

Gangtok to host Global Sherpa Day function in Oct

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:

Jambuling Sherwi Tshokpa [Global Sherpa Association] has announced plans to organize a two-day Global Sherpa Day event on 08 and 09 Oct in Gangtok.

A JST press release informs that the objective behind the observance is to raise awareness and call on the global community to take initiatives towards preserving the Himalayas.

Held on the theme, “Save Himalaya Save Earth,” the event will highlight the cultural and traditional ethos of the Sherpa community with feature talks and discussions on the upliftment of the Sherpas, informs the JST general secretary, Passang Gyali Sherpa.

House damaged by heavy rainfall

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:

Heavy rainfall has damaged the house of Jit Bahadur Lohar a resident of Doharing, Nangaythang ward, Sirwani GPU under Khamdong-Singtam Constituency on 24 Sept, 2019.

The concerned ward Panchayat, Enchung Bhutia along with Panchayat President, Bhim Maya Darnal of the said GPU visited the spot and after verification, they handed emergency relief fund of Rs.10,000 to the victim family.

Road mishap at Lower Kambal

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 27 SEPT:

A truck carrying army goods met with an accident at Chuliban landslide near Jurassic park at Lower Kambal on Dikchu-Singtam highway in East Sikkim at around 1:30am today. The driver identified as Kumar Chettri is a resident of Marchak, Lower Tintek, East Sikkim. Local residents rescued the driver and rushed him to Manipal Hospital, Gangtok via Singtam.

Sikkim supports...

“We cannot ignore global warming. The campaign against climate change is happening around the world. Our students should also be aware about this because this generation will be facing climate change. We also wanted to bring awareness among the people of Sikkim,” said Mr Lepcha.

He further said that the first impact of climate change and global warming is taking place in the Himalayas, polar region and mountainous areas of the world.

“We are seeing the impact in the form of cloud bursts, intense and unpredictable rainfalls, landslides and unseasonal snowfall. Our glaciers are melting which will adversely affect the rivers. Our cash crops like cardamom are also on a decline. We want to appeal to the government of Sikkim to rethink on the developmental projects and not take up those projects which are harmful to the local ecology,” added Mr Lepcha.

During the day, many activities related with environment protection were held which included songs by students and a signature campaign.

Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse Prevention

SUMMIT REPORT NAMCHI, 26 SEPT:

One-day awareness programme on Drug Abuse Prevention for Panchayati Raj Functionaries was organized by SIRD & PR in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defense at VAC, Ringhim-Nampatam GPU, North Sikkim on 27 Sept, 2019.

A press release informs that the aim of the programme was to create awareness on drug abuse to inculcate community participation to combat the drug menace and reduce drug demand in the society.

During the awareness programme, the participants were sensitized on Basics of Drug Abuse, Reason for taking Drugs, Progression and ill-effect of Drugs, Commu-



nity Response to drugs and its menace, how to stay away from Drug, and Role of Local Self Government.

The programme was facilitated by Field Facilitators, Roshan Kaushik, KB Chettri, Passang Doma Lepcha and Suren Mohra, SIRD&PR. Narasis Lepcha of Mangan who is a recovering user shared his life experi-

ence, the pain and agony he faced to motivate the youngsters.

The programme was attended by 40 participants including Zilla Panchayat and Gram Panchayats and other functionaries.

Similar programme was organized at Namphing GPU, South Sikkim on 24 Sept, 2019, facilitated by FF, Roshan Kaushik, SIRD&PR, Teacher

and Master Trainer, Banit Basnett, Bhasker Pd Paudyal, Retd Joint Director & Coordinator, DAST (Drug, Alcohol, Smoking, Tobacco) Free Initiative of Namphing GPU, Panchayat President of the GPU, Bikash Sharma. The programme was participated by 30 functionaries of the GPU.

The programme was also organized at

Turung-Mamring GPU on 26 Sept, 2019, wherein Field Facilitators, Roshan Kaushik and KB Chettri and Panchayat Vice President, Punam Pradhan as Resource persons dwelt on Drug Demand Reduction. There were 35 participants in the programme.

Functionaries of the Tinik-Chisopani, Jorethang were also sensitized on the issues facilitated by Field Facilitators, Suren Mohra and Dilmaya Rai, and Panchayat President, Dhanmaya Khati. The programme was attended by 35 participants.

Similar awareness programme shall be organized at Central-Pendamd GPU under Duga Block on 28 Sept, 2019 for Panchayati Raj Functionaries.

Mamring School observes World Tourism Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:

Government Senior Secondary School, Mamring, East Sikkim observed World Tourism Day 2019 today. The program was jointly organized by Tourism faculty, NSS and Red Ribbon Club of the school, a press release informs.

Awareness programme and various activities were conducted in the school assembly on the theme “Tourism and Job, the better future”.

The programme started with speech on the importance of tourism delivered by Passang Lahmu Bhutia of class X.

Namrata Bastola of class IX spoke on the theme “World Tourism Day 2019” and shared facts and figures of world tourism industry.

An open quiz competition was also conducted by Songmit Lepcha, an NSS Volunteer supported by the NSS PO, Bikash Bhattarai. The winners of the competition were awarded with prizes.

Principal of the School, Prahlad Sharma, spoke on the importance of tourism in Sikkim and in creating em-

ployment opportunities.

In the afternoon session a painting competition was organised for the students of class IX and X which saw the participation of more than 40 students. In the meantime various equipments related to tourism were demonstrated by Roselima Lepcha (Faculty) to the students of class XI and XII.

RRC also organized a separate counselling session for girl students from class VI to XII. P.D Limboo [PGT] talked about Menstrual Hygiene in the session.

Tshering Diki Bhutia [PGT] informed students about the use of sanitary napkin vending machine and also motivated the girls to dispose used sanitary napkins in a proper way.

Doma Tamang [PGT], Reshma Tamang [PGT] and Bhima Devi Sharma [Computer Teacher] played active role in counselling the girls on HIV/AIDS, Menstrual Hygiene, Adolescence issues, relationships and early marriage, health hazards, mental health, substance abuse, Human values and happy life, voluntary blood donations, etc.

Technology Demonstration camp for dairy farmers

GANGTOK, 27 SEPT (PIB): Technology demonstration-cum-inputs distribution camp on dairy cattle management was organized for scientific dairy development at Block Administrative Centre, Martam Block, East Sikkim on 26 Sept, 2019 by ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong, Gangtok in collaboration with ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, ERS, Kalyani, Nadiya, WB under the guidance of Joint Director, Dr RK Avasthe, ICAR-NOFRI and Head, Dr TK Dutta, ICAR-NDRI, ERS, Kalyani.

A total of 66 dairy farmers attended the camp where various technologies on dairy farming were demonstrated to the farmers. The farmers participated in programme belonged to the villages of Upper Lingtam, Lower Lingtam and Thanka-Martam, East Sikkim. During the scientist-farmer's interaction programme many farmers actively raised their problems on dairy farming viz., repeat breeding, anoestrus and parasitic infestations. The Scientists from the two renowned ICAR institutes responded and advised in response to the queries of the dairy farmers.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NOFRI and Coordinator of the programme impressed upon the dairy farmers to provide balanced feed and mineral supplements to their animals for augmenting milk production and preventing the animals from infertility. He reiterated that each adult cow should deliver a full term healthy calf each year. Otherwise the dairy farming would not be economic and sustainable. He also impressed upon the farmers to rear Vanaraja chicken in backyard system for increased production of eggs and chicken meat.

Dr Ashok Santra, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani, W Bengal informed that the inputs like balanced feed and mineral plus vitamin supplements were arranged

for the dairy farmers of Sikkim under the NDRI-NEH project component for dairy development. He explained to the farmers about the importance of feeding quality feeds and fodders to the dairy animals. Dr. Champak Bhakat, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NDRI educated the farmers to de-worm the animals periodically to maintain better health of the dairy animals to obtain better production in the form of milk and calves.

Scientist, Dr Mukesh Bhatt, Veterinary Microbiology, ICAR-NOFRI educated the farmers about the importance of vaccinations against the prevailing diseases for preventing the livestock and poultry from various diseases. Chief Technical Officer, Somnath Dutta, ICAR-NDRI, WB also interacted with the farmers on the health issues of the dairy animals.

SMS, Dr PK Pathak, KVK, East Sikkim, Ranipool informed the farmers about the benefit of feeding balanced nutrient to the dairy animals and also discussed the importance scientific housing of livestock and poultry for obtaining more profits in the hill state.

Block Development Officer, Tenzing Keyzong Bhutia, Martam Block, East Sikkim also attended the programme and impressed upon the farmers to follow the technologies demonstrated by the Scientists for profitable dairy farming. Assistant Director, Sangu Lepcha, Panchayati Raj, Govt. of Sikkim, President, Bandana Chettri, Patiam Panchayat, Panchayat, Nimdam Bhutia, Lingtam Ward and Panchayat, Deepa Rani Chhetri, Yangthang Ward also attended the programme.

Later inputs like cattle feed, mineral plus vitamin supplements, de-wormer and liquid calcium were distributed to the dairy farmers of the three villages. SRF, Naveen Chand Yadav, NICRA Animal Science, ICAR-NOFRI rendered active support for smooth running of the programme.

First Level Checking of EVMs and VVPATs



NAMCHI, 27 SEPT (IPR):

The First Level Checking (FLC) of 47 Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) for the upcoming by elections for Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency of South District was done at District Administrative Centre, today.

Present during the checking were Returning Officer cum DC (South), Ragul K, Assistant Returning Officer (South) cum FLC Supervisor, Satyen Pradhan, SDM (Namchi), Vishu Lama, Joint Director (LRDM), DK Rai, Under Secretary (Election), Yogen Syangden concerned officials, representatives from various political parties, engineers from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)

and staff of Election department South.

Speaking during the FLC, RO, Mr Ragul elucidated in brief the importance of this checking as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

Additionally, he mentioned that after FLC, the EVMs and VVPATs will be stored in the strong room set up in the annex building of DAC complex under 24x7 strict security coverage. He also added that the entire procedure was under live webcasting.

During the FLC, mock poll was conducted in three randomly selected EVMs, each for 1200, 1000 and 500 votes as per the instructions of ECI by the representatives of political parties and other officials present.

High Court wants...

suspension foot bridge and 70ft long vehicular steel bridge but even this collapsed on 18 June earlier this year.

The present Government, it is informed, has proposed an alternative permanent solution in the form of a bridge at Kayam at the cost of Rs 88.54 crore which will take another three to four years to complete.

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KUTSE SHEGU

The kutse Shugu of our beloved mother late Karma Doma Bhutia who left for heavenly abode on 12th August falls on 29th September, 2019.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Penlong Bazaar, East Sikkim.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during our time of bereavement..



Khittu Tshering Bhutia (son) 9434127474
Tenzing Bhutia (son)
Sonam Nedup Bhutia (son)
Tshering Dorji Bhutia (son)
Lazey Bhutia (daughter in law)
Layzey Bhutia (DAUGHTER)
Chunki Bhutia (daughter)

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For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College.

Flat Land no cutting required. Price 30 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335



GANGTOK, 27 SEPT [IPR]:

World Tourism Day was observed at Chintan Bhan here today with a special event organized by the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department in collaboration with TAAS, SAATO, SUTO, SHRA and ASTHA on the theme, “Tourism & Jobs - a better future for all.”

The programme was chaired by Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava, accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary, Raj Bhan and Tourism Civil Aviation Department, Dr K Jayakumar, DoP Secretary Tenzing Gelek, Vice Chancellor, ICAFI University, Dr Jagannath Patnaik, Deputy GOC, 17th Mountain Division, TAAS president TASS Tashi Loday Lachungpa, TAAS advisor Lokendra Rasialy, HoDs, students from various schools and higher Institute were present.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary highlighted the achievements and growth of tourism, which, he said, has emerged as the leading industry on the Sikkim economy.

He urged the gathering to preserve the culture

and tradition of the State and also maintain peace.

“The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide,” he added

Earlier, PRO to the Governor, Khem Raj Bhattarai, read out the message of Governor Ganga Prasad who couldn't attend the programme due to official engagements.

The CS also released a handbook for Homestays.

The TAAS advisor, Lukendra Rasialy, presented a brief outline on the journey and history of tourism, while Risha Gupta delivered the keynote address on Homestays in Sikkim.

Similarly, Dawa Steven Sherpa shared his views and ideas on Tourism.

During the programme, the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation presented certificates of excellence to the best maintained wayside amenity, best performing students and individuals who contributed positively in the field of Rescue and Evacuation towards Sikkim's Tourism.

‘Swachhta Hi Seva’ awareness in Pakyong



GANGTOK, 27 SEPT

(PIB): An awareness program on Plastic Waste Management was organized on the eve of ‘Swachhta Hi Seva’ at Puspunjali School, Pakyong on 24 Sept, 2019, Govt Senior Secondary School, Dikling, Pakyong on 25 Sept, 2019 and at ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim on 27 Sept, 2019.

On the occasion, article writing, letter writing, quiz competition and drawing competition on Plastic Waste Management was conducted by Nodal Officer, Dr LC De,

SBA, Scientist, SS Biswas, Farm Incharge, Scientist, Dr BP Mallikarjuna and NS Kalaiyannan.

A total of 55 students and 22 teachers of Puspunjali school, 45 students and 15 teachers of Senior Secondary School, Dikling, Pakyong and 6 delegates and 10 farmers of Chalamthang, South Sikkim participated in the program.

The main objectives of the Campaign were mass community mobilization for Plastic Waste Shramdan and Banning of Single Use Plastics for a Plastic Waste Free India.

Agape Cup 2019 kicks off

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:**

The fifth edition of Agape Cup 2019, a National Christian Football Tournament, kicked off here at Paljor Stadium on Friday. The three-day championship is being organized by Sikkim Christian Sports Coalition in collaboration with Sports Coalition of India on the theme 'Growing Together in Harmony'.

The inaugural ceremony of the championship had Agriculture & Horticulture Minister, LN Sharma as the chief guest, who also declared the tournament open. The inaugural function also attended by Secretary to Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kuber Bhandari, Secretary to Education Department, MT Sherpa and a very senior and respected pastor, Rev PS Tingbo as guests of honour among dignitaries.

In his inaugural address, the Minister congratulated the organizing committee for organizing the tournament in a grand manner. He also expressed his best wishes to all partici-



pating teams for the tournament.

He said that such tournaments would help to further strengthen the brotherhood and friendship between different States and would help to spread love.

Mr Sharma stated that such tournaments can also provide bigger platform for footballers to showcase their skills and talents. He further expressed his hope that Agape Cup would help to produce talented footballers in the national

level. He also assured all possible support from the government for such initiatives.

Earlier, the inaugural function started with hoisting of the national flag by the chief guest, which was followed by the national anthem by Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior Secondary School choir. The function also witnessed a song and taekwondo demonstration by PNG School students.

The inaugural function started with wel-

come address by the organizing committee secretary, Lawrence Lepcha and finally concluded with Agape Anthem and vote of thanks by Silvester Stalin K from Sports Coalition of India.

The tournament has thirteen States, which have been divided into four groups for the league round and top of each group will then take on each other in the semi-final round on Saturday afternoon.

The participating teams are from Tamil

Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and host Sikkim.

In league matches on Friday, Nagaland edged past Delhi 1-0, Sikkim outplayed Maharashtra 2-0, Jharkhand went down to Goa 0-1, Odisha defeated Tamil Nadu 1-0, Sikkim and West Bengal had goalless draw, Goa outplayed Gujarat 3-0 and Karnataka edged past Delhi 2-1.

SSAOWA elects new executive body

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:**

With the end of term of the Executive Body of Sikkim State Agriculture Officers Welfare Association (SSAOWA), a new body was constituted through open voting system in a meeting of the Association held at the conference hall of Co-operative Department today, an IPR release informs.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture Department, Khorlo Bhutia. The meeting also had the presence of Secretary Horticulture

Department, DK Bhandari, Principal Director, MK Pradhan, Director, Sherap T Bhutia, Director, NK Gautam, Director, Padam Subba, Additional Directors, Joint Directors, Deputy Directors and Agriculture Development Officers and Horticulture Development Officers including the newly-recruited Probationary Officers of the Department. The meeting had the presence of 83 members of the Association.

The new body is headed by Additional Director, Manoj Subba as president with Additional Director, BL Dahal as

general secretary. Other members include four vice presidents, four joint secretaries, four treasurers with one state level treasurer and publicity secretary.

As per the bye-laws of the Association, the new Executive Body shall function for a period of three years.

The new president and general secretary were warmly welcomed by the outgoing president DK Bhandari, Secretary Horticulture and out-going general secretary, PL Basnet, Additional Director Horticulture.

Residential Training Program by National Productivity Council concludes



GANGTOK, 27 SEPT (PIB):

In an effort to upgrade the skills and provide training to various officials from Central & State Government Departments, Academic Institutions, PSUs, etc., National Productivity Council (NPC) a national level organization under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India organizing various Residential Training Program in different locations throughout the country. Economic Services Group of NPC has conducted one such Residential Training Program on "Conflict Resolution & Financial Management" at Gangtok from 23-27 Sept, 2019.

Secretary, RC Bhutia, Skill Development Department, Sikkim Government who was the chief guest during inaugural day ceremony function i.e. on 23 September has shared his experiences with the participants. He mentioned differ-

ent ways and means of resolving conflicts at different levels and building confidence among all. Further he started the types of conflicts occurring in financial matters and dealings at various stages on day to day basis how he resolve all of these.

There were 14 participants from various government organisations. Director (Economic Services), Rajesh Sund, NPC, who is the coordinator of the program and also faculty has specified that the financial management sessions were focused on financial planning, financial decisions and financial risk management tools for learning, developing and implementation set financial targets. The sessions on Conflict Resolution were primarily on managing conflict situations and various mechanisms of handling confrontation and also on techniques for administrating conflict at the workplace.

The different sessions were based on conceptual deliberations, case studies, role plays and group exercises/discussions. The participants have learned core elements, principles and mechanisms of conflict resolution, key capabilities to manage and resolve the conflict situations besides getting trained on financial decision making, valuation techniques and how financial controls can be put in place to improve efficiency.

This training program provided an interactive forum for the officials of various organisations to share, explore and discuss concepts and issues related to Conflict Resolution & Financial Management. The participants appreciated quality of course material, contents, technical sessions and learning from sharing peer experiences and team efforts to meet diverse challenges.

OMAS raises aid for landslide-affected at Tsong



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 JUNE:**

Organisation of Musicians and Artists of Sikkim has come forward to support the landslide-affected people of Tsong village in West Sikkim. OMAS organized a fund raising event here at MG Marg on Friday with popular and new artists of the State along with students performing at this daylong event.

The event featured performances by Sofi-

yum, Remanti Rai, Roll Heads, Eagles Band of Sikkim Armed Police and Ankit Rai among many other artists.

OMAS president, Sonam Gyaltsen Bhutia, highlighted that Sikkim's artists have always come forward to support people during such calamities and urged people to support the cause with their contributions.

The organizers also informed that the collected amount will be donated to

the Disaster Management Department for onwards submission to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Many residents and tourists came forward to donate money for the initiative which was followed by scintillating performances.

OMAS patron, Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha, thanked the people for their support and congratulated OMAS for consistently taking such humanitarian initiatives.

Simultaneous launch of iPhone 11 in Gangtok's Click-10

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:**

The much awaited iPhone 11 and its other variants were officially launched here at Click-10, a popular mobile shop located at MG Marg in Gangtok, today.

The iPhone manufacturer Apple Inc. launched a new series of iPhones earlier this month. Before this launch in Gangtok, the new iPhones, iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max - were available only through pre-booking in India.

Starting today, the Click-10 mobile shop has started the counter sale of all three new models.

It may be mentioned here that this is the first time that Apple has launched its products in Gangtok simultaneously with the national capital Delhi and other parts of the country.

Speaking with SummitTIMES, shop owner, Kelsang Wangchuk Bhutia, has said that this is the first time that iPhones are being released in Gangtok simultaneously with other parts of the country.

All the new iPhones including iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max went on sale at 6PM today at Apple authorised resellers across the country including Gangtok.

Click-10 in Gangtok is an authorised re-seller of Apple products and has been in the business for the past many years. It

has become the highest seller of iPhones in Gangtok and has bagged an award for the same.

To attract buyers, Apple has partnered with banks to offer various cash back schemes to the customers. The company has partnered with HDFC Bank to offer up to Rs 7,000 cash back depending upon the model and the rate of the iPhone. The cash back offer starts at Rs 6,000 and customers may get upto Rs 7000 cash back using HDFC Bank Cards.

iPhone buyers will get Rs 6000 cash back with the iPhone 11 which has the starting price of Rs 64,900 and goes upto Rs 1,49,900 depending upon the variant. The Bank offer is valid for both credit and debit card.

Click-10 has also tied up with various finance companies to offer EMI facility to the buyers.

Mr. Kelsang has said that 50% of the phones that have arrived for the launch have already been pre-booked or sold. He further said that Click-10 also provides the best services to its customers.

During the launch today, two buyers took home their iPhone 11.

One buyer, Thendup Pelsang said that this time Apple has offered the best phone at best price. Mr. Pelsang bought the new iPhone 64 GB variant immediately after the launch at Click-10.

Himveer Wives Welfare Assoc organizes medical camp

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:**

Himveer Wives Welfare Association of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force organised a medical camp here at their Station HQ at Tadong today. ITBP troops, their families and residents of Samdur benefited from the camp supported by

the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute.

The event was inaugurated by Commandant Angad Prasad Yadava.

Dr Sriprakash, Dr SK Sahoo and Dr Ashok Sinha from the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute also addressed an awareness session on Neo-Natal Health during the camp.

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Preparations on for fifth edition of TEDxSMIT



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:**

The fifth edition of TEDxSMIT is in its final stage as the mega event is scheduled to host schools and colleges from in and around Sikkim on 29 September. After four successful editions, this time, the event is themed 'Race to Infinity' signifying the infinite possibilities in life and the constant need to work towards success.

Organized at Marena, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, it is the only university TEDx event in Sikkim.

TEDxSMIT is an independently organized TED event that aims in sharing 'Ideas worth Spread-

ing'. With this notion, this year the theme revolves around reminding people to stop running after transient outcomes and instead work towards learning in this 'Race to Infinity'.

Supported by the SMIT Alumni Association, the 5th Edition of TEDxSMIT boasts of speakers from diverse backgrounds from all around the nation.

Informing about the speaker line-up, Lead-Organizer, Areen Sahu, stated that the speakers of this edition depict all the three areas of expertise, Technology, Entertainment and Design also expressed as TED.

The speakers for the event are: Business Operations Management-COO

Office at Quest Global, Gurudatt Keshav, First Indian Female to win a medal at the World Skills, Shweta Ratanpura, CEO/Founder at FanFight, Akhil Suhag, Gaurav Gambhir (aka D-Cypher) a prominent beat boxer/contributed two tracks in Bollywood movie, GullyBoy, CMO and Head of Alliances, Promit Sanyal, Moonraft Innovation Labs.

President, SMIT Alumni Association, Prof (Dr) BB Pradhan congratulated the team for putting in tremendous efforts in organizing this event and claimed that the event will be bigger and will inspire the crowd in the best way possible.

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Government of Sikkim Office of the Director Pension, G.I.S. NPS Finance Department Gangtok.

Ref no: 282/PGIPF

Date:12/09/2019

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all Pensioners including the Family pensioners that the Office (PGIPF) will be holding Pension Adalat in the District and Sub-Division of all the Districts in the month of January 2020. It is therefore requested that Grievances, if any, regarding their Pension should be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Pension on or before 15th November 2019. Only those grievances shall be entertained which is/are addressed to the Nodal Officer, Pension and as regards to their Pension only.

The date for the Pension Adalat shall be notified later.

**R.O. No. 203/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 26.9.19**

**Sd/
Nodal Officer, PGIPF.**

Sensitive to Disasters

Begin with sensitization, end with preparedness

Autumn is upon us and although monsoon has not yet exited, it will soon enough. The winter months will set in before one has soaked in the cuffing season, bringing with them a period of relative calm as far as natural disasters are concerned. Save the odd bush-fire, which rarely fires into habitations, there are no havocs that nature traditionally unleashes on Sikkim's hills. Of course, there is the ever-present possibility of earthquakes, but that has nothing to do with seasons. So, as Sikkim settles into festive mood and preps for holidays and lazy Winter Sun days, it would do well to invest some time on disaster sensitization programmes.

Until a few years ago, the arrival of autumn would also include a flurry of such activities at schools, panchayats, urban settings and sometimes even for elected representatives. One does not know whether these were intentionally planned for this time of the year, but they were apt in a way because they served the purpose of taking stock of what the monsoon unleashed, lessons learnt and discussions on how to prepare better for the future. Agreed, these exercises delivered little on ground, but were still better than continuing blissfully disinterested. Because such initiatives came when the monsoons were on the wane, they conveyed an intent that rose beyond the typical knee-jerkism that Sikkim displays even though it sits on an earthquake prone zone, is perpetually hit by landslides and has of late also developed a weakness for forest fires.

The residents of the capital, who sit in on most decisions, must be heaving a sigh of relief that the monsoon this year, despite its duration and occasional ferocity, was lenient on Gangtok even as some other parts of the State slipped away; even more reason why a series of sensitizations are required for the urban areas because urban memories run even shorter than the traditional retention capacities of the rural folk. Take Gangtok's example – despite the nightmares and stress delivered on it in the past decade by earthquakes, slides, even some fires etc. The earthquake of 2011 is almost forgotten and very few appear to have learned anything from the string of landslides which poured down Gangtok with devastating effect in 1997. It is worrying that the 18 Sept temblor, despite its record intensity is already a fading memory at least in as much as the do's and don'ts go. What cannot be forgotten either is that Gangtok, and several other parts of Sikkim, also have a track record of having emptied out into the streets when rumour spread that an earthquake would be visiting again. Some of the people's representatives who now represent urban populations must have been among the thousands who camped outdoors, scared by "fake news". So yes, a sensitisation on urban risk management is well invested especially for the councilors because they are aware of the death-traps that urban housing infrastructure has become and will hence take easily to risk management tips, provided they are reminded often enough of the need.

North Sikkim and West district were hit severely by landslides this year, cutting off villages, forcing relocation of families and traumatising with the wild rush of debris. Almost everywhere, the affected people were caught unawares [in that they had no mitigation plans ready] and the landslides were "unexpected" one is told. The correct term would really be "unprepared." Unprepared, is inexcusable for a population that has lived with slides and shakes since forever and specially not at this juncture when there is not only a full-fledged department for Disaster Risk Management and earmarked funds as well. How can any area in Sikkim not have a risk reduction plan to limit the damage caused by landslides and earthquakes? How can any area not have a ready response plan of action spelled out and codified, still? Unless one understands the causes, how can safeguards against such disasters in the future be devised? Preparation requires accepting that a threat exists and then understanding the reasons causing them. This applies as aptly to the problem of garbage management as it does to disaster risk management. It is also important to bear in mind that subject experts are not area experts and hence speak in wide generalisations when what is really required is customised plan for Sikkim.

The experts and their knowledge can be best utilised if one makes Sikkim-specific details available to them so that they can advise the State exactly where it is going wrong and what it should set right. It is here that the State fails. The knee-jerkism refuses to go away. Everyone gets busy with the distribution of relief and completion of restoration works. Of course these are required, but at the risk of sounding too repetitive, it is equally important to study what has happened.

Not just study, but also remember.

With 15 other children, Greta Thunberg has filed a UN complaint against 5 countries. Here's what it'll achieve

JULIETTE MCINTYRE
theconversation.com

Yesterday, climate activist Greta Thunberg joined 15 other children from around the world to submit a complaint – or "communication" – to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. They targeted Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey.

Ranging from nine to 17 years old, and from twelve different nations, the group includes a young Sami reindeer herder, a member of the Indigenous Yupiaq tribe, and teenagers from the Marshall Islands who fear their island home will vanish under rising sea levels.

Their communication argues these countries are violating the standards set in the Convention of the Rights of the Child – which is run and monitored by the committee.

They allege these countries are: "recklessly causing and perpetuating life-threatening climate change [and] have failed to take necessary preventive and precautionary measures to respect, protect, and fulfill the petitioners' rights."

In particular, the communication alleges the petitioners' rights to life, health, and culture have been violated.

But whether or not the petitioners are successful, the mere act of filing the complaint has already brought the matter into the public eye.

So what role does the committee play? And can their claim actually change international climate policy?

STANDING UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is an international human rights treaty that concerns the right to protection and the economic, social, cultural and political development of all children.

And it's the job of the Committee on the Rights of the Child – a group of 18 independent experts – to monitor the worldwide implementation of the convention's standards.

The convention came into force in 1990 and is "the most rapidly and widely ratified human rights treaty in history". All the countries of the world bar one – the United States – have ratified the treaty.

The CRC establishes global standards with respect to human rights as they apply to children. In particular, article 3 of the CRC requires: "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

HOW THE CRC WORKS

The CRC committee has two functions. First, it oversees the implementation of the convention by receiving reports every five years from participating countries outlining the steps taken to fulfil their obligations.

Information is also gathered from NGOs and

other sources to identify areas of concern. For example, Australia's last report to the committee was submitted in January 2018. It addressed issues such as the offshore detention of child refugees.

The Australian government appeared before the committee on September 9 and 10, and the committee's recommendations will be received by the end of this week.

But the second, relatively new, function of the committee permits an individual, or group of individuals, submit a communication arguing their rights have been violated. This "Optional Protocol" – adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011 – is what Gre-



ta Thunberg and the 15 other children are using.

Communications may only be made in respect of countries that have ratified the Optional Protocol and, to date, only 45 out of the 196 state parties have done so. Australia, the United States, Great Britain and China are among those countries that have not signed or ratified.

Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey have ratified the Optional Protocol and have also ratified the substantive international legal obligations relating to climate change. As Greta recently tweeted, this is why these particular five countries were selected.

WHAT NEXT?

There are a number of procedural legal hurdles that must be cleared before the committee can address the substance of the issue.

First, it must be determined if the communication is actually admissible, which includes whether the petitioners have exhausted the legal options in their home countries for addressing their concerns.

But while Thunberg and her co-petitioners have not brought any actions in state or federal courts it may be the committee allows the matter to proceed anyway, since taking such action may have been "unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief".

Second, the committee must rule on jurisdic-

tion, as the obligations of the CRC only apply to each child within a country's jurisdiction.

Some of the petitioners meet this requirement by virtue of their nationality or residence, but the communication makes a broader claim: any child is within the jurisdiction of a country when its polluting activity impacts the rights of children, within or outside that country's territory.

This is a very significant claim: essentially, that carbon pollution leading to climate change violates the rights of children worldwide.

Only once these hurdles are cleared will the committee investigate the substance of the com-

plaints, proceed to a hearing, and make recommendations to any country responsible for violation.

ARE THEY LIKELY TO SUCCEED?

The success of the claims may seem a foregone conclusion, as the committee is one of five UN human rights treaty bodies to recently issue a joint declaration stating: "climate change poses significant risks to the enjoyment" of human rights. And that climate change is "a children's rights crisis" seems an inevitable conclusion.

Still, the communication must clear all the legal hurdles set out above.

But even should the committee agree with Thunberg, the options for redress are limited. After the committee transmits its views and recommendations, they'll follow up six months later to see if its recommendations have been implemented.

If they haven't, there's not much the committee can do to compel a country to take action.

But the committee's conclusions are not without impact. Its views and recommendations are strong advocacy tools.

Alongside the school strikes, the communication is part of a broad campaign designed to focus political attention on the issue of urgent action on climate change.

[the writer is Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia]

‘Digital colonialism’: why some countries want to take control of their people’s data from Big Tech

JACQUELINE HICKS
theconversation.com

There is a global standoff going on about who stores your data. At the close of June's G20 summit in Japan, a number of developing countries refused to sign an international declaration on data flows – the so-called Osaka Track. Part of the reason why countries such as India, Indonesia and South Africa boycotted the declaration was because they had no opportunity to put their own interests about data into the document.

With 50 other signatories, the declaration still stands as a statement of future intent to negotiate further, but the boycott represents an ongoing struggle by some countries to assert their claim over the data generated by their own citizens.

Back in the dark ages of 2016, data was touted as the new oil. Although the metaphor was quickly debunked it's still a helpful way to understand the global digital economy. Now, as international negotiations over data flows intensify, the oil comparison helps explain the economics of what's called "data localisation" – the bid to keep citizens' data within their own country.

Just as oil-producing nations pushed for oil refineries to add value to crude oil, so governments today want the world's Big Tech companies to build data centres on their own soil. The cloud that powers much of the world's tech industry is grounded in vast data centres located mainly around northern Europe and the US coasts. Yet, at the same time, US Big Tech companies are increasingly turning to markets in the global south for expansion as enormous numbers of young tech savvy populations come online.

ACCUSATIONS OF 'DIGITAL IMPERIALISM'

Take, for example, the case of

Facebook. While India is the country with the biggest amount of Facebook users, when you look at the location of Facebook's 15 data centres, ten are in North America, four in Europe and one in Asia – in Singapore.

This disconnect between new sources of data and the location of data centres has led to accusations from countries such as India of "data colonisation" and "digital colonialism".

The economic argument for countries in the global south to host more data centres is that it would boost digital industrialisation by creating competitive advantages for local cloud companies, and develop links to other parts of the local IT sector.

Many countries have flirted with regulations on what sort of data should be stored locally. Some cover only certain sectors such as health data in Australia. Others, such as South Korea, require the consent of the person associated with the data for it to be transmitted overseas. France continues to pursue its own data centre infrastructure, dubbed "le cloud souverain", despite the closure of some of the businesses initially behind the idea. The most comprehensive laws are in China and Russia, which mandate localisation across multiple sectors for many kinds of personal data.

Countries such as India and Indonesia with their massive and growing online populations arguably have the most to gain economically from such regulations as they currently receive the least data infrastructure investment from the tech giants relative to the number of users.

THE ECONOMICS AREN'T CLEAR CUT

Supporters of data localisation cite developing countries' structural dependency on foreign-owned digital infrastructure and an unfair share of the industry's economic benefits. They dream of using data localisation

to force tech companies into becoming permanent entities on home soil to eventually increase the amount of taxes they can impose on them.

Detractors point to the high business costs of local servers, not just for the tech giants, but also for the very digital start ups that governments say they want to encourage. They say localisation regulations interfere with global innovation, are difficult to enforce, and ignore the technical requirements of data centres: proximity to the internet's "backbone" of fibre optic cables, a stable supply of electricity, and low temperature air or water for cooling the giant servers.

Attempts to measure the economic impact of localisation are extremely partisan. The most cited study from 2014 uses an opaque methodology and was produced by the European Centre for International Political Economy, a free trade think-tank based in Brussels, some of whose funding comes from unknown multinational businesses. Not surprisingly, it finds gross losses for countries considering localisation. Yet, a 2018 study commissioned by Facebook found that its data centre spending in the US had created tens of thousands of jobs, supported renewable energy investments and contributed US\$5.8 billion to US GDP in just six years.

Like the equivalent arguments for and against free trade, taking a dogmatic position for or against the issue masks other complexities on the ground. The economic costs and benefits depend on the type of data stored, whether it's a duplicate or the only copy, the level of government support for wider infrastructure subsidies, to name just a few factors.

India has been the most vocal supporter for localisation, promoting its own regulation as "a template for the developing world", but it's in a strong position to do so given the

country's relatively advanced digital industrialisation and technical manpower. Other emerging economies with large online populations, such as Indonesia, have vacillated on their localisation regulations under pressure from the US government which has threatened to pull preferential trade terms for other goods and services if they went ahead with restrictive regulations.

WHAT GOVERNMENTS DO WITH THE DATA

While the international economics of personal data may follow some of the same general dynamics as oil production, data is fundamentally different from oil because it does a double duty – providing not just monetary value to businesses, but also surveillance opportunities for governments. Some civil society activists I've met as part of my research in India and Indonesia told me they were sceptical of their own governments' narratives about data colonialism, worrying instead about the increased access to sensitive personal information that localisation gives to governments.

It's not just large corporations and states that have roles to play in this bid for "data sovereignty". Tech developers may yet find ways to support the rights of individuals to control their own personal data with platforms such as databox, which gives each of us something akin to our own personal servers. These technologies are still in development, but projects are springing up – mostly around Europe – that not only give people greater control over their personal data, but aim to produce social value rather than profit. Such experiments may yet find a place in the developing world alongside what states and large corporations are doing.

[the writer is Marie-Curie Skłodowska Fellow, University of Nottingham]

EC functioning like an “agent of BJP”, says Cong

Bengaluru, Sep 27 (PTI): The Congress in Karnataka on Friday said the Election Commission was functioning like an “agent of BJP” and termed its move to defer bypolls to 15 assembly segments in the State till the Supreme Court decides on the case of disqualified Congress-JD(S) legislators as “arbitrary.”

In the country’s history, this is the first time the Election Commission (EC) has cancelled elections after issuing notification without giving any reason, the party claimed.

“This proves EC is compromised and is acting to the benefit of BJP & Disqualified MLAs,” it tweeted.

The party said it would write to the EC and ask on what grounds it cancelled the election.

“Why this arbitrary decision? EC is acting like an agent of BJP,” it said.

“Election Commission has compromised itself, it has lost its autonomy, people have lost trust in it. I make a serious allegation that the Election Commission has not conducted itself in a non-partisan manner,” state Congress President Dinesh Gundu Rao told reporters here.

Without any stay from the court or grounds the commission has postponed the election, he said.

“Election commission



has stared working like an agent of a political party, we condemn and question it. The commission has to clarify the grounds of postponement of election.

It is shame that the EC that is supposed to be independent is today acting as an agency of a political party,” he added.

The EC had told the apex court on Thursday that it would defer the upcoming bypolls to 15 Assembly constituencies in Karnataka till the top court finally decides the pleas filed by 17 disqualified MLAs of the state challenging their disqualification.

The poll panel had last week announced bypolls to 15 Assembly seats in Karnataka and had said voting would be held on October 21 and counting of votes on October 24. The EC’s

submission came after a bench headed by Justice N V Ramana said it would be “better” if the pleas filed by these disqualified MLAs were decided finally as virtually two-third arguments in the matter were already over.

Elections are governed under article 324 of the constitution and Representation of the People Act, and clause 57 states that elections can be adjourned only in case of riots, open violence, natural calamity, Rao said.

“It says nothing about powers of the EC to arbitrarily adjourn polls after issuing a notification. In this case, Supreme Court has not stayed the disqualification, nor has issued verdict in favour of disqualified MLA,” he said.

Any cancellation or abrogation of polls can

happen only with the consent of the President, he added. The EC had earlier told the Supreme Court that former Karnataka Speaker’s order disqualifying 17 MLAs from the Assembly cannot deprive them of their right to contest the bypolls for 15 constituencies in the state.

The EC had then sought from the apex court, which agreed to examine the pleas of the MLAs seeking stay on disqualification and for contesting the by-elections, that the bypolls should not be stayed.

Stating that the EC was not involved in any way in this case, but it intervened stating that election should not be stayed as notification has been issued, Rao said the commission’s reason to “enter” the case was to see to that elections are

not postponed. Among the 15 constituencies going for polls, 12 were represented by Congress and 3 by JD(S).

Absence and resignation of 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs during the trust vote had led to the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy headed coalition government in July, and helped BJP to come to power.

After examining the petition moved by leadership of both parties, the then assembly Speaker Ramesh Kumar had disqualified 17 Congress and JD(S) MLAs under the anti-defection law, which they have challenged in the Supreme Court.

The then Speaker had ruled that those disqualified, cease to be MLAs with immediate effect till the expiry of the 15th assembly (in 2023).

9 killed in rain-related incidents in UP



LUCKNOW, SEP 27 (PTI): Nine people were killed in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Friday, as heavy rains which have been continuing in different parts of the state since the past two days have disrupted normal life.

In the wake of the continuing rains, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the divisional commissioners and the

district magistrates to take all measures and extend immediate relief to those affected, an official said. He said the chief minister has asked the officials concerned to visit the areas which have been affected by rains and witnessing flood-like situation.

At least nine people were killed following heavy rains since the past two days. They include three deaths in

Chandauli, two each in Amethi and Bhadohi and one each in Ayodhya and Varanasi, the official said.

The chief minister has asked the officials to extend the monetary help of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed and also arrange treatment for the injured, he said.

He also said the waterlogging issue should be addressed immediately, the official said.

Nadda hits out at Mamata, Rahul

KOLKATA, SEP 27 (PTI): BJP working president J P Nadda Friday hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her opposition to abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed that time is over for her government.

Nadda, who was addressing a seminar on abolition of Article 370 here, questioned the patriotism of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for opposing the scrapping

of the article and said his statement was used by Pakistan in United Nations to oppose the move.

Banerjee is so busy in the politics of appeasement that national interest has taken backseat for her, he said.

“The writing on the wall is clear. The time of her government is over. It’s only a matter of time that BJP comes to power in Bengal,” he said.

“Is (the concern for) votebank bigger than

national interest for Mamata Banerjee? She should answer why her party opposed the move to integrate the country,” he said.

Criticising Rahul Gandhi, Nadda said “Look at the statements made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. His statements were used by Pakistan to oppose the India in United Nations. Is this nationalism? Is this patriotism?” Nadda asked.

West Bengal govt plans to set up museum at Vidyasagar’s house in city

Kolkata, Sep 27 (PTI): West Bengal government has plans to set up a museum at the north Kolkata house of 19th century social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar where he had spent the last few years of his life, state minister Partha Chatterjee said.

The museum will come up at Vidyasagar’s residence at Badur Bagan area where pictures and models, chronicling his life from his birth place at Birsinghapur village in Paschim Medinipur district to the house in north Kolkata, will be put on display, he said on Thursday.

Chatterjee, who is the education minister, said this at a function after inaugurating ‘Vidyasagar Academy’ at the Badur Bagan residence on the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of the educational and social reformer.

The minister also released two books, ‘Amader Vidyasagar’ and ‘Chotoder Vidyasagar’ at the programme.

Some items used by Vidyasagar, gathering dust in the storeroom of the house, will be brought out for public viewing at the museum.

This will help the

present generation to know about the man, who had waged a war against women oppression and propagated widow remarriage, he said.

The School Education and Higher Education department will organise seminars highlighting Vidyasagar’s life and work in schools and colleges during a year-long programme, Chatterjee said.

Listing other activities to be taken up by the academy, Chatterjee said that a collection of hitherto unknown writings by Vidyasagar will be published.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had recently announced that Vidyasagar’s birthplace at Birsinghapur village will be developed as an educational tourist hub.

On Thursday, a bronze statue of Vidyasagar was installed at Vidyasagar College.

“Those who are against the social reforms of Vidyasagar had vandalised his bust at the institution associated with his name,” the minister said.

A bust of the social reformer was vandalised during a road show of BJP chief Amit Shah in the city in May.

Poshan Maah ends

GANGTOK, 27 SEPT (IPR): Closing ceremony of Poshan Maah, 2019 was held at Mayfair, Gangtok. The programme was attended by Chief Secretary Government of Sikkim, AK Shrivastava along with Secretary Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dhanyjyoti Mukhtia, Officials, staffs of Social Justice and Welfare Department, PHE Department, Health Department, UD&HD Department, Anganwadi Workers (ICDS) and students.

Chief guest in his address said that POSHAN Abhiyan month focused activity was on nutrition which was carried out to all the grass root level. He appreciated the implementing department Aganwadi Workers, health and family Welfare Department, ASHA, ANM primary health centres, literary department through school, Panchayats and rural department through self-help groups who carried out all the activities and spread the message during the month. He stated that POSHAN Abhiyan intends to increase nutrition awareness amongst individual, community members and society.

Lastly he urged everyone to take care of their children and to think about their future and also highlighted the need of school for stunted children in the State since 29% of children in Sikkim suffer from stunted growth.

POSHAN Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission) is one of the flagship programme of Government of India with an objective to improve nutritional status of children upto 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to achieve specific targets for reduction in low birth weight babies, stunting growth under nutrition and prevalence of anemia over next three years, malnutrition free India by 2020.

Poshan Abhiyan is not a programme but a Jan Angolan and Bhagidaari, meaning “People’s Movement”.

This programme incorporates inclusive participation of public repre-

sentatives of local bodies, Government Department of the State, Social Organizations and the public sector at large.

In the programme hardwork and appreciation Best Anganwadi Award along with a cash prize for 2016-17 was presented to Padma Sharma from Thekong, Pakyong and to Nirmala Gurung as the Anganwadi Helper Didi. Similarly for 2017-18 was presented to Kamala Mangar for Jorethang and Parvati Khati as the Anganwadi Helper Didi.

Later there was distribution of Certificates and cash prizes to the winners of painting completion which was held on 20 September at Deorali Senior Secondary School were distributed in two categories.

Following are the winners of painting completion (category 1 Class 6 to 8):

1st Nikki Thapa (Tashi Namgyal Academy)

2nd Sunil Thami (Modern Sr Secobdary School)

3rd Ramesh Rai (Tashi Namgyal Academy)

For (Category 2 class 9 to 12):

1st Tshering Dekhit Lepcha (Tashi Namgyal Academy)

2nd Muskan Chettri (Bhai Sr. Secondary School)

3rd Tshering Lhamu Lepcha (Enchey Sr Secondary School)

The Chief Secretary also had an honour moment releasing the Newsletter Of Umbrella ICDS Services by the Social Justice & Welfare Department and a thank you card design and conceptualised by Sangay Tshering Bhutia was given to the Anganwadi Workers / Helpers Didi.

Earlier a presentation of Token was given to Chief Secretary and a report on POSHAN Maah was presented by State Project Director, Poshan Abhiyan, Phuchung Bhutia.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Additional Director, Notmit Lepcha.

Master God Angel Om Nanda to visit Sikkim in Oct



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 27 SEPT:

Spiritual leader of the Heavenly Path organization, Master God Angel Om Nanda is coming to Sikkim after a gap of three years for a spiritual programme, Blessing [Wang] to be held at Jorethang in South Sikkim on 12 October. His last visit to Sikkim was in 2016, after which the State Government had restricted his entry into the State following a court case.

The new government under Sikkim Krantikari Morcha lifted the restriction allowing Master God Angel to visit Sikkim in July earlier this year.

The programme Blessing [Wang] is being jointly organized by Heavenly Nirvana Path, India and Heavenly Nirvana Path, Sikkim. The

programme will also be attended by Chief Minister, PS Tamang and Cabinet Ministers, as well as representatives from different religious organizations, political parties and social organizations along with devotees from across Sikkim and outside.

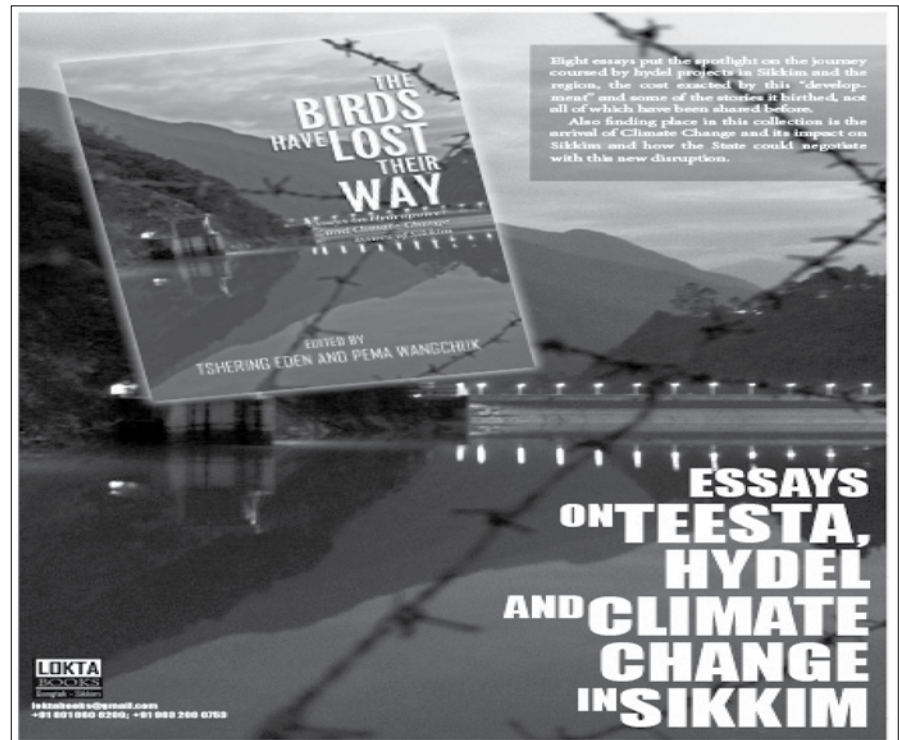
Addressing a press conference here today, Vyasa Nanda Guruji mentioned that Master God Angel Om Nanda wanted to meet the people of Sikkim after the State government lifted restriction on his entry into Sikkim.

He mentioned that the programme was being organized following his love and affection for Sikkim and its people. He added that it was a good opportunity for the people of Sikkim to meet and listen to Master God Angel Om Nanda in this programme.

Vyasa Nanda Guruji informed that the programme will also have Sarva Dharma prayers for peace in the State and the world, as well as meditation among other events. He also expressed his gratitude to the State government and the CM for allowing Master God Angel Om Nanda to visit Sikkim again.

Master God Angel Om Nanda will be arriving in Sikkim on 11 October and will be given a grand reception at Melli in South Sikkim. Then, he is scheduled to stay at Nandugaon Ashram till 15 October to meet his devotees.

Heavenly Nirvana Path, India president Ganesh Kumar Yangma spoke about the life and vision of Master God Angel Om Nanda and about the organization.



Indian boxing will do something big in Olympics:

Nieva

AMIT KUMAR DAS

NEW DELHI, SEP 27 (PTI):

Indian boxers are headed in the right direction and will do something big at the Tokyo Olympic Games, reckons High Performance Director Santiago Nieva, who wants his wards to emerge as outright winners and secure at least five Olympic spots during the Asian qualifiers.

The Indian boxers produced their best-ever show at the World Championships with Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) winning silver and bronze respectively in Russia. Before this, the country had never won more than one bronze in a single edition of the showpiece.

“Every tournament we go, we always compare the results to what could have happened if it were the Olympics. Are we on the right track? So far, we have shown in every single competition that we are doing well,” Nieva told PTI.

“In Olympics, there are no guarantees but we are in the right direction and we are confident we will do something big in the Olympics.” Indian boxers will now train their eyes on the Asian-Oceania qualifiers scheduled to be held in Wuhan, China from February 3-14.

In the qualifiers, Olympic spots will be up for grabs in eight men's weight classes -- Flyweight (52kg), Featherweight (57kg), Lightweight (63kg), Welterweight (69kg), Middleweight (75kg), Light Heavyweight (81kg), Heavyweight (91kg) and Super Heavyweight (+91kg).

“The qualifiers will be tremendously tough. We want all eight to qualify but realistically 5 to 6 boxers should qualify for the Olympics,” Nieva said.

“In lower weights, there are world championship and Olympic medallists, so we can't sleep. We have to ensure that we beat them by enough margin so that there is no doubt in the judges' minds and that is our challenge,” Nieva said. So what would be the schedule for Indian boxing in the upcoming months? “Next we have two competitions. First is the World Military Games in October and then there is the Indian Boxing League in December,” he said.

“It is good that there is competition but we have to be careful that we don't overload them with competitions. Then we have the trials, where except for Amit and Manish, rest have to go through the trials. Also some boxers will go for the Olympic Test events in Tokyo late October. “Because we have these commitments, we will stay in India and in January we will invite foreign teams to come here for training. We'll invite some countries and make sure that 5 to 6 teams come to India. So we will get some good sparring,” he said.

Nieva is happy with the progress that Indian boxing has made in the last few years but stressed on the importance of infrastructure for the country to emerge as a dominating nation in the sport.

Turkey's Didem Karagenç: ‘I had to become my own role model’

EMRE SARIGUL

theGuardian

“Footballer? Do you mean that game you play with your hands ... volleyball? Tell me the offside rule if you are a footballer.” That was how one taxi driver reacted when Didem Karagenç explained to him that she is a footballer. “This is what I have to put up with,” she says with a laugh, thinking back to that moment.

Karagenç is the captain of Turkey's national team as well as of Beşiktaş, playing a key role in the Black Eagles lifting last season's Super Lig title. She also wants to be a role model and inspiration for the next generation of female footballers.

“Young girls had nobody to look up to in the past,” says Karagenç. “I watched men's football and was a huge fan of Roberto Carlos. But there were no female players to emulate – I had to become my own role model.”

Beşiktaş are one of the biggest clubs in Turkey, with millions of fans, a huge number of trophies and some of the highest-paid footballers in the country. But their women's team was only founded in 2014, 103 years after the men's.

Karagenç, a 25-year-old left-back, joined Beşiktaş a year after they were formed and played a part in them cruising through the 2015-16 campaign as undefeated champions of the Second Football League and thus ensuring promotion to the top-tier. After finishing the 2017-18 season as runners-up, they went onto lift the title last season and book a place in the Champions League.

It was a heady time yet for Karagenç and her team-mates, as one of struggle given their lack of financial reward and support. “To be honest, I thought about quitting football,” she says. “It was heartbreaking but I couldn't see a way I could continue supporting myself.”

Google turns 21, marks birthday with special doodle

NEW DELHI, SEP 27 (PTI):

Search giant Google turned 21 on Friday and it celebrated the occasion with a special doodle that showed a 90s era desktop computer flashing its old logo on the screen.

Google is a US-based multi-national technology bellwether that specialises in Internet-related services and products, which include an eponymous search engine, online advertising technologies and cloud computing.

The colourful doodle, in sync with the company's online vibe, depicted a desktop computer connected to a CPU and a huge printer, typical of those in the 1990s, and the logo displayed prominently on the screen of the monitor.

The image was shown printed over a postcard floating in a mix of colourful bubbles and stars, with the founding date ‘98 9 27’ mentioned on the bottom right corner.

The search page showed the typical Google logo on the top left corner with numerals ‘2’ and ‘1’ positioned in it, carrying candles on top, to make ‘21’.

Google was founded on September 27, 1998, by Larry Page and Sergey Brin while they were PhD students at Stanford University in California in the US.

“It's @Google's 21st birthday! ‘We chose our systems name, Google,

because it is a common spelling of googol,’ wrote Sergey Brin & Larry Page, back then just 2 Stanford Ph.D. students making a very large scale search-engine (sic),” the company tweeted.

Google doodles which commemorate important events in history or celebrate iconic personalities of the past, are known for their vibrancy and inventiveness.

“21 years ago, two Stanford Ph.D. students, Sergey Brin and Lawrence (Larry) Page, published a paper about launching a prototype of a ‘large-scale search engine,’” the search engine wrote on its official doodle page.

“We chose our systems name, Google, because it is a common spelling of googol, or 10100 and fits well with our goal of building very large-scale search engines,” the students then wrote. “Today, Google operates all over the world in over 100 languages, answering trillions of search queries each year. The scale is large, to say the least. Happy 21st Birthday, Google!?” the search engine further wrote.

The popular firm has its headquarters in Mountain View, California, nicknamed ‘the Googleplex’, and one of the the Big Four technology companies, alongside Amazon, Apple and Facebook.



“It made me feel worthless. I have loved this game since I was a little girl. I am also a teacher and an analyst for the TFF [Turkish Football Federation] – I have to do two jobs to survive, and after work I train in the evening. Thankfully the manager, Mutlucan Zavotçu, understands the situation I and a lot of my teammates are in. And I am one of the fortunate ones in a much better position than most women in the game.”

“We aren't paid like the men, not even close,” she adds. “You can't support yourself solely playing football in Turkey. Take boot deals. The sponsors give the guys boots but we have to get our own. A lot of the girls in the league struggle to even afford boots. It is great that women like [United States winger and equal pay-campaigner] Megan Rapinoe are speaking out. Rapinoe, Ellen White and the other big names have had such

a big influence on changing people's perceptions of the sport. For the first time, the mainstream media is taking notice of the female stars.”

The future felt bleak for Karagenç just a few months ago. “But I refused to give up even though it felt like women were invisible in football,” she says. “I wanted to show that women are strong, that we can play football as well and that hopefully if I don't quit I could inspire young girls growing up today not to give up on their dreams. If someone loves football, why does it matter what gender they are? It shouldn't.”

It was around the same time that Karagenç had a change in fortune. “I got a call from someone in London who said they wanted me to be a part of Team Visa.” Visa became the biggest global sponsor of women's football after signing a seven-year partnership with Uefa last year. In

a sport where pay is low – some female footballers do not even earn a wage from the game – sponsors are of vital importance.

“Team Visa told me they want me, I felt valued, that finally, someone out there noticed me,” says Karagenç. “They picked me as one of several female players around the world as part of their new campaign. It was a game-changer. I have got to travel to different countries, meet other female footballers and learn what is happening around the world.”

“I was invited to France for the [Women's] World Cup as part of the Team Visa program. To see the women's game reach this level was an emotional moment. I've never seen so many people talk about football first and gender second when it comes to women's football,” she said. “I just wished Turkey had qualified. When I saw the national

team anthem being read I imagined what it would feel like to be in that situation. It was overwhelming, I don't know if I would be able to hold the tears back.”

As is the case in many other country's, football is seen as a man's game in Turkey. However, anybody attending a men's game in the country would more often than not spot many female faces in the crowd. Back in 2011, for instance, 41,000 women watched Fenerbahçe take on Manisaspor after men had been suspended from the fixture as punishment for crowd trouble.

Despite this show of support, Fenerbahçe do not have a women's team, as is also the case at Galatasaray. “Hopefully we will see that in Turkey,” says Karagenç. “I think it would be great for competition.”

Beşiktaş deserve credit for taking the lead in the women's game and the fans have started getting behind their team. “Beşiktaş fans are so supportive, we get a few hundred that turn up at most games and they don't act differently because we are girls,” says Karagenç. “The more fans that come the more coverage we will get. The fans are everything.”

Football being more than a sport may sound like a cliché but in Turkey it's very much true – female players who represent the national team are also given the chance to gain a university education while those who play for clubs that have a Turkish Football Federation license can go onto gain the credits required for a scholarship from local businesses.

“I was lucky; my father is a teacher and always supported me,” says Karagenç. “In fact, he helped me find my first team and encouraged me to play. And my mum has always been my biggest fan.” Every sport needs a hero. Turkish women's football may just have found theirs.

Franck Ribéry and a tale of the unexpected for Fiorentina

NICKY BANDINI

theGuardian

This time Fiorentina did not blow it. You could forgive supporters at the Stadio Artemio Franchi for thinking they were about to, when Sampdoria's Federico Bonazzoli forced the ball into their net in the 79th minute of Wednesday's game. Fiorentina had been 2-0 up and cruising: exactly as they were at the corresponding point of what became a 2-2 draw against Atalanta three days before.

The Viola were established experts in finding ways not to win. They had not tasted victory in Serie A for 220 days – since beating Spal on 17 February. Not since 2018 had they taken three points from a home game.

Under normal circumstances, you might expect the mood to be mutinous. And yet, the opposite was true. The stands of the Franchi were heaving, the club having posted their best season-ticket sales in at least 18 years. Only the two Milanese clubs have shifted more for this campaign.

Such is the enthusiasm that comes with a fresh start. Fiorentina were taken over this summer by Rocco Comisso, the billionaire founder of the American cable network Mediacom. His arrival was immediately welcomed by fans who had grown disillusioned with the previous owners, the Della Valle family, and his popularity has only



continued to grow since.

Comisso has cast himself as a man of action, arguing that he has no time to waste at 69 years old. The grandest of his stated ambitions are to build a new stadium and construct a team to compete with Juventus. For his first summer at the helm, it was enough to deliver a more straightforward promise: that Federico Chiesa would not be sold, “even for \$100,000,000”.

Instead of letting their greatest young talent walk out the door, Fiorentina signed an old hand to help guide him. The capture of Franck Ribéry on a free transfer was the most unexpected move of the Italian transfer window. Already, it looks like one of the best.

Ribéry's arrival ignited the imaginations of Fiorentina's supporters. A crowd of 10,000 came to see him unveiled at the Franchi. He stepped off his plane at Peretola airport speaking fluent Italian and explaining that Luca Toni – an icon in Florence, and his good friend from their time to-

gether at Bayern Munich – had told him to come.

Still, it was valid to wonder how much he had left in the tank at 36. Ribéry took a significant pay cut to join, and jokingly described himself as a free lottery ticket. In reality, the wages on his two-year contract are understood to be more than double those paid to Chiesa – previously the club's highest earner.

It has not taken long for Ribéry to start justifying his cost. His first appearance was only a 12-minute cameo off the bench against Napoli, but ought to have yielded a penalty when he was dragged down by Elseid Hysaj after tormenting the defender. Next came a 0-0 draw with Juventus in which Ribéry not only outperformed Cristiano Ronaldo but at one point raced back into his own half to steal the ball off the Portuguese's toes. Ribéry followed up by scoring his first goal for Fiorentina in Sunday's aforementioned draw with Atalanta.

The cross had come from Chiesa, floated

beautifully from right touch-line into Ribéry's path as he attacked the penalty box on the far side. The Frenchman dispatched it first-time into the bottom corner off his left boot.

Those same players inspired their team to victory on Wednesday. Ribéry created Fiorentina's first goal, turning Gianluca Caprari inside-out before teeing up Germán Pezzella for a close-range header. Chiesa made it 2-0 just before the hour, running on to Dalbert's smart flick and curling a shot past Emil Audero.

Many have questioned the work of the Fiorentina manager, Vincenzo Montella, since he returned to the club in April, and Wednesday's win is unlikely to appease his critics. Fiorentina continue to look brittle, and Bonazzoli's goal made for an anxious finish against opponents who had been playing with 10 men from the 54th minute. Here, too, Fiorentina were fortunate; Jeison Murillo's second booking was “earned” by a bla-

tant dive from Gaetano Castrovilli.

But Montella has concocted a compelling idea, pairing Chiesa and Ribéry as dual false nines at the top of a 3-5-2. These are still early days, but Sampdoria's defenders, like Atalanta's, were flummoxed at times by their movement.

The likelihood is that Fiorentina will not achieve the target Ribéry set for them on his arrival, of finishing in the top three. But he also indicated an eagerness to serve as a mentor to a team stacked with young talent. Five of Fiorentina's starters on Wednesday were 22 or younger, and so were another two deployed off the bench.

One of Comisso's first acts after completing his purchase of Fiorentina was to re-hire Daniele Pradè as the club's sporting director, a role he had filled from 2012-16 – during which time the club achieved three consecutive fourth-place finishes and reached a Europa League semi-final. In turn, one of Pradè's first calls was to Toni, who recommended him to sign Ribéry.

“I told him it was impossible,” said Pradè, “but we kept talking and I started to think it could be the right thing. I spoke to Ribéry on 25 June and I fell in love with him ... he brings this charisma with him, the essence of winning.”

That final line might have been the most important one, for a team that had forgotten how it was done.

Brother gets life for ‘honour killing’ of Pakistan social media star

The brother of Pakistani social media star Qandeel Baloch was on Friday sentenced to life in prison for her murder -- the patriarchal country's highest-profile "honour killing".

Baloch, 26, who shot to fame for her risqué selfies -- tame by Western standards, but considered provocative in deeply misogynistic Pakistan -- was strangled in July 2016.

Her brother Muhammad Waseem was arrested. Days later he told a press conference that he had no remorse over what he did, saying that "of course" he had murdered his sister and that her behaviour had been "intolerable".

His lawyer, Sardar Mehboob, told AFP the court in the eastern city of Multan had found his client guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment, in a long-awaited verdict.

"Inshallah (God willing), he will be acquitted by a high court," he said.

Five others were acquitted by the court, including an Islamic cleric Mufti Abdul Qavi who had been embroiled in controversy with Baloch



months ahead of her death. "We are distraught by this verdict. The government is still enslaved to the whites and is bowing to their rules," said Baloch's brother Aslam Shaheen, who was among the acquitted.

Earlier, Baloch's mother Anwar Mai told AFP she had hoped her son Waseem would also be acquitted.

"He is innocent. She was my daughter and he is my son," she said. - 'Powerful statement' -

Baloch's murder made international headlines and reignited calls for action against an epidemic of so-called

"honour killings", in which a victim -- usually a woman -- is murdered for flouting patriarchal social codes.

Women have been burned, shot, stabbed and strangled for offences such as choosing their own husband or -- in Baloch's case -- bringing "shame" on their family by celebrating their sexuality.

The killings are usually carried out by a close relative. Under Pakistan's Qisas (blood money) and Diyat (retribution) law, they can then seek forgiveness from a victim's relatives. The roots of "honour" killings lie in tribal social norms which

remain prevalent across South Asia and dictate the behaviour of women in particular.

Sanam Maher -- the author of the book "A Woman Like Her: The Short Life of Qandeel Baloch" -- said the verdict sent a "powerful statement" but warned that it would take more than a court decision to reverse deep-seated prejudices.

"I don't think we can say that the court's verdict is going to fix everything. It's a band-aid on a bullet wound," Maher told AFP.

Three months after Baloch's murder, parliament passed new legis-

lation mandating life imprisonment for honour killings. However, whether a murder is defined as a crime of honour is left to the judge's discretion, meaning that killers can theoretically claim a different motive and still be pardoned.

In Baloch's case, her parents initially insisted their son would be given no absolution. But, heartbroken at the thought of losing him too, they changed their minds and said they wanted him to be forgiven.

International revolution at the killing had seen the Pakistani state take the unprecedented step of declaring itself an heir alongside the parents, however, forcing the case to move ahead.

Baloch is known for having offered to perform a striptease for the Pakistani cricket team and donning a plunging scarlet dress on Valentine's Day.

She attracted criticism and threats but was perceived by many, including young people, as breaking new ground for creating herself as a strong figure in a bold, political act of women's empowerment.

Egypt leader shrugs off call for fresh protests



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Friday dismissed a call for a second weekend of protests as "no reason for concern", with hundreds already arrested in an intensifying crackdown on a rare show of discontent on the streets.

Last week's open defiance of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi -- triggered by viral videos from exiled Egyptian businessman Mohamed Aly -- has surprised observers in a country where opposition of all stripes has been severely curtailed.

Elected president in 2014 after pushing predecessor Mohamed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood from power the previous year, Sisi is seen by many as one of the most authoritarian figures in the Middle East.

Construction magnate Aly has called for a "million-man march" to take place Friday and a "people's revolution" to unseat the uncompromising head of state.

But after he arrived home from the UN General Assembly in New York, Sisi on Friday insisted there was no cause for alarm.

"There are no reasons for concern. Egypt is a strong country thanks to Egyptians," he told reporters with a smile. "The case does not deserve all" this attention, Sisi said. "It is an attempt to create an image that is absolutely not real."

Road blocks prevented traffic from entering Cairo's Tahrir Square on Friday morning, AFP journalists said, although it was still possible to move into the area on foot. Aly accuses Sisi of building lavish palaces while taxpayers grapple with the impact of austerity under an IMF loan programme totalling \$12 billion.

In recent days, security has been visibly stepped up, especially in Tahrir Square -- the epicentre of the 2011 pop-

ular revolt that toppled long-time autocrat Hosni Mubarak. That iconic location was key to last week's demonstrations, which broke out after a football match with protesters chanting "leave, Sisi!" and accusing him of heading a "military regime".

Alongside beefing up their presence on the streets, the security forces have also detained people they suspect of being key influencers of unrest -- journalists, human rights activists and lawyers. - 'Wrong place, wrong time' -

Human Rights Watch said Friday that nearly 2,000 people had been arrested over the past week, in what could be the biggest crackdown since 2013.

"Lawyers for detainees have posted on their social media pages several accounts of security forces arbitrarily arresting many people merely for being in the 'wrong place at the wrong time' or possessing critical content on their phones," the rights group said.

The attorney general's office said "not more than 1,000 protesters" had been questioned by prosecutors.

It said prosecutors had orders to "inspect the social media accounts and pages of those detained."

Analysts said they expected any further protests to meet a tough response as Sisi seeks to preserve his security credentials.

"Sisi has made it clear he intends to stay in power for quite some time -- and protests will not change that calculus for him," said H.A. Hellyer, a senior fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

The president "appears... convinced that any protests that go beyond a certain point would be destructive not only to his presidency,

but the state more generally," he told AFP.

HRW called on Egypt's Western allies to suspend their military assistance until the government ceases its "gross violations of international law".

"World leaders should recognise that providing security and military assistance to abusive forces won't bring stability to Egypt, and that what's needed instead is a government that respects the rights and freedoms of the Egyptian people," said its Middle East and North Africa director, Sarah Leah Whitson.

In August 2013, just over a month after Sisi toppled Morsi, police dispersed two camps full of supporters of the Islamist leader in Cairo, killing about 800 people in clashes, according to official figures.

The government named the Muslim Brotherhood a "terrorist organisation" later that year, but the crackdown on opposition has extended to secular organisations and human rights activists.

On Thursday, Aly posted a one-minute missive which included extracts from previous videos and footage from riots in 2011 and later, juxtaposed against declarations by Sisi.

But while the exiled critic's videos have gained huge traction -- shared millions of times online -- they have provoked fervent counter-attacks from the president's backers, using the hashtags #longliveSisi and #theywantchaos.

For those supporters, Sisi's six years at the helm -- including five as president -- have shown him to be a bulwark against the insecurity and political disintegration unleashed by the Arab Spring elsewhere, notably in Libya and Syria.

Erdogan vows to continue oil, natural gas trade with Iran

ANKARA, SEP 27 (AFP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed Ankara would continue to purchase oil and natural gas from Iran despite US sanctions in comments published on Friday.

The United States reimposed sanctions on Iran after pulling out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal, and says it aims to reduce Tehran's energy sales to zero.

"It is impossible for us to cancel relations with Iran with regards to oil and natural gas. We will continue to buy our natural gas from there," Erdogan told Turkish reporters before leaving New York where he was attending the UN General Assembly.

Despite this vow, Erdogan admitted Turkey faced difficulty in purchasing oil since the private sector "pulled back because of US threats", NTV broadcaster reported.

"But on this issue especially and many other issues, we will continue our relations with Iran," he promised, adding that Ankara still sought to increase trade volume with Tehran. He previously criticised sanctions against Iran, insisting that they achieved nothing.

Turkey and Iran have been working closely together with Russia to resolve the eight-year conflict in Syria despite being on opposing sides of the war.

Facebook hides 'likes' in Australia trial to ease anxiety

Facebook has begun hiding the number of "likes" for posts in Australia, it said Friday, a trial designed to ease social pressure that could be rolled out worldwide. Account holders across the country will also be blocked from viewing the number of reactions and video views on other people's posts from Friday, but will still be able to see how people respond to their own.

"We don't want Facebook to feel like a competition," the company said in a statement. "This is a test to see how people engage with this new format." "We hope to learn from this over time in order to see if we will roll this out more broadly."

More than one billion people use Facebook worldwide, but the social media giant has come under pressure to combat the platform's impact on mental health. In Australia, one in five children report experiencing cyberbullying, according to the country's eSafety commissioner. The prob-

lem received national attention last year when a 14-year-old girl -- who starred in adverts for a well-known Australian hat brand -- killed herself after being bullied online.

Facebook's decision comes after it launched a trial in July to hide "likes" on the company's other major social media platform, Instagram. What began as a test on Instagram in Canada was expanded to Australia, Brazil and several other major markets. The Facebook trial was described as "a limited test in order for us to get some early learnings."

"While this has been testing on Instagram, Facebook and (Instagram) are different surfaces and we will likely see different data come from this test."

The news was met with a mix of "skepticism and appreciation" from cyberpsychology researcher Jocelyn Brewer, who welcomed Facebook's review of the impact of "vanity metrics" on people's wellbeing.

Mugabe's body moved to rural home ahead of weekend burial

HARARE, SEP 27 (AFP): The remains of Zimbabwe's ex-president Robert Mugabe who died early this month, have been moved from his Harare house to his rural village ahead of burial expected this weekend, his family said Friday.

After weeks of wrangling between government and his family over the final resting place for the country's founding leader, the Mugabes have opted to entomb him at his birth place and rural home, about 90 kilometres (55 miles) west of the capital Harare.

The body was moved by road on Thursday evening under police and military vehicles escort, according to a video clip shared on Twitter.

It was the second time it made its way back to Kutama village in Zvimba district where Mugabe was born 95 years ago. When the body was first taken home last week for the public to pay their last respects, it was airlifted by a military helicopter.

"The body arrived (at the village) around 1900 hours, yesterday," family spokesman and Mugabe's nephew Leo Mugabe told AFP on Friday. Justice Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, told the state-owned The Herald daily on Thursday that "the body of the late Mugabe left Harare for Zvimba, awaiting burial set for Saturday".

The decision to bury Mugabe in the village is seen as an apparent snub of the government offer to bury him at what was to be a specially-built mausoleum at a national heroes shrine in Harare where dozens of other prominent independence war veterans are interred. The family had previously agreed to have his body entombed at the shrine where preparations for a special mausoleum were already in progress.

Minister Ziyambi said the family had earlier consented that they were "happy with burial at Heroes Acre", but suddenly on Thursday "they indicated that they want to go to Zvimba and (the) government agreed". The family gave no reason for the change of plans.

The former guerilla leader, who came to power at the end of white minority rule in 1980 and ruled Zimbabwe uninterrupted for 37 years and seven months, died of prostate cancer, according to his successor Emmerson Mnangagwa. He was toppled on November 2017 in a military-backed coup, ending an increasingly iron-fisted rule marked by political oppression and economic ruin.

Mugabe's health deteriorated rapidly after the ousting and he made regular medical trips to Singapore, where he died on September 6.

Terrorism among most flagrant threats to international peace, security: Muraleedharan

NEW YORK, SEP 27 (PTI): India has called for implementing "without exceptions or double standards" all existing international laws to combat terrorists and their enablers, saying terrorism is among the most flagrant threats to international peace and security.

In his address at the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of 74th UN General Assembly, V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, said the myriad problems that confront the world and threaten the future generations respect neither physical nor political boundaries.

"What is worse, they have a disproportionately adverse impact on developing countries. Climate change, terrorism, endemic

poverty, under development, pandemics, etc. can only be defeated together, not alone," the minister said in a statement. "Terrorism is among the most flagrant threats not only to international peace and security but to the very principles we are discussing today," he said, adding that "The only way to fight this scourge is to strengthen and implement, without exceptions or double standards, all existing international laws and mechanisms to combat terrorists and their enablers."

He said that amid rising concern about the threats to multilateralism from unilateral, isolationist and inward looking impulses, it is even more important that the Movement continues to work together.

"We cannot speak of

maintaining international peace and security without addressing the issue of long overdue reforms of the global governance structures to correct historical injustices that can no longer be justified in the 21st century," he said.

This Movement's biggest strength lies in its diversity we respect each other's developmental journeys, distinct traditions and heritage, and have abiding faith in peaceful co-existence, Muraleedharan added.

The minister also congratulated the Government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for their successful coordination and stewardship of the activities of this Movement over the last three years.

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WWE Announces New Commentary Teams for WWE Raw and WWE SmackDown

Between Friday Night SmackDown moving from USA to FOX and WWE Backstage launching soon on FS1, WWE officially announced on Thursday that the commentary teams for both Monday Night Raw and SmackDown will change starting next week. According to the announcement Vic Joseph, Dio Maddin and Jerry “The King” Lawler were commentate Raw while Michael Cole and Corey Graves will serve as the SmackDown commentators. Due to her new role as host of WWE Backstage, Renee Young will no longer be commenting on a weekly basis though she will appear as a “special contributor.”

Joseph has previously worked as the 205 Live and Main Event play-by-play commentator while Maddin (former NFL offensive tackle Brennan Williams) just joined the 205 Live commentary team in early September. Lawler’s tenure on the Raw commentary team will reportedly be short-term. Meanwhile NXT, which is completing its transition from the WWE Network to the USA Network on Oct. 2 will keep its current commentary team of Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness and Beth Phoenix.

The announcement is particularly momentous as it means Cole will not be apart of the Raw commentary team for the first time since 2008. There’s no word yet on what will happen to Tom Phillips and Byron Saxton, who have been working the three-man booth with Graves on SmackDown.

WWE announced Young’s involvement with the Backstage show several hours before.

“WWE Backstage is a wrestling show for wrestling fans. From hardcore fans to people new to wrestling, we’ll give them a little bit of everything,” Young said in the release. “It’s going to be fun, it’s going to be loud, we’re going to give them a ton of opinions and I can’t wait to help spread the word about SmackDown coming to FOX.”

Two-time WWE Hall of Famer Booker T will co-host the show with Young, alongside a rotating panel of wrestling

personalities. A special preview for the weekly studio show will air on Oct. 15, and the weekly show will premiere on Nov. 5 on FS1.

“It’s awesome being part of the FOX family and part of this movement of Friday Night SmackDown to FOX,” Booker T said in the release. “FOX Sports has always been the one-stop shop for sports and now it’s going to be the one-stop shop for sports and entertainment. I think this is going to be a tag team that’s going to last for a long time, and one that cannot lose. As I always say, now can you dig it, sucka?”

initial debut match against Chavo Guerrero was halted at the behest of Chris Jericho, one of Chris Benoit’s close personal friends.

Chris infamously committed double-murder suicide back in 2007 when he killed his wife, Nancy, and seven-year-old son Daniel at his home in Fayetteville, Georgia. Upon learning the news of what happened, WWE scrubbed any and all mentions of Benoit from its programming. David was one of two children Chris had with his first wife.

“The Rabid Wolverine” was known as one of the greatest technical wres-



David Benoit, son of deceased wrestler Chris Benoit, recently appeared on the Pro and Bro Wrestling Podcast with Fred Rosser (formerly known as Darren Young) and revealed he wants to join All Elite Wrestling. While he said his training lately has been “just messing around in the ring,” he was previously spotted at AEW’s Double or Nothing and All Out pay-per-views.

“I want to go to AEW one hundred percent,” he said. “I love AEW. I love what they do for the boys. [They] take care of them.”

Benoit posted a photo of himself shaking hands with AEW president Tony Khan shortly after the All Out show in late August.

Benoit also claimed in the interview that he was “banned” from WWE events, though he did post a photo recently with Natalya and Tyson Kidd while backstage at a WWE live event in Edmonton.

Reports of Benoit looking to wrestle first popped up back in 2014, though his

tlers of his generation during his career. Debuting in 1985, he would wrestle for New Japan Pro Wrestling, WCW, ECW and WWE across the next two decades, becoming a two-time world champion.

WWE has given no indication that Benoit will ever be inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame, though Vickie Guerrero (Eddie Guerrero’s widow, who was also a close friend of Chris’) pushed for it in an interview with Chris Van Vliet back in April.

“It’s a sad situation. I loved Chris Benoit. His family was our family,” Guerrero said. “His wife Nancy, we were close friends and their son Daniel and we were all really close. I wasn’t there when it happened and I don’t understand why it happened but I still love him. Aside from all of that he loved us and he respected us. He was a talented wrestler and he had his own legacy and I think that it shouldn’t be ignored and it’s sad how things turned out but I would like to see him inducted into the Hall of Fame.”

Not necessary a good actor will be good at comedy: Anees Bazmee

Mumbai, Sep 27 (PTI): Film-maker Anees Bazmee believes it is not necessary that an exceptional actor will be good at comedy as getting the timing right is tough.

Bazmee, who has directed some of the biggest comedy films including “Welcome”, “No Entry”, “Ready”, said actors like Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor have the capacity to do wonders on screen.

“It isn’t necessary that a very good actor will also be good at comedy. That, as a writer and director, you have to sit down with the actor and make him so comfortable that he’s able to do comedy.”

“Akshay, Salman, Anil, Ajay, Nana Patekar all these are actors who can take a scene to another level. But not every actor has the comic timing. Some try a lot and are even uncomfortable. Comedy

isn’t easy,” he said.

Bazmee was in conversation with journalist Rajeev Masand at the 10th Jagran Film Festival.

The director said his instruction to actors while doing a comedy film is to not be funny at all.

“Be serious. You have to work hard and do comedy when your script isn’t good. You’ve to do buffoonery, pull each other’s hair. In ‘Welcome’, sure there’s comedy but inside there’s a tragedy.

“A don, who’s actually not a bad person, wanted to be an actor but has become a gangster. He’s trying to get his sister married to a good family. It’s a serious comedy!”

The director is currently gearing up for the release of his next, “Pagalpanti” and will then direct the sequel to the hit horror comedy “Bhool Bhulaiyaa”, featuring Kartik

Aaryan and Kiara Advani.

Bazmee said the young actors today are extremely hard working and well prepared.

“They don’t come with the thought that we will learn after doing 12-15 films and will have lots of time. They are very prepared. Today you don’t even get those many chances. If you’re not good, then may be you’ll just get one or two films. They are very focused on their work.”

Giving an example of how stars like Akshay and Salman have agreed to do his film in under five minutes by just listening to the idea, Bazmee said the young actors are different.

“The change which has come is, they (young actors) now need a complete bound script so that they know what it is and are prepared. Salman, Akshay, Ajay had a dif-

ferent style because of their experience. I had narrated the story of ‘Singh is Kinning’ to Akshay over call in 5 minutes. Similarly with Salman.

“Their experience of working in so many films gives them an idea of how a story idea of three-minutes can span on screen as a two and a half hour film. Also, today, the young actors do one film at a time with passion and dedication so you’ve to match upto that as well,” he added.

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PRETTY SEÑORITA! Singer-songwriter, Camila Cabello wore a white cutout catsuit and lace up stilettos while performing at Jackie Gleason Theater at The Fillmore Miami Beach.

LAPD plans to increase visibility for ‘Joker’ opening weekend



LOS ANGELES, SEP 27 (PTI): The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has decided to increase its visibility at cinema halls when “Joker” opens next week.

The decision has been taken amid heightened law enforcement concern about the violence in the Todd Phillips-directed movie, featuring Joaquin Phoenix in the titular role.

“The Los Angeles Police Department is aware of public concerns and the historical significance associated with the premiere of ‘Joker’. “While there are no credible threats in the Los Angeles area, the department will maintain high visibility around theaters when it opens,” department spokesman Josh Rubenstein said in a statement to Variety.

The decision was taken after families of some of the victims of 2012 shooting, which killed 12 people and injured 70 others at a screening of “The Dark Knight Rises”, raised concerns about “Joker”.

Earlier this week, Warner Bros, the studio behind the movie, had said that the film is not an “endorsement of real-world violence of any kind”.

The FBI had also advised local law enforcement of potentially alarming online posts about the film.

On Tuesday, website Gizmodo had reported that the US Army had distributed a bulletin to certain bases warning of the potential for violence associated with the film.

ARIES: That urge to create something, to do something new, is guiding you on the right path. Don’t be afraid to take this leap of faith, Aries. Let this surge of creativity propel you into bigger and better things. Those looking to invest their money in property or start a new venture, consider this as your green flag from the Universe. New beginnings look good on you! Your ideas have more potential than you can imagine right now.

Tip: Take that leap of faith.

TAURUS: The drama intensifies as the week progresses. If you thought you had dealt with the unexpected, think again. Take a close look at your circle. Are you sure the people you trust the most won’t throw you under the bus the first chance they get? Take your blindfold off and see them for who they truly are. If you’re the one who has erred, know that it is never too late to clean up.

Tip: Safeguard your interests.

GEMINI: Business opportunities are on the cards. For some of you, these might be on an international scale. Stepping out of your comfort zone can help you view

the world differently and make the most of what’s being offered. Break the chains of familiarity and venture forth into the forest. You will also find that teamwork is the key to realising your dreams. Take others with you, wild one.

Tip: Don’t be afraid to explore the unexplored.

CANCER: The tighter you try to hold on to the sand, the faster it will slip through your fingers. Understanding this age old piece of wisdom will aid you in your journey. Cancer. Don’t let your tenaciousness be the reason you cling on to things that have served their purpose. Think abundance, not lack. Investing your money in the right place will help your money grow manifold.

Tip: Keep the big picture in mind.

LEO: Take a moment to acknowledge your journey. The battles you have fought and the breakthroughs you have made. Be grateful for the soul lessons. They have made you who you are today. The next chapter of your life is about sharing this knowledge with others and holding space for them to evolve into beings of light. Let compassion, wisdom and

strength become your magick words. Tip: Hold space for others to evolve.

VIRGO:

h, the battles you have fought to get where you are today! Do you really want to give up now? Consider taking a breather and refueling your reserves instead. While you’re at it, address the wounds and negative thought patterns that have convinced you that you won’t make a breakthrough this time around. Remember, every time you take action in the right direction, you are showing the Universe how your will to win is strong. Tip: Don’t quit three seconds before the miracle.

LIBRA: Sacrifice does not always have to be about letting go of something precious. Sometimes, we need to let go of the hurt, the pain, the urge for revenge, so that we can make space for peace, joy and tranquility. If you are finding comfort in discomfort, know that this will just breed discontentment. Take some time off to contemplate what you really want.

Tip: Take some time off to contemplate.

SCORPIO: Adulting. Also known as the process of taking the trash out, every single

morning. Sometimes, you just have to look at yourself in the mirror and deliver the cold, hard truth you’ve been shying away from telling yourself. Up next: the elimination process.

Tip: Eliminate.

SAGITTARIUS: You are joy. You are love. You are creativity. This is a fertile time to bring those beautiful ideas to life. Passion has always been your power, Sagittarius. So what if you have committed to a 9-to-5? You don’t have to wait until the weekend to unleash your inner artist. Express yourself in small ways.

Tip: This is a fertile time to bring those ideas to life.

CAPRICORN: Who were you before the ‘world’ happened to you? Become curious about your roots. Ask yourself the timeless question: what is the meaning of life? This is a time of stripping away the false and meeting your most authentic self. Remember, society does not get to dictate how you should and should not live your life. Side effects of this transformation: you are becoming in-

creasingly sensitive, and more attuned to the energies around you. Capricorn, trust that you are gifted beyond your five senses.

Tip: You are becoming increasingly sensitive.

AQUARIUS: “When something really really matters to you, let it go. Tell the Universe, “You know what I want.’ Give it to me in the path of least resistance.” Words of wisdom courtesy Abraham Hicks. There is no such thing as ‘the chase’. Being part of the flow has taught you that what is meant to be yours will flow into your existence. For now, you’re just focusing on staying open.

Tip: What is meant to be yours will flow into your life.

PISCES: Slow and steady, who? Things are finally picking up pace. While you haven’t arrived at the desired destination, you know that you are on the right track. Let your ability to think differently help you forge a new path. For some, the opportunity to expand their business overseas could come knocking. Be confident in your abilities and take the next step.

Tip: Expand into uncharted territories.