



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Anita Niraula to get Dr Shova Kanti Thegim Smriti Puraskar

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Senior newsreader with All India Radio, Gangtok, Anita Niraula, will be conferred with the 21st Dr Shova Kanti Thegim [Lepcha] Smriti Purashkar 2018 for her book, "black n white Sikkim-maa Sangeethbhitrakaa haru" [research work], in a function scheduled to be held on 04 Jul this year at Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim, in Gangtok.

A press release informs that Ms Niraula's name has been approved in a meeting of the Dr Shova Kanti Thegim [Lepcha] Memorial Trust held on 08 Jun in Gangtok as recommended by the Selection Committee of the Trust.

It may be mentioned here, Dr Shova Kanti Thegim Smriti Purashkar is presented annually on 04 Jul on the birth anniversary of Late Dr Thegim and carries a cash award, a Tamra Patra and a certificate.

During the Trust's meet on 08 Jun, resolution to enhance the existing cash award of Rs 20,002 to Rs 25,001 from this year was also passed unanimously by the House.

As per the provision of the Trust's Constitution, only books in Nepali language written/authored by all levels of writers belonging to the State of Sikkim and of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West

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Chamling announces financial assistance for paragliders



REBYNA RANA/IPR

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today interacted with the public of Upper Burtuk constituency at Khelgaon in Reshithang as part of the second phase of his 32-day Jan Sampark Yatra in East district.

In his address, the Chief Minister announced that two Janta Melas will be organised for the poor people living in bazaar areas and the monks on 28-29 Jun wherein GCI sheets, cookers and gas cylinders will be distributed. This Janta Mela for East and North districts will be held on 28 Jun while for South and West districts, the programme

will be held on 29 Jun, he added.

Speaking on the development in Upper Burtuk constituency in the past 24 years, the CM stressed on the benefits being derived by taxi drivers and shop owners due to Banjhakri Falls and other such tourist spots in the area.

"Our government wants to develop 10,000 tourism destinations across the State to take entire Sikkim forward in tourism sector," said the CM.

Highlighting on tax exemption for Sikkim Subject Certificate [SSC] holders provided by the State Government, the CM

informed that demand for the old settlers of Sikkim has been placed.

He appealed to the SSC holders to avoid sub-letting their trade licenses and contract works to non-SSC holders as it puts the income tax exemption under risk.

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1st batch of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra flagged off, around 1500 pilgrims this year

NEW DELHI, JUNE 11 (PTI): The first batch of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra-2018 was today flagged off here by Union minister of state for External Affairs VK Singh, who hoped the pilgrimage passing through difficult terrain of the Himalayas concludes smoothly.

Singh also counselled pilgrims to remain physically fit and establish communion with nature to come out rewarded from the Yatra.

The first batch comprising 60 pilgrims will reach Kailash Manasarovar via Lipulekh. There are two routes for Yatra-through Lipulekh pass (Uttarakhand) and through Nathu La pass (Sikkim).

"This year 3,734 applications were received. After draw of lots, around 1500 were selected for the Yatra," the minister said.

Pilgrims will reach Kailash Manasarovar via Lipulekh in eighteen RPT batches of 60 pilgrims each. Ten batches of 50 pilgrims each will reach there via Nathu La, he said.

The duration of the Yatra via Lipulekh is 24 days for each batch including three days in Delhi for preparatory work. This route passes through important sites like Narayan Ashram and Patal Bhuvaneshwar among others.

The route through Nathu La pass is motorable and suitable for senior citizens unable to undertake arduous trekking. From Gangtok the route passes through scenic places like Hangu lake, and through the vast landscape of the Tibetan plateau. Duration of this route is 21 days including three days in Delhi

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People of Sikkim and their well being is all that matters: Chamling

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

"I READ IN THE NEWS-PAPERS" today regarding allegations that the Sherpa community was betrayed again over the land transfer rule. I had given clarifications in the Assembly on this and I repeat it again. Land Revenue Order No 1 says that land of BL communities cannot be sold to others. It is an Old Law of Sikkim and protected by the Constitution. The Sherpas were not included in BL list when Revenue Order No. 1 was promulgated. Given that reality, the State Government can make new laws stating that Sherpa land can be sold and purchased only within Sherpa community but cannot include it in Revenue Order No. 1. I am only following the written order," said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling while addressing the public of Upper Burtuk constituency today.

Further countering allegations thrown at Sikkim Democratic Front of dividing the Sikkimese society in the name of caste and community, Mr Chamling said that the opposition, in an attempt to bring a bad name to

his party and the State Government, has still failed to come up with a solution to unite the "divided" society.

"The State BJP has also made such allegations. Their Central party is running the Union Government. Why can't their government at the Centre give tribal status to the 11 left-out communities of Sikkim? This will solve many issues of the State," he added.

On allegations of corruption, Mr Chamling said that development and corruption cannot go hand in hand.

Development has taken place in Sikkim on a large scale which means that there is no corruption, he argued.

In a clear response to Hamro Sikkim Party's demand that pay revision arrears to be paid in one go to the employees, Mr Chamling, without naming names, questioned the credibility in the party and its leader in politics and said, "He is trying to instigate the government employees. The government employees know how our government has cared for them including securing

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It's what happens when breakfast is not on time, Chhetri on viral video

NEW DELHI, JUN 11 (PTI):

The plea brought about an outpouring of emotion but Sunil Chhetri's detailing of what went into making the video, that had him seek fan support with folded hands, brought the house down here today.

Fresh from netting eight goals in the title-winning Intercontinental Cup campaign in Mumbai, Chhetri spoke about his thoughts leading up to the twitter video that got thousands of retweets and lakhs of likes, but more importantly infused new life into Indian football's fandom.

"Actually I am ageing. That's why you get these weird kind of thoughts in the morning when you don't get your breakfast on time. And then you post that kind of a video message," Chhetri quipped when asked what was on his mind the day he posted the twitter video that ensured sold out turnouts in the tournament.

"Had my PR team got a whiff of it, they wouldn't have allowed me to post that message. Kya karein buddhe ho rahein aur ab shaadi bhi ho gayi hain (What to do, I am getting old and now I am married too)," Chhetri joked during a promotional event here.

It wasn't the first time he was answering the question but it was the first time the veteran chose to answer it in a lighter vein.

The three and a half minute video was one of the most stirring moments of Indian sports last week in which Chhetri touched a chord when he asked the fans



to show up even if just to abuse the team.

Today, he blamed a tiny bit of that emotion to ageing as well and expectedly a question cropped up on his future.

The skipper was quick to turn serious at the very suggestion of the 'R' word.

"It was a joke sir. I am not going anywhere. I am very much here and playing the game," said Chhetri.

As the event was about KIA Motors sponsoring young Official Match Ball Carriers (OMBC) to the upcoming Russia World Cup, Chhetri spoke about how parents need to encourage their kids to pursue sport.

"My parents were extremely supportive when I wanted to pursue football. My mother had played for the Nepal national team and she knew what it meant to represent the country.

"That's why I keep telling parents that please encourage your child. You need to be extremely patient with them. One day they will come up and tell that they want to become Bhaichung Bhutia.

"The next day they will say that they want to become Leander Paes. On another day, they would like to become doctor or engineer. You can't lose patience with your kids," he said.

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SDF advices HSP not to indulge in deceptive politics

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Sikkim Democratic Front has asserted that the recent statement of the Hamro Sikkim Party that the State administration was spending Rs 1.30 crore annually on providing pilot escorts to Cabinet Ministers was a ridiculous claim made to mislead the people of Sikkim.

The ruling party has warned Bhaichung Bhutia, the vice-president of HSP, not to indulge in such deceptive politics.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity secretary, Chudamani Mishra, states that Mr Bhutia should recall that in the state of West Bengal, where he spent most of his youth, even the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police are provided with pilot escorts and protection.

The release adds that government employees are appointed, trans-

ferred and promoted by the State Government in the interest of the people and to serve them. This was in response to HSP's allegations that the State Government was not looking out for the interest of government employees with the latest pay revision.

The release contends that the Sikkim Government has been addressing every issue and demand of the government employees in earnest and in the interest of the people.

The release adds that the State government has been providing the highest salaries and all possible benefits to its employees and expresses confidence that the SDF government will again address all issues of the employees by working on the recommendation of seventh pay commission of the country and the fifth pay commission of the State.



Horticulture-West conducts training under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan

GYALSHING, 11 JUN [IPR]: Under 'Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan', Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department conducted training on cultivation practices, nursery management and disease pest management on guava at Tashiding GPK in West

Sikkim. The programme successfully completed with the participation of 100 farmers and Panchayat members from the area. Farmers were instructed and directed by the officials of the H&CCDD headed by Deputy Director, Suren Gurung.

Anita Niraula to get Dr Shova Kanti Thegim Smriti Puraskar

contd from pg01

Bengal and published during the calendar years of 2014, 2015 and 2016 are eligible for the award for this year.

Born to Late Bir Bahadur Chettri and Late Muna Chettri on 11 Aug 1958 in Kurseong, Ms Niraula completed her schooling from St Joseph's School, Kurseong. Ms Niraula became a regular child artist of AIR Kurseong at the tender age of 06-07 years with her landing platform being the Radio's children's programme, "Baal Mela". She was also crowned Miss Kurseong in a beauty contest conducted by AIR Kurseong for girls upto the age of 15 years in the 60s.

Having pursued her higher education from Loreto College in Darjeeling and B.Ed. from Ramkrishna College, Darjeeling, Ms Niraula has also rendered services in Tashi Namgyal Higher Secondary School and later in Law Department, Government of Sikkim as translator. She resigned from the State Government and joined AIR Gangtok in 1989 as a newsreader under regular establishment where

she served till her superannuation in Aug 2017.

Over her assigned duties in AIR, her assistance was sought for by different organizers of literary, cultural and musical programmes for hosting the shows. One of her memorable roles include her anchor role in musical show, "Geet ani Geetangay", hosted by Cultural, Arts & Dramatist Organisation of Sikkim [CADOS], Gangtok from the 90s.

She also produced a 55-minute documentary film on PM 20 Point Programme in 1986 thus becoming the first woman documentary film producer in Sikkim.

Ms Niraula's book, "black n white Sikkim-maa Sangeethhitrakaa haru", was published in 2014 and is also the Dr Shova Kanti Thegim [Lepcha] Memorial Trust's award winning book of the year 2018.

She has been awarded with the Shobha Rai Bardewa Award for Investigative Journalism by Himalchuli Group of Industries, Sikkim in 2015 and has been felicitated by Press Club of Sikkim under "Women Achievers" in 2017.



Summer School participants visit Ravangla Horticulture Farm

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

The participants of Summer School 2018 visited Ravangla Horticulture Farm on Sunday. The participants who are mostly scientists and faculty members of State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes were received by Deputy Director, Horticulture Department, Karma Sherpa, inform a press release.

Mr. Sherpa showed the potato seed production, soilless vegetable nursery raising technology, large cardamom's tissue culture seedling multiplication technology, rainwater harvesting through dug-out pump, Cherry pepper (Dalley) organic agricultural practices to the participants.

The Ravangla Horticulture Farm is one of the oldest farms in the state covering 20 hectares of

land. Dr. Deepak Jhajharia, Course Director of Summer School, said the participants were happy to learn the organic practices in the state by the Agriculture department, as per the release.

The Summer School is being conducted on the theme 'Adaptation of Energy Efficient Agricultural Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation' from 04 June by CAEPHT.



SAVE LONGTSOK ASSOC ORGANIZES CLEANLINESS DRIVE

GANGTOK, 11 JUN: Members of Save Longtsok Association [SLA], Kabi, North Sikkim, conducted a massive cleanliness drive under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan from Bakcha to Kabi Longstok in North Sikkim, an SLA press release informs.

Chamling announces financial assistance for...

contd from pg01

"We must ensure protection of the income tax exemption to the SSC holders," he expressed.

He further informed about steps taken by the authorities to close down shops belonging to SSC holders but run by non-locals.

"We give three months' time so that shops being run on lease basis can clear all their dues and make all other arrangements and then leave the shops. We have also made a law for the villagers to carry out trade, contract works and jobs in their villages by themselves and not allow non-SSC holders to take such opportunities. We want the rule of villagers in the villages of Sikkim," he added.

He said that this year tourist flow

in the State was tremendous and thus more opportunities in the tourism sector will open but "we must be strictly against subletting of our hotels to people from outside".

The CM also informed that the state government is considering forming a women's company in the Sikkim Armed Police.

Talking about the health sector in the state, the Chief Minister stated that Sikkim was the first state to start Hepatitis B vaccination. He also encouraged health workers and Panchayats to work with strong determination in eliminating TB by 2022. He also said that the State Government provides free HPV vaccine for prevention against cervical cancer for girls and that we need to generate massive awareness about it.

During the course of the event, the CM sanctioned in principle all the demands placed by area MLA, DR Thapa, on behalf of the Upper Burtuk constituency including demand for financial assistance to paragliders who lose their lives or get injured while paragliding at Reshithang.

Following the same, the CM announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh in case of any accidental death of a paraglider and financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to injured paragliders.

Further, the CM also made other announcements including processing allotment of unused government lands to the Sukumbasis; new roads proposals to be all sanctioned and work upto Rs 2 crore to be handed over to Panchayats which will be distributed through open

SKM forms constituency level youth team for Melli

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

In continuation of its state-wide tour, a team of youth and press & publicity wing of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha interacted with party workers of Melli constituency in South Sikkim today.

During the meeting, a 79-member constituency-level youth team was formed and responsibilities distributed to them, informs an SKM press

release.

SKM vice-president, Birendra Tamling, during the meet, alleged that Sikkim Democratic Front has been misleading people over false issues, but SKM has been working to place correct and right perspective to the people.

He claimed that all policies, principles and programmes of SKM were aimed at placing facts and clearing issues with the people.

Assembly session was not in the interest of people of Sikkim: SPCC

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has asserted that various issues discussed in the two-day long assembly session on 08-09 Jun were not in the interest of people and Sikkimese society.

The party alleged that the proposals passed and amended during the assembly session have further misled the general people.

An SPCC press release from Sikkim-Cong president, Bharat Basnet, states that the Sherpa community has been fighting the election through BL seats, so there was no need for the leader of the House to again raise this issue.

New and amended Acts brought in the house have further confused the people and there was no need of such Acts, the release reiterates.



Training on ICS for organic farming in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Farmers of Gumpa Dara [Ward No 5] of Maneybung Gram Panchayat Unit and Buksam [Ward No 4] of Barasamdong Gram Panchayat Unit in West Sikkim participated in a daylong training and orientation programme organized by Mevedir on 08-11 Jun on Internal Control System [ICS] for Organic Farming.

Field Assistant of Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Sukraj Subba, and Ward Panchayat, Chunki Bhutia, were key resource persons for the

programme assisted by Mevedir Field Officers, Arpita Chettri and Ran Maya Rai, a press release informs.

The participants were informed about ICS and the key activities undertaken in the exercise. They were urged to attend meetings and awareness programmes in order to avail realistic crop data and farm information.

The resource persons informed the farmers on farm inspection checklist, maintenance of farm diaries and the importance of maintaining record of farm activities.

tender to the people belonging to the concerned Constituency only; various proposals for three waterfalls as tourist sites in Upper Burtuk Constituency were all sanctioned in principle; upgradation of Sichey Secondary School to Senior Secondary School; and, employment for non technical manpower in the upcoming hospital at Sichey to be filled in by local people of the area.

Keeping in view the noteworthy work of peons in the State Government, the CM also announced that they will be granted conveyance allowance.

The programme also saw the distribution of cheques to the youth/beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Start-Up Scheme to carry out the various entrepreneurship ventures.

Gangtok on Tuesday, 12 June

Temp: 26°C/16°C
Forecast: Cloudy, a shower or thunderstorm around.
Sunrise: 04:40 AM
Sunset: 6:31 PM

People of Sikkim and their well being is all that matters...

contd from pg01

them income tax exemption. He never thought of the government employees while he was playing football. Our employees know when and how the arrears should be given. He knows only how to play football."

Mr Chamling added, "He is playing politics for a Delhi team now. He is playing for Delhi and has two owners there. But I am not owned by an outsider. People of Sikkim are my owners and I only listen to them. Sikkimese people are what matters."

He urged the people, particularly the youth, to keep away from class divisions and live in communal harmony with feeling of brotherhood that the Sikkimese people are known for.

1st batch of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra flagged off...

contd from pg01

for preparatory work. Singh said this time two experienced liaison officers, who have better knowledge of routes and are able to take care of the elderly, will be with the pilgrims.

An applicant for Kailash Manasarovar Yatra requires to be in the age group 18-70 years.

Apart from the External Affairs ministry, the Home and Defence ministries as well as governments of Delhi and Sikkim also make arrangements for the pilgrimage.

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Srijana Samaj Samiti celebrates Gurudev's birthday at Rainbow Children's Home

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Srijana Samaj Samiti Sichey [SSSS] celebrated the birthday of His Holiness Tulku Nima Hoiser, known as Gurudev by his followers, with children of Rainbow Children's Home on 09 June at Ling-

dok, 8th Mile in East Sikkim.

An SSSS team, led by their president, Mani Kumar Gurung, donated bed-sheets, towels, shawls and eatables for the children and staff of the home.

On the occasion, vice-president, PK Lama, and secretary,

Deepak Lama, expressed their gratitude to Rev DB Gurung and Chandra Lekha Gurung for their sincere dedication and commitment for taking care of underprivileged children.

SSSS members Mamta Gurung, Permila Gurung and Bimal Chettri

also interacted with children.

Likewise, SSSS treasurer, Andrew Chettri, who is also an ex-student of this home, thanked the organisation for encouraging the management and children of the home by interacting with them.



Remanti Sangeet Academy plants saplings at Bulbuley

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Remanti Sangeet Academy [RSA], Gangtok today organized a sapling plantation programme at Smritivan in Bulbuley, Gangtok in the presence of Minister for Forest, Environment & Wildlife Department, TW Lepcha.

During the programme, 50 saplings were planted by RSA with the support of dignitaries and invitees present for the event along with RSA students and faculties, a press release informs.

The RSA also felicitated the Forest Minister, Mr Lepcha and architect, Kiran Rasaily.

Chujachen FC beats JVC Singtam in C-Division league



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Chujachen Football Club outplayed JVC Football Club, Singtam, today in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. Chujachen FC

registered a 5-3 victory.

Earlier, on 10 June, Young Orchid registered an easy victory by thrashing Sumin Football Club 10-01.

Sikkim Boys Football Club will now take on Dzongri Football Club in another match in the league on 12 June.

SPNS conducts Philatelic and Numismatic workshop at TNA



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Sikkim Philatelic and Numismatic Society [SPNS] organised a Philatelic and Numismatic Workshop at Tashi Namgyal Academy in Gangtok on 09 Jun. With philatelic and numismatic materials displayed for the students, TNA has become the first school in Sikkim to set up a Philatelic and Numismatic Club, a press release informs.

A PowerPoint presentation on philately was explained by SPNS member, Vivek Yonzon, while another SPNS member, Vikrant Yonzon, conducted the Numismatic Workshop.

President, SPNS, Ganesh Pradhan, congratulated TNA for coming up with the hobby club for students. He thanked Director cum Principal, TNA, retired Major VK Pillai, for initiating the

club.

Secretary, SPNS, Shital Pradhan, while speaking on the occasion appealed to the students to appreciate the beauty of the hobby and pursue it with sincerity and dedication.

"Philatelic and Numismatic hobbies if done in a proper way can give you name, fame and above all knowledge of the world around," he added.

International Medalist on Philately, Roshan Prasad, informed about the launch of Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana scholarship scheme by the Department of Posts, Government of India that awards children in the class category of Standard VI-IX.

From TNA, teachers involved in the stamp club included Parbati Basnett, Kelsang Wangmoo, Nirmala Pradhan and Adwina Gurung.

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RSB flags off 106 Sikkimese boys for basic military training

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUN:

Rajya Sainik Board, Sikkim organized a flag off ceremony at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok today for 106 Sikkimese youth who have been selected to join the Indian Army. The selected boys will move forward towards Siliguri on onward dispatch to 11 GRRC Luc-

know under the arrangement of Director, Army Recruitment Organisation [ARO], Siliguri. They will be undergoing basic military training at Gorkha Training Centre in Lucknow, a press release informs.

The flag off ceremony was presided over by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, who in his

address said that the increasing number of young people from the State joining the Indian Armed Forces is a good sign and that it helps in exploring opportunities while contributing in national integration.

During the programme, the Chief Secretary also felicitated ARO

Director, Colonel Om Prakash Sharma, with Letter of Appreciation for his meritorious service and contributions to the State of Sikkim.

It may be recalled here, 109 young boys were dispatched for military training on 07 Jan earlier this year from TNA ground.

You can contact Summit TIMES @ 03592-208698



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The sale of admission form and prospectus w.e.f 11th June 2018 and closes on 10th July 2018. Admission will be purely on merit cum reservation basis. The Last date of Application submission is on 10th July 2018, the date of viva-voce is on 12th July 2018 and Counselling is on 14th July 2018 in respective Institute. The interested candidates are requested to collect the form and other details to avail the training opportunity from the respective Institute.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Save the Young from Boredom

Give them a hobby to pursue

The summer break for government schools is round the corner. Since this is also when the skies will open up in earnest, most of the students will be stuck indoors even when they step out (yes, that happens too). When the weather grows inclement, net connectivity drops as well and in that situation, the smartphones are not very smart either. Boredom then becomes a real condition. Also, the fact that Sikkim has an addiction problem is no secret. The daily march of “drug” hauls and arrests under the Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act make that more than amply clear. For those who don’t waste their time with newspapers, a visit to any of the schools in the State, and an honest conversation with the heads of the institutions will bring home the reality of how desperate the situation with alcohol and contraband substances has become here. Agreed, there are earnest interventions like the SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) programme underway and the clutch of people working with detoxification and rehabilitation now qualify for a medal for the service they are rendering the State. The problem, however, is neither showing any signs of abating, nor is the State anywhere close to figuring out a proper rehabilitation model under which sobriety, in the very least, is reciprocated with proper assimilation back into society.

Speak to students involved in outreach programmes and those who have counseled friends and peers away from addiction, and it becomes clear that ennui is among the leading causes of addiction. The amount of boredom we put our young through is criminal. They rarely go to exciting schools, only occasionally have inspiring classes and are rarely offered challenging tasks. Yes, problems at home, peer pressure and ease of access are also factors, but these play supporting roles in the drama of substance abuse which has tedious monotony as the main villain. And this boredom is not only distracting the young towards substances that make their “leisure” hours “fun”, but is also making more of them disinterested and lacking in passion. A worrying trend noticeable among the young is their increasing resistance to get excited about anything. This, in an age-group which was until recently accused of being easily excitable, is a big worry. And the only way to wean them away from the stupor of their times, is to give them engagements which get them excited, which encourage them to share and feel proud about their progress. Yes, sports delivers on this account as well, but a more inclusive exercise would be giving them hobbies because that demands only passion and interest, is accessible to all, at all times. A group of passionate hobbyists held a mega event in Singtam at around this time last year to celebrate their collections with a wider audience. Students had turned up in large numbers, and one could sense awe in their eyes and excitement in their voices as they took in the wonder of what, let’s accept it, are old fashioned hobbies, like philately and numismatics. The brought a similar exhibition to TNA in Gangtok recently to much the same response from students. They were excited.

Now, let’s look around – what are the hobbies of the new generation?

Returning to the problem of addiction and the rehabilitation of those who have gone clean, a common refrain from all of them was that the challenge of staying clean and helping their peers stay clean say them through the most difficult earlier days and made completion of their rehab courses possible. Things fall apart for them the moment they return to the “normal” settings of their everyday lives without the armour of whatever drug or addiction it is that reinforced them earlier. Their self-confidence wobbles and they find themselves somehow inadequate. Yes, giving them skills will help them, but giving them a hobby they are passionate about and keep growing in will give them confidence, provide them the self-esteem boost they need to assimilate back into society. Ditto for schools. Give the young real hobbies, photography for instance or real training in painting or pottery and even carpentry, support them, see them use their time better, and then watch a generation stay away from drugs. Yes, it could be as simple as that...

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Trump’s relentless lies demand we make truth-telling great again

HENRY GIROUX
theconversation.com

U.S. President Donald Trump is a serial liar who appears to exult, if not take pride, in every petty deceit, particularly if it casts him into the glare of publicity.

With Trump preparing to meet with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un in Singapore in a highly anticipated summit this week, it’s worth a reminder: Not unlike Kim, Trump lies to hide the brutality of his cruel policies. He lies to discredit reliable sources of information and to discredit those public institutions that educate a public to create informed citizens who are able to distinguish between the truth and falsehoods.

He will lie about the summit. He can’t help himself.

The Washington Post reports that in his first 466 days in office, Trump has made more than “3,001 false or misleading statements,” averaging “about nine claims a day.”

Trump has lied, along with a tsunami of other fabrications, about former president Barack Obama’s birthplace, he’s made false claims about why he did not win the popular vote, he’s stated he knew nothing about payments prior to his election to the porn star Stormy Daniels, and he’s wrongly declared that the U.S. is the highest taxed nation in the world.

Most recently, the New York Times reported that Trump’s lawyers have admitted that the president drafted a misleading statement about a meeting his son had with a lawyer associated with the Kremlin in Trump Tower, though for months he denied it.

He has falsely claimed 72 times that he passed the biggest tax cut in history; incorrectly states that he has eliminated Obamacare; and fallaciously argues that the Democrats were responsible for eliminating DACA (the Deferred Action for Child arrivals that he terminated).

‘THE TRUTH IS DANGEROUS’

In Trump’s Orwellian world, the truth is dangerous, thinking is a liability, and the sanctity of free speech is treated with disdain, if not the threat of censorship.

Trump uses an endless stream of tweets in which the truth is distorted for ideological, political or commercial reasons. Under the Trump administration, lying and the spectacle of fakery have become an industry

and tool of power.

All administrations and governments lie at times, but under Trump, lying has become normalized, a calling card for corruption and lawlessness that provides the foundation for authoritarianism.

As in any dictatorship, the Trump regime dismisses words, concepts and news sources that address crucial social problems such as climate change, police violence and corporate malfeasance.

In Trump’s dystopian world, words such as a “nation of immigrants,” “transgender,” “fetus,” “diversity,” “entitlement,” “climate change,” “democratic,” “peaceful,” “just” and “vulnerable” disappear into a “memory hole.” Under the Trump regime, language has become a political tool and operates in the service of violence, unchecked power and lawlessness.

For Trump, lying has become a toxic policy for legitimizing ignorance and civic illiteracy. Not only does he



relish lying repeatedly, he has also attacked the critical media, claimed journalists are enemies of the American people and argued that the media is the opposition party. His rallying cry, “fake news,” is used to dismiss any critic or criticism of his policies, however misleading, wrong or dangerous they are.

FACTS ARE ERASED

There is more at stake here than the threat of censorship, there is also an attack on traditional sources of information and the public spheres that produce them. Trump’s government has become a powerful disinformation and distraction machine in which the distinction between fact and fiction, reality and fantasy are erased.

Under Trump, language operates in the service of civic violence because it infantilizes and depoliticizes the wider public, creating what Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl has called, in a different context, “the mask of nihilism.”

Trump’s attacks on any criticism of his policies and the truth go far beyond the public deploying of personal insults. In the case of his attack on the

FBI and Department of Justice, his penchant for relentless lying constitutes both a possible obstruction of justice and an egregious attempt to discredit criticism and corrode democracy.

What happens when a government excludes language that addresses social problems, provides resources for the vulnerable and dismisses all information related to climate change?

REMINISCENT OF BOOK-BURNING Trump’s politics of erasure is more than a page out of the dystopian novels of George Orwell or Ray Bradbury, it is also echoes an earlier historical period when censorship and book burning was the currency of fascist regimes. As American historian Karen J. Greenberg warns, the suppression of language opens the doorway to fascism.

The president’s fabricating Twitter machine is about more than lying, it is also about using all of the tools and resources to create a dystopia in which authoritarianism emerges through the raw power of ignorance, control and police-state repression.

Of course, Trump does not lie in isolation. He is encouraged by a right-wing disimagination machine that American sociologist

Todd Gitlin rightly calls “an interlocking ecology of falsification that has driven the country around the bend” and into the abyss of authoritarianism.

Trump’s endless fabrications echo the propaganda machines made famous in the fascist regimes of the 1930s. He values loyalty over integrity, and he lies in part to test the loyalty of those who both follow him and align themselves with his power.

Trump’s lying must be understood within a broader attack on the fundamentals of education and democracy itself. This is especially important at a time when the U.S. is no longer a functioning democracy and is in the presence of what sociologists Leonidas Donskis and the late Zygmunt Bauman referred to as a form “of modern barbarity.”

‘CIVIC ILLITERACY’

Trump’s lying undermines the public’s grip on language, evidence, facts and informed judgement, and in doing so promotes a form of civic illiteracy in which words and meaning no longer matter. Depriving the public of the capacity for critical analysis and discerning the truth from lies does more than

empty politics of any meaning, it also undermines democracy.

As ethics wither, people become prisoners of their own experiences, indifferent to an ignorance and brutishness in which they become complicit.

As the theatre of lies, insults, and childish petulance triumphs over measured arguments, a world emerges in which the only real choices are among competing fictions — a world in which nothing is true and everything begins to look like a lie.

If the spirit and promise of a sustainable democracy is to survive, it’s crucial to make truth-telling virtuous again. If we are going to fight for and with the powerless, we have to understand their needs, speak to and with them in a language that is mutually understandable as well as honest.

There is also a need to reinvent politics through alternative narratives in which the American public can both identify themselves and the conditions through which power and oppression bear down on their lives.

This is not an easy task, but nothing less than justice, democracy and the planet itself are at risk.

Authoritarianism creates a predatory class of unethical zombies who produce dead zones of the imagination that even Orwell could not have envisioned, while using an unchecked language of lying to wage a fierce fight against the possibilities of a democratic future.

The time has come for progressives and others to develop a political language in which civic values, social responsibility and the institutions that support them become central to invigorating and fortifying a new era of civic imagination.

There must be a renewed sense of social agency, and an impassioned international social movement with a vision, organization and set of strategies to challenge the dystopian nightmare engulfing the United States, and a growing number of illiberal democracies all over the globe.

Pablo Neruda, the great Chilean poet, wrote after Franco destroyed the Spanish Republic: “I swear to defend until my death what has been murdered in Spain: The right to happiness.”

This tribute to justice, the public imagination, dignity and the right to be free from the curse of those who use their power to lie and malign the crucial institutions of democracy must once again be defended in the spirit of urgency and the “right to happiness” — not to mention the right to truth.

[the writer is Chaired professor for Scholarship in the Public Interest in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University]

The world’s economic crisis-fighting mechanisms are dangerously inadequate

ADAM TRIGGS
theconversation.com

It was only in January that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was celebrating the strength of the global economy, heralding “the broadest synchronised global growth upsurge since 2010”.

How quickly things have changed.

Argentina has since sought a bailout from the IMF, Turkey is facing a potential currency crisis, Indonesia is seeing investors flee, alarm bells are sounding for Italy and Spain, China’s debt remains a serious concern, and the only thing more uncertain than the fallout from Brexit is the outcome of Donald Trump’s trade war.

It’s time to review the world’s capacity to respond to crises.

The “global financial safety net” refers to the mishmash of global, regional and bilateral institutions and mechanisms designed to help countries facing economic and financial crises and to prevent these problems from spreading.

The most well-known institution is the IMF, which has around US\$1 trillion in crisis-fighting resources. The World Bank, with around US\$263 billion, has provided assistance in previous crises.



There is also a range of regional mechanisms, such as Asia’s Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation agreement (with US\$240 billion) and the European Stability Mechanism (with US\$600 billion). Bilateral currency swap arrangements, under which one country’s central bank can exchange its currency for that of another, are also an important part of the safety net.

Make no mistake, the safety net is big. In total it has about US\$4.6 trillion in crisis-fighting firepower, seven times what it was in 1980. But this large number can be misleading and, as I argue in a recent working paper at Brookings, is both inadequate and causing a dangerous sense of complacency.

First, not all of this money is immediately

available. Some of it is tied up in existing programs (such as in Greece) and central bank governors interviewed for my research (including former US Federal Reserve chairs Janet Yellen and Ben Bernanke, and current Reserve Bank of Australia governor Philip Lowe) warned that many currency swap lines would not be made available during a crisis. This shrinks the safety net to US\$2.5 trillion.

Second, not all resources are available to all countries. The European Stability Mechanism won’t help you if you live in Latin America. And if your country wasn’t offered a swap line with a major central bank, well, that’s tough luck.

The size of the safety net depends entirely on the country. It is twice as large for some G20 countries as for others, or four times as large if you include foreign exchange reserves (which are more accurately described as domestic resources rather than part of the global safety net).

This fragmentation has made the safety net patchier, slower and less consistent, making crises

turn to 05

Curfew extended in Shillong for a few more days: Top official

SHILLONG, JUNE 11 (PTI): The Meghalaya government today decided to extend night curfew in the violence-hit Meghalaya capital by "a few more days" and promised to review its decision to suspend Internet services after 24 hours, a top district official said here today.

Curfew would be enforced from 6 pm today to 7 am tomorrow in the 14 "vulnerable" areas and 9 pm to 5 am in other parts of Shillong, he said.

"The government does not want to take chances. The home department today reviewed the situation in the state capital and decided to extend night curfew for a few more days," East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioner P S Dkhar said.

The internet facilities would also remain suspended for at least another 24 hours, he said.

A home department official said security forces would continue to keep vigil on the city until the situation returns to normal.

At present, 15 companies of central armed police forces, six companies of state's special riot police and two battalions of the state police are deployed across the city to prevent any untoward situation, he added.

Shillong came in the grip of violence on May 31 following clashes between the Khasis and the Sikhs in the city's Punjabi Lane area, also known as the Sweeper Colony.

Tension soon spread to other areas of the city, forcing the administration to impose curfew as a security measure.

Assam lynching: 19 arrests, search operation continues

GUWAHATI, JUN 11 (PTI): With three more arrests, the police have so far taken 19 persons in custody in connection with the lynching of two men in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, a police spokesman said today.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Mukesh Agarwala is monitoring the situation on the spot and also search operations by security forces, he said.

Besides the 19 in custody, 13 other persons have been arrested for posting hate messages and objectionable posts on social media in different districts of the state.



While two persons have been arrested in Bishwanath Chariali, three each have been arrested in Nagaon and Sonitpur districts, two in Darrang and one each in

Dibrugarh, Kamrup (Metro), Dibrugarh, he said.

Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia old reporters yesterday that the state police was closely monitoring social

media with ADGP (Security) Harmeet Singh given the charge to keep strict vigil on rumours on social media.

The DGP had also appealed to the people not to

get swayed by rumours on social media and immediately inform police if they come across such posts.

Two friends - Nilotpal Das and Abhijeet Nath - had gone to the picnic spot of Kangthilangso in Karbi Anglong on Friday and while returning, their vehicle was stopped at Panjuri in the night by a group of villagers who pulled them out and lynched them on the suspicion of being child lifters.

Both Das and Nath, according to a video circulated on social media, pleaded that they were not child lifters, but were Assamese visiting Karbi Anglong district.

Awareness on Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse in Darjeeling

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 11 JUN.

Awareness on Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse was conducted at the Worship Centre here to spread awareness among people.

The program was organized under the "Mukti" project, by the Kalimpong Police in association with MARG, a Darjeeling based organization.

An 'interactive session' was conducted, involving the audience which included students and the police officers, they were taught to indicate the sexual predator, and encouraged to 'voice it out' in public when they come across such situations in everyday life.

'Human Trafficking is the illegal practice of procuring human beings, irrespective of their gender, in physically abusive settings and locations from which they are not allowed to escape,' said

Nirnay John Chettri, the General Secretary of MARG [Mankind in Action for Rural Growth].

This illegal practice occurs due to lack of education, lack of knowledge about migration, lack of employment in one's own region, for "quick cash", demonstration effect, and influence of big cities, illegal placement agencies, and poverty, added Mr Chettri.

However, social evils like child labor and beggary, commercial sexual exploitation, illegal and forced marriage, organ transplant and forced surrogacy for children, are some reasons for the purpose of which human trafficking takes place.

The victims of human trafficking are usually tempted and attracted by false promises, fraud working schemes, while some are even threatened and forced. Many people are the victims of

fraud working schemes through illegal placement and recruiting agencies.

Meanwhile, in a presentation showed by MARG, it was learnt that the legal agencies that work for the employment opportunities within India are known as "Placement Agencies", and outside India they are known as "Recruiting Agencies".

"Emigration Act of 1983 mentions that the legal Recruiting Agencies, should and must be registered with the Home of Ministry and has to de-

posit a saving of Rs35-40 lakh. The Protector of Emigration would then provide a legal letter to the Agency, which then has to provide only "work visa" and not tourist visa. The Recruiting Agency should also possess the relevant Demand Letter and Power of Attorney from Foreign Employer for whom he is recruiting manpower," said Nirnay John Chettri.

MARG has been working with Kalimpong Police Association since 2012, and has conducted many awareness programs and looks forward

to working with more Civic and Village police officers, it was learnt.

Kalimpong Police on the other hand has been working on such issues to create more awareness among people, said the SP, Dhurva Jyoti De.

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The world's economic crisis-fighting...

contd from pg04

costlier. Many countries have fallen between the cracks, particularly emerging economies such as Turkey and Argentina, which don't have strong institutions or resilient capital markets like the ones operating in the United States, Canada or Australia.

Recent research has sought to assess the safety net's adequacy by exploring what crises might occur in the future. But instead of trying to predict these things, I pose a simple question: can the safety net provide at least the same level of support today that has been required of it in the past?

To find out, I war-gamed three regional crises – the Asian financial crisis, the European debt crisis and the Latin American debt crisis – and six country-specific crises in Argentina, Turkey, Ecuador, Russia, Mexico and Chile. While financial systems are more resilient today than they were back then, my analysis produced some alarming results.

While the safety net works well for country-specific crises, it struggles to cope with widespread shocks. Providing the same level of support today that was provided during the Asian financial crisis would exhaust all currency swap lines, all regional mechanisms, all regional development banks and the entire World Bank, and would require exceptional access to the IMF's resources. If the European debt crisis occurred today, the entire global financial safety net would be exhausted.

Second, most crises now require access to multiple components of the safety net. The IMF is no longer capable of providing assistance alone.

Countries increasingly rely on regional mechanisms which, in Asia, have never been tested and, in Latin America, are small.

Third, despite the growth in non-global resources, countries often still have to go to the IMF. This means there must be seamless co-ordination of multiple institutions during a crisis, something the IMF warns (and recent history shows) is a "very strong assumption".

Finally, most of these results hold even when foreign exchange reserves are included. There are also many alarming developments on the horizon. Foreign exchange reserves are declining, particularly in China, and the IMF's resources will halve by 2022 unless the US Congress approves extra funding and countries like China agree to reloan the IMF money, despite getting no additional voting power. The 63 policymakers I interviewed suggest that neither is likely.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

In the short term, countries must to bolster the IMF's temporary resources and strengthen co-operation between safety-net institutions. Central banks must clarify whether swap lines are available in a crisis and, where possible, extend them to cover more economies.

In the long term, the IMF's centrality in the safety net must be reaffirmed. It needs larger, permanent funding and more flexible lending arrangements.

The lead-up to the 2008 crisis was characterised by a dangerous sense of complacency. That complacency should not be allowed to take hold again.

[the writer is Research fellow, Australian National University]



Last stand for stars of Spain’s golden generation

MADRID, JUN 11 (AP): After recent struggles at major tournaments, the remaining stars of Spain’s golden generation could be facing a last stand at the World Cup.

Winning two European Championships and a first World Cup, the Spanish were unstoppable from 2008 to 2012.

But they began to falter at the 2014 World Cup, failing to advance from the group stage, and were eliminated from Euro 2016 in the round of 16. There were doubts new coach Julen Lopetegui could even secure qualification for this year’s World Cup before Spain cruised through a group that included Italy.

Lopetegui successfully blended emerging talent with the experience provided by veterans to qualify for an 11th straight World Cup.

Here’s a closer look at the Spain team:

COACH

Lopetegui was chosen as Vicente Del Bosque’s successor in 2016 after winning trophies of his own with Spain - at the under-19 and under-21 editions of the European Championships.

But the former goalkeeper’s experience coaching at the top level



was limited to a couple of lackluster seasons with Porto.

The critics who questioned Lopetegui’s credentials were silenced when the mild-mannered coach took Spain on a 19-game unbeaten run.

GOALKEEPERS

Calls for the return of Iker Casillas were quickly subdued as David de Gea impressed with Manchester United and the national team.

Casillas was relegated to the bench for the first time at Euro 2016 and was left out of the squad altogether for Russia.

Lopetegui picked Athletic Bilbao’s Kepa Arrizabalaga and Napoli’s Pepe Reina as the reserve goalkeepers.

DEFENDERS

This is likely to be the last World Cup for Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique, whose central defensive

partnership formed the bedrock of successes in major tournaments.

The 31-year-old Pique plans to stop playing for Spain after the World Cup, and there is a chance the 32-year-old Ramos will join him in international retirement.

They have been playing together in Spain’s defense since the 2010 World Cup, when Ramos still played at right back.

Completing the back line will

be Jordi Alba, Pique’s teammate at Barcelona, on the left and Dani Carvajal, Ramos’ teammate at Madrid, on the right.

MIDFIELDERS

Andres Iniesta will be 34 when the World Cup starts and it’s likely to mark the masterful playmaker’s farewell to the international stage.

With impeccable passes and smart ball control, Iniesta continues to control the midfield just as

he did while winning three major tournaments. Only his physical condition is a concern as age catches up with the player who scored the winning goal in the 2010 World Cup final against the Netherlands.

Sergio Busquets, Thiago Alcantara and Jorge “Koke” Resurreccion are assured of places in the squad for Russia, and the attacking midfielders will include Francisco “Isco” Alarcon, Marco Asensio, Saul Niguez and David Silva.

FORWARDS

Lopetegui had doubts over his strikers, calling up 10 different players in the position in two years.

Atletico Madrid’s Diego Costa, Celta Vigo’s Iago Aspas and Valencia’s Rodrigo made the 23-man squad, while Chelsea’s Alvaro Morata was dropped.

Napoli’s Jose Callejon and Atletico’s Victor “Vitolo” Machin also won’t make it to Russia.

GROUP GAMES

Spain, which will be based in Krasnodar, opens against European champion Portugal on June 15. The team will then face Iran on June 20 and finish the group stage against Morocco on June 25.



Messi says Argentina future depends on World Cup

BRONNITSY (RUSSIA), JUN 11 (AFP): Argentina captain Lionel Messi said his international future will be determined by his country’s performance at the World Cup in Russia.

“It will depend on how far we go, how we’re going to finish” at the finals, Messi said in an interview with Spanish daily Sport.

“We’ve just lost three finals in a row, which has led to us going through some difficult moments with the press,” added the Barcelona forward.

“Notably with the Argentine press because we have differences of opinion over what it means to make these three finals.” Argentina lost the 2014 World Cup final

1-0 to Germany after extra time, before suffering successive defeats by Chile on penalties at the Copa America in 2015 and 2016.

Messi, who will turn 31 during the World Cup, believes Spain, Brazil, Germany, France and Belgium are the leading contenders for the title.

“There are lots of teams who arrive with lots of confidence, with both a team game and individual talents,” said the five-time world player of the year.

Argentina launch their World Cup campaign against Iceland on Saturday in Moscow, with games to follow against Croatia and Nigeria in Group D.

Team India showed character and resilience: Constantine

MUMBAI, JUN 11 (PTI): The Indian football team showed a lot of character and resilience in its title-winning Intercontinental Cup campaign and the attitude would be crucial to ensuring that the country doesn’t just make up the numbers in next year’s AFC Asian Cup, feels national coach Stephane Constantine.

“We know we have a huge task going to the Asian Cup. (We are) not going to make up the numbers, we believe that if we do the right things between now and then, we believe that we have a chance to qualify from the group and that will be our target,” Constantine said after India beat Kenya 2-0 in the final last night.

The Asian Cup will be played in the UAE, next January. India are clubbed with UAE, Bahrain and Thailand.

“This tournament gave us the opportunity to prepare as we would prepare in the Asian Cup. (If) we make it to the last 16 of the Asia Cup, these are the kind of games that we expect. The character and resilience of the team is what impressed me the most (in the final),” he added.

Lavishing praise on talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri, who scored both of India’s goals last night, and goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Constantine said the two players hardly ever need to be told what the situation demands of them.

“Sunil and Gurpreet (Singh Sandhu) are two (members) of the squad, they will tell you



themselves, they can tell what they do. Sunil is unbelievably fit, looks after himself, completely professional on and off the pitch, and that is why he is able to maintain the level of fitness that he has,” Constantine explained.

Throwing some light on Chhetri’s level of dedication, Constantine said the tournament’s highest goal-scorer is dismissive of any suggestion of taking rest.

Chhetri achieved a massive career milestone with last night’s brace as he equalled Argentine superstar Lionel Messi’s tally of international goals.

“It is not easy, but he is looking after himself and as long as he is able to do that, he is able to do the work. We need him in the Asian Cup.

“I can’t protect him from club football, but I didn’t want to play

him in the third game. But he starts mourning, so ok (I played him),” Constantine said.

Reflecting on last night’s performance, Constantine said the Kenyans had an upperhand in the second half.

“(In the) second half Kenya put a lot of pressure on us, I really appreciate the work that the boys did and in the end we deserved this (the title). This is our success, just not me and the boys, but everybody,” Constantine said.

Asked which part of the victory was more special, the Englishman quipped, “2-0.”

“The work rate was phenomenal specially in the second half when we were tired and the Kenyan showed how tough they are because they played two days ago and were still able to

put pressure on us,” he noted.

The coach revealed that there will “definitely be two warm-up games before the Asian Cup, sometime in December.”

“We will be looking to play 28-29 (December), about a week before our first game (in the AFC Asian Cup on January 6). I can’t tell you the opponents but I am working on it.

“November we are close with an away game in Saudi (Arabia), but again this is not a 100 per cent, but it is close. October we have one or two possibilities.

“September there is the SAAF tournament. And in a month’s time we start preparation for the Asian Games and thank you to the Olympic Committee for allowing us to go. We need those games and exposure,” he said.



Uruguay striker Suarez seeking redemption

MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY), JUN 11 (AP): Uruguay’s priority will be keeping Luiz Suarez tamed at this World Cup.

After the striker was expelled from the 2014 tournament in disgrace for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini, Uruguay was eliminated by Colombia in the round of 16.

Suarez promises he is a reformed character and will be better behaved in Russia than in Brazil, where he scored twice before being banned.

“It was my mistake,” Suarez said. “So I have a debt to repay to myself and Uruguay, to try to show a good image.” Things were already starting to look brighter for two-time World Cup champion Uruguay, based on qualifying at least.

After enduring four consecutive World Cup playoffs and only reaching three of the tournaments, Uruguay secured an automatic place in Russia by finishing second behind Brazil in qualifying.

Football referees watching slow motion videos flash more red cards: Study

LONDON, JUN 11 (PTI): Football referees penalise players more severely when watching the action in slow motion compared to real time, according to a study. This is the first time that the impact of slow motion video on decision making has been studied in sports referees and it is timely given the current debate on video assistant refereeing (VAR), which will be used in the World Cup in Russia.

Researchers from the University of Leuven in Belgium studied the response of 88 elite football referees to video clips of a foul warranting a yellow card.

They found no significant difference in the accuracy of a referee’s decision about whether a foul had occurred or not, with slow-motion videos (63 per cent accurate) compared to the real-time videos (61 per cent accurate).

However, the judgement of intention or force behind a foul differed. More red cards were given by referees watching in slow motion compared to those watching real time video playbacks.

“Our results suggest that slow motion can increase the severity of a judgement of intention, making the difference between perceiving an action as careless (no card), reckless (yellow card) or with excessive



force (red card),” said Jochim Spitz, a professor at the University of Leuven.

“The finding that referees were more likely to make more severe decisions fol-

lowing slow motion replays, is an important consideration for developing guidelines for the implementation of VAR in football leagues worldwide,” Spitz said.

The study, published in the journal Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications, concluded that although slow motion playback could be a useful tool

in assessing some decisions, such as offside and determining the exact impact of a contact, it may not be the best tool for decisions that involve judging human behaviour and intention.

“Slow motion video may make it clearer who initiated a foul, whether there actually was contact and whether a foul occurred either inside or outside the penalty area,” Spitz said.

“However, judging human emotion, like intentionality is quite another story. It is also the reason why slow motion footage cannot be used anymore in the court room as it increases the perceived intent,” he said.

To investigate the impact of viewing speeds on decisions made by referees, the researchers showed 88 elite football referees from five European countries 60 video clips of foul situations from football matches in real time or slow motion.

Two independent ex-international referees that are currently acting as refereeing experts determined the correct decisions as a point of reference and then the referees who took part in the study categorised the fouls as they would in a real match by awarding a yellow card, a red card or no card.

Modi, Xi agreed to cherish, implement Wuhan consensus: China

BEIJING, JUN 11 (PTI): China today presented an upbeat picture of the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at Qingdao, saying they agreed to "cherish" the "positive momentum" generated by their Wuhan meeting and implement the "important consensus" reached at the summit.

Modi and Xi on June 9 held talks on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the port city of Qingdao. The meeting covered key aspects of the bilateral engagement, reflecting the resolve by the two countries to reset relations and bring back trust in their ties, hit by the Doklam standoff and several other thorny issues.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang during a media briefing here today said,



"The two leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interests. They also reached important consensus."

"Both leaders believe that their informal summit in Wuhan played a positive role in moving forward the bilateral cooperation," he said, responding a question on Modi-Xi

meeting on the sidelines of the just-concluded Qingdao summit of the SCO.

"They agreed that that the positive momentum should be cherished and they should implement the consensus reached in Wuhan," Geng said.

They agreed to implement the

consensus in areas of strategic communication and expanding people to people cooperation and move forward bilateral ties, he said.

The meeting was held in cordial atmosphere just like the Wuhan informal summit and it will surely contribute to the sound development of bilateral ties, he said.

The two sides also agreed to have high-level exchanges, formulate new trade goals and establish high-level people to people exchanges led by the two foreign ministries, he said.

Geng highlighted India's decision to expedite approval procedures for the Bank of China's request to set up a branch in Mumbai and agreements on exporting India's rice to China and sharing of hydrological data by Beijing with New Delhi.

During the meeting, Xi and Modi agreed to hold the next informal summit in India next year besides resolving to continue efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity along the border.

On the outcome of the SCO summit, Geng said it "breathed new life to the Shanghai spirit, which is mutual respect which is mutual benefit, equality consultation, respect for diverse civilisations and pursuit of common development."

In the past 17 years the SCO has been growing. This is attributed in the final analysis to the fact that the Shanghai spirit transcended the outdated concepts of clash of civilisations, cold war the mindset. SCO pursues no isolated and exclusive clubs," he said.

The summit has established new action plan. The Leaders signed and approved 17 docu-

ments, six cooperation documents, more than any previous summits of the SCO, Geng said.

The summit also achieved concrete outcomes and made plans for promoting good neighbourliness and friendship, combating three evil forces of separatism, extremism and terrorism, he said.

"To implement this consensus is our priority task for the next phase. As founding member China regards SCO as a priority of its diplomacy. We will work with all member states to implement this consensus and make the SCO more efficient and more stronger and with brighter prospects," he said.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its members last year.

Trump accuses India of charging 100 per cent tariff on some imports

WASHINGTON, JUN 11 (PTI): President Donald Trump has taken a swipe at India along with the world's other top economies and accused New Delhi of charging 100 per cent tariff on some of the US' goods, as he threatened to cut trade ties with countries who are robbing America.

Trump made the remarks in Canada's Quebec City where he was attending the G7 summit that ended in farce after he abruptly rejected the text of a consensus statement and bitterly insulted the host.

"We're like the piggybank that everybody is robbing," Trump said while addressing a press conference on Saturday.

He also made a reference to India, indicating that his grievances on tariffs was not restricted to the developed economies alone.

"This isn't just G7. I mean, we have India, where some of the tariffs are 100 per cent. A hundred per cent. And we charge nothing. We can't do that. And so we are talking to many countries," Trump said.

Trump has repeatedly raked up the issue of India imposing high import duty on the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles and threatened to increase the import tariff on "thousands and thousands" of Indian motorcycles to the US.

"We're talking to all countries. And it's going to stop. Or we'll stop trading with them. And that's a very profitable answer, if we have to do it," Trump warned before leaving Canada for Singapore where he is scheduled to hold a much publicised summit with North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un tomorrow.

His remarks came at a time when the India-US relationship has been on a positive trajectory for years. For example, bilateral trade expanded by USD 11 billion last year to more than USD 125 billion, a new record. Trump called for a tariff-free G-7. "That's the way it should be. No tariffs, no barriers. That's the way it should be," he said. "And no subsidies. I even said no tariffs," he said.



At least 12 people were killed and 31 wounded when a suicide attacker blew himself up outside a government ministry in Kabul today, officials said, as employees were leaving their offices early for Ramadan. Health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh gave the latest toll for the attack at the main gate of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

US offers 'unique' security guarantees to N Korea if it accepts complete denuclearisation

SINGAPORE, JUN 11 (PTI): The US today offered "unique" security guarantees to North Korea if it accepts a "complete, verifiable and irreversible" denuclearisation as the two sides made progress in their talks ahead of a much-publicised historic summit between President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un here.

On the eve of the summit at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island, Trump hoped that a "nice" outcome could be reached from what he said would be a "very interesting meeting" with Kim tomorrow.

Later, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that the preparatory talks were "moving quite rapidly" and he expected them to reach what he called "a logical conclusion" even earlier than the US anticipated.

"A complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of North Korea is the only outcome that the US will accept at the summit," Pompeo told reporters at a press conference.

He said the US is willing to offer North Korea "unique" security guarantees that are "fundamentally different from before" to achieve denuclearisation.

"We will take actions to provide them sufficient certainty that they can be comfortable that denuclearisation is not something that ends badly for them," Pompeo said.

However, sanctions on North Korea will remain until that has been achieved, he said.

"President Trump believes that Kim has an unprecedented opportunity to change the trajectory of our relationship and bring peace and prosperity to his country," Pompeo said.

"The fact that our two leaders are sitting down face-to-face is a sign of the enormous potential to accomplish something that will immensely benefit both of our peoples and the entire world," he said.

He said previous American administrations have been duped by North Korea but the Trump Administration has got experts on non-proliferation and Weapons of Mass Destruction on the ground to verify Pyongyang's willingness to denuclearise.

Pompeo said President Trump is fully prepared for the meeting with Kim.

National Security Council spokesman Robert Palladino said President Trump in-



tends to meet one on one with Kim. "We can expect a one on one at the beginning," Palladino said.

The diplomats from the two sides are engaged in hectic parleys behind closed doors to narrow their differences.

Sung Kim, a former US ambassador to South Korea who has been leading the US in talks with North Korean Vice-Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui since last month, is said to be continuing the discussions with his counterpart.

The summit could lay the groundwork for ending a nuclear stand-off between the two countries and see Pyongyang dismantle its arsenal in return for economic help and security guarantees.

A peace treaty ending the 1950-53 Korean War may also be on the table. North and South Koreans remain technically at war as the conflict ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

"Wide-ranging and profound views on the issue of establishing new DPRK-US relations, the issue of building a permanent and durable peace-keeping mechanism on the Korean peninsula, the issue of realising the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and other issues of mutual concern, as required by the changed era, will be exchanged at the DPRK-US summit talks," the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported in English.

Both Trump and Kim separately met Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and thanked him for hosting the summit as if it was "their own family affair".

"If the summit produces positive outcomes, then the Singaporean government's effort will be recorded in history forever," Kim said.

The summit - the first between a sitting US president and the North Korean leader - will mark a turnaround of relations between Trump and Kim after a long-running exchange of furious threats and insults.

The two leaders have had an extraordinary up-and-down relationship over the past 18 months.

Trump had called Kim "Little Rocket Man" and threatened to unleash "fire and fury like the world has never seen" on North Korea as it conducted several ballistic missile tests in defiance of international warnings.

In return, Kim called Trump "mentally deranged" and a "dotard".

North Korea had also threatened to strike Guam, an American territory in the Pacific Ocean. The North Korean leadership, including Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choe Son Hui has also taunted Washington, calling Vice President Mike Pence a "political dummy".

In March, Trump surprised the world by accepting an invitation from Kim to meet in person.

But last month, Trump abruptly cancelled the Singapore summit, citing the "tremendous anger and open hostility" by Pyongyang. However, he took a U-turn soon and said the White House was proceeding with the preparations for the summit.

Ahead of his much-anticipated meeting with Kim, the US president sounded optimistic and said the meeting would be a "one-time shot" at peace.

"I feel that Kim Jong Un wants to do something great for his people. And he has that opportunity, and he won't have that opportunity again," Trump said.

Singapore will spend about 20 million dollars to host the historic summit between Trump and Kim, which is being covered by nearly 3,000 journalists from across the world.

Singapore is one of the few countries that have diplomatic relations with both the US and North Korea. It has been used before for high-profile diplomatic occasions. In 2015, the leaders of China and Taiwan held historic talks in the city-state - their first in more than 60 years.

Nirav Modi flees to UK claiming political asylum: Report



LONDON, JUN 11 (PTI): Indian billionaire Nirav Modi, who is at the centre of a money laundering case linked to over USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank fraud, has fled to the UK where the absconding diamondaire sought asylum claiming "political persecution" back home, according to a media report today.

Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi are being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly cheating the PNB, the country's second largest lender, to the tune of more than USD 2 billion.

The duo and others are also being probed by other central agencies after the fraud came to light this year following a complaint by the PNB that they allegedly cheated the nationalised bank to the tune of over Rs 13,000 crore, with the purported involvement of a few employees of the bank.

Both Nirav Modi and Choksi are said to have left the country before criminal cases were lodged against them.

"Officials in India and the UK say he (Nirav Modi) is in London, where his company has one store, and is trying to claim asylum from what he said was political persecution," The Financial

Times reported.

"There are always a number of complicated cases that add a little tension and spice to our relationship with India. But there is also an appreciation from both sides that we have a legal process that has to be gone through and that we are of course governed by human rights legislation," a senior UK Foreign Office official was quoted as saying by the report.

When contacted by PTI, the Home Office said that "we are not commenting on individual cases".

The CBI had in May filed two charge sheets in the case before a Mumbai court. The ED has also filed its charge sheet in the case involving Nirav Modi, who is in his late 40s, and his associates, officials in New Delhi said.

They said the about 12,000 page charge sheet or the prosecution complaint has been filed before a special court here under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

India is also pushing for the extradition of liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, who is on trial for the UK court to rule if he can be extradited to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering amounting to around Rs 9,000 crores.

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LOW KEY BONDI Daniel Craig, 50, heads to the gym to hone his physique in New York as the James Bond star is set to reprise 007 role for the fifth time.

More than a cinematic universe!

Marvel releases 24 new character posters to celebrate 10th anniversary.

With Avengers: Infinity War wiping out half our superheroes, it certainly doesn't seem like a time to celebrate. And this is not a SPOILER. Because, if by now, you did not know half the superheroes went extinct in the last MCU film, you really should not have been on the internet. Well, what a way to close the 10 years of Marvel Cinematic Universe! Or start a new phase, so to say. But moving forward, Marvel celebrating their 10th year has launched a new website. And along came a bunch of new posters.

The posters celebrate the beloved characters of the MCU and the idea behind each is that these characters are more than just the traits you identify them with. Iron Man is more than a suit. Shuri is more than a genius.

"More than a hero", is the theme here. And well, we feel MCU has been more than a cinematic universe. It has been a journey. It has been an escape. Many of the posters continue to show us Marvel's quirky and humorous side. Groot's poster simply reads



"I am Groot" while breaking the theme.

The next movie in the MCU will be Ant-Man follow up where he teams up with the Wasp. Titled, Ant-Man and the Wasp, the trailer has created a good buzz on YouTube. The movie is set before the events of Avengers: Infinity War. Recently at a press conference producer, Kevin Feige revealed that finishing touches were put on the movie last Friday.

The last released movie was Avengers: Infinity War. BollywoodLife wrote, while

reviewing the movie, "This movie is a must-watch. Avengers: Infinity War gets silly when it tries to pack humour at places where you feel like crying your heart out. It gets unimaginably passionate when it brings our mighty heroes and the vicious villain face-to-face. And goes without saying that it crushes your heart by the time it ends. As I was saying in the opening... Avengers: Infinity War is passionate, silly, and heart-breaking - just like first love!"

Ram Gopal Varma announces his next movie titled Virus

"MY NEXT FILM is titled Virus and is being produced by Parag Sanghvi, who produced Sarkar and The Attacks of 26/11," filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma tweeted on Sunday.

This comes after his film Officer, which released last month. The film revolves around fearless cop who is looking to unravel one of the most dangerous crimes, committed by a powerful goon who used to be a cop at one point. The case promises to be risky, even fatal but this officer won't just give up.

Ram Gopal Varma always come up with something new in his movie. Now he is coming up with movie titled Virus. It would be good to see with what X factor he is making this movie.

He had said: "It (Officer) is a film about the violent society we live in and one man's struggle to bring a semblance of sanity in the lives of common citizens. The violence in Officer is raw and real."

"You can't show the reaction until you spotlight the action. The violence here is not gratuitous. It will make the audience uncomfortable, as any form of violence is supposed to," he added.

The other films keeping him busy are Geher, Rai and Nuclear.

Demi Lovato CANCELS London gig hours before going onstage

Demi Lovato has been forced to cancel her London tour date at the 02 Arena hours before she was meant to perform. The singer, 25, took to Instagram and Twitter to share the unfortunate news with her fans, and said she was 'frustrated and sad' that she couldn't continue her Tell Me You Love Me world tour in the English capital.

In an emotional text post and video posted to her social media, Demi - who had performed the day before at Capital FM's Summertime ball - detailed how if she tried to carry on, there was a good chance she would have to cancel the rest of her world tour.

Explaining about her current condition, Demi wrote: "I write this through tears of frustration and sadness that I have to postpone my concert in London at the 02 tonight due to being very, very



sick and with swollen vocal chords that were examined by an ENT (dr:) If I go on tonight and injure my vocal chords any more I could potentially have to cancel the rest of my tour."

The Sorry Not Sorry hit-maker apologised to those who had made huge efforts to see her in concert, and explained how heartbroken she was to cancel the performance.

Demi continued: "I'm so so so sorry to disappoint any of my fans in London that

have travelled hours to be here by plane or car, and to all the fans that got these tickets for their birthday, holiday or any other special occasion.

It just breaks my heart to let you down. Just know I feel your frustration and I wouldn't do this unless I absolutely had to."

Signing off, Demi reassured fans she would be rescheduling the show for 25 Jun and thanked fans for their understanding.

Clearly very upset by the

decision, Demi also shared a video with her followers explaining her need to rest.

Looking tired and incredibly emotional, the singer clutched onto her throat as she strained to speak with a hoarse voice.

Demi reiterated: "I can't do the show tonight because I have no voice, and I always wanted to play the 02 so I'm really upset. I'm really sad to let my fans down because I know that some of you traveled hours and some of you flew to the show but I really can't go on and I'm really sorry.

We are rescheduling and I'm just very very sick right now and hopefully, I'll be able to perform at the 02 again, I'm very sorry."

Just a day before, the former Disney star was all smiles as she arrived for Capital's Summertime Ball at Wembley Stadium, London and performed in front of a 80,000-strong crowd.



ROBERT DE NIRO USES PROFANITY TO CONDEMN TRUMP AT TONY AWARDS!

Robert DeNiro yelled 'f*** Trump' during a foul-mouthed rant at the Tony Awards and got a standing ovation. The audience went wild, some rising to their feet. DeNiro pumped his fists triumphantly.

The outburst was bleeped, so Broadway fans watching at home didn't hear the expletive.

And when the applause died down, the 74 year-old actor started talking again, "it's no longer 'down with Trump', it's f*** Trump." He got a full standing ovation, and then said, "now I'll get to my presentation."

While audiences at home tried to figure out what he had said, reporters backstage filled in the creators of "Angels in America" on the De Niro moment. Tony Kushner repeated De Niro's sharp rebuff of the president. And he said of the actor, "it's Robert De Niro. Who's gonna argue with him?"

And while many watching on television were still trying to figure out what got bleeped, some people on Twitter started talking about it. Actor Director Ken Olin said "well if Robert DeNiro said it, it must be true!"

MSNBC host Joy Reid posted her thoughts on Trump's relationship with his hometown,

"Robert DeNiro's Trump F-bomb at the Tony Awards is Trump's relationship with New York City in a nutshell. He's always a part of it, omnipresent, even, but only in the worst way."

And comedian Dennis Miller, harkened back to an early, iconic DeNiro role, Travis Bickle in Taxi Driver, "Ironically when I hear Robert DeNiro talking about politics, my first instinct is to look over my shoulder and say 'You talkin' to me?'"

DeNiro has never been a fan of Trump, and he's not afraid to share his thoughts. He compared the then New York real estate developer to a used-care salesman in 2011.

A month before the 2016 election, in a campaign video he said of the republican candidate, "he says he'd like to punch someone in the face, I'd like to punch HIM in the face." He was also one of the celebrities at Trump Tower on the event of the inauguration speaking out against the president.

Just last month the Goodfellas star said that he would ban President Trump from all of his Nobu restaurants. At the opening of Nobu Marbella, he said "I don't care what he likes. If he walked into a restaurant I was in - I'd walk out."

ARIES: Your intuition is heightened almost to the point of telepathy today. Aries, you may be able to sense what others want and need even before they know it themselves. You could also experience a few visionary impressions that prove valuable inspiration for creative and artistic work. When images well up from your psyche, don't dismiss them as irrelevant. They could make a big difference in your life right now.

TAURUS: A get-together with a group of your closest friends could bring about some intense communication, with many revealing some of your deepest concerns, Taurus. Your thinking should be greatly influenced by feeling, so you might experience a high level of understanding

that your friends are going to appreciate. This could well bring all of you closer together and increase future contact. Enjoy your day!

GEMINI: A heightened level of intuition and understanding of others might catapult you to the center of attention at a gathering, Gemini. Knowledge combined with experience results in wisdom today. Insights could lead to more efficient ways of doing things. You'll probably pass this on to others, especially since more than one person could ask you for insights into their particular situation. Don't forget your sense of humor. Life is serious enough.

CANCER: Contact with friends who have traveled widely could have you hankering to take the first plane to a distant place that

you've always wanted to visit. At the very least, you'll probably want to plan a vacation. If you're traveling to a foreign country, you may want to take a stab at learning the language. Actually, this is a good time to study a language - your mind is particularly sharp.

LEO: Dreams or visions could put you in touch with deep feelings that you may not have been aware of before, Leo. This could enable you to release traumas from your past and give you a new sense of lightness. However, your logical mind is very much at work, so you could use this experience to shed light on others' experiences and help them, too. Whatever happens today is likely to produce noticeable results.

VIRGO: Relationships of all kinds are likely to be strengthened

by an increased level of understanding today, Virgo. Your thinking is greatly enhanced by your emotional intuitiveness, so you'll be more able than usual to identify with the needs and desires of those around you. As a result, acquaintances could become friends, and friendships could progress into bonds that last for life. Romance also benefits from intensified empathy. Enjoy.

LIBRA: Today your emotional intuition intensifies your mental abilities, Libra. Friends and family members are likely to grow closer to you. You may be more aware of what they really need and want, and they could see you in a new light. This can make you feel loved and wanted. The downside is that your empathy is so high that you may pick up on everyone's aches

and pains. Try to keep yourself bathed in the white light.

SCORPIO: Relationships with those closest to you, particularly friends and love partners, should be enhanced by an increased understanding of their emotional world, Scorpio. You're likely to identify even more strongly than usual with others' feelings, and this could provide inspiration for artistic activities of some kind. This is also a great day to go out with your friends. Consider attending a concert, play, or sporting event.

SAGITTARIUS: Dealing with the ups and downs of other family members could be easier for you today than usual, Sagittarius. You're less inclined to be logical and more apt to identify with what other people feel. This will

increase your understanding of their situation's undercurrents, and they'll likely appreciate your empathy. Don't forget your own concerns. You may see a lot of things in a different light today.

CAPRICORN: Today your mind is strongly influenced by feeling and intuition, Capricorn, so you'll be able to communicate especially well with others. You might sense what they need to hear before they know it themselves. This ability could be used in many ways. It could enhance your writing skills. If you're into performance of any kind, it could sharpen your ability to speak, teach, or act. Make the most of it.

AQUARIUS: You generally like to think of yourself as someone who faces life logically and rationally, Aquarius, but today

your intuitive side could prove a valuable resource, especially when it comes to dealing with others. Your communicative ability is enhanced by a strong sense of what others are thinking and feeling. This opens the door to more effective interactions with everyone - friends, lovers, colleagues, even strangers.

PISCES: Your intuition is usually very strong, Pisces, and your level of empathy enhances your relationships. Today, however, a burst of logic could enable you to see many things in a different light. This adds a new dimension to your communicative abilities and could prove valuable in bringing you closer to the ones you love the most. It can also increase your understanding of yourself.