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SummitTIMES

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Sub divisional committees constituted for OFOJ re-verification

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Sub divisional committees have been constituted for re-verification of One Family One Job [OFOJ] appointments in East district.

DC East issued an office order on 15 July constituting the committees to review the OFOJ appointments in East district.

The committees are to be chaired by the respective SDMs and have SDPOs, BDOs, Officers

nominated by the SP Special Branch and representatives of departments under which OFOJ appointments have been made.

The verification will be carried out through the Special Branch, Sikkim Police and Sr VAAs of RMDD, Bazaar Officer, MEO as may be applicable.

The committee has been directed to meet at least once a week to review the progress of verification and submit a weekly report to the DC.

Late NB Bhandari's birth anniv declared state holiday “Atal Bhandari” book launched

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] has declared former CM, Late NB Bhandari's birth anniversary on 05 Oct a state holiday. He made the announcement during the launch of the book “Atal Bhandari”, a collection of writings on Late Bhandari, held at Chintan Bhanwan today.

The programme was attended by Governor, Ganga Prasad, former MP cum wife of Late Bhandari, Dil Kumari Bhandari, and Speaker, LB Das. The program was organised by Archana Prakashan, Gangtok.

In his address, Governor, Ganga Prasad highlighted several achievements of Late Bhandari during his three terms as Chief Minister of Sikkim



and urged everyone to carry forward the legacy left behind by him in his quest to make Sikkim a vibrant state.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minis-

ter congratulated and thanked the authors of the book.

He announced that the book which was released today would be distributed to schools

and colleges so that the legacy of Late Bhandari can live on.

Late Bhandari's demise is an irreplaceable loss especially for the cause of Nepali-speaking

people, his most notable contribution being the inclusion of the Nepali language in 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India, said Mr Tamang.

He also talked about his long association with Late Bhandari and how he always supported and guided him.

Stating that Late Bhandari played a big role in the change which has taken place in the state after 25 years, the CM thanked Late Bhandari for him immense contributions to Sikkim and the Sikkimese people.

Mr Tamang said that he met Late Bhandari in 1989 when he was a student at Government College of Darjeeling and Late Bhandari was the CM cum MLA of Soreng Chakung.

Fifty-four literary personalities who contributed articles for the book ‘Atal Bhandari’ were also felicitated on the occasion.

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Srawaney Sankranti Rankey Mela gets underway at Namchi



NAMCHI, 17 JUL (IPR):

A two day long ‘Srawaney Sankranti Rankey Mela, 2019’ organised by South District Administration and Rankey Mela organizing committee commenced today amidst much grandeur at Central Park, Namchi.

Srawaney Sankranti Rankey Mela is one of the biggest traditional and cultural extravagan-

za hosted annually at the South District headquarters, Namchi. It is also one of the major festivals celebrated by the nepali community in Sikkim thereby attracting a huge congregation of general public from various corners of the state as well as the visiting tourist.

The celebration of Rankey Mela festival sig-

nifies the end of drought season and commencement of monsoons particularly a time for the farmers to rejoice and welcome good harvest. This Mela falls on the first day of month of Srawan of the Vikram Sambhat calendar.

The main charm of this festival lies in the burning of a demon effigy commonly known

as ‘Rankey Bhoot’. The effigy represents an unlucky sign of various kinds portend grave misfortune ranging from disease, illness and occurrence of bad harvest. Therefore, while burning local people beat drums and flings torches towards the effigy in order to get rid of the many forms of bad luck. The figurine of Rankey Bhoot is traditionally burnt on the eve of Rankey Mela.

Over the years, this mela has metamorphosed into one of the magnificent tourist attraction while keeping intact the main theme which is celebration of good harvest season for the farming community while also maintaining a concoction of culture and tradition. Presently, Rankey Mela has undergone a massive transformation in which the Mela now has advanced itself into a tourist attracting event, in order to boost the thriving tourism sector of the state.

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba is all set to represent Sikkim in a new challenge of 24 Hours Stadium Run to be held at Sree Kanterava Stadium, Bengaluru this weekend. This ultra marathon run will be starting at 6 PM on 20 July and will continue till 6 PM of 21 July. The event is being organised by NEB Sports, Bengaluru.

In the last edition of the 24 Hours Stadium Run held at Mumbai last year Mr Subba had come in third position after covering 151.7 KMs in 24 hours.

Addressing a press conference here today, 50-year-old Mr Subba stated that although the competition will be very tough among the selected ultra runners of the country, he will try his best.

“To compete with young runners at this



age will be tough for me but I have been trying to motivate and encourage young generation by taking part in such tough challenges. If an old man like me can do this then the young have more potential to do better,” he said.

He urged the young to live a healthy and productive life and to contribute to the society.

As part of his preparation for the competition, Mr Subba has been practicing in the hilly terrains of West Sikkim where he recently covered 67 KMs in 10 hours. He is confident of breaking his own record of 24 hours this time.

For the first time International Association of Ultrarunners is also associated with

the competition, he informed. He added that this not only makes the competition international but would also open doors for Indian runners to participate in an international level ultra marathon.

“This will be a learning experience for me to run with international ultra runners and I will give my best to make the State and the Country proud,” he said.

Nepal floods: Death toll touches 78; over 17,500 displaced

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, JUL 16

(PTI): Floods and landslides caused by incessant monsoon rains across Nepal have claimed at least 78 lives, left 40 people injured and displaced around 17,500 others, authorities said on Tuesday.

Nepal has been hit by heavy rainfall since Thursday. More than 25 districts have been affected.

Many parts of Kathmandu, including Kalanki, Kupondole, Kuleshwor and Balkhu were submerged under water on Friday.

Thirty two people are still reported to be missing in the rain-re-

lated incidents that have thrown normal life out of gear in the central and eastern parts of the Himalayan nation.

“At least 78 people have been killed so far whereas 32 others are reported missing in the flood and landslide triggered by monsoon rain that occurred across Nepal,” a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

It said the flood related incidents have displaced around 17,500 people whereas as 3,366 people stranded have been rescued by the security personnel.

As the situation

continues to remain grim, the National Emergency Operation Centre said the relief work has been intensified.

“Those people displaced by monsoon have been taking shelter in temporary camps and authorities have intensified relief distribution works in the affected areas,” Bednidhi Khanal, the chief of National Emergency Operations, said.

The Flood Forecasting Section (FFS) said that monsoon is active and the rainfall will continue for two to three days more in most places across the country, according to a report in the The Himalayan Times.

The Meteorologi-

cal Forecasting Division (MFD) warned the public to remain on high alert and said that air and road traffic could be affected due to low visibility.

Heavy rainfall has led the water level in the rivers to rise.

Those killed include from Kathmandu, Makawanpur, Lalitpur, Rautahat and Bhojpur, Dhanusha, Khotang and Kavre districts, authorities said.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has expressed sadness at the loss of life, displacement of people and destruction of property due to the heavy monsoon rains in Nepal and other South Asian countries, including India, Bangladesh

and Myanmar after all of them have been lashed by heavy rains for almost one week now.

Nepal has appealed to the international agencies for help to prevent the possible water-borne diseases and to ensure proper health services to the tens of thousand of people affected by the incessant rains.

An emergency meeting was called on Sunday to take stock of the damage caused by the rains. Representatives of the World Health Organisation Nepal Office, the United Nations Children's Fund, (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other agencies were present at the meeting.

RN Chamling writes to RM&DD Minister seeking new bridges for Sinchuthang and Lower Samdong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Former MLA of Rangang-Yangang, RN Chamling, has requested the State Government to immediately sanction new bridges at Sinchuthang in South and at Lower Samdong in East Sikkim.

In a later addressed to the Minister for Rural Management and Development Department, Mr Chamling has cited hardships being faced by residents of the two ar-

reas ever since the bridges were washed away by Teesta following last month's cloudburst in North Sikkim.

The bridge connecting Singchuthang Mangley under Rangang Yangang and Singel under Tumin Lingee constituency in East Sikkim and the bridge connecting Lower Sripatam (Rangang Yangang) and Lower Samdong (Tumin Lingee) were washed away by the surging Teesta, he highlights.

Additionally, the swelling Teesta also damaged Tanak Bridge connecting Lower Neeya (Rangang Yangang) and Makha (Tumin Lingee) causing great hardships on people of these villages when it comes to commuting, he adds in the letter.

Mr Chamling has requested the RM&DD Minister to immediately sanction new bridges at these places for the good of the general public of these places.

FPAS team invites Governor for Indian Football Awards



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

A delegation of Football Players Association of Sikkim, led by its president, Nirmal Chettri, called on Governor, Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhawan on Monday.

The team which also had the presence of national footballer, Bikash Jaiu and Nim Tshering Lepcha, invited the Governor to the upcoming Indian Football Awards 2019 event being held at Palzor Stadium on 21

July, a press release informs.

The Governor has accepted the invitation and will attend the event as the chief guest. While conveying best wishes to the organising team, the Governor conveyed

his pleasure on the initiative taken by FPAS and assured all possible assistance to the Association for the promotion of football in Sikkim.

The poster of the event was also released on the occasion.

Director in PMO, Joint Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat repatriated prematurely

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Two officers from Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat have been prematurely repatriated to their parent cadres, officials said on Tuesday.

Brijesh Panday, a 2004 IAS officer of Tripura cadre, was repatriated back to his home cadre before completion of his central deputation which was to end in 2020.

He had earlier served as Deputy Secretary in the PMO and was last year promoted as the Director.

His repatriation order was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday.

The ACC "has approved the premature repatriation" of Panday to his parent cadre from July 31, this year, the officials said.

The other officer repatriated was Gyanesh Bharti, a 1998 IAS officer from the Union Territory cadre. He was posted as Joint Secretary with the Cabinet Secretariat.

His repatriation was ordered by the ACC on Monday.

The ACC "has approved the proposal moved by the ministry of home affairs for premature repatriation" of Bharti to his parent cadre, the officials said.

Civic body to impose water cuts in Nagpur from Wed

NAGPUR, JUL 16 (PTI): The Nagpur Municipal Corporation has decided to impose water cuts from Wednesday due to deficient rainfall in the region, Sandip Joshi, BJP corporator and ruling party leader in the NMC said. He said the city will not get water supply on July 17, 19 and 21 this week as part of the civic scheme to conserve water. "Nagpur has had deficit rainfall till July 15 and there is no forecast of rain till July 23. The water level in reservoirs supplying drinking water to Nagpur has gone down.

Nagpur, since June 1, has received 215 mm of rainfall which is a departure of 135 mm from normal.

ASSCWA team calls on CM



GANGTOK, 15 JUL (IPR): Executive members of All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association (ASSCWA) led by

president, Shekhar Sewa called on Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golak) at Tashiling Secretariat today and congratulated the Chief Minister on his historical victory in the recent election.

The team placed various demands regarding

welfare of the community, which was patiently heard by the Chief Minister and assured to render every possible support to the Association.

Narrow lanes hamper rescue work at Mumbai bldg collapse site

MUMBAI, JUL 16 (PTI): The narrow lanes of Dongri area in south Mumbai where a building collapsed on Tuesday posed a major challenge for rescuers to approach the accident spot.

Some residents of Dongri, one of the most densely populated areas having several high-rise buildings, told PTI that had the JCB machines been able to reach the accident spot, more lives could have been saved.

Twelve people were killed when the 'Kesarbaug' building, located in a bustling narrow lane in Tandel Street of Dongri area of south Mumbai, crashed, housing minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil said.

About 40 to 50 people are feared trapped under the debris, civic officials said.

Fire brigade, Mumbai Police and civic officials rushed to the site but the constricted lanes made it difficult to access the area, reduced to a mass of rubble, twisted concrete and broken wires.

In the midst of the melee, rescue workers toiled hard to retrieve the bodies and help the injured. Their efforts were hampered by the congestion and the narrow, cramped lanes.

Adding to the woes of rescuers, there was debris scattered everywhere and mesh of electric wires overhead, restricting their movement.

Scores of locals joined in the effort, forming a human chain to help in removing the debris brick by brick and picking up slabs of concrete to locate those buried.

Ambulances could not reach the site and had to be parked around 50 metres away.

Shahnawaz Kapde, a resident of Dongri area, said had the JCBs been able reached the accident site, the number of casualties could have been contained.

"You can now understand what would have happened if it was raining. Thankfully, it is not raining, otherwise the rescue operation would have been almost impossible in such narrow lanes where rescuers can't even walk freely," he said.

The rescuers had to make hectic efforts to remove the mangled frames of furniture, including large sofas, from the rubble at the mishap site.

"There is no open space here and honestly saying, we have never seen any open space. We have spent all of our lives in these dingy lanes," said another resident of the area.

"Thankfully, the debris being pulled out from the collapsed building's site is being dumped on a nearby road and immediately being removed from there," he added.

Happiness festival at Delhi govt schools launched

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI):

Delhi government launched "Happiness Utsav" in its schools Tuesday to celebrate completion of a year of introduction of its happiness curriculum.

During the festival, the first 50 minutes of each day, all children studying in Delhi govt schools will take part in various activities.

"The Delhi government is celebrating the Happiness Utsav to mark the first year of the curriculum's launch. On Day 1, the children were involved in a drawing mela, where they drew on the subject

"What makes you happy?" Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

"Lakhs of children across the city from Classes 1 to 8 sat in their respective school assemblies to take part in the activity. Such activities will encourage children to reflect on their emotion and thought process. It will help them understand themselves better and lead them to be mindful of their feelings," he said.

During the festival, the morning assembly session and the first period will be combined to conduct activities.

"Dignitaries, alumni

and parents have been invited by the schools to witness this festival for children. On second day all schools will hold a panel discussion in every class on what ensures happiness for children and what it means to be compassionate towards others. Teachers have identified the participants and the questions for the panel in advance," Sisodia said.

Activities like plays, poems, exhibitions will be part of the 15-day festival which will culminate in a grand ceremony, a Delhi government official said.

Nepal impacted by climate change despite minimum role in global crisis: Oli

SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JUL 16 (PTI):

Nepal is experiencing the impact of climate change although it has a negligible role in the global crisis, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said Tuesday, citing the first ever tornado that hit the Himalayan nation in March this year.

Nepal is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world for climate change effects.

Inaugurating a four-day meeting of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) here, Oli said the rising temperature, retreating glaciers and erratic rainfall followed by extreme weather events are causing damages to the country's people and the economy.

"Nepal is already experiencing the effects of climate change although it has minimum role in the global crisis. Despite its negligible role to greenhouse gas emissions Nepal is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change," Oli said.

"Some countries are well prepared to deal with them, but countries like Nepal are most vulnerable, he said.

Oli said the climate in Nepal is becoming more vulnerable and unpredictable.

"Nepal witnessed a delayed monsoon. We also had first tornado in our recorded history," said Oli.

A tornado hit Nepal on March 31 this year



followed by massive rainstorm in various places in Nepal, killing at least 31 people and injuring 600 others.

Since last week, floods and landslides caused by incessant monsoon rains across Nepal have till now claimed 78 lives, left 40 people injured and displaced over 17,500 others.

The international conference on climate change that kicked off here on Tuesday is being attended by 250 climate scientists, bureau members of the IPCC hailing from more than 50 countries.

The conference is the second Lead Authors Meeting of the IPCC Working Group -II for deliberations as part of their preparation for the Sixth Assessment Report which is scheduled to be out in 2022.

Prime Minister Oli urged the scientists to consider the plight of small mountainous and small-island nations while preparing the report.

Policy makers and climate scientists said the timing of the gathering in Nepal is perfect for drawing global attention

to Nepal and the whole region which is highly vulnerable and already witnessing adverse impacts of climate change.

Meeting here in Kathmandu reminds us--in a very direct way--of the strong interdependence of human and natural systems, and how both are threatened by climate change, Debra Roberts, the Working Group II Co-Chair, said.

She said Nepal is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world for climate change effects.

"The latest landmark study in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, which covers 3,500 kilometres across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan, has projected an alarming future for poor and geographically challenged countries like Nepal," she said.

The region which is a critical resource for Asia is undergoing climatic changes which need both special attention and collective response, pointed out David Molden, Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

UNESCO seeks report on Darjeeling toy train after it finds heritage site 'ill maintained'

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): UNESCO has asked the Indian Railways to submit a report by next February on the state of conservation of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways after the UN body found the trains and tracks of the world heritage site were suffering from "insufficient maintenance".

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in a report, submitted in its 43rd session held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on June 30, said many of the station buildings which are identified as major attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have "lost original fabric and seriously deteriorated" since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage list in 1999 and its subsequent extensions in 2004 and 2008. "In most cases, this is due to ill-advised "modernization" efforts compounded by lack of maintenance. The buildings of Sonada and Gayabari stations, which were damaged during riots in 2017, have not been restored," it said.

It further states that the boundaries of the property did not appear to have been properly defined, since there was currently no clear map or established buffer zone.

The report also said that the property suffers from "serious encroachment" by illegal construction and from waste dumping along the tracks.

"The trains and tracks are suffering from insufficient maintenance... At the time of inscription, in

1999, most of the 88-kilometre route of the DHR passed through either forest or tea garden landscapes.

"Currently, however, much of the DHR runs between illegally constructed houses and shops, and a lot of this encroachment is on a 20-metre corridor owned by the Northern Frontier Railway Zone and the Ministry of Road Transport," it said.

The report said that the issues stem from the absence of a management system with appropriate focus on priorities for protection, maintenance and conservation and the capacity to implement these.

"There is also a general lack of understanding of the unique management needs of narrow-gauge heritage steam railways. In this regard, lack of suitably trained staff to operate the railway constitutes an important aggravating factor," it said.

Responding to a query on the UNESCO report, the Indian Railways said they were working closely with the UN agency for the preservation of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways (DHR).

"The main challenge being faced is encroachment and NFR is working with the state administration to the meet the same. The routine visit from the UNESCO team should not be misconstrued," they said on the visit of the UNESCO's Reactive Monitoring Mission to Darjeeling.

The monitoring team comprises experts from the agency's World Heritage Committee and the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

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WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER. Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

Mr. Subash Lama Proprietor Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim

BUILDING FOR SALE

A 5 storied building with 3 floor completed having a land area of 30x70 at DABUWA, Melli road (2km from Namchi) is for sale. Rate reasonable. Interested party please contact: **6296370905, 9733284142, 8597088755.**

Four & half Storied building on SALE, behind Hotel Agarwal at Pani House, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Interested parties may also buy flats - 2 flats - 1650 sq.ft, 1 Flat - 1186 sq.ft & 1 Flat on top (1 & half)- 3000 sq.ft. Contact: -9434751150

Kickboxing team leaves for WAKO India Senior Nationals



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JUL:**

A nine-member Sikkim Association of Kickboxing Organisations [SAKO] team is representing Sikkim in the WAKO India Senior National Kickboxing Championship 2019 to be held from 18 to 21

July at Rohtak, Haryana. The team will be leaving for the championship on Wednesday.

The championship is being organised by Haryana Kickboxing Association under the banner of WAKO India National Kickboxing Federation of India.

The state team has Mandira Karki [50 kg], Phur Khandu Sherpa [50 kg], Srijana Chettri [55 kg], Phur Deeki Sherpa [52 kg], Phurba Sherpa [55 kg], Mukesh Chettri [57 kg], Lakh Tshering Sherpa [55 kg], Pawan Subba [60 kg] and Vivek Rai [63kg].

A press release from

SAKO president, Bhim Subba, informs that the State team has undergone a two-week training camp at Paljor Stadium. The team members are in good form and high spirits to perform better than they did in the last edition of the championship last year.

MUSS celebrates Guru Purnima



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JUL:**

Manaw Utthan Sawa Samiti, Rangpo, celebrated Guru Purnima at Sri

Hans Suyash Dham on Tuesday. On the occasion, Vyash Puja was conducted under the MUSS Rangpo in-charge, Mahatma Pur-

na Baiji, and attended by devotees from Rhenock, Rongli, Singtam, Bardang, Majhitar, Maming, West Pendam and other branches.

Workshop on road safety at Lower Burtuk



**SHRAVAN CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 16 JUL:**

State Council Of Education And Research Centre [SCERT] in collaboration with Trax Road safety NGO from Delhi supported by Human Resource Development Department hosted a day-long workshop on road safety and responsibility of a first respondent here at Lower Burtuk today.

The session was attended by Anurag Kulshrestha, SCERT Sikkim and School heads repre-

senting various schools from the state.

The session was a healthy forum in which Dr Tashi Hoesar Ladingspa [MS Orthopedics consultant] presented a session on basic first aid while managing a victim of a road accident.

He also discussed the rules and regulations that a respondent should follow in order to manage the victim of a road accident. He demonstrated a basic technique to perform

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

Addressing the school heads, Mr Anurag said that more than one-half of all road traffic deaths globally occur among people aged 15-44 years and there are various factors that play a major role like alcoholism, drug abuse, etc. Therefore, it is upon the rider who owns the right to his her life.

SCERT and Trax are in talks to host a bigger campaign in the state, it is learnt.

Uikey, Harichandan appointed governors of Chhattisgarh and AP

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): BJP leaders Anusuiya Uikey and Biswa Bhusan Harichandan were appointed Tuesday as governors of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

A communique was issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan after President Ram Nath Kovind cleared their files for the gubernatorial post.

Harichandan, who is a BJP leader from Odisha, replaces E. S. L. Narasimhan, who was the governor of Andhra Pradesh for the last one decade.

Uikey is a BJP leader from Madhya Pradesh.

The post of Chhattisgarh governor was under the additional charge of Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.

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Prerna Branch distributes carbins to Lall Bazaar cabbies



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

The Prerna Branch of Marwari Yuva Manch, Gangtok, distributed carbins to taxi drivers of Lall Bazaar Taxi Stand on Monday.

The main objective of the distribution programme was to create awareness among drivers on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. This was the second phase of the distribution programme, in-

forms a press release.

The release adds that the first phase was held on 26 January earlier this year with distribution of car bins among taxi drivers of Vajra and Titanic Taxi Stands.

"In total, 400 car bins were distributed to ensure that no waste to be thrown out of the car. This is a small step towards the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan," the Prerna Branch informs.



MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT MANGAN, NORTH SIKKIM

Memo No.: 439/MNP/2019

Date:-15/07/2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

[Reference Paragraph 5.1]

Mangan Nagar Panchayat invites sealed tenders from the eligible Contractors of Class IV grade enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 12/06/2018, and 584/R&B/PWD/Secy dated:08/10/2018 through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **Pentok ward** only under Mangan Nagar Panchayat, where the work is to be executed.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to Tender	Cost of Tender Documents	Earnest Money @ 2.5% of the cost of work	Completion time (in months)
1.	Construction of Childrens Home at Mangan in North Sikkim.	76,90,049 /-	15000 /-	1,92,251 /-	12 (Twelve months)

TIME SCHEDULE

1. Date of issue of Tender Form : 22/07/2019 up to 15.30 Hrs.
2. Last date of issuance of Tender form : 25/07/2019 up to 15.30 Hrs.
3. Last date and Time for submission of Tender form : 26/07/2019 up to 12. Hrs.
4. Date of Time of Opening of Tender : 26/07/2019 up to 13.Hrs.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

- 1) Tender is open to the eligible Class IV Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department within the jurisdiction of **Pentok ward** only.
- 2) The intending contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents on his or her signature with all required documents.
- 3) The applicants should enclose **attested copies** of the (a) PAN Card (b) GST Registration Certificate (c) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate (d) Certificate of Identification. It is mandatory to produce the original validated / updated enlistment certificate during sale / issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- 4) The prescribed Non Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender form) can be obtained during the period specified on production of requisite Challan receipts deposited in the CANARA under the Account No.4875101000025 towards the cost of tender documents (non refundable).
- 5) Earnest Money @ 2.5 % is to be deposited in favour of **Additional Director (Accounts) SJE & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim in the form of Term Deposit Receipt (TDR) from State Bank of Sikkim**. Tender form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts to that contractors who has obtained the tender documents.
- 6) The tender documents, including the tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. 3 (a), (b) (c) and (d) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- 7) Tenders will be opened by the Tender Opening Committee in presence of the Tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- 8) The rate quoted should be both in figures and words .
- 9) The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Engineering cell of SJE&W Department..
- 10) Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Mangan Nagar Panchayat shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- 11) The offer shall remain valid for a period of 45 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order.
- 12) All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- 13) The Mangan Nagar Panchayat reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- 14) In case of carriage of Non Stock Materials, if these materials are available at site or are actually transported from a lesser distance than indicated in the schedules, the SJE&W deptt. shall pay the carriage as per actual proof of carriage supported by permit issued by Forest Department indicating the quarries which is required to be submitted by contractor with bill, not exceeding the rates as incorporated in the schedules. The contractors are required to submit necessary documents to fulfil the claim of payment for carriage of Non Stock Materials.
- 15) Subletting of contract work shall not be allowed and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled.
- 16) The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the work taken at least three stages of construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- 17) Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all costs. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- 18) It is expected of the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.

Sd/-

**Municipal Executive Officer
Mangan Nagar Panchayat**

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM MANGAN- NORTH SIKKIM - 737116

Memo No: /JRCS/COOP/ N

Date: /07/2019

NOTICE

Final notice is hereby given to all chief promoters/Presidents and General members of the following non functional and closed Co-operative societies falling under Mangan, Chungthang,Passingdong and Kabi Sub Division, North Sikkim for bringing them into operation/function and for revitalization within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in Sikkim Herald and other leading local newspapers, failing which the process of cancellation / deregistration and liquidation will be initiated as per section 75 (2) (b) & (3) of the Sikkim Co-op. Societies Act, 1978 (Amended Act, 2009 & 2013) and Rule 69 of the Sikkim Co-op. Societies Rule 1981.

The name of the Societies are appended in Annexure I.

**Sd/-
Deputy Registrar
Department of Co-operative
Mangan North Sikkim**

Begin Kneejerk, but Then See it Through *Something the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board could consider*

The community is preparing for Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebrations, and the build-up provides an opportunity to ponder on some issues Lepcha. The Lepchas of Sikkim were notified a Primitive Tribe of Sikkim around a decade and a half ago and now have a welfare board dedicated exclusively to their, well, welfare. A welfare board for the primitive tribe group was announced in the run-up to the 2014 elections, and as expected, was received with some skepticism given the timing. As expected, there was criticism over the timing from the then Opposition camp, but that is in the past now. However, the board itself remained relatively low-key, and since no major interventions have been seen from it thus far, may be now that a new government is in place, it is a good time to try and understand the significance and potential of the Board itself.

It takes years of close dialogue and interaction to develop even a reasonable understanding of what shapes another's culture. If this statement were true, then one would expect social and socioeconomic interventions - which by definition aim to change the environment or behaviour of people - to be based on a deep understanding of the 'stakeholders' / 'beneficiaries'. Of course, that does not always happen, but should at least be attempted.

Unfortunately, more and more such projects are conceived, planned and even executed from a distance. In our country, schemes and projects are invariably designed with the "bottleneck approach". Developmental analysts look for the bottleneck which is blocking their version of development from reaching the people and then try and ease the bottleneck. That is kind of like allopathy in targeting the symptoms instead of the ailment. Look around, a host of national flagship programmes float on this model and a sizeable number of community-specific demands and promises also mirror similar sentiments. When it comes to what the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board could achieve for the Lepchas of Sikkim, it needs to learn from an old intervention which has delivered only limited returns (and this might be highly contentious) - the system of a quota for every ill. Analysts, when India got Independence, racked their brains on why the adivasis were not assimilating into the mainstream faster. Lack of education and opportunities was the obvious answer. So a quick-fire solution was worked out - reservation.

And sure enough many tribals started getting into premier institutes, some even completing their courses and going on to land plum jobs. Exulted with the results, the planners forgot part-b of the original plan - improving infrastructure in tribal areas. Education in the remote regions remains dismal and the system of reservation keeps getting extended. The fact that 71 years on, reservation still not only exists but now includes even more communities is proof that the magic formula was not all that it was made out to be.

What appears scary at this juncture, especially for Sikkim, is that the same formula continues to be applied and the same oversights continue. As things stand, all that the primitive tribe status has secured is an additional 5% reservation in higher education for the Lepchas, and while this access to exclusive quota in education is welcome, the next step needs to be taken and better educational infrastructure for the community created in their midst. And this is only one aspect of what can be attempted.

The welfare board for primitive tribes should begin its recommendations by proposing interventions beyond quotas; the Board should direct the creation of more, better and more relevant infrastructure for the community at every level whether they are at the school education level or skill development interventions or improved access to them. The scholarship for students from North Sikkim at Tashi Namgyal Academy has delivered a handsome crop of achievers. Imagine what could happen if such an institution was established in Dzongu itself! How many more futures could have been collectively improved? And it is never too late to attempt something on these lines. If the initiative was made a collaborative effort of the community, many more intangible benefits could also manifest. And that is the kind of role the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board should conceive and chaperone to completion...

How tech firms make us feel like we own their apps – and how that benefits them

MELODY ZOU

theconversation.com

Possessions are going out of fashion. An endless stream of media reports claim millennials – that amorphous mass of people born in the 1980s and 1990s who have grown up with the internet and digital technology – are in favour of accessing rather than owning stuff.

And yet my research shows that owning possessions is still something millennials hunger for. It is just that these possessions are now digital rather than physical.

People who become heavy users of the apps they download can develop deep relationships with these services, so deep that they take on what we call "psychological ownership" of them. This means they perceive each app as something that belongs just to them and has effectively become an extension of themselves. After using it frequently and adjusting the settings to their liking, it becomes "my app", even though their rights to use the service and transfer their data are actually restricted and their accounts can be terminated at any time.

Psychological ownership can benefit the companies because it leads users to take on valuable extra roles. In the real world, companies have long pushed for shoppers to give feedback, recommend their products and help other shoppers. App "owners" are willingly doing all of this in the digital sphere and often with more expertise and commitment than traditional consumers.

My colleagues and I studied this phenomenon for users of music streaming apps such as Spotify and QQ Music and found that they went the extra mile in four ways. They provided services such as answering the queries of other users on internet forums or offering other information that would enrich the experience of users. They improved the app by giving the company feedback or taking part in the app's governance. They advocated for the app by championing it in public or defending it against critics. And they financed the service by paying a premium fee or even donating money.

By interviewing more than 200 users of these music streaming services, we also found that companies use three key experiences to encourage users to become "owners".

CONTROL

We all have a strong desire to exert control and influence on our environment. Research has shown people gain satisfaction and a boost in self-esteem by changing their surroundings, and we found the same desire among app users to control their digital space.

Users want autonomy to use the app at their own pace and in their own way. They do this by



changing the settings to suit their interests and tastes. They can choose what notifications they receive or by which channel. They can skip or hide content. They can decide who they want to share their activity with.

Through this process, they learn how to use the app and see their influence on it, gradually gaining a sense that they can control it and so perceive it to be "their" Spotify or Apple Music.

SELF-IDENTITY

Past generations of young people put posters on their bedroom wall, wore t-shirts with slogans and displayed rows of vinyl or CDs as a show of who they were and what they believed in. Now this demonstration takes place online too. Self-identity is curated in the digital sphere.

Music apps allow users to express themselves by creating a library of likes and sharing the music that appeals to them. They can create their own playlists for any mood or occasion: the homework playlist, the party list or bath-time music.

The more you explore and listen to music, the more the app's algorithms understand your likes and dislikes. And so the service becomes more tailored to your personality. It becomes "your" service and is trained to look like you. You can even upload your profile pictures and decorate your homepage in your own style.

Apps that allow users to sync their accounts across different devices further reinforce this sense of personalised identity.

SENSE OF HOME

"To be rooted is perhaps the most important

and least recognised need of the human soul," said French philosopher Simone Weil in her 1952 book *The Need for Roots*.

App designers do well when they recognise this need. As well as looking for a digital space to store their creations and memory, users want to build a sense of home, their own place within the app, somewhere familiar and comfortable.

Some mobile apps have tapped into this longing, allowing users to store their memories and history within the app. For instance, a timeline or statistics feature allows users to look back on what they have done on the app and what music they have listened to.

This sense of history can also be made more tangible by creating playlists of a user's top songs of the year, or reminding them of past events they had on the app, or even with a review of the person's usage on the app.

PROFITABLE RELATIONSHIP

These three experiences mean that users are able to build a relationship with a faceless technology such as a mobile app through psychological ownership.

Once deeply engaged in this kind of relationship with their app, users are then more likely to undertake voluntary contributions for the good of the technology. That can be helpful for the community of other users but ultimately is a major benefit for the company profiting from all that hard work.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Management, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick]

Your Body as a Weapon: The rise of the 'revenge body' online

MAIR UNDERWOOD

theconversation.com

Months after a public breakup with her husband, the politician Barnaby Joyce, Natalie Joyce made news when she displayed her "new" body in a bodybuilding competition. Joyce's muscular appearance was described by some news organisations as a "revenge body".

Two years earlier, after taking "revenge" on ex-husband Lamar Odom with her body transformation, Khloe Kardashian launched a reality TV show, *Revenge Body*. The show, in which she teams up with celebrity trainers, nutritionists, and stylists to help people build these bodies, began its third season this month.

For the uninitiated, a "revenge body" is an improved body (reduced fat and/or increased muscle) built in order to demonstrate to someone who hurt you how well you are doing without them.

Typically such bodies are built in order to make your ex-lover (who has cheated, or otherwise ruined or ended the relationship) want you back. But you're too good for them now. You reject them and hurt them through the weapon of your body.

There are over 100,000 posts on Instagram tagged "#revengebody". Online, people come together to support each other in their quests to build one.

Revenge bodies are about gaining power, particularly the power to attract sexual interest. Perhaps more importantly they are about having the power to reject certain sexual advances, typically those of the ex.

WHO BUILDS REVENGE BODIES?

In the past, "revenge body" was a term used only by the tabloid media who imposed it on (largely female) celebrities. For instance, Katie Holmes was dubbed "best revenge body of the year" in 2012 after splitting up with Tom Cruise. More recently, Jennifer Aniston was described as having a "revenge body" after her split with Justin Theroux.

What's new is the phenomenon of individuals, particularly women, describing themselves as creating a "revenge body" online.

As part of my research into the phenomenon, I am gathering data on social media use of the term. While most people will merely post an image of their body with the hashtag #revengebody, some post comments asking for someone to hurt or reject them so that they can have the motivation to transform their bodies. In online groups, women share diet and exercise tips to help others build what they describe as "revenge bodies".

I became interested in revenge bodies through my research on the Australian recreational bodybuilder "Zyzz" (online persona of Aziz Shavershian) and his fandom.

Zyzz fans tell the story of an avid computer gamer, frequently rejected by women, who at the age of 17, sold his World of Warcraft profile to buy a gym membership. In just a few years he transformed himself from skinny geek to muscular Adonis.

Many Zyzz fans transform their bodies to take revenge - as their idol is said to have done. They frequently quote Zyzz as saying: "i had a girlfriend at 17, who was pretty but slightly chubby, when i was a skinny nerd. She kept pointing out how skinny i was and always looked at other guys with good bodies which was one of the reasons i wanted to start going to the gym. Needless to say when i saw her 2 years later and her jaw dropped, brushing her off at that



moment was probably the best feeling i have experienced in my life."

Indeed, Zyzz's philosophy to "disregard females" (i.e. play hard to get) and his rejection of women online was a major factor in his popularity. Through online forums and social media Zyzz developed a fanbase of approximately 80,000 people.

But Zyzz didn't get to enjoy the power afforded by his body for long. In 2011, while holidaying in Thailand, he collapsed and died from a heart attack, aged just 22, reportedly due to an undiagnosed congenital heart defect. Zyzz fans liken him to Narcissus as they suggest it was his love for his own beauty, in particular his steroid and fat burner use, that contributed to his death.

Zyzz's popularity has only increased since his death. Eight years later his fans (numbering in the hundreds of thousands) still discuss Zyzz every day online. Zyzz rode the first wave of photo and video centered social media, now used by people around the world to display their bodies for revenge purposes.

WHY NOW?

The rise of the "revenge body" online reflects our relatively new ability to display our bodies through smartphones, social media and high-speed internet. These technological advances have allowed us all to have public bodies – not just celebrities.

Western culture also increasingly emphasises the body as a project that reflects your worth. The condition of one's body is often seen as a choice: everyone can have an ideal body if they just put in the work.

The rise of the revenge body can also be attributed to the fact that in recent years, we have seen muscularity become part of the feminine ideal. The ideal body for women is no longer just thin, it is thin and toned. This means women can't just diet to achieve the ideal body, they must also actively shape their bodies through resistance training.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE REVENGE BODY

Women have had more practice using their bodies as weapons of power. But, as Zyzz attests, a new generation of men are also embracing these bodies.

Recently the term "revenge body" has been used more broadly – in Kardashian's TV show and some online groups – to describe any bodily transformation, not just those aimed at whoever has hurt you.

But perhaps in a society where body shaming has become rife, and body change is seen as a way of fixing anything and everything, it would be more appropriate to take revenge against the whole culture.

[the writer is Lecturer in Anthropology and Sociology, The University of Queensland]

Miji, Rongmei tribal dances to be showcased in UK for first time

ITANAGAR, JUL 16 (PTI): The dance forms of Miji tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and Rongmei of Manipur will be showcased for the first time in the United Kingdom, co-organiser of an upcoming event said Tuesday.

Artists from the two tribes will perform their respective dance forms at Nehru Centre in London on July 18.

The event will be organised by the cultural wing of the High Commission of India in collaboration with UK-based Indian cultural groups.

The programme, christened as 'Indrad-



hanush', is aimed at highlighting the rich tribal heritage and

dance forms of India in London, event co-organiser Ragasudha Vin-

jamuri, founder of UK-based Sanskruti Centre for Cultural Excellence,

said.

Both the communities are nature-worshippers and have vibrant drapes and dance forms, she said.

"Miji and Rongmei dances will be showcased for the first time to the UK audience," Vinjamuri said, whose organisation is engaged in advocating protection and conservation of environment through dance forms.

She lauded the efforts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur culture ministers Taba Tedir and Jayantakumar Singh respectively for extending help for the event.

DGPs of Arunachal, Mizoram, Puducherry transferred; NDMC chairman shifted

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): The police chiefs of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Puducherry and the chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh were transferred as the Union Home Ministry effected a reshuffle among top IPS and IAS officers in the Union Territory cadre.

S B K Singh, an IPS officer of the 1988 batch and currently working as the DGP of Arunachal Pradesh, was transferred as the DGP of Mizoram, according to an official order.

Balaji Shrivastava, an IPS officer of the 1988, currently posted as the

DGP of Mizoram, has been transferred and posted as the police chief of Puducherry.

S Sundari Nanda, an IPS officer of the 1988 batch, current working as the DGP of Puducherry, has been transferred to the Delhi Police, where she will be given another assignment in her rank.

Rajender Pal Upadhyaya, an IPS officer of the 1991 batch, will hold the charge of DGP of Arunachal Pradesh with immediate effect and until further orders.

Naresh Kumar, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, currently serving

as chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), has been transferred and posted as chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh.

Satya Gopal, as IAS officer of 1988, currently posted as Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh has been transferred to the Delhi government.

The Union home ministry is the cadre controlling authority of the IPS and IAS officers belonging to the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMU) cadre, popularly known as the Union Territory cadre.

Manipur cops rewarded for busting drug manufacturing unit



IMPHAL, JULY 16 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Tuesday rewarded 59 police personnel for busting a drug manufacturing unit and recovering brown sugar worth Rs 100 crore in the international market.

A total amount of Rs 10 lakh was handed over to the 59 personnel of the Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB) and the Thoubal district police involved in the operation

by the chief minister at a function here.

Singh said the reward to the police personnel was part of the state government's initiative against its war against drugs.

Over 100 kg of brown sugar worth Rs 100 crore in the international market was recovered from the manufacturing unit at the residence of 40-year-old Md Mutalip in Lilong Dam area, on

June 29 by personnel of Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB) along with the Thoubal district police.

Mutalip is in judicial custody, Superintendent of Police, NAB, W Basu Singh said.

The SP had said that it was for the first that a drug manufacturing unit was unearthed in the state and such a huge quantity of drugs was seized.

19 NDRF teams in flood-hit Bihar: MoS Home

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): As many as 19 National Disaster Response Force teams have been deployed in flood-hit Bihar, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told reporters on Tuesday and asserted that the Centre is ready to provide all necessary assistance to the state.

He said Home Minister Amit Shah has instructed officials to be in

touch with the authorities in flood-hit states like Assam and Bihar to help them with manpower and other resources as required.

Rai, who hails from Bihar, said seven NDRF teams were present in the state and 12 more have been sent there to help flood victims.

Unusual torrential rainfall in catchment areas in Nepal and subse-

quent massive discharge of water in rivers led to flash floods in Bihar where 25 people have lost their lives in the last few days while more than one lakh people have been moved to safer areas, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told the Assembly on Tuesday.

A total of 25.72 lakh people have been affected by the natural calamity so far, he said.

90% of Kaziranga National Park submerged; anti-poaching camps affected

KAZIRANGA/GUWAHATI, JUL 16 (PTI): With over 150 anti-poaching camps in the Kaziranga National Park affected by the Assam floods, the authorities are working round-the-clock to check poaching at the UNESCO World Heritage site, officials said.

The staff and security personnel are performing their duties using mechanised and country boats to deal with any kind of eventualities, they said.

Ninety per cent of the Kaziranga National Park in Golaghat and Nagaon districts of the state was still submerged, a statement from the Assam Ministry of Forest and Environment said.

Besides forest guards, a State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) team was engaged alongside Assam Police personnel in vulnerable spots of the park, Divisional Forest Officer, Kaziranga National Park (KNP), Rohini Ballab Saikia said

The press community said 155 of the 199 anti-poaching camps at



the KNP are affected by floodwaters.

The Kaziranga National Park is home to the world's largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceroses. Other animals such as tigers, elephants, sloth bears, monkeys and musk deer are also found in the forest.

Some of the animals have taken shelter in highlands within the park and many are migrating to the southern highlands of Karbi Anglong, crossing National

Highway 37, the state-

ment said. Though 90 per cent of the KNP is submerged, water level inside the park and the adjoining NH-37 has receded to some extent, restoring the movement of heavy vehicles on the highway on Tuesday.

However, passenger buses were not being allowed to drive through the park, Saikia said.

Till now, six accidents have been reported on the national highway, causing the death of five

Hog Deer and a Sambar, the communiqué said.

Five other animals in the park are reported to have succumbed to injuries "for various reasons due to flood", it said.

"Teams for rescue operation of distressed animal, as per necessity, are kept in readiness. The Special Rhino Protection Force is also deployed in vulnerable locations of the park," the communiqué said.

Meanwhile, on the directions of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal,

Minister of State for Environment and Forests Naba Kumar Doley has rushed to the park to oversee measures being taken to ensure the safety of wild animals, it said.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force A M Singh visited several areas of the park to take stock of the situation.

Another Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Ranjana Gupta, is camping in the park to supervise the operations.

Flood and rescue operation management is being monitored by the chief minister and the forest minister, the release said. Both of them are in constant touch with the park authority for real-time analysis and support, it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Monday spoken to Chief Minister Sonowal to take stock of the flood situation, including the condition of the KNP, and assured all possible help and support.

TMC objects to allowing of repeated queries in Parliament on WB political violence



NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday objected to the issue of political violence in West Bengal being repeatedly raised in Parliament, claiming that it was in violation of the rules of the House and asked why was the state government being "targeted".

The party has written to the Lok Sabha speaker as well as the Rajya Sabha chairman over the issue.

In his letter to the Lok Sabha speaker, TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay claimed that Rule 41 (xiii) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha regarding conditions of admissibility of questions is being violated in the House.

Rule 41 (xiii) states that a "question shall not repeat in substance questions already answered".

"However, three questions have been al-

lowed in the Lok Sabha regarding political violence during 2019 general elections... Ten advisories have gone to the state government in 10 days. This is butchering of the parliamentary democratic process. Why is the Bengal government being targeted in such manner? We strongly protest this and request you to kindly look into it," Bandyopadhyay said in his letter to the Speaker.

In the letter to the Rajya Sabha chairman, TMC's member to the Upper House Derek O'Brien said four questions on the topic had been allowed.

"The same question is not normally allowed to be raised on the floor of this august House again and again with minor variations. But the law-and-order situation in West Bengal has been raised multiple times in different forms during this session," he said.

Two Rohingyas arrested in Tripura

AGARTALA, JUL 16 (PTI): Two Rohingyas have been arrested from near the India-Bangladesh international border in Tripura, police said Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested 21-year-old Md. Salim and 20-year-old Jahangir Alam from Rajnagar area near here in West Tripura district on Monday, after locals claimed that two suspected Rohingya Muslims were roaming there.

"It was found during preliminary investigation that they had entered Indian territory from Bangladesh in search of jobs," officer-in-charge of Battala police station, Sahadeb Bhowmik, said.

Refugee cards were recovered from their possession and they confessed of having stayed at a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh's Chittagong area, he added.

The duo would be produced at a local court Tuesday.

Rohingyas use the Tripura corridor of the India- Bangladesh border to enter India from the neighbouring country, BSF officials said.

In October 2017, the Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA) had ordered all state governments to identify and monitor Rohingya refugees.

It said the Centre viewed infiltration of Rohingyas from Rakhine state of Myanmar into Indian territory as a burden on the country's resources and it aggravated security challenges to the country.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims, described by the UN as the most persecuted minority in the world, fled their homes in 2017 to escape an alleged crackdown by the Myanmar military.

WB govt issues notification for 10 pc reservation in state jobs

KOLKATA, JUL 15 (PTI): Members of families with a gross annual income of below Rs 8 lakh will be eligible to avail benefits of reservation on a preferential basis in civil posts and services in West Bengal, according to a state government notification.

People, who are not covered under reservation schemes for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, will get 10 per cent reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services of the state government, and also admissions to ed-

ucational institutions in the state, it said.

"Gross annual family income should be below of Rs 8 lakh and the income shall also include the income from all sources salary, agriculture, business, profession etc for the final year prior to the year of application," the notification said

Gross annual income is one of the criteria to avail the reservation, it said.

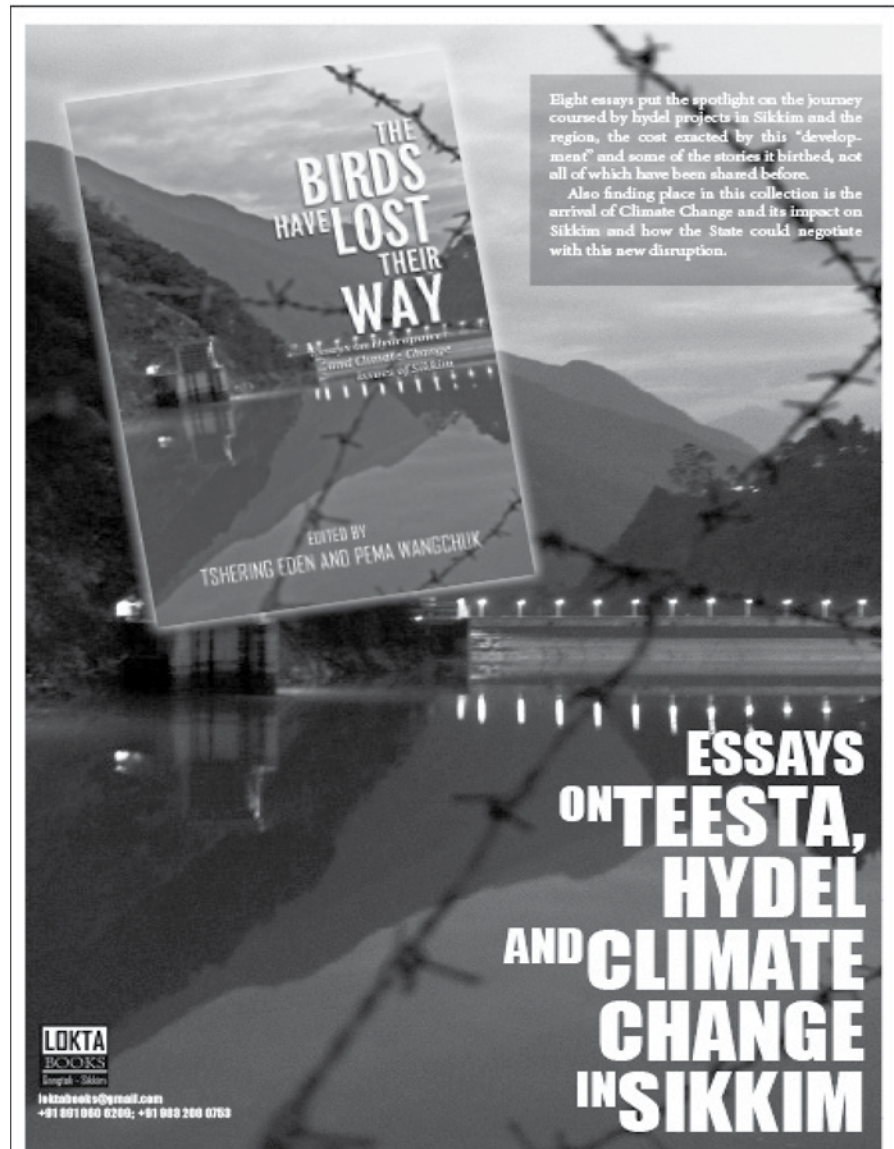
The notification was issued on July 9, six days after the Mamata Banerjee government announced

10 per cent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the economically weaker sections (EWS) in the general category.

The decision of the West Bengal government came six months after the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre approved a similar proposal.

The notification stated that a person whose family does not own or possess five acres of agricultural land and above, or own a residential flat of 1,000 sqft and above, would be able to apply for the reservation.

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Golden comeback but Mirabai Chanu in constant battle with fear of injury

APARAJITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Top Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu Tuesday said she lives in fear of injuring herself ahead of next year's Tokyo Olympics despite recovering from an unspecified back problem, which marred her progress in 2018.

After the gold-winning performance in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games last year, Mirabai had complained of lower back pain.

The injury puzzled doctors across the country, who were unable to diagnose the cause, forcing the 24-year-old to miss the Asian Games and the World Championships in the same year.

"A lot has changed after the injury. There is a always a fear as to what will happen if I get injured again. I have to think twice before every lift, every training session," Mirabai told PTI.

About nine months later, the back pain has subsided allowing Mirabai to make a successful comeback to the arena. She notched up a gold medal a the EGAT Cup in Thailand in her first outing after the setback.

The injury has led Mirabai and coach Vijay Sharma to tweak their training regimen.



"My approach has changed because we don't know why the pain occurred in the first place. Was it because of some exercise or was it because of my technique, we still don't know that," she said.

"She is taking things a bit slowly," added Sharma, only slightly elaborating on what has changed for the star.

Mirabai has enjoyed a good run since her comeback. In the Asian Championships in April, she missed out on a medal by a whisker.

The 24-year-old had lifted 199kg (86kg+113kg), her personal best, but lost out to China's Zhang Rong, ow-

ing to a lower clean and jerk result.

She then got back to winning ways by notching up the gold at the recently concluded Commonwealth Championships.

"My progress since the injury has been good. I have won gold EGAT and then again in Commonwealth Championships. I am satisfied with the performance."

The diminutive Manipuri has now set her sights on the World Championship, scheduled to be held in September. She has fond memories of the tournament, where she was crowned

champion in 2017.

With those memories, come the expectations and with that a lot of pressure as the World Championship will also double up as an Olympic qualifying event.

"Compared to 2017 the expectations are much more because I am returning for the first time and this is the main event for the Olympics. But I try not to think about it. I just keep in mind what the coach tells me," she said.

In order to win at the World Championship, Mirabai will have to up the ante. She heaved 194kg on way to gold at the 2017 Worlds in Las Vegas.

However, the 2018 world champion in the 49kg category lifted a world record weight of 209kgs. While the silver and bronze went to 208kg and 206kg, respectively.

"I am targeting 202kg-plus in this event. Thailand, China Japan, Korea we are all together.

"Because Asia is the powerhouse the same players will be in the Worlds as well, and I almost won a medal in the Asian Championship so I'm confident I'll do well. I have lifted 203kg in training. My aim is 210 but it has to be done slowly hopefully till Tokyo I will be able to achieve it," she explained.

After the rejig of weight categories, Mirabai had to move from 48kg to 49kg alongside a lot of lifters participating in the 53kg.

Asked if that added pressure considering the 53kg lifters have an advantage over her, Mirabai said: "I am not thinking about others. I have to focus on my performance."

"Yes, I am at a disadvantage because those who have moved from 53kg can lift one or two kilogram more than us but I have to focus on my own performance," she said.

McIlroy looks to end drought on Open's return to Northern Ireland



PORTRUSH (UNITED KINGDOM), JULY 16 (AFP): The British Open returns to Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years this week at Royal Portrush, giving Rory McIlroy the opportunity on home soil to end his five-year major drought.

The four-time major champion has not lifted one of golf's big four trophies since winning the 2014 US PGA Championship, but is the bookmakers' favourite to get his hands on the Claret Jug after finishing tied for second a year ago at Carnoustie, two strokes behind Francesco Molinari.

McIlroy has continued his consistent form this season, claiming two titles including the prestigious Players' Championship while recording 11 top-10 finishes.

He admitted that it would be a dream come true to triumph in the 148th Open Championship at a club where as a 16-year-old he fired a course record 61.

"If I'm being honest, it would obviously mean the world to me," said the Northern Irishman, who won the 2014 Open at Hoylake.

"But just like winning Hoylake meant the world to me as well. Just getting my hands on that Claret Jug again would be a huge accomplishment."

World number three McIlroy, who won the 2016 Irish Open at the K Club just outside Dublin,

was keen to play down the pressure of playing in front of his home fans.

"I think it's going to feel normal. It's going to feel like just another Open Championship," said the 30-year-old after a solid showing at last week's Scottish Open.

"I've played in a few of them now. I know what to expect. Might be a little louder.

"Atmosphere might be a bit different but the objective is the same, to go there and play good golf and hopefully give myself a chance to win the Claret Jug."

Englishman Max Faulkner won the last Open to be played at Portrush, in 1951, taking home a top prize of just USD 375. The champion this year will receive USD 1,935,000.

'I just hope I hit the fairway'

Among the favourites is red-hot world number one Brooks Koepka and a resurgent Tiger Woods.

But the fans will roar loudest for McIlroy and his compatriots, including 2011 Open champion Darren Clarke, who will have the honour of hitting the first tee shot of the tournament early on Thursday at his home course -- he lives in the town of Portrush.

"It's going to be amazing," said Clarke.

"Thursday morning is going to be exciting. And I just hope I manage to get one going straight down the fairway."

Koepka's recent major record remarkable -- he has won four in his last nine appearances and finished first twice and second twice in the last four he has played.

He missed Carnoustie a year ago through injury but his British Open record has been good, with two top-10s from five appearances and a best of tied sixth in 2017.

Woods will play professionally in Northern Ireland for the first time as he seeks a 16th major to close on Jack Nicklaus's record of 18.

The 43-year-old American capped one of sport's greatest comebacks by winning the Masters in April, despite previously slipping out of the top 1,000 in the world rankings after years of struggling with back injuries and poor form.

Woods' reimposed threat at the top of the game was confirmed 12 months ago at Carnoustie when he seized the lead on the back nine in the final round, only to finish in a tie for sixth, three shots behind winner Molinari.

The Italian says he has kept good care of the Claret Jug since his triumph 12 months ago.

"We've had a couple of drinks out of it. Nothing out of the ordinary," he said.

"I've got small kids at home so I had to keep it out of reach most of the time to avoid disaster."

Next India cricket head coach should be below 60 and have international experience



NEW DELHI, JULY 16 (PTI): The Indian cricket board Tuesday invited applications for the men's team support staff including head coach who will need to be less than 60 years of age with a minimum international experience of two years.

The BCCI has streamlined the process of hiring the support staff including head coach, batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach, physiotherapist, strength and conditioning coach and administrative manager. The application deadline for all the roles is 5 PM, July 30.

Before Ravi Shastri was appointed as the head coach in July 2017, the BCCI had issued a nine-point eligibility criteria which lacked focus and clarity. This time, it is only a three-point criteria for all the coaching roles including head coach besides the

positions in the batting, bowling and fielding department.

"The current coaching staff of Team India will get an automatic entry in the recruitment process," said the BCCI in a statement.

The head coach should have coached a Test playing nation for a minimum of two years or three years with an associate member/A team/IPL side. The applicant also should have played 30 Tests or 50 ODIs. The criteria remains the same for batting, bowling and fielding coach except the number of games played. The three personnel should have played at least 10 Tests or 25 ODIs and be less than 60 years of age.

The current support staff comprising Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup,

covering the West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3.

All of them can re-apply but the team is set to have a new trainer and physio after the departure of Shankar Basu and Patrick Farhart following India's semifinal exit in the World Cup.

After the West Indies tour, India's home season kicks off with a series against South Africa, beginning September 15.

Shastri was appointed India chief coach in 2017 after Anil Kumble's tenure ended prematurely in controversial circumstances.

The 57-year-old was also India's director of cricket from August 2014 to June 2016.

India have not won a major ICC event under his guidance though the team did make history by winning a maiden Test series in Australia earlier this year.

Silva told the club web site. "But what they can bring to our dressing room is also important." The web site also quoted Delph.

"Every time I have played against Everton, whether it was home or away, straight away the first thing that comes to mind when you see the fans is passion," he said.

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Tendulkar picks five Indians in World Cup XI



NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar has picked five Indians in his World Cup all-star XI but preferred Englishman Jonny Bairstow over Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the team's wicketkeeper.

India skipper Virat Kohli, vice-captain and tournament-scorer Rohit Sharma, pacer Jasprit Bumrah along with all-rounder Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja were all part of the team selected by Tendulkar.

While Rohit was the highest run-getter at the quadrennial event with 648 runs which included five centuries, Jadeja made the playing XI despite featuring in just two matches during the big event.

Tendulkar also named New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, who was adjudged the player of the tournament, besides including Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who had take 11 wickets and amassed over 600 runs in the World Cup.

Star of the World Cup final, England's Ben Stokes was the other batting all-rounder in the side apart from Pandya.

Australian speedster Mitchell Starc, who claimed 27 wickets in the showpiece, led the pace department, which also comprises England's Jofra Archer, beside Bumrah.

Bairstow, who is not even the first choice keeper in the English team in which Jos Butler is preferred, made the cut as the stumper-batsman in Tendulkar's XI ahead of the more experienced Dhoni.

Tendulkar named the XI while doing commentary for the official broadcasters.

Tendulkar's World Cup XI:

Rohit Sharma, Jonny Bairstow (wicket-keeper), Kane Williamson (captain), Virat Kohli, Shakib Al Hasan, Ben Stokes, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Mitchell Starc, Jasprit Bumrah, Jofra Archer.

Everton sign England midfielder Delph from Manchester City

LIVERPOOL, JULY 16 (AFP): Everton said on Monday that they have signed England midfielder Fabian Delph from Manchester City on a three-year deal.

Everton did not say how much they had paid for the 29-year-old England international, who joined City from Aston Vil-

la in 2015. Delph played 89 games for City, winning two Premier League medals. He also has 20 England caps.

"When I look to bring a new player into our squad, the first thing I look for above all the other things is quality and Fabian is a player with high quality," Everton manager Marco

New Zealand coach calls for WC rules review, says 'feeling very hollow'



WELLINGTON, JULY 16 (PTI): New Zealand

coach Gary Stead Tuesday called for the ICC World Cup rules to be reviewed, saying the feeling is "very, very hollow" after England beat them on a bizarre technicality in the showpiece' final.

Both finalists could not be separated at the end of regular play as well as the Super Over, but England were crowned champions because they had a superior boundary count.

"It's a very, very hollow feeling that you can play 100 overs and score the same amount of runs and still lose the game, but that's the technicalities of sport," Stead told

reporters.

Hailed by many as the greatest game in the history of one-day internationals, New Zealand were left to rue the boundary count rule a few minutes after a fortuitous, last-over overthrow came to England's rescue.

"There's going to be many things they look at over the whole tournament -- I'm sure when they were writing the rules they never expected a World Cup final to happen like that.

"I'm sure it'll be reviewed (and) there's many different ways that they'll probably explore."

The Black Caps coach shrugged off suggestions

England had been mistakenly handed an extra run after a throw from the deep hit the bat of a diving Ben Stokes' and rolled past the boundary rope in the final over of regular play.

England were awarded six runs but former umpire Simon Taufel said they should only have got five as the batsmen had not crossed for their second run when the throw was made.

"I didn't actually know that. But at the end of the day the umpires are there to rule.

"They're human as well, like players, and sometimes there's a mistake but that's just the human aspect of sport."

1 Pak miner rescued, 4 bodies recovered after coal mine collapses



KARACHI, JUL 16 (PTI): After over 40 hours, authorities on Tuesday rescued a coal miner and recovered the bodies of four others who were trapped in a coal mine following an underground fire in Pakistan's resource-rich Balochistan province.

At least 11 miners were trapped on Sunday more than a kilometre underground after the fire started in the coal mine following an electrical short circuit. Rescue efforts were hampered by the fire spreading poisonous gas inside the mine near Balochistan's capital Quetta.

One coal miner was rescued alive on Tuesday while the bodies of 4 have been recovered, Director General Provincial Disas-

ter Management Authority Imran Khan Zarkoon was quoted as saying by the Dawn News.

He said the search operations were still underway for the remaining 6 miners.

The Minister of Mines and Minerals Development of Balochistan Shafqat Fayyaz, said that the authorities were trying their level best to rescue the miners.

Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Alyani has directed the Provincial Disaster Management Authority to deploy its technical team and ensure the safe recovery of the workers, provincial government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani said.

The presence of poi-

sonous gas inside the mine prevented easy access to the mine. Also, six relief workers participating in the rescue operation fell unconscious due to toxic gas in the mine and had to be evacuated, The Express Tribune reported.

Poor working conditions inside coal mines in Balochistan claim the lives of miners on an almost daily basis in Harnai, Sowrange, Dukki, Mach and other parts of the province, but often go unreported, the report said.

According to the Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation (PCMLF), between 100 and 200 labourers die on an average in coal mine accidents every year in the country.

28 killed in flash floods in PoK



ISLAMABAD, JUL 16 (PTI): Heavy rains and flash floods have wreaked havoc in the Neelum Valley in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), killing at least 28 people and sweeping away mosques and houses, according to a media report.

Over 150 houses in the Laswa area of the valley were damaged and dozens of people were swept away in floods that officials said were caused by a cloudburst, the Express Tribune reported.

Two mosques were also completely de-

stroyed in the flash floods, officials said. Cell phone and internet services were also affected in the area.

The Pakistani military on Monday airlifted 52 stranded people from a village and shifted them to camps and safer places, the Army said in a statement.

Several people are still stranded in their houses and efforts are underway to evacuate them.

Teams including officials from the district administration, disaster management au-

thority and local police are conducting rescue operations in the area.

State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Director Operations Saaedur Rehman Qureshi confirmed the death toll and said it was likely to rise, the daily reported.

He said the deceased include 10 Islamic missionaries.

We are frantically searching for more missing people. This is a popular tourist spot so there is a strong probability of the death toll increasing," he was quoted as saying.

Amazon staff stage strikes in Germany on big sale day



BERLIN, JUL 15 (AFP): Amazon employees went on strike at seven locations in Germany on Monday, demanding better wages as the US online retail giant launched its two-day global shopping discount extravaganza called Prime Day.

Workers in Germany walked out early Monday, with Orhan Akman, a spokesman for labour union Verdi, telling AFP: "Well over 2,000 took part, that is more than we expected." "We are satisfied that we have succeeded in putting the subject back in the spotlight and our message is that we won't give in."

Akman said the strikes would continue on Tuesday and criticised the US giant.

"Amazon offers these discounts to customers at the expense of its own employees' salaries and by fleeing collective bargaining," he added.

Amazon had insisted in advance that Monday's strike would not affect deliveries to customers.

On Monday, Amazon employees at the two distribution centres in Bad Hersfeld, as well as sites in Werne, Rheinberg, Leipzig, Graben and Koblenz, went on strike under the motto: "No more discounts on our incomes".

The strike action coincided with Amazon's announcement on Monday that it would create another 1,000 jobs in Poland as it opens a new logistics depot in the country's southwest near the German and Czech borders.

The company said it would offer new employees in Poland "a competitive salary of 20 zloty (4.68 euro, USD 5.82) per hour gross".

In Germany, Amazon employees start with a

minimum wage of 10.78 euros per hour before tax, according to management figures, and after 24 months' employment, they draw an average monthly salary reaching 2,397 euros before deductions.

The company has faced several rounds of walkouts by workers seeking better conditions.

In 2018, around 50 strikes were organised in Europe and, in a rare show of cross-border solidarity, some were coordinated to hit simultaneously in several countries.

In April, Amazon trade union representatives from 15 countries met in Berlin to coordinate their efforts.

Meanwhile in the United States, employees at Amazon's warehouse in Minnesota planned a walk-out for the first six hours of Prime Day to highlight their wage demands, according to local media reports.

Protests were also planned at Amazon's UK sites in Rugeley, Swansea, Peterborough, Warrington, Coventry, Doncaster and Milton Keynes.

GMB, the union for Amazon workers in the UK, claims some of their members "have to use plastic bottles to urinate in instead of going to the toilet" and "pregnant women have been forced to stand for hours on end".

Germany's Verdi argues that money for better wages is "available" as in the first quarter of this year alone Amazon posted record profits of 3.2 billion euros.

However, Amazon rejects the trade union's demands and sees no need for collective agreements.

Ex-South African Prez Zuma confirms initiating newspaper, TV channel ideas with Gupta family

FAKIR HASSEN JOHANNESBURG, JUL 16 (PTI) South Africa's former president Jacob Zuma, facing allegations of corruption, has told an inquiry that he initiated the idea of having an "alternative media" in the country that led to the controversial Indian-origin Gupta family establishing their media empire.

Zuma, who was forced to resign as president in February 2018, appeared for the first time on Monday at the inquiry, which is investigating allegations that he oversaw a web of corruption during his term in office.

The allegations against 77-year-old Zuma focus on his relationship with the Gupta family, which was accused of influencing Cabinet appointments and winning lucrative state tenders through corruption.

"I have been vilified, alleged to be the king of corrupt people," Zuma told the inquiry led by Judge Ray Zondo.

Zuma told the judge that he had conceived the idea of having an "alternative media" in South Africa because "the media in this country is very biased; at all material times, just critical".

The Zondo Commission is inquiring into allegations of "state capture" during Zuma's rule.

Zuma said the African National Congress (ANC) had been trying to establish some media as an "alternative" voice, but despite trying by partnering with other people, this never worked.

He had then suggested that a newspaper be established, which the ANC had agreed to. This led to him approaching the Guptas with the idea.

"They seemed to be warm to the idea" Zuma said, adding that he and ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe met



the Guptas to further discuss the idea. "When (the Guptas) were ready with the idea, they said to me: 'Give us a name; we don't know what to call this newspaper'."

He gave them some names of newspapers during the freedom struggle, from which they selected 'The New Age'.

"When this paper was operating and really being appreciated in this country to bring in an alternative voice, I wondered whether I could push them further," he said. "I suggested the paper to them; I suggested the [TV] channel [ANN7]."

The Guptas partnered with a media house in India to establish the ANN7 channel, which was closed down after allegations of their involvement in "state capture" emerged.

The New Age was earlier first sold to an individual with controversial vendor financing from the Guptas, but also shut down after being economically unviable.

"Somebody can then say we were abusing this friendship. It was never the other way round," Zuma said.

"It's me who put them into trouble, because I said your paper is so successful and so your TV thing can be successful."

"They agreed and

said it's a good idea and they moved on it. There was no law broken there. There was no wrong thing done," he said.

"ANN7 brought a fresh air in the country in terms of reporting; in terms of putting across progressive ideas," the former president said. "It was never a back door thing or there's corruption about it. Never."

Zuma said he found the Gupta family "very friendly".

"I never did anything with them unlawfully. They just remained friends, as they were friends to everybody else," Zuma said, adding that they had also been friends of former presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki.

He objected to allegations that he had allowed the state to be "captured" by the family, and had auctioned the country, the BBC reported.

"Did I auction Table Mountain? Did I auction Johannesburg?" he said.

Zuma resigned as president in February last year after huge outcries over his alleged involvement in corrupt and illegal activities that left a number of government departments bankrupt.

He was replaced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who was subsequently re-elected during

national election.

The commission had heard evidence from a number of witnesses, including former ministers of state, implicating Zuma in a range of activities, among them his closeness to the three Gupta brothers who allegedly fleeced a number of government organisations of billions of rand. Zuma has repeatedly denied these allegations.

The Gupta family, originally from Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, rose to power in the IT, mining and media sectors after coming to South Africa as the new democracy dawned under President Nelson Mandela.

The family has since relocated to Dubai amid calls for them to come and testify before the Commission.

The eldest brother, Ajay Gupta, earlier offered to testify in camera but not in person, which was declined by the chairman of the Commission, Judge Zondo.

A number of former senior members of government testified that they had been told by the Gupta brothers about their imminent appointment by Zuma about their appointment as ministers even before the former President had called them.

Hunger on the rise worldwide as 821 million affected, says UN

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 15 (AFP): More than 821 million people suffered from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide last year, the United Nations reported Monday -- the third year in a row that the number has risen.

After decades of decline, food insecurity began to increase in 2015 and reversing the trend is one of the 2030 targets of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

But getting to a world where no one is suffering from hunger by then remains an "immense challenge," the report said.

"The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" was produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other UN agencies including the World Health Organisation.

"To safeguard food security and nutrition, it is critical to already have in place economic and social policies to counteract the effects of adverse economic cycles when they arrive, while avoiding cuts in essential services, such as health care and education, at all costs," it said.

The authors said a "structural transformation" was needed to include the poorest people in the world, a move they said would require "integrating food security and nutrition concerns into poverty reduction efforts" while tackling gender inequality and the exclusion of certain social groups.

Malnutrition remains widespread in Africa, where around 20 per cent of the population is affected, and in Asia where more than 12 of people experience it. In Latin America and the Caribbean, seven percent of people are affected.

Adding the number of people suffering from famine to those hit by food insecurity gives a total of more than two billion.

The FAO said current efforts were insufficient to meet the goal of halving the number of children whose growth is stunted by malnutrition by 2030.

Around 149 million children currently suffer from hunger-related growth delays.

At the same time, the report notes that obesity and excess weight are both on the rise in all regions, with school-age children and adults particularly affected.



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Challenging to keep audience invested in story: Sujoy Ghosh

MUMBAI, JUL 16 (PTI): A haunted house may seem like the perfect setting for a ghost story but “Typewriter” director Sujoy Ghosh says the challenge is always to keep the audience engaged in the series format where the protagonists are children.

Ghosh has delivered one of the best thrillers in Bollywood with “Kahaani” but making a shift to the digital medium with the new Netflix series was not easy for him.

The director says he had to unlearn many things as a writer as he “wasn’t sure if he could write a story for the digital format” but it turned out to be a learning experience.

“Irrespective of the story and the format, the struggle always is to keep the audience invested from the beginning till the end,” he told PTI in an interview.

“I had to be confident that I could write a story for a series where all the characters would be given equal importance and they would be dealt with in detail. When you are writing (for the web), you have to unlearn what you have learnt in films. Once I made myself believe that I could write a series then only I decided to direct.”

Talking about the difference between a film and a web-series, Sujoy says rather than keeping the focus on one character, in a series every part is important.

“If I am making a film, I can make one woman running through Kolkata (referring to Vidya Balan in ‘Kahaani’) but if I am doing a series, I will also have to concentrate on the inspector, who is helping her, and other people.

“It is a wider world, the characters are much broader. Everybody is equal in the series. I cannot take a short-cut.”

The story of “Typewriter” revolves around a group of nine-year-old children in Goa, who are on a mission to capture ghosts.

Sujoy says he was contemplating to make a film featuring children but he wasn’t sure whether it would make it to the big screen.

“On a film structure, it is a little difficult to make a film with young adults as protagonists, you don’t really get to see kids as heroes. The last one we saw was ‘Chota Chetan’ or ‘Makdee’. I wanted to make a film for them, if ‘Badla’ wouldn’t have hap-



pened, I might have tried to make a film.

“I knew it would have been a struggle to get that film made because making every film has been a struggle for me, even ‘Kahaani’.”

A haunted house and ghosts are always a part of a horror story but Sujoy says what one does with the familiar elements is what counts.

“Whether it is a love story or comedy or tragic story, the mood or tone will remain as its core theme. Like in a comedy film, there will be funny things happening, in a love story two people will come together and fall in love, etc.

“The trick is in representing it differently. Like, in a ghost story what happens when you go to a new villa? Every ghost comes in the night what if it came out in the day? So you try and change things.”

“Typewriter”, featuring Purab Kohli, Aarna Sharma, Aaryansh Malviya, Mikail Gandhi, Palash Kamble, Jishu Sengupta, Palomi Ghosh among others, premieres on Netflix on July 19.

Man held for harassing Bengali actress on social media

KOLKATA, JUL 15 (PTI): A person has been arrested for allegedly threatening and abusing a Bengali actress on social media, a senior police officer said Monday.

Acting on the complaint lodged by Arunima Ghosh, police arrested Mukesh Shaw, a resident of Garfa area in south Kolkata, late Sunday night, the officer said.

“The accused has been posting illicit comments, threats and abuses on a social networking account of the actress since May 30,” he said.

The accused had opened a fake account in the name of Mukesh Mayukh, the officer said.

“We are trying to find out why he did all these. We are also checking whether he is mentally stable or not,” the investigating officer said.

Ghosh said, “Initially, I was ignoring this. Then I found that he was keeping an eye on each and everything I was doing and wherever I was going. Then I contacted the Kolkata Police.”

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Netflix announces five India Originals, SRK, Anushka to produce

MUMBAI, JUL 16 (PTI): Streaming giant Netflix on Tuesday unveiled their new slate of Original series with superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Anushka Sharma attached as producers on two different projects.

According to Netflix, Shah Rukh’s Red Chillies Entertainment will produce zombie horror “Betaal”, while Anushka and Karnesh Sharma’s Clean Slate Films will serve as executive producers on “Mai”.

“This is my second collaboration with Netflix after ‘Bulbul’ and we are again looking to disrupt the kind of content audiences are consuming. We at Clean Slate Films have been dedicated to making clutter-breaking, powerful stories since our first production and we are looking forward to push the content envelope.

“The creative freedom to be able to translate these stories to screens that reach a global audience is exciting for us, which is why Netflix is such an important partner,” Anushka said in a statement.

“Mai” revolves around 47-year-old wife-and-mother, Sheel, who finds herself accidentally sucked into a rabbit hole of violence and power, following a personal tragedy. The series is penned by Atul Mongia along with Tamal Sen, Amita Vyas, with Sudip Sharma as a creative producer.

Shah Rukh’s “Betaal”, which also marks the actor’s second collaboration with Netflix, is based in a remote village, visited by two-century-old Betaal, a British Indian Army officer, and his battalion of zombie.

“With Indian police pitted against the undead army, hapless villagers are trapped in a horrific, edge-of-your-seat conflict,” the plot line read.

Patrick Graham is attached as writer/director and showrunner, along with Nikhil Mahajan as the director and Suhani Kanwar as writer. The Original will be executive produced by Blumhouse, known to design some

of the best horror content, and Ivanhoe.

Apart from this, Netflix is coming with “Masaba Masaba”, a scripted series based on real-life moments from fashion designer Masaba Gupta’s life.

It follows her unique background, the diverse worlds she straddles across fashion and family, and her foray back into the dating world.

The series will star Masaba along side her mother, veteran actor Neena Gupta, as themselves. The genre-bending show is created and produced by Ashvini Yardi’s Viniyard Films and will be directed by Sonam Nair.

Alankrita Shrivastava’s “Bombay Begums” and American actor and director, Ravi Patel’s “Messy”, are also part of the streaming platform’s list of upcoming series.

Bela Bajaria, VP, International Originals, Netflix, said they are excited to present these entertaining India-based stories.

“India is home to some of the world’s greatest stories. It’s been thrilling to watch these amazing storytellers embrace the artistic freedom possible at Netflix to create entertaining stories. Audiences everywhere will love these five inventive series set in stories of horror, drama and comedy,” Bajaria said.

“Bombay Begums” revolves around five women from different generations and their lives in contemporary urban India. Created, written and directed by Alankrita, the show has Chernin Entertainment and Endemolshine India attached as executive producers.

“Messy” focuses on Mumbai’s rising stand-up comic, Beanie, who struggles to balance a career in comedy with pleasing a yuppie day-job boss, peculiar best friends forever, persistent parents, and proposal-popping boyfriend.

Patel has co-written the series with Neel Shah. It is co-produced by The District’s David Bernad and Ruben Fleischer and Mutant Films’ Seher Aly Latif and Shivani Saran.



LOOKING SHARP! The Big Little Lies star, Shailene Woodley styles a black and white pant suit while out in Los Angeles.

Hrithik Roshan starrer “Super 30” to be tax-free in Bihar:

SUSHIL MODI

PATNA, JULY 15

(PTI): The Bihar

government on Monday announced that Hrithik Roshan-starrer Super 30, based on the life of Patna-based Mathematics teacher Anand Kumar will be tax-free in the state from Tuesday.

The film was released on July 12.

An announcement to this effect was made by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, who also holds the Finance portfolio.

The announcement came a few days after Sushil Modi had gone to a city theatre along with his wife to watch the movie on the very day of its release and lavished praise on the biopic, which has been directed by National Award winner Vikas Bahl.

The deputy chief minister was asked by journalists, when he emerged from the cinema hall after enjoying the movie on Friday, as to whether he would consider exempting the biopic from taxes in view of the strong social message it carries.

“We will look into the matter”, he had then replied.

The movie is getting rave reviews for the performance of Roshan, who appears wearing a dark tan and a rugged beard and speaks in typical Bihari accent in order to resemble Kumar, who runs in his successful coaching institute the renowned “Super 30” group wherein talented youths from unprivileged backgrounds are provided free of cost tuitions for the coveted Joint Entrance Examinations.

The charitable venture claims to have churned out hundreds of successful IIT aspirants since it was established nearly two decades ago.



Aries:

Want to hear a cliché, Aries? All’s well that ends well. It’s that kind of week. The Universe is showing you signs of how far you have come, and how much you have evolved on this journey. Pay attention to your inner temple. Nurture the most important relationship in your life—the one you have with yourself. You will witness an immense transformation in your outer reality as well.

Taurus:

If you wake up feeling like peri peri in a salt and pepper world, you’ve got your stars to blame, Taurus. Sexual (and sensual) exploration promise to be an important theme for you. What is that one thing you have been shying away from? Whether it’s taking charge and making the first move, or channelling your inner wild (wo)man, dare yourself to do it now.

Tip: Take charge and make the first move.

Gemini:

The Universe is giving you a clear indication of what needs to be eliminated from your life. Are you listening, Gemini? Remember, there

are two people in every relationship. Give where you receive. Don’t allow yourself to be taken for granted. You are being supported in your mission to make space for healthy relationships.

Cancer:

Bring your awareness to things that are keeping you up at night, Cancer. Each thought is charged with intention. You want to be careful of what you are focusing your energy on lest you end up manifesting your worst fears. An Abraham Hicks favourite to bring about a positive shift, “Give your undivided attention to the job of feeling good.”

Leo:

If you are not ready to deepen your commitment, that’s okay. Keeping them in the dark will only complicate matters. Clarity and communication, on the other hand, will help you move to a better place. If you feel like there are certain people around you who are wearing masks, you’re probably right. But, in order to make space for authentic connections, you need to start being real first.

Virgo:

How deep is your love? Virgo, look for actions, not words. You’ll know if they are willing to commit to you for the long haul. Could you be fighting off a 10/10 lover because of somebody who let you down in the past? Be aware of this tendency. Understand how you are sabotaging your own growth. “It’s not the sensation of joy that we fear, of course, it’s actually the fear of losing it or the fear of never feeling it again.” This Brene Brown favourite could help you on your way.

Tip: Being practical will make you feel good.

Libra:

All this texting isn’t going to get you anywhere, Libra. If you like them *this* much, why not make a move? You won’t know if the chemistry translates offline unless you go on a couple of dates. For some of you, a throwback moment could be on the cards. Remember, people don’t always change. Tread carefully. You want to be sure of what you are getting yourself into.

Tip: Be mindful of what you are getting into at this moment.

Scorpio:

While the suitor at hand has all the necessary qualifications, they may not have your best interests at heart. Stay woke, Scorpio. Don’t engage with somebody who plays games unless you know how to. Some of you may start to feel like this is a ‘convenient’ romance. Are they always there when you genuinely need them? Do they make an effort to make you feel seen and heard? If you answered in the negative, you know exactly what you need to do.

Sagittarius:

Not your circus, not your monkeys, Sagittarius. On your priority list: escaping your 3D reality, accessing higher levels of consciousness, journeying to other realms, connecting with your spirit guides, and saying hello to your totems. Sounds like a party in paradise, if you ask me. This week, you’re also being asked to remain mindful of who you let into your sacred space. Not everybody is deserving of your time and energy.

Tip: Access higher levels of consciousness.

Capricorn:

When your love is this strong, no force in the

world can keep you apart. A passionate love affair is on the cards, Capricorn. The Universe wants to experience oneness with your divine counterpart. Living a 100 miles away from the one? Have a conversation about the life you envision together. Work towards dissolving the distance and moving closer.

Aquarius:

You are not flawless, Aquarius. Neither is your divine counterpart. Should that stop you from giving this romance a chance? Anything but! Remember to find a pace that works for both of you rather than chase after relationship landmarks. You are exactly where you need to be.

Pisces:

Expect the unexpected at the start of the week. Or shall we say, a wild card entry from the Universe. Your revelations today: ‘the one’ is not a myth. Neither is the law of divine timing. The Universe is doing its bit to unite you with your divine counterpart. PS: Some of you could be getting ready to exchange vows.

Tip: The Universe is uniting you with your divine counterpart.