

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Govt annuls notification relaxing reservation rule and roster points for appointment of Asst Profs

High Court disposes challenge after points of contest resolved

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

The High Court of Sikkim today disposed the writ petition which had challenged the move to appoint 32 Assistant Professors at government colleges here through direct recruitment after the State Government rescinded the notification which had relaxed recruitment rules for these hirings.

Yam Prasad Rai along with some others had filed a writ petition in the High Court challenging the notification issued by the Department of Personnel on 23 May, 2017 relaxing the reservation rule and application of roster points for a period of three years for appointment of Assistant Professors for Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics.

This had enables all eligible candidates from within and outside the State to apply for the 32 vacancies.

Following the notification, the Sikkim Public

Service Commission had issued an advertisement dated 13 October 2017 inviting applications to the posts.

The writ petition, apart from seeking that the High Court scrap the DoP Notification, had also prayed for the advertisement to be made void as well.

The Chief Secretary and the Human Resource Development Department, which had also been made respondents in the case, today informed the Court that the State Government had, on 06 February, 2018, through the Department of Personnel, issued a

fresh notification annulling the notification being contested.

Hearing the case today, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, observed: "In view of the aforesaid facts, the Petitioner's grievance having been partially met by the Respondent No.2 rescinding the impugned notification, this Court is of the view that the impugned advertisement cannot also stand and the State Respondent must re-advertise the said post making the necessary amendments in the impugned advertisement in view of the rescission of the impugned notification."

The senior government advocate further informed the Court that the advertisement too will be revoked within three days.

The High Court, while permitting the State Government to withdraw the advertisement within three days, directed that "follow up action" be taken within a week as well, adding that failure to withdraw the advertisement within three days "would automatically result in annulment of the impugned advertisement".

With the matter so resolved, the High Court disposed the case today.



SHO Mangan killed in road mishap

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

Sikkim Police lost Mangan Police Station SHO, Police Inspector, Karma Denzongpa in a fatal accident at 10 Mile Sevoke on National Highway 10

under Kurseong Sub Division this evening.

According to information received from Police sources, he was driving a Mahindra TUV moving towards Gangtok which collided with a truck go-

ing towards Siliguri.

It is learnt that his wife and son were also in the vehicle and have been critically injured. They are currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Siliguri.

In Arunachal, several firms face closure for flouting norms

ITANAGAR, MAR 21 (PTI): The pollution control board in Arunachal Pradesh has issued closure orders to several industries in the state for operating without a "valid consent", an official statement said here today.

The move was aimed at regulating the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

Several hotel companies and stone quarries have come under fire for violating Water Act 1974, Air Act 1981 and Environment Protection Act



Noom Pry School observes World Forestry Day

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 21 MAR: World Forestry Day 2018 was observed at Noom Primary School under Passingdang Saffo GPU, in Dzongu, North Sikkim, today. The programme was organized by Panang Passingdang joint

Forest Management Committee and supported by Range Officer, Forest Environment & Wildlife Management, Dzongu, Norden Bhutia, and Block Officer, Sherab Pintsu Lepcha.

Panang Passingdang JFMC members, Forest Department,

school teachers and students, Amu Tarvot Self Help Group, Noom ICDS workers, Asha and School Management Committee planted more than 150 plants including flowering plants at the school premises during the event.

Rahul takes dig at PM amid reports of China's new route to Doklam

NEW DELHI, MAR 21 (PTI):

Amid reports of China opening up a new route to reach South Doklam, Congress president Rahul Gandhi today asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would react to the development through 'hugplomacy', by blaming the defence minister or crying in public.

"In Doklam, it's China season again. How will Modi ji react this time?"

"1. Hugplomacy. 2. Blame RM. 3. Cry in public. 4. All of the above," tweeted Gandhi.

He also tagged a news report with the tweet that claimed China was quietly and cleverly finding a new route to South Doklam, seven months after



India stopped Chinese construction activities in the area lying between Tibet's Chumbi Valley to the north, Bhutan's Ha Valley to the east and the Indian state of Sikkim to the west.

Gandhi and his party have been attacking the prime minister and his government over the Doklam issue due to the Chinese build-up there.

Temu Tarku- the emerging homestay tourism destination



**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

Sikkim offers varied forms of tourism including adventure tourism, nature tourism, pilgrimage tourism, ecotourism, etc. Among them, homestay and village tourism have become increasingly popular. Most rural hamlets in the State offer the homestay experience to tourists who want to spend days surrounded by nature with exposure to agrarian lifestyle, culture and peace.

Temu, the picturesque hillock in South Sikkim, has also been adapting with the concept of homestay and village tourism. Already famous among tourists for its organic tea estate and scenic beauty, the locals gradually realized the potential of offering the best homestay facilities in the State.

Today, 22 families in Temu are engaged in homestay tourism alongside farming with the belief that it will help them improve their socio-economic condition.

One such homestay is Temu Khoti Homestay located along Temu-Damthang road in Lower Temu, run by local youth, Aakash Chand Pradhan [27].

Speaking to SummitTimes, Aakash expresses, "Homestays have seen a steady growth among tourists. People here are traditional farmers but now they are taking up home stay business as an additional source of income and the results seem to be encouraging with the rising number of tourists visiting the area."

The Temu Khoti offers guests the experience and opportunity to live with local villagers and share

their lifestyle, enjoy local culture and local food and beverages. One gets a panoramic view of the Temu tea garden and the mountains from the homestay.

The allure of the lush green tea estate is enhanced by cherry blossoms during winters and the mighty Mount Khangchendzonga in the backdrop, Temu and Tarku areas have emerged as some of the most attractive tourist spots in the State. And with homestays picking up the pace steadily, the entire area is heading towards becoming the new village tourism destination for tourists visiting Sikkim.

Apart from Temu Khoti, other home stays offering rural Sikkimese experience in Temu and surrounding areas are Sarika Homestay, Aansham Kutir, Attreya Home, Bamboo Grove, etc.

Bermiok resident hounded online

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

A 37-year-old resident of Bermiok, South Sikkim, has filed a police complaint at Temi Police Station under Information Technology [Amendment] Act, 2008 against unknown person [s] on 19 Mar. The complainant has alleged that some unknown person [s] has been posting vulgar and obscene pictures of his wife and sister from different mobile numbers on social media platforms like Facebook and Whatsapp. Furthermore, the complainant said that the accused person [s] have been blackmailing him threatening to post the pictures on social media platforms through other mobile numbers if he does not withdraw the police complaint. The police, after hearing the complaint, seized the mobile phone of the complainant to trace the culprit [s]. The case is under investigation.



Namphing SS celebrates 43rd Foundation Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 21 MAR:**

The celebration of the 43rd Foundation Day of Namphing Secondary School in South Sikkim was marked by various events like football, rural sports and cultural competitions among seven feeder schools.

Bermiok Tokal Senior Secondary School won the Bermiok Athling JT Desapa Memorial Primary Level Football Tournament while Bural Secondary School was the runners-up.

An inter-village level volleyball tournament was also a major attraction of the event played between Limboo Brother Reshap and Challa-mthang which was won by the latter.

Minister for Roads & Bridges Department, GM Gurung, attended the event as chief guest along with other dignitaries.

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SMC of Mamring School holds co-ordination meet

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

A coordination meeting of the School Management Committee of Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim, with the Panchayat, parents, teachers and stakeholders was held today at the school premises under the chairmanship of National Awardee retired teacher, YS Lepcha, a press release informs.

Principal of Mamring SSS, Prahlad Sharma, inducted the newly elected Panchayat members into the SMC by offering khadas.

Also addressing the meet were Zilla Panchayat member, Subhadra Dangal, Panchayat president, Durga Lal Sewa, Cluster Resource Co-ordinator, Kamal Acharya, Medical Officer In-charge, Machong Primary Health Centre, Rosh-



nee Tamang.

During the discussions, various requirements of the school were placed on the table including construction of multipurpose hall, 12-roomed school building and pavilion, provision of smart classrooms, sound system, plastic chairs, water tank & purifier, musical instruments & cultural items

and whiteboards, library upgradation, school repairs, Mid Day Meal shed repair, etc.

Academic performances of the students were also discussed with low enrollment and poor attendance being the major issues.

Parental counseling under SAATHI Club was also conducted by SAATHI counselor, Ring-

ma Sherpa, along with one student. The meeting has decided to fulfill the various requirements of the school through different agencies.

Zilla Panchayat member, Subhadra Dangal, announced the provision of white board and Smart TV while parents said that they will donate 10 chairs to the school, the release adds.

Lingi Paiyong Sec School holds guardian meeting

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

The first guardian meeting for the new academic session was held at Lingi Paiyong Secondary School on Tuesday which was attended by teachers, students, SMC members, Panchayat of Lingmoo Paiyong GPU, parents/guardians, advisors of school, in-forms a press release.

The meeting was chaired by Panchayat President, Yogesh Bhandari. The meeting saw the formation of a new School Managing Committee with Yogesh Bhandari being nominated as chairperson of the committee.

The meeting discussed various issues related to the holistic development of the students. Parents and guardians also expressed their views regarding student performance and developmental activities of the school.



The Headmaster of the school announced different projects and activities that would be taken up in the school in the coming days. The chairperson informed the house about various initiatives that will be taken up as the school, along with six others, has been adopted under the DAAV project.

The attendees of the meeting donated 70 plastic chairs to the school on the day, the release mentions.

A farewell programme was also organized for teachers who have been recently post-

ed to different schools. Outgoing Headmaster, T R Adhikari announced cash reward of Rs. 5000 each to students who score more than 60% in the Class X board examination, the release informs.

On the sidelines of the programme, an inter-house community reading competition was also held among the students of Primary classes from III to V which was won by Gurudongmar House (Yellow). The programme was coordinated and conducted by teacher, C R Khatiwara.



Pakki Gaon SS observes World Forestry Day

**YOUGAN TAMANG
GYALSHING, 21 MAR:**

World Forestry Day 2018 was observed at Government Secondary School, Pakki Gaon in West Sikkim today with the theme "Forest and

Sustainable Cities".

Awareness related to conservation of forest and ecology was presented by the school head with the active participation of the students.

The programme also

featured painting and quiz competition. Placards portraying different aspects of forest and environment were also displayed along with massive plantation drive by the staff and students of the school.



World Oral Health Day observed in Gangtok

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

Dental Department under the Department of Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim observed World Oral Health Day with an Oral Health Camp at Padma Odzer Choeling School in Chongyek, East Sikkim, on 20 Mar, a press release informs.

The theme of the health camp was 'Say Ahh: Think Mouth Think Health'.

The camp had the participation of 382 students from different schools. They were provided free dental examination along with toothpaste and toothbrush.

An interactive session on dental health was also conducted during the health camp.

Later, a Continuous Dental Education on various dental subjects was also organized by the department at a hotel in Gangtok for dental surgeons and staff, reads the release.

SKM calls meeting to discuss peace rally

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 MAR:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held an emergency meeting at its headquarters in Gangtok today for the peace rally to be organised on 24 Mar. The meeting was attended by party executives and supporters.

During the discussions, it was stated that the peace rally is being organised for a noble cause and it is necessary for all to take part in order to "expose the corruption of the SDF government".

"Illegal deeds like service extensions, backdoor appointments, labour contract system, violation of law, etc., have become regular with the SDF party in power. SKM has always opposed such illegal acts and are firm in our mission to



eradicate such negativities," the release adds.

During the meeting, Uttam Lepcha was promoted and appointed

as vice president [HQ & administration]. Likewise, Pawan Gurung has also been appointed as general secretary [HQ & administration].



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BUDDHIST TALK IN ENGLISH

ALL ARE INVITED

TEACHING ON SEVEN POINTS OF MIND TRAINING

The Seven Points of Mind Training is a profound set of instructions first given in Tibet by Lord Atisha and written down by Geshe Chekawa. These seven points explain how to transform adversities into the path through the practice of mind training.



To know more, come listen to the H.E. the 12th Zurmang Gharwang Rinpoche's talk.

INTRODUCTION

H.E. th 12th Zurmang Garwang Rinpoche who is the supreme holder of the Zurmang Whispering Lineage was born into an aristocratic family in Gangtok, Sikkim on the 30th of June, 1965, having been identified by 16th Gyalwa Karmapa as the 12th Zurmang Gharwang Rinpoche months before he was born. Rinpoche began his formal Buddhist studies in Rumtek, the seat of the Karmapa. On completion of his studies Rinpoche left Rumtek to bring the task of establishing his seat in Sikkim as well as re-establishing the Zurmang Monastery complex in Tibet. Rinpoche then began to set up Zurmang Buddhist Centres in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hongkong and Taiwan to propagate the teachings of the Buddha. His emience has received profound teachings from H.H. 16th Karmapa and many other great masters. Rinpoche has taught extensively in Asia, US as well as in Europe.

Date: 25th March 2018

Venue: Chintan Bhawan

Timing:

Morning Session: 10.30 am- 12. 30p.m

Atte noon Session: 1.00 p.m- 3 p.m

Pal Karma Zurmang Sherdup Cho'khorling Monastery, Lingdum, East Sikkim
www.zurmangkagyud.org
www.facebook/zurmang gharwang

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news@summittimes.com
advertise@summittimes.com

Gangtok on Thursday, 22 Mar

Temp: 24°C / 11°C
Forecast: Times of clouds and sun with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 05:38 AM
Sunset: 5:48 PM

SMIT holds 2nd Manipal Student Research Colloquium

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 MAR:
 Two-day conclave 2nd Manipal Student Research Colloquium [MSRC-2018] was organized by Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT], Sikkim Manipal University on 15-16 Mar. A press release informs that Dr SB Gadgil [Scientist-H, Research Centre Imarat, Defence Research and Development Organization, Hyderabad] shared his knowledge during the plenary session.

The colloquium was attended by participants from Manipal Academy of Higher Education [Dubai], Manipal University [Jaipur], Manipal Academy of Higher Education [Manipal, Karnataka], SMU, SMIMS and SMIT.

A total of 123 research papers on seven different tracks namely Architecture, planning & design, mechanical engineering; Basic & applied sciences; Law, journalism and mass communication; Electronics & electrical engineering; Computer science, computer applications and information technology; Management, humanities & social sciences; and, Health sciences along with the poster presentation were deliberated upon during the two-day colloquium.

It may be mentioned here, in order to inspire, incubate, integrate and strengthen interdisciplinary and innovative research amongst the students, Manipal Education System Vice Chancellors' Conclave recommended that an annual Manipal Students Research Colloquium [MSRC] should be held. The first MSRC- 2016 was hosted by Manipal University, Jaipur on 17-18 Mar in 2017.

In Arunachal...

contd from pg1
 1986, the statement said. Taking serious note of the matter, the Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APSPCB), in its notice, requested the deputy commissioners of various districts to seal the companies that flouted the norms, it said.

The board also instructed the power and public health engineering & water departments to disconnect supply till further orders.

"Non-compliance of the order of closure shall be treated as contravention of mandated orders of the Supreme Court of India and National Green Tribunal and the matter shall be brought to the notice of appropriate authorities for further course of action," the statement said.

Fire safety drill conducted at Raj Bhavan

SUMMIT REPORT

Gangtok, 21 Mar:
 A special fire safety drill was held at Raj Bhavan by the Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, Sikkim Police, today. The Fire safety team was led by Deputy Superintendent of Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Prakash Rai.

A press release from Raj Bhavan informs that Governor Shrinwas Patil, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Governor, officers and staff of Raj Bhavan and ITBP Jawans were present on the occasion.

Mr Rai and his team demonstrated various firefighting techniques along with creating awareness on prevention, mitigation and use of various types of fire extinguishers.



He also provided hands-on operation drill to various household staff of Raj Bhavan.

Expressing gratitude to the team, the Governor urged that literature simplifying the firefight-

ing action using various types of extinguishers be printed in local languages for use by common people wherever such extinguishers are installed.

He also directed the

team to train Raj Bhavan staff in batches of five each so that all are aware of the system and usage during emergency hours.

The Governor also underlined the need to create awareness about

the firefighting facilities available in Raj Bhavan compound and public buildings elsewhere along with knowledge about various types of fires and the techniques to douse them.



Rhenock College students visit Sikkim Milk production unit

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 MAR:
 The Department of Economics of Rhenock Government College, East Sikkim, organised a study tour for the 5th semester students of B.A, B.Sc [Economics] Honours at the production unit of Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union Limited in Tadong today. Earlier this year, the team had also visited Anand Milk Union Limited [AMUL] and others dairy cooperatives in Anand and in others district of Gujarat in the month of Jan, a press release informs.

Sponsored by Rashtriya Uchchattar Siksha Abhiyan [RUSA] and Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, the tour was conducted with an objective to provide avenues for self employment in dairy related activities/business and to enhance knowledge and skill of the participants in supply chain and dairy marketing, importance of cooperative dairy farming, breeding, feeds and production of milk and its processed

produces. Accompanied by faculty members of the Economics Department, Rhenock College, Santosh Basnett and Pranesh Pandey, the students gathered information regarding various facets of Amul like cooperative dairy farming, usage of advanced technologies, production and its marketing by acquiring first-hand knowledge.

The organizing team, on behalf of the college, has expressed gratitude to Chairperson, National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited [NCDFI], Anand, Gujarat, Mangaljit Rai, for his guidance, support and directions.

The team also extended gratitude to the officials of NCDFI, National Dairy Development Board [NDDB], Sikkim Cooperatives Milk Producers' Union Ltd and all village and district level dairy cooperatives for their support and cooperation. They also thanked the Principal of Rhenock Government College for motivating and supporting their tour.

Yoga & Naturopathy seminar concludes

GANGTOK, 21 MAR [IPR]: The three-day seminar on 'Yoga & Naturopathy' concluded today in the capital. Almost 200 participants comprising of Nursing students, Senior Nurses and the team of AYUSH attended the seminar held from 19-21 Mar.

The programme was conducted by resource persons Dr Vadiraja HS [Research Officer, Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, New Delhi], Dr Sangeet S [Consultant-Yoga and Naturopathy, CCRYN], Dr Sarju M [Director, Green Wood Nature & Care Hospital, Siliguri] and Dr Neelam Sarju [Consultant, Yoga and Naturopathy].

The resource persons enlightened the participants on subjects like Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Suddha/Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy which were deliberated upon during the course of the seminar. The programme also had interactive sessions between participants and the resource persons.

Mission Director, National AYUSH Mission, Dr Bimal



Rai, in his valedictory remarks, thanked and congratulated the students and the resource persons for successful completion of the seminar. He urged the participants to implement the training imparted to them in the seminar in their day-to-day practice. He also stated that every individual should change their mindset and be more practical and follow the developments in the field of Yoga and

Naturopathy. "Yoga has been globally recognized and our Government has taken various measures to implement Yoga in the State. A three-day seminar is not sufficient and the knowledge gained should be shared with every individual," he added.

The programme also had a feedback session wherein the participants expressed gratitude and thanked the organizers

for an informative and meaningful programme.

Certificates were handed over to the participants at the end of the seminar.

The function also had the presence of Dr Keshree Rai [Additional Director cum State Programme Officer, AYUSH], Dr Gagan Ruchal [AYUSH wing, Department of Health] and other officials from the AYUSH team.

BJP's Vijay Yatra tours across East district



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 MAR:

BHARATIYA JANTA PARTY Sikkim Pradesh

covered various areas of East district on the sixth

day of its ongoing Vijay Yatra today. The rally, led by the State president, DB Chauhan, and accompanied by leaders of the party, started from the party's Singtam office this morning, informs a BJP press release.

The release adds

that the rally then entered Rangpo Bazaar where the party president addressed the people at Rangpo Tallo Bazaar. It is informed that the rally then covered the route of Rangpo, Rorathang, Rhenock and Rongli.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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Government of India seeks young persons to help, channelise their energies and capabilities towards nation building activities by organising them into volunteers groups. You shall be asked to spearhead campaign/awareness programmes about health, literacy, sanitation, gender and other social issues and may also be called upon to assist the administration in emergency or implementation of various programmes.

- ii) Eligibility: i) Education: Atleast class X Pass (Class-X),
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- iii) No Regular Students are Eligible for applying for NY Volunteership

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Candidates must be resident of Particular Block

DETAILS OF VACANT POSITION OF NYC VOLUNTEERS FOR NYK, MALDA			
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Kabi	1	Passingdong	2

Last Date of Receiving filled in Application: 31st March 2018

How to Apply: Visit the Department's Website: www.Nyks.org [Blog- National Youth Corps] for details of the Scheme, Application Proforma and Online application and also apply offline to the:

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 P.O. Mangan North Sikkim
 Office No. 03592 234588

District Youth Coordinator
 Ph. 9593373387,
 9434406761



CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANISATION
 HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES AND
 FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
 GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 763/CHSO/17-18

Date: 20/03/2018

Online Tenders are invited from eligible manufactures for the supply of Generic Drugs/Medicines and Consumables to the Central Health Stores Organisation, Government of Sikkim, for the Financial Year 2018-19. The tender documents will be available for downloading from the website <http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in> w.e.f. 24/03/2018. 2.00 pm onwards. The bid should be submitted online in the website for which, the bidders should have the necessary portal enrolment with his/her own Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Sd/ JOINT DIRECTOR

CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANISATION

R.O. No: 638/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Date: 20/03/2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Instill Conservation by Cultivating Pride

Invite collaborations instead of talking down

Yesterday, 21 March, was World Forestry Day. It passed without much ado in Sikkim unlike other Days which see an outpouring of 'concern' and 'activity' telescoped into a once a year routine.

What would have Sikkim done on World Forestry Day? A lot of plantation (but it's too early for that), some seminars and an odd workshop or two depending on what the budget allowed. Such initiatives, well-meaning though they might be, mean little and achieve even lesser. The State's biodiversity hotspot credentials are much touted and often compromised and one needs to only look out of the window to notice the abundance of green and may be even surmise that forests are doing rather well here and do not really need a Day to flag worries and concern. But like most surmises, this would be a superficial solace. The forests are under stress, as much from the Machiavellian demands of "development" as from the sheer stress of population growth in a small area. That said, Sikkim is lucky that it is snuggled in the horseshoe that gives it a bio-diversity that few places its size can boast of. One could carry on endlessly about the variety of flora and fauna that are abundant in Sikkim, but that is exactly what we are striving to make a point against.

No, not the flora and fauna, but the tokenism that goes by way of concern on ecology-related issues in Sikkim. What is most ironic about environment-related issues in this Himalayan State is that all initiatives are taken by the government voluntarily. The environmental cess for example, as also the clause proposed to be added to work orders for all civil works which will require contractors to undertake plantation works around their work sites (which remained a proposal and was never followed-through), the ban on plastics and the legislations protecting jhoras from dumping. All these decisions were taken by the government on its own. Even the environmental impact assessments for major projects are taken up by an arm of the government and over-watch maintained by another arm. Apart from the physical impossibility of one arm twisting the other is it misbehaves, there is also too much overlap and too many "considerations" which make such supervision inconsequential. And there is more that is askew with this picture? All these decisions emanate from public pressure in other places, but here they flow top-down which is not always the best option. When people pressurise governments to initiate well-meaning policy decisions, they do so after they have informed themselves better and decided to get engaged. When government agencies take the initiative, they talk down to the people and that does not always lead to an informed populace. Sikkim should still consider itself lucky that all these measures have come its way voluntarily. What is after all obvious is that no one would have missed them if the government had decided to ignore these initiatives.

But conservation can never succeed when it is forced or dictated. It has to be a collaborative effort which should involve everybody. Before the government announces another pro-environment legislation, it should perhaps direct the Human Resource Development Department to prepare Sikkim-specific text books for Environment Studies [a subject already in the syllabus] at least till class VIII for all schools in Sikkim. If this is done and some activity-based topics included in the curriculum, then the generation still in schools will understand the environment they live in better. If they understand it, they will also appreciate its uniqueness and will soon start taking pride in it. No one will then have to lecture them about conservation anymore because the pride of living in Sikkim will automatically imbibe it into their mindsets. Sikkim, its ecology and its people will then be safe forever.

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

AMELIA S. WORSLEY
theconversation.com

Is loneliness our modern malaise? Former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy says the most common pathology he saw during his years of service "was not heart disease or diabetes; it was loneliness."

Chronic loneliness, some say, is like "smoking 15 cigarettes a day." It "kills more people than obesity."

Because loneliness is now considered a public health issue – and even an epidemic – people are exploring its causes and trying to find solutions.

While writing a book on the history of how poets wrote about loneliness in the Romantic Period, I discovered that loneliness is a relatively new concept and once had an easy cure. However, as the concept's meaning has transformed, finding solutions has become harder.

Returning to the origins of the word – and understanding how its meaning has changed through time – gives us a new way to think about modern loneliness, and the ways in which we might address it.

THE DANGERS OF VENTURING INTO 'LONELINESSES'

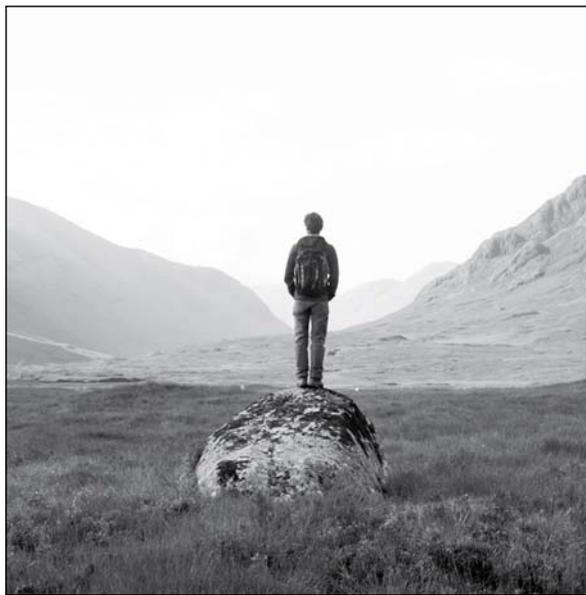
Although loneliness may seem like a timeless, universal experience, it seems to have originated in the late 16th century, when it signaled the danger created by being too far from other people.

In early modern Britain, to stray too far from society was to surrender the protections it provided. Distant forests and mountains inspired fear, and a lonely space was a place in which you might meet someone who could do you harm, with no one else around to help.

In order to frighten their congregations out of sin, sermon writers asked people to imagine themselves in "lonelineses" – places like hell, the grave or the desert.

Yet well into the 17th century, the words "loneliness" and "lonely" rarely appeared in writing. In 1674, the naturalist John Ray compiled a glossary of infrequently used words. He included "loneliness" in his list, defining it as a term used to describe places and people "far from neighbours."

John Milton's 1667 epic poem "Paradise Lost" features one of the first lonely characters in all of Brit-



ish literature: Satan. On his journey to the garden of Eden to tempt Eve, Satan treads "lonely steps" out of hell. But Milton isn't writing about Satan's feelings; instead, he's emphasizing that he's crossing into the ultimate wilderness, a space between hell and Eden where no angel has previously ventured.

Satan describes his loneliness in terms of vulnerability: "From them I go / This uncouth errand sole, and one for all / Myself expose, with lonely steps to tread / Th' unfounded deep."

THE DILEMMA OF MODERN LONELINESS

Even if we now enjoy the wilderness as a place of adventure and pleasure, the fear of loneliness persists. The problem has simply moved into our cities.

Many are trying to solve it by bringing people physically closer to their neighbors. Studies point to a spike in the number of people who live alone and the breakdown of family and community structures.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has set her sights on "combating" loneliness and appointed a minister of loneliness to do just that in January. There is even a philanthropy called the "Campaign to End Loneliness."

But the drive to cure loneliness oversimplifies its modern meaning.

In the 17th century, when loneliness was usually relegated to the space outside the city, solving it was easy. It merely required a return to society.

However, loneliness has since moved inward – and has become much harder to cure. Because it's taken up residence inside minds, even the minds of people living in bustling cities, it can't always be solved by company.

Modern loneliness isn't just about being physically removed from other people. Instead, it's an emotional state of feeling apart from others – without necessarily being so.

Someone surrounded by people, or even accompanied by friends or a lover, can complain of feelings of loneliness. The wilderness is now inside of us.

POPULATING THE WILDERNESS OF THE MIND

The lack of an obvious cure to loneliness is part of the reason why it is considered to be so dangerous today: The abstraction is frightening.

Counterintuitively, however, the secret to dealing with modern loneliness might lie not in trying to make it disappear but in finding ways to

dwel within its abstractions, talk through its contradictions and seek out others who feel the same way.

While it's certainly important to pay attention to the structures that have led people (especially elderly, disabled and other vulnerable people) to be physically isolated and therefore unwell, finding ways to destigmatize loneliness is also crucial.

Acknowledging that loneliness is a profoundly human and sometimes incurable experience rather than a mere pathology might allow people – especially lonely people – to find commonality.

In order to look at the "epidemic of loneliness" as more than just an "epidemic of isolation," it's important to consider why the spaces of different people's minds might feel like wildernesses in the first place.

Everyone experiences loneliness differently, and many find it difficult to describe. As the novelist Joseph Conrad wrote, "Who knows what true loneliness is – not the conventional word but the naked terror? To the lonely themselves it wears a mask." Learning about the range of ways others experience loneliness could help mitigate the kind of disorientation Conrad described.

Reading literature can also make the mind feel like less of a wilderness. The books we read need not themselves be about loneliness, though there are lots of examples of these, from "Frankenstein" to "Invisible Man." Reading allows readers to connect with characters who might also be lonely; but more importantly, it offers a way to make the mind feel as though it is populated.

Literature also offers examples of how to be lonely together. British Romantic poets often copied each other's loneliness and found it productive and fulfilling.

There are opportunities for community in loneliness when we share it, whether in face-to-face interactions or through text. Though loneliness can be debilitating, it has come a long way from its origins as a synonym for isolation.

As the poet Ocean Vuong wrote, "loneliness is still time spent with the world."

[the writer is Assistant Professor of English, Amherst College]

Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump's great success in exploiting the rise of nationalist Christianity

ABBY DAY
theconversation.com

Russia has re-elected its self-styled leader and saviour, whatever his weaknesses – even his sins. The revelation that the Russian government may have ordered a former spy's poisoning should provoke international outrage from Vladimir Putin's fellow Christians, particularly as the holiest Christian festival of Easter approaches.

But then, Putin seems to have his own ideas about acceptable Christian behaviour. Like most people, I watched his recent speech showing Russia's bigger, badder nuclear arsenal with mixed feelings of surprise and horror. Scary, no matter what the political leanings of a leader. Terrifying, when in the hands of a leader who believes he is, in a deeply religious sense, the saviour of a beleaguered nation now being resurrected.

Spin your globe around and there's a leader in the White House making similar moves to bolster his nuclear power: the previously apparently non-religious (in an American context, unlectable) Donald Trump. Playing to a base that equates Christianity not with humble morality but with power and cultural purity, Trump performed Mephistophelean manoeuvres to harden opposition to abortion and gun control. In doing so, he won the vote of a conservative Christian right, and provoked criticisms of hypocrisy. How could a philandering "pussy"-groper win religious votes?

Martyn Percy, an Anglican priest and Dean of Christ Church College, Oxford, traces Trump's victory with American Christians to the statement made by Franklin Graham, son of American evangelist Billy Graham. He encouraged evangelists to back Trump as a kind of modern "Cyrus" – the biblical figure styled as a messiah.

PRAYING WITH POPULISTS

Fingers on the pulse of an angry electoral ramp, both leaders unashamedly exploit their respective national and, increasingly, the international rise of a new, populist right that uses religion to defend what might otherwise be construed as petty, nasty, hard-line, racist nationalism. Described as a means



of defending Christian culture as "the last bulwark protecting a besieged Judeo-Christian civilisation from the barbarians at the gates", populist parties invoke a kind of religion that emphasises a past golden age, rather than shared practices of church attendance and piety.

Putin has been capitalising on the Russian ethno-religious potential for several years. In a visit to Ukraine in 2013, he celebrated the 1,025th anniversary of the conversion of the Slavic Grand Prince Vladimir to Orthodox Christianity. At one of Europe's most holy sites, the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev, Putin declared: "We are all spiritual heirs of what happened here ... and in this sense we are, without a doubt, one people."

And in December 2014, Putin celebrated the annexation of Crimea as reigniting Russia's glorious, Christian past. He described Crimea as Russia's "Temple Mount", the name of the contested holy site in Jerusalem:

"The peninsula is of strategic importance for Russia as the spiritual source of the development of a multifaceted but solid Russian nation and a centralised Russian state ... Crimea, the ancient Korsun or Chersoness, and Sevastopol have invaluable civilisational and even sacral importance for Russia, like the Temple Mount in Jerusalem for the followers of Islam and Judaism."

Not to mention Crimea's and Sevastopol's en-

during military significance, as the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The retired major-general and military historian Mungo Melvin observed that "many in the Kremlin now, and perhaps long into the future, would argue that Russia's honour was at stake in Sevastopol as much as its national interests".

MAKING CHRISTIANITY GREAT AGAIN And it's not the first time that Putin draws on a notion of a shared noble past. Melvin adds: "Rather than being an opportunistic tactician as some suppose, he is following a deliberate strategy of making Russia great again, backed by increasing military spending."

The "people" to whom Putin is appealing may self-identify as Orthodox Christian, but few attend church or participate in rituals such as fasting. This phenomenon of "nominal Christianity" or "believing in belonging" is familiar: most people who self-identify as Christian on the decennial UK census do not attend church or participate in important rituals, such as confirmation or communion. A similar pattern can be seen across western Europe and increasingly in the United States. I have argued that such self-identification arises at certain times when people feel compelled to assert their religious identity for nationalist reasons.

In Russia, the numbers of people claiming to be "Orthodox" increased from 31% to 72% between 1991 and 2008, while regular church attendance barely shifted, growing from 2% to 7%. In such a context, the potential power granted by Christian trappings should not be underestimated. Putin most recently shored up his image as a national saviour just ahead of Russia's election, positioning himself as nearly single-handedly saving an old monastery. A documentary film showing Putin's visit to the monastery created a strong picture of an almost mythic figure.

Whatever their involvement in immoral activities, Putin and Trump seem assured of the populist support of modern Christians who long for a return to power, no matter what the cost in lives or souls.

[the writer is Professor of Race, Faith and Culture, Goldsmiths, University of London]

Former SBI manager Siliguri branch arrested

SMRITA KHAWAS SILIGURI, 21 MAR:

A former bank manager of State Bank of India, Siliguri branch at Hill Cart road, has been arrested on charges of establishing physical relations with a woman under false promise of marriage. The accused was produced before Siliguri Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court (ACJM) today following which he was placed under police custody for 14 days.

The accused identified as, Subhendu Talukdar, a resident of Kolkata, was arrested from Kasba in Kolkata and was produced before the Siliguri court today.

The victim, a divorcee, has alleged that the accused took advantage of her poor financial condition when she approached him for a loan in 2011 when he was a bank manager. He then allegedly lured her with the promise of marriage. Later, he threatened her of dire consequences if she complained to the police.

Meanwhile, advocate, Alok Das said, "A police complaint was filed at the Siliguri women's police station by the victim on 09 March. After which the accused was arrested on 20 March and produced before Alipore Sadar civil court, South 24 Parganas where he was ordered two days transit remand and today he was produced before ACJM where the court ordered him 14 days jail custody."

Mamata likely to meet Shami's wife

KOLKATA, MAR 21 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to meet Team India pacer Mohammed Shami's estranged wife Hasin Jahan in connection with her complaint of domestic violence and infidelity against the cricketer.

According to a senior official at the chief minister's office, Jahan has been asked in a telephonic communication to meet the chief minister at the state assembly on March 23.

"She has been asked to meet the chief minister at the state assembly on Friday. She has been directed to come alone without her lawyer or anybody from her family," the officer said.



The move came after Jahan went to Banerjee's Kalighat residence on Monday and submitted a petition seeking time to meet the chief minister.

Jahan had gone to Banerjee's residence soon after recording her statement before the magistrate.

She had lodged a complaint with the police alleging domestic violence and infidelity against him.

Jahan had also alleged that Shami had taken money from a Pakistani woman named Alishba on the insistence of an England-based business-

man, Mohammad Bhai.

She had also sent documents related to her complaints against her husband to the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Committee of Administrators (CoA) chairman Vinod Rai for a probe into her allegations of

corruption, her lawyer said today.

Kolkata Police had registered cases under non-bailable sections 307 (attempt to murder), 498-A (subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 376 (punishment for rape).

In fact, five persons including Shami have been booked under bailable sections 323 (causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) among others.

Kolkata Police sleuths have collected a copy of Jahan's statement before the magistrate, a senior officer of the force said.

"This will play a crucial role in our investigation into the matter. In fact, we are at a very crucial stage of our probe into the case," he said.

Time ripe to boost Indo-Japan cooperation in Northeast: Envoy

NEW DELHI, MAR 20 (PTI):

Pitching for enhanced India-Japan ties in the Northeast, Japanese ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu today said time was ripe to significantly expand the cooperation between the two countries in the region, backed by convergence of strategies.

The ambassador was addressing a gathering at a workshop here, where he also recalled the Battles of Kohima and Imphal fought during the World War II to underline the shared history of the region.

"I myself have visited Manipur twice and Nagaland once to pay tribute to the war victims. I felt people's strong wish to enhance cooperation with Japan, not only economically but also culturally and via people-to-people contacts based on our historical connection and ethnic similarity," he said.

"And, today, more than 70 years thereafter (1940s), time is ripe to significantly expand Japan-India cooperation in the Northeast, backed by the ever closer relationship between the two countries and the convergence of our strategies," Hiramatsu said.

India's Act East Policy and Japan's Free and Open Indo Pacific Strategy converge in Northeast, the envoy said.

The workshop on India-Japan Partnership for

Economic Development in Northeast was also attended by Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who assured that his government would extend all cooperation for joint projects in the state.

Singh said 2019 would mark 75th year of the Battle of Imphal (1944) and his government planned to host a summit in collaboration with Japan to mark the occasion.

"We have also drawn up a WW II homage circuit that would enhance tourism in the state. We invite all countrymen of Japan to visit the state where some of their ancestors died during the war," he said. The chief minister also spoke about the war museum being built in the state.

"Our landlocked state is blessed with scenic beauty. Modern game of polo also originated from our state. We are working on a statue of polo of about 140-ft height, which can be seen even from aerial flights," he added.

Singh invited Japan to invest in the country, and assured that all projects would be dealt through a "single-window" clearance through his office.

The Japanese ambassador also announced that his country would sign a grant agreement for a project for construction of a secondary school for Scheduled Tribes in Manipur, the day after tomorrow.

Tripura govt to launch e-hospitals, GPS-fitted ambulances

AGARTALA, MARCH 21 (PTI):

The Tripura government has decided to launch 21 e-hospitals and 50 life-support ambulances with GPS tracking systems as part of its initiative to modernize healthcare services in the state, health minister Sudip Roy Burman said here today.

An emergency response helpline number and a grievance redressal system will also be introduced in the state for the benefit of the people, he said.

"The new (e-hospital) system will be able to manage electronic health records, online admissions, drug stock monitoring, supply chain management,"



There is a shortage of medical and para-medical professionals and the government has decided to hire super-specialist and specialist doctors in neurosurgery, nephrology and cardiology disciplines on contract, Roy Burman noted.

The measures are likely to arrest the flow of patients to hospitals outside the state, he said.

"Over 3,000 posts of doctors and paramedical staffs are currently lying vacant in the state. They would be filled up in a phased manner," he asserted.

The minister also said that a new order has been issued, asking government doctors to

prescribe only generic drugs in hospitals and issue computerized prescriptions.

"The government has decided to organize more health camps, especially in hilly and remote areas, and doctors have been asked to initiate pre-emptive action on diarrhea, dysentery, malaria and other endemic diseases."

Eight persons, including two minors, died in a diarrhea outbreak in Dhalai district earlier this month.

Roy Burman said his government is committed to offer a user-friendly, affordable health services to common people.

Consul General of Japan visits Kalimpong

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 21 MAR:

Consul General of Japan, Masayuki Taga, visited Hill Social Welfare Society [an NGO] to inspect the construction site of a project funded under Japan's 'Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects'. The NGO had received a grant of Rs 51,85,000 for the project.

The construction site that is located at Upper Cart Road, near Kalimpong town, is meant for building a Vocational Training, Information, and Counseling Centre where people can learn how to improve their livelihood.

Hill Social Welfare Society, on the other hand, is an NGO working for the welfare of marginalised communities since

the year 2000 here in Kalimpong by organising various kinds of vocational trainings for distressed/deserted women so that they can earn a livelihood.

"We select NGOs on the basis of their needs and in terms of various other aspects. I expect Hill Social Welfare Society to fully utilise our funds for the training centre and most importantly utilise the centre which will be constructed soon," said Mr Taga.

He further added that the NGO was doing a "good job" but they needed a specific place to concentrate the training activities which is why they had requested for the building.

Focusing on the poor employment scene in

the hills as compared to other parts of the world, Mr Taga said, "Things are getting better and the unemployment scene is gradually improving. Moreover, with the assistance of skill development projects provided by the NGO, the youth can do much better. In order to do anything, one requires skills, and without skills, no one can work on anything. Skill development projects and vocational trainings are very important for a person and his family, for the community and the country as a whole."

Mr Taga later left for a field visit from the construction site to Lapchu and Peshok where the NGO works with single women.

Cadre, overground worker of NSCN(K) arrested in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, MAR 21 (PTI): The Assam Rifles on Tuesday apprehended a cadre and an overground worker of NSCN(K) in two separate operations, defence sources said.

Based on intelligence inputs, the Khonsa battalion of the Assam Rifles launched an operation in Chop village of Tirap district and apprehended Private Khajam Pansa, a self-styled member of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K), Kohima-based Defence Spokesman Colonel Chiranjeet Konwer said.

During interrogation, Pansa admitted he had links with the banned outfit, Konwer said, adding that a pistol and ammunition were seized from him.

In another operation in Tirap Colliery of the district, the Lekhapani battalion of the force nabbed Nisto Sema, an overground worker of the outfit, and recovered Rs 5 lakh from him, the defence spokesman said.

Sema, a resident of Lalpahar village, was also apprehended in 2005 for aiding the NSCN (K), the spokesman added.

SummitTIMES
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India at CWG: Gymnast Patra eyes medal for better life

KOLKATA, MAR 21 (PTI): Included in India's Commonwealth Games gymnastics squad after going to court, Rakesh Patra is desperate for a medal not just to prove his worth but also to become financially strong enough to change his family's fortunes.

The 26-year-old artistic gymnast was included in India's CWG squad after he filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court when his name was initially omitted owing to a tussle between the Gymnastics federation and the Indian Olympic Association.

Hailing from Odisha, the World Cup finalist has endured a tough journey so far, one that he hopes, will ease up with a good CWG showing.

But despite the challenges, his father Dayamidhi Patra, a primary school teacher in Brahmagiri School about 25 kilometres from Puri, ensured that he got all that was needed to shape into a decent athlete.

"He would get about Rs 400 a month and spend more than half of that on me. I have seen them sleep without eating on some days. I still remember the pain," Patra, a chief petty officer in Indian Navy, told PTI from Mumbai.

Despite the hardships, senior Patra ensured that his son pursued his dreams on the insistence of his childhood coach Ashok Mishra and uncle Subhendu Patra, a former gymnast.

"My uncle and coach told my father that I have a future in gymnastics. Despite being in academics, my father fully supported me. He ensured everything that's needed to become a gymnast," added Patra, who bagged his first national medal at the 2004 Sub-Junior Nationals in Kolkata.

MUMBAI, MAR 21 (PTI): White-washed by Australia in the three-match ODI rubber, the Indian women cricketers would be hoping for a reversal of fortunes when they clash with the same rivals in the lung-opener of the T20 tri-series starting here tomorrow.

England is the third team to figure in the tournament in which all matches will be played at the Cricket Club of India's Brabourne Stadium.

The Indian women's team would take confidence from their 3-1 win against South Africa in the five-match T20 series held in the Rainbow Nation.

But having surrendered the ODI series rather tamely to Australia, it will be an uphill ask for the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side to face the same opponents, although the format is different.

With back-to-back half centuries, Smriti Mandhana was the top run-getter for Indian women during the ODI series against Australia and she would look to continue her good run.

Among others, the batting would



depend largely on the experienced duo of Kaur and Mithali Raj and the two players would need to fire big against a strong Australian pace attack.

India women also possess other good batswomen like Veda Krish-

namurthy and all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar, who scored a crucial 51 in the first ODI. Young Mumbai girl Jemimah Rodrigues too showed her skills when she scored a racy 42 after being asked to open the innings

in third ODI.

With experienced Jhulun Goswami back in the mix, it the seam attack looks more or less settled as Shikha Pandey would look to share the burden after taking five wickets during

the ODI series.

The spin department has off-spinner Deepti Sharma and leggie Poonam Yadav. The two had played a pivotal role in the team's win in South Africa and if the Aussies are to be restricted, they will have to be at their best.

On the other hand, the Aussies will be aiming to continue their form and keep the winning momentum going.

Their skipper Meg Lanning, who failed to convert her starts in the ODI series, would be hungry to get some runs under her belt.

Wicket-keeper Alyssa Healy, who scored a magnificent 133 in the final ODI at Vadodara, is among runs and poses a big threat to the Indian bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen too have proved to be a difficult customer for the Indians as she picked eight wickets during the ODI series. Other spinners Amanda-Jade Wellington and Ashleigh Gardner too have done well and the hosts will have to be careful against them.

Not helping: Vijay Shankar on 'sympathy' for Nidahas off day

NEW DELHI, MAR 21 (PTI): Sympathy, however well-meaning, can at times add to misery -- something that Vijay Shankar is dealing with as he tries to move on from a "disheartening" off day that nearly cost India the Nidahas Trophy final against Bangladesh.

While Dinesh Karthik became the toast of the nation with a last ball six in India's triumph over the South Asian rivals, the 27-year-old Shankar was lambasted for his 19-ball-17 that included four successive dot balls in the 18th over.

"My parents and close friends didn't say anything as they knew what I was going through. But I get these text messages like 'don't worry about what's being said on social media', when I actually I want to move on. They perhaps think that's the way to show sympathy but it may not work," the all-rounder told PTI in an interview.

For him, the final was an off-day that marred a good tournament in which he turned in decent figures with the ball.

"It was an off-day for me but I am finding it difficult to forget. I know I need to move on. I had a good tournament until that final day," the soft-spoken Shankar said.

The Chennai player was practical when asked about being pilloried on social media.

"I need to accept that these are things that can happen when you play for India. The same social media would have gone berserk had I won the match all by myself.

"It happened the opposite and I have to accept all the brickbats. That's also a part of growing up," Shankar replied calmly.

There are times when getting out for a duck in a close encounter allows someone to go under the radar but Shankar doesn't want any safe passage



while trying to chart his own destiny.

"Had I got out for a second or a third ball duck, no one would have bothered about my performance. But then would I have liked that to happen? Certainly not. I would rather accept this situation.

"You just can't think of Lasmar, who operated on Neymar on March 3, said he speaks "two or three times a day" with the physiotherapists working with the Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain player.

"For now, everything is going well, they tell me every detail of Neymar's recovery," Lasmar told French sports daily L'Equipe.

"They are working hard and in a very professional way so that he can return as quickly as possible and, above all, so there won't be any further problems for his foot or posture."

He added that he planned to reassess the injury in mid-April.

Neymar, who missed Brazil's 7-1 semi-final thrashing on home soil by Germany through injury four years ago, is key to his country's hopes at

Surgeon says Neymar's recovery is 'going well'

PARIS, MAR 21 (AFP): Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said that Neymar's recovery from foot surgery "is going well", as the star forward bids to be fit for the World Cup in Russia.

Lasmar, who operated on Neymar on March 3, said he speaks "two or three times a day" with the physiotherapists working with the Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain player.

"For now, everything is going well, they tell me every detail of Neymar's recovery," Lasmar told French sports daily L'Equipe.

"They are working hard and in a very professional way so that he can return as quickly as possible and, above all, so there won't be any further problems for his foot or posture."

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Neymar, who missed Brazil's 7-1 semi-final thrashing on home soil by Germany through injury four years ago, is key to his country's hopes at



this year's World Cup, which starts on June 14. At the time of the operation, Lasmar said Neymar would be out for between "two-and-a-half to three months".

The 26-year-old, who joined PSG for a world-record 222 million euros (264 million) from Barcelona last year, suffered a fractured bone in his right foot last month in a match against Marseille.

Record five-time winners Brazil open their World Cup campaign against Switzerland in Rostov on June 17, ahead of further Group D matches with Costa Rica and Serbia.

Opportunity knocks for Ricciardo in new F1 season

MELBOURNE, MAR 21 (AFP): Daniel Ricciardo faces a pivotal year in his Formula One career with expectations of a much-improved Red Bull performance and mounting speculation over where he will drive next season.

The 28-year-old Australian, who embarks on his eighth F1 season under the suffocating pressure and hype of competing at a home Grand Prix in Sunday's opener in Melbourne, endured a frustrating 2017 campaign.

He retired from three races with engine-related problems -- including the misery of failing to finish in last year's Melbourne race -- and amassed 70-places-worth of grid penalties stemming from the unreliability of the team's Renault engines.

But Ricciardo is considered a championship threat with Red Bull's new RB14 car expected, along with Ferrari, to threaten the Lewis Hamilton-led Mercedes' domination.

The optimism comes from winter testing in Barcelona when Ricciardo consistently registered fast lap times, suggesting Red Bull may have overcome the teething issues of last year.

"It feels like we are in a better place than we have been the last few seasons," he said ahead of the new season.

"We seem solid. Soon we'll know on one-lap pace where we are, but I don't think we are far off."

Reliability will be crucial if they are to mount a serious challenge to Mercedes and Ferrari.

Red Bull had lited four straight drivers' and constructors' world titles when the Australian was promoted from Toro Rosso in 2014, but have not claimed another since with Ricciardo winning five races for the senior team.



"We're certainly relying on the reliability to improve, and we have made a pretty good step with that," Ricciardo said. "I think we are obviously still not going to be on Mercedes' level.

"But in any case, to win a championship you need to be finishing races, let alone winning, and once we

can finish we can start taking points away and do our thing."

Adding to the intoxicating mix is the threat from ambitious 20-year-old Dutch teammate Max Verstappen, who while outscored by Ricciardo on race points last year, regularly topped the Australian in qualifying.

Ricciardo said both of them desperately wanted to win.

"You need that in a way and it's not being a bad sport, it's not cheating; it's just that ruthless streak that every winner has in them. I think Max and all the top guys in the sport have that in them."

Ricciardo will become a free agent in 2019, raising speculation about where he will be next season given the contracts of Valtteri Bottas at Mercedes and Kimi Raikkonen at Ferrari are also due to expire at the end of the year.

"It's nice to be in a position to plan my next two or three years to see what I want in the sport and where I plan on pitching it," he said.

"It will be interesting, I will go through some conversations that will be new to me and I'm kind of looking forward to that experience.

"I think they (Red Bull) are keen to keep me, obviously they've got Max but I think they are keen to keep me and Max together. But yeah, we'll see."

Ricciardo is seeking to become the first home driver to win the Australian Grand Prix since it became part of the world championship calendar in 1985.

Alan Jones was the last to top the podium in his home grand prix, in 1980, a year when he also was the last Australian to win the Formula One world championship.

"Starting the F1 season in Australia means there is so much hype and so much build-up, now with me being the only Australian on the grid there is extra attention, extra questioning and expectation," Ricciardo said.

"It's a lot but it's fun, it's cool but it does mean I usually leave that weekend needing 48 hours of pure serenity and quietness.



Kremlin slams UK's 'unwillingness to hear answers' over spy poisoning

MOSCOW, MAR 21 (AFP): The Kremlin said today the absence of the British ambassador from a Moscow meeting over the poisoning of a Russian double agent in the UK showed London's unwillingness to "hear answers".

"Perhaps this is another eloquent demonstration of the absurdity of the situation when questions are being asked but the unwillingness to hear some answers is being shown," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The British embassy said earlier that its ambassador will not attend the meeting called by the Russian foreign ministry to explain Moscow's view on the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter earlier this month.

Indian couple sentenced for human trafficking in US

WASHINGTON, MAR 21 (PTI): An Indian couple in the US has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment on charges of human trafficking and labour exploitation of an illegal immigrant from India.

The couple Vishnubhai Chaudhari, 50, and Leelababen Chaudhari, 44, of Kimball, Nebraska, have also been asked to pay USD 40,000 to the victim. They face deportation after completion their sentence followed by two years of supervised release.

The Indian couple had previously pleading guilty on December 18, 2017, to alien harbouring for financial gain and conspiracy to harbour an alien, the Department of Justice said.

According to documents filed in court, the Indian couple admitted to conspiring to harbour the victim who was an undocumented Indian national, at a Super 8 Motel in Kimball between October 2011 and February 2013.

Although they promised to pay the victim, they never did, but rather claimed to apply that amount to a debt the victim owed. They further restricted the victim's movement, isolated him, and verbally abused him. Vishnubhai also threatened to find the victim if he ever left the motel. Leelababen regularly assaulted the victim, including on one occasion when she slapped his face several times because he had failed to clean a bathtub to her standards.

The victim eventually escaped with the help of a motel guest and local law enforcement.

Boko Haram releases 76 abducted schoolgirls: govt

ABUJA, MAR 21 (AFP): Boko Haram jihadists have released 76 of the 110 schoolgirls who were abducted from the northeastern town of Dapchi in February, the government said in a statement today.

Information Minister Lai Mohammed said "the 76 are those who have been documented", adding that the release of the abducted students "is ongoing".

The schoolgirls were returned to Dapchi by Boko Haram early Wednesday morning following negotiations between the Nigerian government and the militant group.

"The girls were re-



leased around 3:00 am (0200 GMT) through back-channel efforts and with the help of some friends of the country," said Mohammed, without elaborating.

The number of freed

girls may increase "because the girls were not handed over to anyone but dropped off in Dapchi," he said.

Bashir Manzo, who heads a parents' support group in

"The girls have been brought back. They were brought in nine vehicles and dropped outside the school at about 8:00 am (0700 GMT)," Manzo said.

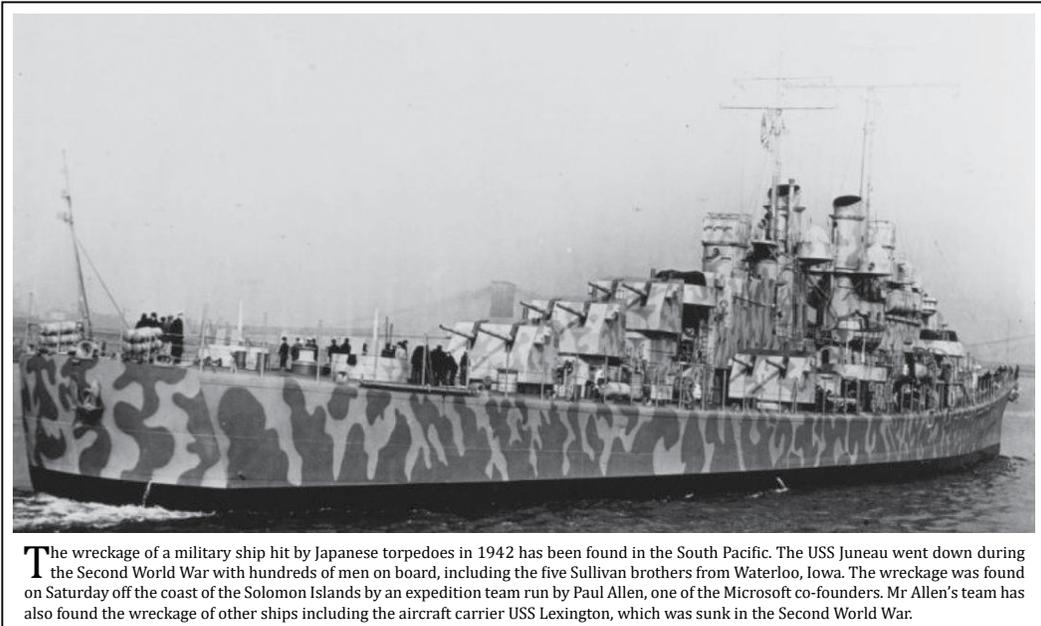
The Dapchi kidnaping on February 19 con-

jured painful memories of a similar abduction in Chibok in April 2014, when more than 200 girls were taken.

That brought Boko Haram -- whose name translates from Hausa as "Western education is forbidden" -- worldwide notoriety at a time when it controlled swathes of territory in Nigeria's northeast.

Boko Haram is increasingly using kidnaping as a means to fund their operations in Nigeria and the remote Lake Chad region.

The jihadist uprising has claimed some 20,000 lives and forced at least 2.6 million to flee their homes since 2009.



The wreckage of a military ship hit by Japanese torpedoes in 1942 has been found in the South Pacific. The USS Juneau went down during the Second World War with hundreds of men on board, including the five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa. The wreckage was found on Saturday off the coast of the Solomon Islands by an expedition team run by Paul Allen, one of the Microsoft co-founders. Mr Allen's team has also found the wreckage of other ships including the aircraft carrier USS Lexington, which was sunk in the Second World War.

China's aircraft carrier sails by Taiwan as tensions rise

TAIPEI, MAR 21 (AFP): China's sole aircraft carrier has passed through the Taiwan Strait, the island's defence ministry said today, as Beijing warned against any move to "separate the country".

The Liaoning and accompanying vessels entered Taiwan's air defence zone on Tuesday and left around noon Wednesday, the ministry said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a blistering nationalist speech on Tuesday, warning against what he called any attempts to split China.

"All acts and tricks to separate the country are doomed to fail and will be condemned by the people and punished by history," Xi said in an address ending the annual session of the National People's Congress.

China still sees Taiwan as its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary, even though the two sides split in 1949 after a civil war and have been ruled separately ever since.



Ties have turned frosty since

Taiwan's Beijing-sceptic President Tsai Ing-wen came to power. Her government refuses to acknowledge that the island is part of "one China".

Tsai has warned against what she called China's military expansion -- the increase in air and naval drills around the island since she took office in May

2016.

The aircraft carrier -- a second-hand Soviet-built ship -- caused a stir in Taiwan when it first entered the strait in January last year in what was seen as a show of strength by Beijing.

It returned in January this year.

"We are monitoring the whole process of the Liaoning's

cross-region drill," Defence Minister Yeh De-fa told parliament Wednesday when asked to comment on its latest moves.

The defence ministry said in a statement that it sent aircraft and vessels to conduct surveillance. "No unusual activities have been spotted and we urge the public to rest assured," it said.

Suicide bomber kills 26 in Kabul attack: interior ministry

KABUL, MAR 21 (AFP): A suicide bomber today killed at least 26 people, many of them teenagers, in front of Kabul University, officials said, as Afghans took to the streets to celebrate the Persian new year holiday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the deadly attack -- the fifth suicide bombing in the Afghan capital in recent weeks -- but the Taliban denied involvement on Twitter.

Another 18 people were wounded in the blast, interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said, "all of them civilians".

A suicide attacker on foot detonated himself in front of a hospital, Rahimi said. The hospital is opposite Kabul University.

The bomber was less than 200 metres from Karte Sakhi shrine where many Afghans gather every year to mark Nawrooz, which is the traditional Persian new year holiday.

The same shrine was attacked in October 2016 when Islamic State gunmen killed 18 people gathered to mark Ashura, an important date for many Muslims, especially Shiites.

A man who was standing metres from where the explosion happened told Tolo News that he saw "at least four bodies in blood" on the ground.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault but Taliban and Islamic State militants have increasingly targeted the war-weary city in recent months.

The blast comes days after a Taliban suicide attacker blew up a bomb-laden car in the Afghan capital, causing multiple casualties.

The Taliban faces growing pressure to take up a recent offer by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani of peace talks to end the 16-year war. So far it has given only a muted response.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES LABHLAXMI GEMINI

Draw No:7 DrawDate on:21/03/18
 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 4166
 2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3129 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 4662
 4th Prize Rs.300/- 2737 5th Prize Rs. 202/- 5843
 6th Prize Rs.100/-
 1005 1024 1068 1089 1095 1152 1157 1217 1220 1227
 1266 1269 1294 1323 1326 1344 1346 1357 1366 1370
 1405 1410 1421 1430 1433 1441 1481 1494 1495 1503
 1556 1588 1609 1618 1632 1640 1693 1703 1713 1720
 1735 1737 1765 1811 1818 1823 1825 1841 1846 1882
 1887 1891 1907 1952 1973 1987 1993 2007 2022 2075
 2080 2114 2123 2157 2158 2172 2231 2243 2296 2338
 2347 2410 2418 2433 2468 2474 2507 2511 2513 2533
 2619 2620 2626 2652 2668 2683 2712 2753 2805 2835
 2893 2904 2976 2995 3002 3047 3048 3057 3075 3085
 3100 3125 3127 3159 3164 3193 3213 3253 3281 3377
 3409 3467 3549 3559 3594 3606 3614 3656 3658 3808
 3865 3935 3945 3947 3967 3974 3979 4008 4089 4135
 4140 4220 4239 4255 4259 4282 4297 4303 4304 4327
 4331 4351 4353 4389 4390 4414 4432 4434 4466 4542
 4567 4569 4595 4607 4619 4627 4641 4650 4655 4714
 4757 4766 4831 4846 4906 4949 4991 5014 5038 5042
 5053 5279 5335 5346 5368 5383 5399 5408 5455 5465
 5468 5545 5548 5553 5566 5578 5603 5668 5673 5677
 5702 5735 5746 5790 5807 5821 5829 5947 6008 6067
 6072 6107 6118 6189 6219 6221 6255 6256 6271 6297
 6307 6324 6327 6337 6339 6351 6360 6362 6398 6431
 6480 6521 6548 6637 6666 6677 6688 6776 6786 6790
 6812 6813 6885 6950 6952 6967 6983 6984 6992 6997

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 The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,
 For result please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES MUMBALAXMI SEETA

Draw No:7 DrawDate on:21/03/18
 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 1426 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3227
 3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 4222 4th Prize Rs. 502/- 4734
 5th Prize Rs.200/-
 1042 1114 1169 1174 1214 1284 1287 1307 1316 1351
 1379 1381 1405 1631 1846 1850 1906 1916 2039 2057
 2095 2096 2101 2111 2143 2155 2191 2212 2270 2326
 2330 2341 2360 2452 2467 2474 2477 2519 2604 2662
 2696 2790 2791 2801 2803 2861 3037 3038 3107 3290
 3324 3346 3453 3506 3563 3594 3610 3618 3648 3657
 3661 3707 3741 3744 3747 3813 3824 3895 4031 4037
 4054 4125 4127 4146 4149 4171 4198 4407 4480 4529
 4558 4587 4610 4655 4742 4852 5063 5137 5174 5198
 5399 5509 5515 5539 5554 5590 5665 5691 5970 5983
 6th Prize Rs.100/-
 1005 1009 1046 1047 1054 1056 1064 1086 1138 1153
 1192 1222 1240 1262 1317 1327 1330 1362 1371 1411
 1454 1490 1497 1501 1518 1531 1549 1555 1578 1581
 1615 1641 1659 1688 1729 1812 1834 1936 1939 1952
 1978 2002 2029 2041 2049 2122 2160 2175 2177 2235
 2275 2281 2289 2331 2347 2357 2364 2373 2375 2402
 2412 2414 2417 2458 2479 2486 2488 2493 2530 2543
 2562 2573 2587 2631 2641 2642 2658 2684 2716 2725
 2752 2800 2804 2884 2956 2991 3002 3042 3044 3048
 3080 3106 3111 3137 3158 3200 3212 3217 3239 3272
 3286 3312 3359 3365 3378 3381 3405 3452 3489 3523
 3577 3652 3683 3684 3689 3706 3734 3735 3761 3775
 3870 3872 3892 3900 3912 3918 3935 3951 3974 3978
 4014 4020 4038 4056 4082 4089 4090 4093 4124 4152
 4154 4158 4242 4252 4299 4326 4372 4422 4442 4450
 4469 4486 4507 4562 4568 4654 4672 4677 4696 4697
 4708 4715 4735 4770 4773 4774 4780 4788 4797 4868
 4885 4913 4925 4933 4951 4983 4999 5004 5207 5249
 5251 5346 5356 5401 5448 5464 5484 5534 5541 5567
 5587 5673 5698 5725 5729 5793 5877 5879 5905 5959

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 The Commissioner,
 ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES, ITANAGAR.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FAITHFUL MORNING	DEAR VALUABLE	DEAR EAGLE EVENING
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:16 DrawDate on:21/03/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 92D 05768 (Including Super Prize Amt) (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:16 DrawDate on:21/03/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 74H 30978 (Including Super Prize Amt) (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:34 DrawDate on:21/03/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 68G 67550 (Including Super Prize Amt) (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 00146 12553 23589 23954 34083 38731 40554 58000 78250 91426 0118 0135 0216 0302 0381 0522 0586 0726 0743 1035 1156 1244 1264 1271 1345 1364 1471 1513 1658 1757 1995 2014 2281 2429 2798 2906 2927 2946 2993 3193 3306 3412 3537 3639 3749 4054 4073 4119 4215 4487 4546 4606 4817 4920 4974 5024 5067 5203 5223 5333 5391 5395 5396 5415 5434 5516 5638 5700 5830 5854 5873 5888 5906 5959 5967 6176 6234 6238 6341 6691 6988 7033 7054 7158 7227 7357 7389 7425 7430 7727 7737 7793 8004 8100 8258 8304 8376 8400 8456 8499 8752 8827 8877 9119 9291 9318 9336 9563 9739 9938	2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 02101 31005 45105 53913 63281 68882 69850 76275 76321 89185 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0405 1020 2172 2581 3561 5577 5908 6629 8789 9236 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0120 1011 1898 2602 3085 3110 4089 6642 7294 9980 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0045 0119 0462 0501 0543 0767 0852 1052 1077 1083 1085 1184 1204 1217 1227 1344 1484 1662 1709 1716 1942 1960 1971 2012 2105 2143 2230 2606 3088 3273 3466 3609 3725 3779 3781 3953 3988 4114 4254 4281 4285 4482 4533 4562 4602 4659 4728 4842 4943 5102 5113 5145 5206 5231 5264 5330 5448 5517 5936 6018 6025 6138 6308 6320 6342 6356 6371 6559 6675 6687 6966 7037 7069 7112 7173 7263 7278 7403 7434 7518 7585 7639 7671 7673 7681 7864 7866 7935 8012 8231 8349 8657 8661 8824 9100 9207 9240 9316 9409 9847	2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 02788 10133 22333 31608 52999 61284 63201 78806 80600 83996 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0311 0508 1319 3021 3183 5434 5175 5648 6496 9186 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0526 1147 1344 7255 7287 7623 7665 7878 9101 9833 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0067 0308 0504 0572 0574 0895 0999 1082 1155 1195 1283 1352 1358 1380 1437 1517 1612 1703 1706 1829 1841 1849 2044 2063 2248 2346 2612 2722 2807 3038 3054 3370 3372 3462 3491 3614 3683 3687 3711 3731 3864 4102 4180 4250 4483 4521 4642 4771 4849 4896 4936 5033 5049 5181 5221 5265 5303 5327 5426 5514 5796 5799 5836 5934 5936 6116 6150 6352 6478 6511 6593 6750 6926 7522 7575 7630 7718 7752 7773 7807 7844 8143 8181 8326 8401 8438 8725 8955 9128 9207 9359 9389 9467 9490 9509 9534 9667 9812 9851 9956

TAYLOR SWIFT SURPRISES KHALIFA'S SON SEBASTIAN

Taylor Swift looks out for all her fans no matter how old—or young—they are!

On Tuesday evening, Amber Rose received an extra special package for her son Sebastian Taylor Thomaz. As it turns out, the "Delicate" singer wanted to surprise the five-year-old in a big way.

"I have a surprise for you! Ready? Look at that. Taylor Swift sent that to you," Amber shared on social media. Sebastian replied, "This is going to be so exciting! Oh my gosh, she sent me a letter."

Enough with the suspense: What's in the box?!

"Guess what? She gave us tickets to go see her in concert," the Loveline with Amber Rose host revealed. "She gave us tickets to go see her show!"

Visibly excited, Sebastian proceeded to thank Taylor on video. And for those wondering how big of a fan the little guy is, may we remind you of his singing skills last fall?

Before reputation was even released, Sebastian knew all the words



to Taylor's hit song "Look What You Made Me Do." "He loves him some @taylorswift," Amber admitted when posting the video that received well over 1.5 million views.

Sebastian is expected to join thousands of Swifties in stadiums across

the country when the reputation tour officially kicks off this May.

While details about the tour remain top-secret, Camila Cabello and Charli XCX are scheduled to open shows throughout the country. And yes, Taylor is more excited to perform

for her loyal fans.

"I'm really excited. I hope you are too and I can't wait to see you," Taylor shared with her followers. "Can't wait to see them. Really excited just about the whole thing in general."



BLACK PANTHER IS THE MOST TWEETED ABOUT MOVIE OF ALL TIME

Wakanda forever! Black Panther is now the most tweeted about movie of all time!

With over 35 million tweets about the film, Black Panther has destroyed the social media competition. Twitter made the announcement Tuesday, officially making the film the most tweeted about movie ever. It was also revealed on Tuesday that the most retweeted post about the film is Kendrick Lamar's tweet about the movie's soundtrack.

"Black Panther The Album 2/9," he tweeted on January 31, along with the album's track listing.

The characters from the movie that have been tweeted about the most have been Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) and Shuri (Letitia Wright). Since the

release of the film—which also stars Lupita Nyong'o and Danai Gurira—in February, it has already earned over \$1 billion at the box office worldwide.

In early March, Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige teased possible Black Panther spinoffs.

"It's a balance between leaving people wanting more and then giving them too much, but I would watch a movie about any of those characters you just named," he told. "I think Shuri's astounding, and you'll see much more of her in our universe. Okoye, I think I'd watch three action films just Okoye. I'm not saying we're doing that, but I'm saying that we're intrigued by them. Frankly, as I've said before, finishing these first 22 movies is really all we're thinking about at this point."

APP-DATE

GOOGLE UPGRADES PLAY APP WITH INSTANT PLAYING, ARCADE MODE

Google introduced changes to its Play app in a recent blog post that will let you play games on Android devices without the need to download them. It also started pushing some UI updates to the Play Store for a better preview of images and screenshots that are still rolling to all customers.

The Google Play app comes with Arcade tab on the bottom, letting you preview, browse games and even play some without downloading them in the Google Play Instant category. There are also video trailers, news, and YouTube walkthroughs. First headlines that are available include Clash Royale, Solitaire, and Words With Friends 2.

To get the new features, you might have to install or update your current app, but it should be available to everyone soon as Google promises Instant will be available "on more than 1 billion Android devices worldwide".

Google Play Store comes with subtle UI changes: the



preview function is new and is made mostly for swiping, you

can't use your keyboard arrows. The screenshots now open full screen (if the resolution allows for it) and there is a nifty dropdown menu to select the device that should get the app.

BAAHUBALI 2 TO BECOME THE FIRST 2000 CRORE FILM AT THE GLOBAL BOX-OFFICE



With so many Bollywood films like Dangal, Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Secret Superstar setting records in China, another Indian film is all set to take the Chinese box-office by storm. South superstar Prabhas starrer Baahubali 2: The Conclusion is now finally certified by the Chinese censor board.

Even though film's release date has not been finalised by the makers of the film, it's said that a huge release is being planned and even the distributors have been finalised for the film. Baahubali 2: The Conclusion shattered all the existing records of every Indian movie in all other markets, hence it's expected that film is going to do wonders in China as well.

Since Baahubali: The Beginning managed to impress the audiences in China, it's assumed that Baahubali 2: The Conclusion will be a big

hit. According to source, part two will have larger screen space just like Aamir Khan's Dangal. It's also said that Baahubali 2 will be the first Indian film to gross 2000 crore at the global box-office. Going as per the records, Aamir Khan's Dangal is currently the highest worldwide grosser with its cumulative collection of Rs 1900 crore.

Baahubali 2's current cumulative collection is Rs 1715 crore and with its China release, the film is expected to mint minimum of Rs 300 crore in the Chinese markets. With that total figure, Baahubali 2: The Conclusion will become the first Indian film to gross Rs 2000 crore at the worldwide box-office. Talking about the film, lead star Prabhas said, "As an actor, Baahubali has given me so much that I can't explain in words. It's a character that will always be a part of me,"



SUPERMODEL GIGI HADID wears a super cute shirt in Noho, NYC. Hadid dressed up her shirt with a brownish red belt, rose-colored glasses, and pepper red shoes to match the lettering on her sweater.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: You're a gregarious person by nature, Aries, and today you might want to socialize and enjoy yourself. You could be overly concerned with your appearance, possibly because you wish to impress a current or potential romantic partner. Don't worry; they'll think you look great. You could receive a lot of attention throughout the evening both from this person and others, which will cement the bonds you feel with all your friends. Enjoy!
TAURUS: You may start the day feeling a little insecure about everything going on around you, Taurus. The increased pressures of work might have strained your nerves a little. However, a lot of love and attention from friends, children, and the special person in your

life should have you feeling better about everything in no time. In the evening, relax and watch a video with your mate!
GEMINI: Extra money may come your way today as a reward for work well done. Perhaps you're getting a substantial bonus, or maybe you're slated for a significant raise. Either way, Gemini, you're going to be in pretty good financial shape. You're going to be feeling very optimistic about your future, and therefore your relations with others will be warm and congenial. Spend the evening celebrating!
CANCER: You may attend a party or other group activity this evening, Cancer. However, you and the special someone in your life could well leave it early

in order to steal some time for intimate conversation together. You should be looking and feeling great and be especially optimistic about your future and the future of your relationships. The future is looking extremely bright to you today.
LEO: You should feel exhilarated today, Leo. You might choose to channel some of this enthusiasm into decorating your home. Your aesthetic sense is sharp, as is your physical energy, so once you set upon a particular course of action, you aren't likely to abandon it. Family members or others close to you may join you and create an atmosphere of strong companionship. Make an impromptu party of it. Get going, and enjoy yourself!
VIRGO: A lot of warm and lov-

ing communications could come your way today, Virgo. It could be in the form of letters, phone calls, emails, or texts Friends from far away whom you haven't heard from in a long time could keep you busy catching up on the phone. Relationships with family members or a partner are likely to be supportive and intimate today. With this, your appreciation of those in your life may be highlighted.
LIBRA: Good news! It looks as if money is coming your way. Perhaps you're getting a good bonus, or perhaps you've received a good review and will be getting a substantial raise. Hearing about this will definitely boost your mood, Libra, and because you're feeling good, you'll be especially nice to those around

you. They'll reciprocate in kind. Enjoy your day!
SCORPIO: Today you might experience, however briefly, the most intense and refined type of spiritual love, Scorpio. Perhaps this is for a friend, child, lover, or maybe for all life forms on the planet. You're also feeling especially artistic, so if you've been planning to make something as a gift, this is the time to do it. All signs bode well for other artistic projects as well. Go to it, and enjoy your day.
SAGITTARIUS: Today you might be feeling a very powerful and all-consuming love for everyone around you, and perhaps for all life forms in general. You're also likely to be feeling romantic, passionate, and anxious for the company of a love

partner. Your imagination is flying high, Sagittarius, and you could be trying to find a gift for a loved one. You're also feeling very spiritually inclined.
CAPRICORN: You could feel a lot of fond affection for everyone around you today, even those you normally might find irritating. Co-workers, friends, family, and the special person in your life are likely to be happier for having basked in this glow, and should reciprocate. You're feeling especially generous, Capricorn, so buying gifts is likely to be on your agenda. Don't forget to be kind to yourself, too.
AQUARIUS: Work may seem more like a drag than usual, as today your thoughts are at home with family, friends, and your partner in life, Aquarius.

You're unlikely to concentrate on work, and you might reach for the phone constantly to seek a friendly voice. Images of beautiful objects may dance in your head. Don't worry about your concentration. It will be back tomorrow!
PISCES: Your natural sensitivity and compassion are given a powerful impetus today by strong feelings of love and affection for everyone around you, Pisces. Therefore, you're likely to give and receive a lot of expressions of affection, both overt and subtle. A significant other should feel especially romantic toward you, so relax and let him or her shower you with attention. Children could also prove a powerful source of support.