

SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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*Tripura CM has
Rs 3,930; never
filed I-T returns:
Affidavit*

AGARTALA, JAN 30 (PTI): Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, who is running for the fifth consecutive term, has Rs 3,930 and has never filed any income tax return, states an election affidavit submitted by him while filing his nomination paper.

The Left leader donates his entire salary to the CPI(M) and gets Rs 5,000 from the party as subsistence allowances.

The 69-year-old leader has Rs 1,520 in hand and Rs 2,410 in his account in a nationalised bank. He does not have any other bank deposit, the affidavit said.

Sarkar, who is contesting from Dhanpur constituency, filed his nomination papers yesterday. He has no cultivable or homestead land. He stays in the chief minister's official residence.

The chief minister's wife Panchali Bhattacharya, a retired central government employee, has Rs 20,140 as cash and Rs 1,24,101 and Rs 86,473.78 in two bank accounts.

She also has three fixed deposits of Rs 2 lakh, Rs 5 lakh and Rs 2.25 lakh, besides 20 grams of jewelry. Bhattacharya inherited 888.35 sq ft area of land and till date invested Rs 15 lakh for construction there. The current value of the land is Rs 21 lakh.

She filed her last income tax return in 2011-12, where she showed her income as Rs 4,49,770. After that she did not file any income tax return.

*Good day in ring:
Shiva, Mary Kom
enter semis at
Indian Open*

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI): MC Mary Kom (51kg) and Shiva Thapa (60kg) were among the prominent names assured of medals as host nation continued to dominate the ring in the USD 100,000 India Open boxing tournament for men and women here today.

Seeded 12th, five-time world and Asian champion Mary Kom had no trouble in overwhelming compatriot K Bina Devi. The 35-year-old Manipuri prevailed 5-0 in a lop-sided contest, her nimble footwork standing out.

Also advancing but with a hard-fought win was L.Sarita Devi (60kg) as home favourites enjoyed another stellar day and looked good to walk away with most of the medals.

World bronze-medallist Shiva, also a three-time Asian championships medal winner, was up against Uzbek Sherbek Rakhmatulloev. Shiva stepped it up in the final three minutes to get the judges' nod in a split decision. He will square off against compatriot Manish Kaushik, who out-punched Filipino Charly Suarez in his quarterfinal bout.

Control freaks out devolution of power, compromises efficiency of PRIs

Annual Technical inspection report on PRIs and ULBs tabled in Legislative Assembly

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

As per the original plan, that of the Union Ministry of Rural Development, 29 functions listed in the XI Schedule of the Constitution were to be devolved to the Panchayati Raj Institutions by March 2002. But things like relinquishing power take time and activity mapping – an exercise to devolve various



functions to be discharged by the Gram and Zilla Panchayats – was undertaken in Sikkim in April 2008. The "activity"

must have gone well because the State Government has delineated role and responsibilities of each tier of PRIs for devolution of all 29 subjects. But delineating and handing over are two different things, because as of March 2016, fifteen of the said 29 subjects had still not been transferred to the PRIs.

But such foot-dragging should be expected when a traditionally centralized administration is given the responsibility of devolution of power. They are not going to be the most excited with the prospect and this lethargy is underlined in disconcerting

detail in the Annual Technical Inspection Report on PRIs and ULBs for the years ended 31 March 2016 prepared by the Office of the Accountant General (Audit), Govt of Sikkim, tabled in the Legislative Assembly today.

The auditors point out that "important subjects" such as land improvement, health and sanitation, fisheries, public distribution system, minor forest produce, small scale industries, khadi, village and cottage industries and non-conventional energy resources had not been transferred to people who could work on them best – the Pan-

chayats – as of March 2016.

It is also doubtful whether simple transfer of power would have sufficed, because even with the "subjects" transferred to the PRIs, adequate funds were not released by the Departments concerned due to which PRIs could not initiate a number of activities.

When reminded of the delay, the Director (Panchayat), in December 2016 informed the auditors that the issue has been brought to the notice of the concerned Department at several high level meetings and also to the State Government. More assurances have been made.

The practice of obsessively centralized planning and the tendency to control and dictate keeps getting reinforced in the Report and manifests in the hamstrung functioning of the PRIs.

For instance, because rules so prescribe, District Planning Committees were formed. Such committees are already loaded in favour of the administration because of the manner in which they are staffed, and as a result, don't even bother with token efforts towards delivering on their prescribed tasks and responsibilities.

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Proper implementation of projects and schemes a hurdle: CM

**VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 30 JAN:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today asserted that the state government is focusing on improving human resource development, health, agriculture, road connectivity and rural development however, he added that proper implementation of projects and schemes has been a hurdle.

The remarks came while the CM was delivering the vote of thanks on the second day of the two-day session of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly here at Gangtok.

He said that the second Supplementary Demands for Grants for financial year 2017-18 will help to complete the on-going schemes before March 2018. The Assembly session has voted for the second Supplementa-



ry Demands for Grants of Rs. Rs.40896.38 lakh for 37 various departments.

While remembering the father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi's assassination as Martyrs Day, Mr Chamling said that

it was 'an unfortunate incident' brought upon by communal hatred and disharmony. Here he said that the ethos, peace, harmony and culture of Sikkim should be preserved.

A section of Sikkimese people want to create fragments in the society by politicizing sensitive issues of caste, creed, religion, he stated further adding that the trend may lead Sikkim

and Sikkimese towards destruction.

Further stating that history is proof that nations and people have waged battles and wars in the name of caste, creed and religion, causing nothing but destruction, he called upon all sections of the society to maintain peace, tranquillity and harmony amongst the Sikkimese people.

"I'm against such propaganda that wants to put Sikkim's people in gas chambers for vested interests," said Mr Chamling.

Chief Minister also expressed his dissatisfaction over the present education standards of government schools despite the state government having provided excellent infrastructures. He urged the MLAs and bureaucrats to improve the standards of learning

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Assembly passes Second Supplementary Demands for Grants 2017-18

GANGTOK, 30 JAN [IPR]: On the second day of the 9th Assembly of Sixth Session [Part IV], Sikkim Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the Second Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 2017-2018 and Sikkim Appropriation Bill, Bill no. 1 of 2018 for the Second Supplementary Demands for Grants relating to the Financial Year 2017-18.

During the business hour, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, who is also the leader of the House, presented the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2016 "Performance Audit on Sikkim State Lotteries" Government of Sikkim Report No.1 of 2017.

The Chief Minister also presented the Separate Audit report of Public Sector Unit viz Annual Technical Inspection Report on PRIs and ULBs of the Government of Sikkim for the year ended 31 March, 2016 and Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of State Legal Service Authority-legal Aid Fund, Gangtok for the year ended

31 March, 2015 and 31 March, 2016.

Minister-in-Charge of Energy and Power Department, DD Bhutia, laid a copy of the Rules of Sikkim Electricity Regulatory Commission [Fund, Annual Accounts, Audit and Budget] Rules, 2017, as notified vide no. 32/GEN/R&C-L/R/CIR/E&P/15-16/55, dated 06/10/2017 and Published in Sikkim Government Gazette no. 471, dated 09 October, 2017 on the table of the House.

Replying to a question by Yangang Rangang MLA, RN Chamling, in the question hour, leader of the House who is also the Minister-in-Charge of Home Department, Pawan Chamling, said that vehicles purchased by state government were on need basis for the purpose of performing government duties and field visits of concerned department officers.

Minister-in-Charge Rural Management and Development Department, SB Subedi, while answering the question raised by MLA Kunga Nima Lepcha, mentioned that the delay in the com-

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Sikkim players all set for Khelo India School Games 2018

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Sikkim contingent comprising of 12 players and 08 officials headed by Deputy Chef-De-Mission, T Ongmu Bhutia, left for Delhi on 29 Jan to participate in the Khelo India School Games 2018 scheduled to be held in Delhi from 31 Jan to 08 Feb, a press release issued by Department of Sports & Youth Affairs informs.

It may be mentioned here, the Khelo India School Games 2018 to be held in Delhi is a sports competition for top ranking players of School Games Federation of India, National Sports Federation of India and CBSE competitions in 16 sports disciplines which will be organized in internation-



al standard environment and facilities. During the competition, talent hunt will be conducted and the selected players will be given scholarship of Rs 5 lakh per year for 8 years.

Eight boys and four girls will be representing Sikkim

at the KISG 2018 in athletics, badminton, boxing, swimming and weight lifting disciplines. The names of the participants are Buddha Sherpa (athletics, 1500 M run), Andrew Gazner [badminton, boys doubles], Devon DA Dungmal Rai

[badminton, boys doubles], Sabina Kharga/Chettri [badminton, girls singles and doubles], Evelyn Rai [badminton, boys girls doubles], Purn Rai [boxing, boys 46 KG], Thamche Yozzer Bhutia [swimming, 100 & 50 M breast stroke],

Veron Theobold Gurung [swimming, 100 M free-style], Lakshashree Pradhan [swimming, 50 M free-style], Rajina Rai [swimming, 50 M butterfly], Purna Rai [weightlifting, 62 KG] and Anguli Lepcha [weightlifting, 50 KG].

Govt's two reasons behind delay in multispecialty hospital construction

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

The question hour of the Assembly session today saw some contradiction in the responses put forth by the government regarding the reasons behind the delay in construction of the multispecialty hospital coming up at Socheythang.

Health Minister, AK Ghatani, while responding to a query from Rangang-Yangang MLA, RN Chamling, said that the delay was due to the 105 days long agitation in Darjeeling which had affected the transportation of construction materials and labourers.

RN Chamling argued that the National Highway was not affected and thus the reason cited was unsatisfactory.

Later, the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, in his vote of thanks, said that the state government had initiated the construction of the 575-bedded hospital which was later increased to 1,000 beds resulting in additional construction work to be undertaken. This, he said, had delayed the completion of the hospital's construction.

SPCC's new head office at 6th Mile inaugurated

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

The new head-office of Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee was inaugurated here at 6th Mile in Tadong today while observing the 70th death anniversary of the father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi. An SPCC press release informs that a meeting was also held under the chairmanship of the state president, Bharat Basnet, who thanked the former Minister and vice-president of the State Congress, PL Gurung for providing space for the party office. He also spoke about the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his contributions towards the nation.

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REPORTERS**

NAMCHI
9832048410,
9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/
DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213
SILIGURI
9609306046
9609066814
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8768664251

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Leezum Group wins Susakurtot Organic Festival dance competition

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 30 JAN:

Susakurtot Organic Festival dance competition was held today during the Susakurtot Organic Festival 2018 at Lum in Lower Dzongu. Eleven dance groups from various cultural groups from Dzongu participated in the competition that included an array of traditional and cultural dances in Lepcha and Nepali.

Former Headmistress of Thimchim Secondary School, Chinkipu Bhutia, attended the function as chief guest along with a

three-member jury panel to judge the competition. The panel of judges included Phigu Lepcha, Tashi Tongden Lepcha and Peekila Sherpa.

Chief guest, Ms Bhutia, in her speech, congratulated the Susakurtot Organic Festival Organizing Committee for successfully holding the festival and more importantly providing a platform for progressive farmers, Self Help Groups and cultural groups of the area.

One of the jury members, Phigu Lepcha, expressed happiness on witnessing the talents

of the participants who were in the average age group of 15-20 years and encouraged them to continue with the same with dedication and passion.

The event ended with the vote of thanks delivered by organizing committee member, Nimchung Lepcha.

Leezum Group of Gor was adjudged as the winner of the dance competition with Nawdisha Group of Namok and Gyanjyoti Club of Dikchu taking the first runner up and second runner up places respectively.



ASP South named Employee of the Month for district

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Assistant Superintendent of Police, South, Linda Palmo, has been selected as the 'Employee of the Month' for the month of February 2018 in South district, a press release from the South District Collector's office informs.

The South District Administration has selected Ms Palmo for her contribution and dedication towards making women's help desk functional in almost all police stations in South district recently.

During her tenure as Sub Divisional Police Officer, she has investigated high profile cases like EILM University



case, multi-crore scam that involved one distillery at Baghey Kholaghari and fraud case in Golden Cross pharmaceutical.

She has also investigated sensational Shikha murder case in Namchi and Suman Tiwari case in Temi Tarku.

Ms Palmo is also the nodal officer for Special Juvenile Police Unit [SJPU] and manages the functions in South district

and the nodal officer for grievance redressal cell for South district police as per Working Women Sexual Harassment Act 2013. She has further worked as member secretary for Child Welfare Committee.

The South District Administration, in the release, has expressed recognition for her dedication, commitment and hard work and has congratulated her for the same.

It is informed that Ms Palmo's photo will be displayed in front of the DC office for the entire month of February in order to motivate others to do wonders for betterment of public of South Sikkim.

Special awareness programme on TB & leprosy in Dentam



GANGTOK, 30 JAN [PIB]: Two-day special awareness campaign on Tuberculosis and Leprosy was organized by Block Development Office, Dentam, in collaboration with Dentam Primary Health Centre & ICDS in Dentam on 28-29 Jan.

On 28 Jan, 'Mann ki Baat' programme was organized in coordination with the local inhabitants of Dentam in West Sikkim wherein the first phase of Pulse Polio drive was also organized.

A meeting with the locals was organized at Block Development Office in Dentam on 29 Jan. Prior to this programme, a rally was taken out which was flagged off by chief guest, Nabin Kumar Gurung [Chairperson, Rogi Kalyan Samiti, Dentam].

During the technical session, Technical Officer, PHC Dentam, HP Bist, explained in detail about the causes and types of tuberculosis and the precaution to be adopted to check the disease.

Medical Officer, PHC Dentam, Dr Kanchan Gurung, also added about various symptoms of TB. He informed that there are only eight patients of TB under the jurisdiction of Dentam PHC.

Dr Gurung appealed to people to be aware about TB so that the disease can be nipped at the bud.

"There is still some stigma on TB patients in our society. However, TB is curable. One should not be depressed if he/she gets TB rather he/she should take medicines regularly," said Dr Gurung.

Speaking on leprosy, Dr Gurung said that since last 20 years, there has not been a single case of leprosy detected.

Bhim Maya Subba of Maneybong ICDS explained about the various ongoing schemes that were launched for mothers and children and for the upliftment of our society as a whole.

West observes Martyrs' Day

GYALSHING, 30 JAN [IPR]:

West District Administration Center today observed Martyrs' Day at the DAC in Rabdentse, West Sikkim. Under the direction of District Collector, West, Kapil Meena, the officials and staff of the DAC observed two-minute silence from 11 a.m. to 11:02 a.m. in memory of all those who gave their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

Similar observances with due solemnity were made by all the Sub Divisional Magistrates and Block Development Officers in their respective work places in the West District. A briefing was also given by the DC, West to the gathering about the significance of Martyrs' Day



Day which also coincides with Anti-Leprosy Day.

'SPARSH' Leprosy Awareness Gram Sabhas are also being organized today in all the GPUs of the West District as per the directives received from the Ministry of Health, Government of India with an objective of

spreading leprosy awareness and its eradication from the country.

It may be mentioned here, 30 Jan is the date observed as Martyrs' Day at the national level. The date was chosen as it marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948 by Nathuram Godse.



ITBP observes Martyrs' Day at Pegong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

The 11th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police observed two-minute silence to mark Martyrs' Day at its unit campus in Pegong in North Sikkim, a press release informs.

Legal awareness programme at Upper Mangshila

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

A legal awareness programme as per the newly approved model of National Legal Services Authority [NALSA], New Delhi on the core theme and scheme "Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights, 2015" was held on 28 Jan at Panchayat Ghar in Upper Mangshila, North Sikkim, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by District and Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority, North Sikkim, Prajwal Khatiwada, in the presence of Bank Manager, State Bank of India,



Mangan, A Lamechaney, District Child Protection Officer, KK Limboo, along with other officials.

Legal rights, tribal rights & various schemes were discussed during the programme.

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Rey-Rumtek residents to close Ranka-Sajong Road indefinitely from 01 Feb in protest

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

People's Forum, Rey-Rumtek has announced that it will stop vehicular movement on the Ranka-Sajong Road in East Sikkim indefinitely from 01 Feb onwards to protest the delay in completion of road widening work which has left the road in a pathetic condition.

According to the organization, the work of widening and strengthening the road from Ranka Zero Point to Sajong has been lying incomplete and in pathetic condition which is



causing a lot of inconvenience to the public of the area.

Addressing a press conference here today, People's

Forum member, Deepa Khatri, informed that the work of widening and strengthening of the 8 KM long road from

Ranka Zero Point to Sajong had started on 15 May 2013 and the date of completion was 14 June 2016. She informed that the work costing Rs 14.35 crore was given to contractor, T Lachungpa.

"Even after two years have passed since the deadline for completion of the work, the work is lying incomplete. Locals have been facing a lot of problems," she said.

Ms Khatri informed that no taxi driver wants to ply their vehicle on this road fearing damages to their vehicles.

"We have approached all concerned departments and authorities but no one has shown interest or visited the spot to address our problem," she added.

Another People's Forum member, Raju Rai, announced that the people of the area have now decided to close this Ranka-Sajong Road indefinitely from 7 a.m. on 01 Feb until the concerned authority addresses the problem.

"No vehicle will be allowed to ply on this road and those who want can drive at their

own risk. We hope this initiative will draw the attention of the concerned authority. We just want the concerned officials to visit the spot and complete the work at the earliest," he said.

Likewise, another member, ST Bhutia, stated that the road is important for the development of tourism in the area.

"This road is also used by ITBP so the good condition of this road is also important for national security," he said.

Gangtok on Wednesday, 31 Jan

Temp: 19°C / 05°C

Forecast: Mostly sunny with a clear evening.

Sunrise: 06:23AM

Sunset: 5:16 PM

State BJP condemns attack on its leaders, alleges SDF involvement

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh president, DB Chauhan, has strongly condemned the vandalising of the party zonal office at Singtam and attack on the state BJP leaders by a 'mob' on Monday. He alleged that the 'mob' attacked BJP south district incharge, LB Chauhan, and party spokesperson, JB Darnal, and forced them to resign from the party.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Chauhan alleged that despite an FIR filed at Singtam Police Station, people involved in the attack are roaming about freely. Delay in action by the administration points towards a conspiracy against the party, he alleged.

Responding to media queries, he stated that in the mob of around 25 persons, 6 were members of the State BJP and the identity of the rest is unknown.

"BJP has been working as a responsible opposition in the State. But the ruling party and its leader have been speaking against the BJP repeatedly so it may have triggered this attack or the ruling party is directly behind this attack," he said.

Mr Chauhan has urged the state government to thoroughly investigate the incident to nab the culprits behind the attack. The party will discuss the action to be taken against the party workers involved in this attack in a soon to be held meeting, he added.

Proper implementation of projects and schemes a hurdle: CM

Contd from pg01

and teaching in the State.

Responding to questions raised by Rangyang Yangang MLA, RN Chamling, the CM said that the decision to prohibit entry of inorganic fruits and vegetables from 31 March, 2018 was taken as a step to lead the second phase of the organic movement.

"We have taken this decision in consultation with our farming community and it has to be backed by all the people of Sikkim. This is not for anyone's personal gain, but for the welfare of the people. Our aim is to ensure that Sikkim is completely free of chemicals and the food that our people eat is healthy, devoid of any hazardous matter," Mr Chamling said adding that that the local demand for fruits and vegetables will have to be met by local farmers, which in turn will result in self-sufficiency in these products.

Mangshila Polytechnic College construction resumes after 5 yrs

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 30 JAN:

Work on the abandoned under construction Polytechnic College at Mangshila in North Sikkim has finally

resumed after five long years. The construction of the said college was started in the year 2011 and was scheduled to be completed by 2013. The construction of the college has now been initiated by the concerned department as earlier the project had been awarded to a contractor.



Two-minute silence observed at Manan Kendra

GANGTOK, 30 JAN [IPR]: Martyrs' Day was observed at Manan Kendra premises today with the observance of two-minute silence from 11 a.m. to 11:02 a.m. The protocol was followed in all the government departments and district and sub-divisions.

Assembly passes Second Supplementary Demands for Grants 2017-18

Contd from pg01

pletion of PMGSY Road along Ranipool-Syari is due to non-participation of the contractors in several tenders and re-tenders, and also due to laying of sewerage pipe line which runs along the road. He, however, assured that the construction of road will be completed by June, 2018.

The two-day Assembly Session concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Chief Minister. In his vote of thanks remarks, he expressed gratitude to the Deputy Speaker and the entire team at Assembly Secretariat and all the Members of the House for the smooth conduct of the two-day Assembly

Session.

The Chief Minister also briefly apprised the House of the key initiatives of the government in all spheres of development. He urged all the members from ruling and opposition to work collectively for Limboo-Tamang Assembly seat reservation, OBC issue, Income Tax exemption, Organic Farming, betterment of education and other pertinent issues.

He also urged the Members of the House to educate and inform the people of Sikkim on the positive developments and upcoming policies & schemes of the State.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that the receiving of One World Award on Organic Farm-

ing is a great achievement for the people of Sikkim. In order to sustain that image, Sikkimese people need to work harder. He also informed that the focus of the government will be to complete all the ongoing and pending works.

Earlier, the House also observed Martyrs' Day with two-minute silence and remembered the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on his 70th death anniversary. The Chief Minister spoke on the teachings of peace and non-violence advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Member of the house, Sonam Lama, and Deputy Speaker, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, also proposed vote of thanks.

Solo marathoner Abhishek given warm welcome at Rangpo

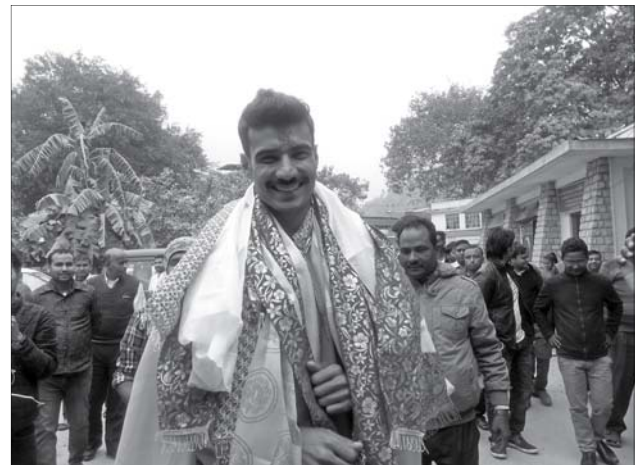
SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Solo marathoner of Sikkim, Abhishek Prasad Gupta, was given a warm welcome at Rangpo in East Sikkim as he came back to the State from New Delhi today after completing his mega run to promote Sikkim Organic Mission, Awareness against Child Abuse and Swacchh Bharat Mission, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, Abhishek started his run to New Delhi from Gangtok on 29 Dec, 2017 and reached Delhi on 24 Jan, 2018 covering 1,545 KMS. During his run, Abhishek covered five States namely Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

The welcome programme today was organised under the banner of Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch [SBJM] and was



attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rangpo, Mahesh Sharma, as chief guest along with Station House Officer, Rangpo PS, Bikash Tiwari, SBJM president, Swaminath Prasad and Press Club of Sikkim president, Joseph

Lepcha, as special guests. Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch felicitated Abhishek for completing his mission successfully. The SBJM also felicitated the driver of the escort vehicle and the medical team who accompanied

Abhishek throughout the run. Further, during the event the media team was also felicitated for supporting Abhishek round-the-clock by giving people daily updates about his run.

BCCI officials inspect Mining Ground

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Two officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] visited Sikkim on 27 and 28 Jan to inspect the Mining Cricket ground in East Sikkim. BCCI Chief Curator of East zone, Ashish K Bhowmick and curator, Peter J Lamare accompanied by office bearers of Sikkim Cricket Association visited the Mining ground on 27 Jan and on 28 Jan they inspected the ground accompanied by a technical team comprising of surveyors, informs an SCA press release.

The release adds that the BCCI has been actively supporting cricket activities in the North East States and this visit was the result of a request of the SCA to



the BCCI for providing the basic infrastructure for facilitating cricket activities in the State.

"The BCCI has been planning to develop this ground into international standard ground and it is proposed to have at least seven pitches. The ground shall have proper drain-

age system and shall have natural turf," the release informs. It is added that all these proposals that are in the pipeline were discussed by the SCA president at various high level meetings of BCCI.

"It would really be a great opportunity for cricket lovers to have a

good, picturesque and world standard ground to host various BCCI matches in the near future," it is added.

The release informs that the BCCI shall be training the online and offline scorers, the curator and grounds men for the newly constructed stadium.

Control freaks out devolution of power, compromises efficiency of PRIs

Contd from pg01

The Audit reveals that the DPCs finalised the Annual District Development Plans by merely consolidating proposals received from various line departments without taking "any" inputs from grass root level! Given that this would have been just a list of civil engineering-driven wish-list of departments it is just as well that the DPCs did not forward these plans to the State Government for integration with the State plan.

Given the superficiality of its engagement, these rather handsomely staffed committees, nev-

er bothered to engage technical experts of attempt to consider matters of common interest between panchayats and municipalities.

Expectedly, when corners are being cut and powers being guarded, citizens' complaints cannot be addressed in any meaningful manner. This sentiment gets reinforced in how the office of the Ombudsman was set up only because instructions arrived from the GoI to institute one and then this office was allowed to wither away, well, because even that was possible.

The responsibilities of the Ombudsman included receiving complaints from MGNREGA workers and others and considering such complaints and facilitating their disposal in accordance with law. This office has very grand and ambitious role and tasks, but why bother even knowing them when the Ombudsman itself remains a near nonentity.

As per the Audit report - and the report is being polite since one hand of the government can slap its own functioning only so hard - "It was noticed that the

Ombudsman was not adequately functional as cases/ complaints were not lodged/ transferred to the authority."

And why was that? "This may be due to the fact that the existence of Ombudsman in the State to deal with MGNREGA related affairs was neither adequately advertised nor any public announcements were made," the Report explains.

Little surprise then that a large number of issues (1,668 to be precise) pointed out by Social Audit for the year 2015-16 were still lying unsettled.

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Climate Change is Here

Better make its acquaintance to be able to become more resilient

Prime Minister Modi, in his address at Davos, when he was not getting carried away with his own bombast, made one significant point when he flagged climate change as one of the big threats facing the world. Oh, the carried away bombast interests you more? Addressing the plenary session of the World Economic Forum at Davos, the PM probably mistook electoral for economic for a while. He told the audience (of number-crunchers) that in 2014 in India, “600 crore voters in India provided a complete majority to any political party to form government at the Centre”. For those who struggle with conversions from lakhs to crores to millions and billions, 600 crores is 6 Billion. Even kids know that India is a country of 1 billion (1.3 billion) or 130 crore if you go by the unit preferred by the PM. Even taking the Pradhan Mantri’s weakness for exaggerations when it comes to numbers, this claim was rich. Okay, it was a faux pas and maybe not mischievously intentional, but it needs to be pointed out if calling out is too difficult. Enough of that slip of the tongue and returning to the point that Mr Modi got right.

The PM’s pointing out of the obvious comes in the wake of the leaders of the US of A remaining insistent on denying climate change and dismissing global warming as a hoax. Bird-brained arguments point to the extreme winter in USA as proof that the globe is not warming! This, after the continent was struck by monster hurricane, struggles through forest fires and landslides, posting casualty figures in competition with “third world” “s***hole” countries. Climate Change has become an urgent reality. What regions like Sikkim, which are really the canaries in the open mine of climate change, need to realize is that it will only take one more country (and UK is lining up for that job) for the study of climate change to lose substantial funding, and with that also lose the urgency with which the issue is being pursued and addressed. The rich people and the richer countries will go ahead and manufacture stronger air conditioners and larger air purifiers, but frontlines like Sikkim will be left behind as cannon-fodder for climate change to consume and pause during its march to the mainland. Hopefully, better sense will prevail at the global level, but this is not the time to sit on the sidelines and wait for that to happen. Admittedly, there is little, infinitesimally little, that Sikkim can do to contain climate change. What it can do, however, is understand it, notice it, and then maybe prepare for it.

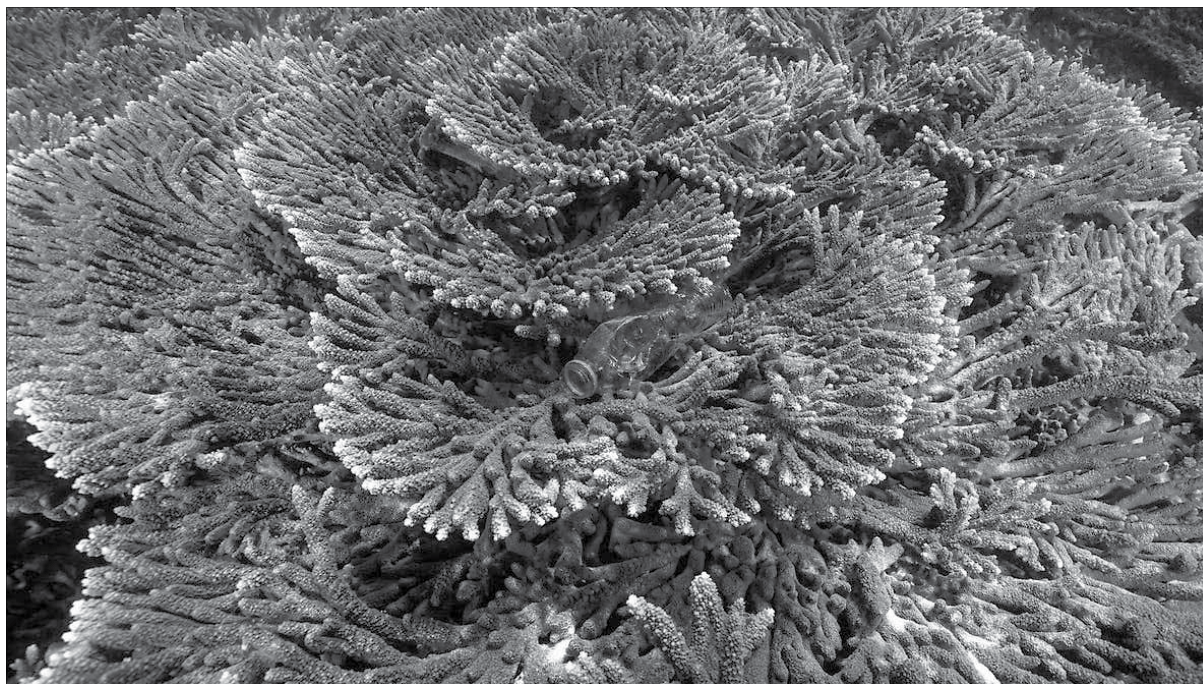
Studying climate change, understanding what’s happening around the world and comparing it against how Sikkim is faring is much more important nowadays than it was, say even two decades ago. Till the time when people lived more ‘organic’ lives, their lifestyles more in tune with their immediate environs, changes in climate patterns and the corrective adjustments were instinctive here. Nowadays, however, most of us live lives too distanced from weather patterns to make us even realise a dramatic climate change until it is too late. Among the changes which have already taken place, but not yet even attracted raised eyebrows is the near complete absence of fog from Gangtok this winter. The season is already on its way out, and might still go out with a wave of intense cold, but the heavy fog which used to make driving around Gangtok at night fraught with danger, decided not to envelope the hill this year, again. The acutely dry winter is also apparent in the at-risk crops of buckwheat, wheat, mustard and peas since most fields in Sikkim rely on rains for irrigation. But we do not miss the absence of “local” field produce any more because supplies from Siliguri remain abundant (until the import ban kicks in at least).

The impact of climate change can also be blamed for the near complete disappearance of some important pollinators from Sikkim’s orchards and fields. Bees, the local kind, have been noticeable missing. Some blame the mobile signal towers for this and others have pointed fingers at road and hydel projects and the intense “blasting” that such “development” entails, but colony collapse among bees is being reported the world over. Sikkim should notice and try to explain this phenomenon. If someone bothered to research, there may even be crops no one grows anymore and foods we no longer eat; each was an important part of the biodiversity that makes Sikkim a hotspot, and we will lose more if more sensitivity and awareness is not generated.

Not everything dwindled away because of climate change, but their absence from Sikkim could make the land’s adjustment to Climate Change more difficult. It thus follows that now that Sikkim has a Department of Science & Technology and Climate Change, its resources should be utilized better to prepare the State for Climate Change (in the real sense, not in the report-producing exercise). Remember, before Sikkim builds resilience against Climate Change, it will need to understand it more intimately.

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11 billion pieces of plastic bring disease threat to coral reefs

JOLEAH LAMB
theconversation.com

There are more than 11 billion pieces of plastic debris on coral reefs across the Asia-Pacific, according to our new research, which also found that contact with plastic can make corals more than 20 times more susceptible to disease.

In our study, published today in Science, we examined more than 124,000 reef-building corals and found that 89% of corals with trapped plastic had visual signs of disease - a marked increase from the 4% chance of a coral having disease without plastic.

Globally, more than 275 million people live within 30km of coral reefs, relying on them for food, coastal protection, tourism income, and cultural value.

With coral reefs already under pressure from climate change and mass bleaching events, our findings reveal another significant threat to the world’s corals and the ecosystems and livelihoods they support.

In collaboration with numerous experts and underwater surveyors across Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Australia, we collected data from

159 coral reefs between 2010 and 2014. In so doing, we collected one of the most extensive datasets of coral health in this region and plastic waste levels on coral reefs globally.

There is a huge disparity between global estimates of plastic waste entering the oceans and the amount that washes up on beaches or is found floating on the surface.

Our research provides one of the most comprehensive estimates of plastic waste on the seafloor, and its impact on one of the world’s most important ecosystems.

The number of plastic items entangled on the reefs varied immensely among the different regions we surveyed - with the lowest levels found in Australia and the highest in Indonesia.

An estimated 80% of marine plastic debris originates from land. The variation of plastic we observed on reefs during our surveys corresponded to the estimated levels of plastic litter entering the ocean from the nearest coast. One-third of the reefs we surveyed had no derelict plastic waste, however others had up to 26 pieces of plastic debris per 100 square metres.

We estimate that there are roughly 11.1 billion plastic items on coral

reefs across the Asia-Pacific. What’s more, we forecast that this will increase 40% in the next seven years - equating to an estimated 15.7 billion plastic items by 2025.

This increase is set to happen much faster in developing countries than industrialised ones. According to our projections, between 2010 and 2025 the amount of plastic debris on Australian coral reefs will increase by only about 1%, whereas for Myanmar it will almost double.

HOW CAN PLASTIC WASTE CAUSE DISEASE?

Although the mechanisms are not yet clear, the influence of plastic debris on disease development may differ among the three main global diseases we observed to increase when plastic was present.

Plastic debris can open wounds in coral tissues, potentially letting in pathogens such as *Halofolliculina* corallasia, the microbe that causes skeletal eroding band disease.

Plastic debris could also introduce pathogens directly. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) - a very common plastic used in children’s toys, building materials like pipes, and many other products - have been found carrying a family of bacteria called *Rhodobacterales*,

which are associated with a suite of coral diseases.

Similarly, polypropylene - which is used to make bottle caps and toothbrushes - can be colonised by *Vibrio*, a potential pathogen linked to a globally devastating group of coral diseases known as white syndromes.

Finally, plastic debris overtopping corals can block out light and create low-oxygen conditions that favour the growth of microorganisms linked to black band disease.

Structurally complex corals are eight times more likely to be affected by plastic, particularly branching and tabular species. This has potentially dire implications for the numerous marine species that shelter under or within these corals, and in turn the fisheries that depend on them.

Our study shows that reducing the amount of plastic debris entering the ocean can directly prevent disease and death among corals.

Once corals are already infected, it is logistically difficult to treat the resulting diseases. By far the easiest way to tackle the problem is by reducing the amount of mismanaged plastic on land that finds its way into the ocean.

[the writer is Research fellow, Cornell University]

Look up at the super blue blood full moon Jan 31 – here’s what you’ll see and why

SHANNON SCHMOLL
theconversation.com

During the early hours of Jan. 31, there will be a full moon, a total lunar eclipse, a blue moon and a supermoon - all at the same time. None of these things is really all that unusual by itself. What is rare is that they’re happening all together on one day.

WHAT MAKES THE MOON LOOK FULL?

Like the Earth, half the moon is illuminated by the sun at any one time. The moon orbits around the Earth and as a result we see different amounts of the lit-up side.

A full moon is when we see its entire lit-up side. This occurs every 29.5 days, when the moon is directly opposite the sun relative to the Earth. Jan. 31 will be our next full moon in the lunar cycle.

WHAT’S A LUNAR ECLIPSE?

The moon’s orbit is tilted by about 5 degrees relative to the Earth’s orbit. So, most of the time the moon ends up a little above or below the path Earth follows as it revolves around the sun. But twice in each lunar cycle, the moon does cross into our planet’s orbital plane.

If that crossing corresponds to a full moon, the moon will pass into the Earth’s shadow, resulting in a total lunar eclipse. Since the moon needs to be behind the Earth, relative to the sun, a lunar eclipse can only happen on a full moon.

To see the phenomenon, you need to be on the night side of the Earth; this eclipse will be visible mostly in Asia, Australia, the Pacific and North America. But don’t worry if you miss it, lunar eclipses happen on average a couple times a year. The next one visible in North America will be on Jan. 21, 2019.

A BLUE MOON THAT LOOKS RED

When a lunar eclipse happens, the moon appears to darken as it moves into the Earth’s shadow called the umbra. When the moon is all the way in shadow it doesn’t go completely dark; instead, it looks



As long as clouds don’t get in the way, the view should be spectacular.

red due to a process called Rayleigh scattering. The gas molecules of Earth’s atmosphere scatter blue wavelengths of light from the sun, while redder wavelengths pass straight through.

This is why we have blue skies and red sunrises and sunsets. When the sun is high in the sky, red light passes straight through to the ground while blue light is scattered in every direction, making it more likely to hit your eye when you look around. During a sunset, the angle of the sun is lower in the sky and that red light instead passes directly into your eyes while the blue light is scattered away from your line of sight.

In the case of a lunar eclipse, the sunlight that makes it around Earth passes through our atmosphere and is refracted toward the moon. Blue light is filtered out, leaving the moon looking reddish during an eclipse.

On top of it all, the Jan. 31 full moon is also a considered a blue moon. There are two different

definitions of blue moon. The first is any time a second full moon occurs in a single month. Since there are 29.5 days between two full moons, we usually only end up with one per month. With most months longer than 29.5 days, it occasionally works out that we have two full moons. We already had one on the first of this month and our second will be Jan. 31, making it a blue moon. With this definition our next blue moon is in March, leaving February with no full moon this year.

The second definition of a blue moon states it’s the third moon in a season in which there are four moons, which happens about every 2.7 years. We’ll only have three this winter, so the Jan. 31 full moon won’t be blue by this definition. Stargazers will need to wait until May 18, 2019, for a blue moon that fits this older, original definition.

A SUPERSIZED SUPERMOON

Finally, to add the cherry on top, this will also be a supermoon. The moon’s orbit is not perfectly circular, meaning its distance from Earth varies as it goes through one cycle. The closest point in its orbit is called the perigee. A full moon that happens near perigee is called a supermoon by some.

This happened with our full moon earlier this month on Jan. 1 and will again on Jan. 31.

Its proximity makes it seem a little bit bigger and brighter than usual, but that’s the extent of its effects on Earth. The distinction is usually hard to notice unless you’re looking at two pictures side by side.

There are long traditions of giving different moons names. This being a bigger, brighter, reddish-looking blue moon, perhaps we should call the next full moon the super purple moon. The moon will not actually appear purple, nor will have it a cape - but Jan. 31 is a great time to gaze up and enjoy the night sky.

[the writer is Director, Abrams Planetarium, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University]

BJP's Nagaland unit backs out of declaration to boycott polls

KOHIMA/NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI): Making a u-turn, BJP's Nagaland unit today backed out of a joint declaration signed yesterday by all parties in the state to boycott the upcoming Assembly polls which also led to suspension of a state party leader.

As the move by the BJP's state unit to be part of the declaration left its central leadership red-faced, Union minister Kiren Rijiju went into damage control mode, saying elections are a constitutional process and the Central government is bound by the Constitution. Rijiju, who is the minister of state for home, is also BJP's election in-charge for Nagaland.

The BJP also suspended its state executive council member Kheto Semaparty, who had signed the joint declaration.

Representatives of 11 political parties, including the ruling Naga People's Front, its ally BJP and the Congress yesterday signed the declaration not to contest the February 27 assembly elections, agreeing to the demand of tribal bodies and civil society groups that

the protracted Naga political problem be resolved first.

The Nationalist Democratic Peoples' Party, Nagaland Congress, United Nagaland Democratic Party, Aam Admi Party, National Congress Party, Lok Janshakti Party, Janata Dal (United) and National People's Party were the other parties who signed the joint declaration.

State BJP chief Visasolie Lhoungu told PTI in Kohima that he had asked Kheto to attend yesterday's meeting but had not authorised him to sign the joint declaration.

"We had authorised two party leaders to attend the meeting but had also said that if there is anything regarding the elections, the party's national leaders should be consulted," he said.

"Since Kheto had signed the documents without any consultation with the central leaders, he has been put under suspension," Lhoungu said.

He, however, said the BJP favours an early settlement to the Naga political problem but the Assembly election is a dif-

ferent issue and the state unit of the party is awaiting directions from the central leadership in this regard.

Asked if the BJP accepts the common call for 'solution not election', Lhoungu said, "The final decision on the matter will be taken only after BJP central leaders hold discussions with the core committee of Naga tribal organisations and also the Naga nationalist political groups."

The discussions will take place soon and the filing of nominations will depend on the outcome of the meeting, he said.

Rijiju, who put out a series of tweets, said the Centre attaches utmost importance to the long pending Naga issue.

"Holding of timely election is a constitutional process.

The central government is bound by the Constitution," he said. Rijiju said the Centre fully understands the sentiments expressed by the Core Committee of the Nagaland Tribal Hohos and Civil Organisations (CCNTHCO) but "election boycott is not the solution".

"Let's have faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's commitment. Govt of India attaches utmost importance to the long pending Naga issue. We believe that peaceful election in Nagaland will facilitate the ongoing peace talks and strengthen our commitment," he said.

The Core Committee has also called for a total shutdown on February 1, when filing of nomination begins.

The Naga Hoho, an apex Naga tribal body, earlier this month sought the prime minister's intervention for postponing the elections, saying the vexed issue should be resolved first.

Civil society groups in Nagaland have also launched a campaign 'Solution before Election'. Expectations for lasting peace soared in Nagaland, which had been hit by insurgency for decades, after the Centre and the NSCN-IM signed a framework agreement in 2015.

The NSCN-IM has been engaged in peace talks with the interlocutor of the central government since 1997, when

it announced a ceasefire agreement after a bloody insurgency movement which started in Nagaland soon after the country's independence.

During a visit to the state in November 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind had said the state was at the threshold of making history as a final agreement on the Naga political issue would soon be arrived at and lasting peace achieved.

Rijiju along with BJP national secretary in-charge of North East Ram Madhav, who were in Kohima yesterday, held discussions on pre-poll alliance as well as seat sharing for the ensuing elections, state party sources said.

The BJP's media cell convener K James Vizo confirmed that the two leaders were here to discuss the status of pre-poll alliance and also seat sharing for the elections.

Vizo said Rijiju and Madhav held meeting with Chief Minister TR Zeliang and NPF president Shurhozelie Liezietsu over pre-poll alliance and also deliberated on seat sharing.



Dhuppuri police station ranked 4th in country

JALPAIGURI (WB), JAN 30 (PTI): Dhuppuri police station in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district has been ranked fourth in the country by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Dhuppuri achieved the feat in a nationwide survey conducted by the ministry that declared its results recently.

"We are happy that Dhuppuri has been ranked fourth. Of all the police stations in the state, names of two had been sent to the agency that conducted the survey - Dhuppuri and New Town," Superintendent of Police Amitabha Maiti said.

Dhuppuri was ahead of many other police station in various param-

eters and was adjudged fourth, he said.

The parameters included law and order situation in the area, performance of the police station, sanitation in and around the police station compound, and behaviour of the police personnel with people.

A team of the agency that conducted the survey had visited Dhuppuri police station last year, Inspector-in-charge Sanjay Dutta said.

RS Puram police station of Coimbatore had came first in the survey, followed by Panjagutta of Hyderabad, Gudamba of Lucknow, and Dupguri police station.

Potato production to be lower by 10 lakh tonne in FY18

KOLKATA, JAN 30 (PTI): Amid lower acreage of potato cultivation by five per cent, potato production in the 2018 season is likely to be close to 100 lakh tonne.

"Potato production in the current season is expected to be 100 lakh tonne against about 110 lakh tonne production in 2017," West Bengal Coal Storage Association president Patit Paban De said here today on the sidelines of the 53rd AGM.

Agricultural marketing minister Tapan Dasgupta also said production will be good and the state is ready to offer all necessary assistance for smooth marketing of the staple.

Agriculture adviser to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Pradip Kr Mazumdar, also expected that there will be no major impact on production of potato despite delayed sowing due to disruptions caused by bad weather.

Speaking about the government's strategy regarding potato production and pricing, Dasgupta said a meeting is scheduled on February 19 with the stakeholders.

He hoped there would be no major jump in potato price this year, despite the shortfall, since the state government already has a carry over stock of close to 9 lakh tonne, as of January 1, 2018.

It will help offset the eight to nine per cent lower production projection over last year.

Mazumdar, speaking about rabi season paddy cultivation said, due to unfavourable weather conditions and some diseases, production impact may be marginal.

West Bengal will be supplying paddy to a few states such as Kerala, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu to the tune of some 20 lakh tonne, Mazumdar said.

Swaraj to visit Nepal on Thursday; to meet Nepal's top leaders

SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JAN 30 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will arrive here on Thursday on a two-day visit during which she will hold talks with Nepal's top leadership, days ahead of the formation of a new Left alliance government.

Swaraj's visit comes at a time when Nepal successfully concluded three phase of provincial, local and parliamentary elections as part of its efforts to implement the new Constitution that was promulgated in Sep-

tember 2015.

Nepal's Left alliance is preparing to form a new government which is expected to be headed by CPN-UML chief and former prime minister K P Oli.

Swaraj will be the first senior Indian minister to visit Nepal after the conclusion of elections to local bodies, provincial assemblies and federal Parliament.

"This will be a high level goodwill visit keeping with the tradition of regular exchange of political visits between India and Nepal," said the Indian em-

bassy sources.

Swaraj will call on President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba before flying back to New Delhi on Friday.

She will also meet Oli, who through a letter congratulated Prime Minister Narenra Modi on the 69th Republic Day of India. Swaraj will also meet CPN-Maoist Centre Chairman and former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

The high-level visit from India is being considered signif-

icant in the political spectrum here.

Prime Minister Modi had congratulated Oli for the success achieved by his party in the elections.

The clear victory to the Left alliance -- CPN-UML led by Oli and the CPN-Maoist led by Prachanda -- was not seen as a positive development for India given that Oli had publicly criticised New Delhi for interfering in Nepal's internal matters and accused it of toppling his government last year.

Vernacular readers are not declining, says poet Shankha Ghosh

KOLKATA, JAN 30 (PTI):

Eminent Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh has said it is incorrect to assume that the number of vernacular readers is on the decline if one takes into account the rise in publishers in regional languages.

Ghosh, the recipient of Jnanpith Award 2016 was speaking at the launch of eight Bengali language books by Oxford University Press (OUP) as part of its Indian language publishing programme.

"While I often hear that the number of readers of Bengali books is going down, I fail to understand how we find new publishers coming to the field and new titles coming out every year," Ghosh said yesterday.

"This perhaps makes it apparent that whatever is perceived is not true and there are a large number of readers who are more addicted to books in their mother tongue than English, even if some of them like me are equally comfort-

able with English," the Sahitya Akademi award and Padma Bhushan recipient said.

OUP Director, Global Academic Publishing, Sugata Ghosh said with the launching of eight new Bengali titles, the publication house would now be able to reach out more to a greater number of readers.

"In the past, through our English publications, we could reach out to 10 per cent of the total Indian readers and now we think we can penetrate to

other areas," he said.

Ghosh said that under OUP's new publishing programme, books will be published in major Indian languages, beginning with Hindi and Bengali.

Some of the books under the new programme include India's Ancient Past by R S Sharma, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas by Romila Thapar and India's Foreign Policy by Sumit Ganguly in Hindi and History of South India: From Prehistoric times

to the Fall of Vijayanagar by Nilakanta Sastri, Democracy and Its Institutions by Andr B teille, and Defining Moments in Bengal, 1920 47 by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya in Bengali.



JAP YOUTH STAGE DHARNA IN NEW DELHI: Jan Aandolan Party youth wing stage dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi in demand of separate state of Gorkhaland on Tuesday.

SU lecturer invited to National Art & Literature Festival

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Sikkim University Nepali Department lecturer and senior literary figure, Dr Kabita Lama, has been invited to the National Art & Literature Festival to be held from 01-03 Feb at IDCOL Auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She has been invited as a representative of Nepali literature to recite her poems and to participate in the panel discussion in the festival.

The third edition of the festival, which is being organised by Dhauli Review Trust, will have the participation of literary figures and experts from different parts of India and other countries.

Ms Lama is scheduled to leave for the festival on 31 Jan and will recite the English translation of two of her poems. She will be participating in the panel discussion on 'Importance of Metaphor in Daily Life' on 02 Feb.

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Vernacular users to be 75% of internet user base by 2021

MUMBAI, JAN 30 (PTI): Regional language users will account for 75 per cent of the country's internet user base by 2021, says a report.

Affordable smartphones and low priced 3G and 4G connections are driving internet penetration and digital literacy in the country and access to high speed internet connectivity is no longer restricted to metro cities, which is causing a massive shift in online content consumption patterns, according to the Times Internet study 'The Changing Lingual Face of Digital India'.

The regional language user base in India has grown at a compounded rate of 41 per cent between 2011 and 2016 to reach 234 million. This is expected to grow by 18 per cent CAGR to reach 536 million by 2021 against English which may grow at 3 per cent CAGR to reach 199 million by 2021.

The Times Internet study surveyed over 90 million people and noted the rapid shift of digital users towards regional content consumption, as more than half of those are non-English readers.

More than two third of Hindi readers are also reading English, it observed.

"Regional languages have surpassed English with a 66 per cent share in overall content consumption," it said.

Across all regional languages, news as a genre sees the highest content consumption at 67 per cent, followed by sports at 17 per cent and entertainment at 16 per cent.

Among female users, Gujarati language has the highest online content consumption at 44.78 per cent.

It observed that content consumption in regional languages among younger audiences is fast growing, with consumption among Indians in the 25-34 age group being the highest.

U'khand: Activist threatens to protest Centre's eco-sensitive zone notification

DEHRADUN, JAN 30 (PTI): Social activist Advhash Kaushal today threatened to protest a Centre's notification declaring an area from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi as eco-sensitive, claiming it had led to stalling of power projects and forced Uttarakhand to procure electricity from outside.

The amount being spent to buy electricity could be used to upgrade nearly 12,500 government primary schools and minimise migration from the state, he said.

Kaushal said that he would not let the tax payers' money go to waste in the stalled hydel-power projects and launch a movement for the withdrawal of the notification.

Threatening that his organisation -- RLEK -- would "fight in the streets and courts" for revival of the stalled projects, the activist alleged that the notification had no scientific backing.

To buttress his argument, he referred to a resolution passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly on March 29, 2011.

The resolution had opposed the Centre's notification on the ground that no opinion was sought from environmental scientists before it was issued, the activist said.

Hit for a Six: Shubhman and Porel take India to 6th U-19 WC final

CHRISTCHURCH, JAN 30 (PTI): India reaffirmed their supremacy in age-group cricket as they walloped arch-rivals Pakistan by an incredible 203 runs to make it to their sixth ICC U-19 cricket World Cup final in Christchurch on Tuesday.

This is India's biggest win against Pakistan at the age group level as the gulf in standard was way too visible.

India have won the tournament in 2000 [under Mohammed Kaif], 2008 [Virat Kohli], 2012 [Unmukt Chand] while losing two finals in 2006 [Cheteshwar Pujara] and 2016 [Ishan Kishan].

The immensely talented Shubhman Gill hit classy unbeaten 102 off 94 balls to guide India to 272 for 9 after winning the toss and then seamer Ishan Porel [4/17 in 6 overs] scythed through the Pakistan top-order with a terrific opening spell to help them bowl out for a mere 69 in 29.3 overs.

"It was an outstanding performance from the bowlers as well as the batsmen. I am very satisfied with the performance. I am expecting an exciting contest against Australia in the final. I would also like to thank the crowd for their support," skipper Prithvi Shaw said after the match.

The concerns whether multi crore IPL deals will be a distraction



proved to be unfounded as 'Boys in Blue' followed their guru Rahul Dravid's instructions to the 'T' -- that World Cup semifinals is once in a lifetime opportunity while auctions happen every year.

Dravid's boys will now take on Australia in the summit clash on February 3 in what will be a repeat of the 2012 edition which India won in Australia.

Under Dravid, the team has now reached back-to-back U-19 World Cup final.

India literally outclassed their bitter rivals as it turned out to be a no-contest in the end.

Batting first, openers Prithvi Shaw [41 from 42 balls] and Manjot Kalra [47 from 70 balls] again laid the foundation with 89-run opening stand during which the skipper was

the aggressor and Kalra the anchor.

But both were out in quick succession after which Gill took over to play the Pakistani bowling attack with stylish strokeplay.

With the pitch on the slower side, Gill got enough time to play the pull shot both in front and square of the wicket off pacers Arshad Iqbal, Shaheen Afridi and Musa Khan. There were flowing on-drives, the cheeky

ramp shot as he worked on the extra bounce.

He also played a slog sweep of left-arm spinner Mohammed Taha.

"I rate this innings very highly as it was against Pakistan. The pitch was on the slower side and it was not easy for strokeplay. I am happy to have got the Man of the Match award," Gill said after the match.

Having bagged a Rs 1.8 crore deal from Kolkata Knight Riders, Gill was asked about his preferred format.

"I would like to play all three formats as adaptability is the key," said the player from Firozpur in Punjab.

While defending the total, it was a walk in the park for the Indians as the Pakistanis once again found Shivam Mavi [4 -3-6-0] and Kamlesh Nagarkoti's [5-1-7-0] pace too hot to handle.

The pressure created by then enabled Porel to get four quick wickets with skipper Shaw taking a couple of brilliant catches at gully.

Once Pakistan were 28 for 4, the Indian slow bowlers came into the act with left-arm spinner Shiva Singh [2/20 in 8 overs] and off-break bowler Riyan Das [2/6 in 4 overs] blowing away the opposition lower order to win the match in no time.

It is a matter of time that we beat Tai Tzu: Saina

NEW DELHI, JAN 30

(PTI): World No 1 Tai Tzu Ying might have proved to be a nemesis for Saina Nehwal but the Indian shuttler believes the Taiwanese is not unbeatable and exuded confidence of defeating her in due time.

Tai Tzu, who clinched five titles last year, has defeated Saina nine times in last 10 meetings with only three of them going into a decider, albeit for a lost cause.

Last Sunday, Saina suffered her seventh straight loss to the Taiwanese at the Indonesia Masters final.

"You see the number of tournaments she has been won last year, so it is not only the Indians who are losing to her. She is the best player right now, she is tricky, she is very focussed and consistently reaching the finals and we have to look upto her," Saina told reporters.

"I think the top 15 players are doing well. There are some players who you are not comfortable against her but it is not that we can't beat her."

"Tai Tzu almost lost to Michelle Li in the first



round at Indonesia, so we will have to figure out a way to beat her. I think it is a matter of time, we have it in us to do well against her," she added.

Sindhu too have found the going tough against Tai Tzu, who has defeated the Indian eight times in 11 meetings. The 23-year-old Taiwanese girl has beaten Sindhu in the last four encounters.

"She is definitely doing well and when you are mentioning about the losses, you also have to mention that I had beaten her in the PBL," Sindhu laughed, referring to her victory at the Premier Badminton League early this month."Well, ofcourse it was different scoring system. She is doing well, she is consistent. But it's not like we can't beat her.

I always feel it depends on how one plays on that day, we might have ups and downs and we need to be focussed to beat her," she added.

Saina, who recovered from an ankle injury, to enter her first Major final since the knee injury-induced ouster from the Rio Olympics at Indonesia, said she is looking to stay fit and not losing her sleep over results in tournaments.

"The only thing I am looking to do is stay fit and train hard and yes it has been an excellent week at Indonesia for me. Thanks to Gopi sir, we didn't have much time after the PBL, so basically it was 5-6 good sessions of preparation before the Indonesia Open and I came out with

good result," she said.

Asked how she will handle the workload during the hectic season ahead, Saina snapped: "I am not looking forward to any tournament, just want to stay fit."

Later when she was termed as a 'title-contender' for the India Open, Saina sarcastic response was: "Last few months, I was not a title contender, so I don't know from where it is coming. It's okay I am performing well so hope to do well."

Sindhu, however, was her usual self. "Each round would be tough, so we should prepare one at a time. I know I won last time and Saina also won in 2015, so we will have to give my best."

The India Open Super 500 tournament lost a lot of sheen with the last-moment withdrawal of world no 1s Viktor Axelsen and Tai Tzu in a draw which doesn't have the top Japanese or Chinese players.

BAI general secretary Anup Narang said: "We had some withdrawals, Viktor Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying pulled out at the

last moment. But we have Carolina Marin, Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and Krishnamachari Srikanth, so we have a very good list of players playing."

"But yes number of entries have gone down. Probably because players are getting in terms with a tough schedule and they have to decide how they want to go about it," he added.

Besides Saina and Sindhu, Olympic champion Carolina Marin and World No 4 Thai Ratchanok Intanon are the other top players.

The two-time former world champion Marin will be in her third week after playing at Malaysia Masters and Indonesia Masters.

Asked why did she plan to participate in three tournaments on the trot, Marin said: "It is tough year for every player since the calendar has changed and my strategy may be is to play three in a roll because perhaps I am not comfortable with other tournaments later in the year and also I will get good time to prepare for All England."

Yorkshire signs Pujara for second stint



LONDON, JAN 30 (PTI): Unsold in IPL players' auction, Cheteshwar Pujara will warm up for India's Test series in England by playing county cricket as Yorkshire has signed him for his second stint with the club.

The 29-year-old Pujara, who will share overseas duties with New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, is set to arrive in the United Kingdom just in time for the Leeds Bradford MCCU fixture on April 7.

Pujara is returning to Yorkshire for his second stint with the club after turning out during 2015, a County Championship winning year.

Despite a deal for the Rajkot-born right-hander being struck several weeks ago, the club's announcement has been purposely delayed until after the Indian Premier League auction.

During that time, the BCCI has scheduled a one-off Test against Afghanistan in Bengaluru, from June 14-18, and Pujara is set to depart for his home country after the Royal London 50-Over clash at Lancashire.

Yorkshire is hoping Pujara will return in time for an away trip to Hampshire, in the Specsavers County Championship, on June 20. The club also said that Pujara may stay on after India's five-match Test tour of England between August 1 and September 11.

"There is also potential for Pujara to stay on after the India's summer Test tour to play the final home fixture against Hampshire (Sep 18) followed by the trip to New Road to face Worcestershire (Sep 24)," the club said in its website.

The addition of a second overseas batsman means Yorkshire will have three of the top six Test batsmen on their staff in

2018, with Root (three), Williamson (four) and Pujara (six).

"I'm really excited to be able to have the opportunity to represent Yorkshire once again," Pujara said.

"It's always nice to be able to come over here and play some County Cricket and I'm just as excited as I was last time to represent the Club. I love the passion the people of Yorkshire have for the game and they made me feel very welcome. I know quite a few of the players, so I'll just try to play my natural game and score plenty of runs for the Club," Pujara said.

"It's an honour for me to play for the same county as Yuvraj Singh and Sachin Tendulkar and each time I've played county cricket it has improved me as a player. That's the plan again in 2018. I just want to score as many runs as possible for Yorkshire and soak up as much as I can from the whole experience."

Pujara, who delivered a record-breaking 12th double century of his 12-year career towards the end of 2017, averages 56.68 in first-class cricket. His County Championship record stands at 816 runs with three fifties and as many hundreds. One of each came in Yorkshire colours in the early stages of the Club's second successive Championship winning year.

"It goes without saying that Cheteshwar is a highly-driven individual and very skilled batsman. We're delighted to have him on board. He proved to be a very likable character the last time he was with us and the plan is for him to relieve some of the pressure on the top order that we struggled with at times in 2017," said Director of Cricket Martyn Moxon.

Time to see if IPL is in interest of cricket: Bombay HC

MUMBAI, JAN 30 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court today said the IPL has made people familiar with phrases like "betting and fixing" and in view of the alleged violations of foreign exchange rules it was time to see if the tournament was in interest of the game of cricket.

The scathing remarks were made by a division bench of justices SC Dharwadhikari and Bharati Dange while passing its order on a petition filed by former Indian Premier League [IPL] chairman

Lalit Modi challenging a July 2015 order of the adjudicating authority of the Enforcement Directorate [ED] refusing him the permission to cross-examine witnesses in a FEMA case.

The ED has alleged violations of foreign exchange rules during the 2009 edition of the Indian Premier League [IPL] held in South Africa.

The court allowed Modi's petition and permitted his legal counsels to cross-examine the witnesses but made strong

observations on the tournament.

"If IPL has led to serious violations then it is high time the organisers realise whether what has been achieved by conducting the tournament since the past ten years can be termed as a sport or game...for it is full of illegalities and breaches of law," the court said.

"IPL has made us familiar with phrases like betting and fixing of matches. It is for the central government, RBI and organisers to now con-

sider if conducting IPL is in interest of the game/sport," the court said in its order.

The bench while allowing Modi's petition said the impugned order grossly violates the principles of natural justice as the adjudicating authority was going to rely on the statements of the witnesses against Modi.

The court also noted that the proceedings have been dragged for too long now.

"We direct the adjudicating authority to issue

summons to the witnesses to appear before it on March 2. The cross-examination shall be concluded positively by March 13. The proceedings shall be completed by May 31," the court directed.

In 2013, the ED initiated adjudication proceedings against Modi under the Foreign Exchange Management Act [FEMA] regarding a bank account opened by the BCCI and IPL authorities in South Africa ahead of the 2009 edition of the IPL.

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Kabul hotel attacker trained by ISI: Afghan envoy

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JAN 30 [PTI]: Pakistan's spy agency ISI trained a terrorist involved in the attack on Kabul's iconic Intercontinental Hotel in which over 20 people were killed, a top Afghanistan envoy has alleged.

Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mahmoud Saikal, made the serious allegation against the Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] in a tweet yesterday.

"Abdul Qahar, father of one of the terrorists involved in last week attack on #Kabul Intercontinental Hotel, concedes his son was trained in Chaman of

#Balochistan Province of #Pakistan by the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan.

Qahar is currently in custody of Afg authorities," Saikal tweeted.

On January 20, Taliban men armed with Kalashnikovs and suicide vests attacked the landmark Intercontinental Hotel and killed around 25 people, going from room to room searching for foreigners during the more than 12-hour ordeal.

A mid-level diplomat at the Afghan Embassy in the US has alleged that the attack was planned by Pakistan.

"A clear proof that the attack on Kabul's Inter [Con] Hotel was planned in a madrasa,

on Pakistan's soil. Abdul Qahar, the father of one of the suicide attackers is an eyewitness of the story," tweeted Majeed Qarar, Cultural Attache at the Embassy of Afghanistan.

"The night vision goggles found with Taliban attackers in maiwand's ANA base were military grade goggles [not sold to public] procured by Pak army from a British company & supplied 2 Lashkar-e-Toiba in Kashmir & Taliban in Afghanistan.

Lashkar-e-Tayyeba is an int'l terrorist org," he said in another tweet.

The Afghan Ambassador to the US, Hamidullah Mohib, did not respond to questions on the tweet by one of his cultural

attaches.

The hotel attack was followed by a Taliban-claimed ambulance bombing on January 27 in the Afghan capital that claimed over 100 lives.

The continued attacks in Afghanistan by the Taliban prompted severe condemnation from the US as well as the UN Security Council, which have sought to bring to justice the perpetrators of the attack.

US President Donald Trump also asked all countries to take decisive action against the Taliban and the terrorist infrastructure that supported them.

"I condemn the despicable car-bomb attack in Kabul to

day [Jan 27] that has left scores of innocent civilians dead and hundreds injured. This murderous attack renews our resolve and that of our Afghan partners," Trump had said, ruling out having talks with the Taliban.

In an op-ed, Marvin G Weinbaum, Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan Studies at the Middle East Institute, said that the Taliban appear to have chosen "urban guerrilla warfare" to demonstrate their undiminished strength as a fighting force.

"The Taliban is intent on undermining the public's confidence that their government and its foreign allies can offer Afghans basic security," he said.

US lifts ban on refugees from 11 countries

WASHINGTON, JAN 30 (AFP): The United States has announced it was lifting its ban on refugees from 11 "high-risk" countries, but said those seeking to enter the US would come under much tougher scrutiny than in the past.

Applicants from 11 countries, unnamed but understood to include 10 Muslim-majority nations plus North Korea, will face tougher "risk-based" assessments to be accepted. "It's critically important that we know who is entering the United States," said Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

"These additional security measures will make it harder for bad actors to exploit our refugee program, and they will ensure we take a more risk-based approach to protecting the homeland."

The 11 countries, hit with a ban in October in the Trump administration's revised refugee policy, have not been identified officially.

But refugee groups say they comprise Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Speaking anonymously, a senior administration official told journalists that the policy of enhanced security assessments for the 11 countries was not designed to target Muslims.

"Our admissions have nothing to do with religion," the official said, adding that there is "nothing especially novel" about tougher screening for countries deemed to have a higher level of risk.

Donald Trump has pursued a much tougher stance on immigrants and refugees from all countries since becoming president one year ago.

His predecessor Barack Obama set refugee admission in fiscal 2017, which began on October 2016, at 110,000. When Trump took office a year ago, he slashed that to 53,000, a number that was cut again to a maximum of 45,000 in fiscal 2018.

But refugee arrivals this year could come in significantly lower than that, due to the backlog from the 120-day halt and a slowdown in processing because of generally tougher applicant reviews.

US releases "Putin list" of Russians eligible for sanctions

WASHINGTON, JAN 30 [AFP]: The US Treasury has released a long awaited list of Russian officials and business leaders eligible for sanctions under a law designed to punish Moscow for its alleged meddling in the election that brought Donald Trump to power.

The list published shortly before midnight yesterday features the names of most of the senior members in President Vladimir Putin's administration -- 114 politicians altogether -- and 96 business people the US considers 'oligarchs' close to Putin and worth at least USD 1 billion each.

The seven-page unclassified list, which does not trigger sanctions right away, features Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and top officials in Russian intelligence agencies.

Also on the list were the chief executives of big state-owned companies such as energy giant Rosneft and Sberbank.

The list was widely expected to infuriate Putin and send shivers through his inner circle and Moscow's moneyed elite, threatening to cut them off from world finance.

Yesterday was the deadline for its release under a law passed last year by Congress over the objections of Trump, whom critics in the US say has been oddly reluctant to criticise Russia or Putin.

Under the same law, the State Department yesterday also declined to punish any US or foreign companies for dealings with Russian arms companies. It argued this was not needed because governments around the world have already nixed billions in contracts with those Russian firms.

US lawmakers passed the law -- called the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act -- out of concern that Trump, eager to have warm ties with Putin, might not take tough action to punish Moscow and Russian officials for interfering in US elections and destabilising Ukraine.



Yemeni separatists have surrounded the presidential palace in the government's interim capital Aden, a military source said today. "The separatists have surrounded the palace and now control the main gate. Those inside are unofficially under house arrest at this point," said the source, a high-ranking officer with the Yemeni military. Tension between the separatists and the government erupted into clashes at the weekend, with more than 36 people killed in Aden since Sunday, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Brigadier Saleh al-Sayyid, who heads troops that have fought alongside the separatists since Sunday, announced his forces had seized control of the Fourth Brigade, the presidential guard in Aden.

Pak court rejects Sharif's objections to supplementary case in Panama Papers scandal

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JAN 30 [PTI]:

An accountability court in Pakistan today rejected ousted premier Nawaz Sharif's objections to the supplementary case filed against him and his family by the country's anti-graft body over properties in London.

The court holding trial in graft cases against Sharif and his family decided that the supplementary case would be made part of the record in the Avenfield flats case.

The National Accountability Bureau [NAB] on January 22 filed a supplementary case with the accountability court's registrar in Islamabad which is already trying Sharif and his family -- two sons Hussain and Hassan, daughter Maryam, and son-in-law Safdar -- for alleged corruption in three cases.

The cases are related to the Panama Papers scandal that had forced the 68-year-old three-time prime minister to resign.

Accompanied by daughter Maryam and son-in-law Mohammad Safdar, Sharif for the first time appeared in the court located



ed in Islamabad.

During the hearing today, conducted by Judge Muhammad Bashir, Nawaz Sharif's lawyer Khawaja Haris had raised an objection over the supplementary reference, saying there is nothing new in it.

"The reference has been filed in line with the JIT report and no Mutual Legal Assistance [MLA] report has so far been filed, said Haris.

According to him, the NAB had said that a supplementary reference would be filed when new evidence is found against the suspects but that is not the case. The supplementary reference had to be filed in reply to a legal consultation.

Haris stressed that the supplementary

reference was not as per the order of the top court and thus could not be accepted.

"The supplementary reference was filed to target Sharif and even in that reference, the same allegations already levelled in the interim reference were repeated," he said.

The three cases against the Sharif family pertain to the Al-Azizia Steel Mills, several companies including Flagship Investment Ltd, and London's Avenfield properties.

Sharif and his sons have been named in all three NAB cases, while Maryam and Safdar have been named only in the Avenfield case.

The accountability court also recorded more evidence against Sharif and later adjourned the hearing till February 2.

Talking to media at the end of hearing, Sharif said everywhere there are cases against him.

"Go out and you will see that today all cases in courts [of Pakistan] are about me," he said.

His lawyer told media that supplementary case can be filed only if there is new evidence or allegations about some new property.

"It shows that the first case was weak and NAB had to file a supplementary reference. But it is also based on old evidence and of new value, he said.

Minister of State for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb said the supplementary reference showed that NAB filed the initial case in haste and without proper evidence.

The political future of Sharif, who heads the country's most powerful political family and the ruling PML-N party, has been hanging in the balance since his ouster. If convicted, he could be jailed.

Sharif's family alleges that the cases are politically motivated.

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0230 1015 2087 2453 2587 3055 4060 6904 7576 8743

3rd Prize Rs.2000/-

1074 2911 4133 6069 6650 6869 7179 7433 7494 7540

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1524 2352 2872 3511 4127 4629 5089 5442 6318 8728

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1713 2188 2557 2788 3650 4124 4250 5613 6048 6309

6th Prize Rs.100/-

0024 0027 0038 0103 0114 0118 0140 0218 0225 0229

0243 0253 0255 0321 0330 0340 0342 0413 0417 0438

0442 0445 0456 0485 0494 0495 0531 0590 0593 0627

0647 0666 0670 0677 0706 0712 0715 0749 0776 0814

0823 0838 0855 0928 0942 0968 1033 1090 1117 1121

1126 1129 1148 1150 1183 1189 1198 1211 1214 1230

1239 1240 1279 1310 1340 1344 1347 1351 1367 1382

1398 1427 1456 1464 1504 1512 1515 1560 1592 1603

1614 1622 1626 1638 1649 1658 1672 1696 1739 1742

1754 1764 1796 1801 1810 1813 1835 1849 1857 1910

1926 1931 1948 1958 1966 1990 1999 2016 2042 2044

2095 2110 2140 2143 2156 2172 2223 2226 2236 2242

2258 2284 2295 2374 2375 2377 2383 2389 2411 2430

2456 2460 2463 2470 2491 2495 2501 2537 2563 2579

2602 2637 2667 2669 2674 2741 2744 2754 2811 2848

2871 2883 2893 2906 2910 2916 2921 2949 2962 2965

3016 3036 3047 3078 3092 3115 3136 3164 3165 3191

3248 3266 3268 3271 3276 3281 3366 3368 3380 3476

3486 3504 3509 3535 3585 3587 3645 3694 3723 3752

3760 3776 3780 3784 3805 3811 3838 3844 3854 3884

3890 3902 3927 3933 3967 4000 4005 4034 4037 4038

4045 4054 4084 4085 4143 4148 4168 4239 4251 4264

4294 4336 4341 4358 4362 4411 4431 4441 4482 4502

4509 4511 4518 4574 4575 4597 4626 4640 4677 4683

4708 4832 4854 4873 4898 4929 4951 4982 4984 4985

4997 5007 5017 5110 5122 5149 5163 5210 5212 5305

5306 5324 5331 5339 5431 5452 5454 5460 5480 5486

5494 5507 5553 5569 5578 5589 5620 5640 5642 5658

5665 5668 5682 5693 5696 5698 5752 5759 5765 5773

5778 5789 5804 5812 5815 5832 5848 5864 5865 5866

5869 5870 5878 5880 5937 5973 5979 5980 5981 6094

6140 6162 6183 6196 6216 6278 6318 6378 6396 6406

6443 6458 6459 6462 6473 6477 6494 6509 6548 6555

6559 6614 6618 6641 6642 6643 6646 6656 6676 6683

6717 6732 6756 6783 6786 6794 6796 6803 6809 6830

6902 6935 6970 6995 7000 7026 7042 7055 7073 7130

7158 7199 7239 7241 7248 7270 7275 7282 7286 7289

7291 7298 7301 7309 7321 7322 7341 7360 7377 7379

7429 7439 7443 7464 7480 7491 7519 7549 7554 7572

7578 7591 7635 7640 7647 7650 7666 7675 7681 7688

7738 7756 7758 7790 7797 7784 7889 7908 7912 7930

7936 7941 7942 7958 7964 7966 7970 7989 8024 8034

8061 8064 8217 8277 8315 8330 8337 8362 8435 8450

8453 8458 8540 8544 8550 8557 8633 8641 8716 8731

8744 8746 8747 8749 8763 8807 8859 8880 8911 8912

8927 8979 8981 9037 9040 9044 9047 9076 9101 9103

9168 9179 9229 9231 9233 9241 9257 9271 9297 9317

9341 9355 9357 9373 9409 9455 9521 9524 9536 9569

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4th Prize Rs.500/- 2714 5th Prize Rs. 201/- 2203

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1399 1013 1026 1083 1088 1208 1286 1301 1334 1377

1399 1400 1405 1428 1437 1460 1482 1498 1500 1575

1582 1605 1624 1656 1692 1696 1734 1787 1873 1899

1938 2117 2118 2155 2182 2192 2213 2213 2288 2321

2324 2350 2439 2462 2488 2511 2520 2545 2599 2604

2643 2668 2671 2685 2722 2739 2789 2819 2877 2882

2886 2919 2924 2928 2967 3012 3020 3045 3057 3076

3096 3311 3346 3360 3374 3391 3398 3402 3403 3421

3436 3452 3458 3527 3539 3541 3567 3622 3625 3876

3709 3722 3726 3740 3794 3855 3863 3888 3900 3908

4946 4956 4959 4962 4972 5207 5056 5079 5109 5113

5139 5152 5206 5242 5245 5259 5274 5276 5280 5310

5391 5454 5470 5508 5528 5531 5541 5562 5570 5576

5609 5616 5630 5671 5676 5723 5777 5828 5864 5892

5972 6042 6062 6112 6116 6123 6127 6158 6167 6176

6197 6202 6216 6233 6247 6251 6268 6272 6276 6289

6432 6445 6484 6494 6535 6543 6553 6577 6588 6602

6625 6661 6663 6665 6735 6767 6780 6781 6800 6801

6802 6835 6842 6897 6946 6951 6952 6962 6964 6977

MUMBALAXMI LAXMAN

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:30/01/18

1st Prize Rs.1,00,000/- 3060 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 5710

3rd Prize Rs.1,00,000/- 3298 4th Prize Rs.500/- 2657

5th Prize Rs.220/-

1010 1022 1023 1051 1064 1070 1141 1147 1159 1189

1209 1215 1254 1262 1284 1308 1332 1361 1372 1397

1421 1439 1464 1476 1498 1539 1554 1561 1563 1584

1585 1603 1661 1664 1689 1693 1734 1767 1797 1828

1830 1921 1924 1963 1965 1989 2068 2110 2141 2146

2152 2156 2184 2202 2263 2273 2310 2324 2350 2362

2366 2405 2407 2413 2477 2515 2553 2584 2590 2667

2671 2716 2756 2765 2777 2792 2801 2804 2806 2841

3048 3065 3133 3149 3184 3202 3260 3304 3336 3359

3393 3531 3543 3548 3560 3639 3654 3708 3734 3818

3826 3855 3875 3936 3942 3943 3987 4032 4050 4089

4103 4122 4136 4149 4169 4185 4225 4240 4250 4275

4298 4340 4344 4369 4381 4437 4444 4454 4455 4475

4518 4640 4654 4659 4699 4836 4855 4868 4718 4741

4791 4808 4856 4873 4894 4955 5039 5052 5076 5164

5168 5182 5183 5190 5196 5207 5208 5213 5258 5271

5284 5291 5304 5326 5366 5389 5376 5405 5422 5435

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DEAR SINCERE MORNING

Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:30/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 80B 74354

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 74354 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

10681 13909 17976 20054 21310

22568 26142 36391 49531 85364

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0895 1360 1534 1938 3653 7756 7829 8195 8781 9374

4th Prize Rs.250/- 1397 1744 1988 2088 2905 3013 3197 4555 7357 7495

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0037 0203 0218 0287 0373 0432 0442 0598 0634 0672

0703 0883 0889 0897 1168 1270 1299 1308 1376 1406

1439 1475 1478 1503 1510 1663 1677 1710 1734 1785

1936 1963 2027 2031 2226 2252 2315 2394 2620 2704

2726 3154 3283 3308 3551 3912 3960 4203 4246 4443

4539 4617 4691 4729 4761 4796 5019 5062 5536 5634

5785 5794 5848 5995 6101 6111 6221 6667 6757 6787

6812 6841 6843 6918 6954 6981 7021 7166 7205 7263

7698 7798 7896 7921 7970 8037 8189 8288 8296 8398

8503 8605 8747 8832 8860 9080 9136 9470 9637 9732

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LOVED

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:30/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 82H 33473

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 33473 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

16680 25042 32248 35541 41130

58993 59306 66316 67613 93239

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0328 1142 1879 3418 6158 7017 8068 9018 9105 9545

4th Prize Rs.250/- 1010 1628 2405 2557 3787 4875 5795 6262 8012 9704

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0184 0204 0249 0426 0437 0512 0544 0583 0673 0711

0920 0958 1305 1379 1406 1447 1562 1812 1822 1863

2075 2211 2235 2301 2457 2520 2547 2569 2589 2647

2700 2739 2833 2908 3039 3140 3209 3221 3442 3500

3544 3654 3707 3763 3867 3972 4054 4217 4272 4326

4519 4585 4820 4921 4946 4968 5079 5113 5120 5132

5145 5205 5287 5471 5672 5693 5949 6038 6053 6160

6289 6371 6386 6405 6450 6643 6867 6904 7095 7297

7359 7390 7456 7567 8210 8240 8246 8293 8398 8630

8641 8647 8680 8683 9150 9174 9327 9756 9868 9950

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PARROT EVENING

Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:27 DrawDate on:30/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 92B 63554

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 63554 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

16598 17209 23446 31773 65468

68255 86216 92038 92174 97990

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0258 1084 1056 4269 4440 5273 5598 7326 7496 9950

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0808 0986 0976 2517 2518 2984 4993 5177 6844 7308

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0102 0143 0241 0349 0676 0785 0861 0878 0912 1013

1051 1066 1170 1306 1375 1491 1505 1656 1701 1731

1812 1889 1967 2063 2100 2115 2158 2227 2255 2276

2328 2638 2696 2832 2848 3016 3091 3160 3252 3443

3604 3698 3743 4091 4304 4373 4541 4598 5110 5472

5502 5567 5574 5576 5694 5706 5944 5952 6121 6244

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WE HAVE A DREAM! Mark Ruffalo flashes his “We Are All Dreamers” tee as he joins Patricia Arquette, Andra Day & More Stars at “People’s State Of The Union” at Townhall in New York City to offer an alternative to President Donald Trump’s first State of the Union speech.

Deepika Padukone: Depression taught me a lot about myself

The ‘Mastani’ of Bollywood Deepika Padukone shocked the nation, when the actress said she was struggling with anxiety and depression, at a time when she was establishing her credentials as one of Bollywood’s most sought after actors.

And now, in an interview given to a leading magazine Vogue, the 32-year-old actor spoke about why she felt it was important for her to speak and recounted her difficult time.

She said, “For various reasons, there’s a stigma attached to mental illness, which is why people choose not to talk about it. There were several reasons I chose to speak up. One, because it transformed my life in many ways. It was the most difficult experience I’ve been through, but it also taught me a lot about myself and about life.”

“A large part of why I was unable to deal with it was that I wasn’t able to share it with anyone. If I had a fever I could tell people but with this going on inside me I would come to work not feeling great but not



be able to express myself. What do I tell them? I tried in my own way. Sometimes I’d say I’m not feeling good. A large part of it for me was my own experience,” added Deepika.

The star also shared that it was really important to tell the world what she went through so that everyone gets to know that there ways of dealing with it.

Deepika explained, “So, when I got better, the first thing I wanted to do was to be able to just breathe. To take that weight off my shoulders, to be able to tell the world, Listen, this is the experience I’ve been through, this is what it felt like, and this is what it’s called. And there are ways of dealing with it.” Deepika also has an NGO, “Through the

Live Love Laugh Foundation’, which is dedicated to help people struggling with depression get better.

She concluded by saying, “Today I know that wherever I might go in the world people might look at me as someone who has experienced depression. I feel liberated and free. I don’t feel caged anymore or like I’m hiding something.”

pregnant either at this point,” a source close to the singer tells HollywoodLife.com. Rihanna’s been happy with her thicker look, and her billionaire boyfriend Hassan Jameel loves her curves.

As for whether or not Rihanna is going to start a family with Hassan, that’s not going to be happening anytime soon.

“Would she like children in the future? Yes, but definitely in the future, she’s simply not ready to start a family... just yet. Rihanna loves children though, she’s a natural mom, and she thinks Hassan will make an amazing father — he’s really kind and patient, and a very loving person — but right now she’s focused on her career first and foremost. Plus, Rihanna hasn’t even met his family yet,” the insider adds. So next time RiRi decides to eat a good meal, remember that’s food in her bel-

ly and not a baby!

Rihanna and Hassan have been dating since the June of 2017 when they were first spotted making out in a pool in Spain. They’re still going strong as he accompanied her to Grammy after parties, but these two have loved keeping their romance undercover even as we’ve moved into 2018. They made sure to leave 10ak Night Club on Jan 29 minutes apart as to not be photographed together.

RiRi had SUCH a night! She was living her best life wildly dancing away onstage to “Wild Thoughts” with a huge, satisfied smile on her face and even took home a Grammy for her collaboration with Kendrick Lamar, 30. A prestigious trophy, a killer performance and parting with her handsome boyfriend to cap off the night. Pour it up indeed!

some quality time with the special someone in your life.

SCORPIO: Today you could decide to attend a class, workshop, or social event involving people in a spiritual, metaphysical, or intellectual field. Fascinating discussions could lead to insights and revelations of your own, Scorpio. You could explore ways to harness your natural healing ability, perhaps through Reiki, massage, or other hands-on disciplines. Expect to spend the next few days being preoccupied with ideas you learn today. They should have a profound impact.

SAGITTARIUS: New information could be coming at you from all sides today, Sagittarius. Books, magazines, TV, the Internet, and conversations with friends are likely to bring exciting knowledge your way that reinforces some of your

Tom Hanks cast as Mr Rogers in new biopic

and fans are freaking out on Twitter

It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood for Tom Hanks fans! The Academy Award winning actor is confirmed to play the role of Fred Rogers from the children’s television series Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood in the biopic film You Are My Friend and fans on Twitter are going crazy happy over the news!

The movie is based on the real-life friendship between Fred and journalist Tom Junod, who was assigned to write a piece on the iconic television star and ended up finding a new life perspective in the process, according to Variety. Followers from all over the globe tweeted about their excitement for Tom’s upcoming portrayal in the form of hilarious comments and memes.

One Twitter user posted a GIF of the opening to Mister Rogers Neighborhood with a caption full of thanks. “Every once in a while, the Universe is in PERFECT alignment to briefly brush away some of the nasty sludge of reality. Tom Hanks playing Mr. Rogers is one of those moments. THANK YOU, Universe! *wipes away tears of gratitude*,” the sweet tweet read.



Another user tweeted a hilarious meme that brought together Tom’s new role of Mr. Rogers, who would change his shoes at the beginning of each episode of his popular series, to his old iconic role of Forrest Gump. The meme features a photo of Tom as Forrest opening the box of the very famous cortex Nike sneakers that his girlfriend, Jenny gave him. “Won’t you be my neighbor Jennay?!” it read.

Another fan refused to associate with anyone who didn’t rejoice in the news. “I’m sorry but if Tom Hanks playing Mr. Rogers isn’t the most perfect thing you’ve ever heard of, I don’t think I can be friends with you anymore,” the user tweeted while another pointed out the contrast

between Tom playing Fred and the current sexual assault scandals in the entertainment industry. “Tom Hanks trending for playing Mr. Rogers during a time where most celebrities are trending for sexual assault is the most Tom Hanks thing Tom Hanks could ever do,” the praising tweet read. One user also showed off a funny GIF of Fred learning some dance moves from a kid with the caption, “I hope Tom Hanks can pop and lock like Mr. Rogers.”

Like all these enthusiastic users, we have to admit that we’re just as excited to see Tom as one of the most beloved characters on children’s television. Perhaps it’ll earn him even more prestigious awards? We can’t wait to find out!



Harry-Meghan plan a last trip to Princess Diana’s home

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will visit Princess Diana’s grave before they get married later this year. The 33-year-old royal is set to marry the American actress in May this year, but before they tie the knot, they are believed to planning one last trip to his mother’s childhood home in Althorp, where she was buried, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Harry and Meghan, 36, previously visited Althorp in November, where sources suggest Harry “quietly” asked his late mother for permission to pop the question to Meghan later that month. A source told the Daily Star newspaper: “Harry has already taken Meghan to Althorp to see his mum, but they will go back before the big day. Harry wanted to take

Meghan to see and speak to her ... it was very personal for Harry. I think he quietly asked his mum for her blessing to marry Meghan, too.”

It comes after the flame-haired Prince admitted he believes the former “Suits” actress and his mother would have been “thick as thieves” if Diana were still alive to witness him tie the knot with the beauty.



Rihanna ‘Laughs Off’ Grammy pregnancy rumors, yet thinks about how BF Hassan will be as a dad

Rihanna rocked the hell out of her curvier figure during her “Wild Thoughts” performance at the 2018 Grammys. Sadly some fans jumped to the conclusion that the 29-year-old was pregnant after her tight costume showed a little belly bump.

“At this point Rihanna feels like all she can do is laugh off all the pregnancy rumors, in addition to just ignoring them now. She’s not pregnant, and she’s not even trying to get

most of this opportunity. It could make a big difference to you.

GEMINI: Information that you receive from others and from within your own heart could compel you to participate in some ambitious projects, Gemini. They may be work related, connected with a group, or your own. Whatever they are, you’re likely to find them interesting, challenging, and personally gratifying. New opportunities for advancement and self-expression could be opening up for you. It’s best to move ahead now; otherwise, they might pass you by.

CANCER: Some exciting visitors could come to your door today, Cancer, perhaps bringing Earth-shaking information that could impact your life in a great way. You might start considering new lifestyle options. A group or orga-

nization, possibly associated with spirituality or metaphysics, could suddenly seem attractive and you might consider joining it. Expect some fascinating discussions with a close person in your life. Books, magazines, and other publications could also prove enlightening.

LEO: Group activities or social events in your neighborhood could put you in touch with new and exciting people who eventually become friends, Leo. Shared goals and interests could give rise to plans for ambitious projects. Whatever enterprises you start today are likely to prove successful if everyone involved pitches in. In the evening, arrange for a quiet tête-à-tête with your romantic partner. Enjoy your day!

VIRGO: Have you been looking to branch out in a new direction, Virgo? If so, this could be the day you get

the lead of a lifetime. Or you might receive some unexpected information indicating possible new sources of income that you could pursue on your own. Whatever they are, new doors of opportunity are going to open for you that could make a big difference in your lifestyle and catapult you into a higher socioeconomic bracket. Make the most of it!

LIBRA: Unusual circumstances could arise that change the course of your creative orientation, Libra. This could involve modern technology in some way, and it’s highly likely that it concerns the gathering, sharing, and use of information. You could find yourself considering some unusual options, which could involve changing jobs, your residence, or other factors important to your lifestyle. Think carefully before plunging in. Tonight, spend

some quality time with the special someone in your life.

SCORPIO: Today you could decide to attend a class, workshop, or social event involving people in a spiritual, metaphysical, or intellectual field. Fascinating discussions could lead to insights and revelations of your own, Scorpio. You could explore ways to harness your natural healing ability, perhaps through Reiki, massage, or other hands-on disciplines. Expect to spend the next few days being preoccupied with ideas you learn today. They should have a profound impact.

SAGITTARIUS: New information could be coming at you from all sides today, Sagittarius. Books, magazines, TV, the Internet, and conversations with friends are likely to bring exciting knowledge your way that reinforces some of your

own convictions. Your intuitive abilities aren’t lying fallow either. Insights and revelations could come to you that blend well with what you’re learning from outside sources. Write down your thoughts. You’ll want to put them to work for you later.

CAPRICORN: Surprising news about your own finances and the world economy in general could cause you to feel confident and secure about your financial future, Capricorn. An unexpected raise in salary could come your way soon, possibly because of sudden changes at your workplace. Some of the information that you receive could seem vague and uncertain at first, but whatever news follows should clear it up. It seems a celebration is in order!

AQUARIUS: Some fascinating new information, possibly about spiritual or metaphysical matters, could come

your way today via books, magazines, TV, or the Internet, Aquarius. This could set you off on a new course of study. Your own insights and revelations could prove invaluable in increasing your understanding of what you read. In the evening, expect a surprising letter or phone call from someone you haven’t heard from in a long time. Enjoy your day.

PISCES: Dreams and meditation could lead to insights regarding how best to handle your finances and make your money grow, Pisces. You could receive some surprising ideas from newspapers, TV, or the Internet. Your level of intuition is very high. No matter how outrageous an idea may seem, consider it carefully before making a decision. A written plan of action for anything you do would be helpful. Too many ideas are popping into your head and you’ll want to keep track of them.

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