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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Sikkim truck torched at Hanuman Jhora Bridge

**SUMMIT REPORT  
KALIMPONG, 09 AUG:**

A Sikkim truck carrying food items has reportedly been torched by miscreants at Hanuman Jhora Bridge in Kalimpong District in the intervening night of 08-09 Aug.

According to information received from police sources the truck was heading towards Jorethang from Siliguri carrying rice and flour. The miscreants were reportedly wearing masks.

The miscreants threatened the driver to come out of the truck. Afraid, the driver refused to come out of the truck after which the truck was allegedly set on fire. This is the third incident of vehicle torching along the National Highway-10. Meanwhile, a Bolero was vandalised in Kalimpong on the same day.



## No specific proof of involvement in murder case: Gurung's counsel tells HC

**KOLKATA, AUG 9 (PTI):** Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) chief Bimal Gurung today claimed in a city court that the CBI has not been able to provide any specific proof of his involvement in the murder of All India Gorkha League chief Madan Tamang.

Gurung's counsel Milan Mukherjee submitted before Chief Sessions Judge Kundan Kumar Kumai that specific proof has to be provided by the prosecutor even for framing of charges against an accused.

Hearing in the matter was adjourned for the day and would resume

tomorrow. The city sessions court is hearing arguments for framing of charges against 46 accused for criminal conspiracy and murder of Tamang.

Mukherjee dismissed as was baseless the prosecution's claim that Gurung had along with other GJM leaders conspired to kill Tamang. He claimed that the CBI has not been able to provide any proof.

"The CBI has claimed that Kalia, who had allegedly attacked Tamang with a sharp weapon, was Gurung's bodyguard.

But just being seen

beside him at some public rallies does not mean he was the bodyguard, he can be a party supporter," Mukherjee submitted.

Gurung and some other GJM leaders accused in the murder were allegedly in Kalimpong when Tamang was killed in Darjeeling on May 21, 2010.

According to Mukherjee, though it has been claimed that mobile phones of some leaders including Gurung were under surveillance, the prosecutors have not submitted any transcript of alleged conversations among them to prove that they had conspired

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## Meeting reviews preparedness to tackle Swine Flu in Sikkim

**GANGTOK, 09 AUG [IPR]:** A review meeting of Swine Flu, Influenza A H1N1 preparedness in the state was held at Chamber of Director General-cum-Secretary [Health] on 07 Aug.

The meeting which was chaired by DG-cum-Secretary [Health] was attended by Principal Director of Health Services I, Director II, State Programme Officer-National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme, Chief Medical Officer-South, State Surveillance Officer-Integrated Disease Sur-

veillance Project, staff of IDSP & NVBDCP.

During the meeting, the current status of medicines and vaccines were reviewed. Further, the DG-cum-Secretary [Health] directed the maintenance of the triage room of STNM Hospital and isolation ward for H1N1 influenza A.

The review of isolation facility at all four districts and Central Referral Hospital, Gangtok, and circulation of necessary guidelines for H1N1 [seasonal influenza] at districts, STNM and CRH

was also discussed.

The Hospital Management team at STNM Hospital has been kept in place to deal with any infectious disease in the State while the technical staff from STNM Hospital have been deployed for sample collection/transportation.

Further, the Information, Education & Communication [IEC] wing of Health Department has been directed to spread awareness on Swine Flu and Vector Borne Diseases, cleanliness and public issues related to health.

## Patkar arrested on her way to Dhar

**BHOPAL, AUG 9 (PTI):** Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) leader Medha Patkar was arrested today when she was on her way to Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh to meet the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) oustees, the

turn to pg02



## India March for Science held in Gangtok

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**

'INDIA MARCH FOR SCIENCE' was held in all major cities of the country today. The march was also held in Gangtok by Breakthrough Science Society [BSS]-Sikkim Chapter with the participation of scientists, researchers, professors and students of Sikkim University.

The march started from Sikkim University Central Library in 6th Mile and concluded at Cauveri Girls Hostel in Tadong.

The main demands of the march were to allocate at least 3% of GDP to scientific and technological research and 10% towards education, stop propagation of unscientific, obscurantist ideas and reli-

gious intolerance, and develop scientific temper, human values and spirit of inquiry in conformance with Article 51A of the Constitution, ensuring that the education system imparts only ideas that are supported by scientific evidence, and enact policies based on evidence-based science.

One student of Sikkim University, Shankar Sharma, said, "The government has been continuously cutting funds for education and scientific research. We want the government to spend minimum 03% of GDP to scientific research and 10% in education."

The students have also demanded that scientific temper be inculcated amongst students in

institutions and more funds be invested in research and other scientific interests.

"The March for Science is actually on 22 April worldwide. 600 cities with over 1.3 million researchers, students and scientists participated in the march throughout the world but India could not participate due to some unavoidable reasons. We are participating in the march because fundamental rights of science have always been overlooked by the Government leading to financial crisis and bankruptcy. We are raising our voice against the attack on democracy, science and truth. It is a march for truth with reason," expressed Mr Sharma.

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## Man accused of sexually assaulting 2 minors

GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

A 40-year-old man of Jorethang, South Sikkim has been accused of sexually assaulting two 7-year-old girls. The incident was reported at Jorethang Police Station by the parents of the victims on 08 Aug. The accused had reportedly committed the crime a week ago when the parents had gone to run errands leaving them alone at home. After the incident was filed the accused was formally brought in and arrested under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

## SBI bank official charged with fraud

GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Chunghang police station on 08 Aug registered a case against the former branch manager of State Bank of India, Chunghang, North Sikkim and unknown officers on the basis of complaint filed by the current Branch Manager of SBI, Chunghang on the allegations that the accused persons fraudulently transferred certain loan amounts to other accounts violating the fiduciary capacity as an officer of the bank. The embezzled amount detected so far is Rs 1,95,000, as per the report filed at the police station. The case is currently under investigation.

## One booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Melli police on 08 Aug booked a 21-year-old man from Tingmoo, South Sikkim under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006. The accused was intercepted by the police at Melli check post. He was reportedly travelling in a Jorethang service taxi from Siliguri. Upon searching the police recovered 144 Spasmoxyvon capsules hidden inside a backpack carried by the accused. The recovered items were seized and the accused formally arrested.

# Swachhata Pakhwada underway at Tharpu

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

On the 09th day of Swachhata Pakhwada conducted by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Tharpu Senior Secondary School, West Sikkim, the students organized a cleanliness drive at Gram Prashasan Kendra, Choudary Chawpal (Community center) and the footpaths of Tharpu.

The cleanliness drive was jointly initiated by 200 NSS volunteers along with NSS programme officer. The pakhwada was officially kicked off on 01 Aug with a formal oath ceremony followed by a series of cleanliness drives and awareness programmes organized by the NSS volunteers of the school. The pakhwada is scheduled to con-



tinue till 15 Aug, a press release informs.

Swachhata Pakhwada is a programme under

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan where nationwide cleanliness drive is being carried out under Ministry of

Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India. Almost all the NSS units of Sikkim are taking part in

the Swachhata Pakhwada under Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Sikkim, reads the release.

# Patkar arrested on her way to Dhar

contd from pg01  
police said.

"We have arrested her as she insisted on going back to meet the oustees. We have told her that it is not possible to allow her to go to Dhar as section 144, CrPc has been imposed in the area," Ajay Sharma, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Indore range, said.

The police stopped Patkar and informed her that she could not proceed to Dhar, but as she refused to relent, she was placed under arrest at the border of Indore and Dhar districts, and subsequently, taken to Dhar, he added.

"We will ask her to furnish a bond stating that section 144 will not be violated. If she furnishes it, we will release her," the ADGP said.

Subsequently, Patkar was produced before a sub-divisional judicial magistrate at Dhar who sent her to jail.

Patkar (62) and 11 others were forcibly removed from Chikhaldia in Dhar on August 7, where they were staging an indefinite fast demanding a proper rehabilitation of the oustees, and were admitted in different hospitals.

Earlier in the day, Patkar was discharged from a private hospital in Indore after her condition improved.

After she was discharged from the Bombay Hospital, Patkar said her indefinite fast would continue.

Patkar (62) and the other activists have been fasting for 14 days.

"Medicines were administered through drips to the fasting agitators in various hospitals but none of us has eaten food so far. We demand the oustees be allowed to stay in their original dwellings till proper arrangements are made for their rehabilitation," Patkar, who came out of the hospital on a wheelchair, told reporters.

She claimed that the process of rehabilitation of the displaced people in the Narmada valley was



yet to be completed.

"At many places, even drinking water is not available.

But the state government is insisting the people to go to these places. This situation is not acceptable to the oustees and therefore, they continue to stay put at their original dwellings," she added.

Patkar said a special leave petition (SLP) came up before the Supreme Court yesterday, but it was dismissed as a related case was pending before the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

"The hearing in the case is scheduled tomorrow in the high court. On behalf of the dam oustees, we appeal to the judiciary to deliver justice in the matter," she added.

Patkar termed as "incorrect" Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's "claims" that different decisions of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal on the issue of rehabilitation were being followed by his government.

"The state government is just making announcements, statements and giving out figures, but is doing nothing on the issue," she alleged.

Asked about her future course of action, the activist said a plan to stage a "big agitation" would be finalised soon.

Patkar alleged that after her removal from the site of the fast, she was kept in an "illegal" custody in the hospital.

"I was allowed to meet only two-three persons. They also did not allow me to use my mobile phone," she claimed.

However, Indore Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Dube dismissed Patkar's charge.

"Every hospital has its own rules. In view of the health condition of the patient, the management did not allow every visitor to go to the ICU (where Patkar was admitted). Still, some were allowed to meet her," he said.

Dube said Patkar was admitted in the hospital on a written advice of doctors that her life was in danger due to the fast.

Thousands of families, living along the banks of the Narmada river in Barwani, Dhar, Alirajpur and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh, are at the risk of getting displaced with the closing of the gates of the Sardar Sarovar dam in neighbouring Gujarat and the resultant rise in the water level in its catchment area.

The Centre recently gave the nod for closing the gates of the dam.

The dam is likely to be filled to its capacity by August-end.

## No specific proof of involvement in murder case: Gurung's counsel tells HC

contd from pg01

to get Tamang killed.

Claiming that five years of investigation by the premier agency has produced only hypothesis and unsubstantiated allegations, Mukherjee prayed that it is a case of no-evidence against Gurung and some others whom he represented.

The CBI has prayed for framing of charges against the accused, among whom are the top brass of the GJM, including its president Bimal Gurung, his wife and GJM women's wing chief Asha, Roshan Giri, Col (ret'd) Ramesh Alley, former MLA Harka Bahadur Chetri, Binay Tamang and Rabin Subba.

The CBI has claimed that the murder was a premeditated one to prevent any other political party from holding meetings or rallies in Darjeeling hills, where GJM held sway through coercive measures.

Tamang was attacked with sharp weapons when he was overseeing preparations for a public meeting at Clubside in the heart of Darjeeling town on May 21, 2010 and was declared brought dead at the sarad hospital there.

## SKM condemns Ashok Chaurasia's statement on Sikkim-Darj merger

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party convened an emergency meeting here at the party head-office today. The meeting was called to discuss the recent statement made by Ashok Chaurasia on social media where he allegedly mentioned the merger of Sikkim with Darjeeling.

In a press release issued today the party has said that Mr Chaurasia has close ties with the RSS, Central Ministers and Ministers of Sikkim and

his statement on making the 22nd State bigger is very insensitive and not in the interest of Sikkim. SKM has strongly objected to such statements.

The party fully supports the Gorkhaland demand but is totally against Sikkim-Darjeeling merger, the release states.

SKM has invited members of political and non-political organizations, civil society and intellectuals to discuss this sensitive issue in a hotel at Deorali on 12 Aug, informs the press release.

## Partiality in distribution of Ujjwala Yojana benefits: BJP Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged partiality by MLAs and Panchayats of the SDF party in the distribution of LPG cylinders to poor women under the Central government scheme Ujjwala Yojana.

A BJP press release of the state-unit president, DB Chauhan, alleges that the ruling party has been distributing LPG cylinders to government employees, contractors and influential people. The party has warned the government to provide gas cylinders to the genuine beneficiaries.



## Awareness on waste management held at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 09 AUG:

A daylong awareness and sensitization programme regarding Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on waste separation at source under the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban) was conducted by Singtam Nagar Panchayat (SNP) today.

It is to be mentioned here that SNP president, SK Pradhan along with the SNP vice president, SNP executive officer and the ward councilors of Singtam had gone to Singapore and Malaysia recently to learn and observe the waste, health and environment man-

agement in urban areas.

"We have learned a great deal about environment and health management techniques from our visit to Singapore and Malaysia. SNC is striving to be an eco-friendly and zero-waste town but the road to achieve that status is very long. To achieve that goal we need cooperation from every resident of Singtam," SNC executive officer, Himmat Rai said.

Mr Rai also urged the residents to use the garbage bins issued by the SNC. He then asked the citizens to dispose of waste properly and work together towards a cleaner town.

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### Premiere Screening of the Tales of Tribes

(a collection of short animated folktales, including *Nye Mayel Kyong* from Sikkim) produced by the Adivasi Arts Trust will be held at The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT).

We solicit the pleasure of your company at the Premiere Screening at NIT, Gangtok on 10th August 2017, at 2.00pm.

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Shrinivas Patil will inaugurate the ceremony as the Chief Guest

**Gangtok on Thursday, 10 August**  
 Temp: 24°C / 18°C  
 Forecast: Dull and dreary with heavy showers.  
 Sunrise: 05:03 AM  
 Sunset: 06:18 PM

**Academic Tendong Lho Rum Faat at SU**

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**  
 Department of Lepcha, School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University, organised a seminar on Lepcha folktales and the screening of The Tales of the Tribes on the occasion of Tendong Lho Rum Faat, here on Wednesday.  
 Dr. Charisma Karthak Lepcha, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University, and Dr. Tara Purnima Douglas from England who has worked on the animation film on tribal folktales were the main speakers. Ney Mayal Kyoung, the animation film by Dr Douglas based on a Lepcha folk tale was also screened on the day. The film has been produced by the Adivasi Arts Trust of which Dr Douglas is the secretary.  
 Kachyo Lepcha, Assistant Professor at Lepcha Department, and organiser of the event informs that this was the first time in Sikkim that Tendong Lho Rum Faat was celebrated in an "academic way".

The Seminar had TK Kaul, Registrar, Sikkim University, as chief guest and was also attended by faculty and special guests.

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**PHE Minister distributes Personal Protective Equipments to workers**

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**  
 A coordination meeting was organized today by Water Security & Public Health Engineer-

ing Department at Selep Complex, Gangtok today.

On the day, PHE Minister, Tulshi Devi Rai distributed Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs)

to plumbers and other D-Grade employees of the department. The PPEs were given to 356 employees. Addressing the meeting, the Minister said that

the present government is very concerned about the government employees and is committed to serve the people better, a press release informs.

**Programme on remedial teaching for Secondary level held**



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**  
 Launching of Remedial Teaching for Secondary level and Orientation on Enhancement of Learning Achievement in Secondary Education began today at Hotel Sinolchu, Gangtok.

The two-day programme is being organized by the State Project Office, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, informs a press release from State Project Director, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

The first day was attended by senior officers such as Directors, District

Joint Directors, senior officers from SCERT, DIET, Principals, etc. The day's programme was chaired by G. P. Upadhyaya [ACS, HRDD] as the chief guest.

The main objective of the programme was to help academically weak students of class IX and organize winter coaching for class X students from the current academic session, the release mentions.

During the program, the welcome address along with brief objective of the initiative under RMSA was presented by M. T. Sherpa [State Project Director, RMSA]. He also briefly dwelt on the need for such initiatives to combat a pan India phenomenon of massive

failures at the secondary level.

Thereafter, the ACS, HRDD delivered his key note address in which he asked everyone present to take up the exercise very seriously for enhancing learning level and reducing dropout due to lack of required competency level among secondary students. He also stressed on the need to focus on achieving excellence by students rather than simply passing the examination.

The event also saw the release of Guidelines on Enhancement of Learning Achievement in Secondary education by ACS, HRDD. The Bhoomi Consultancy from New Delhi gave an elaborate

presentation on the requirement of remedial teaching and strategy for effective implementation of the activity in the state.

This was followed by the interaction and open house discussion among the members present bringing out several new ideas that would be pivotal for framing strategy for implementation of remedial teaching and organizing winter coaching from current academic session. The vote of thanks was proposed by K C Gyatso [JD, RMSA].

The second day of the orientation program on 10 Aug will have Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Principals and faculty from DIET & SCERT, the release informs.

**Missing student Najeeb's kin, JNUSU stage stir outside CBI office**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 9 (PTI):** Fatima Nafees, the mother of missing JNU student Najeeb Ahmad, today took part in a sit-in protest in front of the CBI headquarters here, demanding that the central investigation agency find her son.

The family members of Najeeb, along with the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU), had organised the protest after the Delhi High Court yesterday pulled up the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for not making any headway in the case of the student's disappearance.

"Find my son, I don't want any reasons," Nafees told reporters and wondered why the government was "so scared" to take action in the case.

The court had reprimanded the CBI, saying it had placed on record the same status report submitted earlier, and added that the case had not been transferred to the central probe agency "for fun".

The protesters also threatened to block all the gates of the CBI office and hold such demonstrations every day till

the whereabouts of Najeeb were known.  
 "We were happy when the case was transferred to the CBI. But shockingly, the same report was submitted yesterday. The CBI is making a mockery of the system. We will be protesting again and again till Najeeb is found," said Khalid Saifi, a family friend.

Some protesters demanded that they be allowed to probe the case if the investigating agencies were "scared of something".  
 "Let us do the investigation if you are not able to do so or are scared of something. We will find Najeeb," a JNU student said in his speech.

Some told PTI that they still could not understand why the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students' wing of the BJP, "targeted" a fresher like Najeeb. JNUSU president Mohit Kumar Pandey accused the CBI of "not being independent" and "receiving orders from the home minister".

"We are only asking the CBI to carry out its institutional responsibilities and nothing else," he said.  
 Former JNUSU vice president Shehla Rashid asked the probe agency to look into "all the aspects" of the case.

"The CBI should show some spine and probe all the aspects of the case. Besides, those who had alleged that Najeeb had joined a terror outfit should be arrested," she said.

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE SIXKIM

## Avoid the Babel Syndrome

*Resuscitate languages and the rest will follow*

One of the more encouraging signs when it comes to the vibrancy of languages is to see the young make lists in the mother tongues. It is a rarity, because even speakers of the lingua franca nowadays make their lists in English and they are already conversing on the smartphones in emojis. The worry is that the mother tongue, the language they would be expected to be the most fluent in when conveying emotions and ideas, has now become the formal language – something they can write exams in or maybe use to speak with elders. So, when the mother tongue become the language of casual conversations and spontaneous note-taking, it becomes a special moment, underlining a community's success at keeping their culture alive because no culture can survive once its language is lost.

In fact, a major concern exists in communities all over the world over the preservation of native languages and cultures. While earlier, indigenous communities could rely on traditional educational systems to assure their cultural survival, this support system does not exist anymore. Earlier, the language would get passed down around kitchen fires and along with it would slip through the essence of ethnic cultures and traditions. As Sikkim grows more cosmopolitan, outside influences have edged out this form of education. The formal education system which includes many indigenous/local languages in its curriculum does not include the subtlety with which cultures were earlier fostered. At best, the schools can equip the students with the language, which they should then utilise to learn. Unlike the present trend where the learning curve ends with the schooling years, the learning should in fact begin once the language is mastered. This becomes necessary because indigenous languages are finding fewer and fewer people using them anymore and the few who have mastered the tongue need to record whatever it is they can cull from the older generation so that some element of their identity survives the march of time. In fact, this is one aspect of the cultural revivalism afoot all over the Hills that needs to be paid special attention to.

While it is all too easy to play the role of the victimised and collect sympathy, it is in proving real concern that the Hill communities are failing. This applies not just to the minority Lepchas and Bhutias of the Hills but also the Nepalese, not because the majority is evil, but because the minority is not honing its survival skills enough. It needs no reiteration that language is the link to identity. It is the language that keeps cultures alive. The nuances of each language highlight the influence of the past which shapes the present of individual communities. That said, let's look at the state of ethnic languages among the speakers themselves. When a language is being taught in school, it has to mean more than just a medium of communication. It has to become the tool of learning and discovery. One does not know whom to blame here, but few in Sikkim have proven that they can deploy their language skills for this purpose.

Blame it on the influence of television or now access to affordable broadband which has wiped out the reading habit or the confusion of being exposed to too many languages [Nepali, English and the mother tongue, in Sikkim's case], but fact remains that we are grooming a generation of students who are not proficient in any language. We are talking here in terms of reading, understanding and writing. Anyone can communicate, but a student is expected to do better.

The previous generation has to shoulder most of the blame. They relied too much on tokenism. A language day here, a smattering of language skills there and they thought they had done enough. They were wrong. A language has to become relevant to survive. It can be made relevant if important and interesting books are written in that language, if popular music uses it. Just look around, how many interesting books can a lay person find in Bhutia or Lepcha which is not available in other languages. Even Nepali language essentially survives only as the lingua franca. To prove the point - can anyone recall the last work in fiction in Nepali which was a runaway hit that everyone wanted to read and possess? Fact remains, we are wiping out our cultures because we are not serious enough about our languages.

**DEAR READERS, IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE US AT 9734152451 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.**

# The Gangtokian Hallyu: Why K-pop is so popular in Sikkim

ABHIBYANJANA RUBHI THATAL

The Hallyu wave or the Korean wave has spread through the world like wildfire. People all over the world have been 'fangirling' and getting caught in this wave of Korean idol worship.

The most significant evidence of the rising popularity was the 2017 Billboards Music Awards, where BTS a.k.a Bangtan Boys, a young K-pop boy band formed in the year 2013 under Big Hit Entertainment took over the world by storm when they won the Top Social Artist Award against popular artists like Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, etc. Twitter and the American media went crazy with curiosity about this group that bagged an award on such a huge platform with their heavy fandom popularly known as the 'Army'.

People in Gangtok are not isolated from this wave either and are, in fact, quite receptive of it. Gangtok is a small town in the tiny State of Sikkim in India which is landlocked between three different countries. When one travels to Sikkim they can immediately note how distinct the state is from the rest of India that is known by the world. The capital city Gangtok is a hub of neon and yellow lights that illuminate the hills crowned by the clouds. The people here are known for their warm nature, hospitality and also their sense of style. Even when in a different state one can tell if you're from Gangtok based on your dressing sense. That's how one Gangtokian identified me.

The question is where does Gangtok get this style from? The approach is certainly different from that of the mainland. It is here that we start seeing the subtle signs of influence of the Korean culture and K-pop that thrives on the export of its culture and style to mainly other Asian countries. Gangtok is no exception; vivid examples of such can be seen among the teenagers and the young adults in this state especially the capital. Of course the American (Western) culture is still very influential yet we see that the Korean wave is also catching up and is gaining momentum at a good pace.

Stores in Gangtok are flooded with Korean style/inspired merchandise, like Korean handbags etc, and they sell better.

Across social media we see people posting pictures of their idols. (They are called so, as most Korean stars are all-rounders having dedicated almost all of their childhood into rigorous training, kept away from their families and neighbourhood under contractual basis, they purely dedicate themselves to art. As an appreciation to all their hard work their fans fondly regard them as idols).

Many K-pop stars bloom to become aspiring actors too. A K-drama watched by virtually all Gangtokians, be it young or adults, will have to be Boys Over Flowers. Initially, there were only a few people who were interested in K-pop and this drama was perhaps the first step for most of the youngsters into the world of K-pop. Since then, there has been a massive increase in the number of people who follow Korean dramas. It only appeared as a tiny infatuation at first but now, we don't even have to go across social media all around the world, even in our very own classrooms we have fan girls and boys who have been engulfed by this Hallyu wave. Across Instagram and IRL the street style is heavily K-pop influenced. Even the daily make-up of most youngsters these days are Korean based which is light and not too bold like the Indian or the American make-up. Even if they don't understand the language, they can be seen watching subtitled Korean dramas and translating Korean songs to English and singing it in Korean language itself! We can even see biographies of some Gangtokians and Sikkimese people on Instagram written in Korean script.

FYI! South Korea is 5014 km away from Sikkim, India and many of us and our friends dream of visiting South Korea one day.

Even with this distance, the media has been so effective in reaching this part of the world, that



we can hear the k-pop fans use Korean words and slangs like "Chincha" (Really) or "jashiki" (Jerk). One of the interviewees even said that these slangs don't sound as bad as the English ones or even the local Nepali ones. Much like the case with J-pop fans and Otakus (fans of anime), which is higher in the North-Eastern region of India compared to other parts of India.

In an interview I and my friend conducted, we got responses that confirmed our notions of why the Hallyu wave is so influential in Gangtok. People in Sikkim like in other North-Eastern States, have little representation in the mainstream media and films. The last time we had such a big representation was probably Danny Denzongpa in Bollywood and Bhaichung Bhutia, former captain of the National Football team. When the hill people go out into different parts of India to study or work, they are discriminated against based on how they look. However, it's not only because of looks but also style and the difference in our culture. The discrimination isn't always violent or obvious, most of the times it is only a prejudice that turns into a stereotype. This subtle alienation paves way for the need to find something or someone to represent us.

According to people we interviewed, they like Korean dramas and idols as they are hard-working and are all-rounders and also because they seem familiar due to their facial (i.e. mongoloid) features. Some people also feel that the K-dramas are more relatable than the Indian TV Soaps even if it has the cliché of the rich guy-poor girl plot.

When asked if Bollywood was more relatable, this is what one of the K-pop fans had to say.

"It is a big NO. I don't think Bollywood is more relatable than K-drama, the only K-drama cliché is that either the boy or the girl will be extremely rich and the other gender will be pathetically poor, and this thing too has been improved lately. The new dramas that are coming up are more realistic and fun too (excluding the fairy tale dramas). I don't understand the need to put an item song in the movies. It does not make any sense to me."

In 2016, a Korean boy band came to Sikkim to judge a show and it was an event that remains in the memories of many K-pop fans. Even if the boys were not BTS and relatively unfamiliar, they were still showered with love and support from the people who not only idolize the K-pop stars but also have come to admire and want to become more like the Korean people in general. While this is a strategic move by the Korean government in order

to promote its tourism and cosmetic surgery business, it is well received by people.

Should we be worried about the rise in the Hallyu wave in Sikkim? In plain sight, there's really no problem at all; it gives the people a sense of belonging and an Asian representation that is different from the stereotypical Indian Asian representation. Maybe the reason why the Hallyu wave of South Korea is so popular in Gangtok and other North-Eastern States is the lack of representation of their people in these parts. Of course, this is not to say that the mainland Indians aren't fans of K-pop. There are in fact many, but the case with Northeast and Gangtok is also deeply rooted in the need for representation. If the Indian entertainment media saw more people from this part of the country participating we are always supportive. Perhaps Prashant Tamang is a quintessential example of this argument. When he went to Indian Idol, the whole of Darjeeling and Sikkim voted for him and he became the Indian Idol. Maybe that's it, we need more Indian Idols (pun intended) from this part of the country too. There's a whole treasure of untapped talent in this part of the country which needs to be witnessed by the nation.

However there are smaller unnoticed problems that may arise from the craze in this wave. The need to look more and more stylish; while looking stylish is indeed a good thing, for the overall street style in Gangtok, this also creates a certain vanity of always wanting to look good and sometimes ignoring other important things like the beauty of simplicity. The other problem that seems to be lingering around the corner is the glorification of a 'certain type' i.e., the mongoloid features, fair skin, an oval face (for girls), slim body and so on.

We must remember that in Sikkim, we have different ethnicities living in harmony with each other, this also means that we have different facial features and not all of us are similar in our bodily and facial features and we must be willing to not let that part of the Hallyu wave get to us.

We all love this wave of exciting idols who can do pretty much everything and anything in the entertainment industry; make us dance to their never-ending digital beats and again make us cry with their emotional dramas. So maybe we can keep this wave healthy and still stay rooted in our own culture.

Hope you enjoyed this article, now daum-eh bwa!

*[The writer is a 1nd Year student pursuing B A/B Sc Liberal Arts in Symbiosis International University, Pune]*

## Trump and Obama have one surprising thing in common- the words they use

RONALD R. KREBS & ROBERT RALSTON  
*theconversation.com*

Six months have passed since Donald Trump entered the Oval Office.

His administration remains deeply understaffed. His legislative agenda is stymied. He has been active in issuing executive orders, but many are toothless, others are only in the early stages of undoing Obama policies and some are tied up in the courts. So far, Trump's leadership has mostly been defined by his rhetoric.

And his rhetoric, the conventional wisdom holds, could not be more different from his predecessor's.

Barack Obama was, as president, eloquent. His language was sophisticated. He spoke in measured tones and advanced informed, reasoned dialogue.

Donald Trump is inarticulate and brusque. His language is simplistic. He dishes out invective. He shows so

little regard for the facts that some say he's the exemplar of a "bullshit artist." And he promotes a dialogue of the deaf.

The differences between Trump's and Obama's rhetorical styles seem stark. Yet, when we set aside the presidents' speaking styles and looked more carefully at the specific words Trump employed in his first months in office, we were surprised to discover that, in certain ways, these two presidents are remarkably like each other and unlike their predecessors. Here's what we found – and why Obama and Trump have more in common than you would think.

### HOW WE DID OUR RESEARCH

Our analysis is based on Trump's more substantial speeches – which we somewhat arbitrarily define as those longer than 500 words – which were directed primarily at domestic audiences. We scraped from the

website of the American Presidency Project all of Trump's campaign speeches and presidential addresses through July 1 that met these criteria. We ended up with 74 campaign speeches, representing more than 230,000 words, and 56 presidential addresses, which included more than 122,000 words. We compared these bodies of speech to each other and to a separate database of postwar presidential speech that one of us had collected, using these same criteria, for a recently published book.

We ran these speeches through a specialized computerized content analysis program called Diction. Diction contains 33 separate dictionaries tailored to political speech. It searches texts for the words contained in the designated dictionaries and then calculates the number of words from each dictionary that would be present in a typical 500-word sample.

### OBAMA AND TRUMP VS. EVERYONE ELSE

On two key dimensions, Obama and Trump look similar – and stand in marked contrast to all other presidents.

First, their rhetoric is much more self-referential, meaning it uses more first-person pronouns. Obama's rhetoric is 69 percent more self-referential than the presidential average, and Trump exceeds Obama by another 20 percent.

Trump employs almost 50 percent more first-person pronouns than the second most heavily self-referential president after Obama, Gerald Ford. Trump's rhetoric is twice as self-referential as the postwar presidential average.

Second, both Trump and Obama rank very high on measures of "tenacity." This dictionary includes a series of words such as "must" and "need" that call for action and that "connote confidence and totality." Obama's

turn to pg05

## Maraland Democratic Front to merge with BJP

**AIZAWL, AUG 9 (PTI):** The Maraland Democratic Front (MDF) today announced that it would soon merge with the BJP.

Founder president of the MDF P P Thawla announced the party's decision at a press conference in south Mizoram's Lunglei district.

Thawla said that the merger ceremony would be formally held at Siaha town, the district headquarters of southern-most Mizoram's Siaha district soon.

"The merger function would be held as soon as Union Ministers can come for the ceremony," he said.

The MDF was earlier an electoral ally of Mizoram's main opposition party the Mizo National Front (MNF).

BJP Mizoram unit president Prof John V Hluna said that the BJP would open an account in the 2018 state assembly polls as at least one BJP candidate belonging to the Chakma community would win in the areas where the Chakmas are concentrated.

Hluna urged the Mizo people to distinguish between the Indian citizens and foreigners in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) area.

# Two vehicles set afire in Darjeeling, woman GJM activist held

**DARJEELING (WB), AUG 9 (PTI):** Two vehicles were set ablaze by the Gorkhaland agitators in the Darjeeling hills today amidst special security arrangements as the indefinite shutdown called by the GJM entered its 56th day.

A woman Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) activist was arrested from Darjeeling for her alleged involvement in the violence and arson that took place in the hills in June, a senior police officer said.

According to the police, in the morning, a pick-up vehicle ferrying newspapers was set on fire by the agitators in Kurseong

while on its return journey to Siliguri and another truck carrying food supplies was set ablaze in Kalimpong district in the early hours.

With the GJM threatening to step up the agitation in view of the expiry of its "deadline" to the Centre for intervention to resolve the crisis, the police and security personnel have made special security arrangements in the hills and are keeping a tight vigil to avoid any untoward incident.

Like yesterday, a police contingent was seen marching towards Singhmari in Darjeel-

ing town, where the GJM head office is located.

The police contingent went up to Patlebas, a stronghold of GJM supremo Bimal Gurung.

Both Singhmari and Patlebas have witnessed several incidents of violence involving the GJM activists and police in the last couple of months.

The GJM took out rallies in various parts of the hills, demanding restoration of the Internet services, which have remained banned in the hills since June 18, and an immediate withdrawal of police from Darjeeling.

Besides the GJM, various other hill parties

and intellectuals marched on the streets of Darjeeling with black flags and placards demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland.

In the morning, some political party activists, dressed in the traditional Nepali attire, also took out rallies and raised slogans in support of Gorkhaland.

With the food supply severely hit due to the shutdown, GJM activists and NGOs were seen distributing food among the locals.

Barring the medicine shops, all other shops, business establishments, schools and colleges remained closed.



## Sonowal urges for a Presidential Retreat in the NE

**GUWAHATI, AUG 8 (PTI):** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has requested President Ram Nath Kovind to set up a Presidential Retreat in the North East symbolising the unity of the country, which was appreciated.

Sonowal during his recent meeting with Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhawan referred to the Presidential Retreats located at Mashobra in

Shimla and Bolarum in Hyderabad and requested him for "a Presidential Retreat in North East besides the existing ones in North and South as it would symbolise the unity of the country," a CMO release here said.

A retreat in the North East "would signify the unity of our diverse cultures and people of the country," the release quoted Sonowal as saying.

Kovind appreciated Sonowal for conceiving the idea and he assured to look into the matter in right earnest.

The chief minister also invited the president to Assam to which he readily agreed and said he is looking forward to visit "the beautiful and scenic state of Assam and the North East sometime in October-November," the release added.

## Madan Tamang murder: SC notice to CBI on GJM secy Giri's plea

**NEW DELHI, AUG 9 (PTI):** The Supreme Court has asked the CBI to respond to a plea filed by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) general secretary Roshan Giri seeking transfer of his trial in 2010 Madan Tamang murder case from Kolkata to Sikkim apprehending serious law and order crisis.

A bench comprising Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao issued notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and posted the matter for hearing to August 11.

Giri has been charged with alleged "criminal conspiracy for murder", along with several other GJM leaders, in the case of Tamang, who was the All India Gorkha

League (AIGL) president.

Darjeeling in north Bengal has been on the boil in the wake of the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland. The West Bengal government has ruled out bifurcation of the state.

Giri's counsel had told the court that if he was to appear in court to face the murder trial, then there would be a serious law and order situation in Kolkata and it might pose a threat to his life.

He had said that in view of the agitation in Darjeeling, it was very likely that a serious law and order situation would arise if he was made to go to Kolkata to face the trial.

The state government's coun-

sel had argued that the court should seek a report from the military intelligence on the stir and that would make everything clear.

The counsel had claimed that Giri wanted his trial to be shifted to Sikkim as its chief minister has extended his support to the GJM's demand.

The CBI has indicted the entire top leadership of the GJM for the murder of the AIGL president. Besides Giri, GJM president Bimal Gurung is among the nine top leaders named in the charge sheet.

Gurung, his wife Asha and several senior leaders of the hill outfit had surrendered before a trial court which granted them bail in the murder case.

## Marathas send out loud message with "silent" march in Mumbai

**MUMBAI, AUG 9 (PTI):** Lakhs of Maratha community members filled the city's streets today as they took their battle for reservation in government jobs and education to the capital of Maharashtra with a massive show of strength.

The metropolis turned into a sea of saffron as members of the politically influential community from different parts of the state converged here to press for reservation in government jobs and education among other demands.

The Marathas took out a silent march from Jijamata Udyan in Byculla to Azad Maidan in South Mumbai.

As the agitators assembled at Azad Maidan, Mumbai's protest hotspot, a few kilometres away, in Vidhan Bhawan, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced his government would extend to the Maratha community the educational concessions currently given to OBCs.

He also said the BJP-led government would form a cabinet sub-committee to review the implementation of various welfare schemes meant for the Maratha community.

The announcements were made after Fadnavis held a meeting with representatives of the

Maratha community, whose demands have received support from almost the entire political spectrum in the state.

A delegation of 40 people, including women, met him at the Vidhan Bhawan this afternoon. The legislature is currently having its monsoon session.

Earlier this morning, the Marathas took out their silent march from Jijamata Udyan amid tight security with participants wearing saffron caps and carrying saffron swallowtail flags.

Police and traffic personnel were deployed in large numbers to manage the huge inflow of people and the movement of vehicles in Mumbai.

Mumbai's famed 'Dabbawalas' (lunchbox deliverymen), majority of whom hail from the Maratha community, also joined the march.

This was the 58th march of the community and was held exactly a year after the first such protest in Aurangabad. The march was organised by the Sakal Maratha Samaj, an umbrella organisation of several Maratha groups.

According to police, around 3 lakh people took part in the protest march.

These 'mook morcha', or silent rallies, were held in various parts

of the state following the brutal rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl, belonging to the Maratha community, at Kopardi village in Ahmednagar district in July 2016.

The rally ended at Azad Maidan after covering a distance of 10km. At the venue, the campaigners raised slogans as Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar reached the site. Some said they don't want politicians to interfere. Shelar rubbished reports he was stopped and manhandled at Azad Maidan.

In the legislature, lawmakers cutting across party lines shouted slogans demanding quota for the Marathas.

Social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter were used to mobilise the community members, the organisers said.

Azad Maidan turned into a sea of saffron as multitude of Maratha reservation supporters thronged the venue for the massive protest.

The JJ flyover in south Mumbai, which was closed for vehicular traffic, was full of protesters who were carrying saffron flags and winding their way to the venue.

Bollywood actor Riteish Deshmukh also displayed his support to the protest march in a late night tweet. "Ek Maratha, Lakh Maratha," the actor tweeted in Marathi.

## Trump and Obama have one surprising thing...

contd from pg04

rhetoric is around 45 percent more tenacious than the presidential average. Trump's rhetoric is a bit more tenacious than even Obama's. They are the only two presidents who substantially exceed the average.

Obama and Trump's rhetoric suggests that the prime mover of government is not separation of powers, political parties or the bureaucracy - but the will of the president. Its self-referentialism projects an image of strong leadership and of the president as the central pivot of action. Its tenacity expresses confidence that the president will triumph over the many obstacles in his way.

For all their differences, both Obama and Trump consistently presented themselves as the solution to the nation's problems. Accepting the nomination at the Republican National Convention, Trump assured Americans, "Nobody knows the system better than me, which is why I alone can fix it." He regularly cited his own biography as the reason that Americans should "trust" him. The irony is that the predecessor who, on this dimension, most resembles Trump is the very one whom Trump cast as an utter failure and weak leader and as his chief foil. Obama too regularly invoked his unique personal story as the reason that Americans should place their faith in him. Minus Trump's boastfulness, Obama too portrayed himself as the key agent of national transformation: "I'm the one who brings change. It is my vision. It is my agenda," he told The Washington Post in January 2009. He saw other government officials as just "good mechanics."

### YEARNING FOR A STRONG LEADER

The computerized content analysis of presidential rhetoric sets out a pattern, it does not explain it. However, we believe it likely that Obama and Trump adopted the same rhetorical tack for the same reason: Audiences across the political spectrum have craved a strong leader who will overcome Washington's paralysis and address the nation's challenges.

Especially since 9/11, American politics has grown more partisan and polarized, even as Americans' values have converged. That partisan divide has produced gridlock in the halls of power, and Congress has become a site of minority party obstruction. As a result, Americans have become frustrated with Con-

gress, and their trust in government has plummeted. They have increasingly looked to the president to seize the initiative, conquer Washington's dysfunction and persuade Congress to act.

In 2007, "honesty" mattered most to Americans in selecting the nation's next president, with "leadership/strength" a distant second. In 2012, American voters said that "shares my values" was their top consideration in electing a president. By 2016, having a president who was a "strong leader" had easily taken the top spot, across voters of all parties, and was twice as important to them as it had been four years before.

Obama and Trump's self-referential and tenacious rhetoric - one might even call it authoritarian - seems designed to satisfy that demand for strong leadership centered in the presidency. It is not accidental that their rhetoric, as the linked charts show, also reflects a continued, long-term decline in "cooperative" and "accomplishment" language, as collaboration across party lines has been rare and as there have been few achievements. Ironically, "satisfaction" rhetoric has experienced a corresponding rise - perhaps because there has been less to celebrate and therefore more reason for presidents to proclaim that all is well.

Of course, some of this may be Donald Trump's inimitable rhetorical style. The figures above reveal that Trump the candidate was somewhat less self-referential and less tenacious than Trump the president has been. Perhaps he was simply restraining himself during the campaign. Once ensconced in the White House, he could become more himself. Trump the president may be Trump unleashed.

But the data suggest that Trump is also a manifestation - albeit an extreme manifestation - of our political age. Obama's self-centered, self-confident but soaring speeches gave way to his successor's self-centered, overconfident and vain tweets. Karl Marx knew what he was talking about: History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.

Nevertheless, we'd better get used to authoritarian rhetoric. It appears to be here to stay.

[Ronald R. Krebs is Beverly and Richard Fink Professor in the Liberal Arts and Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota; Robert Ralston is Ph.D. student, University of Minnesota]

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## East Bengal start campaign against NBP Rainbow AC

**KOLKATA, AUG 9 (PTI):** The city heavyweights East Bengal will begin their season against NBP Rainbow AC when they kick off in the 'OC Blue Calcutta Football League Premier Division-A'.

Mohun Bagan will take on Southern Samity to start the campaign.

The Indian Football Association today released fixtures for three rounds and said that the tournament will be over before the Durga Puja festival, which will commence with Mahalaya on September 19.

The much-awaited season's first derby between defending champions East Bengal and Mohun Bagan is likely to be held in Siliguri but the IFA is also mulling Kalyani Stadium as an alternate venue.

"Work is still underway to increase the capacity of the Kalyani stadium to about 23,000. We will decide about the derby after seeing the completion certificate. Either Kalyani or Siliguri will host the match," IFA secretary Utpal Ganguli said.

On the incomplete fixture, Ganguli said: "It's a long league and depending on the weather conditions we will take the call. However the league will be over by Durga Puja."

Eleven teams will vie for top honours in the coveted Kolkata league with Rs. 25 lakh for winners and Rs. 20 lakh for the runners-up.

## Pendam FA's men's and women's team register wins

**SUMMIT REPORT SINGTAM, 09 AUG:**

The third quarter final match of the ongoing 10th Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial Open Football Tournament was played today between Pendam FA and North Sikkim FC.

Pendam FA defeated North Sikkim FC 3-1 cementing their position in the semi final rounds of the tourney. The fourth quarter final match is scheduled to be played on 10 Aug between Sumin FC and Gangtok FC.

In the Open Girls Football Tournament Pendam FA emerged victorious against Singley-bong FC 5-0.

# SSA edges past SHSC in nail biting semi final match

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**

State Sports Academy [SSA] has entered the semi-final round of the Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup here at Paljor Stadium. In a nail-biting quarter-final match played today, the SSA has edged past Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club [SHSC] 3-2.

In today's match, former SSA players and international footballers, Sanju Pradhan and Nirmal Chettri, once again played for their academy boosting the morale of younger players of the academy.

Both the teams played neck-to-neck from the start of the match. In the early minutes of the match, the referee offered a penalty kick to Sikkim Himalayan SC for a foul in SSA D-box. Bhaichung Bhutia successfully converted the spot kick into an early lead for



Sikkim Himalayan SC.

However, Roman Subba scored the equaliser for SSA in the 21st minute and soon his teammate, Nikesh Gurung extended the lead to 2-1 in the 39th minute.

The additional time of the first half witnessed some aggressive moments between players of both teams which suspended

the match for over 10 minutes. Finally, the match resumed after the referee sent two players off the field. The referee flashed red cards to SHSC goalkeeper, Bidesh Subba, and Sanjay Rai of SSC.

In the second half, both teams played an attacking game to score further in the match. In 75th minute of the

match, SHSC received another golden chance to equalize the match in the form of penalty kick for a foul in the SSA D-box but then Bhaichung Bhutia missed the net.

Soon, Roman Subba completed his brace in the 87th minute and extended the lead of the SSA to 3-1. However, the SHSC tried to bounce

back into the match with a goal by its player, Prashant Tamang, in the 88th minute but it was not enough to stop the SSA from moving ahead into the semi-final round.

On 10 Aug, Sikkim Police Football Club will take on the defending champion, ARC Shillong, in the third quarter-final match.



## Marathoner Abhisek Prasad begins run across Sikkim

**SANDEEP PRASAD**

**GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**

Starting his run from Gangtok this morning, marathoner Abhisek Prasad of Singtam reached Mangan Bazaar this afternoon. Mr Prasad has started the run as an initiative to spread awareness on drug abuse and suicides in Sikkim. He is being sponsored by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, KANSS and Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch [SBJM] and supported by Dr VK Prasad.

Mr Prasad and his

team was received and given a warm welcome by District Youth Convener [North]-NYKS, SBJM members of Mangan branch and local gentries of Mangan district.

Dr Prasad informed that Mr Prasad will reach Dikchu from Mangan on the evening of 09 Aug and will move towards Tarku, Rabong covering Gyalshing and Namchi on 10 Aug. After covering the South & West districts, Mr Prasad and his team will return to MG Marg in Gangtok to complete his run.



## I-Day football tourney underway at Tashiding

**GANGTOK, 09 AUG [IPR]:** The 71st Independence Day Celebration Football Tournament was held at Tashiding Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim today. Health Minister, AK Ghatani, was the chief guest of the function.

Also present were Advisor-Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, CB Gurung, and Sub Divisional Magistrate-Yuk-sam, along with teachers, students and the local gentry.

Three football matches were played on the day, the first one being the Women's football match

followed by two Men's football matches. The first match was played between TSSS Blue and Karchen FC and the last match was played between BAC United and Zoom Salghari FC. The football tournament was followed by cultural dance by the students.

## P V Sindhu joins as Dy Collector in AP govt

**AMARAVATI, AUG 9 (PTI):** Ace shuttler and Rio Olympics silver medalist P V Sindhu today joined as the Deputy Collector in the Andhra Pradesh government.

Sindhu, who had been handed over the letter of appointment on July 27, today reported to the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration

Anil Chandra Punetha here and assumed her new role as a Group-1 service officer. She was then posted to Krishna district for training.

Sindhu met district Collector B Lakshmi Kantham in the evening and reported for duty.

Meanwhile, official sources said the government might waive the

two-year training period for Sindhu since she was keen on focusing on her career.

Expressing happiness over her appointment, Sindhu said her first priority would be to continue playing badminton.

"My focus will be on the sport only," she had said on the day she was handed over the appoint-

ment order.

She had also thanked the Chief Minister for the job.

Now that Sindhu has joined the revenue service in AP government, chances are that she might get inducted into the Indian Administrative Service seven or eight years down the line.

## Scientists march out, warn against "pseudo-science"



**MUMBAI, AUG 9 (PTI):** On a day when a mammoth rally of Maratha community hogged all media attention in the city, a small group of scientists and rationalists also marched, seeking deepening of scientific spirit among people as well as policy-makers.

Over 200 scientists and rationalists took out 'March for Science' from the historical August Kranti Maidan to Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan in south Mumbai as a part of a national campaign.

Participants appealed the government to encourage scientific temper and uphold the spirit of enquiry, address lack of appreciation of science in the society, and boost funding for education and scientific research.

"In the last year or so, we are seeing repeated assaults on reason. We think a basic perception of science is needed in everyone," said Arnab Bhattacharya, professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). People as well top policy-makers sometimes confuse mythology with science, he said.

"This is very dangerous. We welcome all kinds of inquiry, but we should

understand that science is global and our country should not become a laughing stock for the world," he said, pointing out claims such as ancient Indian 'advances' in plastic surgery or aviation.

Another scientist, associated with a premier educational body, said the funding for tuberculosis research had decreased, while that for cowsheds ("gow-shalas") had increased.

Similar marches were held in over 20 cities today, modelled on the ones held in the US against President Donald Trump's policies.

While in the US it is about Trump administration's stand against the science of climate change, in India the problem is "stress on pseudo-science and cow urine," said another scientist who participated in the march.

Apart from scientists from TIFR and IIT Bombay, people from Mumbai University, Institute of Chemical Technology, St Xavier's College, Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti (Maharashtra anti-superstition committee) and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences took part in the march.

# 4,000-yr-old bone ornaments found in excavation near Hyderabad



**HYDERABAD, AUG 9 (PTI):** Nearly 4,000-year-old bone ornaments, a capstone and other rare objects belonging to the megalithic age have been found at different sites near Hyderabad, a senior official of Telangana's archaeology and museums department said today.

The bone ornaments were found in Narmetta area, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, during excavations conducted at different sites from March to May this year by the department, its director N R Visalatchy said.

"The ornaments are basically cut bone pieces, but (are) very precisely cut, all of equal shape, design, which in the 100 years of history of the department of archaeology and museums we have never come across," she said.

The archaeologists have also found a capstone (a large flat stone) which was in the shape of an "anthropomorphic (having human characteristics) figure," said Visalatchy.

The bone ornaments show that the technology prevailed

even then to precisely cut the bones and the mathematical sense to make them of a precise size, she said.

"It also implies a certain sense of aesthetics. (They are) clear geometrical figures with exact size. There was a certain sense of calculation, certain technology, aestheticity involved," the official said.

The scientific analysis of the bone pieces would throw more light on its different aspects, she said, adding that its carbon dating (determination of age or

date of organic matter) would also be done.

"2000 BC to 500 AD is the timeline (as to how old the bone pieces are)," she said, adding that a skeleton with a skull was found at another burial site.

"This will be a boost to us in having a scientific approach towards the understanding of the megalithic culture," she said.

The department, one of the oldest in the country, had undertaken many excavations in the past, she added.

**N Korea's threats to US will be met with 'fire and fury', says Trump**

WASHINGTON, AUG 9 (PTI): President Donald Trump has vowed to answer any more threats by North Korea with "fire and fury", remarks that followed Pyongyang saying that it is considering strikes near US strategic military installations in Guam island with its intermediate range ballistic missiles.

"North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen. He (Kim Jong-Un) has been very threatening, beyond a normal statement," Trump told reporters at his vacation home in New Jersey yesterday. He was responding to questions on the North Korea's nuclear capabilities.

"As said, they will be met with fire, fury, and, frankly, power the likes of which this world has never seen before," he said.

The remarks came amidst reports that the nuclear-armed country is coming close to obtaining an atomic weapon that can strike the US. Media reports said North Korea has successfully miniaturised a nuclear warhead that can fit inside its missiles.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) today said Pyongyang is "now carefully examining the operational plan for making an enveloping fire at the areas around Guam with medium-to-long-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-1.

## Afghan families recount horrifying Taliban, IS massacre

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (AFGHANISTAN), AUG 9 (AFP): Taliban and Islamic State fighters unleashed a killing spree targeting civilians after capturing a remote village in northern Afghanistan, traumatised families said today after being released by the insurgents.

The militants killed about 50 villagers, including women and children in Mirzawalang -- a mainly Shiite village in Sayad district of northern Sar-e Pul province -- on Saturday after overrunning a government-backed militia, said officials.

The insurgents also took a number of residents captive, but released 235 hostages late yesterday after elders and provincial officials struck a deal with the group.

Survivors fleeing the violence described nightmarish scenes, detailing how the



militants went from house to house, shooting villagers.

"When the fighting began, the villagers tried to flee, but they were stopped by IS fighters. They took a group of men, women and children behind a

hill and shot them," said Ali Dad Zafari, a Mirzawalang resident.

"Since my mother was too old to walk, she was left behind, I don't even know what has happened to her," he added.

Villager Yasin Abuzar said

IS and Taliban fighters cut off the main roads to the area before launching a killing spree.

"I could only rescue my kids. When they entered our village they opened fire at everyone indiscriminately, they

didn't even spare women and children," he said, adding that hundreds were still missing.

"I buried 10 bodies in one grave. We don't want the government to give us coffins, we want them to provide us security," he said.

Local officials called for more aid as hundreds of displaced arrived in the provincial capital.

"The families who have come to Sar-e Pul city need shelters and food. They are living in the mosques, schools, with their relatives and some even on the streets," Zabiullah Amani, a provincial spokesman, told AFP.

"If aid agencies don't help we will face a humanitarian crisis," he added.

The villagers said most of those killed were Shiites and Hazaras who were either shot or beheaded.

IS has given a sectarian twist to the Afghan conflict, with a number of deadly attacks on Shiites in the past year.

Last week two suicide bombers killed more than 33 worshippers at a mosque in Afghanistan's western city of Herat, in an attack claimed by group. A resurgent Taliban, whose ranks are mostly made up of Sunni Muslim ethnic Pashtuns, is at the peak of its summer fighting season.

The Taliban confirmed capturing Mirzawalang but said it did so alone. It has also denied allegations it had killed civilians.

Army spokesman Nasratullah Jamshidi said Afghan forces launched an operation today to retake the district.

"We will avenge the blood of our innocent people," Mohammad Zahir Wahdat, the provincial governor, told reporters.



North Korea says it is "carefully examining" a plan to strike the US territory of Guam with missiles. The threat came hours after President Donald Trump told Pyongyang that any threat to the US would be met with "fire and fury". A spokesman for the Korean People's Army said the strike plan would be "put into practice in a multi-current and consecutive way any moment" once Kim Jong Un makes a decision. He added that "enveloping fire" would be used to contain major US military bases on the island territory in the western Pacific Ocean - including the Anderson Air Force Base. KCNA, Pyongyang's state-run news agency, also carried a statement from a different military official which said North Korea may carry out a pre-emptive operation if the US shows signs of provocation.

## China earthquake: Death toll rises to 13

BEIJING, AUG 9 (PTI): A powerful 7.0 magnitude earthquake has jolted a popular tourist destination in China's southwest Sichuan province, killing 13 people and injuring 175 others, officials said today.

Authorities fear that the toll may rise. The massive earthquake struck at 9:19 PM (local time) yesterday and the epicentre was monitored at a depth of 20 km, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Jiuzhaigou, or Jiuzhai Valley, is a national park known for spectacular waterfalls and karst formations. More than 34,000 people visited the tourist attraction yesterday.

So far 13 people were killed and 175 others injured in the Sichuan quake, the provincial government said. The injured included a French man and a Canadian woman.

Maxence Vallon, 18, was wounded in both legs; while the Canadian woman,



an, who declined to be named, suffered slight injury in the head, the report said. Both were being treated at a hospital of Jiuzhaigou county. The exact number of casualties of foreign nationals in the disaster was not immediately known.

"We were lying on an open ground to seek shelter when a big stone fell and hit my brother right in the leg," said Roman Vallon, who studies in Beijing.

The brothers were staying in a hotel with their mother in Jiuzhaigou when the quake struck. Five among the dead were visitors to the Jiuzhaigou national park, China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC) said.



## Car rams into soldiers outside Paris, six injured: police

PARIS, AUG 9 (AFP): A car slammed into soldiers on patrol outside Paris today, injuring six people, two of them seriously, police said.

The vehicle took off after the incident, which took place at about 8:00 AM (11:30 IST) in the northwestern suburb of Levallois-Perret.

Police described the incident as an "apparently deliberate act". France has been under a state of emergency since November 2015 and has seen a string of attacks on security forces who have been regularly targeted, particularly those guarding key tourist sites.

An 18-year-old with a

history of psychological problems was arrested on Saturday at the Eiffel Tower after brandishing a knife.

He told investigators he wanted to kill a soldier, sources close to the case told AFP.

In February, a man armed with a machete attacked four soldiers on patrol at Paris's Louvre Museum, while in April another extremist shot and killed a policeman on the Champs Elysees.

In June, a 40-year-old Algeria doctorate student who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group attacked a policeman with a hammer outside Notre Dame cathedral.

## Sharif kicks off roadshow to Lahore in show of strength

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, AUG 9 (PTI): Pakistan's ousted premier Nawaz Sharif today embarked on a journey to Lahore from Islamabad via the famous Grand Trunk Road to show his popularity among the people despite security concerns following a bomb blast in the Punjab province's capital.

He held a meeting with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, cabinet ministers and senior party leaders before starting the 370-km-long journey.

Sharif was accompanied by hundreds of his supporters.

The former prime minister has not visited his hometown and his stronghold, Lahore, since he was disqualified by the Supreme Court last week over the Panama Papers scandal.

His party has estimated that thousands of supporters would line up on the road side to greet him. Earlier, fear gripped Sharif's party workers af-



ter the truck bombing killed at least two persons and injured 30 others on Monday.

Sources in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party said that some of the senior party leaders were concerned about the security of Sharif.

He has also planned to deliver

speeches at important places where even bigger crowds of supporters are expected to turn up.

"The security is an issue, though elaborate measures are being taken to make the journey free of any risk," a PML-N leader said.

Sharif, however, has brushed aside all concerns and told his colleagues that it was vital to touch his supporters to inform them about his ouster, according to sources.

He would also address a rally in Lahore after reaching the city. The timing

and venue of gathering has not been announced, as it is not known how long he would take to reach Lahore.

Normally, it takes up to five hours from Islamabad to Lahore while driving on the Grand Trunk Road but Sharif's convoy may take around two days, according to organisers.

Sharif's travel plan has already upset his rival Imran Khan who in a press conference has alleged that Sharif was disgracing the court by challenging its decision.

"It is strange that a man who has been disqualified is planning to travel on the road and tell people that he is innocent," said the cricketer-turned-politician who is the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

Meanwhile, Canada-based cleric of Pakistani-origin Tahir-ul-Qadri, who has returned to Lahore, criticised Sharif's roadshow and demanded that he should change it.

### NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR EAGLE EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:09/08/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 988 69259  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 69259 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
01818 15916 19580 25017 60422  
62151 62943 67920 79559 83902  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
34151 39818 60933 72843 75414  
77441 80182 89514 91659 97568  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0190 1151 1189 3304 5976 6027 6365 6924 7544 7641  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
2009 3412 3844 4601 4724 5662 7880 8120 9087 9661  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0097 0124 0125 0260 0416 0423 0516 0629 0716 0884  
0896 0988 1086 1215 1481 1483 1522 1542 1548 1619  
1715 1719 1801 1863 2305 2650 2723 2942 2971 2972  
3009 3106 3327 3342 3382 3572 3594 3606 3652 3865  
4116 4134 4202 4289 4390 4403 4408 4412 4421 4452  
4460 4656 4745 5075 5099 5201 5262 5435 5504 5582  
5694 5739 5841 5870 5960 5980 6035 6108 6183 6372  
6470 6729 6749 6756 6839 6912 6936 6963 7069 7114  
7151 7280 7306 7464 7775 7780 8079 8191 8196 8325  
8409 8635 8743 8944 8976 9368 9538 9716 9825 9837  
Issued by:  
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland  
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com  
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

### SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FAITHFUL

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:09/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 85A 45949  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 45949 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
03949 11107 15200 20193 35333  
46656 50941 51151 58410 67635  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
22702 38983 44198 50771 52190  
53168 59380 64974 72706 87084  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
1124 1209 2668 2930 3748 5710 6022 6517 9063 9222  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
1491 1809 2315 3800 4376 5673 5677 5731 6291 9262  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0005 0028 0043 0228 0308 0327 0383 0614 0917 0974  
1255 1291 1504 1507 1600 1697 1890 1947 2118 2189  
2412 2415 2446 2578 2688 2696 2850 2876 3017 3092  
3180 3188 3189 3290 3339 3395 3614 3649 3705 3746  
3845 3926 4046 4307 4357 4371 4436 4582 4664 4756  
4908 4940 5041 5116 5282 5326 5357 5468 5654 5671  
5747 5908 6061 6102 6128 6199 6247 6428 6671 6701  
6909 7030 7196 7294 7350 7555 7557 7834 7993 8025  
8034 8037 8040 8209 8347 8504 8553 8597 8626 8782  
8877 9426 9470 9538 9718 9824 9848 9913 9931 9948  
Issued by:  
The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok  
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

### MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR SUCCESS MORNING

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:09/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 91G 11212  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 11212 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
01209 04223 07192 12359 12525  
47682 51762 51944 68865 76837  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
11206 14162 21800 27020 43870  
71298 71305 74703 78553 95344  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0524 1457 1781 2822 4542 5622 6033 8299 8498 8649  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
1641 1833 1839 1895 1902 4630 4632 5437 5614 8016  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0013 0134 0164 0298 0329 0545 0628 0744 0798 0845  
1020 1025 1038 1071 1149 1250 1300 1448 1539 1616  
1812 1887 2012 2024 2027 2063 2073 2350 2352 2384  
2424 2607 2657 3181 3185 3189 3326 3353 3695 3880  
4103 4243 4282 4960 4982 5049 5160 5205 5219 5330  
5618 5640 5697 5712 6026 6291 6366 6367 6457 6758  
6800 6820 6862 6907 6963 7194 7462 7505 7610 7657  
7666 7752 7803 7870 7892 8075 8166 8310 8394 8411  
8669 8701 8805 8872 8921 9101 9214 9322 9358 9396  
9437 9582 9641 9736 9768 9805 9840 9898 9920 9934  
Issued by:  
The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,  
For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

## Anthyesthyi Kriya



The Anthyesthyi Kriya of **Sabitri Pradhan** who left for heavenly abode on 29 July, falls on **10 August [Thursday]**. All relatives and well wishers are requested to join us to offer prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Ranipool Marchab, Near Tendong Petrol Pump.**

Govind Pradhan & Devi Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Tek Narayan Pradhan & Daya Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Hari Pradhan & Rita Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law) and all Pradhan Family



**FUEL UP:** Nick Jonas kept hydrated with water and a smoothie while leaving the gym after a workout in Los Angeles recently.

TAYLOR SWIFT IS 'TAKING A STAND FOR ALL WOMEN' IN GROPING TRIAL, LAWYER SAYS

Taylor Swift's trial against David Mueller is under way. The singer, 27, appeared in a Denver federal courthouse on Tuesday, August 8, where a final jury was selected for the case and both sides later gave their opening remarks. Swift's lawyer, J. Douglas Baldrige, gave an impassioned opening statement referencing the alleged incident, in which Swift claims the former radio DJ groped her backstage in 2013. "Today Ms. Swift is taking a stand for all women. Today a woman has reported being sexually assaulted and now she is being sued for a case of workplace sexual assault. She has been in tens of thousands of meet-and-greets, including going out in the crowds, and she never had this happen," Baldrige said. "If a person cannot stand up and serve as an example to other young women that have been sexually assault-



ed, then who can?" "This was an assault and Ms. Swift reported that it happened. There is overwhelming photographic evidence showing what happened," Baldrige continued as he held up a photo from the meet-and-greet in question. "The accused has an alibi, but he only came up with it two years later. He wants to make the victim pay the price, he is seeking 15 times what his contract with the radio station was worth in damages, and Ms. Swift is seeking \$1 to show women you can say no."

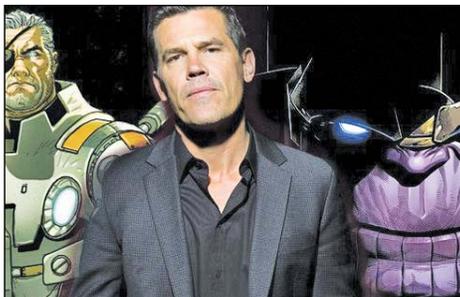
As previously reported, Mueller worked at country music station 98.5 KYGO when he was assigned to attend the Grammy winner's concert at Denver's Pepsi Center in June 2013. After posing for a meet-and-greet photo with Swift and his girlfriend, Mueller was confronted by the singer's bodyguard, who claimed he had reached under her dress and grabbed her butt. The DJ was subsequently fired and filed a lawsuit against Swift, seeking up to \$3 million in damages.

Mueller's lawyer, Gabriel McFarland, defended his client and denied Swift's allegations. "He is here to clear his name and he unequivocally denies he touched her inappropriately in any way," he said in the court room the same day. "There was no inappropriate contact that is Mr. Mueller's position."

what's TRENDING

ed, then who can?" "This was an assault and Ms. Swift reported that it happened. There is overwhelming photographic evidence showing what happened," Baldrige continued as he held up a photo from the meet-and-greet in question. "The accused has an alibi, but he only came up with it two years later. He wants to make the victim pay the

DEADPOOL 2: JOSH BROLIN INTRODUCED AS NEW VILLAIN CABLE



Meet Cable, the "grumpy, heavily armed" new villain of Deadpool 2, played by Josh Brolin. The first look at the Marvel comic book character was released by Marvel. Brolin and producer/actor Ryan Reynolds on Monday. "We all have that one, grumpy, heavily armed Uncle from the future," Reynolds wrote.

Reynolds, what do you do? CRUSH IT!!!!" Brolin, who is also playing Thanos in the upcoming Avengers film, was criticised for playing two Marvel villains at the same time. Brolin will join up with Atlanta star Zazie Beetz as villain Domino, first introduced by Reynolds in July. Deadpool 2 arrives in cinemas 1 June 2018.

"Deadpool 2: Your premium Cable provider." Cable, like Deadpool, is a character originally from the X-Men Universe, which has made several appearances in other comics. His real name is Nathan Summers, the son of X-Men member Scott Summers - AKA Cyclops - and Madelyne Pryor. He first appeared as an infant in the 1986 Uncanny X-Men series and was later introduced as a time-travelling villain in The New Mutants. When it was first announced the character would be introduced by Reynolds, actors Russell Crowe, David Harbour and Brad Pitt were tipped for the role. In April, Brolin was finally confirmed as the first Cable to hit the big screen, writing on Twitter: "When you have a man-crush on Ryan

Reynolds, what do you do? CRUSH IT!!!!" Brolin, who is also playing Thanos in the upcoming Avengers film, was criticised for playing two Marvel villains at the same time. Brolin will join up with Atlanta star Zazie Beetz as villain Domino, first introduced by Reynolds in July. Deadpool 2 arrives in cinemas 1 June 2018.



**10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST WORLD HISTORY**  
**1539:** King Francis of France declared that all official documents were to be written in French, not Latin.  
**1582:** Russia ended its 25-year war with Poland. Russia and Poland concluded the Peace of Jam-Zapolski.  
**1779:** Louis XVI of France freed the last remaining serfs on royal land.  
**1792:** Some 10,000 Parisians attacked the Tuileries Palace of Louis XVI at the instigation of Georges Jacques Danto, after Louis ordered his Swiss guard to stop firing on the people. The mob massacred some 600 guardsmen. The king was later arrested, put on trial for treason, and executed the following January.  
**1897:** Felix Hoffmann, a German worker for Bayer, rediscovered aspirin (acetyl salicylic acid), the active ingredient

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**  
**Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY**  
*Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College*

of the willow plants.  
**1945:** Japan announced its willingness to surrender to Allies provided that the status of Emperor Hirohito remains unchanged. Yosuke Yamahata photographed the aftermath of the bombing of Nagasaki. He was dispatched by the Japanese military, but did not turn over the pictures to the military authorities.  
**INDIAN HISTORY**  
**1860:** Famous Indian Musicologist Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, who wrote the first modern treatise on Hindustani classical music was born in Walkeshwar, Mumbai, Maharashtra.  
**1963:** Phoolan Devi, one of India's most notorious bandits was born in Ghura ka Purwa in Uttar Pradesh.

HACKERS HAVOC  
 HACKERS LEAK MORE GAME OF THRONES SCRIPTS AND DEMAND MILLIONS FROM HBO TO STOP LEAK



A second batch of stolen HBO data is released online, with hackers demanding a multi-million dollar ransom to stop the leaks. Hackers have released a second batch of stolen HBO data online, including what appear to be draft scripts for five Game of Thrones episodes, as well as company emails. The hackers identified themselves as collective pseudonym "Mr Smith", sending HBO CEO Richard Plepler a video on Monday threatening further disclosures. "We successfully breached into your huge network," the video said, according to the Hollywood Reporter, which together with other online magazines received the confidential information in an email from the hackers. "HBO was one of our difficult targets to deal with but we succeeded (it took about 6 months)."

The hackers instructed Mr Plepler to pay a ransom of "our six-month salary in bitcoin", claiming they earned \$12m to \$15m (£9m-£11m) from blackmailing other organizations, to prevent further releases. The video followed a file dump which included the script to an upcoming Game Of Thrones episode and a month's worth of emails from an HBO programming executive. This is the second major HBO leak by the same hackers. Last month, 1.5 terabytes of data including scripts from GOT, episodes from popular TV shows Ballers and new comedy Room 104, were stolen and released. HBO issued a statement to the Hollywood Reporter, saying: "HBO believed that further leaks might emerge from this cyber incident when we confirmed it last week. As we said, the forensic review is ongoing. "While it has been reported that a number of emails have been made public, the review to date has not given us a reason to believe that our email system as a whole has been compromised." Although this may constitute HBO's biggest leak to date, it falls short of the cyber attack inflicted on Sony in 2014, when hackers released thousands of personal emails and information including salaries and social security numbers belonging to nearly 50,000 past and present employees.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"NOW YOU GET THE LAWN MOWER REPAIRED!"

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**ARIES:** Much of your focus today will be on personal possessions and material goods in general, Aries. Think about what you can do to improve your home. Make your physical surroundings comfortable and inviting. Spend time alone in your sanctuary where you can center and concentrate on the big picture. Physical comfort and beauty will translate into emotional security.  
**TAURUS:** Dependability and stability are key aspects of today, Taurus. Take action that will prove to others that these parts of your nature are fully functional. Other people may be stubborn and not easily moved. You will have to fight to get your viewpoint across. You may

need to get out the bulldozer. Maintain tenderness in all your relations with others.  
**GEMINI:** Be gentle and reserved in your approach, Gemini. There's a great deal of tenderness in the air that you should tune into and enjoy. Do things to improve your home. Make amends with the people you live with and clear the air so that relations will be calm in the future. You have a great deal of yourself invested in making your home a sanctuary, so respect and nourish it.  
**CANCER:** This is a great day to go to thrift stores, Cancer. Your eye for beauty is keen and your radar for good deals is sharp. Lady Luck is with you and you may score some

terrific buys. Concentrate on beautiful objects for your home that adorn your life. One person's trash is another's treasure. See how creative you can be with making old items into treasures.  
**LEO:** Things that have been building for a long time suddenly come to a head today, Leo. Strong, slow-moving trends rear their ugly heads. There's a great deal of opportunity now making itself known in your life. Try not to lose yourself in the situation. See this as an opportunity to gain perspective and bring balance to the roller coaster that is your emotional life.  
**VIRGO:** It may be difficult to get moving today, Virgo. You may want

to just stay in bed. Don't feel guilty about it. Take an afternoon nap and enjoy the tender company of a partner. Stick close to home and enjoy good music and a fine meal with someone you love. Don't rock the boat. Simply relax and enjoy the pleasures life has to offer.  
**LIBRA:** Check your stocks today, Libra. Read the latest investment news and assess your finances. Figure out the best place to put your hard-earned money. Do some serious long-term planning to make sure your home and family are secure. Take a reserved, stable approach in all your dealings with others, and spend a comfortable evening at home with someone you love.

**SCORPIO:** There may be something or someone trying to slow you down today, Scorpio. Maybe this is a sign that it's what you need to do. Don't fight the urge to sit on the couch and do nothing. Take this day to soak in a hot bath and recharge your spirit. Your personal possessions and security are of great importance now. Indulge in the good things that life has to offer.  
**SAGITTARIUS:** Put some roots down today, Sagittarius. Concentrate on a creative project that you've had in your head for a while. It's time to follow through. Ideas are great, but implementation is the key to making them work. Consolidate your resources and take the time to

make a plan. The more patient you are in plotting your actions today, the more successful you will be in seeing them through to completion.  
**CAPRICORN:** If you plan on arguing for a cause today, make sure you have solid facts to back up your statements, Capricorn. People aren't likely to fall for things too easily. It will take a great deal to change someone's mind about something. It's a great day for you to take a walk through the woods. Get back to the Earth. Try to bring some greenery into your living space.  
**AQUARIUS:** Today is a very expansive day for you, Aquarius. Long-term projects are coming into focus. There's a huge windfall