SummitTIMES

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Dzongu residents demand compensation for Himagiri Power Project explosion

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 26 MAR:
People of Laven ward
under Linthem-Lingdem GPU and Lingzya ward under Sakyong-Pentong GPU of Dzongu, North Sikkim, whose houses were damaged by the sudden explosion at the project site of Himag-iri Power Project at Lingzya in Upper Dzongu on 24 March have demanded that they be adequately compensated.

It is learnt that on 24 Mar, the project developers had written to DC-North informing him and seeking permission for disposal (by explosion) of the "expired explosives", however, they were yet to be given permission for the same by the district administration.

The same night, however, at around 8:00 p.m. an explosion occurred at the Magazine house. It remains to be confirmed whether this was accidental or part of the dis-

By the time the explo-



sion occurred, most people were off to bed. The explosion caused trem-ors which damaged a lot of houses causing several cracks and smashing window panes.

According to The Explosives Rules, 2008, explosives cannot be handled between sunset and

The rules on disposal of waste explosives are also clear in specifying that this be done in "a safe place and safely disposed of".

The rules also mandate that "adequate facil-ities for safe destruction under the supervision of a person adequately competent and at a place approved by the licensing authority in the licensed premises shall be provided by the licensee for the materials collect-

Sub-Divisional Magis-trate, Dzongu, along with the Block Development Of-

MANEKA LAVISHES PRAISE ON SIKKIM

ed under sub-rule.'



ficer visited the to take stock of

the damages.
Following the incident, nine people of the area were treated at Passingdang Primary Health Centre.

"Most of the pa-tients were having heart problems and some had hearing problems due to the indirect impact of the explosion. However,

there are no serious cassaid Medical Officer, Passingdang PHC, Dr HK Rai, while speaking to SummitTimes.

It is informed that the affected people will be compensated for damage to property after assessment. No casualties have been reported so far.

Meanwhile, Mangan Police has detained three persons and the case is under investigation.



Ready to deal with any situation in Doklam: Sitharaman

(PTI): Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that India was "alert" and ready to deal with any "unforeseen sit-

uation" in Doklam.

The Defence Minister, who was on a visit to Uttarakhand for the first time after assuming office, also said that the government is constantly working towards modernisation of forces

"We are alert and ready for any unforeseen situation in Doklam. We are constantly working towards the modernisation of our forces. We will maintain our territorial integrity," she told reporters on the sidelines of a function at the CM resi-dence here yesterday to honour families of distinguished Armymen, widows and veterans.

Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day-long standoff in Doklam from June 16 last year after the Indian side stopped the building of a road in the disputed area by the Chinese Army. The face-off ended on August

Addressing NDA and IMA cadets, she said they were going to be part of a highly modernised force as a number of new initiatives have been taken

turn to pg02

Tibetology to hold seminar on Quantum Physics and Buddhist **Philosophy** SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 MAR:

The Namgyal Institute The Namgyal Insurance of Tibetology, Gangtok, under the auspices of the Government of Sikkim and the blessings of the Dalai Lama, is organising a two-day seminar on "Quantum Physics and Emptiness in Buddhist Philosophy" on 27-28 Mar

An NIT press release informs that Chief Min-ister Pawan Chamling will be inaugurating the seminar at 10 a.m. on Tuesday while Governor turn to pg03

on the lines of the Mind and Life conferences.



"WOMEN & child care institutions well appointed, but need wider pub-

icity in Sikkim"

GANGTOK, 26 MAR
(IPR): Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Maneka Gandhi, addressed a press conference this evening at Raj Bhawan.

Speaking to dia-persons, the Minister informed that the Ministry under her charge is committed to provide all possible assistance to the State Government to strengthen and improve its Women and Child Care institutions.

When asked about her experience from field visits to various Centres



today, the Minister informed that the most of Centres were well maintained and appointed with requisite infrastructure and manpower, but have still not been She specifically raised Stop Crisis Centre at Lumsey which has seen only 59 reported cases in the last one year.

She urged the media

concern about the One-

to help spread aware-ness and publicize this unique Centre so that more women in distress can come forward and avail the services available there

Speaking about her meeting with the Chief Minister this morning, Ms Gandhi said that she requested the Chief Minister to offer the resourc-es and help to convert the whole of India into an

organic farming country.
"I sought his help in this regard so that everybody benefits. I will be very happy if I get help to turn at least my constituency organic to start with," she stated. Ms Gandhi added that

she would go back and discuss with the Central Government to ask Sikkim's technical support to impart training on Organic Farming to the rest of the States

Commending State Government's initiative to go fully Organic, the Minister stated that Sikkim is the only State in the country where Or-ganic Farming is initiated by the State Government.

The Union Minister o lauded the envi-

India should have 'learnt lessons' from Doklam stand-off: China

KJM VARMA Beijing, Mar 26 (PTI): China today asserted that Dokalam belongs to it and India should have "learnt lessons" from the stand-off last year, after India's envoy blamed China for the face-off, saying it happened because Beijing tried to alter the "status quo" in the

disputed area.

Reacting to India's Ambassador to China Bambawale's remarks that were published on Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minis try spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "Don-glong (Dokalam) belongs to China because we have

historical conventions."
"China's activities
there are within our sovereign rights. There is no such thing as changing status quo," she said at a media briefing here.

"Last year thanks to our concerted efforts and our wisdom we prop-erly resolved this issue. We hope the Indian side could learn some lessons from this and stick to the historical conventions and work with China to ensure the atmosphere in the border areas is conducive for the development of bilateral ties,"

she said.

The 73-day standoff over China's attempt to build a road close to India's narrow Chicken

ended in August last year after Chinese troops stopped the road construction at Dokalam in Sikkim Section, though Beijing never officially acknowledged it. The area of the stand-off is also claimed by Bhutan.

The India's envoy in an interview to Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post had blamed China for the stand-off in Dokalam saying it happened because Beijing tried to alter the "status quo" which it should not have.

He had said that any change of status quo along the India-China border may lead to another Dokalam-like crisis.

He said that though "no change" has taken place in the standoff site at Dokalam after it was resolved last year, the PLA may be reinforcing its troops "well behind

the sensitive area". Bambawale's comments 3,488-km of Actual the that Line long Control (LAC) should be demarcated delineated, Hua China's position is clear and consistent. The east, middle and western side is yet to be officially demarcated."

"China is committed to resolving the disputes through negotiations. through turn to pg02

Maneka Gandhi meets CM, applauds his leadership



"PAWAN CHAMLING PROBABLY BEST CM OF COUNTRY

GANGTOK, 26 MAR [IPR]: Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Government of India, Maneka Gandhi, called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his official residence at Mintogang today.

Extending a warm welcome to the Union Minister, Mr Chamling apprised her about some of the key initiatives taken by the state government, especially in light of Sustainable Develop-

The Union Minister commended the State of Sikkim for its exemplary leadership in Organic Farming. She made a special mention about the propagation of Orchids of Sikkim and suggest-

ed that Sikkim should now look into areas like cloning and explore avenues where Orchids can be of use. She suggested that the Orchids of Sikkim can be sent to places like Mumbai for the Complimenting the CM for his laudable ini-

tiatives and consistent leadership, Ms Gandhi stated that Mr Chamling is probably the best CM in the country.

Ms Gandhi further suggested that Organic produce of Sikkim such as millets can be processed and packaged into ready-to-eat health

environmental initiatives taken by the Government of Sikkim and made a particular mention of all-round hygiene and cleanliness in the State.

Mr Chamling thanked the Union Minister for her visit to Sikkim and wished her a fruitful and comfortable stay.

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Grand finale of Lampokhari Super Chef Season 3 held

SUMMIT REPORT

Aritar Dalapchand Lampokhari Development Society [ADLDS] and Festival Celebration Committee 2018 organised the grand finale of Lampokhari Super Chef Season-3 on 24 Mar at the festival ground in Aritar Dalapchand, East Sikkim in the presence of ADLDS chief patron cum area MLA, Bikram Pradhan, as chief guest, a press release informs.

Declaring the compe tition open, chief guest, Mr Pradhan distributed aprons and chef caps to 13 participants from in and around the State. The



judging panel had chefs from renowned hotels of Gangtok namely Chef Oliwalla from Denzong Regency, Chief Chef Niranjan Nair from Mayfair and Chef Suraj from Royal Plaza Dinesh Tamang of Ar-

pokhari Super Chef 2018 competition with Lalit Rai of Ranipool in the second the competition will be awarded with placement at Hotel Denzong Regency in Deorali as Organic Chef while the runner up will be sponsored at Hotel Aditya in Aritar.
Also attending the

event were Chairperson of Denzong Agricultur-al Cooperative Society [DACS], Puran Kumar Gurung, Managing Direc-tor, Dhiraj Pradhan, Zilla and Gram Panchavats of different GPUs, Sub Divi-sional Magistrate, Rongli, Divisional Engineer, Power Department, ADLDS executive & general members, hoteliers, school teachers and students.



IHRACO launches official website

GANGTOK, 26 MAR:

International Human Rights & Anti-Crime Organisation [IHRA-CO] launched its official website today in the presence of the organi-zation's chairperson, Ra-mesh Saha, at its office in Champasari, Siliguri.

IHRACO organisation secretary [women's wing North Bengal zone], Bindu Bhattarai, Darjeeling district president [wom-en's wing], Anu Das, secretary, WB, Suraj Sharma, and Software Engineer, Manoj Kumar Yadav.

As per a press release,

that the Sikkim chapter of the organisation has been working actively and that new members will soon be added to IHRACO Sikkim chapter. For information about the organisation one can visit their official website at www.ihraco.org

Ready to deal with any situation...

Contd from pg01

by Prime Minister Nar endra Modi to modernise the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

Army Chief Gen Bi-pin Rawat, who also ad-dressed the cadets, said he always felt proud to

visit Uttarakhand. Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat felici-tated 140 youths from Uttarakhand who had qualified for the IMA and NDA handing them cer-tificates and cheques of Rs 50.000 each.

Families of Army vet-erans and those which had served the armed forces for generations were also honoured by the chief minister in the presence of the Defence Minister and the Army

The descendants of Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali and former Army chief BC Joshi were also among those honoured



SKM constituency level youth wing formed for Tumin Lingee

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 MAR:
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha conducted a coordination meeting cum youth interaction programme at Upper Tumin under Tumin Lingee Constituency in East Sikkim today.

The meeting was attended by

working president, Navin Karki, in working president, Navin Karki, in the presence of district president [East], TD Kazi, youth chief coor-dinators, Janak Gurung & Lakpa Moktan, vice coordinator, Sonam Pintsho Bhutia, general secretary [youth wing], Sahdeo Sharma, general secretary [org youth], Aita Rai, along with party executives.

An SKM press release informs that the agenda today included the formation of constituency level youth wing.

During the meet, the execu-

tives also discussed several plans and programme to strengthen the party activities in the coming

ICAR-NOFRI conducts training for progressive tribal farmers of Lingchom GPU

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 MAR:

Indian Council of Agricultur-al Research-National Organic Farming Research Institute [ICAR-NOFRI], Tadong, orga-nized three-day training pro-gramme on "Livelihood Security of Tribal Farmers through Training cum Development Programme on Organic Crop Production and Animal Husbandry" for progressive tribal farmers of Lingchom GPU in West Sikkim from 23-25 Mar under Tribal Sub Plan [TSP] project.

The programme was or-ganized in order to increase awareness and strengthen the progressive tribal farmers on organic crop production by dis-semination of scientific knowledge along with input support, a press release informs.

During the programme, 41 farmers representing different Self Help Groups [SHGs] attended the training and benefited from the technical know-how various inputs distributed like organically permitted bio-pesticides, bio-fungicides, bio-fungicides, bio-fertilizers, untreated seeds, and plastic sheets for low cost plastic tunnels and shelters.
Power point presentations

were made for the farmers on scientific crop production technolo-gies developed by ICAR-NOFRI for quick and easy learning of the techniques wherein farmers showed keen interest and appreciated ICAR's efforts.



Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, briefed about the overall activities of ICAR-NOFRI and stressed on the importance of scientific knowledge for commercial and intensive produc-tion of organic crops and animals to bring about perceptible change in the organic production scenario of the region.

"Hi-tech low cost vegeta-production technologies, conservation agriculture technologies, organic nutrient management and animal produc-tion technologies are available with ICAR, which can be a good source of income for the rural youth," said Dr Avasthe.

He further detailed about the importance of soil in crop production and urged the farmers to conserve soil by planting crops. He also emphasized the significance of soil health card and its role in organic nutrient management system. Senior Scientist [Horticul-

ture], Dr Ashish Yadav, welcomed

all the farmers and briefed about ICAR-NOFRI's role in developing technologies for organic produc-tion systems. He discussed about the intensive vegetable production techniques under low cost plastic tunnel and plastic rain shelters. He also detailed about the organic Sikkim mandarin, guava and kiwi fruit production techniques.

Likewise Scientist [Plant Breeding], Chandan Kapoor, detailed about the organic seed production techniques and empha-sized on the regular monitoring and maintaining isolation distanc-es for quality seed production. Scientist [Soil Science], Shaon

K Das, discussed the organic nutrient management and soil sam-pling procedures. He detailed about the various organic nutri-ents sources and their application procedures in various crops.

Subject Matter Specialist [Plant Protection], Dr NJ Singh, discussed the organic pest management in major field and horticultural crops of Sikkim and organic oyster mushroom production techniques. He stressed upon the importance of good agricultural practices to minimize pest incidence and that regular monitoring of farm is important for better management of insects.

Scientist [Plant Pathology], Chandramani Raj, talked about disease management in organic production system and preparations and applications of biopesticides and biofungicides solutions while SMS [Animal Science], Dr PK Pathak, interacted with the farmers and discussed the poultry, piggery, goatry and dairy management techniques for improving production and productivity. He also stressed on maintaining hygienic conditions

in rearing the animals.

During the programme,
Dr Yadav, Dr Singh and Dr Raj practically demonstrated the construction of low cost plastic tunnels, mushroom production techniques and preparations and applications of biopesticides and biofungicides solutions to the farmers at field.

Panchayat president, Phul Man Limboo, and member, 15-Lingchom GPU, West Sik-kim, Tigen Zongha Limboo, motivated the farmers and expressed gratitude for the efforts of ICAR-NOFRI in empowering rural farmers through improved production technologies of dif-ferent crops with critical input

SNPP demands re-introduction of Sikkim Tax Manual, calls IT Act a divisive law

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 MAR: "THE EXTENSION of the

Income Tax Act into Sik-kim is one of the most blatant and divisive violations of the hallowed provisions of Article 371F in modern times," said Sikkim National People's Party [SNPP] today while accusing the state government for implementation and enforcement of such a divi-

sive law in the State.

The SNPP has demanded re-introduction of the Sikkim Tax Man-ual and that the illegal extension of the Income Tax Act be challenged in a court of law.

SNPP president, Biraj Adhikari, while address-ing the media here in Gangtok today, said that the Sikkim government should also explain to the people what transpired etween the State and the Center before the exten-

sion of IT Act in Sikkim.

"It is also rather curious that all 32 MLAs of Sikkim had signed a doc-ument submitted to the then Finance Minister, P Chidambaram, in mid 1990s when the state government was expecting favorable outcome in the Supreme Courts which would have avoided the extension. This document should also be released to the public at the earliest," Mr Adhikari said.

He accused the State and Union government of keeping Sikkimese people in dark and adding that what had transpired in secret meeting between the government is still a mystery and that the public wants to know what led to the abolishment of Sikkim's own old law.
"The divisive effect it

had on the Sikkimese society is being felt today," claimed Mr Adhikari, adding that notices in compliance with this Act are being received by many in our society now-adays and dividing fami-

lies in many cases.
"While a husband who has an SSC with volume and serial numbers is being spared, if the wife is from outside and has no volume number or serial number from her father's side, notices are being sent," added Mr Adhikari.
The SNPP has ques-

tioned whether a law can bring division in the hallowed institution of marriage and indeed in society itself.

"The old settlers living in Sikkim for decades, the section SNPP considers bonafide Sikkimese, seem to be the latest victims of this divisive law," said Mr Adhikari adding that the party has come to understand that notices are being issued to the old settlers who have also approached the courts for iustice on the same.

In a PIL filed by Old Settlers of Sikkim seeking court intervention and favourable order for exemption of old settlers of Sikkim from purview of IT, the Apex Court had passed a stay order in 2013 stating that "....no coercive steps shall be taken for recovery of amount pursuant to de-mand notices..." till the matter is decided upon.

Despite such relief from the courts, the party understands that a lot of people with a COI but without the serial and volume numbers are receiving these notices for

BJP delegation calls on Maneka Gandhi, discusses issues of the State

SUMMIT REPORT Gangtok, 26 Mar:

Adelegation of Bharatiya Janta Par-ty's Sikkim unit, led by its presi-dent, DB Chauhan, called on the Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Maneka Gandhi, at Raj Bhawan today. The delegation apprised the Union Minister on the various issues of

the State, informs a BJP press release The release informs that Ms Gandhi appreciated the natural beauty of Sik-kim and its simple people and stressed upon forming a BJP government in the State and also appreciated the work of the State-unit for strengthening the

party organisation here.

The release adds that the delegation alleged that the SDF government has been partial in distributing welfare

schemes of the Centre.

It is added that the Minister asked the State unit of the party to report such instances directly to the Ministry.

The release adds that she has also agreed to visit the BJP office and inter-act with the party workers tomorrow at Singtam on her way back to Delhi.

India should have 'learnt lessons'...

Contd from pa01

China and India are climia and indicate ex-ploring ways to resolve this territorial dispute through negotiations so that we can arrive at mutually acceptable solution," she said, referring to the 20 rounds of boundary talks between the two countries.

"Pending final solu-tion both sides should work together to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border area,"

she said. Hua, however, com-

mended Bambawale's no concern about China's rise instead regard it as a motivation and China is not a competitor, rival or a threat but a partner in

progress.
"I commend these remarks made by the In-dia ambassador and all these positive remarks. The two countries are growing at fast pace. China and India are each other's important oppor-tunities and to the whole world we present im-

Both countries also share similar national conditions and devel-opment goals as well as common interests, she

"We have every reason to be each other's partners. We would like to work with India to enhance political trust, mutually beneficial cooperation under the guidance of the two leaders velopment," she said.

Gangtok on Tuesday, 27 Mar

Temp: 24°C /08°C Forecast: Partly sunny and pleas-ant; partly cloudy in the evening with a shower in spots. **Sunrise:** 05:32 AM Sunset: 5:50 PM

Workshop on Kathak concludes in Singtam YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 26 MAR:

Three-day workshop on Kathak dance form, organized by Natraj Kala Kendra, Sing-tam, in collaboration with Nritvaaniali Dance Academy, Gangtok, con-cluded today here at Natraj Kala Kendra classroom in Singtam.

Forty-five students from Natraj Kala Kendra, Singtam and Nrityaanjali Dance Academy, Gangtok participated in the work-shop under the guidance of Kathak dance guru from Kolkata, Guru Sandip Mallick, accompanied by dance coordinators from Gangtok and Sing-tam, Anjali Rai and Sumi

workshop The wrapped up with the distribution of certificates to participants by Guru Mallick.

Hazare's strike enters day 4, aide claims he lost 4 kgs

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI): Social activist Anna Hazare has lost 4 kgs, his aide claimed. as his indefinite hunger strike entered its fourth

day.

Hazare's blood pres sure, however, is normal, his close associate Datta Awari said.

Hazare has been on indefinite hunger strike since March 23 press for his demands, including the appoint-ment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas

in states.

His 2011 agitation
had led to the passing
of the Lokpal and
Lokayuktas Act 2013, but the Centre is yet to

appoint an ombudsman.
This time Hazare
is also demanding government give er Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) to farmers to address agrarian distress.

Tibetology to hold seminar...

Contd from pg01

Shriniwas Patil, who is also the President of NIT. will be presiding over the

Renowned Physicists and Buddhist scholars from both India and abroad will be participat-ing in the event scheduled to be held at Chintan

The second day of the seminar will be conducted at the NIT conference hall from 9 a.m. onwards. The NIT has invited

interested individuals to be a part of the seminar.

'Guardians of Gangtok' meet Ms Gandhi



GANGTOK. 26 MAR:

Gangtok, 26 Mar:

Guardians of Gangtok,
an animal welfare
group of Sikkim, called
on the Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Maneka Gandhi, at Raj Bhawan today evening. The Union Minister,

who is a passionate an-imal rights activist and the chairperson of Peo-ple for Animals [PFA], enquired about the groups

ments and the challenges they might be facing.

She spoke extensively about animal protection laws and how to take up a vegan way of life and how to encourage and inspire others to do the

Praising Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his works, she informed that she impressed Sikkim was the

have allocated separate funds for animal welfare

She encouraged the group to work more efficiently and reach out to as many people as possible in adapting mindfulness living.

The members of the Guardians of Gangtok were accompanied by Project Coordinator, Sikkim Anti Rabies and Animal Health [SARAH], Dr Thinley N Bhutia.

Training held on SHGs in Ramthang-Tanek GPU

SHMMIT REPORT

Mangan, 26 Mar:

Community organizer for Sikkim State Rural Livelihood Mission under Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, conducted a training pro-gramme for formation of Self Help Groups for women at Ramthang-Tanek Gram Panchayat Unit in North Sikkim today.

The programme was chaired by Zilla member, Phurzey Lepcha, in the presence of Panchayat vice president, Langnep Lepcha, along with women from different wards. Resource persons for

three wards were nominated in consultation with the Zilla member



and Ward Panchayats during the meet.

Resource person, Tara Prasad Bhattarai, imparted training for the formation of SHGs in difand detailed on maindressed by the resource



Health Minister visits construction sites of health centres in Gyalshing

hospital

Gyalshing, 26 Mar [IPR]: Health Minister, AK Ghatani, today visited the construction 50-bedded Hospital and ANM Training Centre at Kyongsa as well as the 50-bedded Tuberculosis Hospital and Doctors' quarter at Gyalshing

He interacted with all the patients of the male, female and pediatric wards and asked about their condition, improvement, food quality and medication.

The Minister in-formed about CATCH

programme and Health Card benefits and directed the concerned official to cover the left out areas with CATCH programme at the earliest.

He also visited the newly prepared ICU ward and assured to provide six ICU beds and six ICU monitors for better care of the patients.

He directed all the concerned contractors to give quality work within the given deadline. For the ANM training centre, he has decided to conduct a high level meeting on the progress of the pending works in order to make it functional.

2nd Mile where she took stock of the pre-school



GANGTOK. 26 MAR [IPR]: en and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi. is on a three-day official visit to the State, made a series of visits to various places in and around Gangtok today.

Ms Gandhi visited the Freedom Shelter Home Tathangchen where she interacted with indi-viduals who have struggled with substance abuse and psychiatric disorders. She spoke with them

at length and enquired about their counseling, recreation activities, education and recovery process. She suggested that patients could engage themselves in cooking, weaving, gardening, etc, so that they can focus on long term sustain-ability options for future livelihood. She listened to their inputs and assured all help.

Thereafter Ms Gandhi visited the ICDS Centre at

activities nutrition and children and interacted with the mothers and staff of the centre.

The Union Minis-

ter moved on to the Di-rectorate of Handloom and Handicrafts Center where she applauded the initiatives of the state government in promoting and preserving eth-nic arts and crafts of Sikkim. She inspected the traditional handicrafts, handlooms and other products which were on

display there.
She also went to the Organic Market at Lal Bazaar area where she took a keen interest in the various vegetables and floriculture produce of the State. Applauding the state government on being the first Organic State of the country, she expressed that the rest of the States should em-ulate what Sikkim has

Gandhi then visited the One Stop Centre at Lumsay Lumsay

affected by violence She also inspected the 181 Women Helpline Office and was briefed by the Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department. Sarala Rai, about the various initiatives taken by the department to help women affected by violence through referral [linking with appropriate authority such as police, One Stop Centre or hospital, etc.] and information about women related government schemes

and programmes.
Finally, the Union
Minister visited the adoption centre, Mam-talaya, at Lower Burtuk, wherein she interacted with kids and enquired about the various facilities being provided. She also met children who have been registered under Child Adoption Re-source Information and Guidance System [CAR-INGS] for adoption

Minister wants Sikkim to take lead role in...

Contd from pg01

ronmental initiatives of the State Government such as the ban on use of plastic, ban on grazing and felling of trees, and

poaching of wild animals. She also stated that the Orchids of the State have a unique identity and should be propagat-ed and spread throughout the country. The youth should get into this field and more people should try greenhouse agriculture, she stated.

The Government of India offers numerous incentives for Green House Agriculture and hence the youth of Sik-kim should explore this area, she suggested.

Asked about her general observation about Sikkim, the Minister stated that she really liked the pristine beauty and cleanliness of the place.

"The pedestrian M.G. Marg is such a good and happy idea. I wish we can implement this elsewhere," she expressed.

When asked about

the Ministry's take on the alarming rise in human trafficking, especially from the North Eastern States, the Minister replied that under her initiative, an Anti-Trafficking Bill has been intro-duced in the Parliament

in the current Session. She added that the She added that the Bill in its present form is

the best in the World and will give a huge respite to victims of trafficking, especially in terms of re-

habilitating them.

The Minister also shared some of her personal interventions in the field of women and child development, care and protection namely Child Line, Khoya Paya, She-Box etc.

Replying to a que-ry on the Government's take on Rehabilitation of trafficked women who have been forced into prostitution, the Minister replied that activities like cooking, bakery etc which have been exper-imented in places like Pune, Maharashtra, have

been successful to rehabilitate these women and have given them an opportunity to pursue a sustainable livelihood.

"If the State Government comes up with a scheme for rehabilitation of trafficked women, I will be more than happy to provide every assis-tance," she stated. On a question about

the implementation of Six Months Maternity Leave Benefit to working women in Sikkim, the Minister stated that the State Government should immediately implement "I will speak to the Chief Minister about this and seek his intervention," she stated.

Kutse Shegu

The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of Late Phichi Bhutia of Linkey Busty, who left for heavenly abode on 10.02.2018 falls on 29.03.2018. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us requested to join us in offering prayers to departed soul at our resident at Burtuk Helipad, Gangtok. We offer our sincere gratitude towards thos

gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement. Mrs Karma Doma Bhutia (wije)- 9002372646, Ms Karma Doka Bhutia (daughter), Mr Chung Chung Bhutia (brother in law)- 9563337908, Mr. Lala Bhutia (brothe in law)- 9434710142



KUTSE SHEGU

oreavement.

fother: Chewang Lamu Bhutia (Energy & Power Dept), Fath
Late Palden Bhutia, Uncles: M. R. Gurung, Bhaichung Bhut
Tshering Dorice Bhutia, Karma Bhutia, Jawas Bhutia, Aunst
Namgay Doma Bhutia, Thinlay Ongmu Bhutia, Zangn
Bhutia, Tshering Diki Bhutia, Dikila Bhutia, Yangchen Bhuti
Sister Yanchen Bhutia (Forest Dept), Brother: Nedug Bhutia
(Pakyong), Contact: 9749335717, 9434410325, 70013849

Opinion

SummitTIMES

Native Speakers without a Language

Unfortunately, that could happen sooner than we feared

In August last year, the People's Linguistic Survey of India released 11 volumes in its planned 50 volume survey of the country's languages. The volumes, published by Orient BlackSwan, covered languages from the states of Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Karnataka. Yes, Sikkim is not in this initial set, but several of the languages spoken in the region must have figured in the linguistic survey. What should also be worrying is that the regional languages, what we also know as mother tongues, here must be in as precarious state as the survey has found in the ten states in question. The People's Linguistic Survey of India (PSLI) raised the alarm during the launch of the volumes when it shared that as many as 780 languages are spoken in India, at least 400 of which are at risk of dving in the next 50 years. That's an average of eight languages every year! That should have everyone worried, but clearly, the disinterest and the indifference which brought so many languages to the brink is too pervasive. There is not much happening, anywhere, at any level to save the languages at risk of being lost. May be whatever little is being attempted to avert such extinction is driven by the emotion of "save" and that is why it is failing. Perhaps we should consider nurturing instead of saving or protecting be-cause while the latter can make the efforts insular and imperil the language even more, the former option of "nurture" allows languages space and opportunities to grow, adapt and remain relevant.

The PSLI surveyors also discovered that 250 languages were lost in the last five decades in India. The extinction is obviously picking up pace, and who knows, the timeframe of 50 years for 400 languages might actually shrink as the extinction snowball gathers more momentum as it hurtles to the abyss and who knows, maybe even obliterates more languages along the way. It is a worrying scenario. But is it? Because, as mentioned earlier, it does not appear to have generated too much concern.

The Survey, now already eight months old, might

or might not resuscitate the fate that awaits regional languages, but offers us a chance to ponder more seriously on where we are going wrong with our efforts at keeping languages and dialects alive. Languages are essentially about communication and then they take on aspects of culture and invariably underline the very ethos of a people. That said, a language obviously ceases to be one when there is no one left speaking it. This does not necessarily happen with the complete annihilation of a people and is most times caused by the language becoming redundant as a communication tool. There is also the whole generational challenge. While it is not rare to, say, catch some old folk from different communities chatter away in Limboo language in parts of West Sikkim, it is already rare to find even Limboo kids speaking to each other in their mother tongue. The same applies to some other languages as well, all of which appear to be surviving, but because they are not being passed on, are already imperiled.

But there has to be more to it. How does a language die? Past experience proves that the moment "outsiders" stop trying to learn a language, it is already on death-row. It is not enough for only native speakers to continue using a language because we do not lead closed lives anymore and need to interact all the time with people from other communities, speaking different languages among themselves. And outsiders stop learning a language when they feel no need for it as a tool for communication. For instance, all old members of the plainsmen business community speak fluent Tibetan. They had to pick up the language if they wanted to trade with Tibet which is what most of them were engaged in till six decades ago. Everyone in Sikkim, including those who have been here barely a year, speaks Nepali. They have to because they need to get their message across. Similarly, any Sikkimese going out for studies comes back equipped with at least passable Hindi-speaking skills. The Chinese are introducing English in their schools because they want to now converse with the world. That more or less settles what is actually a settled argument that language is first about communication.

Being solely about communication, however, imperils a language because the link-language keeps changing as our networks widen or as new technologies become popular. Languages, hence, also need to remain relevant and important, and this they can achieve by patronizing high literature and the sharing of important thoughts and ideas in their respective languages. One misses that in Sikkim. There is so little quality literary work in regional languages that even the aesthetic appeal of learning them is being lost. We have to strive to make it worth the while for those learning regional languages by making it about more than just chatting. For that, those who complain about losing their language need to create more awareness, produce more literature, get a pop-culture going in their languages, make it more vibrant

Facebook is killing democracy with its personality profiling data

TIMOTHY SUMMERS nversation.com

What state should you move to based on your personality? What character on "Downton Abbey" would you be? What breed of dog is best for you? Some enormous percentage of Facebook's 2.13 billion users must have seen Facebook friends sharing results of various online quizzes. They are sometimes annoying, senseless and a total waste of time. But they are irresistible. Besides, you're only sharing the results with your family and friends. There's nothing more innocent, right?

Wrong.
Facebook is in the business of exploiting your data. The company is worth bil-lions of dollars because it harvests your data and sells it

to advertisers. Users are encouraged to like, share and comment their lives away in the name of staying connected to family and friends. However, as an ethical hacker, security researcher and data analyst, I know that there is a lot more to the story. The bedrock of modern democracy is at stake

YOU ARE BEING PSYCHOGRAPHICALLY PROFILED

Most people have heard of demographics – the term used by advertisers to slice up a market by age, gender, ethnicity and other variables to help them understand customers. In contrast, psycho-graphics measure people's personality, values, opinions, attitudes, interests and lifestyles. They help advertisers understand the way you act and who you are.

Historically, psychographic data were much

harder to collect and act on than demographics. To-day, Facebook is the world's largest treasure trove of this data. Every day billions of people give the company huge amounts of information about their lives and dreams.

This isn't a problem when the data are used ethically – like when a company shows you an ad for a pair of sunglasses you recently searched for.

However, it matters a lot when the data are used maliciously – segmenting society into disconnect-ed echo chambers, and custom-crafting misleading messages to manipulate individuals' opinions and actions.

That's exactly what Facebook allowed to

QUIZZES, READING YOUR MIND AND PREDICTING YOUR POLITICS

Recent reports have revealed how Cambridge Analytica, a U.K.-based company owned by an enig-matic billionaire and led at the time by candidate Donald Trump's key adviser Steve Bannon, used psychographic data from Facebook to profile American voters in the months before the 2016 presidential election. Why? To target them with personalized political messages and influence their voting behavior.

A whistleblower from Cambridge Analytica, Christopher Wylie, described in detail how the company exploited Facebook users by harvesting their data and building models to "target their in-

How did Facebook let this happen?

The company does more than just sell your data. Since the early 2000s, Facebook has provided access to academic researchers seeking to study you. Many psychologists and social scientists have made their careers analyzing ways to predict your personality and ideologies by asking simple quesons. These questions, like the ones used in social media quizzes, do not appear to have obvious con-nections to politics. Even a decision like which web browser you are using to read this article is filled th clues about your personality.

In 2015, Facebook gave permission to academ-

ic researcher Aleksandr Kogan to develop a quiz of his own. Like other quizzes, his was able to capture all of your public information, including name, profile picture, age, gender and birthday; everything you've ever posted on your timeline; your entire friends list; all of your photos and the photos vou're tagged in: education history; hometown and current city; everything you've ever liked; and information about the device you're using including

your web browser and preferred language. Kogan shared the data he collected with Cam-bridge Analytica, which was against Facebook policy - but apparently the company rarely enforced

GOING SHOPPING FOR IM PRESSIONABLE USERS

Analyzing these data, Cambridge Analytica determined topics that would intrigue users, what kind of political messaging users were susceptible to, how to frame the messages, the content and tone that would motivate users, and how to get them to share it with others. It compiled a shopping list of traits that could be predicted about voters.

Then the company was able to create websites, ads and blogs that would attract Facebook users and encourage them to spread the word. In Wylie's words: "they see it ... they click it ... they go down the rabbit hole"

This is how American voters were targeted with fake news, misleading information and contradictory messages intended to influence how they voted - or if they voted at all.

This is how Facebook users' relationships with family and friends are being exploited for mone tary profit, and for political gain.

KNOWINGLY PUTTING USERS AT RISK

Facebook could have done more to protect users.

The company encouraged developers to build apps for its platform. In return, the apps had access to vast amounts of user data – supposedly sub-ject to those rules that were rarely enforced. But Facebook collected 30 percent of payments made through the apps, so its business interest made it want more apps, doing more things.

People who didn't fill out quizzes were vulnerable, too. Facebook allowed companies like Cambridge Analytica to collect personal data of friends of quiz takers, without their knowledge or consent Tens of millions of people's data were harvested – and many more Facebook users could have been affected by other apps.

CHANGING CULTURE AND POLITICS

In a video interview with the Observer, Wylie explained that "Politics flows from culture ... you have to change the people in order to change cul-

That's exactly what Face-book enabled Cambridge Analytica to do. In 2017, the company's CEO boasted publicly that it was "able to use data to identify ... very large quantities of persuadable voters ... that could be influenced to

vote for the Trump campaign.' To exert that influence, Cambridge Analytica - which claims to have 5,000 data points on every American – used people's data to psychologically nudge them to alter their behaviors in predictable ways.

This included what became known as "fake news." In an undercover investigation, Britain's Channel 4 recorded

Cambridge Analytica executives expressing their willingness to disseminate misinformation, with its CEO saving, "these are things that don't necessarily need to be true, as long as they're believed."

U.S. society was unprepared: 62 percent of

American adults get news on social media, and many people who see fake news stories report that they believe them. So Cambridge Analytica's tactics worked: 115 pro-Trump fake stories were shared on Facebook a total of 30 million times. In fact, the most popular fake news stories were more widely shared on Facebook than the most popular main

stream news stories.
For this psychological warfare, the Trump campaign paid Cambridge Analytica millions of dollars. A HEALTHY DOSE OF SKEPTICISM

U.S. history is filled with stories of people sharing their thoughts in the public square. If interested, a passerby could come and listen, sharing in the experience of the narrative.

By combining psychographic profiling, analysis of big data and ad micro-targeting, public discourse in the U.S. has entered a new era. What used to be a public exchange of information and democratic dialogue is now a customized whisper campaign: Groups both ethical and malicious can divide Americans, whispering into the ear of each and every user, nudging them based on their fears and encouraging them to whisper to others who share those fears.

A Cambridge Analytica executive explained:

There are two fundamental human drivers hopes and fears ... and many of those are unspoken and even unconscious. You didn't know that was a fear until you saw something that evoked that reaction from you. Our job is ... to understand those really deep-seated underlying fears, concerns. It's no good fighting an election campaign on the facts because actually it's all about emotion." The information that you shared on Facebook

exposed your hopes and fears. That innocent-look-ing Facebook quiz isn't so innocent. The problem isn't that this psychographic data

were exploited at a massive scale. It's that plat-forms like Facebook enable people's data to be used in ways that take power away from voters and

give it to data-analyzing campaigners. In my view, this kills democracy. Even Facebook can see that, saying in January that at its worst, social media "allows people to spread misinforma-tion and corrode democracy."

My advice: Use Facebook with a healthy dose of

[the writer is Director of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Engage ment, University of Maryland]

How clever people help societies work together better

ANDIS SOFIANOS & EUGENIO

What drives people to cooperate with each other? And what characteristics lead a person to do something that will both benefit them, and those around them? Our new research suggests that the answer is intelligence: it is the primary condition for a socially cohesive and cooperative society.

In the past, some economists have suggested that consideration of others and generally pro-social attitudes are what motivate people towards more generous and cooperative be-haviours which help sustain a cohe-sive society. Others have suggested that adhering to good norms and respecting institutions push us towards more socially useful behaviours



But another possibility is that insightful self-interest guides us to be-come effectively good citizens – and that cooperation arises in society if people are smart enough to foresee the social consequences of their actions, including the consequences for others.

THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA
Our study, which took part in be havioural labs in the US and UK with 792 participants, was designed to test these three different suggestions for why people cooperate with each other. In it, we used games that contain a set of rules that assign a reward to two players depending on their decisions.

One of these games was the pris-oner's dilemma game. The easiest way to describe the game is using the original example of two criminals who have been arrested. They are interrogated in separate rooms with no means of communicating with each other. Each prisoner is given the op-

portunity either to: betray the other by testifying that the other commit-ted the crime – an uncooperative choice - or to cooperate with the other by remaining silent.

If both prisoners betray each oth-

er, they each serve two years in prison – the uncooperative outcome. If one betrays the other and the other remains silent, the first will be set free and the other will serve three years in prison – and vice versa. If both remain silent, they will only serve one year in prison - the cooper-

ative outcome.

This is a standard example of a game analysed in game theory that shows why two completely rational individuals might not cooperate, even if it appears that it is in their best in-terest to do so. It is also a good exam-

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Assam govt spends over Rs 27 cr in advts in 11 months

GUWAHATI, MAR 26 (PTI): The Assam government has incurred an expenditure of Rs 27.23 crore on advertisements during 11 months of 2017-18 fiscal, a minis-ter informed the state

Assembly today.

In a written reply to a query by AGP MLA Pabindra Deka, Assam Ir-rigation Minister Ranjit Dutta said the government's total expenditure for advertisements stood at Rs 27,22,79,761 from April 2017 to February

this year.
On behalf of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who also holds the Information & Public Relations portfolio, Dutta said out of the total ex-penditure, Rs 16.79 crore had been released, while Rs 10.44 crore were due to various media houses

In addition to the spending for advertisements in media, the government had sent a proposal of Rs 1.91 crore to the finance department for putting up hoardings at public places. Giving a break-up, Dutta said Rs 21.72 crore had been spent for giving government advertisements to newspapers in the state.
For the electronic me

dia, including TV, radio, SMS services and on line the government gave advertisements worth Rs 95.91 lakh during the first 11 months of the current financial year.

The minister also informed the House that a total of Rs 4.55 crore had been spent for giving advertisements in 14 national newspapers.

Life and times of Rosogolla inventor NC Das set for screen debut

KOLKATA, MAR 26 (PTI): A feature film on the life and times of 'Rosogolla' inventor in Bengal, No-bin Chandra Das, in 19th century Kolkata as the backdrop, is set to hit the screens by this year-end. The Bengali film 'Ro-

sogolla' seeks to capture the journey of Das, from a humble background to a business tycoon.

Das had invented Ro-

sogolla by dipping cotton cheese ball in sugary syr-up (in 1868) after trying various combinations.

The film is being di-rected by Pavel and produced by Shiboprosad Mukhopadhyay and Nan-dita Roy, directors of a string of blockbusters.

"Being a feature film, it is not a biopic. It is partly based on real-life events and there are some fictional accounts," the director told PTI.

tings perfectly he studat the Victoria Memoriincluding paintings Thomas and William Daniels, Calcutta Gazette, besides works of re-searchers such as P T Nair and others, Pavel said.

Pavel said, "The film traces the journey of Das, who is the protagonist. It captures the discovery of the spongy syrupy sweet by him after months of efforts in 1868. It also fo cusses on the love life of a young Das."

Das, also called 'Co-mbus of Rosogolla' in Kolkata, died in 1925 at the age of 80.

"We will trace the life of Nobin Chandra Das from the age of six to 32-33. His childhood days and how he set up the first modest outlet in Kolkata and he came to be known as 'Nobin Moira'.

"There will also be a

reference to the sweet heing first liked by a Marwari businessman who then spread word about the spread word about the new sweet and there was no looking back for Das thereafter," Pavel said on the sidelines of an event where a corporate group announced presenting the film for audience.

Contemporaries of Das who were also in the busi-ness - Bhola Moira, and Bhim Chandra Nag - will also be featured in the film. "The 'Rosogolla Bha-

van', ancestral place of the sweet maker's family in Baghbazar, will also come up," Pavel said.
Asked about the response of the family of K

C Das. Nobin Chandra's successor and owners of one of the leading sweetmeat chains in the counthe director "After hearing the story they were very very en-

The family of K C Das is happy that we are making the film."

Asked if he was inspired to do the film after Bengal got the GI tag for 'Banglar Rosogolla', Pavel said "On the contrary I had made up my mind to do a feature film on the Rosogolla maker in early 2016 and then started doing research and writing the script. I am thankful that Shiboprosad Mukhopadhyay and Nandita Roy kept faith in me."

After completing research, the shooting be-gan and the film is now slated for release by this December, he said.

We did not interfere in his shoots. There is no Shiboprosad-Nandita Film School and we give complete freedom to directors working with our production house. Pavel is a better director than

Assam suffered Rs 1028-cr loss in 2017 due to bandhs: Minister

GUWAHATI, MAR 26 (PTI): Assam has incurred a loss of over Rs 1,028 crore due to 17 statewide bandhs in 2017, Commerce and Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary told the Assembly today.

The figure will go up further as it does not include strikes called at local and district levels, he said.

In a written reply to a query by BJF MLA Mrinal Saikia, Patowary said Assam suffered a loss of Rs 1,028.50 crore of State Domestic Product (SDP) due to 17 bandhs last vear.

A total of 184 blockades took place on National Highways as part of agita tion programmes by different groups across the state, Patowary told the House on behalf of the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who holds the

"In 2017, various organisations called for 18 local bandhs, 42 district bandhs. 17 Assam bandhs and four Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) bandhs," he added.

As per the Supreme Court ruling, any such bandh is illegal and the state government is taking steps in that di-

rection, the minister said.

In a PIL filed in the Gauhati High
Court in 2012, the state government had said that it was contemplating a law to prohibit bandhs in state.

Accordingly, 'The Assam Prohibition and Prevention of Bandh Bill, 2017' was drafted and it is currently under "active consideration" of the state government, Patowary added.

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Karate champ to train West Khasi girls in self defence

SHILLONG, MAR 26 (PTI): Taking a cue from the Delhi police model of self-defence programme for girls, West Khasi Hills district authorities in Meghalaya have appointed former Karate world champion Linza F Syiem to train school girls to fight against sexual harassment. Announcing this, dis-

trict deputy commission-er said "for the first time we are starting a monthlong comprehensive self defence training under the District Sports Prootion Society.

He said the initiative was aimed at a deterrent against eve teasing, hooliganism, indecent behaviour or public nui-sance on the road. West Khasi Hills dis-

trict has a high numbers of POCSO cases and the number of such cases has risen in the last three years, he said.

The National Crime

Research Bureau recorded 6.8 per cent crime against women in 2015. The percentage more than doubled in 2016.

The self defence pro-

gram will be funded by the District Sports Promotion Society and the district Sports Officer P B War Nongbri said this was the first time that his office was organising such a programme

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Artificial nests to breed house sparrows in Odisha

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), MAR 26 (PTI): Over 5,000 artificial nests are being installed for the endangered house sparrows and several other bird species in Odisha's Ganiam district to create a habitat for their breeding, forest department officials said.

The state water resources department, which is constructing an irrigation project at Ghatekeswar in the district, has provided Rs 5 lakh to the forest department for installation of artificial nests near the dam site, they said.

"As population house sparrows has declined alarmingly. We have decided to install artificial nests for these tiny birds near the dam site," Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Berhampur, Asish Kumar Behera said. He said the DFO's of-

fice in Berhampur along with the Anachaliaka Bikash Parishad (ABP) in Gunthubandh had organ-ised a programme here

ness on conservation of house sparrows and other birds.

Disturbance in their habitation is considered to be the prime reason behind the decrease of house sparrows, Behera said.
"Although there is no

concrete data, bird lovers feel that the number of house sparrows has been declining at an alarming pace," Sudhir Rout, an educationist, said.

The DFO said several studies conducted by dif-

showed that the population of house sparrows increased after artificial shelters were created for them in different towns and villages.

The forest official asked different organisations, including Berhampur Development Author-ity (BeDA), to take steps for installation and distribution of artificial nests in the houses and tress to save house sparrows.

"The nests are made of clay, cocnut coir and

plywood," Sagara Patra, president of Anachaliaka Bikash Parishad, said.

"We have seen their (house sparrows) population is increasing in the area after taking this conservation measure," said Patra.

Ganjam district turtle protection commit-tee has also distributed over 200 nests in various places, including Purunabandh, Gopalpur and some other areas, for artificial nesting of the

How clever people help societies

work together better contd from pg4

ple of a non zero-sum game - where the cooperative behaviour is mutually beneficial. In general, it depicts a situation reflecting the properties of the interactions we all experience most frequently in society.

As usual in experimental economics. we had participants play this game with monetary payoffs – instead of imprisonment. We matched two subjects in the same session in an anonymous way and we let them play the same game repeatedly for an indefinite number of times After that, we re-matched them with a different partner and the game started again. And this went on for 45 minutes. Each player learns by adjusting their decisions based on how others in the same room have played in the past.

INTELLIGENCE SPARKS

COOPERATION

We then created two "cities", or groups of subjects, sorted by characteristics based on cognitive and personality traits that we had measured two days earlier, by asking the participants to fill in a standard questionnaire. One such characteristic was a measure of pro-so-cial attitudes, namely the personality trait of agreeableness. Another charac teristic was a measure of adherence to norms, specifically the personality trait of conscientiousness. The third characteristic was that of intelligence.

We then analysed the frequency of cooperative choices they made in the prisoner's dilemma game – so the number of times they chose the less selfish option. From this we calculated what we called the cooperation rate.

Overall, we found that the higher a person's intelligence, the more coop-

erative they became as they continued playing the prisoner's dilemma game. So while intelligent individuals are not inherently more cooperative, they have the ability to process information faster and to learn from it. We didn't see such stark differences for the other two groups - those that scored highly in agreeableness and conscientiousness.

HELPING EACH OTHER

It's possible that smarter people may try to use their cognitive advantage and take advantage of others. So in further analysis, we created combined "cities", grouping together people who are similar across all characteristics in the personality test, and have similar levels of intelligence. We observed something quite different.

As the graph above shows, the smarter individuals – the blue line – within these combined groups helped to teach the less smart ones – the red - and lead them to eventually increase their cooperation rate by the end of the experiment. This was eventually beneficial for all involved: on average, everyone was better off in terms of earnings. Taken together, these results show how even having a few intelligent people present in a group or the work place can benefit others.

As other recent research has looked at how education can help from early childhood to develop cognitive ability, our results indicate how such interven-tions need not only benefit each individual, but society as a whole.
[Andis Sofianos is Postdoctoral

Fellow in the Department of Economics, University of Heidelberg; Eugenio Proto is Professor of Economics, University of Bristol]



India lose again, Australia claim 36-run win in T20 tri-series

MUMBAI, MAR 26 (PTI): India were knocked out of reckoning from the Twenty20 tri-series final after Australia handed the hosts their third successive de feat, the highlight of which was medium pacer Megan Schutt becoming the first bowler from Down Under to claim a hat-trick in the format.

Australia outplayed Harmanpreet Kaur's team by 36 runs. Having failed to secure a single win in the series so far, India are without any points right now and would be aiming for a consolation win over England in their last league match on Thursday.

Australia set India a challenging target of 186 for five with the help of twin half centuries by Beth Mooney and Elyse Villani. They then restricted the hosts to 150 for 5 in 20 overs.

Schutt (3-31)wreaked havoc at the Bra nourne Stadium by claiming a hat-trick. Her scalps included the in-form Sm riti Mandhana (3), veter an Mithali Raj, who was dismissed for a duck, and Deepti Sharma (2).

While Schutt cleaned up Mandhana and Raj off the fifth and the sixth ball of the second over. She completed her hat-trick in the first ball of the fifth over by removing Shar-ma, who gave a sitter to Amanda Jade Wellington at mid-off, leaving the hosts in deep trouble at

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30 balls) and Mumbai-batter Jemmimah Rodrigues (50 off 41 balls) stitched a 54run stand for the fourth wicket, but that was not enough to take the home side to victory.

Rodrigues, who scored her maiden international fifty, and Harmanpreet dealt in ones and twos but the big shots just did not come through for the two. Rodrigues was guilty of giving her wicket away by chipping straight down to the fielder.

Harmanpreet tried to up the ante by hitting a four and a six off consecutive balls, in the 14th over, but was dismissed off the very next ball, caught by Delissa Kimmince off Ashleigh Gardner. Australian bowlers never allowed the Indian batswomen to settle and took wickets at regular intervals on a placid

A quick-fire 38 off 26 balls from Anuja Patil did chip in but the asking rate had risen consider-

Bizarre ways of ball tampering: Mint, zipper, teeth and now sandpaper

NEW DELHI, MAR 26 (PTI): Teeth, zipper, mint and add sandpaper to it now, the des-peration to extract reverse swing in unfavourable conditions has driven international teams to find bizarre ways to tamper the ball.

Cameron Bancroft hiding a yellow strip of sandpaper in his pants easily fits into one of the many bizarre ball-tam-pering tactics but perhaps more sillier in execution when hawks like 'Oscar-The Cameraman' are in operation.

The phenomenon of ball-tampering has been around for decades in the gentleman's game and the infamous incident in the third Test between Australia and South Africa has only put spotlight back into the 'illegal yet almost unavoidable' tactic.

In the mid-70's, one of the earliest allegations ball tampering was levelled against England seamer John Lever, whom the Indian captain Bishan Singh Bedi had accused of using vaseline to aid pronounced swing during MCC's tour of India in 1976. Bedi was then targetted by the British media for trying to



malign an England player.

The rule allows the use of sweat and saliva to shine the ball but it becomes an offence an 'artificial substance', leaving a grey area in between. The fielding sides has been

found working on the ball for decades but it was not until 2000 when Waqar Younis became the first cricketer to be suspended for ball-tampering. However during Pakistan's

tour of 1992, the two W's Wasim ting excessive reverse swing with allegation that they used bottle opener to scruff up the seam of the Dukes ball.

Repeatedly bouncing one side on the ground and scratching the seam are common ways of getting the seam scruffed up on abrasive surfaces but some players sudthan required. Bottle openers,

zippers of trousers, lip balm, ir gel, or in Bancroft's case, a sandpaper then come into use.

Back in 1994. England captain Michael Atherton was accused of ball-tampering after cameras caught him rub-bing the ball with the hidden dirt in his trousers' pocket.

Atherton later claimed that he had dirt in his pocket to dry his hands but was still fined 2,000 pounds for not disclosing the substance

The then England skip-per's case will never be proved but sometimes confession by players make the job much easier for the match referee, like it happened with under-fire Australian Steve Smith and Bancroft in the recently concluded third Test.

Some choose to confess after they retire, like what former England opener Marcus Trescothick thick. The stylish batsman has revealed in his book that he used mint-induced saliva to shine the ball during the 2005 Ashes.

"Murray Mints worked really well," wrote Trescothick.
In 2010, former Pakistan

captain Shahid Afridi found a new way to prepare the ball as he was caught on television biting the seam during a T20 International against Australia. It resulted in a two-match ban though Afridi claimed that he was only trying to smell the ball. Current South African cap-

tain Faf du Plessis has been found guilty of ball-tampering multiple times. The first time was in 2013, when cameras caught him scuffing the ball with his trouser zip during a Test against Pakistan in Duhai.

on the ball and was fined his match fee.

Commenting on the con-troversial subject, former India pacer Ashish Nehra said there is nothing new about ball tampering.

"Yes, it's an art but then stealing is also an art. Would you put a thief in jail or praise him. Reverse swing is an art but ball tampering is dis-honesty. And there are ways to prepare a ball for reverse swing without tampering," said Nehra, who is one of India's finest exponents of swing bowling.

"Also this is a phenomena,

you will find mainly in Test cricket as in T20 and ODIs, it's difficult to reverse the white ball. In ODIs, two new white balls are used, so chances are really less. It's only in Test cricket which is played for a considerable amount of time that teams want their bowlers

to try reverse swing," he added. Ball-tampering is not just confined to the highest-level, it is a deep-rooted phenom-enon in domestic cricket including India's premier First-Class tournament -- the Ranji

Coach Van Marwijk chases first Australia win

London, Mar 26 (AFP): Bert van Marwijk aims to get Australia's World Cup preparations back on track in Tuesday's friendly against Colombia in London.

Australia manager Van Marwi-jk endured a miserable start to his reign as the Socceroos were routed 4-1 by Norway on Friday.

The Dutch coach, who has tak-

en over from Ange Postecoglou. saw Jackson Irvine give his side a 19th minute lead in Oslo.

But a hat-trick from LA Galaxy striker Ola Kamara and Tore Reginiussen's strike sealed an emphatic win for Norway, who are ranked 20 places below Australia and did not qualify for the World

It was the worst possible way for van Marwijk and his players to get acquainted ahead of the World which starts in Russia in June.

There is little time for van Marwiik to make his mark before Australia face France, Denmark and Peru in the finals, having qualified by eliminating Syria and Honduras in play-offs.

The 65-year-old has three

more friendlies and a 30-day training camp in Turkey to shape his new team.

Their next opportunity to develop some momentum comes against Colombia at Craven Cottage, the home of English champi-

Van Marwijk, who led the Netherlands to a runner-up finish at the 2010 World Cup, concedes there is plenty for Australia to work on before they can dream of a strong

"I learned a lot with this game



that we are not ready yet," Van Marwijk said

"I already knew that before. It's good when you lose, you see the players in these circumstances.
"We made too many mistakes,

especially defending. When you lead 1-0 and normally we have a man extra in midfield, when you lead 1-0 you must have the control, especially in the midfield.

"We didn't do that. We lost the

ball too easily and too much in that

Van Marwijk's starting line-up is a work in progress as he considers his options for Russia.

He gave debuts to forwards Dimi Petratos and Andrew Nabbout against Norway, but was also without key players Matthew Jurman and Trent Sainsbury.

"We have two important play-

ers who trained this week for the first time but still couldn't play," he said of his injured duo.

"But yes, you can see we have problems when we defend. I hope that Sainsbury and Jurman stay fit and start to play in one or two

"We will work and search to nominate players who will make our defence better."

Australia won't find it easy to

hand van Marwiik his first win against Colombia who came from two goals down for an impressive 3-2 victory against France in Paris

on Friday.

James Rodriguez, on loan at Bayern Munich from Real Madrid, and Monaco striker Radamel Falcao headline the Colombian team, whose World Cup group opponents are Japan, Poland and Senegal.

Smith steps down from Royals captaincy, Rahane to lead

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI): Steve Smith today stepped down as Rajasthan Roy-als captain and was replaced by Ajinkya Rahane in the wake of the ball-tamper ing scandal that has left the Australian skipper's reputation in tatters.

The under-fire Smith will, however. continue to be a part of the franchise for the Indian Premier League starting

"Steve believes given the current circumstances it's in the best interest of the Rajasthan Royals that he steps down as captain so the team can get ready for the start of the IPL without the ongoing distractions. He would like to extend his gratitude to the BCCI officials and all the fans in India for their constant support," Rajasthan Royals' head of cricket Zubin Bharucha said in a media release.

The decision was expected after Cricket Australia indicated that harsh er penalty was on cards for Smith and some other senior players such as Da-vid Warner for their role in an episode that has shaken Australian sporting fra-

Australian opener Cameron Bancroft was caught using sand paper to tamper the ball during the third Test against South Africa in Johannesburg, which the visitors lost vesterday.

"The incident in Cape Town has cer-tainly disturbed the cricketing world We have been in constant touch with the BCCI and taken their counsel. Fur-thermore we have been in regular contact with Steve. Bharucha stated.

Ironically, Rajasthan Royals are re-turning to the IPL after serving a twoyear ban for the franchise's erstwhile management's role in the 2013 spot-fixing scandal.

Royals' mentor and former skipper Shane Warne is in Cape Town and it is understood that he might have had



talked the Australian captain into taking this decision

About Rahane, who has been a stellar performer for Royals before their two-year ban, Bharucha said: "...he un-derstands the culture and values of our team. We have absolutely no doubt that he will be a great leader of the Rajasthan Royals.

Co-owner Manoj Badale also ex-

"Rajasthan Royals will do every-thing possible to protect the values and the integrity of the game. We agree with Steve's decision to step down as captain, and we are fortunate to have such a capable successor with Ajinkya Rahane. It is important that all cricket fans retain a balanced perspective on

"What happened in South Africa was clearly wrong, especially given that it appears to have been pre-meditated. That said, this will be a difficult time for Steve as well, given how much he cares about the game." said Badale.

Rajasthan Royals will launch their season with an away fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 9 followed by their first home game in Jaipur on April 11 against the Delhi Dare-devils at the Sawai Mansingh stadium.

Jame: Miss Unwanted

MANDSAUR (MP), MAR 26 (PTI): who knows it better than a girl named 'Anchahee' (unwanted) by her parents since they wanted a son.

As a child, the girl was oblivious to the real meaning of her name, but now, as a grown-up pursuing her graduation, she faces the ignominy of people ridiculing her

Two instances of parents naming their daughters as 'Anchahee' have come to light in Madhya Pradesh.

Both the families are based Billaud village, about 35 km om the Mandsaur district from the headquarters.

The name appears in the birth certificate, school records and also on the Aadhaar card.

One of them is a student of first year BSc, while the other is in Class

college-going Anchahee, said, "My husband is suffering from a paralytic condition. We prayed for a son but I gave birth to a fifth girl

in a row. We named her Anchahee so that next time we get lucky and have a boy."

However, her next child too was a girl, after which she and her husband opted for family planning, the woman told PTI.

Meanwhile, the girl, who is pursuing her graduation course, said she feels ashamed of her name and wants to change it.

"As a child, I didn't find any fault with my name. But I learnt about its significance when people started making fun of me. I feel

ashamed now. I wanted to change my name when I submitted the Class 10 examination form, but the school authorities refused to allow that," she said.

"I am trying to get my name changed now," she said.

The girl also says that her

parents no more regret not having

regret for not having a son. They ant to see the sons in us now,

Kanti Bai claimed that another

girl living in her neighbourhood has the same name.

She said the younger Anchahee, studying in Class 6, is the third girl child of her parents, and the story behind her name is also similar.

The other girl's family could not be contacted for comments.

Notably, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had launched the 'Ladli Laxmi Yojana' in 2007 with an aim to bring about a change in people's attitude towards the girl

Several states have launched

similar schemes.

Interestingly, incident had been reported from Maharashtra earlier. A few years

A few years administration in ago, in Maharashtra's Satara district had found that parents yearning to have a son named their daughters as 'Nakushi', which translates as

Following this, the state government undertook a drive to give new and dignified names to such girls.

Pakistan, India in talks over harassment incidents: Asif

ISLAMABAD, MAR 26 [PTI]: Pakistan and India are in talks over the issue of alleged harassment of Pakistani diplomats sta-tioned in New Delhi, Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif has said.

Pakistan has claimed that there had been as many as 26 instances of harassment and intimidation of its diplomats since March 7, following which Islamabad called back its high commis-sioner Sohail Mahmood for discussions on the issue. He returned to New

Delhi on March 22. "Higher authorities in both India and Pakistan are in talks to handle harassment incidents of Pakistan High Commission," Asif told Associat-ed Press of Pakistan yes-

He hoped that efforts in this regard would bear fruit and relationship between the two neigh bouring countries would improve, the report said.

The foreign minister also said that Pakistan is keen on establishing cordial relations with its neighbouring countries on the basis of equality for maintaining regional harmony.

"Our top priority is establishing peace in the country as well as in the region in larger interest of the people," he said. Asif also said that

Pakistan was making all-out efforts to all-out develop healthy and durable relations with Afghanistan, India. Russia. and other

countries of the region.

He said Pakistan wants peace in Afghanistan. "We want to see Af-

ghanistan as a peaceful and stable country be-cause Pakistan would benefit the most from a peaceful Afghanistan," peaceful Asif added.

The minister also said that the government has been making serious efforts for purging the country of the menace of terrorism and make it a

safe place for its people.

In August, US President Donald Trump had unveiled his Afghanistan and South Asia policy in which he had hit out at Pakistan for providing safe havens to "agents of chaos" that kill Americans in Afghanistan and warned Islamabad that it has "much to lose" by harbouring terrorists.

Pakistan regularly denies that it hosts terror groups fighting the US and Afghan forces in Afghanistan. Asif also stated that China-Paki-stan Economic Corridor [CPEC] would play an instrumental role in bringing revolutionary change es across the country.

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Porn actress says she was threatened to keep silent on Trump fling

WASHINGTON, MAR 26 [AFP]: Porn threatened in a bid to keep her silent about her alleged fling with Donald Trump, which she detailed in a highly-anticipated primetime TV interview broadcast

She is seeking to be released from a non-disclosure agreement she signed 11 days before the 2016 presidential election that brought Trump to power, for which she was paid USD 130,000 -- leading to allegations that the payment amounted to an illicit contribution to his cam-

Daniels yesterday told Anderson Cooper on CBS's "60 Minutes" that Trump had not asked her to keep their 2006 sexual encounter secret, but said she was approached by a man in a Las Vegas parking lot after agreeing to sell her story for USD 15,000 in 2011.

"I was in a parking lot, going to a fitness class with my infant daughter. Taking, you know, the seats facing backwards in the back seat, diaper bag, you know, gettin' all the stuff out" she said

"And a guy walked up on me and said to me, 'Leave Trump alone. Forget the story.' And then he leaned around and looked at my daughter and said, 'That's a beautiful little girl.



It'd be a shame if something hap-

pened to her mom," Daniels said. Cooper asked: "You took it as a direct threat?"

"Absolutely," Daniels said.

'I was rattled, I remember going into the workout class and my hands were shaking so much I was afraid I was gonna drop her," she said of her

Daniels said she was introduced to Trump at a celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe in July 2006. He invited her to his hotel suite, the only time they had sex.

The conversation "started off all about him, just talking about himself," with Trump asking if Daniels

had seen his picture on the cover of a magazine, she said.
"I was like, does this, does this

normally work for you? And he looked very taken back."

She told him: "Someone should take that magazine and spank you with it." She took the magazine and told Trump to drop his pants, which he did -- with underwear still on and I just gave him a couple swats," said Daniels.

The real estate mogul "was a completely different person" after that, and he stopped talking about

Trump told her, "'Wow, you, you are special. You remind me of my

daughter' You know he's like 'You're smart, beautiful and a woman to be reckoned with," she said.

Trump's wife Melania -- who had recently given birth to their son came up only briefly: "I asked, and he brushed it aside, said, 'Oh yeah, yeah, you know, don't worry about that, we have separate rooms," Daniels said

She said she and Trump had unprotected sex, despite the fact that she was not attracted to a man who was over 30 years her senior.

But "I didn't say no. I'm not a victim," Daniels said.

She stayed in contact with Trump after the encounter because the tycoon said he would try to get her on "The Apprentice," the reality TV show he hosted at the time.

"I thought of it as a business deal," she said, but it did not pan out. Daniels said her main motive for

speaking out now was to set the record straight.

"I'm not okay with being made out to be a liar," she insisted.

Asked what she would say to

Trump if he were watching the interview, she said: "He knows I'm telling the truth.'

While Trump has been uncharfling, the White House has denied any sexual encounter between him and Daniels.

Trump arrived back at the White House shortly before the interview aired yesterday. Melania remained in Florida for spring break.

Daniels declined to discuss evidence to back her encounter with Trump, the possibility of which was teased by her lawyer prior to the interview. Michael Avenatti posted a picture on Twitter of a computer disc along with the text: "If 'a picture is worth a thousand words," how many words is this worth?????

#60minutes #pleasedenyit."

Avenatti filed a lawsuit on behalf of Daniels -- whose real name is Stephanie Clifford -- earlier this month seeking to toss out her non-disclosure agreement, for which she was paid by Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

Cohen claimed that Daniels is liable for at least USD 20 million for violating the agreement -- USD 1 million for each time she did so -- in court filing made prior to the CBS interview.

"This is about the cover-up," Avenatti said on "60 Minutes."

"This is about the extent that Mr Cohen and the president have gone to intimidate this woman, to silence



At least 53 bodies have been recovered from a fire that swept through a busy shopping centre in an industrial city in Siberia, Russian Anews agencies said today. Many people are also still missing from the blaze that broke yesterday in the city of Kemerovo, the agencies quoted emergency services as saying. A previous toll put the number of dead at 37 with nearly 70 missing, including 40 children.

Egypt heads to polls to choose between Sisi and 'rival'

CAIRO, MAR 26 [AFP]: Egyptians headed to the polls today in a presiden-tial election to choose between incumbent Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and a little-known politician who has struggled to make the case he is a serious contender.

Polling stations opened at 9:00 am [local time] for the three-day vote, in which Sisi is all but guaranteed to win a second four-year term.

The president was among the first voters, shown on Egyptian television casting his bal-lot at a school in Cairo's Heliopolis district under

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tight security.

Security forces were deployed across the country to protect polling booths and armoured vehicles were stationed at several points around Cairo.

The Islamic State group's Egyptian affiliate, which has killed hundreds of soldiers and civilians, has threatened attacks on election infrastructure.

Two policemen were killed yesterday in a car bomb attack targeting the provincial head of se-curity for the Alexandria governorate. The security chief was unharmed.

Some 60 million peo-

ple in Egypt, the most populated Arab country, are registered to vote on March 26, 27, and 28. Official results are expected on April 2.

They will have the

choice between Sisi and Moussa Mostafa Moussa, who registered immediately before the close date for applications, saving the election from

being a one-horse race.

Moussa, who has
denied he is a "puppet", had been leading a Sisi re-election campaign until the moment he registered as a candidate.

Other opponents have been sidelined, in-

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cluding former military chief of staff Sami Anan, who was detained in January, shortly after announcing his candidacy.

The military said the reserve general broke the law by illegally declaring his candidacy.

In an interview

broadcast on Egyptian television last week, 63-year-old Sisi said the lack of serious oppo-nents was not his doing.

"I wish we had one, or two, or three, or 10 of the best people and you choose however you want" he said

Sisi had won his first term in 2014, a year

chief ousted his prede cessor Mohamed Morsi following mass protests demanding the divisive

Islamist's resignation.
In that election, Sisi faced Hamdeen Sabbahi, an established left-wing poli-tician much better known than Moussa. Sisi won with

96.9 percent of the vote.
With Sisi's victory effectively guaranteed, authorities will be hoping for a large turnout to enhance

the vote's legitimacy.
Sisi has stressed in his pre-election appearances the importance of voters turning out in large numbers.

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Netflix booted from Cannes Film Festival competition!

The streaming service last year competed for the coveted Palme d'Or prize with Okja and The Meyerowitz Stories. Film festival head Thierry

Fremaux, 57, said Netflix and other streamers can still screen their movies, but can't vie for the top prize, according to an article by The Hollywood Re-

Fremaux also announced a interview with Le Film Fran-

The decision to allow Okja by director Bong Joon-ho and The Meyerowitz Stories by Noah Baumbach to compete last year sparked outrage.

Fremaux said he wanted the films by the acclaimed directors to premiere at Cannes instead of going to another festival, but neither one of them won.



"Last year, when we selected these two films, I thought I could convince Netflix to release them in cinemas I was presumptuous, they refused," Fremaux said.

Netflix tried to secure permits to screen the movies, but ran afoul of France's strict chronology laws sur-

rounding film release.

The festival has since changed its rules to require theatrical release in

"The Netflix people loved the red carpet and would like to be pres-

Basu.

ent with other films. But they understand that the intransigence of their own model is now the opposite of ours," Fremaux said.

"We have to take into account the existence of these powerful new players: Amazon, Netflix and maybe soon Apple," he added.

Fremaux said the streaming services with their big budgets have been creating "hybrids" that are neither TV nor film.

"Cinema [still] triumphs everywhere even in this golden age of series. The history of cinema and the history of

things could not materialise. The "Shahid" director, how-

ever, is happy to adapt the book for the digital platform.

its destiny. With our newspa-pers screaming scam every

single day, I think the time for telling these stories was just right. When Sameer and I

met to discuss what we could

do together and he offered this subject to me I had to

say yes! I have a lot of respect

for Sameer and his knack of choosing content that is rele-

vant and has the potential for

mass viewership. I'm look-ing forward to bringing this

thrilling drama to life," Han-

The first season of the se

ries will feature the story of

Indian stockbroker, Harshad Mehta, who was charged with

numerous financial crimes

that took place in 1992. The

makers are yet to finalise the

As is takes two years of ani-

nation work on the film, for you, I would not expect to see

it for about three years. But Peter will stick to it. 'Tintin' is not dead!" Spielberg said

in an interview with French

magazine Premiere.
"Adventures of Tintin"
comics, created by cartoonist Georges Remi in 1929,

are some of the most popular stories in comic book history and follow one of the most

beloved comic book charac-

sal said

TINTIN IS NOT DEAD: STEVEN SPIELBERG

"I believe every story has

the internet are two different things, Fremaux said.

The Cannes Film Festival will be

held from 08-19 May with Australian actress Cate Blanchett, 48, as jury president.

Hansal Mehta to make

directorial debut on digital

platform with 'The Scam'

Filmmaker Hansal Mehta is set to make his direc-

torial debut on digital plat-form with "The Scam", based on India's biggest securities

scams of 1992. The web series, produced by Applause Entertainment, is based on

the book of the same name by

Sucheta Dalal and Debashish

"Telling the story of the individuals behind India's

biggest financial scams will

make for some riveting viewing. The collaboration

with Hansal came as a hap-

py surprise. Hansal Mehta is one of the finest directors

we have in the country and

we couldn't have thought of a better person than him to direct and lead this financial

drama," Sameer Nair, CEO, Applause Entertainment,

the book and wanted to make

a film on the subject but

Hansal said he has read

said in a statement.

has revealed that

"Tintin 2" is still in works, but will not release any

time soon. The 71-year-old film-

maker helmed the

first instalment "The Adventures of Tintin" in 2011. Peter

Jackson was to take on direc-

torial duties for an upcoming However, since the first

animated movie came out in, news of the sequel had been

quiet but now Spielberg has confirmed that Jackson "has to do the second part".

the second part. Normally, if all goes well, he will soon

start working on the script.

"Peter Jackson has to do

Gal Gadot teases Ryan Reynolds for stealing Wonder Woman pose! reception in the polarizing

Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice, Gadot's Wonder

Woman became the DCEU's

first unqualified success in her debut solo outing, as the

Patty Jenkins-helmed film

conquered the box office and was met with the sort

of critical raves that have been elusive for the nascent shared universe. The much

more shocking success was Deadpool, the R-rated, fourth wall smashing Ryan Reyn-

olds anti-hero film that made a mountain of money and became something of an un-

likely signature character for Fox's X-Men film franchise.

Wonder Woman and

Deadpool may not seem like they have a lot in common

on the surface, but there are

some interesting parallels. For one, they're both unlikely

faces of their respective fran-

chises. After Man of Steel, Batman V Superman, and

Justice League proved to be

lukewarm endeavors, Won-der Woman's status as DC's

only full-fledged cinematic success has currently elevat-ed her above both Batman

and Superman in the public consciousness. And while the mainline X-Men films have

largely run out of gas, offbeat projects like Deadpool, Logan, and The New Mutants

have arguably made Fox the most innovative superhero film producer at the moment

- though the upcoming merg-er with Disney may curtail

Wonder Woman and Deadpool were also both films that their respective

studios had relatively low expectations for; Wonder Woman boasted the lowest

production budget of any DCEU film, and Deadpool

infamously had its budget

some of that innovation.

Gadot took to Twitter to claim the pose poster as her

trolling his friends - none more so than his wife Blake Lively. He makes a loving jab at her during the trailer for the new movie, poking fun at her role in movie Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants.
"But if you want to fight

for what's right, sometimes you have to fight dirty," Dead-pool [Reynolds] says toward the end of the trailer. "And that is why Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants is pure pornography. It lives up to the hype, plus-plus," Deadpool also says in the trailer, re-ferring to Sisterhood. "Why

With the obvious excep tion of Black Panther, no two superheroes have had a better couple of years than Won-der Woman and Deadpool. After debuting to a favorable

vourself Your mate will

slashed at the last minute.

Nobody's underestimating either hero now. Deadpool 2 figures to be one of the biggest films of the year, and Wonder Woman 2 is gearing up for production soon, with Kristen Wiig joining the cast as the villain Cheetah. It's nice that Reynolds and Gadot can share a moment of public admiration as their characters continue their unlikely dominance of the superhero film world.

Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot is poking some fun at one of her Marvel big screen rivals, Deadpool, who seems to be copping one of the Amazon warrior's signature poses in the new Deadpool 2 trailer.

The first full-fledged,

mindblowing, mouthy trailer of Deadpool 2 surfaced a few days ago. Fans had been contemplating it since the movie went on the floors, but the two-and-a-half minutes footage finally revealed the inception of X-Force in the franchise. Deadpool, played by Ryan Reynolds, introduces us to the team's name by mak-ing an 'X' with his arms. Domino, played by Zazie Beetz, retorts, by calling it a "little derivative." Well, Zazie is not the only one accusing it of do-ing so. DC frontrunner, star of Wonder Woman, Gal Gadot, also called the dude out.

In a funny Twitter banter, Gal accused Ryan of stealing her move. This comes as a surprise as Deadpool belongs to the Marvel world, while Wonder Woman has been the most successful film for DCEU.

own, writing "Dude stole my look!"

Reynolds was quick to respond, replying "Imitation is the sincerest form of larceny." Reynolds is known for

would they [make a third movie]? Stop at two. You killed it."

finalize a new budget and write a proposal as well? Enlist the help of others if you can. If you can't, simply do the best you can without sacrificing time can without sacrificing time with your family and loved ones. Ultimately, Aquarius, the latter is more important.

PISCES: You've been extremely busy these past few months,

office, then going out with friends late at night. This sort of behavior is known as "burning the candle at both ends," and it rarely has a happy ending, Pisces. You need to take some quiet time, ideally with someone special. It's likely that your romantic partner misses you and would jump at the opportunity to spend an intimate evening with you.



Aries. You may be distracted with thoughts of the homeless with thoughts of the nomeless person you saw today, or the television special you saw on babies with AIDS. You may be reflecting on your connection to and responsibilities toward humanity. Why don't you put aside a little time or money for the charity of your choice? If you're feeling these urges, don't hesitate to act on them!

TAURUS: You may be asked to swallow your pride and give in to someone else's will today, Taurus. This will be difficult for you to do. Try to concentrate your good reasons for obedience, and work out your

walk. Expect to receive some welcome news from another source, which will also help calm you down. Relax with a group of supportive friends tonight.

GEMINI: The planetary energy makes this a good day for contemplation rather than action, Gemini. If you feel the urge to buy, don't. Sleep on decisions. If you feel the same tomorrow, go for it. If you're in the middle of a conflict at work, try not to take sides. Tell anyone who asks your opinion that you need time to think about it. Consider scheduling an hour of meditation. The word for today is

CANCER: Passion and romance are in the air, Cancer, so make the most of the great atmosphere! Everyone seems

feel close to others and feel orofound gratitude for the oved ones in your life. Consider leaving work early to go home to snuggle up close with your special someone. Be sure to be

special someone. Be sure to be extra open about sharing your feelings today. **LEO:** You may receive some upsetting news from a family member today, Leo. It could have you reeling for a moment, but when you take the time to think about it some more you'll realize that things aren't as troubling as they first seemed. Be sure to get all the facts before taking any action. You want to be sure to do what's right in this situation.

VIRGO: You must weigh your

physical limitations with your frustration by taking a brisk to be in a festive mood. You desire to get everything done,

Virgo. You run the risk of wearing yourself out and getting sick just as you finish your tasks. Enlist the help of others, if you can, for all those chores and errands that absolutely need to be done. You should definitely leave anything that can wait. Your health needs to come first! LIBRA: Today you could realize that a friend is actually your soul mate, Libra. You've been spending a lot of time together attending social events, and you've come to realize how much you look forward to each other's company. Your new level. other's company. Your new level of affection seems obvious, but it would be a good idea to put it into words. If you can't screw up the courage to do so, express ur thoughts with a gift

SCORPIO: You may feel at odds to indulge this passionate side

ters Tintin. with the rest of the world now, Scorpio, as you yearn for some quiet time alone. See if you can find a balance between

be feeling especially tuned in to be teining especially tuned in to the feelings of others. Romance is very much on your mind, as are all things sensual. If you're shopping for clothes, you'll likely be drawn to rich and luxurious fabrics. Don't hesitate

spending time with your family and time alone. If you set the alarm to wake you early, you can enjoy the peace and quiet of dawn. If you aren't an early riser, you can always sequester yourself in the library for a few

SAGITTARIUS: You have a warm and sensitive nature, Sagittarius, and today you could

likely be quite appreciative!

CAPRICORN: This may be a tricky day, Capricorn, as you feel the pull of conflicting demands and desires. On the demands and desires. On the one hand, you feel obligated to your career and fulfilling the demands of your employer. On the other, your loved ones miss you and would like to have you around more. There's no easy answer, although you might want to consider ways to delegate more work so you

AQUARIUS: It doesn't seem fair that your workload has increased these last few days. Never mind that you still have all of your normal tasks to do, your boss expects you to

can spend more time with your

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