



Summit **TIMES**

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Lal Bazaar partially stocked, but tomatoes completely missing

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

It has been six days since the ban on import of non-organic vegetables came into force and stalls at Lal Bazaar are yet to be fully stocked. Today, only the organic market in the bazaar had proper vegetable supplies while other stalls had the permitted non-organic produce and a few organic ones. Absolutely absent from the bazaar, both the organic market and other stalls, were tomatoes while green chillies were also in short supply.

All Sikkim Trader's Association [ASTA] vice president, Lakpa Sherpa said today that they will wait till Sunday for arrangements to be made, after which they will start bringing in supplies, even if it is non-organic.

Members of Sikkim Chamber of Commerce



[SCC] and ASTA inspected the vegetable market in Lal Bazaar this afternoon and enquired about the availability of vegetables with sellers and wholesalers of vegetables.

Mr Sherpa stated that there was not enough supply of vegetables to every shop in the mar-

ket. He added that sellers brought some supply of vegetables from villages today but there is limited option for consumers.

"As SIMFED has the responsibility to supply organic vegetables in the market which it has not been able to do, so SIMFED should give us in

writing that it cannot arrange for proper supplies so that we can make our own arrangements," Mr Sherpa said.

SCC general secretary, Kailash Agarwal stated that the aim of the inspection was to assess the market situation and to know the problems

and issues that vegetable shops are facing so that they can be resolved.

During the inspection they found that the vegetable shops are partially stocked and there are limited choices for buyers, he said further adding that tomatoes, green chillies, cucumber and some other items are not available in the market.

Mr Agarwal said that there is a lack of proper coordination between the traders and the government. Prior to enforcing the ban, the government should have held a meeting with the traders and found out about demand and supply of vegetables in the market in order to make adequate arrangements. He went on to add that the government should immediately hold a meeting with all concerned stakeholders on the present situation.



North DAC officials inspect Mangan Lal Bazaar

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 06 APR:**

District Collector [North], Karma R Bonpo, along with officials from Horticulture and Agriculture Departments, representatives of Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Assistant Superintendent Police [North] and Block Development Officer [Mangan] today inspected Mangan Lal Bazar to take stock of the quantity of vegetables available in the market.

In light of the ban on import and sale of non-organic vegetables, the DC gave vendors here two days time to sell the remaining stock of non-organic vegetables.

Meanwhile, Horticulture Department had brought in supplies of cauliflower and carrots from Thingchim in an effort to meet the requirement of vegetables.

Vegetable shops at Dikchu were also supplied with organic produce from Lum in Dzongu.

Is the word 'chinki' notified as casteist remark in law: HC asks CBI

NEW DELHI, APR 6 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court today asked the CBI to ascertain whether 'chinki', a derogatory term used against those from the Northeast, has been notified as a casteist remark in the law on scheduled castes and tribes.

Justice Anu Malhotra tasked the CBI to find out whether any such notification has been issued, after it was informed by a counsel that as per a RTI response, no such notification has been ever issued by any public authority.

"CBI may ascertain the said aspect and also if any notification was issued in this regard at any stage. Also check if it is retrospective," the court said.

The issue cropped up during the hearing of two pleas by the CBI and the father of northeast student Nido Tania, who was killed in 2014 after being allegedly beaten up by some persons at Lajpat Nagar in South Delhi, challenging a trial court's decision to drop the charges under the SC/ST Act against the accused.

During the hearing, CBI prosecutor Rajdipa Behura said as per the statement of eye witness, the accused had used casteist words including, "chinki", to call the victim.

When the court sought to know if there

Cow dung on sale at Rs 20 per KG

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

A group of individuals from Mangan and Gangtok have come forward with an initiative to sell packaged cow dung/manure to people living in urban areas. The group sells cow dung in packets of 1 kg at Rs 20 each.

It is informed that the members of the group visit rural areas of North Sikkim near Mangan and buy cow dung from the farmers there. The cow dung is filled in packets and labelled for sale. The group distributes the packets at various shops along the North Sikkim highway and at different locations of Gangtok.



"We do not simply collect cow dung and dump them into packets. The cow dung is cleaned and dried. We mix cow urine in the cow dung and neatly pack them in the packets.

Nothing else is mixed. The cow dung packets are then sent to shops in Gangtok. We started this initiative earlier this year in Jan and is in its early phase. We collect and send the packaged

cow dung to shops as per their demand. Sometimes the shops want 50-60 packets per day and some days, they do not place any orders," said a member of the group, BR Khatiwara.

He further informed that the packaged cow dung can be used for terrace farming and home gardening purposes as well.

"People living in urban areas have difficulty getting cow dung for gardening and farming purposes. This initiative of ours will ease their problem in many ways. Additionally, the farmers also get an opportunity to earn," he added.

The packaged cow dung is sold under the brand name, "Cow Manure from the Farms of Sikkim". Interested buyers can contact the group at 8670552465/9593271335.

ON pg05-06



The Mechhi dance ritual performed in worship of the Teesta's waters at Jalpesh Temple in Jalpaiguri

Ufirst
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(Institution for Learning Music)

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Tryst with the Teesta

spotlight

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South DAC to conduct job mela at CCCT

NAMCHI, 06 APR [IPR]: South District Administration is conducting a job fair at Centre For Computers & Communication Technology [CCCT] Chisopani, South Sikkim, on 10 Apr from 09:30 a.m. onwards, a press release from District Collector [South] informs.

The release further reads that the job mela is especially aimed for candidates with Class XII pass certificates to avail jobs at different private companies in different sectors.

The companies include GK Burman Pet & Fragrances Maneydara, Mankind Pharma Limited, Godrej Consumer Products, ESVEGEE, Manpur, Yuksom Breweries, Melli, ICPA Bhrikhola, Zydus Wellness, Cachet Pharmaceuticals, MARC Life Sciences, AU-ROCHEM Laboratories, Swiss Garnier, M/S Salas Pharmaceuticals Private Limited, Mayfair and AK-LEM Health Sciences.

SKM concludes Jan Chetna Yatra in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 APR: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a meeting at its West District party office on Friday. The main objective of the meeting was to conclude the Jan Chetna Yatra of the party's press & publicity and social media cell for West District, informs an SKM press release.

The team appointed 51 members as constituency-level secretaries and 6 members as secretaries for the cell's district-level body and provided brief training to them. SKM working president, MP Subba congratulated the team and encouraged them to continue with their work to strengthen the party, the release informs.

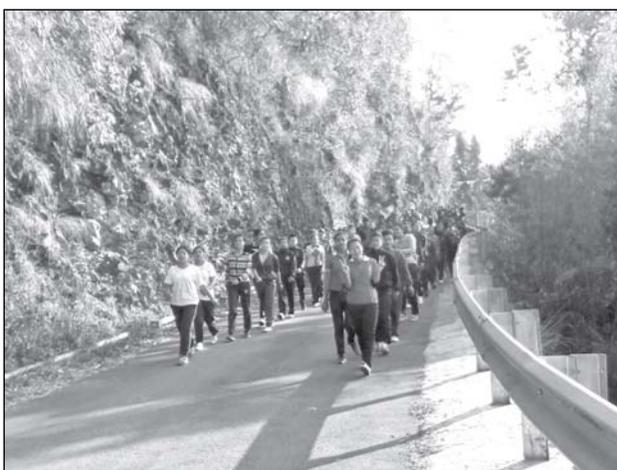
The meeting thoroughly discussed various future programmes of the party and the May Day celebration in South district. The release also mentions that SDF members, Meera Darjee from 13th Mile under Gyalshing-Bermiok constituency and Aitaman Subba and SR Subba from Tesenthang under Yangthang constituency joined SKM during the meeting.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 APR:

Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI], Sikkim organised its 17th off-site camp at Indian Himalayan Center for Adventure & Eco Tourism [IHCAE], Chemchey for four days from 02 Apr to 05 Apr, a press release informs.

The camp was attended by 115 students from Hee-Yangthang Senior Secondary School, Dentam Senior Secondary School, Darap Senior Secondary School, Tharpu Senior Secondary School, Tashiding Senior Secondary School, Yuksom Senior Secondary School, Khecheuperi Senior Sec-



ondary School, Nandugaon Senior Secondary School, Sumbuk Senior Secondary School, Sang Senior Secondary School and Bermiok Tokal Senior Secondary Schools accompanied by their teacher co-ordinators.

The release further reads that sessions on life skills, physical activities, medical and legal aspects of drug abuse and counselling were conducted by the SAATHI team.

The resource persons of the camp were Psychologist from Namchi District Hospital, Reshma Subba, Rabin Rai from Freedom Rehabilitation, Gangtok, SAATHI member, Saran Rai, Sub-Inspector [Namchi], Joy Gurung and SAATHI teacher coordinator of Sang Senior Secondary School, Gyaltsen Sherpa.

Team building exercises, experience sharing sessions by students, fun activities were also part of the four-day camp.

GPU level trng on Organic Certification at Sumin Lingzey

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 APR:

International Panaacea Limited [IPL], a Service Provider Agency under Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim, organized a Gram Panchayat Unit level training on Internal Control System [ICS] for Organic Certification and organic vegetable production at Sumin Lingzey under Duga BAC in East Pendam, a press release informs.

Zilla Panchayat, Kumari Chettri, attended the programme as chief guest in the presence of Agriculture Inspector, FS & ADD, Sangita Basnet, Panchayat president, Chuki Sherpa, vice president, Pramila Chettri, Panchayat members, Kalpana Chettri, Sancha Bahadur Rai and Karma Chopel Bhutia, along with IPL field functionaries and 90 farmers.

Agriculture Inspector, Ms Basnet, informed about the different types of schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichi Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana. She also emphasized on Mission Organic Value



Chain Development [MOVCD] and Crop Insurance for the farmers' community.

Block In-Charge, IPL, Pushpa Lal Dahal, mentioned about the standard of Organic Certification and mandates for ICS such as Aadhaar Card Number and Bank Account of each farmer to be recorded in the documentation.

Field functionaries from IPL, KN Dahal and Prakash Cintury,

demonstrated the use of Beejamrit for seed treatment and Jeevamrit for soil fertility management.

Panchayat president, Ms Sherpa, urged the participants to follow the policy and methods of organic farming practices in the villages while extending gratitude to the state government and the concerned agency for offering help to the farmers. Zilla Panchayat, Ms Chettri,

while addressing the farmers, said, "Fresh vegetables and fruits are in high demand at present. Farmers should grow in large quantity to live up to the demand."

She also requested to the farmers of Sumin Lingzey to come forward to improve their socio-economic condition by growing and selling vegetables, fruits and other crops from the area.

India at CWG: Lifters continue medal-winning run; shuttlers, boxers unbeaten

GOLD COAST, APR 6 (PTI):

There was no stopping the Indian weightlifting juggernaut with Sanjita Chanu and Deepak Lather adding a gold and bronze to the team's tally, while the shuttlers and boxers continued to be unbeaten on the second day of the 21st Commonwealth Games here today.

If Mirabai Chanu was the toast of the nation yesterday, it was the turn of Sanjita Chanu to hog the limelight today, claiming a gold and a Games' snatch record in the 53kg category.

The diminutive Manipuri lifted a total of 192kg (84kg+108kg) to claim the gold and broke down in tears on the podium.

Ensuring that the men also had a share in the day's exploits, Lather became the youngest Indian weightlifter to claim a CWG medal with his bronze in the 69kg category.

While Lather had luck on his side as his nearest rival fouled the all-important final clean and jerk lift, Chanu had her fortitude to thank as she claimed her second successive CWG gold despite nursing a nagging back problem here.

The contrast couldn't have been more striking between the two Indians.



While Chanu broke down in tears when she was presented her medal, Lather was grinning ear to ear and in mild disbelief at his good fortune.

"I was just sitting inside and hoping the Samoan would fail his attempt. I know it's bad to wish ill for someone but I couldn't help it," Lather said breaking into a laughter after the medal ceremony.

The only disappointment in the weightlifting arena was Saraswati Rout in the women's 58kg category. She failed to complete a single valid lift in the snatch section and was disqualified from clean and jerk as a result.

There were several other good results to celebrate for India though, a prominent one being the women's hockey team bringing its campaign

back on track with a 4-1 thrashing of Malaysia.

The triumph helped the side recover from the shocking 2-3 loss to a lower-ranked Wales in the tournament-opener.

The Indians continued to be the big bullies of the badminton court, dismantling Scotland today to top their mixed team event group and advance to the quarter-finals.

Saina Nehwal was in rampaging form and took down Julie Macpherson in just 36 minutes during the mostly one-sided contest which India won 5-0.

"I think that these wins in the tournament are important because they give us confidence moving forward," said K Srikanth, who defeated Kieran Merrilees in straight games during the rubber.

In the boxing ring, CWG debutants Amit Panghal (49kg) and Naman Tanwar (91kg) were hardly pushed as they recorded unanimous victories to enter the last-eight stage.

On the squash court, Joshua Chinnappa entered the quarterfinals with a 3-0 win over Australia's Tamika Saxby.

The day was, however, not without its fair share of disappointments, a big win among them being Dipika Pallikal in the women's singles squash competition. She went down to England's Alison Waters 0-3 in her pre-quarterfinal match.

Former Asian gold-medallist Deborah Herold made the final heat of the women's sprint event in cycling but lost to Australian Kaarle McCulloch to bow out of medal contention.

Rastriya Kavi Sangam to hold poetry recital event in Guwahati

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 APR:

Rastriya Kavi Sangam [RKS], Guwahati, will be organising daylong Zonal level poetry recital competition in Guwahati on 08 Apr in the presence of Governor of Meghalaya, Ganga Prasad, as chief guest, a press release informs.

The literary programme is being organised for the students of North Eastern States which will have the participation of 15 NE students including one from Sikkim.

Top three poets will

be awarded with cash prize of Rs 5100, Rs 3100 and Rs 2100 respectively along with certificates while the other participants will be receiving cash prize of Rs 500 along with certificates.

Rastriya Kavi Sangam, State president [Assam], Chandra Prakash Poddar, has informed that the programme will be divided into two stages. The poetry recital competition will be held during the first stage followed by handing over of souvenirs by the chief guest in the second stage.



BJP celebrates 38th foundation day in Singtam

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 06 APR:

The Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit celebrated the party's 38th foundation day here at Singtam bazaar with of party supporters from across the state in attendance.

The party's foundation day celebration was also attended by Rajnish Kumar Singh, the BJP in-charge for Sikkim, accompanied by the Sikkim unit president DB Chauhan and other senior members and party.

Speakers at the event lashed out against the State Government and contended that the Sikkimese were being kept

away from real opportunities, rights and facilities many of which were being sent here by the Centre.

Mr Singh, in his address, listed out the party's pan-Indian vision and assured that the BJP leadership and the Government at the Centre were working to provide Limboo-Tamang seat reservation.

What the event lacked in numbers, the speakers made up with their aggressive string of allegations against the State Government, making special mention of the manner in which the ban on non-organic produce from outside the State was being implemented.

Is the word 'chinkii' notified as casteist remark in law: HC asks CBI

Contd from pg01

was any notification of this word under the SC/SC (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the counsel for the accused said as per a RTI reply given to him, there was no such notification.

The high court had in January 2015, sought the response of four adult accused Farman, Pawan, Sundar Singh and Sunny Uppal on Tania's father Nido Pavitra's plea against the trial court order. The CBI has also filed a similar petition in the matter.

While Farman is in jail, the other three accused are out on bail and the trial is at the concluding stage.

The plea filed by Pavitra, a Congress MLA from Arunachal Pradesh, has sought quashing of the September 25, 2014, order of the sessions court which had held that no charge could be framed against the accused under the relevant provi-

sions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

It had said the trial court had adopted wrong interpretation of the law and had refused to frame charges against the accused under the provisions of SC/ST Act despite the fact that the entire assault, which resulted in the untimely demise of a young man, was unequivocally and clearly motivated by the accused perceiving him as belonging to Scheduled Tribe.

19-year-old Tania, a BA first year student of a private university here, had an altercation with some shopkeepers at the Lajpat Nagar market on January 29, 2014, after they made fun of his hair style. Following the altercation, the shopkeepers had allegedly thrashed him. He was brought dead to AIIMS the next day.

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Gangtok on Saturday, 07 Apr
 Temp: 23°C / 10°C
 Forecast: Mostly cloudy with a thundershower in spots.
 Sunrise: 05:20 AM
 Sunset: 5:56 PM

SMU's inaugural Employees Sports Meet wraps up

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 APR:

The First Annual Employees Sports Meet of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), which had kicked off on 01 Feb, officially wrapped up on 31 March, a press release from the university informs.

The two month-long sports meet was held simultaneously at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) and Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) campuses.

The release informs that the sports meet had a variety of events like cricket, futsal, table tennis and badminton.

The staff nurses from Central Referral Hospital, Tadong, 'Nursing Challengers', lifted the cricket cup while 'Doctors XI' lifted the futsal cup.

The valedictory function was attended by SMU Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General Dr MD Venkatesh, accompanied by SMIT Director, Professor Dr Ashis Sharma, CRH Medical Superintendent, Dr Gautam Dey and SMU Human Resource Head, M.S Sridhar.

The Employees Sports Meet 2018 aimed to stimulate and foster a spirit of sportsmanship, leadership development and team building among the employees of Sikkim Manipal University and its constituent units, reads the release.



The valedictory function was attended by SMU Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General Dr MD Venkatesh, accompanied by SMIT Director, Professor Dr Ashis Sharma, CRH Medical Superintendent, Dr Gautam Dey and SMU Human Resource Head, M.S Sridhar. The Employees Sports Meet 2018 aimed to stimulate and foster a spirit of sportsmanship, leadership development and team building among the employees of Sikkim Manipal University and its constituent units, reads the release.

JNU reservation policy: JNUSU members hold protest, meet social justice minister

NEW DELHI, APR 6 (PTI): Members of JNUSU today protested outside the social justice ministry against the alleged violation of the reservation policy in admissions by the varsity administration.

A JNUSU delegation later submitted a memorandum to Union Social Justice Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot highlighting the issue.

"We have submitted a memorandum to the minister and apprised him of the issue," JNUSU Joint Secretary Shubhanshu Singh said.

"He assured us of action. We also raised the issue of the death of a Dalit student at Mizoram University and submitted a memorandum in this regard," he said.

Flagging alleged "tampering" of the reservation policy in admissions by the JNU administration, the university students' union had two days ago petitioned the Lok Sabha seeking its intervention to restore the benefits awarded to students belonging to backward castes.

Panchayat poll violence: 'Democracy is being murdered in WB', BJP tells SC

NEW DELHI, APR 6 (PTI): The BJP today told the Supreme Court that "democracy is being murdered" in West Bengal as ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) is engaged in large scale poll violence and not allowing its candidates to file nomination for the upcoming panchayat polls.

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party sought availability of nomination papers online, extension of the last date of filing these papers and deployment of paramilitary forces in the state in the run up to the polls scheduled in the first week of May.

A bench of Justices R K Agrawal and A M Sare, which reserved its verdict for April 9, was told by the BJP that even the Congress, which is also aggrieved, has approached the Calcutta High Court for similar relief.

"This is the question of democracy. Even if I

have not approached the High Court, I can come directly to the Supreme Court because it is a question of democracy. Actually, democracy is being murdered in West Bengal," senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for BJP, said on being questioned by the bench on why he did not approach the high court.

He said that party candidates were not getting the nomination papers for the panchayat elections, a fact that could be established from the data of election commission which showed that nominations filed by TMC candidates so far was more than the Left parties, BJP or the Congress.

"Ruling party is engaged in large scale poll violence. We are not getting nomination papers. I have videos which show the violence at many places. Parties (BJP and Congress) who are arch rivals, are aggrieved and seeking

the same remedy. I must say that this is a troubled state," Rohatgi said.

The senior lawyer tried to justify why he did not approach the high court, saying the work was paralysed there as lawyers were on strike from February 19 and advocates going to the court were being manhandled.

He said West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had appeared in person before the high court today, as the matter was being heard in the apex court seeking relief to allow Congress candidates to file nomination papers and setting aside of the poll notification.

"The last date for filing of nomination papers should be extended by couple of days and the only solution to avoid the physical ruckus is to make the nomination papers available online and ask Union of India to

deploy the paramilitary forces in the state," Rohatgi said.

Senior advocate P S Patwalia, also appearing for the saffron party leaders, said they do not want the elections to be cancelled but were seeking extension of the date of filing of nominations. "The date should be extended as there is large scale violence and democracy is being throttled," he said.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the central government could deploy paramilitary forces if there was a requisition from the State Election Commission or a direction from the court.

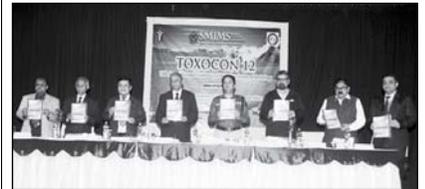
Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for West Bengal, said the BJP's petition was based on a wrong premise as there are several districts in which BJP candidates have filed more nomination papers than the ruling Trinamool Congress.

He said that he did not want to go into the allegation of poll violence "as we know which party has no ground in the state and who wants to foment violence there".

"They just want a court order to make a splash in the media which would make the entire West Bengal go disarray. They have not made a single specific averment as to where the candidates were denied nomination papers or denied them," he said.

Singhvi said the BJP counsel has "hit a self goal" as the data he gave to the court also says that in Midnapore, Jhargram and Purulia, their candidates have filed more nominations than the TMC candidates.

"Till now 28 FIRs have been filed in the state for sporadic violence. Who is fomenting trouble? You do it and then ask for paramilitary troops in the apex court", said Singhvi, who was recently elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal with TMC support.



National Conference of Indian Society of Toxicology begins at SMIMS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 APR:

The 12th Annual National Conference of Indian Society of Toxicology, "TOXOCON-12", organised by the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) in collaboration with STNM Hospital commenced here at the SMIMS auditorium today.

An SMU press release informs that the two-day long conference will be attended by 120 delegates from over 20 States comprising of experts of national and international repute.

The theme of the conference "Hugs not Drugs" has been chosen keeping in view the rising cases of substance abuse in the State of Sikkim and other parts of India.

Vice Chancellor, SMU, Lieutenant General [Dr] MD Venkatesh, was the chief guest for the inaugural function.

In his address, he highlighted on the damage to the physical, psychological, moral and intellectual growth of the youth due to substance abuse and called for the society to be vigilant and support the efforts of NGOs and government agencies in curbing the problem.

Additional Director

General of Police [Law & Order], Akshay Sachdeva, who attended the event as guest of honour, spoke about substance abuse from a policeman's perspective and focused on the stringent implementation of SADA.

Officiating Dean, SMIMS, Dr T Shantikumar Singh, felicitated the dignitaries.

Eminent Toxicologist and Treasurer, Indian Society of Toxicology [IST], Professor [Dr] VV Pillay, announced that the Indian Society of Toxicology Life Support Course [ISTOLS], a pioneering programme for practical clinical toxicology training for healthcare professionals in the management of patients exposed to poisons, toxins, chemicals and drug overdoses with bedside simulation training, is scheduled to be held on 07 Apr at Central Referral Hospital in Tadong.

Registrar, SMU, Prof Dr Karma Sonam Sherpa, Medical Superintendent, CRH, Dr Gautam Dey, and Medical Superintendent, STNM Hospital, Dr KB Gurung, and Registrar, Sikkim Medical Council, Dr CS Sharma, were also present on the inaugural function. A souvenir on the Conference Proceedings was also released by the dignitaries on the occasion.

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Bringing market to farmer imperative for success of Organic Sikkim

GAURAV SUBBA

For positively employing organic farming practices, Sikkim became India's first totally organic state in 2016. Organic farming means farming free of chemical inputs and this means it will completely rely on traditional skills. As a result in the long term, organic farming leads to sustainable agriculture, bio-diversity protection and environmental security. It will advance soil healthiness for sustainable abundance in crop production.

According to the definition of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) study team on organic farming, "organic farming is a system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic inputs (such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, feed additives etc.) And to the maximum extent rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection". (http://agritech.tnau.ac.in/org_farm/orgfarm_introduction.html). Of course we cannot deny

the health benefits of organic farming, as organic food leads to better health through reduction of pesticide exposure for all and increased nutritional quality. In order to comprehend the significance of eating organic food from the viewpoint of toxic pesticide contagion, we need to look at the entire picture—from the harvesters who do the esteemed work of producing food, to the water-ways from which we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat. Organic food can nourish us and keep us healthy without producing the toxic effects of chemical agriculture. (https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/organic-agriculture/why-organic/health-benefits)

Many scientists argue that the various benefits of organic farming for small farmers all over the world include a high premium, low capital investment, the ability to achieve higher premiums in the market, and the ability to use traditional knowledge. Though the benefits of Organic Farming for small farmers indicates the price of organic food being high-

er than conventional food and requiring less capital investment than chemical farming, farmers having the advantage of the possibility of making use of the traditional knowledge but also face limitations like organic farming being very labor intensive and more seriously, marketing organic produce may be challenging for a small farmer. Since the volume of organic food production is low it is very difficult to implement social security measures, such as a minimum support price.

When it comes to making Sikkim a totally organic state we should appreciate the state's good faith and its effort to provide farmers with opportunities for practicing organic farming; However, with reference to the 'Market' - this market is not very well known to most farmers, especially those living in the villages. Furthermore, info about it is not readily available to cultivators in the villages. (https://www.organicfacts.net/organic-farming-small-farmers.html)

If ignored, the deficiency of adequate technical and market

info, and economic support will be a huge impediment in Sikkim emerging as a totally organic state. So spreading awareness about the opportunities and challenges for Sikkim's organic products in the domestic and international market is of primary concern for continued progress of the organic agriculture program in this state.

Therefore, how is the state going to bring awareness to the farmers about market opportunities so that they are able to earn the benefits of organic farming? At the same time, the relationship of producer, distributor, seller and consumer, cannot/should not be ignored. Equally important in making the state 'Organic' and successful, is the freedom of choice of the seller & consumer. In the era of globalization and especially where every country has shifted towards liberal market there should not be monopoly over market by the state. But the state should invest in new kind of policies and technologies that will actually influence organic Sikkim.

[The writer is a Ph. D. Research Scholar from Sribadam, West Sikkim]



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 No: 14/SPSC/Exam/2018 Dated: 05/04/2018

NOTICE

In continuation to SPSC Advertisement Notice No. 01/SPSC/Exam/2018 dated 16.01.2018 inviting application from eligible local candidates for filling up of 47 (Forty Seven) posts of General Duty Medical Officer (Junior Grade) on temporary regular basis in the PB-2 of Rs. 9300-34800 plus Grade Pay of Rs. 5000/- under the Sikkim State Health Service through direct recruitment and now consequent upon enhancement of the upper age limit beyond 40 years and fixed to 45 years for General Duty Medical Officer (GDMO), Dental Surgeon and Specialists for recruitment under the Sikkim State Health Service including Medical Officer (AYUSH) under Health Care, Human Service and Family Welfare Department by the State Government for a period of 02 (two) recruitment years vide Notification No. 3/GEN/DOP dated 03/04/2018, the Commission hereby is pleased to extend the last date of submission of application for the post of General Duty Medical Officer (Junior Grade) w.e.f. 05.04.2018 to 11.04.2018 midnight through Online mode who have not crossed the upper age limit of 45 years as on 03.04.2018.

The Schedule of written examination notified vide Notice No. 08/SPSC/Exam/2018 dated: 13.03.2018 and other conditions shall remain unchanged. Eligible candidates may visit official website of the Commission @ www.spscsmk.gov.in for further information & submission of application through Online mode.

Sd/-
(BIMLA RAI)
 CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATION
 SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 R.O. No: 10/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 Date: 06/04/2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

This is not How You Do It *There was clearly no plan beyond the ban*

Even though Lall Bazaar stalls looked fuller today, confusion over the ban and its implications remained. A vegetable vendor complained of being harangued by customers over the high prices although, according to her, there has been no hike in prices. This, amongst many others, is an issue. It has become clear now that the department concerned was not adequately prepared for the ban. That prices are affected whenever there is any change in supply or demand is an economics basic and common knowledge. A few days ago when a Horticulture official was asked by media-persons regarding price regulation, he had said that they had not considered that so far. When there is no regulation mechanism in place, complaints over perceived or real price variations are bound to surface.

And that is only part of the problem here. Also circulating in confusion is the status of supplies. As things stand, only potatoes and onions can still be brought into the State in their non-organic version. Everything will have to locally procured. It would have been wonderful if the rest of vegetable palette was locally abundant, but it is clearly not. Take tomatoes for instance. The local tomatoes will be ready for markets earliest by May-end in farms around Gangtok. That is nearly two months away. It is a different matter for the greenhouse tomatoes, but they lack the volumes required to supply the State's demand. The Horticulture Department should have known this. If they did, then what were the alternative arrangements devised to avoid scarcity? Clearly none, because only after the wholesalers and vendors highlighted the problems of supply and the reality of shortage was a meeting convened between Horticulture Department and Sikkim State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation (SIMFED) to discuss sourcing and supply. This is inexcusable because these discussions should have been underway for months prior. Instead, Sikkim's officers have reverted to their go-to response to situations – knee-jerkism. Desperate phone calls and orders are passed down to arrange supplies for haats in different towns and villages. These markets were being well serviced all along until the Department decided to ban vegetable imports and convinced itself that all will be well.

Well, all is clearly not well. Not just tomatoes, but there is going to definitely be bone-dry shortage of green chillies as well because Sikkim just does not grow it in any market-serviceable scale. Let us even accept here that Sikkim will eventually be able to grow enough to supply local markets. That would be a wonderful situation, but this is not the route Sikkim should have taken to get there. Such shock therapy should have been resorted to only if farmers here were watching their harvests go to waste, beaten out by cheaper supplies from outside. Was that happening? One has not heard any such claims at the official level. And even then, the markets should have been sent into such a tailspin only after alternate arrangements had been made. There is no excuse for even a day's avoidable uncertainty to be imposed on consumers' who have had to make emergency purchases at usurious prices just because the concerned Department had no plan beyond the ban and absolutely no coordination or communication either. Now, a situation has been created which is still receiving only piecemeal solutions. This, when more elaborate planning and at least a full-fledged task force should have been in place long ago.

Why are Sinclair's scripted news segments such a big deal?

AMANDA LOTZ
theconversation.com

On March 31, Deadspin produced a video showing a chorus of local news anchors delivering the exact same scripted speech to viewers.

The message – denouncing media bias and fake news, calling it a problem that is “neither politically left nor right” – might seem innocuous enough.

But I study the media industry, and it really does represent a radical departure from how local television news has traditionally operated.

These news anchors all work for the same parent company, Sinclair Broadcast Group, which owns 193 local broadcast stations across the country.

You might think that your local television stations – with names like WXYZ-TV, KXAN or KMOV – are owned

by national networks like ABC or Fox. But that's often not the case; they are merely affiliated with the national network. Most are owned by companies called “station groups” that have purchased a portfolio of stations in different cities with different network affiliations.

Tribune Media, Nexstar and Tegna are examples of station groups. Sinclair is the biggest.

It was once the case that most stations were local, independently owned businesses. But during the 1970s, these individual stations started to be absorbed by station groups, which were able to take advantage of new technologies to achieve economies of scale. Instead of performing all operations at the local level at every station, they found they could save money by centralizing many

turn to 07

How Cambridge Analytica's Facebook targeting model really worked— according to the person who built it

MATTHEW HINDMAN
theconversation.com

The researcher whose work is at the center of the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data analysis and political advertising uproar has revealed that his method worked much like the one Netflix uses to recommend movies.

In an email to me, Cambridge University scholar Aleksandr Kogan explained how his statistical model processed Facebook data for Cambridge Analytica. The accuracy he claims suggests it works about as well as established voter-targeting methods based on demographics like race, age and gender.

If confirmed, Kogan's account would mean the digital modeling Cambridge Analytica used was hardly the virtual crystal ball a few have claimed. Yet the numbers Kogan provides also show what is – and isn't – actually possible by combining personal data with machine learning for political ends.

Regarding one key public concern, though, Kogan's numbers suggest that information on users' personalities or “psychographics” was just a modest part of how the model targeted citizens. It was not a personality model strictly speaking, but rather one that boiled down demographics, social influences, personality and everything else into a big correlated lump. This soak-up-all-the-correlation-and-call-it-personality approach seems to have created a valuable campaign tool, even if the product being sold wasn't quite as it was billed.

THE PROMISE OF PERSONALITY TARGETING
In the wake of the revelations that Trump campaign consultants Cambridge Analytica used data from 50 million Facebook users to target digital political advertising during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Facebook has lost billions in stock market value, governments on both sides of the Atlantic have opened investigations, and a nascent social movement is calling on users to #DeleteFacebook.

But a key question has remained unanswered: Was Cambridge Analytica really able to effectively target campaign messages to citizens based on their personality characteristics – or even their “inner demons,” as a company whistleblower alleged?

If anyone would know what Cambridge Analytica did with its massive trove of Facebook data, it would be Aleksandr Kogan and Joseph Chancellor. It was their startup Global Science Research that collected profile information from 270,000 Facebook users and tens of millions of their friends using a personality test app called “thisisyourdigitallife.”

Part of my own research focuses on understanding machine learning methods, and my forthcoming book discusses how digital firms use recommendation models to build audiences. I had a hunch about how Kogan and Chancellor's model worked.

So I emailed Kogan to ask. Kogan is still a researcher at Cambridge University; his collaborator Chancellor now works at Facebook. In a remarkable display of academic courtesy, Kogan answered.

His response requires some unpacking, and some background.

FROM THE NETFLIX PRIZE TO “PSYCHOMETRICS”

Back in 2006, when it was still a DVD-by-mail company, Netflix offered a reward of \$1 million to anyone who developed a better way to make predictions about users' movie rankings than the company already had. A surprise top competitor was an independent software developer using the pseudonym Simon Funk, whose basic approach was ultimately incorporated into all the top teams' entries. Funk adapted a technique called “singular value decomposition,” condensing users' ratings of movies into a series of factors or components – essentially a set of inferred categories, ranked by importance. As Funk explained in a blog post, “So, for instance, a category might represent action movies, with movies with a lot of action at the top, and slow movies at the bottom, and correspondingly users who like action movies at the top, and those who prefer slow movies at the bottom.”

Factors are artificial categories, which are not always like the kind of categories humans would come up with. The most important factor in Funk's early Netflix model was defined by users who loved films like “Pearl Harbor” and “The Wedding Planner” while also hating movies like “Lost in Translation” or “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.” His model showed how machine learning can find correlations among groups of people, and groups of movies, that humans themselves would never spot.

Funk's general approach used the 50 or 100 most important factors for both users and movies to make a decent guess at how every user would

rate every movie. This method, often called dimensionality reduction or matrix factorization, was not new. Political science researchers had shown that similar techniques using roll-call vote data could predict the votes of members of Congress with 90 percent accuracy. In psychology the “Big Five” model had also been used to predict behavior by clustering together personality questions that tended to be answered similarly.

Still, Funk's model was a big advance: It allowed the technique to work well with huge data sets, even those with lots of missing data – like the Netflix dataset, where a typical user rated only few dozen films out of the thousands in the company's library. More than a decade after the Netflix Prize contest ended, SVD-based methods, or related models for implicit data, are still the tool of choice for many websites to predict what users will read, watch, or buy.

These models can predict other things, too.
FACEBOOK KNOWS IF YOU ARE A REPUBLICAN
In 2013, Cambridge University researchers Michal Kosinski, David Stillwell and Thore Graepel published an article on the predictive power of Facebook data, using information gathered through an online personality test. Their initial analysis was nearly identical to that used on the Netflix Prize, using SVD to categorize both users and things they “liked” into the top 100 factors.

The paper showed that a factor model made with users' Facebook “likes” alone was 95 percent accurate at distinguishing between black and white respondents, 93 percent accurate at distinguishing men from women, and 88 percent accurate at distinguishing people who identified as gay men from men who identified as straight. It could even correctly distinguish Republicans from Democrats 85 percent of the time. It was also useful, though not as accurate, for predicting users' scores on the “Big Five” personality test. There was public outcry in response; within weeks Facebook had made users' likes private by default.

Kogan and Chancellor, also Cambridge University researchers at the time, were starting to use Facebook data for election targeting as part of a collaboration with Cambridge Analytica's parent firm SCL. Kogan invited Kosinski and Stillwell to join his project, but it didn't work out. Kosinski reportedly suspected Kogan and Chancellor might have reverse-engineered the Facebook “likes” model for Cambridge Analytica. Kogan denied this, saying his project “built all our models using our own data, collected using our own software.”

WHAT DID KOGAN AND CHANCELLOR ACTUALLY DO?

As I followed the developments in the story, it became clear Kogan and Chancellor had indeed collected plenty of their own data through the thisisyourdigitallife app. They certainly could have built a predictive SVD model like that featured in Kosinski and Stillwell's published research.

So I emailed Kogan to ask if that was what he had done. Somewhat to my surprise, he wrote back.

“We didn't exactly use SVD,” he wrote, noting that SVD can struggle when some users have many more “likes” than others. Instead, Kogan explained, “The technique was something we actually developed ourselves ... It's not something that is in the public domain.” Without going into details, Kogan described their method as “a multi-step co-occurrence approach.”

However, his message went on to confirm that his approach was indeed similar to SVD or other matrix factorization methods, like in the Netflix Prize competition, and the Kosinski-Stillwell-Graepel Facebook model. Dimensionality reduction of Facebook data was the core of his model.

HOW ACCURATE WAS IT?

Kogan suggested the exact model used doesn't matter much, though – what matters is the accuracy of

its predictions. According to Kogan, the “correlation between predicted and actual scores ... was around [30 percent] for all the personality dimensions.” By comparison, a person's previous Big Five scores are about 70 to 80 percent accurate in predicting their scores when they retake the test.

Kogan's accuracy claims cannot be independently verified, of course. And anyone in the midst of such a high-profile scandal might have incentive to understate his or her contribution. In his appearance on CNN, Kogan explained to an increasingly incredulous Anderson Cooper that, in fact, the models had actually not worked very well.

In fact, the accuracy Kogan claims seems a bit low, but plausible. Kosinski, Stillwell and Graepel reported comparable or slightly better results, as have several other academic studies using digital footprints to predict personality (though some of those studies had more data than just Facebook “likes”). It is surprising that Kogan and Chancellor would go to the trouble of designing their own proprietary model if off-the-shelf solutions would seem to be just as accurate.

Importantly, though, the model's accuracy on personality scores allows comparisons of Kogan's results with other research. Published models with equivalent accuracy in predicting personality are all much more accurate at guessing demographics and political variables.

For instance, the similar Kosinski-Stillwell-Graepel SVD model was 85 percent accurate in guessing party affiliation, even without using any profile information other than likes. Kogan's model had similar or better accuracy. Adding even a small amount of information about friends or users' demographics would likely boost this accuracy above 90 percent. Guesses about gender, race, sexual orientation and other characteristics would probably be more than 90 percent accurate too.

Critically, these guesses would be especially good for the most active Facebook users – the people the model was primarily used to target. Users with less activity to analyze are likely not on Facebook much anyway.

WHEN PSYCHOGRAPHICS IS MOSTLY DEMOGRAPHICS

Knowing how the model is built helps explain Cambridge Analytica's apparently contradictory statements about the role – or lack thereof – that personality profiling and psychographics played in its modeling. They're all technically consistent with what Kogan describes.

A model like Kogan's would give estimates for every variable available on any group of users. That means it would automatically estimate the Big Five personality scores for every voter. But these personality scores are the output of the model, not the input. All the model knows is that certain Facebook likes, and certain users, tend to be grouped together.

With this model, Cambridge Analytica could say that it was identifying people with low openness to experience and high neuroticism. But the same model, with the exact same predictions for every user, could just as accurately claim to be identifying less educated older Republican men.

Kogan's information also helps clarify the confusion about whether Cambridge Analytica actually deleted its trove of Facebook data, when models built from the data seem to still be circulating, and even being developed further.

The whole point of a dimension reduction model is to mathematically represent the data in simpler form. It's as if Cambridge Analytica took a very high-resolution photograph, resized it to be smaller, and then deleted the original. The photo still exists – and as long as Cambridge Analytica's models exist, the data effectively does too.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University]





A tryst WITH THE Teesta

GAURI NOOLKAR-DAK writes about her incredible back-packing journey with the Teesta from Teestamukh, where it drains into the Brahmaputra, to its source in North Sikkim at Tso Lhamo. Her '30-day pilgrimage' is also a journey into the cultural, economic and political aspects of the river, culminating in the realization that the Teesta is about so much more...

Our speedboat whirs to a stop on the brown waves of the mighty Brahmaputra in northern extremities of Bangladesh. Lalbhai and Atahur stand up and point to a strip of greyish-blue water lapping between two char islands under the canopy of a bright, blue sky.

"Teestamukh!" Lalbhai exclaims. "But there's no water."

"What are you saying, Lalbhai?" I ask confusedly. "There is so much water!"

In response, Atahur pulls out of nowhere, a bamboo pole, about 10 feet long, and dips it into the water. When he pulls it out, barely two or three feet of it is wet.

The water is indeed very shallow.

There is no water in the Teesta – how many times must I have heard those words in the past few days! The lack of a sharing agreement on the Teesta between India and Bangladesh is pricking our bilateral relations, while the river herself is on the verge of extinction.

Lalbhai is hosting me at his haveli-like house in Kurigram in the Rangpur province of northern Bangladesh. His brother, Lincolnbhai, is the Public Prosecutor of Kurigram and a history enthusiast who has turned the haveli into a museum preserving North Bangladesh's history and culture.

The 'North Bengal Museum', or Lincolnbhai's Museum as I call it, is a collection of photographs, notes, letters, news clippings and artefacts from the Liberation Movement and the War of 1971. A few articles predate the struggle.

Lincolnbhai has travelled all over North Bengal and interviewed hundreds of freedom fighters, students, farmers, and villagers who trusted him with their stories and artefacts, which he now preserves in his

museum. Till date, more than 5,000 people have visited the place. Lincolnbhai welcomes them all and doesn't charge any fees.

I notice a few Indians in some pictures.

"Indians too played a huge role in our culture and history," he says gravely. "That is why the name of the museum is North Bengal, not North Bangladesh. Bengal is on both sides of the border, and our history and culture is also on both sides of the border. Indian Bengalis have contributed here too."

I tell him about my day at Teestamukh.

"Yes, there is no water in the Teesta," he says apologetically.

"It is sad because the river was once the protector of our Liberation forces. In her heyday, an unshackled Teesta was a monster. Crossing the Teesta was no child's play, and for the Pakistani soldiers who came from a drier land, the ordeal of crossing the Teesta, Brahmaputra, Dharala rivers was very real. In 1971, when they tried to capture the airport and railway junction at Lalmonirhat, they were resisted by the locals, as well as the river, which delayed their conquest by eight days. They managed eventually, but the river slowed their progress. Our rivers have always been our natural protectors," he finishes with a smile.

The next day, I begin my travel upstream the Teesta.

A team from Solidarity, Lalbhai's NGO, takes me to Khitab Khan, a riparian village of the Teesta. We are greeted with an uproar and the villagers quickly huddle up around us.

Then, the stories start coming. The Teesta is hard on Khitab Khan; agriculture, fisheries and navigation suffer due to extreme variability in Teesta's flow throughout the year. This leaves the villagers, most

of them farmers doubling up as fishermen post monsoons, with very few avenues for livelihood. Young men end up migrating to Dhaka and Chittagong for work. The elderly folk narrate stories of displacement from their homes, twice or even thrice in their lifetimes. Poverty and scarcity, I speculate, must have set the stage for economic conflicts within the community, but I am touched by their response.

"Food and water scarcity are routine, but whatever is available is shared among all. We do not compete; we share everything, including the losses."

In that moment, I remember everything I have ever read about water cooperation. 'Deficit sharing' is a cornerstone of effective transboundary water cooperation, and the last place I expect to stumble across it in such a natural, casual manner, is a poor Bangladeshi village ravaged by droughts and floods on the banks of the Teesta.

We proceed to the town of Ulipur for a meeting at the Press Club. As we gather around a round table of journalists and activists, a bespectacled man in a crisp Safari suit tells me about a movement to revive the Buri Teesta, a distributary of the Teesta. After the collapse of one of its sluice gates thirty years ago, the river has been silting rapidly, harming fisheries, navigation and agriculture in the area. It is almost a dead river now, and the residents of Ulipur have come out on the street demanding that their government restore the river's flow immediately.

I ask whether the issue has cropped up because India holds back Teesta's waters.

There is an abrupt silence.

SPOTLIGHT - Stories that matter

SummitTimes presents a month-long series focusing on hydel projects and climate change in Sikkim and West Bengal. The series has been made possible with support from Wageningen University, NWO and UK Department for International Development [DFID] under Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change research project 'Enhancing mediascapes for sustainability and justice in the Eastern Himalaya' coordinated by DLRP, a Darjeeling-based NGO. We will be featuring two articles every week.

THE TEESTA [clockwise from top of the page]: The Jalpesh Temple at Jalpaiguri, North Bengal, where the Teesta's water is worshipped by the Mechhis; The Mechhi dance ritual at Jalpesh Temple, West Bengal; At the Teesta's confluence with the Brahmaputra - Teestamukh - at Chilmari in Bangladesh; Teesta source, Tso Lhamo, in North Sikkim. (All photographs by the author)

"That is a government problem," someone mutters.

"How will your government revive Buri Teesta's flow if India doesn't release Teesta's waters?" I persist.

The table erupts with spirited chatter – I gather that even when India releases an optimum amount of water in the Teesta, the locals hardly benefit. The Bangladeshi government needs to improve domestic water management as well.

Our discussion then veers towards spirituality of the river: Sufism, they beam with pride, spread in Bangladesh through the Teesta. They tell me wistfully that the Ashtami Snaan and Durga Visarjan, important religious rituals for the Hindus, have been

bers, and then sit back and listen to Rabin-drosangeet with fascination. I am touched when they all rise and sing 'Jana Gana Mana' – it is another rendition of the affection I have seen among common Bangladeshis for India over the last few days.

I leave with the Solidarity team, and we ride along the Teesta on motorbikes. Lush green fields and meadows adorn our route and white, sandy silt which looks like Rangoli powder laces both sides of the road. Occasionally, we discover a pond or two amidst bamboo groves and banana plantations. Small, picturesque settlements pop up intermittently. The river itself is dry in patches but carries unmistakable signs of lost beauty. Fields of rice, jute and then maize stretch out as far as the eye can see; I find it hard to believe that this is a drought-prone area. Later, I find out that this region receives more than double the amount of rainfall in the parched areas of Maharashtra, but droughts still occur because of very high variability in the annual distribution of rainfall.

Further, my companions tell me, there is a lack of water storage facilities, rainwater harvesting is not all that prevalent, and groundwater is exploited to unsustainable levels.

We ride through Lalmonirhat and Hati-bandha and reach the Dalia barrage. Built in the early 1990s, the Dalia barrage is part of the Teesta Barrage Project, meant to provide irrigation to agriculture in northern Bangladesh. However, the Gajaldoba Barrage, built upstream in West Bengal, India, holds back Teesta's waters, rendering the Dalia useless. Sure enough, we can see that the Dalia barrage is quite dry both upstream and downstream, except a right-bank canal which flows with abundant, emerald-green water.

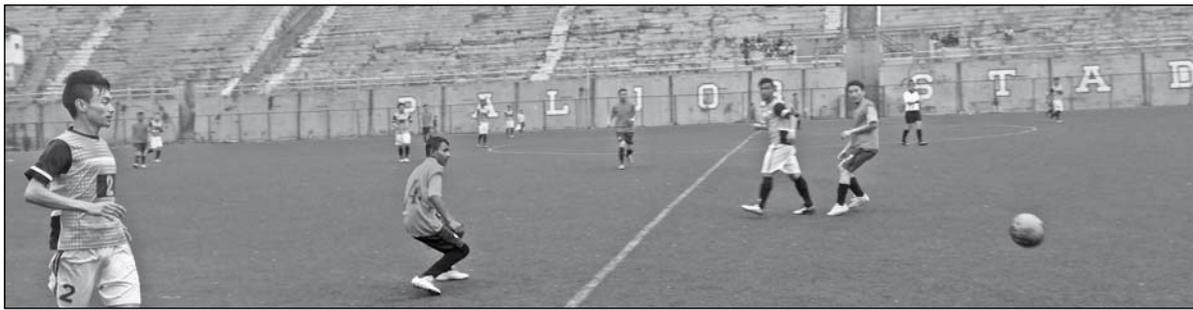
"How does this canal have so much water if the rest of the river is drying up?" I ask, surprised.

"Whatever water flows down," my com-

turn to pg06



United Brothers Kalimpong & Akaraman FC secure wins in Ambedkar Jayanti Cup



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 06 APR:

United Brothers Kalimpong defeated Ramjara Wisdom Club [Jaigaon] 4-1 in the first match of the 1st Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti Football Tournament 2018 played here at Paljor Stadium today in the presence of Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, and Minister for Rural Management & Development Department, SB Subedi, as chief guests.

In the second match of the day, Akaraman FC thrashed Geyzing FC 6-0. The second match was attended by Minister for Social Justice Department, Tulsi Devi Rai.

The quarter final match on 07 Apr will be played between Brotherhood FC and Himalayan FC at 1:30 p.m.

A Tryst with the Teesta

Contd from pg05

panions explain, "is diverted here. This canal irrigates crops in Dinajpur district in western Bangladesh."

We reach Patgram where we put up for the night before I cross the border into India next morning. At the first crack of dawn, I am up and ready; we get back on our bikes and ride straight to Burimari checkpoint. Immigration cleared, I sprint across no man's land to Chengrabadha, India. Just as I spot the tricolour, I wave back gratefully to my companions for their support, literally up to the last inch of Bangladesh.

Oh, the feeling! I happily zip through immigration; it is brisk, everyone speaks Hindi, and there is a feeling of familiarity which instantly embraces me. I board a bus to Mainaguri. My environs now are completely different: there is more traffic, a few advertisement boards in English dot the road, and the first tea plantations come into view. My first stop is the home of Dinesh Roy, from whom I learn that the tribal people of northern West Bengal such as the Mechhis and Rajbanshis attach great cultural significance to the Teesta. For them, she is ancient (an old woman, or "Buri" Teesta), a nurturer and a tyrant. They worship her through many rituals, but few are as elaborate as a song-and-dance routine carried out by the Mechhi folk.

That evening, I head off to Jalpaiguri. The next morning, I visit the Jalpesh Temple, for that very day, it is hosting the Mechhi folk dance festival. On the way, I cross over the Teesta. There is hardly any water, and the wide river bed is pockmarked with transmission towers and sand mining equipment. I sigh; things don't seem to be great on this side of the border either.

The Jalpesh Temple is pretty simple – white domes with minimal design. A huge crowd has gathered to see the performances, but I find a good place among the bystanders. The dances begin. Sprightly women, wearing red-and-white saris, elaborate makeup and ghungroos (curiously, on just one ankle) enter with jars of Teesta water and tastefully decorated umbrellas. Each dance ritual begins with placing the jar i.e. a symbolic Teesta before the audience and covering it with the umbrella. All dancers are exclusively female, and while they sing in chorus and dance, the only instruments accompanying them are a drum and their ghungroos. I watch, enchanted. Their simple and graceful steps and their kohl-lined eyes portray a kind of beauty I have never seen before.

My next destination that afternoon is Gajaldoba, the infamous barrage central to the Teesta sharing dispute between India and Bangladesh. It is exactly like I heard and imagined it to be. Upstream, there is a large expanse of water, as far as anyone could see. Downstream, the situation is drastically different: the river is mostly dry and where it flows, it does so weakly. There are two canals leading out of the Gajaldoba; the left-bank canal is dry to the bone while the east bank canal is gushing with abundant water.

Why so? I ask a young, urban boy visiting the barrage. He shrugs.

"Maybe they use groundwater in the east," he ventures. "Siliguri, which is to the west, definitely gets water from here, so that's why this canal must be full. It takes water to the Mahananda river as well."

[clockwise]: A drying Teesta in Bangladesh; Downstream of the Gajaldoba Barrage in West Bengal; Upstream on the Gajaldoba Barrage. (photographs by the author)

I think of the passionate discourses on water diversion from Teesta to Mahananda in Bangladesh, and here is inter-basin water transfer, right in front of my eyes.

Next morning, I am off to Siliguri to meet Raj Basu who has filmed a documentary on the Teesta. He gives me the most fascinating cultural and historical perspective of the Teesta River. There is so much I don't know! I repeatedly ask Rajda for books and other literary references, but he shakes his head.

"There are a few," he says, "but the rest – and there is a lot of it – is embedded in culture. You have to live it to know it."

Overwhelmed, I can't stop picturing the magnanimity of Teesta's existence. From being secondary to another river – Karatoya – to becoming the lifeline of about 30 million people today; from being a host to many Tantrapeeths and Tantric Buddhism,

“...she is ancient (an old woman, or 'Buri' Teesta), a nurturer and a tyrant”

to connecting Bengal to the Silk Route; from being home to great Sufi musicians and social leaders to defining the eastern frontier of the Mughal empire – the Teesta holds in her arms a million stories to be discovered and retold. The scope of Teesta's civilisation is huge and well beyond my thirty-day pilgrimage and year-long research.

It is rainy in Siliguri, but when the sun comes out the next day, I go up to Sevoke. The bus drops me at the freshly painted Coronation Bridge. Far below, the Teesta has transformed completely; it is no more a parched river bed but flows fresh, with a greenish tinge and vibrancy that I had not experienced downstream.

On one side of the bridge, the river descends from the hills. On the other, she hits the plains and spreads out. The British, I am told, built this bridge in an arch without constructing any pillars in the river bed because the water current was simply too strong to allow any construction activity.

The Coronation Bridge is indeed one of the most geopolitically significant points for India. Situated in the 'Chicken's Neck' with proximity to four countries – Nepal, China, Bangladesh and Bhutan – it (along with the Teesta Railway bridge) connects the North East to the rest of India. The Teesta's course actually cuts the North East separate from the rest of the country; to move from one part to another without leaving Indian territory, traversing the Teesta is mandatory. The enormity of the thought sends a slight shiver down my spine.

Upstream of Sevoke, the landscape changes dramatically; lush green, towering mountains vying for the skies hide the horizon. I reach Kalimpong, the beautiful but less noticed sister of the glamorous Darjeeling. I decide to play tourist in Kalimpong and the first thing I do is go down to Melli for river rafting. It is quite an experience; the Teesta is bluish green, swirling and rushing, throwing up white waves and spray in the air. The water is icy cold and instantly refreshing. As we bob on gentler

waves, I put my cupped hands into the river and drink a little of what I can gather – it is cold, sweet, delicious! Later in the day, I check out gardens, monasteries, and temples, but what really stays with me is the cool, refreshing touch of the Teesta on my bare skin. Contrary to everyone's advice, I do not wash it off; I want a bit of Teesta on me forever.

From Kalimpong, I board a bus to Singtam; there are no seats, but the driver happily arranges a few cushions for me next to him. Once we leave Kalimpong, the Teesta joins us and is a very consistent companion throughout the journey. Trees, houses and sudden turns make us lose sight of her, but she keeps flowing and comes back to greet us every time. Occasionally, the path clears, and we see her far ahead, meandering down rapidly amidst green mountains stacked alternately against each other, forming a steep and gorgeous valley.

At the confluence of the Rangeet and Teesta, the driver tells me, "Rangeet is the boy and Teesta is the girl. They are in love, and they meet here." I smile at his imagination, only to discover that this is a popular folklore in the hills.

From Singtam, I catch a jeep to Mangan. Once we leave Singtam behind, the Teesta begins to disappear from view. I know she is still flowing down there and going by the signboards of the NHPC, I also know she is dammed, but our route has hardly any view of the river or her dams. It is finally at Dikchu that I get a clear view of the river flowing abundantly, which, I later learn, was because the Teesta V dam had just released water. By now, I am aware of the dam-building spree and the local resistance to it in Sikkim. Intrigued, I try hard to get more first-hand perspectives, but I am short on time, and have to wait all the way till I get home to learn in

Overwhelmed, I can't stop picturing the magnanimity of Teesta's existence. From being secondary to another river – Karatoya – to becoming the lifeline of about 30 million people today; from being a host to many Tantrapeeths and Tantric Buddhism, to connecting Bengal to the Silk Route...

detail about the entire situation.

It is late afternoon by the time we reach Mangan, and I head straight for Joe Sir's homestay. That evening, Joe Sir and I discuss the logistics of my Tso Lhamo trip over some delicate Sikkimese tea. I am disheartened to find out that the final leg of my trip, from Lachen to Tso Lhamo, is going to be quite expensive. I have very little cash, and the few ATMs in Mangan are under risk from the global WannaCry ransomware attack.

With a sinking feeling, I wonder what to do, when Joe Sir offers to help.

"How much is convenient for you?" I ask falteringly.

"How much do you need?" he counter questions me calmly. "Ten thousand?"

My eyes as big as saucers, I nod meekly. It is extraordinary that he is ready to



trust me with such a large amount of money with such little acquaintance and simply my word that I would return it when I am back. I am amazed at his faith and conviction and thank him profusely. Joe Sir simply smiles.

"We were an independent country till 1975," he says a while later in a thoughtful manner, "and the sentiment is still there. But that generation is fading away. Once they are gone... well, all of us, the youngsters, my daughter, we are Indians."

He speaks about his community, the Lepchas, quite briefly, but with fondness and a tinge of melancholy. "There was an influx of different communities in Sikkim. We are outnumbered in our own land and stay in protected areas. Our culture is fading." We then talk about my fellowship and the need for transboundary co-operation over Teesta's waters before I turn in.

I wake up early and even catch the sunrise on Kangchenjunga peak. With a permit to visit Tso Lhamo lake and the cash which Joe Sir hands over to me on his own accord, I board the only jeep to Lachen.

The road to Lachen is dangerously narrow at many places, and each time a vehicle swerves ahead of us, my heart skips a beat. I have always dreaded the vulnerability of travelling in the mountains, and the Himalayas for me are the ultimate reminder of the fragility of human life: they can take it, but they have also been sustaining it through their silt and water, for millennia. In them I see a divinity which I am yet to see in any place of worship.

At Chungthang, I spot turquoise blue waters held back in the reservoir of the Teesta III HEP and am confused; I remember reading that it is a run-of-the-river scheme with no storage, but what I see here is different. I find out later that Sikkim's dams, in fact, do hold back a lot of Teesta's water in order to generate electricity at peak times, and have a strong and cascading impact on the environment and society of not only Sikkim but the entire Teesta basin.

The hotel in Lachen is dark and empty. I shiver with cold and feel terribly lonely, but I can scarcely believe I made it this far. Just one last leg, I tell myself. My spirits high, I set out for Tso Lhamo in the freezing and

dark hours of dawn with no winter gear except a coat. The taxi driver is Tibetan by origin and talks about Buddhism, tourism and the Teesta. Like other locals, he isn't much impressed by the hydroelectric projects, and he laughs when I ask if they drink Teesta's water.

"Oh no, the Teesta is dirty," he points at the cheerful stream which still looks very clean to me. "We drink water from the springs which flow down from the mountains around Lachen."

As we climb higher, the verdant landscape disappears. We are now in the cold desert, on the fringe of the Tibetan plateau. The Teesta is reduced to a small trickle and the earth is draped in pure white snow. It feels surreal.

The driver is surprised; he tells me that this region does not usually see so much snow at this time of the year as it is a cold desert with "just soil and pebbles all over the place". I am lost in the enchanting surroundings when he stops abruptly and points to a greyish-blue patch on the other side of the road.

"Tso Lhamo!" he exclaims. "It's snowing though, so we need to move fast."

I am dumbstruck. I get out of the taxi and walk up to the edge of the road, towards the greyish-blue lake surrounded by snow. Oblivious to the biting cold, my mind goes back to Teestamukh, a greyish-blue patch of water flanked by two silvery white char islands. How different the two are, and how similar!

In that moment, from Teestamukh to Tso Lhamo, I sense an intricate web of space and time; the changing geography of the Teesta enmeshed with the journey of her life. Her course in Sikkim is her childhood, her youth lies in northern West Bengal, and she is at a ripe, old age in northern Bangladesh. In that moment, she is neither an economic resource nor a political issue, but a deity and mother of numerous civilisations, a stunning proof that a divine power exists. In that realisation, I find indescribable solace. I kneel down, close my eyes and pray.

[the writer is a transboundary water conflicts researcher who has researched water problems in the Middle East, South-East Asia and South Asia. She has studied Economics at Fergusson College, Pune and the University of Hong Kong.]



'India trying to resolve Kashmir through barrel of the gun'

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, APR 6 (PTI): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif today accused India of trying to resolve the Kashmir dispute "through the barrel of the gun". Asif said this in a statement on 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' which is being observed in Pakistan.



"The recent killings of 20 unarmed civilians in Indian Kashmir are again a manifestation of the Indian policy of trying to resolve the dispute through the barrel of the gun," he said.

Indian security forces on Sunday gunned down 13 militants in three counter-insurgency operations that also claimed the lives of three Army jawans and four civilians in Anantnag and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The massacre carried out by the Indian occupation forces is totally unacceptable and

should be unequivocally condemned by the international community and human rights community around the world," he said.

Asif said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were being deprived of the basic right to life and self-determination.

"For the last 70 years the valiant people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir are waging a heroic struggle against Indian oppression, for the realisation of the inalien-

able right to self-determination which has been envisaged in the United Nations Security Council resolutions," he said.

These resolutions remain unimplemented because India has backed out of its commitments and wants to continue with subjugation and oppression of the Kashmiri people, he said.

"The courageous people of IoK have rendered unmatched sacrifices in this indigenous struggle. The atrocious Indian

brutalities have failed to suppress their inviolable spirit," Asif said.

He said government and people of Pakistan and the people across the world salute the Kashmiri people for their courage, bravery and persistence in the just struggle against "Indian occupation" and reiterate the continued and steadfast political, moral and diplomatic support to them.

Asif said Pakistan reminds the international community of its responsibilities and urges them to fulfill their promise made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir by implementing UN Security Council resolutions.

To investigate gross human rights abuses, the international community should urge India to give access to the UN and OIC fact-finding missions to Jammu and Kashmir, he said. Pakistan's Cabinet on Mon-

day decided to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day in response to the latest violence.

Radio Pakistan reported that different programmes including rallies, demonstrations and walks were being held across the country and in different parts of the world by Pakistanis and Kashmiris to draw the attention of the international community towards the "Indian atrocities" in Jammu and Kashmir and to highlight the need for peaceful resolution of the longstanding dispute.

Separately, President Mamnoon Hussain assured Kashmiris that Pakistan firmly stands by them and would continue to support their just struggle.

The president appealed to the international community to play its role in stopping bloodshed of Kashmiris and resolution of the longstanding issue.

S Korea's Park jailed for 24 years over corruption

SEOUL, APR 6 (AFP): South Korea's disgraced former president Park Geun-hye was jailed for 24 years today for corruption, closing out a dramatic fall from grace for the country's first woman leader who became a figure of public fury and ridicule.



The sentence followed a trial lasting more than 10 months which ended with Park being found guilty on multiple criminal charges, including bribery and abuse of power.

"The amount of bribery the accused received or demanded in collaboration with Choi amounts to more than 23 billion won (USD 21.7 million)," Judge Kim Se-Yoon said, referring to Park's secret confidante and long-time friend Choi Soon-sil.

Park, 66, had boycotted most of the trial in protest at being held in custody. She was not present in court for today's judgement which, in a rare move, was broadcast live on television.

The daughter of assassinated dictator Park Chung-hee, Park took office in 2013 as a conservative icon who cast herself in the role of daughter of the nation - incorruptible and beholden to none.

Less than four years later, she was impeached, stripped of all her powers and ousted from office on the back of months-long mass protests that brought millions onto the streets of Seoul and other cities.

The trigger was a snowballing graft scandal involving Park and Choi and accusations of graft, influence-peddling and taking bribes from corporate bigwigs in exchange for policy favours. The fact that she never married or had children was part of her appeal, given the nepotistic tendencies of many senior officials.

Why are Sinclair's scripted news segments such a big deal?

Contd from pg04

tasks, from buying and selling advertising, to designing the computer graphics that air during news segments.

Today, owning many stations and centralizing these back-end tasks are common in the broadcast business. What isn't common is what the Deadspin video shows. As far as I know, no other station group has written news scripts and required local stations to deliver them.

In fact, it's a practice that directly goes against U.S. broadcast policy, which asserts that local stations should serve their geographic communities and be allowed to refuse content offered by national networks. Sinclair, however, has dubbed these scripts "must runs." The company also produces complete news stories and commentaries that it requires local stations to air.

The script in the Deadspin video has fueled a partisan backlash, and many have pointed out that Sinclair's "must-run" content often advances a conservative point of view.

However, the most important part of the story isn't the question of partisan bias. It's that a national station group is forcing content on local stations. To many, what Sinclair is doing is precisely what U.S. broadcast policy is supposed to protect against: a single company advancing an agenda to a majority of the country using the public good of broadcast spectrum.

With Sinclair's pending purchase of Tribune Media's 42 stations, the company's reach is only poised to grow.

[the writer is Fel-low, Peabody Media Center, Professor of Media Studies, University of Michigan]

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China has fired the latest salvo in a possible trade war, saying it will take on the US "until the end at any cost". The warning from China's ministry of commerce came after President Donald Trump said he was considering \$100bn (£71.5bn) in extra tariffs on Chinese goods. The ministry said: "If the US side disregards opposition from China and the international community and insists on carrying out unilateralism and trade protectionism, the Chinese side will take them on until the end at any cost."

Trump seeks USD 100 billion additional tariffs on Chinese imports

WASHINGTON, APR 6 (PTI): US President Donald Trump today ramped up his trade war rhetoric with China, seeking USD 100 billion in additional tariffs on Chinese products.

This is in addition to the proposed 25 per cent import tariffs worth USD 50 billion on some 1,300 Chinese products being imported into the US.

On April 3, the US Trade Representative (USTR) had announced the 25 per cent tariffs on imports from China as an initial means to obtain the elimination of policies and practices identified in its investigation.

China retaliated by announcing similar import tariff on American products. Trump said his latest decision for additional tariffs was in response to China's retaliatory action.

"Rather than remedy its misconduct, China has chosen to harm our farmers and manufacturers. In light of China's unfair retaliation, I have instructed the USTR to consider whether USD 100 billion of additional tariffs would be appropriate under

section 301 and, if so, to identify the products upon which to impose such tariffs," Trump said in a statement here.

Accusing China of repeatedly engaging in practices to unfairly obtain America's intellectual property, Trump said the Chinese practices detailed in the investigation of the USTR had caused concern around the world.

"China's illicit trade practices? ignored for years by Washington? have destroyed thousands of American factories and millions of American jobs," Trump said.

Trump has also instructed the secretary of agriculture, with the support of other members of his Cabinet, to use his broad authority to implement a plan to protect American farmers and agricultural interests.

"Notwithstanding these actions, the United States is still prepared to have discussions in further support of our commitment to achieving free, fair, and reciprocal trade and to protect the technology and intellectual property of American companies and

American people," Trump said. The US president reiterated his America-first rhetoric and said he was seeking a level playing field around the world for American companies and workers.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer branded the latest presidential proposal as "an appropriate response" to China's recent threat of new tariffs.

"In the light of such evidence (of USTR investigation), the appropriate response from China should be to change its behaviour; as China's government has pledged to do many times," he said.

"Unfortunately, China has chosen to respond thus far with threats to impose unjustified tariffs on billions of dollars in US exports, including our agricultural products," he said, adding that such measures would undoubtedly cause further harm to American workers, farmers, and businesses.

Under these circumstances, Lighthizer said, the president was right to ask for additional appropriate action to obtain the elimination of the problems identified in USTR's report.

"Any additional tariffs proposed will be subject to a similar public comment process as the proposed tariffs announced on April 3, 2018. No tariffs will go into effect until the respective process is complete," Lighthizer said.

Defending his decision against China, Trump told a business roundtable in West Virginia that before him, no president wanted to take on China. "For many years, no president wanted to go against China, economically. And we're going to do it," he said.

Trump said it was time the US did something to change the US-China business terms.

"The US can't continue to allow this to happen, where hundreds of billions of dollars is taken out of the US; where if they make a car, they sell it here, it's 2.5 per cent tax," said Trump. "If we make a car and try and get it into China, number one, they won't take it. But if they did, it's 25 per cent tax. So they pay 2.5; we pay 25. They don't even want to take it. That doesn't sound so good. But it's all like that," he said.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR TENDER MORNING	
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards	
Draw No:18 DrawDate on:06/04/18	
1st Prize Rs. 26.04 Lakhs/- 840 74967	
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 74967 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-	
00674 06449 09022 18401 46969	
48142 80392 89525 91721 95772	
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1935 2031 2489 3108 5027 5740 6193 7310 8941 9435	
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1518 2285 4152 4268 4982 6102 6596 6667 8384 8485	
5th Prize Rs.120/-	
3759 3977 4303 4410 4679 4714 4855 5007 5075 5105	
5156 5189 5262 5463 5495 5619 5708 5809 5928 5951	
5956 6068 6156 6184 6212 6382 6747 6812 6819 6848	
6868 6940 7019 7103 7125 7143 7146 7148 7311 7318	
7364 7697 7942 7979 8146 8338 8408 8634 8648 8688	
8784 8823 8899 9112 9413 9495 9735 9819 9847 9960	

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR ADMIRE	
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards	
Draw No:18 DrawDate on:06/04/18	
1st Prize Rs.26.04 Lakhs/- 80C 94563	
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 94563 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-	
19617 22323 25113 35208 73382	
75266 77904 79868 80389 96779	
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0059 0102 1307 2956 5222 5691 6113 7178 7406 8518	
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0027 2091 2203 3034 3400 7348 8666 9346 9584	
5th Prize Rs.120/-	
0008 0029 0053 0173 0443 0488 0538 0563 0740 0751	
0921 0996 1169 1234 1449 1481 1579 1998 2131 2133	
2135 2172 2184 2314 2376 2552 2621 2812 3033 3076	
3218 3424 3486 3649 3678 3861 3926 4029 4047 4087	
4247 4296 4570 4654 4763 4813 4847 4923 5150 5200	
5267 5279 5293 5326 5402 5404 5566 5623 5717 5728	
5739 5779 5857 5960 5966 6113 6163 6190 6222 6578	
6682 6789 6845 6943 7138 7144 7426 7475 7520 7716	
7758 7980 8217 8232 8493 8569 8782 8813 8819 8824	
9187 9256 9387 9588 9603 9634 9647 9800 9899 9925	

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR VULTURE EVENING	
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards	
Draw No:36 DrawDate on:06/04/18	
1st Prize Rs.26.04 Lakhs/- 811 69211	
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 69211 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-	
03737 11573 41831 45943 51112	
61115 83403 92113 94884 96213	
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0324 1288 2922 3580 4585 4592 6277 6521 6602 7793	
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0049 0439 0924 0933 1152 2908 3749 3852 5354 5424	
5th Prize Rs.120/-	
0214 0226 0235 0247 0608 0667 0712 1399 1402 1410	
1456 1612 1617 1711 1723 1769 1799 1855 2092 2109	
2125 2186 2247 2252 2273 2277 2324 2381 2400 2506	
2843 3493 3720 3928 3953 4114 4188 4212 4412 4566	
4596 4618 4673 4757 4864 4872 4907 5016 5181 5267	
5379 5392 5590 5600 5668 5694 5869 5907 6233 6306	
6512 6547 6778 6788 6806 6959 6997 7056 7133 7258	
7352 7774 7820 7863 7972 8057 8147 8199 8212 8282	
8318 8326 8365 8544 8633 8636 8685 8712 8754 8761	
8765 9191 9031 9038 9081 9083 9088 9243 9432 9773	

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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI LEO

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:06/04/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 6745

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 1166 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 5608

4th Prize Rs.300/- 6602 5th Prize Rs. 204/- 1904

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1001 1002 1020 1023 1051 1084 1103 1119 1160 1162

1209 1216 1273 1281 1314 1345 1372 1380 1384 1390

1458 1594 1614 1632 1651 1696 1703 1723 1795 1796

1816 1823 1832 1842 1876 1892 1922 1945 1984 1985

2033 2104 2115 2183 2202 2207 2242 2249 2250 2266

2290 2308 2310 2317 2325 2328 2338 2373 2401 2427

2471 2480 2485 2489 2492 2567 2568 2576 2598 2627

2667 2722 2733 2744 2770 2775 2783 2831 2879 2885

2891 2941 2968 3019 3026 3028 3047 3086 3104 3119

3163 3231 3269 3278 3284 3297 3306 3351 3414 3419

3424 3447 3469 3481 3521 3546 3553 3568 3571 3611

3628 3644 3664 3682 3738 3745 3754 3764 3772 3775

3854 3929 3958 3976 3980 3991 4012 4050 4147 4149

4203 4206 4213 4235 4315 4318 4329 4370 4383 4385

4413 4462 4482 4518 4530 4531 4534 4562 4597 4610

4630 4631 4650 4653 4656 4699 4750 4831 4895 4904

4907 4978 4987 5007 5019 5025 5060 5067 5068 5093

5119 5143 5144 5167 5169 5186 5187 5190 5216 5247

5249 5265 5278 5306 5328 5335 5386 5387 5430 5516

5519 5606 5740 5780 5800 5810 5834 5851 5865 5893

5907 5975 5958 5990 5993 5995 6025 6056 6067 6118

6132 6175 6232 6263 6268 6287 6288 6332 6383 6385

6387 6396 6473 6508 6561 6656 6689 6695 6725 6727

6728 6758 6766 6832 6847 6867 6895 6896 6930 6958

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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES

MUMBALAXMI SURAJ

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:06/04/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 1171 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1179

3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 2192 4th Prize Rs. 504/- 2019

5th Prize Rs.200/-

1095 1144 1184 1226 1250 1258 1274 1379 1444 1465

1517 1589 1609 1639 1651 1655 1658 1670 1686 1762

1875 1880 1915 1979 2057 2203 2216 2294 2333 2406

2454 2463 2469 2493 2552 2602 2757 2770 2804 2816

2821 2845 2924 3043 3069 3096 3300 3313 3333 3349

3375 3418 3502 3509 3538 3713 3774 3776 3831 3862

3930 4034 4044 4126 4137 4142 4143 4196 4198 4205

4250 4261 4290 4389 4521 4776 4815 4872 4886 4887

4956 4992 5003 5050 5102 5147 5168 5205 5267 5271

5398 5429 5461 5556 5599 5697 5713 5722 5903 5967

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1023 1059 1065 1067 1090 1094 1106 1148 1158 1173

1190 1215 1230 1241 1244 1275 1288 1298 1343 1360

1394 1439 1498 1510 1565 1605 1673 1765 1766 1774

1805 1808 1815 1851 1869 1885 1886 1905 1918 1923

1965 1984 1985 2031 2060 2073 2078 2120 2122 2123

2181 2231 2263 2272 2286 2300 2320 2321 2392 2402

2405 2408 2427 2433 2455 2458 2480 2485 2525 2577

2590 2611 2642 2685 2714 2766 2786 2789 2796 2819

2823 2886 2938 2948 2980 3000 3008 3039 3051 3059

3094 3119 3121 3127 3184 3195 3205 3214 3236 3268

3306 3402 3403 3424 3474 3486 3560 3573 3600 3615

3683 3735 3777 3794 3797 3817 3832 3843 3880 3898

3920 3931 3951 3952 3986 3990 3998 4020 4022 4073

4091 4095 4109 4135 4155 4183 4219 4228 4245 4269

4305 4350 4352 4373 4426 4462 4556 4564 4569 4611

4614 4630 4631 4695 4744 4747 4779 4817 4838 4844

4853 4871 4878 4925 4951 4971 5049 5052 5073 5096

5099 5100 5151 5152 5215 5239 5260 5291 5376 5379

5388 5396 5430 5459 5485 5496 5539 5583 5612 5617

5629 5644 5687 5690 5763 5777 5872 5880 5926 5964

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BLING BLING! Actresses, Kate Bosworth and Amanda Seyfried, looked in high spirits as they compared jewellery at the H&M celebration of 2018 Conscious Exclusive collection event in LA.

WHATSAPP UPDATE: NOW YOU CAN 'LOCK' VOICE RECORDINGS ON ANDROID APP

WhatsApp is planning to launch a new feature very soon that will allow users to "lock" voice recordings that you are sending to someone. But don't be of the impression that you can actually lock the voice recording file with a pin or password. In fact, it is a minor experiential upgrade for someone who sends a lot of voice recordings. So, what exactly is this lock voice recordings feature? Earlier, if you wished to send a voice recording to someone over WhatsApp, then you had to continue to press the mic icon and the moment you released it, the voice recording was sent. This process is a bit difficult if you had to send a long voice recording. Now, with the new update, you can lock the recording feature and continue to record your voice without having to press the mic icon. The experience is similar to using a voice recorder app to record the entire message and then send it. Also, the option to slide-left-to-cancel recording remains.

In another news, a new spy app named "ChatWatch" was recently revealed that it is letting its users keep a track of their WhatsApp contacts. The app uses WhatsApp's Online and Offline status to monitor the behaviour of its



user's contacts on the instant messaging platform. Available on the Google Play Store, the description of the spy app mentions 'Check each WhatsApp login and logout' in addition to 'see Online History timeline for every day'.

Originally meant to monitor one's own surfing habits on WhatsApp, the ChatWatch can easily be used to do the same for any other contacts on one's list. At a time when Facebook is facing major heat for the concerns over user data privacy, such an app on the Google Play Store

raises similar concerns for WhatsApp. Talking about data privacy, unconfirmed reports of "Israeli users connected to WhatsApp via Facebook servers" have raised another wave of privacy

concerns for WhatsApp users as the popular chat platform is now owned by Facebook. While WhatsApp is yet to officially comment, reports claim that this "will ensure better quality of connectivity" for all WhatsApp users in Israel. Note that WhatsApp using Facebook servers has been reportedly only in Israel as of now.

"We are a part of Facebook now and contribute to Facebook's transparency report...but because of End-to-End (E2E) encryption enabled by default on WhatsApp, the contents of the messages are not visible to anybody except for the sender and recipient," said WhatsApp spokesperson Carl Woog during his visit to India in August 2017 when he was questioned on "WhatsApp E2E Encryption: What Data the Police Gets And What Not."

The content of the messages sent and received between two users are end-to-end encrypted. Also, WhatsApp never stored chats on its servers, even prior to introducing E2E encryption. But the problem is not with the messages but metadata. For those unaware, WhatsApp collects some metadata from each and every user when they use the platform. WhatsApp has also confirmed that this metadata information could be passed on to law enforcement agencies or government when requested.

FRIENDS VISIT SALMAN KHAN'S HOUSE AS ACTOR SPENDS NIGHT IN JAIL

MUMBAI, APR 6 (PTI): Following the conviction of Salman Khan in the 1998 blackbuck poaching case by a Jodhpur court, a host of industry friends dropped at the superstar's residence to meet his family.

Family members including brother Sohail and Arbaaz, brother in law Aayush Sharma were at Salman's Galaxy Apartment in suburban Bandra.

Soon after the judgment was announced Congress leader Baba Siddiqui rushed to the actor's house.

Arbaaz's ex-wife Malaika and her sister Amrita Arora,



"Race 3" producer Ramesh Taurani, Sonakshi Sinha, along with her parents Shatrughan and Poonam Sinha, Sneha Ullal and Daisy Shah were seen visiting his residence.

Sonakshi, Sneha and Daisy were launched in Bollywood as actors by Salman.

Filmmaker Sajid Nadiadwala, who is a close friend of the 52-year-old actor,

cancelled the success party of his latest release, "Baaghi 2, and left for Jodhpur.

After the verdict, fans had gathered outside the "Sultan" actor's house. Police constables were also stationed outside the building.

Actor Varun Dhawan, who was in Delhi to promote his upcoming film "October", tweeted, "I know for a fact that Salman bhai and his family have the utmost respect and faith in our judiciary system. Salman Khan is one of the strongest and most genuine people I know and I'm sure he will come out of this stronger.

ARIES: You could be feeling restless and frustrated due to a temporary separation from a partner, Aries, perhaps a business partner but more likely a romantic one. Phone contact could be difficult as well, because you could both be busy and keep missing each other. Find something fascinating to do that will take your mind off the situation. Get together with friends and have some fun. The time will pass more quickly.

TAURUS: A rather disconcerting rumor about your job could reach your ears, Taurus. Perhaps you'll hear that the company is being sold or undergoing a shakeup in the hierarchy. You might get caught up in a frenzy of worry about whether or not you'll stay on. Before jumping to any conclusions, phone

someone who knows what's going on and find out the truth. What you've heard is probably just gossip.

GEMINI: A number of great ideas either for new creative projects or enhancing ongoing ones could pop into your head during the day, Gemini. If you don't write them down immediately, they could just as easily pop right out again, never to return! With all your responsibilities, you could have a rather frantic day as your mind constantly shifts from one focus to another. Stay with it. You can handle it.

CANCER: A person with whom you work, probably a woman, could leave suddenly without notice or stated reason, Cancer. This could be confusing, and you might find yourself

wondering if there are changes within the company that you know nothing about. Try to learn exactly why this person left. If you can't ask him or her directly, discreetly ask someone who might know. It's important, if nothing else, for relieving your anxiety.

LEO: Someone you've wanted to hear from for a long time, perhaps an old friend who lives far away, could ring you up today while you're out, Leo. You'll be happy to get the message, but it could result in a frustrating game of phone tag throughout the day. Don't get so irritated you give up. Keep trying. You'll eventually touch base, and you'll be glad you did!

VIRGO: A rather upsetting dream could disturb your sleep tonight, Virgo. When you

wake up and focus on the real world, it could seem so bizarre as to not be worthy of serious consideration. Nonetheless, write it down. After some time has passed, go over the symbols and see what they suggest to you. The dream is trying to tell you something about a specific situation in your life, albeit in a weird way!

LIBRA: A colleague or possibly a romantic partner could be in a rather touchy mood today, Libra. Therefore, you might find this person difficult to deal with. You could get a bit irritated and wonder if this person is worth the aggravation he or she is causing you. Don't do anything foolish. This mood will pass. Try to stay out of your friend's way, if possible. All should be back to normal by tomorrow.

SCORPIO: You tend to be very intuitive, Scorpio, but today you could find your psychic abilities short-circuit. If you give readings, don't schedule any for today. This isn't to say your abilities are blocked, but they aren't as dependable as they usually are. Likewise, your imagination isn't as reliable either. Don't worry. This is just typical writer's or artist's block. You'll be back to normal by tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS: Some rather upsetting news about a friend could come to you today, Sagittarius, probably over the phone. This could be the truth, but more likely the facts have been distorted in the retelling. In fact, what you're hearing may actually be nothing more than gossip. Phone someone

who might know what's really going on, preferably the friend you heard about, and check the facts before driving yourself crazy.

CAPRICORN: Today you could receive a lucky career break of some kind that brings some extra money your way, Capricorn. The downside is that you might have to put in many extra hours. Your good fortune could cause temporary problems in your personal life. Your significant other and family members could be disgruntled. Point out that it may be inconvenient now, but everyone will be better off in the long run.

AQUARIUS: An unexpected visit from someone who lives far away is likely to throw your schedule off kilter, Aquarius.

Even though you'll be glad to see your friend, the visit could require a lot of calls to break appointments and postpone meetings. Once that's done, however, you'll have a good visit. You and your friend should each have a lot to report. You'll talk for hours. Relax and have some fun!

PISCES: An unexpected financial setback could have you reeling at first, Pisces. Perhaps an emergency, such as a toothache or car breakdown, requires a substantial expenditure that you hadn't planned for. You can probably find a way to deal with the crisis. You may have resources to draw upon that you aren't aware of now. Go over all your finances and you could be pleasantly surprised. Hang in there!

BLACK PANTHER TO BREAK SAUDI ARABIA'S 35-YEAR MOVIE BAN

Marvel's Black Panther will help usher in a new era for Saudi Arabia, breaking the nation's 35-year cinema ban. Though a Marvel movie doing well in the theaters is hardly a surprise, few could have predicted that Black Panther would be such a runaway success. The movie scored a massive opening and quickly climbed past not just the rest of the MCU, but every other superhero film at the domestic box office. And with Marvel looking for a fresh crop of heroes once Phase 3 ends, it's clear that T'Challa and his pantheon will play a large role moving forward.

While Black Panther has resonated with American audiences in a major way, proving to be more a cultural event than simply popcorn entertainment, the film has been matching that success in the international market. From its strong opening to its performance at home and abroad, to its continued growth, Black Panther has broken a lot of records. Now, it's about to add another milestone.

BBC News is reporting that Black Panther will help to officially end Saudi Arabia's 35-year movie theater ban. On April 18, the Marvel movie will screen at a brand-new AMC theater in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The 600-seat theater also



won't be gender-segregated, and is part of a new move to modernize the nation.

The Saudi Arabian government banned cinemas in 1982 due to their ultra-conservative religious beliefs, but Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ended the practice in December of last year. In fact, Black Panther won't technically be the first movie screened, as The Emoji Movie was shown in Saudi Arabia on a double-bill with Captain Underpants: The First Movie earlier this year. That, however, was in a make-shift theater for some key figures. Black Panther, meanwhile, will be open to the public.

It's not known how much the opening in Saudi Arabia will add to Black Panther's gross at this time, though the event is likely to be a major one. Over time, the country could become a strong in-

ternational player when it comes to box office scores. For now, however, the boost should help the Marvel movie continue to climb. Black Panther beat Frozen to crack the top ten highest earners worldwide thanks to its \$1,280.9 billion haul so far. With the Saudi Arabian debut, the film could push past Star Wars: The Last Jedi at \$1,332.6B.

Black Panther is also still going strong at home even as more competition piles up and Avengers: Infinity War looms on the horizon. Black Panther currently sits at \$654.2 million domestically, making it the fourth highest film of all time in North America. And soon enough, it will pass Titanic for the third spot. What the Saudi Arabian premiere will do for the film overall is unclear, but it marks yet another feat for Black Panther regardless.



ANUPAM KHER'S LOOK AS FORMER PM IS ON POINT

The filming of the political drama The Accidental Prime Minister, based on the book by Sanjaya Baru, has taken off in London. All eyes are on Anupam Kher as he essays the role of former PM and economist, Manmohan Singh.

On Thursday, a fresh look of Anupam as the former prime minister was released, leaving everyone awestruck. The released look has left people stunned for the actor's uncanny resemblance to Manmohan Singh.

Speaking about the project, Anupam said to a newspaper, "The opportunity of portraying a contemporary personality like Dr Manmohan Singh is an immense challenge for me as an actor," he smiles, adding, "He is part of a 24/7 media era where world knows his persona minutely. I have been internalising this character for the past few months. I look forward to translating that effort into cinematic reality."

Akshaye Khanna is set to play the political commentator Sanjay Baru in the film, written by Hansal Mehta and directed by debutant Vijay Gutte. The film is slated to release on December 21.

Marc Jacobs is engaged



LOS ANGELES, APR 6 (PTI): Renowned fashion designer Marc Jacobs is all set to marry partner Char Defrancesco.

The duo recently got engaged and Jacobs shared the news on social media.

"And this happened...Charly Defrancesco will you marry me? #flashmobatchipotle #moves THANK YOU everyone for making this happen," the designer wrote on social media.

He concluded, "to my Ride or Die fiancé @chardefrancesco I LOVE YOU."

Jacobs proposed Defrancesco in Chipotle and flash mob performed choreography to Prince's "Kiss" to seize the moment.

As the song came to a close, Jacobs was down on one knee with a box as the crowd cheered them on.

Defrancesco also gushed about the special night, writing, "Get ready for the all time gag. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.