

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

North Dist Court directs NHPC to compensate affected landowners by 30 Apr

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 29 MAR:

District Court [North] today directed National Hydro-electric Power Corporation [NHPC] Teesta Stage V to provide compensation amounting to Rs 6,79,78,277 to the affected land owners by 30 April. The 12% interest on the compensation, however, has been waived.

Compensation for damaged houses, lands and properties of Lum/Gor/Sangtok Gram Panchayat Unit of Dzongu, North Sikkim due to the reservoir on the right and left banks has long



been delayed.

Earlier on 28 Feb, the

North District Administration had summoned NHPC

and given 15 days time for payment of compensation.

Fourteen affected land owners had sought the in-

tervention of the District Administration.

During the hearing held today, NHPC Stage V represented by Chief Engineer in-Charge stated that the matter has been taken up with the higher authorities of NHPC and will be soon placed before the Board of Directors of NHPC.

The Chief Engineer In-Charge also stated that the payment is very likely to be cleared within the month of April as the matter is vigorously pursued.

Further, the Chief Engineer In-Charge said that the due to the delay in procedures, the com-

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Centre has granted permission for Karmapa visit to Sikkim claim SKM-BJP

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha [SKM] and Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] state unit today claimed that the Centre has granted permission to the 17th Karmapa Gyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim. However, no official announcement has come from the State or the Centre so far.

Sangha MLA of SKM, Sonam Lama, released a video online early this morning announcing that the Centre has allowed Karmapa to visit Sikkim barring Rumtek. He thanked the Cabinet Committee on Security, Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, Union

Home Minister of State, Kiran Rijiju, amongst others.

SKM, in a press release, also credited this development to the "continuous efforts and special initiatives of SKM Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, and 630 days of relay hunger strike by monks."

Meanwhile, a BJP release states that they contacted the Union Home Ministry and were informed that the Karmapa has been allowed to visit the State.

The party has further said that the BJP State unit along with Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, Denzong Lhadey organisation

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Rainfall in East and South Sikkim exceeds normal levels

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Rain and hail have been causing havoc in the State for the past few weeks and data from the Meteorological Department show that rainfall in East and South districts of Sikkim have been the heaviest.

Last week, East district received 174% more rainfall than normal while South district too received above normal rainfall according to the Met Department.

While the normal rainfall level for East Sikkim during this season is 17.6 mm, it received 37.7 mm rainfall between 21-28 March. For South, the normal rainfall level is 13.0 mm but the district received 23.7 mm of rainfall [82% above normal].

On the other hand, West and North districts received less than normal levels of rainfall. West received only 14.5 mm as against 45.4 mm normal rainfall level while North received 13.2 mm rainfall, normal level being 45.4 mm.

Civil Aviation Secy visits Pakyong Airport, inauguration scheduled for June

PAKYONG, 29 MAR (IPR):

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Nayan Choubey, accompanied by Chief Secretary of Sikkim, AK Srivastava, Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Puneet Kansal, District Collector (East), Prabhakar Verma, Sub Divisional Magistrate (Pakyong), Yadav K Sharma and officials from Airport Authority of India and Spicejet Operations made a visit to Pakyong Airport today to take stock of the ongoing construction work at the terminal building and runway.

The visiting officials addressed technical issues to be resolved before the inauguration of the airport. The master plan, technicalities, refueling and other components were discussed with Mr Choubey who in turn instructed concerned authorities to expedite the work for timely completion.

Preparedness of the airport for inauguration was the focal point of the meeting's discussions and deliberations were also held on the beautification, indoor traditional decorations and interiors which have been entrusted to the State Govern-



ment to be completed by last week of April.

Mr Choubey expressed his happiness and congratulated everyone involved for the remarkable job. He expressed his satisfaction and asked everyone to expedite the work for com-

pletion of the airport.

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation along with the Chief Secretary also called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his official residence at Mintokgang.

Mr Choubey expressed his happiness

and thanked the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary for providing help and support for timely completion of the airport. They also discussed about the possibility of inaugurating the airport during the first fortnight of June 2018.

GMC introduces e-trade license facility

GANGTOK, 29 MAR (IPR):

Taking a step further towards making Sikkim a 'Smart State' and for the ease of making trade licenses online, Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) has announced to begin issuance and renewal of trade license online through an online portal from 02 Apr.

Addressing a press conference here at the conference hall of GMC Deorali today, Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary said that issuance and renewal of trade licenses will be done online from April.

Mr Choudhary said that the initiative was taken 'for the convenience of people under the vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to make Sikkim a Smart State by introducing various e-governance initiatives and extensive plans'.

"Our Chief Minister has been taking keen interest in it and the target is to provide updated service and ensure greater accountability of the government. E-governance

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CBSE paper leak: Students hold protest at Jantar Mantar

NEW DELHI, MAR 29

(PTI): The shrill cries of 'we want justice' pierced the serene morning air at Jantar Mantar today as hundreds of students gathered here, protesting against the re-examination of Class 10 Mathematics and Class 12 Economics papers.

Holding placards, with slogans like 'Stop playing hit and trial with our lives' and 'It's not the students who need a re-test, it's the system', the students rued how they have been left "traumatized" after hearing the news of re-examination.

Many students claimed that almost all the papers had been leaked a day before the

examinations and demanded that if a re-examination is to be held, it should be held for all the subjects.

Bhavika Yadav, a Class 10 student of St Thomas School, said, "We were shocked after hearing the news of the re-examination. Why should we suffer just because a handful of students got the leaked paper before the examination?"

Her friend, Ojasvy Chamdhok, echoed similar sentiments.

"We have been under pressure right from the beginning of the session. We were relieved after giving the exam but it was just for one

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Sanitary napkin vending machine and incinerator installed at Tadong College



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Inner Wheel Club [IWC] of Gangtok has installed one sanitary napkin vending machine and one incinerator machine here at Sikkim Government College in Tadong. The facilities were inaugurated by Upper Tadong MLA, Timothy William Basnet, at the college premises this morning. The machines have been donated by Rotarians, Pramod Dalima and Jeewan Dabrilwal.

The handing over ceremony of the machines was attended by

IWC district chairperson, Mira Oberoi, IWC Gangtok president, Suman Oberoi, and SGC Tadong Principal, Dr Beena Pradhan, along with other members of the club, college lecturers and students.

On behalf of the constituency, the Area MLA expressed gratitude to the IWC Gangtok for taking up such a noble initiative for the health and hygiene of girl students. He expressed his hope that the club will continue with its initiatives especially in schools in rural parts of the State.

Mr Basnet expressed that this initiative of the club is also in line with the vision of the Chief Minister to keep Sikkim clean and healthy. He also thanked donors for their support in this initiative.

Principal, Dr Pradhan, thanked the IWC for providing the sanitary napkin vending machine and an incinerator at the college. She stated that sanitary napkin vending machine is not only beneficial for girl students but also for women teaching and non-teaching staff of the college. Stating that

this facility will also help maintain hygiene and sanitation at the college premises, she added that other organisations should also come forward with such initiatives to support the college.

IWC chairperson spoke about the IWC and its activities and initiatives for the welfare of the society. She mentioned that menstruation health and welfare of girl child has always been a thrust area of the club. She expressed her hope that the college will make good use of the machine.

CBSE paper leak: Students hold protest...

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and-a-half hours that we breathed the sigh of relief. Later we learnt from various news channels that we will have to appear for a re-examination which means studying the entire syllabus again," she added.

The students said the Board should take the accountability for the paper leak.

"It is impossible that the Board was not aware of the leakage. They had been denying right from the word go the news emerged but, it seems, they had just been pretending to be in the dark about the paper leak. They should have cancelled the papers in the morning," another student said.

Rahul, a Class 12 student of Kendriya Vidyalaya, said, "All the papers were available a day before the exams. Our friends had offered to sell the papers for Rs 2,000 but we did not believe them. After we appeared for the exam, we did realise that the papers were exactly the same that were being circulated among various groups. If a re-examination has to happen, it should be for all the subjects."

Rohit Mogha, who runs a private coaching centre in Janakpuri, said the re-examination would put additional pressure on Class 12 students, who are busy preparing for entrance examinations of various courses like engineering, medical and law.

"Many of my students are worried as to how they will manage the preparation for their entrance exams along while preparing for the Board's re-examination. Many of my students had sent me the leaked Economics paper a day before the exam but I had asked them that these were just the rumours, not to be believed. It seems they were not rumours, but the truth," he added.

In the wake of reports claiming paper leaks, the CBSE had announced re-examination yesterday for the two papers.

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police is investigating the alleged leak of Class 12 Economics and Class 10 Mathematics papers after registering two separate cases in the matter.

Centre has granted permission for Karmapa

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tion and others pressed the demand to the Union Home Minister of State on his visit to Sikkim on 21 Jun last year.

It may also be mentioned that the most recent effort of the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on the issue was on 20 Mar when he had written to External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj, seeking permission for the 17th Karmapa's Gyen Trinley Dorje to visit the state.

Meeting reviews West district's Transformation Action Plan

GYALSHING, 29 MAR [IPR]: A review meeting to discuss the Transformation Action Plan for West district was called by Chief Secretary, AK Srivastava, at the conference hall of Man-an Bhawan in Gangtok. In attendance were Secretaries of Health Department, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Planning Department and Agriculture & Horticulture Department, Director, Human Resource Development Department, Joint Director, HRDD [West], Director, Panchayat Raj, Additional Secretary, Skill Development & Welfare Department and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gyalshing.

District Collector, West, Kapil Meena, briefed the gather-



ing about the directions given by NITI AAYOG to improve the indicators spanning Health & Nutrition, Education, Agricul-

ture & allied sectors, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. He outlined the various steps taken by the district till now and also the help that would

be required from various departments at State and Central government level.

He also requested all Secretaries to keep the West district

on priority in all schemes under their purview. He informed that all line departments at district level have already started making interventions and focused activities to improve the indicators but there are some issues like timely fund release, giving autonomy to district in implementation and more priority to West district by the higher authorities.

Chief Secretary, Mr Srivastava, appreciated the diligently crafted action plan and promised to extend all possible help from various departments like addressing manpower shortage to fund constraints. Other Secretaries also agreed to provide all help that will be needed to make

the action plan successful.

State Prabhari Officer for NITI AAYOG, Ravindra Telang, emphasized on the need to strengthen the office of District Collector with powers of incentivizing hardworking employees through writing their Annual Confidential Reports for their efforts in making the district action plan successful as well as taking action against recalcitrant employees.

A copy of the action plan will be forwarded to all Secretaries for further suggestions and necessary action for its successful implementation. A mechanism of regular follow-up on action plan will also be established.

Gram Sabha on Organic Farming held in Nandugaon

JORETHANG, 29 MAR [IPR]: A daylong Gram Sabha with the theme 'State Organic Farming Mission and other developmental issues' organised by Poklok Denchung Gram Panchayat Unit in coordination with State Institute for Rural Development [SIRD] and Panchayati Raj, Rural Management and Development Department was held at Nandugaon, South Sikkim, today.

Sikkim Legislative Assembly Speaker cum Area MLA, KN Rai attended the event as the chief guest accompanied by Secretary [Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department] cum Mission Chief (State Organic Mission), Khorlo Bhutia.

Mr Rai, in his address, emphasized the role of Gram Sabha and said that it determines the success and failure of Panchayati Raj system, which he said



depends on how powerful and effective the Gram Sabha is to fulfill the desires and aspirations of the people.

Terming Gram Sabha as village democracy at its best, Mr Rai explained how Gram Sabha plays an important role in providing government benefits.

The program also

saw the presentation of budget and annual plan for the year 2018-2019, presentation of ward wise proposal for developmental activities and GPU policy followed by an open discussion between the officials from various line departments and the public of Poklok Denchung GPU.

The sabha was also attended by Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], BC Rai, Block Development Officer [Jorethang], Prem K Rai, Panchayat President, Gyalpo Lepcha alongside officials of line departments, school heads and panchayats and public of Poklok Denchung GPU.

Agri Minister inaugurates organic market at Pakyong

NIRMAL MANGAR GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Agriculture Minister Somnath Poudyal today inaugurated an organic market at Pakyong in East Sikkim. Also present were MLA Gnathang Machong, DT Lepcha and MLA Rhenock, Hemendra Adhikari.

"The market has been named walking street where one can

buy varieties of organic produce. The market is only meant for farmers who want to sell anything organic," said Mr Lepcha while talking with reporters.

He added that the market will be operational from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. every day.

Minister Mr Poudyal said that the government is determined to restrict

entry of some vegetables and fruits from outside into Sikkim and the new organic market would help boost the sale of organic produce.

When asked about the price regulation, the Minister replied, "Let the demand and supply determine the price as of now there is no regulation on the price on organic produce."

SKM forms constituency level committees for Daramdin

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

A constituency-level meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha for Daramdin constituency was held at Biyong in West Sikkim today which was chaired by the acting president and MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha. The meeting was attended by senior leaders, workers and supporters of the party.

An SKM press release informs that a 62-member constitu-



ency level committee headed by Tika Hang Subba as the president has been formed for Daramdin during the meet. A 25-member constituency level committee for the women's cell was

also formed which has Nindey Sherpa as president and Mingma L Subba as convener. Further, 24 families of SDF led by Sonam Lepcha have formally joined SKM, the release adds.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

The Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure & Eco-tourism [IHCAE] at Chemchey in South Sikkim had organized 2nd Basic Mountaineering Course from 04-28 Mar with the participation of 35 trainees [23 male & 12 female] from different States of India.

An IHCAE press release informs that the opening ceremony of the course on 05 Mar had the presence of Administrator, IHCAE, Urjiman Rai, as chief guest and Dr Jigme Bhutia from Sikkim



University as guest.

The course had Everest, Kunzang Gyatso [Everester], as the chief instructor along with Anand Gurung [Everest-

er], Shanti Rai, Mohan Darnal, Wangdi Lama, Anush Gurung and Ashal Rai as instructors.

Resource persons for the event were Colo-

nel Gulsan Chadha and Dr Amit from the Indian Army], Dr NP Sharma [Scientific Officer, Science & Technology, Gov-

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GMC introduces e-trade license facility

contd from pg01

enables stakeholders to access a host of services digitally and conveniently, eliminating the need for citizens to stand in long queue to obtain information and services," he said.

GMC Commissioner, Tsewang Gyachho, said that the initiative will make the issuance and renewal process of trade license easier and simpler.

Gangtok Municipal Corporation issues licenses to shops, hotels, restaurants, etc and at present around 12,000 trade licenses are registered under Gangtok Municipal Corporation.

The E-Trade License GMC is a web based application that uses a website as the interface or front end and user can easily access the application form. It was also in-



formed that any applicant can renew or obtain new license online through E-Trade License GMC application.

Commissioner, Mr Gyachho informed that in case of renewal, the existing license holders have to download an editable PDF form which will be available in the GMC

website www.gmc.sikkim.in and submit the filled up form along with original and copy of identification certificates for physical verification to the office from 02 to 15 Apr.

After submission of PDF form in GMC office the user will be sent to their re-

spective e-mail ids, which can be used for logging in to the E-Trade License Portal linked with the website and the user can renew their license from 16 Apr to 31 May, 2018 which is the last date for renewing of license.

Existing license holder will have to upload his/her

scanned copies of passport photos, verified identification certificates, signature to renew their respective licenses and make payment online. Once the application is verified and approved by the authority, the user will be notified through e-mail and they can download it from their

respective e-mail ids or online account.

The online trade license management system is developed by National Informatics Centre, Sikkim Government of India.

NIC Technical Director, TG Namgyal said that it is a user friendly and role based software which can be easily verified by GMC.

Regarding online payment, the GMC Commissioner informed that Axis Bank will provide their payment gateway with no user charge of online payment up to Rs 2,000.

The press conference was also addressed by GMC Chairperson, Ashish Rai.

The conference was attended by Deputy Mayor, Councillors and other officials of GMC.

Gangtok on Friday, 30 Mar

Temp: 22°C /08°C
Forecast: A shower or thunderstorm in spot in the morning; otherwise, mainly cloudy.
Sunrise: 05:29 AM
Sunset: 5:52 PM

Governor extends Good Friday greetings

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

On the occasion of Good Friday and Easter weekend, Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady Rajanidevi Patil join in prayers with the people of Sikkim.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "Good Friday, a solemn occasion for the human kind to pay homage and respect to Jesus Christ, is a constant reminder for all of us, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, that truth shall always triumph. The day brings with it the chronicle of sacrifices and hardships that Lord Jesus was subjected to when he stood for mankind. His crucifixion at the hands of evil forces reflects the conflict of two forces, evil and truth, since time immemorial along the history of human civilization, which is still persisting in the form of human conflict, misery and destruction of civilization in the present day world. The teachings and life of Lord Jesus have inspired generations over millennia and has served as a guiding force for progressive and modern society. His teachings that virtues of truth, love, righteousness, compassion and non violence only can salvage the world from the prevailing humanitarian crisis will always give strength and optimism for a better world.

As we congregate to pray with the firm faith for resurrection of mankind as Christ did after his death at Calvary, let us also commit ourselves to work in unison for the welfare and common good of entire human race."



Coordination meet for Ambedkar Jayanti held in Gangtok

GANGTOK, 29 MAR (IPR): A coordination meeting for the upcoming 127th Ambedkar Jayanti celebration was held today at Manan Kendra, Gangtok.

The meeting chaired by State Health Department Minister and chairperson of the Celebration Committee, AK Ghatani was attended by MLA, Gopal Baraily, Former Minister, AS Baraily, Chairperson Youth Board, KP Dahal, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Department Heads, Officers and Members of All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association.

It was informed in the meeting that the state-level function will be held at Paljor Stadium and will be attended by the Governor and Chief Minister of Sikkim.

Former Minister and Member of the Celebration Committee, AS Baraily in his welcome note informed that a football tournament will be held from 03 Apr and the final match will be played on Ambedkar Diwas.

He further informed that the state-level function will have cultural presentations as well as felicitation to individuals who have made a mark in the society in various fields. It was further informed that essay writing competition will also be organised and the winners would be awarded on the day of the celebration.

Mr Ghatani emphasized on the importance of the state-level function and called upon all the Departments to coordinate with the celebration committee to ensure success of the

programme. He sought participation from each department and allocated responsibilities to them. During the discussion, all the departmental heads agreed to lend their support as per the work distribution.

It was informed in the meeting that Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department will be the nodal department to coordinate with all other departments, and All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association will be actively involved at various levels since the start of the football tournament.

Minister for Social Justice, Tushiti Devi Rai is the vice chairperson of the Celebration Committee.

The meeting was also addressed by Secretary [SJEDW], Sarala Rai and president [ASS-CWA], Shekhar Sewa.

CM greets people on Good Friday and Easter

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Good Friday and Easter, a press release informs.

In his message, the Chief Minister has said that Good Friday reminds us of the supreme sacrifice of Lord Jesus for mankind.

"Similarly, Easter Sunday symbolizes the victory of good over evil, love over hatred and kindness over cruelty. This day exemplifies the supreme and selfless sacrifice made by Lord Jesus for strengthening the bond of friendship, brotherhood and universal love amongst mankind," the release reads.

"Lord Jesus' message of peace, love, harmony, friendship and brotherhood is increasingly relevant today and we have to rededicate ourselves to the noble ideas of love, peace and forgiveness. It is also a moment for us to strengthen the bonds of friendship, brotherhood and unity amongst all people," the CM has said.

Govt College Rhenock conducts awareness prog on Intellectual Property Rights

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Government College Rhenock conducted an awareness programme on Intellectual Property Rights today.

The Principal, Dr Iyatta Uprety, in her opening address, highlighted the importance of understanding the concept of Intellectual Property Rights and how one can benefit if she has proper understanding about it, an official press release informs.

The Programme was also attended by members from Rhenock Gram Panchayat, members from a local self help group, faculty members and students of the institution.

Dinesh Adhikari, Assistant Professor and resource person for the day, spoke in detail about

various types/ aspects of Intellectual Property Rights which encompasses ideas like Patent, Copyrights, Trademarks, Geographical Indication, Trade secrets etc.

Santosh Basnett, Assistant Professor and Nodal officer of Intellectual Property Cell, Government College Rhenock, in turn, deliberated on various issues and concepts related to the topic.

He also conducted an interactive session with the students and fielded a lot of questions.

The Programme was sponsored by Patent Information Centre (PIC), Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology and concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Harjit Goshwami, Assistant Professor.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DERBY MEET THURSDAY

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:29/03/18

1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- 72A 4945

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

0190 6874 6979 7376 8489

3rd Prize Rs.3,000/-

0814 2320 3903 4079 5128 5520 5580 8062 8293 9131

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0139 0995 1883 3533 3624 5740 6321 6726 9300 9483

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0406 0871 4463 4810 5309 7706 8151 8640 8677 9995

6th Prize Rs.100/-

0082 0085 0092 0113 0122 0131 0171 0175 0187 0189

0191 0197 0212 0214 0219 0238 0303 0321 0351 0375

0376 0382 0399 0403 0438 0457 0464 0489 0501 0511

0627 0649 0668 0677 0721 0730 0739 0745 0768 0818

0869 0876 0911 0912 0938 0974 0976 0982 0987 0996

0999 1009 1011 1067 1068 1087 1119 1149 1193 1202

1212 1226 1228 1245 1286 1318 1319 1325 1332 1342

1350 1351 1375 1387 1395 1406 1432 1447 1475 1494

1504 1520 1546 1558 1567 1578 1579 1582 1613 1614

1621 1692 1749 1750 1751 1757 1771 1778 1780 1843

1864 1889 1944 1947 1954 1973 1979 1989 2049 2068

2087 2107 2112 2114 2117 2123 2156 2247 2265 2271

2275 2281 2288 2293 2304 2310 2313 2315 2409 2474

2503 2521 2543 2545 2562 2564 2569 2576 2603 2635

2664 2688 2744 2760 2791 2793 2812 2820 2823 2834

2898 2913 2929 2964 2968 2971 2973 2986 3004 3022

3051 3064 3119 3125 3151 3157 3173 3198 3201 3225

3249 3267 3287 3290 3292 3332 3342 3344 3383 3393

3415 3433 3491 3500 3536 3539 3541 3561 3575 3595

3602 3633 3672 3678 3693 3715 3726 3738 3794 3796

3810 3822 3835 3838 3843 3856 3858 3862 3867 3880

3895 3897 3916 3925 3951 3975 3994 4002 4019 4025

4028 4033 4089 4095 4098 4102 4105 4115 4131 4177

4194 4262 4279 4285 4298 4314 4326 4346 4387 4390

4449 4470 4484 4485 4496 4560 4579 4649 4652 4667

4675 4683 4690 4728 4740 4772 4776 4787 4791 4796

4805 4852 4880 4881 4892 4930 4965 5016 5027 5032

5053 5061 5065 5079 5088 5115 5156 5190 5213 5221

5230 5235 5251 5319 5329 5338 5360 5371 5396 5402

5405 5410 5417 5418 5431 5449 5454 5466 5471 5473

5484 5500 5519 5531 5553 5563 5572 5576 5588 5647

5649 5663 5696 5726 5736 5749 5752 5786 5833 5842

5852 5861 5890 5891 5898 5915 5926 5941 6005 6017

6019 6040 6152 6160 6176 6201 6241 6285 6298 6314

6389 6393 6395 6425 6427 6429 6466 6488 6489 6494

6522 6571 6573 6593 6597 6666 6698 6700 6727 6743

6775 6812 6866 6869 6886 6891 6895 6962 6963 7006

7014 7033 7038 7085 7120 7158 7811 7171 7229 7232

7249 7263 7300 7319 7322 7354 7358 7362 7366 7378

7405 7443 7445 7467 7482 7510 7600 7626 7678 7679

7735 7752 7792 7854 7862 7865 7867 7907 7911 7918

7922 7952 7978 7980 7994 8026 8029 8038 8042 8085

8089 8101 8126 8128 8147 8165 8182 8201 8222 8225

8229 8230 8273 8286 8312 8316 8329 8354 8359 8377

8396 8402 8417 8435 8468 8503 8510 8511 8524 8549

8642 8703 8732 8738 8741 8773 8822 8831 8856 8873

8878 8887 8891 8902 8908 8923 8927 8964 8980 8997

9021 9106 9125 9140 9150 9159 9259 9272 9274 9343

9443 9444 9499 9503 9545 9577 9631 9638 9641 9648

9683 9697 9741 9778 9817 9822 9915 9948 9976 9988

Issued by:

The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries,

Government Of Sikkim, Deorali - 737102, Sikkim

please: Visit :www.sikkimlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to state for public in general that a Plot bearing No.123/719 area measuring 0.0190 hectare situated at Rinzing Namgyal Marg, Mangan Bazaar, IDBI Bank Building, near to the building of Namgyal Phunsuk Kazi, under P.O. & P.S. Mangan in North District of Sikkim State recorded in **Khatian no 288 under Singhik block khatian, Singhik Illaka, Mangan Sub-Division, North District, Sikkim in the name of Mr. Sonam Pintso Limboo son of Mr Man Bahadur Limboo** has been applied for a home loan against the above plot and the same is to be mortgage with IDBI Bank Ltd, Mangan.

Therefore it is requested that anyone or any person having any deal or objection on the above mentioned plot may kindly contact: **Manager, IDBI Bank Ltd, Mangan within 15 days prior to the release of this advertisement.**

Dated: 28th March 2018
Place : Mangan, North Sikkim.

SSACS multimedia campaign on HIV/AIDS held at Gyalshing

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, Gangtok [SSACS], conducted its Multi Media Campaign 2017-18 on 26 Mar at the Community Hall and Bazaar in Gyalshing, West Sikkim, informs a SSACS press release.

Chairperson of Gyalshing Municipal Council, IK Neopaney, attended the programme as chief guest along with Councillors of GMC, Director, Health Services cum SSACS Project Director, Dr Uttam Pradhan, Principal, teachers and students of various Red Ribbon Clubs [RRCs].

The programme had an array of activities which included presentation of a song on youth empowerment by RRC Langang Secondary School, drama on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse by RRC Lingchom Senior Secondary School and Dasharthick Sangh,



Gelling. Similarly, theme based sit & draw competition was also conducted for various schools & colleges.

The RRCs of West district also exhibited their materials on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. The participating schools were RRC Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, RRC Lingchom Senior Secondary School, RRC Government College Gyalshing, RRC Langang Secondary School & RRC Pelling Senior Secondary School.

mountains.

At the initial stage of the training, trainees were informed about the basic knowledge of rock climbing and jummaring, various kinds of rappelling in the rock and methods of evacuation during rock climbing.

Two trekking sessions, one short trek [10 KM] and one long trek [18KM], with loads of 10-12 kgs were conducted during the period of training.

In addition, they were also given theoretical classes on mountaineering history, mountain hazards, mountain terminology, camp hygiene and sanitation, camping in mountain, First Aid, rescue and survival in the mountains, eco-tourism,

Do's and Don'ts [mountain manners], Map/GPS reading and history of Sikkim, the release adds.

Before exposure to the rock craft, the participants were trained on rope knots and hitch-es, coiling techniques of ropes, etc. The trainees also practiced in pitching different types of tents.

The trainees were also examined for their medical fitness and were reported to be medically fit for high altitude training.

The team proceeded to Chungthang in North Sikkim on 15 Mar where they halted for a night at Chungthang School. The team started trekking the day after for the next halt at Lachung School. The trainees then proceed-

ed to the Base Camp at Yumthang Valley [12000 ft] for the acclimatization process.

The next day the team took rock climbing sessions at Yumthang followed by high altitude trek at Langkong Valley.

During their snow and ice training for the next three days, the participants were trained on different walking techniques, co-ordination of crampon and ice-axe, self arrest techniques, roping up in snow and ice, various step cutting technique, crevasse rescue techniques, anchoring methods using different gears in snow, and improvising system of anchoring in snow, etc.

On the final day of the training, the participants

chief guest accompanied by Health Services cum Project Director, Dr Pradhan, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gyalshing, Chief Medical Officers & Doctors from District Hospital, Gyalshing, District Project Officer, West, and Principals & teachers from various schools and colleges.

The main feature of the evening programme was a musical event by guest artist from Gangtok, Remanti Rai, wherein she performed theme based songs dedicated to those infected and affected by HIV. Other programmes included song presentations by RRC Langang SS and RRC Pelling SSS and a drama on HIV/AIDS by RRC Aarigaon Samaj Sudhar Mandali.

During the programme, RRC nodal teachers, Rajesh Thapa [Headmaster Langang SS], Ashish Pradhan [Pelling SSS] & TR Sharma [Ling-

chom SSS] and Kishore Baniya [RRC Coordinator South/West] were also facilitated by SSACS for their contribution in spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS through various mediums.

Chief guest, Ms Subba, in her address, appreciated the efforts of Sikkim SACS in conducting the multi media campaign in West Sikkim and also added that it is the responsibility of every individual to spread awareness on HIV and AIDS. She also assured full support and cooperation to the Society.

Director, Health Services cum SSACS Project Director, Dr Pradhan, informed that the campaign was envisaged by SSACS under the guidance of National AIDS Control Organization and was initiated in the State in 2010-11.

He informed that the main objective of the campaign was to create awareness on HIV/

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Issues – Explaining vs Raising

And there is a difference between the two

The elections are in the horizon, still a little over a year away, but time moves fast when politicking arrives in earnest. And since that is already happening, expect all of Sikkim's few, but passionately politicized, issues to play out with campaign-decibel drum-rolls and rediscovered passions. Can we expect some explaining too? Unlikely.

This might be the Information Age, but there is still a long ways to go before Sikkim arrives to the age of understanding. A people fed on headlines and getting issues explained in slogans, leave themselves open to easy excitability, and when arguments are thrown from political positions, reasoning gets warped by inferred intents and prejudiced aspersions; even intentional misinformation and incomplete arguments. With attention spans already shortened by easy distractions, one is left with a situation where faculties in general are not even vaguely conducive to serving better comprehension. Then there is the inherent paranoia and sentimentality which get easily teased to foist issues, which, even when vaguely argued by its promoters, snowball into complicated puzzles and are invariably mothballed away after their electioneering purpose has been served. Issues, however, rarely get resolved with such approaches, and this serves its agents well because it keeps the door ajar for easy invocation in future.

While it would be easy to dismiss these situations as political gimmicks born from 'ulterior motives', more often than not, these are situations which have been run to the ground after being born of genuine concern. In all of these, a resolution slips through the fingers because public deliberations which are required for any sensitive and emotional issue to be resolved, is left ignored. Following a projected public outcry, the matter starts getting directed by leaders, both, from the ruling as well as Opposition camps, and the public involvement, without which a result is not possible, gets sidelined.

The pursuit, once such issues enter the political rhetoric, becomes one of extending the debate and scoring points, not resolving it or even refining it and finding closure. One has seen this routine get played out too often in the past, not to cringe when a new opportunity, like another election, stands on the brink of being similarly distracted.

When it comes to the region, most of the "issues" can be boiled down to one of opportunities/ access and denial. The traditional approach to these seemingly vexed issues is to posit chauvinism or chivalry, claims and sops etc. But really, the discussions should speak more on the lines of Rights and Right. That does not happen. The politics of the issues run out of steam cyclically, without any real positions taken or informed and honest mediations offered. The lazy option of hardening positions is taken and impractical promises made even as more significant aspects remain intentionally unaddressed. What plays out then is an exchange of allegations and counters which will return again at a later date and while this might work for political speeches, the unresolved muddle does not serve the people too well.

Pakistan's activist Supreme Court endangers a fragile democracy

ADNAN RASOOL
theconversation.com

Pakistanis head to the polls to elect their next prime minister in July. Until then, though, the Supreme Court seems to be in charge of the country.

In July 2017, revelations from the Panama Papers leak spurred Pakistan's high court to rule that then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had lied to the public about his family finances. Sharif, who maintained his innocence, was forced to resign as prime minister.

However, he continued to lead his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party, or PML-N, effectively controlling Pakistan's government. Then, in February 2018, the Supreme Court also removed him as party chairman.

Because Sharif was not "honest" or "righteous," Chief Justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar additionally ruled, all "orders passed, directions given and documents issued" under his leadership were officially declared null.

Sharif and his supporters accuse Pakistan's chief justice of interfering in politics and swaying the upcoming election. As a Pakistani political scientist, I fear they may be right.

JUDICIAL OVERREACH

Military coups used to be the biggest risk to Pakistani democracy. Thanks to coup d'états in 1958, 1977 and 1999, my country has spent 33 years of its 71-year history under military rule.

To a people rightfully fearful of interference in their political system, then, the Supreme Court's recent actions are alarming. By discrediting some politicians while seemingly overlooking corrupt public officials from other parties, the judiciary is effectively influencing the outcome of July's election.

How do a nation's top judges – people sworn to defend the Constitution – become a threat to democracy? That's the focus of my research on judicial independence in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, as in other former British colonies, the Supreme Court has the power to take what's called "suo motu" action. That means judges can rule on issues of their own volition, without any motion or complaint filed in court.

For instance, Chief Justice Nisar recently ordered a hearing on the rape and murder of a young child in Lahore, because closing that case quickly was deemed to be in the public interest.

As it happens, in recent years he has also removed the prime minister from public office twice, conducted surprise inspections at government hospitals, lambasted the media for commenting



on open cases and ordered investigations into police violence.

Such sweeping authority creates a clash of institutions between the judiciary and other branches of government. Such competition can be detrimental to democracy. My research in several countries has found that when supreme court justices venture into political affairs, they create conflict with lawmakers and heads of state.

It is unsurprising, then, that Chief Justice Nisar's suo motu cases over the past few months have outraged many Pakistani politicians, who say the justice is guilty of judicial overreach.

Nisar responds that he is simply following the law, adding that the "courts are not the enemies of the government."

SHARIF TAKES HIS CASE TO THE 'PEOPLE'S COURT'

But to some, Nisar's timing – the lead-up to a big national election – is suspicious. So, too, is his selection of suo motu hearings: The overwhelming majority of political cases added to the Supreme Court's docket since 2015 have focused on Sharif's party.

The toppled prime minister, for his part, claims that he is the victim of a "judicial coup." At rallies across Pakistan, Sharif tells his supporters that since he cannot run for re-election this fall, he must ask them, the "people's court," to vote for his PML-N party.

The Supreme Court has already removed one PML-N senator, and two of its ministers are under investigation for alleged contempt of court. Sharif and the PLM-N leadership cite

these cases as evidence that the party is under judicial attack.

In targeting Sharif and his party, Justice Nisar has allowed the ousted prime minister to paint themselves as the underdogs, even though the party is still in power. This has strengthened the PML-N's position ahead of the upcoming election. Currently, it is polling above its closest rivals by about eight points.

Sharif also remains the most popular leader in the country, according to recent surveys.

CHIEF JUSTICE OR GENERAL?

Suggestions that the Pakistani military was behind Sharif's 2017 ouster have bolstered the former prime minister's claim of victimhood.

Credible analysts assert that the prime minister challenged Pakistan's generals' authority when he was in power by taking relatively noncombative approach to neighboring India and Afghanistan. Normally, the Pakistani military – whose power is so enduring that Pakistanis often call it simply the "establishment" – directs regional security.

Sharif also butted heads with Pakistan's armed forces during his 1997-1999 administration, ultimately leading to his overthrow by the military in 1999.

Since coups are no longer acceptable in Pakistan, the logic goes, this time the generals used legal action to remove Sharif.

JUDICIAL OVERREACH ABROAD

Pakistan is not the only place questioning the limits of judicial intervention in the democratic process.

Bangladeshi courts used their suo motu powers to prosecute and sideline a main opposition leader prior to elections in both 2008 and 2009.

In Brazil, Judge Sergio Moro faced accusations of staging a judicial coup in January when he convicted former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of corruption, likely disqualifying him from this year's presidential election.

Brazilian courts don't have suo motu power. But judges there have used the judicial discretion of their civil law system to dramatically expand the scope of a nationwide bribery inquiry. Upwards of 100 congressmen and senators are now under judicial investigation.

Judges in the United States, too, have the power expand the scope of a petition to the court. A classic example is the 2010 Supreme Court case Citizens United. Nominally, the nine justices were supposed to rule on what constituted political advertising. Instead, they issued a much broader verdict on free speech and corporate money in elections.

In those countries, as in Pakistan, judges contend they are simply doing their jobs, acting as a critical constitutional check on the political system.

But in a young democracy like Pakistan's, the standoff between judges and the ruling party is fueling an unhealthy level of uncertainty during a campaign season. If the chief justice is not in fact staging a coup, I'm alarmed to say, it sure feels like he is.

[the writer is Ph.D. Candidate/ Student Innovation Fellow, Georgia State University]

How Hmong Christians navigate the border tensions between China and Vietnam

SEB RUMSBY
theconversation.com

Plans to open joint border checkpoints between China and Vietnam in May 2018 belie unresolved tensions in relations between the two countries. Despite scrapping a marine oil-drilling project in a disputed area following Chinese "threats", Hanoi maintains its claim to what it calls the "East Sea" – or what the Chinese call the South China Sea. The dispute has led to anti-Chinese sentiment in major Vietnamese cities.

Far away from urban areas, Vietnamese citizens living in the northern borderlands are intimately connected to China. Almost the entire length of the 1,280km-long Sino-Vietnamese border is at least 500 metres above sea level, with some areas reaching 2000 metres high. These highlands are home to a number of minority groups with their own unique histories and cultures who are neither ethnic Han (Chinese) nor Kinh (Vietnamese), but live on both sides of the border.

A significant group who live in these border regions are the Hmong. There are two million Hmong in China, a million in Vietnam and up to a million more spread across Laos, Thailand and in diaspora communities in the US. Today, their shared transnational identity is based on speaking mutually intelligible dialects of the Hmong language, as well as sharing the same clan surnames.

Traditionally, the Hmong have practised shifting cultivation – also known as "slash and burn" – and were highly mobile. In the 1960s, Hmong from China migrated to Vietnam during the extreme hardships

of the cultural revolution. But since the 1990s, when living conditions in China began to improve, more Hmong have been moving back.

CHINESE INVASION AND CHRISTIAN CONVERSION

In 1979, 80,000 Chinese troops crossed the border intending to "teach Vietnam a lesson" for invading Cambodia and toppling the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. The war lasted just six weeks but both sides suffered high casualties as combat raged through the highlands.

Most Hmong fled from the fighting up into the forests and mountains, but soon afterwards communities were forcibly relocated away from borderland regions, in the unabashedly-named "Move (the Hmong) down the Mountains" programme. In some areas, only those with a Chinese-sounding surname were forced to migrate downhill, while those with Vietnamese surnames were allowed to stay.

These policies were rooted in government mistrust of Hmong transnational networks and migration, compounding a fear that their loyalties may not be with the Vietnamese state. Unfortunately, many Hmong families who were settled in lowland areas after 1979 with little fertile land or forest suffered from malnutrition



Hmong choir in a church meeting.

and new diseases which they had not developed resistance to.

Since the late 1980s, hundreds of thousands of Hmong in Vietnam have been converting to Protestant Christianity – a complex and remarkable phenomenon which is having a profound impact on Hmong society and ethnic politics. Researchers estimate that around a third of Hmong in Vietnam are now Christians, although this trend is not as prominent among Hmong in China or elsewhere.

Vietnamese authorities have always been extremely suspicious of Christianity, branding it a Western religion associated with their former colonial (French) and imperialist (American) invaders. Government papers and news reports routinely

accuse hostile "external forces" of inciting "elements of defection" through Hmong conversion to "create internal instability" among the highlands. As such, local officials have been guilty of brutal religious persecution ranging from beatings and imprisonment to confiscation of property and land, in the name of "encouraging" Hmong believers to give up their new faith.

Nevertheless, Hmong Christians have been growing in numbers and strength. In the 1990s, church leaders crossed the border into China in order to attend Bible schools, since they were not allowed to study theology in Vietnam at the time. Later on, Hmong missionaries from the American diaspora would enter Vietnam via the Chinese border, illegally smuggling in Hmong-language Bibles and preaching at church groups.

SIGNS OF MORE COOPERATION

While I was conducting fieldwork in Vietnam's northern highlands in mid-2014, the latest round of South China Sea conflict erupted as a Chinese oil rig was moved into contested waters. There were ominous reports about an "endless stream" of Chinese troops massing near Vietnam's borders, as border crossings closed.

In a district of Lao Cai province,

Hmong church leaders were summoned to local government headquarters, perhaps expecting a stern warning against proselytising or even detainment. Surprisingly, however, local officials asked pastors to support the national cause by relaying information to their congregations about evacuation procedures (should China invade) and dissuading anyone from crossing the border. Apparently, they were even encouraged by the socialist authorities to pray for the welfare of Vietnam.

The church groups agreed to cooperate and prayed continuously for peace over three days. When China later withdrew the oil rig and tensions deescalated in July, some Christians attributed it to divine intervention, claiming that God had sent Typhoon Rammasun to force China to back down and move out of the disputed territory.

One unexpected consequence of the 2014 dispute was to bring some Hmong churches and Vietnamese local authorities into closer cooperation, although religious discrimination still persists in other border provinces.

In the past five years, more and more Vietnamese Hmong have been seasonally migrating to China for higher-paid work, but often end up exploited or trafficked into forced marriage. They may continue to be viewed with suspicion by the Vietnamese government for their cross-border networks and apparent lack of patriotism, but most Hmong I interviewed have no preference for Chinese subjugation either.

[the writer is PhD Candidate in Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick]

RGU signs pact with NIRDPR to promote edu, research activities

ITANAGAR, MAR 29 (PTI): The Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) and the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) have inked a pact to promote mutual cooperation in educational and research activities, a press release said today.

The memorandum would also look at establishing a framework for programmes of exchange and collaboration in areas of rural development, tourism and other areas of common interests, it said.

The pact was signed yesterday at the conclusion of the two-day national seminar on Role of CBOs and NGOs in emerging rural transformation scenario.

RGU Registrar Prof Tomo Riba signed the MoU on behalf of the central varsity while NIRDPR director Prof R M Pant was the signatory for the institute.

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ICAR-KVK conducts skill development programme on pig farming

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Three-day skill development programme on "Pig Farming for Rural Employment Generation in Sikkim" was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Sikkim, at ICAR-NOFRI in Tadong, Gangtok from 26-28 Mar, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by 20 beneficiaries of Tribal Sub Plan [TSP] project from eight villages of East Sikkim. Under the project, 20 low cost deep litter pig sties were also constructed in the farm premises of selected beneficiaries along with the distribution of a pair of quality weaned piglets to establish small pig breeding unit at village.

Coordinating the valedictory programme, Subject Matter Specialist [Animal Science], Dr Prasanta K Pathak, highlighted the benefits of pig farming under low cost deep



litter housing system. This system is economical as capital cost is reduced by 70-80%, provides good micro-environment, preserves natural behavior of animal, low occurrence of disease incidence, sows show good mothering character leading to less piglet mortality, obtain higher productivity and is an odour less system as compared to conventional pig farming, he said.

The programme covered 11 lectures on scientific housing, breeding, feeding, health management of pig and livestock based organic crop and vegetable production. During the training programme, the participants also visited the ICAR-NOFRI Research

Farm and were briefed about the scientific agricultural practices.

Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of pig farming especially when the government is pushing for doubling farmers' income by 2022. In such circumstances, it was stated that the importance of animal husbandry is paramount. Participants were encouraged to undertake livestock farming as an enterprise for being self employed and to make Sikkim self-sufficient in milk, meat and egg production.

Director [Veterinary Services], Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries & Veterinary Sciences, Dr NT Bhutia, who attended the event as chief guest, lauded the efforts of KVK, East Sikkim and ICAR-NOFRI in developing the piggy sector in the State by developing and popularizing new low

cost housing system model.

Dr Bhutia urged the farmers to undertake pig farming as an enterprise for self employment and economic development of the rural households. He also informed the house that one pig slaughter house with a capacity of 200 pigs per day is being developed in Sikkim.

Likewise, Senior Scientist, Animal Reproduction, Dr Rafiqul Islam, briefed about low cost pig house under deep litter system which is designed and developed in ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong, with locally available natural resources for high rainfall, mid and high altitude areas. He also elaborated on the importance of scientific production in rural Sikkim.

Later, each participant was provided important de-worming medicines, essential vitamins and mineral mixture along with participation certificates.



Mamring SSS students visit Sikkim Science Centre at Marchak

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim, organised an excursion trip for elementary level students to Sikkim Science Centre at Marchak in Ranipool

today with the aim to create interest in Math and Science subjects among the students. The excursion was conducted by Math and Science and Technology Club of Mamring SSS as one of its activities funded by the

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan [SSA] section of Human Resource Development Department [HRDD]. The students were escorted by the teachers of the school, CL Dulal and Anjana Chettri, a press release informs.

Dzongu preps for CM's visit

SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 29 MAR:

A coordination meeting was held today at Lingthem Junior High School complex today regarding the upcoming visit of the Chief Minister scheduled for 04 Apr at Lingthem in Upper Dzongu. Today's meeting was chaired by the area MLA, Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, and also attended by the District Magistrate [North], Superintendent of Police [North], Additional District Collector [Development], senior officers from various line departments, Panchayats and the general public of the area.

Tasks were distributed among the line departments for preparations and the Deputy Speaker directed all the stakeholders to coordinate efforts to make the CM's visit to Upper Dzongu a grand success.

The Forest Department has been given the responsibility for

construction of the main gate at Lingthem while the Roads & Bridges Department will be responsible for the maintenance of roads and car parking from Passingdang Zero to Lingthem and Passingdang to Mantam.

The Horticulture & Cash Crop Department has been tasked with stage decoration while the Power Department has been directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and generator back-up.

Similarly, Sikkim Police will be maintaining law & order, traffic and engaging Fire Tenders. The Block Development Officer, Dzongu and his team will be responsible for providing uninterrupted water supply at the site.

The Building & Housing Department has been directed to complete the Munsolung statue on time and to decorate the pavilion on schedule.

The Joint Director, Human Resource Development Department

[North] will be providing the school ground for the programme and the Health Department will be keeping doctors & ambulance in standby.

The Officer Commanding, 107 GRE, has been requested to provide manpower for maintaining and cleaning the roads from 02 Apr onwards from Sangkalang to CWC Zero Point before the arrival of the CM.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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North Dist Court directs NHPC...

contd from pg01

pensation amount could not be paid in time. He further requested that the additional payments of 12% interest may be kindly waived off to avoid further delay in payment.

The land owners of the representatives stated that the compensation amount has been due for a long time and they have expressed dissatisfaction over the delay.

However, they agreed to the terms saying that since they believe in assurances given by the Chief Engineer In-Charge, they are ready to wait till 30 Apr pending which they want District Administration to initiate action to safeguard their property from further damages due to pondage of Teesta Stage V.

The landowners have also agreed to waive off the 12% interest provided that the compensation is given by 30 Apr. In case the payment is not made within the stipulated time they have asked District Administration to direct NHPC to pay as per the Land Acquisition Act

and charge the interest on the compensation.

After hearing both the parties the Court directed the NHPC Stage V pay the land compensation amounting to Rs 6,79,78,277 by 30 Apr.

In case of failure to pay within the above stipulated date, all necessary steps to safeguard further damages of the land will be initiated by the District Administration.

In case of failure of NHPC to pay within the stipulated date the interest as per the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 will be charged and NHPC will make good of the damages caused to the properties of the public, the court said.

In order to prevent further damages of the properties of the people and to safeguard the residents living in the properties any pondage of water will be stopped from 01 May. NHPC will not cause any further damage to the properties in case of non-payment of compensation.

The matter is listed for 30 Apr, 2018.

IT releases names of defaulters owing Rs 490 crore taxes

NEW DELHI, MAR 29 (PTI):

The Income-Tax Department today released a pan-India list of 24 defaulting individuals and companies who owe about Rs 490 crore in taxes to the exchequer but have either gone untraceable or have reported inadequate assets for payment of dues.

The department issued an advertisement as part of its name and shame defaulters policy in leading national dailies titled 'List of defaulters of Income Tax and Corporate Tax'.

The notice, issued by a nodal office of the Principal Director General of Income Tax in Delhi, "advised" the named defaulters to pay their tax arrears immediately.

The public announcement carries the identity of the firm or the individual, the name of their directors and partners, the date of incorporation of the company (date of birth in case of individuals), their Permanent Account Number (PAN) or the Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN), their last known address and business profile, the amount of tax defaulted, assessment year and the respective jurisdictional I-T authority.

These defaulting firms were in the business sectors like food processing, bullion trading, software, real estate, breweries and manufacture of ingots among others.

The maximum tax dues of

over Rs 86.27 crore are against a Delhi-based company named Ms Stock Guru, India and its partner Lokeshwar Dev and the notice said the assessee has gone untraceable and also has inadequate assets to pay the income tax.

The dues for this firm are for the assessment years (AYS) 2009-10 and 2010-11. Some of the defaulters on the list have not paid their taxes for the assessment year 1989-90.

A Kolkata-based individual Arjun Sonkar, as per the notice, has an I-T default of over Rs 51.37 crore and is "not traceable" now. He is followed by Kishan Sharma, another individual from the West Bengal capital, who the department

said is in default of Rs 47.52 crore of income tax.

The total tax default amount by 24 entities, from cities like Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Vijaywada, Nashik, Surat, Delhi, Vadodara, Kolkata and others, is about Rs 490 crore.

A senior I-T Department official said the public list is aimed to make people aware so that they can help the department in nabbing these defaulters, if they have any information about them.

The notice also carried a disclaimer that the "entries in the list are specific to the tax arrear/assessment year mentioned and the tax defaulter's address, business, shareholding and management may have

changed" now.

It added that the amount of default "shall further increase" after due interest is levied on it.

The department has carried out this exercise over the last few years and had named 96 such entities which have huge tax liabilities on them but they have either gone non-traceable or have shown no assets for recovery.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the policy-making body of the I-T department, had few years back adopted the strategy of bringing out the names of chronic defaulters in public domain and had also begun posting these names on its official website.

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Williamson replaces Warner as Sunrisers captain

NEW DELHI, MAR 29 (PTI):

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson has replaced the disgraced David Warner as the captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad, a day after the Australian was barred from the IPL for his role in the ball-tampering controversy in South Africa.

"I've accepted the role to stand in as captain for this season. It's an exciting opportunity with a talented group of players. I look forward to the challenges ahead," Williamson said in a tweet posted by the franchise's official twitter handle.

"We are happy to announce Kane Williamson as the captain of SunRisers Hyderabad for IPL 2018," added team's CEO K Shanmugam.

Warner, declared the chief plotter of the infamous incident, apologised for his role in the scandal. He was the captain of SRH last season.

The temperamental opener has been banned for a year and ruled out of any leadership role in future due to the incident.

Shikhar Dhawan was another big name expected to replace Warner as Sunrisers captain.

However, Williamson captaining Sunrisers means there will one overseas leader in the IPL and seven Indian captains.

Williamson is currently busy with the home Test series against England.

Nadong eyes goals as Real Kashmir FC shines in I-League

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 29 MAR:

Nadong Bhutia from Kalimpong is playing for Real Kashmir FC, Srinagar, in the second division I-League 2018 season. The 25-year-old plays as a winger and is also an optional striker for the team.

So far, Real Kashmir FC has played three I-League second division matches at Srinagar. The club has won two matches and drawn one.

Speaking over the phone, Nadong said that he is enjoying playing for Real Kashmir FC.



"The results so far have been good and I am happy with my performance in all the three

matches. I have not scored a goal so far but have assisted in one goal for the team. I want to give my 100% and make a comeback in high levels of Indian football," he said.

Last year, Nadong had signed for Minerva FC Punjab for the I-League first division 2017-18 season.

The Minerva FC went on to lift the I-League but Nadong Bhutia parted ways with the club in the middle of the season.

"I was not getting a chance to play certain matches due to my dif-

ferences with the club owner. I sought release from the club as not playing was affecting my career. After terminating my contract, I joined Real Kashmir FC," he clarified.

Nadong had previously played for United Sikkim FC and then Atletico de Kolkata in the first ISL season. He was grounded by injury for almost a year. After recovering from injury, he went to Bhutan to play the premier league there. Then he signed for Minerva FC, Punjab after recovering 100% from injury.



'Chief plotter' Warner will not captain Australia in future: CA

SYDNEY, MAR 29 (PTI):

Declared the 'plotter-in-chief' in the ball-tampering scandal, David Warner will never be considered for captaincy after serving his one-year ban, Cricket Australia announced on Wednesday.

Following CA's investigation into the infamous incident in Cape Town, it has come to light that Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft knew what they were getting into but it was Warner who developed the "plan to attempt to artificially alter the condition of the ball".

Smith still has a slim chance to captain Australia again but Warner will not be considered at all.

"Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft will not be considered for team leadership positions until a minimum of 12 months after the conclusion of their respective suspensions from international and domes-

tic cricket," said CA in a statement.

"Any consideration of future leadership would be conditional on acceptance by fans and the public, form and authority among the playing group. David Warner will not be considered for team leadership positions in the future," it added.

Warner has also been charged for instructing "a junior player to carry out a plan to take steps to attempt to artificially alter the condition of the ball using sandpaper".

Earlier today, CA handed one-year bans to Smith and Warner, and nine months to Bancroft. The scandal also cost Smith and Warner participation in the upcoming IPL.

The ICC, on its part, had suspended Smith for one Test while docking 75 percent of Bancroft's match fees.

I am sorry: says regretful, tearful Smith

SYDNEY, MAR 29 (PTI): A tearful Steve Smith today took full responsibility for the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa that has left his reputation in tatters, saying he is absolutely gutted right now and would regret the incident for the rest of his life.

The 28-year-old, who has been banned for a year by Cricket Australia and stripped of captaincy, broke down repeatedly in a five-minute press conference after his arrival from South Africa today.

"As captain of the Australian cricket team, I take full responsibility. I made a serious error of judgement and now I understand the consequences. It was a failure of my leadership," a devastated Smith said, trying hard to keep his composure in a packed press conference.

"I will do everything I can to make up for my mistake and the damage it has caused. If any good can come through this, if there can be a lesson to others, I hope I can be a force for change. I know I will regret this for the rest of my life. I am absolutely gutted," he added.

Smith, along with his deputy David Warner, were handed similar bans for their role in plotting the episode during the



third Test against South Africa in Cape Town.

Opener Cameron Bancroft, who was entrusted with the task of tampering the ball with a sand paper before he was caught on camera, has been handed a nine-month suspension.

"I hope in time, I can earn back respect and forgiveness. I have been so privileged and honoured to captain the Australian cricket team. Cricket is the greatest game in the world. It has been my life and I hope it can be again. I am sorry and absolutely devastated," he said.

Smith refused to blame any of the other players involved, saying he can only blame himself at the moment.

"Good people make mistakes. I have made a big mistake by allowing this to happen. It was a huge error of judgement on my part and I am sorry. To my knowledge this is the first time I have seen this happened. I can assure you it will never be happening again," he said.

"I don't blame anyone. I am the captain of the Australian team, I take responsibility of what happened last Saturday in Cape Town," he added.

Before being escorted out, Smith hoped that his fate serves as a warning to anybody trying to attempt any wrongdoing.

"... (when) you think about making a questionable decision you should think about people who will be affected. You are affecting your parents and to see my old man's pain (breaks down)," he said.

"(To see) My mum it hurts. I can't remember what I was saying. I just want to say sorry for the pain I have caused to the Australian public. I am truly sorry," he concluded fighting back sobs.

Warner apologises, says he put stain on game he loves

SYDNEY, MAR 29 (PTI):

Banned Australian opener David Warner today apologised for his role in the ball-tampering scandal, saying he put "a stain on the game he loved as a boy".

Warner has been identified as the chief plotter of the infamous incident in South Africa, leading to one-year bans on him and captain Steve Smith. Both the players were also barred from this year's IPL.

"To cricket fans in Australia and all over the world: I am currently on my way back to Sydney. Mistakes have been made which have damaged cricket," Warner, who was Australia's vice-captain posted on social media.

"I apologise for my part and take responsibility for it. I understand the distress this has caused the sport and its fans. It's a stain on the game we all love and I have loved



since I was a boy."

The 31-year-old Warner, who can still play club cricket, said he needs time to reassess

his future.

"I need to take a deep breath and spend time with my family, friends and trusted advisers. You will hear from me in a few days," he added.

Following Cricket Australia's investigation into the scandal, it has come to light that Smith and Cameron Bancroft knew what they were getting into but it was Warner who developed the "plan to attempt to artificially alter the

condition of the ball".

Bancroft, who has been handed a nine-month suspension, was caught on camera pulling out sand paper to tamper the ball.

The CA has also made it clear that while Smith still has a chance to captain Australia one year after the end of his ban, Warner will never be considered for a leadership role.

The dangerous opener has been charged for instructing

"a junior player to carry out a plan to take steps to attempt to artificially alter the condition of the ball using sandpaper".

All the three indicted players have also been ordered to undertake 100 hours of voluntary service in community cricket.

However, CA has cleared coach Darren Lehmann of any wrongdoing, insisting that he was not aware of the plan hatched by the trio.

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Real's Zidane has no faith in me, says hat-trick hero Isco

MADRID, MAR 29 (AFP): Hat-trick hero Isco said it was a relief to play for Spain as he feels Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has no faith in him.

Spain destroyed Argentina, who were without Lionel Messi, 6-1 in a friendly on Tuesday as Isco stole the show with his triple at the Wanda Metropolitano.

The 25-year-old has become a key player under coach Julen Lopetegui and is expected to start at this summer's World Cup in a front three alongside Diego Costa and David Silva.

But Zidane has not shown the same faith in him at Real Madrid, where Isco has often found himself on the bench behind the likes of Marco Asensio and Lucas Vazquez.

"Lopetegui gives me confidence with minutes, with games," Isco said.

"With Madrid I do not have the confidence that a player needs, maybe the problem is me, that I have not won Zidane's confidence with the good players there."

Isco signed a five-year contract with Real in September last year but there would be no shortage of suitors should he



decide his future lies elsewhere.

English Premier League pair Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur are rumoured to be interested in signing Isco.

"When you don't play a leading role or have continuity in your club team, the

games with the national team give me life," Isco said.

"I have the confidence of the coach here (with Spain), I still have a lot of enthusiasm to work, to improve, to be a starter for my club and in the national team.

"I feel that I'm at the beginning and I want to show that I am a good player."

Isco left the stadium with the match ball under his arm but it was a good night too for Diego Costa, who put his hand up to be Spain's lead striker in Russia by scoring the opening goal.

Costa had been left out by Lopetegui while inactive during his departure from Chelsea to Atletico Madrid but he would appear now to be in pole position up front, ahead of Rodrigo Moreno, Iago Aspas and the out-of-form Alvaro Morata.

"During the nine months I went without being called up by Spain I felt bad," Costa said. "I went six months without playing as you all know, but I knew that if I started playing again I would have a chance of returning, and I'm happy to be here."

Costa had to be taken off after colliding with goalkeeper Sergio Romero for his goal but the striker indicated he would be fit to face Deportivo La Coruna this weekend.

"I think I will be fit to play Sunday," Costa said. "I took a knock, I'll put ice on it

and that's all."

Aspas, the leading Spanish scorer this season with 16 goals for Celta Vigo, did his own chances no harm by coming on to score one and set up two more in a flurry of second-half goals.

Thiago Alcantara made it four shortly before the hour-mark after Nicolas Otamendi earlier headed in what turned out to be no more than a consolation for Argentina.

Messi's hamstring strain meant the visitors were without their talisman and after an unconvincing qualifying campaign, Jorge Sampaoli's side have now lost two of their last three games, conceding 10 goals in the process.

This latest defeat in Madrid came on the back of Friday's stodgy 2-0 win over Italy and a 4-2 loss to Nigeria.

"This result means we have to take responsibility and take another look at who will make the final list," Sampaoli said.

"We have to look for the chance to continue working so that these things do not happen to us at the World Cup.

Malala returns to Pak for the first time since Taliban attack

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, MAR 29 (PTI): A visibly emotional Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai returned to Pakistan today, saying that she had dreamed about returning home every day for the last five years since she was airlifted to Britain after being shot in the head by the Taliban militants in 2012.

Hours after her arrival here, the famed human rights activist met Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at his office here along with some other officials, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) tweeted.

"I have dreamed of returning to Pakistan for the past five years," 20-year-old Malala said with tears in her eyes.

"Whether I was in a plane or driving in a car in streets of London, I dreamed of being in Islamabad and Karachi but it was not true But finally I am here and very happy," she said.

She said she had a great desire to move freely in Pakistan.

Malala said that she was working on the education of children and wants empowerment of women in Pakistan.

"Today, I am very happy that, after five-and-a-half years, I have set foot on the soil of my nation again," she said in Urdu.

"I am now 20 years old, but I have seen a lot over the course of my life. From grow-



ing up in Swat - it was such a beautiful place - to then seeing terrorism and extremism from 2007 till 2009. And then seeing how many difficulties women and girls face in our society, and how we can fight against those challenges," she said.

"And then being attacked, leaving my country...Everything was happening itself, I could not control anything. If it was my call, I would never have left my country. The doctors performed surgery on me and saved my life. But then for further treatment I had to go out and continue my education there. But it was always my dream that I return to Pakistan," she added.

Malala left Pakistan after she was shot in the head by the Taliban militants in 2012 for campaigning for female education in Swat Valley. The young activist not only survived the bullet wound in her head but won the Noble Peace prize in 2014.

Prime Minister Abbasi in a warm welcome address said he was happy that a daughter of the nation has come to her motherland. "It is your home. Now you are not an ordinary citizen, your security is our responsibility," he said.

He said the entire world gave honour and respect to Malala and Pakistan would also give her the kind of re-

spect she deserves.

Abbasi told the Nobel laureate that Pakistan defeated militants after a difficult war since her departure. He said Pakistan has become safe as terrorism has been uprooted.

Malala was dressed in Pakistani shalwar kameez and dupatta and accompanied by her mother and father.

"Pakistan welcomes 'Gul Makai' to her home. We are proud of you. #malala-comeshome," Foreign Office spokesperson Muhammad Faisal tweeted earlier today.

Due to security reasons, her four day-visit and her entire itinerary is being kept secret.

CEO of Malala Fund is also

with her and she is expected to participate in the 'Meet the Malala' programme in Pakistan.

It is not known if she will travel to her native Swat where she lived and was attacked while returning from a school in October 2012 when she was 14 years old.

Severely wounded, Malala was taken by helicopter from one military hospital in Pakistan to another, where doctors placed her in a medically induced coma so an air ambulance could fly her to Britain for treatment.

After she was attacked, the Taliban released a statement saying that they would target her again if she survived.

At age 17, Malala became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for her education advocacy. She shared the prize with India's social activist Kailash Satyarthi.

Unable to return to Pakistan after her recovery, Malala moved to Britain, setting up the Malala Fund and supporting local education advocacy groups with a focus on Pakistan, Nigeria, Jordan, Syria and Kenya.

She is currently studying at Oxford University.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, appointed her as UN Messenger of Peace to promote girls education in April last year.



WHO appeals for contributions for health services to Rohingya

NEW DELHI, MAR 29

(PTI): The WHO has urged the international community to contribute generously to enable appropriate health services to the 1.3 million "highly vulnerable" Rohingyas in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar as the refugees face "grave" risks to their lives and health in view of the coming rainy season.

This is one of the "biggest" humanitarian crisis in recent times, the WHO's South East Asia Regional Director, Poonam Khetrapal Singh, said at a meeting of partners in Dhaka.

"No single agency or the Bangladesh government alone can meet the massive health needs of such a large population group. The Rohingya population are settled

in an area that is prone to cyclone, and a terrain that would be flooded as soon as rains begin," the official said.

"The risk of outbreak of life threatening water and vector borne diseases under such conditions is huge," Singh said.

Coordinating the work of over a 100 partners along with the Ministry of Health, Bangladesh, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has facilitated a contingency plan for the rainy season and coordinated a simulation around it.

The plan aims to ensure continuity of health services during rains and floods to minimise the risk of disease and deaths among the affected population, a WHO statement said.

Two Koreas agree to hold summit on April 27

SEOUL, MAR 29 (AFP):

The two Koreas today set a date for a rare inter-Korean summit, following a high-level meeting that was held days after the nuclear-armed North's leader Kim Jong Un made his international debut with a surprise trip to China.

"According to the will of both leaders, the South and North agreed to hold the '2018 South-North summit' on April 27 at the South's Peace House in Panmunjom," said a joint press statement, read out in turn by both delegations' leaders.

The meeting between Kim Jong Un, leader of nuclear-armed North Korea, and the South's President Moon Jae-in will be only the third of its kind, and will be followed by landmark talks with US President Donald Trump which could come as early as May.

The venue will make Kim the first North Korean leader to set foot in the South since the end of the Korean War -- although according to Pyongyang's official accounts, during the conflict his grandfather and predecessor Kim Il Sung went several times to Seoul, which twice fell to his forces.

Another round of working-level talks next Wednesday will discuss issues including protocol and security.

China hails Nepal's independent foreign policy

BEIJING, MAR 29 (PTI): China today commended Nepal's new Left Alliance government for adopting an independent and balanced policy towards its neighbours.

"China, Nepal and India are important neighbours to each other. We hope the three sides can work together, have some sound interactions and achieve common development," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lu Kang told a media briefing here.

The Left Alliance of the CPN-UML, led by K P Sharma Oli and CPN-Maoist Centre, led by Prachanda, had in December secured 174 seats in the 275-member Parliament in the



RED LIPS AND LEATHER! Model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley slays while out and about in New York City

BOX-OFFICE

SALMAN KHAN STARRER BAJRANGI BHAIIJAAN ALL SET TO ENTER THE 1000 CRORE CLUB AT THE GLOBAL BOX-OFFICE

Filmmaker Kabir Khan’s Bajrangi Bhaijaan starring Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan is impressing the audiences globally after having an impressive run in the domestic markets. Its performance in the Chinese market is outstanding. After grossing Rs 626 globally Bajrangi Bhaijaan has already touched the 907 crore figure in addition to its numbers from the Chinese market. The film has already become the third highest Indian grosser at the global box office after Aamir Khan’s Dangal and Baahubali 2.

Talking about the film’s success, director Kabir Khan told a daily, “Creatively I was absolutely satisfied with the film so I knew that people would like it but I didn’t expect this kind of an overwhelming response. My background is documentaries but I want to make commercial films so my struggle has always been to strike the right balance. With Bajrangi Bhaijaan, I knew I cracked it.”After the new figures being out, it looks like that the cross-border drama is all set to touch the 1000 crore mark at the worldwide box-office.

Produced under Salman Khan Films and Eros International, the film also stars Harshali Malhotra and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in interesting roles. We are quite excited to watch the film breaking more records in the Chinese markets.



» THE DAY AHEAD «
ARIES: Love and romance continue to blossom, Aries. Social events could find you and your beloved among both old and new friends, perhaps letting some of them know for the first time that you’re actually an item. Someone close to both of you could be planning a wedding and invite you to come. Don’t be surprised if it gives your partner ideas! Let yourself dream a little today. You can face reality tomorrow.
TAURUS: Are things really going this beautifully for you, Taurus? This is a question you might ask yourself now. All looks perfect as career, romance, education, and spiritual matters seem to crystallize into a wonderful life. Don’t waste time worrying if this is all too good to be true! You’re concerned about the future, but right now, live in the moment.

You’re creating some great memories, if nothing else. Enjoy!
GEMINI: Expanding your horizons is definitely on the agenda today, Gemini. Travel, education, creativity – they’re all coming to the forefront of your concerns. Romance should also be going well. A friend could introduce you to a new interest, and children might also be a source of joy. Happiness reigns as you’re able to spend more time pursuing the concerns that mean the most to you. Any mundane irritations notwithstanding, this should be a beautiful day.
CANCER: Are you working at home now or perhaps considering it, Cancer? If so, remember that you’ll probably enjoy the comfort and freedom it provides. Being in your own territory among your books

and pets and wearing your old clothes will feel good. However, in no way will working on your own compromise your work ethic. If anything, you’ll get more done than ever. Dig in and go for the gold.
LEO: A social event in your neighborhood could connect you with people who share your spiritual and intellectual inclinations, Leo. As a result, you’ll probably make some new friends and spend a lot of time on the phone with them over the next few days. If you’re single, one could be a potential love partner. If you’re a writer or artist, expect oodles of inspiration to hit you as a result of all this.
VIRGO: A project that you’re working on, perhaps job related, perhaps personal, is likely to require more creative skill than

you usually need, Virgo. Writing, drawing, or computer graphics could be involved. You might have some doubts about your abilities, but you’re more likely to be surprised by the results. You’re apt to enjoy working this way, and you may hope to continue. Keep up the good work, and good luck!
LIBRA: If you’re artistic by nature, Libra, expect a rush of inspiration to hit today, along with an irresistible compulsion to start a new project and work until you can see at least some results. If you’ve never been artistic before, you may suddenly feel like giving it a try, perhaps using computer technology. No matter what, you’re likely to derive a lot of pleasure from it, so go to it. Have fun!
SCORPIO: Something wonderful

could happen to you today at home, Scorpio. A lover could declare eternal devotion, spiritual revelations could come thick and fast, or great news regarding career or money matters could be just over the horizon. Whatever comes is apt to bring happiness for all concerned. You may pinch yourself to make sure you’re awake! Relax and enjoy it. You have it coming, and it’s there to be savored.
SAGITTARIUS: Developments over the past few days could have you feeling very excited and particularly optimistic about your love life, Sagittarius. Communications with your beloved could take the form of romantic songs or poetry. If you want to give your friend a gift, by all means do, but confine it to

something nonthreatening like a book. Everything seems great now, but too much emotional expression and material generosity could overwhelm your friend. Be patient!
CAPRICORN: If you’re involved in the arts, Capricorn, expect today to hear about an opportunity to exhibit your work publicly. There should be a very positive reaction to it, so you can expect a lot of compliments and ego-booster. An opportunity to earn some money from your work could also come along. Don’t turn it down out of shyness or insecurity. Go for the gold. This trend is likely to continue, so make the most of it.
AQUARIUS: Incredible feelings of enthusiasm, optimism, and sheer joy could fill your heart and mind today, Aquarius. Your

life is changing in a positive way, and even though it may not be readily apparent, you’re sensing it intuitively. Romance with someone from far away could be in the offing. If you’re a writer, publishing is right around the corner. The only downside is that you might feel panicky, as if all this will disappear. Stay focused!
PISCES: Some beautiful dreams or visions, perhaps involving angels, spirit guides, or other such beings, could come today, Pisces. Listen carefully to the messages they bring. Whether they involve matters in your material life, intellectual or spiritual concerns, or future events, they can shed light on a lot of facts about you of which you might not be aware. Write them down as soon as you can. You’ll be glad you did.

KPOP

BTS BECOMES FIRST K-POP GROUP TO EARN 1 MILLION SHAZAMS

The app shares that the “Mic Drop” remix was scoring tons of activity in America, Indonesia, The Philippines & beyond.

From identifying that catchy song on the radio to unlocking exclusive artist content, Shazam has become an integral part of any musician’s success story so it’s no surprise that BTS has become the first K-pop group to score a million Shazams.

Earlier today, Shazam shared that BTS’ “Mic Drop” remix with Steve Aoki and Designer had been identified by the app one million times -- a first for a K-pop group. The company shared that the song was first Shazamed in France on Nov. 16, 2017, curiously about a week before its official worldwide release date on Nov. 24.

But since then, Shazam reveals that the “Mic Drop” remix has been identified in every country of the world with the United States leading among all nations, followed by Indonesia, The Philippines, Russia and Canada.

Among all cities, “Mic



Drop” was identified the most in Pasay City (in metropolitan Manila in The Philippines), followed by Jakarta (Indonesia), Ambon (also in Indonesia), Athens (Greece) and Sydney (Australia). Meanwhile, Los Angeles, Calif., Oklahoma City, Okla., and Grand Prairie, TX, were the top three Shazamed cities in America for “Mic Drop.” Overall, Shazam’s report indicates the most activity for

BTS on the East Coast and in the Midwest, as well as high activity along the West Coast.

Over on Shazam’s U.S. tracking charts, “Mic Drop” Peaked at No. 19 in the week ending on Feb. 4, 2018. This stat ties right into the time the track hit its peak of No. 25 on Billboard’s Pop Songs chart that ranks mainstream top 40 radio airplay in America, indicating how much

additional scope and new listeners the septet reached via U.S. airplay.

With “Mic Drop” achieving its one million worldwide Shazams in about four months and eleven days, the race will inevitably be on to see which K-pop act will be able to compete with that achievement next. Or if the group’s Army of fans can break their own record for the next single.

BLACK WIDOW TAKES ON THE BLACK ORDER IN AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR SPOT

Black Widow issues a terrifying warning to Thanos’ Black Order in a brand new Avengers: Infinity War TV spot. With just less than a month before Marvel Studios debuts their most ambitious project yet, marketing for the film continues via short spots that will keep the hype train running for fans, and hopefully entice those who may still be indifferent on the flick. Directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, the epic blockbuster is set to gather all heroes from the MCU as Earth’s Mightiest Heroes gear up to battle Thanos.

While Thanos has been built up as the best villain that will wreak havoc in the MCU, he won’t be able to do it alone. He’ll arrive with four of his henchmen, called the Black Order – Corvus Glaive, Cull Obsidian, Ebony Maw and Proxima Midnight, each of which will have their own unique set of powers that can rival our heroes. Not much is known regarding the foursome, but based on what we’ve seen from trailers so far, it seems similar to the Avengers, they will be split into mini-teams with Proxima Midnight and Corvus Glaive going up against Scarlet Witch and Vision while Ebony Maw takes on Doctor Strange – looking for the Mind and Time Gems, respectively.

The new TV spot from Marvel Entertainment’s YouTube channel clocks in at



just 30 seconds but has a few new looks at the much-anticipated blockbuster, particularly the encounter between the Avengers (Black Widow alongside Falcon, Captain America) and Proxima Midnight, which fans had an earlier look at when photos from Infinity War leaked online. Interestingly, while the two men take a step back, Natasha is the one to deliver a stern warning to Thanos’ henchwoman.

Piecing together what we’ve seen in other trailers and spots, there’s a good chance that Proxima Midnight will see her end (or get badly injured) during her scuffle with Black Widow, Falcon, and Captain America – considering there was a bit of footage with Natasha pushing a spear (Proxima’s own?) inside someone, as if trying to kill him/her.

Aside from Widow’s badass moment in the Avengers

Infinity War clip, there are a few other scenes included in the new spot including an extended look at Gamora catching up everyone else on her adopted father’s motivation. While the trailer made it look like she was speaking with Tony Stark at that time, this makes it clear that she was talking with her co-Guardians, perhaps after they found Xandar in shambles due to the galactic villain coming in for the Power Stone, which is with the Nova Corps.

Further, a distraught-looking Thor is also featured giving a motivational talk to someone, possibly after the Mad Titan ransacked the Asgardian vigilante ship. It’s anyone’s guess who Thor was talking to, but it could be a last-ditch effort to keep Loki alive following theories that the God of Mischief will bite the bullet early on in the movie.