

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Normalcy returns on Siliguri roads for Sikkim vehs



SAURABH RAI SILIGURI, 26 JUN: Sikkim vehicles plying along the National Highway had been experiencing a tensed situation with cases of the odd instances of stone-pelting and vandalism of vehicles being reported in Siliguri over the past two days. The SNT buses had, for instance, begun dropping-off passengers at Salugara due to fear of encountering violence if they went any further into Siliguri. However, normalcy appears to have returned and things remained calm today along

the roads in Siliguri and at the SNT depot here. SNT buses were seen ferrying passengers from Siliguri to Sikkim and vice versa without any hindrance. "Yes things are fine today. We came till the depot and did not face any kind of problem along the highway too," said one conductor working with SNT. Taxis bearing SK numbers were also seen ferrying passengers without any problem. "We did not face any problem along the highway or within Sili-

guri today. It was calm. I just want to enter Sikkim from Rangpo before 6pm," expressed one taxi driver. Clearly, there is still some apprehension given the whole situation in the neighboring region and the temperamental swings things can take there. All this uncertainty in transport has affected a majority of people in and outside Sikkim. Many people were seen at the SNT depot waiting for their journey to Sikkim. However, the rush was not like observed in the past few days.

Chinese troops jostle with Indian forces at Doka La

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): In another transgression, Chinese troops entered India in the Sikkim sector and jostled with Indian army personnel guarding the Sino-India frontier, besides destroying two bunkers, it is being claimed. The face-off has been going on in the general area of Doka La in East Sikkim for the past ten days, official sources said today, further claiming that it was Chinese who stopped pilgrims proceeding for Kailash Mansovar yatra. The Indian troops had to struggle hard to stop the Chinese personnel from advancing further into Indian territory.

They formed a human wall along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to stop the PLA personnel, some of whom also videographed and clicked pictures of the incident. The bunkers have been destroyed in Lalten area of the Doka La area near the India-China-Bhutan tri-junction. A flag meeting was also held between senior army officers of both the sides on June 20, but the tension still continues. It is not the first time that such a transgression has happened at Doka La. The Chinese forces had in November 2008 destroyed some makeshift Indian army bunkers at the same place.

Financial year likely to be changed from 2018; Budget in Nov

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): Come 2018 and the financial year in India could commence from January instead of April as the Centre appears set to make the historic transition to end the 150-year-old tradition. Accordingly, the next Budget could be presented by the Centre in November this year, high level government sources told PTI here today. The sources said the government is working on aligning the financial year with the calendar year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for a change. This would be another historic change after advancement of the Budget presentation to February 1 this year, ending the decades-old practice of presenting the annual exercise in the last week of February.

Eid Mubarak!



NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 26 JUN: Eid-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan, was celebrated in the state with great religious fervour and devotion. In the capital, the Anjuman e-Islamia Mosque witnessed members of the Muslim community con-

gregate for mass prayers. For 26-year-old Mur-tuza Ali, a resident of Gangtok, Eid is associated with morning namaz at the Masjid, followed by a feast of Sewai [sweetened vermicelli] and then visiting homes of friends and family exchanging greetings with the traditional "Eid Mubarak". Exchange of gifts and receiving some amount of money from elders as "Eiddy" is also a common practice, he added. In the Islamic tradition, it is forbidden to fast on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr. An important aspect of the day is, thus, offering of alms, donating and engaging in acts of

kindness for the poor, deprived and the needy. Similarly, for middle aged Abdul Khan, a carpet merchant, the day is reminiscent of "sweet childhood memories" where his mother made delicious sweets including the Sewai. After a month long period of fasting, this day brings together the community as a whole, he said. Similarly, there are reports of Eid celebrations across the state including prayers in mosques across various parts of the state including Namchi, Gyalshing, Mangan, Rangpo and Singtam. [Pics: Sandeep Prasad]

Darj remains incident-free, low-key Eid celebration

DARJEELING (WB), JUN 26 (PTI): The Darjeeling hills today remained incident-free and the GJM allowed a 12-hour bandh relaxation for Muslims in view of Eid-ul-Fitr, which was celebrated on a low key amidst patrolling of the streets by the security forces. Internet services remained suspended while shops and markets were closed. A relaxation in the movement of vehicles for those celebrating Eid was announced earlier for today. Ex-Army men took out a silent procession in support of the demand for a separate Gorkhaland.

Meanwhile, the indefinite shutdown called by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) entered its 12th day today. Party workers distributed vegetables, mainly cabbage, to the people. Three GJM leaders, including MLA Amar Singh Rai, met West Bengal Governor KN Singh at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata and are understood to have apprised him of the prevailing situation in the hills. They also submitted the resignation letters of the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) members to the governor. All 45 elected members of the GTA, including

A day against drug abuse at State Jail

ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 26 JUN: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed here at Sikkim State Central Prison in Rongyok today. The programme was organised by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [SSLSA] in coordination with Sikkim State Central Prison, Serenity Home [Burtuk], Jagriti Rehab [Association for Social Health in India, Sikkim Branch] and Sikkim Rehab & Detoxification Society [Nimtar].



Attending the programme as chief guest was Special Secretary-SSLSA, Matilda Isaacs. A skit was staged by Deepak Dhakal and his team along with members of Jagriti Rehab as part of the event. The function was addressed by the inmates of Jagriti Rehab who shared experiences of what their life was like when they used to be under the influence of drugs. Speaking on the occasion, Special Secretary-SLSA, Matilda Isaacs, informed that SLSA, under the direction of its executive

chairperson and Sikkim High Court Judge, Justice Meenakshi M Rai, has been keeping its focus on the disturbing statistic of drug abuse in the State. The association is implementing NALSA 2015 on mission-mode here in Sikkim, she added. She further informed that the treatment and counselling for prison inmates was a na-

tional scheme that provides legal services to the victims of drug abuse and eradication of drug menace wherein one of the guidelines is to mobilise the available infrastructure in identifying sickness of drug abuse, their treatment and post detoxification rehabilitation. The aim of the scheme is to provide counselling and re-

habilitation programmes for prisoners with chemical dependency and not for drug peddlers charged under Section 7(a) and Section 9(d) of the Sikkim Anti Drugs Act of 2006 (SADA). Inmates of Sikkim State Central Prison and various other rehabilitation centres of Sikkim participated in the event. The programme also had the participation of Arithang Mahila Kalyan Kari Sangh.

After the prayers ended, some members of the community said that they could not buy new clothes. "Shops and markets are closed here. We could not buy new clothes. But that is not a problem. We are celebrating Eid. "We offered namaz. We prayed for peace in the hills," they said. The GJM had yesterday decided to give a 12-hour relaxation for the Muslims to celebrate the festival during which they could use vehicles to go to the plains and meet their relatives. The police and the security forces patrolled the streets of the hills which remained tense. Medicine shops, hospitals and private nursing homes functioned.

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CJ inaugurates District Court complex in Mangan

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 26 JUN:

Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri, inaugurated the District Court complex building of Mangan here at Pentok today.

Also attending the function were Judges, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Minister of HRDD and Law, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs, RB Subba, District & Session Judge-North, Prajal Khatiwada, Judicial Magistrate-Mangan District Court, Binay Sharma, District Magistrate-North, KR Bonpo, Senior Superintendent of Police-North, Sub Divisional Magistrate, along with District Court and DAC staff and local gentries.

The inauguration programme started with the lighting of lamp by Justice Agnihotri. While addressing the gathering, he congratulated the people of North District and urged for proper and immediate delivery systems of justice in the district.

The programme concluded with the delivery of vote of thanks by Judicial Magistrate, Binay Sharma.



SKM forms ward-level committee in Namcheybong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

Sikkim Kranrikari Morcha conducted a Ward Level Committee formation programme at the residence of SKM vice president, PK Subba, at Basnet Ward under Namcheybong constituency in East Sikkim today, informs a press release issued by SKM general secretary [press & publicity, Birendra Tamling.

The meeting was chaired by party advisor, TM Rai, and attended by vice president [head-quarter], TT Rai, general

secretary incharge [Zone II], Nima Wangchuk Bhutia, IB Chettri, Kumar Rai, Samdup Bhutia, along with other senior party workers.

Vice president-SKM, PK Subba, highlighted the SKM party principles, objectives and programmes to the gathering. The meeting also discussed several party-related issues and formed a ward level committee with Justin Rai as ward level president and Rup Lal Subba as vice president along with 11 executives with various portfolios.

Another death due to fall

GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

A 22-year-old male hailing from Teesta Bazaar, Darjeeling, and presently residing in Mamring basti, Pakyong, succumbed to his injuries after he slipped and fell down approximately 200 ft below the road into Pachey river on 25 June. The deceased worked as assistant to a contractor and was on the work site with a companion in a truck load-

ed with hume pipes. On reaching Pachey Bridge near Ganchung, the truck got stuck in a muddy area near the bridge. The deceased along with the other occupant of the truck started putting stones under the tyre to gain some traction. While crossing towards the vehicle along the edge of the road, the deceased slipped and fell off the road in to the river.

Area MLA confers with tourism stakeholders in Pelling

GYALSHING, 26 JUN

[IPR]:

A coordination meeting of all stakeholders of Pelling, West Sikkim, in the presence of area MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, and District officials was held at Narbugang Resort in West Sikkim on 25 Jun.

The programme was organized Pelling Tourism Development Association [PTDA]. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss power & water supply, drainage, tourism, child labour, hospitality & services, health & hygiene, garbage management, security and other issues.

Addressing the gathering, Ms Subba stressed on the sense of responsi-



bility of the local people for sustainable development of tourism and cleanliness in Pelling.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister

Pawan Chamling, our state has been adjudged as the cleanest state in our country and our Government has been doing its best for achieving sus-

tainable development. But our people have not recognized its value and still haven't understood their responsibility and duty towards cleanliness

and garbage management," she expressed.

She further added that paying for the waste disposal vehicles is not the only duty one has but self involvement, belongingness and responsibility must be within every concerned person. Acknowledging the tourist flow in Pelling, Ms Subba kept her suggestion of sanitary sewer system.

Additional District Collector-West, Hondala Gyaltsen, emphasized on waste segregation and waste management and urged people to lend full cooperation to District Administration for cleanliness and development of Pelling.

Intl Day Against Drug Abuse observed in Gyalshing



GYALSHING, 26 JUN

[IPR]:

International Day against Drug Abuse was observed at Gyalshing by District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee, West in coordination with the Police Department of West District and Gyalshing Municipal Council.

The programme was chaired by Chairperson, KC Barfungpha, along with Chief Judicial Magistrate, West, Subarna Rai, Chairman, GMC, I K

Neopaney, SDPO, West, Bishal Rai, Psychiatrist, District Hospital Gyalshing, Dr Kunzang Wangmu, Senior Counselor from Sanjeevani Rehabilitation Society, Namchi, Moses Subba, and Advocate, Pujan Kharka.

The provisions of Sikkim Anti Drugs Act 2006 were disseminated in detail by resource person during the programme along with an explanation on the process of rehabilitation and detoxification.

The gathering was urged to give information to the Police about drug and substance abuse. They were informed that they need not fear while complaining such matters as their names will not be disclosed during the stage of investigation and trial.

The crowd was further informed that as citizens they play a pivotal role in curbing substance abuse by way of reporting matters and also by volunteering to be witnesses.



SINGTAM STUDENTS RALLY AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

SINGTAM, 26 JUN: Students of Singtam Senior Secondary School and Sirwani Secondary School took out a rally in Singtam today to commemorate "International Day Against Drugs Abuse & Illicit Trafficking".

Organized by the Singtam District Hospital and Sikkim Aids Control Society in collaboration with Sikkim Rehabilitation & Detoxification Society, Nimitar, the rally started from Bhanu Park and covered the areas in and around Singtam Bazaar.

The students were accompanied by Principal-Singtam SSS, KB Chettri, Councillor-Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Rajani Singh, teachers of Singtam SSS & Sirwani SS, members of SAATHI and D-Matrix Dance Academy, representatives of Singtam River Association, president of Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti, Krishna Chettri, and local gentries. [YOGEN THATAL]

Dead body of missing person recovered

GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

The body of a 31-year-old hailing from Peauthang in Tashiding, West Sikkim, was found in a decomposed state along the bank of river Ladong on 25 June. The deceased was a farmer and lived with his brother at Peauthang basti, it is learnt. A missing report for the deceased had been filed at Gyalshing Police Station on 17 June when he failed to return after having venture into the forest to collect fodder. Investigations revealed that he had fallen from a height while collecting fodder, the impact of which took his life, police records reveal.

Financial year likely to be changed from 2018; Budget in Nov

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committee to study the feasibility of shifting the financial year to January 1. The panel submitted its report to the Finance Minister in December.

Among the various factors, a NITI Aayog note had said that a change in the financial year was required as the current system leads to sub-optimal utilisation of working season.

It had also noted that the current financial year cycle was chosen without any reference to national culture and traditions or convenience of legislators.

Also, the financial year is not aligned with international practices and it impacted data collection and dissemination from the perspective of national accounts, according to the note prepared by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy and OSD Kishore Desai, citing experts.

A few months back, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance also recommended shifting the financial year to the January-December.

Modi while advocating a change in the financial year had said that there is a need to develop robust arrangements that could function amidst diversity.

"Because of poor time management, many good initiatives and schemes had failed to deliver the anticipated results," the prime minister had said.

Madhya Pradesh became the first state to announce shifting of its financial year format to January-December from 2018.

SSB organizes public awareness against substance abuse



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

The 36th Battalion of the Sashastra Seema Bal, Gyalshing, organised a Rally-cum-Public Awareness programme today to mark the International Day against Anti Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

A press release informs that the rally which was attended by more than 100 SSB officers and personnel started from New Sakyong taxi stand in Gyalshing and moved along Gyalshing District Hospital, Pelling More and con-

cluded at Gyalshing Bazaar.

A public awareness meeting was also organised by SSB personnel on reaching the pit stop where in District Magistrate-West, Kapil Meena, addressed the gathering as chief guest. Mr Meena was accompanied by Chairman-GMC, NK Neopani, as guest of honour, along with Councillor, Sharda Agarwal, and other members of Gyalshing Municipal Corporation.

The SSB officers and participating guests delivered lectures on drug abuse and illicit trafficking during the meeting.

CONTACT
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9832556698,
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Gangtok on Tuesday, 27 June

Temp: 26°C / 18°C
Forecast: Mostly cloudy with a shower or thunderstorm in spots.
Sunrise: 04:43 AM
Sunset: 06:34 PM

Assam flood situation worsens, lightning strikes kill 5 in MP

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): The monsoon is expected to hit Delhi and its neighbouring areas in the next three to four days, even as sultry weather conditions prevailed in many northern states today while Assam's flood situation worsened affecting over one lakh people.

As the monsoon got active in parts of Madhya Pradesh, five persons were killed and two injured after being struck by lightning at three places in Chhindwara and Mandsaur districts since yesterday.

It was cloudy and sunny in patches in the national capital which witnessed sultry weather conditions, while the weatherman has predicted that the monsoon will arrive in Delhi and its neighbouring areas in the next three to four days.

The maximum temperature in Delhi settled at 38.6 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average, while the humidity level oscillated between 75 and 49 per cent. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also warned of "heavy to very heavy rains" at isolated places with "extremely heavy fall" at isolated places over Konkan and Goa.

"Monsoon should reach Delhi and the neighbouring parts in the next three to four days. Its advance over parts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh will happen during the same period," said IMD Director General K J Ramesh.

The flood situation in Assam worsened as four new districts being inundated taking the total number of flood-hit districts to eight.

L a k h i m p u r, Karimganj, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, Hojai, Golaghat, Sivasagar and Sonitpur districts have been a flooded affecting over one lakh people, Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report stated.

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Bethi Ropai goes grand at Samdong-Kambal



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 26 JUN:

People of Raktong-Tintek and Samdong-Kambal Gram Panchayat Units of East Sikkim observed "Bethi Ropai" at Kambal, near Kamaleswar Shivalaya, under Tumin Lingee constituency, today. Bethi Ropai, it may be recalled, is the planting of paddy on the terraces after the saplings have grown in strength in the nurseries.

The programme was initiated by Panchayat Development Assistant Raktong-Tintek and supported by Horticulture and Agriculture Department officials under Raktong Tintek Block.

The main objective

of organizing the programme was to promote the traditional way of sowing paddy as part of farming.

The Ropai started with a short walk from Kamaleswar Shivalaya to the field while Naumatti Baaja played in the background. People gathered for the event sang folk songs during the Ropai programme.

The family of the field owner, Shyam Lal Bhat-tarai, was garlanded by organizers and Gram Panchayat.

Deputy Director-Horticulture, KL Koirala, highlighted the importance of organic farming and urged the youth to practice farming.

Personality development and leadership training for SLYA representatives

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

A two-day workshop, 'Personality Development & Leadership Training', was organized by Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association [SLYA] on 24-25 Jun at Janata Bhawan in Gangtok for representatives from different branches of SLYA. Delegates from various Kyong [village], constituency and district level branches of SLYA participated in the workshop, a press release informs.

Advisor, Human Resource Development Department, OT Lepcha, attended the occasion as chief guest accompanied by Chairperson, Primitive Tribe Welfare Board, SD Lepcha, as guest of honour. Also attending the programme were members from Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum and former members of SLYA.



Addressing the gathering, chief guest Mr Lepcha extended a warm welcome to delegates and urged participants to make the most of the knowledge imparted through the two day workshop.

Appreciating the efforts made by SLYA for the development of youth force by conducting such events, he called on the gathering to work hard and reap the bene-

fits of Government welfare schemes like UPSC coaching classes for civil service aspirants.

Further while assuring every possible help from the government as well as from a personal level to the organization, he handed a token aid to the president of SLYA.

Guest of honour SD Lepcha encouraged the youth to come forward and become the leaders of tomorrow. He also

shared the vision and initiatives of the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board for the development of the Lepcha youth and community as a whole.

The workshop featured a special lecture by Executive Member-SLYA, Tshering Choda Lepcha, who helped the participants understand and work efficiently for the smooth functioning and strengthening of the organisation at various levels.

Similarly, Assistant Professor, Archana Chhetri [Clinical Psychologist, CRH, Tadong], gave a presentation on personality development and its impact on one's life at different stages.

While lecturing on leadership, Senior Lecturer, Ranju Pradhan Lepcha [SCERT, Government of Sikkim], talked about various leadership qualities that one has to inculcate in order to be a good leader. She also talked about various good qualities that is attributed with Lepcha community and urged the gathering to harness those attributes in which they are good at.

Alcoholism being one of the serious menaces affecting the society at large, she also focused on the negative impact of this abuse on ones leadership qualities.



EID IN SINGTAM

SINGTAM, 26 JUN: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated in Singtam today with a congregation of people belonging not just to the Muslim community of the town but also including their friends from other faiths joining in spreading cheer and a strong sense of unity.

40 mentally-ill persons found chained near MP shrine rescued

RATLAM (MP), JUN 26 (PTI): In a shocking incident, as many as 40 'mentally-ill' persons were found chained and detained in various hotels and lodges in the vicinity of Hussain Tekri shrine near Jaora town in the district, following which they were rescued by police.

"We rescued about 40 persons, who were chained, during a search operation conducted in Hussain Tekri area yesterday after we received complaints in this regard. We arrested Mohammed Saeed Akhtar, owner of Vasi Lodge, from where about a dozen persons were rescued," Jaora City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Deepak Shukla said today.

He said Akhtar had kept around a dozen people chained at his lodge and was allegedly fleeing their family members.

Shukla said after rescuing 12 persons from

Akhtar's lodge, police traced another 28 persons, who were found in the similar condition in various lodges in the area.

As per a belief, mentally-ill people get "cured" when brought to the shrine and chained.

Usually, family members of such people chain them and keep them in hotels for certain period of time for "healing".

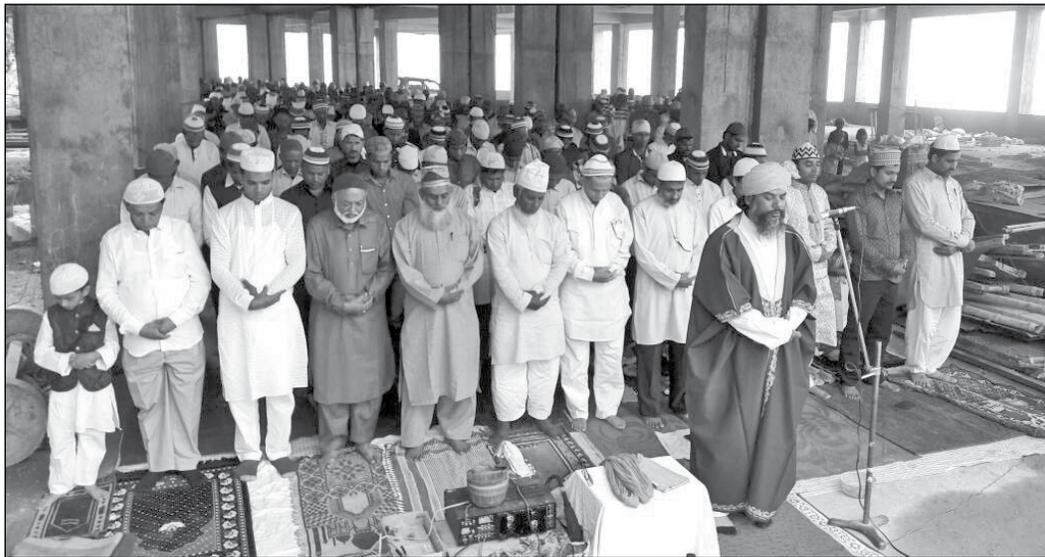
However, it is not known since when these 40 persons had been chained, according to police.

Following the incident, the police have warned owners of hotels and lodges located around the shrine against keeping anybody chained in future.

"Nobody should be chained under no circumstances, irrespective of whether the person is mentally sick or sane.

We have warned owners of all the lodg-

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THE MORNING NAMAZ OF EID-UL-FITR BEING OFFERED IN NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM, ON MONDAY.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

This Eid, We Should Have Said Sorry

By outsourcing nationalism to a political ideology, we have let the country down

There is much that we, as citizens of this great democracy, need to be apologetic about, especially when it comes to the sustained uncertainties we have imposed on the minorities and the marginalized, particularly the Muslims of the land. Those of us who happen to have Muslim friends would have noticed that Eid-ul-Fitr passed in a generally subdued note across the nation and the region. And no, it was not just demonetization that depressed the celebrations, it was more the brazen villianisation of victims of systemic violence that has marred the moment. The apologies should have come much earlier, but since they didn't, the wake of an Eid offers that opportunity.

Residents of Faridabad's Khandwali village in UP observed Eid this year wearing black arm-bands during the morning namaz. It might have almost become fashionable nowadays to flaunt black arm-bands, even sporting them as stylish bandanas, for whichever issue social-media flags for the day, but it is not as easily adopted by Muslims on such a special occasion as the morning namaz of Eid-ul-Fitr. Their faith does not allow for superficial rituals, so there must have been a very deep hurt they are nursing. And there are few hurts deeper than losing a son to detestable communalism which is increasingly being normalized in our country due to sheer repetition. 17-year-old Junaid of Khandwali was stabbed to death on board a train while returning from Eid shopping in Delhi.

Violence is not rare in the region Junaid comes from, but the violence which visited him and his brothers, irrespective of what triggered the altercation, was taken to its macabre end by the near perpetual targeting of people of his faith in the country. And media has played a role in this. When television debates over the lynching of a suspected cow smuggler or beef eater discusses the bovine angle with even more seriousness than the clearly criminal intent of the attackers, they send out a signal that the victim somehow invited the violence with this conduct. Hmm... where have we heard that argument before? Point out the disgusting chauvinism that such incidents and the follow-up discussions display, and one is greeted with the same righteous offence as the documentary, "India's Daughter", was treated to for having exposed the endemic patriarchy and social sanction that set up our daughters as such easy targets of rape. When television channels cry blue murder because some Muslims supposedly celebrated Pakistan's victory in a cricket match, not the battlefield mind you, they perpetuate a prejudice that mass media and dominant politics are already trying hard to establish.

Cheering for another country is no crime and should not be projected as one. But we routinely allow it to be done and when we do so, we also become part of the rabble-rousers and end up sharing part of the blame when mad mob acts out the suspicions and fears. By allowing a political ideology to define nationalism for us, we disown democracy itself, and for this and everything else we put fellow Muslim citizens of the country through, this Eid, we should have apologized.

QUANDA ZHANG
theconversation.com

A small boost in microlending to the developing world could lift more than 10.5 million people out of extreme poverty. That's one conclusion of my study, published last month in *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, which found that microfinance not only reduces how many households live in poverty but also how poor they are.

Currently, 836 million people – or 12% of the world's population – experience extreme poverty, living off less than US\$1.25 a day. Using data from 106 developing countries from between 1998 and 2013 to examine the efficacy of microlending as a poverty-reduction tool, I found that just a 10% increase in the gross microfinance loan portfolio per client could cut this number by 1.26%.

While the world has seen some progress over the past 15 years in reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which placed eradicating hunger and poverty on top of the global agenda, extreme poverty remains a pressing challenge. It continues to be a priority in the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

By 2015, the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty had dropped to 14% from 50% in 1990, according to the MDG Monitor. But in Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 40% population continues to live on less than US\$1.25 a day. And extreme poverty appears to have increased in Western Asia.

Poverty may have retreated, but it clearly remains a force in people's lives.

MICROFINANCE AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The practice of giving small loans (as little as US\$10 or as much as \$US500) to the very poor, alongside other financial services such as savings accounts and financial training, was the brainchild of economist Muhammad Yunus.

In the 1970s, he began offering credit to poor women in the village of Jobra, Bangladesh, so that they could launch income-generating projects to help support themselves and their families. In 2006, those experiments won Yunus and his microcredit-focused Grameen Bank a Nobel Peace Prize.

Since then, various forms of microlending programs have been introduced in many countries, from India to the United States. According to a 2015 report from advocacy organisation Microcredit Summit Campaign, by 2013, some 3,098 microfinance institutions had reached over 211 million clients worldwide, just under half of whom were living in ex-

Yes, microlending reduces extreme poverty



The first microloans were made to women in rural Bangladesh in the 1970s. Banesa Khatun (far left) here in 2006, was still using Grameen Bank 30 years later.

trepreneurship.

In 2017, the market for microfinance investments in micro, small and medium enterprises, as well as the provision of financial services to those businesses, is projected to grow by an average of 10% to 15%. Even stronger growth is expected in India and the Asia-Pacific region.

Access to credit enables poor people to become entrepreneurs, increasing their earnings and improving their quality of life. Many lenders accompany their small loans and financial services with peer support, networking opportunities and even health care to improve their clients' odds of building a successful small business.

In doing so, many economists submit, they show that microfinance has a powerful potential to reduce poverty.

But evidence that microfinance actually works is mixed. Studies examining its impact in rural Pakistan, urban Kenya and Uganda, among other developing countries, have both confirmed and contradicted the premise of Muhammad Yunus's innovation.

EVIDENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

My study aimed to make sense of

this inconclusive evidence, taking a macroeconomic approach that pulls information from many countries together to provide a clearer picture.

Officially, poverty is measured using two World Bank indicators: the poverty headcount ratio (which measures the percentage of the population living below the US\$1.25 a day mark) and the poverty gap (which assesses how far below that line people fall, on average, and is expressed as a percentage).

The key variable of significance in my analysis is participation in microfinance programs. I defined this in two ways for each country studied: the proportion of total clients as a share of national population, and the average size of loan (gross loan portfolio over total clients), using microfinance data from the Microcredit Summit Campaign and MIX Market), a microfinance auditing firm.

What I found was a negative relationship between microfinance participation and poverty, meaning that the more people in a given country received small loans, the less poverty it registered. Thus, in the average developing nation, an increase in the gross loan portfolio per client by just

10% could reduce the extreme poverty rate by 0.0126 percentage points.

I also found that microfinance reduces the depth of poverty, shrinking the gap between a person's daily budget for living and the current US\$1.25 per day definition of extreme poverty (the non-poor have a 0% shortfall).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Microfinance is no panacea. Numerous studies have shown that country-specific and cultural factors are determinants in how microfinance will interact with poverty, and there are occasionally devastating tales of failure in which the inability to repay a very small loan has plunged households further into desperate penury.

Overall, however, my study suggests that more microcredit would benefit poor countries. National governments and international development agencies can continue to promote microfinance as a tool for reducing poverty, while bearing in mind the limitations of any single strategy in tackling an entrenched global problem.

[the writer is PhD Candidate and Researcher in Economics, RMIT University]

How the Vietnamese cult of heroes promotes nationalism in politics

THI HONG HA HOANG
theconversation.com

The Vietnamese government is trying to pass a new law on religion that will separate the nation's many cults authorised and unauthorised. The move illustrates the government's control over private cults and how it uses them for its own benefit.

The worship of Trần Hưng Đạo, a legendary warrior-turned-saint, is a good example of the way the Vietnamese authorities use religious figures to push their nationalistic agenda.

THE CULT OF HEROES

Government controls on religion have existed throughout Vietnamese history. Tensions over religion arose during communist rule but, since 1986 (along with economic and political reforms), the government has enhanced its legitimacy and power by approving popular cults, in the same way dynasties in the past did.

Vietnam differs from other Southeast Asian countries in that there's a particular devotion to heroes in its political culture and religious system. Among the Kinh – the main ethnic group in Vietnam – Buddhism, Daoism and Christianity have co-existed alongside traditional religions and beliefs that often involve hero cults.

This kind of worship grew and has remained strong because of Vietnam's history of invasions. Since 938, when the country freed itself from 1,000 years of rule from the Chinese, heroes from different eras – including from former feudal dynasties and the recent communist period



Kiep Bac temple, Vietnam, where people worship the hero Saint Tran

– have been worshipped.

These heroes are honoured as saints or gods and are worshipped in temples and shrines. They form a sacred and spiritual bond between the past and the present.

Although atheism dominated the country during the communist era, many still believe in the existence of souls. Heroes connect people to the world of the dead and of ancestors, which are a regular feature of local cults.

According to French historian Benoit de Tréglodé, more than 60% of the gods worshipped in rural areas and villages are those who once fought in wars to protect the country.

These heroes' images have played an important role in maintaining power through various Vietnamese dynasties, each of which paid attention to building and maintaining temples to such heroes in

order to secure the people's support.

THE MAKING OF A NATIONAL HERO

Among Vietnamese heroes, Trần Hưng Đạo is the most popular nationwide. He is regarded as a war hero from the 13th century Trần Dynasty. According to legend, he successfully defeated invaders from the Mongol Empire. People developed a cult of Trần and propagated legends about his life.

In the 20th century, he re-emerged as a symbol of resistance against French colonial power and then against Americans during the Vietnam War.

Trần Hưng Đạo is the only figure in Vietnam to be the head of a wide religious sect that includes his family members and even his close army generals. People refer to him as thần (genie) thánh (deity).

Trần's powers soon became limitless. He would not only defeat enemies but also eliminate diseases and evil spirits. Ceremonies

are conducted for pregnant women and newborn babies in his name, organised by mediums and their disciples, to cure diseases.

The medium asks Saint Trần and the gods in his family to possess him. His cheeks are then pierced by steel sticks. He is suspended from a ceiling or stage until his face turns red enough to scare away evil spirits from the sick, and his tongue is slit to collect blood to make amulets against disease.

POLITICAL USE OF CULTS

In the feudal period, the cult received royal support. But by the early 20th century, worship rituals and medium possession were considered superstitions by both Confucians and Vietnamese intellectuals and the practices were condemned. But the French colonial administration supported the cults to divert people's attention.

During the 1986 Doi Moi reforms, which opened Vietnam to industrialisation while retaining a protected economy, these practices became more prevalent than ever, pushed by a government that saw them as a powerful political tool to glorify the nation while opening it to new markets.

The worship of Saint Trần became widely accepted. Civil servants and high administration functionaries were invited to festivals and death anniversaries. Ancient pagodas, temples and shrines that had been closed during the hardline communist rule of the 1960s were reopened and restored. And people were able to visit worship places freely and purchase sacrificial and religious items, such as joss paper.

Village festivals were held and people started to search for their lost ancestors' graves. These monuments, which were once considered feudal governors' ruling instruments became national cultural heritage once more.

POSSESSION AS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE? Today, Trần Hưng Đạo is present in many different forms in the daily lives of Vietnamese people. Roads and streets are named after him; sculptures grace parks and transport interchanges.

Children learn about him in textbooks alongside stories of the Trần Dynasty. And his places of worship have become tourist attractions.

But the practice of medium possession is still a controversial topic and is not recognised by the authorities.

Many argue that the cult of Saint Trần has become a part of Vietnam's national intangible heritage and goes with medium possession practices found in the religion of Four Palaces. In this Vietnamese cosmology, spirits – old and new – are governed by the Mother Goddess.

Trần Hưng Đạo remains alive in Vietnam but his powers are challenged by more recent heroes such as president Hồ Chí Minh and general Võ Nguyên Giáp, a military commander who led Vietnamese forces against the US and the French.

Could Saint Trần be one day forgotten and replaced by other, more manageable nationalistic heroes?

[the writer is Researcher, Université Paris Nanterre – Université Paris Lumières]

Activate back channels if formal talks not possible

SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 26 JUN:

Religious festivals have a way of bringing out the best from the society. Generosity takes precedence over other issues however pressing, during festivals.

Proving the theory correct, Id on Monday won a rare day of relaxation from the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) to the ongoing bandh in the Darjeeling hills. People, those who could, made most out of the break unaware what is in store Tuesday onwards.

By the GJM's announcement, it is to burn copies of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) agreement on Tuesday. That understandably would spark another round of demonstration, but this time it is expected to be on peaceful lines.

Meanwhile, the movement in the hills is causing jitters in the plains areas, particularly, Siliguri. Thousands took to the streets in Siliguri on Sunday opposing the statehood de-



mand. Amazingly, no organization - political or apolitical coordinated the demonstration. It was a spontaneous assemblage organized through social media.

If what is happening in the hills is the reflection of the people's mood, Sunday's protest march in Siliguri was equally so and therein may lie the danger. Such for and

against people's movements have the tendency to defy logic and turn ugly.

Communal unrest is generally the byproduct of such acts, as had been observed in the Dooars in the Gorkhaland movement of 1985-86 and then again in 2013. If the Dooars decides to follow Siliguri's footsteps, the situation could spiral out of control and

therefore must be checked without further delay.

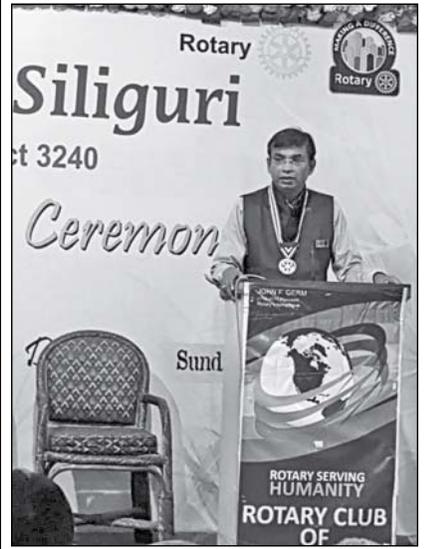
That makes talks all the more necessary to bring the Darjeeling situation under control. Albeit late, the West Bengal government has realized the necessity to hold talks with the hill-centric agitating parties. But, the later wants talks with the Centre, which so far has not responded to the wish.

If formal talks are not possible under the glare of the movement, back channels should be activated to bring the agitating sides to the table. This is not a war against an enemy nation where negotiations are out of the question. Our own people are locked in a disagreement, maybe on the aggressive side, and so talks are the only option.

Otherwise, the stalemate introduced, is making public life miserable. All know it, all see it, but no side is prepared to relent. The agitating parties will do well to debate for the sake of the people if such a stand would serve any purpose.

The state government meanwhile may have decided not to interrupt demonstrations in the hills as long as those are peaceful. That is a sign of good intent. Trying to force an idea down one's gullet is never acceptable and can only create resentment and resistance.

Enough of destruction has been caused. Now let us call a truce.



Rotary Slg installs new office bearers

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

Rotary Club of Siliguri held its annual installation day of change guard ceremony on 25 Jun at the Rotary Hall in Pradhan Nagar, Siliguri.

A press release issued by its president, Subhassish Chatterjee, informs that on 26 Jun in 1968, Rotary Club of Siliguri was chartered as the only Rotary Club in the region.

During the programme, Mr Chatterjee introduced the incoming president, Trubhuvan Singh, to the gathering and handed over the baton of the club to him for the year 2018.

District Governor for the year 2018, Dr Santayan Gupta, administered the oath taking ceremony for the new president & his team, adds the release.

Assam flood situation worsens, lightning strikes kill 5 in MP

contd from pg03

Altogether 170 hectare of agriculture land with standing crops have been submerged in flood water with Lakhimpur district being the worst hit, it said.

Eight relief camps have been set up with seven of them in Sonitpur district and one in Karimganj giving succour to a total over 11,700 flood-displaced people.

River Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat district and Katakhal river at Matazuri in Hailakandi district were flowing above the danger level.

Light to moderate rain occurred at many places in Rajasthan with Kotda in Udaipur registering maximum 5 cm rain since yesterday.

Churu was the hottest place in the state with a day temperature of 44.8 degrees Celsius even as it received 21.6 mm rains. Arthuna in Banswara recorded 4 cm rainfall while Jaipur and Ajmer registered 12.2 and 2.6 mm rain respectively.

Sultry weather conditions continued in most parts of Haryana and Punjab with their common capital Chandigarh recording a maximum temperature of 36 degrees Celsius, even as high humidity levels prevailed here.

However, various parts of Uttarakhand were lashed by heavy rains in the early hours bringing the much-needed relief from the muggy weather conditions.

Dehradun received 177 mm of rains followed by Mussoorie 150 mm, Ukhimath 137.5 mm and Jakholi 71.2 mm.

Hot and humid weather conditions prevailed across Bihar with Gaya recording the highest maximum temperature of 37.1 degrees Celsius followed by Bhagalpur 37 degrees Celsius, Patna 36.4 degrees Celsius and Purnea 35.5 degrees Celsius.

Mamata Banerjee should apologise to Darj people: Vijayvargiya

KOLKATA, JUNE 26 (PTI): The BJP does not support GJM's demand for creation of a separate state, the party's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya made it clear once again.

However, Vijayvargiya said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should apologise to the people of the Darjeeling hills for her failure to address their need for development.

"I do not support the creation of Gorkhaland, but I do support the development of the Gorkha



people and their culture and heritage," Vijayvargiya said yesterday participating in a Rathayatra programme. "The state govern-

ment has created Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) to address the need for development of the hill people. But, the state government did not

meet their expectations," he had said. Vijayvargiya also alleged that the Mamata Banerjee government failed to give the hill people financial as well as administrative rights.

"This is why Gorkhas have grudge against the chief minister and as a result they resorted to organising protest movements," Vijayvargiya had said.

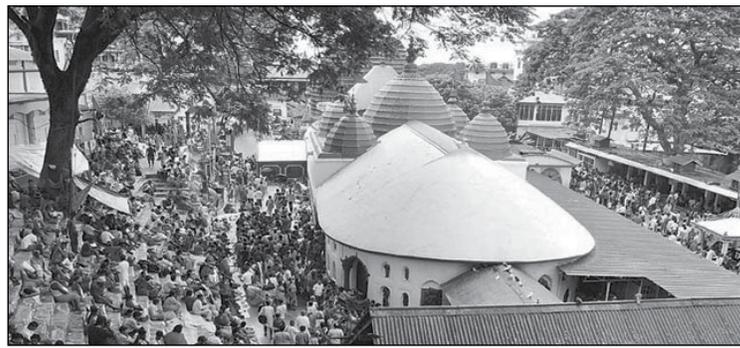
State BJP president Dilip Ghosh had said earlier that the creation of states on the basis of ethnicity and language

would divide the country into pieces.

"We did not raise any objection when it came to the creation of states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

But we can never support the demand to turn a village or municipal corporation into a state," he said.

"We do not support the demand for creation of a state on the basis on ethnicity or language of the people. If such things happen, then the country will be divided into pieces," Ghosh had said.



Lakhs of pilgrims visit Kamakhya temple

GUWAHATI, JUN 26 (PTI): Lakhs of pilgrims today offered prayers to Goddess Kamakhya after the doors of the Kamakhya temple atop the Nilachal Hill here reopened after remaining closed for four days

The doors which were closed from the 22nd of this month reopened after routine rituals and prayers at 6.15 am this morning with devotees eagerly waiting to get a darshan of the Devi.

The faithfuls said they queued up from 2 am to enter Kamakya temple, considered most sacred and oldest of the 51 Shakti Peeths of the country, so that they could offer their prayers and obeisance to Maa Kamakhya at the culmination of Ambubachi Mela.

Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also of-

fered offered prayers to Goddess Kamakhya on the occasion of the Ambubachi mela.

The temple this year witnessed an unprecedented rush of an estimated eight lakh pilgrims from all over the country and abroad converging at Kamakhya temple on banks of the mighty Brahmaputra for Ambubachi Mela, according to Kamakhya Temple management sources.

The mela, also known as Amoti or Tantric fertility festival during the monsoon season falling in the Assamese month of Aahaar, is the celebration of the yearly menstruation course of goddess Kamakhya.

Believing the temple's presiding goddess Devi Kamakhya or Mother Shakti or Mother Earth goes through her annual cycle of menstruation during this time the doors

of the temple are closed to visitors for four days.

According to Hindu tradition Ambubachi symbolises ancient agricultural concept that Mother Earth is a fertile woman whose womb germinates seeds.

The temple has no idol of the presiding deity but Goddess Kamakhya is instead worshipped in the form of a yoni-like (private part/womb) stone over which a natural spring flows in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.

According to the Kalika Purana, Kamakhya Temple denotes the spot where Lord Shiva's wife Sati's yoni fell after Shiva danced with her corpse, while a later work Yogi Tantra ignores this and associates Kamakhya with the goddess Kali and emphasises the creative symbolism of the yoni.

Team formed to hunt Odisha's mysterious sheep killer

BHUBANESWAR, JUN 26 (PTI): Odisha government today sought a report from Chief District Veterinary Officer (CDVO) of Cuttack on the killing of a large number of sheep under mysterious circumstances in Niali area.

"I have sought a report from the CDVO, Cuttack, after getting to know about killing of about 150 sheep within a period of two months," Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Damodar Rout said.

Cuttack district collector Nirmal Mishra has asked the officials to set up a team to investigate into death of sheep.

The team would consist of local tehsildar, local police inspector, forest officials. Some villagers would also be taken into the team, Mishra said adding that he suspected that hyena or wild wolves from nearby Bhanra forest might be killing the sheep.

"CCTV cameras will also be installed at sensitive places, if needed," he said.

The latest report of killing of three sheep came from Alana village under Niali block last night, police said.

It is being alleged by some quarter that wild animals were attacking sheep in villages and eating only their liver.

The minister, however, denied this. "The deaths of sheep is true, but liver missing is false. Chief District Veterinary Officer (CDVO), Cuttack, has written to the Forest Department regarding the matter," Rout said.

People of Niali, particularly sheep owners, were spending sleepless nights. They tried to capture the killer but in vain.

Cong seeks Modi, Swaraj response in Mansarovar pilgrimage row

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): The Congress today demanded a comprehensive statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj over the denial of entry to 47 pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet through the Nathu La pass in Sikkim recently.

"This is a serious issue and we would want that Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj take up the issue with their Chinese counterparts and ensure the Mansarovar yatra route is opened for Shiv-bhaktis (followers of Lord Shiva)," AICC chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

He also took a dig at the BJP government for patting its back when the China route for the Mansarovar yatra was started. Today, when China has illegally stopped the

yatra by humiliating Indian pilgrims, the same government adopted a "conspiratorial silence", Surjewala said.

China had last week refused entry to the 47 Indian pilgrims who were scheduled to travel to Kailash Mansarovar through the Nathu La pass in Sikkim.

The pilgrims were scheduled to cross over to the Chinese side on June 19 but had failed to do so due to inclement weather. They had waited at the base camp and tried to cross again on June 23 but were denied permission by the Chinese officials.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay had said some difficulties were being experienced in the movement of pilgrims through Nathu La and that India was taking up the matter with China.

40 mentally-ill persons found chained near MP shrine rescued

contd from pg03

lodge, escaped and subsequently approached the police with the help of his relatives. One Dilip Parmar, a resident of Sagorkuti village in Dhar district, had also lodged a similar complaint.

As per a belief, people "possessed with evil spirits" are brought to the shrine for healing.

Recently, one Kaluram Chouhan (55), who was kept chained at Vasi

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Football academy to be set up at Sairang: Vijay Goel

AIZAWL, JUN 26 (PTI): Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel today said that a football academy would be set up at the Mizoram Football Association's (MFA) football ground at Sairang village near Aizawl.

Goel, who is on a maiden two-day visit to Mizoram after becoming the Union Minister, said that the Football Academy would be set up in view of the recent excellent performance of Mizoram teams in national level football tournaments.

Mizoram's Aizawl Football Club (AFC) bagged the prestigious I-League 2017 while Mizoram team also won the National Games football in 2015 and the Santosh Trophy in 2014.

Goel accompanied by Mizoram Sports minister Zodintluanga also visited the Suaka Cricket ground.

Mizoram govt to hold political level talks with HPC (D)

AIZAWL, JUN 26 (PTI): The peace talks between Mizoram government and the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) scheduled to be held during July is most likely to be elevated to political level talks from the present official level talks, a senior state Home department official today said.

The official said that four rounds of talks held since August 10 last year were held under cordial atmosphere and mutual trusts and had proceeded fast towards reaching an amicable settlement to the vexed Hmar imbroglio.

The ongoing talks had revolved around deliberations on the autonomy and functions to be accorded to the Sinlung Hills Development Council (SHDC) which is most likely to be renamed as Sinlung Hills Council (SHC). Financial allocation for rehabilitation and resettlement of HPC (D) cadres once they came over ground with arms had reportedly been approved by the state Finance department.

Strength-lifters complete two days of intense competition



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 26 JUN:

Two daylong Sikkim Strengthlifting & Inclined Bench Press Championship for junior, senior, master, and differently-abled men & women, organized by Sikkim Strength Lifting Association [SSLA], concluded here at the White Hall today.

Addressing the valedictory function, Minister

for Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Ugen T Gyatso, who was present as chief guest, congratulated the participants on their performance and competitive zeal during the two day event.

"Health should be given top priority in life. Staying fit and strong adds to our mental performance too. We should work hard to pursue our desired goals and

that hard work should come from our soul. It is also a proud moment that women of Sikkim are leading in various fields today. We should be thankful to our state government for providing opportunities to the women of Sikkim," Mr Gyatso added.

The function was also addressed by Marathon Man, Amar Subba, attending the event as guest of

honour. He shared details about his journey till date and encouraged the gathering to stay mentally as well as physically fit. Staying focused is the key to achieving success, he added.

The winners, Champion of Champions:

Senior Men: Pem Dorje Sherpa (White Hall Gym) Senior Women: Manisha Tiwari (White Hall Gym) Junior Men: Tikaram Lo-

har (Pema's Gym) Master Champion: Homnath Siwakoti (Pema's Gym) Best Dress: Khambachas Hat Gym (Jorethang) Best Coach: Body Zone (Singtam) Best Referee: Pema Dorje Bhutia Best Discipline: Synergy Gym (Geyzing) Overall Team Winner: White Hall Gym Runners up: Pema's Gym

Two men from Maharashtra pedal into history, become 1st Indians to finish RAAM

ASHISH AGASHE

MUMBAI, JUNE 26 (PTI): Eleven days, 18 hours and 45 minutes after setting out from California, Srinivas Gokulnath created history by becoming the first Indian to complete what is considered to be the toughest cycle race in the world -- the 4,900-km Race Across America (RAAM) in solo category.

In a feat that marks the Indian arrival on the endurance cycling scene globally, another Maharashtrian, Dr Amit Samarth of Nagpur, followed him at the finish line at Annapolis on American east coast around midnight today as per the Indian time.

Among the nine men who finished, Gokulnath stood 7th while Samarth was right on his heels at number 8. The race was won by Christoph Strasser.

Team Sahyadri Cyclists, from Gokulnath's hometown of Nashik, completed the race in the 4-men category in eight days and 10 hrs today.

Unlike a stage race like the famed Tour de France, the clock is constantly ticking at RAAM, and the riders have to pedal over 400 km a day to finish the race in the stipulated 12 days. They can rest for only a couple of hours a day at best; extreme fatigue, sleeplessness and hallucinations are not uncommon.

"I am relieved...that is the feeling I am going through right now," is all Lt Colonel Gokulnath could say at the finish line.

Starting from temperate climes on the Pacific Coast, the race enters the furnace-like Mojave Desert, passes through arid Arizona, cold mountain passes in Colorado, windy plains in central America, and finally the Appalachian Mountains test the riders before they reach the Atlantic coast on the east.

In its over three-decade history, only three Indians had attempted RAAM solo, but no one could finish. Samim Rizvi, the first Indian to attempt, also took part this year but couldn't finish.

Gokulnath said he went through various emotions right from the start of the race,



which he termed as a "relentless effort" from the moment one signs up for it.

Gokulnath, a doctor by training, is an aerospace medicine specialist working with the Army in Nashik, and was competing for the second consecutive year at RAAM (he was timed out last year after pedalling for nearly 3,000 km).

Samarth, however, finished the race in his maiden attempt.

Apart from Rizvi and Gokulnath, Sumit Patil from Alibag was the only one to have attempted the race in the past.

More than a dozen Indian riders have qualified for RAAM during the past decade through special rides that take place in various regions like the Deccan plateau, the Thar desert and the hills of south India.

After qualifying, one has to undergo gruelling training for several months, do simulated multi-day rides with a specially collected crew, and also arrange the financ-

es that run up to over Rs 20 lakh for the race and more for training.

Congratulating the finishers, Satish Patki, who virtually introduced distance cycling in the country over a decade ago, said the resources required make it an exclusive club, but there is a huge potential for endurance riding in India too which can be explored by having domestic races.

Mahendra and Hitendra Mahajan, doctors from Nashik, had won the two-men category last year, marking the first Indian finish at the RAAM, but a solo finish was elusive till Gokulnath crossed the line. Mahajan brothers returned to RAAM this year as crew members in Team Sahyadri.

Multi-disciplinary interests in endurance sports are almost like a given -- the Mahajan brothers are active distance runners while Samarth has done multiple Ironman triathlons and marathons.

Prohibitory orders imposed in Tripura after CPI(M), BJP clash

BELONIA (TRIPURA), JUN 26 (PTI): Prohibitory orders has been imposed here after clashes between CPI(M) and BJP party workers left twenty-six people injured, police said today.

The Tripura State Rifles (TSR) and CRPF jawans have been deployed in the area as a precautionary measure, a senior police official said.

The clash took place at around 10 pm in Mirja subdivision on Saturday when the BJP activists were putting up their party flags, which was resisted by the CPI(M) supporters.

The incident left twenty-three party workers of BJP and three CPI(M) activists injured, Superintendent of Police (SP) Monchak Ipper said, adding that the injured were hospitalised and their condition is stable.

"The prohibitory or-

ders under Section 144 CrPC has been clamped in Belonia since yesterday. The situation is completely under control now," the SP said.

The state BJP vice president Subal Bhowmick, who visited the area yesterday, alleged that "an unprecedented violence has been unleashed by the ruling CPI(M) throughout the state" and demanded "imposition of Disturbed Areas Act in the state to ensure safety and security of people."

CPI(M) state secretary Bijan Dhar said, "the demand for Disturbed Areas Act was a pre-planned conspiracy of BJP to disturb peace and tranquillity in the state."

"It is wrong that the CPI(M) unleashed violence on the BJP workers rather the BJP activists have been attacking the CPI(M) cadres in the state," Dhar said.

Indrani among 200 booked for rioting in jail post convict's death

MUMBAI, JUN 26 (PTI): Nearly 200 Byculla jail inmates, including Indrani Mukerjea, the prime accused in the Sheena Bora murder case, have been booked for rioting and other offences following the death of a woman convict.

Manju Govind Shette (45), a convict, died at the government-run J J Hospital on Friday night after allegedly being beaten up by a woman prison official.

Subsequently, six jail staffers were placed under suspension and yesterday police registered a case under IPC section 302 (punishment for murder) against them.

Following Shette's death, over 200 women inmates of the jail were up in arms since Saturday morning.

Some inmates on Saturday climbed atop the roof of the jail while newspapers were torched inside, a police

official earlier said.

The inmates alleged that Shette was beaten up by a woman prison official. They wanted to present the issue before the media which is not permissible under prison rules, he said.

Indrani, who is lodged in the Byculla prison, is among the 200 inmates against whom a case was yesterday registered for rioting, unlawful assembly, assault on public servant and other relevant sections under the Indian Penal Code, a police official said today.

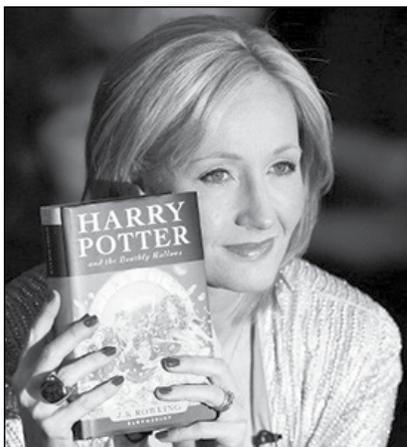
The jail houses around 251 women prisoners.

Indrani, her former husband Sanjeev Khanna and ex-driver Shyamvar Rai are accused of strangling 24-year-old Sheena Indrani's daughter from a previous relationship - on April 24, 2012.

Sheena's burnt body was dumped in a bag at a forest in Raigad district near Mumbai.

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'Harry Potter' turns 20, the charm of the bespectacled boy wizard lives on



LONDON, JUN 26 (PTI): Twenty years ago, a writer took book lovers across the world on a magical journey with a boy wizard and his two friends, changing the face of children's literature forever.

JK Rowling sat all by herself in a coffee shop in Edinburgh to write about Harry Potter and his fight for survival against arch nemesis Lord Voldemort, a tale so enchanting that it continues to be an integral part of the growing up years of many.

Looking back on her spectacular journey, Rowling tweeted, "20 years ago today a world that I had lived in alone was suddenly open to others. It's been wonderful. Thank you."

The seven-part book series -- "The Philosopher's Stone", "The Chamber of Secrets", "The Prisoner of Azkaban",

"The Goblet of Fire", "The Order of the Phoenix", "The Half-Blood Prince" and "The Deathly Hallows" -- became so popular that children would queue up outside bookstores hours before they hit the shelves.

The massive popularity of the story soon piqued the interest of major Hollywood producers.

It was Warner Bros which gave birth to the eight-part money-spinning "Harry Potter" franchise, starring young Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.

Just like Rowling, who became an overnight star, the popularity of the movie's three main leads -- Radcliffe (Harry Potter), Watson (Hermione Granger) and Grint (Ron Weasley) -- was no less than an A-list Hollywood star.

The last film "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2" released in 2011.

The world of Harry Potter, much to the delight of fans, however, did not end with the culmination of books and movies.

Rowling's pen continues to weave magic with the spin-off stories - "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" and "Quidditch Through the Ages".

A play titled "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One and Two" was also conceived and penned by Jack Thorne, John Tiffany and Rowling.

Rowling provides interesting details about the Potter universe through Pottermore, Twitter as well as media interviews.

"Fantastic Beasts" is being turned

into a five-part film series, the first of which, starring Eddie Redmayne in the role of Newt Scamander, released last year. Both Johnny Depp and Jude Law will be a part of the second film in the series.

Fans of Harry Potter took to social media to celebrate the milestone with '20 years of Harry Potter' trending on Twitter while Facebook introduced a special feature for all Potterheads.

Publishers Bloomsbury celebrated "house week" by releasing special edition of the first book in the colours of the four houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry -- Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw.

Even after 20 years, Harry Potter lives on in the hearts of fans. To this, Severus Snape would have said, "Always".

Eid: just another day for Rohingyas in exile

PRAGYA AND ARJUN RAMACHANDRAN

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): It's Eid morning. Shoria has been up for hours making the traditional Eid delicacy of vermicelli, sugar and milk, known as sevia in these parts but shai mai in her home back in Myanmar.

A few hours later, after prayers in the nearest Eidgah, her husband Sabeer and their three-year-old son Rafiul join her in their dark and dingy room, still filled with smoke from the wood stove. There are some fruits but no meat or spicy food for this family of Rohingya Muslims - out of cultural choice but also because they can't afford it.

Though Shoria tries to follow tradition, Eid in exile is just another day for this Rohingya Muslim family in south Delhi's Madanpur Khadar locality.

Rohingya Muslims from Rakhine state of Myanmar are the "most persecuted minority in the world", according to the United Nations. Alleged "ethnic cleansing" by the majority Buddhist community in the neighbouring country has forced over 11 lakh Rohingyas to take refuge in different parts of the world. Of these, about 14,000 Rohingya Muslims are in India.

In the national capital Delhi, Sabeer is one of nearly 900 Rohingya refugees in camps in Shaheen Bagh, Madanpur Khadar, Okhla and Vikaspuri. While some work as ragpickers and sweepers,



others find small time jobs in NGOs and private offices.

They fast but do not feast. "How can we celebrate Eid when our family members and relatives are living in such danger?" asks Sabeer.

Sabeer fled to India in 2004 and has not been home since.

He met his wife Shoria, also a Rohingya, at a refugee camp here.

Every day during the month of Ramzan and every Eid, Sabeer offers prayers at the Eidgah nearby. But there is no sumptuous meal waiting him after the stringent daylong fast.

His neighbour Jaffar, another Rohingya who escaped violent clashes in 2011 in Rakhine, is in no mood to celebrate either. But it's not just yearning

for his homeland. He is traumatised by news from home that his nephew was stabbed last week after being accused of using a mobile phone to provide information to "foreign agents".

Living in India is safer but uncertainty looms large.

They fear they can be deported anytime.

"We meet and greet people. We distribute sevia to each other but at the end of the day we are refugees, and it is very disturbing," says Jaffar.

According to Ali Johar, a member of the Rohingya community working for the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) here, the Indian government allows Rohingyas to stay in

the country, avail healthcare and educational services but they need get their refugee cards renewed every year.

"On humanitarian grounds, we continue to reside here but there is not enough assurance from the government," Ali says.

While Jaffar, Sabeer and others remember their homeland with a certain sense of hopelessness, their children keep the excitement alive, punctuating the gloom with their laughter.

Wearing new clothes and getting Eidi, the gift given by elders, is enough to make them happy.

"Only our kids are happy because they don't know about the situation in Myanmar," says Sabeer, who works for an NGO for Rs 12,000 a month.

This year, however, he found it difficult to get new clothes for his son Rafiul.

"We don't have enough money and can't ask people for financial help here."

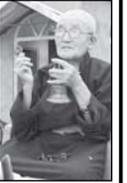
It is heartbreaking for many Rohingyas to realise that their children, most of whom are born in India, will never know 'Jago' teams, who sing 'wake-up' songs asking their fellow Muslims to wake up for suhoor, the early morning meal before the day of fasting begins.

"Our prayers are for returning home. We spend sleepless nights worrying about our family members. What is Eid away from home, without the presence of loved ones?" asks Shoria.

Kutse Shegu

The Kutse shegu of late Palden Yeshey Lepcha who left for heavenly abode on 11th of May 2017 falls on **28th June 2017 [Wednesday]**. All the relatives well wishers & friends are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at **Pamrang Gaon, Upper Tathangchen, Chandmari, Ganton, East Sikkim**. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.

(Daughters) Mrs. Dikit Ongmu Lepcha, Mrs. Padma Lhanzey Lepcha, Mrs. Passang Choden Lepcha, Mrs. Sonam Choden Lepcha and Hissey Shalden Lepcha. Tenzing Wangyal Lepcha (grandson) contact No.8768772413 / 9609868265.



MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PARROT MORNING

Draw No:46 DrawDate on:26/06/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 96A 16955 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 16955 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00425 13761 30963 53361 56229
65023 66049 81745 86954 90424
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
00010 00054 02922 03682 11380
22625 35836 56446 82795 98850
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1451 2702 4114 4579 4682 4945 6793 7257 8930 9137
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0871 0929 1765 1909 2706 3790 4724 5496 8357 9713
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0149 0155 0197 0319 0375 0417 0615 0914 1030 1113
1154 1218 1276 1287 1383 1506 1545 1662 1766 1817
1899 1974 1980 2285 2558 2820 2860 2877 2982 2959
3182 3269 3371 3484 3754 3922 4227 4260 4408 4492
4513 4523 4766 4859 4894 4908 4995 5174 5191 5360
5398 5453 5613 5639 5643 5656 5739 5905 5942 6000
6138 6202 6257 6262 6409 6510 6710 6744 6784 6791
7070 7090 7452 7526 7605 7625 7654 7807 7900 7921
8068 8251 8523 8687 8737 8974 9004 9083 9094 9123
9237 9285 9314 9646 9667 9669 9747 9752 9858 9988

Issued by: The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries, For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

Cheque bounce cases need to be tackled with heavy hand: Court

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): Cheque bounce cases are unduly clogging the dockets of the courts and need to be tackled with a heavy hand, a Delhi court has said.

The observation came as the court awarded one-year-jail term to a 42-year-old north Delhi resident Lalit Kumar, who had issued a cheque worth Rs one lakh to an army official's wife, which had bounced. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh on Kumar with a direction that it be given to the complainant.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ashok Kumar said the cheque bounce cases were "unduly clogging the dockets of the courts leading to docket explosion and extraction of judicial time which could have been given to other cases".

In touch with India over Mansarovar pilgrimage issue: China

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, JUN 26 (PTI): China said today that it was in touch with India over continuing the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Nathu La pass in Sikkim, days after refusing entry to pilgrims citing damage to roads in Tibet due to landslides and rains.

"According to my information the two governments are in touch over this issue," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Suhang told reporters.

The Chinese statement came days after China denied entry to the first two batches of 91 Indian pilgrims who were scheduled to travel

to Kailash Mansarovar through the Nathu La pass.

The pilgrims were stopped by Chinese officials at the Sino-India border. The first batch was scheduled to cross over to the Chinese side on June 19 but failed to do so due to inclement weather and had to wait at the base camp.

On June 23, China denied entry to them due to damage to roads. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay has said some difficulties were being experienced in the movement of pilgrims through the Nathu La pass and India was taking up the matter with China.

Khandwali mourns Junaid, wears black bands during Eid namaz

NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI): Eid has lost all its meaning, residents of Faridabad's Khandwali village said today as they mourned the loss of their "son" Junaid by wearing black bands during the special morning namaz.

Four days after 17-year-old Junaid was killed on his way back from Delhi after Eid shopping, despair hung like a shroud over the village with Muslim residents wondering if "the spate of lynchings" would ever end.

"We could not have celebrated Eid with the usual sense of joy considering how Junaid was killed. So we decided to mark our protest by wearing black bands around our arms," Shakeel, a resident of Khandwali in Ballabgarh near Delhi, told reporters. He claimed Muslims

of neighbouring villages were also protesting the incident by wearing black bands during the Eid morning prayers.

Junaid was stabbed to death on June 22 on a Mathura-bound train, which he had taken with his two brothers after shopping at Delhi's Sadar Bazar. A group of men hurled communal slurs at the boys and attacked them after an altercation, allegedly over seats.

"When will this stop? After every such incident, the government offers some compensation and people move on. But the question is, will it ever stop?" asked a villager in his 20s.

He also questioned the efficacy of the administration in acting against the accused, wondering why only one arrest had been made in four days. Before being remand-

ed to police custody by a court in Faridabad district on Saturday, the accused had told reporters that he was in an inebriated state at the time of the incident and had attacked the teenager after being allegedly instigated by fellow passengers.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

SINGAM GOLD MORNING

Draw time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:9 DrawDate on:26/06/17

1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 91L 00788 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 00788 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9,000/-
09305 22196 26677 35908 40595
55447 74722 76484 87581 90991
3rd Prize Rs.500/-
0523 2612 4150 4601 5423 5871 6804 7020 7468 7662
4th Prize Rs.300/-
0812 1894 2978 3485 4022 4284 4677 8707 9041 9819
5th Prize Rs.130/-
0202 0286 0378 0506 0623 0639 0882 0983 1002 1317
1516 1530 1584 1608 1671 1698 1874 1878 1994 2065
2224 2272 2333 2493 2720 2727 2741 2769 2789 3146
3189 3306 3486 3529 3560 3638 3639 3670 3841 3871
4200 4300 4380 4386 4426 4622 4668 4694 4817 4981
5217 5258 5271 5288 5371 5390 5458 5685 5744 5826
5869 5953 6236 6336 6481 6531 6539 6553 6606 6637
6898 7172 7349 7453 7556 7675 7878 7999 8053 8160
8216 8257 8508 8567 8644 8661 8958 9116 9118 9180
9201 9286 9482 9589 9691 9706 9748 9783 9886 9971

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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR AFFECTIONATE EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:114 DrawDate on:26/06/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 93E 06516 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 06516 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.3500/-
30159 33208 42481 66447 68258
76893 84075 86671 91362 96481
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
01168 04551 23972 39303 43579
50104 59741 70330 71485 91037
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0505 2264 3061 3674 5180 6062 6495 6745 8152 8861
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0750 2111 3027 3490 6191 6687 7409 8460 8768 9773
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0035 0037 0137 0174 0451 0708 0819 0949 0998 0995
1325 1502 2011 2204 2218 2233 2335 2555 2613 2687
2698 3241 3286 3303 3632 3988 4086 4204 4226 4381
4603 4614 4626 4797 4818 4889 4984 4993 5122 5245
5260 5386 5554 5779 5801 5894 6037 6057 6152 6271
6284 6351 6461 6584 6689 6701 6732 6862 6952 6965
7054 7060 7084 7087 7153 7247 7265 7283 7481 7674
7726 7734 8097 8190 8330 8351 8464 8587 8726 8740
8851 8912 8941 8963 9129 9151 9190 9278 9336 9342
9380 9440 9484 9516 9640 9833 9835 9859 9899 9965

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Mongolians pick president after scandal-plagued campaign

ULAN BATOR, JUN 26 (AFP): Mongolians cast ballots today to choose between a horse breeder, a judoka and a feng shui master in a presidential election rife with corruption scandals and nationalist rhetoric.

From its sprawling steppes to its capital and even in yurts serving as polling stations, people began to vote in the landlocked country sandwiched between Russia and China that was once viewed as an oasis of democracy full of economic promise.

Nomadic herders filed into a yurt in the city of Erdene Sum, 100 km east of the capital Ulan Bator to cast their ballots, wearing the traditional deel coat, feodoras and boots.

"As a voter I believe justice is the most important thing for Mongolia," said Dendev Boris, 63, who unlike others showed up in a business suit.

"There must be justice in every industry," he said. "I haven't taken the corruption allegations too seriously because they have not been proven."

The resource-rich nation of just three million has struggled in recent years with mounting debt and low voter turnout.

The next president will inherit a 5.5 billion International



Monetary Fund-led bailout designed to stabilise its economy and lessen its dependence on China, which purchases 80 percent of Mongolian exports.

But voters have heard little from the three candidates about unemployment and jobs -- their top concerns in opinion polls -- as campaigns have instead focused on their opponents' allegedly shady pasts.

Among the accusations are a 60 billion tugrik (25 million) scheme to sell government posts, hefty offshore accounts and a clandestine donation from a member of a South Korean church -- all of which the candidates have denied.

The campaign was also marked by moments of anti-Chi-

nese sentiment, with candidate Miyeegombo Enkhbold of the parliament-ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP) publishing his family tree to rebuff claims that he had Chinese blood.

"(The election) is truly testing the nerves of voters," Gerel Orgil, a Mongolian public opinion analyst, told AFP.

"It's been like watching a bullfight."

Enkhbold, a horse breeder and former mayor of Ulan Bator, is considered the establishment candidate.

He faces brash businessman Khaltmaa Battulga of the outgoing president's opposition Democratic Party, a property tycoon and former head of the judo association.

Sainkhuu Ganbaatar of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, a former independent who once headed a feng shui practise.

While Enkhbold and Battulga are considered the main contenders, Ganbaatar is expected to garner enough votes to trigger the country's first ever runoff.

Several voters described the campaigns as "dark" and accused the candidates of using smear jobs to distract from real issues.

"Ganbaatar is the only one who speaks the voice of the regular people of Mongolia," said Zundui Gombojav, a 60-year-old unemployed disabled man.

"For 27 years, we have chosen the two largest parties, but they have done nothing."

Other voters were concerned that electing Enkhbold would give absolute power to the MPP, which already holds the majority of seats in parliament.

Daram Erdebayar, a 61-year-old retired teacher, had previously been loyal to the MPP, but decided to support Battulga after a recording surfaced in which Enkhbold and other MPP officials were allegedly discussing a plan to hand public jobs to the highest bidders.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LUCK

Draw No:50 DrawDate on:26/06/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 73042 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 73042 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
01124 02911 06114 08004 39071
52948 55089 74391 76746 77108
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
14023 32075 38150 40420 56654
64915 65660 78409 78982 84128
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0485 0559 2831 2972 6631 6938 7084 7284 9480 9999
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0211 1199 3044 3254 4295 7924 8238 8875 9050 9214
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0070 0144 0247 0250 0290 0320 0778 0905 1023 1087
1108 1141 1221 1262 1284 1367 1502 1504 1823 1835
1904 1942 1957 1983 2099 2112 2295 2297 2319 2375
2437 2711 2890 2986 2990 2990 3032 3038 3050 3162
3247 3261 3583 4213 4252 4269 4364 4752 4893 4903
4925 5082 5219 5360 5597 5843 5886 6108 6155 6194
6239 6745 6769 6811 6921 7214 7240 7355 7404 7482
7758 7877 7906 7961 8088 8108 8298 8364 8413 8420
8529 8558 8694 8728 8851 9015 9026 9177 9228 9328
9415 9446 9474 9514 9542 9548 9663 9796 9844 9879

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES

JAI GANAPATHY

Draw No:96 DrawDate on:26/06/17

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- A-05378
2nd Prize Rs.5,000/-
0224 0374 0729 3241 3563 5386 7793 9620 9644 9905
3rd Prize Rs.500/-
0532 1866 4491 5922 6287 6486 7378 7410 8856 9388
0714 1934 3185 3927 4521 5044 6026 7063 7979 9243
0844 2386 3266 3947 4609 5071 6075 7119 8034 9269
1336 2441 3359 3965 4745 5301 6201 7254 8369 9335
1379 2677 3412 4133 4767 5343 6409 7485 8407 9842
1422 2711 3522 4140 4868 5429 6512 7537 8563 9859

Issued by: The Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh State Lotteries, Itanagar.

MESHA RASI

Draw No:96 DrawDate on:26/06/17

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- A-09724
2nd Prize Rs.5,000/-
1640 2430 3565 3837 8047 8090 8656 9104 9241 9875
3rd Prize Rs.500/-
2260 3068 3442 4928 5174 6025 7062 7500 8072 9160
4th Prize Rs.250/-
1664 1754 4381 6821 7204 7360 7547 8000 9862 9862
5th Prize Rs.100/-
0007 1357 2966 3419 3993 4034 5170 5438 8045 8902
6th Prize Rs.50/-
0122 1265 1976 2887 3907 4874 6086 6930 8183 9217
0414 1344 1994 3111 4019 5038 6214 7057 8206 9271
0568 1432 1999 3402 4070 5223 6288 7144 8249 9341
0689 1468 2032 3487 4074 5564 6338 7560 8461 9423
0798 1526 2188 3529 4172 5569 6412 7699 8514 9576
0817 1589 2200 3593 4210 5708 6551 7717 8593 9625
0886 1666 2265 3657 4570 5770 6580 7852 8613 9731
0896 1759 2425 3786 4683 5797 6708 7939 8835 9739
0906 1919 2624 3875 4681 5846 6735 8063 8895 9761
1257 1955 2636 3890 4804 5869 6801 8077 9035 9899

Issued by: The Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh State Lotteries, Itanagar.



THAT'S WHAT I LIKE! Bruno Mars performs onstage at 2017 BET Awards at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California.

'YEH KYA HAI?' THAT'S HOW SALMAN AND SHAH RUKH KHAN REACTED TO FORBES' LIST OF HIGHEST PAID ACTORS

So Shah Rukh Khan is the highest-paid Indian actor as per the Forbes list and while it didn't surprise us, SRK and Salman Khan had a funny banter about it. At least that's what the Tubelight star revealed when he was asked to comment on his presence on the list.

Akshay Kumar and Salman are the other two Bollywood names on the list. The actor told Mid-Day, "You know Shah Rukh and I were speaking last night, and we said, 'Yeh kya [Forbes' list] hai? Hamesha, we fall short of money to buy this or that...' I still haven't been able to buy my house. I used to fall short by a few lakhs before, and then it became a crore, then few, and now I'm short by quite a few crores to buy my own place. And then this Forbes' list!"

Talking further about it, Salman said, "I don't have that money. I seriously don't have that money. I was going through it and going, 'Yeh paisa kahan hai, bhai? Kidhar?' When a film makes Rs 500 crore, only a very nominal amount from that comes to you. It's just that your business is worth Rs 500 crore."

When Being Human was pointed out, Salman explained, "But with Being Human clothing, we have a partner who takes a certain amount. From what comes to us, we pay taxes, and then it goes back to Being Human. The same thing with cycles, jewellery... Our business interest is towards what we can put into the charitable trust. We were already putting in a lot. But if I ask a friend for help, after a couple of times, he'll back off, and I'll lose a friend. So



BollyBUZZ!!



yes, there is money coming in, because of who I am today. Because my fans go to theatres to watch my movies, or shows, or television, that brings in ad revenues. And then you choose to give back. And my parents have done this all their life. It's just that we have a brand name to channelise the whole thing."

JHANVI KAPOOR AND ISHAAN KHATTAR TO STAR IN FAULT IN OUR

Perhaps there's something going on with them and their emotions that you simply aren't noticing. Pay attention.

GEMINI: Pay close attention to your friends today, Gemini. One of them may be going through a tough time and need a little extra support and attention. If you can, gather several buddies together and organize an impromptu lunch or dinner or any other activity that allows you to laugh, bond, and share. Your friendships are a treasure to be cherished and nurtured.

CANCER: Your artistic nature is especially heightened today. Cancer. Your heart and brain are work-

ing together to create something great. Use your creative abilities to make a bold statement. Have a good time. There may be a tendency toward laziness. If sitting on the couch is all you want to do, that's fine. Realize that there's a great deal of potential energy available to you if you choose to harness it.

LEO: Nothing will escape your attention today, Leo. Your sixth sense is right on target. Your mind is razor sharp and emotions extra sensitive. You will move through this day with your radar fully intact. You're like a detective cutting through to the core of every issue. You will be able to get quite a bit accomplished with very little effort. Things will

STARS RE-MAKE?

Veteran actress Sridevi's daughter Jhanvi Kapoor's Bollywood debut has been in news from quite some time. Now, latest reports suggest that the star kid will share the screen space with actor Shahid Kapoor's brother Ishaan Khattar in the remake of Shailene Woodley's *Fault In Our Stars*. It is also being said that both of them have already given the look test of the film.

If reports are to be believed, the film will be directed by filmmaker Shashank Khaitan. The ace director has delivered blockbusters like Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania and Badrinath Ki Dulhania in the past.

Earlier, many names popped up to play the lead in the remake of this popular Hollywood flick. However, official confirmation is still awaited. Both Jhanvi and Ishaan were rumoured to be dating as they were many times spotted attending the movie screenings together. It was also being said that Ishaan's elder brother Shahid has warned him to stay away from the gorgeous lady

as he doesn't want people to focus on Ishaan's personal life.

Well, nobody knows the truth but if these reports turn out to be true then this will be Ishaan's second film. He is currently working on Majid Majidi's *Beyond the Clouds*.

Jhanvi has been ruling the internet with her wonderful pictures. Her killer looks and fashion sense are making movie buffs curious for her debut. It is yet to be seen what she has in mind to make her grand entry in Bollywood.

naturally flow your way.

VIRGO: You may feel like you're ready to get the party started today, Virgo, but for some reason, the people around you aren't exactly following suit. Perhaps you need to slow down and wait for others to catch up. They may end up not coming around at all. If people say they're doing fine, don't necessarily believe them. There's most likely something brewing beneath the surface that needs attention.

LIBRA: Don't worry so much about getting things done today, Libra. Instead, concentrate on your feelings and relationships. A caring, sensitive attitude is needed, as

Gal Gadot & Vin Diesel Had A Play Date With Their Tiny Wonder Women

Gal Gadot and Vin Diesel go way back thanks to the time they spent together on a few *Fast & Furious* sets as co-stars, so it makes perfect sense that the pals would have similar interests, like spending quiet moments far from their action-packed work schedules with their respective families.

It also makes perfect sense that they'd team up and relax with their adorable daughters together, thus hosting the most serene playdate ever as two superheroes who are best known for being anything but chill on screen.

Diesel shared a sweet pic of himself with Gadot hanging at a rooftop infinity pool, and both actors had their hands full as they were each holding tight to their little ones. [Casual reminder that Gadot is a force of nature, and that we technically met her baby, Maya, long before she was born as Gadot was five months pregnant with her while filming parts of *Wonder Woman*.]

Considering how both Diesel and Gadot put out huge movies this year, the two definitely deserve a lazy afternoon full of friends and fam, so cheers to them — and their tiny Wonder Women.



27TH JUNE
WORLD HISTORY

1693: The first women magazine, "Ladies Mercury" published in London.

1743: During the War of the Austrian Succession, the Battle of Dettingen was fought in Germany on this day. George II, British monarch, commanded his troops in the battle, and this marked the last time a British monarch personally led his troops on the field. The village of Dettingen is today the town of Karlstein am Main, in the extreme northwest of Bavaria.

1880: Helen Adams Keller, popularly known as Helen Keller, an American author, political activist, and lecturer was born on this day. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

1898: Joshua Slocum completed the first solo circumnavigation of the globe from Briar Island, Nova Scotia, Canada.

1927: Prime Minister of Japan, Tanaka Gichii led a conference to discuss Japan's plans for China. Later, the same plans discussed

THIS DAY
IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

in the Conference took the shape of the famous "Tanaka Memorial" stating Japan's stand on China.

1977: France granted independence to Djibouti, an African country situated between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

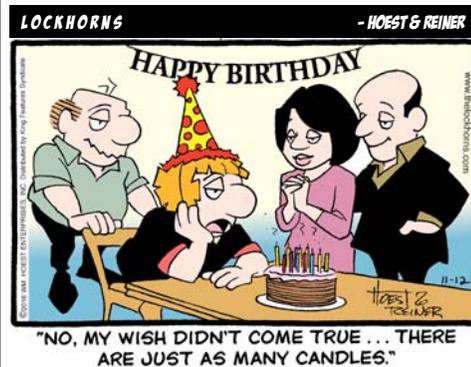
1838: Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya, composer of *Vande Mataram* was born on this day at Naihati in Bengal Presidency, British India.

1839: Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the leader of Sikh Empire, died at Lahore.

1906: Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad was established.

1964: The Teen Murti Bhavan, the official residence of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, was converted into the Nehru Memorial Museum.

1967: The first Indian made AVRO aircraft passenger was handed over to Indian Airlines.



ARIES: Your intuition is more reliable than your mind today. Aries. This is a terrific day in which you should enjoy a good mood and clear head. Your emotions are high, so take advantage of this energy and share it with others. Your generous, nurturing spirit is in demand. If you had a nickel for every good piece of psychological advice you dispense today, you'd be a millionaire.

TAURUS: You may feel extra dreamy today, Taurus. Your moods may fluctuate. It may be hard to get other people to share your boisterous good humor. Trying to get people to jump on your bandwagon of excitement may be difficult.

Perhaps there's something going on with them and their emotions that you simply aren't noticing. Pay attention.

GEMINI: Pay close attention to your friends today, Gemini. One of them may be going through a tough time and need a little extra support and attention. If you can, gather several buddies together and organize an impromptu lunch or dinner or any other activity that allows you to laugh, bond, and share. Your friendships are a treasure to be cherished and nurtured.

CANCER: Your artistic nature is especially heightened today. Cancer. Your heart and brain are work-

ing together to create something great. Use your creative abilities to make a bold statement. Have a good time. There may be a tendency toward laziness. If sitting on the couch is all you want to do, that's fine. Realize that there's a great deal of potential energy available to you if you choose to harness it.

LEO: Nothing will escape your attention today, Leo. Your sixth sense is right on target. Your mind is razor sharp and emotions extra sensitive. You will move through this day with your radar fully intact. You're like a detective cutting through to the core of every issue. You will be able to get quite a bit accomplished with very little effort. Things will

naturally flow your way.

VIRGO: You may feel like you're ready to get the party started today, Virgo, but for some reason, the people around you aren't exactly following suit. Perhaps you need to slow down and wait for others to catch up. They may end up not coming around at all. If people say they're doing fine, don't necessarily believe them. There's most likely something brewing beneath the surface that needs attention.

LIBRA: Don't worry so much about getting things done today, Libra. Instead, concentrate on your feelings and relationships. A caring, sensitive attitude is needed, as

opposed to a harsh, militant way of dealing with things. You will find that by adopting a tender, nurturing tone, people will be much more receptive to you in general.

SCORPIO: Don't get sad if no one is laughing at your jokes today, Scorpio. It doesn't mean you aren't funny. It just means that people may not be in the mood to laugh. Ridiculous as it seems, today is simply a better day to cry. Let out all your pent-up emotions. Talk things over with others. Your heart communicates well through you today.

SAGITTARIUS: Don't be shy today, Sagittarius. Express how you feel. The more you share with others,

the more they will be encouraged to share themselves with you. Today may be filled with a great many tender moments that are worth documenting in your journal tonight. Your thinking is clear and in line with your deepest and truest emotions. You're the star of the show.

CAPRICORN: Hold your temper today, Capricorn. No one wants to argue. It may be tough to connect with the people around you, but this isn't a reason to get upset. Tone things down and speak more softly. Listen to what others have to say. There may be a bit of a disruption in your daily routine. Others may challenge what you're feeling. Don't doubt yourself.

AQUARIUS: Today is an excellent day for you, Aquarius. You will discover many opportunities. You would do well to work with others by tuning into your sensitive nature and chiming in to the energy of the group. Your grounding and stability are exactly what are needed to give order to the fluctuating, indecisive minds you're working with.

PISCES: Today is a good day for you, Pisces. New opportunities will abound in your regular routine. Work with a group to accomplish something greater than you could do by yourself. Tune in to the energy of the collective. You have exactly the right qualities that others need today. Use them.