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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Khangendra Mani Pradhan named for Kanchenjunga Kalam Puraskar

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

Senior journalist and writer, Khangendra Mani Pradhan, has been selected for the prestigious Kanchenjunga Kalam Puraskar conferred by the Press Club of Sikkim every year to celebrate exceptional service to journalism in the State.

This was decided at the executive body meeting of the Press Club of Sikkim convened here today to discuss on various agendas related to the upcoming celebration of the PCS Foundation Day on 17 July. The meeting was chaired by PCS president, Joseph Lepcha, a PCS press release informs.

The meeting discussed names proposed for the annual awards and honours presented by the PCS on the occasion of its foundation day. After a thorough discussion on various proposed names, the meeting has unanimously approved the name of senior journalist and writer, Khangendra Mani Pradhan, for the prestigious Kanchenjunga Kalam Puraskar.

Likewise, the meeting has also unanimously decided to present the Lagsheel Yuva Patrakarita Puraskar to journalist Nirmal Mangar of Sikkim Chronicle.

Senior journo, Hema
turn to pg02



First batch of Kailash Mansarovar yatris complete yatra

GANGTOK, 02 JUL [IPR]: The first batch of Yatris for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2018 via Nathula, who had left for the pilgrimage on 20 Jun, have successfully

completed the yatra and returned to the capital on 01 Jul.

This batch had a total of 33 yatris including 02 Liaison Officers. However, two yatris could not

complete the yatra and had to return due to personal and health reasons, it is informed.

On their return, a programme was organized at a local hotel here

in the capital wherein Secretary for Tourism & Civil Aviation, CP Dhakal, presented mementos to the yatris and congratulated them on completion of their pilgrimage.

He further urged them to convey the message of the pilgrimage, tourism and hospitality of Sikkim to others interested in the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathula.

West Sikkim ranks 2nd amongst Aspirational Districts in India

SUMMIT REPORT
GYALSHING, 02 JUL:

West Sikkim has secured second position amongst 115 Aspirational Districts in India in the first delta ranking released by NITI Aayog.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under the aegis of NITI Aayog, the Transformation of Aspirational District Programme aims at overhauling the face of districts in five sectors namely health & nutrition, education, agriculture & allied areas, basic infrastructure and financial inclusion & skill development.

West Sikkim showed tremendous progress especially in health, nutrition and agriculture sectors with the District Administration continuously monitoring the

progress through review meetings and appointment of nodal officers, instituting awards for hard-working employees, etc.

The West District Administration has expressed gratitude to the State Government for extending all required help and support to the people of the district and has congratulated former District Collector, Kapil Meena, officials and the dedicated staff for the achievement.

Following the same, a review meeting of NITI Aayog Aspirational District was held at the conference hall of the District Administration Center in Gyalshing, West Sikkim today. The meeting was presided over by Additional Secretary,

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Panchayats and Mangshila School SMC protest dismantling of old school bldg



WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 02 JUL:

Panchayats and public of Mangshila, North Sikkim, along with the School Managing Committee members of Mangshila Senior Secondary School took out a rally today to protest against the decision of the Engineering Cell of Human Resource Development Department to dismantle the old building of the school.

It may be men-

tioned here, the principal and SMC members of Mangshila SSS and the Zilla Panchayat had demanded that the construction site for the new building of the school be shifted to a different location to add to the infrastructure instead of dismantling the old school building which, they believe, is still in serviceable condition.

They wanted the new school building at a new location so that the old school building could continue to be used.

However, the Engineering Cell of HRDD has decided that the old school building be dismantled and the new construction be taken up at the same spot.

Opposing the de-

cision, Zilla Member, Zomin Limboo, informed that they had submitted a petition regarding the matter at a coordination meeting held among Panchayats, public and the Mangshila SSS SMC.

Today's rally was taken out from Mangshila Village Administrative Centre to Mangshila SSS.

Kejriwal, Dalai Lama launch 'Happiness Curriculum' for Delhi govt schools

NEW DELHI, JULY 2 (PTI): The Delhi government today launched 'Happiness Curriculum' for its school students, with the Dalai Lama gracing the occasion and saying that India can lead the world by uniting the modern and ancient knowledge and help it overcome "negative emotions" of the mankind.

Launching the curriculum for students of nursery up to class 8, Delhi chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the occasion "historical".

Congratulating Delhi government for its initiative to include 'Happiness curriculum' in its schools, the Dalai Lama said "only India has the ability to combine modern education with ancient knowledge which is necessary for fulfilment of human emotions."

He said such a combination will pave way for physical and mental well being, solving troubles caused due to negative and destructive emotions like anger, hatred and jealousy.

The Dalai Lama called for revival of the ancient Indian knowledge in the country of its origin and its subsequent spread across the world including the countries following Buddhism.

"By reviving this ancient knowledge, India can become the modern Guru," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Kejriwal termed the 'Happiness curriculum' launched today as the third stage of reforms in education sector initiated by his government after focusing on infrastructure development and motivation of teachers at the government schools.

"Education is our topmost priorities. The Centre and other state governments should



give one year, focussing on education at a war footing," he said.

The chief minister said that there was a need to "overhaul" the present education system that has not been able to produce "good human being" and added that 'Happiness Curriculum' was a "solid step" towards this aim.

Deputy Chief Minister and incharge of Education department of Delhi government, Manish Sisodia, who conceived the curriculum, asserted that the experiment might one day spread across the country and the world as well.

He said that the curriculum will involve a 'Happiness' period of 45 minutes for all students studying in nursery up to class VIII at all the Delhi government schools.

Each class will begin with a five minute meditation practice.

"The effect of this involving 10 lakh students and around 50,000 teachers can be imagined. It is our belief that the modern day problems like terrorism, corruption and pollution can be solved through schools and a human centric education," Sisodia said.

The 'Happiness Curriculum' including meditation, value education, and mental exercises, was designed and prepared by a team of 40 Delhi government teachers, educators and volunteers over a period of six months, he said.

The ministers of Delhi government, besides a large number of teachers and officials of Education directorate of Delhi government attended the function.

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SVSS felicitates Governor for sustained support to Divyangs



NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

"I am so happy that viklang will be substituted with divyang," said Governor Shrinivas Patil at a felicitation programme held at Raj Bhawan in the capital today.

The programme was organised by Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti [SVSS] to express gratitude and to felicitate the Governor for his sustained support to the organization and the welfare of Divyangs.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor stated that he was humbled by the goodwill shown by the people of Sikkim and stressed on the need to extend assurance to

Divyang citizens and stated that he will continue to work for their rights.

He also urged citizens to work not for recognition and laurels but for peace and satisfaction.

Expressing satisfaction, he held that the bond between the Raj Bhawan and Divyang Sahayata Samiti will be continued.

The Governor added that he was ready to extend any help and support from his home state Maharashtra for the benefit of Sikkim as well.

Richly appreciating the State, the Governor stated that due to the pleasant environment and pleasant people, he feels that he has gained five more years to his life.

He further informed that visitors often label Sikkim as a heaven and stated that unemployment can be eradicated if citizens engaged in self employment opportunities

that the State now offers.

The Governor further appealed that people preserve the unique culture and heritage of the state.

The SVSS Patron, Minister GM Gurung, thanked the Governor for being a guardian to the organisation.

He also informed the Governor about girls and boys hostels being constructed for the Divyangs.

Another member of the organization, Draupadi Ghimirey, while addressing the function further thanked the Governor for guiding and providing assistance in the interest of the Divyangs.

It was informed by the members of the organisation that the word Viklang will be substituted by the word Divyang in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

[Pic Courtesy: Sushmita Pakhrin]

West Sikkim ranks 2nd amongst Aspirational Districts in India

contd from pg01

Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, Dr Bala Prasad, along with DC West, Dr AB Karki, and other officials.

Similarly, a meeting of the Panchayat presidents of West District with Dr Prasad and Zilla Panchayat in the presence of Dr Karki, Additional District Collector [Development], Gyalshing, Surat K Gurung, ADC [Dev], Soreng, Gayas Pegha, and all the Block Development Officers of West district was conducted at the Zilla Bhawan.

During the meeting, Dr Prasad explained the detailed aspects of Seven Flagship under Aspirational District. He urged the PRI members to actively come forward and take part in providing all the basic facilities to the needy people of their respective villages. He urged all the participants to contribute their part in connecting the rural people with the Seven Flagship Schemes to enhance the living standard of the rural people.

Khangendra Mani Pradhan named for Kanchenjunga Kalam Puraskar

contd from pg01

Sharma, will also be felicitated by PCS for her contributions towards the development of journalism in the State on the occasion.

The PCS has also decided to start another appreciation from this foundation day to those personalities who have been working hard behind the scenes for the development of the journalism in the State.

After a thorough discussion, the meeting decided to present the token of appreciation this year to office executive, Dila Chettri, who looks after miscellaneous works at the office of Hindi daily, Anugamani.

During the meeting, various duties and responsibilities were also distributed among the executive members for the grand celebration.

KVK West conducts training on value addition of locally available fruits and vegetables



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

A daylong training and demonstration programme on value-addition to locally available fruits and vegetables was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim, under the Krishi Kalyan

Abhiyan at Daramdin on 01 July, a press release informs.

Subject Matter Specialist [Horticulture], Sangey Palmu Bhutia, detailed post harvest and value addition of locally available fruits and vegetables

while demonstrating packaging procedures.

SMS, Plant Protection, Rohini Silwal, spoke about integrated pest management (IPM) of different fruits and vegetable.

63 farmers and rural youth participated in the programme, it is informed.



State Govt playing communal politics, alleges SKM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

A meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was held at Denchung Ward under Poklok-Kamrang constituency in South Sikkim today chaired by the party's South district president, Ganesh Rai, as chief guest, an SKM press release informs.

Mr Rai alleged that the State government has been playing with the emotions of the people of Sikkim and has been deceiving and dividing the people of the State with communal politics.

The release further informs that seven families allied to the SDF from Denchung ward joined SKM during the meeting.



SDF South district wing begins outreach programme in Namchi

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 02 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front's South district wing has begun its outreach programme in line with preparation for the upcoming general elections at different wards falling under South district today in connection with which, a coordination meeting was organized for party youth and general public from the seven Namchi Municipal Council wards of Namchi-Singithang constituency.

The meeting was conducted under Gangyap and Debrung-Dambudara Ward led by District Youth vice president in-charge, Binod Rai, and party youth convener, Namchi Singithang, Palzor Bhutia.

The meeting discussed various schemes and benefits provided by the State Government while the youths and general public placed

their grievances and suggestions for strengthening and ensuring smooth functioning of the party during the election time.

Mr Binod Rai, in his address, stated that SDF was an organized party and functions with the contributions of youth and public.

"There are some who are unhappy with some simple issues and the opposition is targeting such people," he commented.

He urged the Councilors, Panchayats and party youth and other workers to reach out to such people and help resolve their problems.

He went on to highlight the achievements of the SDF government and criticized the opposition for lacking any agenda except revenge.

He also requested the youth and party workers to develop a good relation with individual

households of their concerned areas so that no one can mislead people in the name of caste and religion.

NMC Ward Councillor, Kamal Chettri, asked the youth to coordinate well in order to reach out to people of the concerned wards and spread awareness about the party's policies and programmes.

Addressing the grievances of the people, he informed that he has already submitted all the issues of Debrung and Dambudara Wards to the State Government which will be addressed accordingly at the earliest.

He also informed that Debrung-Dambudara was the highest electorate ward under Namchi Singithang constituency and youth of the Ward need to set aside self interest and come forward to contribute towards the party.

Health Minister inaugurates REDRH/ PMAY-G houses in West Sikkim

GYALSHING, 02 JUL

[IPR]: Health Minister-

cum-MLA of Salghari Zoom Constituency, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, inaugurated five houses constructed under Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses [REDRH] and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana [Gramin] at Samsing Pipaley Gram Panchayat Unit in West Sikkim today.

Out of five houses inaugurated, two houses have been funded under the REDRH project and three houses jointly under PMAY-G and MGNREGA.

Two REDRH houses were handed over to Harka Man Tamang and Yanji Sherpa at Bhasmey Ward. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the State Government



for providing a house.

The houses constructed under PMAY-G

were handed over to Pakash Tamang, Nanda

Lal Sharma of Bhasmey

Ward and Tek Man Rai

from Pipaley Ward.

Mr Ghatani also interacted with the people of the vicinity wherein he

informed about the pro

people policies and pro-

grammes implemented

by the State Government

under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister

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Temp: 23°C/17°C
Forecast: Periods of rain, some heavy, and a thunderstorm; watch for flooding.
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Sunset: 6:34 PM

Massive plantation drive conducted by Agri East

SUBASH RAI
GANGTOK, 02 JUL: East District Food Security & Agriculture Development [FS&ADD], in collaboration with Horticulture & Cash Crop Development Department [H&CDD] and Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department [FE&WMD], organized massive plantation drive today here at its head office in the ICAR complex, Tadong.

The drive, organized as part of the Paryavaran Mahotsav 2018, was led by Director, H&CDD, T Pintso, and participated in by the officials and field staff of the three departments.

The H&CDD provided 50 saplings each of guavas and oranges, 20 saplings of papaya and six red banana saplings.

Likewise, the FE&WMD managed saplings of ornamental flowers like Camelia [50], Azalea [50] and Neelkamal [150].

In her brief address, Joint Director [East],



FS&ADD, Beena Rai, informed that her office has been organizing cleanliness drives and

other activities every month during scheduled workshop date but this was for the first time that such a huge collaborative programme was organized.

"The main objective of the programme is to make individual contributions towards saving the environment," Ms Rai stated.

She further informed that another motive was to convert the barren government land in and around the office into cultivable land so that the government can earn some revenue from the same.

She also delved on the potential of agro-forestry to make more contributions towards a clean and green environment.

Divisional Forest Officer, Sonam Bhutia, in her address, urged the participants to ensure proper care and protection of the saplings after the plantation.

She informed that the Forest Department

is organizing various programmes in collaboration with different government departments in a bid to save the environment but individual care for the planted saplings was a must to achieve the goal.

Director, H&CDD, Mr Pintso, directed the JD [East] to ensure that every sapling planted in the vicinity receives proper care and protection so that all the plants yield fruit in days to come.

In her vote of thanks note, Sushma Pradhan, Deputy Director [East], FS&ADD recalled that planting saplings today will yield fruits in days to come.

The programme was also attended by JD, Horticulture, BL Dahal, Deputy Director, Horticulture, DK Rai, DFOs, S Sarang, D Lachungpa, Sonam Norden Bhutia & Bhumika Rai, ACFs, Tseten Lachungpa & Topgay T Bhutia, and other staffs from FS&AD and H&CDD Departments.



Free health camp organised in West Pendam

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

Sikkim Tamang Youth Society, in association with Lions Club of Rangpo Gateway of Sikkim, conducted a daylong free health check-up camp at Samkey in West Pendam, East Sikkim on 01 July.

Visiting physician from Central Referral Hospital, Gangtok, Dr Udit Pradhan, attended to more than 60 patients of the surrounding villages, a press release informs.

Blood pressure and sugar levels of the patients were also checked followed by distribution of free medicines.

Social worker Dhan Bahadur Chettri, who attended the event as chief guest, appreciated the initiative undertaken by both the associations.

During the programme, Dr Pradhan was also felicitated for his social contributions by Lions Club of Rangpo and Sikkim Tamang Youth Society.

Ten Minutes to Earth observed in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

Ten Minutes to Earth was observed all over West Sikkim with plantation drives carried out at various locations including avenues, school compounds and Smriti Vans. Dignitaries like Minister of Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, Area MLAs, Zilla Adhyakshas, Zilla & Ward Panchayats, Line Department officials and staff, NGOs and SHGs actively participated in the event. Cleanliness drives were also organised to spread awareness on plastic pollution and other environmental hazards, a press release informs.



STUDENTS PRESENT ROSES TO DOCTORS ON DOCTORS' DAY

GANGTOK, 02 JUL: On the occasion of Doctors' Day on 01 Jul, the Interact Clubs of Tashi Namgyal Academy, Paljor Namgyal Girls' Senior Secondary School, West Point Senior Secondary School, Enchey Senior Secondary School, Tathangchen School, Bojoghari School and Kyi-De-Khang School presented roses to doctors at TNNM Hospital and private clinics in Gangtok to express gratitude for their services and saving many lives, a press release informs.

Outreach programme held to inculcate reading habit among children



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

State Central Library, Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department conducted three-day outreach programme through reading workshop to spread awareness on reading habit/reading culture at various government primary and secondary schools in and around Namchi, South Sikkim as a part of Reading Mission 2022, a press release informs.

The concluding event today

had the participation of children at the District Library in Namchi wherein reading and slogan writing sessions on the theme "Reading". Colourful slogans were pasted on the walls of the library for readers and visitors.

Books on action and adventure, short stories, comics, horror, poetry, fantasy, drama, mysteries, series and humour were offered to the participants for reading along with the introduction of children's favourite comic series

"Naruto".

Coordinated by Officer on Special Duty, State Central Library, Sangita Bomjan, with the support of library professionals, the objective of the programme was to help public libraries reach out with its resources and its services to all so as to be an effective tool for delivering sustainable learning environment in the communities through its various community oriented programmes.

Plantation drives at Upper and Lower Karek



BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 02 JUL:

Karek Toribari Church of God carried out a plantation and cleanliness drive at Upper Karek in South Sikkim today in the presence of Range Officer [Territorial], Namthang Range, Chhuden Lepcha, as resource person.

Panchayat Development Assistant, Nagi Karek GPU, Som Bahadur Rai, Pastors Dhan Bahadur Subba and Nimachandra Tamang, Block Officer, Namthang Range, along with the youth of Karek Church of God and members of Lakshya Childrens Club, Karek actively participated in the drive carried out at Karek Toribari Church premises, Rubdi Toribari Government Primary School and PMGSY fatak at Upper Karek.

Later, a similar plantation drive was carried out at Lower Kabrey in South Sikkim in a programme jointly organized by Independent Pentecostal Church of Lower Kabrey, Sirwani and Khamdong.

Area MLA, Namthang Ratepani constituency, Tilu Gurung, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by Zilla Panchayat member, Yadunath Mishra, Range Officer [T], Namthang Range, Chhuden Lepcha, as special guest.

During the programme, Area MLA, Zilla Panchayat member and senior citizens forged Mith/ Mithni relationship with various trees there.

Procurement and selling rates of major organic vegetables announced

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

In order to regulate the prices of local organic vegetables in the local market, with the approval of the State Government, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department and Sikkim State Co-operative Supply & Marketing Federation [SIMFED] has worked out the procurement and selling rates of major organic vegetables. This has been done to protect the interest of both the growers and the consumers of the State, a press release informs.

Following the announcement of the rates, a District Task Force has also been formed to check the implementation of the rates in the market as well as to check entry of any

non-organic vegetables.

All the stake holders have been requested to strictly follow the approved rates failing which appropriate action will be initiated against the defaulters. Regular inspections are being conducted by the District Task Force in the bazaar and Lal Bazaar areas.

As per the release, Government-approved farm gate procurement rates/kg of local organic vegetables have been set as tomato [Rs 20], cabbage [Rs 25], cauliflower [Rs 28], carrot [Rs 28], radish [Rs 22], broccoli [Rs 50], butter beans [Rs 40], Singtamey beans [Rs 33], pea [Rs 38], chayote [Rs 15], chilli [Rs 20], brinjal [Rs 20], bottle gourd [Rs 10], bitter gourd [Rs 25], bhendi [Rs 15] and leafy vegetables [Rs 15]

Likewise, wholesale rates/kg have been set as tomato [Rs 24], cabbage [Rs 30], cauliflower [Rs 33], carrot [Rs 33], radish [Rs 25], broccoli [Rs 55], butter beans [Rs 48], Singtamey beans [Rs 40], pea [Rs 45], chayote [Rs 18], chilli [Rs 24], brinjal [Rs 24], bottle gourd [Rs 12], bitter gourd [Rs 30], bhendi [Rs 30] and leafy vegetables [Rs 20].

Similarly, the Maximum Selling Retail Prices of the vegetables have been fixed as tomato [Rs 30], cabbage [Rs 40], cauliflower [Rs 40], carrot [Rs 40], radish [Rs 30], broccoli [Rs 65], butter beans [Rs 60], Singtamey beans [Rs 50], pea [Rs 60], chayote [Rs 25], chilli [Rs 30], brinjal [Rs 30], bottle gourd [Rs 15], bitter gourd [Rs 40], bhendi [Rs 40] and leafy vegetables [Rs 25].

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Messaging Mischief

Suspending internet services is a weak band-aid solution

The vicious morbidity with which mischievous rumours can trigger mindless violence has always been known. Across the country, in the recent past, this nastiness has seen mob lynchings starting with the murder of Akhlaq after word spread on hateful WhatsApp groups that he had beef at home. And then there was the public lynching in Nagaland where the victim was dragged out of the prison he was under custody at and killed in the town square even as people shot snuff videos of the brutality. Shillong's week of horror is more immediate, and there too an underlying hostility was whipped up by social-media mischief return despicable hate to the streets. Across the country, in recent months, 25 killings have been recorded in media reports about mob lynching incidents carried out after false information was spread on WhatsApp. In Tripura, one of the victims was ironically a man deputed by the authorities to warn and educate people against WhatsApp hoaxes. A mob set upon him even as he was spreading "awareness" using a megaphone. Hours before this incident, four traders were attacked by a nearly thousand-strong mob after a rumour spread that they were child-lifters. The mob even attacked a paramilitary based where they had taken refuge and dragged them out. One person was killed and four, including a jawan, critically injured. They were still traders, not kidnappers. In the same area, we are still in Tripura, a mob attacked an unidentified woman, a stranger to the area and in all probability mentally unstable, on suspicion of her being a child-lifter as well. There have been similar incidents reported from across the country. A common feature in almost all of them is that the rumours leading to the violence gained traction on WhatsApp.

A usual response of the administration is to suspend internet and mobile telephone services in the troubled area. We see that often in J&K and witnessed it in the Darjeeling Hills as well when the aandolan returned there last year. While in the case of J&K and Darjeeling, the intent was more to snap communication so that people cannot plan and coordinate, in the wake of incidents like those which visited Tripura, the need is to stop the circulation of false information aimed at vitiating the environment further. Even if one were to accept these as necessary immediate steps, they do nothing to address the larger challenge facing the society. Social-Media might be amplifying message and accelerating circulation of "fake news," but the medium is only feeding off an existing pool of the easily convinced or malevolently disposed. What social-media platforms like WhatsApp are essentially providing is quick access groups to individuals who are perennially suspicious, inexcusably gullible and dementedly violent. And we are a country of a billion, there will always be enough these types around to seed a mob and the rest are easily carried along. The problem is not just with the mediums, but the inherent prejudices and hate which most people do a decent job of keeping in check on most times, but the moment they have agent provocateurs among them and some rabble-rousers, they bring the sticks and stones out. Now this may be a very difficult situation to redress, but efforts are now desperately required to make amity, empathy and tolerance virtues again. We, however, appear to be descending deeper into the cesspool of hate and hate-mongering. Social-media has just replaced what anonymous pamphlets and neighbourhood whispers used to achieve earlier. But messaging services are also a much more powerful tool because of the immediacy and speed with things can go viral and how quickly the ripple effect moves beyond the cells which seed false information into the public domain where well-meaning but clearly foolish individuals forward it to family groups and every other group they are part of.

If the authorities are serious about addressing the problem, a coordinated effort will be required to first understand the pattern through which such false information is circulated. If they follow the chain, it is likely that they will zero in on organized cells dedicated to triggering these alarms. Once the pattern is established, these instigators and their mad experiments need to be exposed and processed. Yes, awareness is necessary, but that is a challenge our nation is not yet up to. We have more mobile phones in our country than people and more smartphone users than there are literates. Most are not always hanging around hate groups and are more happy downloading songs, refreshing Facebook or watching YouTube. But planted rumours reach them too and they tend to take these things at face-value. They do not have the time for awareness messages and the governments, let's accept it, does not have the wherewithal to spread effective awareness. What is required then is for the investigating agencies to go after those misusing these platforms. Sikkim will do well to pay heed and try and do something about this problem in advance. This is an election year, the perfect setting for social-media mischief.

Why using UN troops to make countries more stable can be a risky business

ALEXANDER GILDER
theconversation.com

In 2017 56 UN peacekeepers were killed in malicious acts such as when they were deliberately attacked, the most fatalities of that kind since 1994. All but one of the fatalities resulted from an operation that included "stabilization" in its name.

Four blue-helmeted UN peace operations have had "stabilization" included in their title. These include operations in Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and the Central African Republic.

The UN has not defined stabilization in official documentation. As a result, the practice of stabilization by UN forces has developed organically in recent years. The Security Council has given increased attention to the concept with recent research showing the term is used more and more during open meetings. In 2001 stabilization was mentioned in 16% and by 2014 the use of the term had spiked to 44%.

Nevertheless, when mandating peace operations the Security Council has not given a consistent indication of what activities fall under stabilization. Likewise, UN personnel have differing understandings of what the term means.

The mandates of stabilization missions have one major similarity – they are routinely instructed to support efforts that extend state authority.

In the stabilization mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, this is achieved through the use of a Force Intervention Brigade. The brigade operates in cooperation with Congolese forces and is mandated "to prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralise these groups, and to disarm them". The brigade has used offensive rather than defensive force, which is not the norm in UN peace operations.

In the Central African Republic, the UN has taken a "proactive and robust posture" to help create conditions that will reduce the presence and threat of armed groups. For that purpose, the UN has operated alongside Central African forces on a number of occasions.

These two examples illustrate that stabilization missions are increasingly acting in concert with government forces, posing a potential problem on two fronts. First the UN risks alienating communities it is mandated to protect and, second, the increased intensity of violence against UN forces puts those troops at greater risk.

WHAT DOES STABILIZATION MEAN?

The UN appears to have adopted a combination of US and UK understandings in its approach to stabilization. The US sees stabilization as militarily defeating an insurgency to give the "legitimate authority" the monopoly on the use of force while supporting a locally owned transition.

The UK, however, sees stabilization as civilian led action undertaken with military support aimed at long-term recovery from conflict.

Both the UK and US are heavily involved with the mandating and planning of operations as part of the Security Council's P3 (US, UK and France). The three are the so-called "penholders" on most resolutions relating to UN peace operations.



As a result, UN stabilization missions typically do two things. First, they displace and deter armed groups and, second, undertake peace building activities to entrench state authority and create state legitimacy in the power vacuum left behind. Depending on the situation, the displacement and deterrence of armed groups has been sought by using offensive force or by taking a robust defensive posture.

This approach can be seen in the UN stabilization mission in the Central African Republic. When the mission was deployed in 2014, the state had little authority beyond Bangui, the capital. From the outset UN forces understood robust force would be needed to support the state's authority outside Bangui and to prevent armed groups from entering the capital.

Three examples bear this out. In February 2017, UN troops opened fire on 40 members of an armed group approaching the city of Bambari. An airstrike was used to show that the armed group had crossed a "red line" around the city that had been imposed to protect civilians. The UN mission also announced that a joint deployment was underway with Central African forces to establish state authority in Bambari.

In January 2018, the UN launched a joint military operation with government forces to deter armed groups from entering the town of Paoua. The most recent example was in April 2018 when UN forces undertook a "joint disarmament and arrest operation" alongside government forces. The targets were criminal groups that threatened civilians and obstructed state authority. The operation led to exchanges of fire and the death of a peacekeeper.

The Congolese, Malian and Central African missions have all operated during ongoing conflicts in contrast with traditional operations where there is peace to keep. These missions are also mandated

to use varying degrees of proactive, robust force to prevent attacks on themselves and people they're trying to protect. This invariably means extending a state's authority.

Consequently, the lines are increasingly becoming blurred between using robust force for protective purposes and the use of offensive force to fight an enemy alongside the host state government.

A NEW PRECEDENT FOR UN PEACE OPERATIONS?

It may be the case that the UN has now set a precedent of entering conflict zones ready to stand its ground and fend off armed groups rather than wait for peace to keep. But there are risks.

One is increased peacekeeper deaths where troops are increasingly targets of attack. The other is that support from UN member states may wane in the long term as the dangers associated with contributing troops multiply.

What is undoubtedly true is that stabilization efforts will have an effect on the civilian populations the UN is there to protect. The robust use of force by well equipped peacekeepers who can access the latest intelligence and logistical equipment from Western contributing states could lead to the effective deterrence of armed groups and a better chance at a normal life for civilians.

But the importance of who the UN chooses to work with cannot be underestimated. Where the UN seeks stabilization in cooperation with the government it risks marginalising communities disillusioned with the current regime. The UN promotes local ownership in peace building, yet this may be prove more difficult to achieve where UN personnel are seen to be synonymous with state authorities that aren't trusted by sections of the population.

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Reggae's sacred roots and call to protest injustice

DAVID W. STOWE
theconversation.com

July 1 is International Reggae Day – a time to celebrate the popular music of Jamaica with dance parties exhibitions, presentations and even tree planting.

Reggae is universally associated with Bob Marley, its most influential artist. However, it was "Do the Reggae," by Jamaican musical group Toots and the Maytals that in 1968 first used the word "reggae" in a title and helped define the genre. Two years later, another Jamaican band, the Melodians released "Rivers of Babylon," with lyrics adopted from Psalm 137, a Hebrew poem that is the subject of my most recent book, "Song of Exile."

This hugely popular lyric opens a window into Rastafarian spirituality.

WHO ARE THE RASTAFARI

Reggae is the most popular musical expression of Rastafari, a belief system that took hold in the 1930s among poor, rural Jamaicans of African descent, who had immigrated to Kingston, where they felt alienated from roots and traditions.

Rastafari emphasizes the connection of people of African descent to Ethiopia and was inspired principally by the Jamaican-born Marcus Garvey, who founded the influential United

Negro Improvement Association in 1914. He taught that blacks should reject their subjugation in North America by repatriating to Africa.

Garvey preached that blacks were the authentic biblical Jews. Based on his reading of the Bible, Garvey predicted the appearance of a black king and messiah in Africa. Like Jews, Christians and Muslims, Rastas worship a supreme being, referred to as Jah, short for Jehovah.

The word Rastafari comes from the Emperor of Ethiopia Haile Selassie, crowned in 1930 and considered by most Rastafarians to be divine. Although Selassie himself was Christian not Rasta, his title was "Ras," meaning "prince," and his given name was Tafari – hence his followers called themselves Rastafari.

Numbering roughly a million adherents worldwide, Rastafari forbids

practitioners to cut their hair. A meat-free diet of local, naturally produced fruits and vegetables without additives is encouraged, contraception and abortion are typically proscribed, and homosexuality is shunned. Taking its cue from verses in the Bible, in which the leaves of trees serve for the "healing of the nations," Rastafari prescribes cannabis use in sacramental rituals for healing and meditation that center on drumming and chanting.

REGGAE AND 'RIVERS OF BABYLON'

Reggae music was fed by diverse musical sources. Its rhythmic underpinnings were laid by African drum rhythms. Syncopated patterns created by the drums were enhanced in the 1960s by a prominent electric bass line and off-beat guitar riffs.

Reggae also drew on earlier traditions of Jamaican popular music as well as American genres like big-band jazz and rhythm and blues. North American gospel hymns influenced some of the lyrics and tunes.

The spirituality of Rastafari appears vividly in the song "Rivers of Babylon."

First recorded in 1970, "Rivers of Babylon" takes its

text from Psalm 137, the only one out of 150 psalms to be set in a particular time and place, the Babylonian exile or the period between 587-586 B.C. in Israel's history, when Jews were taken captive in Babylon and the Jerusalem temple was destroyed.

Its nine verses paint a scene of captives mourning "by the rivers of Babylon," mocked by their captors. It expresses a vow to remember Jerusalem even in exile and closes with fantasies of vengeance against the oppressors.

WHY PSALM 137 IS IMPORTANT

The Babylonian exile compelled Israelites to rethink their relationship to God, reassess their standing as a chosen people and rewrite their history. This episode has obvious appeal to Rastafarians, who consider themselves in exile from their African homeland (Zion) and living under an oppressive European power system they refer to as Babylon.

Like Psalm 137, the "Rivers of Babylon," is divided into three sections.

The first stanza offers a modified version of the Psalm 137:

*By the rivers of Babylon, where we sat down,
And there we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

*Cause the wicked carried us away in captivity
Required from us a song.*

How can we sing King Alpha's song in a strange land?

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SC asks Centre to inform in 10 days time frame for appointing Lokpal

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI):

The Supreme Court today directed the Centre to apprise it within 10 days about the time frame for appointing the anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal in the country.

A bench comprising justices Ranjan Gogoi and R Banumathi asked the government to file an affidavit within 10 days giving details of the steps which are likely to be taken for appointing the Lokpal.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, placed before the bench the written instructions which he had received from the government on the issue of appointment of Lokpal.

The bench has posted the matter for hearing on July 17.

The court was hearing a contempt petition filed by NGO Common Cause, which had raised the issue of non-appointment of the ombudsman despite the apex court's verdict of April 27 last year.

The Supreme Court, in its last year's verdict, had said there was no justification to keep the enforcement of the Lokpal Act suspended till the proposed amendments, including on the issue of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, were cleared by Parliament.

The Centre had on May 15 informed the apex court that senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi has been appointed as an eminent jurist in the selection committee for appointment of the anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal.

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New battle in Old Blighty: Upbeat India gear up for tough English test

CHETAN NARULA

MANCHESTER, JUL 2 (PTI): Their supremacy in shorter formats is redoubtable but India will have their task cut out against a vastly improved England in the opening T20 International in what will be a defining summer for Virat Kohli and his team.

While India has been a consistent limited overs side during the past decade, England have finally found their mojo in ODIs and T20s, courtesy a group of fantastic limited overs players like Jos Buttler, Jason Roy and Ben Stokes.

With the 2019 ODI World Cup less than 12 months away, there is more than bragging rights at stake as both sides look to fine-tune preparations against an opposition of note.

India are coming into the series with two facile victories over Ireland -- by 72 and 143 runs respectively but Kohli knows too well that England will be a different proposition.

What will give him confidence though is the fact that India have won 15 of their last 20 T20 Internationals including the Nidahas Trophy in Sri Lanka and the bilateral away series against South Africa.

England are coming into series on the back of 6-0 drubbing of Australia with Buttler, Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow in fantastic form.

Dating back to June 2017, England have won 5 out of 9 T20Is



played against South Africa, West Indies, Australia and New Zealand. Therein, they did endure a torrid time in the tri-series against the latter two sides (earlier in March), losing 3 out of 4 games.

For the Men in Blue, the Irish tour was nothing more than a glorified warm-up where all the top order batsmen save Virat Kohli got runs while wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal were again among wickets.

However Jasprit Bumrah's thumb injury will be a concern as he has played a big role with his death overs bowling. It will be interesting to find whether his replacement Deepak Chahar gets his maiden cap

even though senior pro Umesh Yadav looks more likely replacement.

It was the first time since February that a full-strength Indian team took the field and they did well to brush off any rust with most of the limited-overs' players having enjoyed time off since the end of 2018 IPL.

To start off the series, the Indian team management is expected to play around with set combinations. Siddarth Kaul could come into consideration as well, if one of the wrist spinners is benched. That option will be dependent on pitch conditions, but it has been two very hot days by Manchester standards, and so both spinners could come into play in the baking sun.

With Hardik Pandya slotting in as the sole all-rounder, his brother Krunal and Chahar will have to wait for their turns.

Attention then turns to the middle order, wherein Kohli isn't looking to make too many changes. The skipper himself, Raina and MS Dhoni are the backbone of the batting line-up, while Manish Pandey is in running for the fourth spot on account of his good run in international T20 cricket.

Batting late in the order, he boasts of 276 runs in 10 matches at average 92 and strike-rate 127.18. These numbers are hard to ignore.

Additionally, Kohli hinted in Ireland that any permutations in the playing eleven would only be like-for-like changes. In turn, this means Rahul could sit out as back-up opener and Dinesh Karthik is still an understudy for Dhoni, again favouring Pandey's inclusion ahead of both.

The former reasoning could impact India's preparation for the ODI series as Rahul and Karthik are in contention to bat in the middle order in the 50-over format. However, Pandey is not included in the ODI squad here and giving him ample game time in the T20Is could also be a factor.

England, meanwhile, made a few strategic changes after their poor showing in the tri-series. Assistant coach Paul Farbrace was put in charge of the T20 team for Australia

and India series, while head coach Trevor Bayliss took to domestic cricket scouting at the same time.

One of the first moves of the new regime was to promote Jos Buttler as opener and it worked in fine fashion as he struck the quickest T20I half-century for an English batsman as Australia were beaten by 28 runs at Edgbaston.

Buttler scored 50 off only 22 balls, and his knock including six fours and five sixes mirrored his IPL form. Back in April-May, he hit five successive half-centuries for the Rajasthan Royals and finished the tournament with 548 runs from 13 matches at a strike-rate of 155.24.

Needles to say, he will be India's greatest threat, albeit the likes of Jason Roy and Alex Hales also add a lot of firepower to the English top-order.

Teams:

India: Virat Kohli (c), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Suresh Raina, Manish Pandey, MS Dhoni (wk), Dinesh Karthik, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Hardik Pandya, Siddarth Kaul, Umesh Yadav.

England: Eoin Morgan (c), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Jake Ball, Jos Buttler (wk), Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, David Willey, Dawid Malan.

Match Starts: 10 pm IST.

Title holder Srikanth faces Momota test at Indonesia Open

JAKARTA, JUL 2 (PTI): Defending champion Kidambi Srikanth will look to find a chink in Kento Momota's armour when he locks horns with the in-form Japanese in the opening match of the USD 1,250,000 Indonesia Open World Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday.

Two days ago, Srikanth was outwitted by the 22-year-old Momota en route to his final appearance at the Malaysian Open and the Indian will have to produce his top game to trouble the former world number 2 rival, who has been in sensational form since making a comeback after serving a one-year ban on charges of illegal gambling. Momota, whose run of 21 successive wins was cut short by Malaysian legend Lee Chong Wei in the finals on Sunday, has defeated Srikanth six times in nine meetings, a statistic which the Indian will be keen to change.

Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu, who also reached the semifinals last week, will look to continue her consistent performance when she opens the proceedings against Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno here.

Two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist Saina Nehwal, who made an opening-round exit in Malaysia, takes on Indonesia's Dinar Dyah Ayustine.

For 16-year-old Vaishnavi Red-



dy Jakka, it will be about gaining experience and confidence by putting a good show when she crosses swords with Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt in her campaign opener.

In men's singles, HS Prannoy will have an arduous task of surpassing the legendary Lin Dan of China in his campaign opener, while Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth will face Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei for the second time in two weeks, hoping to outwit the world number 15 rival this time and cross the opening hurdle after an early exit in the last tournament.

After a first-round exit in Malaysia, Sameer Verma too will look to keep his campaign alive this week when he takes on Germa-

ny's Rasmus Gemke in the opening round.

In the men's doubles, Japanese combo of Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe will stand in the way of Commonwealth Games silver medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, while Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will meet third seeds Chinese Liu Cheng and Zhang Nan.

Women's doubles pair of Jakampudi Meghana and Poorvisha S Ram will fancy their chances when they square off against Indonesian pair of Agatha Imanuela and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti, while Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy will face tough test in their opening clash with fourth seeded Chinese duo of Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong.

Taxi drivers booked for fake social media posts on "stone-pelting" on Amarnath pilgrims

JAMMU, JUL 2 (PTI): The police have booked some taxi drivers here for allegedly circulating a false social media post, claiming occurrence of stone pelting on Amarnath pilgrims and scaring them.

The police said they have booked taxi drivers from two different groups for depicting the broken and damaged window panes of their taxis' as having been caused due to stone-pelting on pilgrims.

They said a travel agency operating near Jammu railway station had hired some taxis from outside the state to ferry Amarnath pilgrims, irritating the local taxi operators and leading to a clash between the two groups yesterday.

The police said the window panes

of several taxis were damaged in the clash.

The situation, however, took an ugly turn when some taxi drivers, with the intention to settle personal scores, posted fake information on social media claiming stone-pelting attack on Amarnath pilgrims in Jammu and causing fear among the pilgrims, a police official said.

The official said an FIR under various sections of Ranbir Penal Code and the Tourist Trading Act was registered against both the parties and the persons who have posted concocted and baseless information on the social media.

The police has begun investigation in the case but no arrests have been made so far, the official said.

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'Not the end of world for Murray,' says Federer

LONDON, JUL 2 (AFP): Roger Federer believes Andy Murray made the right decision to withdraw from Wimbledon, insisting it's "not the end of the world" for the two-time winner.

Murray, 31, pulled out on Sunday, less than 24 hours before the start of the tournament, fearing that his long-standing hip injury would not cope with the rigours of two weeks of five-set tennis.

"It must be a tough decision but one he's taking for his career, and his life as well," said eight-time Wimbledon champion Federer.

"I think it's probably a wise decision. He would give everything to play here and that's why it hurts."

Murray, the 2013 and 2016 Wimbledon winner, had only just returned to action after 11 months on the sidelines due to a hip injury that needed surgery in January.

He originally suffered the setback in a five-set loss to Sam Querrey in the quarter-finals at the All England Club last July.

"It's with regret I'm withdrawing from Wimbledon," Murray, who played just three matches in his comeback, said in a



statement.

"I've made significant progress in practice and matches over the last 10 days but, after lengthy discussions with my team

and with a heavy heart, we've decided that playing best-of-five-set matches might be a bit too soon in the recovery process."

Murray, whose ranking is down to 156,

will now turn his attention to the American hard-court season that culminates in the US Open. He is next scheduled to play in Washington beginning on July 30.

"We did everything we could to try to be ready in time. I will start practising on the hard courts and continuing with my rehab and recovery and I'm looking forward to the US hard-court season," Murray added. Federer believes it would be foolish to write off Murray as a major force in the sport.

"If you're just not feeling it in the morning to walk out there and play best-of-five a few times in a row, what's the point? You're only going to have a setback and then everybody's even more unhappy," said the defending champion who begins his bid for a ninth title at Wimbledon later Monday against Serbia's Dusan Lajovic.

"I'm sad that he's not playing Wimbledon. It's a big loss. He's one of the big guys here. "It's not the end of the world and we all hope he's going to come back stronger and win some epic battles on centre court again."

Murray, who was due to face France's

Benoit Paire in the first round, signed off on his statement by saying: "If anyone needs a coach over the next couple weeks give me buzz!"

German fourth seed Alexander Zverev, who has yet to get past the last 16 at Wimbledon, was among the first to seek out Murray's expertise.

"If you've got nothing better to do the next two weeks and feel like coaching hit me up," he wrote on Instagram.

Nick Kyrgios, who beat Murray in his comeback match at Queen's last month, added: "Let's make it happen. I know you like a challenge."

US Open women's champion Sloane Stephens joined in, writing: "As you know, my coach is always asleep!!!! We need help!!!! Warm up is at 10:30, court 5 -- see you there?"

Murray's place in the draw goes to Jason Jung of Taiwan, the world number 154 who has just one win on the main tour in 2018.

The American-born 29-year-old has never played a main draw match at the Slams.

Afghan Sikhs, Hindus grieve after suicide attack kills 19

JALALABAD, JUL 2 (AFP): Grief mixed with anger among Afghanistan's minority Sikh and Hindu community today as they prepared for funerals of loved ones, including an election candidate, killed in a suicide attack.

At least 19 people were killed and 21 wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus waiting to meet President Ashraf Ghani in the eastern city of Jalalabad yesterday.

Scores of mourners shouted "death to Ashraf Ghani" and "death to the government" as they placed coffins in ambulances that would take them to a temple for funeral ceremonies.

Among the dead were 17 Sikhs and Hindus, officials said, including Avtar Singh, the only Sikh candidate running in the October 20 legislative elections, and Rawail Singh, a prominent social activist.

"This attack has killed many of our elders, those who loved their country more than anything else," Narendar Singh told AFP as he took the body of his father, Avtar Singh, from



the hospital.

"We were the direct target. The government really does not care about us.

We used to be a huge community but most of us have left." Around 1,000 Sikhs and Hindus are estimated to reside in what is otherwise an over-

whelmingly Muslim nation.

The vast majority live in Jalalabad as well as the south-eastern city of Ghazni and the Afghan capital Kabul.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest carried out by the militants in the restive

province where they have a foothold.

Ghani was in Jalalabad on Sunday as part of a two-day visit to the province. He was not harmed.

Singh said a group of 20 Sikhs and Hindus had planned to meet with Ghani in the

morning at the provincial governor's compound but the meeting was postponed until the afternoon.

As their convoy neared the compound, they were stopped by security forces and ordered to get out of their cars to be checked.

"That is when a suicide bomber on foot detonated among us," Singh said.

Jagandar Singh, who lost his brother in the attack, said the mourners would consider taking to "the streets in Kabul" to express their anger at the government's inability to protect civilians.

"We have lost hope with this government," he said.

"Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs are all brothers but unfortunately under this government none of them is safe." IS was not part of the government's recent 18-day ceasefire with the Taliban that expired on Friday.

The government's unilateral truce overlapped with the Taliban's three-day ceasefire for Eid. It was marred by two suicide attacks in Nangarhar that were claimed by IS.

No relief on cards for ex-PM Zia as Bangla SC extends stay on bail

DHAKA, JUL 2 (PTI): Bangladesh's Supreme Court today upheld its order that stayed the bail granted by the High Court to former prime minister Khaleda Zia in a 2015 murder case, dealing a blow to the imprisoned leader.

The decision means that the 72-year-old three-time former premier and opposition leader will have to stay in jail for at least another month, even if she secures bail in other cases, bdnews24 reported.

Zia, the chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was jailed for five years in February in connection with the embezzlement of 21 million taka (about USD 250,000) in foreign donations meant for the Zia Orphanage Trust, named after her late husband Ziaur Rahman, a military ruler-turned-politician.

A four-member appellate bench led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain upheld the stay on the High Court decision granting Zia bail in the Cumilla murder case



over the firebombing of a bus in February, 2015, the report said.

The apex court also asked the High Court to hear and dispose of the case over the bail in four weeks.

Eight people were killed in the bomb attack during the BNP-Jamaat alliance's protests. Two separate cases including one for murder were filed over the incident.

After the 2015 incident, a warrant was issued for Zia's arrest after police filed the chargesheet in the two cases.

The Cumilla Chief Judicial Magistrate's court then ordered Zia to be brought for a hearing on March 26. She is yet to be brought to court due to her illness.

Indian-American named to key US federal advisory committee on aviation

WASHINGTON, JUL 2 (PTI): Indian-American Vivek Lal has been named to a key federal aviation advisory committee which provides guidance to the Trump administration on the future of the airspace system.

Lal, 49, currently vice-president at Lockheed Martin, would be representing the viewpoints of defence technology organisations in the NextGen Advisory Committee of the Department of Transportation.

The committee advises the government on topics including, but not limited to, NextGen investment priorities, capability deployment timing, equipage incentives, specific technologies, and deployments such as DataComm, National Airspace System performance metrics, and airspace design initiatives.

Lal, a globally renowned aerospace scientist, has been appointed for a two-year term on the committee that provides guidance on wide ranging topics affecting the US and global aviation community.

He has been a top official at Boeing and General Atomics in the past and successfully led over USD 12 billion of US-India trade.

Interpol issues Red Corner Notice against Nirav Modi: CBI

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): Interpol has issued a Red Corner Notice against absconding billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi who is facing probe in a USD 2 billion PNB scam, officials said.

In its Red Corner Notice (RCN) issued against a fugitive, the Interpol asks its 192 member countries to arrest or detain the person if spotted in their countries after which extradition or deportation proceedings can begin.

The Interpol has listed "money laundering charges," levelled by Enforcement Directorate (ED), in the RCN, they said.

Modi along with his wife, brother and uncle, all accused in the CBI FIRs in the case, had left the country in the first week of January, weeks before country's biggest banking scam surfaced.

Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi have refused to return India to join probe citing business and health reasons among others, they said.

The CBI had tried to track



the movements of Nirav Modi through a diffusion notice issued through the Interpol on February 15, but it had limited success as only the United Kingdom responded to the CBI request, they said.

Nirav Modi managed to travel across several countries even after information about his passport being revoked by the Indian government was flashed in the Interpol central database

on February 24, the CBI had earlier said.

"After the passport was revoked/cancelled by the External Affairs Ministry, we had updated this information in the diffusion notice. The information that Nirav Modi's passport has been revoked was provided in the Interpol central database, available to all the member countries, on February 24," CBI spokesperson Abhishek Dayal had said.

He had said that after the "diffusion" notice was issued by the Interpol on the request of the CBI, the agency followed it up with six countries where Nirav Modi was suspected to have fled. The agency requested these countries to share information about his whereabouts and movements.

The agency sent these reminders to the Interpol coordination agency of the United Kingdom on April 25, May 22, May 24 and May 28.

Similar reminders were also sent to the agencies of the US, Singapore, Belgium, the UAE and France, they said.

The case pertains to cheating the state-run Punjab National Bank through fraudulent issuance of Letters of Undertaking and Foreign Letters of Credit worth over USD 2 billion (about Rs 13,000 crore) by Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, both absconding since the first week of January.

North Korea serious about dismantling nukes: Trump

WASHINGTON, JUL 2 (PTI): North Korea is "very serious" about dismantling its nuclear weapons, US President Donald Trump said today, dismissing reports that Pyongyang does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpiles.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had pledged to work towards "complete denuclearisation" during a historic meeting with Trump in Singapore on June 12 in return for security guarantees from the US.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that North Korea was considering ways to conceal its nuclear weapons and secret production facilities.

Responding to the report, Trump said, "I think they (North Koreans) are very serious about it (denuclearisation). I think they want to do -- we had a very good chemistry.

"I made a deal with him. I shook hands with him. I really believe he means it," Trump told Fox news.

The daily, citing intelligence officials, said that the US intelligence officials have concluded that North Korea does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpiles.

Appearing on a different Sunday talk show on CBS News, his National Security Advisor John Bolton said that the US has developed a programme to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons.



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be discussing with the North Koreans in the near future about really how to dismantle all of their weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a year, he said.

"If they have the strategic decision already made to do that, and they're cooperative, we can move very quickly. It's to North Korea's advantage to see these programmes dismantled very quickly, because then the elimination of sanctions, aid by South Korea and Japan and others can all begin to flow.

"We would be able to dismantle the overwhelming bulk of their programmes within a year," Bolton said.

Noting that the US is very well aware of North Korea's pattern of behaviour over

decades of negotiating with the US, he said that the Trump administration knows exactly what the risks are of them using negotiations to drag out the length of time they have to continue their nuclear, chemical, biological weapon programmes and ballistic missiles.

The president would like to see these discussions move promptly to get a resolution, Bolton said, adding that this has been the advice that China's leader Xi Jinping has given to the US as well.

"So we're going to try and proceed to implement what the two leaders agreed to in Singapore. But rather than have a series of reports, things are going better, things are going well, they're concealing this, they're not concealing that, really, it doesn't serve the purpose of advancing the negotiations.

"But there's not any starry-eyed feeling among the group doing this, that we're well aware of what the North Koreans have done in the past," Bolton added.

Some US officials believe that North Korea has about 65 nuclear warheads.

Further in addition to the known uranium-enrichment facility, some 96 kms north of Pyongyang, North Korean is also believed to have been operating a secret underground uranium enrichment site known as Kangson, the Post reported.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LOST: I, Shri Bal Hang Limboo son of Sancha Raj Limboo resident of Rimbik ward no 03 under 11 Darap Nambu GPU, West Sikkim have lost my Certificate of Identification (COI) and Tribal certificate in original on 30.7.2013. If found please contact: **7719319098**.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Required Sales Boys & Girls for IT store. Experience in IT knowledge both in software and hardware required. Interested candidates contact: **Ramolla Cellular: 7001204591, 9733015218**.

Kutse Tshegu



The Kutse Tshegu (49 days) of **Late Mrs. Urmila Gurung** who left for her heavenly abode will take place on **4th July 2018** at **PRAURMILA COTTAGE, MAJHIGO-AN JORETHANG**. We

request all friends, relatives and well wishers and family to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul on the said day.

We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us at the time of our bereavement.

family members:

- 94340 57367/96098 95767 - Tika Gurung
- 7872209474- Jigme Tshering Bhutia
- 9733670372- Pravat Gurung
- 8145620806- Anula Gurung

Anthyeshi Kriya



On 25th of June, 2018, **Mr. Rajen Karkidholi**, son of late Arjun Karkidholi left for heavenly abode. We the family members would like to thank everyone who was part of his story. We believe that he responsibly

concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence at **Maneydara, Lingding, below Indira Bypass [SDF Bhawan], Gangtok on 7th July, 2018 [Saturday]**.

Munna Karkidholi [mother], Sonam Yangchen Bhutia [wife], Ravi Karkidholi [brother], Aruna Karkidholi [sister], Anamika Karkidholi [daughter], Menka Karkidholi [sister].
Mob: 9609850052, 9609834107, 9609774878, 90345472, 7407385431

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LET'S CELEBRATE! Sara Ali Khan and Sushant Singh Rajput partied last night to celebrate the wrap of their upcoming film Kedarnath with director, Abhishek Kapoor.

Cheryl and Liam Payne **SPLIT!**

Couple confirm their two and a half year relationship is over... amid claims he has already moved out of family home...

Cheryl has announced her two and a half year relationship with Liam Payne is over.

The singer, 35, who shares young son Bear with the One Direction star, 24, confirmed their split in a tweet addressed to her 7million Twitter followers on Sunday evening.

She wrote: "We are sad to announce that we are going our separate ways. It's been a tough decision for us to make. We still have so much love for each other as a family. Bear is our world and we ask that you respect his privacy as we navigate our way through this together."

Moments later Liam shared the same tweet with his own followers on the micro-blogging site.

It's understood that the One Direction star has already moved out of the lavish £5 million mansion he shared with Cheryl and Bear in leafy Surrey.

According to The Sun, the couple had mutually agreed to separate a fortnight ago following months of speculation regarding the state of their relationship.

A source told the publication: "Cheryl and Liam worked really hard on their relationship - they had troubles earlier this year and were able to get through them. But they're in different stages of their lives and, after a lot of careful thought, came to a decision that it's best for everyone if they do go their separate ways. He still cares for her and she cares for him. They still have an ongoing relationship together. They have a baby together."

The announcement comes little more than 24-hours after Cheryl celebrated her 35th birthday, a milestone party Liam failed to attend despite flying back to the United Kingdom earlier that day.

Cheryl and Liam, who welcomed Bear in March 2017, have not been seen together publicly in four months, with February's BRIT Awards the last time fans saw them walking



the carpet as a couple.

Just last week Liam spoke fondly of the former Girls Aloud singer while admitting that she had made the first move by "tickling him" when they reunited on The X Factor in 2014.

The couple were plagued by split rumours after a surprise red carpet appearance at the BRITs - with fans claiming their body language looked forced. Sources told MailOnline the pair were struggling to find quality time together, as they juggle their busy careers and care for their baby son.

The insider claimed their relationship was "strained" as the former One Direction star was spending nights away from home and touring the world while she looked after Bear. Yet, Cheryl was quick to blast rumours of friction in their relationship in a series of furious tweets, posted shortly after the annual ceremony.

Liam and Cheryl - who have a 10-year age gap and first met when he auditioned for the X Factor at 14 - confirmed reports that they were dating in February 2016.

The couple confirmed the birth of son bear on Mother's Day 2017, posting identical Instagram posts of Liam cradling their newborn baby.

Cheryl was last seen on Wednesday as she headed to a charity event at St James' Palace in London. The singer turned heads by going braless in her slinky lime gown, as she arrived at the event with a string of stars.

On Friday, Cheryl celebrated her birthday with former Girls Aloud bandmates Nicola Roberts and Kimberly Walsh, documenting her night in a string of Instagram posts.

Sanju BEATS Oceans 8 to grab the fourth position at the worldwide box office!

Ranbir Kapoor starrer Sanju has enjoyed a humongous opening weekend at the worldwide box office. In fact, the biographical drama has achieved a feat which is very rare for a Bollywood film.

The film has entered in the top 5 position at the worldwide box office. Sanju has beaten Hollywood biggie to grab the fourth spot in the list after Jurassic World, The Incredibles 2 and Animal World.

With this, we can easily say that Sanju has received worldwide acceptance from the audience and will continue to shatter records at the ticket windows.

Talking about Sanju's domestic box office, the film has created history by becoming the highest single day earner with a collection Rs 46.71 crore on Sunday, thereby crushing the record set the SS Rajamouli's magnum opus Baahubli 2 which had collected Rs 46.50 crore.

It has also turned out to be the biggest opening



weekend grosser of the year beating Race 3, Padmaavat and Baaghi 2. The film is now expected to cross the Rs 175 crore mark by the end of its first week at the ticket windows.

Directed by PK helmer Rajkumar Hirani, it also fea-

tures Vicky Kaushal, Paresh Rawal, Dia Mirza, Sonam Kapoor, Anushka Sharma, Jim Sarbh and Boman Irani in pivotal roles. It is produced under the banners of Vidhu Vinod Chopra Films, Rajkumar Hirani Films and Fox Star Studios.

I treat my gangster characters as humans, says Nawazuddin

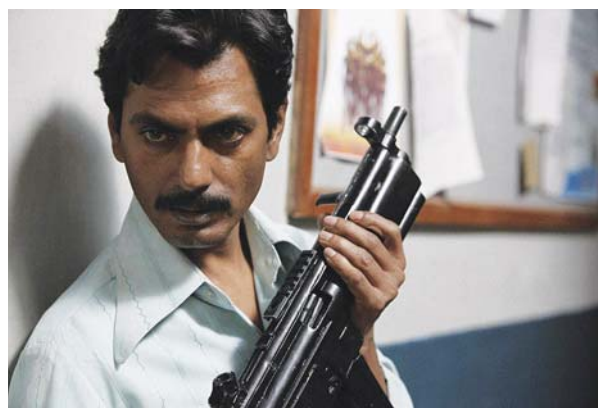
Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui says the reason for him being convincing in gangster roles is that he looks at the characters through a human lens. Siddiqui shot to fame with his portrayal of local goon Faizal Khan in Anurag Kashyap's "Gangs of Wasseypur".

The actor says he has played a gangster four times in his career -- in "Munna Michael", "Babumoshai Bandoobaaz", among others -- and has never treated the roles similarly.

"I have never done a gangster role thinking of it as one. I think it is the role of a man and that's it. He could be bad or good. Sometimes the flawed personality of a person is highlighted more. I have never treated my characters as gangsters. I look at them as humans," Siddiqui told PTI.

The 44-year-old actor will be seen again as a criminal overlord in "Sacred Games", a Netflix Original web series.

"This role is different because others didn't have as much depth as this one.



Faizal Khan (from 'Gangs of...') of course had depth, you know certain aspects about him after watching the film but here, you go deep into his psychic. We have tried to do that, to take you along his journey," the actor says.

Set in modern day Mumbai, the series revolves around Sartaj Singh, a seasoned and cynical police officer, played by Saif Ali Khan, who is summoned by an anonymous tip that promises him an opportunity to capture the powerful criminal overlord Ganesh Gaitonde, enacted by Siddiqui.

As the stakes mount, Sartaj and Gaitonde realise that they are part of a

much larger scenario, which expands beyond the city.

"Sacred Games" has been directed by Anurag Kashyap, who helms portions of Siddiqui, and Vikramaditya Motwane has shot with Khan.

For Siddiqui, teaming up again with Kashyap was one of the reasons to come on board the project, apart from the opportunity that a web series gives an actor.

"A web series give you a long time to ex-

plore a character, unlike in films where you have only two hours. Even if you look at the three principle characters, they are very detailed because one has time. As an actor you can dive deep in such a scenario.

"My vision was to explore this, see where it goes. I had seen a couple of Netflix shows so I knew what to expect. This one was right up to that standard, I had no reason to say no," he says.

The series, based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Vikram Chandra, will be available to Netflix subscribers in all territories from July 6.

ARIES: Jump back onstage and say your peace, Aries. Your active participation in the conversation of today is critical to maintaining a healthy energy flow. The things you say to others will have a profound effect, so choose your words carefully. Enjoy a physical activity that involves a group. Make it a social event. Be an active participant in all the situations you encounter.

TAURUS: Your solid footing may become a bit unstable today, Taurus, but don't worry about it. Be a little more flexible and release your tightfisted grip on the situation. Infuse a bit of laughter and playfulness into things. You'll find that the exchange of ideas is a critical part of the day. Get out of the house and into a social arena in which you can enjoy lighthearted conversations.

GEMINI: There's no excuse for la-

ziness today, Gemini! Make sure you get out of bed before the day ends. You'll find that the more action you take, the happier you'll be. Express your thoughts to the people around you. Get out in the open air and listen to what the wind has to say. Be active and flexible. People's emotions are more on the surface, so keep things light and energetic.

CANCER: Don't let things stagnate, Cancer. It's time to take action. In everything you do today, see how far you can go as opposed to how deep. Cover a wide range of topics. Take a break from your usual emotional intensity and simply enjoy the sunshine and light conversation with others. Keep things energetic and upbeat. Take action when you see that things are flagging.

LEO: You might feel like you've

come out of the dark and into the light today, Leo. A weight has been lifted, but there's still a great deal of emotional drama that needs to work itself out. Go for a long walk this afternoon and increase your lung capacity. Get your heart rate up. You'll find that the more active you are, the better you'll be able to sort through your emotional trauma.

VIRGO: Take a break from your steady climb today and have a look at the world around you, Virgo. Enjoy a night out with friends and take an active role in the conversation. You'll find that the more socializing you do, the more you'll be able to release some of the tension that you might not even realize you have. Get the energy moving again. Take an active role in keeping up with the beat.

LIBRA: Pay attention to the news today, Libra. Be sure to check not just the mainstream news but also the offbeat independent publications and websites. Question what you hear and read. Take an active role in increasing your knowledge of the world. Take responsibility for your citizenship by keeping an eye on what's going on. Information is an important aspect of power.

SCORPIO: Today is a great day to go out and get things done, Scorpio. You might find that you're a bit indecisive, but don't sweat it. Don't feel like you have to make any great commitments. You'll do fine jumping around from lily pad to lily pad. Get yourself into the open and express what's on your mind. Engage in some sort of physical activity that gets your circulation going.

SAGITTARIUS: The name of the game for you today is action, Sagittarius. The air seems to get clearer, and it feels as if a weight has been lifted off you. You might notice a sudden burst of physical energy urging you to get out and go for a long bike ride. Feel the wind blowing through your hair. Or release your pent-up emotions on the soccer field in a fast-paced game with your friends.

CAPRICORN: Take some of that knowledge you've picked up and processed over the past few weeks and spread it around, Capricorn. It's time to put your communication skills to work. You'll find that your emotions are strongly tied to your actions today, and that things will take on a much lighter tone than they have in the past few days. Take deep breaths and release that pent-up tension.

AQUARIUS: Your physical stamina is apt to be quite strong today, Aquarius. You should consider going to the gym to release some of that pent-up energy. Engage in a sport or something that involves strategy and good coordination. Pick up a tennis racquet or join a basketball game. You'll find that your high level of energy will be the key to coming out on top.

PISCES: Take a break from the seriousness that has prevailed over the past couple days, Pisces. You'll find that upbeat conversations are the way to navigate through today's waters. You might notice that communication is more active and that words are especially effective. Talk and people will listen. Listen and people will talk. The exchange of ideas is critical on a day like this.