



**DEPRESSION LIKE ANY OTHER
ILLNESS AND TREATABLE:
DEEPIKA PADUKONE**

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**ACADEMICS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD – IF
THEY STOP TALKING ONLY TO THEIR PEERS**

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**NASHVILLE SINGER DAVID OLNEY
DIES ON STAGE AFTER APOLOGISING
TO CROWD AND CLOSING HIS EYES**

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SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 19 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 22 January 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

*Modi, Shah
are a drag
on Indian
democracy:
Sibal*

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 (PTI): Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said the nationwide protests against the amended citizenship law reflected that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were a “drag on Indian democracy.”

Sibal’s comments come after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had on Monday lowered India’s economic growth estimate for the current fiscal to 4.8 per cent and listed the country’s much-lower-than-expected GDP numbers as the single-biggest drag on its global growth forecast for two years.

“IMF lowers India’s GDP for 2019 to 4.8%. Calls it a drag on the world economy,” Sibal tweeted.

“Protests of people, young and old, across India (who can’t be recognised by the clothes they wear) Reflect that the duo Modi and Amit Shah are a drag on Indian Democracy,” the Congress leader added.

Ahead of the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit in Davos, Switzerland, India-born IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath had said growth in the country slowed sharply owing to stress in the non-bank financial sector and weak rural income growth.

India’s growth is estimated at 4.8 per cent in 2019, projected to improve to 5.8 per cent in 2020 and 6.5 percent in 2021 (1.2 and 0.9 percentage point lower than in the October WEO), supported by monetary and fiscal stimulus as well as subdued oil prices, the IMF said.

*SC seeks response
of Centre, EC
on plea seeking
stay on electoral
bond scheme*

NEW DELHI, JAN 20 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday sought response of the Centre and the Election Commission on a plea seeking stay on the electoral bond scheme meant for funding political parties.

The top court, however, refused to grant an interim stay on the electoral bond scheme.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant asked the Centre and the Election Commission to file their responses within two weeks to the interim application filed by NGO ‘Association for Democratic Reforms’ for staying the scheme.

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No irregularities in appointment of a non-local as OSD to CM, claims Jacob Khaling

POLITICAL SECY TO CM HOLDS UP SIKKIM STATE PUBLIC SERVICES ACT TO CLAIM PROPRIETY

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Coming under fire on the appointment of a non-local as an OSD to the Chief Minister, political secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling, today rejected the allegations as “unfounded and utterly misleading.”

While there was some mild criticism when Prof Mahendra P Lama was appointed the Chief Economic Advisor to the CM last year, the latest round of condemnations appears to have gained some traction at least on social media platforms.

Interestingly, even this appointment appears to have been made at around the same time as Prof Lama but word about it got out only recently. It is being claimed that one Sunil Saroagi was appointed OSD to the CM in July last year but most people learned of it only recently, and almost immediately strong condemnations have come from some quarters ruing that this violation of Rule 4/4 which protects jobs in Sikkim for locals comes from a party which had assured local protection and had

made much noise against a similar appointment under the previous government.

Responding to these criticisms in his capacity as the Political Secretary to the CM, Mr Khaling, in a social media post today refuted the allegations in the strongest terms and demanded that “such mischief of leveling false charges against a constitutionally elected government for political gains should not be entertained nor encouraged and should be refuted by our intellectuals,

civil societies and the Press fraternity as it obvious that the entire allegations are politically motivated and intended to defame the new Government.”

While confirming the appointment, Mr Khaling claims that to claim that these were in violation of Rule 4/4 was “immature, untrue and misleading.”

“Both the appointments were made keeping in mind the state government rules for employment and the role they were required to play in the national arena,” he states.

Mr Saroagi’s appointment, he informs, was made under powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Sikkim State Public Services Act 2006 which allows the State Government to “from time to time employ such person whom it may consider suitable to render advisory or other similar services in connection with the affairs of the state.”

Mr Khaling quotes this rule to claim that the appointment was hence “very much legal and in no manner violates any other Rule or Act en-

forced in the state.”

He goes on to add that Mr Saroagi’s appointment was on “purely honorary basis” and since he was not eligible for salary or other facilities accorded to a State Govt employee, he cannot be considered a State Govt employee and therefore his appointment cannot be termed as a violation to Rule 4/4.

Mr Khaling has also rejected allegations that enforcement on the new Motor Vehicles Act was a violation of Old Laws.

Such allegations, he

says, are “laughable” and points out that the parent Act was enforced in Sikkim way back in 1991 and that the latest amendment was made to include safety and security measures which were absent in the earlier central motor vehicle act.

“Here I would like to question Shri Pas-sang Sherpa [who was the first condemn the developments] as to why they said Amendment should not have been implemented in the state of Sikkim?” Mr Khaling concludes.

CM meets Medanta Hospital’s Dr Naresh Trehan



Team of specialists to visit Sikkim soon

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Chief Minister, PS Tamang (Golay), today met well known cardiac surgeon and Chief Managing Director of Medanta Hospital, Dr Naresh

Trehan, at Gurugram.

They discussed various health related issues faced by the people of Sikkim especially those who are not able to travel outside the state for medical treatment.

Dr Trehan, it is learnt, has agreed to send a team of specialist doctors to Sikkim for screening and creating awareness about various medical issues.

Sikkim downs Assam in its T Ao NE Football C’ship opener

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Sikkim today launched its T Ao North East Football Championship campaign with a victory. Sikkim downed Assam by a solitary goal in its first match of the league round at IG Stadium in Kohima, Nagaland, on Tuesday.

Don Tshering Lepcha scored the winning goal for Sikkim by converting a penalty shot in the 28th minute of the second half of the match.

Sikkim will be playing its second league match against Meghalaya on 23 January and has been placed in Group-B along with Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram for group stage of the tournament.

Team Manager Arjun Rai credited the squad for having played upto expectations, adding that Sikkim displayed a wonderful game which

was highly appreciated by local spectators.

He also made special mention of some good saves by goalkeeper Urgen Pintso Sherpa which helped the team to register its first victory.

Mr Rai said that the team was in good form and a victory on its tournament starter has further boosted the morale.

On behalf of the team, Mr Rai thanked Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] for boosting the morale of the team members by extending financial support to the team. He also congratulated the organising committee for organising the tournament in a grand and wonderful manner.

He mentioned that interested football fans can watch the matches live on the website <http://drtaotrophy.nagaland.gov.in>.

Cong joins condemnation of non-local being appointed OSD to the CM

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] president, Bharat Basnet, has strongly condemned the appointment of Sunil Saraogi as Officer on Special Duty [OSD] to the Chief Minister. Contending that the appointment, given that Mr Saraogi is a non-local, was a direct violation of the Old Laws of Sikkim in general and Rule 4(4) in particular, he demanded that the State government immediately repeal its appointment order.

Addressing a press conference here today, the SPCC president alleged that the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha government has been working against promises made before the elections.

He pointed out that SKM had promised a Local Protection Act but was now working against local interests.



He added that the Congress party also strongly condemns such a work culture manifesting in the state government and expressed hope that the State government will correct its mistakes.

Mr Basnet pointed out that SKM, when in the opposition, had launched a strong campaign against the appointment of Anita Gupta as an OSD in the Capacity

Building Department and was now following suit.

He went on to share that Advisors to the present CM had earlier advocated for local protection aggressively but now, when they can a difference, were keeping silent.

He also strongly condemned the recent press statement of one Ram Pujan Singh who had claimed that people who have come from Bhutan,

Tibet and Nepal have been exempted from Income Tax. He alleged that a member of old settlers community could call the people of Sikkim outsiders due to the weakness of the government.

He went on to counter that the problem of old settlers regarding IT exemption was not a problem of Sikkim and if they have income then they should pay income tax.

Legendary footballer PK Banerjee hospitalised

KOLKATA, JAN 21 (PTI):

Legendary Indian footballer PK Banerjee was hospitalised on Tuesday.

The 83-year-old former Indian captain and Padma Shri awardee was admitted to a private hospital off the EM Bypass in the eastern part of the city. “He was not talking since yesterday and was sleeping more than he usually does. He underwent a sugar test and we are waiting for the report,” a family member said.

“We took him to the hospital for a regular check-up,” he added.

According to an official at the hospital, the former Indian football coach was admitted to the general ward and undergoing some tests. The condition of Banerjee, who is also having some nerve-related illness, was stable, he said.

SC to hear pleas challenging CAA on Wednesday

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI): The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Wednesday a batch of pleas seeking to examine the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

A bench, comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna, which had issued notice to the Centre on various pleas is likely to hear 132 petitions, including those filed by the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

CAA seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Jain and Parsi communities who came to the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan on or before December 31, 2014.

Some of the petitions filed later have also sought a stay on the operation of the legislation which came into force on January 10. The apex court had on January 9 refused to entertain



a plea seeking that the CAA be declared constitutional, saying the country is going through difficult times and there is so much violence that endeavour should be for peace.

IUML said in its plea that CAA violates the fundamental Right to Equality and intends to grant citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants by making an exclusion on the basis of religion.

President Ram Nath Kovind

gave assent to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on December 12, turning it into an Act.

IUML seeks an interim stay on the operation of CAA and the Foreigner Amendment (Order), 2015 and Passport (Entry Into Rules), Amendment Rules, 2015.

The petition had alleged that the government’s CAA was against the basic structure of the Constitution and intended to explicitly discriminate against Mus-

lims as the Act extended benefits only to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.

The plea filed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, said the Act is a “brazen attack” on core fundamental rights envisaged under the Constitution and treats “equals as unequal”.

Ramesh said the substantial questions of law, including whether religion can be a factor to

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SMTWA celebrates 46th foundation day



YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Motor Transport Workers Association Singtam (SMTWA) celebrated its 46th foundation day at Singtam bazaar today. The Association was established in 1974.

Uday Singh Golay was present as the chief guest accompanied by Principal Government Senior Secondary School Singtam, KB Chettri, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha CLC member, Suresh Tamang, president SMTWA, Tinku Adhikari along with the executive members of association and social workers were present during the program.

During the program, appreciation letters were presented to the most dedicated members of the association for their hard work.

Lakpa Tshering Lepcha, Prem Kr Tamang,

Buddha Ram Subba, Suraj Subba, Nim Tshering, Purna Bdr Tamang were presented the letters of appreciation on the day. The appreciation letters were presented by the chief guest.

SKM CLC member, Suresh Tamang and Principal, KB Chettri were felicitated for their unconditional service to the society.

"This celebration (46th foundation day) is dedicated to all the hard working members who not only work sincerely but also contribute their valuable time to build the association," said the president, Mr Adhikari.

He said that drivers should always cooperate with the police department and the Transport department.

Mr Golay thanked SMTWA for organizing the program and inviting him as chief guest.

Heroin worth Rs 105 crore seized in Kolkata

KOLKATA, JAN 21 (PTI): In one of the biggest drug seizures in the East in recent history, the Kolkata Police on Tuesday arrested two persons with 25 kilogram of heroin worth more than Rs 105 crore in the international market, a senior officer said.

Acting on a tip-off, the Special Task Force of the Kolkata Police raided a house in Paikpara area in the northern part of the city in the early hours of Tuesday and nabbed Uttar Pradesh-based drug dealer Juber and his accomplice from Manipur, Moulana Fayazuddin, the officer said.

"We have seized heroin weighing 25.255 kg. This is one of the biggest seizures of heroin not only in Kolkata but also in West Bengal and the

Northeast," he said. Preliminary investigation revealed that while Juber was working as a hawk in the city, Faiyazuddin was an agricultural labourer. Both the accused were drug carriers for dealers based in Uttar Pradesh and the Northeast. Juber possessed 20 kg heroin and Faiyazuddin 5.255, the officer said.

"It is suspected that the accused were intending to mix the heroin with some other drugs. They were planning to distribute them to smaller dealers," he said.

Both the accused have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and an investigation is on, the officer added.

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Nawin Kiran condemns govt job for a non-local, demands that Sikkim State Public Services Act be repealed

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, today stated that the appointment of a non-local as the Officer on Special Duty [OSD] to the Chief Minister was against the interests of locals and in violation of Rule 4/4 of the Sikkim Government Establishment Rules.

He asserted that the ethos of "Sikkim for Sikkimese" should be maintained at all costs and demanded that the appointment of Sunil Saraogi as OSD to the CM be canceled immediately in the interest of the people of Sikkim.

Addressing a press



conference here this afternoon, Mr Pradhan informed that although the appointment order was supposedly taken out on

25 July last year, it came into light only a few days back in the social media.

He pointed out that Sikkim Krantikari Mor-

cha had made several promises to work in the interest of local people but has taken decisions contrary to its promises.

He added that when in the Opposition, SKM had launched strong state-wide demonstration in the year 2016 against the appointment of Anita Gupta as an OSD.

He informed that Mr Saraogi's appointment has been made under the Sikkim State Public Services Act of 2006, an Act which he sees as a ploy to make political appointments by whichever party is in office. He demanded that the Act be repealed immediately in the interest of the people of Sikkim.

Arunachal Pradesh team visits Teesta-V Power Station



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

A 15-member team comprising of villagers from various districts of Arunachal Pradesh and officials of Department of Hydro Power Development (DHPD), Government of Arunachal Pradesh were on an exposure visit to NHPC Ltd-Teesta-V Power Station, Sikkim, from 18 to 20 Jan, 2020, a press release informs.

The team was headed by SE, DHPD, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh, Durick Kamduk, Dy General Manager (HR), RO-Itanagar, Priya Ranjan, and comprised of Yangkeng Takuk from Upper Siang district, Abuyu Saya, Dingu Linggi, Kutundu Linggi, Junti Lingi from Lower Dibang Valley district and others who have been playing vital role in the upcoming Dibang Hydro Electric Project.

They were given warm welcome by Head

of the Power Station, Teesta-V Power Station & Chief Executive Officer of Teesta-VI Hydro Electric Project, Sahadev Khatua.

During the visit, the team visited key components of the power station such as Power House, Dam, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Project Hospital and also met with various beneficiaries of the power station.

The team interacted with local people at Balutar, Singbel, Apdara, Dikchu. They also interacted with local people appointed by NHPC through R & R scheme at Teesta-V and local contract staff engaged in Power Station.

Head of the Power Station, Sahadev Khatua appraised the visiting team about activities and achievements of Teesta-V Power Station. He explained the villagers how Disasters and Climate risks are being addressed through technical support, collabora-

tion and using modern best practices.

He said that Power Station is providing 12% of the total generation of Power at Free of Cost to Sikkim, being home state and providing direct & indirect Employment under Preferential Local Employment and Procurement.

Power Station is also providing Scholarships to meritorious students and conducting training/ skill development programs to enhance Employability and Sustainable Livelihood Support & financial independence especially among local women.

He mentioned that Teesta-V Power Station exceeded international standards of good practice in an assessment carried by International Hydropower Association (IHA) across all 20 performance criteria covering resilience to climate change and mitigation of carbon emissions.

Axis Mutual Fund launches Axis ESG Equity Fund

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Axis Mutual Fund has launched Axis ESG Equity Fund, a new product that aims to invest in companies that can generate sustainable business performance over the long term.

A press release informs that the product is suitable for investors looking for capital appreciation over long term and investments in companies demonstrating sustainable practices across Environment, Social and Governance [ESG] parameters.

The new fund offers (NFO) opens for subscription on January 22, 2020 to February 05, 2020. Mr. Jinesh Gopani, Head Equity, and Mr. Hitesh Das, Fund Manager - Foreign Securities, at Axis Asset Management Company will be managing this fund, the release mentions.

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SC to hear...

either acquire or deny citizenship in India, arises for consideration of the court as it is a "patently unconstitutional" amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.

"The impugned Act creates two classifications, viz, classification on basis of religion and the classification on the basis of geography and both the classifications are completely unreasonable and share no rational nexus to the object of the impugned Act i.e., to provide shelter, safety and citizenship to communities who in their native country are facing persecution on grounds of religion," the plea has said.

Several petitions have been filed challenging the constitutional validity of the CAA, including by RJD leader Manoj Jha, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi. Several other petitioners include Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, All Assam Students Union (AASU), Peace Party, CPI, NGOs 'Rihai Manch' and Citizens Against Hate, advocate M L Sharma, and law students have also approached the apex court challenging the Act.

SC seeks...

Lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, alleged that the scheme is a means for channelising unaccounted black money in favour of the ruling party.

Bhushan also referred to a document of the RBI while seeking stay of the scheme.

"We will see that. We are listing it after two weeks, the bench said.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, said all these arguments have already been advanced earlier and sought four weeks time to reply to the plea of the NGO against the scheme.

BEFORE THE LEARNED OATH COMMISSIONER EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK

AFFIDAVIT

I, Khangendra Mohora. Son of Chandra Kumar Mohora, aged about 45 yrs, by faith Hindu, resident of Deorali MW, NH31A Road, Above Deorali Out Post, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Tadong, P.O & P.S. Deorali, Gangtok, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That my correct and actual name is "Khangendra Mohora" which has been recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 968872942001, issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India.
2. That in my School Pass Certificate my name has been inadvertently recorded as "Khagendra Mohra" which is incorrect, bearing No. 557259, Index No T/361/082 of Mount Hermon School, Darjeeling, was awarded an Indian Certificate of Secondary Education, issued by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi.
3. That this affidavit is made to declare that the person by the name of "Khagendra Mohora" and "Khagendra Mohra" denotes and refer to one and the same person i.e myself.
4. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

Sd/-
Khagendra Mohora
DEPONENT

CHANGE OF NAME: I, KHAGENDRA MOHORA, s/o Chandra Kumar Mohora, r/o Deorali, Gangtok, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly declare that my actual name is "Khagendra Mohora" as recorded in my Aadhar Card No. 968872942001, instead of "Khagendra Mohra" as recorded in my School Certificate bearing No. 557259, Index No T/361/082 issued by ICSE, New Delhi. This affidavit is made to declare that both Khagendra Mohora" and "Khagendra Mohra" denotes and refer to one and the same person i.e myself and have signed this affidavit on 11.01.2020 before Oath Commissioner, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Khagendra Mohora
DEPONENT

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GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Roadside plots for sale at Adampool, Ranipool-Rumtek highway.

For details contact: 9083826462

FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg.

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 36 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501,62970-03235, 98320-48410

Despite protests, CAA will not be withdrawn: Amit Shah

LUCKNOW, JAN 21 (PTI): Attacking the opposition for "misleading" people on the Citizenship Amendment Act, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the law will not be scrapped despite the protests over it.

Addressing a rally here in support of the CAA, Shah also declared that the construction of a Ram temple touching the skies in Ayodhya will begin within three months.

The minister accused the Congress of not implementing the suggestions that came from its own leaders in the past on granting citizenship to minority Hindus in Pakistan, Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) and Afghanistan after Partition.

He also targeted West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee, saying she is now opposing Indian citizenship for Dalit Bengalis.

At the same meeting, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath alleged that the Congress is shelling out money for arson and protests over the CAA.

Amit Shah said there is no provision in the amended law for taking anyone's citizenship away. A canard is being spread against the CAA by the Congress, SP, BSP, and Trinamool Congress.

The CAA is a law to grant citizenship, he added.

I want to say that irrespective of the pro-

tests it will not be withdrawn," he added.

Shah challenged opposition leaders to hold a discussion with him on the CAA at a public forum.

He named Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party's Mayawati and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee while throwing the challenge.

"If any clause of the CAA takes away the citizenship of anyone, including Muslims, they can tell me. The agitations and sit-ins, which are being organised in the country against it, are wrong," he said.

"The Congress has become blind due to vote bank politics," he said, and also blamed the party for Partition.

"Rahul baba open your ears and listen carefully. Because of the sins of your party in 1947, the country's partition on religious basis was accepted. Mentioning figures, he said the proportion of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains in Pakistan and Bangladesh dropped drastically after Partition.

"Where have they gone? They were either killed, converted or came to India as refugees. These blind people cannot see that atrocities were committed on crores of people," he said.

Shah asked opposition parties where they were when crores of people were killed in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh on the basis of religion. He said

five lakh Pandits were displaced from Kashmir, but these parties did not utter a word.

Now, because of PM Modi, a new chapter has begun in the lives of these people," he said.

Shah referred to the recent Supreme Court verdict that allows the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed Ayodhya site. The crowd cheered when he said the construction will begin in three months.

Accusing the opposition of speaking the language of Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, the BJP leader said, "I don't know what relation they have with Khan."

Shah claimed that Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Indira Gandhi

advocated citizenship to Hindus from Pakistan but their Congress party never implemented the suggestion.

On Mamata Banerjee, he charged, "She was demanding citizenship for Dalit Bengalis. Now when the citizenship is being given to them, she has problems."

Shah claimed that during the Rajasthan assembly elections, the Congress had advocated citizenship to Hindus from Pakistan.

The CAA allows easier citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Parsis and Jains who entered India from three neighbouring countries before 2015 after facing religious persecution. Muslim migrants don't figure on this list.

Sikkim gets its first NEXA showroom

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Maruti Suzuki India opened its 1st NEXA showroom in Sikkim today. The showroom, located at Jigting Commercial Complex, Upper Sichey, near DC Office, was inaugurated by former Power Secretary, DD Pradhan.

NEXA Gangtok City (Entel Autos) is the 1st NEXA showroom in the state. NEXA, one of the most important initiatives by Maruti Suzuki, has redefined the car purchase experience in India. At present, the cars sold through NEXA are: premium cross-over S-Cross; premium hatchback Baleno; premium urban compact IGNIS; and premium sedan Ciaz, and premium MPV XL6. Launched in July 2015, NEXA, the premium automotive retail channel



of Maruti Suzuki has enabled the company to attract newer categories of customers while retaining existing customers within the fold.

Speaking at the event, Managing Director, Entel

Motors, Guru Ladakhi, said, "It's been a long journey of 32 years since we started Entel motors. Nexa is the second vertical with separate models of cars and different experiences. In a short

period of 3 years, it has already become the largest selling channel."

He informed that Entel was awarded the Nexa showroom almost 2 years ago and it has finally materialized now.

Mr Ladakhi also thanked C Lachungpa, owner of the property where the Nexa showroom is located, for allowing Entel to modify the building as per the needs for a Nexa showroom.

No mention of chancellor in CU concovation invite

KOLKATA, JAN 21 (PTI):

Amid the ongoing rift between the Mamata Banerjee dispensation and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Calcutta University, in a departure from its tradition, has issued its annual convocation card with no mention of a chief guest or chancellor.

A week ago, state education minister Partha Chatterjee had said that the programme, this year, might be held without Dhankhar, who is also the university chancellor, in the wake of his "consistent" attacks on the TMC government.

According to sources, the varsity, for the first time in recent memory, did not name any chief guest or chair in its invite for annual convocation, scheduled to be held on January 28 at state-run Nazrul Manch.

In the past few years, CU had invited its chancellor as chief guest for

the ceremony.

"The vice-chancellor and the (university) senate are requesting your gracious presence at Annual Convocation of the University of Calcutta," the invitation card said.

During its senate meeting last month, CU had declared that Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee will be conferred with the honorary D Litt (honoris causa) during its convocation ceremony.

Despite multiple attempts, Vice-Chancellor Sonali Chakraborty did not respond to calls or reply to Whatsapp messages by PTI.

Last month, TMC employees' union had blocked Dhankhar's entry into Jadavpur University (JU), where he had gone to attend its annual convocation. The governor had said "Universities are in captivity... caged by the state government."

Bhaichung conferred Indian Achievers Award 2019



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Former Indian football team skipper and football icon, Bhaichung Bhutia has been conferred with the Indian Achievers Award 2019 for his contribution to Indian football. The award was handed over by Union Minister Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal in Delhi on Monday.

The award function was organized by Power

Corridors and attended by Bollywood stars, Shilpa Shetty and Suresh Oberoi who were selected for Champion of Change award.

On his official Facebook page, Bhaichung has expressed, "I'm so honored to receive the Indian Achievers Award 2019 by the hands of HRD minister Sir Ramesh Pokhriyal in Delhi yesterday for the contribution to Indian football. Through Indi-

an Football Foundation, 8 players have gone on to represent the Indian team in the different age groups, 14 boys are playing for ISL. Thank you, the selection committee for recognizing my work and of Indian Football Foundation over the years. @BBFS is the biggest grassroots football school in all over India. I'm so pleased that the country is appreciating and acknowledging Football."

Woman IPS officer assaulted, molested by AR rifleman in Manipur



IMPHAL, JAN 21 (PTI):

A woman IPS officer has alleged that a rifleman of Assam Rifles physically assaulted and molested her at a check post near Moreh town in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, police said on Tuesday.

Based on a written complaint of the IPS officer, an FIR has been registered against rifleman P K Pandey and a summons has been issued to him to appear before the concerned police station, the police said.

Manipur DGP L M Khaute told reporters on Monday, "We have made contacts with the Assam Rifles authorities. A com-

plaint has been lodged by the officer."

In her complaint, the IPS officer said that on reaching Khudengtabi check post on Sunday afternoon one of her escorts, who was not in uniform, told the frisking party of Assam Rifles to register their entry.

Despite showing their identity cards, the rifleman allegedly detained them, she said.

"We offered to search ourselves and the vehicle, but he was not interested," she said.

The rifleman began hitting the official vehicle and "misbehaved, humiliated, harassed and as-

saulted me and my escort personnel," she alleged.

The IPS officer also alleged that the rifleman molested her and when her escorts tried to intervene, he thrashed them.

She further accused the rifleman of making "sexually coloured" remarks against her, using abusive language and even tried to snatch her phone when she tried to call her senior officers.

The issue was brought under control after the matter was reported to the Brigadier of 26th Assam Rifles and the Major of the D-company of 12th AR, police said.

Action against IIT-G students for supporting teacher who raised graft charges

GUWAHATI, JAN 21 (PTI):

The IIT-Guwahati has initiated disciplinary proceedings against nine students for organising a protest march and a hunger strike in support of a faculty member who was given "compulsory retirement" for raising several corruption charges against the institute.

Issuing notices to the students on Monday, the Assistant Registrar of Students' Affairs of the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati asked them to appear before a committee on Wednesday.

"As directed, you are advised to attend an SDC meeting to be held in the office of the Dean of Students' Affairs on 22.01.2020 at 5 PM (in connection with Protest March by students on 17.11.2019 and recent hunger strike) where your presence and disposition is considered necessary," an email to the students said.

Vikrant Singh, one of the students who was served the notice, shot back a reply stating that protest is a constitutional right of every citizen and "as such, calling an SDC (students' disciplinary committee) for peaceful protest is against the law of the land and also contempt of the court".

Students at the IIT-G

have been protesting against the disciplinary action taken against Brijesh Kumar Rai, an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, after he raised corruption charges against the administration and filed hundreds of RTIs.

Rai was given "compulsory retirement" through an IIT-G order on January 1 for his alleged "misconduct" on three counts -- an altercation with a fellow faculty member, writing an email to ISRO without maintaining the official protocol and a complaint in January 2018 by his department head alleging dereliction of duty.

Protesting against this order, Singh along with another student Himanchal Singh sat on an indefinite hunger strike from January 4 and they were admitted to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital after three days when their condition deteriorated.

Immediately after they began the hunger strike, IIT-G Director T G Sitharam wrote a mail to the duo and warned them of action for "interfering in the disciplinary proceedings" against Rai.

"You both (students) are not supposed to interfere in the disciplinary proceedings

followed through diligent process, failing which violation of student code of conduct as well as institute code will be applicable to you both," he said. On November 17 last year, hundreds of students took out a candlelight march inside the campus in support of Rai and against any possible disciplinary action against him.

Meanwhile, Rai approached the Gauhati High Court on Monday and sought a stay order on his "compulsory retirement".

Rai joined the IIT-G in 2011 and has been raising questions over "irregularities" on the campus.

"I noticed various kinds of corruption taking place on the campus. When I started asking about them, the authority became vindictive... So far, I have filed around 200 RTI applications about various IITs, the MHRD and other education-related centres since 2015," Rai told PTI.

The IIT-G clarified its position on the corruption charges by Rai by uploading a statement on its official website and described the accusations as "baseless, unverified and his own assumptions" and said he filed "unnecessary" RTI applications.

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Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

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Tobacco, the Ignored Challenge

We speak of teenage smoking here

A new academic session is about to begin, and the time right to initiate some discussion on issues concerning students. Today, we speak of tobacco use in the present instance.

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey [GYTS] conducted a survey among students in the 13 to 15 years age-group in Sikkim in the year 2001 covering students from grade VIII to X. Yes, the statistics are now 19 years old, but it would be safe to venture that not much has changed on ground because let's also accept it that Sikkim has not really done much to address the situation beyond pushing smoking away from public places. If anything, like with the rest of the country, the prevalence of teenage smoking would have increased in Sikkim as well.

Further, the age-group we are speaking of here was not really smoking in public to begin with any way. The survey was a first of its kind for India and maybe it is time for another round of such a data collection exercise. But that would have required Sikkim to have done benefited from the statistics collated back in 2001.

Did it?

The findings should have scared every parent, invoked institutions to address the situation and convinced policy-makers to get real about the task of arresting the trend. Nearly two decades since and a follow-up survey later, tobacco use among the barely teens in Sikkim does not even figure significantly in the social or health sector interventions here. The dis-interest is inexcusable because the data is disturbing.

The GYTS survey of 2001 revealed that 55% of students in the 13 to 15 age-group consumed some form of tobacco - while 18% smoked cigarettes, 38% used other forms of tobacco like Gutka. A huge prospective bank of chemically dependent is being groomed, and worryingly, there is no concerted effort underway to wean the young away from tobacco and nothing effective on the field to prevent more to enter their teens with a taste for tobacco. Agreed, the sale of Gutka and even paan masalas is banned, but it's no secret that these can still be procured. There are laws against smoking in public places or selling tobacco products to minors, but save some select public spaces, the former is lightly monitored and no one has really bothered with the latter provision with any consistency. With this data, the worrying absence of social involvement and people's initiatives in Sikkim gets reinforced. Tobacco use among the young is not a challenge that governments can surmount, this, like most other aspects of social conduct, this needs the initiative and involvement of the people and people's groups.

Why are so many of the young turning to tobacco?

An obvious reason is because they are in an age when they experiment and are trying out tobacco because they can do so easily. Then there is peer pressure which converts still more and from there on it's a snowball effect. The GYTS data reveals that 70% of the tobacco users among the surveyed teens lived in homes where others smoked. It can thus be safely vouched that they also ran errands for the smokers in the family like fetching cigarettes from the neighbourhood doka. It was only a matter of time before they siphon away one stick for themselves. There are two things wrong in this picture- one, it suggests that smoking is okay since children can be sent to buy cigarettes, and two, despite a standing law against selling cigarettes to minors, parents and elders themselves compromise its implementation. National statistics reveal that 56.2% of the minors who bought cigarettes from a shop were not refused purchase because of their age. This number would be even higher in Sikkim where one has never seen a teen being turned away. What is also worrying is that one in four smokers in the 13 to 15 years age-band wants to quit, but doesn't know how and don't know where to access help. The national data reveals that 95% of the smokers never received help to quit smoking even though 67% of the teen smokers want to quit and 67% actually tried on their own! More than 70% of these young smokers know the harmful effects of smoking, and yet, as the data reveals, most remain hooked. We are messing up too much with very young minds with our indifference.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecent language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Academics Can Change the World – if they stop talking only to their peers

SAVO HELETA
theconversation.com

Research and creative thinking can change the world. This means that academics have enormous power. But, as academics Asit Biswas and Julian Kirchherr have warned, the overwhelming majority are not shaping today's public debates.

Instead, their work is largely sitting in academic journals that are read almost exclusively by their peers. Biswas and Kirchherr estimate that an average journal article is "read completely by no more than ten people". They write:

"Up to 1.5 million peer-reviewed articles are published annually. However, many are ignored even within scientific communities – 82% of articles published in humanities [journals] are not even cited once."

This suggests that a lot of great thinking and many potentially world altering ideas are not getting into the public domain. Why, then, are academics not doing more to share their work with the broader public?

The answer appears to be threefold: a narrow idea of what academics should or shouldn't do; a lack of incentives from universities or governments; and a lack of training in the art of explaining complex concepts to a lay audience.

THE 'INTELLECTUAL MISSION'

Some academics insist that it's not their job to write for the general public. They suggest that doing so would mean they're "abandoning their mission as intellectuals". They don't want to feel like they're "dumbing down" complex thinking and arguments.

The counter argument is that academics can't operate in isolation from the world's very real problems.

They may be producing important ideas and innovations that could help people understand and perhaps even begin to address issues like climate

change, conflict, food insecurity and disease.

NO INCENTIVES

Universities also don't do a great deal to encourage academics to step beyond lecture halls and laboratories. There are globally very few institutions that offer incentives to their academics to write in the popular media, appear on TV or radio, or share their research findings and opinions with the public via these platforms.

In South Africa, where I conduct research and teach, incentives are limited to more "formal" publication methods. Individual institutions and the Department of Higher Education and Training offer rewards for publishing books, book chapters, monographs or articles in accredited, peer-reviewed journals.

The department pays universities more than R100,000 per full publication unit – for example, one journal article. These funds are given to universities, which then use their own subsidy disbursement schemes to split the funds between the institution, the faculty in which the author works and the author. In some cases, academics receive more funding for articles published in international journals than in local journals.

Catriona Macleod of Rhodes University in South Africa has argued that these financial incentives are an example of the "commodification of research" and that this is "bad for scholarship". Macleod told University World News:

"The incentive system is a blunt instrument that serves the purposes of increasing university income rather than supporting scholarship and knowledge production in South Africa."

There is nothing in the department's policy that urges academics to share their research beyond academic spaces. There's no suggestion that public outreach or engagement is valued. And this situation is not unique to South Africa: the "publish or perish" culture is a reality at universities all over the world.

Academics have no choice but to go along with

this system. Their careers and promotions depend almost entirely on their journal publication record, so why even consider engaging with the general public?

LEARNING TO WRITE

There is a third factor holding academics back from writing for broader lay audiences: even if they'd like to, they may not know where to start and how to do it.

Writing an article for an academic journal is a very different process to penning one for those outside the academy. Naomi Wolf and Sacha Kopp, in an article examining the issue, wrote:

"Academic writing has the benefit of scholarly rigour, full documentation and original thinking. But the transmission of our ideas is routinely hampered ... by a great deal of peer-oriented jargon."

Universities have a role to play here by offering workshops and courses to their academics and students. This can help develop creative non-fiction writing skills.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Academics need to start playing a more prominent role in society instead of largely remaining observers who write about the world from within ivory towers and publish their findings in journals hidden behind expensive digital paywalls.

Government and university policies need to become more prescriptive in what they expect from academics. Publishing research in peer-reviewed journals is and will remain highly important. But incentives should be added to encourage academics to share their research with the general public.

Doing this sort of work ought to count towards promotions and should yield rewards for both universities and individual academics.

Quality academic research and innovation are crucial. It is equally important, though, to get ideas out into the world beyond academia. It could make a real difference in people's lives.

[the writer is Manager, Internationalisation at Home and Research, Nelson Mandela University]



The First Step in Managing Plastic Waste is Measuring it – here's how we did it for one Caribbean country

CLYDE EIRÍKUR HULL
& ERIC WILLIAMS
theconversation.com

Countries around the world throw away millions of tons of plastic trash every year. Finding ways to manage plastic waste is daunting even for wealthy nations, but for smaller and less-developed countries it can be overwhelming.

We recently carried out a study for the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago that applied economic principles to its plastics management challenge. Some of what we did can be used anywhere.

Our backgrounds are in business management and sustainability. Although Trinidad and Tobago is a tiny country whose economy is based on beach tourism and the petroleum industry, and we had relatively little data on plastic production, use and disposal available, we see this as a useful case study. Trinidad and Tobago is not the only place where data is limited or expensive.

Because Trinidad and Tobago's population is just 1.2 million, we were able to look at its complete economy. It belongs to Caricom, the Caribbean Community, a regional organization that includes 16 million people, giving it access to larger markets. And it struggles with the same problems many large countries face: lack of landfill space. The disposal problem is urgent.

PLASTIC ARRIVES AS PACKAGING

The first step to solving any problem is to measure it. This is often challenging for plastics, due to lack of data on where they come from and end up. A major part of our analysis was repurposing trade statistics to make up for limited data.

Material flow analysis helps quantify the flow of products and wastes. This process was developed in the late 1990s by industrial ecologists for waste management. They have applied it to track materials like metals and products like computers at national and international scales.

The analysis combines different kinds of data. It tracks imported or newly manufactured products entering economies to their use and reuse, including recycling, export or disposal in landfills. Academics and government agencies conduct material flow analysis to inform environmental management.

The most surprising finding from our study was that most of the plastic entering the country's landfills – a total of 49,000 tons per year – was not produced or imported. Rather, it entered the country as packaging around imported products. In other words, the largest amount of land-filled plastic "came along for the ride" with other things.

RECYCLE, BURN OR BAN

Much plastic waste ends up in landfills (or the ocean), but there are better solutions. One is recycling.

One promising finding from our study is that people in Trinidad and

Tobago throw away 26,000 tons of PET plastic bottles every year – enough to make building a domestic recycling facility economically efficient. There is also enough domestic demand for PET bottles to use the plastic that would come from a recycling facility to make more bottles.

A second solution is finding an alternative use for plastic waste. Plastic can be burned for energy, with proper scrubbing and cleaning, as is done in Sweden, where about half of all garbage is burned for energy.

Some companies elsewhere, such as Lehigh Northeast Cement Co. in Glens Falls, New York, are starting to burn plastic as a fuel in cement plants. Cement production is energy intensive, and plastic can substitute for a large portion of the fossil fuels used. Trinidad and Tobago has a cement plant of sufficient size to burn around 29,000 tons of plastic waste.

Whether this option would work depends on whether there are other uses for the plastic and how much plastic the cement plant there would take. There are economic motivations to find out: Using waste plastic can increase profits at cement plants while reducing the amount of plastic going into landfills by roughly 30%.

A third solution is banning some plastic items. We determined that a ban on ubiquitous polystyrene shopping bags could reduce plastic waste in Trinidad and Tobago by 2,000 tons per year. Along with several other

Caricom countries, Trinidad and Tobago has banned the use of these bags and other single-use plastics starting Jan. 1, 2020.

MEASURING THE FLOW OF PLASTIC: A UNIVERSAL SOLUTION

While these results are specific to Trinidad and Tobago, material flow analysis can be used in any country. This approach clarifies the real outcome of efforts to manage plastic. For example, it showed us that banning single-use plastic bags and plastic straws could be worthwhile, but should be part of a larger strategy that identifies and manages larger sources of waste plastic.

This kind of analysis does not have to be expensive. Our study was based on publicly available data on imports and exports, manufacturing, and waste flows into landfills. Our results, although incomplete, were sufficient to spotlight workable solutions.

The main barriers to using material flow analysis are awareness and expertise. The method is not yet widely known, and relatively few people have been trained to do it. But in a globalized world, where huge quantities of goods and materials are constantly moving across borders, it is a valuable tool for tackling urgent waste management challenges.

[Clyde Eiríkur Hull is Professor of Management, Rochester Institute of Technology; Eric Williams is Professor of Sustainability, Rochester Institute of Technology]

Efforts on to make Tripura model state: CM

AGARTALA, JAN 21 (PTI): Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Tuesday said a lot remained to be done to address the developmental challenges, but efforts were on to make Tripura a model state.

Deb, on the occasion of Tripura's 48th Statehood Day, said his government would strive hard to make the state economically self-reliant.

"Tripura had attained statehood on Jan 21, 1972, but we are yet to fulfill many aspirations of people. We strive to make Tripura a model state in the country in terms of development," Deb said on the occasion.

Since the BJP-IPFT dispensation came to power 23 months ago, revenue collections have increased 26% from 8.9 %, the state achieved 100 per cent electrification and eradicated malaria, Deb said, enlisting his government's accomplishments.

The state, in an attempt to ensure transparency, introduced e-tendering system for procuring goods and services and distributed gas cylinders to at least 91 per cent of the households, as part of the Centre's Ujjwala Yojana, the chief minister claimed.

The CM also said that the Centre has sanctioned Rs 8000 crore for widening of National Highways in the state, the work for which is underway.

"Tripura now has access to Chittagong port in Bangladesh. The government is constructing a four-lane bridge over Feni river in Sabroom subdivision will reduce the distance between the state and Chittagong port to just about 70 km," he explained.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, earlier in the day, greeted the people of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura on their Statehood Day and hailed the traditions and culture of the three northeast states. On this day in 1972, all the three states became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.

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Books to watch out for in 2020

ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 (PTI): From novels by Jeet Thayil and Upamanyu Chatterjee to memoirs by actor Will Smith and former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar and from several works related to economy to more stories by the indomitable Ruskin Bond, 2020 promises to be yet another busy year for bookworms.

While Thayil's "Low", a joyride through the darklands of grief towards obliteration and epiphany, is published by Faber & Faber, Speaking Tiger is bringing out Chatterjee's "The Hapless Prince".

A number of books related to economy will be published during the year. These include "Backstage: The Story behind the India Story" by Montek Singh Ahluwalia; "Top 10 Game-changing Moments in the Indian Economy" by Bibek Debroy; and "India at 75: Then and Now" by Bimal Jalan (all Rupa).

Among the works of foreign writers are "The Mirror and the Light"; the final book of Hilary Mantel's "The Wolf Hall Trilogy" (HCI); "Facebook: The Inside Story" by Steven Levy (PRH); "Insha' Allah Nation: Glorious Chaos of Pakistan" by Declan Walsh; and "Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women White Feminists" by Mikki Kendall (all Bloomsbury).

Aleph will come out with Ruskin Bond's "The Boy Who Refused to Grow Up: My Favourite Stories of Childhood" while Westland will come out with his "Happy Birthday, World!"

There are also several books about films and entertainment slated to be published this year. These include: Deepti Naval's candid memoir "A Country Called Childhood"; a biography of Rajinikanth by Vaasanthi; "Manto and I" by Nandita Das (all Aleph); "The Three Khans" (Kaverree Bamzai, Westland); "The Longest Kiss", a biography of Devika Rani by Kishwar Desai (Westland) and Vinod Khanna's biography by Gautam Chintamani (Bloomsbury).

A few other books in this category are "Irfan Khan: The man, the dreamer, the star" by Aseem Chhabra; "Longest Playing Record: Laxmikant-Pyarelal" by Rajiv Vijayakar; "Danny: Life of a Superstar" by Priyanka Pereira and "Interval" by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and Reeta Gupta (all Rupa); "The Bachchans" by SMM Ausaja; "Tapan Sinha: The Authorised Biography" by Amitava Nag; "RIP: Bollywood Obituaries" by Ziya Us Salam (all Om Books International) and "Zoravar", book one in the Bollywood Saga by Maharrsh Shah (HarperCollins India).

Culinary books include those by Jamie Oliver and Nigella Lawson, Yotam Ottolenghi's "Flavour", Ajay Chowdhury's "The Waiter" (Penguin Random House); "Lazzatnaama" by Pushpesh Pant (Rupa), "From the Table of My Friends" by Sunita Kohli (Aleph), and "The Legacy Kitchen: A Culinary Journey for the Ages" by former head chef of Taj Mahal Hotel Satish Arora with Chandrima Pal.

"Jikoni: Proudly Inauthentic Recipes from an Immigrant Kitchen" by Ravinder Bhogal (both Bloomsbury), "The Parsi Kitchen" by SodaBottleOpenerWala's Anahita Dhondy (HCI); "Cultures of Food in Mughal and Post Mughal India", a study of food cultures in Mughal and post-Mughal India between the 16th and mid-19th centuries by Divya Narayanan (Oxford); and two books by Vicky Ratnani - "Urban Desi Non-Vegetarian" and "Urban Desi Vegetarian (Om)" are some other books in this category.

HarperCollins will also publish "Loss" (Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi); "365: A Poem a Day" selected and edited by Gulzar; "Honour Bound: Adventures of an Indian Lawyer in the English Courts" by Sarosh Zaiwalla; "Poison on a Platter" by Maneka Sanjay Gandhi and "Shut-

ting to the Top: The Story of PV Sindhu" by V Krishnaswamy.

Penguin Random House will bring out "Rethinking India" series by various authors over the year besides "Jaipur Journals" (Namita Gokhale); "Happy for No Reason" (Mandira Bedi with Satyadev Barman, PRH); "Uncommon Sense: The Marico Story" (Harsh Mariwala and Ram Charan); "The Dry Fasting Miracle" (Luke Coutinho); "Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line" (Deepa Anappara).

Its international titles include "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" by Bill Gates; Will Smith's memoir with Mark Mason; "Home in the World" by Amartya Sen; Ruchir Sharma's "The 10 Rules of Successful Nations" and "Virginity" by Jennifer Niven.

Among Rupa's books are "Coaches of Indian Cricket" (Abhishek Dubey and Sanjeeb Mukherjee); "Bahubali of Indian Politics" (Rajesh Singh); "Evolution of RSS from an Organisation to a Movement: How Successive Sarsanghchalaks Shaped the Sangh" (Ratan Sharda); "Ayodhya and Beyond: National Hindutva Awakening" (Subramanian Swamy); "India's Foreign Policy Blunders" (Yashwant Sinha and Satish Misra), Rajiv Dogra's "The Prime Minister"; and TRAI boss R S Sharma's "Aadhaar: The Inside Story".

It will also publish "Life as a PoW", in which Air Marshal K C Cariappa recounts his days as a prisoner of war in Pakistan besides the autobiography of Justice Rajinder Sachar.

Aleph's list has "JNU Stories" by Neeladri Bhattacharya, Kunal Chakrabarti, S Gunasekaran, Janaki Nair and Joy L K Pachua; "Plassey: The Battle That Changed the Course of Indian History" by Sudeep Chakravarti; "Bharatvarsh: The Idea of India through Pilgrim Spots" by Devdutt Pattanaik; "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" by Ghazala Wahab, and "Gazing Eastwards: Glimpses of China's Pasts" by Romila Thapar.

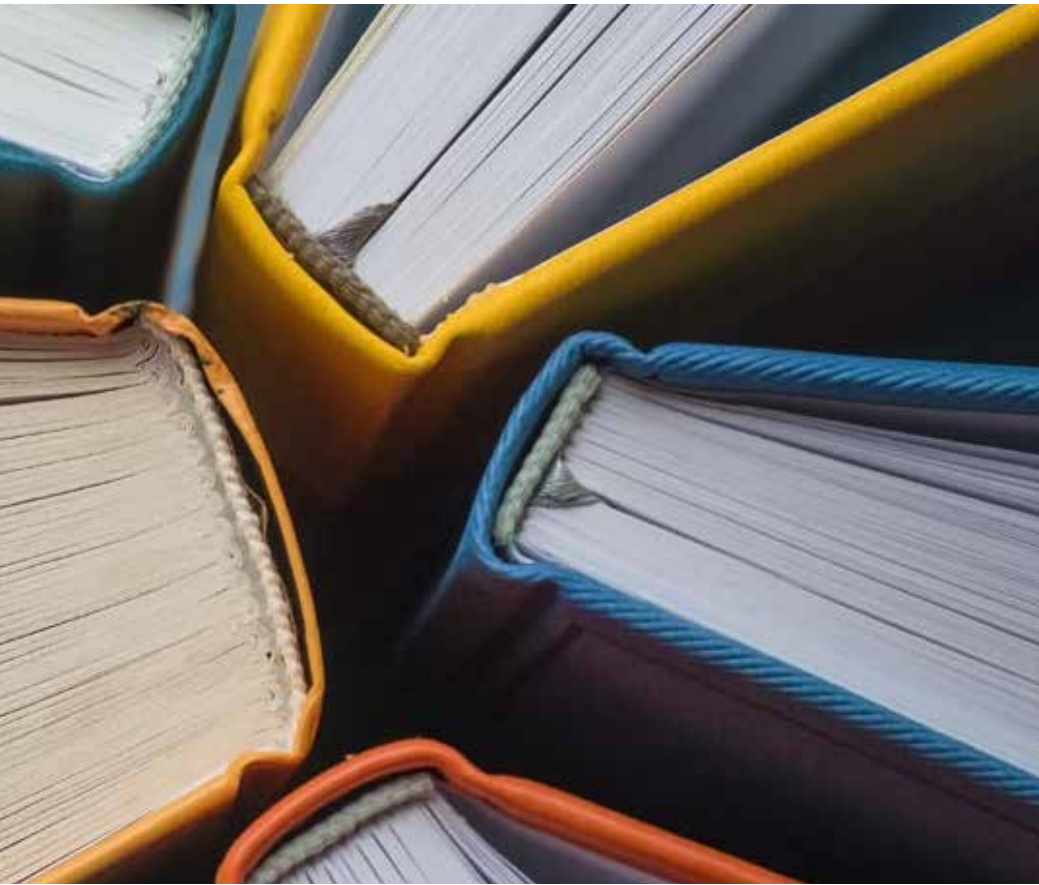
Aleph will also publish quite three Shashi Tharoor books -- "The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative" with Samir Saran; "On Indian Nationalism"; "The Great Game: The Exhilarating World of Indian Cricket".

Pan Macmillan India will come out with titles like Kunal Basu's novella "The Endgame", Joy Ma and Dilip D'Souza's "The Deoliwallahs", Jerome Armstrong's "Calcutta Yoga", "The Heart Asks Pleasure First" by Karuna Ezara Parikh, "Landscapes of Loss" by Arati Kunar-Rao, and "After I Was Raped: The Untold Lives of Five Rape Survivors and Their Emotional Journeys" by Urmi Bhattacharya.

Westland's other titles feature a biography of veritable giant of Hindi literature Nirmal Verma by Vineet Gill; poet and novelist Keki N Daruwalla's memoir; Meghnad Desai's autobiography; "Sebastian & Sons: A Brief History of Mrdangam Makers" by T M Krishna; Myntra founder Mukesh Bansal's debut book "No Limits: The Art and Science of High Performance"; and "Lift Off: The Story of Conzerv" by former CEO Hema Hattangady and Ashish Sen.

Among other Westland books are "The Greatest Ode to Lord Rama: Select Stanzas from Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas" by Pavan K Varma; "Our Hindu Rashtra: What Is It and How We Got Here" by Aakar Patel; "Soul Rivals: State, Militant and Pop Sufism in Pakistan" by Nadeem Farooq Paracha; and "Queeristan: LGBTQ Inclusion in Corporate India" by Godrej India Culture Lab founder Parmesh Shahani.

Some of its commercial fiction titles are "The Vault of Vishnu" by Ashwin Sanghi, "Baahubali - Book 2: Before the Beginning" by Anand Neelakantan, "Shotz" (a series)



by Ravi Subramaniam, and "Girls of Mumbaiistan" by Piyush Jha.

It will also come out with "India's Space Adventure" by Biman Basu, billed as the first ever children's encyclopedia that focuses on the triumphs and challenges of India's space missions and explorations; "Poonachi: Lost in the Jungle" by Perumal Murugan, illustrated by Priya Kuriyan; "Birds in Your Backyard and Beyond" by Kaustubh Srikanth.

Other translation titles include "Estuary" by Perumal Murugan, translated from Tamil by Nandini Krishnan; "The Rooster is the Culprit", Unni R, translated from Malayalam by J Devika; "Hellfire", by Bangladesh-born British writer Leesha Gazi/Shabnam Nadia; "Yugandhar" (Marathi) by Shivaji Sawant; "Chhera Chhera Jeebon (Tattered Life)" by Manoranjan Byapari, translated by Arunava Sinha.

Niyogi Books print list has "Flower Shower" by Alka Pande; "Phulkari" (Shalina Mehta); a book on Sourav Ganguly by Debasish Datta; "Kashmir: A Journey through History" by Gary Weare; "Nathdwara Paintings" by Kalyan Krishna and Kay Talwar; "Coconut: How the shy fruit shaped our world" by Robin Laurance, "Article 370" by Sumit Dutt Majumder; and "Mountain of the Moon" by Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay.

Books to watch out from Bloomsbury in 2020 include "Gandhi's Hinduism: The Struggle against Jinnah's Islam" by MJ Akbar; "The Phoenix" by columnist Rituparna Chatterjee, a memoir that details how she dealt with and overcame the trauma of being abused as a child; "Who, Me, Feminist?" by Gayatri Jayaraman; and "Quit Like a Woman: The Radical Choice to Not Drink in a Culture Obsessed with Alcohol" by Holly Whitaker.

Its list also has "The Tashkent Files: Who Killed Shastri" by Vivek Agnihotri; "Hindutva: A Critical Look" by Aravindan Neelakandan; "Crash Landing: The Inside Story of the Rise and Fall of Jet Airways" by Kingshuk Nag; and "The Big Book of Mutual Funds" by Aashish Somaiyya and Vivek Law.

Oxford's titles include "Young and Dynamic? Gen-Next Leaders in Indian Politics" (Pradeep Chhibber); "Law, Justice, Society: The Selected Works of Upendra Baxi", "B.R. Ambedkar: The Quest for Justice" (Aakash Singh Rathore); "Unravelling the Mind: The Selected Works of Sudhir Kakar"; "Walking to Dandi" (Harmony Siganporia); "Breakfast with Evil", a compilation of the complete works of Ashis Nandy; and "The Diary of

Manu Gandhi" (Tridip Suhrud).

Hachette will publish John Grisham's next novel in the bestselling Camino Island series "Camino Winds", "The Lost Homestead: My Family, Partition and the Punjab" by Marina Wheeler; and "If It Bleeds" by Stephen King; besides several other titles.

Fingerprint will come out with actor-director Sanjay Khan's "Assalamualaikum Watan", which provides a unique perspective into the role the Muslims of India has played in nation building; "Make Your Own Luck" by Bob Miglani and Rehan Yar Khan; Sadguru Rameshji's "Soul Selfie"; "She Screw Silence!" by Reecha Agarwal Goyal; and "Ghosts of the Silent Hills" by Anita Krishan among other titles.

Speaking Tiger will publish fiction titles like "Fern Road" by Angshu Dasgupta; "The Legend of Himal and Nagrai: Greatest Kashmiri Folktales Retold" by Onaiza Drabu; and "Murder in Shimla" by Bulbul Sharma.

Its non-fiction titles include "Exiles of the New Frontier" by Ashwin Parulkar; "The Demolition that Changed India - and the Verdict" by Nilanajan Mukhopadhyay; "Being Indian, Being Muslim", edited and with an introduction by Christophe Jaffrelot; and "Contested Citizenship and The Indian Nation", edited and with an introduction by Harsh Mander and Navsharan Singh.

Speaking Tiger will also publish Shanta Gokhale's "Shivaji Park, Dadar, Mumbai 400 028" as part of its 'Local History' series besides two translations by Jerry Pinto - Vishram Bedekar's "Ranaangan" ("Battlefield") and Swadesh Deepak's autobiography "Maine Mandu Nahin Dekha" ("I Haven't Seen Mandu: Fractured Collage of a Broken Life").

Simon & Schuster will bring out "Srilajji: Diary of a Marwari Dowager" by Shobhaa De; Samit Basu's "Chosen Spirits"; "The First Little King" by Siddhartha Sarmah; "The Mauryas" by Devika Rangachari; "Cat People" by Devapriya Roy; Ashok Banker's "Upon A Burning Throne: 2"; "V P Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India" by Narayani Basu.

Om Books International's list includes "In-Between: Love Poems" by Maria Goretti, a biography of Narendra Modi "Being The Change" by Rahul Agarwal with Bharathi Pradhan; "Shadows on the Wall: Pen-portraits", a collection of pen-portraits translated from Javed Siddiqi's award-winning Urdu collections "Raushandan and Langarkhana"; "Postcards From Islam" by Ziya Us Salam; and "Surface & Depth" by Rohit Bal.

Irrawaddy Dolphins sighted in new areas of Chilika lake

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 21 (PTI): A large number of endangered Irrawaddy Dolphins were sighted in new areas of the Chilika lake, the largest brackish water lagoon in the country, officials said.

The total dolphins sighted during the annual census on Sunday was 146, said Susant Nanda, the Chief Executive Officer of Chilika Development Authority.

He said the good news is that the dolphins are now sighted in new areas like the central and southern sector of the lagoon which is spread over 1,165 square kilometre in three districts of Khurda, Puri and Ganjam.

"The areas near Kalijai island and Rambha are new places where the dolphins for the first



time have been sighted. Earlier, they were mostly confined to Satpada area near Brahmagiri," the official said the dolphin population in the lake is now stabilizing above 150 as expected.

"We are also optimistic about an increase in dolphin population in

the lake in next couple of years," Nanda said, adding that there are enough sign of dolphins migrating from Satpada side to other areas within the lake.

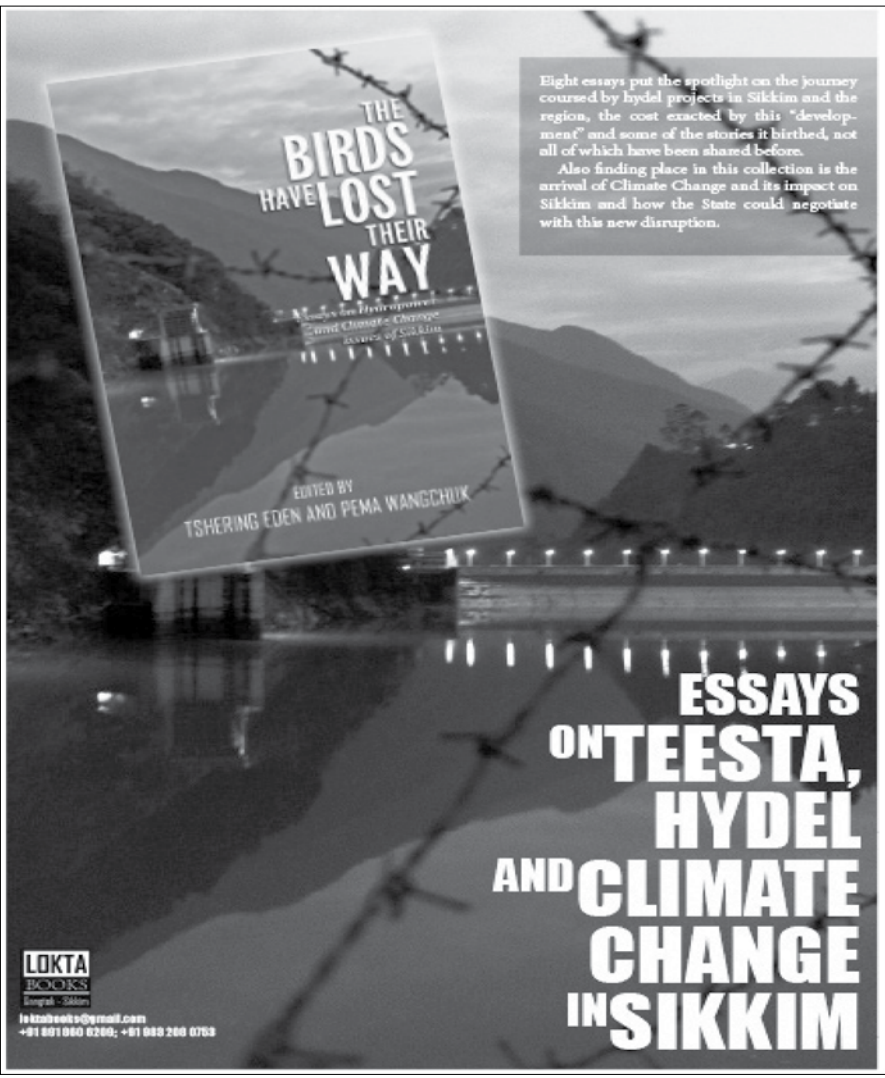
Apart from Satpada, dolphins have been this time sighted in five other places, three

places around Kalijai island within the lake and two sites close to Samal, he said.

Wildlife experts opine that the dolphins sighting in new areas is possible due to clearing of prawn gheries from within the lake.

Apart from the annual census, the CDA used to undertake dolphin counting by using hydrophones. Last years census says that there were 151 dolphins in Chilika.

In the hydrophone method, a microphone is used to record or listen to underwater sound. This method of counting has indicated that the highest 20 to 25 number of dolphins are found near Rajhans island followed by Magarmukh and Malatikuda, 17 to 20 each.



Prince Harry leaves UK to rejoin Meghan and Archie in Canada: reports

LONDON, JAN 21 (AFP): Prince Harry left the UK to rejoin his wife Meghan and son Archie in Canada Monday, British media reported, as the couple start a new life after their shock exit from the royal fold.

“The Duke of Sussex is understood to have left the UK for Canada on Monday evening following one of his final official engagements as a working royal,” Britain’s Daily Telegraph newspaper reported.

Harry boarded a 5.30 pm flight to Vancouver from London’s Heathrow airport, the Sun tabloid said, and is expected to be reunited with his wife and son in Canada -- where the couple are expected to make their home -- on Tuesday.

“His departure for Canada will be deemed symbolic, coming just two days after Buckingham Palace announced that it was severing all official ties with the Sussexes as they walk away from public life,” the Telegraph said.

Earlier, Queen Elizabeth II’s grandson, who remains sixth in line to the throne, attended the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London, seeming in good spirits as he met the presidents of Malawi and Mozambique, and the Moroccan prime minister.

He also had an informal 20-minute private meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who hosted the event.

Harry skipped a summit dinner for visiting African leaders at Buckingham Palace in order not to overshadow his brother William’s hosting of the event, the Daily Mail reported.

Harry and his wife Meghan -- currently known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex -- are bowing out entirely from representing the British monarchy, in a crisis that has shaken the centuries-old institution.

He said on Sunday night they did not want to quit their royal duties but reluctantly accepted there was “no other option” if they wanted to cut loose from public funding and seek their own income in pursuit of a more independent life.

For Manchester United the gulf to Liverpool is cause for major concern

JONATHAN WILSON

LONDON, 21 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: Liverpool are brilliant. They are top of the league by 16 points with a game in hand and will probably have the title wrapped up by the end of March. And yet at the same time, while acknowledging how preposterous it is to offer any criticism of a side that has taken 64 points from 22 games this season, there must be a sense that of late they’ve become a little bit sloppy.

In their past two league games, against Tottenham last week and then against Manchester United at Anfield on Sunday, they have come extremely close to drawing games they have dominated almost entirely. Giovanni Lo Celso and Anthony Martial both missed extremely presentable chances to make it 1-1. In both games Liverpool ended up under pressure in the final 10 minutes -- on Sunday at least until Mohamed Salah added a second on the break deep in injury time. Tottenham they had broadly held at arm’s length, in a performance of great control; United they had pummelled for roughly a third of each half. And yet in each two points could have slipped from their grasp.

Not that it really matters to Liverpool, of course, for anything other than the pursuit of records. At this stage their lead is unassailable and would be even if it were only 12 points. Perhaps that fallibility offers a note of caution before the Champions League knockouts, where a single goal carelessly conceded can have profound consequences. But actually the greater impact of the past two games may be for the losing sides. Those late rallies perhaps conjured the impression that all is not



too far awry. But for United in particular, the gulf to Liverpool should be cause for major concern.

This was 2-0 going on 5-1. Liverpool’s opening goal may have come slightly against the run of play but, in the 20 minutes that followed, United were overwhelmed. It was the same story in the 12 minutes of the second half from kick-off to Fred’s chance. In both spells Liverpool were quicker, sharper, stronger and cleverer. In both they could have scored two or three times without it seeming outrageous. There were goals ruled out for marginal decisions, the woodwork was struck and Salah somehow scuffed wide from eight yards

with the whole goal at which to aim. Without being anything like the best football they have played this season, that was the level Liverpool can reach when they put their foot down -- and it was a level high above United’s capacity.

Injuries do not help, of course. United are without their two best central midfielders and their best forward. That would destabilise any side. But then Liverpool had been without their first-choice holding midfielder from the end of November until eight minutes from time on Sunday -- and their response to that has been 11 clean sheets in 15 games (and two of the games when they

conceded came within 24 hours of each other). Their first-choice goalkeeper missed 11 games with a calf injury. Good teams with well-constructed squads overcome misfortune; weaker ones wallow in it.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær is becoming a master of discovering filaments of silver lining in the bleakest of clouds. If football management does not work out for him, a job in forensic pathology surely awaits. Here he talked of how well Fred had played, how committed United had been, how they had fought back after the barrage at the beginning of the second half. None of which was untrue -- and Fred’s form over the past couple

of months is arguably the brightest aspect of this season for United.

But there is a bigger picture. This was not quite taking consolation from Manchester City having sufficient respect for United that they picked a strong team against them in the Carabao Cup but it was rhetoric of the mid-table manager trying to draw positives from an entirely predictable defeat against a much better side.

And that is where United stand -- not in terms of resources or stadium or fanbase or cachet, of course, but in terms of form.

They may lie fifth in the Premier League and the gap to fourth and implausible Champions League qualification may be only five points but from their 34 points from 23 games one can extrapolate that to 56 for the season. That would have been enough for fifth in 2003-04 but every other season in the past 20 years it would leave United seventh, eighth or ninth. It is eight points fewer than they got in their first post-Ferguson season, when David Moyes was sacked four games from the end of the season.

There is an understandable willingness for Solskjær to succeed and the manager is not the only problem, perhaps not even the biggest problem, at Old Trafford. Patience, without question, is a rare virtue in football but it does not take much for the search for positives to become a hunt for excuses. United have just been well beaten by a Liverpool side 30 points ahead of them and the message seems to be that they should be grateful it was not worse. United are sleepwalking towards mediocrity: somebody, some time, is going to have to wake them up.

Djokovic thanks Ivanisevic tips after flurry of aces



MELBOURNE, JAN 21 (AFP): Defending champion Novak Djokovic said he had been taking tips from serving maestro Goran Ivanisevic after he hammered down a series of aces in his first-up win at the Australian Open.

Djokovic smacked 14 aces and had a first-serve percentage of 65 per cent in his grinding 7-6 (7/5) 6-2 2-6 6-1 win over Germany’s Jan-Lennard Struff in round one.

The Serb credited his work with Croatia’s Ivanisevic, who served up more than 10,000 aces in his career and joined the 16-time Grand Slam winner’s team last year.

“Throughout my career my serve was maybe a little bit underestimated because of the quality of the returns and the baseline play,” he told reporters late on Monday.

“There were times I was struggling with an elbow injury and I had to change the technique

of my serve and a lot of things were happening, but in the last year-and-a-half I feel great serving.

“Obviously I pray to have serving days like I had today all of the time. I know it’s not possible but I can back up my serving game from the back of the court.”

The 32-year-old came through a mid-match lapse against Struff, the world number 37, and said he was glad to have an early test as he goes for a record-extending eighth Australian Open crown.

“Historically I had a lot of success in the Grand Slams where I had a tough opponent in the first round, because it gets me going from the beginning,” he said.

“I have to be alert, I have to be on a high level and I think I was. Of course, you can always play better and I expect myself to be better as the tournament progresses.

Tendulkar, Walsh to coach teams in bushfire charity match

SYDNEY, JAN 21 (PTI): Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar and West Indies bowling great Courtney Walsh will coach the star-studded Ricky Ponting XI and Shane Warne XI teams in a charity cricket match organised to raise funds for Australia’s bushfire victims.

According to Cricket Australia, the match named ‘Bushfire Cricket Bash’ will be held on February 8.

The bushfire relief cricket match is one of three headline acts on cricket’s day of giving, The Big Appeal. The other two events are Commonwealth Bank Women’s Tri-Series T20I clash between India and Australia and the final of the KFC Big Bash.

Tendulkar and Walsh will coach legends like Ricky Ponting, Shane



Warne, Justin Langer, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Shane Watson, Alex Blackwell and Michael Clarke among others.

Steve Waugh and Mel Jones will also be involved in the match in non-playing roles.

“We are absolutely honoured to be welcoming Sachin (Tendulkar) and Courtney (Walsh) back to Australia where

they both enjoyed a lot of success as players, and we can’t wait to have them involved,” said Cricket Australia CEO Kevin Roberts. “We’re looking forward to our people at CA and the entire Australian cricket family coming together for the Big Appeal.”

The profits and funds raised from the match will go to the Australian

Red Cross. The raging bushfires have already killed 29 people in Australia and destroyed more than 2,000 homes in recent months.

A host of sportspersons, including Warne, Chris Lynn, Glenn Maxwell and tennis stars Serena Williams and Nick Kyrgios among others have raised funds for the bushfire victims.

India series is big, NZ need to win 2 out of 3 formats to get pass marks: Craig McMillan

AUCKLAND, JAN 21 (PTI): New Zealand are up against a “powerhouse” in the visiting Indian cricket team, says former all-rounder Craig McMillan who feels the Black Caps will have to win in two out of three formats to be eligible for at least the “pass marks”.

New Zealand will host India for five Twenty20s, three ODIs and two Tests beginning here on January 24 and the hosts will be desperate to bounce back from the recent 0-3 Test drubbing at the hands of Australia.

“It’s big. This whole Indian tour is big after what happened in Aus-



tralia,” McMillan was quoted as saying by ‘Radio Sport Breakfast’.

“This Indian side are a powerhouse. Doesn’t matter if it’s Tests, ODIs, T20s, they are the real deal so it’s going to be a really intriguing tour. For New Zealand to get a pass mark for this tour they need to win two of

the three series.” The series against India will start with the T20 rubber on Friday and McMillan feels with the ICC T20 World Cup scheduled to be held later this year, it is imperative for New Zealand to win this assignment.

“Five Twenty20s to start and I know it’s not

everyone’s favourite format of the game but we’ve got a T20 World Cup later in the year in October in Australia so straight away these five matches become important. Because of the performance in Australia we need to start winning again and get that support back,” he said.

West Brom’s promotion push stalled again by Stoke

LONDON, JAN 21 (AFP): West Brom’s winless run in the Championship stretched to six games as they blew the chance to open up a four-point lead at the top after a 1-0 defeat at home to Stoke on Monday.

Tyrese Campbell scored the only goal after just nine minutes for the visitors, who moved four points clear of the relegation zone.

A poor run for both the Baggies and Leeds of late has opened up the race for promotion to the Premier League.

West Brom’s cushion over third-placed Fulham is down to five points with Brentford and Nottingham Forest just a point further back.

Slaven Bilic’s side have now taken just four points from their last 18 available and failed to force Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland into a serious save.

Campbell, whose father Kevin used to play for West Brom, opened the scoring early on despite Sam Johnstone getting a good hand to the ball.

Stoke then stood firm under an aerial bombardment in the latter stages to continue their upturn in form since Northern Ireland manager Michael O’Neill took charge in November.

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Hong Kong leads Asia stocks down, while virus spooks markets

Hong Kong stocks tumbled Tuesday after the city's credit rating was downgraded over its response to months of sometimes violent protests, while investors were also spooked by a deadly SARS-like virus that has been confirmed to be transmitted between humans.

With US markets closed for a holiday, traders struggled to find fresh catalysts to continue a long-running rally fuelled by the China-US trade pact, lowered Brexit tensions, central bank easing and an improving global outlook.

Hong Kong was the standout on Tuesday, plunging more than two percent a day after Moody's said it had lowered its rating in a fresh blow to the financial hub, which has likely fallen into recession owing to the unrest as well as the China-US trade war.

In a statement, the firm said: "The absence of tangible plans to address either the political or economic and social concerns of the Hong Kong population that have come to the fore in the past nine months may reflect weaker inherent institutional capacity than Moody's had previously assessed."

The move comes as the business community grows increasingly worried that the features that give Hong Kong more political and economic autonomy are weakening under pressure from Beijing.

The decision came four months after a similar move by Fitch, which cited the demonstrations and uncertainty caused by closer integration with the Chinese mainland.

Among other markets, Tokyo ended 0.9 percent lower, while Shanghai, Singapore, Seoul and Manila all sank more than one percent.

Sydney lost 0.2 percent, while Mumbai, Bangkok and Jakarta were also in the red.

- 'A building concern' -

There is a growing unease about the spread of a virus from the Chinese city of Wuhan, which has now claimed four lives and infected more than 200.

The new coronavirus strain has caused alarm because of its connection to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland



China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

It also comes as China prepares for the Lunar New Year holiday, which sees hundreds of millions of people travel across the country, with a top scientist at the country's National Health Commission saying the virus has now been found to pass between humans.

The World Health Organization will meet Wednesday to determine whether to declare the outbreak "a public health emergency of international concern" -- a rare designation only used for the gravest epidemics.

Cities across Asia have ramped up their defences, with mandatory screenings at airports of arrivals from high-risk areas of China after cases were reported in Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

AxiCorp analyst Stephen Innes said the latest developments were "a building concern".

"The cost to the global economy can be quite staggering in negative GDP terms if this outbreak reaches epidemic proportions as until this week, the market was underestimating the potential of the flu spreading," he said in a note.

"But it's an essential enough development that the market will continue to monitor on the risk radar, as if things turn critical it could provide a massive blow to the airline industry and a knockout punch to local tourism."

Tourism-linked shares plunged in Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific losing more than four percent and casino operator Wynn Macau down 4.8 percent.

The nervousness on trading floors saw investors shift out of higher-yielding, riski-

er currencies with the dollar up against the South Korean won, the Australian dollar and the Indonesian rupiah, among others.

But the greenback retreated against the safe-haven yen, while gold, another go-to asset in times of uncertainty, was also up.

While there is a general optimism that the world economic slowdown is easing, the International Monetary Fund said in its latest outlook report that it expected global growth to come in slightly weaker than previously forecast this year and next.

In early trade, London fell 0.8 percent, Paris shed one percent and Frankfurt dropped 0.7 percent.

- Key figures around 0820 GMT -

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 0.9 percent at 23,864.56 (close)

Hong Kong - Hang Seng: DOWN 2.8 percent at 27,985.33 (close)

Shanghai - Composite: DOWN 1.4 percent at 3,052.14 (close)

London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.8 percent at 7,592.35

Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1099 from \$1.1084 at 1645 GMT

Pound/dollar: UP at \$1.3012 from \$1.2996

Euro/pound: DOWN at 85.28 pence from 85.29 pence

Dollar/yen: DOWN at 109.93 yen from 110.16 yen

Brent Crude: DOWN 62 cents at \$64.58 per barrel

West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 41 cents at \$58.13 per barrel

New York - CLOSED for public holiday

UK to end early release of terror prisoners

LONDON, JAN 21 (AFP): Britain on Tuesday unveiled plans to end the early release of terrorism prisoners and increase their sentences, following last year's London Bridge attack by convicted terrorist Usman Khan.

The government said it would launch a "major review" of how convicted terrorists are managed in response to the November 29 violence, which saw Khan kill two people before being shot dead by police.

The attack, which occurred during the general election campaign, immediately became highly politicised as Khan had already served timed for terror offences before being released early.

The reforms announced aim to ensure those convicted of serious offences, such as preparing acts of terrorism or directing a terrorist organisation, spend at

least 14 years in prison.

They will also force such offenders to serve their whole sentence behind bars -- rather than be eligible for early release -- and overhaul the terrorist licensing rules.

"The senseless terror attack... in November confronted us with some hard truths about how we deal with terrorist offenders," Home Secretary (interior minister) Priti Patel said in a statement.

"Today we are... giving police and probation officers the resources they need to investigate and track offenders, introducing tougher sentences, and launching major reviews into how offenders are managed after they are released."

Jonathan Hall, the government's independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, will oversee "a sweeping independent review" of the multi-agency

system dealing with terrorism offenders, the statement added. The proposed bill will double the number of probation officers specialising in terrorism prisoners and introduce measures such as polygraph testing.

It will increase the number of places available in probation hostels so officials can keep closer tabs on terrorists in the weeks after their release from prison.

The government said it would also review the support available to victims of terrorism, pledging to invest 500,000 pounds (USD 650,000, 586,000 euros) "to ensure more victims get the support and advice they need, faster".

It will simultaneously increase the counter-terrorism police budget by 90 million pounds to 906 million pounds in the coming financial year.

Boris Johnson's Brexit bill hits last-minute hiccup



LONDON, JAN 21 (AP): British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit plans hit a hurdle Monday when Parliament's upper chamber told the government to give European Union citizens living in the UK physical proof of their right to remain after the country leaves the bloc.

The House of Lords voted by 270-229 to amend the government bill that paves the way for Britain's departure from the EU on Jan 31 the first of three votes that went against the government.

The amendment says EU citizens living in Britain should be given a document confirming their right of residence.

At present EU nationals can register online to confirm their settled status, but receive no physical proof.

Liberal Democrat peer Jonny Oates said the lack of a hard document could leave EU residents "severely disadvantaged" in dealings with landlords and other officials.

The House of Lords is debating the government's Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which sets the terms of Britain's departure from the 28-nation EU. It must be passed by both houses of Parliament before Jan 31 if the UK is to leave the EU on schedule and become the first nation ever to quit the bloc.

As well as the vote on EU citizens' rights, the Lords voted for two amendments intended to restrict government powers to ignore European court judgments after Brexit without consulting UK courts first.

Monday's defeats won't stop the bill becoming law, because the House of Commons has already approved it, and the elected lower chamber can overturn decisions by the Lords.

But it means it must return to the Commons later this week rather than automatically becoming law once it's passed by the Lords on Tuesday.

Britain voted nar-

rowly to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum, but as the years went on UK lawmakers repeatedly defeated attempts by both Johnson and predecessor Theresa May to secure backing for their Brexit blueprints.

That changed when Johnson's Conservatives won a strong majority in a parliamentary election last month, giving the government the ability to override the objections of opposition parties.

The European Parliament also must approve the Brexit divorce deal with Britain before Jan 31. A vote is expected next week.

Despite Johnson's repeated promise to get Brexit done on Jan 31, the departure will only mark the start of the first stage of the country's EU exit.

Britain and the EU will then launch into negotiations on their future ties, racing to strike new relationships for trade, security and a host of other areas by the end of 2020.

Impeachment arguments as seen by Democrats, Trump team

WASHINGTON, JAN 21 (AP): Legal filings to the Senate have laid out the arguments that will be made in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, where he faces two distinct allegations of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

A look at the main points Democrats are making as they argue for Trump's removal from office, and Trump's response as the defense team pushes for his speedy acquittal.

The GOP arguments have already raised charges of distortion.

Democrats say Trump abused the power of his office by urging Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July 25 phone call to announce an investigation of political rival Joe Biden and the Democrats. At the time, Trump was withholding hundreds of millions of dollar in military aid to the country.

The sought-after investigation into Biden, as well as into a baseless theory that Ukraine had interfered in the 2016 presidential election, was a solicitation to interfere in U.S. politics and served the political interests of the president rather than the national security interests of

America, Democrats say, Trump's lawyers, meanwhile, contend there's no evidence beyond hearsay that the president conditioned the release of aid on Ukraine agreeing to an investigation.

The money was released without any investigations being undertaken and, they say, Zelenskyy didn't even know it had been suspended until shortly before it was released, even though U.S. officials testified to House investigators that Ukraine had inquired about the delay.

The legal team says that Trump had legitimate concerns about corruption in Ukraine and that it was appropriate for him to bring up Biden on the call since his son Hunter sat on the board of a gas company, Burisma, that was suspected of corruption.

Trump has sought, without evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of Burisma at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv.

Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advo-

cates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

In any event, Trump's lawyers said pauses on foreign aid are neither unusual nor inappropriate, and it's a decision that rests squarely with the commander of chief. Presidents have the right to exert their authority without their political opponents second-guessing their motive or intent, they argue.

The Trump administration obstructed Congress every step of the way during the impeachment investigation, directing witnesses not to testify or turn over documents, according to House Democrats who pointedly note that it is the House and not the White House that gets to determine the scope of a such an inquiry.

They say that witnesses who did choose to come forward, either publicly or privately, endured public statements from the president that appeared aimed at discouraging them from co-operating. And multiple government agencies, including the State and Energy departments, followed the lead of the White House and refused to turn over documents.

The Trump legal team says there's nothing novel about the administration's defiance.

The lawyers said close and senior advisers to the president have long been understood to be immune from congressional testimony. On Monday, they pointed to opinions from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Opinion that supported that stance.

The lawyers noted that lawmakers began issuing subpoenas to witnesses even before the full House had formally voted on rules for the impeachment inquiry, something the Justice Department says makes those subpoenas legally unenforceable.

Democrats say the House has the sole power of impeachment, so the process can't be second-guessed by the administration. When White House officials blocked Trump's advisers from testifying or turning over documents, defense lawyers say, they were protecting the prerogative of the presidency and not obstructing an investigation.

Democrats say Trump's conduct is precisely what the country's Founding Fathers had in mind when they

created the mechanism to impeach and remove a president from power. Not only that, they described it in a filing as the framers' worst nightmare. The Constitution sets a standard of Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors" for impeachment, and according to Democrats, it's a flexible enough threshold to reach the full range of potential Presidential misconduct."

Whether the allegations need not amount to crimes is a very significant point of contention. Trump's lawyers state contend that an impeachable offense requires especially egregious conduct that threatens the constitutional order and, specifically, that it requires a violation of established law."

Nothing the president is accused of, they say, comes close to meeting that standard.

And removing Trump from office under these facts would dilute the standards of impeachment, permanently weaken the power of the presidency and allow a hostile House to attack almost any presidential action by challenging a President's subjective motives."

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TOO CUTE! Model, Kate Upton squeezes a stuffed toy dog while playing the game “Heavy or Light” on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.

Paul Wesley to direct ‘Batwoman’ episode

LOS ANGELES, JAN 21 (PTI): “The Vampire Diaries” alum Paul Wesley is set to direct an episode of The CW’s “Batwoman”.

The directing stint marks the actor’s return to the network which was home to his popular vampire series, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Wesley, 37, shared the news on Monday in his Instagram Story that showed the cover of the script, written by Daphne Miles.

The actor made his directorial debut in the fifth season of “The Vampire Diaries” and went on to helm four more episodes of the show.

Wesley has also directed episodes of “Shadowhunters”; “Roswell, New Mexico”; and “The Vampire Diaries” spin-off “Legacies”.

“Batwoman” features Ruby Rose in the title role and is the first TV series to be headlined by an LGBTQ superhero.

The show, currently in its first season, airs on Sunday.

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Inside Tahira Kashyap’s Birthday Bash With Ayushmann Khurrana And Others

Tahira Kashyap turned 35 on Tuesday and her birthday was made extra special by her actor husband Ayushmann Khurrana and several Bollywood celebrities (but more on that later). Ayushmann posted a throwback picture of the birthday girl on his Instagram profile on Tuesday and revealed the backstory behind the adorable picture. In the picture, Tahira could be seen wearing a white dress as she happily smiled for the camera. Ayushmann accompanied the post with an equally cute caption and he wrote: “Tahira means pure and virtuous. That’s what you are. This was your first year in Mumbai and in my life in this city. Santosh humara pehla house help chutti pe gaya hua tha and we had spent the entire day cleaning the house. Tum aayi aur duniya badal gayi meri. You changed my perspective towards life and love. Tahira means pure and virtuous. That’s what you are. Happy birthday love.”

Meanwhile, Tahira posted a few pictures from her star-studded birthday party. Tahira’s birthday party was attended by Bhumi Pednekar, Twinkle Khanna, Nushrat Bharucha, Aparshakti Khurana, Yami Gautam and Rajkumar Rao. Sharing the pictures from the birthday bash, Tahira wrote: “Thank you all for making my day so special! It’s my birthday and I am super excited.”

Tahira Kashyap married actor Ayushman Khurrana in 2011. She has directed a short film titled Toffee, which was screened at the 30th Cinekid International Film Festival, Amsterdam and at the 14th Bahamas International Film Festival.

Ayushmann Khurrana recently received the National Film Award for his perfor-

mance in AndhaDhun. The actor has films like Shubh Mangal Zyaada Savdhan and Gulabo Sitabo in the pipeline.



Depression like any other illness and treatable: Deepika Padukone

BY BARUN JHA

DAVOS, JAN 21 (PTI): Actor Deepika Padukone on Monday said people must understand depression and anxiety are like any other illness and can be treated and her own experience has encouraged her to work for this cause.

“My love and hate relationship with this has taught me a lot and I want to tell everyone suffering from this that you are not alone,” she said while recalling her own struggle with depression and mental illness.

“One trillion dollars is the estimated impact of depression and mental illness on the world economy,” she said while receiving the annual Crystal Award here on the first evening of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2020.

“In the time it has taken me to accept this award, the world has lost one more person to suicide,” she said.

“Depression is a common yet serious illness. It is important to understand that anxiety and depression is like any other illness and treatable. It was experience with this illness that encouraged me to set up Live Love Laugh,” she said while talking about the foundation she has set up for this cause.

Padukone was given the award for her leadership in raising mental health awareness -- which she did by going public with her

own experience with anxiety and depression.

Motivated by her own experience, she set up her foundation to provide awareness programs in schools in India, funding for



free psychiatric treatment, medical education programs, public awareness campaigns and more.

I wanted to play Wonder Woman: Jennifer Aniston

LOS ANGELES, JAN 21 (PTI): Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston says she wanted to play Wonder Woman at one point of time but ended up waiting for “too long”.

However, the “Friends” alum didn’t mention if she ever actively pursued the role.

“I wanted to play Wonder Woman but I waited too long,” Aniston said as reported by Variety.

The actor, who picked up her first SAG award for best female actor in drama for “The Morning Show”, was speaking to the press backstage post her win.

She is yet to appear in any comic book-based films or TV shows and even recently criticised Marvel films.

Actor Gal Gadot mostly recently played Wonder Woman in the 2017 titular film and will reprise her role as the DC superhero in “Wonder Woman 1984” this year. Other actors that have portrayed live-action versions of Wonder Woman include Cathy Lee Crosby in the 1974 film “Wonder Woman” and Lynda Carter in the massively-popular TV series of the same name.

Asked what she hopes to do in career going ahead,

Aniston said she is just getting started.

“I have a lot to do. I honestly feel I’m just kind of kicking into a creative stride that I’ve just discovered... A real love of this in a new way I didn’t know that I had before.

“I almost have new eyes that I’m seeing what it is that I do as an actor...” she said.

The 50-year-old actor said she wants to star in more comedies after “The Morning Show” which is set in the post #MeToo world.

“I’m ready to have some laughter, that was some heavy stuff,” Aniston said.

Nashville singer David Olney dies on stage after apologising to crowd and closing his eyes

The 71-year-old Nashville artist suffered an apparent heart attack

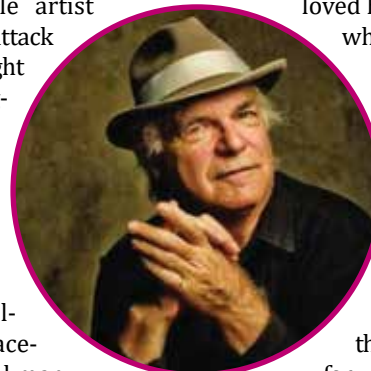
Nashville singer-songwriter David Olney has died while performing on stage after he apologised to the crowd and closed his eyes.

The 71-year-old Nashville artist suffered an apparent heart attack during a performance last night (January 18) at the 30A Songwriters Festival in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. A doctor in the audience assisted in an effort to revive him, but Olney did not respond.

Amy Rigby, an artist who was performing alongside Olney, shared the news on Facebook. “David Olney, a beautiful man, a legend, a songwriting poet died last night,” her post began. “Olney was in the middle of his third song when he stopped, apologized and shut his eyes.

“He was very still, sitting upright with his guitar on, wearing the coolest hat and a beautiful rust suede jacket we laughed about because it was raining like hell outside the boathouse where we were playing – I just want the picture to be as graceful and digni-

fied as it was, because it at first looked like he was just taking a moment.” She added: “It’s hard to post about this because I can’t really believe he’s gone. I am so sorry for his wife and family and friends and all the people who loved him and his music. Even those who never heard of him.”



Earlier in the day, Olney was recorded singing at a 30-minute Acoustic Interlude session with local radio station WUWF 88.1. you can watch it below.

Olney, a Rhode Island native, helped broaden the horizons of American roots music throughout his five-decade career, for which he spent most of in Nashville since arriving there in 1973.

His discography includes more than 20 solo albums with 2018’s “This Side or the Other” his most recent. He also received high praise for his song ‘Deeper Well’, which was recorded by Emmylou Harris on her Grammy-winning 1994 album ‘Wrecking Ball’.

Olney’s official website referred to him as: “A key member of Nashville’s music community since his move to Music City in 1973.”

ARIES: “What’s the rush and where is everybody going to?,” you wonder as you sip on your third cup of hibiscus tea. Your revelation this week: magic lies in the present. So you decide to slow down and savour each moment. Rams who are uncertain about where they stand at the moment should open their eyes to the signs.

Tip: Be aware of the red flags.

TAURUS: Unconditional does not equal blind love, Taurus. Be aware of the signs. See how present they are to this relationship. If there’s always something more ‘important’ lurking in the background, you already have your answer. Venusians who have spent too much time being present to the needs of others will feel inspired to come home to themselves. Tip: Take time to recalibrate.

GEMINI: You’ve been seeing the signs for a while now, Gemini. What’s preventing you from putting yourself first or walking out of a relationship that’s taking more than it ever gave? Despite what you have been brought up to believe, know that it’s okay to put your-

self first. No, this is not an act of selfishness. Some of you may find that you are at your wit’s end.

Tip: Put yourself first.

CANCER: Not everything is meant to last forever, and that’s okay. You are understanding and embracing the transient nature of everything, your relationships included. But are endings as bad as they’re made out to be? Think of it as an opportunity to enter a brand new phase. Remember, everything in life is meant to teach you a lesson. What you’re being asked to focus on here: you, you, you. Cancer, perfect the art of being self-sufficient in every way.

Tip: Endings make way for beginnings.

LEO: You realise that nothing can be achieved by mulling over the past. Let ‘forward and onwards’ become your mantra, Leo. This week, you’re being asked to chase the sun, and literally so. Spontaneous travel could be on the cards for some. What’s on your bucket list?

Tip: A spontaneous getaway could be on the cards.

VIRGO: Overheard at the cosmic conference: you’re in the mood to channel your inner Nigella Lawson. The crew would be more than happy to join this party, Virgo. Some of you may be in the mood to give your home or studio a makeover. you choose the right symbols and colours.

Tip: Give your studio that Pinterest-perfect makeover.

LIBRA: Cosmic truth: everybody has their heart broken at some point or the other. Should that stop you from flirting your way into the life of another, or saying yes when a potential suitor asks you for dinner? You already know the answer to this one, Libra! There’s a strange and beautiful optimism about you this week. The willingness to put your heart on the line despite the so-called risks.

Tip: Take a chance.

SCORPIO: The people in our lives are not obliged to continuously please us, or live their lives in accordance with our rules. Let go of your unrealistic expectations, Scorpio. Remember, it’s not their actions but your

own mind that is causing unrest within you. Here’s something to consider when you find yourself going into a space of judgement: your desire to be loved despite the ‘flaws’.

Tip: Let go of unrealistic expectations.

SAGITTARIUS: There’s a reason new-age spirituality propagates the idea of journaling. If you think complaining about your boss or whining about your ex is a mundane exercise, think again. Dr James Pennebaker explains, “When we translate an experience into language, we essentially make the experience graspable.” So put pen to paper, Sagittarius. Allow yourself to feel the things you have suppressed for so long.

Tip: Heal yourself through journaling.

CAPRICORN: Consider the Japanese concept of Wabi Sabi, which has its roots in tea ceremonies. Over a period of time, the cups that were used started to show signs of wear and tear. Instead of hiding the so-called flaws, the artists used gold dusted lacquer to fill in the cracks, thereby breathing new life into them. This week, you’re being asked to look

at your relationships through the same lens.

Tip: Find beauty in the imperfections.

AQUARIUS: Have you ever noticed how the first rays of the sun pierce through the clouds on an otherwise dull day? Le Soleil never questions its ability. It simply shows up in all its majestic glory, every single day, and activates life on Earth. Aquarius, let this inspire you to be the most radiant version of yourself, one who believes she is capable of moving mountains once she sets her mind to it.

Tip: You are a magnificent being, so full of love and light.

PISCES: How would you define commitment, Pisces? Is saying ‘I do’ in the presence of your friends and family members enough, or is your commitment to growth the real game-changer here? Overheard at the cosmic conference: it’s a good time to revisit your vows. Trust that your relationship will only grow from strength to strength hereon. But does that mean you are losing your inherent fire? Anything but.

Tip: Redefine the meaning of commitment.