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Summit **TIMES**

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Rath Yatra celebration at Thakurbari

GANGTOK, 04 JUL (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) and RMDD Minister, Sonam Lama attended a Rath Yatra celebration here at Thakurbari Mandir in Gangtok today.

Opposition criticises govt on Aadhaar amendments

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): The Lok Sabha Thursday passed a bill to allow voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity for opening bank accounts and procuring mobile phone. The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, was passed by a voice vote after Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad assured the House that Aadhaar is voluntary and informed consent of the biometric identity holder has to be obtained before it is used. "The amendments address the privacy and security concerns. It provides that no service or benefit of any scheme will be denied for lack of Aadhaar," Prasad said.

The amended bill also provides for a stiff Rs 1 crore penalty and a jail term for private entities for storing Aadhaar data. "As many as 123 crore people are currently using Aadhaar... All safeguards are in place to prohibit misuse of Aadhaar biometrics. Iris and finger print data is stored in Indian machinery and it is safe and secure," Prasad said.

Displaying his personal Aadhaar card in the House, the Minister said the card only discloses his name, father's name, date of birth, residential address and does not give out any information on medical records or details of caste, religion and community. He said Aadhaar data can only be shared when there is a threat to national security or there is Court order. "Even if I, as an, Information Technology Minister, seek Aadhaar data, I will be subject to 3 years of punishment," Prasad said.

He said the government has saved Rs 1.41 lakh crore due to Aadhaar and removed 4.23 crore and 2.98 crore bogus LPG connection and ration cards respectively. Prasad said the Bill is a wholesome amendment following the Supreme Court order. "Since crores of poor people are benefitting by using Aadhaar, hence in emergency we brought the Ordinance," he said. The Minister further said the Government would soon bring a data protection legislation in the House as it believes that India's data sovereignty has to be respected and the country should have a data analytics centre.

"The data protection law is work in progress. We have the Justice Srikrishna Committee report. Some more inter-ministerial consultation is going on," Prasad said. **turn to pg02**

Darjeeling will take on Sikkim in Veterans Football finals



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 JUL:**

Darjeeling Town Veterans will take on Sikkim Boys Veterans in the finals of the Veteran's Football Invitational Tournament 2019 on 06 July here at Paljor Stadium.

In the first semi-final

match played this afternoon, Darjeeling Town Veterans outplayed Pradhan Nagar Football Club, Siliguri 4-2 to enter the final round of the tournament.

Sikkim Boys Veterans secured its berth in the finals by defeating Dooars Rhino Veterans 6-1 in the second semi-final today.

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

No SPG cover for former CM, DIG-Range clarifies

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 JUL:

Sikkim Police has weighed into the exchange of claims and allegations between SKM and SDF over claims and allegations surrounding suggestions that SDF president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, has been provided SPG security cover.

The two parties, it may be recalled, had made this a major bone of contention and the chatter at press conferences and online was clearly of enough import for Sikkim Police to "enquire" into the matter and the DIG [Range], Sonam T Bhutia, upon completion of police enquiry, today informed that no SPG cover has been provided to Mr Chamling by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As for his security requirements, two Personal Security Officers and a section of IRBn have been deputed to Mr Chamling, the DIG-Range informed.

As for the confusion over SPG cover, it had all begun with a former Minister being quoted in media reports as claiming that SPG security had been provided



to Mr Chamling. This was echoed by SDF functionaries are different press briefings as well and had been condemned as false by the SKM.

Speaking to media persons this evening, the DIG-Range first clarified that Special Protection Group security is provided only to current and former Prime Ministers of the country. He added that no other person is entitled to get the SPG security.

He added that Sikkim Police enquired into the matter "thoroughly" and two persons were found with arms and were

called for the questioning yesterday.

He added that during the questioning, it has been found that the duo were from Palwal district in Haryana and were not with any security service. They stated that they had been employed for security of the former CM.

The DIG informed that they had license to carry a .32 Cal pistol for self protection and did not have license to protect others. He mentioned that they were brought for questioning yesterday and that they left the State early this morning.

Modi expected to visit Bhutan next month

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Bhutan next month to further deepen the already close relationship between the two countries, sources said Thursday.

Bhutan has been a strategic ally of India and bilateral ties between the two countries are on an upswing in the last few years. The aim of the visit will be to further expand cooperation between the two countries, the sources said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the Himalayan nation last month in his first over-



seas trip after assuming charge of the ministry.

During his two-day visit, Jaishankar met top Bhutanese leadership, including Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, and discussed

ways to enhance bilateral ties with emphasis on cooperation in the hydropower sector.

Bhutan was the first country Modi had visited after assuming charge of the top office in 2014.

Tibetan issue no longer struggle for political independence: Dalai Lama

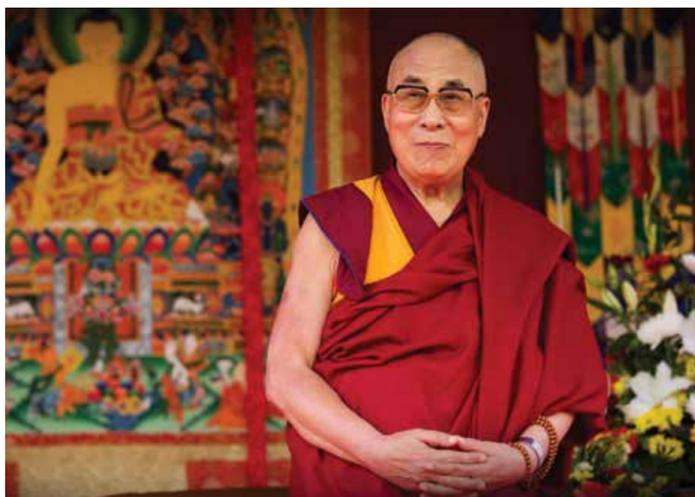
NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): The Tibetan issue is no longer a struggle for political independence, the Dalai Lama has said, asserting that there is a need to focus on preservation of Tibet's cultural, religious and linguistic identity.

Political independence is mainly meant for the happiness of the people, but does it alone guarantee happiness, the Tibetan spiritual leader asked.

"There is a growing feeling among the top leaders in China that their policies have not been able to solve the Tibet issue in the last 70 years. So they should follow a more realistic approach. Even though Tibet was an independent country, politically China occupies Tibet today," he told news magazine 'The Week' in an interview.

"Under the given circumstances, I have been saying for some time now that there is a need to focus on preservation of Tibetan culture, religion and identity. It is no longer a struggle for political independence," he said.

The 14th Dalai Lama left Tibet in 1959 to escape Chinese occupation and



has been keeping China on tenterhooks about his successor.

In April this year, at a global conference, he had said, people from Tibet have been seeking a mutually acceptable solution to the Tibetan issue with

China since 1974 but Beijing considers him a "splittist" though he isn't one.

The spiritual leader, who turns 84 soon, had said he preferred Tibet remaining with China, with "some kind of a reunion".

In the interview, given in Himachal

Pradesh's McLeodganj, the Dalai Lama also said as long as the Tibetan people can preserve their thousands of years old cultural heritage, religion and identity, it will bring them inner peace and happiness. "For this, I really admire the Indian Union for its unity in diversity. In a similar way, the People's Republic of China and Tibet can coexist keeping Tibet's cultural, linguistic and religious identity," he said.

On a question, about his successor, he said, "I can only be concerned about this life; the next is not my concern. What is important are the teachings, the institution of the Dalai Lama comes after that. If reincarnation was so important, then why did the Buddha not have a reincarnation," adding, "sometimes, I also feel the lama institution has some connection with the feudal system and is not relevant today".

The Tibetan spiritual leader recently apologised for his comment on women in a BBC interview, with his office in Dharamshala saying he has always opposed their objectification.

turn to pg02

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NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.**

Agri Minister completes South tour with interactive meet

JORETHANG, 04 JUL [IPR]: The three day tour of South Sikkim by Agriculture Minister LN Sharma and Department officials concluded with an interactive program with farmers of Zoom Salghari constituency at SICB Hall, Karfector, today.

The program was organized by Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry, Livestock and Fisheries & Veterinary Services Departments and had Deputy Speaker Sangay Lepcha as chief guest accompanied by the Agriculture Minister Mr Sharma and area MLA Sunita Gazmer as guests of honor.

The Agriculture Minister thanked the farming community for the relentless efforts of helping meet the ever growing food demands of the public.

He discussed the dire need of mobilizing a robust mechanism to deliver instantaneous benefits to the farmers of the State wherein he brought his focus upon the need for coordination and cooperation between the public and the administration.

He strongly urged the farming community of Zoom Salghari to boost their farming techniques in order to strengthen the export market of Sikkim produce.

Further, the Minister assured all help required



to the public in order to augment and enhance their production thereby making them self-reliant and self-sufficient.

The program was also attended by Secretary (Agriculture) Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary (Horticulture) DK Bhandari, CEO (Green Economy) Dr. S Anbalagan, Principal Director (AHVS) Dr. NT Bhutia, Managing Director (Sikkim Milk Union) Dr AB Karki alongside officials of Agriculture and allied Departments.

Addressing the program, the Agriculture Secretary spoke about how agriculture was the most important sector of the Indian economy.

He spoke about the benefits of sustainable agriculture and emphasized the advent of Green Economy which

he defined as the economy that aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment.

Thus, he stressed upon how the stakeholders should endeavor to work towards achieving the missions of Green Economy. Further, he also informed the gathering about Government of Sikkim's initiatives to generate more livelihood opportunities in the state and strengthening the production economy of the state by 2022. He also spoke about schemes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana.

Secretary (Horticulture)

Mr Bhandari also addressed the gathering about schemes related to Horticulture Department. He spoke largely about the various categories of subsidies that can be availed by the farmers through the Department. Similarly, CEO (Green Economy) Dr. S. Anbalagan and CEO Sikkim Milk Union Dr. A.B Karki also took to the stage to talk about Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD) which aims towards development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain and the role of cooperative societies towards rural development of Sikkim as a whole.

Other resource persons on the occasion were Director (Diary) Dr. B.M Chettri, Director (Poultry) Mr. D.K Pradhan who updated the farmers about Dairy development, DDS Scheme, Kisan Credit Card Movement, SDD Board roles and responsibilities, extension and training imparted at GPU and Panchayat level and so on.

Later, tokens of various schemes under Horticulture department was distributed to the beneficiary through the hands of the Minister.

Four-day sensitization programme on Bio Medical Waste Management

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 JUL:

Four-day sensitization programme on BMW Management Rules, 2016, was held from 01-04 July covering all the Health Care Facilities (HCFs) of both Government and private sectors of all the four districts of Sikkim, as per a press release.

As part of the sensitization programme, State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim, Forest Environment and Wildlife Management Department (FEWMD), conducted a training programme on Bio-medical Waste Management in coordination with Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Shillong, Government of India, on 01 July at Sidkeong Tulku Hall, Block C, Forest Secretariat, Deorali-Gangtok.

The training programme was chaired by Principal Secretary cum PCCF cum Chairperson, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), FEWMD,



M.L. Srivastava in the presence of Member Secretary, SPCB, Dr. Gopal Pradhan and other officials and staff of SPCB as well as stakeholders. Scientist 'D' from Regional Directorate, CPCB, Shillong, R.P. Gurung, was the resource person for the said programme.

The target group of this sensitization programme included, Joint Director (Health Department), Medical Officers (Doctors), Staff Nurse, Lab technician who are actually supervising and handling Bio-medical Waste (BMW) in their respective Health Care Facilities (HCFs).

Chairperson SPCB,

M.L. Srivastava, highlighted the importance of each individual's contribution towards reducing the carbon footprint by managing the Solid Waste and BMW generated in HCFs and safely disposing them.

He also informed the house that the esteemed judiciary like National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken the matter seriously and has given blanket order all over India to properly implement the said rules with a timeline. He also apprised the house that each individual involved is responsible and accountable for the safe disposal of Solid Waste and BMW.

Member Secretary

SPCB, Dr. Gopal Pradhan pointed out that due to poor and ineffective implementation of the said rule since its notification from 1998, various amendments were carried out during 2016 and NGT has given specific direction to all the states in India to properly & effectively implement the said rule. He added this training programme aims to provide technical and legal inputs for effective management of BMW in conformity with the standing statutory provisions.

The inaugural session ended with vote of thanks by Executive Environment Engineer, SPCB, Ranjan Rai.

Opposition criticises...

Justice Srikrishna panel had submitted its report in July 2018. The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on June 24, and once passed by the Rajya Sabha will replace an Ordinance issued in March 2019. The amendments provide for use of Aadhaar number for KYC authentication on voluntary basis under the Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

Put simply, this means it will allow voluntary use of Aadhaar number for authentication and identity proof in opening bank accounts and procuring mobile phone connections. It also gives option to children to exit from the biometric ID programme on attaining 18 years of age, while stipulating stiff penalties for violation of norms set for the use of Aadhaar and violation of privacy. Participating in the debate on the bill, Ritesh Pandey (BSP) said there is a need to improve it.

Supporting the bill, Ajay Kumar Mishra (BJP) said that "five years back the challenge before us was to work in a mission mode. And we are seeing the results now." Aadhaar, he said, will play an important role in making available the facilities.

Supriya Sule (NCP) said that "You are cheating common man... What privacy we are talking about?"

Hitting out at the BJP, she said that "they are only growing on the programmes which UPA started."

"Why is Aadhaar card compulsory? What is it? What is voter card then? We all have voter ID," she said.

Tibetan issue...

Responding to a question on whether his reincarnation could be a woman, the Nobel Peace Prize winner had joked that she should be attractive.

On a question on India, he said, the rich people in India should pay more attention to the study of Indian philosophy and texts "rather than just uttering 'Ram Ram' and doing puja".

"It is better to create small libraries and learn about ancient Indian philosophy and psychology than just praying without any knowledge and performing rituals without understanding them," he said.

On his association with prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, he said, "Pandit was very kind to me; he advised me under difficult circumstances. I followed his advice, and it was very practical. I came to India in 1956, during Buddha Jayanti. At that time, many Tibetan officials told me that I should stay in India and not return".

He said, he returned to Tibet in 1957. "I tried my best (to maintain peace with the Chinese), but after some time... there (were) uprisings. In 1959, things went out of control and I decided to escape from Tibet," the Dalai Lama added.

"I am grateful to the Indian government (and leaders such as) Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Morarji Desai, Narasimha Rao and the (later) generation of leaders, and also Indian officials who have been very sympathetic towards Tibet," he said.

Today, India and Tibet are very close not only for political or economic reasons, but also spiritually and emotionally, he added.

On China calling him a separatist, and his 60th year of exile in India, he said, "Let them (Chinese) say I am a separatist. That will be helpful as I will continue to live in India peacefully".

"If they sincerely ask me to return although on many occasions to some Chinese individuals I mentioned that I prefer freedom and if I return to China, I (will be) put in a big house with no freedom. There is no use. I am happy to live in India for the rest of my life," the Dalai Lama said.

"Among all civilisations, whether it is Chinese or Egyptian, it is the Indus Valley civilisation that has produced the best thinkers and philosophers. I consider Buddhism and Hinduism as twin brother and sister. India's civilisation is something wonderful and should be known for its contribution to the world," he asserted.

Anti-defection petitioners urge Speaker for final judgement

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 JUL:

Joint Action Committee (JAC) for the disqualification of seven former Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MLAs who defected to Sikkim Democratic Front in 2015 has urged the Sikkim Legislative Assembly to give the final judgement on their matter. A delegation of JAC has submitted a representation on the matter to the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

It is informed that as the Speaker is on tour, the team discussed the matter and submitted the representation to the Secretary Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

It may be mentioned that a petition for disqualification of seven former SKM MLAs who joined SDF under Article 191(2) and Para 2(1)(a) read with 6(1) of the Tenth Schedule of



the Constitution of India was submitted by Pahalman Subba, Nawin Kiran Pradhan and Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha.

Speaking to media here after the meeting, Nawin Kumar Pradhan mentioned that the main objective of the meeting was to submit the representation to the Speaker and to request him for final conclusion of the matter at the earliest.

"We have been pursuing the matter since one year in the State Assembly for disqualification of the defected MLAs. But now we are very hopeful due to the Parivartan in the State and so we urged the Secretary to give the final conclusion at the earliest," he said.

Mr Pradhan stated that although these seven defectors are not MLAs now but the dis-

qualification of these MLAs would set a precedent against defection. He added that there needs to be opposition in a democracy and presently the state has a strong opposition with 15 MLAs and it is great for the interest of the people so this precedent would be very important to save the democracy.

"We are hopeful that the decision on the case will be given before this assembly session that starts from 29 July. We have big expectations from the Parivartan in the State and if nothing happens then we will approach the court again," he said.

Mr Pradhan informed that they have been informed that the Secretary has already apprised the Speaker about the matter and he has also assured to take the matter seriously.

JSFB opens Gangtok branch

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 JUL:

The first branch of Jana Small Finance Bank (JSFB) Limited was inaugurated here on Thursday.

The function was attended by Forest Minister Karma Loday Bhutia, former Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, Eugene E Karthak, JSFB President & Chief Compliance Officer, Ravi Duvvuru, JSFB Regional Head-Liabilities, WB & North East, Saurav S Dasgupta and other dignitaries.

JSFB, erstwhile Janalakshmi Financial Service, is headquartered in Bengaluru and is one of the ten financial institutions which had received in-principle approval from RBI as a small financial bank in 2015 and the final banking license in April 2017. It eventually started operations on 28 March 2018.

In his short address, the Minister urged people to take full benefit from the services and schemes of the bank and expressed happiness over the bank providing employment to local youth.

He remarked that since the

people of Sikkim have already suffered from different scams of unscrupulous financial institutions, they should work only with banks licensed by the RBI.

The former Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, Eugene E Karthak, also congratulated JSFB for moving forward in its journey driving financial inclusion.

He commented that the Gangtok branch was another milestone for the bank and taking it a step closer to its goal of serving financially under-served people especially in the north-eastern region.

While speaking on past instances of scams and cheating by financial institutions in the State, Mr Karthak asserted that it was very important for people to thoroughly check the credentials of banks and financial institutions before investing their money.

He added that RBI licensed banks were always under the supervision of the RBI.

JSFB President & Chief Compliance Officer, Ravi Duvvuru mentioned that Gangtok branch

was the 251st branch in the country and the bank was now serving over 34,000 customers in the North East.

He added that the bank has more than 54 lakh customers who are served by 16,000 employees spread across 251 branches and 262 asset centres. He informed that the bank was offering 8.6% interest on 2-year fixed deposits and the rate of interest is 9.2% for senior citizens.

Mr Duvvuru stated that the bank aims to expand further in the region.

"There are enormous opportunities to bridge the financial inclusion gap in this region and we are committed to do so. Our objective is to drive financial inclusion in rural and semi-urban areas by offering best-in-class asset and liability product, leveraging on our digital strength," he said.

He added that the bank will continue to extend other product offerings like business loans, agri loans, affordable housing loans and gold loans to cater to the diverse needs of customers.



RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Memo No. 351/RM&DD/MGNREGA/19-20 Dated: 04/07/2019

EXTENSION OF DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION
(NIT Reference no.286/RM&DD/
MGNREGA/19-20 dated 21/6/2019)

With reference to above tender notice published in the Sikkim Herald/Sikkim Express and Summit Times dated 24th & 26th June 2019 for supply of materials for MGNREGA for the year 2019-20, the date for submission of tender has been extended to 15/7/2019 and will be opened on 16/7/2019 at 2 pm at the respective BDO Offices. All other terms and conditions except last date of submission of tender shall remain un-altered.

Sd/-
Sr.Accounts Officer- MGNREGA
RM&DD, Gangtok.

R.O No. 81/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Dated 4.7.19

~ **SummitTIMES** ~

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

WANTED
HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER .
Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.

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

Mr. Subash Lama
Proprietor
Hotel Parasol Residency,
Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim

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

Four & half storied building on SALE, behind Hotel Agarwal at Pani House, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Interested parties may also buy flats - 2 flats - 1650 sq.ft, 1 Flat - 1186 sq.ft & 1 Flat on top (1 & half)- 3000 sq.ft. Contact: -9434751150

Dr Shova Kanti Thegim Lepcha Memorial Award to Rita Thakuri

**SHRAVAN CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 04 JUL:**

The 22nd edition of Dr Shova Kanti Thegim Lepcha Memorial Award was held at Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary school auditorium today. The event was chaired by Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] as chief guest along with Kiran Rasaily, Dr Pushpa Sharma, DT Lepcha, president Sobha Kanti Thegim Trust along with various other artists, ex awardees and litterateurs.

This year's Dr Shova Kanti Thegim Lepcha Memorial Award went to Rita Thakuri for her book "Kolahal Bhitra ka Spandan".

TR Khanal, Ratna Kamal Dewan, Sanu Lama, Lensingh Yonzon, Dharani Kumar Pradhan, BB Nuringa, PT Dong, Devaki Rai, Devika Rai, Santa Maya Limboo, Zigmi



Tenzing Gyaltsen and Dawa Lama were also honoured by the trust for their immense contribution in the field of art, literature and music.

The event kicked off with the ceremonial lamp lighting ceremony in

memory of Ms Thegim followed by a mourning session for Late Ratna Kamal Dewan and former Governor, Sudarshan Agarwal.

The trust proudly welcomes all the ex awardees and the present awardees with grace

and gratitude, the idea of Mrs Thegims.

Chief Minister, Mr Tamang expressed his gratitude towards the trust for honouring the forgotten gems of the state and also spoke about the immense contribution

served by the awardees and ex awardees.

The event included performances by local artists and composers while Saurav Lepcha launched three new compositions from his upcoming album.

Governor condoles demise of Sudarshan Agarwal

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 JUL:**

Governor, Ganga Prasad has condoled the demise of former Governor of Uttarakhand and Sikkim, Sudarshan Agarwal following a prolonged illness at New Delhi on 03 Jul, 2019.

In a press release, the Governor has said, "Having served in different capacity as a bureaucrat and later as constitutional head of Uttarakhand and Sikkim during his illustrious career, Late

Sudarshan Agarwal has left indelible imprint in the minds of people he served by way of his administrative skills and relentless concern towards welfare of common man.

In a short span of time in Sikkim from 25 Oct, 2007 to 08 Jul, 2008 as Governor, he had endeared the people of Sikkim and had upheld the sanctity of Raj Bhavan as an institution through his indomitable persona. His quest of women empowerment through education

and equity keeps his apart from his contemporaries.

His demise has left behind a huge void and country has lost a sympathiser of common man in true sense, who always worked for their larger interest.

At this time of bereavement, I join the people of Sikkim to offer my deepest condolences. I pray to the almighty for bestowing strength to the family members to cope with this irreparable loss."

**HAVE A STORY
TO SHARE?**

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New board of Lions Club of Rangpo takes charge

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 JUL:**

Lions Club of Rangpo formed its new board for 2019-20 which is headed by Ramakant Rai as president, a press release informs. Other members are vice president Rakesh Agarwal, secretary Gaurav Chettri, and cashier Pramod Prasad.

Club president for 2018-19, Hem Kumar Gurung handed over the responsibility to the new president in the presence of Region Chairperson of Lions Club International 322F, Namita Chettri and Sikkim State Coordinator, Sanjay Agarwal in this special program organised at Rangpo Tourism.

The club has decided to organise PST Installation Program on 11 July. Sikkim State Coordinator, Sanjay Agarwal informed that the club has done a lot of work in the 2018-19 tenure such as Blood Donation and Awareness Campaign, Meri Saheli Mission, Food for All and Anti-Drugs Awareness Program.

Banks see whopping 73% spike in frauds at Rs 71,543 cr in FY19

MUMBAI, JUL 4 (PTI): Banks have reported a massive 73 percent increase in incidents of fraud worth Rs 71,543 crore in FY19, a senior Reserve Bank official said Thursday. Till March 2019, the top five, 10 and 100 cases of frauds cumulatively reported constituted 24 percent, 34 percent and 70 percent of all frauds, respectively, a chief general manager with the RBI Jayant Dash said.

In FY18, the banks had reported frauds worth Rs 41,167 crore, he added. "Total value involved in these frauds reported by the RBI-regulated entities during FY19 amounted to Rs 71,543 crore as against Rs 41,167 crore during the previous year, which is a 73 percent jump year-on-year," Dash told a CII event here.

He said the distribution of reported frauds by banks follow a high Pareto principle also known as 80/20 principle, which means 80 percent of the consequences come from 20 percent of the causes.

WB Assembly passes bills to increase tenure of administrators in municipalities

KOLKATA, JUL 4 (PTI): The West Bengal Assembly Thursday passed two amendment bills which will enable the state government to extend the tenure of administrators in municipalities from the current six months to one year.

The bills came in the backdrop of the BJP taking over several Trinamool Congress-run municipalities after its councillors joined the saffron

party following the latter's impressive performance in the Lok Sabha election in the state.

The Howrah Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill and the West Bengal Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill were passed in the Assembly.

The amended law will help the state government extend the term of the administrator or the board of administrators in municipalities from

six months to one year. "This has been done for smooth functioning of municipalities where the bodies have been dissolved for some reasons," a TMC MLA told reporters. Opposition parties - the CPI(M), the Congress and the BJP - opposed the amendment describing it as undemocratic.

"As majority of councillors of some municipalities has joined us, the TMC is apprehending that

it may face no-confidence motion in several municipal bodies. So they are increasing the tenure of the administrators to have back door control over municipalities," BJP MLA Manoj Tigga told reporters.

A number of TMC leaders including six MLAs have joined the BJP after it emerged as a strong challenger to the state's ruling party by winning 18 Lok Sabha seats of the total 42.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK - 737101

Ref No. 234/DL/ESIC

Dated: 28.06.2019

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Applications are invited for walk-in-interview, from eligible local candidates for filling up the post mentioned below purely contractual basis in consolidated pay as indicated against each post for initial period of one year at Employees' State Insurance Service dispensary, under Labour Department, Government of Sikkim which is extendable based on performance.

| Sl No. | Name of post | No of post | Minimum Education Qualification | Age limit | Fixed pay |
|--------|---------------------------------|------------|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| 01. | Medical Officer | 02 | MBBS Degree from MCI recognized Institute. | 22 to 35 years. | Rs.40,000/-per month. |
| 02. | General Nursing Midwifery (GNM) | 02 | Class XII Passed with Pass Certificate of 3 years of General Nursing training & Midwifery training from MCI recognized Institute or school of Nursing recognized by Nursing Council of India. | 22 to 30 years. | Rs.18,000/-per month. |
| 03. | Dresser | 01 | Class X passed with experience in application of plaster in an orthopaedic unit of registered recognized hospital | 18 to 30 years. | Rs.15,000/- per month. |
| 04. | UDC(Cashier) | 01 | Graduate degree from any recognized University | 18-30 years. | Rs.12,000/-per month. |
| 05. | UDC(adm.) | 01 | -do- | 18-30 years | Rs.10,000/-per month. |
| 06. | LDC | 01 | Class XII passed | 18-30 years. | Rs.10,000/-per month. |
| 07. | Record Keeper | 01 | Class X passed | 18-30 years. | Rs.10,000/- per month. |
| 08. | Peon | 02 | Class VIII passed | 18-30 years. | Rs.9,000/- per month. |

The Candidates having the requisite qualifications as mentioned in the job description are requested to submit their application along with certified copies of degree and certificate to Under Secretary, Labour Department by 22.07.2019 before 4.30 PM. Application received after closing time and date will not be entertained / Considered. The walk-in-interview will be held on 12.08.2019 for the post at Sl.No. 1 to 3 and on 13.08.2019 and 14.08.2019 for the post at Sl.No. 04 to 08.

Venue: Labour Department
Government of Sikkim
Time: 10 am to 4 pm.

**R.O. No. 76/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 2.7.2019.**

Under Secretary,
Labour Department, Government of Sikkim,
Gangtok.

PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM TADONG, GANGTOK, EAST SIKKIM

RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Application are invited from the local eligible Schedule Tribe (Limboo/Tamang) Women candidates for filling up of 01(one) post of Driver in the Level - 6 of Revised Pay Matrix through Direct Recruitment in the Printing and Stationery Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok. However, during the period of Probation/Apprenticeship/Training, pay shall be governed by Notification No.489/GEN/DOP dated: 31.10.2011.

01. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR THE POST OF DRIVER:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------|
| (1) Minimum Education Qualification | Class VII Passed from a recognized board. However, the School certificate should contain the date of birth of the applicant. | | |
| (2) Other requisites | (a) the applicant should possess a valid Driving License for Light Motor (T/NT) category of vehicle issued by the Motor Vehicle Division of Transport Department as specified in the Central Motor Vehicle Act. 1988. (b) Candidate must be in possession of Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification (COI). (c) Should have valid Local Employment Card. (d) Should be in possession of Caste Category Certificate. (e) No Objection Certificate from the Appointing Authority/Head of Department in case of employed candidate(s). | | |
| (3) Age | In terms of Notification No. M(3)/ (55)/GEN/DOP/PT-III dated: 03/07/2017. | | |
| (4) Reservation | Category | Rooster Point(s) | No of post. |
| | Scheduled Tribe(Women) (Limboo/Tamang) | 21 | 01 |

- I) PART- A = 80 Marks.
- Daily routine and check up the vehicle before starting Engine.
 - Should have the knowledge of the various components and important Assemblies of Engine/Gearbox etc.
 - Daily writing of Vehicle log book.
 - Should have the knowledge to differentiate between petrol and diesel engine.
 - Knowledge of Traffic signal and rules.

PART-B
1) Letter writing (two types) = 10 Marks
2) General Knowledge (National Importance) = 10 Marks
TOTAL MARKS = 100 (One hundred)

- Persons interested to apply for the post should submit their applications in the prescribed form, which is obtainable from the office of Under Secretary of Printing and Stationery Department on all working days between 11 am to 3 pm w.e.f 19/08/19 to 30/08/19 on production of Bank Receipt of Rs.100/- (Rupees one hundred) only which should be credited to the Head' 0058-200 other receipt'. The amount so deposited shall not be refunded or adjusted against any other purpose.
- Applications complete in all respects should reach the Office of the Under Secretary (Adm.), Printing and Stationery Department on or before 30/08/19 by 3 p.m. No application thereafter shall be accepted. Incomplete application shall summarily be rejected.
- Date and Venue of written examination will be intimated in due course through local news papers and will also be displayed on the notice board of the department.
- No TA/DA is admissible for attending the exams/interview.

Sd/-
Secretary
Printing & Stationery Department.

R.O. No. 80/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Date: 04.7.19

For Real Issues, Look Beyond Averages

Focusing too much on "rates" can distract from the real concerns

Sikkim, with a population of barely over 6 lakhs, finds itself elated and despondent at frequent intervals when national report cards on economic and social indices are released. Data is invariably crunched on averages and Sikkim's small size, depending on how the data is worked, invariably delivers the State either effusive accolades or embarrassing brickbats. The projections on school dropouts in Sikkim, crime rate, even suicide numbers or the debt load on the state exchequer and what that works out to per capita, when calculated on formulae worked out for national statistics end up projecting prevalence rates which appear much more distressing than they actually are. Make no mistake, all of these are worries, but probably not of the scale that the "rates" project. That is the trick that percentages and averages can play, and as many times that Sikkim has been flustered by such figures, it has also found size-skewed data provide it with reasons to celebrate. Fact is that Sikkim's entire population is little more than half the average voter strength of a Lok Sabha constituency, but it has the trappings and largesse of a State, data of percentages and averages then becomes a very unreliable yardstick to measure performances by.

To Sikkim's benefit, its size is so small that report cards in the people's eyes do not need complicated figures or bombastic claims; every change, improvement, success and failure is universally palpable and open to immediate public appraisal or ridicule. That should be the yardstick by which the politicians and executive measure performance and delivery instead of awaiting what the number might register.

Unfortunately, the obsession with statistics has infiltrated these sections as well. Some years ago, too much breath was wasted on the school dropout rates, with the Opposition parties haranguing the government about it and the ruling party and concerned department introducing their own calculations which worked down the rate to a third of what the Union Ministry was claiming. Matters had come to such a pass that the entire debate was centred around the numbers, and were no longer about the trend it recorded. When a debate on discussion gets fixated for too long on the numbers, it can end up inuring the people and the policy makers on the actual issue. In a situation where governments are now bound by law to ensure that every child is in school till the age of 14, any dropout should be considered too much. When one debates on averages and rates, the limitations of statistics for a small pool come to the fore. The dropout rate debate was about a staggeringly impossible 80+% claimed by Delhi to a dramatically lower 25% claimed by the Department and this was then reflected against the 56% national average. When so juxtaposed, the still jaw-dropping 26% dropout rate somehow becomes acceptable when presented alongside the national average of around 56%. These are old figures and the numbers are comparatively better now, or so it was claimed. But to continue with the thought - when these numbers were released in 2009-10, the national figure related to the academic record of more than 13 crore students in class I to V. Sikkim, by comparison, was handling 82,992 students from classes I to V.

In the battle for numbers, what ends up getting sidelined is the fact that as per the HRD Department's own records, a decade ago in 2007-08, between 20 to 25 per cent of the students failed in every class between classes I to VIII. This led to dropouts and also reflected on the efficacy of the classrooms. Since then, the no failure rule has come into play, so the question that needs to be asked is whether the now less than desperate dropout rates are more because the shortcomings of the classrooms are taking longer to sink in since children are moving along from class to class? The board exam results usually attract a lot of media attention and analysis, but such consistently high failure rates in beginner classes itself had not been paid much attention to.

What are the schools imparting by way of education if starting from class-I itself, a quarter of the class manages to fail? Let's accept for now that they would fail because nothing much has improved by way of how the schools are staffed. These are the more important questions which one expects the people's representatives to raise and debate and take the Department and school managements to task for. But that is not happening. And that is because Sikkim continues to refuse to look beyond the averages to notice the real issues.

Four steps to make your lawn a wildlife haven - from green desert to miniature rainforest

ADAM BATES
theConversation

If you could ask British insects about the habitats they prefer, they'd probably tell you that you can't improve on grassland that's rich with wildflowers. For farmers, though, grassland is said to be "improved" if it has been treated with fertiliser and sown with fast growing grasses.

"Unimproved" grasslands are those that have not had their productivity improved for agriculture. They're semi-natural habitats, because if mowing or grazing stopped, they'd quickly turn to scrub and then woodland. These unimproved grasslands are extremely rich in the number of species they can support, sometimes having well over 40 species of flowering plant in a single square metre.

But since World War II, 97% of unimproved grassland habitats have vanished from the UK. This has contributed to the loss of pollinating insects - and the distribution of one third of species has shrunk since 1980.

If you're lucky enough to have a garden, your lawn can be thought of as a small patch of artificial grassland, which will usually have only a few species of turf grass. Most suburbs and villages still have around a quarter to a third of their area covered by grass.

Unfortunately, lawns are largely featureless and offer little refuge for small creatures like bugs and other invertebrates. Regular mowing also prevents plants from flowering and producing seeds, which is why carefully maintained lawns are mostly barren.

But lawns can be made into important wildlife habitat by changing how they're managed. This is an idea that's gaining traction - campaigns such as "Say No to the Mow" have made an "unkempt" garden more socially acceptable. For anyone wanting to create a wildlife lawn in their garden, there are four important steps to follow.

1. CUT HIGHER

The first step is simple. By raising the height

that the mower blade cuts the grass to its highest setting - usually about 4 cm off the ground - you can provide more variety in the lawn's structure and more refuge for other plant and invertebrate species.

2. INCLUDE MOWING GAPS

By mowing less often you can allow plants time to flower and provide a food source for bees and other pollinators. Leaving gaps between mowing in spring gives time for species like the cowslip to flower - a plant which has declined markedly in the UK but which butterflies like the Duke of Burgundy depend on for laying their eggs.

Summer gaps can allow species like cat's ear and fox-and-cubs time to flower, providing an important source of food for species of leafcutter bee. Deciding how long to wait between mowing isn't an exact science, but can be judged by seeing whether or not the plants in your lawn have had a chance to flower.

3. NO FERTILISERS OR HERBICIDES

"Weed and feeds" are used on lawns in a one-bottle mix of herbicide - used to kill non-grass species that we'd usually consider weeds - and fertiliser, to add nutrients to the soil. Herbicides reduce biodiversity by killing other species, but it may surprise you to learn that fertilisers are no friend to biodiversity either.

When gardening or farming, usually the more fertility in the soil the better, because this promotes greater productivity. In other words, more grass, greener grass, more flowers and larger flowers. The selective actions of the gardener or farmer to promote the target species, whether prized rose or crop, means that only the target species benefits.

Without this selectivity, more fertility in your lawn only favours the one or two turf species that are best able to take up nutrients and outcompete other species. So, more fertility means fewer plant species, despite the more luxuriant green colour.

4. REMOVE THE CLIPPINGS

Removing the grass clippings after you've mowed the lawn also reduces the fertility in your lawn, preventing it from becoming domi-

nated by one or two competitive turf species. Removing and composting grass clippings will gradually remove nutrients from the soil, lowering the fertility with each cut.

Beyond these four steps for improving the value of your lawn to wildlife, there are other things that can be done by the more committed gardener. Leaving small areas of the lawn deliberately uncut - such as strips at the sides or patches in the corners - can help small wildflower meadows to form. Cutting these at the end of summer will prevent them overgrowing into rank grassland with few species.

Wildlife value can also be added by spreading some locally-sourced wildflower seed on your lawn. If you're gathering seeds from elsewhere, make sure to ask permission and don't take too much.

ENJOYING YOUR WILDFLOWER LAWN

Wildflower lawns can have a variety of other surprising benefits, not least helping to slow global warming. Some studies have shown that lawns are actually sources of carbon dioxide due to the amount of energy needed to power the mower and manufacture "weed and feeds". Reducing how often you mow, not applying "weed and feeds" and even using a manual lawn mower can change your lawn from a carbon source to a carbon sink.

Having taller vegetation in your lawn shades the ground, thereby reducing evaporation from the soil and reducing the need for sprinklers and hosepipes. Less mowing means less work to do and more time for you to enjoy watching the bees gathering nectar and pollen from your wildflower lawn.

Wildflower lawns, with spikes of colourful flowers and attendant bees, at least to my eyes, are far prettier than a carpet of grass, whether it's stripy or not. Grass - especially when not in flower - is the most aesthetically boring part of a grassland. The species that have traditionally been disregarded as "weeds" are far more interesting.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Applied Ecology, Nottingham Trent University]



How to think yourself into a fit person

SHAELYN STRACHAN
theConversation

Many of us, aware of the benefits of exercise, try to stick to a routine, only to find our sneakers at the back of the closet when the weather doesn't co-operate, our routine is disrupted or we are short of time.

One way to turn an exercise fling into a long-term commitment is to develop an exercise identity. An exercise identity is what we imagine when we think of an "exerciser." For most, this is someone who goes to the gym regularly or prioritizes their walk despite a busy schedule.

When we adopt an exercise identity, physical activity becomes a part of who we are and a powerful standard that can drive behaviour.

Research I conducted at the University of Manitoba and the University of Ottawa shows that the more adults identify with exercise or physical activity, the more they do it.

Other researchers agree with the power of exercise identity and have described it as one of the largest psychological correlates of exercise.

WALK THE WALK

So how does an exercise identity help people develop an exercise habit? Exercisers feel uncomfortable

when they don't play the part and this discomfort can be motivating. Our research showed that people with a strong exercise identity who imagined not exercising for three weeks felt worse (more guilty), intended to get their exercise back on track and had more plans about how they would do this than people with a weaker exercise identity.

Identifying with exercise gives people an advantage. People with a strong exercise identity have plentiful and strong exercise plans and intentions. Their motivation to exercise also comes from quality sources - such as enjoyment or their values, rather than from guilt or pressure from others.

Exercise confidence is also strong among people with a solid exercise identity and all these things help people get moving.

IMAGINE YOURSELF AS FIT

If you want to exercise more, start viewing yourself as an exerciser. But if your routine looks more like a Netflix marathon than true participation, you may be skeptical about how you are going to convince yourself that you are an exerciser.

Imagining yourself as one may help. Retirees who saw themselves in the future as a physically active

person reported a stronger physical activity identity one month later.

In a follow-up study, retirees were instructed to imagine themselves as a physically active person which led to increases in physical activity identity four, eight and 12 weeks later.

However, because similar increases in identity were found among control participants, completing physical activity and identity measures may have been all it took to generate small increases in exercise identity.

FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT

Even if you have a vivid imagination, you may need some behavioural proof that you are an exerciser. Fake it until you make it - simply start working out.

Inactive women increased their exercise identity after participating in 16 weeks of exercise. The identity increases occurred independent of how intensely or long the women exercised.

This means that you don't have to run 30 miles a week or break into a sweat to wear your exerciser badge. Some report that walking the dog or simply working physical activity into their daily lives (for example, get off the bus a few stops early) allows them to view

themselves as an exerciser.

Regardless of the exact exercise routine that allows you to call yourself an exerciser, consistency is key. The take home: find a fitness routine that fits your life and then stick to it.

EXERCISE IN A GROUP

Though walking the walk is a way to convince yourself that you are an exerciser, becoming one is actually about more than just exercise.

In my research, people started seeing themselves as exercisers when physical activity crept into other aspects of their lives. So shamelessly wear the gear, even when you aren't exercising. And don't be shy to work exercise into your conversations.

Working out in a group has also been shown build identity and promote behaviour so add other exercisers within your social circle. These efforts may feel contrived but they often happen naturally when you put yourself out there in exercise contexts.

Shakespeare told us ages ago, in Hamlet that "thinking makes it so." So play the part of exerciser and start thinking about the exerciser that you can be and are becoming.

[the writer is Associate Professor, University of Manitoba]

45 Japanese Encephalitis deaths reported in Assam

GUWAHATI, JUL 4 (PTI): Forty-five people have died till July 3 since the outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis in Assam, the National Health Mission said Thursday.

Most of upper Assam districts, including Jorhat, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, and the lower Assam district of Kamrup have been affected by the mosquito-borne disease.

"Assam is undergoing the transmission season for Japanese Encephalitis cases. A total number of 45 Japanese Encephalitis deaths have been reported till July 3, 2019, in the state," the National Health Mission (NHM) said in a statement.

It, however, said the situation in the state is under close watch and all preventive measures are being taken to combat the situation.

Diagnostic services for Japanese Encephalitis with Elisa kits have been made available in all district hospitals and government medical college hospitals, awareness programmes intensified and fogging operations stepped up in areas from where Japanese Encephalitis cases have been reported.



Japanese Encephalitis cases have been reported.

The NHM also said that free transportation is being provided to patients with suspected JE fever through 'Mrintunjoy 108 Ambulances'.

The Assam government is ensuring that treatment and diagnostic cost at medical colleges and district hospitals are borne by the state while a certain number of beds there have been reserved for Japanese Encephalitis patients.

A round-the-clock central control room has been opened to deal with and monitor the situation and all deputy commissioners have been directed to step up surveillance activities.

Health and Family Welfare Commissioner and Secretary Anurag Goel held a meeting through video conference on Wednesday with all the deputy commissioners and principal

secretary of the Autonomous Councils to review the Japanese Encephalitis situation in the state.

He also interacted with officials of the National Vector Borne Control Programme, NHM Assam Mission Director JVN Subramanyam, Director of Health Services Assam Dr R Bhuyan, and other health department officials.

On Monday, Additional Secretary Sanjeev Kumar, who led a

four-member central team to the state, had said July and August it would be a challenge to contain the outbreak of the disease to the minimum in July and August.

The central team, including senior officials from the National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme, had visited the state to take stock of the situation on the instructions of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

TMC opposes Aadhaar legislation

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): The Trinamool Congress Thursday opposed amendments to the Aadhaar law, saying it lacks transparency and strikes at the very heart of individual privacy.

Participating in the debate on The Aadhaar and other Services (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha, Mahua Moitra said the bill speaks of a regulator which will govern various provisions.

She said there are no details of the proposed

regulator in the bill, which makes it opaque. She said the regulator should be integrated in the bill itself.

Referring to the "Aadhaar ecosystem", she sought to know the legal recourse one can take if the ecosystem fails.

"Without a data protection law, it is like putting cart before the horse," she said.

Moitra claimed that Aadhaar was perceived as a system to enable the poor get services, but that now, it has turned

into an "acquisitive" entity.

She also questioned a provision which says that the "authority" will have a right to legal recourse in case of a data breach. She said the legal recourse should lie with the person whose privacy has been breached.

She said most people are not aware of the value of personal data.

To drive home her point, she said many people shared their data to get a Jio sim card which was offering free data.

CCI orders probe against Maruti Suzuki

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): The Competition Commission has ordered a detailed probe against carmaker Maruti Suzuki for alleged resale price maintenance arrangement with dealers.

Generally, resale price maintenance refers to an arrangement between a buyer and seller wherein the resale price is stipulated by the seller.

In a 10-page order, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it is of the consid-

ered opinion that a thorough and detailed investigation is required to be ordered to ascertain the factual position and modulus operandi resorted to Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL).

The allegations prima-facie reveal a fit case for investigation in respect of the alleged resale price maintenance arrangement put in place by MSIL upon its dealers in contravention of competition norms.

"Agreements re-

straining competition are generally made in smoke filled rooms and therefore it is difficult to find formal/ written agreements. It is with this objective that the (Competition) Act has stipulated a wider definition of agreement to catch hold of such anti-competitive conduct.

"Therefore, MSIL's submission that there exists no agreement to control discounts, is devoid of substance and merits rejection," the order said.

Flights veering off runway: DGCA grounds 12 pilots



NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): Aviation regulator DGCA has grounded 12 pilots and served show-cause notices on them after the six recent cases of aircraft veering off runway or taxiway, a senior official said Thursday.

SpiceJet, Air India Express and GoAir have been involved in three, two and one such incidents, respectively, in the past few days, prompting the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to take action against the 12 pilots.

The action come even as the main runway at Mumbai airport remained shut after a SpiceJet plane from Jaipur veered off it while landing amidst heavy rains on Monday night and got stuck in the adjacent grass area.

On June 30, another SpiceJet plane from Bhopal veered off the runway at Surat airport due to

heavy rainfall and wind.

A SpiceJet spokesperson told PTI that the "pilots involved in both incidents -- which happened in Mumbai and Surat -- have been suspended as per the directions of the DGCA". On July 2, another SpiceJet plane veered off its path on the runway while landing at Kolkata airport, damaging four lights. On the same day, an Air India Express flight coming from Dammam had a tail strike while landing at Calicut airport.

Another Air India Express flight veered off the taxiway after landing and got stuck in soft ground at the Mangalore airport on June 30. On the same day, a GoAir flight coming from Bengaluru had a tail strike while landing at Ranchi airport.

The reaction of Air India Express and GoAir to the DGCA action is awaited.

Speaker dissuades Trinamool MP from taking names of TV channel and its editor

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra Thursday tried to raise an issue in the Lok Sabha regarding alleged false reportage and personal attacks on her by a TV news channel and its editor, but was not allowed to do so.

Speaker Om Birla said

he cannot allow names to be taken of any person who is not a member of the House.

During the Zero Hour, Moitra was allowed to speak by Birla when she said she wanted to highlight an important issue through a point of order.

However, as soon as

she took the names of the channel and the editor and tried to read out a statement, the Speaker asked her not to do so.

Immediately, the Speaker asked another MP to speak which forced Moitra to take her seat without completing her statement.

NZealand's Williamson hopes break sparks WC revival



CHESTER-LE-STREET, JUL 3 (AFP): New Zealand captain Kane Williamson hopes an upcoming break provides his side with a chance to revive their faltering World Cup campaign. The Black Caps suffered their third straight defeat of the tournament in a thumping 119-run loss to England at Chester-le-Street on Wednesday. Had they won, it would have been New Zealand and not England who were assured of a place in the semi-finals.

But they were rarely in the hunt and New Zealand, who won five of their first six games in a sequence that included a washout with India, had to accept another defeat following losses to Pakistan and Australia -- the team that beat them in the 2015 final. The consolation for Williamson's men is they are all but certain of a place in the semi-finals given their huge net run-rate advantage over Pakistan. And Williamson, whose team won't play again until next week if they make the last four, believes group form will count for little now that the tournament is heading into the knockout phase.

"If we are fortunate to be in a semi-final, then we do have a little bit of a break," he said. "If you are in a knockout stage where it's a semi-final opportunity, anything can happen. "We know that we haven't put out our best performance yet and we know when we do it

gives us the best chance of beating anybody, without a doubt.

"It is important for us to perhaps have a couple of days away. We sort of have a bit of a break now." New Zealand's chase against England saw them lose their top four inside 17 overs with just 69 runs on the scoreboard. From then on it appeared the Black Caps were involved in damage limitation, even though they were still bowled out for 186 with five overs to spare.

But Williamson was adamant his side had not been trying to manipulate the run-rate. "We were trying to win the game, but we didn't do a very good job of it," he said. "We just needed a couple of big partnerships, certainly from the top order and it wasn't there."

New Zealand were hampered before the start when leading fast bowler Lockie Ferguson, who has taken 17 wickets in seven games this tournament, was ruled out because of tightness in his hamstring. But the 28-year-old should be fit in time for Tuesday's semi-final at Old Trafford. "He's been outstanding throughout this whole tournament and a real point of difference for us," said Williamson. "Did we miss him? Yes. But we'd miss him more if we didn't have him, hopefully, in another game's time. "He should be fine. It's a fairly minor injury, sort of a light hamstringing thing, and he should be okay.

KALYANI, JUL 4 (PTI):

The construction work at AIIMS-Kalyani in West Bengal is still underway, but necessary provisions have been made for comfortable accommodation of the first batch of 50 students, a senior official said.

The first batch will be accommodated on the campus of the medical institute and all essential facilities will be made available to them, Colonel Sree Krishna, the deputy director (administration), AIIMS Kalyani, said.

The counselling process is likely to get over by Thursday and classes are set to commence mid-August, he said.



"As of now, classes will be held at Kalyani Medical College as the institute does not have proper infrastructure.

The faculty members will be following the AIIMS syllabus.

"The subjects that will be taught during the first year are anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, community medicine

and family medicine," the official said.

The hospital is expected to start limited OPD services from November or December, he said.

A source at AIIMS, Kalyani, said construction work was going on in full swing and the institute will be fully functional by 2020.

20-year-old boxer collapses during training session, dies

KOLKATA, JUL 4 (PTI): A 20-year-old woman boxer collapsed and died during a training session in the city's Bhawanipore area, a senior police officer said on Thursday.

Jyothi Pradhan, who had represented Bengal at national tournaments, fell unconscious during practise at Bhawanipur Boxing Association here on Wednesday.

She was rushed to nearby SSKM hospital, where the doctors declared her 'brought dead',

he said.

Pradhan, a resident of Bhukailash Road in Kidderpore area, was pursuing graduation at the city's Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri Law College.

"No foul play has been noticed and the local police haven't received any complaint. However, we are waiting for the post-mortem report to arrive to get a clearer picture on her death. Necessary legal procedure is also on," the officer added.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

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World Cup a triumph for women's football but broken culture cannot be ignored

KELLY LINDSEY
theGuardian

With the Women's World Cup in full swing women's football is starting to get the recognition it deserves. This World Cup is a momentous global celebration of the growth of the women's game but at the same time we should not forget the persistent challenges that continue to undermine women's football and the women and girls involved in the sport.

In particular, a continued and profound culture of abuse, harassment and exploitation in women's football cannot be ignored. It is nothing short of a tragedy that football, which has a unique potential to inspire and empower, is still not a safe sport for women and girls internationally.

As manager of the Afghanistan women's national football team for the last three years, I have witnessed the blatant disregard for the protection of women and girls in football. The experiences of Afghan women in football are both heartbreaking and symptomatic of a culture and a system that has gone unchallenged for far too long.

This broken culture is founded on a lack of accountability within



women's football. If this culture is left unchecked, it can give a green light to the abuse, exploitation and harassment of women and girls. Sadly this is often a hidden problem. Without proper reporting systems players know that the implications of speaking out against staff and officials can be stark. In Afghanistan many of the women who spoke out about abuse are now refugees, forced to rebuild their lives and careers in foreign countries without comprehensive support. In the wake of

death threats and intimidation, these women know they cannot return to their own country and are left with the daily fear of not knowing what might happen to their loved ones back home. The result is that many women and girls are afraid to speak out about their experiences.

Added to this there remains an unwarranted distinction between the women's and men's game. In many clubs, academies and federations around the world women's football is

treated as a "tick the box activity", not an opportunity for development. Associations will do the bare minimum to justify Fifa funding, with little interest or expertise in using that money to grow the women's game. This can have a direct impact on practices on and off the pitch. When staff and officials realise they can neglect women's football and governing bodies are not monitoring their behaviour, a culture of disregard for women and girls can take hold.

Despite the lack of

accountability and often the sheer disregard for the women's game I believe that change is possible. Culture is a human construction and it can be rebuilt. That is why I am supporting AFDP Global's #FearlessFootball campaign to transform radically the global culture of football.

This necessary culture change will be possible only if football's governing bodies approach the women's game with full professionalism. This means refusing to accept lower standards in

the management of the women's game, in every area. This is not just about money. It is about a fundamental shift in mindset and approach. Providing funding is great but, without proper governance and oversight, funding empowers football associations that degrade and abuse the women's game for their own gain.

The #FearlessFootball campaign is calling on football's governing bodies to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to the abuse crisis in wom-

en's football. Crucially the campaign not only highlights the current problems but also offers clear solutions based on total professionalism. The focal point of the campaign is the #FearlessFootball petition, calling for football's governing bodies to put transparent safeguarding protocols into place to stamp out all abuse and mistreatment of women and girls. Football associations need to know that they will be held accountable for their actions and the conduct of their staff.

The future can and

will be so much brighter for the women's game if governing bodies take action to change the culture of football. I look forward to a day where, irrespective of geography or context, families will encourage their daughters to participate in football, knowing that the sport offers outstanding opportunities for physical, mental and personal development. This will not happen if the safety of girls in football is not guaranteed.

Female leaders need to play a key role in rebuilding the culture of the game. According to the best data available, out of 177 Fifa member associations, only 8% of executive committee members are women. Even the governance of the women's game is not in the hands of women. Women need an autonomous voice in the development of the game in order to drive change for the benefit of the women's game.

However, the #FearlessFootball petition is not a women's petition. It is a petition that should be supported by anyone who believes that safety in sport is a human right. Our call to action puts the onus on football's governing bodies to place well-being of athletes at the centre of football culture. The world is watching.

Kashyap, Sourabh enter prequarterfinals of Canada Open
CALGARY, JUL 4 (PTI): Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap and reigning national champion Sourabh Verma progressed to the pre-quarterfinals in a mixed day for India at the USD 75,000 Canada Open Super 100 tournament here.

Kashyap, seeded sixth, defeated France's Lucas Corvee 21-12 21-17, while Sourabh thrashed Canada's B R Sankeerth 21-14 21-11 in another men's singles match.

Kashyap, who had reached the semifinals at India Open this year, will next meet China's Ren Peng Bo, while 26-year-old Sourabh, who had won titles in Russia and the Netherlands last year, faces another Chinese Sun Fei Xiang.

It turned out to be a forgetful day for other Indians in fray as Ajay Jayaram, HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen -- all bowed out of the competition after losing their respective matches.

While Jayaram went down 19-21 17-21 to 2010 Commonwealth Games silver medallist Rajiv Ouseph of England, third seed Prannoy was no match for Koki Watanabe of Japan, losing 16-21 10-21 in 34 minutes and Lakshya was outclassed by China's Weng Hong Yang 7-21 13-21.

The Indian trio will hope to do well at the US Open BWF World Tour Super 300 event to be held from July 9 to 14.

Frank Lampard confirmed as Chelsea manager to succeed Sarri

DOMINIC FIFIELD
theGuardian

Frank Lampard has returned to the club where he played for 13 seasons after he was confirmed as Chelsea manager on Thursday. The club's record goalscorer completed the final formalities at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday evening before being announced as Maurizio Sarri's successor.

Lampard said: "I am immensely proud to be returning to Chelsea as head coach. Everyone knows my love for this club and the history we have shared, however, my sole focus is on the job in hand and preparing for the season ahead. I am here to work hard, bring further success to the club and I cannot wait to get started."

The Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia added: "It gives us great pleasure to welcome Frank back to Chelsea as head coach. Frank possesses fantastic knowledge and understanding of the club and last season, he demonstrated he is one of the most talented young coaches in the game.

"After 13 years with us as a player, where he became a club legend and our record goalscorer, we believe this is the perfect time for him to return and are delighted he has done so. We will do everything we can to ensure he has all the support required to be a huge success."

Lampard was pictured arriving back at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday to sign a three-year deal worth around £4m a season and to conduct interviews with



in-house media before confirmation of his return was finalised. Derby County, whom Lampard took to the Championship play-off final in his solitary campaign in charge, are understood to have received in excess of £4m in compensation for their manager, who will be joined back in south-west London by his assistant, Jody Morris, and fitness coach, Chris Jones.

Lampard said: "I would like to say a special thank you to Mel Morris [Derby's owner and chairman], the players, staff and everyone who is associated with Derby County. It has been a fantastic experience for me, and I feel privileged to have managed such a prestigious club. Most of all, I want to thank the fans who supported me and the team from Borussia Dortmund was agreed in January, to last season's squad and have converted Mateo Kovacic's loan into a perma-

nent move, they lost Eden Hazard to Real Madrid. A number of loanees have returned, however, and Lampard has already expressed an eagerness to tap into the potential of the club's youth-team set-up to bolster his options. His appointment is likely to be swiftly pursued by confirmation that Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Callum Hudson-Odoi have signed new five-year deals at the club.

As well as roles for Morris and Jones, Lampard is expected to promote the highly regarded Joe Edwards, who has been working in the academy and the under-23 setup, and Eddie Newton to his backroom staff. The latter has more recently overseen the progress of the club's skeleton squad who have already reported back for pre-season to Dublin on Friday, with his first game in charge to be Wednesday's friendly against Bohemians at Dalymount Park, before a second fixture against St Patrick's Athletic three days later.

Lampard will take the skeleton squad who have already reported back for pre-season to Dublin on Friday, with his first game in charge to be Wednesday's friendly against Bohemians at Dalymount Park, before a second fixture against St Patrick's Athletic three days later.

A squad further reinforced by first-team players returning after extended summer breaks will then travel to Japan for subsequent games against Kawasaki Frontale and Barcelona before the end of the month. His first Premier League game in charge will be at Manchester United on Sunday 11 August three days before Chelsea, as Europa League winners, compete in the European Super Cup against Liverpool in Istanbul.

Pakistan eye freak result against Bangladesh for improbable semifinal spot



LONDON, JUL 4 (PTI): Their semifinal chances reduced to just a mathematical possibility, former champions Pakistan will need an improbable win over Bangladesh to have a shot at making the semifinals of the World Cup when the two sides clash here on Friday.

Pakistan's resurgence in the World Cup looked eerily close to the 1992 Cup-winning edition before India's loss to England dented their hopes of a semifinal spot and when New Zealand went down to the hosts last night, it was almost over for them.

The road to the knockout stage for Sarfaraz Ahmed and his men is just an improbable mathematical calculation and that too provided Pakistan win the toss and bat first.

If Pakistan lose the toss and are asked to field, their minuscule semi-final hopes will be over even before the first ball is bowled at the Lord's. New Zealand finished their engagements at 11 points from nine matches after their 119-run loss to England but despite the massive defeat, the Kiwis are way ahead in terms of their net run-rate, which is +0.175, compared to Pakistan's -0.792.

Currently placed fifth with nine points from eight matches, Pakistan

face the challenge of beating Bangladesh by 311 runs after posting 350 or by 316 runs after scoring 400, something which is practically impossible.

Following their loss to arch-rivals India, Pakistan staged a remarkable comeback with wins over South Africa, New Zealand and Afghanistan, riding on some impressive performances by Babar Azam and Harris Sohail in the batting department.

Left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi's five-wicket haul against New Zealand was also a big positive as it added firepower to their bowling led by Mohammad Amir.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, will rue their missed chances and would hope to bring some cheer to their fans back home with a solid performance against Pakistan, a team they had defeated in the 1999 edition.

Currently placed seventh, Bangladesh have been impressive in their wins against South Africa, Afghanistan and West Indies.

They have shown the stomach for a fight even in losses and Mashrafe Mortaza and his men will hope for a good outing against Pakistan on Friday.

Bangladesh have been too dependent on star all-rounder Shakib

Al Hasan, who has become the only cricketer to score 500 runs and claim 10 wickets in World Cup history.

Led by Shakib, Bangladesh have consistently crossed the 300-mark this World Cup but it is their bowling which has let them down, especially the lack of form of skipper Mortaza.

Mustafizur Rahman's variations, which fetched him five wickets, and Mohammad Saifuddin's fifty helped them give India a scare in their last match and Bangladesh will hope for a stronger show against Pakistan.

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

B a n g l a d e s h : Mashrafe Mortaza (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Mahmudullah Riyadh, Sabbir Rahaman, Mehidy Hasan Miraj, Mosaddek Hossain, Mohammed Saifuddin, Mustafizur Rahaman, Rubel Hossain, Liton Kumar Das, Abu Jayed, Mohammed Mithun.

Match Starts 3pm (IST).

PUBG LITE Beta Test Service Now Opened to South Asia with Server in India



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, JULY 4, 2019 /PRNEWSWIRE: The Beta Service of PUBG LITE will be opened to the South Asian region on July 4. The game will

be provided from a separate server set up in India especially for users in South Asia. The listed regions will be able to play on the separate server

for a smoother gameplay experience: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

In addition, the Hin-

di language has been included to parts of the game and will continue to be updated during the Beta Test period.

For more information

about PUBG LITE, please visit <https://lite.pubg.com/>.

For the latest updates and events, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/PUBGLITE/>.

Bangladesh PM Hasina holds talks with her Chinese counterpart, signs nine agreements

BEIJING, JUL 4 (PTI): China Thursday accorded a red carpet welcome to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who held wide ranging talks with her Chinese counterpart

Li Keqiang to further consolidate bilateral ties and signed nine agreements.

The nine instruments - five agreements, three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and a document - were signed in different sectors ranging from aid for the Rohingyas and economic and technical cooperation, investment, power, culture and tourism.

Prime Minister Keqiang welcomed the Bangladesh prime minister as she reached the Great Hall. She was accorded a red carpet welcome and a team of armed forces offered her a guard of honour.

The two leaders held talks for half an hour after which the two countries signed the nine agreements.

Under the first agreement titled "Letter of Exchange (LoC) on the Rohingya Refugees Rice Aid", China will provide 2,500 tonnes of rice to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque told Bangladesh's state-run BSS news agency.

Other instruments are in the fields of power grid network, economic and technical cooperation, hydrological information sharing of Yalu Zhangbo/Brahmaputra River and an MoU on cultural exchange and tourism programme.

Hasina is on a three-day visit to China, the first trip to Beijing after her re-election. Hasina is also scheduled to hold talks with President Xi Jinping and other top leaders on improving the bilateral ties and exchange views on issues of mutual interest.

During the bilateral talks, China may press for speeding up of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM)

economic corridor which has failed to take off.

With an estimated USD 31 billion investments, China has emerged as a major investor in Bangladesh - mainly in the infrastructure and energy sectors - raising concerns in India over growing Chinese influence in the region.

The rapid expansion of Chinese investments in Bangladesh were regarded as the second highest by Beijing after the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

China's investments in Bangladesh included the construction of 6-km long bridge across the Padma river, as the Ganga is known in the country, costing about USD 3.7 billion and the USD 2.5 billion power plant at Payra near Dhaka.

Both the CPEC and the BCIM were the components of the Belt And Road Initiative (BRI) which was mooted by President Xi when he came to power in 2013. The BRI aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea route. While the CPEC regarded as the flagship project took off, the BCIM failed to make headway. India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

China lately is making efforts to revive the BCIM.

The 2800-km BCIM corridor proposes to link Kunming in China's Yunnan province with Kolkata, passing through nodes such as Mandalay in Myanmar and Dhaka in Bangladesh before heading to Kolkata

China this month organised the BCIM Forum, an unofficial body of think-tanks from the respective countries at the just concluded China South Asia Business Forum in the Chinese city of Yuxi in Yunnan province.

NY official asks judge for clarity on citizenship question



NEW YORK, JUL 4 (AP): New York state's attorney general asked a judge Wednesday to help resolve conflicting accounts by President Donald Trump and his administration as to whether they still want a citizenship question added to the 2020 census.

Attorney General Letitia James asked U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman for a hearing over the statements after the U.S. Supreme Court last week decided the question can't immediately be added.

James cited a Wednesday Trump tweet in which the president said news reports saying the Department of Commerce was dropping its quest to add the cit-

izenship question were "FAKE!" She also cited a statement by the commerce secretary saying the Census Bureau was printing the questionnaires without the question.

In a court order, the judge said the Justice Department lawyers who defended the case before him last year must respond to James' request for court intervention later Wednesday and include "a statement of Defendants' position and intentions."

Justice Department lawyers did so, repeating what they told a Maryland judge during a hearing earlier in the day.

They said they are considering asking the Supreme Court if there is a way to quickly address

problems the high court identified with the citizenship question in time to get the question on the census after all.

Meanwhile, they added, they are taking no actions that conflict with decisions that Furman and the Supreme Court have made.

Furman and two other judges in California and Maryland have concluded that the question was improperly added to the census last year by the Commerce Department without adequate consideration.

The administration had said the question was being added to aid in enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters' access to the ballot box.

Facebook services back online after worldwide outage

SAN FRANCISCO, JUL 4 (AFP): Facebook said it was "back at 100 per cent" Wednesday evening after an outage on all of its services affected users in various parts of the world. Online monitoring service DownDetector reported earlier the outage began around 1200 GMT and affected Facebook as well as its Instagram and WhatsApp services.

"The issue has since been resolved and we should be back at 100% for everyone," the company tweeted at 0006 GMT Thursday, adding they were sorry for "any inconvenience."

A Facebook spokesperson, also speaking on behalf of Instagram and WhatsApp, explained that a "routine mainte-



nance operation" accidentally triggered a bug that made it difficult for users to upload or send photos and videos, US media reported.

#Facebookdown and #instagramdown were trending on Twitter as users around the world reported these apps were not functioning.

According to DownDetector, thousands of users around the world were reporting outages, with Europe and North America most

impacted. Both individual users as well as businesses and organizations were affected.

"Yes, we are affected by #instagramdown, too," the CIA tweeted during the outage.

"No, we didn't cause it. No, we can't fix yours. Did you try turning it off and back on again?" Earlier this year, an outage lasting as long as 24 hours that hit Facebook services was blamed on a "server configuration change."

IMF approves USD 6 bn loan for Pakistan with tough conditions



BY LALIT K JHA AND SAJJAD HUSSAIN

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, JUL 4 (PTI): The IMF has approved a three-year USD 6 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan with tough conditions to address its balance of payment crisis and help the country's ailing economy return to "sustainable growth."

Pakistan approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in August 2018 for a bailout package after the Imran Khan government took over.

"IMF Executive Board approved today a three-year USD 6 billion loan to support #Pakistan's economic plan, which aims to return sustainable growth to the country's economy and improve the standards of living," IMF spokesperson Gerry Rice tweeted on Wednesday.

The USD 6 billion financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion to help Pakistan address its balance of payment crisis.

"The remaining amount will be phased over the duration of the programme, subject to four quarterly reviews and four semi-annual reviews," the IMF said in a statement, indicating that Pakistan needs to take tough austerity measures in the coming three years.

The IMF Executive Board "approved a 39-month extended arrangement" under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan for USD 6 billion to support its economic reform pro-

gramme, it said.

"The EFF-supported programme will help Pakistan to reduce economic vulnerabilities and generate sustainable and balanced growth focusing on: a decisive fiscal consolidation to reduce public debt and build resilience while expanding social spending," the statement said.

It will also support a flexible, market-determined exchange rate to restore competitiveness and rebuild official reserves; to eliminate quasi-fiscal losses in the energy sector; and to strengthen institutions and enhance transparency, the statement added.

Meanwhile, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Advisor to Pakistan prime minister on Finance, in Islamabad said the IMF's move is a testimony of the government's resolve to ensure financial discipline and sound economic management in the country.

In a tweet, he said the IMF granted the loan to support Pakistan's economic reform programme.

"Our programme supports broad based growth by reducing imbalances in the economy. Social spending has been strengthened to completely protect vulnerable segments," he said.

A structural reform agenda, which includes improving public finances and reducing public debt through revenue reforms, is the key part of the programme, Shaikh added.

Pakistan last month reached an agreement with the IMF on the bail-

out package after marathon talks.

Prime Minister Khan changed the entire economic team including the finance minister, chief of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and head of Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) under criticism for failure to improve the economy.

The latest deal is the 22nd bailout package since Pakistan became member of the IMF in 1950.

Pakistan has so far received billions in financial aid packages from friendly countries like China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE during the current fiscal year.

However, mounting economic headwinds forced the Pakistan government to turn to the IMF.

Last month, Pakistan secured a bailout package of USD 3 billion from oil-rich Qatar.

Earlier, China gave USD 4.6 billion in shape of deposits and commercial loans and Saudi Arabia provided USD 3 billion cash deposit and USD 3.2 billion oil facilities on deferred payments. The United Arab Emirates also provided USD 2 billion cash deposit.

With foreign exchange reserves shrinking to only USD 7.3 billion, less than the equivalent of two months' worth of imports, and the budget deficit set to top seven per cent of gross domestic product this year, Pakistan faces tough economic medicine to tackle problems that have been years in the making.



Nishad is the hero, Ayan the protagonist in 'Article 15': Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub

BY BEDIKA

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI): Films such as "Article 15" are made rarely, says Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub whose Nishad is the beating heart of the Anubhav Sinha's directorial despite only a few scenes.

Ayyub, who had the option of choosing from three or four different roles in the film that deals with caste conflict, said he picked the character of activist Nishad, the conscience keeper of the story and an amalgamation of several real life people who have fought or are fighting the system.

Told from the perspective of police officer Ayan Ranjan (Ayushmann Khurrana), "Article 15" is a sharp take on caste divisions in India. The story is loosely based on a real-life incident and told through the gang-rape and murder of two village girls.

"I'm quite aware about sociopolitical issues and as an actor, I'm involved with these topics. I have also read a lot about the caste system and have very strong views about it. This is why it was so satisfying to play this character," Ayyub told PTI.

"It is big on Anubhav sir's part that he gave me the option to choose the character from three-four other roles. I chose Nishad as I felt I would do justice to this role. I felt if I miss this character, I will not get another chance to play someone like him in the next 10 years. Such films are made so rarely in India," he added.

The 35-year-old, who has been seen in films such as "Raees" and "Ranjhanaa", said Nishad's short presence in the film is intentional.

It makes the audience miss him and question why he is not there in the story. This, he said, can also be a metaphor for a caste dynamic in which people belonging to a certain group remain invisible.

"The idea was Nishad should come across as a protagonist though he does not have too many scenes. But that is how our society is. Real people who are working on the ground level never come to the limelight... The idea was that he should be in the film for only a short

while so that people miss him," he said.

This disadvantage also plays into the careers and the romance arcs of the two characters, Ayan and Nishad, Ayyub pointed out. "There are two couples in the film, one is Ayan and Aditi, and the other Nishad and Gaura. You can see the difference in how they behave as a cou-

the intellect and the brightness of the people who are not getting their due, who are in a fight because of the place or the caste they are born in."

Ayyub said he also wanted people to understand how this fight has been imposed on Nishad.

"I have read reviews asking for a



STREET STYLE! The actress, Marion Cotillard looks fashionable while attending the Chanel Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2019 2020 Show in Paris.

Inspired by Jason Statham, Akshay pulls off #BottleCapChallenge



MUMBAI, JUL 3 (PTI): Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar has tried his "kick" at the the #BottleCapChallenge.

The trend, which went viral after Hollywood action star Jason Statham's flawless execution, caught the eye of Akshay, who is known as India's very own action icon.

#BottleCapChallenge entails a performer to uncup a bottle with a back-spin kick, not their hands. Akshay posted a slow-motion video of him successfully pulling off the stunt on Twitter on Wednesday. The 51-year-old actor called upon others to also try the trick as well.

"#BottleCapChallenge Inspired by my action idol @JasonStatham, I will repost/retweet the Best I see, come on Guys and Girls get your Bottle out and your Legs in the Air, Let's Do This #FitIndia #WednesdayMotivation," Akshay wrote alongside the video.

Statham was challenged by American singer John Mayer who had successfully pulled off the trick. A video proof of the same was shared by the "Clarity" hitmaker on Instagram. "First @erlson.acr did it. Then @bleessedmma followed, and challenged me. I now challenge @jasonstatham. #bottlecapchallenge," Mayer wrote in the caption.

Statham accepted the singer's dare and shared a video on the social media platform in which he perfectly performs the trick. He may not have started the trend but it was "Hobbs & Shaw" actor video that went viral on social media.

"#bottlecapchallenge #challengeaccepted @erlson.acr. This thing landed on my head from @johnmayer but will quickly go to a couple of fellas we've seen do push ups badly," the actor wrote.

Hoping to recreate 'Raazi' magic with Sam Manekshaw biopic: Bhavani Iyer

MUMBAI, JUL 4 (PTI) Writer Bhavani Iyer is thrilled to reunite with filmmaker Meghna Gulzar and actor Vicky Kaushal for the biopic on 1971 war hero Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw and hopes the film would be as remarkable as the trio's "Raazi".

In "Sam", Vicky will be seen playing Manekshaw, who was the chief of Indian Army in 1971 when India fought the Bangladesh Liberation War with Pakistan.

Asked if the audience would see a repeat of "Raazi" magic with their combination, Bhavani told PTI, "I am hoping that would happen. I couldn't be happier with the Sam we have got in Vicky. He is wonderful and such a brilliant actor."

The writer, who has penned critically-acclaimed films like "Lootera", "Black" and the recent web series "Kaafir", said the challenge with the biographical drama was to find the best story from never-ending research material.

"Writing 'Sam' was quite an interesting and challenging process because we had a mountain of research, worth 7,000 pages. We had to find a story from within that, with an engaging beginning-middle-end which is not a chronicle.

"Most biopics tend to be a chronicle of the person's life -

when he was born, then what happened - it's all interesting to know because you are fascinated by the character. The temptation is to incorporate everything but what happens is your story gets diluted," she said. Bhavani said the toughest part was to narrow down the material.

"And not get tempted and say - if this gets left out, it's ok but whatever we tell, needs to serve the purpose of the larger story. Once we arrived at that, it was breezy."

She said she finished the script, with dialogues penned by "Badhaai Ho" writer Shantanu Srivastava, in three months.

"We worked on it in a very democratic, unified way. It is probably the first time I've done this. I have only worked (on the script) with the director earlier. Shantanu was a part of the process and it worked out wonderfully because Meghna drove it very beautifully. "As a writer, I am not easy to work with because I know the story in my head, so until I put it down, I cannot communicate and tell you that what you are suggesting doesn't work. But Meghna knows that about me and the entire process was magical," she added.

Ronnie Screwvala's banner RSVP is producing "Sam".

DEAR READERS,
IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT 9832556698 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

ARIES: Today's solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer expands your concept of home and family. Can you find refuge in the empowering support of your closest friends? A chosen family CAN be like blood. Does the local coffee shop feel more comforting than your own apartment? If so, this lunar liftoff could spur you into redecorating mode.

TAURUS: Stick to nearby pastures, Bull! Today's revelatory solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer supercharges your third house of friendship and local affairs. Why schlep out to some far-flung locale when there's more than enough fun to be had in your own zip code? Invite a neighbor or potential BFF over for mimosas and a walking tour of your 'hood.

GEMINI: Bring on the wellness renaissance! Today, a solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer rocks your sixth house of healing and detoxification. You've been hella busy, Aquarius, but skipping workouts and grabbing junk food on the run hasn't done much to fuel your productivity. Start

setting up new systems that will lead to a more balanced existence.

CANCER: Ask, believe, receive. Today, the soulful moon unites with intuitive Neptune in Pisces and your broad-minded ninth house. This is the day to imagine what you want, because you can magnetize your dreams to you through creative visualization. The ninth house is all about expansion, so don't just aim for the "safe," low-hanging fruit. Go bigger, Cancer! Feeling out of touch with your power to manifest? Try writing up a gratitude list. When you recall all the things you're thankful for, you'll begin to attract more abundance.

LEO: YOU SAY that you want happiness, love and freedom, but do you actually believe that your desires are possible, Leo? Today's moon-Neptune conjunction in your mystical eighth house encourages you to examine your own limiting beliefs. Since you may need tangible proof to REALLY change your mind, hunt for people who are living the life you want for yourself.

VIRGO: Relationships can be hard work, we know, we know. But they can also be a haven from stress and struggle so stop telling yourself that you don't need people. Today, the moon and compassionate Neptune align in Pisces and your partnership house. The tranquilizing effect can be beneficial to your bonds with the ones you matter most. Soften your stance with your partner, and be gentler in your interactions with close friends.

LIBRA: Arm candy can be fun to play with, but you need more than empty calories to satisfy your romantic appetite. On Saturday, reserve your final rose for someone with style AND substance. It's a lot easier to teach someone the finer points of fashion than it is to imbue them with a great character. With the right raw materials—a caring heart, a sense of integrity, compatible interests—you'll have more than enough to work with.

SCORPIO: Still musing over the weekend's romantic escapades? Don't rush to "back to business" mode. Today, the moon and quixotic Neptune embrace in your

fifth house of passion, adding a sensual spin to your agenda. An attraction could spark, or you could be feeling especially amorous. Nobody to sidle up to (yet)? Get glamorous for yourself, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS: Home is where your heart is today, as the moon conjoins with sensual Neptune in your domestic fourth house. If you must trek into the office, bring the cozy vibes with you. Keep an open-door policy so coworkers can plop down and share tales of their weekends. (That expense report can wait).

CAPRICORN: Power to your partnerships, Capricorn! Today's solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer and your relationship zone could bring an unexpected collaboration to life. Your best duos will become even MORE dynamic while unhealthy alliances could suddenly go poof! Searching for a sidekick? Instead of a clone, consider an attractive and understanding "opposite" who complements your natural gifts. If you've already found your one-and-only, use today to plot out the next big-picture mission you want to achieve as a pair. Just

make sure you leave room for spontaneity and surprises—a gift eclipses bring.

AQUARIUS: Bring more intimacy to your exchanges Saturday and don't be afraid to bare your soul. Thanks to a cozy alignment between the moon and Venus, conversations could quickly accelerate from weather talk to tales from your recent vacation and latest dating escapades. Don't just entertain; investigate! People will be warmed by your interest in what's bubbling below the surface in their lives. Plan for a languid movie night or a dinner date with a favorite plus-one.

PISCES: Is a love story brewing, Pisces... or perhaps reaching a new climax? As a solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer heats up your fifth house of innovation and love, passion could be percolating in unexpected places. If you're single, throw any preconceived notions about your "type" out the window. This lunar lift could recalibrate your romantic GPS. Coupled up? Bring some fresh moves (and new toys) into the bedroom. Be bold with your pillow talk, whether the topic is blindfolding each other or making babies.