SummitTIMES

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ISL final against Chennaiyin is most important game of my life: Chhetri

BENGALURU, MARCH 16 (PTI): Bengaluru FC Captain Sunil Chhetri today said the ISL title-clash against Chennaiyin FC tomorrow is the most im-

portant game of his life.

"For a club, which had
won four trophies in four vears, to come into a new league wasn't easy. On Sunday, I don't know. It is the most important game of my life," Chhetri said with oozing enthusiasm.

The hosts had lost to

Chennaiyin in the league stage but Chhetri said it is not worth thinking about that match because they managed to come back

strongly.
Chhetri also lauded coach Albert Roca for showing tremendous trust in all players, which was quite evident in two different teams he fielded in the ISL and AFC Cup

matches recently.

"Roca has trust in every player. We treat AFC Cup very high. For us AFC Cup is very huge. For him to pick two different teams on March 11 and 14, that tells you how much the coach trusts them," he said.

them," he said.

"Another good thing about Roca is he knows exactly what he wants. Even when we lost so many players in the draft, the process was the same. I keep trying hard and keep trying hard and move on," he added.

Chhetri said his side has done well since more than the individuals it's the team's performance which is paramount. "In our team, the man-

tra is simple, we play for the team. In our team, we look forward to key performances and that is probably why we have

done well," he added.

Asked about captaining Bengaluru FC, Chhetri said his job is made easy because every player in-cluding Miku and Dimas Delgado have an urge to

improve every match.

"As a leader, my job is very easy because I don't have to do anything. I see Miku working after training, we see Dimas (Delgado) working so hard. I am really fortunate that I am the captain of a team where everyone wants to improve," he said.

Chhetri also lauded scheduling of ISL this time around, but called for fur-

ther improvement.
"I think it is miles better this year. We have been able to juggle well," he said.

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Fear rises with water level as Chungthang's 1200 MW reservoir swells

WANGCHUK BHUTIA CHUNGTHANG, 17 MAR:

The rising water level in the reservoir of the 1200 MW Teesta Stage III hydel project located at Chungthang is creating panic among the residents here. Water levels have crossed the normal level rising beyond the fencing

line of the reservoir area.

The stairs of Moonlight School at Chungthang have been submerged and the school has shut down as students stopped coming scared of the rising water levels.



Along the reservoir, residents pointed to ero-sion, slides and deformed terrain they said have seri-

ously worsened with time. Further down, La-chung and Lachen rivers have also swollen up posing threat to several houses. Residents have demanded the safety of their lives and properties.

It was informed that the project developer had lowered the water level a couple of days back when officials from the High Court of Sikkim came to visit but raised the water

level again afterwards.

The 1200 MW Teesta Stage III is developed by Teesta Uria Limited and was





SPRING'S HERE, BUT SNOW STILL FALLS: Mercury across Sikkim dipped sharply on Saturday after high hills like Lachung and Yumthang in North Sikkim experienced snowfall while mid and low hills were chilly and wet [with intermittent rain]. Yumthang a Lachung were covered with snow (pic above) with minimum temperature dropping to -04°C. [Pics: Sandeep Prasad]

Documentary on rituals and customs of Sherpas filmed at Perbing

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

Adocumentary film culture and customs of the Sherpa community was filmed at Perbing, South Sikkim on 16 and 17 Mar, a press release issued by Joint Secretary, Denzong Sherpa Association, Dorjee Sherpa Pinasa, informs,

The film is based on the traditional practices of Sherpas like Gyalpo Losar celebrations, Sher-pa marriage rituals, Chhyang bi, costumes, food habits, daily lives and other rituals and practic-

es, the release adds.

The shoot was arranged and coordinated by Passang Rinchhe



Sherpa and Mingma Topden Sherpa (Sherpa Culture Experts of Perbing) with help from seniors

and local experts under the supervision of Den-zong Sherpa Association, it is informed.

The film will feature in Gangtok Doordarshan Kendra's 13-episode serial on various commu-

nities of Sikkim and will be telecast on DD Kisan channel, it is learnt.

NABARD, SBI sign MoU with NGOs to finance ILGs in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural
Development (NABARD) and State Bank of Inand State Bank of In-dia (SBI) today jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) from Sikkim for finance ing 1000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), or in-formal credit group of farmers which will be formed over a period of three years starting from the current year, a press release from Press Information Bureau, Gangtok

"Following the announcement in Union Budget 2014-15 for providing finance to providing finance to joint farming groups, "Bhoomi-heen Kisan", NABARD evolved the concept of Joint Liability Groups which is estab-lished as a strategic incredit to small farmers, marginal farmers, share croppers, artisans, etc., thereby reducing their dependence on informal sources of credit. The objectives of promoting JLGs is ensuring flow of credit to landless farmers who are unable to provide land title as guarantee, extend collateral free loans to them and build mutual trust and confidence between Banks and JLG members," reads

A JLG is an informal group comprising of 4 to 10 individuals coming to-gether from a similar socio economic background to engage in a similar type of economic activity in the agriculture/ allied or non farm sector in the same vicinity. Business facilitators,

NGOs, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Agricul-

Beeru Bangdel to be conferred Jasraj Kirati Pratibha Puraskar

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

Nepal-UK based or-ganisation, Kavi Jasraj Kirati Pratibha Pratishthan has an-nounced to award poet, Beeru Bangdel with Jasraj Kirati Pratibha Puras-kar in a grand function at Kathmandu next month.

a press release informs.

Kavi Jasraj Kirati Pratishthan Pratibha founding president, Raksh Rai confirmed the news from Wales, UK saying that Mr Bangdel has been chosen for the award for his remarkable contribution to-wards Nepali literature.

Mr Bangdel has already

of poems 'Aahat Maney bhanjyang Ko' and 'Kassai Ko Basti Ma'. He has also

written eight books. His book, Pawan Chamling: Vichar, Sapana Ra Rajniti' has drawn special attention of seri-ous readers in literature and politics, the release mentions.

Mr Bangdel's new col-

lection of poems 'Surya Aghi Ubhiyeko Chayan' is soon to be released.

The award carries cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Tamra Patra. The function will have poet Bairagi Kainla as the chief guest.

Awareness prog on RTI Act held at Nandugaon

(IPR): A daylong awareness and sensitization programme on Right to Information Act. 2005 organized by Adminis-trative Training Institute (ATI), Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Training and Public Grievances [DOPART] and spon-sored by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Govern ment of India was held at Nandugaon, South Sikkim today. Sub Divisional Mag-

istrate [Jorethang], Bi-mal C Rai attended the programme as the chief guest accompanied by ATI Director, Prabhakar

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

The second day of the ongoing victory rally

of Bharatiya Janta Party

Sikkim Pradesh conclud-ed at Rateymatey Village

BJP is conducting the Vijay Yatra to celebrate its recent victories in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

In the evening, discussion on Sikkim politics saw the participation of civil society members and intellectuals of the area, informs a BJP press The party noted various issues and prob-lems faced by the people

during the tour.

The Vijay Yatra team

also invited residents of

West Sikkim to the par-ty's 28th foundation day

scheduled to be held on

Gyalshing-Ber-

under Gyalshing-miok constituency West Sikkim today.



Block Devel-Officer

BDO staff, school heads and Panchavats of Poklok Denchung Gram Pan-

BJP's 'Vijay Yatra' concludes at Rateymatey Village

Deputy Sikkim Information Com who was the resource

a detailed presentation on RTI Act, 2005. He un-derlined the significance of the Act and said that 'if effectively implemented, it can bring openness and transparency between public authorities and help enhance informed citizenry and socio-eco-nomic development.'

The resource person also spelt out the objectives of RTI Act, 2005 and its main components while also discussing the means of filing an RTI application to any concerned authority. He fur-ther spoke about the do's and don'ts, format and timelines involved while

ious notices ambit of RTI Act, 2005. He also elaborated various instances whereby the public have sincerely and effectively used the Act to get the information in correct form and in right time.

The program also saw an interactive session between the resource person of the programme and the attendees.

Sikkim Information Commission has been actively engaging in publicity and awareness generation on Right to Information (RTI) Act among the public all



On-demand training on mandarin orange management held at Lower Bhaluthang

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

An on-demand train-ling programme on Aing programme on 'Organic Pest and Disease Management in Sikkim Mandarin' was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim, on 16 Mar, a press release informs.

The training was sought by farmers of Lower Bhaluthang and was accordingly held in their midst.

15 farmers attended

the training programme which had SMS [Plant Protection], Rohini Silwal, as the resource person.

Ms Silwal explained the organic package in detail and delved on how to grow Sikkim Mandarin [Mandarin orange], the release informs.

Later, she elaborated about pests and diseases that can infect the plant along with its organic management practices to

Farmers training held at Chota Samdong



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

Mevedir, Daragaon organized a day long farmers training on doc-umentation of Internal Control System (ICS) for organic certification at Diwani Gaon, Chota Samdong Gram Panchayat Unit in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

Zilla Panchayat, Pun

Maya Subba and Meyedir master trainers, Tsher-ing Doma Bhutia, Lazong Bhutia and Ran Maya Rai were the resource persons for the training.

Mevedir master trainer, Ran Maya Rai presented the documents to be maintained in ICS such as checklist and farmers diary where farmers were informed about the prop-er procedure to fill the format and maintenance

Zilla Panchayat, Pun Maya Subba explained about the importance of providing Aadhaar Card number for future benefits through government.
The farmers were

also told about Mission Organic Value Chain Development a program under Food upplies and Agriculture evelopment Depart-Development Depart-ment and Horticulture Cash Crop Development Department, Govern-ment of Sikkim along with traceability system of the sellers through online portal of Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Developing Authority [APEDA], Ministry of Commerce, Gov-ernment of India where each farmer is regis-tered and provided with unique traceability code for identification.

06 Apr at Singtam Bazaar in East Sikkim. SKM delegates call on DK Bhandari



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

Adelegation of Sikkim
Krantikari Morcha party met former Memof Parliament and Sikkim Sangram Parish-ad president, Dil Kumari Bhandari at her residence on Saturday. The delegation led by acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha had chief coordi-nator, Sonam Lama and other senior leaders of the party.

During the meeting,

the delegation expressed best wishes and con-gratulated Ms Bhandari on being appointed as the president of one of the oldest parties of the State, informs an SKM

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The release informs that Ms Bhandari gave various suggestions to the SKM delegation on current political scenario and to take forward the good relations established by Late NB Bhandari between SKM and SSP. It is added that she stressed upon working together to create awareness among the people from the grass root level.

ITBP conducts computer and yoga classes for students SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 MAR: ndo Tibetan Border Police, Pegong under the direction of Commandant Raiesh Kumar Tomar organized computer and yoga classes for the students of Chungthang today, a press release informs.

Mr Tomar in his address talked about maintaining good physical health and at the same time catching up with modern technology.

Women's Day celebrated at Kazor ICDS in North Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT Mangan, 17 Mar:

International Women's Day was celebrated at Kazor ICDS centre in North Sikkim today with a programme which was attended by panchayats students. Anganwadi workers and locals.

The programme had District Civil Supplies Of-ficer (Food Department), health educator, District Child Protection Officer and Accredited Social Health Workers member as resource persons.
Talks on Nat

National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), alcoholism, substance abuse, adolescent health and hygiene, Protection Of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012, trafficking, Juve-



nile Justice Act, aims and objectives of Integrat-ed Child Development Scheme centers, schemes for women and child under ICDS were held and child during the programme. The programme also had cultural activities and prizes were also giv en to participants



GM Gurung inaugurates police outpost at Adarsh Gaon



SINGTAM, 17 MAR:

ea MLA cum Minister Afor Cultural Affairs, GM Gurung inaugurated a new police outpost at Adarsh Gaon in Lower Namphing, South Sikkim today.

Mr Gurung was accompanied by the pan-chayats, police officials, school heads and residents of the area.

Additionally, eight CCTV cameras were also installed at Adarsh Gaon to discourage criminal activities in the area. The CCTV

were sponsored by Lower Namphing Kalyan Samaj who had recently organized a Tambola event to raise funds for the installation of CCTV cameras in the area.

During the function Zilla Upadhakshya, Bhim Lakhey presented a cheque of Rs 20,000 to the newly constructed outpost.

The function was organized by Lower Namphing Kalyan Samaj.

Gangtok on Sunday, 18 Mar

Temp: 22°C /07°C Forecast: Pleasant with sunshine and patchy clouds Sunrise: 05:42 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM

FIFA picks Poland over India to host II-20 FIFA World Cup

NEW DELHI, MAR 17 (PTI): India's bid to host the next U-20 FIFA World Cup ended in disappointment as world football governing body FIFA accorded the status to Po-

The European nation will host the next edition of the tournament in 2019. This was decided at the FIFA council meeting in Bogota, Colombia

Amid much fanfare, India had submitted its bid for hosting the mega event after successfully organising the U-17
World Cup last October.

The success of the U-17 event emboldened the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to submit a bid for hosting another FIFA tournament in two year's time.

Both India and Poland

fulfilled the most important criteria - of having ready stadia.

With the tournament scheduled to be held around May to June, Po-land emerged as the preferred choice as it will be difficult for the players to play in the scorching Indian summer.

It is believed that is what prompted FIFA to opt for Poland. The U-20 World Cup

has featured players such Diego Maradona and Lio-nel Messi - who would go on to becomes legends of

the game. While the legendary Maradona played in the 1979 edition in Japan, Messi featured in the 2005 tournament in the Netherlands.

The last edition of the tournament was held in South Korea last year.

Argentina have won the tournament most number of times (six), followed by their South American rivals Brazil. who triumphed on five

NABARD, SBI sign MoU with NGOs to finance ILGs in Sikkim

Contd from pg02

tural universities, Bank branches, farmers club, etc., can form ILG. After formation, a JLG can ap-proach Bank for financing as one borrowing unit and all the members would jointly execute one inter se agreement making each one jointly and severally liable for repayment of all loans taken by all individuals in that group.

The roles and respon sibilities of SBI, NABARD, NGOs and KVKs are expressly envisaged in the MoU. NABARD will be providing 'grant assistance' to the implementing agency. SBI, with its vast network covering the State will play a ma-jor role in reaching the unbanked and uncovered populace who do not have easy access to institutional credit.

SU kicks off month-long annual fest with marathon

Month-long annual fest of Sikkim University Ramailo SU-Khim' kicked off from today with a marathon, a press release from the university informs.

Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Jyoti Prakash Tamang attended the inaugural function as the chief guest along with Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba.

Mr Subba congratulated the students and executive members of Sikkim University Student Association for their participation and highlighted the importance of unity, health and student activism for quality education.

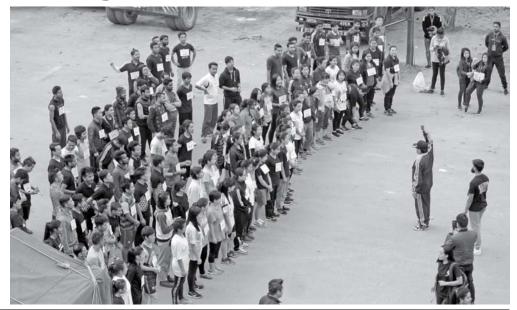
The marathon, which had 300 participants, was flagged off from Tata Stand in Ranipool with its culmination point at Cauveri Hall in 05th Mile, Tadong.

In the boy's category,

Naresh Kumar Adhikari of Psychology Department won the first prize followed by Diwash Rai of Political Science Department and Resamso Chokwa of Political Science Department taking home the second and third prizes respectively.

Likewise, in the girl's category, Samjana Subba of Horticulture Department stood first while Ruth Mery Lepcha of Horticul-ture Department and Arati Adhikari of Zoology Depart-ment came in second and third respectively.

SUSA members also launched the official t-shirt and theme song of 'Ramailo



Rakdong Yawachi defeats Navey Shotak in semis of Pachey archery tourney

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

eam Rakdong Yawa Team Rakdong Yawa-chi outshot Navey Shotak 45-16 in the first semifinal match of the ongoing 02nd Late Chendey Lepcha Tathangchen Memorial Inter Village Archery Tournament 2018 at Pachey Navey Archery Ground in East Sikkim

today.

The traditional bamboo archery tournament featured 28 teams from all over the State with Team Gairi Gaon Seven Brothers scheduled to take on Team Linkey Pempo Seven in the sec-ond semifinal match, winner of which will then face Team Rakdong Yawachi in the finals.

Football icon Bhaic-

hung Bhutia and Senior Manager, United Sikkim Football Club, Arjun Rai attended the first semifi-



Winners of the 02nd

al Inter Village Archery Tournament will receive a cash prize of Rs 40,000

The date of the final clash is yet to be an-

Song for Hindi feature Ishqani 2.0 shot at MG Marg



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

A round 80% of the shooting of Hindi feature film ISHQANI 2.0 has been completed at different locations of Sikkim. One of the songs in the film was shot at New Market in MG Marg on Saturday. There are

Trishala Tamang from Sikkim is the lead actress in the film among other local artists from the State.

The film has been presented by Aarzoo Films in as-

sociation with Gangtok-based Arcko Motion Pictures, a newly launched film Production Studio of ABN TV, and Urban Motion Pictures. Samik Bose is the script writer and director of the film.

Speaking to media persons today, Trishala stated that the film has provided her an opportunity to gain

more experience from professionals and experienced artists of the film industry. She also expressed her happiness on this film and hoped that it will further highlight the beauty of Sikkim to the world.

Director, Mr Bose mentioned that the film is a

murder mystery with a love story. He also expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the shooting of the film and added that the film will further promote beautiful locations and artists of Sikkim. The film is to be released during Dussehra this year.

Likewise, Arcko Motion Pictures co-founder, Pavi Sakya mentioned that the shooting started last month and 80% of shooting has been completed already at different beautiful locations of the State. He added that the shooting was behind schedule due to the



Minister visits landslide

SINGTAM, 17 MAR:

Area MLA, Health
Minister Som Nath
Poudyal, today paid a
visit to Ward No. 02 of Singtam Bazaar where a landslide had occurred five months ago.

The landslide had damaged buildings and a protection wall inside Singtam Senior Secondary School premises.

Dara Gaon Sudhar Samity working presidents, Neeraj Pradhan accompanied by the aftheir grievances and requested for the commencement of the long pending protection work at the area.

The Minister assured to look into the matter and provide any assistance regarding the rehabilitation work. The Minister was ac-

companied by Singtam Nagar Panchayat President. SK Pradhan and SNP councilor, Ram Na-resh Prasad.

Bimal Gurung releases video, welcomes SC verdict

After the Supreme Court dismissed Gorkha Jan-mukti Morcha chief Bimal Gurung's petition seek-ing protection from arrest in connection with several cases against him by the state police, the GJMM founder released a video clip today.

In the video clip, Mr Gurung has said that "The judiciary has given its verdict and I welcome it." How-

ever, he has added there are other doors to knock on. "I have 95 percent of voters who are devoted to the Gorkhaland cause. I will forget myself for the cause, even if it will erase my identity. My supporters should not worry," he said.

Mr Gurung also brought up the allegations against

the Sadar In Charge wherein he said that the threats and vulgar language used by the In Charge against a member of the Hill community proves that "we are in

The Centre should keep its promise of initiating tri-partite talks with the State and GJM, said Mr Gurung.

Jack fruit to be Kerala's state fruit; Declaration on Mar 21

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAR 17 (PTI): After the state animal, bird, flower and fish, Kerala is all set to get its "official fruit" now.

INTACH poster

write up comptt

at Tathangchen

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 MAR:

Eighty students from different schools par-

ticipated in the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

[INTACH] poster drawing

and write up competition held at Tathangchen Sec-

ondary School on 16 Mar.

a press release informs.

The theme of the

competition was 'Route

ticipants, INTACH conve-

ner, PK Dong spoke about the role of INTACH and

the importance of recog-

nizing local heritage and conserving them, reads

Addressing the par-

to Roots'

the release

drawing and

School

And it is none other than the jack fruit, the largest tree borne fruit known for its distinctive taste and aroma.

The state government will make an official dec-laration in this regard on March 21, based on a proposal of the Agricul-ture Department.

The government also plans to promote the 'Kerala Jack fruit' as a brand in markets across the country and abroad, highlighting its organic

and nutritious qualities.
State Agriculture
Minister VS Sunil Kumar said the core objective of the government was to give a fillip to the production and sale of jack fruit and its value-added

products.

A total revenue of Rs 15,000 crore is expected through sale of jack fruit and its allied products through the branding of

the fruit, he said.

"We are planning to declare the jack fruit as the state fruit on March 21. I will make an announcement in this regard at the state Assembly also," Sunil Kumar told PTI.

"Though jack fruit is one of the most widely produced fruits in the state, we are yet to tap its potential completely. Crores of jack fruits, that also of different varieties, are produced in Kerala

every year," he said.

Detailing the qualities
the 'Kerala jack fruit',he said it is more organic and tasty as it is pro-duced in a very natural way without using any chemical fertilisers or pesticides

SummitTIMES

Rally Faith for Suicide Prevention

Leverage Faith to save those who have lost hope

 $T^{\mbox{\scriptsize his}}$ space has spoken often about the problem of suicides and of how it remains largely unaddressed by agencies and organizations which should get more involved. Today, we return with some more on the same problem. The fact that suicides are a problem for Sikkim is universally recognized; no one denies it, and even politicians, despite their shallow analysis of the suicide situation, have also dropped comments on the disturbing signals conveyed by the number of suicides that take place in Sikkim. Newspapers have also realized the unhealthy trend and report on suicide cases not to fill news-space, but to inform readers of a continuing affliction of the social fabric here. While social situations and psychological health can conspire to lead to suicides, the decision to end one's own life is a very private one.

Awareness camps and suicide prevention

workshops contribute to the battle against suicides, but an ally which could reinforce suicide prevention initiatives has unfortunately still not stepped up to its responsibility towards Sikkim. Religion, because it is, like suicides a private affair and can touch individuals with a healing touch that impersonal workshops and generic awareness camps cannot, should play a more proactive role in saving lives that are otherwise being avoidably expended. A person with suicidal tendencies is almost always one who has shut the world away. but because Faith is also a private affair becomes impossible to ignore. Religion, since it also carries, in most cases, a deeper and more intimate influence, becomes the only medium with access to a troubled soul when all other interventions have failed. Shouldn't it then be more involved in combating suicides?

Shouldn't the religious practitioners and leaders take some time out from their obsessive pursuit of rituals and displays to address some real issues of living and the still alive? People turn to religion for answers and turn to religious masters to guide them along the way. This casts the perfect foil for religious leaders to become counselors who wean the troubled minds away from suicidal tendencies and towards medical aid and religious succour. Sikkim is a State of very religious people who are also very skeptical of government and NGO-driven programmes. Because lives need to be saved, it would be advisable if the policy makers worked out a way by which religion could be invited to join the initiatives to contain suicides in Sikkim

Why Wikipedia often overlooks stories of women in history

TAMAR CARROLL & LARA NICOSIA

 \mathbf{M} ovements like #MeToo are drawing increased attention to the systemic discrimination facing women in a range of professional fields, from Holly

wood and journalism to banking and government.

Discrimination is also a problem on user-driven sites like Wikipedia. Wikipedia is the fifth most popular website worldwide. In January, the English-language version of the online encyclopedia had over 7.3 billion page views, more than 2000 percent higher than other online reference sites such as IMDb or

Dictionary.com.

The volume of traffic on Wikipedia's site – coupled with its integration into search results and digital assistants like Alexa and Siri – makes Wikipedia the predominant source of information on the source of information on the web. YouTube even recent-ly announced that it would start including Wikipedia links below videos on highly contested topics. But studies show that Wikipedia underrepresents content on women.

At the Rochester Institute of Technology, we're taking steps to empower our students and our global commu-nity to address issues of gen-der bias on Wikipedia. SIGNS OF BIAS

Driven by a cohort of over 33 million volunteer edi-tors, Wikipedia's content can change in almost real time.

That makes it a prime resource for current events, popular culture, sports and other evolving topics.

But relying on volunteers leads to systemic bi-

 both in content creation and improvement A 2013 study estimated that women only accounted for 16.1 percent of Wikipedia's total editor base. Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales believes that number has not changed much since then, despite everal organized efforts.

If women don't actively edit Wikipedia at the

same rate as men, topics of interest to women are at risk of receiving disproportionately low cover-age. One study found that Wikipedia's coverage of women was more comprehensive than Encyclopedia Britannica online, but entries on women still constituted less than 30 percent of biographical coverage Entries on women also more frequently link to entries on men than vice-versa and are more likely to

What's more, Wikipedia's policies state that all content must be "attributable to a reliable, published source." Since women throughout history have been less represented in published literature than men, it can be challenging to find reliable published sources

An obituary in a paper of record is often a criterion for inclusion as a biographical entry in Wikipedia. So it should be no surprise that women are underrepresented as subjects in this vast online encyclopedia. As The New York Times itself noted, its obituaries since 1851 "have been dominated by white men" – an oversight the paper now hopes to address

and, for a time, LinkedIn recommended men's names in search results when users searched for a woman. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The solution to systemic biases that plague the web remains unclear. But libraries, museums, individual editors and the Wikimedia Foundation itself continue to make efforts to improve gender representation on sites such as Wikipedia.

Organized edit-a-thons can create a community around editing and developing underrepresented content. Edit-a-thons aim to increase the number of active female editors on Wikipedia, while empowering participants to edit entries on women during the event and into the future.

Later this month, our university library will host its second annual Women on Wikipedia Edit-a-thon in cel-ebration of Women's History Month. The goal is to improve the content on at least 100 men in one afternoon.

For the past four years

students in our school's American Women's and Gender History course have worked to create new or sub-Women's and stantially edit existing Wikipedia entries about women. One student created an entry on deaf-blind pioneer Geral dine Lawhorn, while another added roughly 1,500 words to jazz artist Blanche Calloway's entry.

This class was supported by the Wikimedia Education Program, which encourages educators and students to

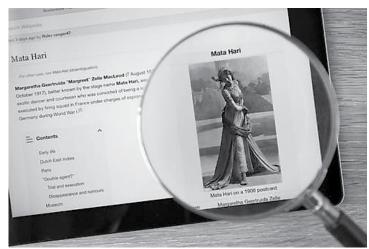
contribute to Wikipedia in academic settings

Through this assignment, students can immediately see how their efforts contribute to the larger conversation around women's history topics. One student said that it was "the most meaningful assign-ment she had" as an undergraduate. Other efforts to address gender bias on Wiki-

pedia include Wikipedia's Inspire Campaign; orga-nized editing communities such as Women in Red and Wikipedia's Teahouse; and the National Science Foundation's Collaborative Research grant

Wikipedia's dependence on volunteer editors has resulted in several systemic issues, but it also offers an opportunity for self-correction. Organized efforts help to give voice to women previously ignored by resources. [Tamar Carroll is Associate Professor of History,

Rochester Institute of Technology; Lara Nicosia is Liberal Arts Librarian, Rochester Institute of Technology]



Categorization can also be an issue. In 2013, a New York Times op-ed revealed that some editors had moved women's entries from gender-neutral categories (e.g., "American novelists") to gender-fo-cused subcategories (e.g., "American women novel-Wikipedia is not the only online resource that

suffers from such biases. The user-contributed on-line mapping service OpenStreetMap is also more heavily edited by men. On GitHub, an online development platform, women's contributions have a higher acceptance rate than men, but a study showed that the rate drops noticeably when the contributor could be identified as a woman through their username or ofile image.

Gender bias is also an ongoing issue in content

development and search algorithms. Google Translate has been shown to overuse masculine pronouns

Have we got the causes of

MARK TURNER

People with diabetes need to carefully monitor their blood-sugar levels. This is important, as it helps to reduce the

effective treatment of diabetes requires more than simply good control of blood-sugar levels.

Type 2 diabetes – often associated with obesity – happens when the pancreas doesn't release enough of the hormone, insulin, or the body's cells don't react to insulin. (Insulin helps the body use glucose for immediate energy needs or store it for future energy needs.) This means that sugar (glucose) stays in the blood and isn't used as fuel for energy. The cause of these the blood and isn't used as fuel for energy. The cause of these defects remains controversial.

The latest research, published in Cell Metabolism, suggests that a molecule called methylglyoxal (MG) may cause many of

which can trigger strokes and heart attacks.

MG is formed as a result of metabolic pathways – a linked series of chemical reactions occurring in a cell – that are overactive in diabetes and obesity. So it was previously thought that MG production was the result of obesity and diabetes. However

in their bodies and the flies developed insulin resistance. Later they became obese and as time went on their glucose levels subsequently also became disrupted.

suggests that it might be possible to slow down - or even pre-

type 2 diabetes wrong?

 $T^{\rm he}$ proportion of adults with diabetes around the world has risen from 4.7% in 1980 to more than 8.5% today. More than 422m people now suffer from diabetes – so there is an urgent need to better understand the disease and develop new treatments. However, new research from Heidelberg University in Germany suggests that we may have got the causes of type 2 diabetes wrong. But have we? And if so, how might it affect

risk of developing complications, such as heart disease and blindness. But even with good control of blood-sugar levels, peo-ple with diabetes often go on to develop further complications, including nerve damage and kidney damage. This suggests that effective treatment of diabetes requires more than simply good

MG is a reactive metabolite (a byproduct of cells) that leads to the formation of other powerful molecules that are readily able to modify protein, fats and DNA in cells. This typically prevents those molecules from working – and this can then result in cells no longer functioning properly. These events are known to lead to the development of diseases such as atherosclerosis,

this new research suggests that MG might also contribute to the development of these conditions.

Using genetic engineering, the researchers turned off the enzyme that breaks down MG in flies. MG then accumulated

These new findings might help explain why, even with good control of blood-sugar levels, diabetic complications still develop. There are important implications from this work, as this vent – diabetes complications from developing through a co

Black people beware: don't let Black Panther joy mask Hollywood's racism as Nazis. Then there are heroes, such as white men, who must always be depicted as, in some way, heroic

ALEASE A. BROWN

Black Panther director/co-writer Ryan Coogler has given black people throughout the world an imagined Africa that has been wholeheartedly embraced, earning over USD\$1 billion dollars globally so far. This embrace is due, primarily, to the presentation of so many beautiful, black bodies onscreen, including an extravagant representation of fierce, and fashionable, black women.

Also appealing is the portrayal of an Africa of independent authority, spiritual alertness, respect and veneration of ancestors and relationship with animals and plants. This is a portrayal of Africa that

aminas and paints. This is a portrayard of Africa dual is hungered for, especially by ancestrally orphaned African Americans. It is deeply satisfying to view.

But at the same time, it raises questions alert black viewers would be doing themselves a disser-

black Viewers would be doing themselves a disservice to avoid posing.

Black Panther appears within a broad Hollywood tradition, with over 100 years of history, that portrays Africa as wild, weirdly exotic, and mysterious, and Africans as tribal savages, backwards and subordinate. The framing of Africa and Africans in this way has served to provide the world, including Africans themselves with a postportion of Africa and Africans themselves, with a perception of Africa and African people that justified the "saving" and "civilising" mis-sion of Westerners who desired to maintain a colonising influence over the continent.

Hollywood's history of racism triggers the ques-tion, why was the first black superhero identified as an African and a quasi-animal? When the original Black Panther comic appeared in the sixties, featuring a black person who was not inferiorised was groundbreaking.

However, creating an African black panther was unusual. Unusual because it was the Black Panther alone who was not American, and who was instead assigned an African identity. And also unusual because the sixties Marvel universe of superheroes consisted of human-modified characters – Hulk, Iron Man, Thor – and insect characters – Ant Man, Wasp and Spider Man – but not animal characters, other than Black Panther.

Almost 20 years ago philosopher Achille Mbem-be astutely commented on this troubling and recur-ring phenomenon. He wrote, in On the Postcolony,

discourse on Africa is almost always deployed in the framework (or on the fringes) of a meta-text about the animal — to be exact, about the beast: its experience, its world, and its spectacle.

Whether well-intentioned or malicious, the imag-

ination that intertwines the African and the beast has become so commonplace in our minds that it's hardly questioned. However, when white supremacy is again being boldly asserted in the world, people of African descent who have historically been dehu-manised and relegated to the status of animal, must question this association. Especially instances, as in Black Panther, when the association of the African and the howling gorilla is made so explicitly.

The not so super superhero It's also noteworthy that the first black man su-



perhero was curiously un-superhero like. The char acter T'Challa did not possess the scientific brilliance of Tony Stark, who is Ironman's genius creator and alter ego. T'Challa's essence was not transformed at the genetic level such that his body, his selfness, became superhuman and superpowerful, like Bruce Banner's does when he is transformed into the Hulk. T'Challa was not born a god, like blue-eyed, blonde-haired Thor, the Asgardian god of thunder who wields an enchanted hammer that enables him to fly.

Despite T'Challa's imbibing of the purple flower potion, viewers never witnessed his transformation from human to superhero. He only dons a powerful suit. Why was Black Panther not written in such a vay as to imbue a black man with true superhero

Then there are the villains. In Hollywood, there are certain villains that must always be villains, such

The story of Western neo-imperialist resource extraction from Africa is well known, However, in Black Panther, the CIA, who is often the true enemy of Africa, has been transformed into the imaginary

state of Wakanda's friend. It is Africans themselves who are depicted as those who hoard mineral wealth to the detriment of the world. Why in a film about the Black Panther, who is a black African man, must an actual enemy of African

life, go unnamed and an alternate enemy, Killmonger

Does T'Challa not encounter disrespect on European streets, or suspicion on entering high-end shops, or threats from police on US soil like his black brethren? If he does, then why must there be the creation of hostilities between Pan Africans, when their real-life interests against regime changing global capital and white supremacy are aligned? TROJAN HORSE

TROJAN HORSE
In other words, Hollywood will allow the world of
the Black Panther to be black, only if that world defers to white fragility and does not hurt white people's feelings. Blackness is allowed only if that blackness likes and supports the values that white people like and support. And only to the extent that black people, though they look good, also exhibit deep cul-

Why are global audiences led to associate the power and strength of black men with black-on-black hostility and violence? Why must there be the implicit suggestion to audiences that African gover-

Philosopher Frantz Fanon wrote a generation ago that black people must not only be black, but that they "must be black in relation to the white man". This necessity of avoiding global black reality, in deference to white sensibilities, is the film's super

Hollywood has historically adhered to a racist narrative that portrays black people as inferior. Black people dare not believe that they are being presented with a film that proves that Hollywood now, suddenly, holds them in high esteem. Though the Black Panther film is sumptuous, it is a Trojan Horse. Black people must be careful lest black joy at the gift of the film, blinds to the destructive ideologies embedded

[the writer is Ph.D Candidate, Southern Africa, Theology & Violence, Stellenbosch University

Darjeeling issue can be solved though political dialogue: Ahluwalia

New DELHI, MAR 17 (PTI): BJP MP SS Ahlu-walia yesterday appealed to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baner-jee and former Gorkha . Janmukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung to resolve the Darjeeling problem through political dialogue.

The MP from Darjeeling, who refused to comment on the Supreme Court order dismissing Gurung's plea seeking protection against coercive steps by the West Bengal Police in cases lodged against him, said if needed he can mediate to start a political dialogue between the former GJM leader and

problems can be solved through political dia-logues. It cannot be solved through bullets or putting people behind the bars or suppressing their voice.

"I appeal to the chief

minister to intervene and also appeal to Bimal Gurung not to indulge in any other agitation and come to the solution point. And wherever my mediation is needed I am ready for that," Ahluwalia told PTI. The West Bengal po-

lice had claimed that Gurung and some of his aides were absconding after being booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in con-nection with the violence during the June-September 2017 shutdown in the hill districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong.
The GJM central com-

mittee had earlier sus-pended Gurung for six months and appointed Binay Tamang as the par-ty's new president. Ahluwalia said, "After

the agitation started in the hills, intervention came from the Centre, state and they had a detailed dialogue with Bimal Gurung and came out with a memorandum of agreement on July 18, 2011. This time too there should be a political dialogue."



Give more autonomy to northeastern people: Tharoor

Congress MP Shashi Tharoon has called for giving more autonomy to the northeastern people and not adopting a one-size-fits-all approach as different areas of the region have different problems

Speaking at the launch of Avalok Langer's book on the Northeast, 'In Pursuit of Conflict', at Oxford Book-store here last evening, Tharoor also voiced support for amending the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act as, according to him, it does more harm than good.
"I have a clearly point of

view for as much autonomy as possible for the local people (of the northeastern states),"



Tharoor said, calling for much attention to the needs and the region.

Rather than an umbrella look, the Congress leader said it would be better to have at least half-a-dozen different perspectives of the area as the are not the same, even within the states.

There is a general miasma of ignorance, but beyond that ignorance, the specific area

need to be dealt with specifically, he added.

"Increasingly, we're gonna have to have a decentralised democracy. More areas that are distant from Delhi -- to the north, northeast or south -- are going to feel that it's not possible for them to have every decision having being taken in Delhi.

"I think it becomes rather important that we start defining the contours of autonomy and giving the details a sub-stantive meaning," the Thiruvananthapuram MP said.

The former Union min-ister clarified that he was against self-determination as the northeastern states cannot function independently, broadly due to their small army," he said. geo-economics.

Describing the language of the provisions in AFSPA as "offensive" to the sensibilities of any democrat, he said, "I think a significant section of the political establishment, certainly speaking for my party, would be in favour of amending (the)

The provision for arrest without warrant are far too blanket. But, the revocation of the Act may be a step that would be politically difficult, the 62-year-old MP said.

"My understanding is that attempts that were made at a very high political level were essentially thwarted by the vehement opposition of the

Batting for systematic dialogue with the army regarding the Act, Tharoor said, "In any democratic country, to have a law that is seen by the public as conferring impunity for human rights violations, is always going to do more harm than good."

Talking about insurgency, he saidthat in a democratic state, anything can be discussed, provided it is not done at the point of a gun.

But, if the aggrieved parties come forward in a democratic manner and participate, then there would be more voices in favour of substantial autonomy, he added.

Counsellors on video

call abort deaf & dumb

woman's suicide

Bengal keen to enhance brand value of Darjeeling tea

KOLKATA, MAR 17 (PTI): The West Bengal government plans to draw up detailed plans to enhance the brand value of Darjeeling tea for higher realisation of

exports, a top official said today.

"We are planning for enhancement of the brand value of Darjeeling tea along the lines of

champagne, which has acquired iconic proportions across the globe," MD of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Vandana Yadav told reporters on the sidelines of a CII event here

WBIDC would work out the details and make the necessary investment towards this end.

Yadav said that the matter came up for discussion at the business summit held in Darjeeling recently

She said that at present, the Darjeeling tea, which had already got the GI tag and a special logo, was being sent to the export markets in bulk form.

"We want to package it into a very premium format to get highly discerning realisation in the export markets of UK, US, Europe and Japan," she said.

The state government would also facilitate B2B meetings be-

tween exporters and buyers, Yadav added.

'Facebook has 'secret police' led by Indian-American to catch leakers'

Los Angeles, Mar 17 (PTI): Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has reportedly deployed "secret police" led by Indian-American Sonya Ahuia to catch and punish those leaking infor-mation about the social media giant in press, a media report has said.

Zuckerberg hosts weekly meetings where he shares details of unreleased new products and strategies in front of thousands of employees, The Guardian reported.

During one of his weekly meetings in 2015, the usually affable CEO warned employees: "We're going to find the leaker, and we're going to A week later, Zuck-erberg revealed the culprit had been caught and fired.

fire them"

The media report, citing an unnamed former employee at Face-book, said that he was called into a meeting last year under the guise of a promotion where the investigative team inter-

The interrogation by the "rat-catching" team, led by the company's head of investigations Ahuja, was a technical-ity; they already knew he was guilty of leaking some innocuous information to the press, the

They had records of a screenshot he'd taken, links he had clicked or hovered over, and they strongly indicated they had accessed chats between him and the journalist, dating back to be-fore he joined the company, it said.

"It's horrifying how much they know. You go into Facebook and it has this warm, fuzzy feeling of 'we're changing the world' and 'we care about things'. But you get on their bad side and all of a sudden you are face to face with Mark Zuckerberg's secret police," he told The Guardian.

Bangladesh is a natural friend of India: Tripura Deputy CM

AGARTALA, MAR 17 (PTI): Tripura Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Devbarman today said Bangladesh is a "natural" friend of India, and the state would do everything possible to further strengthen ties with that country.

"Our relation with

Bangladesh is very cordial now and the country is already engaged in a lot of work to develop relationship with Tripura," he told reporters at the 99th birthday celebration of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Business environment

satisfactory in West

Bengal: Survey

at Bangladesh Assistant High Commission complex here.

"Foreign affairs are in the hands of the Central government. But our government will do all that is in our capacity (to boost ties with Bangladesh),' he said.

Bangladesh cele-brates March 17 as national children's day in honour of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a prom-inent figure of the Ban-gladesh Liberation War, who had great love for

A deaf and dumb new-ly-married woman who was about to hang herself was saved in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district in a coordinated action by the local police and a cou

JAIPUR, MAR 17 (PTI):

sellor couple who were in touch with her through video call from Indore.
The woman (23), who was allegedly suffering from depression, online searched the contact number of counsellors -Gyanendra Purohit and

his wife Monica - and told

them three days back she

wanted to end her life. On Thursday night, the woman again made a video call to Purohit, who also works as the state coordinator for Muk Badhir police helpline at Indore, seeking help but this time she was standing on her bed and made a noose of her dupatta apparently to

commit suicide.

Monica, director of Anand Service society working for deaf children in Indore, said, This was a totally unexpected scene. My husband was in Mumbai, he called me up and I started counselling the woman through sign language. Simultaneously, we coordinated with the Hanumangarh police seeking their help."

"The woman told us

that her father had sexually abused her since childhood and now her husband is also brutal to her. Therefore she is under depression and wante ed to take the extreme step, she said.

The couple intimated Hanumangarh SP who directed a local police team to locate the house and reach there.

Eventually, police located her house yesterday around noon and rescued her, she said.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Gayatri Devi of the Mahila thana Hanumangarh, who went to rescue her said the woman and her sister, who hail from Jodhpur, were married to two brothers in Hanumangarh on March 10.

We somehow entered the room where she was standing on her bed and was about to hang herself. She was on video call with the social workers and I told them that we are from police and will en-sure her safety, she said.

The woman had kept the mobile phone on a window and was talking to the social workers through sign language, the ASI said.

The woman is now with an NGO in Hanu-mangarh and no FIR has been registered so far.

Cong urges EC to revert to paper ballots

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI): The Congress today urged that the Election Commission (EC) revert to the old practice of paper ballots in future elections instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

This is necessary as there are misgivings on misuse of EVMs to manipulate the outcome contrary to popular verdict, the party said here during its 84th plenary session.

The Congress and other political parties have been alleging that EVMs were tampered during polls and demanding reintroduction of the ballot paper sys-

tem of voting.

The party called for reverting to the old practice of paper ballots citing it was adopted by other help restore the credibility of the electoral process.

A resolution was also moved in this regard in

the plenary session.

In its resolution, the party said the BJP's move of simultaneous elections is misplaced and is incompatible with the Constitu-

tion as also impractical.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pressing upon the idea of holding simultaneous elections to Parliament and state assemblies contending that it will save money and time.

The party also re-solved to adopt a "prag-matic approach" for matic approach" for cooperation with all like-minded parties and evolve a common evolve a common workable programme to de-feat the BJP-RSS in the 2019 general election

KOLKATA, MAR 17 (PTI):

The business environ-ment in West Bengal across small, medium and large industries was satisfactory and many of them were looking for expan-sion in the state, according to CII-PwC survey.

A number of companies felt that cost competitiveness exists in terms of raw material, which is a major plus, it said.

The business environment had also significantly improved with respect to strikes and other forms of work disrup-

tions, as per the survey.

The joint survey, prepared with feedback from businesses in and outside of Bengal, advocated taking "further bold steps in pushing reforms and simplifying the clearance processes" The state would be

able to sustain its incremental business growth, attract more investments and emerge as one of the major investment destinations of the country, it said.

Many businesses felt that there was scope for improvement in the registration, incubation systems and legal processes, while some were of the opinion that a greater emphasis needs to be laid on the health and education sector.

Some of the major concerns include labour and trade union issues, lack of skilled manpower and challenges in acqui-sition of land, the survey Agitating Jalpaiguri Engineering College students gherao principal JALPAIGURI (WB), MAR 17 (PTI): Agitating students of the Jalpaiguri Government ing College (JGEC) have gheraoed the principal since yesterday following which he was taken ill. a

college official said today.
Principal Amitava Roy
has fallen ill and doctors recommended hospitalisation, but the students refused to take him to hospital and said he be treated at his office, said the official who does not want to be quoted.

Roy has been treated

at his chamber, he said.

The JCEC authorities also directed all the male students of the 2nd year to vacate the hostel but they were yet to do it. The students, main-

ly of the second year, were demanding action against a Computer Science teacher alleging that he had beaten up two second-year students on Thursday evening after they had an altercation with some first-year stu-dents, the official said.

The agitating students and the authorities held talks but it did not yield any result yesterday. Since then the students were on dharna and did not let the principal and other senior official leave the college.

However, they allowed them to leave early today. While others went home, the principal did not, the official said.

Over 1,700 major card, net banking-related frauds reported in 2017

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI): Over 1,700 cases of fraud related to credit/debit card and Internet banking with the extent of losses touching Rs 71.48 crore were reported in 2017, Parliament was informed today.

A total of 1,785 cases related to credit/debit card and

Internet banking for amounts involving Rs 1 lakh and more were reported last year, Minister of State for Electronics and IT K J Alphons said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

He added that the extent of losses in these cases totalled Rs 71.48 crore. In December 2017 alone, 187 cases with losses touching Rs 33.73 crore was reported, the minister said.

"The extent of loss due to fraud in December 2017 appears to be high but as per the data available at RBI website, during the month, the value of card usage at ATMs and Point of Sale (POS) terminals was Rs 3,469.97 billion (Rs 3,46,997 crore)," he explained.

Thus, the extent of losses due to fraud in December 2017 is only 0.009 per cent of the value of trans-actions, he added. Alphons said RBI is taking adequate measures for risk mitigation in online payments.

Also, banks and payment system operators have been advised to enhance the security and risk mitigation measures for card transactions (including cardbased online transactions), he added.

In response to another question, Alphons said as per information received from RBI, 30,222 incidents of phishing/vishing, OTP compromise, fraud by compromise of user credentials, compromise of mobile phone numbers of customers were reported in Octo-

He added that 16,128 incidents were reported in June 2017 quarter, while the number rose to 20,753 in the following quarter.

"In addition, RBI also received 2 complaints regarding ATM cloning and e-wallet scam involving bank accounts in branches of public and private sector banks," he said.

Have we got the causes of type 2 diabetes wrong? which are sensitive to antioxidants.

bination of good glucose control along with

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR DIABETES TREATMENT?

While diabetes treatments are often effective at bringing blood-sugar levels down, over time their effectiveness usually decreases. As such there is an urgent need to develop new drugs that work to control diabetes and its

nplications in different ways.

Most current strategies aim to stop the development of type 2 diabetes by targeting cells and tissues linked to insulin secretion from the pancreas, glucose uptake into cells, or by preventing glucose release from stores in the liver. Together these strategies can help control blood-sugar levels.

The new research, however, suggests that in addition to controlling blood-sugar levels we should also consider additional treat-ments that work by preventing reactive metabolites, such as MG, from forming, But what

would be the best way to achieve this?

Reactive metabolites can lead to extensive damage within cells. There is good news, though, in that there are molecules that can effectively stop these products from forming.

Antioxidants, such as vitamin C and vita-

min E, have previously been suggested as possible diabetes treatments. However, studies using this approach have had mixed results.

One possible explanation for this is that there are multiple reactive metabolites, not all of

A new champion may now have emerged, though, in the form of the naturally occurring itritional supplement called carnosine. This is a molecule that was recently shown to prevent formation of numerous reactive metabolites that are formed from glucose and fatty acids.
Clinical trials are ongoing, but initial findings are promising. They suggest that car-

nosine is able to reduce blood-sugar levels, as well as prevent multiple complications that are associated with diabetes. Even better, as this is classified as a dietary supplement rather than a drug, no prescription is needed in order to take carnosine. [the writer is Associate Professor,

Nottingham Trent University]





Tel/Fax:- 03592-201221/202689

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE The BID ID No:-SK-Ph XII (Batch –II) Re-Tender Online -4 OF 2017-18

The Chief Engineer R.M. & D.D. on behalf of Governor of Sikkim invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement. The bid should be submitted on line in website www.pmgsytenderskm.gov.in for construction of respective works as detailed in the Annexure table by contractors of appropriate Class with the State Government for execution of civil works. The bidders should have the necessary Portal Enrolment, with his own Digital Signature Certificate – (DSC).

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Last date of time for seeking tender	Date & time of Opening of tender
		From	То	clarification	
Chief Engineer R.M & D.D.	SK-Ph XII (Batch – II) Re-Tender On- line -04/2017- 18	19/03/2018 4.00 PM	02/04/2018 Upto 10.00 AM	21/03/2018 upto 2.00 PM	02/04/2018 at 11.00 AM.

Chief Engineer-cum- Empowered Officer Rural Management & Development Department Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

Annexure

SI.	District	Pack-	VALUE OF	E.M.D	CLASS	COST OF	PERIOD OF
No.		age	WORK (Rs	@2.5% (Rs.	OF CON-	DOCUMENT	COMPLE-
		No.	in Lakhs)	In Lakhs)	TRACTOR	(In Rs.)	TION
1	East	1	522.45	13.06	IIA	50000	12 Months.
2	East	II	671.54	16.79	IIA	50000	12 Months.
3	East	Ш	519.70	12.99	IIA	50000	12 Months.
4.	East	IV	447.96	11.20	IIB	50000	12 Months.
5	East	V	1804.92	45.12	IA	100000	12 Months.
6	East	VI	363.12	9.08	IIA	50000	12 Months.
7	East	VII	545.88	13.65	IIA	50000	12 Months.
8.	North	VIII	535.98	13.40	IIA	50000	12 Months.
9	North	IX	639.00	15.98	IIA	50000	12 Months.
10.	North	Х	682.82	17.07	IIA	50000	12 Months.
11	North	XI	414.49	10.36	IIB	50000	12 Months.
12	North	XII	327.91	8.20	IIB	50000	12 Months.
13	North	XIII	402.91	10.07	IIB	50000	12 Months.
14	North	XIV	352.55	8.81	IIB	50000	12 Months.
15	North	XV	465.30	11.63	IIB	50000	12 Months.
16	North	XVI	383.74	9.59	IIB	50000	12 Months.
17	North	XVII	648.03	16.20	IIA	50000	12 Months.
18	South	XVIII	448.44	11.21	IIB	50000	12 Months.
19	South	XIX	302.65	7.57	IIB	50000	12 Months.
20	South	XX	525.31	13.13	IIA	50000	12 Months.
21	West	XXI	1029.18	25.73	IA	100000	12 Months.
22	West	XXII	829.65	20.74	IB	50000	12 Months.
23	West	XXIII	844.37	21.11	IB	50000	12 Months.
24	West	XXIV	805.47	20.14	IB	50000	12 Months.

Further details can be seen from the website www.sikkim.gov.in & www.sikkim.gov.in & www.sikkim.gov.in & www.pmgsytenderskm.gov.in & www.sikkim.gov.in & www.sikkim.gov.in & www.sikkim.gov.in & www.pmgsytenderskm.gov.in & www.pmgsytenderskm.go

Sd/-Chief Engineer-cum- Empowered Officer Rural Management & Development Department Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

Phase – XII (Batch-II) Re-Tender Packages.

Annexure

		T	1		1	
SI. No.	District	Road Name	Proposal Type	Pavement Length (in Kms. & Bridge in Mtr.)	Tender Amount	Class
1	East	L115-Chinzey Gaon to Chinzey School	Stage –II	2.84	211.21	
2	East	L114-Lingding to Sichey Gaon via Rai Gaon	Stage – II	4.175	311.24	
		Package I			522.45	IIA
3	East	L304-Lower Nandok to Lower Syari	Stage – II	3.42	269.85	
4	East	L304-Lower Namdok to Lower Syari	Bhusuk Khola	40	189.62	
5	East	L304-Lower Nandok to Lower Syari	Takchum Chu Khola	40	212.07	
		Package II			671.54	IIA
6	East	L123-Daragaon to Mullasso	Stage – II	7.1	519.70	
		Package III			519.70	IIA
7	East	L125-Assam Lingzey School to Limboo Gaon	Stage- II	3.875	276.83	

Seat							
	8	East	Assam Linzey to Ra-	Salaley Khola	30	171.13	
Sext			-			447 96	IIB
	9	East	L118-Lingdok 9 th Mile	Stage-II	8.52	-	
	10	East	•		30	173.34	
Mathematical Math	11	East	•	Guye Khola	30	171.25	
	12	East		_	30	168.23	
	13	East	L118-Lingdok 9 th Mile		30	177.67	
	14	East	L118-Lingdok 9 th Mile	_	30	175.48	
	15	East	L118-Lingdok 9 th Mile	Kedengthang	20	137.70	
Marchage V	16	East	L118-Lingdok 9 th Mile	Andheri	20	132.41	
Method M				Khola		1804.92	IA
Methy with Takel Methy with	17	East		Stage – II	3	208.90	
19	18	East		Hem Khola I	20	154.22	
Bahun Gano (Lingdok)	10	F		Chara II	5.0		IIB
Martam			Bahun Gaon (Lingdok)				
22	20	East		Stage-II	2.5	185.51	
Mothang	21	North		Stage — II	5	-	IIA
			kothang		_		
	22	North	•	Stage- II	3./3	-	IIA
24	23	North	· ·	Stage – II	10.65	639.65	
Mantyam	24	North		Stage-II	14.3	-	IIA
25			mantyam			682.82	IIA
26	25	North	L069-DAC APP RD to	Stage-II	7.15		
To Kazor						-	IIB
27	26	North	to Kazor	Stage – II	5.96		
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Rajapaksa-backed Joint Opposition moves no confidence motion against Lanka PM

COLOMBO, MAR 17 (PTI): Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa-backed Joint Opposition has moved a no confidence motion against Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe who was recently replaced as law and order minister after clashes erupted in the central Kandy district.

Joint Opposition (JO) parlia-

mentarian Ranjith Soysa said the motion of no confidence against the 68-year-old Wickremesinghe will be handed over to Speaker of parliament next week when the

Rajapaksa told reporters yesterday that they were close to

topple the government.

"He (Wickremesinghe) will have to go soon," Rajapaksa said. The JO said the motion ninst Wickremesinghe will

contain charges of economic mis-management by him during the last 3 years.

It said that even some members of Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) would sign the motion.

Among the top most charges against Wickremesinghe would be the alleged scandal in the Central Bank bond issues in 2015 and

2016, Sonysa said.
Wickremesinghe is accused of appointing Singapore national Ariuna Mahendran as the bank's governor whose son in law Arjun Aloysius was running a primary dealer firm.

He is also charged of failing to tackle the anti-Muslim riots in the central district of Kandy when he was the Law and Order Minister.

Since the February 10 land-

faced calls for resignation.

The UNP, however, doubted Rajapaksa's ability to topple Wickremesinghe

Both Rajapaksa loyalists and President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) are short of numbers to win the motion unless large scale defec-tions from the UNP, which seems

very unlikely.

The SLFP ministers who are in the Wickremesinghe's unity government cabinet said they will wait and watch.

They had called for Wickremesinghe's removal after the local elec-tion defeat to Rajapaksa but failed in their attempt to topple Wickremesinghe for the lack of numbers.

Sirisena replaced Wickremesinghe as the law and order minister on March 8 after fresh violence had erupted between majority Sinhala Buddhists and minority Muslims in the Kandy district, despite imposition of na-

tionwide emergency.
Sinhalese Buddhists make up about 75 per cent of the population in Kandy.

Tensions between Muslim groups and the majority Sinha-lese Buddhist community in the country have escalated since the end of the civil war in May 2009.

In 2014, violence directed

against Muslim minority groups broke out in the southwestern town of Aluthgama, following a rally by hardline Buddhist nationalist monks, resulting in the death of at least three Muslims

Pride at stake for Indian women in 3rd ODI against Australia

VADODARA, MAR 17 (PTI): The series already lost, India women would look to salvage some pride when they take on mighty Australia in the third and final game of the series. of the ICC Women ODI Championship, here

It has been a disastrous series for Indian women so far as they are yet to taste a victory in four matches, including the two practice games preceding the three-game ODI series.

It has been a domi-nating performance from Australia, who had lost to India in the World Cup nifinals.

Australia women have showed their class by registering convincing wins in all the matches. They won the first ODIs by eight wickets and sealed the series with 60-run victory in the second match.

Prior to the ODIs, Indian women had also lost both the practice games in Mumbai by massive 321 runs and seven wickets

respectively.

And come tomorrow, it would be Indian women's last chance to redeem some pride and bring smiles back to the faces of their fans with a consolation win.

But to achieve a favourable result India will have to improve in all de-

partments of the game.
In the absence of veteran Jhulan Goswami, the Indian bowling attack looked lacklustre in the series with Shikha Pandey and Pooja Vastrakar leaking runs upfront.

The spinners too failed to make any considerable impact with the likes of Ekta Bisht and

to contain the Australian batswomen in favourable conditions.

India's batting has en unimpressive in the two matches and it has cost the team badly.

Opener Punam Raut struggled in both the games and was also guilty of wasting too many de-liveries while chasing 288 runs in the must-win second game.

Barring left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana, who made 67 off 53 balls in the second ODI, all the In-

dian batswomen struggled.

Much was expected
from the likes of skipper Mithali Raj, who missed the first ODI due to illness, Harmanpreet Kaur, Veda Krishnamurthy and Deppti Shama but all of them failed to make any impact.

The onus would be on the Indian batters to shoulder the responsibil-ity tomorrow and hand their side a much-needed

morale-boosting victory.

Australia, on the other hand, have not put a foot wrong in the tour so far.

The Australians have been clinical in all depart-ments of the game, be it batting, bowling or field-

is in sublime touch, following up her unbeaten 100 with a classy 84 in the second ODI.

Ellyse Perry struck unbeaten run-a-ball while Beth Mooney smashed a 40-ball 56 in the last match and the duo would be looking to carry forward its good form.

Captain Meg Lanning got starts in both the games before getting out and would be hoping to score big tomorrow.

Teams (from): India: Mithali Raj (captain), Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Veda Krishnamurthy, Punam Raut, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sushma Verma, Ekta Bist Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Deepti Sharma, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Mona Meshram, Poonan

Yadav, Sukanya Parida Australia: Meg Lanning (captain), Alyssa Healy, Nicole Bolton, Nicola Carey, Ellyse Perry, Elyse Velani, Ashleigh Gardner, Rachel Haynes, Jess Jonassen, Sophie Molineux, Megan Schutt, Beh Mooney, Belinda Vakarewa, Amanda Iade-Wellington

Trump fires FBI Deputy Director for unauthorised disclosure to media

LALIT K IHA

WASHINGTON, MAR 17 (PTI): The administration has fired nber two official at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) accusing him of making an unau thorised disclosure to the media.

Andrew McCabe, the FBI Dep-

uty Director, who was set to retire on Sunday, in a lengthy statement fired back alleging that his termi-nation was an effort on the part of the administration to undermine the investigation in the alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election by counsel Robert Mueller.

The announcement by Attorney General Jeff Sessions late last night comes within days of President Donald Trump firing his Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

Sessions said McCabe has been fired based on the recommendation of an internal FBI office that handles disciplinary matters. The FBI's Office of Profess

Responsibility (OPR) and Office of Inspector General (OIG) had found McCabe made an unauthorised

disclosure to the news media and "lacked candour - including under oath - on multiple occasions," the attorney general said. "The FBI expects every employ-

ee to adhere to the highest standards of honesty, integrity and ac-countability. I have terminated the employment of Andrew McCabe effective immediately." Sessions said

McCabe refuted the allegations. "The idea that I was dishonest is just wrong. This is part of an effort to discredit me as a witness," he said in a lengthy statement. Notably McCabe had stepped own in January and had taken leave of absence.

According to reports, McCabe

was among the first at the FBI to scrutinise possible Trump campaign ties to Russia. And he is a potential witness to the question of whether Trump tried to ob-

struct justice, they said.

"Mr Trump has taunted Mr McCabe both publicly and privately, and Republican allies have cast him as the centre of a 'deep state' effort to undermine the Trump presidency," a report said.

McCabe said for the last year and a half, he and his family have been the targets of an unrelenting assault on their reputation and

his service to this country.

"Articles too numerous to count have leveled every sort of false, defamatory and degrading allegation against us. The presi-dent's tweets have amplified and exacerbated it all. He called for my firing. He called for me to be stripped of my pension after more than 20 years of service. And all along we have said nothing, never wanting to distract from the mis-sion of the FBI by addressing the lies told and repeated about us.

No more," he said.

He also charged the president. "Here is the reality: I am being singled out and treated this way because of the role I played, the actions I took, and the events I witnessed in the aftermath of the firing of James Comey. The release of this report was accelerat-

ed only after my testimony to the House Intelligence Committee revealed that I would corrobo-rate former Director Comey's accounts of his discussions with the President," the statement said.

"This attack on my credibility is one part of a larger effort not just to slander me personally, but to taint the FBI, law enforcement, and intelligence professionals more generally. It is part of this administration's ongoing war on the FBI and the efforts of the Special Counsel investigation, which con-tinue to this day. Their persistence in this campaign only highlights the importance of the Special Counsel's work," McCabe said.

A day earlier, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said that McCabe's troubling be-haviour" was "well-documented," insisting he was "by most accounts a bad actor."

McCabe was involved in FBI's investigation into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's email server and the Russia probe.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI VIRGO

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:17/03/18 1st Prize Rs.10.000/- 3480

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 6509 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2897 4th Prize Rs.300/- 3857 5th Prize Rs. 205/- 1672 6th Prize Rs 100/-

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

Russia expels 23 British diplomats in spy-poisoning response

Moscow, Mar 17 (AP): Russia today announced it is expelling 23 British diplomats and threatened further measures in retaliation in a growing diplomatic dispute over a nerve agent attack on a former spy in Britain.

The Russian Foreign

Ministry also said in a state ment that it is ordering the closure of the British Council, a government organization for cultural and scien tific cooperation, and that it is ending an agreement to reopen the British consul-

ate in St Petersburg.

It ordered the dip-lomats to leave within a week. The statement said the government could take further measures if Britain takes any more "unfriendly" moves to-ward Russia.

British Ambassador Laurie Bristow was called to the Foreign Ministry Saturday morning to be informed of the moves.

British Prime Minister Theresa May this week expelled 23 Russian diplomats and severed high-level bilateral contacts over the March 4 poisoning of ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia. They remain in critical condition in hospital.

Britain's foreign secretary accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of personally ordering the poisoning of the Skripals, who were found slumped on a pub-lic bench in the southern English city of Salisbury. Putin's spokesman nounced the claim.

Xi re-elected China prez, close aide Wang Qishan becomes VP

KIM VARMA

BEIJING, MAR 17 (PTI): Xi Jinping was today re-elected as president for a second fivevear tenure by China's rub ber-stamp parliament, days after it scrapped the two-term rule for the presidency and allowed him to have a life-long tenure.

The NPC has also elected 64-year-old Xi as the head of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high command of the two million strong Chinese military, the world's largest.

Xi has already been elected as general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) at its once-in-five-year congress in October last year.

Significantly, Xi's loyalist and close confidant Wang Qishan, 69, has been elected as vice president, who like Xi is set for a lifelong tenure.

Today's election comes after the National People's Congress (NPC) on March 11 ratified the constitutional amendment for removing the two-term limit for president and vice president proposed by the CPC. The election will ensure Xi heads the CPC, the military and the presidency, perhaps

for life. He is the first Chinese leader to have that privilege after par-ty founder Chairman Mao Zedong who ruled China from 1949 till his death in 1976.

Technically the election marks Xi's second-term which would last till 2023. But after the constitutional amendments removed the term limit he is expected to have a

Xi was elected unanimously as president and head of CMC by 2,970 deputies of NPC which has the reputation of being a rubber-stamp parliament for routinely ratifying CPC proposals. Wang, however got 2,969, one vote less in the carefully choreographed poll. Observers say the one vote dissent was officially sanctioned to show diversity in China's political system.

After the results were an-

nounced in the nationally televised show of the NPC proceed-ings, Xi bowed and shook hands with colleagues.

For the first time, he along

with other officials took oath on the newly-amended Constitution swearing to be faithful to the char-ter of the People's Republic of Chi-na, defend its authority, be loyal to

the country and the people.

The oath also stipulates that they will be committed and honest while performing duties, accept people's supervision and work hard to help build a great modern so-cialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.

Another of Xi's close aides Li Zhanshu who was chief of staff was elected chairman of NPC. The parliament also ratified a new plan to revamp the government.

Wang is the most feared offi-cial in China as he carried out the dreaded anti-corruption campaign for the past five years initiated by Xi in which over 1.5 million officials including over 100 ministers and top generals were punished in the biggest such crackdown in Chi-na's recent history. Originally Xi was set to retire by 2023 as head of the CPC, the military and presidency following a two-term limit followed by his predecessors. He first became president in 2013.

The two-term limit was adopted by the party after Mao's death to ensure collective leadership to avert mistakes like the brutal Cul-tural Revolution that killed millions. Critics point out that the election of Wang too was in violation of the unwritten rule of retirement at age 68 followed by all top CPC leaders so far. He has been elected to the powerful post even though he is 69. Wang is expected to be given a portfolio covering China's ambitious global affairs agenda, including handling rocky relations with the US, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

With a trade war looming between the US and China, Wang who has dealt with successive American administrations have to draw on his experience as a problem solver for the job, the report said

Later the NPC expected to elect the new premier, ministers and other top officials. Except Premier Li Keqiang, all

top posts including the entire Cabinet besides the governor of the central bank will be held by a new

set of officials.

From India's perspective on the new line-up of officials, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi was widely expected to be elevated to state councillor which makes him the top diplomat of the country.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES MUMBAILAXMI RAJA

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:17/03/18

1st Prize Rs.10.000/- 2247 2nd Prize Rs.2.000/- 1554 rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 4959 4th Prize Rs. 505/- 3024 th Prize Rs.200/

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Issued by: The Commissioner, ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR GENTLE MORNING

Draw Time: 1.155 ann onwards

Draw No:15 DrawDate on:17/03/18

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(Including Super Prize Annt)

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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PRIZED

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards

Draw No:15 DrawDate on:17/03/1

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(Including Super Prize Amt)

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Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

Final trailer for Avengers: Infinity War released

We're just a few weeks away from the release of Avengers: Infini-ty War — its release date was recently bumped up a week to April 27th — and now, Marvel has released new trailer to stir up some more excitement for the upcoming superhero showdown.

The freshly-released Avengers: Infinity War trailer sets up an ominous and iconic moment from Marvel Comics' Infinity Gauntlet storyline, where Mad Titan Thanos comes to possess the combined abilities of all six immeasurably powerful Infinity Stones — powers he uses to wipe out half of all life in the universe with a single snap of his fingers.
"The entire time I knew him, he only

ever had one goal." Gamora warns of her adopted father's blood lust. "To wipe out half the universe."

Avengers: Infinity War is inspired in part by the 1991 six-issue Infinity Gauntlet limited series, which saw Thanos come to possess and wield the powers of all six Infinity Stones.

Infinity War promises to be one

of the biggest films Marvel has ever made, combining almost every single superhero from across the 18-film franchise that began 10 years ago with the release of Iron Man in 2008. As the star-studded trailer shows, Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man, Chadwick Boseman's Black Panther, Chris Evans'

Captain America, Benedict Cumberbatch's Doctor Strange, Tom Holland's Spider-Man, Paul Rudd's Ant-Man, the rest of the Avengers, the Guardians of the Galaxy, and pretty much every other ancillary character from the Marvel Cinematic Universe are back.

All these highly paid actors will be joining forces against the villainous Thanos (Josh Brolin), the big bad that Marvel has been teasing in post-credit stingers since the first Avengers film was released six years ago. And judging by the trailer, it'll be an uphill battle to





JET SETTER: Academy Award nominee Margot Robbie arrives all smiles at Sydney airport.

SPOTIFY TO LAUNCH MUSIC STREAMING SERVICE IN INDIA TO STAY AHEAD OF APPLE

The music service looking Spotify, to bring its service to India, one of the fastest-growing in-ternet markets in the world as it looks to boost growth and stay ahead of rival

Announcing Spotify's plans to list on public markets on April 3, CEO Daniel Ek said the Stockholm-based company was planning an entry into some of the largest markets in the world. Spotify is taking a rather un-



usual path to go public and will directly sell shares to the public. "We are working on launching

in some of the biggest markets in the world, including India, Russia, and Africa, which have a very rich musical culture," Ek said during his presentation. He said that post IPO, the company would continue to focus on growth rather than turning on the

profit machine. While no further details were divulged on when Spotify could launch its service here or its pricing in the country, the company did disclose in its IPO filing last week that it has leased office space in Mumbai. The company has also made ex-Googler Akshat Harbola as its Head of Market Operations in India.

Despite its service not being available in India, there already are several thousand users in the country who use Spotify via VPNs. Spotify said that the awareness of its brand among users in India is already high, alluding to the fact that the company would be able to achieve organic growth in India.

Jacqueline Fernandez pays tribute to Madhuri Dixit in 'ek do teen' reboot

film Tezaab got released, it gave India one of its biggest female superstars: Madhuri Dixit. She became a house hold name for her dance per-formance in the song 'Ek Do Teen' which remains a classic even to date. Now, the song is being rebooted to feature in the upcoming film Baaghi 2 and Jacqueline Fernandez guest stars in it.

Disha Patani took to Twitter and revealed a teaser of the song. While the essential tune remains the same, there are some con-temporary dance moves and gestures added to make the song look more attractive. Whether it works in the fayour of the film or not will be known when the whole



Much of Madhuri's look from the original song has been retained, especially her yellow-and-pink skirt which became a rage in the 1990s.

While Bollywood veter-

an Saroj Khan had choreographed the original song, the new song has three cho-

reographers on board roj Khan, Ahmed Khan and Ganesh Acharya.
Fernandez clarified that

there's no chance of any comparison as she holds Madhu-ri in utmost esteem and her performance is just a tribute to the Bollywood diva

That was my first stress

something so iconic, like is it even possible? It made it lot easier for me when I understood that it is not possible. We're not trying to match up to what Madhuri Dixit did. We are not trying to match up to what Saroj (Khan) ji did. We are honestly fans, big, big fans of their work. This is honestly, more than anything, a tribute to an amazing and iconic number that they gave to us."

Baaghi 2, which stars Ti-

ger Shroff and Disha Patani. is produced by Sajid Nadiad-wala under the banner name Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment and presented by Fox Star Studios. It will release on 30 March

KENDALL JENNER AND ED SHEERAN SLAMMED FOR APPEARING IN CHRIS BROWN'S NEW MUSIC VIDEO

il Dicky and Chris Brown's new song, "Freaky Friday," shot to the top of the iTunes charts after the music video dropped on Thursday, March 15, but there was also quite a bit of backlash surrounding the release.

Kendall Jenner and Ed Sheeran, both of whom make cameos in the hilarious video, were slammed by fans on Twitter for working with Brown, 28, who pleaded guilty to physically assaulting then-girlfriend Rihanna in 2009. He also has a tumultuous relationship with his ex Karrueche Tran, who had a restraining order taken out against him in 2017

"Please tell me you're not supporting chris brown," one Twitter user wrote in response to the 22-year-old supermodel's tweet about the NSFW music video, which pays homage to Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis' 2003 movie of the same name.

Another fan tweeted, "Girl please don't support an abuser."The "Shape of You" singer, 27, also faced criticism for his appearance. "So @edsheeran is on a song with Chris Brown. And in my opinion that currently makes him a d-k," one eeter wrote.

Earlier this week, Brown made head

lines after Snapchat posted an advertisement that made light of his assault conviction. The message asked users whether they'd rather "slap Rihanna" or "punch Chris Brown."

Rihanna, 30, released a statement of her own on Instagram the following day, writing, "I'm just trying to figure out what the point was with this mess! I'd love to call it ignorance, but I know you ain't that dumb! ... You let us down! Shame on you. Throw the whole app-oligy away."







ARIES: Paperwork regarding finces, possibly those conne ed with your job, might take up a lot of your time today, Aries. You should be feeling especially strong, confident, and focused, so if you've been thinking about looking for a new position, this is the day to check the ads. Ad-vancement through your own efforts is strongly indicated by the aspects in force today.

TAURUS: A creative project, perhaps one that could earn you some money, might well be the primary focus of your atthe primary locus of your attention today. Perhaps you've been doing some writing or intend to teach a class. You might want to give the idea some thought, Taurus, if you haven't already. Your physical and mental energies are high. Success is strongly indicated if you start the ball rolling.

GEMINI: A couple with a child might visit you today. One or both of these people could be connected with you in a business capacity. Whatever the connection. Gemini, a lot of interesting discussion should take place, and promising plans for the future could well be made. Take care Your mind could go a thousand miles an hour and you'll need to unwind so you can sleep!

CANCER: A lot of paperwork cancer: A for of paperwork involving new plans for your business interests could need immediate attention. Getting it done properly is probably going to require a lot of ingenuity on your part, Cancer, but you'll manage it. Your mind is

particularly quick, sharp, and focused today, so you'll be able to accomplish a lot in whatever you try. In the evening, attend a concert, lecture, or other event in your community.

LEO: A new business opportunity may come your way, Leo. You aren't likely to want to commit to a permanent involvement, but you might take it on temporarily simply for the sake of the money. Perhaps you want to make some changes in your home, such as new furniture or paint. Whatever comes your way, you'll probably put a lot of energy into it and accom-plish it all. Go for it! VIRGO: Your physical energy

is high and your ambition even higher, Virgo. You're likely to want to turn your mind to new

projects that can advance your socioeconomic status. You could spend a lot of time today gathering information and sending it out, doing whatever it takes to accomplish your goals. A number of short journeys in your neighborhood are definitely on the agenda. Pace yourself so you don't get too tired. **LIBRA:** Practical abilities that

you didn't know you possessed might suddenly appear today, Libra. You could be working behind the scenes on a project of some kind, perhaps involving earning some extra money or raising funds for a worthy cause. Your intuition is operat-ing at a high level, so don't be surprised if you tune in to the thoughts of others. Your imagination and inspiration are also

on target. Make use of them! SCORPIO: The completion of a long-term goal might have you feeling enthusiastic, energetic, and happy. You're also likely to be looking to the future, Scorpio, formulating ideas for other projects and discussing them with friends. Group activities could benefit you at this time and put you in touch with new people who could possibly become close to you. In the evening, go to an exciting movie. A thriller would suit you just fine. SAGITTARIUS: Career matters are at the forefront of your concerns today, Sagittarius. Op-portunities for advancement may suddenly appear that you weren't aware of yesterday, and you'll need to make snap deci-sions and go for what you want

right away. Don't be surprised if someone vou'd nearly forgotten about is of great help today. The presence of people dear to you is going to be significant.

CAPRICORN: Travel that is pos-

sibly related to business could come up for you, Capricorn. A friend or colleague may accom-pany you. Expect the unexpect-ed where your career is con-cerned. Unusual developments may open new doors so you can pursue different goals. You might want to take a course of some kind for pleasure or advancement. Your mind is especially sharp, so you're likely to retain whatever you study now. **AQUARIUS:** If you've been thinking about trying some new investments or starting a new savings plan, this is the day to

get started, Aquarius. You're a lot more mentally focused than usual. People around you might have ideas that you should con-sider. You might experience some intuitive insights, so go with your gut. Don't let your mind get in the way. Tonight, keep a notebook by your bed to record your dreams! PISCES: Partnerships, possibly business related, are on the agenda, Pisces, You might find yourself in discussions dealing with such partnerships, as well as contracts and other paperwork. You might also set aside time during which you can concentrate on a romantic relationship, a new one or cur-rent one that's changing and growing. This is a good time to make decisions, as your mind is particularly focused now.

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