



**PARTY ACTIVITIES
UNDERWAY FULL
SWING: SKM**
pg02

**COMPENSATION DISBURSED TO
HIMAGIRI EXPLOSION AFFECTED**
pg02

**GANGTOK RUNS
FOR UNITY**
pg03



SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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MUSS holds Sadbhawana Satsang Samaroha at Tathagata Tsal



RABONGLA, 31 OCT (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, accompanied by Minister for Tourism, Irrigation, India-Nepal Uttarakhand River Projects, Government of Uttarakhand, Satpalji Maharaj, attended the Sadbhawana Satsang Samaroha organized by the Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti (MUSS) at Tathagata Tsal today.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister extended deep appreciation on being invited to be a part of this massive congregation of followers of MUSS and also announced that the State Government will be constructing a Mandir at Gyalshing.

He spoke in detail about the importance of spiritual well-being and its connection to the advancement of humanity and nature alike.

He underlined that nature and the people of Sikkim have been coexisting in harmony and will continue to do so. Additionally, he highlighted that Sikkim, which is filled with an abundance of nature's bounty, was a preferred religious destination.

He also lauded Satpalji Maharaj for his immense knowledge and in being an exponent of Manav Dharma. He also recalled the visit of Satpalji Maharaj to Siddheshwara Dham in 2015 and how



turned to turn to pg02

Wandering Souls of Sikkim to organize Inter School fest 'NEEV'

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 OCT:**

Wandering Souls of Sikkim, a website and youth forum, is organizing an Inter School festival titled NEEV: A Foundation for Better Future at Pakyong on 03 Nov.

The festival is meant for the students of Secondary and Senior Secondary Level Schools in Pakyong and its surrounding areas, informs a press release.

More than 180 students from 20 schools are expected to participate in 8 different competitions like quiz, elocution, poetry, painting, essay writing etc. in various categories.

ious categories.

The event is an attempt by WSOS to reach out to young minds and provide them with a platform to perform.

"We believe that our effort shall act as a booster of confidence for the young minds to succeed in their endeavours across the globe." The release mentions.

The festival is supported by BAC, Pakyong under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Summit Times, AS Presentations and many other individuals and groups.

WSOS has thanked the sponsors and patrons for their support and patronage.

Dream start: Real Kashmir stun holders Minerva Punjab in I-League

PANCHUKULA, OCT 31 (PTI): Real Kashmir FC Wednesday stunned defending champions Minerva Punjab FC in a sensational start to their maiden I-League campaign, taking the first step towards realising the beginners' dream of making the 'Paradise on Earth' a "paradise for football".

The first team from the Valley to play in the country's top-flight, Real Kashmir FC scored the game's only goal through Gnoreh krizo's 74th minute strike, giving the rival goalkeeper no chance to stop the ball that was travelling in great speed.

While the result left coach David Robertson and his players ecstatic,

the heads totting the stands at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium also applauded the visiting team, moments after it humbled the fancied opponents in their own den.

The emergence of Real Kashmir and their elevation to the I-League is the most fascinating story of Indian football in recent times. Formed three years ago, Real Kashmir last season won the second division league to get promoted into the top flight.

Living up to their coach's assertion on the eve of the game, Real Kashmir did give the holders a run for their money.

Real Kashmir had a turn to pg02

Only 'green crackers' to be sold in Delhi-NCR this Diwali, other festivals: SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 (PTI): The Supreme Court clarified on Wednesday that firecrackers other than green crackers will not be sold in the Delhi-NCR region this Diwali and other festivals.

A bench of Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan said firecrackers already produced can be sold in this festival season only in other parts of the country.

In Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and other southern states, firecrackers can be burst from 4 AM to 5 AM and from 9 PM to 10 PM during festivals, the apex court said.

The top court said that its direction on community bursting of firecrackers will apply pan India for two hours.

In its October 23 order, the court had ordered that bursting of firecrackers on Diwali and other festivals would be only from 8 PM to 10 PM.

The bench said that the directions on the ban on sale of firecrackers through e-commerce websites will also apply pan India, the court said.

The apex court in its October 23 order had said that e-commerce websites will be hauled up for contempt of court if they do not adhere to the court's direction, adding that the Station House Officers of police stations concerned will be held liable if banned firecrackers are sold in their area.

In the previous hearing, the advocates appeared turn to pg02

Aakraman goes down fighting to Army [Red] in Gold Cup semis

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 31 OCT:**

Sikkim Aakraman Football Club has gone down to Army [Red] by a solitary goal in a well contested semi-final match of the 38th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on Wednesday.

A goal by Army [Red] captain N Suresh Meitei in the injury time of the first half has taken the team into the finals of the tournament.

With maximum possession of the ball, the



home team maintained good pressure on the opponent throughout the match. Sikkim Aakraman players made some good attacks but could not score any goal in the match. Sikkim Aakraman FC coach, Shisil Karthak stated

that Army [Red] was a strong side but home team players tried their best keeping maximum possession of the ball throughout the match.

"Our boys have played exceptionally well but we missed good opportunities to score in the match. We would like to thank our local crowd for supporting us throughout the match," he said.

The second semi-final will be played between Manang Marsyangdi Club, Nepal and ISL team, ATK Kolkata [Reserve] on Thursday afternoon at 2 PM.

EMRS Gangyap shakes Gangtok up!



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 OCT:** Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Gangyap, West Sikkim

presented the Elvis Presley musical 'All Shook up' this evening at Manan Kendra, Gangtok. The programme was organised by

St. Joseph's Convent alumni Sikkim chapter. The school had also staged the musical in Namchi earlier on 09 Oct.

A pop-up by Anupa Rai



We welcome you to CLAY PLAY, an exhibition cum sale of clay art by home grown artist Anupa Rai from Pakyong, Sikkim. The solo event showcases an array of home decor items and accessories, handcrafted with love. Anupa mostly draws her inspiration from nature.

Date: 2/11/2018 - 4/11/2018

Time: 9:00am - 6:00pm

Venue: Green Gangtok Boutique, Forest Colony Road, Gangtok.

+91 97758 77317 greengangtok@gmail.com

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email:

news@summittimes.com



TEOHAR'S HERE: The Dasain/ Dusshera hangover is not over yet, and the festival of lights is already upon us as is obvious from the decked up shops in Singtam bazar inviting people to splurge some. [from YOGEN THATAL]

Compensation disbursed to Himagiri explosion affected

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
DIKCHU, 31 OCT:

A staggering 85 houses of Upper Lingzya, Lower Lingzya and Laven wards of Upper Dzongu had been damaged by an explosion in the Magazine House of Himagiri Hydro Project site in Lower Lingzya earlier this year. Today, at a function held at Sakyong-Pentong Gram Prasashan Kendra at Lingzya, these affected families were handed over compensation for the damage suffered by their homes.

A total of Rs 98,01,428 was disbursed to cover the different degrees of



damage suffered by the 85 families.

The cheques were handed over by Deputy Speaker, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, who is also the

area MLA for the affected area, in the presence of DC North, Karma R Bonpo, SDM Dzongu, Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, officials from Himagiri and

the Panchayat members.

The affected people thanked the MLA and the district administration for providing relief and compensation them.

Party activities underway full swing: SKM

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 OCT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has claimed that 19 Sikkim Democratic Front members from Lower Namlung Ward under Berfung Constituency in South Sikkim joined the party during the constituency level workers interaction meeting with representatives of South District Committee held at Ravangla party office recently.

In a press release issued today, SKM has said that it is conducting various activities like door-to-door visits, formation of ward level committees, induction of new members, etc, across the state in preparation for the 2019 election.

The meet at Ravangla also discussed various agenda where constituency level body briefed about recent progress within the Berfung Con-



stituency. Later, the District Committee suggested CLC to work towards the formation of various committees like BLC, WLCs for smooth functioning of party activities at the grassroot level. The meet was attended by executives of South District Committee and attended by Constituency body of Berfung constituency.

The release informs that Ward Level Committee was constituted today at Upper and Lower Niya Wards, Rangang Yangang Constituency. An SKM entourage led by CLC president, Tengayla Namka, R.K Basnet and Bikash Basnet chaired the meet.

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Chabi Lal Chettri as the WLC

president of Upper Niya and likewise Somnath Poudyal was chosen as the WLC president of Lower Niya Ward. The committee thus appointed have been assigned with the task of expediting party activities at the grassroot level.

Ward level committee constituted at Upper Vok and Lower Vok under Poklok Kamrang

Constituency. The meet was attended by Constituency level president and workers. Similarly, five families from Vok left SDF and joined SKM, as per the release.

Prominent SDF member, Bhojraj Subba of Tharpu under Soteng Chyakung left SDF and officially joined SKM in the presence of working president, Mohan Phurombo, Advisor, PT Luksom, CLC president, Binod Basnet and Nari Convenor, Louis Moktan during the meet held at Malbaisey party office.

Ward level committee was formed under Sakyong, Sumik-Lingzey under Singtam Khamdong Constituency. The event was led by Constituency Level team of Singtam Khamdong. The team also conducted door-to-door campaign promoting party policies and programmes.

Awareness prog on electoral participation in Dzongu



SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 31 OCT:

An awareness programme on 'Systematic Voters Education & Electoral Participation' for Passingdang, Dzongu

Sub Division, was held at Hee-Gyathang Senior Secondary and Sonam Choda Memorial Secondary Schools on Tuesday. The awareness programme was attended by

SDM Dzongu, Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, and other officials and was participated in by teachers, senior students and the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO).

SSB Marchak observes National Unity day



GANGTOK, 31 OCT (PIB): Sashastra Seema Bal Gangtok Sector Hqrs Marchak observed National Unity Day today. In the ceremony organized at

Sector Hqrs SSB Marchak, Gangtok, Deputy Inspector General, B. K. Pal, administered the pledge to all staff and officers. They took oath to ded-

icate themselves to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation. The programme was conducted in the units under SHQ SSB Gangtok also.

The Institute of Engineers Sikkim Centre holds annual general meeting

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 OCT:

The second Annual General Meeting of The Institute of Engineers (India), Sikkim State Centre was organized at ATIC hall of College of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology Ranipool, East Sikkim today, informs a press release.

Chairperson of the state centre and Additional Chief Secretary, G. P. Upadhyaya, welcomed the members. He also highlighted the activities undertaken and future plans of the state centre and appealed to the members to share their views and participate in the activities of the centre.

The active participa-



tion from various Institutes, private industries and different department in the activities of the state centre were applauded during the meet-

ing, the release mentions. Honorary Secretary of the state centre, Prof. NS Chauhan, presented the annual report, expenditure for previous

year, and budget of the state centre and all were unanimously approved by the house. The centre has planned to conduct a one-day workshop on

National Building Code and a National Conference of Agricultural Engineers with theme of Agricultural Engineering Interventions for sustainable organic hill farming to be organized at NIT Ravangla during November and CAEPHT Ranipool, during February 2018 respectively.

The meeting was attended by 28 members of the centre (including faculty members of CAEPHT, Ranipool, SMIT Majhitar and NIT Sikkim, and the Engineers working under various departments of Govt. of Sikkim and industries) and students of CAEPHT, Ranipool. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by the Chairperson.

Only 'green crackers' to be sold in Delhi-NCR this Diwali, other festivals: SC

contd from pg01

pearing for firecracker manufacturers had told the bench that the apex court had never intended to order complete ban on bursting of firecrackers on Diwali, but the composition of green crackers was not even finalised.

They had said that in such a scenario, it would be akin to complete ban on firecrackers as green crackers would possibly come in the market only next year.

They had also said

that lot of changes were required to be made in quality of crackers to make them green and it was impossible to do so within such a short span of time this year.

Advocate Gopal Shankar Narayanan, appearing for the petitioner on whose plea the October 23 order was passed, had told the court that it had stopped short of imposing a complete ban on use of firecrackers and had said that balance has to be achieved.

He had referred to last year's order of the apex court and said that as per the direction, no firecrackers could have been brought in Delhi after that order.

The counsel appearing for the manufacturers had said that they were not at all arguing that the order passed by the apex court was wrong, but they could not comply with the directions in the window given to them.

On October 9 last year, the top court had

temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers ahead of Diwali.

Later, the court refused to relax its order while dismissing a plea by traders who had sought permission to sell crackers for at least a day or two before Diwali on October 19, 2017.

The apex court said its ban order during Diwali that year was an experiment to examine its effect on pollution levels in the region.

AFFIDAVIT

म सनतोस तामाङ मेरो पतिको नाम कालुमान तामाङ र मेरो पत्नीको नाम लकमति लेप्चा हो। नविसी लोर शरीपूताम। म भारतीय सेनामा काम गर्छु। मेरो पत्नीको नाम सेनाको प्रमाणपत्रमा लकमति तामाङ भएको कारण त्यसलाई सुधारन को नमिती affidavit गरिहेको छु। लकमति तामाङ देखी लकमति लेप्चा।

**Gangtok on
Thursday,
01 Nov**

Temp: 25°C/10°C
Forecast: Mostly
sunny, a thunder-
shower in spots in
the afternoon.
Sunrise: 05:44 AM
Sunset: 04:54 PM

NHPC Rambh observes Vigilance Awareness Week

**SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 31 OCT:**
Vigilance Awareness Week with the theme "Eradicate Corruption-Build a new India" was observed in NHPC Limited at Teesta Low Dam-III Power Station, Rambh today.

The programme started by administering of integrity pledge by the Chief Engineer (In-charge), S.K. Agarwal to all the employees. As per directions of Central Vigilance Commission, various activities and competitions shall be conducted for employees and their family members. Further, outreach activities for creating awareness against corruption among public shall also be organized in the surrounding areas of the Power Station during Vigilance Awareness Week from 29 Oct to 03 Nov.

**HAVE A STORY
TO SHARE?**
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Gangtok Runs for Unity

GANGTOK, 31 OCT (IPR): Governor Ganga Prasad today flagged off the "Run for Unity" from Paljor Stadium to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The run was organized as part of Rashtiya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department.

A large number of school students from all the four districts, youth, sports enthusiasts and ITBP jawans took part in the run.

While paying tribute to the great freedom fighter who went on to become the first Home Minister of India, the Governor said, "National Unity Day is being celebrated nationwide on the auspicious occasion

of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. We are very grateful to the creator of national modern India and the Iron Man so let us all pay homage to him and take the pledge to further strengthen the unity and integrity of the people by promoting brotherhood in the society as responsible citizens and contribute to nation building."

He further said that we should unite with a feeling of brotherhood and integrity towards our nation and participate in today's run with the determination to strengthen the path towards nation building.

The Governor further stated that nation-building starts from the fam-

ily and we should begin by becoming good human beings and inspire youths towards shaping the nation to further great heights.

The Governor further highlighted that in Gujarat today, the Prime Minister was dedicating the Statue of Liberty built as a tribute to the icon. He said that this statue is a symbol of India's integrity and unity and how we should learn how to grow from strength to strength and always stay united. He encouraged the students to always look forward to rekindle the spirit of oneness and serve the country with their best capabilities.

The programme was attended by Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava,



Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, Dr K Jayakumar, Secretary of SYA Department, SD Dhakal, Director Sports Kamal Chettri and officials of state government, ITBP and participating students.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary highlighted the contribution of the Iron Man of India. He elaborated on how the great freedom fighter was responsible for us living in a unified India today. As such, it is appropriate to

celebrate his birth anniversary as the National Unity Day since it is a historic and inspiring occasion for all Indians, he said.

The country's youth should take a leaf out of Patel's life on the occa-

sion of the birth anniversary of the country's great personality and bow to the great stalwart who unified India and served the nation tirelessly, he stated.

Sikkim Govt B.Ed College hosts fest

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 OCT:**

The college fest of Sikkim Government B.Ed College at Soreng in West Sikkim was held from 28 to 31 October.

The concluding day had the HRDD Minister RB Subba as chief guest and Advisors HRDD, Health Department and Horticulture, Chairperson, Forest & Wildlife; Director Higher Education; ADC-Soreng; SDM-Soreng; SDPO-Soreng were present as guests of honour.

The event began with an ultraviolet light show based on "Dream" by the students followed by the



inauguration of stalls items by students, teaching-learning materials and models, and other creative handicrafts.

Akbar records statement in defamation case against journalist

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 (PTI):

Former Union minister MJ Akbar, who has filed a criminal defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani, told a Delhi court on Wednesday that an "immediate damage" has been caused to him due to the "scurrilous", concocted and false allegations of sexual misconduct levelled against him.

Akbar appeared before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal and recorded his statement to support the defamation complaint filed by him against Ramani on October 15.

Ramani has accused Akbar of sexual miscon-

duct around 20 years ago.

"Indeed there was an immediate damage because of the scurrilous nature of these concocted and false allegations. I was attacked in my personal capacity about alleged and fabricated non-events allegedly done two decades ago," he said in his statement.

"I chose in that environment to seek justice in my personal capacity without the Appurtenance of Office. This is why I offered my registration as Minister of State, Govt of India. My reputation has been tarnished in the eyes of general public and those who are near

and dear and known to me," he said.

Akbar, who had resigned from the Union Council of Ministers on October 17, has concluded the recording of his statement.

The court has fixed November 12 for further hearing of the case when the statements of witnesses named by Akbar will be recorded.

Akbar's name cropped up on the social media when he was in Nigeria, as the #MeToo campaign raged on in India. Multiple women have come out with accounts of alleged sexual harassment by him when he was a journalist.

Dream start: Real Kashmir stun holders Minerva Punjab in I-League

contd from pg01

chance to make it 2-0 four minutes after breaking the deadlock, but Minerva Punjab will be kicking themselves as they had a bright start to the second-half but failed to make their chances count.

It was a tight affair and Minerva Punjab FC paid for their profligacy in front of goal.

Minerva Punjab made two changes to their starting line-up that drew 0-0 against Churchill Brothers. Nongdamba Naorem and Manandeep Singh missed out a spot in the starting XI and they were replaced by Makan Chothe and Kouame Alexandre.

Robertson fielded his side in a 3-5-2 formation. He had his son Mason Robertson, Goan Brian Mascarenhas and local boy Muhammad Hammad to bolster his defence at the start of the game.

Other Local Kashmiris who made the

starting line-up were midfielders Farhan Ganie and Danish Farooq. The 6 ft 7 inches Ivorian Gnorehere Krizo was the lone striker upfront with Bilal manning the Kashmir woodwork.

Minerva's Ghanaian forward William Opoku had the first good chance of the game just before the quarter of an hour mark, when an excellent ball from Amandeep, from inside the Minerva half, found Opoku in the clear in the Kashmir box with a defender on his shoulder.

Opoku trapped and fired only for Hero of the Match Bilal to bring about the first of his many good saves on the day to deny Minerva the lead.

Opoku combined well with Makan Chothe on a couple of occasions but the youngster was once caught offside and on the other occasion took too much time with the ball. They finished the

half with a couple of corners, from one of which defender Lancine Toure connected with a good header from close but Bilal was up to it again.

Minerva's sense of urgency was evident in the beginning of the second half as in the first three minutes they had two excellent chances to score. In the first, Ivorian Alexandre's powerful shot from inside the box was tipped over by Bilal and hit the bar and then Opoku's powerful drive from outside the box met with another save by Bilal.

Munster rang in the changes quick and fast, bringing in youngsters

Nongdamba Naorem, Dilliram Sanyasi and Hitova Ayemi to inject more pace and flair into the game, but the Kashmir defence held solid.

Then, in a subtle change of tactics, Robertson brought in midfielder Vicky Meitei in place Hammad, bolstering his midfield for a defender.

The move paid dividends as in the 73rd minute, quite against the run of play, off a free kick inside the Minerva half, Krozi got hold of the ball inside the Minerva box, turned and unleashed a powerful drive which beat Minerva goalie Bhaskar Roy at the near post.



Kutse Shegu

The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of late **Tshewang Dorjee Bhutia**, who left for his heavenly abode on the 13th of September 2018, falls on **31 October 2018**.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Bojoghari, behind the SBI building.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

**Tshering Doma Bhutia
(Elder Sister) 94344 49033**

SummitTIMES
ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

SummitTIMES
He left a struggle, returns a star
Pokémon Go: Best Game of 2016

SummitTIMES
Syok Bhir collapses, blocks Kanaka completely
For Sikkim's Patron Saint

SummitTIMES
CAEPHT wins A-Maze 2016
The Gendered View from Behind the Lens

THE WORLD BANK
NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT

**Office of the Superintending Engineer
Water Resources & River Development
Department,
Government of Sikkim**

E-Procurement Notice
BID ID No:- NHP-01/Online Re-Tender - 01 Of 2018-19
The Superintending Engineer (NHP), W.R & R.D.D. on behalf of Governor of Sikkim invites items rate bids through e-procurement for Construction of State Water Resources Information Data Centre under National Hydrology Project at Sokeythang, Tadong, East Sikkim.
The details of the bids are available at : www.sikkim-tenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer (NHP)
R.O. No. 441/IPR/Pub/classi/18-19 dt. 30.10.18

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Knee-Jerk all the Way

Not the way to handle environmental challenges

So, the air Delhi is already severely harmful. So much so that authorities are now advising Delhites to not even light incense. It is another matter that farm stubble in its neighbouring states continues to be burnt and entire hills in the Aravalli range have been lost to quarrying, removing obstacles which used to cushion the NCR from polluting winds. Those hooked on TV for information will know of the Delhi situation as a smog-effect, a problem visited on the nation's capital by a combination of smoke and fog. Smog, unfortunately is too innocent-sounding a word to describe Delhi's condition. Unfortunately, it is also wrong to see this only as a Delhi problem because large swathes of North India, which is where most of our population lives, is suffering toxic pollution of varying intensity. Pollution, of course, is not even region-specific to the subcontinent anymore and any settlement which has grown in the past three decades is now living in it. Several cities do not even have industries around to blame the pollution on, just growth (which is ironically interchangeable with development for some) has been villain enough. What starts off as poor garbage management and ill-equipped sewerage systems, soon explodes as a full-fledged environmental assault. The impact does not manifest only in stench and disease, but also frequent flooding (since there is no space for surface run-off to seep or floodplains left to soak the spill), shortage of water and a suffocating absence of clean air.

But we are stretching ourselves too thin here. Let us stay with Delhi for now and see if anyone, including the Delhi-wallahs are learning from their nightmares. The shutting down of schools, suspension of all construction works and a possible return to the odd-even vehicle regime are knee-jerk responses to the end result of years of not bothering. Keeping children at home and sending construction workers either back to their villages of cooped in their shanties is not going to solve the problem because they did not cause it. Any Delhite will confirm that poor visibility and toxic air have been winters for Delhi for a while now. It begins with Diwali, arriving slightly earlier this year, and continues almost till March with only the occasional reprieves. It makes headlines now because smog presents a dramatic episode which makes for visually captivating TV. The toxicity is always there, but since it cannot be filmed, it is not discussed the rest of the year. Of course, the shift in atmospheric pressure and wind patterns collaborate to compress this cocktail much harder into Delhi and parts of North India, but it would be wrong to believe to that this is only a winter thing. Some of the better-off schools have invested in air-monitors and based on their readings decided whether students can be allowed outdoors for games and sports. Delhi, in that sense is already in a very desolate place, and things will keep getting worse until its only response is to ban firecrackers, complain of stubble burning or stop constructions.

To have a chance at improving things, the planners need to first identify what is causing the toxic pollution and then bring in the real experts to explain how climate change and urban expansion are making it worse. Then, and only then, can it begin the process of addressing the situation. Don't do so, and the responses will only be cosmetic – masks, blinds, filters... These are defences, not prevention.

Sikkim too will be well advised to learn from the failures of Delhi and other metros of the country. Urban pockets of the State have seen a population explosion in the recent decades and only slightly away, industries have arrived. More and more of its farms lie fallow and more and more of its sand-banks and streams are being quarried without any scientific monitoring. Gangtok might have been winning awards for swachhata, but move into the warrens stuck even slightly beyond direct road access and the garbage and sanitation mess becomes obvious. Valley towns like Singtam, Rangpo and Jorethang have traditionally wrestled with malaria outbreaks and now even dengue is common there. Clearly it is not the heat that is breeding these diseases but an unfortunate absence of proper sanitation and civic hygiene. These problems will only amplify with global warming. The State, hence, should resolve to plan such things long-term or within a few years even it will find itself meeting only to announce knee-jerk responses.

WRITE US:

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

When 'what's on your mind' is tragic, not happy – sharing sad news on social media

NAZANIN ANDALIBI
theconversation.com

It's always wonderful to share happy news – in person and on social media. New jobs, weddings and becoming parents of healthy children are all commonly posted online, and often gather lots of encouraging comments and congratulations. But when the news is sad, distressing or traumatic, people are far less likely to share it – even though they may need lots more support than when good things are happening in their lives. And when the crisis is particularly dire, or potentially stigmatizing, people may not even tell their closest friends and suffer in isolation.

I study how and why people use social media and technologies to express themselves and interact with others, especially when they experience stigma or adversities. Through this work, I find ways to design social media sites in ways that are more inclusive of people experiencing difficulties – for example, to make it easier for them to express themselves safely and exchange social support.

More recently, I set out to investigate how and why people share about one specific kind of adversity on social media – experiencing a pregnancy loss. About 20 percent of pregnancies in the U.S. end in loss, rather than a live birth.

Women who experience pregnancy loss can feel isolated and socially stigmatized, and suffer from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. They often have a hard time telling others – even friends and loved ones – though that's a key way they'll get much-needed social support. Many people don't tell anyone at all.

I conducted a series of interviews with women in the U.S. who are active on social media and who recently experienced a pregnancy loss. I wanted to find out why some people post online about what has happened, and why others don't. And for those who did post, I wanted to find out what they said – and didn't say – and why.

USING REAL NAMES

Much research suggests that anonymity helps people express themselves more freely online. In my research, I've found that more anonymity on sites like Reddit can help people to both seek and provide social support while feeling safe from stigma. I also found that starting with an anonymous post on a site like Reddit can help people feel more comfortable with a future disclosure under their own name on a site like Facebook.

When dealing with pregnancy loss, anonymous interactions may not satisfy a person's need to talk about what has happened with people they actually know. People can still feel lonely in their own networks.

As a result, in this project, I focused primarily on social media sites where people are not anonymous, but rather use their real names and are connected to people they know personally: family, friends, col-

leagues and acquaintances.

MOTIVATIONS FOR SHARING ABOUT PREGNANCY LOSS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

When choosing whether or not to post about one's pregnancy loss, people consider various factors related to their personal needs, audience concerns, network as a whole, platform features, societal context and how long had passed since the loss.

If they did decide to make a statement online, some people posted direct, explicit and unambiguous announcements of the loss. Of the 27 people I interviewed, 12 took this approach when first posting about their experience to a social network where they personally knew their connections. Their reasons varied, and included wanting to begin healing, elicit support and make a formal remembrance of their loss to meet personal needs. One woman told me,

"My husband started crying. And the doctor came in, and he said, 'I'm so sorry. You're right. The baby, her heart stopped last week.' And I said to my hus-



band, 'We were gonna announce [the pregnancy on Facebook].' And he said, 'And we didn't.' And I said, 'It's like no one will know she was here.' So he said, 'I think we should put something on there for her, because people should know she was here, and that she changed our world.'"

If others in a person's network were talking about their own experiences with pregnancy loss – or getting involved in social media campaigns, like Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day – that made it easier to join in and discuss their own loss.

People also talked about their experiences because they wanted to be a source of support for others in their networks. Another woman told me:

"Anybody that I talked to in real life, my mom or my friends or even my husband, I don't feel like it was the kind of support I needed ... I needed somebody who had been through it and had similar circumstance to feel like they understood ... I was putting it out there just in support of anybody who might be experiencing a miscarriage and feel alone, because I felt very alone."

Some people disclosed the loss on Facebook because they had previously announced their pregnancy there, and were seeking to avoid widespread and hurtful questions like "Where are the baby pictures?" Others posted to make a change at the societal level, urge others to take action, provide donations or even

display political support for related issues like reproductive rights.

The specific features of particular social media platforms influenced people's decisions about whether and what to post too. For example, on Facebook, the possibility of telling a large group of people with just one post – but still limiting that information to a user's own social network – was, for some people, preferable to a series of painful one-on-one conversations.

DROPPING SUBTLE HINTS AND TESTING THE WATERS

Other people, 13 of the women I learned from, were less obvious, sharing a news article about pregnancy loss, symbolic content like a painting, a vague reference to staying at home without mentioning why, or even something apparently separate from what has happened, such as a photo of a dinner served the night of the loss. These expressions aided some to later make a more direct post about their pregnancy loss.

Among people's reasons for posting indirect references to their experiences were the desire to emotionally protect themselves and test how friends might respond to a direct expression of loss. For instance, one woman told me:

"I think that when we really want to share but don't feel comfortable sharing, we flirt with that idea by sharing other things and seeing what happens. Seeing what responses we get. Then we still have the opportunity to say 'Oh, just kidding. No. It was just a quote. I just like this

quote.' And not have that stigma of being cheated on or being raped or having miscarriages."

WHAT SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES COULD DO

The companies behind online networks could make it easier for their users to find other people who have experienced similar adversities, helping everyone feel less alone and stigma. For example, they could boost posts with content about pregnancy loss to increase this topic's visibility. They could also help people see the prevalence of pregnancy loss in their networks. Such changes can provide more opportunities for people to meaningfully connect with each other and reduce stigma surrounding pregnancy loss more broadly.

Facebook in particular could help reduce feelings of stigma around distressing events by adding to its list of significant life events people can select – such as "got married" or "started a new job." This feature now includes "expecting a baby" and "loss of a loved one," but does not include "lost a pregnancy" as an option. This sort of change to the site itself would make the platform more inclusive and could shift norms around what is appropriate to share online, allowing people to discuss their difficult news and life events, in addition to their triumphs and happiness.

[The writer is Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Information, University of Michigan]

Why does the migrant caravan exist? And how did it come to be?

JERRY FLORES
theconversation.com

On Oct. 19, thousands of Central American migrants tried to cross the bridge between Guatemala and Mexico, seeking safety up north. News outlets broadcast the painful moans of people being crushed one against the other and the screams of children. We saw the desperate looks of mothers as authorities in Mexico tried to push back the crowd with batons and pepper spray. The following day they were permitted to cross over.

The caravan of 7,000, mostly from Guatemala and Honduras, is heading for the United States.

Once news of the caravan was presented to U.S. President Donald Trump, he said the flow of people contained "dangerous criminals," and he pressured the Mexican government to stop the "invasion."

Trump also threatened to cut humanitarian aid to Central American countries. He also announced he was sending more than 5,000 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. As the caravan began to receive more attention, people asked: "Why are these people coming to the U.S.?"

NECESSITY OBLIGES US TO LEAVE
The answer is complex. "Una necesidad nos obliga," a 20-year-old man told the Washington Post. Necessity obliges us to leave.

As a professor, sociologist and father whose own family once crossed the border of Mexico for a better life in the U.S., I reflected on this. Pover-

ty and violence are the main factors driving the caravan. The proliferation of gangs, narcotics trafficking, corruption and impunity are all endemic problems in Honduras and Guatemala.

Honduras is one of the world's deadliest places that isn't a war zone. Droughts and floods have also had devastating consequences on agricultural economies. These people are travelling in a caravan for their own protection, to avoid having to pay a smuggler and to minimize the risk of crime.

A DEADLY HISTORY OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT

But the roots of their plight are connected to larger issues and hemispheric politics played out over decades. Rage and threats will not make the caravan go away, as noted in a recent report by research and advocacy group, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).

Governments cannot prevent citizens from leaving their own countries.

Guatemala provides a great case for how U.S. involvement has contributed to political instability and economic inequality in Central America. The country of 17 million, many of whom are of Indigenous descent, elected their first democratically chosen president in 1951. President Jacobo Arbenz passed a series of populist policies that included land redistribution and expanding access to education for the neediest people in Guatemala.

This angered U.S.-owned companies like the United Fruit Company. In 1954 the U.S. CIA orchestrated a

coup and installed a series of military dictators who enforced a crackdown against all government opposition.

This crackdown included dropping napalm on Indigenous villages thought to contain guerrilla fighters. Additionally, military soldiers were ordered to "desaparecer" or "disappear" anyone suspected of opposing the government.

About 200,000 people, mostly Indigenous, were killed in the country. These issues continue to reverberate today as the political class colludes with and protects criminal groups.

Honduras also has a long history of U.S. involvement, both economic and military. The U.S. presence began in the late 1890s, when U.S.-based banana companies first became active there. The U.S. military intervened in 1907 and 1911 to protect U.S. interests and further cement the ruling class' dependency on Washington.

Honduras has undergone political turmoil since a 2009 military coup against populist president Manuel Zelaya. The U.S. froze aid but it was restored shortly thereafter. Similarly in the 2018 election, the results were contested and the country was once again plunged into a political crisis. At least 30 were killed, most of them opponents of U.S.-backed President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who was accused of rigging the vote.

MIGRANTS DESERVE A FAIR CHANCE

The caravan of desperate and hungry migrants from Central America did not create itself. It was created by

meddling governments and indifferent neighbours.

While about 1,600 migrants have made official asylum claims in Mexico, many are continuing their journey north and Mexican authorities have not tried to stop the caravan.

In a video message posted to social media President Enrique Peña Nieto announced a plan called "Estar en tu Casa" (You are at home). The government offered shelter, medical attention, schooling and jobs to the migrants on the condition they seek asylum with the National Immigration Institute and remain in the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

However, it is unsurprising that Central Americans do not trust their chances for a fair asylum process in Mexico, a country with a high homicide rate and a history of discrimination against migrants. Just a few days ago a photo was published on social media of a group of racist skinheads in Mexico City leading an anti-Central American caravan campaign.

We need to address the key factors that allowed this caravan to exist. We need to prevent powerful governments from meddling in the affairs of other nations. And we need to sanction those who do. These migrants deserve a fair hearing, a chance to ask for protection in the U.S. and a timely and fair resolution of their claims. And we need to stop state sponsored violence.

[The writer is Assistant Professor, University of Toronto]

Govt cites never-used powers for resolving issues with RBI

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 (PTI): The government has cited the never-before-used power of issuing directions to RBI Governor to seek a resolution to differences with the central bank, sources with knowledge of the development said.

The government has sent at least three letters on different issues under Section 7 (1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act that gives it powers to issue any direction to the central bank governor on matters of public interest.

Sources, however, insisted that the government has not taken any action of issuing any specific direction and has only initiated consultations with

the central bank on unresolved issues.

Finance Ministry and RBI are said to have differed on the central bank's handling of weak public sector banks, tight liquidity in the market and ways of resolving bad loans in the power sector.

Sources said the finance ministry wrote three separate letters in the past few weeks to RBI on issues ranging from Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework to liquidity management and sought consultation under Section 7 of the RBI Act.

The government wants RBI to carve out exemption for power companies under the

PCA framework that outlines triggers for declaring a loan account as stressed or NPA, sources said adding the second letter pertained to use of RBI's capital reserves for providing liquidity to the market and a third letter was for relaxing constraints on banks for loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Section 7 of the RBI Act empowers the government to issue directions to the central bank, after consultation with RBI Governor, on issues that it considers serious and of public interest. This section has never been invoked before.

Sources said Section 7 has two parts - consultation

and then issuing a direction to RBI for taking some action in public interest.

Right now only consultations are on, which may or may not result in any direction being issued, sources said.

It is being speculated that RBI Governor Urjit Patel may choose to resign if a specific direction is issued to the central bank under Section 7.

Former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram warned of "more bad news" if indeed the government were to invoke Section 7 of the RBI Act.

If the move was indeed true, it showed that the government was 'desperate' and was hiding

facts about the economy, he said adding the previous UPA government did not invoke Section 7 prior to liberalisation of the economy in 1991, the Asian financial crisis of 1997 or the period after the recession in 2008.

"If, as reported, the government has invoked Section 7 of the RBI Act and issued unprecedented 'directions' to the RBI, I am afraid there will be more bad news today. We did not invoke Section 7 in 1991 or 1997 or 2008 or 2013. What is the need to invoke the provision now? It shows that the government is hiding facts about the economy and is desperate," he tweeted.

Sources said never in the history of RBI has a direction under Section 7 of RBI Act been issued to the central bank.

The letters seeking consultation under Section 7 apparently prompted RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya's hard-hitting speech on Friday, in which he warned that toying with the central bank's independence could lead to dire consequences.

Organised by Department of Sports & Youth Services, Govt of Odisha, in association with sports-management company Emerging Sports, the literature festival will be organised from November 2 at Mayfair Lagoon in Bhubaneswar.

Odisha to host sports literature festival ahead of Hockey World Cup

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 (PTI): Before the Hockey World Cup begins later in November in Bhubaneswar, the city is set to invite sports lover from across the country to witness 'Ekamra International Sports Literature Festival'.

Organised by Department of Sports & Youth Services, Govt of Odisha, in association with sports-management company Emerging Sports, the literature festival will be organised from November 2 at Mayfair Lagoon in Bhubaneswar.

While the Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, is slated to inaugurate the event, famous names from the field of sports including Olympic medalist wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, gymnast Deepa Karimkar, former cricketer Mohammed Kaif are also expected to speak during the two-day festival.

"Ekamra Sports Literature Festival 2018 marks a new chapter in the history of Odisha, during its period of progression towards

being the sports hub of the country. It is wonderful that such a prestigious event will be held as a run up to the Men's hockey World Cup, Bhubaneswar 2018," Chandra Sarathi Behera, Minister of State (IC), Odisha Sports & Youth Services, said in a statement.

Former Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, former Australian cricketer Jeff Thomson, Olympic Gold medalist swimmer Stephanie Rice, and Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat will be among other speakers at the event.

"The sports literary festival phenomenon is a fairly recent one; but one whose time should have come much earlier. I have always dreamt of bringing together the finest minds in the world of sport and writing to Bhubaneswar to discuss their work, share their vision, hear diverse voices in a conducive and contemplative environment," Sundee Misra, founder director - Emerging Sports, said.

Odisha govt prepares plan for nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 31 (PTI): Ahead of imposing ban on fishing in the state coastline for the annual mass nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles, Odisha government has prepared an action plan to ensure protection of the endangered species.

The ban on fishing within 20 km from the coast for the protection of turtles will be imposed from November 1, 2018 till May 30, 2019. The action plan got nod of the high power committee for protection and conservation of Olive Ridley turtles held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary A P Padhi, an official said.

The ban will be imposed in the specified coast of the sea comprising sea turtle congregation area and their buffer zones in three river mouths like Dhamara river mouth, Devi river mouth and Rusikulya river mouth.

While reviewing the preparedness, Padhi directed the departments of fishery, forest and marine



police to operate in close coordination and ensure strict enforcement of the conservation rules.

The Coast Guard has been requested to have real-time intelligence sharing with the departments about any illegal fishing.

The institutions like Integrated Test Range, DRDO, Dhamara Port, Gopalpur Port and Paradip port authorities have been requested to follow the black-out and light deeming practices to save turtles from

possible delusion, he said.

Keeping in view of the interest of the hundreds of fishermen Padhi directed the departments concerned not to cause unnecessary harassment to small traditional fishermen without power boats.

The meeting also resolved to extend livelihood support programmes to the fishermen during the ban period, the official said adding that the committee proposed to enhance the livelihood support assistance

from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,500 to each fishermen family. It was also resolved to cover more eligible fishermen during 2018-19 who suffer because of the fishing ban.

Berthing places will be set up at Barunei, Gupti, Sasnapeta and Krushnapuriyapur and Rajnagar for safe custody of the seized vessels. There would be around 62 patrolling camp including 57 on-shore and 5 off-shore camps. Each camp will be provided with very high frequency com-

munication devices, mobile phones and required camping materials.

There will be regular communication and intelligence sharing among coast guard, patrolling ship, and various camps and marine police.

Armed police force will be deployed for patrolling and enforcement activities. Collectors will depute magistrates to remain in charge of armed police force placed at disposal of DFOs.

The proposal for setting up a Sea Turtle Research Centre was also discussed in the meeting. It was decided to set up the centre near the Ghati Central Nursery in the Khalikote forest range of Ganjam district.

The proposal for instituting a research fellowship on Olive Ridley conservation was discussed in the meeting.

Presenting the updates in the meeting, PCCF, (Wildlife) Sandeep Tripa-

thy said, "during last year (2017-18) around 11.10 lakh Olive Ridley emerged from the sea to lay eggs along Odisha coast."

Tripathy said because of better coordination mechanism among the departments concerned like coast guard, naval wing, ITR, fisheries & animal resource department, police, various port authorities, community-based organisations and forest and environment department, the sea turtle conservation and protection operation was carried on successfully last year.

He said sporadic nesting activities of the turtles and their mortality would be monitored through a web portal manage.odishawildlife.org.

"Soon after mass nesting, the rookeries will be fenced to protect the nests and eggs. Patrolling along with watch and ward activities will be further strengthened like previous years," Tripathy said.

Rs 3,000 cr splurged on Statue of Unity, thousands of families displaced : CPI

PATNA, OCT 30 (PTI): The CPI on Tuesday flayed the Narendra Modi government for "splurging" nearly Rs 3,000 crore on building Sardar Patel's gigantic statue at a time when debt-ridden farmers are "being driven to suicide" and millions of people are defecating in the open for want of sanitation facilities.

The 182 m Statue of Unity, touted as the world's tallest, is slated to be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat on Wednesday. CPI national secretary Binoy Viswam claimed that 75,000 adivasi fami-

lies living near the Sardar Sarovar dam had been rendered homeless to facilitate the construction of the mammoth structure.

"While unveiling the structure amid trademark fanfare, the prime minister would do well to take note of the fact that residents of 12 villages situated along the dam have decided not to cook food in their kitchen in protest against the government's high-handedness that was on display while executing the project," he alleged at a press conference here.

"While touting the statue as the tallest in the

world he (the prime minister) must also explain the logic behind splurging Rs 2979 crore on a single project at a time when agrarian distress is driving farmers to suicide," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

The statue, he said, is an insult to Sardar Patel as he would have never agreed to the displacement of 75,000 adivasi families to facilitate the construction of a statue.

"The 'Statue of Unity' is testimony to the fact that Make in India is as much a sham as Swachh Bharat has been.

While crores of Indians are still defecating in

the open due to lack of sanitation facilities, 99 per cent work on the statue was completed abroad.

"Modi and the RSS - which has been his alma mater - are the Indian heirs of Hitler and Goebbels for whom spreading falsehood is an ideology. We and all Left and secular parties are therefore committed to defeating the BJP in the next general elections", Viswam asserted.

A beginning to this end has already been made in Patna where all like-minded parties had gathered and spoken in one voice at a rally organized by CPI, he claimed.

Indian student creates pace-detecting algorithm to solve parking problem

SEEMA HAKHU KACHRU HOUSTON, OCT 31 (PTI): An Indian student in the US has created a space-detecting algorithm that can help tackle the problem of finding a parking spot by using big data analytics and save a person's time and money.

Sai Nikhil Reddy Mettupally, who is studying at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), has also won second prize at the 2018 Science and Technology Open House competition for his creation.

According to a university press release, Sai's creation relies on big data analytics and deep-learning techniques to lead drivers directly to an empty parking spot. Big data analytics is a

complex process of examining large and varied data sets to uncover information including hidden patterns, unknown correlations, market trends and customer preferences.

Sai conceived the idea shortly after the university transitioned to zone parking last fall.

"The data show that, on a typical day, there is a high chance that students or faculty members will have difficulty getting a parking spot between 11 am and 1 pm, leading to the wastage of time and fuel, and adding to the pollution" He says.

"Hence, finding a parking spot as soon as a person enters the parking lot is essential." What he needed was

to find a way to identify empty spaces and then direct the driver to the location. But unlike other parking apps in the market, he wanted to develop one that didn't rely on the purchase, installation, and maintenance of expensive in-ground sensors.

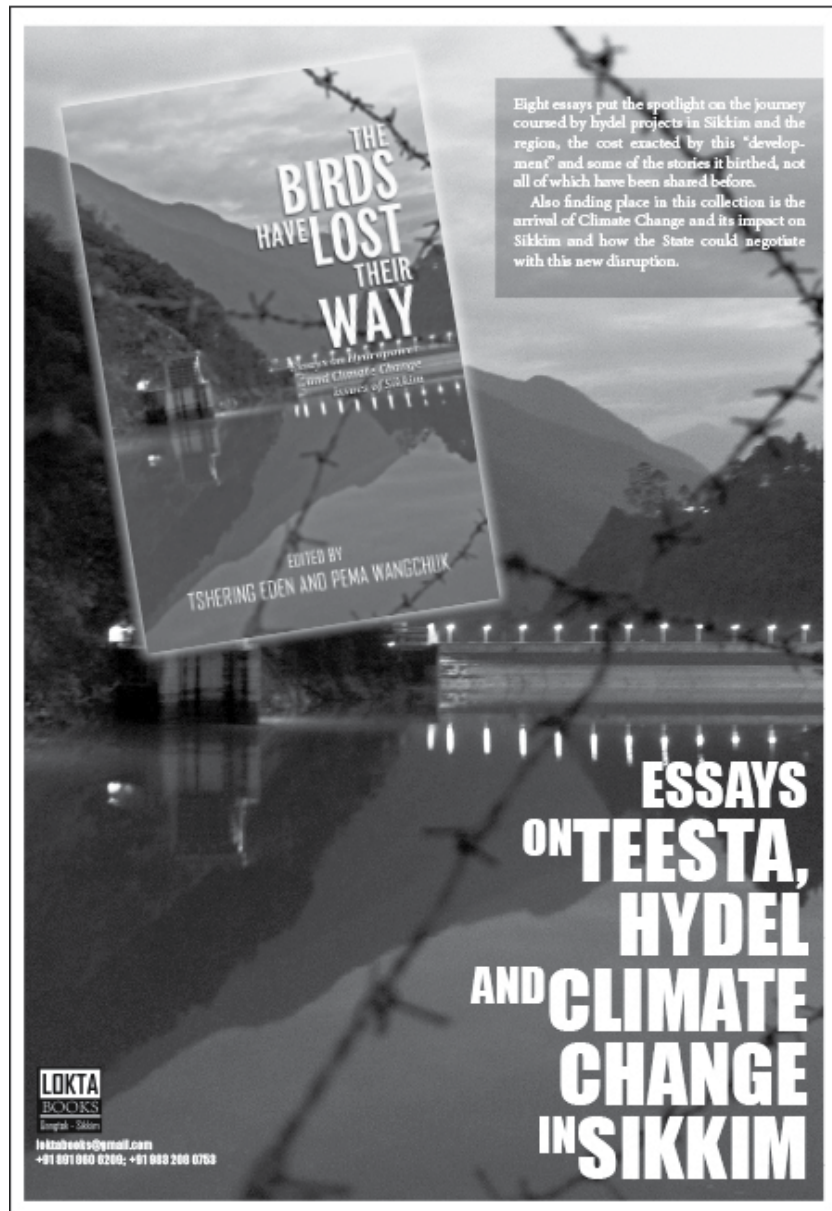
To help put his plan in action, Sai turned to Vineetha Menon, an Assistant Professor of Computer Science.

As the director of UAH's Big Data Analytics Lab, Menon also had access to the high-performance computing power that Sai needed to create and train his machine-learning model, which relies on a robust parking-lot data set provided by the Federal Uni-

versity of Parana in Brazil.

"The goal of the Big Data Analytics Lab is to establish Big Data Analytics and Data Science as mainstream research areas of the university, so it can accommodate the high computational and memory demands of Big Data generation and processing," Menon says.

Sai, who graduated in electronics and communications engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, hopes to develop a parking-support mobile app dubbed InstaPark that can display the real-time grid layout of empty and occupied parking spots using the phone's GPS.



India eye another home series triumph before entering second phase of WC tune-up

C SHYAM SUNDAR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 31 (PTI): India go into the final ODI Thursday eyeing another home series triumph against the West Indies, a far cry from the dominant force it was when the city last hosted a 50-over international three decades ago.

A victory in the fifth and penultimate One-day International will ensure India maintain their unbeaten run since the reverse against South Africa in 2015.

Leading 2-1 in the five-match series that also witnessed a tie, the hosts faced unexpected resistance in the past few days, including suffering a shock defeat, since the time the West Indians set foot in the country a little more than a month ago.

The weather is expected to play a part with showers predicted.

Virat Kohli's men bounced back from the loss in the third match at Pune to record a massive 224-run win at Mumbai.

The home team will hope to carry the momen-



tum into the series decider in the Southern city.

The last ODI played here was also between the two teams and was won by the visiting side, then an eminent force in world cricket. Jason Holder's men will look to seek inspiration from their illustrious predecessors and level the series.

With the series being the first in the run-up to the 50-overs World Cup in England in June next year, the two sides are more or less aiming to zero in on the combination for the

showpiece.

While Kohli and Rohit Sharma have been in superlative form, scoring three and two centuries respectively, Ambati Rayudu, backed by the skipper, has also been among the runs.

The rest of the batsmen haven't quite had the impact they would have liked to. The flamboyant Shikhar Dhawan has not capitalised on the starts while veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni has found runs hard to come by.

Left out of the T20

squad for the upcoming series in Australia, the Jharkhand stumper will hope to make a contribution in front of the stumps, too, even though his work with the big gloves has been stupendous.

Dhoni stands on the cusp of a milestone, needing one run to reach the 10,000 mark in India colours (he has scored 124 runs for Asia XI).

The return of Jasprit Bumrah has added value to the Indian team and he proved his worth in the two games he has

played while the young Khaleel Ahmed showed he's learning with an impressive spell at the Brabourne Stadium.

Kohli will expect the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar to raise his level of play in the series finale after moderate returns. The seamer has been recalled following a rest.

The spinners have done the damage with most of the Caribbean batsmen struggling to cope with Kuldeep Yadav, while Yuzvendra Chahal was benched for the fourth ODI in favour of Ravindra Jadeja.

The visitors, on the other hand, have blown hot and cold in the one-dayers after being routed in the Tests.

Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope have impressed the most, having logged a century each while underlining their abilities. Captain Holder has shown he can handle the Indian spinners pretty well but the other batsmen have not covered themselves with glory.

Holder will be hoping that the team improves

collectively to snatch a win and deny India a series triumph. It is easier said than done but the young West Indies squad has shown they have the talent but not the requisite temperament.

The participation of off-spinner Ashley Nurse, who has been a consistent performer, is in doubt after he suffered an injury during the Mumbai game. His absence could affect the hopes of the Windies in the all-important game.

The final ODI, the second international game to be played at the new greenfield stadium in the city, is expected to draw a full house but the weather holds the key.

Squads:

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni (wicketkeeper), Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Umesh Yadav, Lokesh Rahul, Manish Pandey.

Rooney urges Man United flops to show respect



LONDON, OCT 31 (AFP): Wayne Rooney has urged Manchester United's under-achieving stars to show more respect for their troubled club.

United are languishing in eighth place in the Premier League and have made a slow start to their Champions League campaign.

Sunday's 2-1 win over Everton did little to lift the gloom around Old Trafford, with United manager Jose Mourinho under scrutiny following a spluttering run which has seen key players fail to produce consistent performances.

Mourinho has clashed with United stars including Paul Pogba, Luke Shaw, Alexis Sanchez and Anthony Martial.

And Rooney, who became United's record goalscorer before leav-

ing in 2017, believes it is down to the team's highly-paid stars to play with more pride and passion regardless of their issues with Mourinho.

In an interview with Football Focus, published on the BBC Sport website, DC United striker Rooney said: "Obviously they are going through a difficult period at the minute, but Jose Mourinho is very experienced and I think some players have to do a little bit better.

"In my experience, I have never seen or heard of a player not wanting to play in the game because they have had a falling out with the manager.

"I don't think as a player you could do that, you've got to respect the club and the fans and also respect your team-mates.

Djokovic beats Sousa in straight sets at Paris Masters

PARIS, OCT 31 (AP): Novak Djokovic began his bid for a record-extending fifth Paris Masters title with a 7-5, 6-1 win against Joao Sousa in the second round on Tuesday, and lent a helping hand to a spectator in the process.

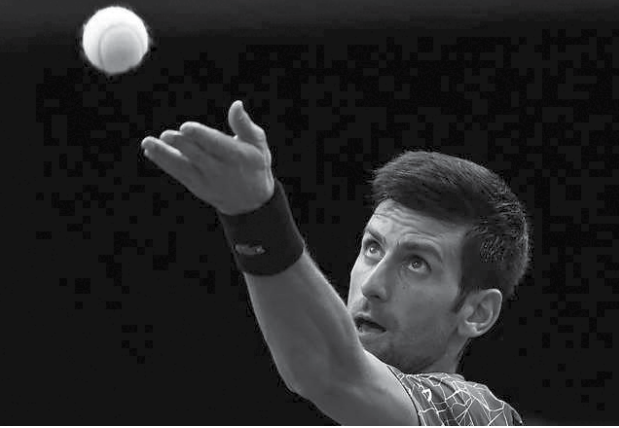
Serving for the match at 5-1, Djokovic handed a towel to a man in the crowd who seemed unwell and who wiped his forehead with it.

"It seemed he was sweating and he seemed dizzy, so he just needed help," Djokovic said. "I just gave him the towel." Djokovic revealed he also was not feeling very well out on court.

"I wasn't," he said. "I don't want to get into details but I think it's a minor thing."

The second-ranked Serb set up match point with an ace and sealed victory on his third match point when Sousa returned a second serve long.

The U.S. Open cham-



pion won four of the last five tournaments he has entered, including Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and most recently the Shanghai Masters.

Djokovic is seeking to reclaim the top ranking from Rafael Nadal at a tournament Nadal has never won. Djokovic next faces Damir Dzumhur.

Fifth-seeded Marin

Cilic, the Australian Open runner-up, won his second-round match 6-3, 6-4 against Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany.

Dzumhur upset 14th-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-3, while big-hitting Russian Karen Khachanov also advanced to the third round. He led 6-2, 2-0 against Matthew Ebden when the Australian retired.

Returning from a right knee injury, Nadal faces Spanish countryman Fernando Verdasco on Wednesday, with 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer also in second-round action against Milos Raonic. Federer leads the big-serving Canadian 11-3 overall.

Federer's last appearance at the Paris indoor event was a third-round

loss to big-serving John Isner in 2015. There were doubts Federer would play after a grueling past week which saw him clinch his ninth victory at the Swiss Indoors and 99th overall.

"I feel good," Federer told a news conference. "I feel like I recovered well from last week."

The 37-year-old Federer is selective of when he plays in order to keep his body as fresh as possible, and he skipped the entire clay-court season for his second straight year.

With the season-ending ATP Finals in London starting Nov. 11, he is playing three straight tournaments. But the third-ranked Federer feels comfortable with it.

"I feel like it's better for me to play matches rather than practice," Federer said.

"As long as I don't feel like I'm taking a chance on my health prior to London, that's the key as well."

Federer showed fight-

ing qualities last week in Basel, where he was twice taken to three sets and went an early break down in three of his last four matches.

"I was a bit bumpy. But I was happy how I was fighting, how I was trying to figure it out in a different manner," he said.

"Last week was special to win the way I did it, in a different manner."

Federer moved within 10 titles of Jimmy Connors all-time singles record. He is cautious about his chances of success in Paris, where his only tournament victory came in 2011.

The Australian Open champion is drawn in the same half as Djokovic; Cilic and big-serving Kevin Anderson, who upset Federer in the Wimbledon quarterfinals this year.

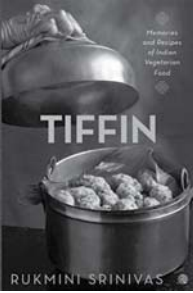
"I rarely play two or three tournaments in a row now. So starting on Wednesday and winning five matches in a row with this caliber (of players) is very difficult," Federer said.

Tiffin: A book on India's culinary traditions

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 (PTI): In some great news for gastronomers, 500 authentic recipes, from family favourites to forgotten treasures and showcasing food from Ladakh to Tamil Nadu and from Maharashtra to Arunachal Pradesh, are being compiled in a book form.

With the recipes representing all the regions, ethnic groups, cultural choices and traditions of the country, "Tiffin: 500 Authentic Recipes Celebrating India's Regional Cuisine" showcases food that is a flavourful blend of favourite Indian recipes along with several lesser-known dishes.

Also featured in the book are recipes by home



chefs, celebrated chefs, and dishes specially made at festivals and special occasions.

According to author Sonal Ved, "Tiffin" celebrates the incredible richness of India's regional cuisine and is an effort to create a repository of var-

ied culinary traditions.

"When we set out to choose the recipes to include in 'Tiffin', we kept the varied produce, techniques, and culinary styles in mind. While each section is well represented in terms of what the six regions have to offer, it is by no means exhaustive," she says.

But how does one bottle up the goodness of such an old and diverse cuisine in 500 recipes?

"So we put in a flavourful blend of favourite Indian recipes and several lesser-known dishes by taking a leaf out of temple cuisine, street food, tribal recipes, and other dishes that you might not commonly find," the author says.

While most of the recipes have been hand-picked by culinary experts from each region, "we went beyond, and reached out to the best repositories of traditional recipes - wedding caterers, who are given the responsibility of serving contemporary and traditional spreads".

Each of the contributor recipes, which includes those given by grandmothers, mothers, aunts, friends, cookbook authors, and chefs who champion regional Indian cooking, are marked by a miniature cloche. A handy glossary and basic recipe section are provided to help wade through these recipes.

The book, published

by Roli, is divided regionally, the dishes are not to be savoured insularly. It has photographs by Anshika Varma and illustrations by Abhilasha Dewan.

"In fact, most can be effortlessly paired with one another. When we have friends over for tea, we often daydream of matching a Jabalpuri Chicken Samosa with Khasta Kachori from Madhya Pradesh, along with Vazaiipoo Vadais from Tamil Nadu and Kutchi Kadak toasts.

"And on Sundays, with brunch on our minds, we want our tables laden with Bhojpuri Dum Aloo, Bengali Luchis, Rajasthani Gatte ki Sabzi, Chingri Cutlet, Assamese chicken-and-ba-

nana-flower stir-fry, and Adhirasams from Tamil Nadu," Ved writes.

From Patiala Papad ki Sabzi to Kerala Chicken Fry and from the sumptuous Mizo Dal to Bajre ka Soya, Indian regional cuisine offers an incredible variety. A country that has a vast coastline and hosts six major climatic subtypes, it is no wonder it is home to cuisines that use ingredients that are local and seasonal.

The book was launched recently in Mumbai during which there was a discussion among chefs Thomas Zacharias and Anuj Wadhawan, restaurant owner Aditi Dugar and Ved, moderated by food writer Ankit Gulabani.

Lanka political impasse continues as Attorney General refuses to advise Speaker

COLOMBO, OCT 31 (PTI): Sri Lanka's Attorney General Jayantha Jayasuriya Wednesday refused to give an opinion to parliamentary speaker Karu Jayasuriya on the current political impasse over the sacking of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, saying it would be

"deemed inappropriate".

The speaker, seeking the AG's opinion, asked five questions including the one on the validity of President Maithripala Sirisena dismissing Wickremesinghe as the premier.

The Attorney General (AG) wrote to the speaker: "Having regard to the role

of the Attorney General under the Constitution, I am of the view that expressing an opinion on the said questions would be deemed inappropriate".

President Sirisena replaced Wickremesinghe with former president Mahinda Rajapaksa in a dramatic turn of events

last Friday.

Sirisena also suspended Parliament until November 16, which experts said was meant to buy time to engineer cross-overs from Wickremesinghe's side to Rajapaksa in the 225 member parliament to reach the 113 working majority mark.

Rajapaksa has so far managed to rope in five more lawmakers to bolster his strength to 101.

More leaders may to join Rajapaksa's side, Udaya Gammanpila, a Rajapaksa loyalist, said, adding that "we are keeping ministerial positions vacant for them".

So far only 12 of the Cabinet positions out of 30 have been filled.

On Tuesday, angry protests rocked Sri Lanka's capital as thousands of demonstrators gathered for a rally organised by deposed prime minister Wickremesinghe's party against what it said

was a "coup" by President Sirisena, even as the opposing sides were engaged in efforts to secure their numbers in Parliament to end the country's political crisis.

Wickremesinghe's position was bolstered by a statement in the British House of Parliament

where Hugo Swire, a former deputy foreign minister in charge of South Asia, said they continue to treat him as the legitimate prime minister.

New prime minister Rajapaksa assumed duties Wednesday as the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Blast in Russian security service building

MOSCOW, OCT 31 (AFP): One person was killed and three injured when an explosive device went off Wednesday inside a building housing the FSB security service in Arkhangelsk in northern Russia, an official said.

"An explosive device went off," a spokesman for the regional governor told AFP. "One person was killed and three others were hospitalised."

Uninterrupted artistic freedom still not a reality in Cambodia, says ace film-maker

GUWAHATI, Oct 26 (PTI): Cambodian film-maker praCh Ly Friday said uninterrupted artistic freedom in his country is still not a reality and people from the creative field are punished if they make anything critical of the government.

Ly, who is currently based in the United States and also a well-known rapper, expressed his desire to go back to his home country. "Artistic freedom has improved a little bit since Khmer Rouge days. But it is definitely not in terms of full artistic freedom. I was banned to go back to Cambodia for few years as I had said few things through my music also," Ly said.

Addressing a press conference after the India premiere of his latest movie 'In the Life of Music' at the ongoing 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF), the musician-film-maker said lot of censorship still exists in Cambodia.

"People are exiled and jailed if you do anything critical of the ruler. It is due to power grab at the top."

When we have the prime minister for over 30 years, he does not like if anyone criticises him," Ly said.

Following the Khmer Rouge period, many people had left Cambodia including him, Ly said.

In the four years that the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia (1975-79), it was responsible for one of the worst mass killings that claimed the lives of up to two million people.

"I am from generation 1.5 (a term used to describe people who arrived in the US as children and adolescents). We were born in Cambodia but raised somewhere else. I was brought up in the US. I am looking forward to go back to Cambodia," Ly said.

When asked on a lighter note if he is more popular than Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in his home nation, the film-maker said: "I will say no because I will be in problem otherwise. I do not like politics. I just want to make music and movies. I want to show them to the world."

"In the Life of Music" is an inter-generational tale that explores love, war and a family's relationship to 'Champa Battambang' -- a song made famous by Sinn Sisamouth.

In the film, jointly produced by Ly, Neard-ey Trinh and Caylee So explored three different decades and depicted the lives of people, whose world was inevitably transformed by the emergence of the Khmer Rouge regime.

This year, the ASEAN is the focus region of the 2nd GIFF with 14 films from 10 countries of the region are being shown.

YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 31 (PTI): About 1.4 million people move to cities every week around the world, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said on the 'World Cities Day', warning that such a large rate of migration can contribute to increased risks from natural and human made disasters.

In his message for the 'World Cities Day', celebrated annually on October 31, Guterres stressed that "hazards do not need to become disasters".

"Every week, 1.4 million people move to cities. Such rapid urbanisation can strain local capacities, contributing to increased risk from natural and human made disasters. But hazards do not need to



become disasters. The answer is to build resilience -- to storms, floods, earthquakes, fires, pandemics and economic crises," the UN chief said Tuesday.

Guterres explained that cities around the world are

doing just that, forging new ways to increase resilience and sustainability.

Bangkok has built vast underground water storage facilities to cope with increased flood risk and save water for drier peri-

ods, he said.

The local government in Quito has reclaimed or protected more than 200,000 hectares of land to boost flood protection, reduce erosion and safeguard the city's freshwater supply



and biodiversity, he said.

The UN chief indicated that Johannesburg "is involving residents in efforts to improve public spaces so they can be safely used for recreation, sports, community events and services such as free medical care".

The 'World Cities Day' was established by the UN to promote the international community's interest in global urbanisation, push

forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanisation and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), flagged the importance of investing in resilience or face growing "economic, social, political and human" risks.

"It has been estimated that without action on climate change which accounts for just one facet of resilience some 77 million urban residents risk falling into poverty," she said, elaborating that human-made and environmental threats ranged from drought, floods and fires to eco-

nomie shocks, disease outbreaks, war and migration. "Investing in resilience is a wise investment," the UN Habitat chief said.

The theme of this year's commemoration 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities' focuses on the need to preserve human life and limit damage and destruction while continuing to provide infrastructure and services after a crisis.

A range of UN-backed international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda provide "a roadmap for a more sustainable and resilient world," according to the UN Secretary-General.

Pakistan court acquits Christian woman on death row for blasphemy

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, OCT 31 (PTI): Pakistan's Supreme Court Wednesday overturned the conviction of a Christian woman facing execution for blasphemy, a landmark verdict that sparked protests in the Islamic nation.

Asia Bibi was convicted in 2010 after being accused of insulting Islam in a row with her neighbours. She always maintained her innocence, but has spent most of the past eight years in solitary confinement.

Her case has been deeply divisive in Pakistan where there is strong support for the controversial blasphemy laws.

The blasphemy laws were promulgated by for-

mer military dictator Ziaul Haq in 1980s. A person convicted under these laws is given death sentence.

The apex court, in a three-member bench led by chief justice Saqib Nisar, issued the verdict on Wednesday morning, three weeks after they had reached a decision. The delay followed threats by blasphemy campaigners to hold protests.

"Her conviction is set aside and she is to be relieved forthwith if not required in other charges," said Nisar, reading out the judgment.

There was tight security in the capital, Islamabad. Protests broke in different cities of Pakistan following the verdict.

Protestors blocked a

highway linking the capital, Islamabad with garrison city of Rawalpindi and the old airport, according to an announcement by Islamabad police.

Punjab, the country's most populous province, was on high alert and its Home Department banned all kinds of public gatherings until November 10, according to police.

Tahreek-i-Labaq Pakistan, an Islamic political party, was leading the protest in Lahore where a large number of its activists gathered on the Mall Road.

Security officials said protests were also being held in Karachi and other cities by groups linked with religious parties.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-

Fazal chief Fazlur Rehman denounced the verdict and alleged that it was influenced by unnamed "foreign powers".

There were reports that mosques at different places asked the people to take to the streets against Bibi's acquittal.

Despite protests by extremists, the verdict was hailed on social media.

Bibi's lawyer Saiful Mulook also told media that it was the "happiest day" of his life.

Bibi was accused of committing blasphemy in 2009. She was convicted in 2010 by the trial court and her death sentence was maintained by the Lahore High Court in 2014.

She appealed against the conviction to the Su-

preme Court, which for the first time heard the case in July 2015.

Bibi's case gained prominence when former governor of Pakistan's Punjab province Salman Taseer was killed in 2011 for supporting her and criticising the blasphemy laws.

Critics say strict blasphemy laws have often been used to get revenge after personal disputes, and that convictions are based on thin evidence.

Dozens of people have been charged under the laws.

Though, Bibi is being released but there are fears that she might be at risk of being attacked by militants.

Trump faces widespread criticism for his decision to end birthright citizenship

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCT 31 (PTI): President Donald Trump's decision to bring an executive order to end the right to the US citizenship for children born in the US to non-citizens has invited widespread criticism, even from his own party.

In his latest headline immigration rhetoric ahead of the midterm congressional elections, Trump, in an interview with Axios, has said birthright citizenship "has to end" and that it would "with an executive order."

"You cannot end the birthright citizenship with an executive order," said Congressman Paul Ryan, Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

"We didn't like it when (former President) Obama tried changing immigration laws via executive action, and obviously as conservatives, we believe in the Constitution," Ryan told a local radio station in Lexington, Kentucky.

Under the current laws, anyone born in the US irrespective of the nationality of parents, automatically becomes an American citizen.

"It was always told to me that you needed a constitutional amendment, one amendment. You don't have to do it. Number one. Number two, you can definitely do it with an act of Congress. But now they are saying, I can do it just with an executive order," Trump told Axios in an interview.

A portion of the interview was released Tuesday. The full interview "Axios on HBO" is scheduled to be aired on Sunday.

Such a practice to give citizenship to anyone born in the US is "ridiculous", Trump said.

He said that we are the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the US for 85 years with all of those benefits.

"It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous. And it has to end," Trump said that the effort to end this practice was in the process. "We are in the process. It'll happen with an executive order. That's what you're talking about."

According to Axios, Trump said that he has run the idea of ending birthright citizenship by his counsel and plans to proceed with the highly-controversial move, which certainly will face legal challenges.

Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, said it would require a constitutional amendment to make necessary changes on who all can acquire citizenship.

"I am not a lawyer, but it seems to me it would take a constitutional amendment to change that as opposed to an executive order," Grassley told a local news channel in Iowa.

The 14th Amendment to the Constitution affirms that, with very few exceptions, all persons born in the US are American citi-

zens, regardless of the immigration status of their parents, said the American Immigration Council.

The Supreme Court has upheld the principle of birthright citizenship for more than a century, it said.

"Birthright citizenship defines who we are as a nation and is a core part of our American heritage and history. Eliminating birthright citizenship would do nothing to solve our immigration issues," said Beth Werlin, executive director of the American Immigration Council.

"No president can change the Constitution with the stroke of a pen. The only way to eliminate birthright citizenship would be through a new Constitutional amendment," he said.

Breitbart News, however, came out in support of Trump's move.

Revoking birthright citizenship would have immediate and far-reaching consequences, it said.

"It would mean the children of illegal aliens, even if born in the United States, would not be bestowed US citizenship upon birth," it said.

"It would also likely deter the practice of foreigners having 'anchor babies', where they aim to give birth to children on US soil so as to obtain US citizenship for their children at birth," Breitbart said.

Vice President Mike Pence also came out in Trump's defence, saying, "The President has made

clear is that we are looking at action that would reconsider birthright citizenship."

"We all know what the 14th Amendment says. We all cherish the language of the 14th Amendment. But the Supreme Court of the United States has never ruled on whether or not the language of the 14th Amendment, subject to the jurisdiction thereof, applies specifically to people who are in the country illegally. I think the President is looking at executive action. I know the Congress has looked at legislative action to reconsider that," Pence said in an interview.

Another Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi slammed Trump for his move.

"President Trump's new claim he can unilaterally end the Constitution's guarantee of citizenship shows Republicans' spiraling desperation to distract from their assault on Medicare, Medicaid and people with pre-existing conditions," she said.

"The President does not have the power to erase parts of the Constitution, but he and the GOP Congress have spent two years trying to erase protections for people with pre-existing conditions," Pelosi said.

Denmark recalls ambassador to Iran over foiled 'attack'

COPENHAGEN, OCT 30 (AFP): Denmark on Tuesday recalled its ambassador to Iran after it accused Tehran of plotting a foiled 'attack' against three Iranians living in the Scandinavian country.

"I have decided to recall Denmark's ambassador in Tehran for consultations... Denmark can in no way accept that people with ties to Iran's intelligence service plot attacks against people in Denmark," Danish Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen told reporters.

The planned operation was "totally unacceptable", he said, adding he was consulting with "partners and allies", including the EU, about possible sanctions.

Earlier Tuesday, the head of Denmark's intelligence service PET, Finn Borch Andersen, said his agency believed the Iranian intelligence service "was planning an attack in Denmark" against three Iranians suspected of belonging to the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahvaz.

A Norwegian of Iranian origin was arrested

on October 21 and placed in custody, suspected of planning the attack and spying for Iran.

The suspect was detained in Sweden, according to the Swedish security service Sapo.

Iran has denied the Danish allegations, with foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi saying they were part of a European conspiracy against Iran.

In late September, Tehran accused Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain of "hosting several members of the terrorist group" that Iran accuses of being responsible for an attack in the mainly ethnic Arab city of Ahvaz in southwestern Iran.

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Russian acrobatic-drama 'Reverse' premieres in India, gets standing ovation in Delhi

NEW DELHI, OCT 29 (PTI): After wowing audiences in Russia, the Moscow Musical Theater's iconic performance 'Reverse' arrived in India in style as it blew the minds of people here with a mix of edgy drama, choreography and mind-boggling acrobatics.

The audience at the jam-packed Kamani Auditorium watched the nearly hour-long show on Sunday in stunned silence, only to rise at the end for giving a standing ovation.

The production has been created by young Russian directors Andrey Koltsov and Irina Drozhzhina, with participation of Debra Brown, the Emmy Award-winning Canadian choreographer.

Smita Darshan, who came to watch the theatrical show along with her husband and young daughter, said, "It was something they had never seen before in a theatre. It was mind-boggling".

"The performance was so excellent and the theme of life's struggle conveyed through emotions, touched us all. And, the two acrobatic performers on the trampoline who did multiple somersaults, as if they were doing it forever, just trapped our senses," she said.

Russian nationals Natalia and Sergey Sein were also left amazed at the end of the show.

"It just blew us away. I



watched it for the first time. What a beautiful and powerful performance without using a single word," Natalia said.

Powerful it was indeed,

as the entire show was silent, and actors used acrobatic movements, visceral gestures and cries and screams to convey emotions.

The show marked the opening of the two-month-long event 'Days of Russian Culture in India' jointly organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

After delighting audience in Delhi, 'Reverse' will next move to Jaipur.

The experimental performance delves into struggles that goes on in human minds everyday, explores symbolic meanings of love, hatred, camaraderie, and a whole other gamut of emotions, heightened by use of props such as elevated doors, trapeze and trampoline.

Koltsov said these 'doors'

are all in our hearts and minds, and so are the keys to open them.

"The show, conceived a year ago, is not just recreational but also has a philosophical message to it, whether we humans wish to go together or keep struggling to go up alone, in self-centered way, with no happiness in return," he told PTI.

The director said this was the first overseas premiere of the show, after 50 performances in Moscow.

"We are very happy to have the premier in Delhi and humbled by the warm response we received tonight," he said.

Darshan's seven-year-

old daughter Tanisha said she was delighted by ladder scene and the hopscotch game scene.

Russian Ambassador to India Nikolay Kudashev said, through cultural events like this, the two countries will come even closer.

Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh also stressed on the importance of cultural and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

After the show, Koltsov told the audience, "Thank you. I wish to say that the doors between India and Russia should always be open," receiving a thunderous applause.

Priyanka Chopra's pre-wedding celebrations begin in NYC

NEW YORK, OCT 29 (PTI): Priyanka Chopra celebrated her bridal shower Sunday night ahead of her wedding with American singer Nick Jonas.

The 36-year-old Indian star looked gorgeous in a white strapless Marchesa dress as she partied with her close friends at Tiffany's Blue Box Cafe in New York City.

The party was thrown by bridesmaids Mubina Rattansay and Anjula Acharya, reported Us Weekly.

Kelly Ripa, Lupita Nyong'o and Priyanka's future brother-in-law Kevin Jonas, his wife, Danielle Jonas and their daughter Alena were part of the celebration.

When asked how excited she was for the party as she



was entering the venue the "Quantico" actor replied, "So much".

Excited about the party, Priyanka also shared a picture on Instagram while

dressing up. She wrote, "My girls are in town! #anyreaso-toparty #paweddingcelebrations"

At the party, a DJ played Bollywood songs and several

guests kicked off their shoes and danced to the music. The bridesmaids also gave speeches in honour of Priyanka.

According to sources, Nick and Priyanka are set to tie the knot "in India in December".

The couple have been spending some quality time in New York since last few days. They were recently spotted at a restaurant and as they watched a Broadway musical together.

On Monday, Priyanka shared a photo of Nick with her nephew and wrote, "Nephew and Boo".

The duo got engaged in July in a traditional Roka ceremony at her residence in Mumbai.

Dev Patel to make directorial debut



LOS ANGELES, OCT 30 (PTI): British-Indian actor Dev Patel is set to take up direction with revenge thriller "Monkey Man".

According to Variety, the "Lion" star will also act in the film, which is being presented to buyers at this year's American Film Market.

The plot of the film revolves around the Kid (Patel), who emerges from prison to fight off a world marred by "corporate greed and eroding spiritual values".

Set in modern-day India, the movie will also be layered in mythology. Other plot de-

tails are sparse when the project was announced.

Patel co-wrote the script with Paul Angunawela and John Collee.

Thunder Road's Basil Iwanyk is producing, along with Joe Thomas, Samarth Sahni from Xeitgeist and Patel. "It" fame Chung-hoon Chung is attached as director of photography.

Production is set to start in spring of 2019 in Mumbai.

Patel will next be seen in "The Copperfield" and "Hotel Mumbai".

'The Simpsons' showrunner refutes reports of Apu's exit

LOS ANGELES, OCT 30 (PTI): "The Simpsons" showrunner Al Jean rubbished reports of Apu Nahasapeemapetilon being written off from the show amid the much-heated debate over the character's stereotypical portrayal.

Last week, producer and "Castlevania" animator Adi Shankar told IndieWire that the show is planning to "drop the Apu character altogether".

Shankar, who is not attached to "The Simpsons", clarified that he received the news from two people who work for the show and a third source who works directly with creator Matt Groening.

Jean discredited the news saying Shankar was "not a producer" on the show.

"I wish him the very best but he does not speak for our show," he wrote on Twitter.

The writer also went on to deny another report which claimed that the character "is being deported from Springfield".

In his reply, Jean tweeted, "@NRO the story is untrue."

One of the longest running animated sitcoms on American TV, the show has been criticised for its stereotypical portrayal of the South Asian community which came to light after Hari Kondabolu called out the makers through his documentary, "The Problem with Apu".

Following the controversy, "The Simpsons" addressed the criticism in the episode "No Good Read Goes Unpunished" but failed to pacify the viewers. The makers were further slammed on social media for its tone-deaf response.

Earlier, Hank Azaria, the voice behind Apu, offered to step away from the role after the controversy surged.

Creator Groening also said the debate around Apu's depiction had turned into noise and "no nuance" was left in the conversation.



POPPINI! Actress Olivia Munn poses with popcorn at the The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation's Annual 'A Time For Heroes' Family Festival in Los Angeles.

ARIES: Self-image could be a difficult issue for you. Perhaps you've painted a false picture of yourself lately. In an effort to cover your insecurity, you may not have expressed how you feel to some people. When you look in a mirror, you may find that the person you see is quite different than the person other people see. This conflict may put you in some uncomfortable situations.

TAURUS: You may feel like there's absolutely nowhere to turn. Reality is a scary thing to face. The last thing you want to do is be serious. But you're finding it difficult to get satisfaction from your fantasy world. Your dreams beckon to you, but you're afraid to give in to that temptation because you feel a strong sense of duty to other people and places.

GEMINI: You have a strong sense of self. You take charge of situations instead of letting them take charge of you. But this sense of independence and self-confidence may threaten other people. There are some who feel secure knowing that you rely on them. This is one of those days when you may feel a few growing pains as shifting personalities clash with comfortable behavior patterns.

CANCER: You may feel like a mediator between two camps, or you may be the one in a struggle that needs mediation. The big problem with the tension today is that one side could be headstrong and bound to the facts and the truth, while the other is bound to a broader perspective, not necessarily a realistic one. Facts could get twisted in all directions depending on who's

delivering them.

LEO: Be careful about taking everything as a personal offense. Others' inconsiderate actions may hurt you emotionally, but they don't have to. As long as you're able to maintain a healthy perspective on the situation, you'll see that many of the behaviors that upset you result from someone else's insecurities as opposed to their lack of affection for you.

VIRGO: Difficult tension may be frustrating for you to handle. You may wonder why everyone can't just get along. The answer may seem simple to you, with your easygoing attitude. Unfortunately, there are big egos and unrealistic attitudes involved that make it difficult for other people to see things so simply. You may find that the best you can do is take a step away from the fire.

LIBRA: Tension may arise among friends when someone suddenly feels like an ignored third wheel. People tend to pair up. Do what you can to stay on topics to which everyone can contribute equally. Staying united is key. Together you're extremely powerful allies, while divided you're each other's worst enemies.

SCORPIO: Your lively, imaginative spirit is in tune with the collective. The need for a worldly consciousness and evolving humanity has become more obvious to you as time goes by. These issues come up today, but don't be surprised if you get a reality check. Your dreams may be unrealistic. Someone could try to burst your bubble, so be careful. Don't lose sight of your goals.

SAGITTARIUS: Just when you

slow down, simplify, and plan, things start to pick up again. Your imagination starts to fly. Stabilization hinders your creative spirit. The last thing your artistic mind wants to do is slow down. Resolving this inner conflict may be hard, but it's possible. These two sides are on the same team, not opposing ones. If they work together, you can both achieve both goals.

CAPRICORN: Your sense of play might get you into trouble. This sort of attitude could run up against someone who's trying to stay on task and take things seriously. It may be difficult for you to know how far to push a situation. You may want to force the other person to join your escapades, but you also see the need to settle down and get serious.

AQUARIUS: Gadgets and new

devices that are supposed to make it easier to accomplish certain tasks may actually cause more confusion. You're often a big fan of doing things the old-fashioned way. Even though people may laugh at you, you tend to insist that the old way is the best way. Take your time to complete chores and tasks today.

PISCES: Be careful about going overboard with your sarcasm. Some people take your comments seriously. Not everyone understands your humor. This could make communication unclear at times. Deliver a straight story without exaggeration or embellishment thrown in to make things juicier. Don't just tell the truth - tell the whole truth. You'll feel better about the situation.