honours, she said, adding that there were 43 seats under the course. Of the 63 seats available for BSc(Honours) Physics, 53 were filled, Srivastava added.

She said the accounts of all the courses were opened

on the first day of admissions.

Suman Sharma, principal of Lady Shri Ram College, said there was an unprecedented response from students, adding that they were still compiling the admission data. In Shri Ram College of Commerce, 75 admissions were done to BA (Honours) Economics out of 135 seats. In B.Com (Honours), 200 seats were filled of the 552 on offer. In Hansraj College, 89 students took admission to science courses while 79 took admission to arts and commerce programmes.

Go Tribal campaign to promote tribal arts, crafts in global markets

NEW DELHI, JUN 29 (PTI): A new campaign by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was launched here Friday to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts, as well as aid in socio-economic welfare of over 700 Indian tribes across the country.

Organised by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), the ‘Go Tribal’ campaign will promote and make available tribal handcrafted textiles, jewellery, and other accessories through global online market spaces.

Speaking at the event Renuka Singh Saruta, MoS Tribal Affairs, said that the initiative will help tribal art to go global.

“Online market has no

geographical boundaries. Through this initiative we want to promote the tribal communities of India and their art while helping them to go global and providing them opportunities to attain a sustainable livelihood.

“Today’s youth are embracing native fashion and lifestyle more than ever and its important to reach them,” the minister said.

As part of the global marketing, e-commerce company Amazon will market ‘Tribes India’ collections under the sections of ‘Tribes of India Heritage Collection’ and ‘Tribes of India Natural Collection.

Tribes India and Amazon websites will showcase an array of product range under the campaign.

While the heritage

collection on the websites will include handcrafted textiles like ikats, silks and pashminas; tribal jewellery like dokras and banjaras, gifts and pottery, while the natural collection includes Telangana coffees, Uttarakhand soaps, Karnataka spices and more.

“The careful precision and handcrafted intricacy of the works of tribal master craftsmen from across India will be showcased through the ‘Go Tribal’ campaign. Our association with Amazon will help us reach worldwide,” Pravir Krishna, MD, TRIFED, said.

The launch was followed by a fashion skit of carefully crafted embroidered pieces by Gramin Vikas Evam Chetna Sansthan of Rajasthan.

IAF making efforts to airlift rescue team from crash site

Itanagar, Jun 29 (PTI): The Indian Air Force (IAF) is making all efforts to airlift the stranded 12-member rescue team from the site where the AN-32 aircraft crashed in Arunachal Pradesh, an IAF official said Saturday.



The team is stranded in the border area of Siang and Shi-Yomi districts for 17 days now at a height of 12,000 feet where its members were airdropped and retrieved the bodies of 13 people on board and the black box of the plane.

The team is waiting for the weather to improve so that they can be airlifted from the spot, he said.

The IAF has been trying to retrieve the mountaineering team from the crash site as soon as possible.

Despite the ongoing active monsoon conditions, several sorties have been launched to reach the crash site, but excessive clouding has prevented helicopter landings there, Shillong- based

IAF spokesman Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said in a statement on Saturday.

The team has been reinforced with ration and other essential supplies and we are in constant communication with them through satellite phones, he said.

The IAF spokesman added that trekking down the hill is risky and dangerous considering the terrain and the area has been experiencing heavy rains in the last couple of days.

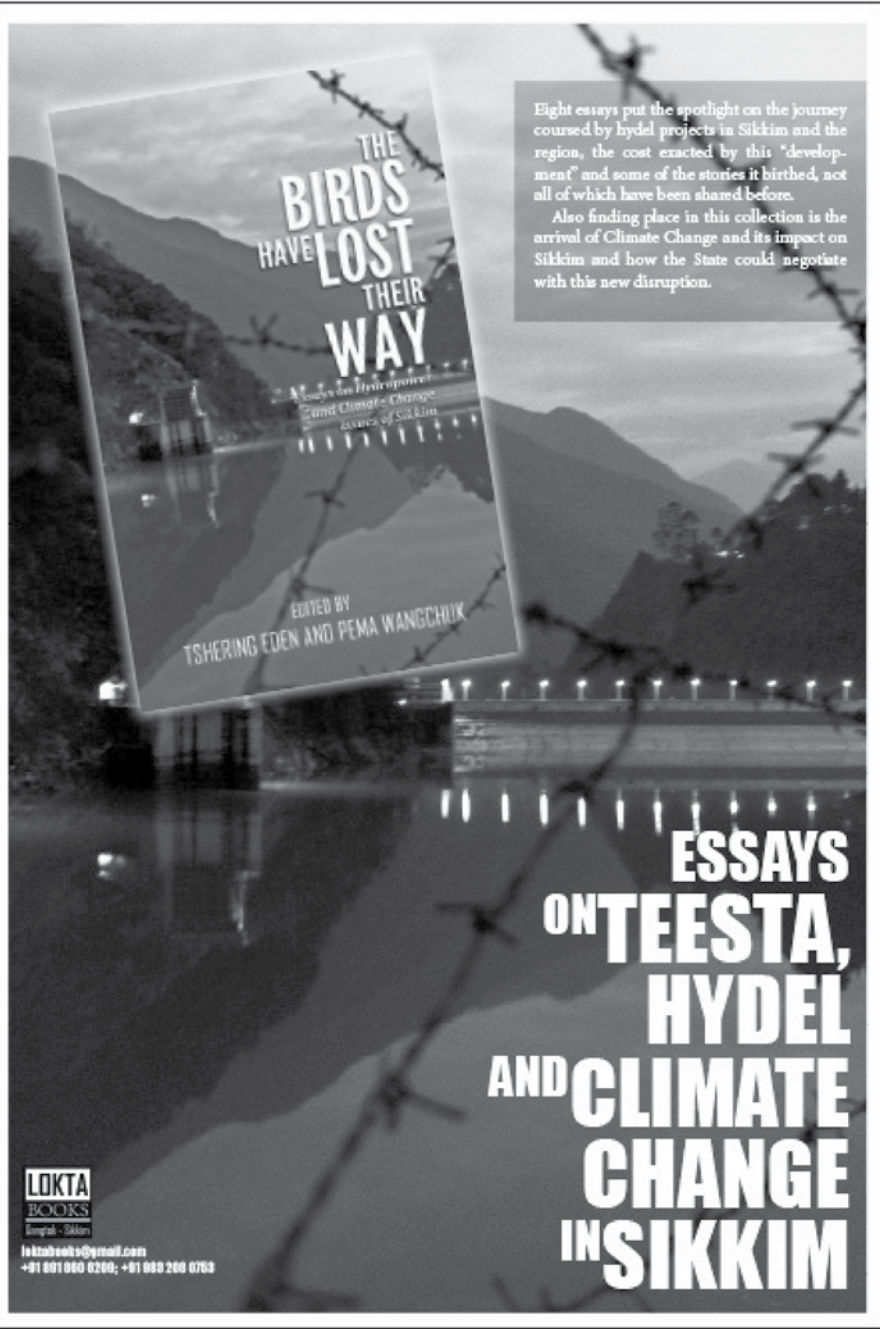
We are confident that we will be able to airlift them as soon as there is a slight reduction in rains and clouding, he added.

The rescuers were braving the hostile

weather conditions and feeding on the ration commodities airdropped for them on the day they were taken to the crash site.

The Russian AN-32 aircraft went missing 33 minutes after taking off from Assam’s Jorhat on June 3. It was headed to Mechuka in Shi-Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The task of retrieving the 13 bodies from the crash site in the Pari mountain in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh was completed on June 20. While six bodies were retrieved on June 19, the remaining seven were retrieved the next day, the IAF official said.



Argentina beat Venezuela to set up
Copa America semi-final with Brazil



RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 JUN: Argentina delivered a much improved performance to beat Venezuela 2-0 in the Copa America quarter-finals and set up a mouth-watering meeting with Brazil.

Lautaro Martínez scored for the second game running to put Argentina in front in the 10th minute with a clever back-heeled finish, diverting in a shot from Sergio Agüero following a corner swung in by the captain, Lionel Messi.

Lionel Scaloni's side had to weather a series of attacks from Venezuela in the second half and it took a strong save from Franco Armani to prevent Ronald Hernández from equalising. The substitute Giovanni Lo Celso then scored Argentina's badly needed second goal in the 74th minute, passing a loose ball into the net after another shot from Agüero squirmed through the hands of Venezuela's goalkeeper, Wuilker Farfán.

Lo Celso's tap-in sealed a therapeutic win for Argentina in their

first game back at the Maracanã since their 1-0 defeat by Germany in the 2014 World Cup final, which began a cycle of three consecutive losses in major finals. They had scraped into the last eight with a nervy 2-0 win over Qatar in their final group-stage game after losing to Colombia and drawing with Paraguay, but they expected a sterner test from Venezuela.

Venezuela once lost 11-0 to Argentina in the 1975 Copa America but they have made remarkable advances in recent years despite a backdrop of political turmoil, reaching the 2017 Under-20 World Cup final under their current coach, Rafael Dudamel.

But they failed to live up to the hype and barely got into Argentina's area before half-time.

The victors' reward is a first Copa America clash with Brazil since the 2007 final, which they lost 3-0. The tournament hosts beat Paraguay in a penalty shootout following a goalless draw on Thursday.

PARIS, JUN 29 (AFP): Megan Rapinoe admitted it had been an unforgettable night after her brace took the United States through to the semi-finals of the women's World Cup on Friday, the holders beating France 2-1 in Paris to puncture the hopes of the host nation.

Rapinoe's free-kick five minutes into this quarter-final evaded a sea of bodies in the box on its way into the net to stun the home crowd at the Parc des Princes.

The USA then soaked up pressure before delivering the knockout blow midway through the second half when Rapinoe turned in Tobin Heath's centre, although Wendie Renard pulled a goal back for France to set up a tense finish.

Jill Ellis's team held on and go through to a semi-final against England in Lyon next Tuesday as they seek to retain their crown and win a fourth World Cup in eight editions.

"We didn't have the best night on the ball but the focus defensively, and the willingness and the discipline to do what we did tonight is tremendous," said the



33-year-old Rapinoe.

"We were ruthless with our chances, so moving on to the next round, that's really all that matters. It's a game that we'll never forget here in Paris."

The pink-haired Rapinoe has been crucial on the field in this tournament, while dominating headlines off it thanks to her spat with US President Donald Trump over her refusal to attend any post-tournament reception at the White House.

She had already scored twice in the win over Spain in the last

round and is now the joint top scorer at the tournament with five goals.

- FRENCH REGRETS -

Meanwhile, France will leave their own tournament with more than a few regrets.

Ellis praised the hosts, saying: "That's a fantastic team we played tonight, and that is the most intense match I have ever been a part of."

That will be scant consolation for the French. They were the only team to defeat the USA in the two years leading up to the World

Cup but they could not repeat the feat here before an expectant crowd.

Coach Corinne Diacre had been set the target of going all the way to the final on home soil, yet that always looked a tall order from the moment the draw was made last December and they were set on a quarter-final collision course with the best team in the world.

"It's a failure in a footballing sense, we can't hide from that. We are far from fulfilling our objective," said Diacre.

"I hope we at least won people's hearts tonight and since the

start of the tournament."

Only once before had they even made the semi-finals, and for the second World Cup running their adventure ends in the last eight, the same stage at which they went out of the 2016 Olympics and the last three European Championships.

Having started this tournament with a first-half blitz against South Korea in the opening game, Les Bleues never really reached the same heights again. Their defeat also means they will not go to the 2020 Olympics.

The country's leading sports daily L'Equipe had

called this "the challenge of a lifetime", and in that context conceding the opening goal so early was a disaster.

Alex Morgan was fouled outside the area to the USA left, and Rapinoe's low delivery went in without taking a touch.

While France had lots of the ball without creating many clear chances, Samantha Mewis and Heath both tested France goalkeeper Sarah Bouhaddi just after half-time, and the USA's second goal arrived in the 65th minute.

Morgan and Heath combined down the right before the latter's ball across goal was turned in by Rapinoe.

France did not give up and set up a frenzied finale as Renard evaded her marker to head in Gaetane Thiney's flighted free-kick nine minutes from time for her fourth goal of the tournament. But the USA saw out the victory.

The other quarter-finals will be played on Saturday, with the Netherlands meeting Italy at 1300 GMT in Valenciennes before Germany take on Sweden in Rennes at 1630 GMT.

India ready to land knockout punch on England

KUSHAN SARKAR

BIRMINGHAM, JUN 29 (PTI): A ruthless India, sporting flaming orange, will be eyeing pole position with a solid knockout punch on an already disintegrated England in Sunday's high-profile World Cup encounter.

With an unbeaten record in six encounters so far, Virat Kohli's men are all but through to the semi-finals with 11 points but a win against England will further tighten their grip at the top and in the process oust the hosts from the global event.

Not long ago, England were considered to be favourites to win the tournament but Eoin Morgan's men have bungled big time in crucial games, which has now brought them at the verge of exit with only six points from seven games.

It is hard but it seems as if the 'Sky Blue' of England has been covered by thick grey cloud with no silver lining in the horizon.

It is indeed tragic that England's best ODI team in recent history with the likes of Captain Morgan, Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer in their ranks are facing an imminent exit.

Sunday's encounter at Birmingham's Edgbaston with a capacity Indian crowd could be rather unsettling for a team which is already under severe pressure from all quarters.

In fact, it increased exponentially after

Jonny Bairstow's dig at former England captains Michael Vaughan and Kevin Pietersen.

"People were waiting for us to fail," Bairstow told reporters.

"They are not willing us on to win, in many ways, they are waiting for you to get that loss, so they can jump on your throat. It's a typical English thing to do, in every sport," Bairstow's comments prior to the India game didn't go down well with Vaughan, who countered, calling it a "negative, pathetic mindset" in an Instagram post.

For India, possibly, it couldn't have been a better time to square off with the Poms who could again be unsettled by conditions which is expected to be predominantly sub-continental.

There's bright sunshine, the baked pitch on the drier side with promise of more turn than usual.

Playing two wrist spinners in these conditions along with a lethal Jasprit Bumrah could well spell doom for an English side, which has fluffed its lines while chasing against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In fact, Morgan's approach of moving towards leg stump against a fast and furious Mitchell Starc during Lord's game prompted Kevin Pietersen to question whether the skipper is "scared".

England, however, could take solace from



the fact that they beat India 2-1 in their last bilateral series at home but an injured Bumrah didn't feature in that series.

The Indian team, however, will not be over strategizing about the English team as pacer Mohammed Shami pointed out.

"Rather than thinking about opposition, it is better that we focus on our own skills. If our skill level is good, we would not need to even think about the opposition," Shami, who has taken 8 wickets in 2 games, said after mauling the West Indies.

The best part about Indian team is that they haven't yet played their best cricket and yet have been able to win games with consummate ease.

The middle-order batting still remains a concern and Vijay Shankar's performance at number four certainly makes him a weak link.

The team management has shown no inclination to field the exciting Rishabh Pant so far.

"They have invested in a youngster like Shankar. The team management feels he is important to their

plans so no harm in persisting with him. Moreover the team is winning handsomely so they have the right to continue with a winning combination," former skipper Sourav Ganguly said during a chat with PTI. It was a young Ganguly, who wrote England's epitaph with an all-round show at this very ground at the 1999 World Cup.

It could well be a Rohit Sharma, Kohli or a Hardik Pandya, who will put the final nail in English coffin this time around. Squads:

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Vijay Shankar, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravindra Jadeja.

England: Eoin Morgan (captain), James Vince, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Moeen Ali, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes, Jofra Archer, Jason Roy, Liam Plunkett, Tom Curran and Liam Dawson.

Match Starts at 3 PM.

Dhoni should bat at no 4: Dean Jones

MUMBAI, JUN 29 (PTI)

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones believes that Mahendra Singh Dhoni should bat at the crucial number four position for India in the remaining matches of the ongoing World Cup.

Dhoni is facing criticism for his slow-paced knocks against Afghanistan and West Indies, but Jones feels that the 37-year-old stumper, and not Vijay Shankar, should bat at number four, while left-arm all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja must be included in playing XI as he can provide an extra spin option to the team.

"Normally I don't like touching the team when it's flying and India is flying at the moment but I have got a concern at the player at number four. I have no problem with MS Dhoni going there and (Ravindra) Jadeja coming in a little later which gives you a spin option," Jones told Star Sports.

Jones said that with the pitches getting dry a left handed batsman would help the team

New Zealand's Williamson expects feisty Lord's for Australia clash

LONDON, JUN 29 (AFP): New Zealand captain Kane Williamson is bracing himself for a more raucous atmosphere than normal at Lord's when his side face Australia in a World Cup match on Saturday.

Reigning champions Australia, who beat New Zealand in a Melbourne final four years ago, have already booked their place in the semi-finals.

But the Black Caps will join them in the last four from the 10-team round-robin stage if they win this weekend and may well qualify even if they lose to their trans-Tasman rivals.

New Zealand found



down the order.

"I think the pitches are getting a little more tired as the tournament progresses so you need that left hander down there to help you a little bit. But I'll have faith and give it one more go," added Jones.

Meanwhile, former India speedster Irfan Pathan preferred Dinesh Karhik to bat at the No. 4 spot.

"I know many people would have the mindset that the winning combination shouldn't be changed, however, I feel differently.

themselves in front of a raucous pro-Pakistan crowd during a six-wicket loss at Edgbaston on Wednesday -- their first defeat of the tournament.

Lord's is traditionally the most reserved of England's major grounds but with many of the seats at the 28,500-capacity ground set to be occupied by Australia and New Zealand fans, Williamson is expecting a change in tone.

"Pakistan was very loud. Bangladesh, very loud. India, we didn't even play (the match was a washout) and they were very loud," a smiling Williamson said at Lord's

"Vijay Shankar hasn't done anything and if we come to the position of playing in the semifinals, we are going to be facing the top quality bowling line up and if we lose early wickets, we need someone solid at number four and I prefer Dinesh Karthik at that position," Pathan told Star Sports.

Pathan elaborated saying the new batsman should be given at least three innings before the semi-finals to settle at the position.

"So if any changes need to be done, they need to be done from

now on because you don't want someone to come in and play just one game before the semifinal.

"You want to give that particular batsman at least three innings and we have only three games left and Vijay Shankar has got enough chances and he is not even bowling regularly for Team India so you might as well get a proper batsman who has had some sort of an experience and success at batting at number four or number five and for me that pick would be Dinesh Karthik," Pathan signed off.

him over the years (for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League)."

"He's able to adjust to conditions and continued to improve his game," said Williamson, who has scored two centuries during the current tournament.

"We've seen that throughout this tournament, as well, where all the talk's been about (totals of) 350-plus.

"It's actually been about sort of hard graft and trying to get yourself into a position of strength to get a competitive total, and he's been instrumental on the Australian side."

Mercury tops 45C in France as deadly heatwave roasts Europe

CARPENTRAS(FRANCE), JUN 28 (AFP): Temperatures in France surpassed 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) Friday for the first time on record as Europe sweltered in an early summer heatwave that has caused several deaths.

With France, Spain, Italy and parts of central Europe hard hit by the record-breaking temperatures, officials pleaded with people to take common sense precautions.

France's new record temperature of 45.9 degrees C was registered in Gallargues-le-Montueux, a village in the southern department of Gard near Montpellier, breaking successive records set earlier in the day, the Meteo-France weather service told AFP.

This is the same area where the previous high of 44.1 degrees Celsius was set in August 2003. Records began at the turn of the 20th century.

Earlier Friday, the mercury rose above 44 degrees C in the southeastern town of Carpentras. The town was deserted, with cafe owners contemplating empty terraces which would normally be packed.

"We have never seen this!" one exclaimed.

The new record makes France just the seventh European country to have recorded a plus 45-degree temperature, along with Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece and North Macedonia, Meteo France said.

Two deaths linked to the heatwave were reported in Spain.

A Spanish teenager felt dizzy while helping harvest wheat in the southern Andalusia region, took a dip in a swimming pool, and collapsed in convulsions.

He was rushed to hospital in the town of Cordoba where he died, the regional government said.

A 93-year-old man collapsed and died on the street in the northern Spanish city of Valladolid, police said, giving heatstroke as the cause of death.

Heat-related deaths have also been reported in Italy, France and Germany, mainly among the elderly.

France remains haunted by the memory of the devastating heatwave of August 2003 which exposed the shortcomings of emergency services at the height of the summer holidays.

That year, nearly 15,000 people are estimated to have died because of the heat, many of them elderly people at home.

"I want to appeal to the sense of responsibility of citizens -- there are avoidable deaths in every heatwave," said French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe.

Scientists warn that global warming linked to human fossil fuel use could make such scorchers more frequent.

2020 White House hopeful Kamala Harris surges back into limelight

WASHINGTON, JUN 29 (AFP): Kamala Harris made a splash with her well-received presidential campaign rollout in January, only to see her candidate-of-the-month status deflate as she struggled for a breakout moment on the trail.

Thanks to a rock-solid performance Thursday in the first Democratic debate of the 2020 cycle, the US senator from California has now catapulted back into the top tier.

Her suddenly viable candidacy is noteworthy in the era of Donald Trump: as a black American daughter of immigrants, Harris may well be the American dream incarnate, mounting a challenge to a president whom many Democrats denounce as the nation's divider in chief.

Harris is 54, a former prosecutor and one time attorney general for California whose sometimes steely demeanor can give way to a million-watt smile.

Both countenances were on display in the debate -- the most watched Democratic debate ever -- where she was the best storyteller on stage, mixing policy



proficiency with a knack for personal connection.

"We need to think about this situation in terms of real people," Harris said when discussing the migrant border crisis.

Harris owned the evening's most powerful moment, when she boldly confronted frontrunner Joe Biden on race and identity and called out his "hurtful" comments in praise of segregationist senators with whom he worked but disagreed.

She also chided Biden on his past opposition to 1970s busing programs that forced integration of segregated schools -- eloquently invoking her own childhood.

"There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class

to integrate her public school, and she was bused to school every day," she said.

Harris, if elected, would become the first female -- and first black female -- president of the United States.

As someone who seems to personify America's melting-pot ideal, she is no novice at breaking through glass ceilings.

After two terms as district attorney of San Francisco (2004-2011), she was twice elected as California attorney general (2011-2017), becoming the first woman and the first black person to serve as chief law enforcement officer of the nation's most populous state.

Then in January 2017, she took the oath of office as US senator, making

her the first woman of South Asian descent (her mother is a Tamil Indian) and only the second black woman senator in US history, after Carol Moseley Braun.

Her focused and often tough-sounding lines of questioning during closely watched Senate hearings -- including that of controversial Supreme Court future justice Brett Kavanaugh -- raised her profile last year ahead of her presidential bid.

Harris often proudly recalls her past as a prosecutor when she fought big banks in the midst of the financial crisis in order to benefit Californians.

She casts herself as a defender of middle class families "living paycheck to paycheck" and denounces police brutality and the killing

of unarmed black men.

The daughter of immigrants -- her father is from Jamaica -- Harris grew up in the 1960s in the progressive hotbed of Oakland, California, proud of the struggle her parents waged for civil rights.

"My mother was the strongest person I have ever known," she has written on Twitter.

Mother Shyamala was only 19 when she arrived in California in 1960 to pursue her studies, eventually becoming a renowned cancer researcher.

After her parents separated when she was about five years old, it was Kamala's mother who raised her and her younger sister, Maya.

Hers was a happy childhood, Harris says, but she has also experienced discrimination.

"I have too many memories of my brilliant mother being treated as though she were dumb because of her accent," she wrote in her memoir, "The Truths We Hold." She often has tough words about the Republican president Trump, whom she branded "the greatest national security threat to the United States" during the debate.

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Imran Khan to visit US next month: report

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, JUN 29 (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to visit the US from July 20 during which he would have his first face-to-face meeting with US President Donald Trump, a media report said Saturday.

The visit, originally planned in June, was postponed because of Khan's prior domestic engagements, especially due to the federal budget 2019.

China, US agree at Xi-Trump meeting to restart trade talks: media

BEIJING/OSAKA, JUN 29 (PTI): Chinese President Xi Jinping and his American counterpart Donald Trump agreed Saturday to re-launch the stalled negotiations to end the bruising trade war, according to the Chinese state media which said the US will not impose new tariffs on imports from China.

The move came as Trump held a lengthy meeting with Xi on the sidelines of the Group of 20 economic summit in Osaka, Japan.

During the meeting, the US said it will not add new tariffs on Chinese exports, China's state-run China Daily reported.

Trump's assurance that no further tariffs would be imposed on Chinese goods has come as a relief in China, which is reeling under continued slowdown of the economy.

The negotiating teams from the two countries are to discuss specific issues, it said.

Trump said he harbours no hostility towards China and hopes for better relations between the two countries, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The US and China - the world's two largest economies - have been fighting a damaging trade war over the past year.

Trump is demanding China to reduce massive trade deficit which last year climbed to over USD 539 billion. He has also asked China to workout verifiable measures for the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), technology

transfer and more access to American goods in the Chinese markets.

Trump has already slapped a 25 per cent tariff on USD 250 billion in Chinese goods. Trump has also threatened 25 per cent tariffs on another USD 300 billion in goods from China.

China said will restart "on the basis of equality and mutual respect," the media reported.

Special teams from both the sides headed by high-level officials held 11 rounds of talks to end the tariff war.

The feud escalated in the months leading up to the summit, after talks between the two countries collapsed in May.

Noting that global situation and China-US relations have changed considerably in the past four decades since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Xi said that there is an unchanged fundamental fact that cooperation will benefit the two nations, while conflict will injure both sides.

Cooperation is better than friction, and dialogue is better than confrontation, Xi said, adding that he and Trump have maintained close contact through phone calls and letters.

Xi said that he would like to exchange views with Trump on fundamental issues in the development of Sino-US relations, set the direction for the development of bilateral ties, and promote the development of cooperation and stable China-US relations.

prime minister would be visiting Washington on the invitation of President Trump, who wanted to discuss important regional issues.

This would be the first high-level engagement between the two countries under the Trump administration's tenure, and comes at a time when talks between the US and Afghan Taliban are thought to have entered decisive phase.

‘Back on track’: Trump, Xi agree to resume trade talks



OSAKA, JUN 29 (AFP): US President Donald Trump said trade negotiations with China were "back on track" after "excellent" talks Saturday with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in which Washington reportedly agreed to hold off on new tariffs.

The crunch talks on the damaging trade war between the world's top two economies came on the sidelines of a meeting of the G20 in Japan's Osaka, with all eyes on whether the pair would agree a truce.

"We had a very good meeting with President Xi of China," Trump said after the talks. "I would say excellent." "We are right back on track," he added without confirming any details of any agreement.

Both sides were expected to issue official formal statements later, but Chinese state media said Washington had committed not to impose any new tariffs on Beijing's exports and that the two sides had agreed to restart trade and economic talks.

The outcome was likely to be seen as a win, with experts cautioning

ahead of the meeting that a full agreement was unlikely but a truce that avoided a new tit-for-tat round of tariffs would be positive.

Trump has struck a conciliatory tone since his arrival in Japan for the G20 summit, despite saying China's economy was going "down the tubes" before he set out for Osaka, and appeared keen to reach an agreement.

He said he was ready for a "historic" deal with China as the leaders kicked off their meeting and Xi told him that "dialogue" was better than confrontation.

There were no immediate details about the leaders' discussions, including whether they raised the thorny subject of Chinese telecoms firm Huawei.

Washington has banned the company over security concerns and China reportedly wanted the restrictions lifted under the terms of any trade truce.

The first tete-a-tete between the leaders of the world's top two economies since the last G20 in December has cast a long shadow over

this year's gathering in Osaka, where differences over climate change have also been laid bare.

Economists say that a lengthy trade war could be crippling for the global economy at a time when headwinds including increased geopolitical tensions and Brexit are blowing hard.

On Friday, the European Union and the South American trade bloc Mercosur sealed a blockbuster trade deal after 20 years of talks, with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker hailing it as a "strong message" in support of "rules-based trade."

Trade has proved far from the only contentious issue on the table, with climate change becoming another major sticking point. A diplomatic source said it had been a "difficult" night, with an American negotiator pushing a "very tough position" and a group including France standing united against watering down the climate language in the final statement.

But an agreement appeared to have been reached there too, with

German Chancellor Angela Merkel telling reporters that the final communique would preserve language used at the two past G20 summits.

"We will have a similar text to Argentina. A 19+1 declaration," she said.

The so-called 19+1 formulation reiterates the commitment of all G20 members except the United States to the Paris climate deal, from which Washington plans to withdraw.

Trump has dominated the headlines from the summit, and once again caught observers by surprise by tweeting early Saturday that he was open to meeting North Korea's Kim Jong Un while in South Korea this weekend.

"If Chairman Kim of North Korea sees this, I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(!)," he wrote.

Several experts, however, said the focus on Trump and the talks with China struck at the heart of the G20 format, created to craft a united global response to the Lehman Brothers crisis.



Daisy Ridley will never return to social media

LOS ANGELES, JUN 29 (PTI): “Star Wars” star Daisy Ridley says she has decided to not return to any of the social media platforms. The actor, 27, quit Instagram in 2016, following the abuse she received on her tribute post for the victims of gun violence in the US, and Facebook shortly afterwards.

“Cut off like a Skywalker limb. Also, when I want to see what my pals are up to, you can just Google it and go to Instagram,” Ridley told BuzzFeed News when asked if she would like to return to the photo-video sharing website.

The actor believes websites like Twitter have given people a huge platform to air negative views. “I honestly think now with social media and stuff... It’s great to have freedom of expression, but I do feel like people think opinions have so much weight.

“I don’t really think bad vibes should have the sun shone on them. Like, I don’t want to read your thing,” she said.

Ridley added that while social media is useful, “especially in places where terrible things are happening and they’re cutting off information”, she is not a fan of any of the platforms.



Madhu Mantena to make film if India wins 2019 Cricket World Cup

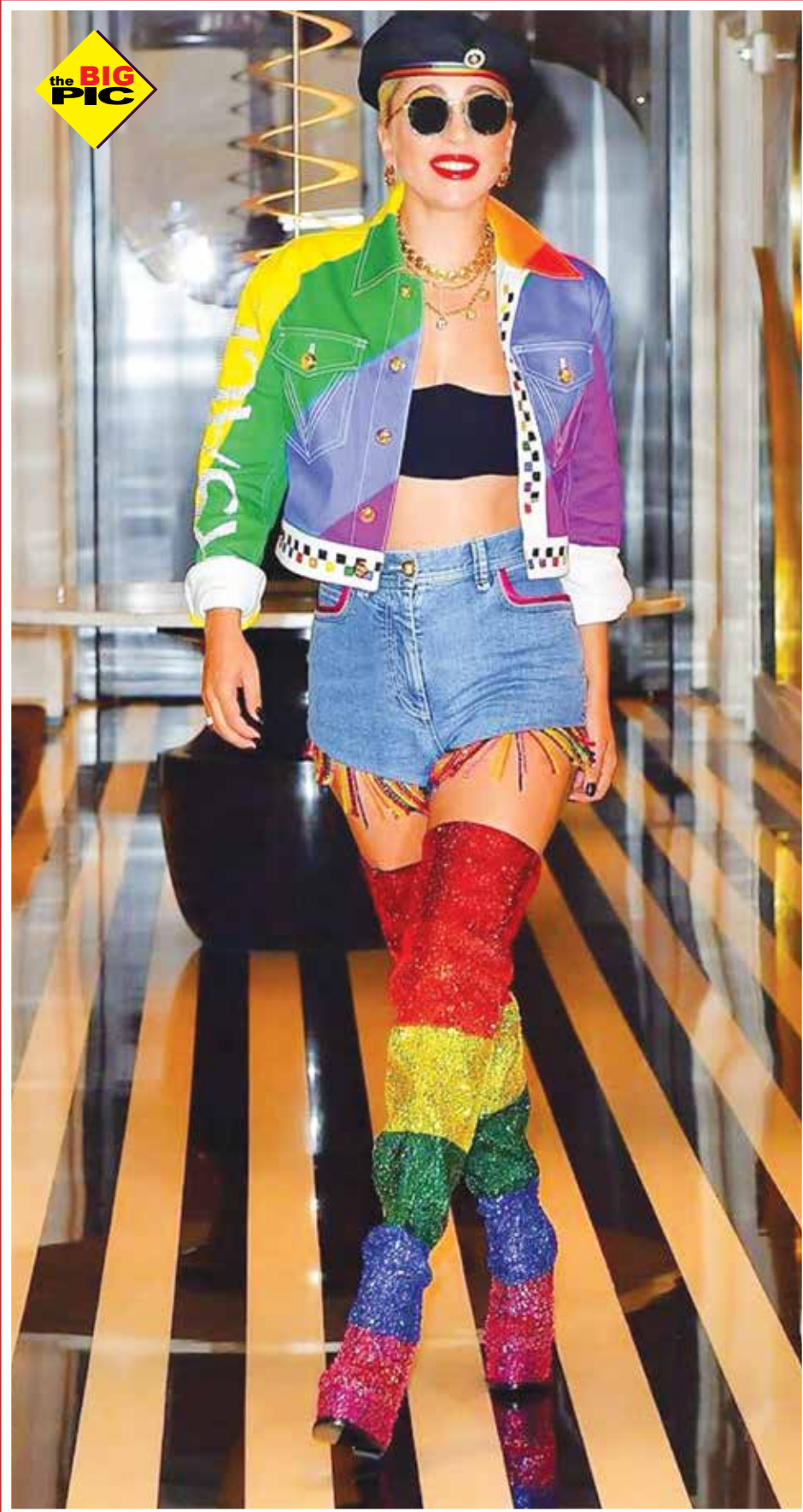
MUMBAI, JUN 29 (PTI): “83” producer Madhu Mantena says if the Indian cricket team goes on to win the 2019 World Cup, he will definitely be making a film about it.

Directed by Kabir Khan, “83” will chronicle India’s journey to its maiden World Cup win in 1983. The team, boasting the likes of Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar and Mohinder Amarnath, had famously trounced the reigning champion West Indies in the final match.

Fronted by Ranveer Singh, the film, which will release on April 10, 2020, also feature Saqib Saleem, Jiiva, Ammy Virk, Harrrdy Sandhu and Pankaj Tripathi, among others.

In a statement, Mantena, who is producing 83 with Sajid Nadiadwala and Reliance Entertainment, said, “We are making the film to mark the iconic 1983 victory. After ‘83’, if India wins the World Cup this year in 2019, we would like to make a film on the win.”

The Indian cricket team is currently unbeaten in the 2019 tournament and is comfortably placed to make into the semi-finals.



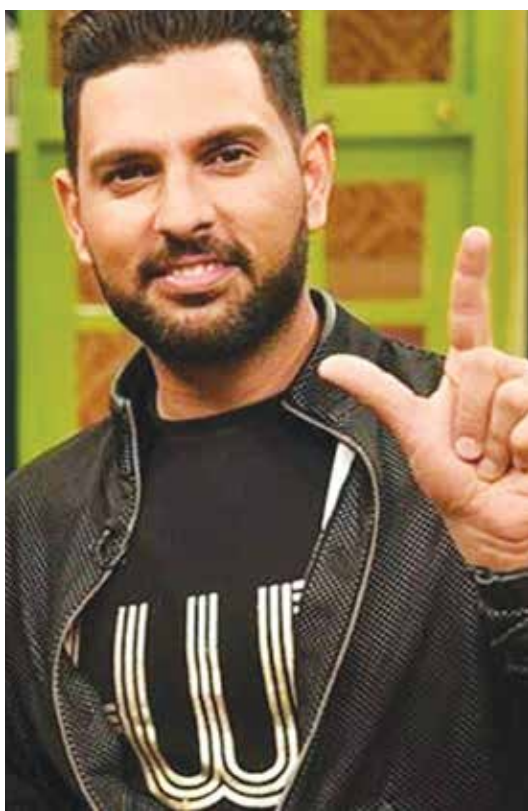
SHE’S GOT PRIDE! The singer, Lady Gaga is decked out in rainbow attire as she makes her way to Stonewall Inn in New York City.

Yuvraj Singh to make appearance in ‘The Office’

MUMBAI, JUN 29 (PTI): Former cricketer Yuvraj Singh is set to make a special appearance in Hotstar Special “The Office”.

The flamboyant batsman had recently announced his retirement from the international cricket. With the show, which is an official adaptation of the international series, “The Office”, Yuvraj has attempted to do something “exciting”, the makers said. “I have tried my hand at something that is fun and exciting. The curiosity about what I’m doing with Hotstar Specials new show ‘The Office’ ends today. I’ve had a lot of fun shooting for something special with the cast of the show; and I hope people enjoy watching it stream now to know more,” the former cricketer said in a statement.

“The Office” features Mukul Chadda as Jagdeep Chadda, the boss of Wilkins Chawla paper company. The same character, named Michael Scott, was played to global fame by Steve Carell in the US version. The Indian version also stars Gauahar Khan, Ranvir Shorey, Gopal Datt, Sayandeep Sengupta, Samridhi Dewan, Priyanka Setia, Abhinav Sharma, Gavin Methalaka, Preeti Kochar, Sunil Jetly, Chien Ho Liao, Nehpal Gautam and Mayur Bansiwala, among others.



MUMBAI, JUN 29 (PTI): Balaji Telefilms on Saturday said that it has decided to change the title of its upcoming feature “Mental Hai Kya” after the censor board reportedly raised objections.

The Prakash Kovelamudi-directed thriller, starring Rajkummar Rao and Kangana Ranaut, has been at the receiving end for quite some time with many people calling the title derogatory and insensitive to mentally-challenged persons.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the banner said the film’s title has been changed to “Judgementall Hai Kya”.

“Given the sensitivity attached to the issue of mental health and our intention of not offending or hurting anyone’s sentiments, the makers have decided to

change the title of the film ‘Mental Hai Kya’ to ‘Judgementall Hai Kya’.

“Both Kangana and Rajkummar have outdone themselves in this thriller and we can’t wait for audiences to witness it on the big screen,” the spokesperson said.

The representative added that the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) had raised minor objections to the film while giving it a U/A certificate and the producers have complied with them.

“With the CBFC clearance, the film is all set to release on July 26,” the spokesperson said.

On Thursday, Kangana had confirmed that the film’s title will be changed. “There will be a mild, small change in the title of the film. Because they

find it a bit too harsh. And we are more than happy to do that. Other than that there are absolutely no cuts. They were rather thrilled to see the film,” Kangana had told reporters.

Earlier, Members of the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) had written a letter to the CBFC seeking a change in the title, stating that they find it derogatory and demeaning to the mentally ill people.

The makers had denied that the film discriminates against people battling mental health issues and in fact, encourages the audience to embrace their individuality. Producer Ekta Kapoor had recently defended the film’s title, saying it doesn’t intend to offend or disregard anyone’s sentiments.

Aries

You’re feeling frisky today, Aries, and you’re happy to take the lead. It seems like the starting gate has just opened and you’re leading the charge. The one thing that could put a damper on the race is your rational mind reminding you that it’s also important to stop. Look around and reflect on what’s going on around you. Incorporate both energies into your day.

Taurus

You’re feeling rather sensitive today, Taurus. You may want to rescue every injured animal from the side of the road. Combine this nurturing, loving instinct with a warrior drive that will take charge and lead the fight. This powerful energy duo is very action oriented. Send your loving, internal instincts out into the world to do good.

Gemini

Other people may be stroking your fur in the wrong direction, Gemini. There’s a great deal of fiery energy in the air today that’s promoting a “me first” attitude. It may come in direct conflict with your

peaceful, diplomatic nature. Also, people may be a bit more sensitive than usual. It will be harder to stomach the slights or insults that result. You have your work cut out for you.

Cancer

Latch on to what your mind has to say today, Cancer. More than likely, your rational brain knows the right way to go. Your mood may dictate the action, but let your brain handle the steering. Don’t get overly worked up over nothing. Tempers may rise in heated debates over what is and isn’t fair. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Leo

There’s a greater burst of energy coming your way today than there has been in a while, Leo. It’s as if you’re making a new start and now is your chance to begin with a fresh new attitude. Realize that a sensitive nature is what will help you be victorious on this day. Keep your mind focused inward while you pursue outwardly directed activities.

Virgo

People and situations egg you on today, Virgo. It may seem like there’s contention around every corner. Remember that your path is the one that you chose. You may or may not have anticipated the barriers, but they’re unavoidable. The key to success is to strike the right balance between inner and outer activities. Don’t direct all your frustration at others. Don’t hold it all in, either.

Libra

Be a pioneer in your world today, Libra. Go on an adventure with a courageous spirit. Your emotions are fired up and ready to go. Your instincts are ready for a new challenge. If anything slows you down today, it will be your rational thinking. Your self-protection mechanism may kick in just when things start to get exciting. Strike the right balance.

Scorpio

Your mind is surprisingly clear today, Scorpio, and your thinking fits in line with what your ego has set out to accom-

plish. The key for you is to let your emotions speak. Take charge and let yourself go after what you want. While you’ve spent the last couple days in contemplation, the next few days should be more action oriented.

Sagittarius

Your mood is likely quite good, Sagittarius, and you have an added boost of self-confidence that will help you along in just about any project you undertake. While the last couple days may have felt slow and a bit stagnant, today you’re ready to take action. Someone has just lit the pilot light and now you’re ready to fire up again.

Capricorn

Your brain may be on one side of the fence today while your emotions are on the other, Capricorn. The challenge will be to find a working resolution between them. Your mind is moving toward a more sensitive and receptive approach, while your heart is in more of an attack mode. Unfortunately, these

two energies don’t normally work well together. Your job is to find a healthy balance.

Aquarius

One of the themes today is giving versus receiving. You may be asked to handle many tasks at once, something you’re naturally quite good at, Aquarius. There’s a strong need to take action and get things done, while you may also feel a strong inward pull asking you to settle down and reflect. Both are valid emotions, and both should be honored as you go through your day.

Pisces

You’re in line with your warrior instincts today, Pisces, which reminds you to align with your dreams. The tricky part is how you’re going to plan your attack so that there’s an equal balance of give and take. Today’s prevailing energies may catch you in a difficult situation. Sometimes an outwardly directed, argumentative approach is the only way to push through the roadblock.