

Emmy award ceremony

Like the Oscars before it, the upcoming 71st Emmy Awards ceremony will go on without a celebrity host, organisers said. The decision will allow the September ceremony to dedicate more time to the television shows nominated for honours, said Fox Entertainment CEO Charlie Collier, AFP



Beatles fans recreate Abbey Road photo

Hundreds of Beatles fans came together outside London's Abbey Road Studios on Thursday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the band making one of the most iconic album covers of all time. Fans mobbed the pedestrian crossing that the legendary Fab Four walked across for the photo used on the sleeve of the album Abbey Road. AFP



Staring at seagulls can stop them stealing food

A study by a U.K. university has suggested an easy way for holidaymakers to save their snacks from seagulls by just staring at the birds. The research showed that with a human staring at them, herring gulls took 21 seconds longer to approach a bag of chips then when left unobserved. REUTERS

Girl who cried over felled trees is Manipur's green ambassador

Chief Minister was moved by the video of her wailing which went viral

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The Manipur government has appointed a nine-yearold girl as the State's green ambassador, less than a week after a video of her crying for two trees axed for a road-widening project went

An order from H. Balkrisna Singh, Manipur's Director of Information and Public Relations, on August 7 said Elangbam Valentina Devi of Hiyanglam Makha Leikai in Kakching district had been made the brand ambassador for the Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission and all official tree-plantation activities taken up in the State.

This, the order said, was in recognition of her immense love and affection for trees and for generating mass awareness on conservation of the environment for a "period of one year from the date of issuing the order".

A Class V student of Amutombi Divine Life English School in Kakching town, about 45 km southeast of



Tender heart: Elangbam Valentina Devi. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Manipur's capital Imphal, the girl had planted the saplings of two Gulmohar (royal poinciana) trees by the side of a river when she was in Class I. She had been tending to the saplings, which grew up into healthy trees in about four years.

On Saturday, the two trees, along with other vegetation, were axed for a project to widen a road beside the river. A videographer filmed her crying over the

"I saw the video of this girl crying like anything, as if someone very near to her had passed away. Her feeling for two felled trees, which we adults would probably not think much about, moved me. I asked Yengkhom Victoria, the district's Superintendent of Police to meet her,

console her and give her at least 20 saplings to plant at a suitable place," Manipur's Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

But he felt this was not enough.

Inspiring others

"Later, I realised there could not be a better ambassador than her for the Green Manipur Mission we had launched in June. Her passion for trees at such a young age was so infectious that I took a decision to have an order issued and hand it over through government officials to her," he said.

The order says Valentina, the daughter of Elangbam Premkumar Singh, will be part of all advertisements and campaigns that promote an increase in Manipur's green cover. "She will be provided honorarium at government rates, transportation facilities, food and lodging facilities at admissible rates by the sponsoring government department," the

GoT showrunners ink massive Netflix deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Game of Thrones showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss have signed a multiyear deal with Netflix to write, produce and direct new series and films for the streaming giant, the company has said.

The contract sees the pair leave HBO after years on Game of Thrones, which demolished audience records and scooped an unprecedented number of Emmys



D.B Weiss and David Benioff

for a fictional show. "We are thrilled to welcome master storytellers David Benioff and Dan Weiss to Netflix," said Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, in a

'They are a creative force and have delighted audiences worldwide with their epic storytelling. We can't wait to see what their imaginations will bring to our members." Netflix did not comment

on reports in the Hollywood press that the contract, which followed an intense bidding war between major studios, was a "nine-figure

A figure above \$100 mil-

lion would be in line with deals Netflix has signed with "mega-producers" such as Ryan Murphy (Glee) and Shonda Rhimes (Grey's Anatomy).

In a statement of their own, Mr. Benioff and Mr. Weiss said: "We've had a beautiful run with HBO for more than a decade and we're grateful to everyone there for always making us feel at home." No details have been given on the series the pair will create.

Indian soil may have reached moon on crashed Israeli lander

Leaf from Bodhi tree was also sent as part of a 'lunar library'

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

A tiny biological sample from India may have already made it to the moon ahead of the Chandrayaan 2.

On February 21, an Israeli lunar lander called Beresheet (Hebrew for 'the beginning') began its journey to the moon aboard a SpaceX rocket in its quest to be the first privately-funded space craft to land on the moon. A month later, it was reported, Beresheet had crash-landed and was irredeemably broken except, for a curious, quirky payload called the Lunar Library.

The Lunar Library is a 30 million page archive of human history and civilisation, covering all subjects, cultures, nations, languages, genres, and time periods. In the event of human extinction, it's meant to be a 'backup ' of earth-life.

It is housed within a 100 gram nanotechnology device that resembles a 120mm DVD. However it is actually composed of 25 nickel discs, each only 40 microns thick. The device was conceived courtesy the Arch Mission Foundation (AMF), a U.S.based nonprofit whose mission is to create repositories of human civilisation and spread them through space.

Nova Spivack, co-founder of AMF, told The Hindu that the Lunar Library contained a small sample from the Bodhi tree in India, along with material on learning Hindi, Urdu and information on music.

"The management of Mahabodhi stupa (Bihar) privately gave me a leaf from the Bodhi tree and some soil from under the Bodhi seat. These were included," he wrote in an e-mail. "We mixed these with relics from



Digital footprint: An image taken by Israeli spacecraft Beresheet after landing on the moon. • SPACE IL/REUTERS

saints and yogis, as well as earth from sacred caves and tiny bits of relics from India, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal and Tibet."

Earlier this week, Mr. Spivack controversially revealed that the Lunar library also contained thousands of tardigrades - small, multicellular animals, first found by scientists in Antarctica, and known to be extremely resilient in hostile environments. They can survive without food and water for decades.

Tardigrade secret

That these life-forms were part of the Lunar library was deliberately kept a "secret", said Mr. Spivack. "We kept it secret for obvious reasons. However, we haven't violated any provisions of the Outer Space Treaty." The treaty is a global, United Nationsbacked agreement that bars countries from pursuing actions that could "harmfully contaminate" outer space including the moon.

"It is believed that the Lunar Library survived the crash of Beresheet and is intact on the moon according to our team of scientific advisers based on imagery data provided by NASA," AMF said in a statement.

The first four layers contain more than 60,000 analogue images of pages of books, photographs, illustrations, and documents etched as 150 to 200 dpi, at increasing levels of magnification, by optical nanolithography.

The first analogue layer is visible to the naked eye. It contains 1,500 pages of text and images, as well as holographic diffractive logos and text, and can be read with a 100X magnification optical microscope, or even a lower power magnifying glass.

The next three analogue layers each contain 20,000 images of pages of text and photos to be viewed at 1,000X magnification, and require a slightly more powerful microscope to read.

Beneath the analogue layers of the Library are 21 layers of 40 micron thick nickel foils. Each of the foils house a DVD master, which contain more than 100GB of highly compressed datasets that decompress to almost 200GB of content, including the text and XML files of the English Wikipedia, plus tens of thousands of PDFs of

⁺ At CITES, India to seek boost to protection status of 5 species

Star tortoise, otters, wedgefish and Tokay gecko in focus

India has submitted proposals regarding changes to the listing of various wildlife species in the CITES secretariat meeting, scheduled later this month in Geneva, Switzerland.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international treaty to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants do not threaten their

The proposals submitted are regarding changes in the listing of the smooth-coated otter, small-clawed otter, Indian star tortoise, Tokay gecko, wedgefish and Indian rosewood.

The country seeks to boost the protection of all



the five animal species as they are facing a high risk of international trade.

For the Indian rosewood. the proposal is to remove the species from CITES Appendix II. The species covered by CITES are listed in three appendices on the degree of protection they

India is among the parties proposing the re-listing of the star tortoise from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I. The species faces two threats: loss of habitat to

igriculture and illegal har vesting for the pet trade.

With regard to the two otter species, India, Nepal and the Philippines have proposed that the listing be moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I for the more endangered species. A similar proposal has been made to include the Tokay gecko in Appendix I.

Saket Badola, head of TRAFFIC India told The Hindu, that India would also support proposals, such as the boosting of protection status for tarantulas, made by other countries. TRAFFIC is an international wildlife trade monitoring network.

Mr. Badola said that the proposals from India on lesser known species indicate the broadening of the conservation spectrum.

Waiting to soar



Pop of colour: Crew members inspect a partially inflated balloon at the Bristol hot air balloon festival in Britain on Thursday.

Smart devices + can spot signs of dementia

Pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly said on Thursday that early results from a study suggest that Apple Inc devices, including the iPhone, in combination with digital apps could differentiate people with mild Alzheimer's disease dementia and those without symptoms.

The study, tested in 113 participants over the age of 60, was conducted by Apple with Eli Lilly and Evidation Health. The Apple devices were used along with the Beddit sleep monitoring device and digital apps.

The participants were asked to answer two onequestion surveys daily as well as perform simple activities every two weeks, such as dragging one shape to the other and tapping a circle as fast as possible.

Museum of Sikhism sets new record

Virasat-e-Khalsa in Punjab received 20,569 visitors on March 20

VIKAS VASUDEVA

The Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is all set to find a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day.

The Asia Book of Records has confirmed the record of 'maximum footfall in a museum in a day' in the name of Virasat-e-Khalsa, which will feature in the next edition of the Asia Book of Records, a senior official said on Wednesday.

"The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20, becoming the Indian sub-continent on a single day," Vikas Pratap,



Secretary, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

(Punjab), told The Hindu.

Over 10 million visitors have visited the museum so far in a short span of eight years of its opening. Virasate-Khalsa was built to commemorate the rich history and culture of Punjab and

Sikhism and was inaugurated in November 2011.

"Between 5,000-6,000 visitors on an average daily visit this visual-cum-narrative museum, outnumbering all other museums in terms of popularity and visitor footfall, "said Mr. Pratap, adding that the museum stands out in terms of popularity, footfall, architecture and in its use of technology.

Third entry

With its name in the Asia Book of Records, it would be the third entry for the museum in record books. Earlier, Virasat-e-Khalsa made it to Limca Book of Records in the February 2019 edition and India Book of Records.

The Limca Book of Records and India Book of Records had listed 'Virasat-e-Khalsa' as the country's topranked museum in terms of the number of visitors.

The museum has been conferred an award by the Punjab Energy Development Agency in a State-level energy conservation competition, for cutting down elec-

London artisans craft bespoke globes

The handmade artefacts are commissioned by heads of state and top firms

Meticulous task: An artist applies paint to a globe at the

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

In 2008, Peter Bellerby set out to buy his father a high quality handmade globe as an 80th birthday present.

When he could not find one, the Briton decided to make it himself – and, in the process, catapulted himself into a new profession. Just over a decade later,

his company Bellerby and Co claims to be the finest globemaker in the world, selling tailor-made products to an array of international They include heads of

state and big companies as well as everyday people wanting to mark a special occasion Mr. Bellerby's workshop is

zen illustrators, painters, cartographers, constructors, engravers and woodworkers toil beneath strips of paper drying on washing lines overhead.

said. "I'm really proud of where we've got to.'

The scale of the operation contrasts with its humble beginnings when Mr. Bellerby, an ex-property developer

handful of globes each year in a small shop around the corner. Now the business turns out around 600 globes annually - some destined to sit in grand mansions and aboard yachts.

Top prices

They range in size and price, with the smallest starting at £1,200 (₹1.02 lakh) and the biggest costing £79,000 (₹67.63 lakh).

The creative process starts by sourcing composite or resin spheres, which form the basis of the globes, from another company.

Illustrators and cartographers work with clients - over months, sometimes years to decide what will appear on its surface, with requests for everything from animals

the most visited museum in



tricity consumption.

filled with half-finished globes as his team of two do-

think about," the 54-year-old

Bellerby and Co workshop in north London

among other former profes-"It's not a career you ever sions, began making just a

to ocean liners on the maps.