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# SummitTIMES

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

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## Locals now **barred** from entering online gaming zones

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

The State Government has issued an official notification prohibiting residents of the State from entering online gaming zones. This is the second such order by the Government, the first being the restriction on locals playing in casinos which was passed in July 2016.

The State Government has amended the Sikkim Online Gaming [Regulation] Amend-

ment Rules 2009 with a view to restrict local people from entering online gaming zones especially casinos.

The amendment to the rules is in line with the assurance given by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on the floor of the Legislative Assembly and public functions several times, stating that locals will not be encouraged to enter casinos or online gaming zones.

The State Government was attacked by opposition parties

on the issue demanding stringent rules and restrictions on local people entering casinos and other online gaming zones.

Today, Directorate of Sikkim State Lotteries under Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department notified that the existing rules of the Sikkim Online Gaming [Regulation] Amendment Rules 2009, Rule 13 is amended under caption 'Prohibition of Entry'.

Rule 13, Sub-Rule [2] says that in order to safeguard the

interest of the local people, only persons having a photo identity card, either voter identity card or Aadhaar Card, or Passport issued from outside the State of Sikkim will be permitted into the gaming zones.

The State Government has also prohibited persons below the age of 18 years and said that if licensee is in contravention of the Sub-Rules (1) & (2) of Rule 13, it will result in suspension or cancellation of the license.

Apart from the operation of three casinos, the State Government has permitted Sugal & Damani Group, Future Gaming Group and Essel Group's Playwin and Golden Gaming International Pvt Limited to operate legal online sports betting in the State. The Union Home Ministry, in April 2014, permitted the Sikkim Government to regulate online betting activities as long as other States and Union Territories in the country were not affected.



## Governor thanks Sikkim and its people for beautiful five-year stay

**NITESH R PRADHAN/  
YOUNG TAMANG**

**GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

Reminiscing about his time spent in Sikkim, outgoing Governor Shrinivas Patil, whose term of five years is nearing its end, spoke to SummitTimes and shared his experiences.

"I think I have gained five more years of age after serving the beautiful people of Sikkim in this

lovely Himalayan State," stated the Governor.

His tenure saw the institution of Raj Bhawan coming closer to the people.

"Respecting people's wish, I opened the doors of the Raj Bhawan to the people. One must put oneself in the shoes of others and empathise so that the other person is satisfied," he said.

*turn to pg03*

## Bill introduced to check ponzi schemes, 10-yr jail prescribed

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** A bill proposing ban on unregulated deposits and up to 10-year jail term for perpetrators of ponzi schemes was introduced in the Lok Sabha today.

The 'Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018, introduced by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.



## Kumar Sporting becomes 2nd Div Sikkim League champion

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

Kumar Sporting Club, Rongyel has emerged as the champion of Sikkim Football Association Second Division Sikkim League 2018 played here at Paljor Stadium. Sikkim Police finished the second division league as the runner-up.

Both the teams have secured nine points each from four matches in the league but on head-to-head basis, Kumar Sport-

ing Club was declared as the champion. However, both the teams have been promoted to the State Premier Division League 2019.

It is a special and memorable moment for Kumar SC to get promoted in the premier division as this was its debut appearance in the second division.

The league was kicked off on 25 Jun with the participation of five clubs of the State. They

played four matches each against each other. After playing four matches each, Howlers Football Club finished the league on the third position with 6 points and Rengzong Football Club on the fourth position with 6 points while Dzongri Football Club ended at the bottom with zero points.

Kumar SC Goalkeeper, Hishey Norbu, was adjudged as the best goal-

*turn to pg02*

## Cabinet nod to introduce bill providing for death penalty for rape of girl below 12 years

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** A bill, which provides for stringent punishment including death penalty for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years, will be introduced in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which began today.

The decision was taken today at a meeting of the Union Cabinet,

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters here.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018, once approved by Parliament, will replace the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on April 21 following an outcry over

*turn to pg02*

## First TEDx city conference to be held in Sikkim this month

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

TEDxGangtok, the first ever TEDx city conference in Sikkim, will be held on the theme 'Sculpting the Eupopian Dream' on 22 July at the conference hall of College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology, Ranipool in East Sikkim.

The programme aims at spreading ideas and knowledge on different subjects among the young generation of the State. The event will have experienced speakers from different areas from in and outside the State who will give talk on their respective subject.

Behind TEDxGangtok is a 30-member core team of young people who are supported by around 50 volunteers.

Members of the core team addressed a press conference today where they stated that the main objective of the event



is to provide a platform for youth to learn about ideas through talks by eminent and experienced speakers from different fields.

The press conference was addressed by Khagendra Pradhan, Abhishek Verma, Yash Raj Chettri, Abhibyanjana Rubi Thatal and Megha Pradhan.

"We also want to promote Sikkim and good things happening in the State at the global level," they expressed.

The day-long event will have speakers like the founder of Human Development Foundation of Sikkim, Keepeu Tshering Lepcha, Marketing Asso-

ciate at ThoughtWorks, Nayana Udipi, Vice President of Large Scale Education Programs, Pranav Kothari, country head India of Middle East and South Africa at Hyperloop Transportation Technology, Joel Michael, Founder of Echostream Sikkim, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia and others.

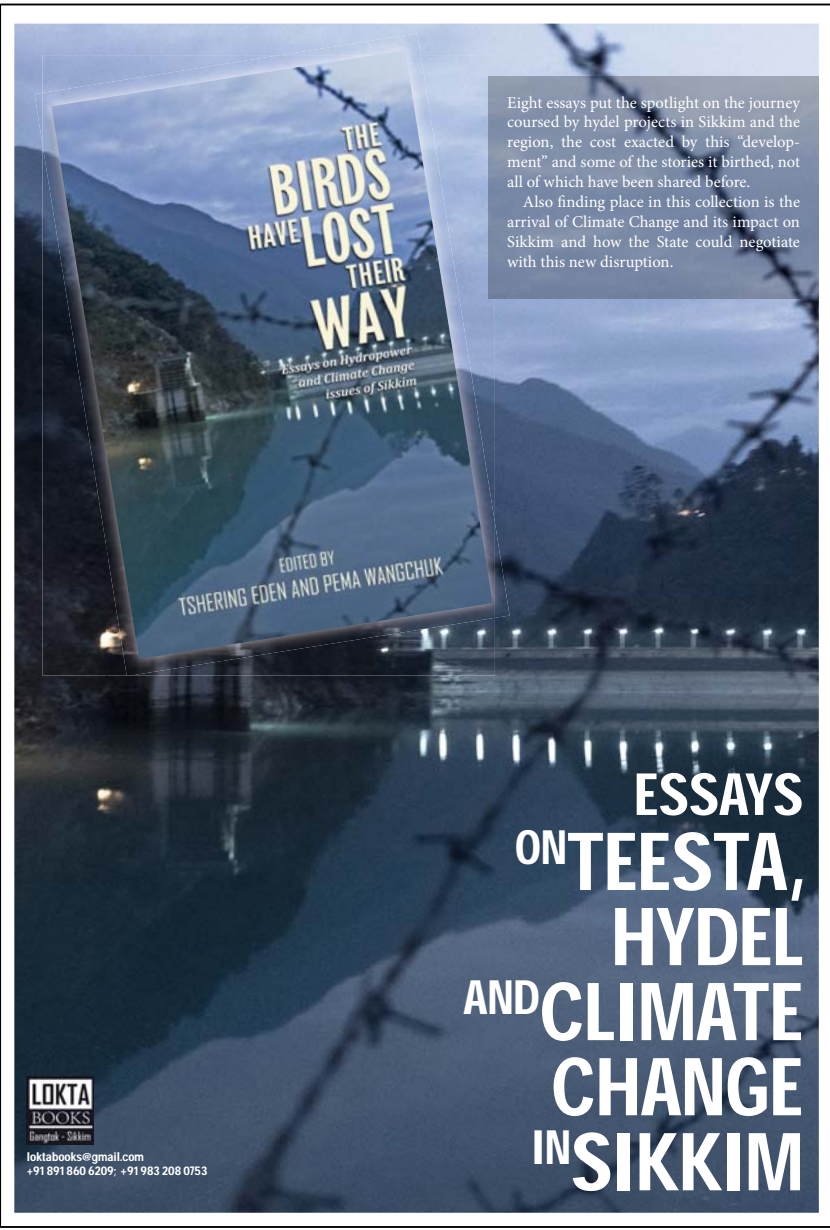
"This event is different from other motivational talks as speakers have been limited to speak for 18 minutes or less and will include interesting presentations," they said.

The TEDxGangtok has already carried out eco-friendly activities to create awareness and an

event which provided a platform for artistes to showcase their talents, it is informed.

"We have decided to start a car pooling campaign in the State very soon and as part of the initiative we have arranged two buses to bring participants to the venue," the team members informed.

They informed that in this initiative the team will first try to convince people to adopt car pooling and will be provided with car pooling stickers if they agree. An aggressive social media campaign for the same will also be launched.





# West DC tours far-flung areas of district



**GYALSHING, 18 JUL [IPR]:** District Collector, West Sikkim, Dr AB Karki, visited various parts of the district under Daramdin constituency accompanied by MLA, Daramdin, DN Sherpa, officials of line departments and Panchayats of various GPUs under the constituency. The two-day visit of the DC which had commenced on 16 Jul concluded today.

Dr Karki visited Daramdin, Sombaria, Okhrey, Hillay, Ribdi, Bariakhop and Dodok while interacting with the concerned area officials and Panchayat members.

The visit unearthed various problems of the public and the officials alike. Issues of delay in construction of CMRHM houses, electricity issues relating to the probability of the loss of life in certain areas, registration of

governmental lands and proper utilization of those lands for other beneficial purposes, issuing of Certificate of Identification [COI] and providing them to the public at their doorsteps were seen as major issues which need immediate attention and solution.

While interacting with the Panchayats of Lower and Upper Fambong, Lunchok, Salangtang, Okhrey and Ribdi GPUs, Dr Karki explained their role as public's voice and representatives. He mentioned that the sole aim of Panchayats is to work for the public's welfare like Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

He gave various ideas of 'Low-Cost; No-Cost' initiatives which the Panchayats could follow in their areas. Further, he advised the Panchayats to come up with award winning

initiatives for their respective GPUs.

The DC also visited and inspected the various ongoing projects under Daramdin constituency like the Ethnic Center at Bariakhop, the foundation stone of which had been laid by the CM on 28 Feb, 2018. He also interacted with the public who have been directed to be relocated due to the project and advised the Panchayat member that the process has to be done swiftly and in an orderly manner.

The DC has expressed strong desire to visit more GPUs of West district wherein similar inspections and interactions will be done for the public's convenience. Further, he plans to visit more remote areas of West district every week to improve administration.

## State level workshop on financing SHGs/JLGs and DEDS

**GANGTOK, 18 JUL [PIB]:** Daylong State level workshop on financing of Self Help Groups/Joint Liability Groups and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Schemes [DEDS] was organized by NABARD, Gangtok at Hotel Royal Plaza in Gangtok on 17 Jul.

The workshop was attended by General Manager/Officer In Charge, RBI, Ravindra Sangvai, GM/OIC, NABARD, Rosie Tshering, Additional Director, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Dr SD Bhutia, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, SRLM, Tenzing Geley, along with representatives from SISCO Bank, AHLF&VS, SRLM and Sikkim Milk Union.

Also attending were various NGOs and KVKs from the State and Branch Heads of major banks who have disbursed DEDS loans in the past three years also participated in the workshop.

General Manager, NABARD, Ms Tshering, set the motion of deliberations of the workshop by highlighting the salient features of SHGs and JLGs financing and disbursements made under the DEDS scheme in the last three years, issues and concerns of implementation at various levels.

Detailed presentation was made on the SHGs/JLGs by Deputy GM, NABARD, Mr Kannan, while AGM, NABARD, Bhama Deuri, gave a presentation on DEDS scheme, its features, operationalization and ways of improving the quality of asset creation.

General Manager, RBI, Mr Sangvai, and Lead District Manager, SBI-Lead Bank Office, Gopal Lama, also highlighted on various banking services and assured their full support and co-operation on successful implementation of the programmes in the State and clarified the various doubts on behalf of the bankers.

Likewise, AD, AHLF&VS, Dr Bhutia, gave valuable inputs on the breed of milch animals, diseases, various issues related project preparation, insurance claims, etc.

## Bill introduced to check ponzi schemes...

**contd from pg01**

roduced by Minister of State for Finance Pon Radhakrishnan, provides for punishment for fraudulent default in repayment to depositors and attachment of assets of entities engaged in such activities.

"The Bill seeks to put in place a mechanism by which the depositors can be repaid without delay by attaching the assets of the defaulting establishments," said the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill.

Non-banking entities are allowed to raise deposits from the public under various laws enacted by the central as well as state governments.

However, the regulatory framework for deposit taking activities in the country is not seamless as regulators operate in well defined areas within the financial sector by regulating particular kind of entities or activities.

As there are considerable differences in state laws in protecting interest of depositors, it has become necessary to have a "central legislation to ensure a comprehensive ban on unregulated deposit taking activity and for its effective enforcement", the bill said.

It prescribes monetary penalty and jail term which could be extended up to 10 years for duping gullible depositors. The monetary penalty could be as high as Rs 50 crore.

The government has proposed these stringent provisions in wake of several ponzi schemes where gullible investors, mostly poor people, were defrauded of amounts running into thousands of crores of rupees.

Generally, ponzi schemes are illegal money pooling activities wherein gullible investors are lured with promises of high returns on investments in a short period.

The bill also proposes setting up of competent authorities by state governments to ensure repayment of deposits in the event of default by a deposit taking establishment.

Companies or institutions running unregulated schemes exploit existing regulatory gaps and lack of strict administrative measures to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings.

The bill is aimed at tackling the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country.

## HSP eager for talks with Sherpa associations on land rights issue: Bhaichung

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

Vice president of Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP], Bhaichung Bhutia, today spoke to media persons at Rangpo in East Sikkim in the presence of a large number of HSP supporters and workers on his return to the State from Mumbai after being part of the commentary panel for FIFA World Cup 2018.

Speaking to media today, Bhaichung said that the HSP has done well in the first one and a half months since its launch on 31 May at Daramdin.

"We have progressed a lot in the first one and a half months. We have



made an impact in West and South districts. We will now focus on East and North districts and reach out to people there," said Bhaichung.

On the party's programmes and agenda,

Bhaichung said that HSP will not impose agenda or programmes upon people.

"We will meet and take inputs and feedback from people on the type of programmes and initiatives they

want. We will include all their inputs in our party manifesto. We will take advice from the people and work on important sectors like education, health and sports," he added.

Bhaichung further informed that the HSP will be giving top priority to the youth of Sikkim and will also focus on sports with the main objective being making sports compulsory in schools of the State.

Lashing out against Sikkim Democratic Front and its government, Bhaichung said, "Sports is important for our students to develop a stronger mentality and to keep them away from negative habits. SDF government did not focus on development of sports, music and other sectors although the youth of Sikkim are talented. For the first time in 25 years of SDF government, the SDF organised a football tournament this year. It was organised just because election is coming."

Speaking on the opposition accusing him of being a political greenhorn, Bhaichung said that he is not new to politics.

"I don't think every politician started out immediately, all experienced and ready. Nobody was a leader when they started out in politics," he said.

Regarding the demand of Sherpa community for inclusion in Revenue Order No. 1, Bhaichung expressed that the HSP wants to have one-on-one discussions with Sherpa associations on the demand.

"We need to sit down and hear what they have to say and come up with a solution. SDF is implementing policies without consulting the concerned people and imposing its decisions on the people. We will definitely meet the Sherpa association and have a talk. That is how problems are solved," he added.



## United Brothers Kalimpong enters Akkar football tourney finals

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

In the first semi final match of the ongoing Akkar Cup Open Football Tournament played today in Jorethang, United Brothers, Kalimpong defeated Dynamo FC, Darjeeling 3-0. With this win, United Brothers has

entered the final of the tourney. Bijendra Mukhia of Dynamo FC has been adjudged man of the match, a press release informs.

The girls' exhibition match held between Ravangla and Jorethang ended in 2-2 draw. However, Ravangla defeated Jore-

thang in the tie-breaker by 5-3 goals.

The second semi final match on 19 Jul will have Jorethang FC and Sikkim United, Gangtok play against each other on the field at 3:30 p.m.

It may be mentioned here, the Akkar Cup Open Football Tourna-

ment is being organised by Jorethang FC on the theme "Say No to Drugs". The winner and runner up of the tourney will be awarded cash prizes of Rs 1,25,000 and Rs 75,000 respectively. The final match is scheduled to be held on 21 Jul.

## Cabinet nod to introduce bill providing for death penalty for rape of girl...

**contd from pg01**

the rape and murder of a minor girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir and the rape of a woman in Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

The Cabinet gave its approval to the draft bill prepared by the Home Ministry, Prasad said.

The bill stipulates stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape, particularly of girls below 12 years. Death sentence has been provided for rapists of girls under

12 years, an official said.

The minimum punishment in case of rape of women has been increased from rigorous imprisonment of seven years to 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment.

According to the bill, in case of rape of a girl under 16 years, the minimum punishment has been increased from 10 years to 20 years, extendable to imprisonment for rest of life, which means

jail term till the convict's "natural life".

The punishment for gang rape of a girl below 16 years will invariably be imprisonment for the rest of life of the convict, the official said.

In case of rape of a girl under 12 years, the minimum punishment will be 20 years which may go up to life in prison or death sentence. Gang rape of a girl under 12 years of age will invite the punishment of a jail

term for the rest of life or death sentence.

The measure also provides for speedy investigation and trial. The investigation in all cases of rape will have to be mandatorily completed within two months, the official said.

The deadline for the completion of trial in all rape cases will be two months. A six-month time limit for the disposal of appeals in rape cases has also been pre-

scribed.

There will also be no provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under 16 years.

It has also been prescribed that a court has to give notice of 15 days to a public prosecutor and the representative of the victim before deciding bail applications in case of rape of a girl under 16 years of age, the official said.

## Kumar Sporting becomes 2nd Div Sikkim League champion

**contd from pg01**

keeper while Sagar Rai of Kumar SC was declared man of the tournament.

Fair play trophy has been presented to Howlers FC, Singtam and Bir Bahadur Pradhan of Sikkim Police received the highest scorer trophy for his 7 points in the league. The champion team has received the trophy, individual medals and cash prize.

Kumar SC manager, Gokul Chettri, expressed immense happiness and satisfaction on getting promoted to the premier division league of the State in its debut appearance. The club was formed in 2016 and became the runner-up of C division league last year and got promoted to the second division 2018.

He mentioned that the main objective of

the club was to provide wider exposure and platform to local players from different corners of the State. He added that the title of champion of the second division will further encourage the management and players of the club to prepare harder for the premier division next year.

Kumar SC coach-cum-player, Sagar Rai, stated that players of the team have given equal contribution to finish the league as the champion. He mentioned that the team mainly consisted of young footballers who have been supported by few experienced footballers of the State.

"I am very happy and satisfied that the hard work of each player has been paid finally by finishing the league on the top," he added.

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**Gangtok on Thursday, 19 July**

**Temp:** 29°C/18°C

**Forecast:** Some sun, then turning cloudy, a thundershower in the afternoon.

**Sunrise:** 04:52 AM

**Sunset:** 6:31 PM

## TMC to support no-confidence motion in interest of opposition unity: Mamata

**KOLKATA, JUL 18 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was supporting the no-confidence motion against the BJP government at the Centre in the greater interest of the opposition unity.

The party has issued a whip to its Lok Sabha MPs asking them to be present in the House on July 20 when the opposition-sponsored no-confidence motion would be taken up for discussion.

The people of the country will also express their no-confidence on the Narendra Modi government after a few months, Mamata told reporters.

"We are supporting the no-confidence motion in the greater interest and in the interest of the opposition unity," she said.

The TMC supremo said, "They (BJP) have the numbers in the House but do not have it outside." Earlier, TMC chief national spokesperson Derek O'Brien told PTI that the party issued the whip to its Lok Sabha members asking them to be present in the House on July 20.

## Governor thanks Sikkim and its people...

**contd from pg01**

Talking about the State, the Governor praised the tourism and organic farming movement with special focus on the citizens particularly the youth.

He added that youth of the State have a good command over English language and there are many opportunities for them in the Country and in the State where they can shine.

"Opportunities are many. You just need to grab it since the youth here have the potential to make more of it," stated the Governor.

Describing the State as a beautiful escape, the Governor expressed that although he has travelled all over the country "but flowers and children here are the best".

Terming his tenure as "love drenched", he said that the people's love has been immense throughout his term as Governor.

He also thanked the State's media for their constant support and urged them to be like a mirror to the society.

The Governor has thanked the people for their constant support all through his tenure and also stated that wherever he may be, he is ever ready to serve Sikkim.

"We are small but empowered," he said.

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** A bill to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act to abolish the 'no detention policy' in schools was passed in the Lok Sabha today.

Replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha on The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (second amendment) Bill, 2017, Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said that it will be at the discretion of the states whether to continue with no detention or not.

The states, he said, will decide at what level

and who will conduct the examination, the minister said.

"It is a broken education system. We have to rebuild our education system," he added.

Under the current provisions of the RTE Act, no student can be detained till class 8 and all students are promoted to the next grade.

The minister said that in some of the states like Sikkim, Kerala and Telangana, the students, who were studying in private schools, have come back to government schools.

"Teacher training, quality and accountabil-

ity are most important," Javadekar said.

Stating that there was no shortages of teachers, the minister, however, added that the deployment of teachers was not right.

While moving the bill in the Lok Sabha, the minister said, "It is a very important legislation and a majority of state governments supported this Centre's proposal. It brings accountability in our elementary education system."

Referring to the no-detention policy in the Act, the Minister said "schools have become

only schools for mid-day meal as education and learning are missing".

This bill has also been analysed by the standing committee and the panel also recommended bringing back the concept of detention in schools, the Minister added.

The policy had been brought as it was felt that compelling children to repeat a class was demotivating, often forcing them to abandon school, he said.

This Bill provides for a regular examination in classes 5 and 8 and if the child fails, he or she

shall be given additional opportunity for re-examination in two months' time, Javadekar said.

Speaking on the bill, Congress MP KC Venugopal said that the proposed legislation lacks "clarity".

"This bill needs clarity. It should be clarified that whether the Centre or the states will conduct the exams," Venugopal said.

He also demanded a hike in the allocation for Centre's flagship programme Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan.

Echoing similar sentiments, BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab said the

government should form uniform guidelines for conducting exams and leave it to the state on how the exams should be conducted.

Arvind Sawant of Shiv Sena and Saugata Roy of the TMC also lent support to the bill.

Sawant asked the government to focus on primary education.

Roy praised Javadekar for his "non-confrontationist" approach as he supported the bill.

Children often do not study if there are no exams, he said, adding that education system is currently in a bad shape

and learning outcomes were going down due to non-detention policy.

"The education system is like an inverted pyramid and adequate focus has not been given to primary education," he said.

Supriya Sule of NCP also supported the bill and said introduction of exams was necessary.

Prem Singh Chandumajra of Akali Dal and Sanjay Jaiswal of BJP also spoke in support of the Bill.

Several members demanded that teachers should also be made accountable for learning outcomes.



## Vermi-composting training held in Dodak-Buriakhop GPU

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 18 JUL:**

A daylong training cum demonstration on vermiculture/bio-composting was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West and ATMA, West under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan at Dodak-Buriakhop GPU in West Sikkim today in the presence of

Panchayat president, Buriakhop, Rabin Lal Gurung, as chief guest, a press release informs.

Subject Matter Specialist, Bhishan Pradhan, highlighted the details of vermiculture/bio-composting application methods on the field, vermi-wash preparation techniques, etc.

Likewise, Block Technology

Manager, Nabin Gurung and Assistant Technology Manager, Lalita Rai, highlighted on various activities undertaken by ATMA, West. They informed about farm school, provision of training, demonstration and exposure programmes for farmers.

A total of 63 farmers and rural youth from Dodak-Buriakhop GPU participated in the programme.

## Give counselling to minor rape victim in 24 hours, Madras HC tells legal authority

**CHENNAI, JUL 18 (PTI):** The Madras High Court today directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to provide counselling within 24 hours to a 11-year-old hearing impaired girl who was allegedly sexually assaulted by 17 men here.

The first bench comprising Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice P T Asha gave the direction when a mention was made about the incident and also the alleged rape of a Russian tourist.

When advocate Suryaprakasam and Padam Narayanan of NGO Change India made the mention, the chief justice observed that the incidents were unfortunate.

Noting that the police have registered a case and are investigating it, she directed the DLSA to give counselling to the minor girl through the District Child Welfare Committee within 24 hours.

Narayanan submitted that according to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the police should have intimated the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 24 hours of the crime against the girl and filing of FIR.

But, even after four days of the crime, the CWC and the State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights have no clue of the whereabouts of the minor victim, he alleged.

He further submitted that there was an urgent

need for psychological counselling, medical intervention, relief and rehabilitation of the victim.

Alleging that the police was not treating the CWC as an entity, he said the police was violating norms in a highhanded manner.

Narayanan further brought to the notice of the chief justice that no appointments were made to CWCs for all the 32 districts in the state for the past three years.

To this, the chief justice ordered the appointment of CWCs immediately.

Justice Banerjee also directed that the matter with regard to CWCs be placed before the second division bench headed by Justice Hlulwadi G Ramesh.

When social activist Traffic Ramaswamy made a mention before the bench on the attack on the accused in the minor girl rape case yesterday by some advocates when they were brought to the court, the chief justice said the court will look into it.

The girl was allegedly raped multiple times over the past seven months, and 17 of her suspected tormentors were arrested here with some beaten up and dragged down the stairwell of a court yesterday by angry lawyers.

Six people have been detained by police for allegedly sexually assaulting the 21-year-old Russian woman who is here on a tour.

## India' first comprehensive anti-trafficking bill introduced in LS

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** India' first comprehensive anti-trafficking bill seeking to deal with the crime from the point of prevention, protection and rehabilitation was introduced in the Lok Sabha today.

The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, was introduced by Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.

The bill was approved by the Cabinet in February and while it was hailed by many as a path breaking legislation, it had faced severe criticism from activists on the ground that it violated the rights of sex workers and threatened free speech and labour rights.

Besides taking up prevention, rescue and rehabilitation, it covers aggravated forms of trafficking such as forced labour, begging and marriage.

"This bill is a resounding victory for children, women and the marchers of Bharat Yatra. I thank PM @NarendraModi @PMOIndia for responding to demand of 12 lakh Indians who marched for 12,000 km across 22 states to demand trafficking bill," Kailash Satyarthi tweeted minutes after the bill was tabled.

The bill provides for confidentiality of victims, witnesses and complainants and time-bound trials and repatriation of the victims.

It proposes to create institutional mechanisms at district, state and central levels. It calls for punishment ranging from 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine not less than Rs one lakh.

However, various groups have pointed out that the bill does not mention terms like "sexual exploitation" or "prostitution" and is unfavourable towards the transgender community, because they are not conclusively covered under the bill.

Currently, India uses different laws to deal with human trafficking cases depending on the facts of the case.

The police sometimes uses the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act to raid brothels and rescue the women in it while in other cases, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act is used to prosecute traffickers while in some cases labour laws are invoked.

This bill, when passed will be the only legislation dealing with all form of human trafficking.

## Multiplexes directed not to sell eatables above MRP

**HYDERABAD, JUL 18**

**(PTI):** Multiplexes and cinema theatres here have been directed by the Legal Metrology Department not to sell packaged goods at more than maximum retail price and warned of penal action in case of violations.

As per Legal Metrology Department Packaged Commodities selling goods at more than MRP was illegal, an official release said today.

On receiving several complaints from people, the Controller for Legal Metrology Department Akun Sabharwal held a meeting with owners and representatives of multiplexes and cinema theatres yesterday and ordered them to sell eatables and water as per the MRP.

Unpacked items like popcorn and ice creams should not be sold in small, medium, big or

jumbo forms. Each and every item weight, measure should clearly be visible and also on the board also, the release said.

From September 1 onwards, it would be compulsory to print the price on the goods.

The Controller warned that if the theatres or multiplexes are found violating rules, cases will be booked and heavy penalty will be laid on them, the release added.



## DIRECTORATE OF SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES FINANCE, REVENUE & EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM DEORALI, GANGTOK

**No. /FIN/DSSL/656/2017-18/191**

**Dated: 17/07/18**

### INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR 08 (EIGHT) WEEKLY ONLINE LOTTERY DRAWS (PART B)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Directorate of Sikkim State Lotteries under Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department, Government of Sikkim invites Tender/ Bids from eligible Proprietorship/ Partnership firms/ Companies registered under the law for appointment of Marketing Agent for marketing and sale of 08 (Eight) Sikkim Online weekly lotteries per day (Part-B).

For details please visit the Government website [www.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.sikkim.gov.in).

For more details & complete tender process please visit State procurement portal: [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in).

Sd/-

**DIRECTOR,**

**SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES**

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*R.O. No. 207/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 18.7.2018*

## Three Indians held for smuggling gold in Nepal

**KATHMANDU, JUL 18 (PTI):** Three Indians were arrested today from Nepal's Tribhuvan International airport here for smuggling around 500 grams of gold, worth Rs 2.77 million, the police said.

Faijan Khan, Adil and Saiyad Mohammad arrived here this morning from Sharjah in an Air Arabia plane.

They were arrested after they crossed the customs checking counter, they said, adding the three were hiding 552 grams of the yellow metal, in the shape of buttons, in their mouth under the tongue.

During the investigation, they told police that they had smuggled the gold to make profit.

They have been taken into custody and further investigation is on, the police said.

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# SummitTIMES

## Allow Local Adaptations of Centralized Models

*The top-down model needs tweaking to deliver better*

Given the energy with which Sikkim is hosting programmes under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, it would appear that the State has a major problem when it comes to ensuring access and care for its daughters. Sikkim has many problems, some even gender related, but letting the girl child be born, survive and receive an education is not one of them. An important issue no doubt if the national scenario is taken into consideration, but in a State with no reported case of female infanticide, one might wonder at the necessity of such elaborate events and robust funding on what, let us accept it, is a redundant issue as far as Sikkim is concerned. The government agencies too realize this awkward emphasis and do, it appears, try and work around it to ensure that the earmarked funds end up coming to some use. So one has ingenious ways in which the BB-BP funds are being utilized. Or the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan obsession in what is the country's first Nirmal Rajya!

This is shared here to highlight the disconnectedness with which centralized planning looks out for the country. India's daughters, by and large, need saving and access to education, but that is not necessarily the case everywhere that the programme is being forced. In areas like Sikkim, it could have easily been ratcheted up some notches to speak more about gender equality, empowerment and rights; it could have moved beyond the unimaginatively routine official events and roped in activists and women leaders to push the envelope of gender rights a little further. But that did not happen. May be its time will come too, but this reference was made not to speak only about the BB-BP initiative, and is cited here to highlight how the pressures of implementing imported models saps everyone of the energy to work out local solutions for local issues. For example, while a girl-child's right to live is not threatened in Sikkim, her right to education often gets compromised; securing the best education for the daughters when a choice has to be made is quite often sidestepped. It is in this direction that Sikkim's energies need to be focused more and it would be unfortunate if the BB-BP was deployed only to reinforce an existing access to literacy. In that sense, it would helped more if centralized planning provided the overall ideology and allowed local adaptations to build on them.

Something on these lines was attempted a few years ago when Delhi announced that it was looking at releasing funds directly to the gram panchayats based on developmental agendas set up by these micro units in line with the developmental push. That said, the decentralisation process already underway in some states, including Sikkim, will achieve little if the decentralised components are not allowed the freedom to change, adapt and modulate projects and schemes to suit the needs, aspirations and ground realities of the areas they represent. Agreed, if this happens, the control that central agencies have over line organisations will weaken, but that is how things should be when one is decentralizing anyways. The parent body should decide policy and leave the implementation to the grassroots level workers who understand the severity of the problems and know which solutions will work. They are not handicapped for initiative or skill, it is only access to funds that limits their effectiveness; as does a more trusting environment which is why they are straitjacketed with guidelines and instructions. Give them the funds and an overarching policy framework to work under and see how everything that the top-down model failed to deliver can actually be rather easily achieved.

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# How the latest tech and some healthy activism can curb fake news

CO-PIERRE GEORG, CHRISTOPH AYMANN & JAKOB FOERSTER  
*theconversation.com*

The term "fake news" has become ubiquitous over the past two years. The Cambridge English dictionary defines it as "false stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke".

As part of a global push to curb the spread of deliberate misinformation, researchers are trying to understand what drives people to share fake news and how its endorsement can propagate through a social network.

But humans are complex social animals, and technology misses the richness of human learning and interactions.

That's why we decided to take a different approach in our research. We used the latest techniques from artificial intelligence to study how support for – or opposition to – a piece of fake news can spread within a social network. We believe our model is more realistic than previous approaches because individuals in our model learn endogenously from their interactions with the environment and not just follow prescribed rules. Our novel approach allowed us to learn a number of new things about how fake news is spread.

The main take away from our research is that when it comes to preventing the spread of fake news, privacy is key. It is important to keep your personal data to yourself and be cautious when providing information to large social media websites or search engines.

The most recent wave of technological innovations has brought us the data-centric web 2.0 and with it a number of fundamental challenges to user privacy and the integrity of news shared in social networks. But as our research shows, there's reason to be optimistic that technology, paired with a healthy dose of individual activism, might also provide solutions to the scourge of fake news.

### MODELLING HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Existing literature models the spread of fake news in a social network in one of two ways.

In the first instance, you could model what happens when people observe what their neighbours do and then use this information in a complicated calculation to optimally update their beliefs about the world.

The second approach assumes that people follow a simple majority rule: everyone does what most of their neighbours do.

But both approaches have their shortcomings. They cannot mimic what happens when someone's mind is changed after several conversations or interactions.

Our research differed. We modelled humans as agents who develop their own strategies on how to update their views on a piece of news given their neighbours' actions. We then introduced an adversary that tried to spread fake news and compared how efficient the adversary was when he had



knowledge about the strength of other agents' beliefs compared to when he didn't.

So in a real world example, an adversary determined to spread fake news might first read your Facebook profile and see what you believe, then tailor his disinformation to try and match your beliefs to increase the likelihood that you share the fake news he sent to you.

We learnt a few new things about how fake news is spread. For example, we show that providing feedback about news that's been shared means that it's easier for people to detect fake news.

Our work also suggests that artificially injecting a certain amount of fake news into a social network can train users to better spot fake news.

Crucially, we can also use models like ours to come up with strategies on how to curb the spread of fake news.

There are three things we have learned from this research about what everyone can do to stop fake news.

### FIGHTING FAKE NEWS

Because humans learn from their neighbours, who

learn from their neighbours, and so on, everybody who detects and flags fake news can help prevent the spread of fake news on the network. When we modelled how the spread of fake news can be prevented, we found the single best way was to allow users to provide feedback to their friends about a piece of news they shared.

Beyond pointing out fake news, you can also praise a friend when they share a well researched and balanced piece of quality journalism. Importantly, this praise can happen even when you disagree with the conclusion or political point of view expressed in the article. Studies in human psychology and reinforcement learning show that people adapt their behaviour in response to negative and positive feedback – particularly when this feedback comes from within their social circle.

The second big lesson was: keep your data to yourself.

The web 2.0 was built on the premise that companies offer free services in exchange for users' data. Billions followed the siren's call, turning Facebook, Google, Twitter, and LinkedIn into multi-billion dollar behemoths. But as these companies grew, more and more data was collected. Some estimate that as much as 90% of all the world's data has only been

created in the past few years. Do not give your personal information away easily or freely. Whenever possible, use tools that are fully encrypted and very little information is collected about you online. There is a more secure and more privacy-focused alternative for most applications, from search engines to messaging apps.

Social media sites don't yet have privacy-focused alternatives. Luckily the emergence of blockchain has provided a new technology that could solve the privacy-profitability paradox. Instead of having to trust Facebook to keep your data secure, you can now put it on a decentralised blockchain that was designed to operate as a trustless environment.

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# The Trump-Putin summit: A stooge at work?

JOHN COLARUSSO  
*theconversation.com*

There were at least six topics that Donald Trump could have forcefully raised with Russia's Vladimir Putin at Monday's so-called summit in Helsinki, Finland. Any other president would have.

First was Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Second was Russia's presence in Syria.

Third was the unlawful Russian annexation of Crimea.

Fourth was Russia's intrusion into eastern Ukraine.

Fifth was Russia's continued and ominous expressions of "concern" for Russian speakers in the Baltic states, particularly Latvia and Estonia, that echo some of the rhetoric prior to Putin's actions in Ukraine.

Sixth was Russia's possible help to North Korea given Putin, after all, was reportedly the one who suggested Trump scrap joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

But it's the first lost opportunity that was most astonishing. Trump didn't criticize the Russians. Instead, he backed Putin's laughable denials that Russia had meddled in American politics, sneering at U.S. intelligence and justice officials who beg to differ.

Trump was given plenty of ammunition to confront Putin by the remarkable set of indictments issued by Special Counsel Robert Mueller last week in his ongoing investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election.

The indictments contain such detailed information that they, in effect, sent a message to the Kremlin and its military intelligence

branch, the GRU, all but declaring: "We know who you are and where you live."

### 'A POWERFUL TOOL'

In the hands of a legitimate president, the indictments would have been a powerful tool at such a summit. Trump's refusal to accept the information, and likely any additional information, from his own intelligence community in order to stand beside Putin and deny Russian involvement has sent the world into shock.

But not yours truly.

As an expert in U.S.-Russia relations who advised the Bill Clinton White House, I believe that what Trump did is perfectly understandable if you believe, as I have argued recently, that he's a Russian stooge.

Mounting evidence suggests his campaign was helped by Russia. Several key figures associated with him are being investigated; some of the accused are behind bars already. Russia very likely has compromising material on him. Most importantly, Trump, a man of utter venality, has been supported by Russian money for years — the only question is how much.

Trump is also a man whose brain

apparently has a disconnect.

How else can one explain him giving a recorded interview that demeaned British Prime Minister Theresa May, his hostess the following day, and then claiming it was fake news (a Russian concept)? This is not stupidity. This is brain malfunction.

So what could one have reasonably expected from Trump? After all, he sought a one-on-one with Putin, probably to seek approval for stooge duties well done, and more money — perhaps even a Trump Tower Moscow!

His interpreter is to be debriefed, so we may learn the details. I would not be surprised if the Russians recorded the exchange and release it to embarrass Trump, just as they released the transcripts and footage of his meeting with high-ranking Russian officials the day after he fired FBI director James Comey.

### MIXED EMOTIONS

They clearly have conflicted feelings about their probable stooge, perhaps preferring to see him replaced with someone a little more stable and effective.

I also expect to hear more damage, more abject abasement on the

other points that I listed.

I confess that while I am not shocked, I am surprised at the magnitude of the event. In a presidency marked by a near daily barrage of the ugly and incompetent, Monday's summit may be one fiasco too far.

Even many of the Republicans in Congress seem to sense that Trump has entered a realm where they themselves wish not to go. The former CIA director John Brennan has called Trump's actions at this summit treasonous.

Treason is defined as aiding the enemy. Will aiding the adversary suffice? I would say yes. It's a fitting label for an atrocious act. No one, even anyone in his "base," can deny that he is failing to live up to his oath of office.

### WHAT TO DO?

The cabinet can invoke the 25th amendment and remove him by declaring him unfit for office — not a hard case to make.

The Republicans in the House of Representatives could screw up their nerve and draw up articles of impeachment to pass on to the Senate for a trial.

We could all wait until November, hoping that the Russians will not corrupt that round of voting and pray that a Democratic Congress will do what the GOP should have done a year ago.

Perhaps the military will give Trump a parade and remove him. After all, extraordinary violations of norms call for extraordinary remedies.

Then again, when he fully absorbs the outcry, Trump will likely just utter two dismissive words: "Fake news."

*[the writer is Professor of Languages and Linguistics and Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, McMaster University]*





## Bengali named language for 2018 Harvill Secker Translators Prize

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** Bengali has been chosen as the language for this year's Harvill Secker Prize which aims to recognise the achievements of young translators.

The entrants for the Harvill Secker Young Translators' Prize 2018 will have to translate the short story "Half-Timer Pawre" by Shamik Ghosh from his collection "Elvis O Amolasundari".

The winning translator will receive 1,000 pounds and a selection of Harvill Secker books.

The Harvill Secker Prize, now in its ninth year, focuses on a different language each year and is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 34, with no restriction on country of residence.

Harvill Secker is an imprint of Vintage Publishing at Penguin Random House.

This year's prize will be judged by renowned translator Arunava Sinha, anthropologist and novelist Tahmima Anam, writer and television presenter Konnie Huq and Harvill Secker editor Mikaela Pedlow.

The prize was launched in 2010 as part of Harvill Secker's centenary celebrations. It was founded by Harvill Secker editor Briony Ever-road.

Last year, Erica Chung won the prize, translating Korean author Han Yujoo's "Seven People with the Same Name and their Discrete Moments".

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# BJP MP's daughter among 19 officers arrested in APSC cash-for-job scam

**GUWAHATI/DIBRUGARH, JUL 18 (PTI):** Nineteen Assam government officers, including the daughter of BJP MP R P Sharma, were arrested today as their handwriting did not match with that in their answer sheets in the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) examination held in 2016, police said.

The Dibrugarh Police, which is probing the cash-for-job scam in the

APSC, had summoned the 19 officers of the Assam Civil Service (ACS), Assam Police Service (APS) and allied services of the 2016 batch to appear for handwriting tests after forensic examinations of their answer sheets indicated anomalies.

Superintendent of Police, Dibrugarh, Gautam Bora said the handwriting of the 19 officers did not match with their answer sheets that were

found to be fake earlier during forensic tests. The officers were arrested in Guwahati, he said.

The 19 officers were selected in the examination conducted by the APSC when Rakesh Pal was its chairman.

Pal and three other officials of the commission were arrested in 2016 for their alleged involvement in the cash-for-job scam.

The arrested officials

include 13 ACS, three APS and three allied service officials, Bora said.

The ACS officers arrested are Utpal Bhuyan, Barnali Das, Susovan Das, Dhruvojyoti Chakraborty, Manzoor Ilahi Laskar, Moon Mazoomdar, Mustafa Ahmed Borbhuyan, Md Saibur Rahman Borbhuyan, Monika Teronpi, Ganesh Chandra Das, Srabanti Sen Gupta, Deepshikha Phukan and Leena Krishna Kakati, the SP said.

The APS officers arrested are Gulshan Daolagpu, Bhargav Phukan and Pallavi Sharma -- daughter of BJP Lok Sabha MP from Tezpur -- said Additional SP and investigating officer Surjeet Singh Paneswar.

The allied service officer are District Transport Officer Suranjita Hazarika, Superintendent of Taxes Rituraj Neog and Inspector of Taxes Nipon Kumar Pathak, he said.

The police had earlier arrested 35 people, including Pal, APSC members Samedur Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley and assistant controller of examinations Pabitra Kaibarta.

The Assam government had on June 21 this year dismissed 13 arrested state civil services officers from service for their alleged involvement in the cash-for-job scam.

The dismissed offi-

cers were undergoing probation when they were arrested in November last year and are currently lodged in Guwahati Central Jail.

They have been accused of bribing Pal and using unfair means in the examinations to qualify for the state civil services.

Among the dismissed officers is former Congress Minister Nilamani Sen Deka's son Rajarshi Sen Deka.

## CM Mamata makes 'Safe Drive' stickers mandatory for vehicles

**KOLKATA, JUL 18 (PTI):** Stressing the need to strengthen road safety campaigns in the state, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today asked the transport department to ensure that every vehicle has 'Safe Drive, Save Life' stickers pasted on its front and back sides.

The state government launched the 'Safe Drive, Save Life' drive in 2016 as part of its initiative to inculcate a "sense of safe driving and responsible road behaviour" among people.

Banerjee, who inaugurated 20 state-run Volvo buses, 21 trauma-care ambulances and 13 wrecker vans here, said the transport department would involve children for the sticker cam-



paign "as the motorists might be more receptive to their requests".

"Once the weather improves, we will rope in young boys and girls to paste the stickers on the front and the back sides of the vehicles at traffic intersections," she said at the programme, in presence of Transport Minister Suvendu Adhikari and senior transport officials.

The newly inaugurated Volvo buses would ply

between district headquarters and Kolkata.

The objective of the sticker drive is to drill the message of road safety in the minds of people, Banerjee said.

"The 'Safe Drive Save Life' stickers, in big fonts, will have to be pasted on two ends of the vehicles to instill traffic discipline," she asserted.

Talking about the new Volvo buses- 'Bangladeshi Express' - Ba-

nerjee said these high-speed vehicles would provide "comfortable and economic travelling experience" to the public.

"Twenty new buses, each worth around 1.5 crore, have joined the fleet and six more will hit the road in the near future," she said.

The high-speed buses, connecting district towns with Kolkata, are being introduced at a time when debates over high-speed trains are doing the rounds across the country, the chief minister said, in an obvious reference to the bullet train project of the NDA government.

"During flood-like situations, when rail tracks are inundated, buses can be of help to stranded people. Last year, during

north Bengal floods, bus services turned out to be the only means of transport," she said.

The CM also said 80 electric buses would be introduced in greater Kolkata area before Durga Puja.

Referring to the wrecker vans, the CM said, "The vans can be of great help after a road mishap, especially at places like Maa flyover in central Kolkata," she said.

Adhikari, on his part, credited the chief minister for the improved transport facilities in the state.

The non-stop Volvo buses were introduced today to provide "comfortable and affordable" services to middle-class people, the transport minister added.

## Manipur University row: Members of NE students' body submit memorandum to HRD Ministry

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** The members of a northeast students' body today submitted a memorandum to the HRD Ministry, seeking removal of Manipur University's Vice Chancellor Aditya Prasad Pandey over allegations of financial irregularities and administrative negligence.

The members of the North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) today staged a protest outside the ministry, while a couple of its other members submitted a memorandum to the ministry.

"We want the VC to step down. Even if an inquiry committee has been re-constituted, how can there be a fair probe, when the VC is still in office? Since he holds the highest

position in the university, he can manipulate people and other essential documents," said Chinglen, a member of the NEFIS.

In the memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the students' body has alleged that the vice chancellor has made arbitrary and illegal donation of Rs 2 lakh from the university's funds to the BJP-backed students' body Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

The NEFIS alleged that Pandey has used his office to award contracts without following any due procedure. The procurement price of essentials such as exam papers in the contracts awarded is drastically higher than the earlier procurement prices.

## West Bengal 7th state to have direct selling regulations

**KOLKATA, JUL 18 (PTI):** West Bengal has become the seventh state in the country to regulate direct selling through West Bengal Direct Selling Guidelines 2018, the industry body said here today.

"These guidelines provide a definitional clarity for direct selling, paving way for a much-needed statutory push for the industry in the state. While, emphasising on a strong consumer protection mechanism," Indian Direct Selling

Association (IDSA) said here today.

The guidelines also have provisions for appeal and revision to be monitored by the designated authorities.

"The eastern region is a very important market for the direct selling industry with 19 per cent market share. West Bengal is ranked second among the top-10 states in the country with Rs 940 crore business, accounting for 9.10 per cent share in total sales," IDSA chairman Vivek Katoch said.

## Mizoram takes steps to repatriate last batch of Brus from Tripura

**AIZAWL, JUL 18 (PTI):** The Mizoram government was going ahead with its preparations for the repatriation of the last batch of over 30,000 Brus from Tripura to Mizoram, despite opposition by some members of the community, a senior official said today.

Additional Secretary for Home department, Lalbiakzama, told PTI that the meetings of district core committees on Bru repatriation concluded in Lunglei district yesterday.

Meetings had also been held in Mamit and Kolasib districts, where the Bru families were proposed to be resettled, he said.

The Bru refugees are currently living in six relief camps in North Tripura district.

"We do not have any official information about the reported protests in the relief camps and the withdrawal of Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) chief A Sawibunga from the agreement made on July 3 with the Centre, state governments of Mizoram and Tripura," Lalbiakzama said.

As part of the final repatriation of 32,876 Brus of 5,407 families by September 30, the Mizoram government has planned to resettle 4,199 Bru families in Mamit district near Mizoram-Bangladesh-Tripura border while Kolasib



and Lunglei districts bordering Assam would host 824 and 384 families respectively.

A group of Bru refugees in Tripura on Monday forced the MBDPF chief to withdraw his signature from the agreement.

The refugees were unhappy with the outcome of the agreement and demanded a better deal, Sawibunga had said.

As per the agreement, signed by the central government and the governments of Tripura and Mizoram besides MBDPF leadership, each of the 5,407 families will get Rs 5,000 per month along with

free ration for two years, besides house-building assistance of Rs 1.5 lakh. Also, a one-time financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh will also be given to each of the family but the amount will be kept as fixed deposit in the name of the family head.

The Bru people fled Mizoram in 1997 following an unrest and multiple efforts have been made since then to repatriate them.

Around 8,000 Bru refugees have gone back to Mizoram since 1997 in six batches and they have been living peacefully in the state, officials said.





## LS congratulates Hima Das on winning gold

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** The Lok Sabha today congratulated athlete Hima Das on winning gold in the women's 400m race in the world athletic championship.

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said Das had covered 400m in just 51.46 seconds winning gold for India.

"It is worthy to mention that Hima Das is from a village in Assam. She is an inspiration. The House prays for her future success," Mahajan said, amid thumping of desks by members.

The 18-year old sprinter scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman athlete to win a gold at the world level.

Das hails from Shing village in Assam's Nagaon district.



## Neeraj Chopra strikes gold at French meet

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18 (PTI):** India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra comfortably won the gold at the Sotteville Athletics meet in France, beating a competitive field which included 2012 London Olympics gold-medallist Keshorn Walcott.

Chopra's throw of 85.17m put him way ahead of the field, including Moldova's Andrian Mardare (81.48m) and Lithuania's Edis Matusevicius (79.31m), who finished second and third respectively.

Wacloft of Trinidad and Tobago came up with a throw of 78.26m, which was only enough for fifth place.

The 20-year-old Indian from Panipat had first made headlines when he won the gold in the 2016 World Junior Championship with a record throw of 86.48m.

He also won the gold at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast earlier this year before breaking the national record with a 87.43m effort at the Doha Diamond League, where he finished fourth.

## Indian junior women's hockey team beats Belgium in U-23 tourney

**ANTWERP (BELGIUM), JULY 18 (PTI):** The Indian junior women's hockey Team defeated Belgium 2-0 to clinch its third consecutive victory at the Under-23 Six Nations Tournament here.

Sangita Kumari (36th minute) and Salima Tete (42nd minute) scored to give India the win, Hockey India stated today.

In their first match, the Indian team had a convincing win against Ireland 4-1, followed by a 1-0 triumph over Great Britain.

Last night, the Preeti Dubey-led outfit put up a resilient performance to ensure they remained unbeaten in the tournament.

After a goalless first and second quarter, India were finally able to breach the Belgian defence in the third quarter with Sangita Kumari's goal in the 36th minute.

The 1-0 lead was dou-



bled when Salima Tete scored through a penalty corner in the 42nd minute.

India's defence held steady in the last quarter and ensured the team maintained the lead

and eventually won the match 2-0. India will take on Canada in their fourth match.

## It is not easy to play one-off games, says Shardul Thakur

**CHETAN NARULA**

**LEEDS, JULY 18 (PTI):** India pacer Shardul Thakur feels it is never easy to come off the bench and perform straight away in high-pressure games, and he too felt the heat in the series-deciding third and final ODI against England here.

Thakur came in for Siddarth Kaul as India went for a new-look pace attack in the series' decider against Leeds on Tuesday, but ended up losing the game by eight wickets, thanks to Joe Root's 13th ODI hundred. Thakur ended with figures of 51 for one in 10 overs.

I played the last game in South Africa when we had won that series, and it wasn't a necessary win for us. Playing this game, I was obviously a bit nervous because it is the series' decider. When you are put under pressure, it's a player's responsibility to put forward your a-game. Sometimes the results go your way, sometimes they don't, Thakur said after the loss yesterday.

When given opportunity in a one-off game my mindset is always to win the game for team when I step on the field. While playing this game, it was the same. Also when I am put in different teams, whether I am put in India-A or in domestic cricket, it is always the same, he said.

India were restricted to 256-8 after being put into bat, and Thakur along with the rest of the bowling attack lacked penetration against Root and Eoin Morgan who put on an unbeaten 186-run partnership for the third wicket.

It means that India, who won the T20I series 2-1, have now lost the ODI series by the same margin after winning the Nottingham ODI by eight wickets and suffering an 86-run defeat at Lord's. The five-Test series begins in Birmingham on August 1.

It's unfortunate that we lost this game. If you see overall we have done quite well. Keeping the World Cup in mind, which is next year, I think whatever batsmen have learnt from this T20 series and ODIs will be useful.

"How to bat in these conditions and for bowlers how to bowl in these conditions, I think it is very important. And going for-



ward in this year's cricket, whichever games we play, I think our team would execute what we want to do, he added.

The Men in Blue did have their chances in the game, when Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan put on 71 runs for the second wicket. But the latter's run-out led to a middle-order collapse that saw India placed at 158/5 and never recovering after that.

Thakur said that was where India lost the game, while the English batsmen negotiated Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav quite well when faced with a below-par target.

Shikhar and Virat were going really strong. If they had continued to bat till 40th over, maybe it would have been different and we could have put up 300. The wickets we lost in the middle overs made the difference, said Thakur.

England played really well against Kuldeep. If you saw the pitch, it had changed and got slower. They were playing spin easi-

ly on the backfoot and taking singles. So they played them very well, he added.

This series was built up as a dress rehearsal for the 2019 World Cup, but the last two losses have highlighted India's many deficiencies, starting from the middle order to a long tail to over-dependency on the top-order.

In light of India's loss against the number one ranked ODI side, Thakur said England were favourites for the World Cup next summer.

They are obviously favourites because these are their home conditions. England know them better how to play cricket here, so other teams have a big challenge to play here. They have played well against Australia recently and now against us, so it will be difficult to beat them. But when we do come back (for the World Cup) we will be all geared up, Thakur signed off.



## Google hit with record 4.3-bn-euro EU fine over Android

**BRUSSELS, JUL 18 (AFP):** The European Union slapped Google with a huge 4.34-billion-euro fine for abusing the dominance of its Android operating system today in the biggest antitrust penalty in the bloc's history.

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said the US tech giant illegally used Android's near-monopoly to boost usage of its own search engine and browser.

The decision, which follows a three-year investigation, comes as fears of a transatlantic trade war mount due to President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on European steel and aluminium exports.

"Today the commission has decided to fine Google 4.34 billion euros (USD 5 billion) for breaching EU antitrust rules," Vestager told a press conference in Brussels.

"Google has engaged in illegal practices to cement its dominant market position in internet search," Vestager, who has taken on a string of Silicon Valley titans as EU antitrust chief, said Google "must put an effective end to this conduct within 90 days or face penalty payments" of up to five percent of its average daily turnover.

The new sanction nearly doubles the previous record EU anti-trust fine of 2.4 billion euros, which also targeted Google, in that case for the Silicon Valley titan's shopping comparison service in 2017.

Google immediately said it would appeal the fine "Android has created more choice for everyone, not less," Google spokesman Al Verney said in a statement.

"A vibrant ecosystem, rapid innovation and lower prices are classic hallmarks of robust competition. We will appeal the Commission's decision." Danish former minister Vestager spoke by telephone with Google chief Sundar Pichai last night to tell him about

the decision in advance.

Vestager said Google had shut out rivals by forcing major phone makers including South Korea's Samsung and China's Huawei to pre-install its search engine and Google Chrome browser, thereby freezing out rivals.

They were also made to set Google Search as the default, as a condition of licensing some Google apps. Google Search and Chrome are as a result pre-installed on the "significant majority" of devices sold in the EU, the European Commission says.

Google also prevented manufacturers from selling smartphones that run on rival operating systems based on the Android open source code, it said.

Google finally gave "financial incentives" to manufacturers and mobile network operators if they pre-installed Google Search on their devices, the commission said.

Google provides Android free to smartphone manufacturers and generates most of its revenue from selling advertisements that appear along with search results.

Under EU rules Google could have been fined up to 10 per cent of parent company Alphabet's annual revenue, which hit USD 110.9 billion in 2017.

Vestager's campaign against Silicon Valley giants in her four years as the 28-nation European Union's competition commissioner has won praise in Europe but angered Washington.

Brussels has repeatedly targeted Google over the past decade amid concerns about the Silicon Valley giant's dominance of internet search across Europe, where it commands about 90 per cent of the market.

As well as the Android and Google Shopping files, it also has a third investigation under way, into Google's AdSense advert-placing business.

Vestager's other major scalps include Amazon and Apple.

## Women have constitutional right to enter Sabarimala temple: SC

**NEW DELHI, JUL 18 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today said women have the constitutional right to enter Sabarimala temple in Kerala and pray like men without being discriminated against.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, which is hearing a petition challenging the decision of the Devaswom board banning entry of women of age group 10-50 years, said that even if there was no law, the women cannot be discriminated against with regard to offering prayer in a temple.

"When a man can enter, a woman can also go. What applies to a man, applies to a woman also," the bench also comprising justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra observed.

"The right to enter a temple is not dependent on a legislation. It is



the constitutional right," the bench said, adding that this right is en-

shrined under Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution.

The top court was informed by the Kerala govt that it also sup-

ported the entry of women of all age groups in the temple.

The bench then referred to the contrary affidavits of the Kerala government which had in 2015 had supported the entry of women but made a U-turn in 2017 and opposed the entry.

The counsel for the Kerala government said that it would go by its first affidavit and support the cause of women.

"You are changing with the changing times," the bench remarked

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for one of the intervenors, assailed the practice and said that the ban on the entry of women of certain age groups was violative of various fundamental rights including Article 17 which deals with untouchability.

She also referred to the definition of term Hindu under various

statutes and said that the women were discriminated against not on the ground of sex but because of menstruation.

Senior advocate Raju Ramchandran, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae, supported the entry of women into the temple and said that denial of the right to entry of women was violative of fundamental rights.

The hearing on the plea filed by petitioners Indian Young Lawyers Association and others, remained inconclusive and would continue tomorrow.

The apex court had on October 13 last year referred the issue to a Constitution bench after framing five "significant" questions including whether the practice of banning entry of women into the temple amounted to discrimination and violated their fundamental rights under the Constitution.



16 drown,  
30 missing  
as refugee  
boat sinks off  
north Cyprus:  
media

**ISTANBUL, JUL 18 (AFP):** Sixteen refugees were drowned and around 30 missing today after their boat sank in the Mediterranean off the north of Cyprus, Turkish state media reports said.

The boat was carrying 150 people when it went down off the village of Yeni Erenkoy in the breakaway Turkish Cypriot-controlled portion of the island, which is only recognised by Ankara.

Over 100 people were rescued in a joint operation by Turkish Cypriot and Turkish coastguards after the boat sank off the village of Gialousa (Yeni Erenkoy in Turkish) on the panhandle Karpas peninsula, reports added.

Search efforts were under way to recover the missing with commercial vessels also taking part, the reports added.

Turkey's DHA news agency said that the refugees were Syrians seeking to go to Europe but this has yet to be confirmed.

Cyprus, some 160 kilometres from Syria's coast, has not seen the massive inflow of migrants experienced by Turkey, Greece and Italy although asylum applications have been rising sharply.

The island has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in response to a Greek military junta-sponsored coup.

Turkey has however been one of the hubs for refugees fleeing Syria and other trouble spots like Afghanistan and Iraq.

# Indian woman among 3 killed as two training aircraft collide midair in US

**WASHINGTON, JUL 18 (PTI):** A 19-year-old trainee pilot from India was among three people killed when two small training aircraft from a flight school collided midair in the US state of Florida, authorities said today.

The two small planes likely to be piloted by trainers smashed into each other yesterday over the Florida Everglades near Miami, the Federal Aviation Administration said, the Miami Herald reported.

The two aircraft -- Piper PA-34 and Cessna 172 -- belonged to Dean International, a flight school in Miami that has a history of more than two dozen incidents and accidents in the decade between 2007 and 2017, Miami Dade County Mayor said.

Police confirmed at



least three deaths and are investigating whether a fourth person was killed.

Police identified the three victims as Nisha Sejwal from India and Jorge Sanchez, 22 and Ralph Knight, 72.

Sejwal had enrolled in flight school in September 2017, according to her Facebook page.

The debris of the crashed planes was located in a region only accessible by airboats.

Two victims were discovered at the wreckage of one small plane and a third was found near the crash site of the second aircraft.

student, Miami-Dade police spokesman Alvaro Zabaleta said.

The search and rescue effort was suspended yesterday due to the low visibility.

A witness named Daniel Miralles, who was fishing in a canal near the airport, said he looked up in time to see the planes collide and record video of falling debris on his cellphone.

"I heard a weird sound. It sounded like a plane, but it sounded too close. It sounded like an 18-wheeler going 100 mph down the street, said Miralles.

Dean International's website says it offers primary instruction for student pilots, advanced instruction for private and commercial pilots and training for multi-engine flights.



# S Korea minister warns of fallout of US-China trade war

**SEOUL, JUL 18 (AFP):** South Korea's finance minister warned that an all-out trade war between the US and China would have grim implications for the country, as he lowered this year's growth outlook today.

The world's 11th largest economy is expected to grow 2.9 per cent this year, lower than an earlier estimate of three per cent, Kim Dong-yeon said, citing slowing demand at home and abroad as well as rising unemployment.

The latest estimate is also lower than last year's figures, when the export-reliant economy expanded 3.1 per cent, and comes as the South's top two trading partners China and the US engage in a bitter spat that has seen them impose hefty tariffs on billions of dollars in goods.

"The economic situation down the road does not seem to be bright," Kim told reporters.

"The situation may get worse if anxiety in the international financial markets spreads due to the US-China trade dispute... and market and corporate sentiment does not improve," he said.

Overseas shipments account for more than half of the South's economy, with more than a quarter of exports shipped to China and about 12 per cent to the US.

Kim vowed to "closely monitor international trade situations, including the US-China trade row" and announced measures to encourage job creation and spur domestic spending.

US President Donald Trump has taken a confrontational "America First" stance on trade policy, imposing steep tariffs on steel and aluminum, which angered allies and prompted swift retaliation, as well as 25 per cent duties on USD 34 billion of Chinese goods, with more on the way.

China has matched US tariffs dollar-for-dollar and threatened to take further measures, while US exports face retaliatory border taxes from Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

The International Monetary Fund said this week the growing trade confrontation is the "greatest near-term threat to global growth" and in the worst case could cut a half point off world GDP.



Turkey's state of emergency which was imposed after the failed 2016 coup is to end today but the opposition fears it will be replaced by even more repressive legislative measures. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared the state of emergency on July 20, 2016, five days after warplanes bombed Ankara and bloody clashes broke out in Istanbul in a doomed putsch bid that claimed 249 lives. During last month's presidential election campaign, which he won, Erdogan pledged that the state of emergency would end. And it will -- at 1:00 am on Thursday (2200 GMT Wednesday), simply by virtue of the government not asking that it be extended. But the opposition has been angered by the government's submission of new legislation to parliament that apparently seeks to formalise some of the harshest aspects of the emergency.

# Thai cave boys leave hospital ahead of press conference

**Chiang Rai, Jul 18 (AFP):** Twelve boys and their football coach who survived a highly dangerous and dramatic rescue from a flooded Thai cave were discharged from hospital today ahead of a press conference where they will tell their incredible story for the first time.

An AFP correspondent on the scene saw the team, who were wearing football kits, board three minibuses at the hospital in northern Thailand's Chiang Rai province.

The footballers from the "Wild Boars" club are being discharged a day earlier than previously announced, with authorities hoping a question and answer session will satisfy -- at least temporarily -- the intense media speculation that has accompanied their epic underground ordeal.

The boys are due to return to their homes later today.

"The reason to hold this evening press conference is so media can ask them questions and after that they can go back to live their normal lives without media bothering them," Thailand's chief government spokesman Sunsern Kaewkumnerd told AFP.

Called "Sending the Wild Boars Home" and broadcast on major television channels, the session will last for about 45 minutes, Sunsern said, adding that it would be conducted in an informal style with a moderator.

The briefing will be closely monitored, with experts warning of possible long-term distress from the more than two weeks they spent trapped inside a cramped,



flooded chamber of the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand.

The public relations department in Chiang Rai province solicited questions from news outlets in advance and they will be forwarded to psychiatrists for screening.

Thailand's junta leader Prayut Chan-O-cha urged media today to be "cautious in asking unimportant questions" that could cause unspecified damage.

But the organisers have also set up a small makeshift football pitch at the press conference and the boys are expected to kick a ball around at the event.

Interest in the saga is unlikely to abate, with film production houses already eyeing a Hollywood treatment of the drama.

Doctors have advised families of the players, aged 11 to 16, that they should avoid letting them contact journalists for at least one month. Though the boys and coach are said to be in good mental and physical health, they will be provided with additional psychological monitoring to detect lingering trauma.

Families of the youngsters are eagerly awaiting the homecoming. Khameuy Promthep, the grandmother of 13-year-old Dom, one of the boys rescued from the cave, told AFP in an interview at their family shop in Mae Sai near the Myanmar border today that she was very excited.

"This is the happiest day of my life," she said. The daring Thai-led international effort to rescue the team captivated the world after the football team walked into the cave on June 23 and were trapped by rising floodwaters.

After nine days without a steady supply of food or water they were found emaciated and huddled in a group on a muddy

ledge by British divers several kilometres inside Tham Luang.

Rescuers debated on the best plan to bring them out but ultimately decided on a risky operation that involved diving them through waterlogged passages while they were sedated to keep them calm and carrying them out in military-grade stretchers.

Not even the foreign cave diving specialists who took part were sure the mission would work and many expressed relief when it was all over after the final five were rescued on July 10.

Further attention was drawn to the rescue by a highly public spat between entrepreneur Elon Musk and a British caver who took part in the rescue. Tesla CEO Musk called Vernon Unsworth a "pedo" in an extraordinary social media attack, after the caving expert had ridiculed Musk's plan to recover the trapped group using a miniature submarine.

Musk today apologised to Unsworth over the slur, for which he had provided no justification or explanation. "(H)is actions against me do not justify my actions against him, and for that I apologize to Mr. Unsworth and to the companies I represent as leader," Musk wrote on Twitter. "The fault is mine and mine alone."

Musk's attack on Unsworth had drawn widespread outrage and briefly sent shares in Tesla tumbling.

Unsworth told AFP he may take legal action against Musk over the offensive tweet.





**LOVED UPI** Priyanka Chopra, 36, is effortlessly chic in chiffon blouse and flares as she enjoys date night with Nick Jonas, 25, in London.

## Dwayne Johnson on being the highest-paid actor!

**"I'M THE DUDE** Who Started With \$7 Bucks!"

Hollywood superstar Dwayne Johnson aka The Rock ranked 5th overall in 2018's Top - 100 highest earned celebrities list of Forbes. Talking about the actors, he ranked second after George Clooney, who got the second position in the list, thanks to \$ 700 million he earned by selling his tequila company, Casamigos, to British liquor company Diageo. Dwayne Johnson earned \$ 124 million between June 2017 to June 2018, which is almost double he earned in the previous year (\$ 65 million).

The actor seems to be



surprised for achieving this milestone and shared his happiness by posting an image of him and captioned it, "I work extremely hard but never anticipated (in my wildest dreams) I'd become the highest paid actor in Forbes' history. I don't have

a Harvard MBA, but my business philosophy and acumen has been sharpened over time and thru failure. My goal when I was wrestling in flea markets for \$40bucks per match (well before the bright lights of the @wwe) is still the exact same goal I have today - ALWAYS put my AUDIENCE FIRST...I'm the dude who started w/ \$7bucks. I'm grateful to the bone and hungry to the core."

Talking about the list, only two Bollywood celebs Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan has managed to grab the spots in the Forbes' magazine of this year.

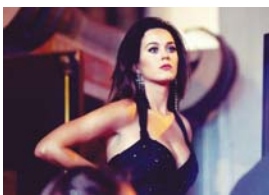
## Katy Perry had 'situational depression' after negative reaction to latest album...

Katy Perry has revealed she suffered from depression following a mixed reaction to her latest album.

Speaking to Vogue Australia, the 33-year-old singer told how she was disappointed with the negative reviews for 2017's Witness and ended up visiting a "personal growth retreat" in California.

Witness peaked at number six in the UK album charts while her two previous efforts, Prism and Teenage Dream, both reached number one.

She told the magazine: "I have had bouts of situational depression and my heart was broken last year because, unknowingly, I put so much validity in the reaction of the public



and the public didn't react in the way I had expected to, which broke my heart.

"Music is my first love and I think it was the universe saying: 'Okay, you speak all of this language about self-love and authenticity, but we are going to put you through another test and take away any kind of validating "blankie". Then we'll see how much you do truly love yourself."

Perry, who is dating British actor Orlando Bloom, 41, said she is now doing better and the struggles gave her "a wholeness I never had".

She added: "It gave me a new foundation. It's not just a material foundation: it's a soul foundation."

**ARIES:** Aries, are you hoping to accomplish a goal that you've been working toward for a long time? Don't let delays cause you to fear that it will never happen. It could block your creative energy and cause you to lose faith in yourself. Fortunate changes are in the wind, but it's still going to take a little more effort to get where you want to be. Keep going. You'll get there!

**TAURUS:** You may be in an especially nurturing mood today, Taurus. You might reach out to every living thing around you, from plants to pets to friends, children, and romantic partners. There's a danger of being too helpful and supportive, which some could find stifling. Your loved ones like to see you relaxed and happy, so channel some energy into indulging yourself. Go for a massage or other treat. Live a little!

**GEMINI:** Social responsibilities might appear to be hitting you all at once. Everyone you know seems to crave your company. As a naturally polite and socially astute person, you might feel obligated to accept any and all invitations. This isn't a good day to commit yourself. Wait a while until you're feeling a little more balanced, then send out your responses. Commit only to those events you would genuinely enjoy.

**CANCER:** Important communications regarding finances could come today, Cancer, and it might be fortuitous if you follow up on them right away. Once that's done, you'll probably want to relax and delve into whatever interests you the most. It might be a good idea to read a book, since your mind is especially sharp. Take breaks in the fresh air. Ideas and insights should come quickly, so take notes.

**LEO:** Your sensual side is likely to show itself today, Leo. You might find yourself viewing young folks in tight jeans more appreciatively than you usually do. Racy novels and movies might also suddenly seem appealing. Romantic encounters are intense and passionate, so make sure you allow plenty of time for them. Enjoy yourself!

**VIRGO:** Ingenious techniques for growing your money could come your way today, Virgo. While you aren't one to jump into anything, you're certainly likely to give these ideas serious thought. Take care to only go for those that are totally up front, with no hidden sides. Your passion for delving into new professional fields is only surpassed by your romantic passions. Plan a seductive evening with a partner. Make it a night to remember!

**LIBRA:** Today you're likely to be in

just the right place at the right time to meet the right person. You're overdue for a lucky break and probably not expecting it. You may start the day in a restless and frustrated state of mind, Libra, but whatever happens will catapult you out of it. Be prepared - this transition may involve vast changes in your life, in the long run if not immediately.

**SCORPIO:** You might wake up this morning, look in the mirror, and decide that you hate what you see even though you probably look fine. This is a good day to shop for new clothes or get a haircut. Perhaps you feel a little blue. Getting out and indulging yourself is more a necessity than luxury. Don't overindulge in food or drink now, Scorpio. You might not like the consequences tomorrow!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today you could find yourself seeking self-knowledge

through relationships, Sagittarius, especially through assisting those you love. Someone is troubled and needs your help. It would be best for all if you gave it, because you're especially sensitive and insightful now. You're especially able to soothe others' anger and mediate arguments. Your optimism is very high, and you have what it takes to pass it on to others.

**CAPRICORN:** Do you have a romantic evening planned for tonight, Capricorn? If so, it's likely to turn out to be all you'd hoped for. You'll be especially attractive, and your naturally warm and loving nature will be very apparent. Even casual encounters with friends may bring about closer bonding, and new acquaintances are likely to become friends. Your communicative skills are good now, and people will likely respond to you. Go for it!

**AQUARIUS:** You could feel restless and anxious to get out in the open for a while today, Aquarius, but mundane tasks could force you to postpone it. Someone you care about might ask for a favor, and while you may not want to help this person, you probably will. Don't let your irritation show - just get it done quickly and accept the person's thanks. In the evening, go for a long walk under the stars.

**PISCES:** At some point during the day you might find yourself involved in a project that piques your interest far more than usual. You could throw yourself more deeply into it than is necessary now. Take care that it doesn't distract you from what needs to be done, Pisces. Your wisdom is especially sharp, and you can use your intuition to gain valuable practical knowledge. Spend the evening meditating.

# Here's what Paul Schrader has to say of Sacred Games!

Paul Schrader notes how tricky the use of English language vulgarity is after watching the dubbed version.

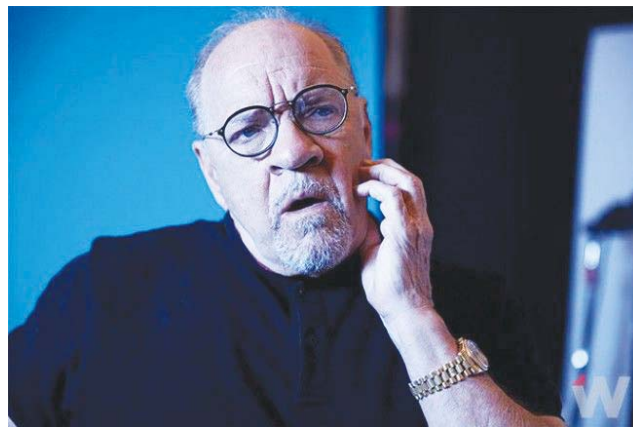
American screenwriter Paul Schrader, known for working on Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull", is watching India's first original Netflix series "Sacred Games". Its English dubbed version reminded him of how tricky is the use of English language vulgarity, but he says he will now watch it in Hindi with subtitles.

Schrader wrote on Facebook: "Watching 'Sacred Games'. I'm reminded how tricky is the use of English language vulgarity. The show is peppered with 'motherf\*\*kers' and 'c\*\*ts', but the rhythm is wrong, like school kids trying out grown-up profanities. This is true not only of Indian movies but Indian slang in general. "They know the English words but they don't know the idiosyncratic rhythm behind their usage."

"Sacred Games", directed by Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane, is produced by the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Entertainment's Phantom Films joint venture. It is based on Vikram Chandra's eponymous novel of 2006 and tells the tale of Sartaj Singh, a seasoned and cynical Mumbai police officer who is summoned one morning by an anonymous tip which promises him an opportunity to capture the powerful Ganesh Gaitonde, criminal overlord of the G-Company.

It shows the nexus between organised crime, corruption, politics and espionage in post-liberalisation India.

Chandra urged Schrader to watch



the series in Hindi.

"Mr. Schrader, I wrote the (English) novel on which the series is based. Please watch the series in Hindi with English subtitles," he wrote on the comments section of the celebrated screenwriter-director's post.

On the 'idiosyncratic rhythms' that Schrader mentioned, Chandra said: "Indians use English with the rhythms of their own languages underlying the English. Not defending the dub (which I think is awkward), mind you, but American rhythms aren't 'natural' to English any more than Indian ones.

"Indians own English now as much as anyone else, and they use it variously - there are regional Englishes within India (Hindi English, Kannada English, Punjabi English). Anyway, switch to the

Hindi audio, and I hope you enjoy."

Schrader then told Chandra: "I read your book which is why I started the series. Looking at the menu, I missed the Hindi option. Will correct."

Chandra was enthused.

"Great. It's immensely important to me (and the entire Phantom Films crew) that you - of all people - watch the series in the best manner possible. I've been a huge fan of your work since I snuck out of class in the late seventies to watch 'Taxi Driver', and had a life-changing experience in a Bombay theatre," he wrote.

After going through the conversation and sharing a screen grab of it, Motwane tweeted: "The suspense is killing me..."

Kashyap retweeted it.

## LOUIS TOMLINSON DEFENDS X FACTOR JUDGING ROLE!

He's returning to the show that started his career, joining Robbie Williams, his wife Ayda Field and Simon Cowell as judges on this year's X Factor.

Yet Louis Tomlinson was forced to defend his decision on Tuesday, as he took to social media to reassure his fans after they begged him to release more music instead.

Following a press conference with his new co-judges, the 26-year-old presenter shared a video in which he insisted that being on the ITV show wouldn't postpone his music, but help it instead.

"I just wanted to check in with everyone," he began. "It's been amazing, been nice reading your comments. I want everyone to not worry too much about the album. As I said in the press conference, the album is still definitely my priority. It doesn't change any release time or anything like that me doing the show."

Explaining his reasoning, the former One Direction star mused: "Having come from the show it made sense for me to go on.

I've always been interested in mentoring. It's been on my mind for a couple of years now. As soon as I got the assurance that it wasn't going to affect any of my music and actually it was going to help it then I could seriously start thinking about it."

Louis' reassuring comments came after he was



bombarded with concerned messages from devastated fans, who begged him to leave the show and focus on releasing new music instead.

"Louis Tomlinson deserves so much better than to ruin his music career over your dumpster fire of a show! Why won't Simon just let him go???? His fandom is dismayed at him having to do this instead of his own music and performances!!!"

"I hope the world would

be able to know how lovely you are, how great an artist you are, how superb your lyrics and songs are. they are magical to me. i am here for your music and album. and tour! you deserve so much than just being on that chair."

"Louis' fans want to see him in his own music videos and on his first tour, supporting a debut album, not stagnating on a tired and struggling reality tv show that has nothing to do with music."

Louis found fame as one fifth of The X Factor's One Direction - that was formed in 2010.

And the father-of-one revealed that his former bandmates could also be returning to the show on a temporary basis, as he hinted at inviting them to Judges' Houses.

He said at the press conference: "I've had a few texts from the lads. They might be fighting for that seat at Judges' Houses."