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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## The Yatris Arrive

**SILIGURI, 15 JUN [IPR]:** The first batch for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2019 made up of 31 members including 29 yatris and two Liason Officers arrived at Bagdogra Airport today. The Yatris were given a warm welcome at the airport by the STDC staff from Siliguri, Bagdogra and Gangtok. The pilgrimage team then proceeded towards Gangtok.

## Doctors turn down Mamata's appeal to return to duty

**KOLKATA, JUN 15 (PTI):** Agitating junior doctors Saturday turned down Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's appeal to end their stir and resume duty, saying there was no honest effort on her part to break the deadlock. "We are eagerly waiting to rejoin our duty, but from the Chief Minister's side there is no honest initiative to find a solution (of the ongoing problem)," a spokesperson of the joint forum of junior doctors told reporters after CM appealed to protestors to return to work. The agitating junior

doctors also rubbished Banerjee's claims that a few of their colleagues visited her at the state secretariat. "What CM has told in the press conference is not at all true. No junior doctor went to meet her. What she claimed that we are against the solution and conversation...But we want her to come to the Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital listen to us and take necessary steps to serve the ailing people," he said. Earlier, Banerjee, while addressing the press at the state secretariat, left it midway,

claiming that a few junior doctors have appeared there in order to meet her. Banerjee during her press meet said that her government had not invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) even after five days of strike by the junior doctors and appealed to them to immediately rejoin service. The chief minister said the state government had accepted all the demands of the doctors and was ready to accommodate their additional demands, but that they must resume work.

## "NITI Aayog has not played much expected role of facilitator"

**NEW DELHI, JUN 15 (PTI):** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Saturday said that NITI Aayog has not "played the much expected role of a facilitator" in the last four years and perhaps was not a substitute for the erstwhile Planning Commission. Vijayan, in his speech at the 5th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog here, said that after doing away with the plans at the national level, states have lost the Gadgil formula, grants which they used to get asplan assistance earlier. Besides, states now have also to bear a higher share -- 40 per cent --instead of the earlier average 25 per cent in many centrally sponsored schemes, resulting in shrinking the State governments' fiscal space, he said. He said transformation of the Planning Commission to NITI Aayog has adversely affected states like Kerala, which had lost a source of funding for its Five Year Plans.

la wascontinuing with the Five Year Plans and implementing many development programmes through its Thirteenth Five Year Plan. He said the centre has recently been spending onsubjects in the State List, resulting in centralisation in design of welfare schemes, which by economic reasoning, could be effectivelydone by governments at the State and locallevel. "For astrong nation, a strong Centre, strong states and vibrant local governments are essential pre-requisites." He said the foremost aim to fulfill people's aspirations was decentralisationof power to them as mandated in constitutional amendments. Vijayan said "incursions" into areas of legislative competence of state governments enshrined in the Constitution would weaken the federal system and make cooperative federalism lose its content, as well as its spirit. Vijayan opposed the move for Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee(APMC) Actand said the "exploitative conditions"will worsen in all probability. He said states have their own legislation on reforming agricultural producemarketing as it's an item in the State List of theSeventh Schedule of the Constitution.

## 26 child labourers rescued from Parle-G plant in Chhattisgarh

**RAIPUR, JUN 15 (PTI):** Twenty-six child labourers were rescued from the plant of popular biscuit brand Parle-G here, police said Saturday. A government task force on child labour had received a tip-off that minors were employed at Parle-G factory in Amasivni area, said Vidhansabha Police Station House Officer (SHO) Ashwani Rathore. The task force raided the factory Friday evening and rescued 26 children, he said. They were sent to juvenile shelter home, he added. Based on a complaint filed by the Women and Child Development Department officials, a case

was registered against the factory owner under the Juvenile Justice Act, the SHO said. Preliminary probe suggested that the rescued minors were aged between 13 to 17 years, he added. District Child Protection Officer Navneet Swarnkar told PTI that a district task force was constituted to conduct a drive to mark World Day Against Child Labour on June 12. "As part of the campaign, a total of 51 child labourers were rescued in the last six days in the district," he said. Some of the children allegedly employed at Parle-G factory hailed from Odisha, Madhya

Pradesh and Jharkhand, Swarnkar said. Their parents were being contacted, he added. According to the statements given by the children, they worked from 8 am to 8 pm and received wages ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 per month, he added. "We are hoping that Child Welfare Committee will add other sections like 3, 3A, 14 of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act and section 370 (buying or disposing of any person as a slave) of IPC," said Sandip Kumar Rao, state coordinator of NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan who was part of the rescue operation.

## Gujarat CM proposes changes in SDRF norms to deal with drought

**NEW DELHI, JUN 15 (PTI):** In order to effectively deal with drought, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Saturday proposed that the norms regarding the use of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) should be revised. "The recent years for Gujarat have been rainfall deficient and therefore, we have tak-

en stringent measures to mitigate the effects of scanty rainfall," he said in his speech at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting here. Gujarat had received just 73.87 per cent of the average rainfall during the monsoon season in 2018. Rupani said the state would like to propose certain "revisions"

in the SDRF norms. "As per Supreme court orders, the mid-day meal centres have to be kept open during vacations also after drought notification. The same applies to anganwadi centres," he said. "As the mid-day meal and anganwadi centres have to be kept open, it is proposed that the expen-

diture incurred thereon should be incorporated in SDRF guidelines," he added. The SDRF is the primary fund available with the state governments to deal with natural disasters. The central government contributes 75 per cent for general category states such as Gujarat and 90 per cent for spe-

cial category states of the assessed SDRF each year. Rupani said that during drought period, either the number of work days under the MGNREGA scheme should be increased to 200 days from 150 or the additional expenditure "beyond 150 days should be allowed to be made from the SDRF".

## Niti Aayog's 5th Governing Council meet begins

**NEW DELHI, JUN 15 (PTI):** The fifth meeting of Niti Aayog's Governing Council began here Saturday with the main agenda of deliberating upon drought situation, farm distress and security concerns over Naxal-affected districts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is chairing the meeting, which is being held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This will be the first governing council meeting under the new Modi government. Among others attending the meet are Union ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Rajnath Singh. The agenda for the meeting also includes rain-water harvesting, aspirational districts programme and structural reforms in the agriculture sector. The council, the apex body of Niti Aayog, in-

cludes all chief ministers, lieutenant governors of union territories, several union ministers and senior government officials. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, Karnataka CM H D Kumaraswamy, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Aditya Nath are among the heads of states attending the meeting. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, however, has refused to attend the meeting, saying it is "fruitless" as Niti Aayog has no financial powers to support state plans. The Governing Council reviews the action taken on the agenda items of the previous meeting and deliberates upon the future developmental priorities. The first meeting the

Governing Council was held on February 8, 2015, at which the Prime Minister laid down the key mandates of Niti Aayog such as fostering cooperative federalism and addressing national issues through active participation of the states. The second meeting on July 15, 2015 reviewed the progress made by the three sub-groups of chief ministers and the two task forces. In the third meeting on April 23, 2017, Modi had pitched for conducting simultaneous elections of the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies and shifting to a January-December fiscal year. The fourth meeting of the council on June 17, 2018 deliberated upon measures taken to double farmers' income and the progress of the government's flagship schemes.

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## Training cum demonstration on use of off-farm inputs



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Rongli Farmers Produce Cooperative Society (FPCS) organized Training cum demonstration on use of off-farm inputs (Bio fertilizers & bio pesticides) scheme under mission organic value change development (MOVCD) North East Region on at Rhenock BAC hall, a press release informs.

The program was chaired by former HM, BN Sharma along with Rhenock Panchayat President, Sudunglakha GPU Panchayat President,

Aritar Panchayat, Agriculture & Horticulture Deputy Directors, AI, HI, workers from 'One Job One Family', CONCEDE, FPCS RONGLI CEO with board members and progressive farmers of Rhenock, Tarpin, Mulukey, Sudunglakha and Aritar.

CEO FPCS Rongli subdivision Srijana Tamang gave the welcome speech while Manoj Sharma conducted the programme. Resource persons were Ruben Tamang and Khagendra Kafley of Gyalshing.

Dy Director, IS Chettri, spoke on de-

partmental schemes like Pradhan Mantri Farmers Pension Yojna. CONCEDE In-charge, RN Sharma informed through power point presentation about farm storage, organic certification process, scope certificate, transport certificate in buying procedure of organic food items. Similarly, Dy Director Horticulture, T Chopel Bhutia and Former Teacher, BN Sharma talked on value of agriculture. Program concluded with interaction session and vote of thanks by Dr Arjun Acharya.

## Landslide destroys house in Aritar



### REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Early this morning, the house of Damanta Neopaney got destroyed by a landslide at Aritar Ward under Simik Lingzey GPU, Khamdong block. The area MLA, SDM Gangtok and disaster management staff reached the spot to decide future course of action. Ex-gratia as per the norms shall be disbursed to affected family, informed DC [East] Kapil Meena on his social media page.

## Organic farming training in West Sikkim



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Mevedir, Service Provider Agency, in collaboration with the local stakeholders organized a day-long ward level Farmer's Training. The training program was conducted at Upper Omlok under Yangtey GPU and Srinagi ward under Bongten Sapong GPU, West Sikkim.

The key participants and resource person of Yangtey GPU were Damber Singh Chettri (FA Agriculture) and Ram Chandra Thapa (FA Horticulture) along with Mevedir Master Trainers, Biren Tiwari & Sangmoo Lepcha where as in Bongten Sapong GPU, PL Kami (Panchayat member) along with Project Supervisor, Ashish Chettri and Sabita Rai (Mevedir staff) conducted the training.

In Yangtey GPU, Damber Singh Chettri highlighted the package of practice of paddy to the farmers. The proper method of paddy bed preparation with good application of farm yard manure and how the field needs to be ploughed for better production was also explained to the farmers.

Thereafter, Biren Tiwari (Mevedir Master Trainer) briefed about

the ICS activities of Mevedir in the area and what it has been doing under the organic project of the Sikkim Government. He thanked all the participants for coming and giving their support to the program. He also informed the farmers that paddy seeds would be distributed to the progressive farmers.

Likewise in Bongten Sapong, Ashish Chettri highlighted about pest and disease management practices in organic farming. He informed about the different kinds of diseases that affected crops and how to tackle them. He also explained about the organic input called Phasal Rakshak and Dr Root and how it works and the benefits of these inputs.

Before concluding, the paddy seeds were given to progressive farmers of Yangtey by Ram Chandra Thapa (Field Assistant) and the inputs were distributed to Bongten Sapong GPU farmers.

More than thirty-two farmers attended both the training programs. The vote of thanks for the training was given by Mevedir Field Officers and the training was concluded successfully.

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## Lions Club Rangpo organizes Meri Saheli Program



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Second Phase Mission Sunder Meri Saheli Program introduced by Lions Club of Rangpo under Lions Club International 322 F 'One district one ac-

tivity' program started from today at Tiny Tots School Rangpo. Attended by Namita Chettri, Dixca Poudyal, Sanjay Agarwal and Suresh Prasad along with more than 50 students of Tiny Tots

School participated in the mission. Resource person, Dixca Poudyal spoke on cleanliness and menstrual hygiene. The Club distributed sanitary napkins to all the girl students of Tiny Tots School.

## Assam CM seeks enhanced assistance for people hit by calamities

### NEW DELHI, JUN 15 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Saturday sought enhanced assistance to the people affected by natural calamities like floods, which hit the state every year.

Addressing the 5th governing council meeting of the NITI Aayog here, he raised key issues pertinent to the state's development and underlined the future roadmap for state and central government's partnership.

He stressed on the need for effective management of flood and erosion problems afflicting a large part of Assam every year, a state government release said.

Sonowal pointed out that the norms of relief and rehabilitation provided to the flood-affected people according to Disaster Relief Fund guidelines are low and sought its increase substantially.

He also vouched for NITI Aayog's intervention to include river erosion in the admissible list of calamities for funding under National Disaster Relief Fund or State Disaster Relief Fund so that quick and timely steps can be taken to counter erosion.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for setting up a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the North-eastern region under the chairmanship Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Sonowal said suggestions made in the draft report of the committee would go a long way in finding a permanent solution to the problems of flood and erosion in Assam.

The chief minister also informed that the state government had made remarkable progress in addressing the needs of the seven selected districts of the state and an amount of Rs 28 crore had been kept in state budget of current financial year for taking up new activities in those districts.

He said in order to achieve Prime Minister Modi's target of doubling the farmers' income by 2022 in the state, satisfactory results were showed by the 'Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana' that was launched by the state government in 2017.

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: [NEWS@summittimes.com](mailto:NEWS@summittimes.com)

## KUTSE SHEGU

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of Late Doma Bhutia w/o Lakpa Thendup Bhutia who left for her heavenly abode on 01.05.2019 falls on 18.6.2019 (Tuesday). All relatives, friends & well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Below Law College, Helipad, Lower Burtuk, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

**Lakpa Thendup Bhutia(Husband), Kesseng Norbu Bhutia(son) & all family members.**  
**Mob: 9800655921/ 6294186876.**

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

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**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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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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### LAND FOR SALE

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.

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### 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.

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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.**

### “NITI Aayog has not played....

He said Kerala has noAPMC Act and the focus of the draft model act was on bringing incorporate farming and putting farmers in directcontact with corporate trading entities,with theexpectation that their income standards would improve.

“In a society with highly unequal bargainingpowers and monopoly power; these corporateentities would have the exploitative conditionswill worsen in all probability.

Our State hasdemonstrated that through peoples' participation,intervention of the cooperative movement and thegovernment, procurement of agricultural produceat fair prices is possible.

We have taken effectivesteps in paddy procurement by ensuringremunerative prices for farmers,” Vijayan said.

On Left Wing Extremism (LWE),he said the security apparatus needs to be vigilant and curbany kind of extremism and terrorism threateningthe peace and security of common people.

“Regarding left wing extremism, it is our statedposition that attention and focus has to be on thealleviation of conditions of deprivation andmarginalisation in society.

At the same time,the security apparatus needs to be vigilant and curbany kind of extremism and terrorism threateningthe peace and security of common people.

Government of Kerala is addressing these twinconcerns with equal importance,” Vijayan said.

He said the Kerala government felt states should be able to perform theirconstitutionally assigned developmental roleeffectively.

“Kerala has the recent experience of not being ableto avail of assistance after the devastating floodsof 2018 because of the rigid fiscal constraintsbeing followed without the needed flexibility.

The gravity of this can be realised only when-considered against the fact that the State suffereddamage amounting to Rs 31,000 crore, which isapproximately 4 per cent of its Gross StateDomestic Product,” he said.

## Terrorism ‘gravest threat’ people face in Asia: EAM Jaishankar at CICA Summit

### DUSHANBE, JUN 15 (PTI):

Terrorism poses the “gravest threat” to the people in Asia and terrorists and their victims must never be equated, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Saturday, as he sought support for India's proposal for a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism.

Addressing the fifth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit in the Tajik capital, Jaishankar said that the CICA members are the victims of terrorism.

Terrorism is the gravest threat that we face in Asia today. Many CICA members are victims of terrorism and should be clear that terrorists and their victims must never be equated,” he said.

“CICA has always shown a strong commitment to combat terrorism and extremism and adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism. Early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, proposed by India, is today even more essential and we seek your support on it,” he said.

Currently, the negotiations of the Comprehensive Terrorism Convention are deadlocked because of differences over the definition of terrorism.

Jaishankar's statement came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the SCO Summit in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, lashed out at countries “sponsoring, aiding and funding” terrorism and said that such states must be held accountable, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

The CICA is a pan-Asia forum for enhancing cooperation and promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

India supports a peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan that is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned, he said.

“All initiatives and processes must include all sections of Afghan society, including the legitimately elected government,” he said.

The recent India-Central Asia 5 Ministerial dialogue is a very positive development that can only enhance further cooperations and stability across

the regions, he said.

“Regional connectivity initiatives that are inclusive, sustainable, transparent and respect the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity can boost trade and play a pivotal role in bringing prosperity and development to the region.

“India for its part will always support these such regional connectivity initiatives,” the minister said.

The lack of energy security has emerged as another key developmental challenge, he said, adding that India has supported a better dialogue between consumers and producers for a stable energy market and for promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy.

“India's initiative of International Solar Alliance has received overwhelming support; 74 countries have signed the Framework Agreement. Developing renewable energy will be a great contribution to the security and stability of Asia and I invite CICA members who have not joined the Alliance to do so,” Jaishankar said.



# Citizen’s Urban Cooperative Bank holds 17th annual general meeting

SHRAVAN CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 15 MAY:

Citizen’s Urban Co-operative Bank successfully hosted the 17th annual general meeting which was attended by Chairperson, PK Pradhan along with other board members and shareholders.

The meeting focused on allocation of the capital and aspects of processing of loan and the issues that the bank is facing currently.

The meeting was an interactive session where all the shareholders and board members presented their suggestions for the prosperity of the bank.



During the meeting the bank’s board presented a proposal for converting the bank into small finance bank in terms of Reserve Bank of India guidelines and also discussed the advantages to the account and shareholders.

To fulfill the eligibil-

ity criteria in regards to capital requirement, the board requested the shareholders to respond to the issue.

“The small finance bank shall have no restrictions on expansion beyond the state boundary and in the long run it would also create huge

opportunity of employment and there would be ample opportunities for investment in private sector,” said the Chairperson, Mr Pradhan.

He further added that this bank is where all the shareholders have invested and this bank is with us and it’s our responsibility to represent Sikkim globally through this bank.

Proposals like expansion of board members from 12 to 15 were also served in the presence of the shareholders and the date for election of the new board was also discussed. Election for the new board will be held on 09 August.

# Meeting on Rural Diabetes Care Model in Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Foundation for Research in Community Health [FRCH] in association with Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim and National Health System Resources Centre organised a dissemination meeting on Rural Diabetes Care Model in Gangtok, Sikkim, a press release informs.

The meeting was attended by Principal Director, Dr Uttam Pradhan as the chief guest and Dr

Karma Jigme Topgay as the special guest.

Meeting started with the welcome speech by Director FRCH, Nerges Mistry. RDCM, Dr Amitava Acharya presented the status of Diabetes in the state along with work done by FRCH and future plans to control diabetes cases in the state, the release informs.

Master Trainers, Dr Diki Phempu from District Hospital Singtam, Dr Anand Gokani Mumbai, Dr Liaquat Ali from Dhaka presented their views

regarding policies and system to be implemented to control diabetes cases in Sikkim.

Diabetes patients, Mona Sharma and Arjun Bhujel highlighted the benefit provided by FRCH.

Also present were CMO East District Hospital Singtam, Dr Tshering Laden, Dr Ashok Roy from RRC Guwahati along with doctors from Singtam District Hospital and Rangpo Primary Health Centre, ASHA, ANM MPW workers from different parts of the state.

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# Win or lose, tournament won’t end with Sunday’s game: Kohli on WC clash with Pakistan

Manchester, June 15 (PTI): Immune to frenzy around every India-Pakistan clash, captain Virat Kohli says staying focussed on the bigger goal was important since the tournament would not end with World Cup’s most awaited match on Sunday.

While he is aware of all the hoopla around the match, Kohli won’t let one World Cup contest dictate his thought process.

The Indian captain was asked, six to seven times, the same question about the external pressure, hype and how tough this match could be and he very eloquently warded off all the queries, giving away very little.

“The game starts at a certain time and finishes at a certain time. So this is not going to last a lifetime, if you do well or even if you don’t,” Kohli was at his pragmatic best during the pre-match interaction.

For the skipper, the bigger picture -- winning the World Cup -- is what matters the most.

“Whether we do well or not tomorrow, it’s not going to finish. The tournament still has to go on and focus has to be on larger picture. No one person takes more pressure than the others.

“Eleven guys share the responsibility. The weather is not in anyone’s hands. We have to see whatever amount of game we get, we need to be mentally ready to do whatever we need

to,” the skipper said.

Being in constant limelight has made him very conscious about the electronic media looking for that ticker-grabber and the skipper wasn’t in a mood to relent.

When a journalist from the vernacular electronic media asked him about the Virat vs Aamir battle, his response was sharp.

“I will not say anything for creating TRPs and neither would I say something that creates an exciting news point. Any bowler I face, I only see the red or white ball. Yes, I respect a bowler’s skill set. I had said the same about Kagiso Rabada,” Kohli said.

But he did make it clear that the good bowlers need to be studied well.

“Whoever are impact bowlers in world cricket, you should be wary about their strengths but at the same time you should have that much self belief that you can score runs against any bowler. The result of the match will not be decided on mine or his (Aamir’s) performance alone.”

And he doesn’t have to prove anything to anyone.

“I don’t have to go out there and prove to the world that I have to win some kind of contest. I have never entertained these things till date and won’t do it near future. You can even get out to a part timer. I keep things that simple and basic.”

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ABHINAV OBEROI  
9 JULY 1995-13 JUNE 2019

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF A SPECIAL SON

*It seems so hard to comprehend  
that you're no longer here but all the happy  
memories  
will help to keep you near*

*You're thought about with pride Son,  
with each mention of your name  
Death cannot change a single thing*

Manju Tewari-Grandmother, Nandu Tewari-Grandmother,  
Sandhya Tewari-Mother, Aryan Oberoi-Brother, Navraj Tiwari-Uncle,  
Pooja Tewari-Aunt, Nim Tshering Bhutia-Uncle  
& entire bereaved family.

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
OFFICE OF THE SR.SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS  
STATE CENTRAL PRISON  
RONGYEK**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed quotations are invited from registered firms of Sikkim for Supply of ration, grocery, hardware and electrical items to the State Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi for the period with effect from 01.07.2019 to 31.03.2020. The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all transportation/Carriage charges upto point of delivery i.e. the Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi as and when the items are requisitioned. The items which fall under the provision of Essential Commodities Act, the rates fixed by the government shall prevail.

The quotations addressed to the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 10 A.M. on 12/07/2019. The Tender Selection Committee shall open the tenders in the office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek at 11 A.M. on the same day in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorised agents.

The quotations shall be accompanied by a State Bank of Sikkim, T.D.R. made in favour of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek for Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) only along with certified copies of the concerned firms registration, valid Trade License, Income Tax/Sales Tax/VAT Clearance Certificates, GST etc. The failure to submit anyone of the above mentioned documents shall render the quotation void.

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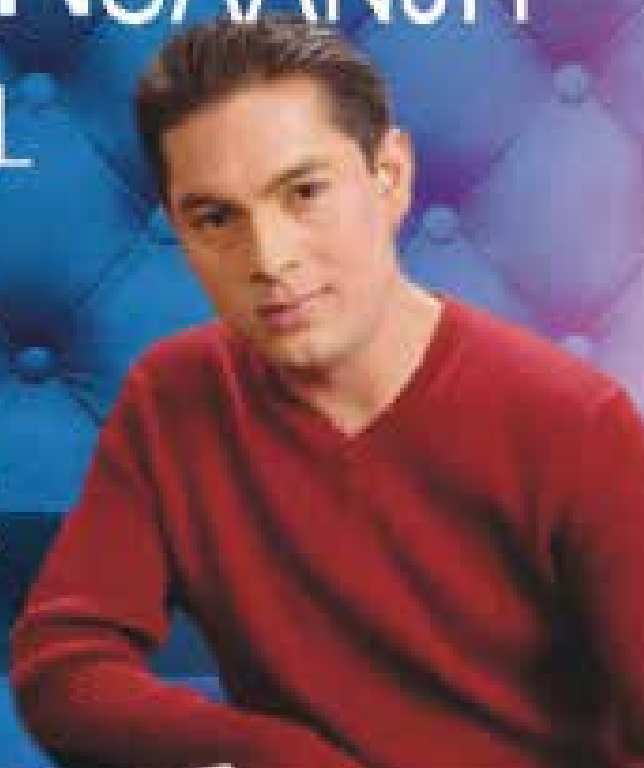

**SHE**

She is born;  
Welcomes her with a weep,  
She is a misfortune,  
He says;  
For his thoughts are bleak.

She grows up with the fear,  
Lives with an imposed thought of;  
World not a place for her,  
It’s the men that rules n owns.

Oh! Her body is to be covered,  
And her dreams too.  
Step out,  
She fears of the alien,  
Stay in,  
She fears of the human!  
She is exchanged  
With debts n credits,  
Now,  
Encircled with the laws,  
She tries to paint her four corners,  
With the colours;  
But all she forgets is,  
They are all colour-blind.

- By Trizea Lepcha



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## Instead of Bans, Practice Better Management

*To stop things is a short-term measure*

The monsoon is upon Sikkim and if the order banning (actually stopping, but this is a season of bans) on all ongoing construction works and unloading of construction material on roadsides, has still not arrived, it will in a few days. The decision will be welcome. At the same time, it will also be reflective of how little the State has learnt and prioritised its defence against monsoon-related calamities.

The move is welcome because construction sites are invariably poorly managed tinder boxes with the potential to amplify the damage that rains can wreck. Given that most roadsides already have buildings on them, the new constructions are coming up behind these, and this requires for construction material to be dumped on the road and then carried away by the head-load to the sites. Most of the drains run along the roads and sand and stone chips flow fast when it rains and add to the debris content of slush which tear up tarmac and clog drains. Trucks dripping construction material on the highway are potential disasters in the making and travel could become more relaxed without them on the highway at this time of the year. Construction sites, with their rudimentary safety measures, are other accidents in the making during wet weather that the State could do without.

For all these reasons, a direction to stop all construction works during monsoon is welcome. But it is not enough and it is too knee-jerk. To begin with, this, if past government press releases are to be believed, should have happened at least two weeks before they eventually did, with the arrival of the pre-monsoon showers. The decision that construction related works should desist with the arrival of monsoons was taken several years back, but every year, the order gets issued only after the rains have wreaked some damage. If the state is looking at long-term mitigation efforts as far as constructions are concerned, then the ban should be lifted and instead of that builders should be required to make their sites monsoon-proof. This would entail storing of all construction related material on site with proper care taken to ensure that none of it joins a water courses. A relaxation can be made to accommodate the time taken between unloading on the road side to transfer to work site.

Take a drive along the highway and one will invariably come across orphaned sand and stone chip dunes probably left over from a completed construction as well. They lie unattended and pose a larger danger than kitchen waste which shares the road side with it. A ban on construction during monsoons is a short-term measure that Sikkim has been taking for the past decade, it is time that its officers prescribed and monitored the construction habits better. That will make the town safer than a row of incomplete buildings awaiting the dry winters.

What cannot be ignored either that it is not just constructions, but also finishing works which require better material management, and when the focus is on “stopping” construction works, loopholes are found and potential risks continue to remain present, which is why the focus has to be on improved oversights and construction practices.

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# Jon Stewart: journey from satirist to political advocate is no laughing matter

ALLAINA KILBY  
theconversation.com

When Jon Stewart quit the Daily Show, the satirical news and comedy show he hosted for 16 years until August 2015, he explained to his replacement, Trevor Noah, that he was tired – and angry at the state of politics and political discourse in the US. As Noah reported:

He said ‘I’m leaving because I’m tired.’ And he said, ‘I’m tired of being angry.’ And he said, ‘I’m angry all the time. I don’t find any of this funny. I do not know how to make it funny right now, and I don’t think the host of the show, I don’t think the show deserves a host who does not feel that it is funny.’

Stewart is clearly no longer tired. And he has channelled his anger into passion for a cause: he is now a fierce advocate for the James Zadroger 9/11 Health Compensation Act. On June 12, he appeared in front of Congress, which was sitting to discuss the extension of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund for 9/11 first responders and survivors. The committee witnessed testimonies from a physician, a firefighter’s widow, and Luis Alvarez, a retired NYPD detective, who was due to start his 69th round of chemotherapy after developing cancer from working at Ground Zero.

The testimonies offered a powerful insight into the health problems of those who were exposed to the toxic air where the World Trade Centre buildings collapsed. But it was Stewart’s impassioned speech to Congress that went viral.

The media’s fixation with Stewart’s testimony isn’t attributed to his celebrity news value, but the symbolic capital he built since his time on The Daily Show. As chief news anchor, Stewart built a reputation as an important satirical voice and incisive social commentator to a generation that had grown tired of sensationalised news and vitriolic politics.

### HITTING THE FUNNY BONE

The essential ingredient of Stewart’s scathing political critiques was humour; it helped create a bond with the audience as he used his platform to comedically articulate citizen anger towards elite institutions. Subse-



quently, the humour acted as a form of relief, offering the audience temporary respite from the current political environment by inviting them to laugh at those in power.

It is was the inclusion of humour that made Stewart’s work a potent form of political criticism because it made the aggressiveness of the message more palatable to the satirical targets. This is why Stewart was able to land critical blows on air that journalists couldn’t – because he defied the conventions of traditional journalism while speaking to audiences in a language they identified with.

Stewart has always been quick to downplay his cultural impact, responding modestly that he just “writes jokes about the news” and that his role as a TV satirist was limited to criticising targets rather than building something positive. Perhaps that was why he decided to turn to advocacy when he quit nightly comedy.

While Stewart’s advocacy role no longer affords him the comedic safety blanket he once had, it is the absence of humour, in his address to Congress, that made his message all the more powerful. What we saw was a visibly emotional man, holding back tears as he expressed his anger at the shameful way in which the political system has

treated 9/11 survivors.

The role of emotion in politics has tended to be understood as the enemy of good citizenship. But in her book Emotions, Media and Politics, Karin Wahl-Jorgensen argues that emotion can enhance the power of political storytelling because of its ability to cultivate compassion, bring neglected stories to the public sphere and, in the process, call into being communities orientated towards political action.

Stewart’s powerful testimony certainly raised the profile of the Congressional hearing as the video clip spread rapidly online and generated hundreds of news articles. The following day, the House Judiciary Committee unanimously passed a bill that would permanently reauthorise the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. According to the New York Times, the bill will now go to the floor for a full vote in the House of Representatives, where it is likely to pass.

### A SERIOUS BUSINESS

Stewart’s transition, in recent years, from satire to political advocacy has not gone unnoticed by his late-night TV successors. In a paper, Provoking the Citizen, I documented how satirists Sam Bee and John Oliver have adopted advocacy journalism strategies to draw attention to US

President Donald Trump’s policies on immigration and female healthcare. But while Stewart and American late-night hosts are reimagining the possibilities of their public platform, their UK counterparts are seriously lagging behind.

The closest the UK has to a successful comedy activist is Mark Thomas and his campaigning on the Ilisu Dam in Turkey. Russell Brand was also a prominent political activist for a time, appearing on Newsnight and attending demonstrations including the Million Mask March and campaigning for better social housing. However, Brand has openly admitted his failure in politics was a result of believing his own hype, a consequence of his celebrity status.

While there are many instances of comedic activism I could mention – Eddie Izzard’s role in the Labour Party and Ricky Gervais’ work with animal rights groups, comedy remains their chief currency and profession. What Stewart has shown us is that comedy and satire have limited capabilities. They can draw our attention to a problem, but the ability to create real political change is dependent on passion, tenacity and sustained engagement in the democratic process.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Journalism, Swansea University]*

# Forest schools: how climbing trees and making dens can help children develop resilience

JANINE COATES & HELENA PIMLOTT-WILSON  
theconversation.com

Despite all the research that tells parents how good it is for their children to spend time playing outside, they are spending more time indoors than ever before. It seems that concerns about the dangers of climbing trees or getting lost means that many parents are nervous about allowing their children to engage in risky play.

But research suggests that this element of outdoor play has significant benefits for children and can help to develop their emotional resilience.

Over the last decade and a half, schools have started to recognise the importance of outdoor time for children – resulting in the development of programmes that take learning outside the classroom. One of these programmes which has increased in popularity over recent years, is Forest School.

### WHAT IS FOREST SCHOOL?

Forest School is an outdoor learning initiative which embraces outdoor play in wooded spaces as a tool for learning and development. In the UK, the Forest School movement can be traced back to the early 1990s when a group of early years educators at Bridgewater College in Somerset day went on a trip to Denmark.

They noted how the Scandinavian values of open-air living were embedded in the education system. Upon their return from Denmark, they developed the first Forest School in the college creche, followed by a B-Tech qualification in Forest School practice. The Bridgewater group set in motion the development of Forest School provision through structured training programmes for Forest School practitioners. Today the Forest School Association – the



UK professional body for Forest School practitioners – has more than 1,500 members.

During Forest School, children and young people are provided with opportunities to explore the natural environment, experience appropriate risk and challenge, and direct their own learning. Research has shown that Forest School stimulates imaginative play through hands-on engagement with the natural environment.

In our research, which included more than 30 interviews with children aged between four and nine, we wanted to understand how play in Forest School might facilitate learning. We found that during Forest School, children felt more independent, and as a result, had a greater sense of personal, social and environmental responsibility.

Children felt that they were able to apply skills they had learned in school in more meaningful ways and developed a range of non-academic skills. Forest School encouraged them to think creatively – to step out of their comfort zone and take risks – and to work more closely with

their peers. They also reported being more physically active during Forest School – learning how to move safely in the unpredictable and challenging space of a woodland.

### MAKING MOVEMENTS MATTER

The World Health Organisation has recently argued that young children need more opportunity to play in order to grow up healthy. But despite the clear benefits, Forest School is still somewhat misunderstood.

To the outsider, it is often considered as a separate form of education provision – and indeed, there are some full-time outdoor Forest School nurseries operating in the UK, such as Wildawood Forest School in Cambridgeshire. But most Forest Schools operate within mainstream state schools, where children leave their classrooms for a half or full day, usually once or twice a week, to attend Forest School.

We spoke to children, headteachers and Forest School leaders in two primary schools and found that this bridging of formal and informal learning can be complementary to one another. Children and headteachers acknowledged that the school system can stifle children’s natural

curiosity about the world. Children recognise that while they learn a lot in the classroom, this tends to be directed by teachers and focused on passing tests.

Headteachers also recognised the pressure children are put under from a young age, and of the need to frequently demonstrate pupil progression against set targets. Forest School, for both pupil and teacher, is an opportunity to move away from the monotony of classroom learning and instead to engage in hands-on, self-directed learning.

This gives children the opportunity to develop other skills beyond the academic – including negotiation, resilience and independence. And in this way, the blending of these approaches to learning ensures that children have opportunity to develop a broader range of skills. All of which, prepares them for later life, while helping them to harness a love of the great outdoors from an early age.

*[Janine Coates is Lecturer in Qualitative Research Methods, Loughborough University; Helena Pimlott-Wilson is Senior Lecturer in Human Geography, Loughborough University]*



## FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

## Life is a living fieldwork and the experiences are reflections

MONGFING LEPCHA

Being brought up by my maternal grandparents, I grew up listening to the stories of the past and fantasizing about the simple and wonderful lives lived by my grandparents. Although times were very simple during my childhood days but the stories of the past left me wondering about more the simple life of the past. I remember my grandmother would start a conversation where she would narrate the stories of the lives and the events she had lived. I was too young to understand the essence of those life experiences shared which now I find it as virtual treasures which will always remain precious. Now, that I am into a field which has given me broader perspectives over such treasures, it makes more sense and adds more value to it.

During my fieldwork, I realized lot of things which includes the value of things which I always known but somehow did not know its importance. While interacting with elderly people in different villages and listening to their stories I could understand that the world around us changes so fast that by the time we know we are already a talk or talking about the past. Once, my grandmother told me that during her time a whole piglet was worth 3-5 rupees which was in context of my nagging for 5 rupees as pocket money which never happened and had to settle with not more than 2 rupees. Now, I can clearly relate that to how things have changed so far. For my grandmother the value of 5 rupees was more than a handful of sweets which was for me then and now we can hardly get anything with it. 5 But of course the economy and the value of currency have always changed along with time ever since the practice of barter system. The people in my field area, a lot of time they share their own experiences of old days such as stories of hunting, stories of struggles made to get a kilo of rice from the newly setup provision shops, of walking long distances to reach study centre, the night schools, of sleeping in forests during



cardamom harvesting, haunted by ghosts and many more. Each story was the chapters of lives people had lived which are now not more than dreams for them just like how climbing on a tree and studying sitting on a branch is for me now. Of all the stories I am always fascinated by the ones with mysteries and scary stories.

During my childhood days there were very few houses in my village and I can imagine how it might have been during my grandparent's time. Most myths, mysterious life events, etc. have emerged during the times of our ancestors for obvious reasons. When I lived with my grandparents, we already had proper water supply (pipelines) which was not the situation before. There is a stream near by the village from where everyone used to get water from and it was sufficient for the people of the village. Once getting water from the stream in the evening my grandmother faced a very frightening situation where she sensed cold hands grabbing her wrists, she could do nothing but pray after which she felt she was set free. It is believed that negative energy dwells in the streams and rivers and as kids we were not allowed to go near streams especially in the evening. Most people still believes it and avoids the streams; some even leaves a small twig or leaf on the stone as an epitome of bridge while crossing the stream or river along with an infant so that the infant's apil (soul) is not left behind or hampered by

evil spirits. After knowing the story I never dared to go to that area as the story still gives me goose bumps. Although times have changed, the places have changed yet the stories still lives reminding us of the past. In fact, in my recent visit to my grandparents I came to know about the devastating story that lies behind the village I always find not less than utopia. The village where I spent most of my childhood days thinking it is the happiest place on earth was devastated by the landslide of 1968 which shook the entire village, state or nation as a whole. And the utopia was the repercussion of the calamity that changed not just the land but lives as well. I could relate that with the experience of the earthquake of 2011 which was enough to leave a strong tremor in our minds for lifelong which the coming generation may not even know unless it is felt. The story of 1968 landslide would have been just a story of the past but since I experienced the same kind of disaster I can relate those and can say that when they say it, it is not just story but lives in words like how mine will be later cause I have lived those. Similar, to such incidences there are many more stories which lies within each and every other person. In fact, it will not be incorrect to say that every person is a living book where the chapters of lives are written. Although this articles does not reflect more about my fieldwork yet it reflects the sense of realization that I had been living it since long time back and now it is more like life itself is a fieldwork as every day I come across new things, I meet new people know about them and much more which if narrowed down is similar to what I do in the field area. Perhaps, that is how life experiences are built; living, comparing the past and present and sharing it and the loop keep on building. The ticking of clock never stops unless the battery is drained out, likewise, the fieldwork never stops till the very end and its reflection is always depicted in the stories one shares.

*[the writer is Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University]*

## Bangladesh's coal-fired power plants puts Sunderbans on 'natural sites in danger': report

DHAKA, JUN 15 (PTI):

The official advisory organisation on natural World Heritage has recommended putting the Sunderbans on a list of natural sites in danger as Bangladesh has continued implementing a coal-fired power plant project near the forest, a media report said on Saturday.

The World Heritage Committee of 21 governments is scheduled to decide on the recommendations by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in its annual meeting in Azerbaijan from June 30 to July 10, the bdnews24.com reported.

The Sunderbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal.

It is adjacent to the border of India's Sunderbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987.

The recommendation came after the UNESCO in July, 2017, withdrew a plan to inscribe the

Sunderbans in the list of heritage sites in danger by 2018 in case of the failure to meet the mission's recommendations.

A reactive monitoring mission, jointly conducted by the Centre and IUCN in March 2016, made detailed recommendations including the necessity of a strategic environmental assessment for the south-west region of the country.

After the mission, the World Heritage Committee had called for the Rampal power plant project to be cancelled and relocated.

The Bangladesh government had been allowed until December 2018 at the time to report on the conservation of the world's largest mangrove forest to the World Heritage Centre, the website reported.

The committee had welcomed Bangladesh's decision to carry out the assessment into the potential impact of a coal-based thermal plant at Rampal on the Sunderbans, besides the deci-

sions to scrap the plant's second phase and also the Orion power plant.

It cited severe threats from the coal-fired power plants and numerous industrial activities in close proximity, the report said.

However, despite the call for relocation of the project, its construction has continued without any assessment of its impact on the Sunderbans' World Heritage values, the Union said.

Two additional coal-fired power plants are being constructed on the Payra River, which flows into the same bay as the Sunderbans, the website reported the IUCN as saying.

Over 150 industrial projects are also active upstream of the site, and their associated shipping and dredging activities further threaten its hydrological and ecological dynamics, it said.

The hydrological systems, which drive this dynamics, are very large in scale and vulnerable to upstream impacts, the report said.

(FDR) of the Russian-origin AN-32 aircraft.

The aircraft was going from Jorhat in Assam to Mechuka advanced landing ground in Shi-Yomi district in Arunachal Pradesh, near the border with China, on June 3 when it lost contact around half-an-hour after taking off.

The wreckage of the plane was spotted by an IAF chopper on Tuesday at a height of 12,000 ft near Gatte village on the border of Siang and Shi-Yomi districts, after eight days of a massive search operation involving a fleet of aircraft and choppers as well as ground forces.

## Four more children die in Bihar, toll rises to 67

PATNA/MUZAFFARPUR,

JUN 14 (PTI):

Four children died in Muzaffarpur district Saturday due to hypoglycemia, taking the number of such deaths to 67 this month, officials said.

All the victims, most of whom are below the age of 10, have fallen prey to hypoglycemia, a condition caused by a very low level of blood sugar and electrolyte imbalance, they said.

The 67 children died in two hospitals here -- the state-run Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) and the Kejriwal Hospital which is run by a trust.

According to a release by the Muzaffarpur district administration the four children died at SKMCH on Saturday.

Since June 1, 197 children have been admitted to SKMCH while 91 were admitted to Kejriwal Hospital with suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), but most of them were found to be victims of hypoglycemia.

The condition of six children undergoing treatment at each of the two hospitals is stated to be serious.

Meanwhile, Union minister and Bihar BJP chief Nityanand Rai, during his first visit to the state after being sworn in as MoS Home, went straight to Muzaffarpur from Patna airport, cancelling all felicitation programmes.

He expressed concern over the children's deaths, and said the party will not organise any

programme to welcome anyone for two weeks.

"It is a painful period for all of us. This unknown disease has taken a heavy toll this year," he told reporters after visiting the SKMCH where he spoke to patients and their relatives.

In the last two weeks, the number of deaths was around two or four, Rai said, adding the Centre and the state governments have taken requisite preventive measures and so far 69 children, affected with the disease, have been discharged from the two hospitals.

The Union Minister said a team from Norway has arrived to ascertain the reasons behind the deaths of children while samples were sent to a laboratory in Pune.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had earlier advised parents not to let their children sleep or have litchi on empty stomach, as a preventive measure.

He has already directed the officials concerned to ensure that preventive measures were taken in affected districts, though deaths have so far been reported from Muzaffarpur only.

Health Department's Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar had earlier said the disease has affected 222 blocks of 12 districts especially Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sheohar and East Champaran. A central government team of experts had visited Muzaffarpur on Wednesday.

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## US raises concern over increasing North Korean activities in Nepal



KATHMANDU, JUN 15

(PTI):

Voicing concern over growing business activities of North Koreans in Nepal, the US has asked the Nepal government not to entertain North Koreans in the country stating that Nepal as a member of the UN should respect the decision taken by the global body to impose sanctions on the country.

Mark Lambert, special US envoy for North Korea, who is on a three-day visit to Nepal, made this appeal to lawmakers, senior government officials and ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) Co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the Himalayn Times reported Saturday.

He expressed concerns about growing business activities of North Koreans in Nepal.

He also expressed fear that North Koreans

might have been using Nepal as a base to commit cyber crimes, a lawmaker, who met Lambert, was quoting as saying.

In the meeting Lambert told the lawmakers that the UN Security Council has placed sanctions on North Korea, and Nepal, as a member country, should respect this decision, the daily said.

Nepal became a member country of the UN in 1955. The UN has imposed a number of sanctions on North Korea after the country started developing nuclear weapons, in violation of the UN charter.

"Nepal is a member of the UN and it has the obligation to follow resolutions passed by the UN Security Council, said US Embassy Spokesperson Andie De Arment, who confirmed that Lambert was in Nepal to discuss growing activities of

North Koreans in the country.

Lambert met four lawmakers Pabitra Niraula Kharel, Deepak Prakash Bhatta, Dibya Mani Rajbhandari and Sarala Kumari Yadav, during his visit.

Kharel is the chairperson of the parliamentary International Relations Committee, while the other three are members of the same panel. Lambert also met NCP Co-chair Dahal.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had also raised the North Korean issue during Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali's visit to the US in December.

The issue was also raised by David J Ranz, acting deputy assistant secretary for US State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, during his visit to Nepal in May.

## Nepal's ethnic Newaris protest against Guthi bill

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, JUN 15

(PTI):

Thousands of people belonging to the ethnic Newar community staged anti-government protests on Saturday, demanding withdrawal of a controversial bill, which they say has provisions in favour of land mafias and could jeopardise Sanatan Hindu culture and tradition. Around 10,000 people from Newar community rallied in the major parts of the city Saturday morning raising slogans against the Oli government demanding that the government withdraw the Guthi bill from the Parliament.

The KP Sharma Oli-led Communist Party government has tabled the bill in Parliament to amend the Guthi Act and

nationalise both public and private guthis and regulate all religious sites under a powerful commission.

Guthis are socio-economic institutions (trusts), both public and private, that fund their obligations from incomes from cultivated or leased land assets. Depending on their obligations, guthi is fulfil religious, public service or social roles and could either involve members from a common lineage, or several.

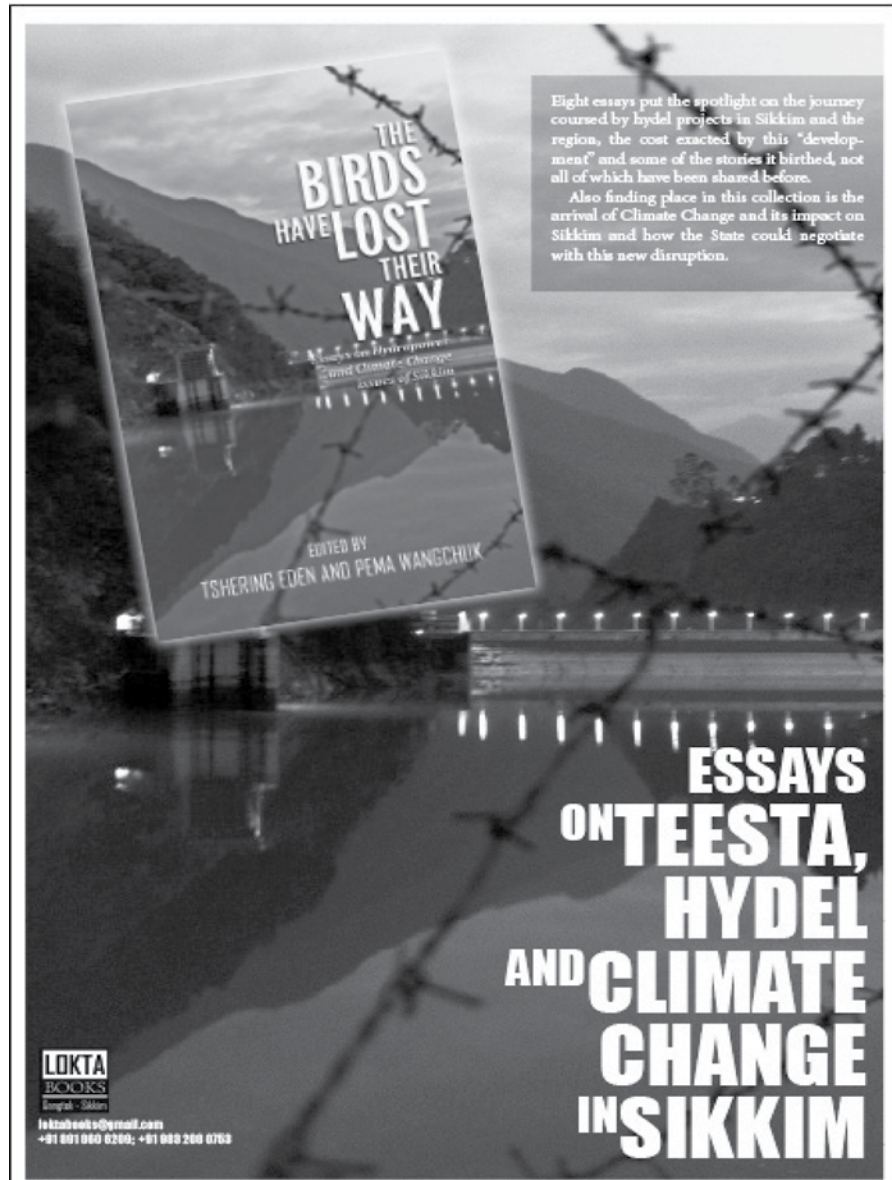
"Don't destroy heritage," "scrap Guthi Bill", "Our culture our identity", "down with KP Oli government", "stop invasion of Sanatana Dharma", read the placards the protestors carried during the rally.

"Our Sanatan Dhar-

ma and culture could be jeopardised if the Bill, tabled by the Communist Party led government in Parliament, gets endorsed," said Pavitra Bajracharya a Newar activist and central member of Federal Socialist Party Nepal, which is also part of the ruling coalition.

The aim of the bill is to snatch the public and private land allocated for cultural trusts and distribute to others encroaching our age cultural heritages, he said.

Thousands of people also organised torch lit rallies in neighbouring Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts Friday night to oppose the government's move to endorse the Bill that would destroy centuries old Sanatan culture.





# How Argentina’s women took on blatant sexism to reach the World Cup

**JOSHUA NADEL AND BRENDA ELSEY**  
**THEGUARDIAN**  
Argentina had just drawn 0-0 against Japan at Parc des Princes in Paris on Monday, yet the players collapsed in joy as if celebrating an epic victory. For the casual viewer it must have seemed an exaggerated celebration but for anyone familiar with what the Argentinian players have gone through it was completely understandable.

They are essentially an amateur team and were playing against the team that won the 2011 World Cup and reached the final four years later. In fact, it is a small miracle they are even in France and going into their second group game, against Phil Neville’s England in Le Havre on Friday, with renewed belief.

The Argentina team are not new to major tournaments but a fourth-place finish at the unofficial 1971 Women’s World Championship was followed by disappointing showings in the Fifa events in 2003 and 2007. In the latter two, Argentina had a negative goal difference of 31, only managing to score a single goal in each tournament.

As Argentina prepare to play England for the third time – they won 4-1 in 1971 but lost 6-1 in 2007 – it is worth considering why the draw with Japan carried so much weight.

Going back just one year, it was unclear if the team would be able to travel to France at all. Unlike the regional power that is Brazil, who can count on regular training camps and tournaments, the Argentinian women’s team has been shockingly neglected by its federation and treated with downright hostility at times.

After failing to qualify for the 2015 World Cup in Canada, the Argentinian Football Association (AFA), showed little interest in having a national women’s side at all. Things got so bad that Fifa categorised the team as “unranked” due to its inactivity. The head coach, Carlos Borrello, was dismissed and not replaced.

It seemed impossible to imagine a future for the team, especially as they played no games at all between 2015 and 2017. When, in 2017, the



AFA finally organised a friendly in Uruguay, the players travelled early in the morning, played an afternoon match and then got straight on a bus back to Buenos Aires.

Exhausted, hungry and trapped in a chaotic and uninterested system, the players wrote a public letter complaining of the conditions they were working in. They then refused to appear for the national team again until the AFA met their demands of \$8.50 (£6.70) per day for training as well as regularly scheduled matches and training staff at their disposal. That the federation refused to meet these demands, opting to play the under-23 squad against Uruguay instead, spoke volumes about the federation’s disdain for women’s football.

The institutional sexism the women’s team has faced from the AFA runs deep and forms a major part of how it deals with men’s football as well. In 2018, the federation published a guide to the World Cup in Russia, distributed to players, coaches, and journalists, with a chapter advising Argentinian men on how to pick up Russian women. The difficulty of getting support, and trying to

build a career, in this type of climate cannot be overstated.

The game-changer in terms of historical context was the advent of the feminist #NiUnaMenos movement. #NiUnaMenos emerged in protest against femicide and domestic violence in Argentina and the campaign quickly spread throughout Latin America – and expanding its agenda. Over the last few years it has brought millions to the streets in protest of unequal working conditions, cultural representation, and reproductive rights.

The movement has caused Argentinian players to understand the significance of their sporting activity as a feminist act. The team’s captain, Estefanía Banini, said of the feminist movement that it has “been very important and has given us a lot of support ... It is important as women to raise our voices and let everyone know we are equal, that we want the same rights.” In turn, women’s football has become somewhat of a cause célèbre of grassroots feminism.

Earlier this year the UAI Urquiza player Macarena Sánchez made headlines when she took legal action against her club and the federation

## Couldn’t train properly for a while after coming out of closet: Dutee

**MUMBAI, JUN 14 (PTI):** India’s fastest woman Dutee Chand said Friday that she could not train properly for a while after revealing to the world that she is in a same-sex relationship.

But things have now settled down now after the initial turmoil, said the top sprinter who is among the few athletes in the world to openly admit to this type of relationship.

“My training was disturbed a lot initially. I’ve already told everyone how much stress my sister gave me. I couldn’t train properly at least for 10-15 days after that. But now, I’m starting to forget everything and getting back to my training,” said Dutee who won two silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games.

“I’ve received a lot of support from public and it has made me feel comfortable,” she told reporters after the launch of ‘Skechers GoRun 7’.

Asked if she had expected a positive reaction from the public, she said, “I didn’t expect anything.”

“I felt within me that people might speak ill of me after I spoke about it. Because I’m an athletics celebrity, and maybe it will affect my game again, like in 2014. But by the God’s grace, there’s been no such thing.

“AFI, SAI, everyone

has supported me, saying it’s your personal life and no action will be taken due to it. In fact, they told me to train well,” she added.

Dutee also said that “the more the people speak bad” about her “the more she focuses on her training.”

She insisted that coming out of the “closet” was her personal decision.

“That’s my personal life, I can’t guarantee if people want to follow that or not. Not everyone thinks alike in this world,” she said.

Quizzed whether athletes will be inspired by her decision, Dutee said, “I had suffered for the problems in 2014, but I felt good after coming back. Not just me, athletes around the world who were being stopped from competing are now being given a chance. So that’s good.”

Dutee won a landmark ‘gender’ case against the IAAF in an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sports in 2015 and she was allowed to compete after being suspended for one year.

The CAS suspended the IAAF’s policy on hyperandrogenism for two years.

Later the world body changed the policy, which is now applicable only for female athletes competing in the range of



400m to 1500m, leaving out Dutee, who competes in 100m and 200m, from its ambit.

Dutee said he is keen to train in an academy in Florida (USA) to “change her technique in 100 metres” and is optimistic of getting funds from the government.

“Had planned to go to Florida but government didn’t provide the fund. That’s why I didn’t go. I plan to go next year and now I am training in Hyderabad.”

Asked why she needed to change her technique, Dutee said, “100 metres is a technical event, so you have to focus on every detail. From start to finish. I have shortcomings at every stage. So I can get more exposure from those people (foreign trainers).

“Basically, when I run, my body gets tight at the last moment. I still don’t know why it happens. So, I will have to correct that,” she explained.

The sprinter from

Odisha is also gearing up to take part in the World University Games to be held in Italy next month.

Dutee said she will approach new sports minister Kieren Rijjhu to request for her inclusion in the TOPS scheme.

“I had appealed to (Rajyavardhan) Rathore sir (earlier sports minister), and he said he will do it. Now the minister has changed, so I’ll have to approach him again.

“Everyone keeps telling we’ll do it but it hasn’t happened so far. Our government’s train runs very slow. Jab station mein lagega tab chadenge. (When it halts at the station then I will board it),” she said.

Asked about South African Caster Semenya’s case, Dutee said, “When it was announced, I spoke to Caster. I told her that if you need any help my team will help you to fight the case. So with the help of my team, she appealed.

discussions,” he said.

“I worry that if you regulate for the sake of regulating it, it has a lot of unintended consequences,” he said, focusing on the issue of artificial intelligence in particular.

Pichai said, “it will have implications for our national security and ... for other important areas of society. Having leadership ends up being really critical.”

### Google CEO Pichai cautions against regulating tech giants just ‘for the sake of it’

**WASHINGTON, JUN 15 (PTI):** Google’s Indian-American CEO Sundar Pichai has said that it is “perfectly fine” for big companies to be scrutinised but cautioned against doing it just “for the sake regulating” them amid reports that the US is initiating an anti-trust violations probe against the internet giant.

Pichai made the comments for the first time after reports emerged earlier this month that Google’s search business and advertising practices may come under scrutiny during the potential anti-trust violations probe by the US Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ and Federal Trade Commission are said

to be dividing up responsibility for oversight of Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon to probe their market dominance.

Pichai told CNN Business on Friday that it’s “perfectly fine” for companies like Google to be scrutinised when they get big enough.

“Scrutiny is right, and we will participate constructively in these

## Not Just Another Match: India start favourites against Pakistan in mother of all battles

**MANCHESTER, JUN 15 (PTI):** A cricketing rivalry that transcends beyond the realms of 22-yards will be reignited when India and Pakistan square off in a World Cup encounter that could have fascinating sub-plots with Rain Gods threatening an anti-climactic twist.

The escalating cross-border tensions between the two neighbouring nations add to the intrigue with KL Rahul’s technique being tested by Mohammed Amir and Wahab Riaz’s skills finding more than a match in a colossus like Virat Kohli.

Even if they feel that it’s just another game, perhaps all players in their hearts know that this is a special match even if at times the reason in purely non-cricketing.

No wonder Sachin Tendulkar urges Indian batsmen to be more aggressive against a skillful Amir unlike 2017 Champions Trophy while skipper Kohli speaks about having an “ideal mindset” even if the first-timers may find the “occasion intimidating”.

The narrative of Indo-Pak duel is such that irrespective of whether it is a World Cup game or not, it creates heroes or villains for life in the eyes of fans.

Ajay Jadeja’s assault of Waqar Younis in the 1996 World Cup quarterfinal or Salim Malik’s 72 off 35 balls in a tough run chase that stunned the 90,000 plus at Eden Gardens in 1987 are stuff of legends.

People remember these matches while forgetting that both were proven match fixers, who brought the game into disrepute.

Chetan Sharma, despite a World Cup hat-



trick and five-for in a Lord’s Test, is remembered for Javed Miandad’s last ball six in Sharjah in 1986. He was a far better bowler than that to live with a curse of a full-toss.

Hrishikesh Kanitkar’s international career wouldn’t possibly deserve a footnote but people still remember him fondly because of his last ball boundary off Saqlain Mushtaq, under fading lights in Dhaka in 1998.

Both defy logic but since when have fans cared about logic.

For them, this is ‘The Match’ and there’s a binary feel to it. Either you win or lose. Everything else is forgotten duly.

Or else it is difficult to justify why fans are ready to buy overpriced tickets being sold on black even after factoring in that weather could possibly ruin things and they might lose out on a lot of money.

The exponential increase of media frenzy always hypes it up at insane level even though all the six World Cup duels that India have won have been pretty one-sided.

The Bengaluru quarter-final in 1996 or Mohali semi-final in 2011 were exciting but it didn’t go down to the wire.

for not being recognised as a professional. After several years at the club Sánchez was told, during the season, that they were letting her go, which meant she would have to be unemployed for six months because transfers can only be completed at the end of the season.

Sánchez took to social media and received strong support from Argentina teammates, just as they were finally getting a bigger platform in the lead-up to the World Cup. A few prominent journalists picked the story up, including Alejandro Wall, but also many independent women writers, such as Leila Grayani and Nemesia Hijós. The former president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner lent her support to the female players and a number of local and regional politicians followed suit.

As the public became more aware of the conditions of women’s football, pressure grew and finally, in April, the AFA agreed to help subsidise one-year professional contracts for eight female players, but it was only to the tune of \$330 a month.

Gaby Garton, a goalkeeper for the national team, said that, while it was not enough to earn a living on just football, “it’s a whole lot better than the nothing many of us earned before”.

While the grassroots women’s football culture in Argentina has been at the forefront of pushing for better resources, it has been cautiously optimistic about improvements over the past year. They prefer the term “feminist football” or “fútbol feminista”, rather than football femenino or women’s football, to signal their desire to change thinking in the country. Rather than just adding women to the current corrupt sporting structures that make a profit of exporting predominantly working class athletes, they want fundamentally more egalitarian institutions.

The point against Japan was not only important for being the first in an official World Cup for the Argentinian women’s team. More than anything, it highlighted the strength and resolve of generations of female footballers in continuing to play in the face of opposition, sexism and disdain from their own federation.

the No 4 if India wants a few overs of seam-up stuff from him or else stick to Karthik, who has more experience of pressure situations.

The seaming conditions and Pakistan’s comfort against spinners might prompt Kohli to drop one among Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav and go for Mohammed Shami, who could be devastating in these conditions.

Jasprit Bumrah will have a score to settle against Fakhar Zaman, bowling against whom, the last thing he would want is to overstep.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar would like to bowl that probing off-stump line which can keep opposition best bet Babar Azam at bay.

Mohammed Hafeez’s years of experience will be up against Hardik Pandya’s panache.

Last but not the least, India’s ‘Man of all seasons’ Mahendra Singh Dhoni will “lead” from the back and that will be the team’s trump card.

Squads:

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

Pakistan: Sarfaraz Ahmed (captain), Fakhar Zaman, Imam ul Haq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Shahdab Khan, Mohammed Hafeez, Mohammed Hasnain, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Wahab Riaz, Mohammed Aamir, Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim, Asif Ali.

Match Starts at 3 pm IST.



# ElseWhere

## 31 test positive for HIV in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD, JUN 15 (PTI):** Thirty-one people were tested HIV positive during a screening programme conducted in Pakistan's Sindh province on Saturday, health authorities said amid a probe by international experts from the WHO to check the outbreak of the deadly virus.

The new cases in Shikarpur district see a surge in cases of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) in Sindh after 215 positive cases, including 181 children, were reported in Ratodero district of Larkana last month, Geo News reported.

According to District Health Officer Shabbir Sheikh, 2,500 people were screened out of which 31 tested positive, the report said.

Those that have tested positive were being provided treatment and other amenities according to the World Health

Organisation (WHO) regulations. A delegation of the United Nations bodies, including the WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, are already in Karachi to help the Sindh health authorities to investigate the alarming outbreak of the HIV in the district.

Main reason behind the spread of HIV virus was revealed to be the use of unsafe blood, unsafe injections and unsafe practice, the WHO Representative Palitha Mahipala said.

Those affected have urged the Sindh government to make HIV medicine readily available at private medical stores apart from government hospitals for easy access.

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho said that legislation for the formation of a health commission, to address HIV out-



break, has been completed, she said, the Express Tribune reported. Dr Pechuho said that the investigation revealed a large number of doctors in Sindh were carrying out unsafe medical practices. Efforts are being made to stop them from doing so.

She also requested the federal government to allocate certain amount in the budget for the production of auto-lock syringes in Pakistan, the report said.

She said that the recent outbreak was a sign

that if the issue of HIV is neglected any further, it would result in a dangerous situation.

Federal Health Minister Dr Zafar Mirza also said that federal and provincial governments were working together and the recent HIV outbreak was a wake-up call to improve the healthcare system in the country.

He stressed on the need to make HIV control programme more effective, at national and provincial levels.

He said that Pakistan has the highest number

of Hepatitis B cases in the world and Hepatitis C was also turning out to be a big challenge, adding that if not addressed, HIV too would become a big problem.

Citizens have also asked to take adequate measures to counter the disease.

In total, 76.1 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV, since the epidemic started in the 1980s. Some 35 million have died, according to official figures.

Without treatment, HIV-infected people go on to develop AIDS, a syndrome that weakens the immune system and leaves the body exposed to opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis, and some types of cancer.

Treatment carries side-effects and is costly, but allows infected people to be healthier for longer.

## Minor Indian migrant girl died of heat stroke near US-Mexico border: Official

**Houston, Jun 15 (PTI):** Gurupreet Kaur, the six-year-old Indian girl whose body was found near a remote and deserted US-Mexico border died of heat stroke after her mother left her to go in search of water, US officials said Friday as they blamed people smugglers for the tragedy.

Kaur, who was a month shy of turning 7, was found by the US Border Patrol officials 27 kilometres west of Lukeville, Arizona on Wednesday, when temperature reached a high of 42 Celsius, the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner said.

Gregory Hess, Pima County Chief Medical Examiner, identified the girl as Gurupreet Kaur and said that her death was accidental and caused by hyperthermia, CNN reported.

However, Border Patrol blamed Kaur's death on people smugglers.

Kaur was travelling with four other persons and dropped near the border by human smugglers who ordered the group to cross in the dangerous and austere location.

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents got the information after encountering two women from India, who explained how they came to the US and that three others, a woman and two children, got separated from them hours earlier, the agency said in a statement.

The agents took the two women into custody and began searching the area north of the international border in the remote terrain for the missing persons.

Agents used helicopters to search for the people she had been travelling with, and found footprints indicating they returned to Mexico.

After walking some

way, the girl's mother and another woman went in search of water, leaving her daughter with another woman and her child.

"Once they went to look for water they never saw them again," said US Border Patrol Agent Jesus Vasavilbaso.

Hours later, they discovered the Kaur's body, it said.

"Our sympathies are with this little girl and her family," Tucson Chief Patrol Agent Roy Villareal said. "This is a senseless death driven by cartels who are profiting from putting lives at risk."

The CBP said Friday that the Border Patrol agents had also located "two missing Indian nationals" after they had crossed the border back into the US.

"The mother and her 8-year-old daughter were transported to a local hospital for treatment for dehydration," the CBP said in a statement.

The numbers of Indians crossing US borders from Mexico has steadily risen in recent years, according to immigration officials. They are among thousands of Africans and Asian migrants making the arduous journey, led by smuggling cartels.

Last year, more than 9,000 people from India were detained at US borders nationwide -- a big increase from the prior year, when that number was about 3,100.

A decade ago, in 2009, that number was 204.

US President Donald Trump has been promising for more than two years to build a long, impenetrable wall along the border to stop illegal immigration, though Congress has been reluctant to provide the money he needs. In the meantime, he has repeatedly threatened to close the border.

## Hong Kong on edge, more protests over extradition bill loom



**HONG KONG, JUN 15 (AP):** Pressure on Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam was mounting Saturday, with signs emerging that she may delay an unpopular extradition bill that has drawn hundreds of thousands of people into the streets in protest.

Lam was expected to hold a news conference at 3 p.m. (0700 GMT), the government said in an announcement. It gave no details about what she planned to say.

Another mass protest was expected on Sunday, after clashes that turned violent on Wednesday, leaving about 80 people injured including 22 police officers.

The standoff between police and protesters in the former British colony is Hong Kong's most severe political crisis since the Communist Party-ruled mainland took control in 1997 with a promise not to interfere with the city's civil liberties and courts.

Lam, chosen by Beijing to be the highest-level local official, is caught between her Communist Party bosses and a public anxious to protect the liberties they enjoy as a former British colony.

Opponents want her to withdraw the bill, which would allow Hong Kong suspects to be tried in mainland China. She has said she won't, and has the backing

of leaders in Beijing. Many protesters are demanding she quit.

Protests died down late in the week, but around midnight Friday there were still dozens of youths singing and standing vigil near the city's government headquarters, where demonstrators had tussled with police who deployed tear gas, pepper spray, hoses and steel batons as thousands pushed through barricades.

Police said 11 were arrested. Lam declared that Wednesday's violence was "rioting," potentially raising severe legal penalties for those arrested for taking part.

In past cases of unrest, authorities have waited months or years before rounding up protest leaders. In April, nine leaders of a 2014 pro-democracy protest movement known as the "Umbrella Revolution" were convicted on public nuisance and other charges.

Lam was facing calls from both outside and within her government to delay the extradition legislation that has spurred the protests.

Some members of the Executive Council, Hong Kong's cabinet, said she should perhaps rethink plans to rush the bills' passage. A group of former senior government officials issued a public letter urging her not to force a confrontation by pushing ahead with the unpopular bills.

Many in Hong Kong fear the measures would undermine the former British colony's legal autonomy.

More than 1,000 people joined a peaceful "mother's protest" Friday evening in a downtown garden.

Adding to tensions, the extradition bill has drawn criticism from US and British lawmakers and human rights groups, prompting Beijing to lash back with warnings against "interference" in its internal affairs.

It is unclear how the local leadership might defuse the crisis, given Beijing's strong support for the extradition bill and its distaste for dissent and for foreign pressure.

Many experts believe Lam might be obliged to step down, assuming responsibility for the uproar the bill has raised.

Anson Chan, a former chief secretary for Hong Kong, said Lam still could keep her post if she backs down.

"What the people are attempting to tell is that we are very worried about the consequences of passing the extradition bill, because no one will feel safe, even in their own beds, after passage of this bill," Chan said in an interview.

"It places everybody's individual freedom and safety at risk," said Chan, who as chief secretary was the top local civil servant under former British Gov. Chris Patton.

## Journalists resign after pro-Russia MP buys Ukraine channel



**KIEV, JUN 15 (AFP):** A Ukrainian MP with ties to Russia has bought a national Ukrainian news channel, prompting a round of resignations from journalists who fear his ownership will mean coverage influenced by Moscow.

Taras Kozak of the pro-Moscow party "Opposition Platform" already owned two national TV stations before he took over the channel ZIK this week.

Kozak is a close ally of politician Viktor Medvedchuk, a controversial figure in Ukraine because of his close ties to Russian President Vladimir

Putin while Kiev is fighting a Moscow-backed separatist war.

Journalist Roman Nedzelskiy, one of five journalists to resign from the channel along with its CEO, said Medvedchuk now essentially controls ZIK.

"Tomorrow I will be on the air with the last broadcast of the weekly show 'Details' and then I will start looking for a job," he said on Facebook late Friday.

"Medvedchuk is an enemy of my country, a murderer of both the past and the future," his colleague Vakhtang Kipiani wrote as he announced his resignation.

Mustafa Nayyem, a Ukrainian MP, wrote on social media that the takeover would be a challenge for new President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"It is difficult to say which is worse -- a Russian tank on the demarcation line or a broadcast holding... belonging practically to a relative of Vladimir Putin".

Medvedchuk claims Putin is godfather to one of his daughters.

Ukraine is locked in a five-year conflict with Russia-backed separatists in the east of the country that has claimed over 13,000 lives.

## Syria flare-up kills 35 fighters, including 26 pro-regime forces: monitor

**BEIRUT, JUN 15 (AFP):** At least 35 combatants including 26 pro-regime forces were killed Saturday in clashes and air strikes that erupted at dawn in northwestern Syria, a war monitor said.

The flare-up came as Russian-backed regime forces tried to retake two villages seized by jihadists and allied rebels earlier this month, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"Since this morning, the Syrian regime and allied fighters have launched five failed attempts to regain control of Jibine and Tal Maleh in northwestern Hama province," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. Syrian regime and Russian air strikes killed nine jihadists and rebel fighters, the war monitor said.

Ensuing clashes in the north of Hama province left 26 pro-regime forces dead, including eight who were killed in a mine explosion, the Observatory said.

The Idlib region of some three million people is supposed to be protected from a massive regime offensive by a buffer zone deal that Russia and Turkey signed in September.

But it was never fully implemented, as jihadists refused to withdraw from a planned demilitarised zone.

In January, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate extended its administrative control over the region, which includes most of Idlib province as well as adjacent slivers of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo provinces.

The Syrian government and Russia have upped their bombardment of the region since late April, killing more than 360 civilians, according to the Observatory.

Turkey said Friday that it did not accept Russia's "excuse" that it had no ability to stop the Syrian regime's continued

bombardments in the last rebel bastion of Idlib.

"In Syria, who are the regime's guarantors? Russia and Iran," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told state news agency Anadolu in a televised interview.

"Thus we do not accept the excuse that 'We cannot make the regime listen to us'," he said.

His comments came as Turkey disagreed with Russia earlier this week after Moscow claimed a new ceasefire had been secured in the province following weeks of regime bombardments -- a claim that was denied by Ankara. Syria's war has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since it started in 2011 with the repression of anti-government protests.

Russia launched a military intervention in support of the regime in 2015, helping its forces reclaim large parts of the country from opposition fighters and jihadists.

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS





**ALL SMILES!** The songstress, Christina Milian is a happy gal during a day out in Los Angeles.

## Akshay Kumar asks fans to not participate in 'negative trends' regarding 'Sooryavanshi'

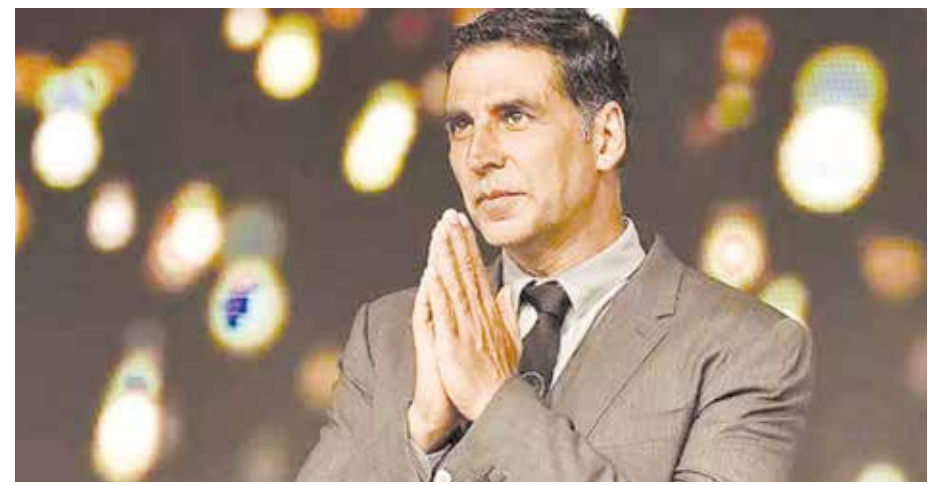
Mumbai, Jun 14 (PTI): Superstar Akshay Kumar on Friday urged his fans and followers to refrain from getting into "negative" discussions about his upcoming film "Sooryavanshi".

The 51-year-old actor took Twitter to issue the appeal, saying that he is working on the film with a "positive outlook".

"Since the past few days I've noticed certain negative trends being done by people dearest to me...you guys. I can see and understand your angst, all I can do is request you all with folded hands not to start/participate in such trends.

"I took up Sooryavanshi with a very positive outlook, let's continue making and releasing it in the same way," Akshay said in a brief statement posted on his official Twitter handle.

The release date of "Sooryavanshi", which is being directed by Rohit Shetty, was recently advanced to avoid a box office clash with Salman Khan's "Inshallah".



Both the films were all set to lock horns at the box office on Eid 2020 but now "Sooryavanshi" will arrive in theatres on March 27.

The film will also feature Katrina Kaif, who has previously worked with Akshay in movies such as "Namastey London", "Welcome" and "De Dana Dan", among others.

## Fatherhood makes me feel good about myself: Tusshar Kapoor

MUMBAI, JUN 15 (PTI): Actor Tusshar Kapoor describes fatherhood as a life long vision which has made him feel more complete and confident as a person.

The 42-year-old actor became single parent to his son, Lakshya, through surrogacy in 2016.

Ahead of Father's Day, the actor says for him, fatherhood is all about a feeling which does not ever go away.

"I feel more confident as a father, I feel my life has a purpose and feel more fulfilled and accomplished. When a day ends, I feel I've done a lot, even when I'm on holiday, I don't feel like I am not working," Tusshar tells PTI.

"Fatherhood makes me feel good about myself, makes me feel complete. It has also made me manage my time and more organised because you've to work with a clock work precision when you're a father," he added.

The "Golmaal" actor said he had a "positive nervousness" before becoming a father and took the decision only when he felt he was ready.

"I was always very fond of babies, so it didn't feel like fatherhood would be a burden ever. But the calling never came till I decided to be a father. I took this step only when I felt the time has come."

But many still find it a bit daunting to turn a single parent without getting married, for the responsibilities which will come along with the decision.

Tusshar says it has to be a well thought out decision, one which requires a lot of acceptance of the self.

"It's normal to be scared. It okay to be a single parent. If you accept yourself then even the society will accept you. The fear is about whether I'll be able to take up the responsibility or not.

"If you have the infrastructure and means to take care of a child, then better late than never. Do it when you feel is the right time."

Tusshar says being a father from the



movie industry can be a bit challenging but the difficulties are not restricted to just the film line.

"It's hugely compromised for movie stars, no matter how much they try. A lot of times, specially in the earlier years, father's probably left it to the mothers.

"That also happens outside of the film line, a lot of busy fathers think the mothers will do everything and I can just have a special appearance in the child's life... But that's not necessarily restricted to movies."



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