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SummitTIMES

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

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HPV vaccination campaign launched across Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

The Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] vaccination campaign will be launched at Deorali Girls' Senior Secondary School in Gangtok today.

Sikkim has become the first State in the country to launch a state-wide HPV vaccination campaign to protect girl children from 09-14 years from cervical cancer

The programme was launched in the presence of Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, as chief guest and Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Health Department, Vishal Chauhan, Principal Director, Dr PT Bhutia, Director, Dr Uttam Pradhan, and officers from Human Resource Development Department and Health Department.

Also attending the event were Principal and teachers of Deorali GSSS along with develop-

mental partners, WHO, UNICEF and Jhpiego.

It may be mentioned here, the HPV vaccination programme will be carried out in the entire State from 30 Jul to 14 Aug.

6,048 GIRLS TO RECEIVE HPV VACCINATION IN SOUTH SIKKIM

NAMCHI, 30 JUL [IPR]: Along with the rest of the State, the South district headquarter, Namchi, kick started the Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] vaccination campaign at Namchi Government Girls Senior Secondary School today. The campaign organized by South District Health Society was inaugurated by Executive Councillor, Namchi Municipal Council, Bandhana Rai.

Also present were Additional District Collector [South], Satyan Rai, District Medical Superintendent [South], Dr DC Pradhan, Assistant

Superintendent of Police [South], Linda Palmu, Principal [NGSSS], Pema Yolmo, representatives from medical fraternity and a large number of students from various schools.

It is informed that a total of 6500 vaccines have been received by the South district from the State Health Department wherein 6048 beneficiaries will be vaccinated against HPV.

Today, 1817 girls were vaccinated at 86 centres across the district.

IN TEMI, 90 RECEIVE HPV SHOTS

GANGTOK, 30 JUL: The Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] Vaccination Campaign was launched at Government Senior Secondary School, Temi in South Sikkim. In a programme organised by Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, the HPV campaign formally

inaugurated by ex-Panchayat secretary, Tej Kumar Poduval, in the presence of Medical Officer in-charge, Temi PHC, Dr Namgyal Bhutia, and staff of Temi PHC. More than 90 girl children between the age of 09-14 years were vaccinated to protect them against cervical cancer, a press release informs.

903 VACCINATED IN KYONGSA

GYALSHING, 30 JUL [IPR]: District Collector, West, Dr AB Karki, launched the Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] Vaccination Campaign today here at the auditorium hall of Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa in West Sikkim.

Dr Karki stated that the programme has been started with the aim to make West Sikkim cervical cancer free district. He added that the State Government and the Health Department are committed towards the prevention of cervical

cancer in girl children. He also mentioned that the State Government has started this noble cause at the State's cost to protect girl child from cervical cancer.

Further, Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba, expressed his gratitude towards the organising committee and congratulated them for the noble initiative. He urged the gathering to lead a healthy and positive life every day.

The programme was also attended by Additional Director [Human Resource Development Department], Child Development Project Officer [Integrated Child Development Services], along with other officials, school faculty, ASHA workers and guardians of the students.

During today's launch programme, 903 girl children were vaccinated.

IN SINGTAM

SINGTAM, 30 JUL: Sing-

turn to pg02

Government employee in every house, work for every contractor: CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamlung today announced that one member of every household in the State will be provided with a government job on Muster Roll or Ad hoc basis while speaking at the State level Sammelan for Rural and Urban Local Bodies.

"Panchayats will have to visit every house in their respective villages and find households where no one is employed. They have to make an application for one member of such family and forward it to me," said the CM.

The CM further informed the Panchayats that works are being sanctioned and funds being allocated for the demands passed during his 32-day Jan Samparka Jan Sammelan tour.

"In Aug, schemes amounting to Rs



1,000 crore are being sanctioned and works up to Rs 2 crore will be tendered at the Panchayat level. Works at the villages are to be done by local unemployed youth in groups and local contractors," said the CM.

He further added that all needful arrangements should be made to distribute these works to all 25,630 contractors of the State.

In his address, the CM also high-

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Fate of 40 lakh people in limbo after NRC publication

GUWAHATI, JUL 30 (PTI):

Over 40 lakh peoples' fate remains in limbo with the Centre today declining to comment on their citizenship status after exclusion of the names from the "complete draft" of National Register of Citizens (NRC), which contains names of 2.89 crore eligible persons.

At a press conference here, Registrar General of India Satesh announced that 2,89,83,677 people were found to be eligible for inclusion in the complete draft of the ambitious NRC out of a total 3,29,91,384 applicants.

Around 40.07 lakh applicants, however, did not find a place in the document, touted to be a proof of Assamese identity.

"This is a historic day for India and Assam. The exercise is unparalleled in the size. It is a legal process done under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court," Satesh said.

Asked about the reasons for excluding names of around 40 lakh applicants, NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela, who was also present at the press meet, said, "We are not going to make the reasons public. It will be informed individually. They can find the reasons by visiting NRC Sewa Kendras (NSK)."

He, however, clarified that people belonging to four categories were not included in the draft as their eligibility were put on hold by the Supreme

Court.

"These four categories are 'D' (doubtful) voters, descendants of 'D' voters, references pending at Foreigners Tribunals and descendants of the references pending at Foreigners Tribunals," Hajela said.

Without sharing further details, he stated that there are names which were included in

turn to pg02



Swachh Survekshan Grameen '18 launched in Sikkim

**REBYNA/IPR
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamlung launched the 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2018' in the presence of Minister for Rural Management &

Development Department, SB Subedi, and other dignitaries today during the State level Sammelan for Rural and Urban Local Bodies 2018 held at Manan Kendra in Gangtok.

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Private sector not employing local youth: BJP

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that educated youth of Sikkim have been deprived of suitable jobs as per their qualification in various private industrial units in the State. While criticizing the State Government for the same, the party has threatened to conduct gherao and protest if the industrial units do not start working in the interest of local people.

A BJP press release informs that the party has been receiving complaints regarding the matter and has accused the SDF government of ignoring the issue as it has accepted huge amounts of money from such companies in the name of party fund.

The release further adds that the party has also received a complaint that even after completing all criteria, the Central Referral Hospital management in Gangtok has withheld the promotions of local employees in the hospital since many years. The party has threatened to launch strong protest if the management does not work in the interest of local CRH employees.

LS passes bill to provide death to child rape convicts

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI): A crucial bill seeking to provide death penalty to those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years and making the law against such sexual offences more stringent, was passed by the Lok Sabha today.

The bill replaces the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on April 21, following an outcry over the rape and murder of a minor girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir and the rape of another woman at Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

Although the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2018 was supported by most members across the political spectrum

turn to pg03

HPV vaccination campaign launched across...

contd from pg01

tam District Hospital today officially launched the Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] Vaccination Campaign at Government Senior Secondary School in Singtam, East Sikkim in the presence of District Health Education Officer, Sonam Bhutia, Station House Officer, Singtam PS, Roshan Rai, along with other officials, teachers and guardians of students. The vaccination was administered to girl students of Singtam SSS aged between 09-14 years.



Pickleball team leaves for Senior Nationals in Bangalore

**SUBASH RAI
Gangtok, 30 Jul:**

A 17-member team left for Bangalore today to participate in the 5th Senior National Pickleball Championship to be held at Bhikshu Dham Jain Prayer Hall, Karnataka from 03-05 Aug.

The Sikkimese contingent is headed by Sikkim Pickleball Association coach, Sangay T Lepcha.

Sikkim is participating in this championship for the third time.

Speaking over the phone, one of the players, Pratiksha Rai informed that the players consist of five girls and 8 boys, who are participating in all the three events- Men's single and doubles, Women's singles and doubles and Mixed doubles.

"Though we had very limited

time for practice, we are very much confident that our team will perform well in the tournament," Pratiksha said.

The Association is headed by Soni Verdi as president, Ugen T Lepcha [vice-president] and Hem Kumar Chettri as general secretary.

The team is expected to reach the venue on 02 August.



KVK & ATMA West conduct training for Yangthang farmers

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim in collaboration with ATMA West conducted daylong training cum demonstration programme for farmers on vermicomposting and biocomposting under Krishi Kalyan

Abhiyan as aspirational village at Yangthang in West Sikkim today.

The programme was chaired by Panchayat president, Kulzang Gurung, Field Assistant, Dawa Bhutia, field functionaries from Mevedir, a press release informs.

Subject Matter Specialist [Agronomy], Jaya Prakash Dulal, highlighted on vermin-composting, earthworm culture, vermi-wash and on-off farm employment to young and educated rural youth. He also demonstrated seed treatment, soil treatment, decomposition

of organic crop residue through bio-waste decomposer, etc.

Block Technology Manager from ATMA West, Safal Pandey, informed about Kishan Call Centre No. 1800-180-1551 to 51 participating farmers and rural youths.

On the occasion, Mr Lepcha said that a lot of people have been joining SKM in the past few days which, he said, is an indication of people's faith in the party.

At Soreng Chakung in West Sikkim, 18 houses hoisted the SKM flag today while a ward level committee of the party

West Sikkim's first boxing arena inaugurated at Sakyong GSSS

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

The boxing arena established at the premises of Government Senior Secondary School, Sakyong in West Sikkim with the efforts of 36th Battalion Sashastra Seema Bal [SSB], Yangtey was formally inaugurated by Yangthang MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, on 27 Jul. This is the first boxing arena in the district of West Sikkim, a press release informs.

The inaugural function was also attended by president of Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association [SABA], Jas Lal Pradhan, as special guest accompanied by Commandant, 36th Bn SSB, Raj Narayan Mishra, Deputy Commandant, Joy Gopal Namasudra, and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, SABA president, Mr Pradhan, said that the youth of West Sikkim have the potential to be good boxers and make the State proud. He advised them to opt for boxing and aspire to be disciplined and successful boxers.

He requested all the dignitaries to come forward and extend all possible help in promoting the sport of boxing. He thanked the Commandant 36th Bn and Area MLA for extending their support in establishing the boxing arena at the school premises.

Principal of Sakyong SSS, Bandana Rai, extended gratitude to the Commandant 36th Bn and Area MLA for providing financial support as well as manpower for the establishment of the boxing ring which will significantly benefit students undergoing boxing training under Surender Singh of 36th Bn SSB, Yangtey since last year.

The school also felicitated dignitaries



who have supported the school in various ways and means.

Addressing the occasion, Area MLA, Ms Subba, expressed gratitude towards SSB 36th Bn for the generous work done by them and urged the youth of West district to make proper use of the boxing arena.

She further congratulated the youth who had participated in the Junior and Sub Junior categories in the Under-16 State level Boxing Championship held in Gangtok recently and had secured second positions. She also congratulated their coaches, Bhabya Gurung, Usha Rai and Sanjay Limboo, for their success.

SKM activities on full swing

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUL:**

Former BJP Zilla Panchayat candidate, Pranita Thatal of Rumtek Martam officially joined SKM today in the presence of the party's acting president cum MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha and other functionaries at party headquarter, Gangtok, informs an SKM press release.

On the occasion, Mr Lepcha said that a lot of people have been joining SKM in the past few days which, he said, is an indication of people's faith in the party.

At Soreng Chakung in West Sikkim, 18 houses hoisted the SKM flag today while a ward level committee of the party

ty was formed at Chota Ruchang ward under Namthang Rateypani constituency in South Sikkim, the release mentions.

Mani Kr. Tamang has been appointed as WLC president and Tul Bdr. Manger as WLC vice president. More than 15 others enlisted as WLC members.

In East Sikkim, an SKM team led by An-chung Bhutia along with SB Rai, Chungchuk Bhutia, Arbin Tamang and others visited Bhagyswari Thekabong Ward under Gnathang Machong constituency. During the visit, the team met with local public and interacted with them. The locals placed several grievances concerning their village.

Later, the team also conducted a short meeting in the newly opened party office at Linkey, East Sikkim.

A constituency level committee meeting of Upper Tadong constituency was held at Pani House today. The meet was chaired by Anand Lama and was attended by Neelu Chhetri, Rohit Rai, Chandrakala Sharma and others.

The meeting mainly stressed on the successful conduct of the upcoming Jan Unmukti Diwas to be held on 10 August and according a grand welcome to the party's leader PS Tamang [Golay], the release adds.

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Fate of 40 lakh people in limbo after NRC publication

contd from pg01

the first draft but have been deleted from the complete one and they will be intimidated through individual letters in the coming days.

When inquired if any person, who appeared in the complete draft, could be excluded from the final list once the process of claims and objections were over, the RGI replied in the affirmative.

Talking about the status of people who were excluded from the list, Union Home Ministry Joint Secretary (North East) Satyendra Garg said, "We are not calling them Indians or non-Indians. At present, no action will be taken as the claims, objections and correction process has to be undertaken."

The authorities will not forward

any name to the Foreigners Tribunals on the basis of the complete draft and the government's focus is to maintain peace and order in the society, he added.

Alaying fears, Sailesh also said, "It is only a draft NRC, not the final one. The claims and objections process will begin on August 30 and continue till September 28. Adequate, ample scope will be given to people for their objections. No genuine Indian citizens should have any fear."

He also said that a status quo will be maintained until the final NRC is published, the timing of which will be decided after assessing the volume of review applications.

Assam is the first Indian state where the NRC is being updated after

1951, with March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date, to include names of genuine Indian citizens.

The first draft of the NRC was published during the intervening nights of December 31 and January 1 this year, containing 1.9 crore names.

Hajela accepted that some documents, which were sent for verification to other states, did not return and the NRC authorities had to devise their own mechanism for confirming the details.

Asked about alleged "campaigns" against the NRC, RGI Sailesh said, "We have taken up this propaganda issue against NRC with the Centre. The government has informed the agencies concerned, which are taking necessary steps."

The RGI also told reporters that the Centre had approved a total outlay of Rs 1,220 crore for the NRC. The groundwork for this mammoth exercise began in December 2013 and so far over 40 hearings have taken place in the Supreme Court in the last 3.5 years.

The process of filing applications started in May 2015 and altogether 6.56 crore documents were received from 68.31 lakh families across Assam.

During the updating process of the NRC, a total of 62,614 people were involved, of which 52,038 were government employees.

Over 50 software applications were developed for the process by IT professionals, while 102 people in the NRC call centre received 10.68

lakh calls during the application phase.

Minutes after release of the final draft, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the exercise was carried out in an "impartial and transparent" manner.

"No coercive action will be taken against anyone. Hence, there is no need for anyone to panic," he told reporters in New Delhi.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit out at the Centre, accusing it of resorting to "vote bank politics".

"This divide and rule policy will finish the country", she said.

Banerjee also claimed that names of people who have passports, Aadhaar and voter cards have also been excluded from the final draft.

Government employee in every house, work for every contractor: CM

contd from pg01

lighted on the progress in the State's Panchayati Raj Institution since the Sikkim Democratic Front Government was formed.

"Earlier, Panchayats were not provided with salaries and other facilities. After our Government came to power, we decentralised powers to the Panchayats and also offered them salaries. We also gave reservation for all

communities and 50% reservation for women in Panchayat. Panchayats should not let people lose their faith on the Panchayati Raj Institution of the State," said the CM.

Government employees from departments like RMDD, Energy and Power, Health, etc should visit all households as 'Grievance Surveyor' and prepare a survey of the problems faced by the people, he

added.

He appealed to all to support the State's Organic Mission while stressing on ensuring that the organic shops in bazaar areas are utilized by valid organic farmers of the State only.

"Each GPU will get one shop in these organic markets. Panchayats should ensure that undeserving persons do not get these shops," he added.

Speaking about the housing schemes of the State Government, the CM said, "In the 2014 election, many house allotment orders were distributed to the people. Panchayats must visit each house and check the orders. On orders of those who genuinely need houses, mention 'needy'. Those who have houses but have house allotment orders, convince them to take house upgradation

scheme and write 'house upgradation' in their orders. In 02-04 months time, we will distribute house schemes to the needy persons and house upgradation schemes to others."

He also asked the Panchayats to educate the people on the recent decision taken by the Government with regard to safeguard of land belonging to the people of the Sherpa community and also the

safeguard of land of the BLs under the provision of Revenue Order No.1. Similarly, people should be made aware that all sections of the people are treated equally in our State and no person has been deprived of his/her rights and privileges.

Panchayats need to pro-actively participate in the on-going door-to-door campaign of the SDF party, said the CM.

Gangtok on Tuesday, 31 July

Temp: 26°C/17°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness, a shower or thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 04:58 AM
Sunset: 6:25 PM

Lok Sabha passes bill to revamp homoeopathy council

NEW DELHI, JULY 30 (PTI): A bill seeking to replace the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) with a board of governors and aimed at bringing accountability and quality in homoeopathy education system was passed by the Lok Sabha today.

Replying to the debate on the Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2018, Aayush Minister Shripad Yesso Naik assured the Lower House that the government would come up with comprehensive bills to promote homeopathy, Ayurveda and Siddha.

The Bill, which seeks to replace an Ordinance promulgated by the President in May, was approved by a voice vote after the House rejected several unofficial amendments while Congress member Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury withdrew his statutory resolution disapproving the ordinance. The government, the Minister said, will reconstitute the CCH within a year and restore the democratic process.

During the debate, Opposition members questioned the ordinance route taken by the government to bring the amendment in the 1973 Homoeopathic Council Act and "undermine" Parliament's powers and asked it to explain the "extraordinary situation" which compelled them to do so.

LS passes bill to provide...

contd from pg01

and passed by a voice vote, some in the Opposition objected to the government adopting the ordinance route to enact the law.

A statutory resolution disapproving the ordinance on the matter and several amendments moved by the opposition members were also negated by voice vote.

Replying to an over two hour discussion on the measure, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said the stringent law was aimed at providing safety to minor girls.

He said the existing Indian Penal Code provided for punishment to those convicted of raping a woman, but there was no provision for rape or gangrape of minor girls below 16 or 12 years of age. These are "very important provisions" which the government has proposed, Rijiju said.

He said the recent incidents of rape and gangrape of women below the age of 12 years has shaken the conscience of the entire nation.

6th KMY batch completes yatra

ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

The 2018 Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathula in Sikkim is on the verge of completion. As per the schedule prepared by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, ten groups were to go on the yatra this year, out of which six batches have completed the yatra while the seventh and eighth batches are on the yatra at present.

The first batch of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2018 was flagged off here from Gangtok on 16 July. Today, the sixth batch reached Gangtok after successfully com-

pleting the yatra.

The Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation organised a special felicitation programme in honour of the KMY pilgrims this evening in a local hotel in Gangtok.

The STDC has been regularly organising such felicitation programmes to honor the yatrins on the completion of their pilgrimage.

Today's function had the presence of Secretary, Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, CP Dhakal as the chief guest.

Mr. Dhakal during his address congratulated all the yatrins for successfully completing the KMY. He

said that the yatrins are lucky to have the opportunity go for KMY and completed the yatra successfully. The yatrins were felicitated and offered mementos by the chief guest.

The sixth batch of the KMY comprised of 42 pilgrims and two Liaison Officers, Dinesh Chander Bijalwan and Pradeep Agarwal.

The special function had the presence of senior manager STDC, Tejpal Pradhan, other officers and staff of STDC.

The function was also addressed by two LOS and two yatrins who shared their experiences

of the yatra.

They thanked the STDC and Sikkim Tourism for all the arrangements and services they have provided and appreciated the hospitality provided by STDC. They have said that they will visit Sikkim again in the near future.

The ninth batch will be arriving in Gangtok later this week and are completing the required paperwork, health check-up, visa and other formalities in Delhi, it is informed. The function also saw various cultural performances by a local dance group in honour of the yatrins.



Rangpo I-Day Open Football tourney kicks off

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

The Rangpo Independence Day Open Football Tournament kicked off today at Rangpo Bazaar playground in East Sikkim in the presence of Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso, as chief guest.

The inaugural match was played between 11GR Lucknow and North Bengal Police wherein 11 GR Lucknow claimed victory 02-01, a press release informs.

On 31 July, Rising XI will take on Sinolchu Namchi in the first match while Share FC Kalimpong and Temi FC will battle each other in the second match of the day.



Lachen Mangan MLA Challenge Cup gets underway



SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 30 JUL:

DM (North), Karma R Bonpo, declared the Lachen Mangan MLA Challenge Cup open today here at the Mangan Public Ground. He was accompanied by the presi-

dent, NDFA, SP (N), KD Sangdarpa, SHO Mangan, KE Kaleon and NDFA members.

The opening match is being held between MSSS Blue and M-Town. The final match will be played as part of the Independence

Day celebrations on 15 August.

The winning team of the tournament will receive a cash award of Rs. 1.20 lakh while the runners up team will receive Rs. 60,000 apart from trophies and tokens.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen...

contd from pg01

The 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2018' is a pan-India survey initiated by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India to develop ranking of the 680 districts based on their rural sanitation status. The survey will be based on a comprehensive set of quantitative and qualitative sanitation [Swachhata] parameters including data from the SBM-G IMIS, district-level sur-

veys of public places like schools, Anganwadis, PHCs, Haatbazaars, Panchayat and citizen's perception of Swachhata and their recommendations for improvement of the programme.

An independent agency has been hired by the Ministry which will visit villages to undertake the survey of public places and obtain citizens' feedback. As part of the Survekshan, States and Districts will be ranked for their san-

itation and cleanliness status. The survey will be conducted from 01-31 Aug, 2018 following which top performing States and Districts will be awarded nationally on 02 Oct, 2018.

Earlier, the CM also released the poster of Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018. In his address, RM&DD Minister, Mr Subedi, asked the Additional District Collectors [Development], Block Development Officers and the PRI members to put all their

efforts to ensure that all the districts of Sikkim perform their best in the survey.

Secretary, RM&DD, while applauding the efforts of the PRI members in rural sanitation, implored all the PRI members as well as the department officials to put in their concerted effort during the survey. He apprised them that the survey presented a wonderful opportunity to bring even more acclaim to the State in the field of sanitation.

SEA PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE

Aakraman FC and Sikkim Sporting Academy play out contesting draw

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

A contesting match between Sikkim Aakraman Football Club and the State Sporting Academy in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim-League 2018 here at Paljor Stadium ended in a 01-01 draw today. Both the teams shared a point each from this draw.

The match was full of attacks and counter-attacks from the start, but

both the teams missed some good opportunities to take an early lead in the match. The first half appeared headed for a goalless play, but with the help of a goal by Milan Chettri in the 43rd minute, SSA finished the first half 1-0 ahead.

The SSA boys could not maintain the lead for long, and soon after the second half began, Sikkim Aakraman FC's captain, Ashish Chettri, scored the equaliser in the 55th minute.

Both the teams played neck-to-neck from thereon but missed the net to move the scoreboard any more. Finally, the match ended in a 01-01 draw. The referee also stopped the match in the second half for some time due to very low visibility owing to heavy mist on the field.

On 31 July, United Sikkim Football Club will take on Boys Club, Gangtok.



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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Demolish Stereotypes

From celebrating a mythical event to making new introductions

Sikkim will celebrate Tendong Lho Rum Faat next week. The festival, always a very localized event, was almost lost and had become a reduced form of itself until it re-appropriated its position of significance with the declaration of a State Holiday, state-level celebrations and revival of and patronage for the traditional worship on Mount Tendong itself. Since then, the scale of the celebration has varied, but the mood and momentum it set off, has thankfully sustained. This can be counted among the developments which set off the snowball of Lepcha nationalism (in a good way, and not the chest-thumping shallow machismo besetting the country at present) which has seen the community grow in confidence and pride over the past decade and a half.

This process of recovery should continue. The Lepchas need to rediscover more about themselves as a people because only then will it be possible for them to demolish the many myths created about them that even many of them had started subscribing to. Take the belief that Lepchas lack a scientific temper, for instance. What fallacy! Apart from the fact that hunter-gatherers, because of the very nature of their lifestyles, are among the richest repositories of traditional knowledge, there are also enough recent historical instances which establish the traditional 'scientific temper' that the Lepchas intuitively imbibed. At a time [in the 1840's] when the British were just discovering the botanical treasures that Sikkim contained, the Lepchas had already named all plants here and even fleshed out an exhaustive knowledge base on the virtues of every herb. The information that every Lepcha kid once grew up with could provide enough data for present-day academics to make a career out of. Their understanding of nature was so respected by the British that ever since Dr. Joseph Dalton Hooker endorsed their acumen, Lepchas became essential support staff for every botanical or anthropological expedition launched by the British in regions ranging from nearby South East Asia to distant Africa. And that brings us to the other myth that Lepchas are lost when pulled out of areas and regions they are familiar with, that they are not resourceful enough. Absolute hogwash! British documents record that the only survivors of an ill-fated mission to Congo in end-19th century were the three Lepcha "collectors" accompanying the expedition! Not only did they survive disease and violence that wiped out the rest of the expedition, they also made it back to Darjeeling!

And then, the most common myth – that the Lepchas are timid and non-confrontational. The only general to defend Sikkim's frontiers successfully was a Lepcha. Till he was leading Sikkim's defences, even the numerically stronger Gurkhas could not make any substantial inroads into the kingdom. Fickleness is another character trait that is attached to the Lepcha people. One only needs to ask the State Government and power developers who have had to contend with one of the longest, most consistent, protests in the State, whether this is an accurate description.

The stereotyping probably resulted from well-meaning writers trying to romanticize their introduction to the autochthons of Sikkim in a bid to attract more compassion for them. Over time, unfortunately, even the Lepchas started believing these stereotypes about themselves. They have been delivering fresh introductions of late, and the process should continue.

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Somali songs reveal why musical crate digging is a form of cultural archaeology

MICHAEL SHAKIB BHATCH
theconversation.com

Crate diggers are cultural archaeologists who dedicate their time, money and energy to collecting musical artefacts that provide alternative histories from the fringes of society. They frequent record stores, flea markets, garage sales, charity shops and other places of "disposal" to find rare vinyl records or cassettes.

But as music producer, journalist and digger Kathy landoli explained:

"Cratedigging isn't merely 'record shopping' though. It's a hunt for the DNA of a popular song you're in love with. An addiction to origins."

A recent compilation album of 1970s/80s music from the Horn of Africa, "Sweet as Broken Dates: Lost Somali Tapes", is a great example of this. Half of the compilation is sung by women, their voices often compared in Somali poetry to the "sweetness of broken dates". The album's 15 songs, coming from cassette tapes and master reels, had to literally be dug up from shelters after being hidden to protect it during Somalia's two decade civil war.

This astonishing story goes back to 1988, when Somalia's military dictator Siad Barre responded with air strikes to the Somaliland region which was agitating for independence. Barre targeted Radio Hargeisa in Somaliland's capital city to prevent any kind of central communication system that could organise a resistance.

A few brave broadcasters knew that the archives with their more than half a century of Somali music had to be preserved. Thousands of cassettes and reels were quickly removed. They took them to neighbouring Djibouti and Ethiopia and buried them deep under the ground to withstand even the most powerful airstrikes.

These audio artefacts were excavated from their shelters only very recently. Some are now kept in the 10,000-strong cassette tape archive of the Red Sea Foundation in Hargeisa. A team from Ostinato Records, a New York-based label that documents music from the African continent and diaspora, digitised a large portion of the archive.

HISTORICAL GRANDEUR

Ostinato Records founder Vik Sohoni recently expressed the importance of reviving and sharing old Somali music to illuminate Somalia's historical

grandeur.

"The most defining feature of the archive was its ability to transport our hearts and minds to Mogadishu of the 1970s and 1980s, when the coastal capital glistened as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', when wine and cosmopolitanism flowed freely..."

He highlighted the importance of the unseen cultural archaeology that crate diggers do and the impact this work might have in broader society. "Sweet as Broken Dates" is a powerful example. I'm talking as a digger myself – we actively archive and curate the stories and the experiences of the people in our own ways.

Crate diggers often build huge collections of rare and forgotten records that contain the stories and experiences of people whose stories have not made it into our society's official historical memory. These musical tales are often recontextualised through sampling or curated for the dance floor where they find new life.

As an Afrofuturist scholar I liken crate diggers to the "Data Thief" in John Akomfrah's 1996 documentary "The last angel of history". He travels across time to make archaeological digs for fragments of history that hold the key to the future. Music plays a prominent role in exploring and shaping the future through engaging with the counter-histories encoded in historical artefacts such as records.

I also see parallels between crate diggers and the custodians of the ancient Manuscripts of Tim-



buktu. The manuscripts are key to preserving an alternative understanding of knowledge production from the African continent so that we might understand Africa differently to the unjust general imperialist history that is often paraded as the only account of our past.

FORGOTTEN RECORDS

As a crate digger, I've come to understand that the forgotten records we often find in the dingiest of places can contain alternative perspectives and social commentary on particular movements, epochs or historical events.

Our record finds allow us to experience the sound, the consciousness and the ambience of forgotten times and places. They provide a unique way of engaging with the past – for the crate digger and the listener alike. While a book might provide information about a particular place and

time a record might also provide a unique sensory experience.

Each crate digger essentially builds a personal library of sonic texts that often cannot be found on the internet or in the official archives. This makes them custodians of these unique cultural artefacts.

Building and preserving these collections can become a lifelong obsession. We recycle them for present and future generations to enjoy, admire and understand.

Unlike book collectors who might keep their collections private, many crate diggers share their discoveries. They take them into class rooms. Hip-hop musicians like 9th Wonder (who teaches at Duke University in North Carolina) and Questlove (New York University) come to mind. Others sample them to great effect, like leftfield producers such as Madlib and J Dilla. Most diggers simply play them out in DJ sets at their local club.

In genres like hip hop, house and techno, crate digging plays an important part in finding the source material for sampling. The source material is not only sampled for its sonic qualities, but also often for the message or story it contains, the social references it makes and the intertextuality it provides. Within these genres crate diggers are respected as sonic archaeologists and music scholars.

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The term 'fake news' is doing great harm

JOSHUA HABGOOD-COOTE
theconversation.com

During a recent press conference in the UK, Donald Trump shut down a reporter from the news network he loves to hate. "CNN is fake news – I don't take questions from CNN," he said, moving swiftly on to a reporter from Fox News.

It's easy to think that everyone knows what "fake news" means – it was Collins Dictionary's word of the year in 2017, after all. But to think it stops there is mistaken – and politically dangerous. Not only do different people have opposing views about the meaning of "fake news", in practice the term undermines the intellectual values of democracy – and there is a real possibility that it means nothing. We would be better off if we stopped using it.

We can start to see the problems with "fake news" by seeing how much people disagree about its meaning. Some use it as a catch-all term for problematic or doubtful information, an important example being the untrue story that surfaced on social media during the 2016 US election campaign that Hillary Clinton was involved with a child sex ring run out of a Washington pizza house.

Some people use "fake news"

exclusively to talk about false stories. For example, Facebook seems to think that "fake news" just means news that is false, which is why they prefer to talk about "false news". But many journalists use "fake news" to mean something close to "lie", meaning it involves an intention to deceive.

Buzzfeed editor, Craig Silverman – who is credited with helping to popularise the phrase – has investigated Macedonian clickbait farms, which make up stories to attract profitable clicks. On his definition, as well as intending to deceive people, there is a profit motive involved. This definition fits well with clickbait farms but less well with politically motivated speech.

But "fake news" doesn't only refer to false stories or lies. American philosopher Michael Lynch has identified what he calls the "internet shell game" – the deliberate spreading of a mixture of true and false stories to confuse the public. In this way, some true information is discredited with the false stories they sit alongside. We might think in this kind of case the whole mass of stories – both true and false – counts as "fake news". This brings the idea of "fake news" closer to Princeton professor Harry Frankfurt's notion of bullshit

than lying. A liar says what he or she believes to be false, whereas the bullshitter says whatever is in their interest, irrespective of its truth.

The US alt-right has a more diffuse understanding of "fake news" – using it to refer to what they claim is a systematic left-wing bias in the news. This allegation of systematic bias is often used to undermine legitimate stories, as when Trump brought up media bias to dismiss The Sun's reports that he criticised the UK prime minister, Theresa May.

EMPTY WORDS

The phrase "fake news" is a mess of conflicting meanings. Philosophy of language gives us several tools for thinking about terms that are in flux in this way – perhaps their meaning is sensitive to context, or they are contested – but my preferred diagnosis is that "fake news" simply has no meaning. It is nonsense – empty words.

So why use it? In the mouths of right-wing demagogues, the accusation is a command not to believe a story and to distrust the institution that produced it. In a speech on July 24 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention, Trump made this message abundantly clear, saying: "Just stick with us, don't believe the crap you see from these people, the fake news."

This kind of speech is a classic example of what American philosopher Jason Stanley calls undermining propaganda: speech that signals commitment to a value while working to undermine it. An accusation that something is "fake news" seeks to be associated with striving to maintain truth, objectivity and critical thinking – but the effect of its repeated use is to un-

dermine those very values. This undermining has several mechanisms: allegations of fakery sap public trust in legitimate news institutions and intellectual insults crowd out reasonable discourse.

Outside North America and Europe, the anti-democratic work of "fake news" is more explicit. In several countries, "fake news" has been used to justify censorship laws – the Burmese Military and the president of the Philippines have both used it to dismiss reports that oppose their preferred narratives.

Despite its anti-democratic effects, the association of "fake news" with democratic values makes it a honeypot for establishment figures, who have eagerly taken it up, putting on conferences and calling for a "science of fake news". This attempt at appropriation is problematic. Trying to use "fake news" in a precise way mires the defenders of democratic values in definitional wrangles that could have been avoided by just using everyday terms.

Using the term also lends legitimacy to its propagandistic uses, making them look like reasonable contributions to public discourse. We might also worry that well-intentioned users of "fake news" will be tempted to use the demagogue's tools to engage in intellectual policing, undermining their own commitment to open public discourse.

If we want to avoid empty talk and legitimating propaganda, we should simply stop using "fake news". What should we put in its place? I suspect that we can do quite a lot with ordinary terms such as "lie", "bullshit" and "unreliable". Perhaps we do need new terms, but we shouldn't start by trying to repurpose the demagogue's tools to defend democracy.

[the writer is Vice Chancellor's fellow, University of Bristol]



NRC release: Assam CM congratulates people, calls it a historic day

GUWAHATI, JUL 30 (PTI): Congratulating the people of the state for the successful publication of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said "the historic day will remain etched in their memories forever".

The process of publishing the final draft today was carried out in cooperation with the Registrar General of India, along with the central and the state government officials, under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court, the chief minister said.

The much-anticipated second and final draft of the NRC with 2.9 crore names out of the total 3.29 crore applicants was published around 10am today.

The first draft, with 1.9 crore names, was released on the intervening night of December 31 and January 1, this year.

Assam is the first Indian state where the NRC is being updated after 1951, with March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date, to include names of "genuine Indian citizens".

The CM thanked the officials, who



were involved in updating the NRC.

"For this remarkable feat, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 55,000 officials engaged in NRC updation process and the people living across the Barak and Brahmaputra valleys, plains and hills of the state," he said.

Sonowal expressed confidence that

the NRC, which has become the "instrument to safeguard the interest of greater Assamese society", would be able to pave the way for realising the hopes and aspirations of the genuine Indian citizens.

Both the central and the state governments have extended their support from the very beginning of the NRC

publication exercise, he asserted.

"After the government led by the BJP and its allies assumed power in 2016 in the state, I went to the NRC office on May 25 that year to take forward the process," he said.

Sonowal also urged people not to panic if their names did not appear in NRC draft as genuine Indian citizens would get "full opportunity" to make claims and objections.

"NRC is a national programme. It is the duty and obligation of every Indian citizen to maintain peace in the wake of its publication. I appeal to all sections of the society to desist from making any inflammatory or communal remarks," he added.

The names of 40.07 lakh applicants did not find a place in the historic document, touted to be a proof of Assamese identity.

The NRC will include the names of all Indian citizens who have been residing in Assam before March 25, 1971.

The application process for the NRC started in May 2015 and a total of 6.5 crore documents were received from 68.27 lakh families across Assam.



Colleges instructed not to allow union intervention in admissions: Minister

KOLKATA, JUL 30 (PTI): West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee today told the assembly that state colleges had been informed not to allow any kind of intervention by student unions during admission.

Replying during the question hour, Chatterjee said application to the colleges had been made online as well as payment of admission fees eliminating the need for any manual intervention.

He said that some stray incidents took place in one or two colleges out of so many and some sec-

tions of the media was creating an unnecessary hype about it.

The minister said that the government had taken strict action against those trying to disrupt the admission process and also some arrests had been made.

Regarding recruitment of teachers in schools, he said some people were going to court for cancelling panels. He said that if this practice continued, then the government would also move the High Court and also examine alternative ways of recruitment.

Five arrested for coercing villagers to sell their kidneys

KATHMANDU, JUL 29 (PTI): Five Nepali nationals have been arrested for allegedly coercing gullible villagers to sell their kidneys, which they used to smuggle into India, police said today.

Chitwan district police arrested the accused from Chitwan, Kathmandu and Rasuwa districts, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Prabhu Prasad Dhakal said.

They used to target gullible villagers and take them in confidence with fake promises before extracting their kidneys and sending it to various hospitals in India, he said.

"They used to charge a commission of Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,00,000 for finding people willing to sell their kidney in exchange of monetary gains and establishing their contact with smugglers," Dhakal said.

Earlier, District Police Office Chitwan had formed a seven-member team of Medical Response Team (MRT) to look crimes related to health.

Following which this racket was busted.

They will be charged under the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007, the police said.

Prohibitory order clamped in 5 districts of Nagaland

AIZAWL, JUL 30 (PTI): Prohibitory order was clamped in nine villages in Mizoram's five districts as teachers and students of lump sum grants schools resorted to road blockade in their respective areas today demanding upgradation of their institutions to grant-in-aid schools, officials said.

An executive order prohibiting assembly of more than five persons under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was clamped in nine villages in five districts - Aizawl, Lunglei, Mamit, Serchhip and Champhai, an official statement said.

Indo-Nepal forum to be set up for promotion of tourism: Alphons

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI): The Ramayana and Buddhist circuits will be promoted through common branding by India and Nepal and a forum will be set up for mutual consultation and promotion of tourism by the countries, Tourism Minister K J Alphons said today.

In a meeting held on July 6 of the joint working group (JWG) of the two countries it was decided that an Indo-Nepal Tourism Forum should be set up.

The forum will have representation from the



government and private sectors of both the nations for mutual consultation and promotion of tourism in India and Nepal.

"This JWG also decid-

ed to officially recognise two circuits, the Ramayana Circuit and the Buddhist Circuit, by both governments for joint promotions through common branding and

marketing exercises," the minister said.

Earlier, during the Conclave of Special Committee on Tourism for SAARC countries held in India in 2016, the Tourism Ministry had agreed to offer 50 seats for B.Sc programme and diploma courses through the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) to students from SAARC countries, including Nepal, Alphons said.

The Bharatmata Pariyojana, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in October 2017, includes development of 5,300

km border and international roads, including some national highway stretches leading to the Nepal Border, he said.

Out of this, 2,000 km of national highways for international connectivity has been provided an outlay of Rs 25,000 crore in Phase I (2017-18 to 2021-22) of the programme, the minister said.

The national highway infrastructure developed under the programme would also provide connectivity for tourism related activities, Alphons said.

Two charge sheets filed in Manipur fake encounter cases, CBI director tells SC after being summoned

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI): The CBI Director today told the Supreme Court that two charge sheets have been filed in cases of alleged Manipur fake encounters by the Army, Assam Rifles and state police, and five more final reports will be filed in separate cases by August 31.

CBI director Alok Kumar Verma had been summoned by the apex court which was unhappy over the "unduly long time" taken by the agency in probing the cases of alleged extra-judicial killings and fake encounters in Manipur.

A bench of justices MB Lokur and UU Lalit was told by the agency's director that 14 persons have been charge sheeted for the alleged offences of murder, criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence related to Manipur encounter cases.

The agency also told the court that by August 31, five more final reports will be filed in separate encounter cases of Manipur and that probe in 20

more Manipur encounter cases will be completed by December end.

The court, however, left it to the CBI director and SIT in-charge to take a call on whether those charge sheeted for the offence of murder in the encounter cases in Manipur need to be arrested or not.

The court then posted the matter for further hearing on August 20.

Terming the SIT probe as "snakes and ladders", the top court had earlier expressed dissatisfaction over the progress made so far and said it would like to know from the CBI Director what steps must be taken to ensure that the investigation into the cases are completed early and final reports filed "as expeditiously as possible".

The court, which is hearing a PIL seeking a probe into as many as 1,528 cases of alleged extra-judicial killings in Manipur, had on July 14 last year constituted the SIT and ordered lodging of FIRs and probe into them.

RS witnesses uproar over publication of Assam NRC

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI): Opposition parties led by the TMC and the Samajwadi Party today created an uproar in the Rajya Sabha over the publication of Assam's National Register of Citizens, forcing adjournment of proceedings till noon.

No sooner had the House mourned the death of a former member and listed papers presented, TMC members led by their leader Derek O'Brien were up

on their feet raising the issue.

SP members and some from the Congress too started raising the issue leading to a din.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu first said he had not received any notice and later said that some members had met him expressing desire to raise the NRC issue.

"I myself have requested the Home Minister to come (to respond to members' concern)," he said add-

ing he was ready for a discussion.

As unrelenting members moved to the aisle, he warned that House proceedings would be adjourned if they did not return to their seats.

"I am ready for discussions. I want the Home Minister to respond. What (more) you want," he said. "The Home Minister is here. He will respond," he said.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh was present in the House.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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India had asked Antigua to detain Choksi

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI): India requested authorities in Antigua and Barbuda to detain PNB scam fugitive Mehul Choksi after it received information about his presence in the Caribbean island, government sources said today.

They said India was in touch with the island nation following reports of Choksi's presence there and requested the authorities there to restrict his movements by land, sea and air.

"As soon as MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) received information of the likely presence of Mehul Choksi in Antigua, our High Commission in Georgetown had alerted the A&B (Antigua and Barbuda) government, in writing and verbally, to confirm his presence in their territory and detain him and prevent his movement by land, air or sea," a government source said.

Last week, Choksi reportedly claimed he had taken Antigua citizenship last year to expand his business as the passport of the Caribbean nation provides visa-free travel to 132 countries.

"Our high commissioner is meeting the relevant authorities in A&B government today. We continue to liaise with relevant GOI agencies and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to follow up on this matter," the source said.

Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi are being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation after it was detected that they allegedly cheated the Punjab National Bank of more than Rs 13,400 crore with the purported involvement of a few of the lender's employees.

The scam, which reportedly began in 2011, was detected in January this year, after which PNB officials reported it to the probe agencies. Choksi and Nirav Modi fled India in January this year nearly a fortnight before the scam was detected.

Choksi's valid passport was revoked in February 2018.

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Ibrahimovic has first MLS hat trick, Galaxy rally

CARSON, JUL 30 (AP): Zlatan Ibrahimovic had his first MLS hat trick, scoring the tying and go-ahead goals in a 4-minute span in the second in the LA Galaxy's 4-3 victory over Orlando City on Sunday night.

The 36-year-old Swedish star tied it at 3 in the 67th minute on a diving header off Ola Kamara's feed, then put the Galaxy in front in the 71st with a short hard kick after he headed down a rebound. He celebrated by ripping off his jersey.

Ibrahimovic has 15 goals this season, his first with LA.

The Galaxy (10-7-5) are unbeaten in nine games. Orlando City (7-14-1) has lost 12 of its last 13 games.

Ibrahimovic pulled LA even at 2 in the 47th with a leaping header off Giovanni dos Santos's feed.

After dos Santos rang a shot off the crossbar in the 50th, Dominic Dwyer put Orlando back in front in the 54th with a header off Mohamed El-Munir's



cross from the end line.

Orlando City took a 2-1 lead just before halftime on LA defender Michael Ciani's own goal. Ciani accidentally

deflected Sacha Kljestan's center pass past goalkeeper David Bingham.

Cristian Higuaita opened the scoring for Orlando in the

18th minute, connecting from close range. Dos Santos tied it in the 39th, firing a shot to the lower left side off an assist from Ibrahimovic.

Delhi government yet to honour CWG star Manika with cash reward

**BHARAT SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 30**

(PTI): Table tennis star Manika Batra, arguably India's best athlete at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, is yet to receive the cash reward promised by the Delhi government, more than three months after her historic effort in Gold Coast.

The Delhi-based Manika had won an unprecedented four medals at the Games including two gold medals (team and singles), a silver (doubles) and bronze (mixed doubles).

As per the existing policy of the Delhi government, a CWG gold medallist gets Rs 14 lakh for gold, Rs 10 lakh for silver and Rs 6 lakh for bronze. Since the amount of the cash prize was a lot lesser than what the athletes from Haryana and Tamil Nadu get, a revised proposal had gone to the



Delhi government for approval.

A gold medal winner from Haryana receives Rs 1.5 crore and Tamil Nadu government gives Rs 50 lakh for the yellow metal.

Dharemender Singh, Deputy Director of Education (Sports) in the Delhi government, confirmed that Manika's file has been sent to the cabinet for approval.

"The file of the specif-

ic case you are referring to has gone to the cabinet for approval," Singh told PTI.

Sources close to the player revealed that under the revised reward, Manika stands to get Rs 1.7 crore for her four medals (Rs 50 lakh each for gold, Rs 40 for silver and Rs 30 lakh for bronze).

At the felicitation ceremony organised by the

Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) last night, Manika said she is confident of getting her due soon from the Delhi government.

"I don't know why it has not happened so far but I know it will happen," said Manika, who is now preparing for the next month's Asian Games in Indonesia.

The central government had promptly felic-

itated the medal winners 15 days after the Games, held from April 4-15.

TTFI secretary MP Singh expressed disappointment at Manika not being given her due.

"I wish it had happened earlier. Most state governments have already felicitated their medal winning athletes. They are the pride of the entire nation," MP Singh said.

In fact, Manika had met Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia in May and they both promised her "full support".

The irony of the entire matter is that double Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar happens to be OSD Sports in Delhi government. It could not be confirmed that if the champion athlete too is yet to receive his cash reward for winning the gold in Gold Coast.



Keenan Almeida signs with FC Pune City for ISL 2018-19

PUNE, JUL 30 (PTI): Indian Super League (ISL) club FC Pune City announced today signing of Keenan Almeida to solidify their squad's defensive line-up for the 2018-19 season.

Almeida's induction would boost the team's defence, a media release quoted FC Pune City CEO Gaurav Modwel as saying.

"Keenan is a very good player and will bring much needed versatility to our back line.

"He has a title-winning run under his belt with his previous club, which means he comes with the right mentality which matters a lot too," Modwel said.

Almeida began his professional career in Goa, playing for state-based outfits Salgaocar and Sporting Clube De Goa before joining FC Goa in 2015 for the ISL.

After spending two seasons with the Gaurs, Almeida was picked by Chennaiyin FC in the 2017-18 ISL draft.

Excited to join FC Pune City, Almeida said, "The club approached with a definite plan for me, something that I could immediately connect with.

"Getting good playing time is crucial for any player and that's what I will be looking forward to with FC Pune City.

Unrealistic to expect seamers to play all five Tests: Broad

BIRMINGHAM, JUL 30

(PTI): England pacer Stuart Broad has revealed that he and James Anderson are likely to be rotated through the five-Test series against India starting August 1 as part of the team management's strategy to balance the duo's workload.

At the back-end of their careers, the 36-year-old Anderson took a six-week break to get rid of his shoulder injury while the 32-year-old Broad had limped off during a county match earlier this season.

"It will depend on tosses, pitches, workloads. If (there are) two Tests of 250 overs in the

field each, it's unrealistic to think your seam bowlers will play five Tests in six weeks. But if you have a Test, where you bowl them out in 80 or 60 overs, that changes your thinking," Broad told reporters during an interaction.

"If the pitches turn square and the spinners do a lot of the work, you might not bowl so much but come on when the ball starts to reverse swing, so sometimes your workloads can be higher if it is green and nibbling," Broad added.

The senior speedster also revealed that the team management has already conveyed that rotation of seamers is on the cards.

Neymar blames 'brattish' behaviour on his inner child

RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 30

(AFP): Neymar has tackled critics who derided his play-acting at the World Cup, admitting he "overreacts" and blaming his "brat" like behaviour on his inner child.

The Brazilian superstar was widely lambasted in Russia for his theatrical reactions to challenges which often left the world's most expensive footballer wincing and rolling on the ground.

"Boot studs on the



shins, kick in the spine, stomp on the foot, you may think I overreact,

and sometimes I do, but for real? I suffer on the pitch, but you have no

idea what I go through outside of it," he said in comments on a television

commercial for a razor blade.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward, speaking in Portuguese with English subtitles, continued "You may all think I've fallen too much, but the reality is I did not fall, I crumbled."

"And that hurts more than anyone stepping on your post op ankle," he added, alluding to the surgery on the injury he suffered back in February.

"When I act like a brat, it isn't because

I'm a spoiled child, but because I still haven't learned to deal with my frustrations.

"There's still a boy inside of me, sometimes it dazzles the world. Other times it pisses every one off.

"And my fight is to keep this boy alive, but inside of me, not inside the field."

He adds: "You can keep throwing rocks at me, or you can throw your rocks away and help me get up. Because when

I do get up the whole of Brazil gets up with me." This is not the first time Neymar has addressed his taxing World Cup.

On his return from Russia he took a tongue in cheek swipe at his detractors with an online video teaching children how to dive.

And last week, in an interview with AFP, Neymar disclosed he "didn't want to see a ball, or to see any more football played" after Brazil's premature exit.

Steed of the Jungle God: A crusader's memoir on experiences in the wild

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI): Naturalist Raza H Tehsin has come out with a new book in which he narrates his real-life encounters in the jungles, busts many a scary myth and also provides a glimpse into the psychology of why hunters ended up becoming conservationists.

"Steed of the Jungle God: Thrilling Experiences in the Wild" is replete with anecdotes, mysteries and legends.

"This book is about the mysteries that I and my family have encountered in the wild during more than a century of our jungle wanderings and the quest for rational explanations behind these phenomena," says Tehsin.

Tehsin's father TH Tehsin served as the deputy mayor and then mayor of Udaipur city and



also as the honorary magistrate. His wanderings with his father in the jungles fashioned Tehsin's

young mind and he grew up with a hunger to explore forests.

Tehsin uses words like 'game',

'bagging' etc, in the book for maintaining the tone of how hunting was spoken about in the olden

days when it was legal.

But he bade farewell to hunting in the early '70s and joined the field of conservation.

According to the author, the jungles have become more of a mystery to humankind as they have faded.

"I have a story associated with every hill and a memory with every other stream in this part of the Aravali hills. A silent battle is waging between man and the wilds and all signs indicate that the wilds are losing ground rapidly," he writes.

He also mentions several ghost stories that were prevalent in the jungles and nearby villages.

"While in some cases, such stories could have been concocted to hide a misdeed, in other cases, it could actually be a clue about a rare phenomenon. Or sometimes

even a normal occurrence could appear supernatural to a biased mind," he says.

Tehsin has co-authored the book with his daughter and fellow conservationist, Arefa Tehsin. The book, published by National Book Trust, has illustrations by Sumit Sakuja and Sonal Goyal.

The author says occasionally, people might tell stories to portray their heroic fearlessness. But ghost stories are born, when city dwellers, who never deal with darkness and jungles, encounter loneliness, hallucinate or misinterpret the events.

The stories in the book are not only a chronicle of adventure encounters but also a peep into the times, peoples and wildlife of Mewar.

Anger as MH370 report offers no new clues to aviation’s greatest mystery

PUTRAJAYA, JUL 30 (AFP): A long-awaited official report into the disappearance of Flight MH370 gave no new clues today about why the Malaysian plane vanished, sparking anger and disappointment among relatives of those on board.

The report from the official investigation team pointed to failings by air traffic controllers and suggested the Malaysia Airlines plane was likely diverted from its flight path manually, rather than due to a mechanical fault.

But it said the Boeing 777 jet, which vanished over four years ago as it flew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board, was air-worthy and the pilots were in a fit state to fly.

After years of fruitless searching in the world’s most enduring aviation mystery, the report offered nothing concrete to grieving relatives of passengers -- most of whom



were Chinese -- and crew hoping for some sort of closure.

“The team is unable to determine the real cause for the disappearance of MH370,” concluded the largely technical 400-page report.

Relatives who were briefed at the transport ministry before the report’s public release expressed anger that there was nothing new in the document, with some storming out of the briefing

as frustration boiled over.

“It is so disappointing,” said Intan Maizura Othman, whose husband was a steward on MH370. “I am frustrated. There is nothing new in the report.

“Those who gave the briefing from the ministry of transport were not able to give answers as they were not (the ones) who wrote the report.” She said the meeting between relatives and officials descended into a “shouting match” as family members’ frustration boiled over.

“Many asked questions,” said G. Subramaniam, who lost a son on the flight, but added that “unsatisfactory responses left many angry”.

The disappearance of MH370 triggered the largest hunt in aviation history. But no sign of the jet was found in a 120,000-square kilometre Indian Ocean search zone and the Australian-led hunt was suspended in January last year.

US exploration firm Ocean Infinity resumed the search in a different location at the start of this year on a “no find, no fee” basis, using high-tech drones to scour the seabed. But that search was also called off after

failing to find anything.

Only three confirmed fragments of MH370 have been found, all of them on western Indian Ocean shores, including a two-metre wing part known as a flaperon.

Malaysia’s new government, which took power in May, has said the hunt could be resumed but only if new evidence comes to light and officials have seemed keen to draw under a line the tragedy.

One area that came in for criticism in the report by the 19-member investigation team, which included foreign investigators, was air traffic control.

It said both Malaysian air traffic control and their Vietnamese counterparts failed to act properly when the Boeing jet passed from Malaysian to Vietnamese airspace and disappeared from radars.

Air traffic controllers did not initiate emergency procedures in a timely fashion, delaying the start of the search

and rescue operation, it said.

However it played down concerns about the pilot and first officer, saying neither appeared to have suffered difficulties in their personal lives that could have affected their ability to fly.

It also said the plane was airworthy and did not have major technical issues. This however meant that the plane’s change of course “was likely made while the aircraft was under manual control and not the autopilot”, the report said.

Intervention by a third party could not be ruled out, it said, but also added there was no evidence to suggest the plane was flown by anyone other than the pilots.

The report also dismissed one conspiracy theory about the plane’s disappearance -- that it was taken over remotely to foil a hijacking, saying there was no evidence to support this.



‘Erratic’ winds, dry conditions fuel deadly California fires

REDDING (US), JUL 29 (AFP): Around 12,000 firefighters battled today to contain wildfires in California that have killed six -- but authorities warned “erratic” winds and dry conditions have caused the flames to grow and spread.

“Very hot and dry conditions will continue over the West coast states through Sunday. Conditions around the Carr wildfire near Redding, California will continue to be conducive to rapid wildfire growth and spread,” the National Weather Service said this morning.

Firefighters in Shasta County, in northern California, where the Carr Fire began on July 23, warned on Twitter that “erratic winds and hot, dry conditions on the #Carr-Fire resulted in greater growth and increased fire behavior last night.”

Two firefighters were killed fighting the blaze and three people -- a 70-year-old woman and her two great-grandchildren aged five and four -- perished when their

mobile home was surrounded by flames.

According to the most recent available reports, the Carr Fire -- only 5 per cent contained -- has scorched 89,194 acres, destroyed 517 buildings and damaged 135 more.

By the end of Saturday, 38,000 people had been evacuated in Shasta County.

California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in the county, as well as in the counties of Lake, Napa and Mendocino last evening.

He asked for federal assistance, including military aircraft, shelter supplies and water for evacuated residents in Shasta County, where he said the Carr Fire had grown “uncontrollably.” US President Donald Trump signed an emergency declaration to make federal aid available to county authorities.

Another northern California fire, the Mendocino Complex --

made up of two fires -- has also burned more than 24,000 acres in total since Friday. Having rapidly spread, it was only 10 per cent contained this morning.

Elsewhere, firefighters reported that the Ferguson fire, near Yosemite National Park, had grown only by around 1,980 acres overnight -- bringing the total damage to 53,646 acres since July 13 -- and was 30 per cent contained. A firefighter died battling that blaze, with seven people also injured.

Meanwhile, the Cranston Fire forced the evacuation of over 7,000 people, although some were able to return to their homes this morning. The fire -- caused by humans -- has destroyed 13,130 acres and is 29 per cent contained.

According to the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), 17 large-scale fires were burning Sunday morning, with 12,000 firefighters deployed across the state.

Trump brands journalists ‘very unpatriotic’

WASHINGTON, JUL 30 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has called American journalists “unpatriotic” as he accused them of putting lives at risk by their reporting.

“When the media - driven insane by their Trump Derangement Syndrome - reveals internal deliberations of our government, it truly puts the lives of many, not just journalists, at risk! Very unpatriotic!” Trump said in a series of characteristic tweets.

“Freedom of the press also comes with a responsibility to report the news accurately,” he said accusing the mainstream media of wrongful coverage.

“Ninety per cent of media coverage of my



administration is negative, despite the tremendously positive results we are achieving, it’s no surprise that confidence in the media is at an all time low!” he said.

“I will not allow our great country to be sold out by anti-Trump haters in the dying newspaper industry. No matter how much they try to distract and cover it up, our coun-

try is making great progress under my leadership and I will never stop fighting for the American people!” Trump said.

He alleged that “the failing New York Times and the Amazon Washington Post do nothing but write bad stories even on very positive achievements - and they will never change!”

Earlier in the day,

Trump tweeted that he had a very good and interesting meeting at the White House with A G Sulzberger, publisher of the New York Times. Spent much time talking about the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media & how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, ‘Enemy of the People’. Sad!,” he said.

The account of the meeting was challenged by Sulzberger. My main purpose for accepting the meeting was to raise concerns about the president’s deeply troubling anti-press rhetoric. I told the president directly that I thought that his language was not just divisive but increasingly dangerous,” said the NYT publisher.

Will take oath as Pak PM on 11 Aug: Imran Khan

PESHAWAR, JUL 30 (PTI): Imran Khan today said that he will take oath as Pakistan’s Prime Minister on August 11, according to a media report.

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), led by 65-year-old Khan, has emerged as the single largest party in the National Assembly (NA) after the July 25 elections, but it is still short of numbers to form the government on its own.

His party yesterday announced that it is trying to reach out to smaller parties and independents to form the next government.



Will take oath as Prime Minister on 11th of next month (August), Khan was quoted as saying by Radio Pakistan.

“I have also decided about chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which I will announce in the next 48 hours. Whatever I have decided in this regard is in the best

interest of people,” he said while addressing PTI members of provincial assembly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

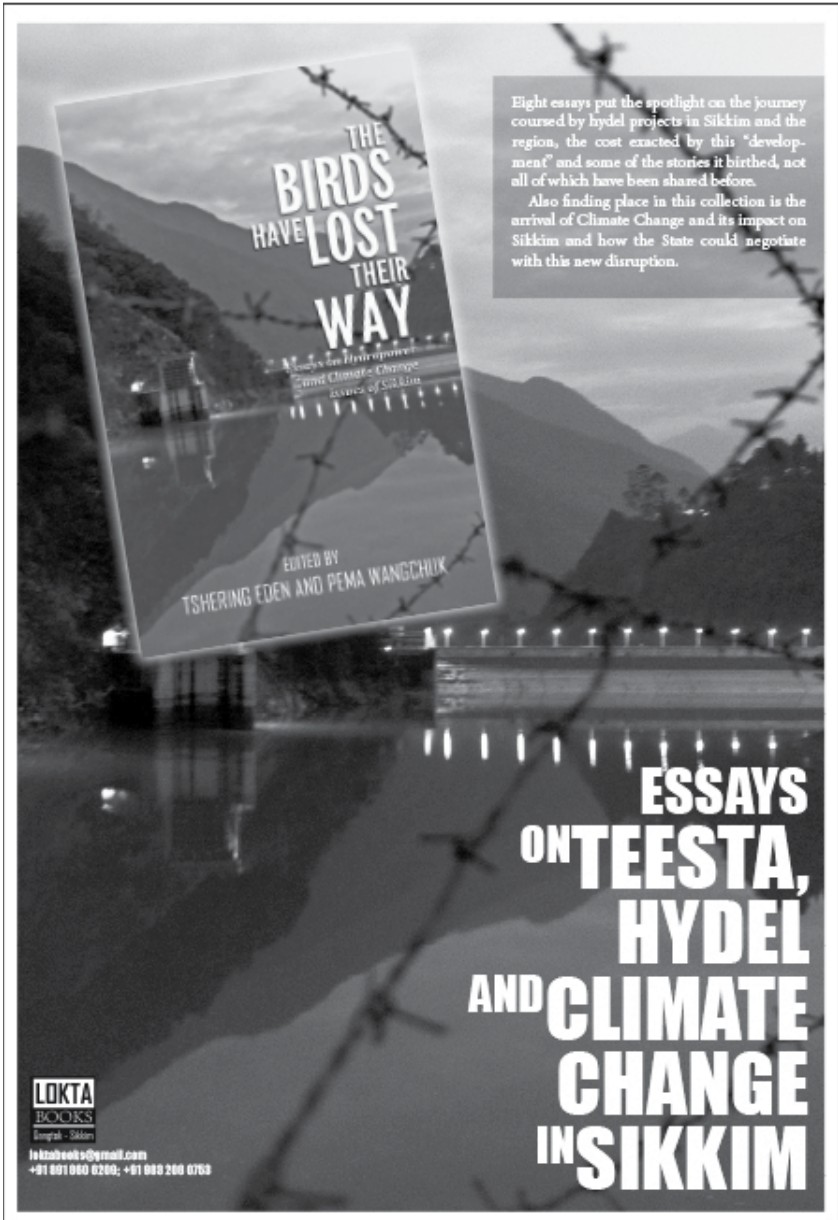
He said alleviation of poverty from interior Sindh will be among top priorities of his government.

Earlier, PTI spokesman Naeemul Haque on

Saturday told reporters that party chief Khan will take oath as the Prime Minister before August 14.

He said that he hoped the president would call an assembly session and Khan would take oath as premier before Independence day.

Although the PTI has emerged as the single largest party in the National Assembly after the polls, the final results issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) show that the party is still short of numbers to form its government independently.



ISHAAN AND JANHVI'S DHADAK WITNESSES A HUGE JUMP, EARNS RS 63.38 CRORE!

Despite facing a huge crunch due to new Hollywood and Bollywood releases, Ishaan Khatter and Janhvi Kapoor's Dhadak has managed to perform very well in its second weekend at the ticket windows.

The romantic drama raked in Rs 5.20 crore yesterday and now stands with the grand total of Rs 63.39 crore. Dhadak is expected to cross Rs 70 crore mark by the end of its second week at the box office.

Producer Karan Johar also said that Dhadak is best work of director Shashank Khaitan till date.

Asked about his reaction after watching Dhadak, Karan said: "When Shashank told me that he wants to remake [Marathi film] 'Sairat', I was bit scared because that film has its own individuality. The kind of tone that filmmaker [Nagraj Manjule] has been able to hold is very difficult to capture but confidence of Shashank is very infectious so when we decided to make the film, I know it had to be with new talent. When I saw end of 'Dhadak', it made me shake a little bit but when I again watched



it, I felt Shashank has done an exceptional job in adapting the source material."

Praising Khaitan further, Johar added: "He has taken lot of sequences from the original one but he made a new film and characters for pan India audience. It his third film as a director but in all three films that Shashank made, I think 'Dhadak' is his best film directorially."



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ROCKER CHIC 26-year-old singer, Selena Gomez, cuts a casual figure in high-waisted blue jeans and AC/DC T-shirt in Santa Monica.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: You have a passionate nature, Aries. Sometimes it's difficult for you when other people don't share your exuberance. This is a good time to tone things down a notch. There's some tension in the air, and your enthusiasm only serves to annoy rather than charm, as it usually does. Don't pout. It's only temporary. Tomorrow you'll be the center of attention again and bestowing hugs and kisses to all.

TAURUS: This is going to be a rather intense day, Taurus. On the positive side, you'll accomplish a lot. On the less positive side, you may be exhausted by the end of the day. You're advised to try and pace yourself. Remain focused on what's truly important rather than let yourself get caught up in trivia. Keep the big picture in mind and the little things will take care of themselves.

GEMINI: Today it's important that you make your own decisions and stick with them, Gemini. Much as you prefer to depend on others, your judgment really is best. You'll be paralyzed if you think only of how others will react to your decisions. You do know what is best, and everyone will benefit when you act on your beliefs. This is no time to be wishy-washy. Just do it.

CANCER: You're a dreamer, Cancer. Everyone loves you for it, but today the planetary aspects urge practicality. There are personal issues to resolve, and it does no good to have your head in the clouds. This is a time to focus on loved ones. Perhaps your partner or your children feel neglected. Do whatever is necessary to let your family know you're available and eager to give them what they need.

LEO: Much has happened recently,

Leo. Have you allowed enough time to process it? It's likely that big changes are brewing at home or work. Stay focused on the job at hand rather than fret about events over which you have no control. You may feel as if you're on a roller-coaster ride, but everything will settle down in a few days. Blink to adjust your eyes to the strange new light.

VIRGO: You've made progress these past few weeks, especially where your temper is concerned, Virgo. It has taken some effort, but it does seem that you can overcome your tendency to speak before thinking. Don't lose the ground you've gained. There's one person whose mission seems to be to make you explode. Don't let him or her rattle you. Take a deep breath and rise above it.

LIBRA: This is likely to be an intense day, Libra. Family and friends

may seem testy, so you're advised to stay out of their way. Don't worry - it isn't anything you've done. It's the planetary energy. If you can go somewhere private and shut the door, do it. If someone tries to pick a fight, don't rise to the bait. Tomorrow the air will clear and good spirits will reign again.

SCORPIO: This isn't the most cheerful time, Scorpio, because important issues are rearing their heads again and forcing you to address them. You'd rather not, but you can't wish them away. The time has come to deal with them once and for all. It's especially important that you make an effort to make your home life more positive and upbeat. Your loved ones look to you to set the tone.

SAGITTARIUS: Don't try to force anything or anyone right now, Sagittarius. You'll find that today's elements

are just as stubborn as you are. Today's planetary configurations will force you to finally start to turn your dreams into reality, whether you want to or not. Face it - you've been planning for a long time without making much concrete progress. All that is about to change.

CAPRICORN: You're incredibly productive, with good business sense, Capricorn. However, lately you may have felt dissatisfied with where you are in life. As you look around, you might wish you had more possessions to show for all your hard work. Don't pursue this line of thought. Real value comes from relationships and the pride you get from doing a job well. A new car or fancy clothes may lift your spirits, but it's superficial.

AQUARIUS: You have a keen analytical mind that has served you well in

business. Alas, Aquarius, this characteristic doesn't always serve you well in your personal life. It's likely that someone close has bristled from your lack of empathy. Take time to reflect upon the events of the past few weeks. Did you inadvertently send a wrong message? Correct any unintentional slights. A simple "I'm sorry," will do wonders.

PISCES: This is the beginning of an exciting period in your love life, Pisces. Your relationship with a significant other may have been in a rut lately, but that's about to change. Both of you are ready for something big. Perhaps a move is in store or you could both decide commit to one another more permanently. Follow your instincts, because they'll lead you where you're meant to go.

Mission: Impossible-Fallout had references to Kashmir edited out by the CBFC

TOM CRUISE'S MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT is getting a rave response from critics across the globe. The movie opened in Indian theatres last Friday and fans of the franchise flocked to the theatres.

Well, everyone was in for a mild discomfort while watching the movie when obviously abrupt edits hampered the otherwise enjoyable experience. Some words were distinctly muted and there were jumps between scenes that looked weird. It must have been easy for fans to come to the conclusion that CBFC was at it again. And several reports confirm that Praseon Joshi-led censorship body didn't want us to see something.

Central Board of Film Certification has once again suggested modifications to the final print, it seems. Sorry for the mild spoiler, but the climax of Mission: Impossible - Fallout takes place in Kashmir. But you won't learn that if you are watching the Indian print. Because all references to the state have been muted or deleted in the movie. There is one mention to Indian army in the very end but that is pretty much that is there to conclude the location of the action.

Though you should know that the movie has not actually been shot in Kashmir but instead it was canned in New Zealand. Director Christopher McQuarrie has said, "We would have loved to come to India to shoot the film. We couldn't shoot the aerial sequence [helicopter chase sequence] in India. It was a little too crazy. So, we ended up in New Zealand. But I scouted India extensively and I would love to come to India and shoot a film."

The climax of Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol was also set in India.

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Khloe Kardashian: Wanted a boy but God blessed her with precious True

Television personality and model Khloe Kardashian, who gave birth to a girl earlier this month, says she wanted a son "badly". However, she feels blessed having daughter True.

The "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" star wrote about her close bond with Mason, referring to sister Kourtney Kardashian's oldest son, reports people.com.

Khloe, 34, tweeted: "I wanted a boy so badly because Mason and I are so close. I love our bond. I felt confident in having a boy but God blessed me with my precious True and now I wouldn't know what to do with a boy. True has made me sweeter and more gentle. God gives you what you need." She also called three-month-old True her "best friend forever, for life."

Khloe Kardashian familiar with the public eye since she was young. Khloe is the daughter of the late Robert Kardashian, the defense attorney of OJ Simpson. After her older sister Kim skyrocketed to fame, following the release of her 2007 sex tape, Khloe also became famous. Along with her family, she starred on E!'s Keeping Up With The Kardashians before moving to two spin-offs, Khloe & Kourtney Take Miami.

'Stranger Things' season three delayed: Netflix

Fans of "Stranger Things" will have to wait longer for the third season of the popular sci-fi series, Netflix has confirmed.

Cindy Holland, programming executive of the streaming giant, revealed that the show will not arrive till next summer, but has reassured that the next spell will be "better" than the second season.

Season two, which premiered on October 27 last year, received mixed responses from the fans.

"It's a handcrafted show. The Duffer Brothers and Shawn Levy, they understand the stakes are high. They want to deliver something bigger and better than last year. I think it's going to be a fantastic season. It will



be worth the wait," Holland said.

According to EW, she was in a conversation with the critics at the Television Critics Association's press tour in Beverly Hills. Holland also noted that the next season will have more special effects than the previous ones.

"It's a really exciting season, just takes a little more time," she said.

The show has already released a teaser trailer for the next season.

Not everyone can or should be hero from first frame

"SACRED GAMES" co-director Vikramaditya Motwane has said actor Saif Ali Khan was the first choice to essay the role of Mumbai Police cop Sartaj Singh in the Netflix Original Series.

Motwane, who co-directed the series with Anurag Kashyap, and screenwriter Varun Grover engaged in an Ask Me Anything session on Reddit India in which the duo were asked a number of questions about the popular show.

One of the Reddit users questioned the mediocrity of Sartaj's character in the show, in response to which Motwane said "not everyone can or should be a hero from the first frame".

"Would be extremely boring to see that. The world is full of mediocre people trying to do the right thing or heroic things. That's



what makes him special," he added.

Motwane said the team did not make any compromises with the casting of the project and every actor went through a proper audition process for their respective parts.

The "Udaan" helmer shot with Saif, while Kashyap directed Nawazuddin Siddiqui's portions. But in a recent interview with a TV channel, Saif had hinted that Motwane may not return as director on the second season of the series. When asked about the same, Motwane quipped, he will leave the show if Netflix brings in "David Fincher/James Watkins" to direct the next season.

"Sacred Games" is based on the bestselling novel of the same name by Vikram Chandra, premiered on Netflix from July 6.