

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM announces jobs for widows of martyred soldiers

Gangtok, 07 Mar [IPR]: The second day of the Seventh Session [Budget Session 2018-19] of the 9th Sikkim Legislative Assembly began with the Question Hour.

On the questions raised by Member of the House, RN Chamling, regarding Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan [RUSA], Minister for Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, informed the House about the details of the fund received by RUSA till date and also the different components of RUSA such as Preparatory Work, Infrastructure Development Grant, Equity Initiative, Vocationalization of Higher Education and Establishment of Sikkim Institute of Science & Technology at Chisopani.

Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare, Tushshi Devi Rai, in her reply to questions put forth by Member, Kunga Nima Lepcha, regarding the Old Age Pension Scheme, said that it is one of the sub-schemes of National Social Assistance Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and is applicable to Below Poverty Line Household who has meager or no regular means of subsistence from his/her own source



of income or through financial support from family members or other sources.

On the questions raised by Member of the House, RN Chamling, regarding the issue of re-employment and service extension by the state government, Chief Minister and the

Leader of the House, Pawan Chamling, maintained that it is the prerogative of the government to take such decisions in larger public interest. The CM, who is also the Minister-In-Charge of DOPART, read out the names of all the government employees who are

presently on re-employment and service extension.

He further added that service extension and re-employment to any government employee is given in consideration of the requirement of services as per the provisions under rule 100 and rule 102

of the Sikkim Government Service Rules, 1974.

In his reply on the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address, the CM and Leader of the House, Pawan Chamling, stated that all the key initiatives of the

turn to pg02

Will issue executive order to ban import of non-organic produces: CM

GANGTOK, 07 MAR (PTI): The Sikkim government will issue an executive order to ban supply of non-organic produce from outside from 31 March, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling said today.

"We have decided to ban supply of non-organic produce from outside the state with effect from March 31 and it will be done through an executive order," Mr Chamling informed the Assembly.

The ban on non-organic produce will not only empower the farmers of Sikkim in a big way, but will also set an example to other states to emulate organic path to livelihood, the CM said. Sikkim was declared as the country's first organic state two years ago.

"By promoting cultivation and consumption of organic produce, our people will be contributing to steps to reverse the

impact of global warming and climate change in a symbolic manner," Mr Chamling said.

He urged the civil society and the opposition parties to shed negativity and back the state government's decision to ban supply of non-organic produce from outside.

The Chief Minister's announcement comes over a month after the state government had withdrawn a bill proposing to ban the supply of livestock, non-organic vegetables and other produce in Sikkim from outside with effect from 31 March, 2018.

The Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department Minister, Somnath Poudyal had cited technical problems behind withdrawal of the bill in January.

Later, the motion on the Governor's speech was passed unanimously.



Sikkim National Law University Bill introduced in Budget Session

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:**

Sikkim National Law University Bill, 2018 was introduced on the second day of the Seventh Session of the Ninth Assembly [Budget Session 2018-19] of Sikkim Legislative Assembly here on Wednesday. The bill was introduced by the Minister for Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba. The discussion and voting on the bill will be held on 09 Mar.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill states that one of the policy initiatives taken

by the state government was the establishment of institutions of higher learning with emphasis on quality education.

"In order to establish a national level institution of excellence in the field of legal education and research in the State, it is deemed expedient to confer on Sikkim Government Law College with its rich heritage, the status of National Law University to enable it to function more efficiently as a teaching, training and research centre in law and for advancement and dissemination of legal knowledge," it is mentioned.

SFA to celebrate AFC Women's Football Day in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:**

On the occasion of International Women's Day on 08 Mar, Sikkim Football Association will be celebrating Asian Football Confederation [AFC] Women's Football Day 2018 by organising various programmes in Gangtok, Pakyong, Sombaria, Gyalshing, Namchi and Mangan from 08-09 Mar.

An SFA press release informs that 300 girl footballers will be participating in the programme throughout the State.

Addressing the media today in Gangtok, SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, said, "By organising such festival, we are trying to give equal opportunity to our girls to come forward and play football in this era of women's empowerment. All the participating girls will be given good quality T-shirt with the slogan #SHE POWER on the back."

Mr Ethenpa further added that the development of women's football is being fostered by AFC across Asia through such programmes on 08 Mar.

He also informed that for the first time that All India Football Federation [AIFF] is also organising Indian Women's Football League this year.



Temi Tea at Foodex Exhibition in Japan

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:**

Exclusive Representative of Sikkim Temi Tea, Swaraj (Rajah) Banerjee of the famed Makaibari Tea Estate of Darjeeling Hills, met the Counsellor (Political & Commercial), Tshering

W Sherpa, at the Indian Embassy in Japan to him brief on the ongoing outreach programme of Temi Tea abroad especially in the Japanese market.

Temi Tea is participating in the ongoing Foodex Exhibition being

held in Tokyo, a press release informs.

Established in 1969, Temi Tea was declared fully organic in 2008.

With a workforce of around 600 workers, it boasts of the highest daily wages in the national tea arena. Sprawled over

231 hectares, approximately 177 hectares is under cultivation. With distinct variation in temperature and showers, Temi Tea experiences varieties of all four seasons. It possesses certifications for NOP, NPOP, EU and JAS standards.

Bimal Gurung's driver and 2 others arrested

**SUMMIT REPORT
SILIGURI, 07 MAR:**

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief, Bimal Gurung's driver and two others were arrested from Darjeeling today. They have been booked for vandalizing and torching an NBSTC bus during the Gorkhaland agitation last year.

Driver Siddhart Biswakarma has been sent to five days police remand while the decision on the other two, Arun Pradhan and Uday Gurung will be made on Monday, it is informed.

SHSC to bring 'Bhanu Ra Pala' for fund raising event



**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:**

Premier division club of the State, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club [SHSC], has announced a fund raising event featuring the popular 'Bhanu Ra Pala' show on 01 Apr here at Manan Kendra in Gangtok. The main objective of the event is to raise funds to support young promising boys of the SHSC academy. The academy has been providing accommodation, training and other facilities free of cost to 40 U-19 footballers of SHSC.

SHSC president, Zigmee Yodzer Lepcha, mentioned that the club had earlier announced that it will

organise a Corporate Futsal Tournament to raise funds for the academy but since only a few teams turned up, the club has decided to organise the comedy show. The show will have an entry free of Rs 500 with tickets being made available at counters at MG Marg, Star Hall and Lall Bazaar main gate.

SHSC founder president, Tenzing Lamtha, appealed to the people to come forward in support of young budding footballers of the State. He stressed upon the need for the support of every individual in uplifting local footballers.

He informed that the club has been facing problems in fulfilling

the basic needs of footballers of the club which is why they came up with this fund raising event in order to provide better training and other facilities to the players.

Mr Lamtha stated that SHSC has been giving platform and opportunity to footballers at the grassroots level and grooming them for higher levels. He shared plans to take these footballers to the premier division league of the country.

"Products of our club have been playing in renowned clubs of the country which gives us satisfaction that our hard work has not gone in vain," he said.

Pharma employees to compete for Fittest Man of Pharmacy 2018 title

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Bodivibe Gym & Fitness, Rangpo, in association with Bodybuilding & Powerlifting Association of Sikkim [BPAS] will be organising a day-long fitness competition 'Fittest Man of Pharmacy 2018' for employees working in Pharma companies in the State.

In a press conference held at Press Club of Sikkim today, BPAS president, Sanjay Chettri, who also holds the title of Mr Ultimate 2016, informed that the competition which is being organised for the first time in the State is scheduled to be held at Rangpo Bazaar on 11 Mar with Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia, as chief guest.

"This championship is only for employees of Pharma companies and I am hopeful that more than 100 participants will turn up as the response has been good till now," he added.

The competition will feature various categories like chin-ups, push-ups and bench press.

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Ward level training and demo prog on herbal spray held at Rumbuk

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

MEVEDIR, Daragaon organized a ward level farmer's training and demonstration programme on herbal spray at Lower Rumbuk, West Sikkim on 06 Mar, a press release informs.

MEVEDIR has been implementing agro-based projects on commercial agriculture with focus on organic farming practices.

The training session was attended by Horticulture Development Officer, Ongdi Sherpa, Assistant Technology Manager [Agriculture Technology Management Agency], Dawa Tshering Sherpa and MEVEDIR master trainers Kamal Kumar Sharma and Prasanna Lepcha as resource persons of the programme.

MEVEDIR master trainer Kamal Kumar Sharma outlined the objective of the demonstration and training programme and asked the participants to make use of the local technologies available in the area for proper execution of Organic Mission.

The technical session was facilitated by Kamal Sharma who demonstrated the preparation and usage of herbal spray.

The demonstrator directed the participants to cut local plants like Tetayapati (*Artimisia vulgaris* L), Hatibar (*Agave americana*), Peray-Unyue (Pte-



ridophytes) and Banmara (*Eupatorium* sp.) and chop it into small pieces and put in a container with cow urine.

The demonstrator then instructed the participants to ferment the mixture for at least 24 hours and use it to control pests like ants and worms.

Precautionary measures were also highlighted by the

resource persons. Dilution and application methods were also outlined and farmers were advised to follow proper observations to ensure better results.

Assistant Technology Manager [ATMA], Dawa Tshering Sherpa in the next session briefed about the importance of herbal spray for pest and disease management and his own personal

observations and records.

Horticulture Development Officer, Ongdi Sherpa highlighted the importance of organic farming and its benefits and how the farming community is receiving support from the Government. More than 25 farmers participated in the training demonstration program, informs the release.



Mevedir conducts training on Madhyam composting

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Mevedir organized a GPU level Farmer's Training on Madhyam composting at Upper Barfok Gram Prashasan Kendra in Chingthang, West Sikkim today with the participation of farmers from different wards of the GPU. The programme was also attended by departmental officials who were also the resource persons, a press release informs.

Assistant Technology Manager, Bivek Sharma, and Field Assistant, Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Dawa Lepcha, delivered the welcome note and briefed about the training agenda. He outlined the usage of Madhyam, a certified input through which compost can be prepared in any location of the farm. He also highlighted different steps of preparing Madhyam compost and cautioned some measures to

be undertaken by farmers while preparing the compost. Further, they explained that Madhyam is a composter and the culture of bacteria which helps to decompose bio mass into good compost.

The training program was also addressed by Panchayat president, BB Gurung, wherein he recognized the strong support for organic farming in the state and encouraged all the farming community to sincerely work in achieving the targets of the Organic Mission. He highlighted some of the incentives being provided by the state government and the different schemes through which the farming community can benefit.

Assistant Technology Manager, Mr Sharma, also informed the farmers about the different schemes and programmes of Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA] and distributed Madhyam to the participants.

Gender sensitization workshop at Rhenock Govt College

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Two-day workshop on gender sensitization was held at Government College Rhenock on 05 and 06 Mar, a press release informs.

Principal, Dr Iyatta M Upreti chaired the workshop which was conceptualized using a multidisciplinary lens to understand and sensitize students regarding

gender and various differences and issues related with it, reads the release.

Topics like sex and gender, patriarchy, reflections on feminism, gender and education, Indian Constitution and Women, women's participation in politics, gender equity, gender violence and crime, gender and personality and

other social issues were discussed in the workshop.

Speakers consisting of college faculty and guests participated in the event and talked about various gender issues.

The workshop was funded by Rashtriya Uchcharat Siksha Abhiyan, Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim.

CM announces jobs for widows of martyred soldiers

Contd from pg01

government have been highlighted by the Governor in his address on the opening day of the Budget Session. He thanked the Governor for extensively outlining the major initiatives of the government.

In response to the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address, by MLA Chandra Maya Subba, welcomed the suggestions put forth by her especially with regard to Organic Mission and youth empowerment.

He thanked the MLA for her positive exhortations on the positive impact of organic farming and schemes to make the youth self reliant. He referred to her comments about the Kisan Pension schemes and reiterated that the government is committed to offer all possible support to the farmers of the State. He called for involvement of youth in the second phase of Organic Mission to make the most of the opportunities. He also thanked the MLA for her comments on the new initiative of the government to introduce the Gallantry Awards for army officers and jawans for their service.

The CM also announced on the floor of the House that the wives of martyred soldiers will be offered employment in the State government.

He stressed on the government's executive decision to ban import of perishable vegetables from outside the State after 31 Mar, 2018. The

Leader of the House called for participation and support from all quarters to sustain the noble initiative of the state government.

Speaking on the Health initiatives of the state government, the CM reiterated that the government's focus has been on qualitative service. He stated that there should be no compromise on health care delivery at any stage. He also mentioned about some of the upcoming health infrastructures in the State.

The Leader of the House also read out a report published in a Journal of the Indian Council of Medical Research and PHFI, New Delhi, based on which the life expectancy of the people of Sikkim has increased by 10 years. This he said was a matter of great pride and accomplishment for the State and reflects the outcome of holistic development in the State.

Replying to a question put forth by MLA Sonam Lama, with regard to the pending demand of the State to bring 17th Karmapa Gyen Trinley Dorje to Sikkim, the Leader of the House informed that the state government under his leadership has submitted numerous representations to the Central government seeking for its consent to allow the Karmapa to visit Sikkim. He said that he has personally led delegations on several occasions comprising of Ministers and MLAs to the highest

authority at the Central government and corresponded through letters for the Central government's intervention in the matter. He expressed hope that the Government of India will give its kind consent at the earliest.

Replying to the question put forth by MLA Kunga Nima Lepcha, regarding the anomaly in an official government document wherein the Lepcha community has been indicated as a sub group of the Bhutia community, the CM expressed regret over the technical error in the document and clarified that the Lepchas are an exclusive community and should be indicated separately. The issue was also raised by MLA KS Lepcha, during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address.

Meanwhile, the Leader of the House welcomed the question by MLA KN Lepcha, regarding the rightful utilization of lands adjoining pharmaceutical companies and power projects in the State for the purpose of organic agriculture.

Replying to a question by MLA RN Chamling, the Leader of the House clarified that toilets are being constructed with each new house and existing toilets are being repaired as per the requirement. Hence, although it is true that the State has already achieved 100% Open Defecation Free status, the upgradation works have to be carried out to adjust

with the developments.

Replying to a suggestion by MLA RN Chamling, regarding introduction of pension schemes for the unemployed youth, the Leader of the House said that though the suggestion was noble, yet it is better to offer employment opportunities to them and make them self reliant and job-providers. He urged the Members of the House, both the ruling and the opposition, to motivate the youth in their respective areas to avail of the unlimited opportunities in the field of entrepreneurship. He stated that the government in its endeavor to encourage entrepreneurship is building upon the future of the youth of Sikkim and offer them vision and direction towards a meaningful life.

Responding to another question put forth by MLA RN Chamling, regarding anomaly in the identification of the line of descendants availing the benefit of Income Tax exemption, the Leader of the House explained how the government under his leadership continuously pursued with the leadership at the Central government and finally achieved Income Tax exemption for the people of Sikkim. He stated that it was made possible only because of the arduous efforts and consistent follow-up by the state government led by him. He called upon the Members of the House to shun traditional politics and not to create doubts in

the minds of the people.

"We should give a new dimension to our politics and make it science-based, innovative and constructive," he stated.

The Leader of the House further added that democracy will be people-centric only if the civil society is strong, receptive, aware, and has a sense of ownership. If they are not strong enough to hold the government accountable, the Government will turn towards dictatorship, he stressed.

The CM informed the House that the Airport at Pakyong is now ready and will soon be operational. He expressed pleasure at the successful

landing of the 19-seater Indian Air Force Dornier 228 Aircraft on 05 Mar, 2018 and informed that a 70-seater Spice Jet Aircraft is scheduled to land on 10 Mar, 2018, after which the Airport Authority of India will be in a position to decide on making the Airport operational for commercial flights.

Initially, flights from Pakyong Airport will fly to Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati, he informed. He further informed that it took nine years to complete the Airport which was built at a cost of Rs 605 crore. The Airport has a runway length of 1700m and width of 33m, he informed.

The CM further in-

formed that the State is in the process of getting its first railway line from Siliguri to Rangpo which will be another milestone for the State.

In his concluding note, the Leader of the House expressed gratitude to the Governor of Sikkim for his address during the opening of the Budget Session on 06 Mar, 2018 and also thanked the Members of the House for participating and presenting fruitful suggestions on the Motion of Thanks on Governor's address.

After the address by the Leader of the House, the Motion of Thanks on Governor's address was passed by the House.

Earlier, during the

Legislative Business, Minister-in-Charge of Human Resource Development Department, Mr Subba, introduced the Sikkim National Law University Bill, Bill No. 5 of 2018. The discussion and voting on the Bill will be taken up on 09 Mar, 2018.

During the Financial Business, the Deputy Speaker opened the House for discussion on the General Budget for the financial year 2018-19 presented to the House on 06 Mar, 2018 by the CM who is also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department. Since there was no discussion, the House was adjourned till 08 Mar, 2018.

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Sunset: 5:40 PM

Prohibitory orders clamped in Assam- Mizoram border area

HAILAKANDI (ASSAM), MAR 7 (PTI): The administration today clamped prohibitory orders under section 144, CrPc with immediate effect in certain pockets of Hailakandi district, bordering Mizoram, apprehending encroachment attempts from the other side, an official release said.

The prohibitory orders were imposed in Kachurthal and other areas under the Ramnathpur police station, bordering Kolasib district of Mizoram, after Hailakandi Deputy Commissioner Adil Khan and other officers visited the areas.

The move followed "information from reliable sources that some individuals and organisations from the Mizoram side are planning to intrude into Assam's territory with the intention to encroach forest land and erect permanent structures," the release said.

Any encroachment attempt was not only illegal, but also likely to endanger human lives, and might lead to disturbance of public tranquillity, leading to inter-state tension, it added.

While interacting with the people living along the border, Khan asked them to remain alert, so as to keep the miscreants at bay.

Stating that the administration was keeping a close watch on the situation, Khan said he had apprised the top echelons of the administration about the issue.

The deputy commissioner also spoke to his Kolasib counterpart, R Zarzosanga, over phone and informed him about the attempts made by some organisations from Mizoram to erect structures in the Kachurthal area in Assam's territory, the release said.

Khan also invited him for discussions to sort out the issue which is related to the inter-state boundary dispute.

He also wrote to Zarzosanga, requesting him to "ensure that no individual or organisation takes law into its hand and creates tension among the people of the two states."

Assam and Mizoram have a long-standing boundary dispute.

Housewife turned entrepreneur Hissey is all about women's empowerment

**NIRMAL MANGAR
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:**

Back in 2007, Hissey Choden Bhutia borrowed Rs 1500 from her husband to start a business of local chips and traditional cookies [khab-jey, zeyro]. She now employs eight women with annual turnover in lakhs.

Daughter of Late Wangdi and Paaki Bhutia of Penlong, North Sikkim, Hissey has six siblings and a daughter and runs her manufacturing unit from Deorali in Gangtok.

"I was bored of staying at home doing nothing and staying idle. I decided to start my own business and borrowed money from my husband," says the 44-year-old entrepreneur.

She further adds, "I



started on a small scale at my home and then started marketing my products. Surprisingly, my home made khab-sey and local chips were liked by many. I started

getting orders and the production likewise increased."

Having completed Class XII from West Point Senior Secondary School, she got married to Tsher-

ing Bhutia in 1998.

Hissey expresses content and happiness on being able to provide employment opportunities to women of her locality from the profit she earns

from her business.

"There are housewives who come and work in the unit to earn a livelihood. They are economically independent now and happy as well," says Hissey.

She also informed that she had availed a loan of almost Rs 3 lakh from Khadi to expand her business.

"I have cleared all my loans and have purchased a vehicle which I use to deliver my products. And yes, I drive myself," she grins.

In her message to other women, Hissey says, "Every woman has the power to make a difference if they understand their calling. Empower yourself first to empower the society."

Making a career out of stunt bike riding

**NITESH PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

Performing dangerous stunts on bikes is slowly getting accepted as a sport in Sikkim with many young riders opting to learn the skills required for bike stunts.

Kunzang Dorjay Tamang from Lal Market, Gangtok, son of DB Tamang, started riding bikes when he was 16 years old.

In a short span of time this young rider has already participated more than thirty shows in the North East including Sikkim.

"I practice for four hours a day and this has continued for the past three years," he says.



Currently he is riding a 180cc bike and hopes to upgrade to a 600cc bike.

He dreams of representing the state and the

country in international platforms. However the lack of a place to practice and acceptance of the sport are some hurdles, he informs.

At the age of 22 when most youngsters are looking at building a career for which they are ready to sacrifice their passion, people like Kunzang are trying to make a career out of what they are passionate about.

Having already secured sponsorship from leading companies like Suzuki and Aprilia, Kunzang surely has a shot at glory.

"I'm still studying through distance learning as most of my time is devoted to learning stunt riding," he says.

**Incumbent Bhandari,
NC leader Laxmi**

**Rai in race for
presidency in Nepal**

KATHMANDU, MAR 7 (PTI): President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Nepali Congress leader Kumari Laxmi Rai today filed nomination papers for the presidential election in Nepal.

The presidential election will be held on March 13. Bhandari, the first woman president of the country, is

seeking a second presidential term. She was elected as the second president of Nepal in October 2015. This will be third presidential election in Nepal since the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

Over 70 protesters held for trying to cross over to Kerala on dam issue

COIMBATORE, MAR 7 (PTI): More than 70 activists of various parties and organisations were today arrested on the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border when they attempted to cross over to Kerala to inspect an area where that state is reportedly constructing a check dam across the Siruvani-Bhavani rivers.

Police said they raised slogans against the Tamil Nadu government for remaining mute spectator on the issue and Kerala for constructing the dam, thus depriving water to Tamil Nadu.

The protesters, led by DMK MLA, N Karthik, leaders of Congress, MDMK, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and Thanthai Periyar Dravida Ka-zhagam (TPDK), staged

the demonstration at Anaikatti.

Police prevented them from crossing over to the neighbouring state.

Later talking to reporters, Karthik alleged that Kerala had already constructed check dams at Manjukandi and Thekuvattai and constructing one at Kottathurai, which would affect the farmers of Erode, Tirupur and Coimbatore districts.

Karthik said the parties will decide their future course of action on the issue, including demonstrations on a large-scale against Kerala.

District Congress president Mayura Jayakumar, TPKD general secretary K Ramakrishnan, VCK zonal convener Susi Kalaiyaran were among those arrested, police said.

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

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SC seeks Centre's response on plea of Rohingya refugees

NEW DELHI, MAR 7 (PTI): The Supreme Court today sought the Centre's response on a plea of Rohingya refugees seeking education and healthcare on the lines of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are given such facilities in Tamil Nadu.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud asked Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to file the reply on the interim application on or before March 16.

During the brief hearing, advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for Mohammad Salimullah and Mohammad Shaqir, said that according to the understanding between the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees get access to education and healthcare facilities but these are denied to Rohingya refugees.

He said that an interim application has been filed seeking such basic facilities.

The bench said that it will take up the matter for further hearing on March 19.

Earlier, both the Rohingya refugees had alleged that the BSF was using "chilli and stun grenades" to stop the refugees from entering India.

The top court had sought response from the Centre to the interim application by the two Rohingya refugees, alleging that Border Security Force (BSF) was forcefully restraining fresh refugees, including children, disabled persons and pregnant women, from entering the Indian side.

Both the refugees had said that the Indian government must be prevented from stopping more Rohingyas from entering India because of the persecution faced by them in Myanmar.

The two refugees, in their interim application, sought protection and welfare of Rohingyas in India against the August 8, 2017 proposal of the MHA directing all states and union territories to expeditiously initiate deportation process against illegal immigrants from Rakhine.

"There is no government intervention to provide shelter and other basic amenities. By dismissing Rohingyas as illegal immigrants, the government has washed its hands off the problem," the plea had said.

It also said that the right to adequate standard of living has been recognised in 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it must be secured for Rohingyas.

It sought a direction to the BSF to file a compliance report directly through the MHA regarding their strict adherence to not push back policy for Rohingya refugees.

Salimullah and Shaqir had earlier approached the apex court opposing the Centre's decision to deport over 40,000 refugees who came to India after escaping from Myanmar due to widespread discrimination, violence and bloodshed against the community there.

Various other pleas, including those by ex-RSS ideologue and Rashtriya Swabhiman Andolan leader K N Govindacharya, the CPI(M) youth wing Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and the West Bengal child rights body have been filed in the apex court on the matter.

The court had suggested to the Centre not to deport these refugees, but the Centre had urged that it should not be written in the order as anything coming on record would have international ramifications.

The Rohingyas, who fled to India after violence in the Western Rakhine State of Myanmar, are settled in Jammu, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi-NCR and Rajasthan.

MMXVIII *A Conversation in Verse*
ConVerse
SIKKIM
with ARTEM and THE DARLING WRITERS



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Dear Tibetans, Sorry

We appear to have lost our spine and become ungracious as well

The current PM, when he was a CM campaigning for the Prime Minister's chair, had ridiculed what he described as the then dispensation's pusillanimous kowtowing to China. In his characteristic theatrics, he had thundered that India should stare down Chinese aggressiveness; "Laal, Laal aankhen," (angry red eyes, to translate with nuance) is what he had wanted India to flash at China. He was obviously only stoking the nationalistic instincts of the crowds and clearly had no plans to follow-up when he arrived in office. Whatever brownie points the Centre accumulated with the Doklam adventure have been squandered with the poorly conceived "official" advisory on how the government and its representatives should engage with the Tibetans in exile in India and their functions.

The 07 March 2018 edition of this newspaper reported that the Central Tibetan Administration has cancelled a major event scheduled to be held in New Delhi and shifted it to Dharamsala. Planned to be hosted by the CTA at Raj Ghat, the memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi, on 31 March followed by an inter-faith meet the next day at Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi, this was to be a "Thank You, India" event to mark the 60th year in exile of the Tibetans in India. The Dalai Lama had crossed over into India on 31 March, 1959, and he and his people have been hosted here as refugees ever since. The plan was clearly to thank India for having hosted the Tibetans all these years. Although the CTA has refused to comment, the decision to cancel the Delhi event and shift it to Dharamsala, where the Tibetan Government in Exile is based, was taken because the Central Government decided to reveal its disturbingly ungracious side. Media reports surfaced a few days ago that the Cabinet Secretary, on the behest of the new Foreign Secretary, had issued a classified circular "discouraging" government functionaries – political and bureaucratic – from attending events organised by the Tibetan government-in-exile to mark the key anniversary over the next few months. This circular was apparently issued to all central ministries and state governments. The Foreign Secretary had reportedly sought such a circular on 22 February, a day before he travelled to Beijing on his first visit to China as foreign secretary. Given the embarrassing bending over backwards, will it surprise anyone if reports also surface soon that the circular was also cc-ed to Chinese authorities?

Admittedly, there is nothing new in the Centre's position on the Tibetans; when the then Gujarat CM had called out the then Central Government, he was not referring only to attitude on the borders and bilateral talks. This distancing, even official discouraging, of Tibetan expression in India is now more than a decade old and has manifested in refusal to grant permission to protest or hold stronger rallies to mark even such important occasions as the Tibetan Uprising Day or solidarity marches against the oppression inside Tibet. One cannot help but notice that even the Dalai Lama is rarely invited as the official chief guest for government events in India and protocols and hierarchies are observed to the letter. But it is not enough to blame precedence alone, because the group now in "power" had called out groveling in past.

What makes the present circular even more distasteful is that it comes despite the Tibetan Government in Exile's obvious realization of the changed attitudes. The Tibetans, realizing that India would be uncomfortable to participate in anything even suggestive of the Tibetan aspirations for self-rule or real autonomy in Tibet, decided to organize a special event for 31 March and not 10 March. Where the former marks the Dalai Lama's arrival in India as a refugee, the latter date marks the Tibetan Uprising of 1959, a date which carries much more significance for the Tibetans and is the anniversary that has traditionally been observed. By deciding to observe 31 March instead with a big event, the Tibetans were displaying genuine gratitude towards India for having taken them in 60 years ago. This was, after all, a "Thank you, India" event. But our leaders and babus decided that we would be ungracious instead. How unfortunate.

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

The math behind the perfect free throw

LARRY M. SILVERBERG
theconversation.com

Some 20 years ago, my colleague Dr. Chau Tran and I developed a way to simulate the trajectories of millions of basketballs on the computer.

We went to the coaches and assistant coaches at North Carolina State University, where we are based, and told them we had this uncommon ability to study basketball shots very carefully.

Their first question was simple: "What's the best free throw?" Should the shooter aim towards the front of the hoop or the back? Does it depend on whether the shooter is short or tall?

Math offers a unique perspective. It speeds up the amount of time it takes to see the patterns behind the best shots. For the most part, we discovered things that the players and coaches already knew – but every so often, we came across a new insight.

SIMULATING MILLIONS OF SHOTS

From a mathematical viewpoint, basketball is a game of trajectories. These trajectories are unique in that the ball's motion doesn't change much when it's flying through the air, but then rapidly changes over milliseconds when the ball collides with the hoop or the backboard.

To simulate millions of trajectories without the code taking too long to run, we tried any trick we could think of. We figured out how to go from modestly changing motion to rapidly changing motion, such as when the ball bounces on the rim or off the backboard. We learned how to turn large numbers of trajectories into statistical probabilities. We even created fictitious trajectories in which the ball magically passes through all of the physical obstacles (hoop, backboard, back plate) except for one, to see where it collides first.

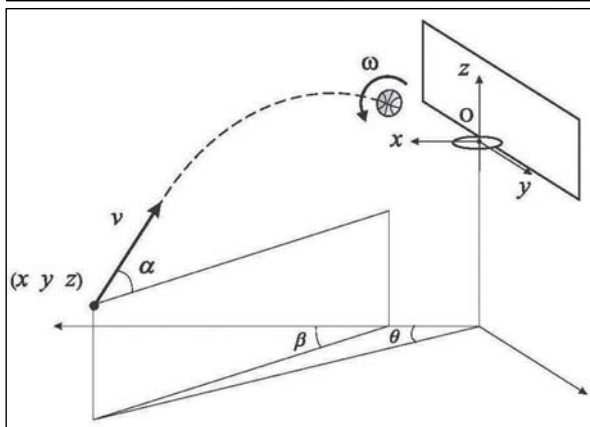
The free throw was the first shot that my colleague and I studied in detail. In close games, teams can win and lose at the free-throw line. What's more, the free throw is uncontested, so perfection in the free throw can pay off big. Top teams tend to shoot the free shot well.

Our program could tell us what chances the shooter had in sinking a free throw – and help us figure out what he was doing right or wrong.

BREAKING DOWN THE FREE THROW

We studied the free throw for about five years.

One of the first things we learned from our simulations and by watch-



ing TV footage was that players with the same consistency can shoot free throws with anywhere from 75 to 90 percent accuracy. The difference was that the 90 percent players were being consistent at the right shot – the best trajectory.

The fate of a free throw is set the instant the ball leaves the player's fingertips, so we looked closely at the "launch conditions" of the shot. The ball is located at some height above the floor. It has a rate at which it is spinning backwards (called backspin), and it has a launch speed and a launch angle. Since the shooter never launches the ball the same way, small differences account for a shooter's consistency.

We found that about 3 hertz of backspin is the best amount; more than that does not help. It takes about 1 second for a ball to reach the basket, so 3 hertz equates to three revolutions in the air, from the instant the ball leaves the player's hands to when

it reaches the basket.

Next, assuming the player releases the ball at 7 feet above the ground, a launch angle of about 52 degrees is best. In that angle, the launch speed is the lowest, and the probability of the shot being successful is the greatest. At 52 degrees, the shooter can be off a degree or more either way without a large effect on the shot's success.

However, launch speed is quite the opposite. It's the hardest variable for a player to control. Release the ball too slowly and the shot is short; release it too fast and the shot is long. A player needs to memorize the motion of her entire body during release to impart the same speed consistently.

All else being the same, players who release from higher above the floor have a higher shooting percentage. That's interesting, because our coaches at N.C. State and others I have talked say that taller players tend to shoot the free throw worse

than shorter players do. It seems that the shorter players must try harder.

The last release condition was the most surprising: the aim point of the free throw. We found that the player should aim the ball to the back of the rim. Basically, the back of the rim is more forgiving than the front of the rim. At a release height of 7 feet, the gap between the ball and the back of the ring should be less than 2 inches. A small gap is best whether launching at low or high release heights.

LESSONS LEARNED

So what does this all mean for players out there aspiring to improve their free throw?

Our research suggests that players should aim the ball beyond the center of the rim. Launch the ball at a high angle and as high above the ground as possible. (The ball, at the highest point of its arc, should reach the top of the backboard.) Line up the ball to eliminate the side angle. And try to launch the ball with smooth body motion, to produce a consistent launch speed.

In the past few years, we've expanded our work to study where the best bank shots strike the backboard and developed a tool for anyone who wants to perfect it.

With tournament play approaching, I'm reminded of how competitive the game has become, and how it has truly become a game of inches. As an old basketball player, like many of you, I enjoy watching the game – and, every so often, catching a glimpse of that perfect free throw.

[the writer is Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, North Carolina State University]

White, brown, raw, honey: which type of sugar is best?

SZE-YEN TAN
theconversation.com

In nutrition, sugar refers to simple carbohydrates consisting of one or two basic carbohydrate units such as glucose, fructose and galactose. Consumers often use "sugar" to describe simple carbohydrates that taste sweet, but not all sugars are sweet.

There are many different types of sugars we add to our baking or hot drinks such as white sugar, brown sugar, raw sugar and honey. But when we're looking at a packaged product the ingredients list will have many more options still. Corn syrup, palm sugar, molasses, maple syrup and agave nectar are but a few.

Despite the large variety of sugars, they are very similar nutritionally. They are comprised predominantly of glucose, fructose and sucrose, which are the basic forms of sugar. Glucose and fructose are slightly different in chemical structure, while sucrose is a sugar composed of one glucose and one fructose.

The factors that distinguish sugars are their sources (from sugarcane, beet, fruit, nectar, palm or coconut saps), flavour profiles, and the levels of processing.

TYPES OF SUGAR

White sugar: also called table sugar, is the final product of the processing and refining of sugarcane or beet. During the refining process, moisture, minerals and compounds that give sugars their colour are removed, and white refined sugar is formed. The byproduct containing the removed compounds during sugar refining is known as molasses.

Raw sugar: is formed if the final refining process is bypassed.

Brown sugar: is refined white sugar with varying amounts of molasses added. Raw sugar, brown sugar and molasses are higher in compounds that provide colour, from natural sources or byproducts of the breakdown of sugar (caramel) during sugar

processing.

Honey: is sugar-rich nectar collected by bees from a wide variety of flowers. Fructose is the main sugar found in honey, followed by glucose and sucrose. The sweet taste of honey is attributed to its higher fructose content, and fructose is known to be sweeter than glucose or sucrose. Honey is about 17% water.

Syrups: can be produced from a wide range of plant sources in the forms of sap and fruits. Some examples include agave (a desert succulent), corn, date, grape, maple and pomegranate syrup.

Because agave and corn are more complex carbohydrates, they're first broken down into sugar during food processing before being concentrated into syrup. Corn syrup is often further processed into the sweeter version, high fructose corn syrup.

Fruit sugar: can be made from the drying and grinding of fruits such as dates. Sugar produced through this process shares similar nutrient composition with the fruit (such as fibre and minerals) but it is lower in water content.

WHICH TYPE IS BEST?

Several studies have reported adverse effects of white sugar and high fructose corn syrup on our health. So should we substitute these types of sugars with another?

SWEETNESS AND SUGAR CONTENT: Some sugars such as honey and agave syrup are higher in fructose. Fructose is sweeter than glucose and sucrose, hence a smaller amount may be needed to achieve similar level of sweetness from white sugar. Honey and syrups also have a higher water content. So the sugar content is less than the equivalent weight of white sugar.

ANTIOXIDANT CAPACITY: Due to the different levels of processing and refining, sugars that are less processed and refined tend to have higher contents of minerals and compounds that give plants their colour. These compounds have been found to increase antioxidant capacity, which reduces the cell damage

in the body that causes several chronic diseases.

Although the antioxidant capacity of date sugar and molasses is many-fold higher than white sugar and corn syrup, it's still relatively low compared to antioxidant-rich foods. For example, more than 500g of date sugar or molasses need to be consumed to get the same amount of antioxidant contained in a cup (145g) of blueberries.

GLYCEMIC INDEX: Different types of sugar raise the amount of sugar in our blood at different rates after being consumed. The glycemic index (GI) concept is used to compare the ability of different carbohydrate-containing foods in raising blood sugar levels over two hours.

Pure glucose is used as the reference carbohydrate and it's given a value of 100. Higher GI indicates greater ability of a food in raising blood sugar levels, and having high levels of sugar in the blood can lead to disease. High GI foods tend to be less filling too.

The GI values in the table below are compiled from the GI database. Corn syrup has the highest GI as it is composed mainly of glucose. White sugar, composed of 50% glucose and 50% fructose, has slightly lower GI. Based on available values in the GI database, agave syrup has the lowest GI value. Therefore, it's a better option than other sugars in term of blood sugar management.

ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY: Honey has been reported to possess several germ-killing capabilities due to the presence of several naturally-occurring compounds. But it's still unclear how the antimicrobial property of honey may be obtained.

In the end, sugar in our body is still sugar. So while honey, raw sugar, date sugar and molasses are "better" than white and other types of sugar, everyone should try to cut down their sugar intake.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Nutrition Science, Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN), School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Deakin University]

CPI(M) to revamp party organisation in Bengal

KOLKATA, MAR 7 (PTI): With the CPI(M) fast losing its importance in Bengal politics, the party is all set to revamp its party organisation by removing ageing leaders and inducting more young faces, a senior party leader said.

The party, struggling to even win local elections, has already inducted over 300 young people in 23 districts of the state, replacing more than 70 per cent of the leaders aged between 60 and 80 years, he said.

The leadership hopes that the drive would help it in putting up a fight against the ruling Trinamool Congress and the resurgent BJP, which is trying to replace the Left Front and the Congress as the main opposition in the state.

"At all levels of the state leadership, right from the area committee, the average age of the members will be brought down," CPI(M) state secretary Surya Kanta Mishra said.

The CPI(M) leadership is likely to remove those above 75 from the state committee, the state secretariat and various district committees.

However, the party is likely to make exceptions for CPI(M) politburo member Biman Bose and former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya.

On Wednesday, Rio to become first Nagaland CM to take oath outside Raj Bhavan

KOHIMA, MAR 7 (PTI): In a first, the chief minister and council of ministers of a newly-elected government in Nagaland will take oath in full public view tomorrow at the Kohima Local Ground.

The venue holds significance as the announcement of Nagaland's statehood on December 1, 1963 was made from here by the then president Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), in alliance with the BJP, has taken over the reins of the north-eastern state, following the recently-concluded Assembly election, with the support of 32 MLAs. The alliance has chosen senior NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio as the chief minister.

Governor P B Acharya would administer the oath of office and secrecy to Rio and the 11 ministers at the main rostrum of the ground, in the presence of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president Amit Shah, official sources said here today.



The state has invited the common people to the ceremony through newspaper advertisements issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, they added.

The swearing-in ceremonies in

the state have so far been high-profile shows at the Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, with VIPs, VIPs and top bureaucrats in attendance.

The newly-mandated alliance government, comprising 34 elected

members of the NDPP, BJP, National People's Party (NPP), JD(U) and an Independent, however, has decided to take oath before the public.

Rio will be assuming the charge of Nagaland chief minister for the

fourth time. He had served his three previous terms between 2003 and May, 2014.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was reportedly requested to grace the swearing-in ceremony as this was the first time the BJP had won 12 seats in the state, had expressed his inability to attend it, a source in the Raj Bhavan said.

NDPP secretary general Abu Metha said Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma were also expected to attend the ceremony.

As the swearing-in ceremony would be held at the Kohima Local Ground, the stretch between the Y-junction and the DC office was repaired to ensure a smooth commute, sources said.

The district administration and the police had made adequate security arrangements and traffic had also been streamlined for tomorrow's ceremony, they added.

Rs 11 cr sanctioned for sensor barriers in Kaziranga: Assam tells NGT

NEW DELHI, MAR 7 (PTI): The Assam government today told the National Green Tribunal that it has sanctioned a budget of Rs 11 crore for installation of sensor-operated automated traffic barriers to control the death of animals in road accidents near the Kaziranga National Park.

The state government informed a bench headed by Justice Jawad Rahim that the matter was pending approval in the assembly which is currently holding its budget session.

The Assam government also told the tribunal that it would start issuing tenders for the installation of sensor barriers in six areas inside the national park within four weeks from today once the assembly clears it.

"We direct that the undertaking given by

the Assam government would be complied and the tenders will be issued within four weeks," the bench said.

During the hearing, the green panel exempted the appearance of Additional Secretary, Environment and Forest and Secretary in-charge, Finance and Planning (Additional Chief Secretary Finance and Planning) after it was informed that he was busy in the budget session.

The matter will now be heard on April 26.

The tribunal had earlier rejected the Assam government's proposal to engage manpower in place of installation of sensor-operated au-



tomated traffic barriers to control the death of animals in road accidents near the Kaziranga National Park.

It had rapped the state government over its proposal and said except revealing the budgetary constraints there was no reason to go for the alternative proposal.

The state government had proposed to engage additional manpower to monitor the animal corridor stretch of the NH-37 which passes from Jakhlabandha to Bokakhat along the reserve.

It had last year told the tribunal that it had already spent an amount of Rs 1.45 crore on

installation of animal sensor barriers at Malini in the national park stretch to check speeding vehicles on the NH-37.

Another amount of Rs 39 lakh will be required for purchase of two additional thermal cameras for installation in the same place, it had said.

Since the required fund was currently not available in the budget, the state government has decided to submit a supplementary demand in the next session of the assembly, it had said.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by wildlife activist Rohit Choudhury opposing the widening of NH-37 which passes from Jakhlabandha to Bokakhat along the reserve.

SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY in celebration of

"INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY" ON MARCH 8, 2018 OBSERVES "LEGAL SERVICES WEEK FOR WOMEN" FROM MARCH 8, 2018 - MARCH 14, 2018



IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN IN INDIA	LEGAL PROVISIONS	A. VIOLENCE	DOMESTIC			D. WOMEN CAN CLAIM MAINTENANCE									
<p>The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only guarantees equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women to make efforts to bring them at par in the cumulative socio economic, education and political fields. Fundamental Rights, amongst others, ensures equality before the law and equal protection of law, prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth within the framework of a democratic policy. Our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments to secure equal rights of women.</p> <p>Constitutional Provision for Women:-</p> <p>i. Equality before law for women {Article 14}</p> <p>ii. The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them {Article 15 (1)}</p> <p>iii. The State shall not be prevented from making any special provision in favour of women and children {Article 15 (3)}</p> <p>iv. Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State {Article 16 (1)}</p> <p>v. The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the rights to an adequate means of livelihood {Article 39 (a)}; and equal pay for equal work for both men and women {Article 39 (d)}</p> <p>vi. To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities {Article 39 A}</p> <p>vii. The State to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief {Article 42}</p> <p>viii. The State shall promote with special care the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall, protect them</p>	<p>To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support services especially to working women. Although women may be victims of any crime such as 'Murder', 'Robbery', 'Cheating' etc, the crimes, which are directed specifically against women, are characterized as 'Crime against Women'. These are broadly classified under two categories.</p> <p>I Crimes Identified Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)</p> <p>1. Punishment for Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)</p> <p>2. Kidnapping and Abduction for different purposes (Sec. 363-373)</p> <p>3. Homicide by Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their attempts (Sec. 302/304-B IPC)</p> <p>4. Torture, both mental and physical (Sec. 498-A IPC)</p> <p>5. Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)</p> <p>6. Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)</p> <p>7. Importation of girls (up to 21 years of age) (Sec. 366 -B)</p> <p>II The Crimes identified under the Special Laws (SLL). Although all laws are not gender specific they are reviewed periodically and amendments carried out to keep pace with the times viz;</p> <p>1. The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948</p>	<p>Any act of violence or abuse against a single woman, sister, widow, mother, daughter or even women in live-in-relationships amounts to domestic violence. Women can seek protection under the "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005".</p> <p>B. EVE TEASERS BEWARE</p> <p>Any indecent act including lewd comments, cats call, or whistling, touching, groping indecent exposure that degrades the dignity of women comes under sexual and mental harassment. The offender is punishable by a maximum jail term of two years.</p> <p>C. DISCRIMINATION AT WORK PLACE</p> <p>A major problem faced by the working women is <u>sexual harassment at the workplace</u>.</p> <p>A majority of the working women continue to be denied their right to equal pay, under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and are underpaid in comparison to their male colleagues.</p> <p>The Hon'ble Supreme Court has laid down certain guidelines in Vishaka & Ors. vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. (1997)6 SCC 241 and has further laid down directions to be implemented by the State of Sikkim in Seema Lepcha vs. State of Sikkim & Other in Civil Appeal No. 1632/2012 with regard to sexual harassment of women at workplaces.</p>	<p>from social injustice and all forms of exploitation {Article 46}</p> <p>ix. The State shall raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people {Article 47}</p> <p>x. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practice derogatory to the dignity of women {Article 51 (A) (e)}</p> <p>xi. Not less than one- third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat {Article 243 D (3)}</p> <p>xii. Not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level to be reserved for women {Article 243 D (4)}</p> <p>xiii. Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Municipality shall be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality Article243T(3)}</p>	<p>2. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951</p> <p>3. The Family Courts Act, 1954</p> <p>4. The Special Marriage Act, 1954</p> <p>5. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955</p> <p>6. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with amendments in 2005</p> <p>7. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956</p> <p>8. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 1955)</p> <p>9. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961</p> <p>10. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971</p> <p>11. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976</p> <p>12. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976</p> <p>13. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006</p> <p>14. The Criminal Law (Amendment)</p>	<p>A woman's legal right to claim maintenance from her husband is recognized under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Section 18 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 entitles a woman to claim maintenance from her husband. Also, the claim for maintenance is extendable to her minor children. Further, these laws provide that maintenance can be claimed prior to divorce, during separation.</p> <p>E.SAY NO TO ECONOMIC ABUSE</p> <p>Women are entitled to monetary help from spouses, parents or guardians in case of natural emergencies like treatment. Husbands cannot dispose of jewellery or dowry without consent of his wife. If he does, he is guilty of economic abuse.</p>										
<p>A woman is entitled to free legal aid u/s 12 (c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Hence any woman in need of legal aid and services may contact the office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim or at any of the District Legal Services Authorities or Taluk Legal Services Committees in all the Districts and Sub-Divisions:</p> <table><tr><td>Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No : 03592-207753 Fax : 03592-207753 E-mail : sikkim_slisa@live.com</td><td>District Legal Services Authority (West), Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No: 03595-250189</td><td>Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone: 03592-234383/234514</td></tr><tr><td>District Legal Services Authority (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No: 03592-284462</td><td>District Legal Services Authority (South), District Court's Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone: 03595-264356</td><td>Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone: 89006-67283</td></tr><tr><td>District Legal Services Authority (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No: 03592-234502 (O) Fax: 03592-234832 (Fax)</td><td>Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No: 03595-250779</td><td>Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Soreng, West Sikkim. Phone No: 80173-32729</td></tr></table> <p>Issued by</p> <p>SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim.</p>							Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No : 03592-207753 Fax : 03592-207753 E-mail : sikkim_slisa@live.com	District Legal Services Authority (West), Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No: 03595-250189	Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone: 03592-234383/234514	District Legal Services Authority (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No: 03592-284462	District Legal Services Authority (South), District Court's Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone: 03595-264356	Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone: 89006-67283	District Legal Services Authority (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No: 03592-234502 (O) Fax: 03592-234832 (Fax)	Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No: 03595-250779	Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Soreng, West Sikkim. Phone No: 80173-32729
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<p>R.O. No. 612/lpr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 7.3.2018</p>															

9 years later, Liverpool back in Champions League quarters

LIVERPOOL, MAR 7 (AP): There's a familiar name back in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

"It's time we showed up again," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said after his team secured a place in the last eight for the first time in nine years.

It couldn't have been an easier passage for the five-time European champions, either, as they coasted to a 0-0 draw against Porto to clinch a 5-0 aggregate win in the last 16.

Having scored five goals without reply in a dazzling first-leg display in Portugal three weeks ago, this was always going to be a procession for Liverpool at Anfield -- a ground that has been something of a fortress this season.

At times, it felt like the English club was going through the motions, especially since it faces a huge Premier League game against Manchester United in the Premier League on Saturday.

No major injuries were



sustained -- captain Jordan Henderson had strapping applied to his right thigh after the game, but Klopp said it was nothing more than a dead leg -- and Liverpool rarely looked like conceding.

Now, a member of Euro-

pean soccer's royalty can look forward to the draw for the quarterfinals on March 16. They return as the competition's top scorers this season with 28 goals and will be feared by the other qualifiers.

"This year, we belong

there," Klopp said, "it should not be a surprise. There will be seven other very good teams -- maybe four of them will be from England, which doesn't make it easier, to be honest. But we have a chance, for sure, to go through to the

semifinals." Porto coach Sergio Conceicao was even more confident about Liverpool's chances.

"Liverpool are definitely one of the teams that can win the competition," he said. "They are a really strong team,

everyone knows that." Also in the draw for the last 16 will be Real Madrid, which beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 away on Tuesday to clinch a 5-2 aggregate win in the marquee matchup in the round of 16.

Cristiano Ronaldo was one of the scorers for Madrid, the Portugal forward netting for the ninth straight game in the Champions League. PSG's wait to win Europe's most-prized trophy goes on, despite the hundreds of millions of dollars spent since Qatar Sports Investments bought the French club in 2011.

A year ago this week, Barcelona became the first team to overturn a 4-0 first-leg deficit in the Champions League knockout stage when beating PSG 6-1.

Porto, the Portuguese league leader, had to go one better but Klopp's decision to field a strong team rendered that unlikely scenario even more inconceivable.

The joint-top scorer in the Premier League -- Mo Salah -- and world's most ex-

pensive defender Virgil van Dijk were on the bench for Liverpool, but most of its other big names played.

And it was the hosts who had the better of the chances, with Sadio Mane -- the scorer of a hat trick in the first leg, hooking a volley over the bar and then striking a low shot against the post in a low-key first half.

Roberto Firmino ran clear but ended up having a shot blocked on the hour, before immediately being taken off by Klopp as Liverpool's main striker was protected ahead of the United game.

Porto pressed late on but to no avail, as it failed to collect a first away win over an English opponent in the Champions League at the 13th attempt. The visitors became the first team to stop Liverpool from scoring in this season's competition, not that Klopp minded too much.

"It feels good, to be honest," he said. "It's a long time. I know about it ... It's a good development at Liverpool at the moment. It's a good moment.

Under-pressure India face Bangladesh in Nidahas Trophy

COLOMBO, MAR 7 (PTI): India's inexperienced cricket team will have to recover quickly from the eye-opening loss to Sri Lanka and lift its game by a few notches against an unpredictable Bangladesh in the Nidahas Twenty20 Trophy, here tomorrow.

Sri Lanka, who have been beaten fair and square by India in their umpteen battles over the past six months, pulled one back in style on yesterday courtesy Kusal Perera's special knock (a 37-ball 66).

The home team's surprise victory has also spiced up the tournament, which until yesterday, was expected to be dominated by India.

Defending a decent 174 for five, the inexperienced bowling attack did not have an answer to Perera's relentless aggression. Yuvendra Chahal, the only frontline spinner in the eleven, too was not spared.

Captain Rohit Sharma, however, backed the young guns to deliver against Bangladesh.

"Our bowlers tried everything they could, but sometimes it doesn't come off the way you want it to. I felt we have enough experience in our bowling line-ups. Yes, they are new in the scene, but they've put in performances. I had a lot of confidence going into the game," said Rohit



after the five-wicket loss.

"We are blessed to have a squad that has good batting depth, we also have a couple of allrounders. Hopefully we'll come back strong," he added.

India managed to recover from a bad start and post a par score, as put by Rohit, who felt cheaply alongside Suresh Raina to leave the team at nine for two.

The shaky beginning led to India reaching 40 for two by end of Powerplay while Sri Lanka raced to 75 for two, proving to be the difference in the end.

"It was in the first six overs that they took the game away from us," said Shikhar Dhawan, who continued his good run with an entertaining 90 off 49 balls.

How Rohit and Dhawan start will always be important for India's chances but against Ban-

gladesh, they would like to score more in the death overs than they did against Sri Lanka.

Rohit is not expected to make many changes in the eleven but Axar Patel, who is the most experienced spinner in the squad, might get to bowl alongside Chahal.

The talented KL Rahul too sat out of the first game but as the opening combination is settled, it remains to be seen if he gets to bat in the middle-order.

Washington Sundar was the pick of the bowlers against Sri Lanka, striking twice at an acceptable economy rate of seven runs per over.

In the absence of the rested Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the likes of Shardul Thakur and Jaydev Unadkat need to up their game in the unforgiving death overs. Thakur leaked as many as 27 runs in his

first over against Sri Lanka but bounced back well to concede only three in his next attempt.

Facing Bangladesh in the shortest format has always been challenging for India and it will be no different tomorrow.

Mahmudullah will continue to lead the side in absence of the injured Shakib Al Hasan, who also missed the T20 and Test series against Sri Lanka at home.

Having lost the Tests, T20s and the ODI tri-series final (all to Sri Lanka), Bangladesh will be desperate to buck the recent trend.

Senior batsman Tamin Iqbal said the team is not having the best of times at the moment but is confident of a turnaround.

"It will be a different challenge here for me and also our team. We know that we are not in the best of form as a team but this can happen as I have said it's normal for a batsman and a bowler, we go through good form and bad patches. So, as a team it is quite normal for that to happen, said Iqbal.

"I think in some cases we are panicking a lot and I feel we need to curb that since, as a team, you have to accept that when things are not going well, we should not be panicking and we need to go back to the basics," he added.

Sri Lanka took the game away in Powerplays: Dhawan

COLOMBO, MAR 7 (PTI): A below-par performance in the powerplays cost India the tri-series opener against Sri Lanka, reckoned opener Shikhar Dhawan, who credited Kusal Perera for taking the game away from his team with a blazing knock.

India lost the lung-opener by five wickets with Perera putting the inexperienced visiting attack to sword during his 37-ball 66.

India had managed to reach a mere 40 for 2 in the first six overs after being reduced to 9 for 2 in two overs. On the other hand, Sri Lanka posted 75 for two in the powerplay, courtesy Perera, who smashed 27 runs off Shardul Thakur in the second over with the help of five fours and a six.

"It was in the first six overs that they took the game away from us. After the first six overs even they weren't hitting the ball that frequently - it wasn't like 10 an over against the spinners in the middle overs. That's because the wicket was a little slow," Dhawan said.

Dhawan heaped praise on Perera, who had the crowd on its feet with a scintillating knock which included half a dozen fours and four sixes.

"The way Kusal scored that 27 runs in that over, they were 75 after six overs, that made the difference," he said.

Dhawan said losing two wickets early also made a difference.

"They took two wickets in the first two overs and that did the damage. We could have been more aggressive if we wouldn't have lost wickets. We had to ensure we don't lose any more wickets and also score runs," he said.

"We were 10 runs short after six overs but I felt 174 was a good score but Kusal Perera took the game away by playing an amazing knock."

Dhawan was the top-scorer for India as he blasted 90 off 49 balls studded with six boundaries and as many sixes.

Talking about his own game, Dhawan said: "I have been playing very aggressive at the start, I know my game and that's how I have been playing. I have been scoring runs at a quick pace."

The Delhi batsman, however, was disappointed about missing out on a well-deserved hundred.

"I was disappointed that I couldn't score a century but at that time the team wanted to go after bowling, so I didn't care if I get century or not. I am happy my consistency is going very good and I am enjoying it."

Dhawan said India will look to take the positives in the next game against Bangladesh.

"We just lost one game, so it is a not a big deal, we will learn from it and go with all the positives in the next," he said.

Man of the match Perera also felt that the Sri Lanka's power-hitting during the powerplay made all the difference.

"We had to attack in the first six overs. As the target was 175, we needed some momentum," Perera said after the match.

"When you get that kind of start, it is easier for the innings to progress smoothly, but you don't get that kind of start every game. The first six overs had a great impact on the match."

Ronaldo does it again as Real Madrid dump PSG out of Europe

PARIS, MAR 7 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo and Casemiro got the goals for Real Madrid as the holders won 2-1 away to a Paris Saint-Germain side missing Neymar to secure their place in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Ronaldo had scored twice -- including his 100th goal for Real in the competition -- as they won 3-1 in the first leg in Spain last month, and his header early in the second half at the Parc des Princes effectively ended the French club's hopes of progressing.

Edinson Cavani equalised on the night for PSG, but only after they had Marco Ver-ratti sent off, and Casemiro's late goal secured an ultimately comprehensive 5-2 aggregate victory for Zinedine Zidane's side.

"We played well right from the beginning, pressing them high up the field. It was a perfect match. This is not an easy place to come and play well," said Zidane.

PSG never looked like turning the tie around in the absence of the injured Neymar, and it was a horribly flat way for them to exit the competition.

"It was in the first leg that we lost the tie. We are all disappointed that things did not go as we hoped," Adrien Rabiot told beIN Sports.



"We controlled the game well in the first half but couldn't get the goal to make them doubt themselves, and once we were down to 10 men it became impossible."

As they limp out, Real's dream of becoming the first team in more than 40 years to win three successive European

Cups remains alive.

A year after their spectacular collapse against Barcelona in the last 16, when they were humiliated 6-1 away in the return after a stunning 4-0 win at home, PSG had hoped to produce a memorable comeback themselves this time.

Yet, shorn of the world's most expensive player, who is back in Brazil recuperating from a foot operation, they struggled to create chances, and the night will also be remembered for the stupidity of a section of their supporters.

Flares were lit en masse on several occasions at one end of the ground, once even leading to a brief stoppage in play, and PSG will face punishment from UEFA as a result.

Without Neymar, this was Angel Di Maria's big chance to shine after he was left on the bench for the entirety of the first leg, but nothing came off for the Argentine against his former side, his performance symbolic of a wider malaise in the home ranks.

They had only made Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas work once in the first half, from Kylian Mbappe's shot in the 43rd minute.

In contrast, Alphonse Areola had kept the home side in the game with two fine saves to deny Sergio Ramos and Karim Benzema before the interval.

That just delayed the inevitable. Having come close with a header moments earlier, Ronaldo broke the deadlock in the

51st minute, heading in a Lucas Vazquez cross for his third goal in the tie.

The goal had come from an error by Dani Alves initially, and it completely punctured PSG and the atmosphere.

The tie had escaped them before Ver-ratti was sent off midway through the second half, picking up a second yellow card for dissent.

Substitute Javier Pastore's header deflected into the net off Cavani in the 71st minute to level the scores on the night, but more poor defending allowed Real to make it 2-1 with 10 minutes left.

Unable to clear their lines in their own area, PSG saw Casemiro's shot go in via a Marquinhos deflection.

With Marco Asensio and Isco both hitting the post in the second half for Real, the visitors more than deserved their win on the night, as well as in the tie.

That rubbed more salt into the wounds for PSG, who had not lost any of their previous 51 home games in all competitions, a run going back two years to before the start of Unai Emery's reign as coach.

This defeat is likely to hasten the end of his time in charge.

North Korea assassinated Kim Jong-nam with chemical weapon: US

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, MAR 7 (PTI): North Korea used a chemical warfare agent to assassinate the half-brother of its leader Kim Jong Un in Malaysia last year, the US has concluded and imposed new sanctions against the reclusive nation to stop its unlawful activities. The US' claim came just hours after North Korea signalled it was willing to give up its nuclear weapons.

Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, died after two women approached him and smeared a deadly nerve agent on his face in Malaysia on February 13 last year.

The US determined on February 22 under the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (CBW Act) that the Government of North



Korea used the chemical warfare agent VX to assassinate Kim Jong Nam, in the Kuala Lumpur airport, State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert said.

VX is an extremely toxic synthetic chemical compound.

VX fatalities occur with exposure to tens of milligram quantities via inhalation or absorption through skin. On such exposure, it severely disrupts the body's signalling between the nervous and muscular systems, leading to a prolonged

neuromuscular blockade, flaccid paralysis of all the muscles in the body including the diaphragm, and death by asphyxiation.

The US imposed new sanctions on North Korea as part of its finding, the State Department said.

These sanctions are in addition to existing US comprehensive sanctions against targeting unlawful North Korean activities.

The new sanctions took effect upon the publication of US' finding about the murder of Kim Jong Nam in the Federal Register on Monday, Nauert said.

Under the US law, when a country or leader violates its ban on chemical and biological weapons, an import ban is imposed on its products. North Korea is already under severe US and UN sanctions and so yesterday's decision will have little impact on the country.

"The US strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons to conduct an assassination. This public display of contempt for universal norms against chem-

ical weapons use further demonstrates the reckless nature of North Korea and underscores that we cannot afford to tolerate a North Korean WMD program of any kind," Nauert said.

The new findings came as US President Donald Trump said that he believed that North Korea's offer to hold denuclearisation talks was "sincere."

North Korea has offered to freeze its nuclear and missile programmes if the US begins direct talks on an agreement that would eventually see a nuclear free Korean peninsula.

But relations between the US and North Korea remain fragile. The North Korean regime has denied it was involved in Kim Jong-nam's death and the new findings could disrupt diplomatic efforts.

American porn star sues Trump

WASHINGTON, MAR 7 (PTI): A former adult film actress has sued US President Donald Trump, claiming that his lawyer forced her to sign a statement in 2016 to stop her from going public about her alleged relationship with the then Republican-presidential candidate.

Stephanie Clifford, who is known as Stormy Daniels in the adult film industry, filed a lawsuit in a California State court yesterday.

Running into 28 pages, the lawsuit alleges that she was paid USD 130,000 by Michael Cohen, personal lawyer of Trump, to not to go public with her alleged sexual encounters with Trump when he was the then Republican-presidential candidate.

Trump has vehemently denied these allegations.

"Despite Trump's failure to sign the agreement, Cohen proceeded

to cause USD 130,000 to be wired to the trust account of Clifford's attorney. He did so even though there was no legal agreement and thus no written nondisclosure agreement whereby Clifford was restricted from disclosing the truth about Trump," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit has said that Clifford began an intimate relationship with Trump in the summer of 2006 in Lake Tahoe, which continues till 2007.

This relationship included, among other things, at least one meeting with Trump in a bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel located within Los Angeles County, the complaint said.

The complaint, released publicly by her attorney Michael Avenatti, said that on October 28, 2016, Clifford and Cohen signed the "Hush Agreement" and it was not signed by Trump.

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Donald Trump's economic adviser has quit his role in the White House over the president's trade tariffs. Gary Cohn, viewed as a voice for Wall Street, resigned after battling with the president over his plans to impose hefty steel and aluminium import tariffs. The 57-year-old, who was a key architect in Mr Trump's tax reforms, is expected to finalise his exit over the next three weeks. Mr Trump tweeted: "Will be making a decision soon on the appointment of new Chief Economic Advisor. Many people wanting the job - will choose wisely!"

Mukesh Ambai richest Indian; Jeff Bezos tops global rich list

NEW YORK, MAR 7 (PTI): Mukesh Ambani's net worth has soared to USD 40.1 billion, making him the richest Indian for the 11th year in a row, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos toppled Bill Gates as the world's wealthiest person, says Forbes.

According to Forbes' 2018 'World's Billionaires' list, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani's wealth surged a whopping 72.84 per cent to USD 40.1 billion (Rs 2,60,622 crore) -- highest among the 119 Indian billionaires on the list. Ambani was ranked 19th globally, up from 33rd position in 2017.

"Mukesh Ambani



chairs and runs USD 51 billion (revenues) oil and gas giant Reliance Industries, among India's most valuable companies," Forbes said.

Bezos, referred to as the "Centi-billionaire", topped the list with a net worth of USD 112 billion, becoming the only person to appear in the Forbes list with a 12-figure

fortune.

"Shares of his e-commerce giant Amazon rose 59 per cent in 12 months, helping boost his fortune by USD 39.2 billion. It was the biggest one year gain since Forbes started tracking billionaires in 1987," it said.

The Amazon founder moved ahead of Bill Gates, who is now the second richest person globally with a fortune of USD 90 billion.

According to Forbes, India is home to 119 billionaires, 18 more than last year.

This year's list consists of 2,043 of the richest people in the world. The combined net worth

of this elite group is a whopping USD 9.1 trillion, up 18 per cent since last year. Their average net worth is a record USD 4.1 billion.

Azim Premji is the second richest Indian and was ranked 58th on the overall list with a net worth of USD 18.8 billion, followed by Lakshmi Mittal (62nd position, net worth of USD 18.5 billion), Shiv Nadar (98th, USD 14.6 billion) and Dilip Shanghvi (115th, USD 12.8 billion).

The 10 richest Indians include Kumar Birla, ranked 127th overall with a fortune of USD 11.8 billion, Uday Kotak (143, USD 10.7 billion),

Radhakishan Damani (151, USD 10 billion), Gautam Adani (154, USD 9.7 billion) and Cyrus Poonawalla (170, USD 9.1 billion).

Acharya Balkrishna, the co-founder of FMCG company Patanjali Ayurved, was ranked 274th on the list with a net worth of USD 6.3 billion.

"Acharya Balkrishna derives his fortune from fast-growing consumer goods giant Patanjali Ayurved. Balkrishna owns 98.6 per cent of the privately-held company, which he cofounded with politically well-connected yoga guru Baba Ramdev," Forbes said.

Meanwhile, Anil Am-

bani, the younger sibling of Mukesh Ambani was ranked 887th on the list with a net worth of USD 2.7 billion.

Indian jeweller Nirav Modi is among the drop-offs from the list, along with Papa John's Pizza founder John Schnatter, Christoffel Wiese of South Africa, and Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud.

Donald Trump, who became the first billionaire president in US history in January 2017, was ranked 766th on the list, down from 544, with a fortune of USD 3.1 billion.

Trump's fortune fell USD 400 million since March 2017.

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4th Prize Rs.250/- 2303 3360 4106 5002 6281 6591 6680 6804 7598 8385
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6226 6297 6335 6609 6695 6698 6717 6921 7023 7191
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8261 8337 8491 8533 8541 8544 8664 8724 8742 8880
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8261 8340 8404 8597 8643 8803 8850 8950 9020 9038
9027 9195 9198 9220 9252 9329 9457 9662 9767 9834

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62120 62201 90817 93278 96973
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0702 1744 3137 4577 5336 6025 6556 7311 7685 9775
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0234 0607 1043 1143 1522 2379 4532 6747 6790 8282
5th Prize Rs.120/-
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CONFIRMED: RANBIR KAPOOR TO BE SEEN IN YASH RAJ FILMS' NEXT



Ranbir Kapoor is regarded as one of the most talented actors of the current generation. He has already done enough to prove his acting prowess. His versatility as an actor is also commendable as he can pull off playing a silly but sweet Prem in Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani to playing a mute character in Barfi.

The Yash Raj Films' project is said to be directed by Karan Malhotra who has signed a 3-film deal with the esteemed production house. According to reports, Karan Johar was miffed with Aditya Chopra for signing Karan Malhotra on a three-film deal. However, it seems that Ranbir Kapoor played the role of the peacemaker himself and cleared the differences between

Karan Johar and Aditya Chopra. After which, the project is finally taking off.

Ranbir Kapoor is currently occupied with the shooting of Brahmastra in Bulgaria. Brahmastra is produced Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and is being directed by Ayan Mukerji. Ranbir Kapoor and Ayan Mukerji have been extremely close friends right from Wake-Up Sid, which was their first movie together. Ranbir and Ayan also collaborated again with Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, a film that went on to be a blockbuster. So, the fact that Ayan Mukerji is directing one of Ranbir's biggest projects of his career until now is something that has gotten fans even more excited for the film.

Brahmastra is said to be science fiction story which will be released in the form of a trilogy. Ranbir Kapoor's character is said to have supernatural powers in the film, something that we have never seen Ranbir Kapoor play on screen. Brahmastra also stars Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan. Mouni Roy will also be seen making her Bollywood debut in the film in which she is playing the antagonist. Ranbir Kapoor will be seen on screen net in Sanjay Dutt's biography before Brahmastra which is directed by Rajkumar Hirani. The film also stars Anushka Sharma, Sonam Kapoor, Manisha Koirala and Dia Mirza, who according to reports will be seen playing the role of Sanjay Dutt's wife in the film.

DONALD TRUMP ON OSCARS: 'WE DON'T HAVE STARS ANYMORE - EXCEPT YOUR PRESIDENT'

TV ratings for this year's ceremony hit an all-time low as the trend of progressive disinterest in the awards continued. Donald Trump has ridiculed the Academy Awards, suggesting that the ceremony suffered its lowest-ever TV ratings because "we don't have stars anymore".

An all-time low 26.5m viewers tuned in for Sunday night's show, a 19% drop from last year.

Taking the opportunity to criticise the politically charged event, President Trump tweeted: "Lowest rated Oscars in HISTORY."

"Problem is, we don't have stars anymore - except your President (just kidding, of course)!" The drop in Oscars viewers continued the trend of progressive disinterest in the awards.

According to Nielsen, who published the ratings, the figures only include those who



watched the show live on TV and do not count views on digital platforms. The Republican National Committee has claimed that the drop was the result of winners and presenters using the stage to make political statements.

Predicting low ratings last week, RNC's spokesman Steve

Guest said: "If last year's dismal ratings didn't make it clear, Americans aren't interested in Hollywood liberals blabbing about politics to a room full of Hollywood liberals." They're busy taking their 'crumbs' to the bank after Republicans delivered on tax cuts," he told Variety.

Some media pundits are blaming the lack of blockbusters nominated for the all-time low, with the biggest-selling movies of the year being left out.

As recently as four years ago, the ceremony had an audience of 43.7m viewers - nearly twice as much.



ALL BLACK EVERYTHING! Singer Rita Ora looked cozy departing LAX sans makeup.

EMMA WATSON SAYS HER BOTCHED 'TIMES UP' TATTOO IS FAKE

The actress was aiming to make a statement at the Oscars, but ended up being mocked on social media over a punctuation error.

Emma Watson has responded to widespread mockery of her Oscars tattoo by saying it is a fake.

The Harry Potter star became one of the centres of attention at the Academy Awards for all the wrong reasons when she debuted a new tattoo on her forearm, in support of the Time's Up movement.

As she walked down the

red carpet on Sunday, people were quick to notice that the actress and UN ambassador was missing a vital punctuation mark from the inking - an apostrophe.

Instead of reading "Time's Up" - short for 'time is up' - Ms Watson's tattoo said "Times Up". The mistake led to a social media trend, but not the one the actress was aiming for. On Tuesday, Watson responded on Twitter, assuring fans the tattoo is "fake".

"Fake tattoo proofreading position available," she

wrote. "Experience with apostrophes a must."

Watson has been a vocal and leading supporter of the Time's Up movement, which seeks to end sexual harassment and assault.

In a post on Instagram about the movement last month, Ms Watson wrote: "All of us are responsible for creating change, whatever industry you work in. We're asking everyone to help create a world we can be proud of - one that is safe, just and equal."

K-TOWN

BTS'S "DNA" HITS 300 MILLION VIEWS IN FASTEST TIME EVER FOR A K-POP GROUP MV



BTS's "DNA" has become the fastest K-pop group MV to reach 300 million views on YouTube, and the group's first MV to reach the milestone!

"DNA" is the title track to BTS's latest mini album "Love Yourself: Her," which was released on September 18 of 2017. It became BTS's first track to enter Billboard's Hot 100 chart (which ranks the most popular songs in the United States), and spent four weeks on the chart. The song's MV also won the Best

Music Video award at the 2017 Melon Music Awards.

BTS's "DNA" MV holds the record among K-pop group MVs for the highest number of views in the first 24 hours, as well as the fastest time to reach each milestone all the way to 300 million views.

The music video has now become BTS's first MV to reach 300 million views, achieving the feat on March 7. This is the fastest time a K-pop group MV has reached 300 million views, set-

ting a new record of only 5 months and 16 days.

There are only two other K-pop group MVs that have reached 300 million views so far, with TWICE's "TT" holding the previous fastest time with a record of 13 months and 28 days. BIGBANG's "Fantastic Baby" has also surpassed 300 million views.

In addition to 300 million views, "DNA" has over 4.5 million likes on YouTube.

ARIES: The more you can apply to your own life the advice you give to others, the better off you'll be, Aries. No one is going to follow a leader who doesn't abide by his or her own standards. If you're going to offer your guidance to someone else, make sure you're willing to operate by the same rules and accept feedback regarding their effectiveness.

TAURUS: You may be on a slow, steady track of discipline that embraces an older, more traditional way of looking at things, Taurus. Suddenly, however, you're hit by an aggressive force urging you to do things differently. The more you try to resist this force, the more it's apt to cause friction and tension. Open

your arms and welcome this new energy that will have a very positive effect on you.

GEMINI: A radical force seems to be stirring up trouble and challenging your long-established beliefs about how things should be done and what you hold most dear, Gemini. The truth is that what you might see as trouble is really a growing pain to be endured as you move to the next step in your personal evolution. Change is often difficult; however, this is what you're being called upon to do.

CANCER: Things could get a bit tense for you, Cancer. One of your first reactions might be to look to your loved ones for support. Unfortunately, you might find that your standbys aren't

standing by. In fact, it could seem like they've joined the opposition. You might at first feel like you've been betrayed. In reality, maybe you're fighting for an old cause and it's time to join the opposition, too.

LEO: Parts of your life might seem like gladiatorial games out of ancient Rome. The good news is that if anyone can rise above this situation and see the truth in the matter, it's you, Leo. Be careful to not be too obstinate about how to resolve things. This is likely to get you deeper into a mess that you shouldn't have to deal with in the first place. Your job is to mediate not dictate.

VIRGO: You're apt to go in circles if you only see the negative side of every situation, Virgo.

Your lack of perspective could keep you from seeing an answer right in front of you. Your mind is your greatest asset and your worst enemy. Don't become a victim of its automatic bias toward the negative. Once you take control and start looking at the positive aspects, the answer will become clear.

LIBRA: You're likely to be on a roll with new and innovative ideas about your goals in life, Libra. Unfortunately, there are some obstacles. People who are scared of the new and different are apt to try to toss a monkey wrench into the spokes of your wheels. More than likely, these people are simply reacting out of fear of something they don't understand. Help them see your

perspective. **SCORPIO:** Remember that even though there is tension and chaos all around, Scorpio, it doesn't have to affect you. Your motto should be you're "in it but not of it." The basis of most feuds boils down to the struggle between the old and the new. Try not to let their battles become yours. Learn from them by staying close enough to observe and understand but far enough away that you keep your hands clean. **SAGITTARIUS:** While your brain may want to charge ahead with new and revolutionary ideas, there is something holding you back from setting these ideas into motion, Sagittarius. It could be that there is a small voice in your head telling you to slow down

and not automatically accept things and adopt them into your life just because they're new. Do your best to strike a balance between these two viewpoints. **CAPRICORN:** You could feel like you're walking a puppy that won't heel, Capricorn. The puppy is curious and, at times, rather reckless. It doesn't know about the dangers of cars or a twisted leash. You have a great responsibility to teach this dog some lesson, while at the same time giving it a bit of freedom to go out and explore alone. Earn the respect of others by tempering discipline with fun.

AQUARIUS: Your mental processes may run into a snag as you discover that there are certain rules and guidelines by which

you need to abide, Aquarius. Sometimes you feel as if you're above all the rules, that you can establish your own based on your personal morals, and that everything will be fine. Unfortunately, you must sometimes obey others' rules. Try not to be upset by this; just deal with it. **PISCES:** In all the time spent trying to stabilize your emotions and achieve sensitivity, you may get too caught up in your feelings, Pisces. Because of this, you may have not been listening to your rational mind lately, even though it's crying out for you to move forward to a different situation. Take some time to listen to your thoughts and take them more seriously than you have been.