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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Viswanathan Anand pens inspirational book

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 (PTI): Chess legend Viswanathan Anand has authored an inspirational book where he looks back on his experience to share lessons on how to navigate life. In "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life" (as told to journalist Susan Ninan), Anand revisits his greatest games and worst losses, his unique experiences of playing against the best minds, and the methods he employs to prepare for wins, cope with disappointments and, simply, stay in the game.

The book, published by Hachette India, is releasing on December 11.

Currently playing in the Isle of Man International Chess Tournament, India's first grandmaster and five-time world champion said this book has been an interesting journey.

"I have memories of the major events in my career and life, but when you put them down on paper, you suddenly have to organise your thoughts and are forced to think through them in detail. It allowed me to rediscover many interesting stories and incidents," he said.

"Above all, it made me realise that during my greatest accomplishments failure was never far away, and in the lowest moments there were always things that lifted me up. Rather than just making this about my story, I've tried to distil in this book some of the lessons I learnt, the strategies that helped me perform better and tackle life as it happened," he added.

Poulomi Chatterjee, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of Hachette India, said Anand has a unique voice and this book is truly a brilliant and motivating read.

"His achievements and career have been hugely inspirational for so many people, and now not only do we have a first-hand view of his experiences - much that even chess enthusiasts and his followers would find they did not know about - but also a masterclass in navigating life from the mind master himself," she said.

From the time he learnt to move pieces on a chess board as a six-year-old, Vishy - as Anand is fondly called - has racked up innumerable accolades.

The first World Chess Champion from Asia, he emerged on to the global stage when chess was largely a Soviet preserve, climbed the ranks to become world number one and won tournaments across all formats of the game.

Art 371F safe under BJP's watch, Rijiju reassures

"No plans to topple SKM Govt. We want to work in closer coordination instead"

SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 17 OCT:

Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, urged the people of Sikkim not to get misguided by what he called rumours of BJP diluting provisions of Article 371F of the Constitution which accords special status to Sikkim.

He asserted instead that BJP would work to protect and further strengthen Article 371F.

Mr Rijiju was addressing the people at the Vijay Sankalpa Sabha, the election campaign meeting of the BJP for Martam-Rumtek and Gangtok constituencies at Ranipool in East Sikkim on Thursday.

He arrived in Sikkim



by road from Bagdogra airport this afternoon.

The public meeting was also attended by SKM president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Goday], Ministers and se-

nior leaders and BJP and SKM party workers. SKM and BJP, it may be recalled, have entered into a seat-sharing alliance for the by-elections with BJP contesting from two

seats and SKM from one.

In his address, Mr Rijiju assured that the BJP Government at the Centre will work for Sikkim and its people in close coordination

with the SKM government in the State.

Recognising that apprehensions about the future of Article 371F were triggered by how the BJP Govt abrogated

Article 370, the MoS argued that Article 371 series was totally different from Article 370 since it seeks to connect States with the mainstream.

On the same, he urged

the people not to fall the prey of rumours that Article 371F will be diluted by BJP.

Mr Rijiju mentioned that the other rumour that BJP will topple the SKM government in Sikkim in the event that it won the by-election was also wrong and baseless.

He reiterated that the NDA government was instead keen on working in better and closer coordination with the SKM government.

He remarked that SKM already has a strong government in the State so the Centre has big dreams and vision for Sikkim and confident that these can be achieved in coordination with the State government.

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Democracy in danger under BJP rule: Raj CM



JAIPUR, OCT 17 (PTI): Reiterating that democracy was in danger in the country under the BJP rule, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said people should understand this and question the Centre what it was doing for them.

He also accused the BJP of indulging in politics in the name of nationalism and religion.

"The democracy today is under threat. We have no enmity with the RSS or the BJP but we have a fight of ideology, policies and programmes. They should also do this. The public should pressure the government and ask what it has done for them," he said.

Stressing that the fight should be for ideology, policies and programme, Gehlot told reporters after returning from Mumbai, "They have created an atmosphere in the name of nationalism and religion and doing politics for that."

On the BJP suggesting the Bharat Ratna for Veer Savarkar, the chief minister said the party had a fascist ideology and did not consider what the public or other political parties think.

"In a democracy, sentiments of the opposition are considered but

for them, the opposition holds no value," he said.

He said that it was the BJP's intention to ensure a one-party rule in the country.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accusing the Congress of dynasty politics, the chief minister said no one could stop anyone from joining politics in a democracy.

"This is a useless thing. It is not the era of kingdoms where the one born to the queen will rule. It's a democracy where people elect those whom they like," he said.

The chief minister exuded confidence that their party would win the October 21 bypolls in Mandawa (Jhunjhunu) and Khimsar (Nagaur) in the state.

On the cabinet's recent decision of allowing non-councillors become chiefs of urban local bodies in the state, Gehlot said that the decision was taken in view of the current scenario where the BJP was "doing politics" in the name of nationalism and was creating a divide in the name of religion.

"We want that the gap in society does not widen in the name of religion and members of all political parties, castes and communities maintain dialogue," he said.

Martial arts fraternity elated with selection of 3 kick-boxers from Sikkim in Team India

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 OCT:

It is really a matter of pride that three kick-boxers from Sikkim are in team India set to represent the country at the WAKO World Senior Kickboxing Championship 2019 to be held from 19 to 27 October at Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Kick-boxers from Sikkim, Phurba Sherpa, Phur Khandu Sherpa and Srijana Chettri are part of the 12-member national team headed for the world championship.

It is informed that trio was shortlisted after winning gold medals at the senior national kickboxing championship held in Haryana in the month of July earlier this year.



31-year-old Phurba Sherpa hails from Upper Sumin in East Sikkim and will be fighting for team India for the third time.

She had represented India earlier at World

Championships held in Ireland in 2015 and then Hungary in 2017. She had also represented the country in World Martial Arts Games in South Korea in 2016 and again in

Turkmenistan in 2018 at the Asian Kickboxing Championship where she also won a silver medal for India.

24-year-old Phur Khandu Sherpa is the

younger sister of Phurba Sherpa and this is her debut appearance at the world championship. She has bagged three gold medals, two silver medals and one bronze medal so far for the State in national championships.

22-year-old Srijana Chettri is a resident of Yangyang in South Sikkim and is also debuting this time. She has won 3 gold medals and 1 bronze medal for the State in the national level.

They have undergone rigorous training sessions here for the world championship. They are leaving for Delhi on Friday to join the national team which is scheduled to leave for the championship on 19 October.

turn to pg02

Breaking gender stereotypes should begin at play school level: NCERT



NEW DELHI, OCT 17 (PTI): Gender stereotypes should end at pre-school level itself to ensure children are not gender biased when they grow up, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) said Thursday.

The HRD Ministry's curriculum developing body has made the "gen-

der equality" recommendations in the new guidelines for pre-school education.

It has asked schools to ensure that teachers demonstrate equal and appropriate expectations from boys and girls by providing them equal attention, respect and equal opportunities.

Schools should select

books, plays and other activities free of any gender bias. "Teachers should avoid language that limits one gender or another, and use gender neutral labels," a senior NCERT official said.

"Teachers should use stories, songs, activities and facilitation aids that depict girls and boys, including some with spe-

cial needs in the same roles as men and women in all professions. Both women and men should appear as leaders, heroes and problem solvers," the official said. It has also been recommended that parents are regularly sensitised to support these practices at home.

"It is important to help them understand and stop discrimination," the official added. The proposed curriculum will follow developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) that are appropriate to their age, stage and context.

The guidelines also have recommendations for play schools to ensure careful inclusion of children with disabilities through early intervention that minimises learning difficulties and accelerates child development.

check out an experiment with some podcasting from Sikkim.

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Review meeting for Poklok Kamrang by-poll

NAMCHI, 17 OCT (IPR): General Observer for By-Elections for 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency, Alak Kumar Saharia conducted a review meeting on the Dos and Don'ts for the upcoming election.

Present amongst others were Expenditure Observer for 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency, Kalrav Mishra, Returning Officer (South), Ragul K, SP (South), Prawin Gurung, Assistant Returning Officer, Satyan K Pradhan, ASP (South), Janapandiyar J, Sector Magistrates, Sector Police Officers and other election officials.

Mr Saharia gave a detailed power point presentation in which he explained various requirements for the efficient and well-organized conduct of the Bye Elections.



He touched upon various topics and challenges which the elections officials may face during the poll, prior to poll and on the poll day. He also elucidated on the importance of peaceful conduct of elections,

security deployment plan, randomization of polling officials, booth level management and communications plans, training of police personnel and on other aspects of elections.

Mr Saharia also em-

phasized on the use of different kinds of applications namely that of C-Vigil, National Voters Service Portal (NVSP), National Grievances Services Portal for the convenience of the voters. He further under-

lined that important voter's helpline and grievance numbers should be circulated to the masses at large.

Moreover, he updated that the election officials should follow the guidelines laid

down by Election Commission of India.

Speaking during the session, Returning Officer (South), Ragul K outlined about the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of Bye Elections at 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency. He put forward the constituency and the route map where he factored the critical polling stations, total number of voters as well as the facilities that will be provided by the authorities specifically that of ramps for wheelchairs and braille signage for the differently-abled voters so as to exercise their franchise.

During the course of the meeting there was an interactive discussion between the election officials and the General Observer.

More water to be released in Punjab rivulet for holy dip

SULTANPUR LODHI (PUNJAB), OCT 17 (PTI): Ahead of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, the Punjab government said on Thursday it would release 500 cusecs of fresh water into the Kali Bein rivulet to enable devotees to take a holy dip in it. It is said that Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, used to take bath in this rivulet and had attained enlightenment on its banks of this Bein. The first Sikh Guru had spent 14 years in Sultanpur Lodhi.

"Keeping in view of importance of the holy Kali Bein in the Sikh religion, the state government has decided to facilitate pilgrims for holy dip in this historic rivulet, where Guru Nanak Dev ji used to take bath," Tourism Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said. He said 500 cusecs of freshwater would be released from the Mukerian hydel from October 23 in the Kali Bein to facilitate devotees.

The minister said the state government had spent Rs 4.96 crore at

Mukerian hydel for concrete lining of the banks of the rivulet to release freshwater. Two-platoon bridges, which are being constructed at the Kali Bein, will be completed by October 21.

To ensure safety of the devotees, a steel railing would be installed along the banks of the Bein, besides deploying 150 swimmers to deal with any emergency situation.

Channi also reviewed work on the stage and an upcoming tent city in Sultanpur Lodhi. He said the state government would leave no stone unturned for the grand celebrations of 550th 'Parakash purab'. In an official release, the minister said Chief Minister Amarinder Singh would inaugurate development projects, including bridges, roads and power station, worth Rs 400 crore to the people on October 23.

The chief minister would also lay the foundation stone of the Sultanpur Lodhi - Dera Baba Nanak road via Subhanpur-Beas-Batala as "Guru Nanak Marg" to connect these two historic cities.

Sikkim attends national conference on Disaster Management



NEW DELHI, 17 OCT (IPR): Keshav Koirala from Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Assistant Professor from Namchi Government College, Kimla Dorjee Bhutia attended a two-day national conference cum workshop on Disaster Management and Climate Change at New Delhi organized by Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research,

Jamia Millia on 16 and 17 Oct, 2019.

During the conference, Mr Koirala spoke on the Institutional Mechanism on Disaster Management to the trainees.

Kimla Dorjee Bhutia also presented her paper on Accessing and Mitigating Disaster: "The connectivity of Societal Security through Community Based Management System" on the programme.

Training of Polling Officers II-IV at Namchi



NAMCHI, 17 OCT (IPR): A daylong training for Polling Officers II-IV for the upcoming by-elections of 10 Poklok Kamrang assembly constituency under South District was held at the auditorium of Namchi Senior Secondary School today.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 90 Polling Officers attended the training which was conducted by SDM Gyalshing (HQ), Tushar Nihare who is the Master Trainer for the election related training and SDM Yangang, Sangay Gyatso Bhutia who is also the Nodal Officer and Training Co-ordinator.

The Master Trainer in his PPT presentation detailed out a comprehensive structure of the upcoming bye-elections and spelled out the rules and regulations laid down by the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Polling Officers.

The resource person indicated the polling officers to strictly follow the Election Commission of India rules while conducting the bye-elections and detailed out the Do's and Don'ts on using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voters Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) on

the day of the polls.

The trainees were also briefed about the proper set-up of polling stations, entry of contesting candidate, election agents of contesting candidate, public servants on duty, media persons with authorized access and person accompanying or assisting a blind or infirm voter on the day of the polls.

Further, Mr Nihare issued instructions to Polling Officers II to be well versed about the maintenance of registration of voters in Form 17A and application of indelible ink while he instructed Polling officers III to take charge of the Control unit (CU) and inspect the voter's slip before allowing any voter to cast their votes.

The officials were also apprised of the mock poll to be conducted in the presence of representatives of political parties before the commencement of polling to ensure proper functioning of the machines.

During the course of the program, the polling officers were familiarized upon usage of EVMs and VVPATs, preparation of control unit, maintaining marked copy of electoral rolls and other procedures. The officials were also fair and equitable election process.

Innovation Day observed at CAEPHT Ranipool

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 OCT:

Innovation Day was organized at College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology (CAEPHT), Ranipool on 15 Oct, 2019, jointly by The Institution of Engineers (India), Sikkim State Centre [IE(I)-SSC] and CAEPHT, Ranipool, to mark the birth anniversary of great scientist, and visionary Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by Dean, Prof PP Dabral, CAEPHT Ranipool and Er, ex-secretary, Govind P Sharma, PWD, Govt of Sikkim and past secretary of Institution of Engineers (India), Sikkim State Centre graced the occasion as the chief guest of the function.

The programme started with welcome address by Secretary, Prof NS Chauhan, [IE(I)-SSC] and president Institution Innovation Council (IIC), CAEPHT. He emphasized that the purpose of the programme is to inculcate and encourage the idea of in-



novation among the students, and researchers.

The programme was attended by more than 50 participants including faculty members and the students of CAEPHT, Ranipool.

Dr SN Yadav, Prof & Head, Department Farm Machinery and Power Engineering (FMPE) delivered talk on Role of IPR in Innovation. He explained different types of innovations and procedures to convert them into commercially viable product.

He also informed the house about the patentable and non-patentable innovations and importance of IPR manage-

ment in WTO regime. Er Ng Devrani, Assistant Professor (Mech Engg), Dept of FMPE delivered talk on Procedure to convert innovative idea into prototype.

She explained the basics of innovation and systematic procedure to convert idea into innovation and thereby prototype. She said that creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality and brainstorming is one approach of generating new ideas.

The chief guest of the programme, Mr Sharma stressed the need to encourage the engineers to adopt innovative ideas

for solving the new challenges of the human life. Prof Dabral discussed the importance of celebrating the Innovation Day. He also described various contributions of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam made in different domains of human life.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Member Executive committee, Prof SN Yadav, IE(I)-SSC and member IIC-CAEPHT. Assistant Professor, Dr Y Ghanshyam Singh, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering and member IIC-CAEPHT compared the programme.

Sikkim ends Vijay Hazare Trophy with win



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 OCT:

Senior Men's Cricket Team of Sikkim won their last match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20 by 124 runs against Mizoram today at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Dehradun.

They played a total of nine matches in the tournament and ended the series with one win, one draw and seven losses. Sikkim earned 6 Point(s) in the plate division of this tournament.

Sikkim won the toss and chose to bat first. They gave a target of 189 runs to the opponent with Iqbal Abdullah scoring the innings highest runs (56), Bibek Diyal (46), Dinesh Rai

(15), Ishwar Chaudhary (15), Yahspal Singh (14), Nilesh Lamichaney (10), Padam Limboo (9 Not-Out), Ashish Thapa (7), Mandup Bhutia (6), Palzor (3) and Lee Yong Lepcha (2).

Defending the total of 188 runs in the second innings, the bowlers bowled brilliantly and maintained pressure on Mizoram as seven of their players were out without scoring a single run.

Padam Limboo took six wickets in six overs conceding only 20 runs, Iqbal Abdullah two wickets in five overs conceding 19 runs and Ishwar Chaudhary one wicket in three overs giving 11 runs. Mizoram was all out for 64 runs in 16

overs.

Top five scorer for Sikkim in this tournament is Yashpal Singh with 241 runs, Ashish Thapa (198 runs), Iqbal Abdullah (187 runs), Bibek Diyal (117 runs) and Ishwar Chaudhary (83 runs).

Top five wicket-takers remained Iqbal Abdullah taking 10 wickets in nine matches, Padam Limboo and Ishwar Chaudhary 9 wickets each, Yashpal Singh 8 wickets and Palzor Tamang 4 wickets.

The Senior Men's Team will be participating next in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, a T20 tournament, where they will play total seven matches starting from 08 Nov, 2019.

Bangladeshi prisoner dies of illness in Jammu hospital

JAMMU, OCT 17 (PTI): A Bangladeshi prisoner, awaiting repatriation after completing his jail term for illegal border crossing, died at a hospital here on Thursday, officials said.

Manzoor Alam (35), who was suffering from Hepatitis B and C, besides malfunctioning of spleen, was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital four days ago and breathed his last this evening, they said.

Alam had been lodged in the district jail Amphalla here for over four years, the officials said, adding that he was among six Bangladeshi nationals who had completed their jail term and was waiting for repatriation.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

Art 371E...

Mr Rijju remarked that by giving two seats to BJP, SKM has shown the grandness of its heart and stressed that BJP will always respect this gesture.

He added that the success of the SKM-BJP alliance will give out a good message.

On the same, he appealed to the people to support the seat-sharing alliance by ensuring a huge margin of victory for BJP in both seats.

He also expressed confidence that even the CM will win the by-poll from Poklok-Kamrang by a landslide.

On his part, he assured the people to be their representative in Delhi.

Mr Rijju remarked that Sikkim was a small and beautiful State with its own identity and uniqueness and that people from outside were looking at Sikkim and its people with respect.

He mentioned that Central government under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working for the north-eastern region on priority basis.

He informed that the PM has directed all Union Ministers to visit different north-eastern states every month to establish a better connect.

Earlier, BJP state president, DB Chauhan expressed confidence that the BJP-SKM alliance with win all the three seats in the by-polls. The meeting was also addressed by BJP candidates YT Lepcha and Sonam Venchungpa and senior SKM and BJP leaders.

Martial arts...

Speaking to media this morning at Paljor Stadium, they expressed satisfaction with their training and preparation for the world championship. They have further assured to give their best to win medals for the country.

At a small function held here at the Paljor Stadium conference hall this morning, Sikkim Association of Kickboxing Organisations [SAKO] executive members conveyed best wishes to all three kick-boxers for the world championship by offering khadas and flower bouquets.

SAKO president Bhim Bahadur Subba said that their selection was a great achievement not only for kickboxing fraternity but for the entire State.

Similarly, SAKO chief technical director, Bidhan Ballav Subba, mentioned that Sikkim has been continuously producing international kick-boxers for the country. He stated that such achievements have been possible due to good team work, coaches and players.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Priyanka slams UP govt over custodial death

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 (PTI): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government over the alleged custodial death of a farmer and accused the BJP dispensation of failing to stop crimes.

"In Hapur, the son of a farmer was tortured by the police and he lost his life. His son was offered chips as incentive to keep quiet," she alleged.

"This is shameful. The BJP government has completely failed to stop crime. Incidents of police excesses are coming every day," the Congress general secretary said.

The farmer, who was detained by the Pilkhuwa police for questioning over the murder of his wife nearly one-and-a-half month ago, allegedly died in police custody early on Monday.

The deceased farmer's family had alleged that Pradeep Tomar was beaten mercilessly by the police during interrogation, due to which his condition deteriorated badly.

Hapur Superintendent of Police Yashveer Singh had said Tomar was detained for questioning, during which his condition worsened. He was admitted to a Meerut hospital where he died during treatment.

The custodial death led to deep resentment among the villagers, and the district administration reacted by transferring the Pilkhuwa police station incharge and his two subordinates to the Hapur police lines.

Karnataka Minister assures efforts to end deadlock over assembly coverage

BENGALURU, OCT 17 (PTI): Amid continuing boycott of the electronic media of the state government and ruling BJP events over alleged restrictions on Karnataka assembly coverage, state Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said efforts would be made to end the 'deadlock' soon.

Government cannot function without publicity from the media, we too have our concern with you (media) on the issue on certain matters... we will make all efforts to end the deadlock as soon as possible, Bommai told reporters here.

He was responding to journalists from Kannada news channels who raised the issue at a press conference addressed by him and Sugar Minister C T Ravi and said they would not be able to cover the news conference until there was a solution.

The journalists highlighted that restrictions were not limited to the assembly alone but also near the Chief Ministers residence and at certain government functions.

Why should electronic media cooperate with BJP? When you are not cooperating with us, how can you expect cooperation from us, a senior TV journalist asked.

Diljale Lingee FC in quarter final of Dikchu tourney



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 17 OCT:

The pre-quarter final of the 78th Foundation year celebration open men's football tournament was played between Tibuk Junior Boys and Diljale Lingee FC at Dikchu Senior Secondary School East Sikkim today wherein the latter team

won by 5-0 goals.

The function was attended by Municipal Executive Officer, Tempo Tashi Bhutia, Mangan North Sikkim as a chief guest in presence of Rural Development Assistant, Mani Raj Rai, Senior Teacher Marchak PS, Indra Kumari Rai, Senior Teacher cum Singer, Phigu Lepcha, Phi-

dang PS, Hom Nath Bhat-tarai, NHPC Official, Kamal Bardewa, SMC, Senior Teacher Phidang PS, Lakpa Tshering Lepcha, Principal DSSS, Dr Sarozha Pradhan and other dignitaries.

Likewise, the ward panchayat, Lower Rakdong Ms. Hemlata Nepal and ward panchayat Dikchu-Jang,

Chandra Lall Neopaney were host guests.

The final match of the tournament will be held on 01 Nov on the occasion of 78th Foundation day celebration. The winner of the tournament will be awarded with the cash prize of Rs. 50,000 with trophy and Rs. 30,000 respectively.

Weekly market price details of spices

GANGTOK, 17 OCT (PIB): The rates of Large Cardamom for average quality having about 10% moisture and fresh Ginger are

furnished below. It would be highly appreciated if you could kindly publish/broadcast/telecast/circulate the prices details of

different markets as news item/information for the benefit of spices growers/farmers of this region.

Weekly Market Price of Large Cardamom & Fresh Ginger Collected by the Spices Board, Govt of India, Singtam on 07 Oct, 2019.

Large Cardamom	Name of the markets						
	Gangtok	Singtam	Mangan	Jorethang	Geyzing	Kalimpong	Siliguri
Badadana (₹/kg.)	475.00	450.00	450.00	---	475.00	500.00	562.50
Chotadana (₹/kg.)	425.00	425.00	400.00	425.00	412.50	430.00	476.25
Badadana (₹/mound)	19000.00	18000.00	18000.00	---	19000.00	20000.00	22500.00
Chotadana (₹/mound)	17000.00	17000.00	16000.00	17000.00	16500.00	17200.00	19050.00
Ginger		Singtam	Ranipool	Jorethang	Geyzing	Kalimpong	Siliguri
	(Price - ₹/kg.)	Mota	45.00	50.00	---	---	58.75
	Patla	50.00	50.00	---	---	60.00	63.75

Will not vacate office following eviction notice from admin: JNUSU



NEW DELHI, OCT 16 (PTI): The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Wednesday said it will not vacate its office following an eviction notice by the university administration.

Dean of Students (DoS), Professor Umesh Kadam, had sent a notice to the students' union on Tuesday asking them to vacate it. The JNUSU was not notified last year due to non-compliance with the Lyngdoh Committee Report and the matter is sub-judice. The newly-elected union is yet to be notified, he said in the notice.

"To prevent misuse of property, it is decided by the Competent Authority of the University that the said room shall be locked immediately and the same may be handed over to the JNUSU after notification of the same," according to the notice.

The union had been directed to vacate the office by 5 pm but they have not vacated it.

"Around 5 pm, the guards had come but we had gathered in large numbers and they could not do anything. We will not give away this office," said vice-president of the newly-elected union Saket Moon.

The students' union said "the JNUSU belongs to 8,500 students and the administration is not in any authority to close down our spaces".

"The office in Teflas is not a personal property of the DOS and is our symbol of the community's right to representation. We appeal to the student community to join hands and resist this diktat of the JNU administration to close down our spaces," they said.

However, there was no immediate reaction from Kadam.

Sugarcane yield in Karnataka may suffer shortfall due to floods: Minister

BENGALURU, OCT 17 (PTI): Sugarcane yield in Karnataka, the country's third largest producer of sugar, may suffer a 'shortfall' this time due to floods in major producing regions of the state, Sugar Minister C T Ravi said on Thursday.

Sugarcane crop on 1.52 lakh hectares had been affected due to inundation for weeks together. "So, we estimate shortfall in yield," he said. Speaking to reporters here after chairing a meeting of the Sugarcane Control Board, he said the shortfall would mean a shorter crushing season for the sugar factories this year.

According to Ravi, sugarcane is cultivated in five lakh hectares in Karnataka and 410.65 lakh tonne of cane was crushed in 2018-19. There are 85 sugar factories in the state of which 67 functioned in 2018-19, producing 44.31 lakh tonne of sugar. Uttar Pradesh stood first in sugar production in the country, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka, he said.

On the dues to the farmers, he said Rs 11,948 crore had to be paid as fair and remunerative price, fixed by the Centre, for 2018-19 and as of Wednesday only Rs 84 crore remained to be cleared.

"So 99.5 per cent payment has been done.

The dues will be paid in the next 10 days," he said adding some factories had even declared more than the FRP through private oral agreements and paid the first or second instalments.

Making it clear that the government's commitment was only for FRP, he, however, said it had been decided farmers and factories entering into such pacts would have to go for legal agreements about the price decided over and above FRP to avoid any differences in the future.

FRP for 2018-19 is Rs 2,750 per tonne if there is 10 per cent recovery. The Minister also said in view of concerns expressed about differences in sugar yield from the sugarcane brought from the same areas, the government had decided to use an automated machine in a few sugar factories on a pilot basis.

The technology was used in Brazil and each machine may cost up to Rs one crore, he said adding based on the outcome of the pilot project, the state would recommend it to the Centre. Regarding shifting of the Directorate of Sugar and Commissionerate for Cane Development to Belagavi, the Ministersaid a decision had been made to this effect at the government level, but some issues related to staff needed to be addressed.

Six detained with cash worth Rs 2.19 cr



MUMBAI, OCT 17 (PTI): Six persons have been detained by a team of police and Election commission officials for allegedly carrying Rs 2.19 crore in cash at Zaveri Bazaar in South Mumbai, the police said on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, additional commissioner of police's special squad and a team from the Election Commission laid a trap near Khaugali at Zaveri Bazaar on Wednesday evening, and nabbed the men, an official said.

On searching them, the police found cash to the tune of Rs 2.19 crore, he added.

During interrogation, the men claimed that they were gold merchants and had come to Zaveri Bazaar for business, the official said.

As they were unable to provide any satisfactory explanation about the money, the men were taken to Lo-

kamanya Tilak Marg Police Station, he said.

No case has been registered and no arrest has been made so far, as the Income Tax department is in the process of verifying the source of the money, he added.

The seizure has come at a time when the model code of conduct is in place for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections to be held on October 21.

Minnows chasing 'dream' in World T20 qualifiers marred by corruption charges

DUBAI, OCT 17 (AFP): Cricket's lesser lights, including Jersey and Nigeria, are chasing a "dream" as qualifying for next year's T20 World Cup gets underway on Friday, but the start of the tournament will be overshadowed by three United Arab Emirates players being charged with corruption.

Scotland are the highest-ranked team in the competition, with 14 nations vying for six places in the opening round of next year's World T20 in Australia, where they would join Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in attempting to reach the 'Super 12s'.

But the hosts' preparations for the tournament in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have been thrown into disarray, after captain Mohammed Naveed was one of the trio of UAE players charged by the International Cricket Council on Wednesday.

Batsman Shaiman Anwar and right-arm pace bowler Qadeer Ahmed have also been charged by the ICC, the players facing a total of 12 counts of breaching the governing body's anti-corruption rules, as well as being axed from their country's squad for the qualifiers.

"My family is let down, my friends are let down. Everybody is let down. This was my mistake," the 32-year-old Naveed told The National newspaper.

Naveed added that he had made a mistake in failing to report an approach made to him by a "fixer" who had pretend-

ed to be an official representing a franchise in the T10 League, also slated for the UAE in November.

Ireland are the only Test team having to go through qualifying and will be expected to book a sixth straight appearance in the tournament.

"We are here to compete at the world stage," said Irish skipper Gary Wilson. "We have a great record in the Middle East and the boys are looking forward to a great tournament and ensure we finish right at the top again."

The winners of each group of seven will qualify automatically, with the four remaining spots to be decided in playoffs.

Scotland, 11th in the world T20 rankings, claimed their first-ever win at a global ICC tournament in the 2016 edition by beating Hong Kong, but will be looking to put the pain of agonisingly missing out on the 50-over World Cup earlier this year behind them.

They had two chances to secure a place during last year's qualifying in Zimbabwe, but lost to Ireland before rain cut short their tense run chase against two-time world champions the West Indies.

"It is vitally important not only for us as Scotland but for every team here," said Scotland captain Kyle Coetzer.

- Jersey chasing 'dream' -

The Netherlands, who reached the 'Super 10' round in 2014, Oman, Hong Kong and the UAE will all be among the favourites to qualify. But

the likes of Nigeria, Jersey and Singapore insist they are not going to just make up the numbers as they bid to give cricket a boost in their countries. There was already a shock in the Asian regional qualifiers, with Singapore reaching this stage ahead of Nepal, the world's 13th-ranked outfit.

Island team Jersey are playing in their second consecutive qualifier, having fallen short four years ago despite surprise victories over Hong Kong and Nepal.

"For Jersey, it would probably be the biggest thing that has happened in our sporting history," admitted captain Charles Perchard.

"It's a dream of ours to potentially play in a World Cup next year."

Nigeria have reached the final stage of qualifying for the first time as cricket continues to grow in the African country, with their youth side booking a spot at next year's Under-19 World Cup in South Africa.

"It would be a great thing to be at the World Cup. It would be a great history for Nigeria," said their skipper Ademola Onikoyi, after his team took the place of Zimbabwe following their suspension by the ICC, which was lifted on Monday.

Singapore, led by Amjad Mahboob, are also debutants at the qualifying event. The qualifiers get underway on Friday, with Scotland facing Singapore in the opening Group A game, while Ireland take on Hong Kong and the UAE play Oman in Group B.

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An Article of Faith

The 36th Amendment of the Constitution – Revere it, sure, but also study it to be able to protect it

There has been a lot of chatter of late about provisions in the Constitution of India which accord special status to select regions and states. While the manner in which Article 370 was abrogated has rightfully got every special category region worried, let us for now believe that the present dispensation at the Centre will paint over specialness only one state per term. This is not to suggest that the Centre cannot homogenize everything if it wants to. It can pull off even the most distasteful amendments if it wants to. As of now though, there is no suggestion that it will take any more special states to the cleaners. That said, it is important that special states like Sikkim revise what the Constitution accords them. It is also important that all special states and regions come together and build collective defences and not allow the manner in which J&K was abandoned by the rest of India to be the reaction when they too are forced to become what the dominant political party wants them to become. The time is apt for Sikkim to reframe its association with the Constitution and extend its emotional attachment to Article 371F into a deeper and more nuanced understanding of this, the thirty-sixth amendment to the Constitution of India, and one which establishes the provisions laying out the special status that Sikkim enjoys as a State of the Union of India.

What we have on ground though is the unsettling reality of how obscure Article 371 F remains even though it underlines the very identity of Sikkim and sets the conditions for its being a part of India. It is also ironic that its potency is compromised more from its constant invoking than any intentional sidelining or harm. This tendency to bring up the Article too often has, it appears, replaced the need to explain or understand it in deeper detail. As a result, there is more confusion than understanding about it.

All the confusion surrounding this Article of the Constitution of India perhaps stems from the terminology that that Sikkim has associated with it – speaking almost exclusively of protecting and upholding the “sanctity” of Article 371F. Sanctity, which means sacredness, something inviolable, is associated with that which is to be accepted without question. Much like faith actually, and thus the communication gap which exists between religious texts and followers of the faith, is also seen in Sikkim with its understanding/ appreciation of Article 371F. Even the most devout adherent has at best a sketchy understanding of the invocations that are always on her/his lips. Maybe the incompleteness is an intentional dodge, but in public statements on the Article, it becomes obvious that s/he might not understand the full import of the words, but will never question them. Clearly then, the desire is never expressed to interpret the meanings. Till such time that such beliefs remain in private spaces, they are fine, but the moment this incomplete knowledge is exploited in the public domain, things can go out of hand. India knows only too well how faith and its interpretations have often been exploited to bloody ends by various factions. In the case of Sikkim, Article 371F occupies a similarly edified position. It is respected, but only superficially understood and still passionately protected. While no one questions the need of protecting the Article, it is the still sketchy understanding that needs to go and one needs to underline here that the Article, being a part of the Constitution, is already well protected, so energy will be better deployed trying to explain, understand and interpret it. It is downright laughable how easily political parties whip up emotions just citing this Article. Fact remains that Article 371F is an over-arching clause put in place to guard against the complete swamping of the Sikkimese identity. To whip it out at every pretext makes a mockery of the obviously noble ideals which led to the creation and insertion of this Article in the Constitution. Lazy leaders cannot be expected to go easy with their exploitation of Article 371F in their speeches, so the onus falls on the people to protect its “sanctity” which is under threat more from the over-invocation that it suffers than a concerted plan to undermine it. For that to happen, the people must first understand what the Article is all about.

Anyone can pick up a copy of the Constitution and read Article 371F in it, but to develop an understanding, one needs more. For that Sikkim will have to bring the Article down from the pedestal of reverence it has been placed on and approach it more practically. It has to be tackled as an academic pursuit of understanding and not as a theology class. Once the people know, they will also be able to see things properly for themselves and not the tinted glasses that leaders whip out each time they say Article 371F.

How to make your online shopping more environmentally friendly

STUART MILLIGAN & BARIS YALABIK
theconversation.com

Online shopping continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. In 2018, the market value of UK retail was £381 billion of which online transactions made up almost one-fifth. That's £12.3 billion of grocery items and £58.8 billion of all non-food items purchased online.

As with almost any human activity, this behaviour has a significant impact on the environment. Online shopping uses tonnes of packaging (overall British retail uses 59 billion pieces of plastic each year), and a vast number of air polluting daily deliveries on the roads.

Yet there are ways in which retailers and consumers can use home delivery to reduce the environmental impact of our shopping habits.

Take online grocery shopping, currently dominated in the UK by the big names of Tesco (42.8% market share), Asda (18.41%), Ocado (16.16%) and Sainsbury's (14.09%). These large organisations have sufficient resources to invest in the cleanest zero-emission (predominantly electric) vehicles for their home delivery service.

The journeys these vehicles make to customers' homes are likely to present a much smaller carbon footprint than if those customers drove to the supermarket themselves. Delivering to multiple customers over the course of a trip also significantly reduces the total number of journeys required.

So too does the wide variety of delivery slots made available by retailers, along with an increasing number of customers as the popularity of home delivery grows. These factors all allow retailers to optimise delivery routes and reduce their environmental impact.

For non-food home delivery though, the final stage of delivery to the customer is often not managed directly by the retailers, but out-sourced to independent couriers. This fragmented nature of “last-mile” service provision means there is less likely to be the same investment in low-emission

vehicles. Indeed, many couriers are self-employed, using their personal vehicles to deliver parcels.

Non-food online deliveries also require each item to be not only individually packed, but also protected by additional packaging to prevent damage in transit.

DELIVERY WITHOUT DELAY

Another trend having a major impact on the environment is the offer of next-day (and even same-

GREENER OPTIONS

When short distances (less than 3km, say) exist between shopper and retailer, it is environmentally beneficial to shop in store. It is only when longer deliveries are required that online delivery becomes a greener option.

Where possible, customers who want to benefit from an online shopping experience should opt for the click and collect option to pick up in store, reducing the logistical demands on the supplier.

Locker boxes, where you pick up your delivery from a secure locker, offer a good compromise between increasing convenience and reducing environmental impact. A further green, last-mile initiative is crowd-sourcing, where members of the public drop off packages as part of their planned journey for a small fee.

From a packaging perspective, more and more retailers are now offering bag-free options or alternatives to plastic bags. Environmentally conscious consumers should seek out retailers which offer these options.

Encouragingly, retailers are well aware of all of these challenges – and many are working hard to address environmental issues. There is an increased use of biodegradable packaging throughout the supply chain, and more focus on “closing-the-loop” – where retailers are taking responsibility for reusing and recycling products.

But there are elements of the current approach to online shopping that are simply not sustainable. These need to be urgently addressed to meet global challenges regarding air quality and global warming. Overall, the environmental sustainability of the retail market is a complex conundrum. But simple consumer choices can go a long way to making the way we shop greener.

[Stuart Milligan is Academic Manager of Procurement, Logistics & Supply Chain Management, University of South Wales; Baris Yalabik is Senior Lecturer in Operations and Supply Management, University of Bath]



day) deliveries. For non-food items, this means always having available stock – which requires more space to keep it and more energy to store and move it. From a fresh food perspective, the offer of constant availability results in increased levels of food waste.

Also, in order to satisfy such swift delivery requirements, additional vehicles are required to ensure such speedy delivery – often in vehicles that are only partly loaded.

Another point to consider is that online deliveries do not necessarily substitute our own journeys to shops, resulting in an increased net carbon footprint. And research indicates that returns from online purchases are significantly greater than store purchases, resulting in increased levels of waste and increased transportation.

Yet there are choices that consumers can make to reduce the impact their shopping decisions have on the environment.



Three reasons you have neck pain – and why ‘bad posture’ probably isn’t one of them

CHRISTIAN WORSFOLD
theconversation.com

If you suffer from neck pain, you're not alone. Spinal pain is one of the leading causes of disability worldwide and its occurrence has increased dramatically over the past 25 years. While most episodes of neck pain are likely to get better within a few months, half to three-quarters of people who have neck pain will experience repeated episodes of pain.

It's often said there are “good and bad postures” and that specific postures can contribute to spinal pain but this belief is not supported by scientific evidence. Indeed, research shows that poor sleep, reduced physical activity and increased stress appear to be more important factors.

So despite attempts by health professionals to correct your posture and the use of “ergonomic” chairs, desks, keyboards and other gadgetry chances are so-called “lifestyle factors” – such as getting enough sleep, making sure you exercise and keeping stress to a minimum – seem to

be more salient in relieving and preventing the pain in your neck.

THE POSTURE MYTH

Although beliefs about posture run deep, science is telling a very different story – and there is a strong challenge to the long-assumed role of posture as a cause of neck pain.

A recent high-quality study, of more than 1,000 teenagers, for example, showed no statistically significant relationship between spinal posture and neck pain – despite there being easily identifiable postural subgroups in the study, such as those who sat slumped or those who sat upright. So yes, people do sit in positions that vary from person to person, but it appears to have nothing to do with pain. In fact, it appears from this particular study that the adolescent's “posture” has more to do with their mood.

Research has also shown that changing the way you sit while working – by altering your workstation – so-called “ergonomic interventions”, have little to no impact on whether a person develops neck pain. Also, there is little high-quality evidence

that ergonomic interventions can lead to a speedier recovery for someone with neck pain.

In various studies, researchers have followed groups of people who don't have neck pain along with those who only experience occasional neck pain for periods. Some people in these groups developed troublesome neck pain and the researchers looked closely at them. Those with neck pain were found to be getting less quality and quantity of sleep and were working in jobs with high strain. They were also less physically active and had depressed mood. Their bodies are essentially experiencing greater stress and they notice more “muscle tension” in their neck. Importantly, this is all before the pain has even developed.

Researchers have found that, even among children as young as nine years old, symptoms such as tiredness and sleep difficulties – along with headaches, abdominal pain and lower mood – were risk factors for both the occurrence and persistence of weekly neck pain when the children were monitored for four years.

SLEEP, EXERCISE AND RELAXATION

The flip side of this is that having a stronger neck, enjoying exercise – even simply walking a greater number of steps each day – have all been shown to protect against getting neck pain. This, along with making sure we don't become sleep deprived, less physically active and stressed will hopefully manage and prevent neck pain more successfully.

So feel free to sit how you want to at your desk. If you find yourself sitting for long periods in one position make an effort to switch it up – as one of the key things to avoid getting pain in your neck is to change positions frequently through the day.

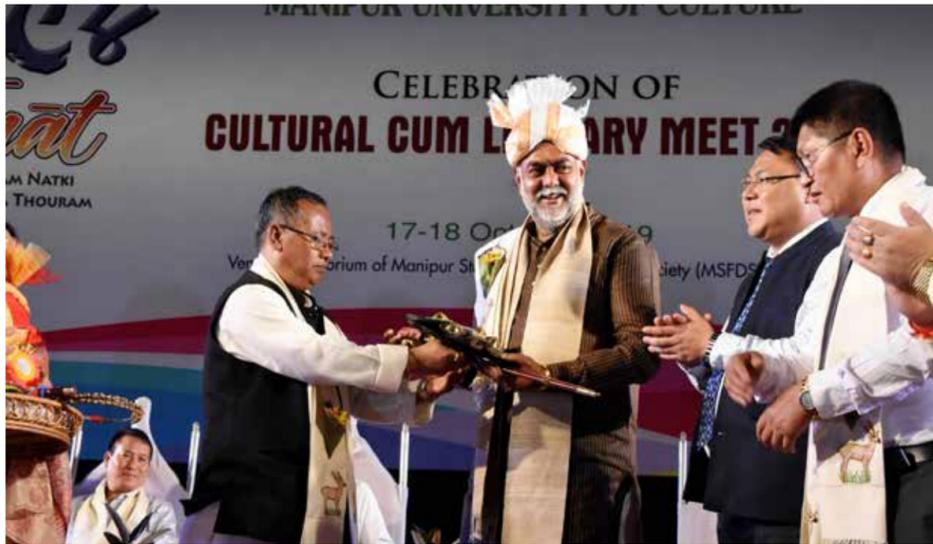
And if you do have neck pain, get a few early nights, consider doing something relaxing – and why not go for a walk at lunchtime. Importantly, you also need to stop worrying about how you sit or walk, because science seems to show that there may be no such thing as a “bad” posture after all.

[the writer is Visiting Lecturer in Physiotherapy, University of Hertfordshire]

Manipur has everything in the field of art & culture: Patel

GANGTOK, 17 OCT (PIB): Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), Prahlad Singh Patel has expressed that Manipur has everything ranging from fusion music, martial arts to variety of traditional attire. All this diversity need be accumulated and preserved continuously so that the next generation will also move forward. The Manipuri University of Culture will play an important role in preserving all these diverse culture and tradition, Minister added.

Speaking as Chief Guest at the inaugural function of Cultural cum Literary meet 2019, Mr Patel assured that the state and centre work together at their capacity. University is the highest platform to train and enlighten the youths.



The cultural fusion of Manipur is a prototype which is found in the world. Other state may be famous in one particular field but Manipur is a multiplex of many areas. The Manipur Uni-

versity of Culture will benefit the youths of the country not only by providing jobs but also bringing fame of the state through Art & Culture, he added.

The inaugural func-

tion was also attended by Dy Chief Minister, of Manipur, Y Joykumar Singh, Minister of Irrigation & Flood Control, Letpao Haokip, MP of Inner Lok Sabha PC, Dr RK Ranjan Singh and VC

Manipur University of culture, Bobby Waikhom as guests of honour. Varieties of cultural performance were also shown by students of MUC as a part of the inaugural function.

Body of journalist found in forests of Uttarakhand

PAURI, OCT 17 (PTI): The body of a 43-year-old journalist was found in the forests of Dugadda range here on Thursday morning, officials said.

Prima facie, it appears to be a case of suicide, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) unit incharge Inspector Gabar Singh Negi said.

The body of Pankaj Sharma was found in Lansdowne forest division at a distance of 250 metres from the national

highway, he said.

A bottle of pesticide and a suicide note were seized from the spot, the official said.

Addressed to his mother, the suicide note indicates Sharma was unhappy with his wife. Sharma who worked for Hindi daily Hindustan was missing since Wednesday. He is survived by his mother, wife and a son.

Kotdwar Press Club held a meeting to condole his untimely demise.

Boat with 45 passengers capsizes in Assam, one missing

TEZPUR (ASSAM), OCT 17 (PTI): A mechanised boat with about 45 passengers onboard capsized in Jibbarali river in Assam's Sonitpur district on Thursday and one person went missing after it, a government official said.

Half of the passengers swam to safety, while others were rescued by the State Disaster Response Force after the capsizing at Bihigaon area of the district, Tezpur sadar circle officer Pankaj Chamua said.

Eyewitnesses said the boat capsized around 11.30 am when it started to move from Bihigaon to Borghat in the district.

Police and officers of the local administration rushed to the spot on receiving information about the incident and an SDRF team was deployed for rescue operation immediately, Chauama added.

Besides the passengers, the boat was carrying a number of cattle and eight motor cycles, the official said.

BSF seizes FICN of face value of Rs 1 lakh in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, OCT 16 (PTI): The BSF apprehended a Bangladeshi national in Meghalaya's South West Khasi Hills district and seized fake Indian currency notes (FICN) of the face value of Rs 1 lakh from his possession, officials said on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the BSF personnel apprehended the Bangladeshi national about 200 metres away from the border pillar in the South West Khasi Hills district on Tuesday.

"The BSF party apprehended a Bangladeshi national identified as Bholu Sangma (68) of Anandpur village in Sunamganj district of Bangladesh," a BSF spokesperson said in a statement.

On search, Sangma was found carrying fake Indian currency notes of

the face value of Rs 1.06 lakh concealed in his undergarments, the BSF official said.

The Bangladeshi national was also in possession of a mobile phone with 2 Bangladesh Sim cards, the official said adding that preliminary questioning revealed that the FICN were handed over to him by some other person in Sunamganj district of Bangladesh.

The Bangladeshi national along with the fake currency notes were handed over to the Meghalaya police for further legal actions.

Meghalaya has a 443 km-long international border with Bangladesh and over 100 km of the border is still unfenced due to land acquisition issues.

National workshop on how to check carbon emission



KOLKATA, OCT 17 (PTI): The IIT Kharagpur on Thursday organised a national workshop on bio-energy to frame a roadmap to check carbon emission that could subsequently reduce global warming.

The two-day workshop that began here is a platform where scientists from different parts of the country would present their ideas to frame a roadmap to reduce carbon emission, said Saikat Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur.

He said bio-fuel is one of the flagship programmes aimed at reducing carbon emission.

Pointing out climate change is not a local but global phenomenon,

Chakraborty said if immediate steps are not taken to reduce carbon emission by 2100 AD, many parts of the world will face major calamities while large parts of Bangladesh and gangetic West Bengal will be flooded after 40 years following rise in sea level and swelling of rivers due to melting of Himalayan glaciers.

"There is one solution left. We have to stop abnormal rise in global temperature and this workshop aims at exchanging views. It is a platform of all those people who offer solution for very good technology, for innovation, for entrepreneurship," Prof Mrinal K Maiti of the institute, said. Head of School of Environmental

Science and Engineering Prof Makarand M Ghangekar said, to reduce carbon emission, the institute has undertaken wastewater treatment plant where wastewater is converted to bio-fuel.

He said faculty members at the PK Sinha Centre for Bioenergy and Renewables at IIT Kharagpur are working in the areas of Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Biohydrogen, Biomethane, Microbial fuel cells.

The Department of Bio-technology (DBT), Government of India, is acting as a catalyst in the research area for innovation and entrepreneurship, the organisers said.

The workshop is an annual event funded by the DBT and organised by one of the IITs.

You get to know yourself quite a lot in India: Elgar

RANCHI, OCT 17 (PTI): South Africa opener Dean Elgar says he got "stretched" as a cricketer and learned a lot more about himself during what has been a humbling India tour, part of which included visiting "smaller places and staying in hotels" not that good.

After managing a 1-1 draw in the T20 series, South Africa suffered big defeats in the first Two Tests of the three-match rubber against a dominant outfit led by Virat Kohli.

"It's a challenging tour. You get stretched as a person, you get stretched as a cricketer, I think you get to know yourself quite a lot as a person when you come to the smaller places where the hotels are maybe not as good, and you get challenged on the field," Elgar said.

"It's always a good learning curve coming to India."

The introduction of the World Test Championship means South Africa still have "quite a lot to play for" in the third Test despite conceding the series, Elgar said.

"Back in the day it was always a bit of a dead rubber game but now with the World Test Championships around, we still have points to play for," Elgar said.

"We can still get 40 points by following our process against India in the last Test. That's something we can't neglect going into this game. There is still a lot

to play for," he added.

Elgar, who became the first South African batsman to score a hundred in India after nine years during the opening Test, said the Proteas batsmen will have to go back to the basics to tackle the Indian bowlers in the final game.

"It's no secret that it's been a bit of a challenge for all of us. We haven't played our greatest cricket, consistent cricket. But we are trying to be positive. The senior players are trying to keep the guys motivated. We are still representing our country which is an immensely proud moment for every player.

"We still motivate everyone within our squad. It has been a challenging few weeks but it's still not too gloomy for us. We are upbeat, the morale in the camp is still very good.

"We still have one game and we can actually change quite a lot. We are still pretty hopeful and pretty positive going into the last Test," he asserted.

The comprehensive victories have consolidated India's position in the World Test Championship table, even as the struggling South Africa batsmen surrendered yet again.

India now have 200 points in their kitty, a handsome 140 points away from nearest rival New Zealand.

"Hope we score a lot of runs. In the second Test, we forgot a few basic things we did in the first Test.

WB cabinet to draw up vision plan

KOLKATA, OCT 16 (PTI): The West Bengal cabinet on Wednesday decided to draw up 'Vision 10 and Vision 20' plan for better performance and development in various fields in the next 10 to 20 years, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

Talking to reporters after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, she held the alleged lack of planning by the erstwhile Left Front government as responsible for the bridge collapses in the city.

We will plan for 10 years and 20 years because if there is no prop-

er planning then there will be situations like the recent collapse of bridges. The finance department with the help of the statistics and planning department will work on this. "With the planning we can decide on say what I can do in the field of education in 20 years' time or where can I take our education in the next 10 years, she said.

Banerjee claimed that it was the TMC government that started monitoring the bridges in Bengal and that revealed their bad state.

Now if 50 out of 100

bridges are reported to be in bad condition then the entire state will stop functioning.

That cannot (be allowed to) happen. We have to think of alternatives, which may cause problems for some but will be better than losing lives, the chief minister added.

Banerjee said that a final decision on the fate of the arterial Tallah bridge in the city will be taken at a meeting of senior officers scheduled to be held under chief secretary Rajiva Sinha on Thursday.

WB governor accorded 'Z' class VIP security cover

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 (PTI): West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar has been accorded a 'Z' category VIP security cover by the Union government in the wake of "potential threats" to him, officials said on Thursday.

They said the Union home ministry has issued an order and directed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to take charge of Dhankar's

security that will be valid in all parts of the country.

Under the "Z" category, the West Bengal Governor will have about 8-10 armed security personnel with him when he travels.

The paramilitary force will take over the charge soon, they said.

Officials said the CRPF cover came as a threat assessment report prepared by cen-

tral security and intelligence agencies found that Dhankar needs to be secured by a professional team of personnel especially in the wake of the recent incident at Jadavpur University where Union minister Babul Supriyo was heckled and he had rushed to save him.

The CRPF guards a number of VIPs including Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

World Blind Walk held in Assam Don Bosco University

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 OCT:

World Blind Walk, an initiative of Project Vision was held today in Tapesia campus of Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with Navjan, Lions Club, Jyoti Niketan and Siso Sarothi, Guwahati.

The event is part of its global humanitarian call for eye donations to visually challenged people. Over a dozen students and faculty who participated in the Walk took a pledge to willingly donate their eyes after death to visually challenged people, a press release informs.

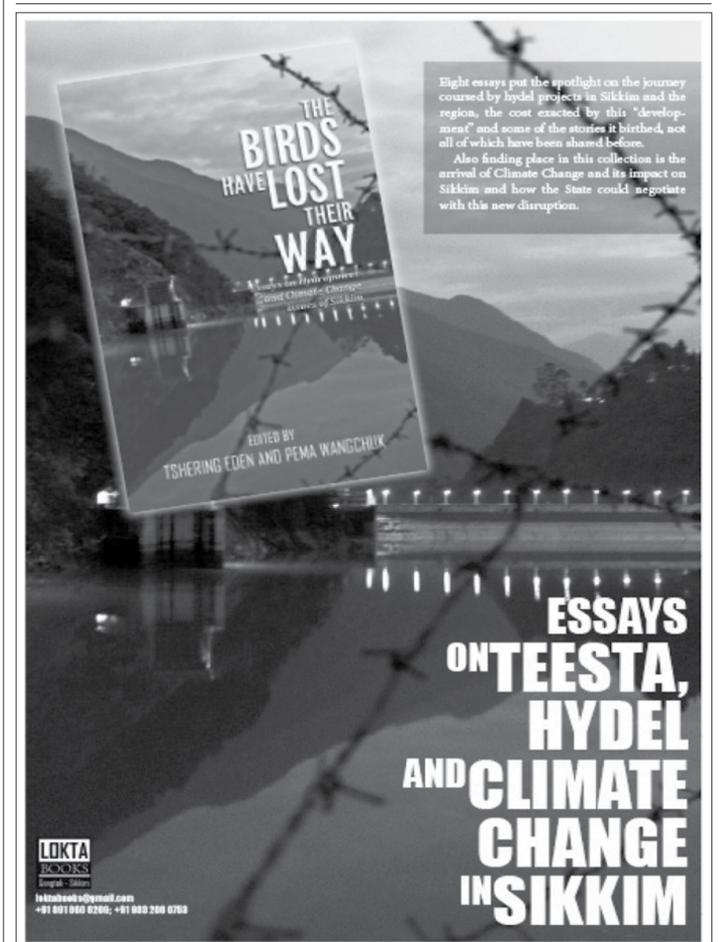
Vice Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavely, while addressing over five hundred students, faculty members of the University and members of various civil society organisation said, "It is a very different world



for people who have no vision, especially the younger ones. In the life of so many people around us we all know one or more or many more blind people in our surroundings, in our families, in our villages, let's think of them as we do this work and it is one way of making us open our eyes to what we can do which is also one of the aims of our university getting engaged in the life of the less privileged."

Similarly, Director, Fr (Dr) Joseph Mappilaram-

bil, Navjan, who initiated this event also said, "It is alarming that more than 217 million people around the world are suffering from visually challenged problems and sicknesses. 39 million people are visually challenged across the globe out of which 15 million people are from India. India is now home to the world's largest number of blind people. We can do something serious to address this problem. We can be the light to remove the darkness from the society."



We are motivated to grab top spot in ISL: Habas

KOLKATA, OCT 17 (PTI): Hailing the proposed roadmap for Indian football, ATK chief coach Antonio Habas on Thursday said they are highly motivated to top the standings, which will give them a berth in the AFC Champions League playoffs.

As per the roadmap, the Indian Super League will replace the I-League as the top-tier competition in the country and the ISL table toppers -- not the champions -- will get a ticket for the AFC Champions League playoffs.

"It is a big recognition which will motivate us more. It is a very good opportunity for players as they would get to play against the best of players of Asia," Habas said on the sidelines of ATK Media Day here.

Following two unforgettable seasons, the two-time champions have invested heavily, buying A-League's Golden Boot recipient Roy Krishna and brought back their most successful manager Habas, who guided the team to the inaugural title and then a playoff berth in the first two seasons.

"I have the same target - to win. We are here to compete every day. I am very happy with the behaviour of my players. They are all charged up," he said as the team gears up for the sixth season with a clash with Kerala Blasters on Sunday.

The team co-owner Sourav Ganguly is set to become BCCI's top boss at the Annual General Meeting on October 23.

"It's a very nice development. We are all very proud. It may inspire us to go all the way," ATK assistant coach Sanjoy Sen hailed.

Saina's struggles continue as crashes out of Denmark Open

ODENSE (DENMARK), OCT 16 (PTI): Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal's struggles continued with a first round loss against Japan's Sayaka Takahashi in the Denmark Open here on Wednesday.

The world number 8 Saina lost 15-21 21-23 in the women's singles match that lasted 37 minutes to crash out of the USD 775,000 tournament. The 29-year-old London Olympics bronze medallist was the runner-up last year.

Saina has been going through a tough phase with fitness issues since claiming the Indonesia Masters in January. She had also made first-round exits at the China Open and Korea Open earlier this year.

World number 12 Takahashi had defeated Saina the last time they met at the Thailand Open in August. Sameer Verma, however, crossed the first hurdle in the men's singles when he beat Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan 21-11 21-11 in 29 minutes to advance to the second round.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy also made it to the second round with a 21-16 21-11 win over the German duo of Marvin Seidel and Linda Efler.

Surreal North v South Korea football match 'like war'

INCHEON, OCT 17 (AFP): South Korea's footballers had no idea their surreal World Cup qualifier in Pyongyang would be played in an empty stadium -- a match Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min described as "very aggressive" and one official likened to warfare.

The contest against North Korea ended 0-0 on Tuesday, with FIFA president Gianni Infantino one of just a handful of spectators at a match almost completely blocked off from the outside world.

It was the first ever competitive encounter between the men's sides hosted by the North -- a historic face-off between two countries still technically at war -- but took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance.

The debacle raises doubts over the prospects for further North-South sporting co-operation, once a driver of nuclear diplomacy.

Until the very last minute, the South's team had no idea that even North Korean spectators would be absent.

"We expected 50,000 people to come pouring in once the door opened but they didn't come," said Korea Football Association vice-president Choi Young-il as the team arrived back at Incheon airport early Thursday.

"The gates never opened. I was really sur-



prised. The players and coach were surprised too."

Choi said he had asked a North Korean official about the absence of local fans, who retorted: "Maybe they didn't want to see it."

Tottenham's Son, who captained the South Korean team, was taken aback by the Northerners' rough tactics.

"The match was very aggressive to a degree that I think it's a huge achievement just to return safely without being injured," Son said.

"There was a lot of severe swearing."

Choi added he had never seen such aggression on the pitch before: "It was like war."

- **NUCLEAR TENSIONS,**

OLYMPIC DOUBTS -

Tuesday's match came in the wake of a series of North Korean missile tests that raised tensions in the region, and after the breakdown of talks with the US over Pyongyang's weapons programmes.

Since the collapse of the Hanoi summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump in February, Pyongyang has regularly excoriated Seoul, ruling out prospects of inter-Korean dialogue.

It is a far cry from the cross-border warmth of last year, when South Korean President Moon Jae-in seized on the Pyeongyang Winter Olympics to broker the Pyongyang-Washington discussion process. At the time, Moon and Kim discussed and agreed on further sports exchanges including a joint bid to host the 2032 Olympics.

But the North's official Korean Central News Agency issued only a two-line dispatch on Tuesday's match, saying: "The game of attacks and counterattacks ended in a draw." In a commentary Thursday the South's JoongAng Daily said: "We may just have to thank North Korea for sending our football team back home safely."

"How can South Korea think of co-hosting the Olympics with such a treacherous counterpart?" FIFA president Infantino said he was "disappointed" after attending the event and "sur-

prised" by the absence of fans, along with other issues. Infantino has previously proposed the idea of the two Koreas jointly hosting the 2023 Women's World Cup.

But outraged South Korean fans, who had to settle for basic updates provided by FIFA throughout the match that were limited to yellow cards and substitutes, said they were fed up with sporting exchanges with the North.

"How can a country that blocks spectators and bans live broadcasts host the World Cup?" asked an online user.

Another user added: "Don't ever talk about joint teams with North Korea or co-hosting anything."

Puducherry seal lone quarterfinal spot from Plate Group



DEHRADUN, OCT 17 (PTI): Medium pacer Ashith Rajiv returned with a four-wicket haul as Puducherry sailed past Assam by five wickets to seal a quarterfinal spot in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Thursday.

Electing to field, Puducherry bowlers set the tone by reducing Assam to 92/5 in 27 overs before Rajiv (4/17) rattled the lower order to bundle them out for a paltry 115 runs in 36.1 overs. In reply, Puducherry cantered home in 22 overs after overcoming some minor hiccups up front as they topped the table with 32 points to grab the solitary spot up for grab from the Plate Group.

Six points behind, Chandigarh and Uttarakhand finished second and third on net run-rate.

On a day veteran seamer Vinay Kumar looked offcolour after being smashed for 30

runs from his six overs, off-spinner Suresh Kumar (2/19 from four overs) put the brakes by dismissing Assam opener Pallavkumar Das (27) and Parvez Aziz (two) in successive overs.

Captain Shibsankar Roy (24) and Gokul Sharma (19) tried to forge a partnership but their 43-run stand was broken by left-arm spinner Sagar Udeshi (2/20).

The skipper too followed suit in a space of seven balls after which Ashith wreaked havoc with his four-wicket burst to trigger Assam collapse.

Meanwhile, Manipur pacer Bishworjit Konthoujam claimed a hat-trick on way to a career-best seven for 54 but his brilliant effort went in vain as Nagaland bowlers held their nerves to defend 240 and script a thrilling five-run win at the Tanush Academy Ground.

Indian pace attack reminds me of Windies of old: Lara

NIKHIL BAPAT

MUMBAI, OCT 17 (PTI): West Indian batting great Brian Lara on Thursday praised the current Indian pace attack, which reminded him of the deadly West Indian attacks of yore.

The Indian pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami, in 2018, picked the record 142 wickets among them in Test matches.

Asked what makes Indian team special, Lara said: "It's the Indian pace attack. Unbelievable. I saw them in the West Indies. When you look at the quality -- (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Shami, (Umesh) Yadav -- all these guys, and the guys on the sidelines, like Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) are unbelievable."

"It reminds me a little bit of the (pace bowling) strength that the West Indies had in the 80s and 90s. The reserve strength is very important in assessing a team's ability. It means that your attack has quality," Lara added.

Lara, who had scored 11,953 Test runs, was speaking after the launch of 'Road Safety World Series', in which he will be a part and lead the West Indian legend team.

Lara was lavish in his praise for Virat Kohli, whom he termed the 'Ultimate Captain'.

"He's (Kohli) the ultimate captain. In terms of his performances, he leads by example. And I mean that in all facets of the game, and off the



field too. He is came off very well in the background of MS Dhoni, who laid the foundation, and did things in a different way. "So, I think Indian cricket, as we all know, is headed in the right direction. It's influenced by some of the best people, and is reaping the benefits of it," Lara told reporters here.

Lara also seemed happy that a player of Rohit Sharma's calibre is set to play regularly across formats.

"I think that Rohit is an awesome player in all formats of the game. Obviously, in the limited overs game, he's been very successful. I don't see any reason why he should not be in Test cricket. It seems that he has the passion to play and wants to prove himself on that stage (Test cricket) as well."

"To exclude a player like that (from the Test team) will be very diffi-

cult, with the talent that I see. So, hopefully, he will be successful. He is a gifted batsman," said Lara.

Lara, who holds the record for highest individual run scorer in Tests, also welcomed the ICC move of Test Championship, saying it has provided contest to the game.

"I think (World Test Championship should have started earlier). In terms of Test Championship, where there is an end, it culminates into a team becoming Championship, that is something that should have happened a long time ago and happy to see it now. Even if you play against the minnows Afghanistan, Bangladesh it means something."

Meanwhile, Lara also welcomed the appointment of Kieron Pollard as the T20 captain and also felt that West Indies always had talent and it was needed to harness it.

BCCI president-elect Ganguly is also face of ISL

KOLKATA, OCT 17 (PTI): Sourav Ganguly, the next boss of Indian cricket, has also been made the "face" of the upcoming ISL, the country's franchise-based, glamorous football event.

The ISL will kick off in Kochi with Kerala Blasters taking on two-time champions ATK on Sunday, and Ganguly will be present on the occasion.

"I'm now the face of ISL this time and and shot for them. So, I will have to attend the opening ceremony in Kerala and miss out on the Ranchi Test," Ganguly said at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday.

The BCCI president-elect was supposed to be in Ranchi, but the development means that Ganguly will attend the opening ceremony and reach Mumbai the next day to take over as

the Board's president in its Annual General Meeting on October 23.

Ganguly, incidentally, is also the co-owner of ISL franchise ATK.

"I'm still with ATK and will speak to them soon," he said, adding that his new responsibility has forced him to step down from being the mentor of Indian Premier League franchise Delhi Capitals.

"I will continue doing only (Bengali TV show) Dadagiri and endorsements, rest all stopped. Commentary, article writing and IPL, I'll stop doing all this now. I've already quit Delhi Capitals and conveyed it to them. It's a huge responsibility and the first task would be to form various committees by calling Apex Council meeting."

Ganguly has recently launched an ATK TV campaign.

Boxer Patrick Day dies 4 days of brain injuries after fight



CHICAGO, OCT 17 (AP): Boxer Patrick Day died Wednesday, four days after sustaining head injuries in a fight with Charles Conwell.

Promoter Lou DiBella said Day died at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He was 27.

"He was surrounded by his family, close friends and members of his boxing team, including his mentor, friend and trainer Joe Higgins," DiBella said in a statement on his website.

"He was a son, brother, and good friend to many. Pat's kindness, positivity and generosity of spirit made a lasting impression with everyone he met."

Day had brain surgery after being knocked out in the 10th round Saturday night at Wintrust Arena. Knocked down

twice earlier in the bout, the junior middleweight was taken from the ring on a stretcher.

Two days after the fight, Conwell posted a heartfelt message to Day on social media.

"I never meant for this to happen to you. All I ever wanted to do was win. If I could take it all back I would. No one deserves for this to happen to them," Conwell wrote.

"I replay the fight over and over in my head thinking what if this never happened and why did it happen to you?"

From Freeport, New York, Day had a career record of 17-4-1 with six knockouts. As an amateur, he won two Nationals titles, the New York Golden Gloves tournament and was a U.S. Olympic team alternate in 2012.

'Idiot' Marsh set to miss Pakistan Test after punching wall



SYDNEY, OCT 17 (AFP): All-rounder Mitchell Marsh is set to miss the opening Test against Pakistan after fracturing his right hand punching a wall, with Australian coach Justin Langer branding him "an idiot."

The Western Australia captain took his frustrations out in the changing rooms after he was dismissed for 53 in a Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania on Sunday.

Scans revealed a fracture, and an apologetic Marsh said he faced up to six weeks on the sidelines.

That would almost certainly rule him out of the opening Test against Pakistan in Brisbane starting on November 21.

"It's my middle finger, just below the wrist -- a

fracture straight through the bone," Marsh, who was sporting a cast on his arm, told reporters.

Asked if he had spoken to Langer, Marsh replied: "He just told me I'm an idiot basically."

Marsh had only been recalled to the Test side for the final game of the Ashes against England last month after a long period out of favour and there are no guarantees he will win a spot back.

"It's a good lesson for me. Hopefully it's a good lesson for other people as well," added Marsh, whose blunder could open the door for Marcus Stoinis in Brisbane.

"At the end of the day, it's a game of cricket. Sometimes you get beaten, sometimes you get out, and you can't be punching walls."

Chinese diplomats to inform State dept before meeting US officials

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, Oct 17 (PTI): Chinese diplomats will notify the State department before meeting with federal and local officials, the Trump administration said on Wednesday, calling it reciprocal to similar restrictions being faced by US diplomats in China.

This action is a response to what the Chinese government does to limit the interactions that US diplomats can have in China with Chinese stakeholders, a senior State department official told reporters during a conference call.

The announcement by the Trump administration comes at a time when the US and China -- the largest economies of the world -- are locked in a trade battle.

The department has implemented a mandatory pre-information process for the movement of Chinese diplomats in the US, the official said on the condition of anonymity.

"What we're trying to accomplish here, is just to get closer to a reciprocal situation, hopefully with the desired end effect of having the Chinese government provide greater access to our diplomats in China," the official said. The official said until that happens, the US is going to take some actions that will go some ways toward levelling the playing field.

"So starting from today, the State department



is going to be requiring that all of the PRC (People Republic of China) foreign missions -- their embassy and their various consulates around the US -- will have to notify the Department of State in advance of official meetings with state officials, official meetings with local and municipal officials, official visits to educational institutions, and official visits to research institutions," the official said.

The department does not require a Chinese official to get permissions, but is "merely asking that they notify us in advance of such meetings which, again, that's different from what happens many times in China, where our diplomats are forced

to seek permission and are often denied such permission," the official explained.

The US is not placing the onus of this notification requirement on any of its stakeholders. State, local, educational officials none of them have to take any actions whatsoever, the official said, adding that the onus will fall on the Chinese consulates and embassy to notify the State department in advance of meetings.

"Our goal is to get the Chinese authorities to allow our diplomats in China to engage with provincial and local leaders, Chinese universities, and other educational and research institutes freely, the same way that

Chinese diplomats are able to do here," the official said. Responding to a question, the official hoped that China will comply with the requirement and said if they do not, then the State department will address it.

Noting that this thing has been in the works for some time, the official said it is not directly linked to any other part of the relationship.

"What I will tell you is across a broad range of the US-China relationship and there are many aspects where this administration is vigorously seeking to level the playing field.

"You say that in trade and any number of other areas. This is another one of those areas where for

a number of years, several years, there's a clear gap between the way US diplomats are able to do their job in China versus the liberties that Chinese diplomats posted here in the US are able to do their job," the official said.

Even by these measures, the US is even at the level where the Chinese are, the official said.

"But we're hopeful that if we can get their attention, that we might be able to effect a more level playing field where both their diplomats here and our diplomats there are able to have much more free and open access to all the stakeholders that are required to do a good job as a diplomat," said the State department official.

Obama urges Canadians to back Trudeau for another term

WASHINGTON, Oct 17 (AFP): Former US president Barack Obama on Wednesday urged Canadian voters to back Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for another term, calling him an "effective leader." "I was proud to work with Justin Trudeau as President. He's a hard-working, effective leader who takes on big issues like climate change," Obama said in a tweet.

"The world needs his progressive leadership now, and I hope our neighbors to the north support him for another term." Trudeau, who is running neck-and-neck with Conservative leader Andrew Scheer ahead of the October 21 ballot, tweeted back: "Thanks my friend, we're working hard to keep our progress going." His Liberal Party also promoted the endorsement on social media.

The pair first met as leaders of their respective countries at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in November 2015, one month after the Canadian won his first general election.

Four months later, Trudeau became the first Canadian leader in 20 years to make an official pomp-filled visit to the White House. The warmth of the encounter triggered a flood of online jokes and tongue-in-cheek reports of a budding "bromance" between the two men.

Cuba to let citizens buy imports with foreign currencies



Havana, Oct 17 (AP): The Cuban government says it will allow citizens to use 10 foreign currencies to buy products like televisions and air conditioners at state stores in an attempt to compete with a multi-billion-dollar informal market in imported goods.

The communist state has a monopoly on most forms of retail sales and all wholesaling, import and export. The only legal vendors of appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners are state stores that charge as much as 200 percent of the average global price for generally low-quality Chinese-made products that are often out of stock.

That has led to an illegal but tolerated black market in goods purchased abroad by individual Cubans and resold at a profit on the island. Thousands of Cubans each year fly to shopping districts catering to them in countries

ranging from Panama to Haiti to Russia. By some estimates, the sellers known as "mules" spend some 2 billion a year overseas, a major outflow of hard currency from an island already in a serious cash crunch.

Cuban officials announced Tuesday night that the prices of some consumer goods would drop for Cubans who create special new hard-currency bank accounts denominated in U.S. and Canadian dollars, Euros, British pounds, Swiss francs, Mexican pesos, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish kroner and Japanese yen.

Cubans will also be able to use the accounts to import goods through state-run companies, officials said on national television, although the precise mechanism for those private-public imports remains unclear.

Products that will be available for foreign currency include 43-inch

flat-screen televisions, standing freezers, refrigerators and mini-split air conditioners. The discounts over current prices appear to be marginal.

Reports in state media indicated that the government would still charge some 75 percent above the wholesale price. A 43-inch Samsung television, for example, would sell for 549, state media said, about twice the cost of a similar item in the U.S.

"Money is leaving the country in significant amounts to acquire these products and we need to capture it as a source of hard currency to restock our industrial base, our retail stores, our market," Vice President Salvador Vald s Mesa said in an appearance along other government ministers and high-ranking economic officials.

Cubans who open hard-currency accounts will be given a bank card used to purchase dis-

counted goods. The move adds a new complication to Cuba's unusual multiple-currency system. Cubans currently use Cuban pesos worth about 4 cents each and convertible pesos worth about a dollar.

Cuba has been hard hit by the collapse of its main ally, Venezuela, and the hardening of US sanctions under President Donald Trump.

The state-run economy is constantly short on cash and, because it is highly dependent on exports that must be paid in hard currency, Cuba has been hit by regular shortages of basic goods ranging from gasoline to chicken over the last year "The economy needs a push, a reactivation of our national industry. There's demand there," Economy Minister Alejandro Gil said.

Officials said the new program would start this month in 12 pilot stores and increase to 77 across the country over time.

Mexico deports 311 Indians

MEXICO CITY, Oct 17 (PTI): In a first, Mexico's migration authorities deported 311 Indians, including a woman, from various parts of the country amidst its stepped up efforts to check people illegally crossing its borders following pressure from the US.

According to a press release issued by the National Migration Institute (INM) on Wednesday, the Indian nationals, who did not have a condition of regular stay in the country, were deported from the Toluca City International Airport on a Boeing 747 aircraft to New Delhi.

The people were presented to the immigration authority in the states of Oaxaca, Baja California, Veracruz, Chiapas, Sonora, Mexico City, Durango and Ta-

basco, it said.

The move comes after US President Donald Trump in June threatened tariffs on all Mexican imports if the country did not put a check on people entering America through Mexico's borders.

Mexico had agreed to boost up security on the border and expand its policy of taking back migrants.

"This was carried out, thanks to the excellent communication and coordination with the Embassy of that Asian country, with which the recognition and return of these citizens was worked, under strict adherence to the Migration Law and its Regulations," the statement said.

The deportees, who are accompanied by the Federal Migration agents,

as well as members of the National Guard, were gathered in the Acayucan Migration Station in Veracruz to carry out their identification and subsequent transfer.

"It should be noted that there is no precedent in the history of the INM - neither in the form, nor in the number of people - of a Trans-Atlantic air conduction, such as that carried out on this day," the statement said.

This action, which was supported by the Federal Protection Service of the Secretary of Security and Citizen Protection, was carried out smoothly and with respect for the human rights of foreigners transferred to their country of origin, it said, ratifying the INM's commitment to maintain a safe, orderly and regular migration.

Trump defends troop pull out from Syria, says US not getting involved in 'crazy endless wars'

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, Oct 17 (PTI): The US is not going to get involved in "crazy endless wars" over 7,000 miles away, President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, defending his decision to withdraw troops from northern Syria. The last week decision paved the way for Turkey to launch a cross-border military offensive that aims to push the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) from the region. Turkey considers the biggest militia in the SDF a terrorist organisation.

Several lawmakers have criticised the move as an abandonment of Kurdish forces, who were a crucial US ally in the fight against the ISIS.

"When I ran, I ran on the basis we're going to bring our great soldiers back home where they belong. We don't have to fight these endless wars. We're bringing them back home.

"That's what I won on and some people -- whether you call it the 'military industrial complex' or beyond that -- they'd like me to stay," Trump told reporters at the White House at a news conference.

The US president hoped that Turkey and Syria will work the situation out between themselves.

The Turkish government wants to create a "safe zone" in the border region, where it can resettle up to two million

Syrian refugees currently in Turkey.

Responding to a question, Trump said that the Turkish decision to invade Syria did not surprise him as Turkey had been planning it for long.

"President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan's decision didn't surprise me because he's wanted to do that for a long time. He's been building up troops on the border with Syria for a long time, as you know," he said.

On status of US troops in Syria, Trump said, "Our soldiers are mostly gone from the area. We only had 26, 28 -- but under 50. We think it's probably 28, but under 50 soldiers, and -- which is a very tiny force."

"I campaigned on bringing our soldiers back home, and that's what I'm doing. That includes other places too; many other places. Statutorily, it takes a period of time. Diplomatically, it takes a period of time.

"But, you know, we're in many countries. Many, many countries. I'm embarrassed to tell you how many. I know the exact number, but I'm embarrassed to say it because it's so foolish," he said. Trump during the conference said the US had no business in the region "7,000 miles away" and there was no need to worry about Kurdish forces as they are "no angels".

"It's their part of the world. We're 7,000 miles away. It doesn't mean

we're going to deplete it, like we did before with these crazy, endless wars," he said.

Remarking on the situation in the region, Trump said they have been warring for many years and this did not surprise him.

"It's unnatural for us, but it's sort of natural for them. They fight, and they fight long and they fight hard. They've been fighting Syria for a long time and on the border..

"... I say, 'why are we protecting Syria's land? (Bashar al-Assad) Assad is not a friend of ours. Why are we protecting their land?' he said.

Syria also has a relationship with the Kurds, "who, by the way, are no angels", the US president said.

"So they'll come in for their border and they'll fight. They may bring partners in. They could bring Russia in. I say, welcome to it," Trump said.

Russia went into Afghanistan when it was the Soviet Union, and it became a much smaller country, he added.

"You can overextend, you can do a lot of things, but, frankly, if Russia is going to help in protecting the Kurds, that's a good thing, not a bad thing. But it would be led by Syria," Trump said.

"Syria doesn't want Turkey to take its land. I can understand that. But what does that have to do with the United States if they're fighting over Syria's land," he said.

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BIKINI BABES! Hannah Brown, Heather Martin and Demi Burnett enjoyed a catamaran tour along the Riviera Maya, Mexico during their relaxing vacation at El Dorado Casitas Royale by Karisma.

Lady Gaga Has a Simple Question for Fortnite Gamer Ninja: 'Who Are You'

Lady Gaga doesn't tweet often, but on Wednesday (Oct. 16), she used her social media for a bit of shade.

It all started when popular Fortnite gamer Ninja said in an interview that he doesn't play with female gamers, to avoid any flirtation rumors that would hinder his relationship with fellow gamer, JGHosty. "If I have one conversation with one female streamer where we're playing with one another, and even if there's a hint of flirting, that is going to be taken and going to be put on every single video and be clickbait forever," he told Polygon in an interview. Gaga, an avid supporter of women's equality, tweeted out two simple, but powerful, words in response. "What's fortnight?"

While she didn't mention Ninja directly, the gamer replied to her tweet punnily referring to her music. "Call me on the Telephone. I'll give you a Million Reasons to play. You and I." Gaga continued her succinct clapbacks, asking Ninja, "who are you," to which Ninja responded, "ask @Drake," referring to his gaming collaborations with the rapper.

Ninja has also since explained the interview in question, noting on Twitter that his comments "got completely blown out of proportion," and that he's "played with multiple women since then."

Frank Lloyd Wright's Ennis House Sells for \$18 Million, Setting New Record

After an incredible publicity blitz and well over a year on the market, Frank Lloyd Wright's world-renowned Ennis House — tucked into the foothills of Los Feliz, near L.A.'s hipster-approved Eastside — has sold for \$18 million to an as-yet-unidentified buyer. That number, while significantly below the \$23 million ask, ranks it as the priciest Wright-designed home ever sold, easily eclipsing the previous high-water mark set by the Storer House in nearby Hollywood Hills, which was purchased in 2013 for \$6.8 million by billionaire medical device heir and hardcore architecture aficionado Jon Stryker.

Of course, the Ennis House is less of a home than a giant work of art that just happens to include bedrooms, bathrooms, and a kitchen. Designed by the elder Wright and built by his son in 1924 for wealthy retailer Charles Ennis and his wife Mabel, the monolithic masterpiece was hewn almost entirely from 27,000 perforated and patterned decomposed granite blocks. And thanks to its proximity to Hollywood, the idiosyncratic property has long been a magnet for filmmakers, who have featured the house in countless TV commercials, shows and big-budget films — most notably in 1982's "Blade Runner" epic.

Shortly after enduring extensive structural damage following the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the landmarked estate slipped into a sorry state of neglect that continued until 2011, when it was purchased for \$4.5 million by supermarket billionaire Ron Burkle. According to listing details, Burkle — a noted trophy property collector — spent years and nearly \$17 million to comprehensively restore every inch of the estate, meaning the \$18 million sale price represents a multimillion dollar financial loss to his labor of love.

Perched high above the L.A. basin, on a .83 acre lot with jetliner-like city views, the main house and detached guest quarters collectively weigh in with somewhere north of

6,000 square feet of living space. Between the two distinctly separate structures lies a gated motorcourt that can easily accommodate a half-dozen automobiles — from there, a short pathway leads to the squat front door.

Within the cinematic Mayan Revival structure is an extraordinarily long hallway with a mausoleum-worthy marble floor linking the various rooms into one cohesive building. The interiors feature the same concrete blocks as the exterior, and there are lustrous hardwood floors and leaded glass windows throughout. Formal spaces include a living room with a mosaic-tiled fireplace, a vaguely ecclesiastical

dining room with a dramatic city view, and a wondrously vintage kitchen with black and white tiles — perfectly restored to functionality, of course.

There's also a games/media room with a wet bar, plus a swimming pool and lengthy koi pond on the north side of the property. The home's southern exposures offer a plethora of terraces, balconies and private courtyards, all of them with sweeping L.A. city vistas. And like many Frank Lloyd Wright masterpieces, this property is hardly an everyday, generically-constructed mansion — the fiendishly expensive maintenance alone could easily drive an "ordinary" multimillionaire to financial insolvency. But how many people get to say they own one of the country's most iconic homes? Few other than the \$18 million new owner, likely.

Branden & Rayni Williams of Hilton & Hyland held the listing; John Galich of Sotheby's International Realty repped the buyer.



Marvel Star Scarlett Johansson Shows Off Massive Tattoo at Jojo Rabbit Premiere

Scarlett Johansson showed off her back tattoo during the premiere of Jojo Rabbit, the new satirical film by Taika Waititi. The floral tattoo stretches across the length of the actress's back from the top of the shoulder to the small of her back. You can see the tattoo in the photograph below. According to the synopsis for Jojo Rabbit, "Jojo is a lonely German boy who discovers that his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his imaginary friend -- Adolf Hitler -- Jojo must confront his blind nationalism as World War II continues to rage on." Johansson plays Jojo's mother, Rosie Betzler.

Johansson debuted the new back tattoo at the Avengers: Endgame premiere earlier this year. She'll return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe in 2020's Black Widow movie. The film opens in May, the start of blockbuster season, which is usually reserved for male-front action flicks. Johansson is confident Black Widow can compete. "The movie packs a big punch," Johansson said in an interview. "If that slot is reserved for movies that pack a big punch, then we're in a good, good space."

Johansson also commented on having executive producer powers over the new film, saying it "is liberating in a way. I feel like I'm in control of the destiny of this film, which gives me a lot more peace of mind. I know her better than anybody. What was her childhood like? What is her relationship to figures of authority? This character is gritty and multi-dimensional but has a lot of trauma and has led an unexamined life. In order to operate at this elite level, she has probably had to push away a lot of stuff."

Black Widow is directed by Cate Shortland. The film stars Johansson returning as Natasha Romanoff aka Black Widow, David Harbour as Alexei aka The Red Guardian, Florence Pugh as Yelena, O-T Fagbenle as Mason, and Rachel Weisz as Melina.

The film takes place after the events of Captain America: Civil War. That may seem to some like an odd choice for the first film in

Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige has asked fans to trust him on this.

"There's a method to the madness," Feige said in June. "There's always a method and doing things in an unexpected way is something we find fun. There are ways to do prequels that are less informative or answer questions you didn't necessarily have, and then there are ways to do prequels where you learn all sorts of things you never knew before."

Are you excited about Black Widow? Let us know in the comments. Black Widow opens in theaters on May 1, 2020.



Upcoming Marvel Studios projects include, The Falcon and The Winter Soldier in fall 2020, The Eternals on November 6, 2020, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings on February 12, 2021, WandaVision in spring 2021, Loki in spring 2021, Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness on May 7, 2021, Spider-Man 3 on July 16, 2021, What If? In summer 2021, Hawkeye in fall 2021, Thor: Love and Thunder on November 5, 2021, and Black Panther 2 on May 6, 2022. Ms. Marvel, Moon Knight, and She-Hulk are also in the works for Disney+.

Megyn Kelly Slams NBC News on 'Tucker Carlson Tonight' for Matt Lauer Investigation, Harvey Weinstein Coverage

In Megyn Kelly's first televised interview since exiting NBC, the former Fox News and NBC News anchor took to "Tucker Carlson Tonight" Wednesday evening to criticize NBC News management for its handling of the outlet's Harvey Weinstein coverage and internal Matt Lauer investigation.

In an appearance that spanned three segments of Carlson's show — the Fox News host bumped a recorded segment with Dennis Rodman to extend Kelly's time on the air — Kelly and Carlson discussed the "mainstream" media's coverage of Trump, CNN's Jeff Zucker and Ronan Farrow's reporting on NBC News in his new book, "Catch and Kill." Farrow says in the book that NBC News looked to contain his reporting on sexual harassment claims against

Weinstein; the outlet has maintained that it backed up Farrow's reporting efforts.

"What did they know, and when did they know it?" asked Kelly of NBC News, additionally questioning how much management knew about the allegations against former "Today Show" anchor Lauer. "Show us the money," said Kelly. "The number one that needs to happen now is they need to release any and all Matt Lauer accusers from their confidentiality agreements. NBC says it has nothing to hide. Great. Let's not hide anything."

Kelly and NBC parted ways last year, with the network cancelling her morning talk show after a broadcast in which she opened with a discussion of Halloween and blackface that drew criticism

both online and from colleagues at the network.

Carlson also brought up Kelly's Sept. 2018 appearance on NBC's "Megyn Kelly Today," in which she had expressed the strength of hiring external investigators to an internal inquiry. She reiterated several times during her appearance on Carlson's show her belief that a third-party investigation is necessary.

"The question is open as to whether [NBC] put dollars ahead of decency, about whether they were more interested in protecting their star anchor than they were in protecting the women of the company," Kelly told Carlson. "There needs to be an outside investigation into this company. They investigated themselves. That doesn't work."

ARIES: "Going with the flow is responding to cues from the universe. When you go with the flow, you're surfing life force. It's about wakeful trust and total collaboration with what's showing up for you." A Danielle LaPorte quote to inspire you to let go of rigidity and ride the cosmic wave in style. What you will discover when you relinquish control: things find their way into your existence seamlessly.

Tip: Ride the cosmic wave in style.

TAURUS: You know exactly what you want, Taurus. Don't doubt yourself or settle for less. Taking time to contemplate will give you clarity on your next move. What you will discover in the process: some people don't deserve a space in your sacred circle. Give yourself permission to say goodbye to unhealthy relationships. If you feel like you are too close to the situation, seek professional help.

Tip: It is time to rip off the band aid.

GEMINI: Long distance relationships require twice the time and effort, Gemini. Not to mention, a greater degree of commitment.

Schedule your virtual dates in advance if you can. Even better, plan a holiday where it's just the two of you so you can be fully present. The not-so-good news is that you may not be able to go on that vacation immediately given your schedule. But that doesn't mean you can't find interesting things to do in your own city.

Tip: Your relationship requires a little more effort.

CANCER: "The wound is where the light enters." A Rumi quote to awaken you, dear Cancer. Let this breakdown be a breakthrough in your journey, one that teaches you the importance of self-love and takes you closer to the light. Remember, the present is where the magic is at. Release the bonds of a life long gone.

Tip: To feel is to heal.

LEO: You are moving towards the calm that follows a storm. Take the time and space you need to deal with the aftermath. Loss is never easy, and grieving often takes a physical and mental toll. Keep in mind that what you are experiencing is but transient. Continue to count the blessings and hold space for the

healing to take place.

Tip: The only person you need to depend on is yourself.

VIRGO: In his bestseller, Dr Gary Chapman spoke about five love languages: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, and physical touch. What's your love language, Virgo? More importantly, what does it take to make your partner feel loved? This week, let the language of touch takes precedence over everything else. But if you think physical contact is only about pleasure, think again. Try holding your partner's hand and gaze softly into their eyes.

Tip: Explore the language of touch.

LIBRA: "Which way do I go from here?" "Is this relationship worth fighting for?" You already know the answer to this one. By not listening to your intuition, you are creating internal conflict. Remember, if you don't stand up for yourself, nobody else will, Libra. Some of you may be at odds with a loved one, unsure of what to do next. Take some time alone to weigh the pros and cons, and then

open the channels of communication.

Tip: Trust your inner wisdom.

SCORPIO: This day calls for action. Get proactive about the life you're trying to build, whether it's by yourself or with your partner. A milestone moment may be on the cards for coupled Scorpions. Think tying the knot, moving in together, or building or refurbishing their dream home. Family planning may become a priority too. Everything is happening according to the divine plan. Relinquish control.

Tip: A milestone moment is on the cards.

SAGITTARIUS: If there's one thing your circumstances have taught you, it's that we live in a benevolent Universe. Open yourself to help, Sagittarius, and trust that it will come to you in the most unexpected ways. You are moving to a better place and so are your relationships.

Tip: You are transitioning to a better place.

CAPRICORN: There is a reason they call it "making love". Your body is not for sale, Capricorn. Giving it away for the pleasure of the other will only bring you pain. Let go

of the idea that sex will help you create love.

The cards are also pointing towards codependency and other unhealthy patterns that are keeping you chained to the darkness.

Tip: Accept nothing less than what you deserve. **AQUARIUS:** Enough with the fleeting romances, Aquarius. Deep down even you want something that stays longer than your perfume, and the Universe is giving you a chance to do just that. Move past the negative belief that long-term relationships will curb your freedom. It's about rising, not falling in love, right?

Tip: Make way for commitment with a capital 'C'.

PISCES: Was it a mistake or an opportunity to grow, learn and become a better human being? Pisces, you have the strength, courage and wisdom required to tide over your circumstances and make positive changes. As you do, let go of the past and forgive those you need to. Remember, you are only freeing yourself in the process. Single Pisceans, sweatpants is not a cute look on you. Take your favourite bodycon out for a night about town. Tip: Let go of the past.