



**DONE EVERYTHING #METOO
MOVEMENT WOULD WANT TO
ACHIEVE: WOODY ALLEN**
pg 08

**I WROTE A BOOK ABOUT EMAIL –
AND FOUND MYSELF PINING FOR
THE DAYS OF LETTER-WRITING**

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**ROBERT DOWNEY JR'S
INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT
GETS HACKED**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim Police advisory against mischievous messages painting strangers as child-lifters

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

Spurred to the people not to pay heed to the fear-mongering messages being spread on social media claiming that child-lifters were on the prowl in Sikkim trying to prey on children for organ harvesting. This noxious fake news, it may be recalled, has already led to a string of mob lynchings in the country.

DIG [Range], Sikkim Police, ST Bhutia, today appealed to the people

not to pay heed to such messages which he reassured were unfounded. Such messages, it may be mentioned here, are being widely shared on various social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook and others.

These mischievous messages, which have already caused much havoc in parts of North India, have also found their way to Sikkim and the neighbouring region and only recently, had led to a mob attack on strangers in Darjeeling.

In Sikkim as well,

there appear to have been incidents of panic being created in some rural areas after such messages started circulating there.

In all these cases, investigations have established that there has been no basis to the information being circulated.

The DIG-Range also stressed that there have been no cases of kidnapping reported in Sikkim and that there was no reason to believe that any such gang was operating here.

He requested everyone to stay vigilant against such unsavory fear-mongering and contact the police if they notice anything suspicious instead of getting influenced by agent provocateurs into taking the law into their own hands after being instigated by such fake news.

The Police Department, DIG Bhutia said, was working in close coordination with all the four SPs in the districts, SDMs, BDOs and local panchayat to generate awareness against the

spreading of such false news. Officers have also been directed to keep a close watch against attempts to spread panic.

He has also advised everyone to act responsibly and not spread such false news and contact the police for clarifications instead.

The irresponsible and casual misinformation by some irresponsible social media admins has already caused much trauma in the country and it is best if Sikkim does not allow the hysteria to spread here.

Underwhelmed with SKM Govt's 100 days, HSP willing to wait and watch for a year



**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

The first 100 days of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Government have been underwhelming, Hamro Sikkim Party commented today with its spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari, stating that promises made by SKM in its election manifesto, including those it had announced to deliver within 100 days remain unfulfilled.

HSP is however not writing off the SKM Government just yet. "Our party's stand is that it is a new government and it has come to power after removing a government which had been in office for 25 years. We want the new government to take one year, but comply to

promises as mentioned in the manifesto," he said. HSP has also called upon the people to give the SKM Government time to deliver on its promises.

"We need to be practical and should give some time to SKM to fulfil its promises and if the government fails to fulfil promises it had committed to complete in 100 days within one year, then we will take up this issue seriously," Mr Adhikari said.

He stated that SKM should prove its slogan of "Change" with work and added that HSP would extend full support to the state government in the interest of the people.

On the announcement of SKM on old settlers of Sikkim at its recent CEC

meeting, HSP publicity secretary, Sonam Sherpa stated that HSP has been speaking in the interest of old settlers since the beginning hence it welcomed the decision of providing different rights and privileges to them.

However, he added, before providing rights to them it was very important to make a proper list of the 400 families of old settlers of the State and make it public.

HSP spokesperson, Neeraj Adhikari, in turn, pointed out that SKM had announced regularisation of all adhoc employees and an end to adhoc appointments. What it delivered instead was confusion over adhoc salaries and recently also appointed Assistant Lecturers on adhoc basis.

Unnao case: Court issues directions to set up temporary court at AIIMS from Sep 11

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): A Delhi court on Saturday issued a slew of directions for holding 'in-camera' proceedings at AIIMS here for recording the statement of the Unnao rape survivor from September 11 in the case of alleged sexual assault by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sen-gar in 2017.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma gave the directions for setting up a temporary court at the Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre, AIIMS, where the woman is presently admitted following an accident on July 28, after the high court gave him permission on Friday.

'In-camera' proceedings are not open to the public and the press.

The court said that there shall be no audio or video recording of the deposition and the requested the the Medical Superintendent (MS) to ensure that the CCTV cameras installed inside

turn to pg02

PNGites celebrate Teachers' Day at alma mater



GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [IPR]: Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior Secondary School, in collaboration with PNGite Alumni Association, celebrated Teachers' Day and felicitation programme at the school today.

The programme had Keepu Lepcha as chief guest accompanied by Alumni president, Eli Mit Rai, retired teachers of PNGS, members of the alumni association, students and others associated with the institution.

IPR Secretary, Namrata Thapa, herself an alumni of the school, spoke briefly on the objective of the Alumni Association, stressing that it was to encourage and foster the well being of the school and everyone associated with it.

She further expressed her pleasure at being part of this special event given that this was for the first time that the Alumni Association was celebrating Teacher's Day with the School.

On the occasion, seven senior retired teachers were felicitated by the Alumni Association: Passang Lhamu Ethenpa (Passang Guruama), Nagrimith Karthak (NM Guruama), Shree Kumari Rai (Bulu Guruama), Apey Phumusangma (Apey Guruama), Jayawanti Lingdong (Jay Guruama), Anita Bassnett (Figu Guruama) and Chandra Kumari Rai (Liza Guruama).

PNGS Principa, Jem Pandi Targain, was also felicitated by the associ-

ation followed by felicitation of students who excelled in academics and the group of girls and their mentor, Ivan D Lepcha, who bagged the second position at Robo-tex Asia held in China.

Earlier, Principal Ms Targain, while welcoming the gathering, appreciated the Alumni Association for its tireless efforts towards helping the school and for its unstinting and spontaneous support. "I hope we continue to grow together with Love, Service and Joy," she said.

The programme also included a Tae-Kwon-Do demonstration, band performance, action songs, skit and cultural show performed by the students.

check out an experiment with some podcasting from Sikkim.

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Praise, encouragement for ISRO from President, PM, Oppn leaders

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): Words of praise and encouragement poured in for ISRO from leaders across the political spectrum as they rallied around the space agency following the Chandrayaan-2 setback, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing confidence that a "new dawn and brighter tomorrow" awaits it after this learning experience.

President Ram Nath Kovind said the country is proud of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which, he added, has shown exemplary commitment and courage.

While Modi, who had flown to Bengaluru to watch the planned touchdown of the Vikram lander, addressed scientists for nearly 25 minutes as he sought to lift their morale with a message of optimism, solidarity and hope, other leaders, including Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, joined the prime minister in lauding them and asking them not to be disheartened.

Hailing the team of scientists and researchers at the ISRO, Gandhi said the mission had laid the foundation for achieving greater feats and the entire country awaits in anticipation for traversing the next frontier of space.

"We owe a great debt to ISRO and the brilliant men and women who staff it," she said. "Their hard work and dedication has earned India a place in the league of space-faring nations and have inspired generations to reach for the stars."

It is a testament to their remarkable ability, goodwill and unique place in the heart of every Indian that the nation followed the journey of Chandrayaan-2 at every step, no matter the hour, the Congress president said.

"No success is final and every obstacle is a stepping stone to future success. Chandrayaan-2 has laid the foundation for achieving greater feats and the entire country awaits in anticipation for traversing the next frontier of space,"

she said in a statement.

Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah said ISRO's achievement in getting Chandrayaan-2 so far has made every Indian proud and the country stands with its committed and hard working scientists.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh quoted a line of a Hindi poetry to state that "those who try never lose".

ISRO's mission to reach the moon is bound to succeed, he said, adding that the courage and commitment of scientists will ultimately make it successful.

In a gesture that in many ways defined the mood of the moment, Modi hugged an emotional K Sivan, the ISRO chief, and was seen consoling him during their meeting in the morning after it became clear that the mission had suffered a setback.

ISRO's plan to soft-land Chandrayaan-2's Vikram module on the

turn to pg02

a collaborative effort of

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Oil companies resume fuel supply to Air India at 6 airports

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI SEP 7 (PTI): State-owned oil marketing companies Saturday resumed fuel supplies to the loss-making Air India at six airports, weeks after it was suspended for mounting dues.

The fuel supply was restored following government-mediated talks earlier this week between the parties under which the airline has "committed" to pay Rs 100 crore per month to clear the outstanding dues of Rs 4,300 crore, official sources said.

"Supplies to Air India resumed from Saturday evening," an OMC spokesperson said without divulging details.

The spokesperson, however, said Air India has agreed to payment terms for future supplies.

Last month, IndianOil along with Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum had stopped supplies to the state-run carrier in Pune, Vizag, Cochin, Patna, Ranchi and Mohali citing mounting dues.

Meanwhile, an Air India official said the fuel supplies were restored after it agreed to pay the oil firms Rs 100 crore per month to clear the dues.

Though Air India has been on a cash-and-carry mode since April, and has been paying Rs 18 crore daily towards fuel bills, OMCs sought clearance of all dues at the earliest.

IOC provides 90-day credit to Air India without collaterals, but the dues have been mounting, and it must be over 240 days now.

"Oil marketing companies wanted Air India to clear all dues at the earliest. But the airline has agreed to pay them Rs 100 crore per month. This will be in addition to the amount it is paying to OMCs against the daily billing," said an airline official.

Priyanka Gandhi slams govt over plans for '100 days celebration'

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday attacked the government over its plans to mark 100 days in office, saying sectors such as automobile, transport and mining will see it as a celebration of their "ruin".

She made the remarks on Twitter, sharing a media report highlighting the problems being faced by the auto industry.

"The BJP government is going to celebrate 100 days in office. But the auto sector, transport sector, mining sector will look at it as a celebration of their ruin," the Congress general secretary tweeted in Hindi.

From every sector, news of closing down of plants and job losses is coming, she said.

Meanwhile, the Congress's official Twitter handle shared another media report about Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur being heckled at an auto industry event on Friday after he asked the industry players why sales had not picked up despite the measures taken by the government.

SFA to complain to AIFF against over-age players at U-14 tourney

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

Sikkim Football Association has decided to lodge a complaint with All India Football Federation [AIFF] with regard to the age of players in teams against which the Sikkim squad squared off recently in the qualifying round of Sub Junior National Football Championship.

The decision was taken during an emergency meeting of SFA held here at the Football House this evening.

The Sikkim U-14 team was drubbed by Odisha 0-16 and 01-22 by SAI. The team management insists that the opponents were packed with clearly above 14 year olds.

An SFA press release issued by its president, Menla Ethenpa, informs that at the emergency meeting, SFA members deliberated on the dismal performance of the State's U-14 football team at the Sub-junior National Football



Championship held at Bokaro, Jharkhand.

"A post mortem was done of the basis of the report obtained telephonically from the Coach and the Manager of the squad. As per the

report, it was revealed that Sikkim team was very young, to be precise U-14 whereas it was found that the players of the opponent's team were much older than our boys," it is informed.

SFA has also issued a

photograph of Sikkim's U-14 boys playing at Bokaro to support its argument.

The release mentions that the meeting also decided to lodge a complaint with AIFF as the responsibility to check the age lies with them.

It is added that despite the elements and unfair setting, the Sikkim boys played their game well as per their age.

"Though Sikkim's team did not qualify to play in the next round, four of our boys were short-listed for the national camp under the prescribed age group," the release adds.

Speaking over the phone, former Indian football team skipper, Bhaichung Bhutia, who also attended the meeting, mentioned that Sikkim's U-14 squad was made up of genuinely U-14 players and photographs received from the championship shows the opposing team members to be quite older.

He added that the meeting decided that SFA would register its protest to AIFF through a letter. He mentioned that SFA has also called a meeting on Sunday with all football clubs to take their suggestions and discuss matters related to the upcoming Santosh Trophy.

Guv and CM meet NCBC Chairperson



SILIGURI, 07 SEPT [IPR]: Governor Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], met Bhagwan Lal Sahni, Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes at Bagdogra Airport today.

The Governor and the Chief Minister talked about the various issues with NCBC Chairperson

with regards to development of backward communities of Sikkim.

The Chief Minister stated that it was one of the priorities of the state government to work more for their progress.

The NCBC Chairperson, in turn, expressed his thankfulness and stated his desire to visit Sikkim in the near fu-

ture. He also assured to extend all possible support from the Commission to the State which would be conducive for its development.

Both, the Governor and the Chief Minister, are on their way to Guwahati to attend the North East Council meeting scheduled to be held there on 09 Sept.

Warm welcome for National Awardee Teacher of Rangpo School

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

Officials and staff of Duga BAC under Education Department organised a welcome program today at Rangpo for National Awardee Teacher, Dr Hannah Yonzan [Principal Rangpo Senior Secondary School].

Dr Yonzan received the award at New Delhi during the National Teacher Award ceremony, a press release informs.

Education Department officials, Sagar Nirola, B K Gazmer, O P Nirola along with school heads and teachers from different schools in-



cluding Rangpo Senior Secondary School were present on the day.

In her address, Dr Yonzan dedicated this award to the entire society, school teachers, students,

members of school managing committee, industries, department education and family members.

BDO Duga, I B Chettri was also present in the welcome program

Assam doctor's killing: probe panel asked to submit report within a month

GUWAHATI, SEP 7 (PTI): Assam government has asked the Shyam Jagannathan committee probing the killing of an elderly doctor by a mob to submit its report within a month, an official release said on Saturday.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had on Wednesday ordered Jagannathan, commissioner and secretary, finance, to inquire into the killing of 73-year-

old Dr Deven Dutta at a tea garden in Jorhat.

The one-man committee has been asked to fix the responsibility for the lapses on the part of any authority and suggest measures to be adopted to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future, the release said.

Assam government has also decided to set up a fast track court to try the cases involving Dut-

ta's killing.

Dutta had succumbed to his injuries after being assaulted by a mob at Teok Tea Estate following the death of a garden worker on August 31.

Doctors in Assam had observed a 24-hour strike on Tuesday to protest against the killing of Dutta, who was serving the tea estate hospital without remuneration after his retirement.

New SMC formed at Majhitar School

SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 07 SEPT:

A new School Managing Committee was formed at Government Senior Secondary School, Majhitar, here today.

The new SMC was formalised at a coordination meeting with teachers, guardians and residents, chaired by Rangpo

Nagar Panchayat president, Maya Cintury, and also attended by school head, Tshering T Bhutia, a press release informs.

Also today, retired SSB lance naik, Dhurba Chettri, was felicitated for helping the school squad prepare for Independence Day march past.

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Praise, encouragement...

lunar surface did not go as per script in the early hours of Saturday, with the lander losing communication with ground stations during its final descent.

Modi said he is with ISRO and so is the nation.

"We came very close but we need to cover more ground in the times to come. Learning from today will make us stronger and better. The nation is proud of our space programme and scientists. The best is yet to come in our space programme. There are new frontiers to discover and new places to go. India is with you," he said.

"Effort was worth it and so was the journey. It will make us stronger and better. There will be a new dawn and better tomorrow... I am with you, nation is with you," the prime minister said.

Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan said what the scientists have achieved is commendable, adding that ups and downs are part of life.

He also praised Modi for his support to the ISRO and consolation for its chief, saying this is what a "true leader" does. "People are confident that our scientists will continue with their journey and achieve their goal."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lauded ISRO scientists for their "incredible work" and said they have laid foundation for more path-breaking and ambitious space missions in future.

"Your passion & dedication is an inspiration to every Indian. Your work is not in vain. It has laid the foundation for many more path breaking & ambitious Indian space missions," he tweeted.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged scientists to not lose heart. "We are proud of our scientists. They have created history. No need to lose heart. Our scientists have done a great job. Jai Hind!" he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar praised ISRO's work as inspiring and said Modi had spoken for all of them. "Confident you will succeed," he said.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury expressed confidence that the next steps will be "more satisfying".

"The history of our scientific milestones has shown us how the fight and struggle has been continuous. Bravo that ISRO and our scientists got us so far," he tweeted.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the entire nation is proud of the scientists.

"We're immensely proud of our scientists. They've been a source of perennial inspiration for all of us with their vision, commitment & tenacity," the UP CM's Office tweeted.

"ISRO Chairman has given updates on Chandrayaan-2. I am certain we shall continue to do well in our space program," it added.

Unnao case...

the seminar hall remained switched off during the proceedings there. It also asked authorities to ensure that the woman does not come face to face with the accused.

"The recording of the testimony of the survivor shall commence with effect from Wednesday, that is September 11 from 10:15 am onwards and shall continue on a day-to-day basis till such time it is concluded. The Senior Public Prosecutor for the CBI and counsel for the complainant and defence are impressed upon to reach the venue on 1st floor, seminar hall, Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi by 10 am," the court said.

The woman was allegedly kidnapped and raped by Sengar in conspiracy with co-accused Shashi Singh in 2017, when she was a minor.

The court, in its Saturday order, directed the MS, Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre, AIIMS, to depute a well experienced nursing officer who will remain in the seminar hall to look after the rape survivor throughout the proceedings and would be in regular touch with the attending doctors for her medication as well as to apprise them about her medical condition.

"It is further directed that the MS and or the doctors attending her shall appear every morning on the day of the deposition in the seminar hall at 10 am and make a statement certifying the medical condition of the woman," it said.

The court further said that there shall be no audio, video recording of the deposition and the requested the MS to ensure that the CCTV cameras installed inside the seminar hall remained switched off.

"The survivor shall be brought on a stretcher/trolley and shall be stationed at the right side of the dais in the seminar hall so that she faces the court and not the counsel for the parties. The proceedings shall be 'In Camera' and no other public person shall be allowed to enter into the seminar hall/court without permission of this court," it said.

The court also directed the Jail Superintendent of Tihar prison to make special arrangements to bring both the accused at the venue by 10 am.

It instructed the management of the Trauma Centre to place a stand with curtains to ensure that ensure that the woman shall not come face to face in contact with the accused as well as to facilitate the accused to be seated in the court, hear and observe the proceedings.

The court directed the CBI to ensure adequate security arrangement at the lobby of the seminar hall.

It also instructed the chairman of the computer committee at Tis Hazari District Court to make necessary arrangements for the computers and systems required for the deposition inside the seminar hall.

The court said a technician from the computer branch should be deputed from Wednesday at the temporary court in the hospital till the testimony of the rape survivor concludes.

It also mentioned in its order that the counsel for the complainant should ensure that there is not more than one associate inside the court, whereas each of the defence counsel shall not have more than two associates with them and that they need not be present in the robes.

The rape survivor was air-lifted from a Lucknow hospital to Delhi on the orders of the Supreme Court.

Special judge Dharmesh Sharma, who is holding trial in the cases related to the Unnao incident, had recently sought permission from the high court seeking permission to hold in-camera proceedings at AIIMS for recording of the statement of the woman after doctors said it was "not advisable" to bring her to the court premises.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Racheal Pegha Limboo daughter of Lt. K.D. Peghu(father) & Lt. U.M. Pegha(mother) of Upper Chumlok, Vok, South Sikkim has lost my Mark-sheet & Certificate issued from Carmel Teachers Training Institute, Pakyong, East Sikkim. Contact: 9609246366.

ANTHYESTI KRIYA

The anthyesthi Kriya of Late Hemlata Basnett who left for her heavenly abode falls on 7th of September 2019 at Gom, South Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering our prayers for the departed soul on 7.09.2019 at Gom, South Sikkim.



Family Members

Sankar Das Rai (Husband), Roshan Rai (son) & Rushma Rai (daughter)
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Kumar Sporting beats SSA 0-1

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

Kumar Sporting Football Club outplayed State Sports Academy by a solitary goal at the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim League 2019 here at Paljor Stadium on Saturday.

The contesting first half of the match ended in a goalless draw.

Both teams played neck-to-neck again in the second half but could not find the net and the match appeared to ending without any goals when the referee awarded a penalty to Kumar Sporting in the 85th minute.

Mayal Lepcha converted the spot kick into the winning goal for Kumar Sporting.

Venezuela's Rojas leaps to second-longest triple jump of all time

MADRID, SEPT 7 (AFP): Reigning world champion Yulimar Rojas soared to the second longest triple jump of all-time by managing 15.41 metres at the Andujar athletics meeting. The Venezuelan was just nine centimetres short of the long-standing women's world record of 15.50m set by Ukrainian Inessa Kravets in Gothenburg in 1995.

Her effort is also the South American record and 30cm longer than her previous personal best of 15.11m set at the Pan-American Games in Lima last month, when she won gold.

Rojas' rivals, including Colombian star Caterine Ibarguen, will now be aware of the scale of the task facing them in the world championships in Doha which start later this month. It was also a strong comeback for the 23-year-old after her shock loss in the Diamond League last week in Zurich when she finished second to Jamaican Shanieka Ricketts.

SKM lashes out against Nawin Kiran, accuses him of desperate politics

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today lashed out viciously against Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, for comments he made at a press conference yesterday on the SKM government's performance in the first 100 days in office. SKM leaders stressed that the language used by Mr Pradhan exposed the politically-motivated roots of his statement.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, questioned the ethics of Mr Pradhan issuing such political statements from the platform of a social organization that SSC claims to be.

He argued that Mr Pradhan was facing an

identity crisis and resorting to politics to find relevance. He advised Mr Pradhan to take first try and take all the issues he has raised to their logical end.

On the allegation that the SKM government has spoiled the work culture in government offices, Mr Khaling countered that the allegation was superficial and without basis. He even insinuated that Mr Pradhan was reading off a script prepared by someone else and said that such shallowness was expected when mouthing someone else's statements.

On Mr Pradhan's comment that the SKM spokesperson had announced that SKM would leave the chair if it did not provide 30,000 jobs within 100 days of being



government, Mr Khaling said that the SSC vice convenor was trying to mislead the people by referring to only a portion of his statement from an interview given in 2018 and trying to show it as something said near the elections.

He explained that

his comment was in response to an allegation leveled by the then CM that SKM was misleading people by claiming to provide jobs to 30,000 youth if voted into office.

"Countering his statement, I had challenged him to give a chance to

SKM to run the government and if we did not provide 30,000 jobs within 100 days then would leave the chair on the 101st day," he said.

Mr Khaling further contended that the former CM who had said that it was impossible

to provide jobs to the unemployed in 2018 had provided 20,000 jobs under the One Family One Job scheme near the elections due to SKM pressure.

SKM, thus, he said should be credited for having made this possible.

Similarly, SKM Nari Shakti general secretary, Pavitra Bhandari, also lashed out at Mr Pradhan for his comment that the SKM government has hurt the work culture at government offices.

On the same, she countered that the SKM government has instead been trying to establish a better work culture with the SKM president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Goday], leading the way by working tirelessly and not having taken a single day off since he took of-

fice. She added that the CM was very accessible to the people.

Ms Bhandari also took up Mr Pradhan on his comment that the SKM government was declaring too many holidays and said that these comments were in poor taste.

SKM social media general secretary, Navraj Gurung, suggested that Mr Pradhan try positive criticism with solutions in the interest of the people of Sikkim. Such illogical and irrelevant statements just instigate people, he added.

He added that Sikkim will see the fruits of seeds sown by SKM in these 100 days in the near future. He further suggested Mr Pradhan not to play politics using a social organization.

Border Forces of India and Nepal meet in Gangtok

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [PIB]: The 10th Deputy Inspector Generals' Level Co-ordination meeting between Sashastra Seema Bal (India) and Armed Police Force (Nepal) was held at Sector HQ SSB Gangtok on 06 September.

DIG, Sunsari Brigade, Armed Police Force [Nepal], Nagendra Bahadur Thapa, led the eight-members APF delegation and three DIGs of Sector HQ SSB Gangtok (Sikkim), Sector HQ SSB Ranidanga (Siliguri) and Sector HQ SSB Purnea (Bihar) and eight Commandants of SSB field units also attended the meeting.

In his welcome address, DIG, Sector HQ SSB Gangtok, Bishwajeet Kumar Pal, stressed on the significance of the meeting and the historical ties between the people of India and Nepal and outlined the need for stronger co-ordination and co-operation between the two forces to keep the Indo-Nepal border safe and maintain the



sanctity of the border.

Challenges like encroachment on No-Man's Land, infiltration and ex-filtration as well as trans-border smuggling of arms, explosives, drugs, contraband items, FICN, wildlife products, human trafficking faced by both Forces were highlighted in the opening address.

He further added that regular joint survey patrolling by SSB and APF can prove very helpful for comprehensive area assessment, to identify sensitive routes throughout this open border and to enhance synergy between the

two counterparts.

DIG, Sector HQ SSB Ranidanga, Amit Kumar, also emphasized the roots of relationship between Nepal and India and he further highlighted the essence "Roti aur Beti ka Rish-ta" relationship between India and Nepal.

During the meeting matters of repair and re-construction of damaged and missing border pillars, prevention of human trafficking, prevention of circulation of fake currency, prevention of smuggling of wild life products, identification of likely routes to be used by smugglers and

criminals and prevention of anti-social elements/ criminals across the border were discussed.

DIG, Sunsari Brigade, APF Nepal, Nagendra Bahadur Thapa, thanked SSB for the warm welcome at Sector Gangtok and stressed that Nepal has deep cultural and social relations with India and there was a strong need to work together to develop mutual trust, understanding and professional brotherhood.

He assured that steps would be taken to strengthen mutual understanding and co-operation between the two forces.

Arithang MLA attends UADS meeting



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

United Arithang Development Society [NGO, Arithang Gangtok] organised a welcome program for Arithang MLA and Minister, Arun Upreti, today in a local hotel at Arithang. In the short function, United Arithang Development Society [UADS] felicitated and congratulated their area MLA Arun Upreti along with Political Advisor to the Chief Minister, SG Kaleon.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Upreti said that this kind of meeting should be held regularly so that people can share their views, suggestions and grievances. He also thanked the people for their support and blessings.

Mr Upreti complimented the UADS for their work in the locali-

ty. He stressed on working for the development of Arithang constituency after consulting with the people.

"Works to be taken up may be limited but I will make sure that the works get completed within the stipulated time," said Mr Upreti.

He added that he will work on the issues that he came across during election campaigning like power supply, road and water supply.

The Minister also gave assurances on the demands placed by the UADS.

During the programme, the Area MLA donated Rs. 51,000 to the UADS.

UADS president, WT Bhutia, presented a brief report on UADS and also submitted 11 demands for area development of Arithang ward to the MLA.

The 11 demands are;

1) upgradation of present Arithang loop and pedestrian footpath, 2) Removing of present parking at Arithang highway entry point, 3) Repair and widening of jhora culvert opposite Shantiniketan hotel, 4) One-way traffic issues, 5) Street lights in interior footpath, 6) repair of existing footpath and new footpath along with railing, 7) repair of existing four jhoras, 8) proposal for halting shed near radio quarter, 9) water supply and reservoir, 10) repair of existing road, and 11) upgradation/increase of manpower of Arithang police outpost.

Political Advisor to CM, Sonam G Kaleon also addressed the function. CEC president Arithang, Tempo Rabgyal was also present along with members and residents of Arithang.

MISSING



Name : Ritika Sahani
Age : 13 years
D/O : Raju Sahani
Height : 4'apprx
Complexion : Fair
Wearing apparels : Jacket, Blue jeans, red-T shirt, Black sport shoe.

CID PS FIR No. 0007 dated 25/07/2019
U/S 363 IPC missing since 28/12/2018 from
MG Marg near Life Line Medical store, Gangtok, East Sikkim. **Contact: 9734964031**

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD- SIKKIM DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM DEORALI, GANGTOK - 737102

APPEAL

All the stakeholders are aware that Biswakarma Puja, Durga Puja, Deepawali celebration are performed in the month of September - October every year and after performing pujas traditionally idols are immersed in water bodies leading to deterioration of water quality especially during the aforesaid period. "Sikkim Idol immersion Rules 2019" has also been notified vide no 167 dated 16/04/2019 by the State Pollution Control Board.

Therefore the State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim hereby appeals all the concerned authorities/citizens to follow the guidelines given below for the safeguard of Environment.

- Use of eco-friendly idols with herbal colours or biodegradable chemical dyes;
- Immersion of idols only at designated idol immersion spots;
- Prohibition of burning of solid wastes at the idol immersion areas;
- Arrangements for construction of temporary confined ponds with necessary provisions and
- Organizing mass awareness campaigns among the stakeholders etc.

The State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim further appeals and solicits kind cooperation of all the people of Sikkim for strict compliance of the above guidelines.

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD- SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, Env. & W/L Management.
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEORALI, GANGTOK - 737102

R.O. No. 175/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Dated: 05.09.2019

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM STATE MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARDS FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ref No. 241/SMPB/FE/D

Dated: 02.09.2019

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the eligible local candidates for filling up of following posts in the State Medicinal Plant Board under Forest and Environment Department through viva voce, purely on contractual basis for a period of 01 (one) year:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Minimum Educational Qualification	No. of posts	Consolidated Pay per month
1	Consultant Specialist in Botany	M. Sc. Botany with specialization in Taxonomy	01	R.30,000/-per month.
2	Data Entry Operator	Class XII pass	01	Rs.12,000/- per month.

Candidates must submit the application in the format given along with the following documents:

- Copy of Certificate of Identification /Sikkim Subject.
- Attested copies of educational qualification from Class X onwards.
- Work experience certificate, if any.
- Copy of valid employment card.
- All other relevant supporting documents.

Received applications will be scrutinized, and short listed candidates will be called to appear before the selection committee. No A/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

The application along with attested photocopies of all requisite documents should reach the office of the Joint Director-cum-Nodal Officer, State Medicinal Plants Boards, Forest & Environment Department, Block B, Room no. B-305, Forest Secretariat Building, Deorali, Gangtok - 737102 on or before 18th September 2019.

Detailed advertisement and application form can be downloaded from the website: sikenvis.nic.in, sikkimforest.gov.in

For further details, please contact:- 9609980931, 7076336042.

R.O. No. 172/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Dated: 03.9.2019

Sd/-
Director-cum-CEO,
State Medicinal Plants Boards,
Forest and Environment Department
Government of Sikkim.

In Pursuit of Happiness

...no, not mercenary materialism

And no, this is not a moral science lesson. It will however begin with reference to an international conference the State Government had organized some years back on “Science, Spirituality and Education” with the Dalai Lama as a special guest and speaker. The conference was motivated by a felt need to work on school curriculums in a way that would tease out more empathy and deeper engagements from students and deliver Sikkim the much-needed involved citizenry for the future.

The Dalai Lama had charmed the audience with his ready wit and open mind and set the conference on course by suggesting that the participants deliberate over how common sense, and not necessarily religious regimen, if harnessed with conscious empathy could deliver an education which inculcated moral ethics. Individual moral ethics, he stressed would link together to deliver genuine social empathy which would in turn manifest in more compassionate societies peopled with citizens with a stronger sense of universal responsibility and calmer dispositions. Strife and an unbridled pursuit of material acquisitions, whether at the individual or the nation-state level, have come to define the 21st century which has now almost made a virtue out of mercenary materialism. Proof of this faulty prioritization is apparent in how “happiness” is now increasingly being sought in acquisitions and not so much in the satisfaction derived from contributing to the world. While the former results in competition and hence conflict, the latter is a more personal experience which in not in competition with anyone else and hence does not lead to strife. Also, as societies get more and more obsessive with acquiring more to be happy, they can also slip into depression when they cannot gather enough ‘benefits’. Sikkim should understand this phenomenon well because it has to be accepted that apathy - that listless lack of interest and refusal to get excited or engage – underlines social response and engagement here.

This apathy does not necessarily stem from denial or oppression, but is born from an inferred sense of loss over not having acquired enough. Even as this manifests in listlessness in outward behaviour, internally, the mind is agitated and it is perhaps in this internal disquiet that Sikkim can find the reasons to explain the high suicide rates, addiction and other social challenges, including corruption and even the universal inurement towards dishonesty. Obviously, what has happened in Sikkim, as in societies across the world, is that the pursuit has been for a warped interpretation of happiness, one that is incomplete.

Sikkim requires to seek out answers on how to address the paradox of so many social ills haunting a land of such few material worries. Expecting solutions to be provided and executed by someone else or the government would doom the possible solutions to failure because social course-corrections require social engagement, not governmental or even divine interventions. To return to what the Dalai Lama has often said, Change depends on individual action. Divine intervention, he stresses, is fine so long as it was for individual consolation, but for change and betterment, it was individual action that is needed. This proactive engagement needs to be internalised by Sikkim at the individual, then community and governance levels. A generation groomed with a stronger sense of universal responsibility will also be one with a clearer sense of self and more importantly, with more respect for the aspirations and needs of others. That is the kind of generation which Sikkim needs to reach out for.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Are you mentally well enough for college?

NICHOLAS JOYCE
theconversation.com

Last spring an 18-year-old college freshman who got straight A's in high school – but was now failing several courses – came to my office on the campus where I work as a psychologist.

The student was seeking a medical exception so that he could withdraw from the classes he failed instead of taking the F's and dragging down his GPA.

I evaluated the student and determined – based on information from prior visits – that the student was depressed. This condition was zapping the student's motivation and energy. Consequently, the student missed classes, didn't study much and ultimately did poorly in class. I completed a medical exception form to enable the student to withdraw from the classes he failed so that he could keep his GPA from plummeting.

This happens more than you may think. At the end of every semester, I complete dozens of these medical exception forms for students who failed their classes due to mental health reasons.

From my vantage point as a licensed psychologist who has worked in college mental health for a decade, this outcome points to what I believe is a bigger problem in higher education. And that is, at a time when parents and society are putting increased pressure on students to go to college in order to have a successful life, students' mental health and overall readiness for college – both of which have greatly diminished in recent years – are being overlooked.

PROBLEMS ARE PREVALENT

Anxiety and depression afflict as many as 1 in 5 college students, and students are seeking mental health treatment on campus at record levels.

For instance, in the 2017 to 2018 school year, 179,964 college students sought mental health treatment. Although it could be due to changes in reporting, the figure represents an increase over the prior two years, when 161,014 and 150,483, respectively, sought mental health treatment, ac-

cording to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health.

In the case of the 18-year-old who was depressed, although the student struggled with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, in high school, back then the student's life was managed by a parent who made sure everything was done completely, correctly and on time. Now the student was on his own for the first time.

A TEMPORARY FIX

For those who get medical exceptions in order to avoid a failing grade, the move might save their GPA. However, it also pushes their graduation date back and requires students to spend more time and money to complete their degree.

More importantly, getting a medical exception does not resolve the underlying issue that led to the failure in the first place. In my experience, many students who get the medical exception return the next semester without addressing their mental health needs and end up failing more courses.

In order to avoid being one of the many students who seek a medical exception due to mental illness, I would recommend that students and families focus on the following things:

1. MANAGE YOUR LIFE

Many students come to me after years of having parents who basically manage their time for them. The parents set their schedule, checked to make sure their homework was done, ensured they were doing their work and got to places and various appointments on time.

This might have worked well to help the student succeed in high school. But when students no longer have that kind of support once they transition to college, they often have no idea on how to do these things on their own.

This leads to procrastination, which in turn leads to a host of other problems for the student, such as increased stress, anxiety, depression and other things that can hinder success.

2. DETERMINE YOUR PURPOSE

Why are you going to college in the first place? Students who visit me often reveal that they went to college because they were told – by parents and

society – that's what they should do. But they are often unmotivated, bored and failing. They might be pursuing a major that their parents said was the right one for them. But many simply do not know what they want to study or do for a living. They have no internal motivation for what they are doing, which contributes to the reason why they fail. Without internal motivation, it's hard to stick with college when things get hard.

3. ASK FOR HELP

Most colleges and universities have a variety of academic and non-academic resources – from counseling to tutoring – to help students. Still, I meet many students who are so worried about how they will look if they ask for help that they won't take advantage of those services, such as free tutoring.

Students have to come to terms with the fact that they need help – whether that be academic or with mental health issues or something else – and be OK with asking for it.

4. DON'T EXPECT COLLEGE TO FIX MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Many of my students tell me they had to wait to attend college to finally address their mental health needs. For these students, they were long aware of their condition – be it anxiety, depression or something else – but their family either did not believe in mental health treatment or denied that anything was wrong.

Other students have had these conditions for years but had no idea they were treatable or preventable. The conditions then get exacerbated at college due to increased academic pressure.

For all these reasons, it is important for students to get help with mental health issues before college begins. Otherwise, students could end up failing a class and seeking a medical exception for a problem that could have been addressed before things got to that point. A medical exception may save your semester, but it's not a cure for what brought you there in the first place.

[the writer is Psychologist, University of South Florida]



I wrote a book about email – and found myself pining for the days of letter-writing

RANDY MALAMUD
theconversation.com

Email has become so prevalent in our lives that I felt compelled to write about it for a Bloomsbury series called “Object Lessons” that examines “the hidden lives of ordinary things.”

Perhaps I chose this topic because I wanted to be surprised by what I would learn. Email had always evoked the image of my energy, attention and intelligence being sucked away, byte by byte, in a deadening tsunami of ill-composed blather, bland formalities and corporate groupthink. But I hoped my literary training could help me unearth some diamonds in the rough, some redeeming rhetorical force.

It turns out my chief discovery was how much richer old-fashioned letters are. An email is like a letter shorn of almost everything people liked about letters: the feel and smell of stationery, the confident authority of letterhead, the art of penmanship, the closing signature in the writer's hand.

On paper, lives were lived, trysts arranged, manifestos mailed and wars waged; the shift from “communication” to “.com” has stripped away all of this historical and social value.

THE SATISFACTION OF A LETTER ‘DONE AND SIGNED’

Literacy rates jumped globally in tandem with the invention and expansion of mail service. People composed their letters with effort and pride, perhaps understanding that well-written correspondence

wouldn't be thrown in the trash.

The song “Letters,” from Dave Malloy's 2012 musical “Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812,” extols the joy and satisfaction of letter-writing: “We put down in writing what is happening in our minds.” Once it's on the paper “we feel better – it's like some kind of clarity when the letter's done and signed.”

Email is certainly convenient. But will there ever be an electronic equivalent of Martin Luther King Jr.'s “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” the literary correspondence of Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell or the epistolary passion between Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok?

Émile Zola's “l'Accuse!” was a letter – an open letter – to the French president, castigating the army for unlawfully jailing a Jewish officer. The letter traveled the world, inspiring others who sought to challenge those in power.

Is there such a genre as an “open email”? The only thing that comes to mind is accidentally hitting reply-all.

Letters changed storytelling: In Samuel Richardson's 1740 epistolary adventure, “Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded,” a 16-year-old servant named Pamela Andrews details her boss's sexual harassment in letters to her parents. Today it's considered the first novel.

Letters spread the Gospel, with St. Paul's Epistles disseminating early Christian teachings to the Corinthians, Romans and Thessalonians; in

letters to Penthouse, they channeled erotic desire.

The value letters possess is perhaps reflected in their price.

“This boat is giant in size and fitted up like a palatial hotel,” a man named Alexander Holverson wrote from the Titanic the day before it sank. “If all goes well we will arrive in New York Wednesday AM.” His letter sold for six figures in 2017.

And after President Abraham Lincoln received a petition from children asking him to free the slaves, he responded with a letter: “Please tell these little people I am very glad their young hearts are so full of just and generous sympathy.” It brought in US\$3.4 million at a 2008 auction.

EMPTY, EPHEMERAL EMAIL

“There is no standard nowadays of elegant letter writing, as there used to be in our time,” grumbled a woman at the turn of the 20th century. “It is a sort of go-as-you-please development, and the result is atrocious.”

This complaint was prompted not by email but by the growing fad of sending postcards, which were popularized at Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition.

Short, informal and comprised of dubiously grammatical prose, postcards, some feared, imperiled epistolary eloquence.

Sound familiar?

Still, email seems particularly reductive. Nearly 300 billion are sent each day, but I wonder if there will ever be a truly valuable email, a fa-

mous email or a celebrated email.

Even when a presidential election turned on a collection of home-brew email – tens of thousands from Hillary Clinton's ignominious private server and another leaked batch from her campaign chair John Podesta – what information did they contain?

In one, senior Clinton Foundation official Peter Huffman writes:

“Question: why do I use a ¼ or ½ cup of stock at a time? Why can't you just add 1 or 2 cups of stock at a time b/c the arborio rice will eventually absorb it anyway, right?”

Podesta responds (with no time to edit, possibly because he is so busy losing an election):

“Yes it with absorb the liquid, but no that's not what you want to do. The slower add process and stirring causes the rice to give up it's starch which gives the risotto it's creamy consistency.”

Email is ultimately a paltry and often disappointing piece of text – grammatically challenged, disheveled and ephemeral. Often ignored or deleted, it ricochets through cyberspace in search of validation. Dealing with a cluttered inbox is a chore; emails that require a response loom.

It's surprising how banal email is, given how intricately interwoven it is with our existence. Or maybe it's not surprising at all. Maybe it's just the mirror held up to life, and we are precisely as trite as our email suggests.

[the writer is Regents' Professor of English, Georgia State University]

DSP tenders written apology for misbehaviour with MLA

SHILLONG, SEP 7 (PTI): A Meghalaya Police officer has tendered a written apology to the Privileges Committee of the state Assembly for alleged misbehaviour with an MLA.

Congress MLA Kimfa S Marbaniang had complained to the Privileges Committee that Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) W M Momin had misbehaved with him and ordered him to remove tinted glass from his vehicle on August 7.

Following summons from the committee the DSP had appeared in person before the committee on Thursday and was asked to submit a written apology for his

alleged “misbehaviour” with the MLA.

The Privileges Committee chairman Saleng Sangma said the committee on Friday has accepted the apology letter of Momin and the case has been closed.

In his written apology, Momin said, “I am to inform you that there is no intention to hurt the sentiments of anybody during the discharge of my lawful duty but in the process if I have used words that may have affected Kimfa S Marbaniang, during my encounter with him on August 7, I hereby tender my apology to the House and the MLA in particular.

Goodricke plans three tea lounges this year

KOLKATA, SEP 7 (PTI): Sterling company Goodricke Group plans to open three tea lounges in the current year taking the total number to six, an official said.

Out of the three to be opened this year, two will be in collaboration with Tea Board which would give the space.

“We are planning to make tea lounge business a new vertical for the company, the other one being production”, MD of Goodricke Group Atul Asthana told PTI.

He said that Tea Board would provide the space at its head office in Kolkata and at its tea centre in Mumbai.

“Both the lounges will be opened this year. The third one will be at its Thurbo garden near Mirik lake in Darjeeling district of the state”, he added.

Presently, the company has three lounges, one in Darjeeling and two in Madhya Pradesh.

Stringent law will deter assault on docs: Tea Assn of India



GUWAHATI, SEP 7 (PTI): The Tea Association of India (TAI) has said stringent legal provisions will deter attacks on doctors and bolster the morale of medical officers working in the tea industry.

The TAI has condemned the fatal assault on Dr Deben Dutta at Teok Tea Estate in Assam’s Jorhat district.

In a statement issued on Friday, TAI Secretary-General P K Bhattacharjee said, “This incident and another assault on a medical officer in Dikom Tea Estate have shaken the morale of tea garden executives, not to speak of medical officers working in the plantations, many of whom have resigned since Dr Dutta’s death.”

Bhattacharjee said the Assam Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2011 has not acted as a deterrent against such attacks. “The central

government has conceptualised a bill to address this problem. It has reportedly been sent to the state governments to seek their views on it,” he said. Bhattacharjee said the new bill will make assault on doctors a major offence.

“Strict legal provisions, such as hefty fines and imprisonment for assault on doctors, can act as deterrent against attack on doctors and bolster the morale of tea garden medical officers,” he said.

Dr Deben Dutta succumbed to his injuries on August 31 after being assaulted allegedly by workers of the Teok Tea Estate following the death of one of the garden workers at a hospital in the plantation.

Doctors in the state had gone on a 24-hour strike on September 3 to protest the assault.

More than 30 people have been arrested for their alleged links to the assault.

The origin tale of Kaike language of the Mangar community

RAKCHA RANA

There are many theories regarding the origin of language and every community has its own version of folktales on the origin of their language. Theories define things in scientific manner and give us proof and provide evidences, but folktales we can somehow relate more to and take as a myth in which we can’t look for a logical basis. These can be bedtime stories passed down from generation to generation, and carrying special significance within a particular community. A folktale also depicts the environment in which it is born and can hence differ from person to person depending on how different people decide to depict the story.

So this article recounts the tale of how Kaike language originated in the Mangar community. This language is on the verge of vanishing now and we can find its speakers only in Nepal within Palpa and Shyanja areas. We could not find anyone in Sikkim who could speak the language any more.

Karna Bahadur Thapa [Mangar]

shares that he heard about this language from his grandmother [bhajaai] who had taught him some words. Now, he says, the younger generation does not get to hear even a few words in it and most of them are unaware about it.

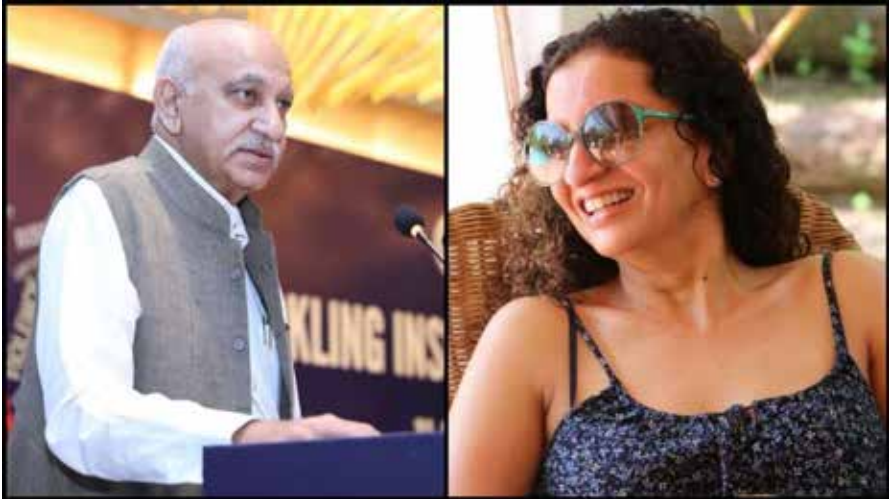
I was one such person, unaware that such a language even existed. I was excited to learn the name of the language and then wanted to know more about it. I was amazed to learn that this language relates to the Mangar community.

So the story begins like this...

A mother lived in a village with her three sons. The sons were herders and would take their cattle for grazing. While taking their cattle to the pastures, on the way they always saw angels taking bath in a pond and when they were returning they would notice that the angels had flown away.

One day, the youngest brother made some excuse and stayed back at home while his brothers went out with the cattle. After the brothers left, he went to the pond and hid himself. After a while, the angels arrived and started bathing. When they heard the cattle returning,

My tweet was aimed at exposing Akbar: Priya Ramani



NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): Journalist Priya Ramani on Saturday told a Delhi court that through her tweet, which former Union Minister M J Akbar has termed “defamatory”, she was trying to highlight his “sexually-coloured behaviour” that she faced in 1993 from him.

Ramani made the submission while deposing as a witness in her defence in the criminal defamation complaint filed by Akbar against her.

Seeing all these women (who accused Akbar of sexual harassment), I felt compelled to speak up about my experience with Akbar in 1993 and so I removed the anonymity that I had given to Akbar in my Vogue article and named him as the editor who had sexually harassed me,” deposed Ramani.

I said I never named him because he didn’t

‘do’ anything. I used inverted commas to denote sarcasm. Sexual harassment can take any form. It can be physical or verbal. By saying that he didn’t ‘do’ anything, I was honestly disclosing that there was no overt act but that didn’t excuse Mr Akbar’s sexually coloured behaviour, she added. She said she used the word “predator” in her personal experience with Akbar and shared experiences with many other women.

I used the word ‘predator’ to emphasize and highlight the difference in age, influence and power between Akbar and myself. I was a young journalist, he was a famous editor, 20 years older than me, who called me to his bedroom in a hotel for a job interview. A predator is more powerful than his prey, She said.

The court will further hear the matter on

September 9. Ramani worked at the Asian Age from January to October 1994. Ramani accused Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist. He has denied the accusations.

Akbar had earlier told the court that the allegations made in the Vogue article and the subsequent tweets were defamatory on the face of it as the complainant had deposed them to be false and imaginary and that an “immediate damage” was caused to him due to the “false” allegations by Ramani.

Several women have come out with accounts of the alleged sexual harassment by him while they were working under him as journalists.

Akbar has termed the allegations “false, fabricated and deeply distressing” and said he was taking appropriate legal action against them.

Students seek Bear Grylls’ help for Save Aarey Trees campaign

MUMBAI, SEP 7 (PTI): Students of a city college have written to British adventurer Bear Grylls, seeking his support to stop felling of trees in Aarey Colony here for Mumbai Metro.

The Maharashtra government’s decision to allow around 2,700 trees to be cut in Aarey Milk Colony to make way for a carshed of Mumbai Metro is facing a lot of opposition.

Joining hands with city-based KAASH Foundation, some students of St Xavier College here have written to Bear Grylls, requesting him to back the ‘Save Aarey’ movement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently featured in the British adventurer’s “Man vs Wild” TV show.

Students said in their letter to Bear

Grylls on September 5 that “government is arbitrarily, and despite opposition from citizens, out to engage in a state-sponsored environmental vandalism”; and he should voice support for those who are opposing it.

They received an auto-generated email in reply from his public relations office, saying “due to the volume of enquiries we receive we will only respond where necessary in taking an enquiry further”.

Prof Avkash Jadhav, head of the department of history at the college and trustee of KAASH Foundation who helped students send the letter, said, “Response from Bear Grylls will definitely add further sensitivity to this issue.”

FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

the angels rushed to fly away but the youngest brother rushed forward and caught an angel. Also, when the angel came in touch with a human, she lost her powers. The youngest brother hid the angel in the shrubs and after sunset, brought her home.

One of his brothers turned to the mother and remarked, ‘bhai ley tah bhuwari layaecha’ [Brother has brought along a daughter-in-law].

Upon seeing an angel in her house, the mother said, ‘taile ke garnu khojeko ho?’ [What are you trying to do?].

Then he explained everything.

A week passed but the angel didn’t speak a word and used to do the household chores without saying anything. Because of this, they thought ‘laa yo pari tah laati ho ki bhaire ho, chup chap lay kaam matrai garcha k pani boldaina’ [Oh No! This fairy is probably deaf or mute because she just does the chores and says nothing].

The brother thought: ‘katai hami ley uslai pir ma paryo bhanne bholcha ki’ [if we hurt her then maybe she will speak up].

They then went to the market and asked a shopkeeper, ‘daju euta pari atne gyampa dinnu hosh na’ [ohh! Brother would you give us a vessel in which an angel can fit].

They bought the vessel. The angel was working all alone when the three brothers pounced on her and put her into the vessel. The angel screamed,

“Kaike....Kaike” which might have meant “Malai k gareko?” [what are you doing to me?].

Hearing her loud voice, the brothers let her go and learned that she could indeed speak. And she did. From then on, the angel started speaking. Her words became the angel’s language [apsara ko bhasa], the origin of the beautiful Kaike language of the Mangar community. There are division between these three brothers according to the origin of language as follows; first brother is Mangrati, second brother is Gharti and third brother is Kaike.

The same story was narrated to when I was doing my fieldwork in Nepal in the month of January. After reaching West Nepal, I got to know that Kaike speakers could still be found in the region of Palpa, Shyanja. There were very few of them and no one had done proper research leave aside doing anything to preserve or record the language. I also heard that it was difficult to understand their language even for speakers of Mangar language.

Unfortunately, I didn’t come across any Kaike speaker during my visit but in the near future I hope I’ll get to know them.

How myth and tales take over the origin story of everything from origin of a community to origin of language, we called it oral history.

[the writer is a Research, Scholar Sikkim University]

Typhoon leaves 2 dead, thousands of S. Korea homes powerless



SEOUL, SEP 7 (AP):

A typhoon passed along South Korea’s coast on Saturday, toppling trees, grounding planes and causing at least two deaths before the storm made landfall in North Korea.

A 75-year-old woman in the central town of Boryeong was killed after strong winds from Typhoon Lingling blew her off her feet and crashed her into a wall 30 meters (yards) away. A 38-year-old was killed in the western city of Incheon after being crushed by a collapsed wall at a hospital parking lot.

South Korea’s government said at least eight people were being treated for injuries, including an elderly couple from Boryeong who were injured after steel scaffolding collapsed over their home.

The storm knocked out power to more than 57,000 homes across the country, including on the southern island of Jeju, which was lashed by the typhoon overnight, South Korea’s Ministry of the Interior and Safety said.

After hitting Jeju, the storm remained offshore as it moved up South Korea’s west coast on Saturday morning before making landfall in North Korea in the afternoon.

South Korea’s weather agency said the storm was moving north at 49 kilometers (30 miles)

per hour with winds of up to 133 kilometers (83 miles) per hour. Residents in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang were seen using umbrellas to shield themselves from wind and rain while struggling to walk through wet streets.

In South Korea, the storm toppled trees and streetlamps, blew signboards off buildings and damaged traffic signs across the mainland and Jeju. More than 120 flights were grounded at airports nationwide, while 38 people were forced to evacuate from their flooded homes in Gwangju, a city near Seoul.

Traffic to Incheon International Airport, one of Asia’s largest transport hubs, was disrupted by the closure of its gateway bridge and a power failure at a commuter rail network that links the airport with Seoul.

Fire crews in Incheon responded to some 100 calls reporting typhoon-related damage, including destroyed walls, knocked-off signboards and fallen trees.

Ten cars were damaged in the southern town of Namwon when a roof plate blew off an apartment building and crashed into a parking lot. A similar incident in the eastern city of Wonju left five vehicles destroyed. A large spire was knocked off a church in a commercial

district in Seoul. National parks were closed as were southern ports on the mainland and major cross-sea bridges.

The storm could possibly inflict more serious damage as it passes through land in North Korea, an impoverished nation that for decades has struggled to deal with natural disasters.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, said leader Kim Jong Un “urgently convened” an emergency meeting on Friday to discuss disaster prevention efforts and scolded government officials who he described as “helpless against the typhoon, unaware of its seriousness and seized with easygoing sentiment.”

Kim called for his military to drive national efforts to minimize damage from the typhoon, which he said would be an “enormous struggle” that would require the entire country to step up, the report said.

North Korea, which suffers from severe food shortages, was paying “primary attention” to protect agricultural crops and prevent damage in dikes, dams and reservoirs, KCNA said.

It said officials were also moving residents in areas vulnerable to flooding and deploying “watchmen” to monitor bridges, buildings and houses.

Messi 'can leave' at end of season but Barca calm, says Bartomeu

MADRID, SEPT 7 (AFP): Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Friday the Spanish giants are not worried about Lionel Messi's future, despite the Argentinian star being able to leave the club at the end of the season.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner signed a new four-year deal with Barca in 2017, but Bartomeu says he is free to end his contract beforehand.

"Leo Messi has a contract through to the 2020/21 season, but the player is able to leave Barca before the final season," Bartomeu told Barcelona's in-house television channel.

"It's the same case as with the final contracts that Xavi, (Carles) Puyol and (Andres) Iniesta had. They are players who deserve that liberty, and we shouldn't worry, as they are very committed to Barca. "We want Messi to play for Barca through to 2021 and beyond. We are very calm."

Messi, Barca's record goalscorer, is currently out injured with a calf injury, with the team struggling in his absence, managing to collect just four points from their opening three La Liga matches.

Neymar snags equalizer in return as Brazil draw Colombia 2-2 in friendly

Miami, Sept 7 (AFP): Neymar didn't disappoint in his much anticipated return, grabbing a second-half equalizer for Brazil in a 2-2 friendly draw with Colombia.

The Paris Saint-Germain star was playing for the first time for club or country since suffering an ankle injury in a friendly against Qatar in June, which ruled him out of the Copa America.

Since then the Brazilian star had been embroiled in a long-running transfer saga that ended this week with the Brazilian staying at PSG -- a return to Barcelona finally ruled out.

Before a sell-out crowd of 65,232 at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, Neymar delivered for Brazil, scoring the equalizer in the 58th after setting up Casemiro for the game's opening goal in the 20th minute on Friday.

Colombia were lacking top stars James Rodriguez and Radamel Falcao, but thanks to Luis Muriel's brace they gave Copa America champions Brazil a fright before Neymar rode to the rescue and Tite's men extended their unbeaten run.

Although Neymar made a quiet start, it was his cross from a corner that found a soaring Casemiro, who nodded past helpless Colombian keeper David Ospina to open the scoring.

The lead didn't last long as Luis Muriel converted from the spot in the 25th after taking a high kick from Alex Sandro.

Less than 10 minutes later Muriel fired Colombia ahead 2-1. Roger Martinez launched the counter-attack and Duvan Zapata played a ball out wide to Muriel, who blasted past Ederson.

'Arsenal won the WSL with versatility but this year we'll be even better'

DANIELLE VAN DE DOK
theconversation.com

Every time someone gets injured, a bit of your game falls away, and you have to fill the gaps. Last season, with a huge injury list including players such as Jordan Nobbs, Kim Little and Danielle Carter, I think we did amazingly well at Arsenal. Wherever people had to play they did – we picked up the roles quite quickly.

As one of the players who was still fit, I weirdly didn't feel more pressure. I just really wanted to win the title. We were all desperate for that first title for Arsenal in seven years and everyone was on the same page. That was the focus. We knew that we didn't have many people and the whole experience brought us closer together.

As we battled across the finish line we were just very thankful for the great start we had together. We built up a lot of points in the first block of games and ultimately that won us the league.

That was the thing that we could fall back on. The team was still good, we weren't panicking, but every time someone gets injured you feel scared, especially when it's going well, because we were on fire towards the beginning of last season. It was our versatility



that saved us and took the pressure off. I played all over. I like to be in the middle because that's where I feel free and most natural; I am able to do whatever I want and really read the game.

If I'm on the wing Joe [Montemurro, the manager] always tells me I have that same freedom, but I struggle to feel like I do. I'm almost scared that I'm going to get in the way of, say, the No 10 wanting to run into the pocket. Joe's calmness also played a big part. When he came in he brought a lot of clarity. We've got a very creative

team and Joe's standards and our individual creativity are a great match.

I don't think you can find a player who has one bad word to say about Joe. He's very chilled, his tactics are on point all the time and the analysis is great – he's basically always right. But it's his human side that makes him a good manager. It's easy to get caught up in needing to get trophies but he takes the pressure away from it.

It wasn't until we played Birmingham towards the end of the season that we felt any kind of relief from the injury

pile-up. When Katie McCabe's goal went in, in the 79th minute, it was the best feeling ever. We knew if we won we were back in the Champions League. We were all dying to get the club back into Europe but nothing was falling right in that game. No one was really hitting the ball at the goal. When Katie hit it I was just so grateful that we'd finally taken a shot.

Two games later we were welcoming Manchester City to Borehamwood already knowing we were champions. I'd never had that before so I felt amazing. We could,

not in a bullying way, sort of say: 'Ha, it doesn't matter what you are going to do now. Now our team is stronger. The squad feels stronger. We've lost to Bayern Munich, Wolfsburg and Barcelona in pre-season, and beaten Tottenham. But those losses don't mean we've had a poor pre-season – we have learned a lot from those games.'

As well as players coming back from injury we've also had players coming back late from the World Cup. It has taken me a while to get over the World Cup final, and to rationalise it. It

was almost a month before I could really think about how proud I was of the team, and myself. You don't play a final not to win. Everything goes into it: you put all your sweat and tears into it. It is fair enough to say that the USA were better than us and deserved to win, but it took a while to realise what an amazing achievement second place was for us.

We have to be realistic. It was our second World Cup and the Netherlands had not achieved much before we won the Euros in 2017. Now we've shown that wasn't

a one-time thing and ultimately it is a small step for the future. I hope we inspire a lot of young kids in the Netherlands to play football and to be even better than we are now so that it keeps us on this high level. It is now the biggest-growing sport in the Netherlands and I'm proud of that but at the same time I hope the league is going to get a boost from it, because it is not strong enough, at the moment, to keep us at the top.

Those of us at the World Cup have not had much of a rest but we also can't wait to be playing again. This season is going to be the best yet. We've won the title, we've got Champions League football and we are going to be even better than we were last year – and we were already pretty good to watch.

Retaining the title is going to be very difficult but that's the thing I like about the league – it's always a challenge. We're at a stage now where everyone can take points off of everyone else. If the WSL isn't already the most attractive league in the world then I think it will be in the near future. Hopefully we win, and hopefully the fans keep singing my song. I love it. It is a strange but brilliant feeling – and it's got the best rhythm.

Leicester's early-season form makes them good value for Premier League top six

PAUL WILSO
theGuardian

Four matches in and the title race – apologies for using that expression in September – already seems to be confirming most people's predictions. Liverpool and Manchester City will once again be clear front-runners, one or the other will end up with close to 100 points and the only scope for variation is the extent Aymeric Laporte's long-term injury will unbalance the defending champions as they seek to prevent their rivals getting any further ahead.

Even at this early stage it is being assumed that matches between the top two will decide the eventual outcome, on the basis that the other 18 teams in the Premier League are too far behind the standards being set at Anfield and the Etihad to make any significant inroads on points totals. That, however, is simply not the way football works.

Manchester City were beaten by Crystal Palace and Newcastle last season, two wholly unexpected results in the middle of a campaign that also brought defeats at Chelsea and Leicester. Liverpool missed out on the title through drawing too often, the list of clubs able to hold them including Arsenal, West Ham, Everton and, again, Leicester. Reviewing those statistics it is perhaps not all that surprising to see Leicester in third place at the moment, especially with a capable manager in Brendan Rodgers and a couple of adventurous signings in Ayoze Pérez and Yuri Tielemans added to the mix.

No one is yet saying another title challenge is on the cards, though Jamie Vardy certainly appears to have rediscovered his 2016 form, but with players of the quality of James Maddison and Ben Chilwell now established regulars Leicester look capable of finishing a lot higher than last season's ninth.

Their results include a draw at Chelsea that could easily have been a win and word has spread that this is a side not only likely to take points from top-six oppo-



nents over the course of the season but one with a decent chance of disrupting the top four. Odds of around 25-1 could be obtained on Leicester claiming a Champions League place at the start of the season, yet after four games the bookies have seen enough to trim to a less generous 8-1.

While a long way from the fantasy-land 5,000-1 famously offered on them winning the title in 2015-16, it might still be worth backing Leicester for the same reason that helped them prevail four seasons ago. Leicester are seventh favourites to finish in the top four but unlike all six teams ahead of them they have no European distractions lying in wait. Playing one game a week most weeks was an enormous advantage to Claudio Ranieri and his squad, just as it was to Antonio Conte's runaway Chelsea a year later. The title may be out of Leicester's reach, with Liverpool and City going so strongly, but below the top two everyone else has looked vulnerable in the league with the draining effects of European competition still to kick in.

Though it might be argued that the global names near the top of the Premier League have a squad depth designed to cope with the demands of extra fixtures in Europe, this was not a line being peddled by many top-six managers when Leicester and Chelsea were winning their titles.

A streamlined schedule seems

to be more of a blessing to an ambitious team than extra names on the roster and though no one accused Leicester and Chelsea of cheating by flying below Uefa's radar, rivals with European commitments generally felt the ability to concentrate solely on the league conferred an almost unfair advantage.

It should not be imagined that the disruptive effect of playing in Uefa competitions is limited to the inconvenience of Sunday kick-offs or tiring late-night flights from remote parts of eastern Europe. Training and preparation is compromised for the whole week and there is psychological pressure, too. It was noticeable last season that Manchester City's blip took place between qualifying from the group stage and beginning the knockout phase, a period around Christmas when one might have thought the players would have been more relaxed.

While Europe will not be a complication when the Premier League returns after the international break on Saturday, Leicester's visit to Manchester United should test the theory that Rodgers's players have the potential to stay ahead of Ole Gunnar Solskjær's. Everything looked promising for Solskjær after the opening weekend but United have not managed a win since then, Crystal Palace took the points in the last home game and it turns out Chelsea, beaten 4-0 in that first match, may not have everything sorted under Frank Lampard in any case.

Indian shooters still hopeful of sport's inclusion in 2022 CWG

NEW DELHI, SEPT 7 (PTI): Shooting's exclusion from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games has left the Indian shooters disappointed but the Sports Ministry's recent intervention has given them a glimmer of hope.

For the first time since 1974, shooting has been excluded from the 2022 Birmingham Games roster due to logistical issues.

"I don't know what to say about that. It is very upsetting. I don't know why they are excluding shooting but I believe whatever happens, happens for good. So let's see what happens," said Manu Bhaker, who claimed her fourth mixed gold with Saurabh Verma at Rio de Janeiro.

Shooting has been one of India's strong points in the Commonwealth Games and the sport's exclusion didn't go down well with the Indian Olympic Association, which has threatened to boycott the quadrennial event if the decision is not reviewed.

Highlighting India's concerns over the sport's exclusion from the Games, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has recently written a letter to UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Nicky Morgan, seeking her intervention in the matter.

The 17-year-old Manu won a series of gold medals, including the Guadalajara World Cup, Commonwealth Games and the Youth Olympics at Buenos Aires last year and clinched four successive mixed



World Cup gold this year. Yashaswini Singh Deswal, who secured India's ninth Olympic quota after winning the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol at the World Cup in Rio de Janeiro, termed it a huge set back for the country.

"It is a huge set back for Indian team. Shooting gives lot of medal to India all the time. But hope for the best," she said.

Abhishek Verma, who clinched his second World Cup gold last week in 10m air pistol besides claiming a mixed 10m pistol silver with Yashaswini Singh at Rio, said it is disappointing.

"There is disappointment but the Ministry is still trying to get it included at CWG, they are creating the pressure. So I am still hopeful. If it doesn't happen then we will look to do well at other events such as Asian Games and Olympics."

India won as many as 16 medals in shooting at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Rijiju on Friday said India will take up the issue through diplomatic

channel if they don't get a favourable response.

"India is one of the most important nations in the Commonwealth Games Federation and excluding shooting from 2022 has upset all of us," he said.

"...the decision was taken in the CWG organising executive committee, there were no Indians to put up India's case. So it is not proper to take a decision which is not in the interest of India because everybody knows India has the greatest strength in shooting.

"We will take it up through diplomatic channels also but since it is a sporting event, we would prefer that the CWG executive committee considers our case, or else we will be very upset and register our protest. I have already written a letter so let's see, the IOA will meet me again."

The Indian shooting team returned to the country on Thursday after claiming an unprecedented nine medals, including five gold, at the recently-concluded ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.

Iran fires up advanced centrifuges in latest nuclear step

TEHRAN, SEP 7 (AFP): Iran said Saturday it has fired up advanced centrifuges to boost its enriched uranium stockpiles, in the latest scaling back of commitments under a crumbling 2015 nuclear deal.

The country's Atomic Energy Organisation said, however, that it would honour commitments to give UN inspectors access to monitor its nuclear sites.

Three European countries -- Britain, France and Germany -- have been engaged in talks to try to rescue the 2015 deal that gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Tensions have been escalating between Iran and the United States since May last year when President Donald Trump pulled out of the accord and began reimposing sanctions that have crippled its economy.

The arch-foes were on the cusp of confrontation in June when Iran downed a US drone and Trump ordered retaliatory strikes before cancelling them at the last minute.

On Saturday, Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation said it had activated 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6 centrifuges as its latest step back in rolling back its commitments.

"The centrifuge machines, as they are engaged in research and development, will



help with increasing the stockpile," said the agency's spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi.

"The capacity of these machines is many times more than the previous machines. This started as of yesterday (Friday)," he told a news conference in Tehran.

Under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was allowed to enrich uranium using only first generation -- or IR-1 -- centrifuges.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper said he was "not surprised that Iran has announced that it's going to violate the JCPOA".

"It's no surprise that the Iranians are going to pursue what the Iranians have always intended to pursue," he said in Paris. Kamalvandi said Iran

would allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue monitoring its nuclear programme, as it has done under the 2015 accord.

"Regarding the monitoring and accesses of the IAEA... so that everything is clear (Iran's) commitments regarding transparency will be followed as before," the spokesman said.

The European Union on Friday emphasised its reliance on the UN nuclear watchdog to monitor Iran's activities as it voiced "great concern" over the country's decision to roll back its commitments.

The IAEA in its latest report, on August 30, said it continues to verify compliance through cameras and on-site inspections.

But in an apparent

hint at worries about access it said "ongoing interactions... require full and timely cooperation by Iran".

The latest move by Iran came after EU members Britain, France and Germany were unable to find a way to offset the impact of sanctions on the country before a September 7 deadline set by the Islamic republic.

"If Europe wants to do something, it must hurry, because returning to the situation before reducing commitments could take time," Kamalvandi said.

Tehran has already hit back twice with counter-measures in response to the US withdrawal from the 2015 deal.

On July 1, Iran said it had increased its stockpile of enriched uranium to beyond the

300-kilogram maximum set by the deal.

A week later, it announced it had exceeded a 3.67-percent cap on the purity of its uranium stocks.

On Saturday, however, Iran indicated it had no plans to step up the enrichment of uranium to higher levels.

"We currently do not need 20 percent enrichment, and if we do so at some time, we will first increase the 4.5 percent stockpile and then act," said Kalamvandi. The announcement came on the eve of a visit to Iran by the acting head of the IAEA, Cornel Feruta.

Kamalvandi said Feruta would meet the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, Ali Akbar Salehi, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Russia, Ukraine swapping prisoners in landmark exchange

KIEV, SEP 7 (AFP): A long-awaited swap of prisoners between Russia and Ukraine was underway on Saturday, sources and state media said, with 70 people involved in the landmark exchange.

A Ukrainian government source told AFP the swap was proceeding and that 35 people on each side would be exchanged.

A number of high-profile prisoners are expected to be part of the exchange.

Earlier Saturday an AFP journalist in Moscow saw two buses with tinted windows leaving the high-security Lefortovo jail escorted by a police convoy.

Russia's state-run news channel Rossiya 24 said the convoy had departed "within the framework of preparations for a prisoner exchange". The channel said the buses had arrived at Moscow's Vnukovo terminal for government flights, and that a Russian government plane had landed at Kiev's Boryspil airport.

Anticipation has been building in recent days for the swap, which would be the first major exchange of prisoners between Russia and Ukraine since the conflict over eastern Ukraine erupted in 2014. It could

be a crucial step in easing tensions between the ex-Soviet neighbours over Russia's annexation of Crimea and the war with Moscow-backed separatists that has left more than 13,000 dead.

The head of the defence team for 24 Ukrainian sailors captured by Russia last year told AFP they would be part of the swap.

"According to my information, they were put on a bus. All 24 of them," Nikolai Polozov said, adding that he expected them to arrive in Ukraine "in the next few hours".

Moscow has been holding the sailors since seizing three vessels last November in the most dangerous direct clash between Russia and Ukraine in years.

Among other prisoners who could be released by Russia is film director and activist Oleg Sentsov, 43, who has become Ukraine's most famous political prisoner.

He was arrested in 2014 and has been serving a 20-year sentence in a Arctic penal colony for planning "terrorist attacks" in Crimea.

Reports emerged last week that Sentsov had been moved to Moscow.

Ukraine could hand over Kyrylo Vyshynsky, a journalist at Russia's RIA Novosti state news

agency who was released on bail late last month pending a trial for "high treason". A Ukrainian court this week also released from detention a man investigators have described as a key witness in the downing of flight MH17.

The release of Vladimir Tsemakh, an alleged air defence specialist for pro-Russian separatists, prompted concern from the Netherlands that he may avoid questioning.

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the "large-scale" prisoner exchange with Ukraine was being finalised and that the swap would be "a huge step towards normalising relations" with Kiev.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky raised the prospect of a prisoner swap after sweeping to power in an election in April.

The comedian-turned-politician, whose defeat of incumbent Petro Poroshenko shocked Ukraine's political elite, had vowed during the campaign to bring Ukrainian prisoners home.

His election has revived peace efforts and Paris has called for a summit of the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France to be held later this month.

Pakistan denies use of airspace to Prez Kovind for foreign visit

ISLAMABAD, SEP 7 (PTI): Pakistan has refused India's request to allow President Ram Nath Kovind to use its airspace for his flight to Iceland, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Saturday.

Kovind will embark on a visit to Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia from Monday during which he is expected to brief the top leadership in those countries on India's "national concerns", especially in view of terror incidents this year, including the Pulwama attack.

The decision was approved by Prime Minister Imran Khan in view of the tense situation in Kashmir, the minister told state broadcaster PTV.

Khan's government was under pressure from the Opposition and some ministers to impose on India to use its airspace

after India revoked special status of Kashmir.

Though, so far no decision was taken to impose the blanket ban but Pakistan showed its intention by disallowing President Kovind to use its airspace.

Qureshi said New Delhi's tough stance on Kashmir was a serious issue which he would take up with the United Nations Human Rights Council.

He noted that 34 days have elapsed since the Indian authorities imposed a crippling curfew in Kashmir before revoking the region's special status on August 5.

Pakistan had fully closed its airspace in February after an Indian Air Force strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot. The country opened its airspace for all flights except for New Delhi, Bangkok and Kuala

Lumpur on March 27.

On May 15, Pakistan extended its airspace ban for flights to India till May 30. It fully opened its airspace for all civilian traffic on July 16.

Pakistan has already suspended its trade with India and stopped the train and bus services in protest to India's August 5 decision to end Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after India abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories, evoking strong reactions from Pakistan.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

Chinese FM Wang Yi arrives in Islamabad for trilateral meet on Afghanistan

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, SEP 7 (PTI): Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Islamabad on Saturday to attend the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue and hold bilateral talks with the Pakistani leadership.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Wang at the Noor Khan Airbase.

The trilateral forum will help improve the environment of peace and security in Afghanistan by opening the doors of economic activity and trade, Qureshi told the media at the airbase.

"Afghanistan can also benefit from the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Gwadar port," said Qureshi.

He said peace and development in Afghanistan was important for peace in the region.

While Wang will lead the Chinese delegation at the meet, Afghan will be represented by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani. Qureshi will chair the dialogue sessions.

The dialogue was first held in Beijing in 2017, followed by the second meet in Kabul in December 2018.

The dialogue will focus on political relations, Afghanistan peace process, security cooperation and counter terrorism measures.

Riot police deployed as Hong Kong protesters target airport

HONG KONG, SEP 7 (AFP): Riot police fanned out across Hong Kong on Saturday in a bid to thwart plans by pro-democracy protesters to target the airport in the movement's first mass mobilisation since the city's leader made a surprise concession earlier this week.

Millions of pro-democracy supporters have taken to Hong Kong's streets for the past three months in the biggest challenge to China's rule since the city's handover from Britain in 1997. On Wednesday, the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam surprised many by announcing she was scrapping a hugely unpopular extradition law that sparked the widespread and sometimes violent rallies.

The withdrawal was one of the protesters' key demands and both she and Beijing had previously refused to budge on the issue.

Lam, who was not directly elected but appointed by an overwhelmingly Beijing-friendly committee, portrayed the move as a bid to de-escalate tensions and start a dialogue.

But it has been widely dismissed by protesters as too little, too late after 14 weeks of clashes with more than 1,100 arrests and many facing lengthy jail sentences.

Online messaging forums used by the largely leaderless movement had called for protesters to "stress test" the airport on Saturday afternoon, filling up with suggestions for how to disrupt the road and rail links leading to the terminals.

Police maintained a heavy presence at key bus, ferry and rail terminals across the city, many already dressed in riot gear and searching mostly young people's bags or checking their IDs.

Some train and bus services to the airport were running a more restricted service in a bid to reduce the likelihood of large numbers of



protesters getting to the airport, while officials advised travellers to leave extra time to catch flights.

At the airport on Saturday afternoon, the atmosphere was calm but passengers had to queue to have bags searched and boarding passes checked before being allowed to enter.

An AFP reporter saw one young man be detained and taken away.

In recent weeks, the airport -- the world's eighth busiest -- has become a repeated target of pro-democracy protesters as they try to ramp up pressure on Beijing and city leaders by denting Hong Kong's reputation as a stable business hub. But the tactic is controversial because of the travel misery it causes -- and the fact that the target is not the state but ordinary people.

Last month hundreds of flights were cancelled over two days when huge crowds of protesters staged a sit-in at the airport, with ugly scenes playing out as two men suspected of being Chinese spies were beaten. Previous protests at the airport had been non-disruptive and peaceful, aimed at enlightening travellers about the movement's goals.

Since the violent scenes, security has been ramped up around the sprawling hub -- which lies on reclaimed land west of the main city -- and access to the terminals has been restricted to those with boarding passes. But last Sunday protesters returned to the airport

and showed they could still wreak havoc. Operators of the express train that links the airport and the city suspended services after the station was besieged and objects were thrown onto the rail line.

Black-clad protesters also built barricades at the bus terminus and attempted to stop traffic on the main road leading to the facility.

Stranded travellers were forced to abandon their vehicles and drag their luggage along the airport road for many kilometres.

Protesters have said their movement will only end when other key demands are met such as an amnesty for those arrested, an independent inquiry into police use of force and the granting of fully free elections, all of which Lam and Beijing have rejected. At a peaceful rally on Friday night in the city's commercial district, many protesters said they planned to continue hitting the streets.

"It's too late now. In these three months, a lot of people have sacrificed themselves and been arrested," said a retiree who gave his surname as Cheng, bursting into tears as he spoke.

The same night, tear gas was fired at small groups of more hard-line protesters who were shining laser pens at a police station in the district of Mongkok, an area that has seen repeated clashes.

They later built barricades and vandalised a nearby subway station.

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

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HANYE-SEUL LAUNCHES YOUTUBE CHANNEL: Another day, another top South Korean celebrity hops on the Youtube bandwagon! This time it's the stunning actress, Han Ye-Seul! On 5 September, the 37-year-old hallyu star announced via her Instagram that she has launched her very own, personal Youtube channel. Her caption stated, "I started using YouTube! Ah! Please enjoy watching my everyday life without any particularly special content."

Want to focus on music: Harry Styles shares reason for turning down 'The Little Mermaid'

LOS ANGELES, SEP 7 (PTI): Singer-actor Harry Styles has revealed that he was in talks with Disney to voice Prince Eric in the upcoming "The Little Mermaid" live-action remake, but said no to the offer because he wants to work on his music.

In an interview with The Face, the former One Direction star said he is looking forward to the movie.

"I want to put music out and focus on that for a while. But everyone involved in it was amazing, so I think it's going to be great. I'll enjoy watching it, I'm sure," Styles said.

In the reimagining of the classic, Halle Bailey is playing Ariel and actors such as Jacob Tremblay, Awkwafina, and Melissa McCarthy are also in talks to board the project.

After Styles passed on the role, "13 Reasons Why" star Christian Navarro expressed a desire to voice Prince Eric.

He pitched the idea of "Lation Prince" to Disney and has also auditioned for the part.

In "The Little Mermaid", Ariel falls for human prince Eric. She saves him from



drowning and then makes a deal with the sea witch Ursula to exchange her voice for legs in order for a chance to make him love her. Eric plays an important role in the final battle against Ursula.

Rob Marshall is directing the film from a script by David Magee.

Done everything #MeToo movement would want to achieve: Woody Allen

PARIS, SEP 7 (PTI): Embattled filmmaker Woody Allen says he does not regret his 2018 statement where he had claimed that he should be the poster boy of #MeToo movement.

In an interview with French outlet France 24, Allen reiterated that in his over 60 years long career, he has never been accused of inappropriate behaviour by the female actors and he has always treated them at par with their male counterparts.

"I should be (poster boy #MeToo movement)... I've worked with hundreds of actresses, not one of them has ever complained about me; not a single complaint. I've employed women in the top capacity for years and we've always paid them the equal of men," Allen said. "I've done everything the MeToo movement would love to achieve," he added.

Allen is currently in France to promote his troubled directorial "A Rainy in New York", which is set to premiere at the Deauville American Film Festival before hitting the French theatres on September 18.

"A Rainy in New York", which features an ensemble cast of Timothee Chalamet, Elle Fanning, Selena Gomez, Jude Law, Diego Luna and Liev Schreiber, was earlier set to be distributed in the US by Amazon Studios. But after Allen interview with Argentinian news outlet Pe-

riodismo Para Todos, where he said he should be the "poster boy" for the #MeToo movement, the studio terminated its four-movie contract with the director. "To me the movie is being released all over the

rektor said. There is a renewed focus on Allen, who has been accused of sexual abuse by his adoptive daughter Dylan Farrow. The allegations have caught steam in the wake of #MeToo movement



world. If people enjoy the movie, I think it will eventually be released in the US. But to me it doesn't matter, I have already finished another movie.

"Rainy Day.." is history. I made it a year ago and now I'm thinking of the next movie. I will put it out and hope for the best. I always hope people will like it. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. But once I have finished it, the fate of the movie is out of my hand," the di-

which led to a number of actors distancing themselves from the director.

However, two days ago, actor Scarlett Johansson, who worked with Allen on three films, offered support to him.

"I believe him, and I would work with him anytime. I have been very direct with him, and he's very direct with me. He maintains his innocence, and I believe him," Johansson told The Hollywood Reporter.

Viineet Kumar Singh's 'Aadhaar' to release on December 6

MUMBAI, SEP 7 (PTI): Viineet Kumar Singh-starrer "Aadhaar" will hit the theatres on December 6. The movie, which will have its world premiere at the 24th edition of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in October, is produced by Drishyam Films and Jio Studios.

The makers unveiled the official teaser of the movie on Saturday and also announced the release date.

Viineet, who impressed both the critics and the audiences with his performance in Anurag Kashyap's "Mukkabaaz", also shared the release date of the movie on Twitter.

At BIFF, "Aadhaar" will be

screened in the 'A Window on Asian Cinema' on October 6.

The Aadhaar scheme has got polarising reactions from different corners of civil and political society. According to the makers, the film will look into these perspectives through the story of a common man as he gets caught in the bureaucratic red tape in the process of enrolling his name in the scheme.

The movies, which marks National Award-winning filmmaker Suman Ghosh's debut in Hindi cinema as a director, also features veteran actors Raghuraj Yadav, Saurabh Shukla and Sanjay Mishra among others.

Robert Downey Jr's Instagram account gets hacked

LOS ANGELES, SEP 7 (PTI): Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr has revealed that his Instagram account was hacked and has now been restored. The "Iron Man" star on Friday had asked his fans to steer clear from any posts being made on his page for a time being.

"I'm sorry to say my Instagram has been compromised... Please steer clear for the time being until it's sorted. Thank you all. I love you 3000," Downey Jr had posted on Twitter.

The 54-year-old actor's account was hacked on Friday and the posts shared included ads for free iPhones, Playstation, and Amazon gift cards. On Saturday, Downey Jr announced that he has regained access to his Instagram page. The actor shared a picture of the titular villain of "Avengers: Age of Ultron", which read "Pardon my interruption..."

Downey Jr captioned the photo, "We are back! #hackers gonna #hackno #bueno !#boo #fbf #flashbackfriday #ageofultron."



Will Smith to star in sci-fi drama 'Brilliance'

LOS ANGELES, SEP 7 (PTI): Will Smith is set to headline Paramount Pictures new sci-fi drama "Brilliance".

The 50-year-old actor will also produce the project which is an official adaptation of Marcus Sakey's dystopian trilogy of the same name, reported Deadline.

The film mark Smith's reunion with producer-writer Akiva Goldsman, who is set to pen the script. They have previously worked together on the movies -- "I, Robot", "I Am Legend" and "Hancock".

"Brilliance" is set in a fu-

ture where one per cent of the world has developed unique gifts that threaten the status quo of the "normal" population. These non-neurotypical

people, who are referred to as "twists" or "abnorms" are carefully tracked by the government.

Smith will portray Nick Cooper, a federal agent who works for the Department of Analysis and Response. His job is to track down and terminate criminal abnorms who use their gifts for ill.

Besides Smith and Goldsman, James Lassiter and Shane Salerno will also produce the film.



Zoey Deschanel splits from husband Jacob Pechenik

LOS ANGELES, SEP 7 (PTI): Actor Zoey Deschanel has announced separation from husband Jacob Pechenik after four years of marriage.

In a statement to The Hollywood Reporter, the couple's representative said the two will continue to remain "friends, business partners" and "co-parents" to their two children -- daughter Elsie Otter and son Charlie Wolf.

"After much discussion and a long period of contemplation we have decided we are better off as friends, business partners and co-parents

rather than life partners," they said. "We remain committed to our business, our values and most of all our children. Thank you for respecting our privacy at this time," they added. Deschanel, 39, and Pechenik, 47, got married after in June 2015 after getting engaged in January the same year.

The actor, best known for show "New Girl" and film "500 Days of Summer of Days", was previously married to Death Cab for Cutie lead singer Ben Gibbard from 2009 to 2012.

ARIES: This is a time of wish fulfillment. Get ready to receive exactly what you asked for, in the format you desire. Such is the power of manifestation. For some, this could be a time or completing a significant journey. Ready to share your masterpiece with the world? Remember, perfection is but an illusion.

Tip: This is a time or completion and fruition.

TAURUS: Putting food on the table is paramount. But do you really need to lose you mental peace and sanity to create a stable life? Beware, Taurus. You could be holding on to a false sense of security. Where does your true happiness lie?

Tip: The Universe is supplying all of your needs.

GEMINI: You are closer to your destination than you can imagine. Continue to wrap up your projects and meet

your deadlines. Spend some time at the end of the day to review your progress and adjust the sails. Clearly envision the port you want to dock and speed away. New possibilities are opening up right this minute.

Tip: Envision your destination and set sail.

CANCER: Even though the change seems frightening, you're being asked to roll with it. Resisting it will feel a lot like rowing upstream without a paddle—impossible and exhausting all the same. You've survived a hundred per cent of your bad days.

Tip: Embrace the winds of change.

LEO: There is no harm in mixing business with pleasure, especially if it opens the doorway to more business and pleasure. Your wit and charm know no bounds today.

Tip: A successful partnership is on the cards for some.

VIRGO: The law of attraction works in mysterious ways, Virgo. Be cognizant of the signs and synchronicities, especially if you've been wanting to work in partnership with somebody. You will know if this association is worth your time and effort. On a side note, have you checked in with your body lately?

Tip: A blessed partnership is on the cards.

LIBRA: Oh, the perils of micromanaging. See how and where you need to detach. This will help you focus on what's really important and put your best work out. Thinking about expanding the team to take the load off?

Tip: It's to curate an A-team.

SCORPIO: Life is a giant ferris wheel and you're on the top of it, Scorpio. Expect many breakthroughs today. The blocks that were standing

in your way will now get cleared up. Keep an eye out for signs and synchronicities as you go about your day.

Tip: The blocks are getting cleared.

SAGITTARIUS: Yes, you deserve to be where you are today. Kiss goodbye to the demons. Replace fear and self-doubt with love. Remember there is a reason you were chosen for this sacred mission. What you do need to be mindful of, however, is that there is a lot more to learn.

Tip: Put in the work.

CAPRICORN: This is period of major movement, Capricorn. The blocks that previously held you back are now being cleared. Does that mean you will face no challenges whatsoever? No, it just means that your will to win is stronger. Remember, haters are going to hate, especially when they see you moving closer to the final destination.

Don't let that be the reason you take your sparkle down a notch.

Tip: Let the will to win be strong.

AQUARIUS: Writer's block, what? Here's a simple exercise to get your creative juices flowing: take a piece of paper and start journaling the thoughts that come to you. No stopping. No editing. Revisit the copy with a fresh mind. You'll find that some of the ideas you've channelled are pure gold.

Tip: Give free writing a thought.

PISCES: This is a time or movement and progression. Major news is on its way to you, and it could permanently change the game. Be sure to ground your energy, Pisces. This will help you stay focused despite the endless to-do list. For some, a major business trip may be on the cards. Put your best suit on as you board the flight.

Tip: Things are finally picking up pace.