



**STARDOM A FINE BALANCE
BETWEEN CONTENTMENT AND
AMBITION, SAYS AYUSHMANN**
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**...BECAUSE TOO MANY LESSONS
ARE GOING UNLEARN'T**

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**'LUCIFER' TO HAVE TWO-PART
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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM's greetings on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

GANGTOK, 30 OCT (IPR):

Chief Minister, PS Tamang has extended his warm greetings to the people of Sikkim, on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) which is celebrated across the country on 31 October commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India.

In his message, the Chief Minister stated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's commitment to national integration in the newly independent country was total and uncompromising. His belief in the principle of unity in diversity and standing united for the common cause of India's independence made him the "Iron Man of India".

Rastriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated to remember Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's who is also known as "Unifier of India" and his dedication towards the Nation. This day promotes a sense of unity among people from different communities and brings cultural equality. This day is introduced to bring the spirit of unity, love, peace and fraternity in the country.

The Chief Minister called upon the civil servants to re-dedicate themselves to nation building on the birth anniversary of the person who was instrumental in establishing the modern All India Services.

On this auspicious occasion of Rastriya Ekta Diwas he has called upon the people of Sikkim to reiterate their faith on the principle of unity in diversity as our strength.

State and District level committees formed for suicide prevention and control

GANGTOK, 30 OCT [IPR]:

A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, SC Gupta to take stock of the growing number of suicides in the state and to explore how the State departments could address the issues of suicide in the State at the conference hall of Tashiling Secretariat on 24 Oct, 2019.

The Departments who were invited for the meeting were Social Justice and Welfare Dept, Education Dept, Police Dept, Ecclesiastical Dept, RDD, Excise Dept, Member Secretary-SLSA, Law, IPR, Finance, AAYUSH, Program Officer-SADA and Freedom NGO.

The Chief Secretary discussed all the ongoing schemes in all the departments and further sought ideas and inputs on the possibility



of convergence between Departments so that the issue of suicides can be taken up in a holistic manner by the state.

Ideas like using yoga teachers as counsellors in schools, the role of

panchayats in sensitizing the public in dealing with the bereaved family, exploring the possibility of training religious organizations to sensitise the people who come to them for help, sensitizing

of police while reporting and dealing with such cases were discussed at large.

The house was also made aware of the cases that are being dealt by the Suicide helpline

which is run by Freedom NGO. They were proud to inform that there are many attempters who have survived because of the helpline. The survivors are not just

from Sikkim but also other states like UP and Maharashtra.

The Chief Secretary further directed the house to create a road map for the future wherein issues like social integration of survivors and drug users can be looked into. Another important road map was the introduction of life skill training program that is to be introduced in all schools so as to train the students to cope with the day-to-day challenges.

Lastly, the CS spoke about the need to sensitize media personnel who cover these incidents on responsible reporting.

The meeting concluded with constitution of a State level and District level committee for prevention and control of suicide.

39th All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament 2019 begins

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

State Sports Academy, Gangtok will take on Royal Football Club, Siliguri in the inaugural match of the 39th All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament 2019 here at Paljor Stadium on 01 November evening under floodlights. Twelve teams will be participating in the tournament, which is being organised by Sikkim Football Association.

Other participating teams are ISL club, Jamshedpur Football Club [Reserve], I-League club, Gokulam Football Club from Kerala, Punjab Police XI, Army [Red], Eastern Railways and Md Sporting Club, BSS Sporting Club, Kidderpore Sporting Club, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club and Sikkim Police.

It has to be mentioned here that earlier announced teams, ATK Kolkata and East Bengal Academy are not coming for the tournament and have now been replaced by Gokulam FC and Royal FC. It is informed that most of the teams have already reached Gangtok and others will be arriving in the next few days for the tournament.



Sports to be made part of CBSE system, says Minister

CHENNAI, OCT 29 (PTI):

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (independent-in-charge) Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said the CBSE was preparing a system to ensure sports becomes a substantial part of education to determine the achievement of a student.

"Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has already announced setting up a Board for Sports Education. Now, under the new education policy, sports will become a part of education and the CBSE is preparing a system to ensure sports becomes a substantial part of education," Rijiju said.

He said this after inaugurating the Dr N P V Ramaswamy Udayar Hockey Centre at Sri Ramachandra Medical College and University here.

Rijiju said the move to induct sports in the new education system was because it has been treated as an extra-curricular activity.

"Earlier, sports was treated as extra-curricular activities. Sports was not part of education system and it was treated as an extra," he said.

Under the new initiative, the Minister said the Central Board of Secondary Education was preparing a system and sports would not be treated as an extra or just an option.

"Sports is the central part of education system now.

There is a major shift we are taking forward. Prime Minister is very clear in that," he said.

Later talking to reporters, he said his Ministry was in touch with Human Resources Development Ministry in this regard.

"I have already attended the cabinet meeting and I have already spoken there. Now, it is under preparation (to include sports in education system). Policy has been accepted.

ed. How to implement, when to start, this will depend on the preparation.

Modi government is treating sports as greatest priority ever and that is how India will become a sporting powerhouse in future," he said.

On the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, he said it was just 10 months away and one cannot create a champion overnight.

"It takes years for a player to become a champion. So, we will go to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with full preparation but with existing talents. We have decided to give the best possible support system, including creating an India House pavilion in Tokyo," he said.

The India House, he said, would offer complete support to Indian athletes like food, transport and provision of accommodation. "Everything will be managed by India House and we must

ensure full preparatory support to our team," he said.

He said the next big target for India was that it should be in the top 10 medal list in the world since in Rio de Janeiro olympics, India managed to secure only two medals.

He said the Olympics in Paris would be held in 2024 and in 2028 in Los Angeles.

"I met all heads of sports federations and the target in 2024 we have to cross double-digit medal tally and by 2028 Olympics, India must be in the top 10 medal list of the world.

There is no second thought. We must be clear in our objective.

Otherwise, how will India become a sporting powerhouse," he asked.

To a query, he said Tamil Nadu has a great sports culture and the state has huge potential to produce more talents in future.

Raj HC quashes cattle smuggling case against Pehlu Khan, his two sons and driver

JAIPUR, OCT 30 (PTI):

The Rajasthan High Court on Wednesday quashed a case against Pehlu Khan, who was lynched by cow vigilantes in April 2017, his two sons and a truck driver for allegedly illegally transporting cows for slaughter.

A single bench of Justice Pankaj Bhandari quashed the case under Rajasthan Bovine Animals Protection Act and the charge sheet against the four, saying there is no evidence to show that the cows were being transported for the purpose of slaughtering.

The petition was filed by the truck driver, Khan Mohammed, and the two sons of Pehlu Khan.

It was contended by Advocate Kapil Gupta, appearing for the accused, that the criminal case was a sheer misuse and abuse of the process of law since there was no evidence that the cows were being transported for illegal purposes.

Gupta contended that the report of medical experts established the fact they were milch cows and calves were only a month old.

There was also a receipt from the local animal selling market that the cows were in fact purchased for rearing them in dairy, the lawyer submitted.

In his reaction after the verdict, Pehlu Khan's son Irshad

told PTI over phone, "We are very happy with the high court's direction today to quash the FIR and charge sheet against me and my brother. We were not taking the cows for the purpose of slaughtering but we were attacked. Today, justice was done."

Pehlu Khan (55), his two sons and a few others were transporting cows when they were allegedly stopped and thrashed by a mob near Behror in Alwar district on April 1, 2017.

Khan died in hospital on April 3, triggering outrage over the murder and focusing attention on attacks by cow vigilantes.

An Alwar court had

acquitted all six accused on August 14 this year, giving them the benefit of doubt. However, the Rajasthan government has filed an appeal in the high court against the acquittal.

After the lower court verdict, the state government had constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to identify errors and irregularities in the investigation and fix the responsibility for botching up the investigation on individual officers.

Khan and others were on their way to Nuh district in Haryana from Jaipur when the cow vigilantes stopped them in Behror on the Jaipur-Delhi national highway.

Naga talks continuing for 3rd consecutive day

NEW DELHI, OCT 30

(PTI): The talks to find a lasting solution to the seven-decade-old insurgency problem in Nagaland continued for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, with the Centre's interlocutor and Governor R N Ravi holding two rounds of discussions with the NSCN-IM, officials said.

While the dialogue with the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) is almost over, the talks with the NSCN-IM, a major insurgent group in the Northeast, has been continuing as the outfit continues to insist on its demands for a separate flag and Constitution for the Nagas.

"At least two rounds of discussions were held with the NSCN-IM. Both sides are trying to find a solution acceptable to everyone," an official privy to the development.

The talks were convened in Delhi in a bid to iron out differences, particularly on the NSCN-IM's demands for a separate flag and Constitution for the Nagas, which have already been rejected by the Centre.

Ravi, in a statement last week, said that a mutually agreed draft comprehensive settlement, including all the substantive issues, was ready for signing the final agreement.

"Unfortunately at this auspicious juncture, the NSCN-IM has adopted a procrastinating attitude to delay the settlement, raising the contentious symbolic issues of separate Naga national flag and Constitution on which they are fully aware of Government of India's position," he had said.

Ravi's statement assumes significance in

view of the Centre's August 5 announcement abrogating the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370. With the annulment of the special status, the separate flag and the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir cease to exist.

The framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015 by NSCN-IM leader Thuingaleng Muivah and Ravi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The framework agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, with the first breakthrough in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland which started soon after India's Independence in 1947.

The central government has already re-

jected the NSCN-IM's demand for unification of Naga inhabited areas -- located in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The three northeastern states had also vehemently opposed it.

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PMC Bank depositors continue protest seeking payback

MUMBAI, OCT 30 (PTI): Depositors of the PMC Bank on Wednesday protested in the financial capital, seeking an immediate payback of their dues from the troubled cooperative.

The protest, which came a day after a similar agitation, also exposed cracks within the depositors, where two groups of leaders seem to have emerged.

The Wednesday's protest at the Azad Maidan, the designated protest ground in the financial capital saw the presence of Congress leader and the party's spokesperson Charan Singh Sapra.

Depositors assembled at a specially created pandal in the ground from the morning itself, but the agitation fizzled out with police officials thwarting threats of a march to BJP office in the afternoon.

Three of the protesting members were detained by the police and taken away.

"We have decided to go to the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police to seek officials and will continue with the protest," Gurjyot Singh Keer, one of the detained on Wednesday, said.

He added Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam is helping the depositors with the initiative at EOW, which is presently investigating the case of cheating.

The EOW has arrested five, including three top officials of PMC and the promoters of realty group HDIL, and pegged the scam at Rs 4,355 crore.

PMC officials are alleged to have colluded with the Wadhawans,

the promoters of HDIL, to keep writing loans for the realty developer or some dummy fronts floated by it over the last nine years.

The loans were allegedly hidden from RBI and the central bank's supervision also failed to pick up the scam for many years. The RBI put the bank under directions last month, after it became clear that the bank had given over Rs 6,500 crore of its overall book of over Rs 9,000 crore to HDIL.

As part of the directions, deposit withdrawals were capped at Rs 1,000 per account and subsequently raised to Rs 40,000 after protests. The RBI says 77 per cent of the 16 lakh depositors can get a reprieve with the Rs 40,000 limit.

Five of the depositors have died in the last month, including one who has committed suicide. At least two dozen protests have been held by the depositors across the city.

Many of the distraught depositors sounded dejected on Wednesday, with no solution in sight.

"I came to Mumbai from Pakistan as a refugee and the tough days we saw led us to save every penny we could. I am saddened that I chose the PMC Bank and now, I do not know as to when would I get the money back," movie and theatre personality Inderjit Sachdeva, the father of actor Rajeshwari Sachdeva, said.

The septuagenarian said most of the protests are now going in vain and additional efforts of moving around are going in vain.

RTC strike: Political parties vow to support stir

HYDERABAD, OCT 30 (PTI): Various political parties shared the dais here on Wednesday with unions of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, whose workers have been on an indefinite strike since October 5 over various demands, and pledged support to the stir.

TPCC Working President and MP Revanth Reddy, Telangana Telugu Desam Party President L Ramana, CPI State Secretary Chada Venkat Reddy, BJP leaders and former MPs Jithender Reddy and Vivek and Telangana Jana Samithi chief Kodandaram, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Revanth Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar completely let down the people of the state.

He said the VAT on diesel was increased after the TRS government came into power in 2014, imposing a Rs 700 crore additional burden on the ailing organisation.

Alleging that the Chief Minister was trying to break up the unity of the employees, Ramana demanded to know why RTC plunged into losses after Rao became chief Minister, compared to the time it showed profits when he was transport minister of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

Describing the employees' demands as justifiable, the CPI leader said most of them were aimed at ensuring the

survival of the organisation.

JAC leader Ashwathama Reddy said the unions would request CPI's state Assistant Secretary K Sambasiva Rao to end his indefinite fast, which entered the fifth day on Wednesday.

The CPI leader went on fast at the party office here in support of the striking employees and was shifted to a state run hospital on October 28

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday granted conditional approval to the Joint Action Committee of the RTC unions to hold an indoor public meeting here for three hours from 3 PM on Wednesday to discuss matters related to the strike.

The Court had also imposed conditions to facilitate police to maintain law and order during the meeting.

Meanwhile, agitating employees adopted novel forms of protest as the strike entered the 26th day on Wednesday like going on a cleanliness drive, standing in water bodies for some time and seeking alms at various places.

Employees and workers unions of TSRTC started the indefinite strike from October 5 across Telangana on a call given by the JAC of TSRTC, demanding merger of the RTC with the government and recruitment to various posts, among others.

Kulgam killings: BJP attacked by West Bengal parties

KOLKATA, OCT 30 (PTI):

The killing of five labourers from West Bengal by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir has provided the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and other political parties of the state with an opportunity to attack the BJP claiming that the Narendra Modi government have failed to control the situation there.

The Congress, TMC and the CPI(M) accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government of trying to hide the "real situation", while the saffron party urged them to refrain from politicising a "terror attack".

Five labourers from West Bengal's Murshidabad district were shot dead and another was injured on Tuesday by terrorists in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir which is under President's Rule at present.

After visiting the victim's families, Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury slammed the Centre for allegedly pursuing "wrong policies" that led to "worsening" of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah urging him to ensure safety and security of non-Kashmiris working there in various capacities.

The family members of the victims said their men were threatened regularly by terror groups to leave the valley as they were "non-Kashmiris".

In another letter, the Congress leader also requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send an all-party delegation to Kashmir to assess the situation there and extend financial support to the victims' families from his relief fund.

"The situation in the Valley is becoming worse with every passing day. It is going out of our hands because of the wrong policies of the central government, which is only busy trying to hide the real situation," Chowdhury told reporters after meeting the family members of the victims at Sagardighi.

"The government is not allowing an all-party delegation of the country to visit the Valley but is allowing an EU delegation," he said.

A large number of people from West Bengal, especially Murshidabad district, are employed in Kashmir, Chowdhury who is a five-time MP from Berhampore in the district, said in his letter to Shah.

"Please ensure safety and security of these people as the family members are unable to connect with them. All the labourers and work-

ers in the valley should return to their homes safely," he said in the letter.

He also requested Shah to open a helpline so that the family members can get in touch with their near and dear ones who are still in the valley.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee demanded a "strong investigation" into the incident to find out the "real truth". She also announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each for the victims' families.

"...five innocent labourers were brutally killed in a pre planned manner. We are totally shocked! Presently there are no political activities in Kashmir and entire law and order is with the Government of India," she said in a tweet.

Banerjee tasked a senior state police of-

ficer to coordinate and find out details about the killings.

Senior TMC leader and state minister Arup Roy, however, directly blamed the BJP-led central government for its alleged failure to control the situation in the valley.

"The recent incidents of violence after the abrogation of Article 370 is a proof that the situation has worsened and not improved as promised by the Modi government," Roy claimed.

A TMC delegation led by local MLA Khaliur Rehman visited the family members, while Kolkata Mayor and senior party leader Firhad Hakim is also scheduled to visit them.

CPI(M) central committee member Sujjan Chakraborty said the union government should be answerable for the deaths of the five labourers.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh slammed the TMC and other parties for "trying to politicise" the terror attack.

"The central government is taking all the required steps. The opposition parties are shedding crocodile tears.

BJP workers are getting killed regularly in West Bengal," Ghosh said.

The victims' families said the workers were threatened by terrorists asking them to leave the Valley.

"My son and others were regularly getting threat calls from some terror groups. They were telling them to leave the valley as we are non-Kashmiris and eating into jobs of the Kashmiris," Jaris Sheikh told reporters.

He is the father of Noimuddin Sheikh, one of the five victims and himself works as a labourer in an apple garden in Kashmir.

RSC Rai Gaon lifts Daramdin Open Knockout Football Tourney

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

The Open Knockout Football tourney concluded here at Tikpur Rai Gaon playground under Daramdin constituency in West Sikkim today. The tourney was organised by Rosenaley Social Club (Rai Gaon) on the occasion of Dipawali.

BJP candidate of Daramdin Constituency for the 2019 Assembly election, RT Lepcha was present as the chief guest during the tournament. Teacher, Paljor Lepcha was present as the special guest and Government Contractor, Bivek Subba, ex-Panchayat, HB Rai, Panchayat, Dawa Zong Sherpa were present as the guest of honour.

Today's final match



was played between Rosenaley Social Club (RSC) and Cata Mountain wherein the former team won the match by 3-0.

Later, the winning team received cash prize of Rs. 50,000 while Rs. 30,000 was awarded to runner-up team along with trophies. Bijay Rai

bagged the title of Man of the tournament.

It may be mentioned here that the tourney started from 15 Oct wherein 36 teams participated from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Bijanbari, Rimbik and Sikkim.

The special attraction of the day was Tambola,

cultural dance competition, exhibition match, rap songs, passing the ball, and felicitation after the final match.

The organizing committee also felicitated land donor, Devi Maya Rai, ex-Panchayat, SB Rai and land donor, Money Rai.

NC appeals for maintaining Jammu and Kashmir's statehood

JAMMU, OCT 30 (PTI):

The National Conference on Wednesday made a last-minute appeal to the Centre to shelve the plan of bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into union territories and urged it to maintain the statehood of the 200-year-old state.

Two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- will come into existence on Thursday.

The NC also requested political parties, intellectuals, academicians, civil society, traders and transporters to come together and join hands with the party to make a joint request to President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Parliament to retain Jammu and Kashmir as a state.

"As we are coming closer to becoming a UT, psychologically the feeling of inferiority has started gripping us. We are here to make an appeal as voices were raised from every corner that we should not make it an issue of prestige and

instead work together to ensure that the 200-year-old state founded by Maharaja Gulab Singh is kept as a state," NC provincial president Devender Singh Rana told reporters here.

"Jammu and Kashmir is crown of India and we are and will remain part of India. We are Indian and will always remain Indian. The Jammu and Kashmir Constitution also makes it clear that the state is and shall remain an integral part of India and we have no doubts about it," he said.

He said there is a feeling among the people in Jammu region that they are being marginalised.

"The voice of Jammu need to be heard. The region has played a crucial role, especially after 1990s when Kashmir

faced a difficult situation (in the wake of eruption of militancy). Jammu has always aspired for statehood, though it is a different matter whether we politically agree or disagree with the demand. It should have

been honoured for maintaining brotherhood and keeping the tricolour flying high," the NC leader said.

"I request my colleagues in the BJP, Congress, Panthers Party, CPI(M), BSP and other parties that let us come together, leaving aside our differences, and make a joint request for restoration of statehood. The intellectuals, academics, civil society, traders and transporters should also come forward and lend their support wholeheartedly," he said.

He said the National Conference was promise bound to ensure equitable development of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions.

In response to a question about the reported remarks of National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi that the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the country ended with the abrogation of provisions of Article 370, Rana said if Masoodi had made any

comment he must have made it in his personal capacity and not on behalf of the party.

"The decision about what is to be done after abrogation of (provisions of) Article 370 cannot be taken by any individual in our party. Once the leadership comes out of detention, the working committee will sit down and decide the party's future course of action," he said.

Rana also demanded immediate restoration of mobile internet services in Jammu region to facilitate students and traders, and called for withdrawal of toll tax to facilitate smooth movement of pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine to boost tourism in the region.

On the visit of a delegation of European Union parliamentarians to Kashmir, he said, "We do not know whether their visit is going to do any good to anybody, least the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Kutshe Shegu



49 Days (Shegu) of late Phurba Tshering Lepcha (Mondal). S/O: Late Pensum Lepcha, resident of Upper Syari, Near Syari Junior High School, Kopi Bari, Gangtok, East Sikkim who left for his heavenly abode on 16 Sept, 2019 falls on 02 and 03 Nov, 2019.

Wife: Sarita Lepcha, Daughter: Roseling Lepcha, Rongmit: 9564919258, Son: Palden Lepcha, Brothers: Pema Chewang Lepcha (Ex Zilla Panchayat) 9609851355, Akal Bdr.Rai (SAP), Sister: Lakhit Lepcha, Son in Law: Gokul Rai: 7407365085.

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GATC'S Girish to feature with Soulmate in NH7 Weekender

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

Lead vocalist and front man from Girish and The Chronicles [GATC], Girish Pradhan has been invited by blues veterans, Soulmate to feature with them on the second day of Meghalaya edition of a very popular music festival, NH7 Weekender, the happiest music festival, on 02 November.

It is informed that he has been invited by Soulmate to feature with them as a part of their "Soulmate: A North East Blues special" project. They will be performing on 02 Nov, where Girish is scheduled to belt out some Blues in his own signature powerful style.

NH7 Weekender is

celebrating its decadal year and this year it is being held in Pune, Meghalaya, Mysore and Hyderabad. The Shillong edition is starting on 01 November and the festival will feature international acts such as Marty Friedman [from Megadeth fame], Opeth, Carnivool, Tesseract, alongside various other bands and artists from India. Considered as one of the biggest music festivals in India, NH7 is all set to roll starting November.

Girish and The Chronicles had recently visited Manipur, Hyderabad, Goa and Mumbai, and is currently on the final stages of their album production, set to release in April 2020.



The band members Suraz Karki and Yogesh Pradhan, along with Girish Pradhan will also

be featuring with the drum legend Chris Adler [former drummer of the band Lamb of God], on

his Chris Adler Experience India tour, happening in the month of November.

RK Nagar bypoll case: Police oppose plea for CBI probe

CHENNAI, OCT 30 (PTI):

Police on Wednesday opposed in the Madras High Court a plea for CBI probe into alleged cash distribution to voters that led to cancellation of bypolls in RK Nagar Assembly seat in 2017, saying the case was properly investigated and the FIR quashed by a single judge bench last year.

In a counter-affidavit filed on a batch of petitions, inspector of the Abhiramapuram Police Station, where the FIR was registered on April 27, 2017, submitted that the probe was carried out under proper supervision as per the direction of the high court and a total of 882 witnesses were examined.

The probe was car-

ried out in "a fair, proper and unbiased manner" evidenced by the recording of statements from various persons, the inspector said in the counter affidavit filed before a bench of Justice M Sathyanarayanan and Justice N Seshasayee.

No malice or bias could be attributed to the police which investigated the matter as the case file was produced before the single judge bench that was pleased to quash the FIR, he submitted.

It further said there was no complaint on the file of the police by virtue of the order passed by the high court on March 13, 2018 quashing the FIR and sought dismissal of the petitions seeking CBI investigation.

The bench is hearing petitions by M P Vairakkannan and then DMK nominee Marudu Ganesh, who had initially sought registration of the FIR over alleged malpractices in the run up to the April 12, 2017 bypoll in RK Nagar assembly constituency here, leading to its cancellation.

The bypoll, necessitated by the death of chief minister Jayalithaa in December 2016, was later held in December 2017.

The matter relates to searches and seizure of documents by the Income Tax Department in various places on April 7, 2017 allegedly related to bribing of voters which led to the cancellation of the polls then.

On a direction by the Election Commission, the returning officer of the constituency had lodged a police complaint on April 27, 2017 based on which the FIR was registered.

Later, the petitioners sought a CBI probe.

During an earlier hearing last year, the court was informed that the FIR registered in the case had been quashed by the single judge on a petition by then Thiruvallur MLA Narasimhan.

Astonished by the submission, the bench had then asked the state government whether it has challenged the single judge order and also directed the police to file its counter.

Air India seeks \$819 mln loan for 7 Boeing planes

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI):

Air India is looking to raise USD 819 million (over Rs 5,800 crore) to refinance existing bridge loans availed for six Boeing 787 and one Boeing 777 aircraft.

The national carrier is yet to have long term financing facility for six B787 and B777-300ER, according to a tender document.

Bids have been invited from banks, financial institutions for refinancing existing bridge loan facility worth USD 819 million.

At current exchange rate, the amount will be more than Rs 5,800 crore.

Air India had acquired 27 B787-800 planes and 15 B777-300ER aircraft.

Out of them, 21 B787s are on sale and lease back while the remaining six are on short term bridge loans.

Among the 15 B777 aircraft, one is on short term bridge loan.

Out of the total USD 819 million bridge loan, an amount of USD 135 million will be for B777 plane and the rest for B787s, as per the document.

The loan tenure would be "one year or till the long term take out financing is in place, whichever is earlier," it

EU MPs in Kashmir say Article 370 internal issue, stand by India in fight against terror

SRINAGAR, OCT 30 (PTI):

Terming Article 370 an internal issue of India, EU parliamentarians visiting Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday said they stand by the country in its fight against global terrorism.

Addressing a press conference on the last day of their two-day visit to the Valley, the group of 23 members of European Parliament also condemned the killing of five labourers from West Bengal by terrorists on Tuesday.

"If we talk about Article 370 it is India's internal matter. What concerns us is terrorism and we should stand with India in fighting it. There was an unfortunate incident of killing of five innocent labourers by terrorists. We condemn it," said Henri Malosse from France.

He said the team got a briefing from the army added.

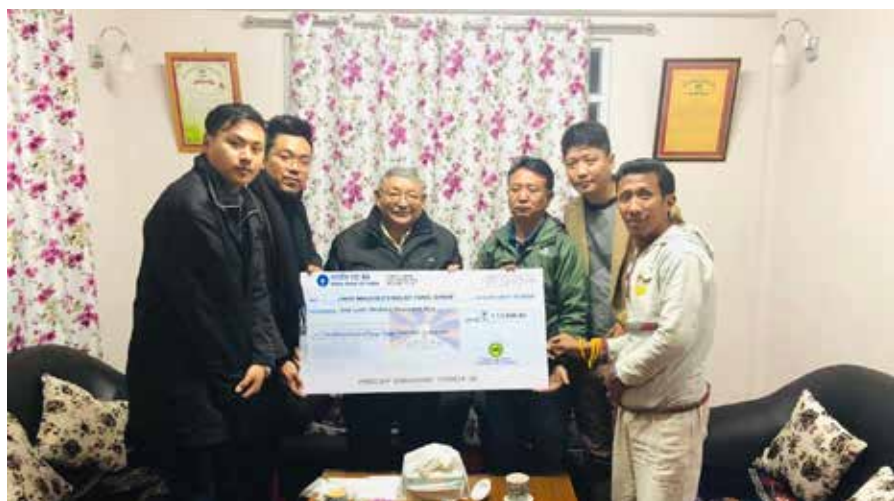
The central government guarantee will be provided for all the planes.

The deadline for submission of bids by banks and financial institutions is November 14.

Generally, a bridge loan refers to borrowing made till a long-term funding facility is available.

Meanwhile, the government is working on the final contours for the proposed disinvestment of Air India, which has a debt burden of around Rs 58,000 crore.

Tibetan Youth Club contributes Rs 1.13 lac towards CM's Relief Fund



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

Tibetan Youth Club, Gangtok has contributed an amount of Rs. 1,13,000 symbolising the Dalai Lama's affirmation to live for at least 113 years to Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Sikkim of the affected people of Tsong, Yuksam in West Sikkim.

The amount was handed over to the Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha on Tuesday.

It is informed that TYC raised this amount from a fund raising raffle held in collaboration with Tashi Delek Kyiduk and also contributed by some donors. During the 34th Kalachakra initiations the Dalai Lama

affirmed to live for at least 113 years and take rebirth to continue to serve humanity, it is informed. TYC publicity secretary, Kunga Choepal expressed his gratitude to all good Samaritans who purchased raffle tickets and in a way did a great humanitarian deed by directly or indirectly helping the needy people of Tsong.

Complaint against BJP leader for 'hate' message

ALIGARH (UP), OCT 30 (PTI):

Social activists from Aligarh and Delhi have filed multiple complaints with police and Home Ministry's cyber-cell against BJP leader Kapil Mishra, alleging his social media post incited hatred against Muslims, official sources said Wednesday.

They said former president of Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union Faizul Hasan is among those who have registered the complaints with the cyber-cell.

In August, Mishra, then with the Aam Aadmi Party, was disqualified as a member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly under the anti-defection law.

Hasan has accused Mishra of repeatedly posting comments on social media that incited hatred against the Muslim community. His complaint was filed on October 28, the sources said.

Hasan said the decision to file complaints against all such hate messages on social media was taken by a group of social activists including prominent lawyers like Saket Gokhale.

He said the latest controversial tweet by Mishra came at a time when Delhi was facing severe air pollution and Mishra allegedly gave a communal twist to the issue.

He said the Del-

hi-based social activist Gokhale and others have decided that if the Delhi police fails to prosecute Mishra, "then we will take judicial recourse in this matter".

Hasan also said that a group of lawyers and social activists have decided to set up a cell in every district which would report all hate posts on the social media and follow it up by filing complaints with the Home Ministry's cyber-cell and the relevant police station.

While Hasan and Gokhale have filed separate complaints with the cyber-cell, another AAP leader has filed a complaint against Mishra at Jamia Nagar police station in Delhi.

Mishra had tweeted: "If you want pollution to come down, then you should reduce these firecrackers and not the ones burst on Diwali."

He had tagged a photograph of an elderly man with a skull cap and several children along with women in burqa, waiting in a queue.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal hit out at Mishra, accusing him of comparing "Muslim children to pollution" for his "petty politics" and stoking acrimony in society.

Mishra, however, said he is only advocating population control but is being abused and threatened on phone and social media for his tweet.

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Let's Pledge to Learn From 1984

...because too many lessons are going unlearnt

Sikkim observes Sankalp Diwas today, 31 October, marking a significant moment in the nation's history which should not be forgotten. The official English translation of the name of the day is "National Re-dedication Day" and marks the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister who was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on this day back in 1984. The 're-dedication' that this day demands is not a firmer resolve to protect the nation's VIPs better, but a commitment to integration, a united country not slivered in communal or regional factions. India is a well integrated nation in that it has only grown in size since Independence, not disintegrated; but regions still remain fractured and the people still segregated. Government officials will gather at official venues today and recite the pledge for the day, but a re-dedication is also required of the people – a commitment to themselves and everyone else that events that followed this day 35 years back are never repeated, ever again. Unfortunately, the day will only be observed in either Congress party offices or government offices where officials, at official functions will officious resolutions towards national integration. Even more unfortunately, the anti-Sikh riots which followed the assassination and scarred the nation at this time in 1984 will continue to remain largely ignored, and in this blindsiding, the lessons that need to really be learnt remain overlooked.

Let us accept it, as a nation, we have not learnt anything since 1984 which was a watershed year because it was when the State machineries really started getting compromised for communal and political settling of scores. Governments might have changed, but attitudes have not. As a result, a Nation that was born to the wails of communal rioting that the Partition wrecked, still does not display either the resolve or the wherewithal to avoid them. The media and the civil society need to ask why situations and incidents are still allowed to deny the people their instinctive desire for communal amity. Had the policy-makers realised their failings back in 1984, neither Ayodhya, nor Godhra would have happened. The Godhra riots happened because justice for the killing of Sikhs in 1984 remains undelivered. Only the malevolent learned from the 1984 riots and refined and deployed every tactic [including use of voter lists to target victims] used then to devastating effect in Gujarat 2002. 1984 however receives only token mentions because the media and the civil society shy away from it since it complicates their simplistic analysis of what and who are communal in our country. The post-Godhra riots were a result of the powers-that-be subverting the power to serve to become power-that-colludes in pushing political agendas and revenge. As a people, we continue to pay the price because the people who occupy the public domain do not ask the right questions, do not address the malfunction in the system. Yes, the country and its people need to rededicate themselves to the idea of India, an India that was imagined to be secular but today actively segregates its people; an India that was to have public servants but instead has officers who have mutated into masters; an India that was to be run by people's representative but has been usurped by autocrats; an India which started democratic but is now foisting dynasties.

History needs to be remembered and understood so that we are not condemned to repeat past mistakes. The shames need to be accepted because then we can learn from them, even seek forgiveness and find it in ourselves to pardon. Then, leaders who survive by keeping past nightmares alive in public minds will have to make way for visionaries who deliver dreams for the nation to collectively aspire towards.

That is a wish that every Indian has always harboured. A wish which remains unachieved. For the record, more than 3,000 Sikhs were killed in the 1984 riots. The 2011 WikiLeaks revealed that the United States was convinced about the complicity of Indian Government ruled by the Congress in the pogrom [not that this was ever in doubt]. Also in January 2011, the burned and abandoned village of Hondh-Chillar, where 32 Sikhs were killed on November 2, 1984, was discovered in Haryana. In March 2011, the site of another forgotten killing of 17 people in nearby Pataudi, was discovered. This, nearly three decades since the communal rioting. To understand the hurt suffered and felt by the Sikh community, one must bear in mind that a sizeable section of Delhi's Sikh population is made up of Partition victims. Families there, already traumatized with living memories of the 1947 horror, were visited by the murderous rampage of 1984. Their anger then over the more than three decades of stalling topped by the continued failure to convict the mob leaders and instigators is thus obvious.

The resolve, the re-dedication that the nation needs to make today should be obvious.

Here's why memories come flooding back when you visit places from your past

ADAM OSTH
THECONVERSATION.COM

We all know our memories get worse as time goes on – your recollection of what you did yesterday is probably a lot better than for the same day three years ago.

And yet we often have moments where old and seemingly forgotten memories pop back into mind. Perhaps you have visited your childhood home, walked into your old bedroom, and been hit with a wave of nostalgia. What triggers this rush of memories, and how can you suddenly remember things you may not have thought about for decades?

Researchers are realising that the context in which memories are created is crucially important in remembering them later. This idea is known as "contextual-binding theory", and it boils down to three components: context learning, context change, and memory search.

Let's start with learning. It is well established that learning in the brain happens by a process of association. If A and B occur together, they become associated. Contextual-binding theory goes a step further: A and B are associated not just with one other, but also with the context in which they occurred.

What is context? It's not just your physical location – it's a mental state that also comprises the thoughts, emotions, and other mental activity you're experiencing at a given moment. Even as you read this page, changes in your thoughts and mental activity are causing your mental context to change.

As a consequence, each memory is associated with different states of context. However, some context states will be similar to each other – perhaps because they share the same location, or mood, or have some other factor in common.

This similarity between contexts is important when it comes to retrieving memories. Your brain's memory search process is rather like a Google search, in that you're more likely to find what you're looking for if your search terms closely match the source content. During memory search, your current mental context is your set of search terms. In any given situation, your brain is rapidly riffling through your memories for ones that most closely resemble your



current state of context.

SIMPLE BUT DEEP

These mechanisms are simple, but the implications are profound. According to the theory, you're most likely to remember memories from contexts that are similar to the context you're in now. Because your mental context is always changing, your mental context will be most similar to recently experienced memories. This explains why it's harder to remember older events.

But, of course, older memories aren't permanently forgotten. If you can change your context to resemble those from seemingly long-forgotten memories, you should be able to remember them. This is why those old memories come flooding back when you step into your childhood bedroom or walk past your old school.

Context-dependent memory was confirmed by an ingenious 1975 experiment in which divers memorised lists of words and were then tested both on land and underwater. On land, their recall was best for the words they had learned on land, whereas underwater they were better at remembering the word lists they learned underwater.

This phenomenon isn't limited to physical locations. You may have noticed that when you're sad about something, you tend to

remember other sad events from your life. This is because your mood and emotions also comprise your mental context. Experiments have confirmed that memory is enhanced when your current mood matches the mood in which you learned the information.

More than a century's worth of studies have confirmed we are also better at remembering things if we experience them at different times, rather than repeatedly in quick session. This is one of the main reasons why, when preparing for exams, a regular study routine is more effective than cramming.

According to the theory, rapidly repeated material is associated with a single state of context, whereas material repeated across different times and events is associated with several different states of context. This pays off later, when you're sitting in the exam hall desperately trying to recall the chemical formula for potassium permanganate, because your current state of context will be more likely to match one of the many states of context in which you so diligently did your chemistry revision.

CONTEXT IN THE BRAIN

Contextual-binding theory can potentially explain a host of other phenomena, such as the effects of brain damage on memory. People

with damage to a region in the centre of the brain called the hippocampus are often unable to form new memories. We suspect this is where context-binding actually occurs, especially given that the hippocampus receives inputs from virtually all other brain regions, enabling associations between different sights, smells, physical sensations, and emotions.

A competing theory, known as systems consolidation theory, instead proposes that memories are initially stored in the hippocampus but are gradually transferred and strengthened in other brain regions over time.

This theory is supported by the fact that memory for new material is better when you rest after learning. Time spent resting may give the brain a chance to consolidate new memories.

However, contextual-binding theory can also potentially explain this benefit. Resting immediately after learning, as opposed to carrying on shovelling facts into your brain, means fewer memories share the same context, making them easier to distinguish when you revisit that context later.

This also explains why rest is also beneficial before learning, as well as after. And it underpins the tried and tested advice for hardworking students everywhere: don't forget to get lots of sleep!

[the writer is Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne]

Five common words we're all using incorrectly

SIMON HOROBIN
THECONVERSATION.COM

Many people think they know their main language intimately. But there are many words and phrases in English that people often use wrongly. Whether these erroneous uses truly count as "wrong" is up for debate – after all, a mistake that has become widely adopted should really be considered acceptable. But whichever side of this argument you err towards, here are five examples of ones that we are all making.

1. STARK NAKED

Someone who has no clothes on is widely described as being stark naked. Originally, however, the phrase began as start naked – from the Old English steort, meaning "tail". The phrase literally meant "naked to the tail", probably referring to the buttocks.

Although the word steort is not recorded in this sense, tail has often been used in this way – as it still is in the American phrase work your tail off. The word steort fell out of general use around 1300, surviving only in the names of birds like redstart and wagstart (better known today as the wagtail).

The switch from start to stark naked was triggered by start becoming obsolete, combined with an association with stark, meaning "completely", in phrases such as stark dead, stark blind and stark naught – first recorded in the early 16th century in the savage put-down: "Ye count your selfe wele lettred [educated], your lernyng is starke nought."

2. SNEEZE

The verb to sneeze is imitative in origin – the sound of the word mimics the sound of the thing it names, as with words like drip, fizz, beep and the noise created by a sneeze: atishoo.

But the original form of the word was fneese, along with fneosung ("sneezing"), and fnora ("a sneeze"). The change from fneese to

sneeze arose through confusion caused by the way the word appeared in medieval manuscripts.

Medieval handwriting employed several different forms of the letter "s", including an 8-shaped form, another resembling a kidney bean, the Greek letter sigma and a long form – still found in printed books of the 18th century. This last letter closely resembled the letter "f" and it was confusion between the long "s" and "f" that resulted in fneese being adapted into modern English sneeze.

3. GRAVY

While gravy may seem a quintessentially English sauce, the word is actually French in origin. Gravy was originally grané, meaning "spiced", from Latin granum "grain".

The letters "u" and "n" were often indistinguishable in medieval handwriting – both were formed using two single vertical strokes called minims – so that it would be easy for a scribe to misread the word as graue.

While the letters "u" and "v" are distinguished by the sounds they represent today, in medieval English they varied according to position: "v" appeared at the beginnings of words (vntil, "until") and "u" in the middle (loue, "love"), irrespective of the sound. As a result, the word grané came to be misread as gravy, and this form has been used ever since.

4. ADDER

Adder (the snake) goes back to the Old English word nædre; it is one of a small number of English words where the initial "n" has been lost due to confusion over where the boundary falls when following the indefinite article a/an.

As a result of this process, known as metanalysis, a nædre became an adder. The same misapprehension lies behind words like apron (from napron, related to nappe, "tablecloth") and umpire (originally nonpeer, "no equal").

The word orange was also formed this way, although in this case – since it is a borrowing into English from French – the mistake had occurred before it was adopted into English. The French orange is itself a borrowing of the Arabic word naranj (the initial "n" is still found in modern Spanish naranja); it was confusion following the indefinite article un that produced the modern form.

5. CHERRY

The word cherry originates in the northern French dialect word cherise (a variant of the standard modern French cerise), which was adopted into English after the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Because it ended in an "s", English speakers mistakenly understood it to be a plural form and so the false singular cherry was born. The same process lies behind the word pea, erroneously derived from the singular form pease (ultimately from Greek pison) – preserved in the nursery rhyme "pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold".

Although these changes took place hundreds of years ago, the process can be observed today in the emergence of bicep: a singular form of biceps. This may seem logical, but biceps is an adoption of a singular Latin noun, from bi- "two" and -ceps "headed", referring to a muscle with two points of attachment.

The tendency for speakers to associate the "s" ending with plurals has also given rise to erroneous plural forms. Despite phenomena being the plural of Greek phenomenon, the false plural phenomenas is sometimes used. But the error of this type that is most likely to make pedants reach for their red pens is paninis – the supposed plural of Italian panini (singular panino) – a reminder that what is acceptable for some remains anathema for others.

[the writer is Professor of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford]

Fieldwork Reflections

Tale of the Tiger

RONGNYOO LEPCHA

Mythologies and folklores have always talked about shape-shifters, or, to use the technical term, metamorphisms. The only knowledge the present generation has gathered of metamorphism is from movies in the form of skin-walkers, mimics, shape-shifters, which are some of the other popular terms. The most common variant, the one the present generation is aware of is that of Lycanthropy which dates back to ancient Greek mythology and has also been documented in Nordic and Celtic mythologies. They have been mainstreamed through movies like Underworld, Harry Potter, Van Halshing, Twilight, etc and portray shape shifters turning from human to werewolf. Others mesomorphs include Vampires, an eminent example of which is Dracula who could turn from a blood thirsty human to a bat at will. Other examples we have are from fairy tales like the "Frog and the Princess" in which a prince is cursed to turn into a frog. "Beauty and the Beast" where a narcissist prince is cursed to look like a beast. We also have the many Bollywood movies portraying "Ichadhari Naags" and "Naagin," shape-shifting snakes apparently it's not just humans turning to animals but animals could take forms of humans as well.

Out of all the folktales I have heard so far, this one is by far the most thrilling. Many cultures mention cases of metamorphosis including the Lepchas. In fact, the Lepchas have many cases of shape shifting but one that was truly intriguing for me was this particular one which I am about to discuss. An "Animagus" portrayed by Serious Back in Harry Potter series, comes close to what I am going to discuss in this article. Lepchas are one of the indigenous people who sustained their lives through hunting and gathering. Since they still live in close proximity with nature, in olden days some were also believed to possess supernatural powers which they used to sustain lives in times of need. With their superpowers they used to shape shift into predators to hunt game.

When there was shortage of food one would transform and go for hunting. Some would go to the wild to hunt, some would hunt domestic animals. In order to shape shift they used faath fityok (an earthen pot) and put on their heads and warp themselves with janau takpo (bark of a tree) and used the black shoot from the hearth to paint



their bodies into stripes similar to the tiger. After that they recited a spell. After all the rituals are done and the spell is casted, the moment they crossed the main door to leave the house they turned into tigers.

But before leaving the house they used to instruct their family members to hit them with a Lakshyop (piece of cloth used as mitten in the kitchen) on their forehead when they return with the kill. Failing to do so within a certain time frame would turn them into malevolent tigers or other animals they had shape shifted into forever. Many had failed to turn back to humans as the family members were too terrified to go near them, leave alone hit them with a piece of cloth.

The turned tiger are also believed to be the ones who turn to eating humans as well as viewed as harmful and malevolent. According to Lepcha Customary rules during marriage in olden days a very important questioned asked to the bride and groom's family was that if any of their family member were ever attacked by a tiger in the past? The marriage only proceeded if the answer was negative. As already proven tigers are very vengeful and the Lepchas believe that if a family has a history if tiger attacks it will

repeat again in the future.

The interesting part is not finding a curious story but looking at these stories from a larger perspective and you will be surprised as to how many cultures have similar almost matching tales despite being culturally different from each other for that matter the Jayanta hills of Meghalaya, Nagaland have similar man to tiger shape shifting folktales. More than understanding the differences I think the similarities demand much more attention and is a key in understanding the cultures themselves.

It is also crucial to look into the extend of which a community and their culture take into account the environmental factors and incorporate that in their daily practices. As mentioned in pervious write-ups the continuation of traditions are entrusted from one generation to the other: One of the most important part of any culture is its oral tradition. These tales are not just bedtime but there are also people who have lived experiences and faced these incidences which later turned into stories. Every culture hold stories and people who have witnessed the stories actually taking place. Thus it is fundamental to pay equal attention to the oral traditions these are one the links to the understanding of culture.

Ganguly meets Dravid to discuss roadmap to improve NCA

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday met NCA head Rahul Dravid to chalk out a roadmap for the improvement of the academy, Indian cricket's biggest feeder line for many years.

The long-time former India teammates discussed their plans for the academy with Ganguly also giving his inputs.

The former India skipper, who took over the BCCI's reins last week, also visited the proposed land where the new NCA facility is supposed to come up.

BCCI had signed a 25-acre deal with the Karnataka government in May and now it has got an additional 15 acres of land from the government for setting up the Centre of Excellence near the Bengaluru international airport.

The NCA, which was



supposed to be the supply line of Indian cricket, has actually become a rehabilitation centre, which even Ganguly acknowledged after taking over.

It is currently situated adjacent to the Chinnaswamy Stadium and the BCCI has been trying for alternate location to set up the NCA with state-of-the-art facilities.

The land allocated for the construction of the new facility is near

the Kempegowda International Airport in Devanahalli and is likely to accommodate three grounds, apart from indoor nets, administrative buildings, and the hostels.

Many former players including VVS Laxman and India head coach Ravi Shastri are expecting a quick revival of the NCA and have high expectations from the celebrated duo of Ganguly and Dravid.

Govt unlikely to go for income tax cut due to fiscal stress

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): The government is unlikely to moderate personal income tax rates for the rich due to fiscal stress on account of lower tax realisation amid slowdown in the economy, sources said.

Pressure is mounting on the government to cut personal income tax rates to boost demand, especially after the finance ministry reduced the corporate tax rate by up to 10 percentage points.

According to sources, personal income tax rate cut is difficult at this juncture due to multiple factors like slowdown in economy, lower tax realisation and subdued non-tax mop up.

The government last fiscal missed its direct tax collection target, and for this financial year it has set a higher revenue mobilisation goal of Rs 13.80 lakh crore.

The government needs higher revenue to spend on social security schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Mahatma Gandhi Na-

tional Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), PM-KISAN, and PM Awas Yojana, among others.

These schemes require funding at a time when there is already pressure on indirect tax collection due to falling realisation from Goods and Services Tax (GST) and revenue implication of massive Rs 1.45 lakh crore due to the corporate tax cut last month.

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government cut corporate tax rates by almost 10 percentage points as it looks to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth of 5 per cent recorded during the first quarter of the current fiscal.

Sources also said the government has already given several exemptions to taxpayers, including making income of up to Rs 5 lakh exempt from tax.

The government is gradually increasing spending social security and reducing tax burden on lower in-

come earners, sources said.

In order to collect more tax from the super-rich, the government in Budget 2019-20 enhanced the rate of surcharge on individuals with taxable income of more than Rs 2 crore.

This raised the maximum marginal rate to 39 per cent for those earning between Rs 2 crore and Rs 5 crore, while for those with annual income of over Rs 5 crore, the new maximum marginal rate was 42.74 per cent.

Soon after the corporate tax rate cut, clamour for reduction in personal income tax rates gained momentum.

Even the panel on Direct Tax Code in its report favoured moderation in personal income tax, simplification of procedure, and improving compliance with a view to raise revenue from direct tax.

The share of direct taxes to India's total tax revenues peaked at 61 per cent in 2009-10 and has since stabilised at around 55 per cent last year.

Arunachal CM drives ATV along Indo-China border

ITANAGAR, OCT 29 (PTI):

To promote tourism in Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu along with Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, undertook a 107-km all-terrain vehicle (ATV) ride from PTSO Lake to Mago village in Tawang district along the Indo-China border.

The chief minister drove the ATV on snow-covered areas and steep inclines on Sunday. He had earlier this month undertook a 122-km journey on a Royal Enfield motorcycle from Yingkiang to Pasighat.

Khandu and Rijiju also joined the Army personnel posted on the border and celebrated Diwali with them on Sunday.

Sharing details about the trip, Khandu tweeted videos and photographs of the ATV journey.

"#Offroading near Tibet/China border in



#Tawang district. A 107 km ride from #PTSOLake to #Mago, crossing an altitude of 15,600 ft. Enjoy the visual delight of Tawang, Khandu tweeted.

Rijiju complimented Khandu on his skilled driving in a tweet.

"It was very tough driving ATV Polaris crossing above 16,000

feet. But CM of Arunachal Pradesh @PemaKhanduBJP ji drove very fast and beautifully from PT Tso to Mago! I sat with him confidently," Rijiju tweeted.

The duo visited the men of the 18 Kumaon Regiment posted at Tawang and also attended a public meeting in the evening at Mago.

"Border people are the true defender of our country.

Despite harsh weather and terrain, their presence in the border has secured our territory. Salute to our Sentinels!" Khandu said in another tweet.

Taking part in the local BJP units Gandhi Sankalp Yatra, both

Khandu and Rijiju walked 18 km in Tawang and later, attended a brief interaction programme with the villagers on Monday.

"Concluding the Gandhi Sankalp Yatra from Mago to Thingbu (18km), attended a brief interaction programme with the villagers along with Sports minister @KirenRijiju Ji," he tweeted.

The chief minister said development of the country will be possible only when villages are developed.

The CM also spent time with the Arunachal Scouts.

In a tweet, he wrote, "With Jawans and Officers of the #ArunachalScout at Mago/Thingbu in #Tawang district. This regiment of the #IndianArmy was raised in 2010 to defend Indias border with Tibet/China in Arunachal Pradesh. @adgpi.

Warner and Smith on fire as Australia thump Sri Lanka

BRISBANE, OCT 30 (AFP):

David Warner and Steve Smith each smashed half-centuries as Australia hammered Sri Lanka by nine wickets to win the second Twenty20 in Brisbane on Wednesday and wrap up the series.

It was another massive wake-up call for the Sri Lankans, who arrived in Australia on the back of a 3-0 series win against Pakistan but have now been outplayed twice, after being crushed by 134 runs in Adelaide on Sunday.

They must now regroup for the third and fi-

nal match in Melbourne on Friday.

Warner and Smith came together after Aaron Finch was caught down the leg side off Lasith Malinga for a golden duck, and the pair produced a batting masterclass.

Warner was unbeaten on 60 and Smith not out 53. Chasing 118 to win after Sri Lanka were restricted to 117 all out off 19 overs, they reached their target with 42 balls to spare.

"The bowlers did a terrific job, we bowled in the right areas and creat-

ed chances and restricted them to 117, which wasn't enough on this wicket," said Smith.

"It's nice and easy batting at the other end from Davy," he added.

"He's doing a terrific job. Played beautifully the other day and backed it up tonight as well."

Warner scored his first-ever T20 century when Australia crushed Sri Lanka on Sunday, and he brought that scintillating form into Brisbane.

In his first knock in the short format at international level since 2016, Smith was

also firing -- producing some glorious drives and clever singles as he and Warner raced each other to see who could make 50 first.

The explosive Warner won the battle, with his 14th T20 half-century coming off 30 balls, with seven fours. Smith soon followed, grabbing his third 50, off 32 balls, with six boundaries.

There was nothing the Sri Lankan bowlers could do against such quality batsmen, who were never troubled.

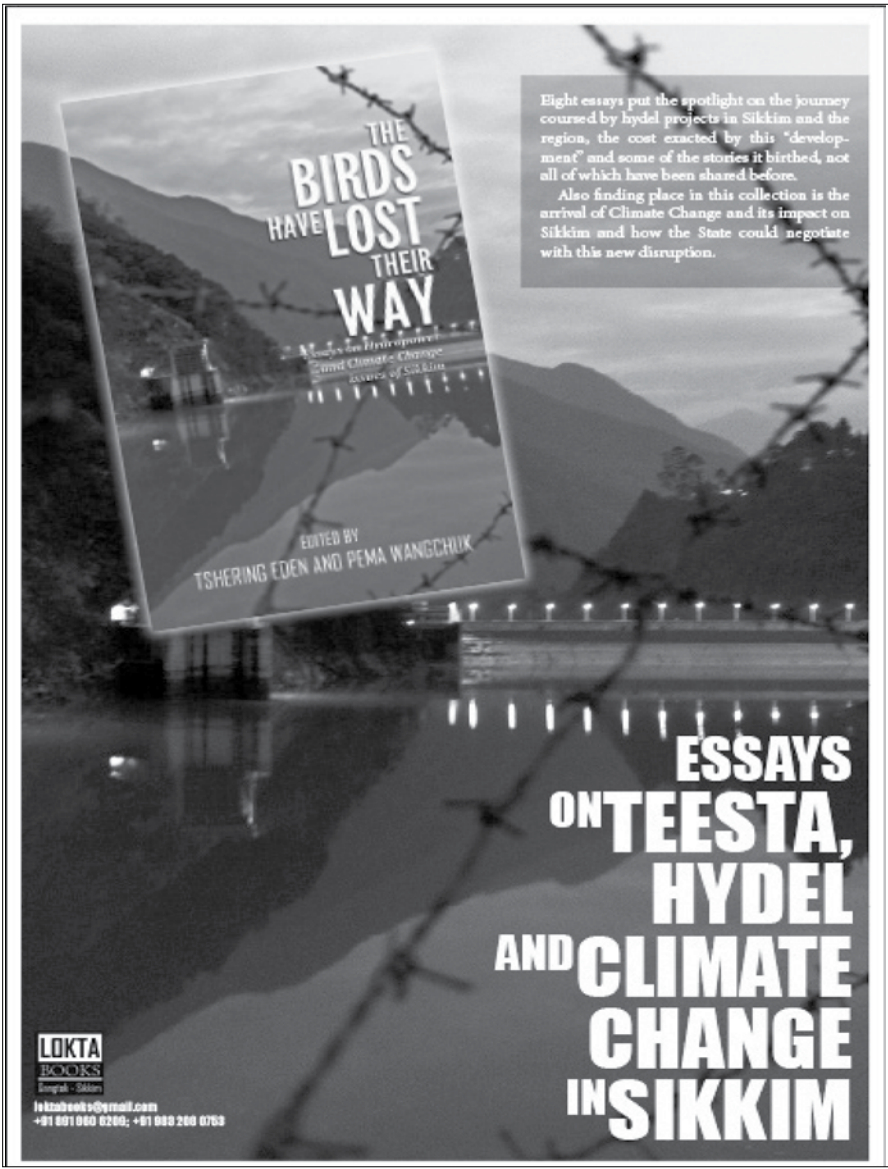
- MORE RESPONSIBLE -

"It's a tough side and I think with this kind of

batting line-up our score wasn't enough," said Sri Lanka skipper Malinga.

"We didn't get the score we expected and the batsmen will have to be more responsible. Shot selection is not that great and we didn't get any partnerships in the middle overs."

Two wickets from the towering Billy Stanlake, in for Mitchell Starc who was attending his brother's wedding, and a brace each for Ashton Agar, Adam Zampa and Pat Cummins kept Sri Lanka in check after they won the toss and batted.



Federer drops out of inaugural ATP Cup for family reasons

PARIS, OCT 30 (AFP): Roger Federer has withdrawn from the ATP Cup, a new team competition to be held in Australia in January, citing “family reasons”.

“It is with great regret that I am withdrawing from the inaugural ATP Cup event,” Federer said in a statement.

“When I entered the event last month, it was a really difficult decision because it meant less time at home with the family and a fully intense start to the season.

“After much discussion with both my family and my team about the year ahead, I have decided that the extra two weeks at home will be beneficial for both my family and my tennis.”

The world number three, 38 years old, withdrew on Monday from this week’s Masters 1000 tournament in Paris, two hours before the start also saying he needed to rest.

The ATP Cup organisers tweeted: “@rogerfederer announced that he would not play the #ATPCup for family reasons and therefore Switzerland was removed” from the competition.

The ATP Cup is a new competition which competes with the revamped Davis Cup and will be held in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney from January 3-12.

“It pains me to not be a part of the most exciting new event on the calendar,” Federer said.

“But this is the right thing to do if I want to continue to play for a longer period of time on the ATP Tour.”

“For my Australian fans, I look forward to seeing you all at the Australian Open, fresh and ready to go.”

The Davis Cup will be held November 18-24 in Madrid but Switzerland did not qualify.

Federer will next play at the ATP Tour Finals in London, which get underway on November 10.

We will put our best foot forward against Oman and Afghanistan: Sunil Chhetri

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): “We will put our best foot forward against Oman and Afghanistan,” promised India captain Sunil Chhetri, days after his defenceless team left its scoring boots at home in a 1-1 stalemate with Bangladesh in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

On a high after holding Asian champion and 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar to a goalless draw, a struggling India escaped with a 1-1 draw against lower-ranked Bangladesh in their previous second round qualifying match in Kolkata.

“I think one of them is going to be in Dushanbe because they (Afghanistan) play their home games over there and then against Oman (in Muscat). Both are very difficult and important games, but we back ourselves. If we play the way we played against Qatar, we can do it. We are not scared,” Chhetri said on the sidelines of a Herbalife Nutrition event.

Yet to taste a win, India are scheduled to play Afghanistan on November 15 and Oman on No-



vember 20.

Having squandered a one-goal advantage to lose 1-2 to Oman in their opener at home, India held fancied Oatar in Doha before the underwhelming result against Bangladesh in Kolkata.

“We felt bad after the game because we felt we could have done a lot better than what we did. We are over it. We will put our best foot forward against Afghanistan and Oman, two away games, which are very important and difficult ones also.

“We do not want to

wash away the good things we have done against Oman, Qatar and Bangladesh, we are definitely on a high. We are learning a lot, just hope we continue that,” said one of international football’s leading scorers.

“We are not happy with our performance against Bangladesh. The team played well but our strikers missed a lot of chances, and that’s why we lost two points which we should not have, and that really bothers us.”

The Asian Football Federation (AFC) has

recently recognised the ISL as the country’s top league and asked about the roadmap, he said, “I think they have discussed with the AFC and I hope every stakeholder will come together, for me more teams the better, as soon as possible.”

He added, “The bigger the better it is. That will increase the number of competitive matches and it is better for the players. I hope all the stakeholders come together and take the best step forward for Indian football.”

He said the team is

trying but yet to fully embrace coach Igor Stimac’s philosophy.

“The best think about Stimac, apart form his technical knowledge is, he gives everyone a chance who does well in training. He simply comes to training and sees who does well, and in which position, and will give him the chance.

“We are still far from exactly being in sync with what he wants us to do but we keep trying.”

At a time when the city is grappling with poor air quality, Chhetri said it is not easy to keep oneself fit here.

“It is very difficult to keep oneself fit in Delhi because the pollution is more here than in other states. Start climbing stairs, do exercise, don’t overeat, let’s not blame the environment our problem is that we are not sincere enough” Chhetri, who turned a vegan recently, advised.

Herbalife Nutrition’ Fit Families Fest is an initiative aimed at supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Fit India Movement.

Minerva Punjab renamed Punjab Football Club



MOHALI, OCT 30 (PTI): Former I-League champions Minerva Punjab FC has been renamed as Punjab Football Club, a statement from the club said on Wednesday.

All teams of Minerva Punjab FC will now be known as Punjab Football Club as per an agreement with Round Glass Sports Private Ltd.

Round Glass Sports has expanded their youth and grassroots football talent program by including the players of Minerva Punjab FC’s U-11 to U-18 teams.

The players are already training under

UEFA/AFC/AIFF certified coaches at Round Glass Sports. International medical, nutritional, educational and lifestyle facilities are being provided to all the players to help them develop their skills.

The club’s director Ranjit Bajaj said, “There is a sense of positivity and excitement for the upcoming season and we are confident of putting up a good show.

“This is the best thing to have happened to football in north India, and Punjab in specific, and it will ensure an even stronger presence of football in the region.

Shakib quits MCC world cricket committee following anti-corruption suspension

LONDON, OCT 30 (PTI): Suspended for failing to report multiple corrupt approaches, Bangladesh captain and top all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has stepped down from the World Cricket Committee of the MCC -- the custodians of the game’s laws.

The 32-year-old Shakib was on Tuesday banned for two years, one year of it suspended, for failing to report approaches by suspected Indian bookie Deepak Aggarwal to the ICC’s Anti-Corruption Unit.

The suspension rules the all-rounder out of next month’s away series against India, and the IPL and the T20 World Cup next year.

“...Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) can today confirm that Al Hasan has stepped down from his involvement with the MCC World Cricket committee,” the club stated in a press release.

Shakib accepted charges of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code and therefore does not have the right to appeal against the punishment, which could have been a maximum of five years.

Shakib joined the MCC World Cricket committee in October 2017, and attended meetings in both Sydney and Bengaluru.

The MCC World Cricket committee comprises current and former international cricketers and umpires from across the globe and meets twice yearly to discuss the prevalent is-

sues in the game.

The next meeting is due to take place in Sri Lanka in March 2020.

“We are sorry to lose Shakib from the committee, where he has made a great contribution over the last couple of years. As guardians of the Spirit of Cricket we support his resignation and believe this was the right decision,” Mike Gatting, Chairman of the World Cricket committee, said.

The world’s No.1 ODI all-rounder was asked to provide information on team composition and strategy on three separate occasions by Aggarwal, according to the detailed judgement released by the ICC.

One of the approaches was made on April 26, 2018 when his IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad was to take on Kings XI Punjab. Sunrisers won the game by 13 runs.

Aggarwal’s other two approaches were during the Bangladesh Premier League when Shakib was playing for Dhaka Dynamos in 2017, followed by the tri-series against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in January 2018.

The suspected bookmaker wanted to meet Shakib but the player didn’t oblige as “...following their conversations, he had the feeling that Aggarwal was a bookie.”

Bangladesh’s series against India starts with the T20 Internationals, from November 3, followed by the Test series, which will also include the two teams’ maiden day-night game in the longest format.

Battle of contrasts as Mumbai City face Odisha

MUMBAI, OCT 30 (PTI): It will be a battle of contrasts as Mumbai City FC play their first home game of the Hero Indian Super League 2019-20 season, against Odisha FC, here on Thursday.

Mumbai City started their season with two away games in a row against Kerala Blasters FC and Chennaiyin FC. They managed to take all three points in Kochi before managing a draw in Chennai.

After a bit of away success, Mumbai will fancy their chances against Odisha FC, who are still searching for their first win of the season after two close defeats.

However, it will be an interesting game between managers who have completely contrasting philosophies.

Jorge Costa’s Mumbai City FC are known to sit back and absorb pressure as they look to



hit teams on the break. While Costa does not put much emphasis on possession-based football, Josep Gombau’s Odisha FC are very much comfortable on the ball and like to hog possession.

However, Odisha’s defence has looked frail in the opening two matches where they have leaked in four goals, despite playing the majority of their opening game against a 10-man Jamshedpur FC.

“The first game we may have some passing inaccuracy. But in the second game, I think we dominated the game. We conceded due to small mistakes, but we controlled the game and created a lot of chances.

I think the team is doing well and we don’t deserve to get zero points,” Gombau said.

Odisha FC have conceded winners in the final 10 minutes in both their matches so far, something which Gombau and his team needs to work upon.

The task has not been made easy by the absence of Carlos Delgado who was sent

off in their match against NorthEast United FC.

Costa is not taking Odisha FC lightly.

“Odisha FC, earlier Delhi Dynamos FC, played pretty well last season and created a lot of opportunities too. We must respect them and I know that it won’t be easy,” he said.

“I’m not hundred percent happy after our two games. We still have to work harder and do well. My players work hard daily and are happy together,” he added.

Mumbai are likely to miss the services of defender Mato Grgic and the coach may have to again field an all-Indian back-line which kept a clean-sheet against Chennaiyin FC.

They would also hope that Paulo Machado is fit to start while striker Modou Sougou, recovering from the knock he suffered in the last game, is doubtful.

Bulgaria to play game behind closed doors, fined after England racism

PARIS, OCT 30 (AFP): Bulgaria must play their next home game behind closed doors and have been handed a fine of 75,000 euros (83,000) after racist chanting by supporters marred their Euro 2020 qualifier against England earlier this month, UEFA said Tuesday.

The disciplinary arm of European football’s governing body also ordered Bulgaria to play a second match behind closed doors, but that punishment is suspended for a “probationary period” of two years.

The punishment means Bulgaria will play their final European Championship qualifier at home to the Czech Republic, on November 17, in an empty stadium.

UEFA also ordered Bulgaria to display a banner with the slogan “No To Racism” at their next two home games.

The Bulgarian FA was additionally fined a further 10,000 euros for “causing a disturbance

during a national anthem” prior to kick-off of the game in Sofia on October 14, which England won 6-0. The English FA was fined 5,000 euros for the same offence.

The match at the Vasil Levski Stadium was halted twice in the first half due to abuse from sections of the home support, including monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes.

Despite the abuse, the England team opted to complete the match instead of walking off the pitch.

“We sincerely hope the disgraceful scenes in Sofia are never repeated,” said England’s Football Association.

“Our priority remains our players, support team and fans and we will do all we can to ensure they never have to endure such circumstances again.

“While we acknowledge UEFA’s ruling today, a huge challenge still exists around racism and discrimination

in society.” The game was played in a stadium already partially closed after racist incidents during matches against Kosovo and the Czech Republic in June.

“We sincerely hope that the Bulgarian football fans will prove with their behaviour that they have become targets of unwarranted accusations for lack of tolerance and respect to the opposition team,” the Bulgarian Football Union said in a statement.

- ‘MISSED OPPORTUNITY’ -

Piara Powar, the executive director of the Fare network which works to combat racism and discrimination in football across Europe, said the punishment was not harsh enough and felt Bulgaria should have been disqualified from the competition.

“We welcome the speed of this decision, but we are disappointed that Bulgaria will not be expelled from the Euro 2020 qualifying compe-

tition given their previous record, and obvious inability to deal with the problems they face,” he said.

“We think that the evidence and circumstances of this match would have justified European football being given a stronger signal on the need to tackle racism.

“Obtaining justice for racist acts is not easy in any setting, it is clear that football is no exception.” Anti-racism campaign group Kick It Out called for UEFA regulations on racism to be “overhauled”.

“We are disheartened, but not surprised, to learn of UEFA’s response to the racist abuse directed at England players,” it said in a statement.

“In our view, they have missed an opportunity to send an uncompromising message on racism and discrimination.

“The current sanctions, however ‘tough’ UEFA think they may be, are clearly not working and leave victims with little faith in their ability

to prevent abusive behaviour.” The incidents caused indignation in the football world and were condemned both by

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Bulgarian counterpart Boyko Borisov.

The subsequent fallout led to Bulgaria coach Krasimir Balakov resigning along with the country’s FA chief, Borislav Mihaylov.

In the wake of the incidents, Bulgarian police said they had identified 16 people suspected of being involved in the “abusive actions”.

Bulgaria are winless in seven Euro 2020 qualifiers -- losing four and drawing three -- and occupy last place in Group A. They are already out of contention to qualify for next year’s finals.

Before facing the Czechs, Bulgaria are due to host Paraguay in a friendly in Sofia on November 14 in what will be their first match under new coach Georgi Dermendzhiev.

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China 'supports' barring of Joshua Wong from Hong Kong election

BEIJING, OCT 30 (AFP): Beijing expressed "approval and support" Wednesday for the disqualification of Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong from upcoming local elections, after months of protests in the semi-autonomous city.

Wong, one of the most prominent figures in the otherwise leaderless movement, accused the Hong Kong government of "political screening" after an election officer ruled his nomination for the November poll invalid on Tuesday.

But a spokesman for China's top policy body on Hong Kong affairs said Wednesday that Wong had over many years "proclaimed the viewpoints of so-called 'self-determination' and 'Hong Kong independence' and publicly de-



nied that Hong Kong is a part of China".

During recent protests Wong "repeatedly grovelled to foreign powers for sympathy and begged for interference", Yang Guang, of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said on the body's website Wednesday.

He "is one of the chief culprits challenging the red-line principle of 'one country, two systems'",

Yang said.

"We express approval and support of this decision."

The 22-year-old rose to prominence as the poster child of the huge pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement" of 2014 that failed to win any concessions from Beijing, and served time in jail for his role in those protests.

Wong was the only

candidate barred from standing in an election for district councils, which tackle regional issues. The election is the first to be held since the current anti-government protests started.

Wong accused the Hong Kong government on Tuesday of accepting "a political mission handed down from Beijing" by banning him from the polls.

The Hong Kong election officer wrote in her reasoning that Wong's concept of self-determination does not rule out the independence of Hong Kong as an option, which she deemed inconsistent with the Basic Law, the city's mini-constitution.

Wong and his party, Demosisto, have denied supporting independence for the city.

They say they advocate self-determination and a referendum for Hong Kong people to decide how they want to be governed.

Last year, Agnes Chow, another young pro-democracy leader from Wong's party, was barred from standing in by-elections because her party advocates self-determination for Hong Kong.

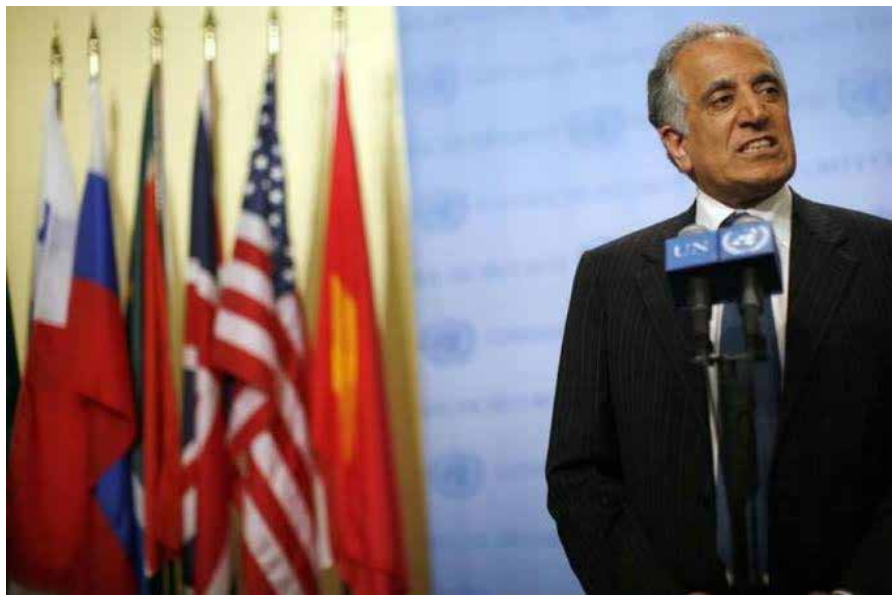
US envoy underscores economic, security benefits of Afghan peace during talks with Pak leaders

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, OCT 30 (PTI): US chief negotiator for Afghan reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, underscored the economic and security benefits that peace in the war-torn country can bring to the region during his talks with the top Pakistani leadership, the US embassy in Islamabad said on Wednesday.

Khalilzad, who was on a two-day visit to Pakistan, concluded his trip on Tuesday.

His trip was part of a recent effort to revive the stalled peace talks with the Taliban, which were cancelled by US President Donald Trump in September after a suicide attack, claimed by Taliban, in Kabul killed a US soldier and 11 others.

During his visit, Khalilzad held meetings



with Prime Minister Imran Khan, Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and other senior government officials, the US embassy said in a statement.

He discussed the current status of the Afghan peace process and the im-

portance of reducing violence in the landlocked country, it said. "He also underscored the economic and security benefits peace (in Afghanistan) can bring to the region," it said.

On Tuesday, the Pakistan government said

Prime Minister Khan has assured Khalilzad of its "steadfast" support to the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan, stressing on the importance for all parties to the conflict to take "practical" steps to reduce hos-

tilities in the war-torn nation.

The US envoy visited Islamabad on October 28, a day after briefing leaders in Kabul on his renewed Afghan peace-building efforts. It was Khalilzad's first visit to Afghanistan after Trump abruptly ended the talks with the Taliban insurgents.

The US-Taliban talks had collapsed after nine rounds of talks between the US and Taliban representatives, held in Doha, the capital of the Gulf state of Qatar.

On Friday last, in a day-long talk in Moscow, representatives of Pakistan, Russia, China and the US have agreed that negotiation is the only road to peace in Afghanistan, including an early resumption of direct US talks with the Taliban.

Eight killed, 27 injured in two road accidents in Pak: Police

PESHAWAR, OCT 30 (PTI): At least eight people, including three children, were killed and 27 others injured in two separate accidents where the vehicles they were travelling in fell in deep gorges in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, police said.

In the first incident, a tractor-trolley carrying a nomadic family plunged into a deep ditch in Dera Ismail Khan district, killing five members, including three children, and leaving eight others injured.

The incident happened when the family

belonging to the nomadic Sultan Khel tribe was travelling in the tractor-trolley that overturned and fell in a deep ditch as the driver lost control, police said.

"The accident left five of the family members dead while eight others injured. The local people rushed to the incident site and rescued the ill fated family. The dead included two women and three children," a senior police official said.

He said that the injured were shifted to the District Hospital of Dera Ismail Khan where the condition of three people was said to be serious.

In another incident in the same province, at least 3 persons were killed and 19 others injured when a jeep fell into a deep gorge in province's Torgar district. The jeep carrying more than 25 passengers fell into the gorge while taking a sharp turn, police said.

"During the accident three people, including two women, died at the spot and 19 others were injured," police said.

The local people and police force conducted the rescue operation. The injured were shifted to Ayub Medical Complex, Abbottabad.

Pakistan issues commemorative coin to mark Guru Nanak's 550th anniversary

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, OCT 30 (PTI): Pakistan on Wednesday issued a Rs 50 commemorative coin to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of the Sikh religion in November.

In a Facebook post, Prime Minister Imran Khan shared a picture of the coin.

"Pakistan issues commemorative coin to mark the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji," Khan said in the post.

The coin comes ahead of the inauguration of the landmark Kartarpur Corridor by Prime Minister Khan on November 9, three days before the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak.

The year 2019 marks the 550th birth anniversary year of Sikhism

founder Guru Nanak, whose birthplace is Sri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan.

On Monday, Khan also laid the foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak University in Nankana Sahib.

Evacuee Trust Property Board (EPTB) Chairman Dr Amir Ahmed told The Express Tribune that the Sikh pilgrims visiting Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib next month to celebrate the birth anniversary of their religious founder, will be able to buy the commemorative coin.

The postage stamps will also issued, which will be worth Rs 8 and could be used commonly, will have the image of Gurdwara Janam Asthan.

Last November, both India and Pakistan agreed to set up the Kartarpur Corridor to link the historic Gurdwara

Darbar Sahib - the final resting place of Guru Nanak - in Pakistani town of Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district.

Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the river Ravi, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine.

India and Pakistan last week signed the agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor that will allow Indian pilgrims to undertake visa-free visit to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the shrine of the Sikh religion's founder Guru Nanak in Pakistan, notwithstanding a chill in bilateral ties over Kashmir.

The agreement will allow 5,000 Indian pilgrims daily to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib where Guru Nanak spent last 18 years of his life.

UK's Brexit deal estimated to cost almost USD 100 billion

LONDON, OCT 30 (AP): A respected British think tank slammed Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal on Wednesday, concluding that the economy would be 3.5 per cent smaller compared with staying in the European Union.

The study by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research says the agreement would deliver a 70 billion-pound (USD 90 billion) blow to the UK. Researchers said that the outlook is clouded by political and economic uncertainty.

"We would not expect economic activity to be boosted by the approval of the government's proposed Brexit deal," the group said.

The researchers based their prediction on the assumption that the UK would leave the bloc with a free trade agreement with the EU after a transition lasting until 2021 while negotiating new deals with other nations.

It said that higher "barriers to goods and services, trade and re-



strictions to migration," would force the economy to slow.

As politicians squabble over how and when Britain will leave the EU, Brexit is reshaping the economy.

Initially planned for March, Brexit was pushed back to Halloween and now is not likely to happen before January.

Companies are meanwhile shifting investments, creating new supply chains and stockpiling goods to mitigate any damage that would occur from leaving the EU, with or without a deal.

The NIESR estimated that the economy was 2.5 per cent smaller than it would have been had Britain not voted in 2016 to leave the European Union.

The British government says it plans a different scenario than the one considered by the think tank.

"We are aiming to negotiate a comprehensive free trade agreement with the European Union, which is more ambitious than the standard free trade deal that NIESR has based its findings on," the Treasury department

said in a statement.

The research suggested a no-deal Brexit would cause an even greater loss to the economy, with a 5.6 per cent blow to GDP.

Liberal Democrat Brexit spokesman Tom Brake said the figures "come as no surprise".

"The Tories' obsession with Brexit at any cost puts our future prosperity at risk," he said. "It is unconscionable that any government would voluntarily adopt a policy that would slow economic growth for years to come."

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VIDEO NEWS SECTION

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Stardom a fine balance between contentment and ambition, says Ayushmann

MUMBAI, OCT 30 (PTI): Ayushmann Khurrana is enjoying his stardom and doesn't feel any pressure, as the actor believes being a star comes with a responsibility of striking a balance between being content and ambitious.

The actor, who is having a fantastic run at the box office with consecutive hits and acclaimed films, says stardom by default makes one "an opinion leader".

"Everybody puts you on a pedestal and expects you to give an opinion on everything. At the same time, stardom is treading the thin line between contentment and ambition for your own sanity," Ayushmann said in a group interview.

The "Dream Girl" actor said one can neither be completely content nor be purely ambitious.

With complacency, an artiste won't be excited to work, on the other hand, if they are too grandiose, they tend to become "too bullish".

"You have to tread a middle path to be sane. Content and also ambitious at the same time. It's difficult. You approach a particular film with ambition, if it does well you have to be content.

"You can't feel 'I've to do better than this.' That's there at the back in your mind most of the time, but you just have to go with your craft and not think about commerce all the time. That's not your headache, it's the producers," he added.

Ayushmann made his debut in the 2012 Shoojit Sircar-directed film "Vicky Donor", which marked a transition for him from a VJ to an actor.

The 35-year-old actor said he was like a "lost cow" when he was working on his first film.

"I had no idea what was happening. There was nobody to guide me. I've actually learnt everything on my own. There



was nobody there to tell me any diktat to follow. I discovered everything on my own. There was no 'outsider's complex' but I was lost, for sure.

"Since there was nobody to guide me, I was breaking rules. I didn't know any rule. That worked in my favour."

He will next be seen in Amar Kaushik's "Bala", in which the actor plays a young man with receding hairline. The movie is scheduled to be released on November 7.

Green Lantern show coming to HBO Max, will be "unlike anything seen on television"

A Green Lantern TV show is coming to HBO Max, a new streaming service from Warner Bros that will take on the likes of Netflix and Amazon. Strange Adventures, an anthology series exploring the antics of other DC superheroes, is also in development.

Variety reports that, though neither project has been commissioned to series, they have been given the greenlight to start producing. As seen with the recently cancelled Game of Thrones prequel, it's not a given that either show will make it to air – but Warners likely sees both shows as strong exclusives to temp people away from some of the other best streaming services currently available.

Speaking about the upcoming projects, Greg Berlanti – who will act as a producer and has helped guide

the success of several of The CW's big shows, including Arrow and Riverdale – outlined: "Both of these original DC properties we'll be creating for HBO Max will be unlike anything seen on television... in what promises to be our biggest DC show ever made, we will be going to space with a Green Lantern television series, but I can't reveal any more about that just yet."

Strange Adventures, meanwhile, will include characters from across the pages of DC's comics in an anthology series spanning a series of one-hour episodes.

Warner Bros. also revealed at an event last night that HBO Max will launch in the US on May 2020 and will cost subscribers \$14.99/month for a package that features shows from HBO, Adult Swim, CW, and more.

'Lucifer' to have two-part final season: Tom Ellis

LOS ANGELES, OCT 30 (PTI)

The fifth and final season of "Lucifer" will be split into two halves, star of the show Tom Ellis has revealed.

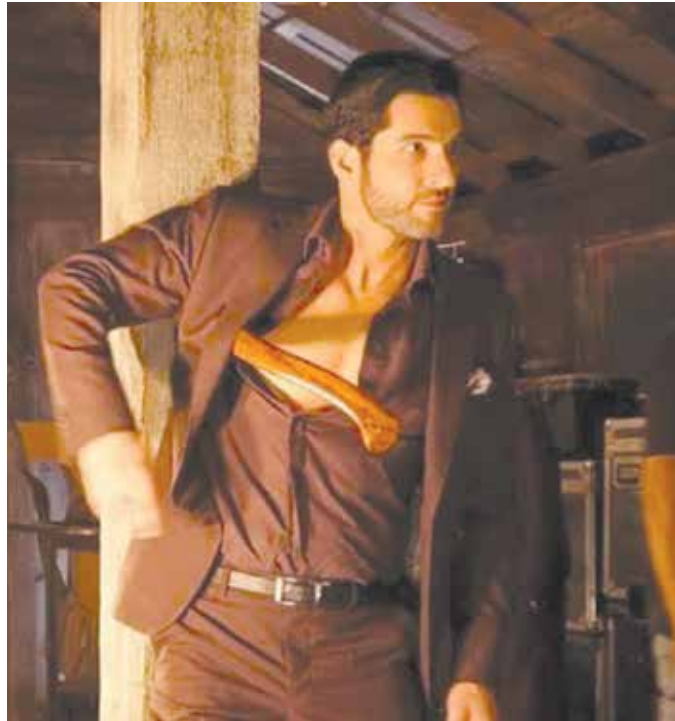
Ellis, who stars as the eponymous fallen angel in the show based on the DC Comics character, shared the news on singer Kelly Clarkson's new talk show.

Clarkson was visiting the sets of the series with her mother and sister, who are passionate "Lucifer" fans.

"Season five of 'Lucifer' is going to be split into two halves. Netflix is going to drop eight episodes, there's going to be a little break, and then they're going to drop another eight more episodes," Ellis says in a clip from "The Kelly Clarkson Show".

Last season of the show ended with Lucifer back on the throne of Hell.

The series also stars Lauren German, Lesley-Ann Brandt, Kevin Alejandro, Scarlett Es-



teveez, DB Woodside, and Rachael Harris.

"Lucifer" was renewed for a final season by Netflix in June. The streamer later added six episodes, increasing the final count to 16.

Nothing wrong in taking time off to better myself: Athiya Shetty

KOMAL PANCHAMATIA

MUMBAI, OCT 30 (PTI): Athiya Shetty says she took time off after her first two films to improve her craft as she is wants to be a part of movies that help her "break the mould" in Bollywood.

Her latest film "Motichoor Chaknachoor" opposite Nawazuddin Siddiqui is something that she believes will "challenge her as an actor".

"I worked on myself as an actor. I would do a lot of workshops. There is nothing wrong in taking time off to better myself. In this industry, you can't decide what path you want to walk on. You can't plan things. I felt I need to prove myself to be here," Athiya told PTI in an interview.

"I had a great time working on 'Hero' and 'Mubarkan' but somewhere I was not fulfilled as an actor. This film gave me the opportunity to work hard and break the mould, challenge myself and get out of my comfort zone. The idea is to feel satisfied and fulfilled as an actor."

Athiya, daughter of Suniel Shetty, said she looks at competition as something that makes the job fun but does not look at what others are doing.

"If you concentrate on your work then your journey becomes easy. Everybody is struggling to do their best. Today there are different platforms and there is work for everyone," she said.

She plays the role of a small-town woman in the romantic comedy, which required her to go through workshops to get the body language, diction and nuances right.



"I speak Bundelkhandi in the film so I had to get the language and accent correct. I worked for about three to four weeks to get everything right as it has to be authentic and in sync with the film."

The story revolves around a 36-year-old jobless man Pushpender (Nawazuddin), trying to find a wife and Annie (Athiya), who is looking for a husband. But she wants to settle abroad after marriage.

"I said no before I said yes because I did not know if I would be able to pull it off as this role is different from what I have done. It is out of my comfort zone. But that was also the exciting part," the 26-year-old actor said.

The film is scheduled to be released on November 15.

Vanessa Hudgens-starrer 'The Princess Switch' getting a sequel

LOS ANGELES, OCT 30 (PTI) The sequel to "The Princess Switch", fronted by Vanessa Hudgens, has been greenlit by Netflix.

The 2018 Christmas film revolved around Hudgens playing the double role of an American baker named Stacy De Novo and Duchess Margaret from fictional European nation of Belgravia, who swap places to enjoy the novelty offered by each others' lives.

Titled "The Princess Switch: Switched Again", will have a new lookalike, party girl Fiona, reported Entertainment Weekly. The new film will find Margaret as she unexpectedly inherits the throne to Montenegro and hits a rough patch with her boyfriend, Kevin. Stacy will chime in to save the day before Fiona foils their plans.

Mike Rohl is returning to direct with Hudgens attached to produce.

"Switched Again" is slated for a global release next year on the streamer.



HANGING WITH SOME BAD GUYS! THE SINGER, BILLIE EILISH POSES FOR A PICTURE WITH SOME OF THE MONSTERS AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS.

Aries:

A quote to swear by: "Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire". Put this up on your work desk or make it your virtual wallpaper. You are embracing a greater degree of daring in this moment. Go after your dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem to the untrained eye. This chapter of your life also brings the millennial motto 'You only live once' to mind.

Taurus:

Arguments often happen when two strong viewpoints clash. The conflict you are dealing with is between opinions, not people. Your cheat code to survival: taking a step back in order to examine the situation. Keeping your ego aside will help you be more tolerant and understand their intention. Who knows? You may even learn something new when you give up your need to prove a point.

Tip: Let love and compassion be your magic words.

Gemini:

It's time to have an open and honest conversation with yourself. Does your soul feel aligned with what you are creating? If not, how can you make adjustments? Could the process of doing more and achieving more be taking you away from your per-

sonal dreams? This chapter of your life calls for a greater degree of balance. Do what you need to do in the material world in order to pay your bills, but don't get caught up in it. You have been reincarnated for a higher purpose

Cancer:

Lo and behold, Cancer. A new beginning is on the cards. You have been working consistently towards your dreams, and now they are manifesting in your reality. For some of you, this may translate into a new job opportunity, greater financial rewards or promotions that challenge you to level up. You deserve to be successful. You deserve to experience fame and fortune. Keep this in mind as you step forward.

Tip: Every move you make is bringing you one step closer to your goal.

Leo:

An ikagai quote to swear by: "The people who live the longest have two dispositional traits in common: a positive attitude and a high degree of emotional awareness. In other words, those who face challenges with a positive outlook and are able to manage their emotions are already well on their way toward longevity." Or shall we say Nirvana? Leo, you're

not spreading the light. You are the light. You possess the ability to light up every room you walk into.

Virgo:

Don't be intimidated by the fancy titles. This is all just a power play. Stand in your truth and stand strong—despite the resistance—and you will eventually earn the respect of fellow warriors. Word of advice: don't let your ego get in your own way, no matter how triggered you are. Exercising kindness and compassion will ensure you achieve the desired results in the most harmonious way.

Tip: Exercise kindness and compassion despite your circumstances.

Libra:

The triangle is considered the strongest of all shapes. No wonder the Egyptians decided to build the pyramids the way they did. Not only are they structurally stable, but they are also a symbol of the merger of the mind, body and soul. Today, you are likely to find yourself climbing the pyramid you have so carefully built with your blood, sweat and tears. Expect to be blessed with security, stability, and growth in all that you do.

Tip: A successful venture is on the cards.

Scorpio:

Endings and beginnings are taking place simultaneously. Know that this is a precursor to the massive ascension are experiencing. You have two options, Scorpio: continue to cling to the past with all your might, or make mad love to the winds of change. Remember, letting go voluntarily will ensure that the transition is much easier. Some of you could find yourself at a turning point in your professional journey. If something fills you with a sense of doom rather than joy, don't be afraid to make the drastic move you need to.

Tip: Make love to the winds of change.

Sagittarius:

You are your most sociable self this week, and you're taking some of that goodness to work with you. There's a reason the room lights up when you're around, Sagittarius. The current climate is also favourable for networking, expanding your circle and committing to a collaboration. Start with something small and see how it evolves. This is a good way to test your creative compatibility. Thinking about helping out a friend or a loved one with a pet project? Get to it pronto.

Capricorn:

Take some time off to assess and review your prog-

ress. The path you have chosen to walk on has taken you through the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. But you would have never transformed into a butterfly if it weren't for the challenges.

Aquarius:

Things are ready to move at full speed, Aquarius. New projects are taking off, decisions are being made, and the things that were stuck are now headed in a positive direction. With that, your productivity is also soaring to a whole new level. What you need to keep in mind before you set out to conquer the world: speed is not the same as haste. Sometimes you have to let things play out before you take the required action.

Tip: Channel the adrenaline wisely.

Pisces:

There could be many reasons why you are unable to gauge the outcome of the situation at hand, Pisces. There is no need to be disheartened though. It only means that things are still in a state of flow and nothing has been finalised. Instead of trying to move upstream, sit back with a tub of popcorn and watch how the pieces of this puzzle come together. You are being guided by your higher self in this moment. Continue to follow the path of least resistance.