

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## IMD predicts normal monsoon this year

**NEW DELHI, APR 16 (PTI):** India is likely to witness a normal monsoon this year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said today.

The monsoon will be 97 per cent of long period average (LPA), which is normal for the season, IMD Director General KG Ramesh told a press conference.

He said that there was "very less probability" of a deficient monsoon.

The date of onset of monsoon will be announced in the middle of May.

The monsoon is considered normal if the average rainfall is between 96 to 104 per cent of long period average.

Anything less than 90 per cent of LPA is termed a 'deficient' monsoon, and 90-96 per cent of the same is considered 'below normal'.

The four-month monsoon season provides about 70 per cent of the country's annual rainfall.

## Calcutta HC single bench extends stay on rural poll process

Kolkata, Apr 16 (PTI): A single bench of the Calcutta High Court today extended a stay on the panchayat election process in West Bengal till the next date of hearing as an appeal on the maintainability of a petition by the BJP is pending before a division bench.

Justice Subrata Talukdar directed that he will take up the matter tomorrow at 2 PM after going through today's order of the appeal bench.

The State Election Commission and the Trinamool Congress had moved the division bench comprising justices D Somadder and A Mukherjee challenging the single bench order which had accepted the maintainability of the petition at this stage.

Justice Talukdar had stayed the election process for the three-tier panchayat elections on April 12 and had directed the SEC to submit a comprehensive report including filing of nomination and rejection of nomination.

SEC secretary Nilanjan Shandilya, who appeared in person before the court in view of an ongoing ceasefire by lawyers, submitted the report today.

## CM announces setting up of Vet College in Sikkim

**REBYNA RANA/IPR**

**KHAMDONG, 16 APR:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today announced the construction of a Veterinary College in the State where Sikkimese students will be given free education. Mr Chamling made the announcement while addressing a huge gathering at Simik Gumpa.

The CM began his Jan Seva Abhiyan in the East district today with the inauguration or Prana Prathisthana of Ganesh Statue at the Ganesh Temple at Khamdong Aritar. He also performed Puja and hawan at the temple premises and interacted with the local people and students.

The entourage then proceeded to Simik Gumpa, the main venue for the day's programme,



where the Chief Minister performed Puja.

In his address, Mr Chamling reiterated the government's commitment to reach out to every constituency in the State and fulfill the needs

and demands of the people and ensure equitable development of every section of the population. He stated that the 32-day visit of the entire government machinery to every constituency exhibits the

sincere commitment of the government to ensure that nobody is deprived of any rights privileges and opportunities.

Addressing the students and youth, he said that some political parties

are trying to distract the youth from the real concerns and they are doing this because they are not concerned about the future of the youth and therefore, the state. Here **turn to pg03**

## Kapil Meena takes charge as DC East

**NIRMAL MANGAR**

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

Kapil Meena, one of the youngest IAS officers in Sikkim, took charge as the new East District Collector today. Before this, he was posted as the District Collector of West Sikkim.

He passed the civil service exam in 2009 and joined the Indian Administrative Service in 2010.

35 years old, Mr Meena hails from Kota in Rajasthan and completed his schooling from Modern School and then studied BSc Agriculture in G.B. Pant University in Uttarakhand. He has an MA in Public Policy in training as well.

He came to Sikkim in 2011 as Assistant Collector, East District.

So far he has served as Sub Divisional Magistrate in Gyalshing, SDM in Soreng, ADC in South District and ADC in West District.



He was also posted as Managing Director in Sikkim Milk Union. During his tenure he also played an important role in developing the Sikkim Milk brand.

Son of Kamala and DN Meena he gave up a campus placement job to prepare for UPSC.

"DC East posting is a challenging job and tough experience but I am all set to take it up with past experience of working here and with dedicated service to general public," the new DC East has said.

## Judge acquits Mecca blast accused, quits hours later

**HYDERABAD, APR 16**

(PTI): A special anti-terror court today acquitted Hindutva preacher Swami Aseemanand and four others in the 11-year-old Mecca Masjid blast case and shortly afterwards the judge resigned, in a stunning move dubbed as "intriguing" by a political party.

K Ravinder Reddy, the special judge for NIA cases, tendered his resignation, citing "personal" reasons barely hours after pronouncing the judgement in which he held that the prosecution failed to prove "even a single allegation" against

the five accused.

Reddy said his resignation had nothing to do with today's judgement, according to a senior judicial officer, who did not want to be named.

AIMIM Chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, meanwhile, tweeted, "Judge who gave acquittal to all accused in Mecca Masjid Blast RESIGNS very intriguing and I am surprised with the Lordship decision", amid questions over the functioning of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

A powerful blast, triggered by remote control,

had ripped through the over four centuries-old mosque here during an assembly of devotees on May 18, 2007 when they had gathered for Friday prayers, killing nine people and wounding 58.

"Prosecution (NIA) could not prove even a single allegation against any of the accused and all of them stand acquitted," J P Sharma, the counsel for 66-year-old Assemanand, told reporters after the verdict was pronounced by judge Reddy.

The media was not allowed in the courtroom where the judgement was pronounced in the

high-profile case, which was dubbed by the then UPA government as one of "Hindu terror", a term that riled saffron organisations, including the BJP.

"He has sent the resignation letter to MS-J(Metropolitan Sessions Judge)...he has cited personal grounds and it has nothing to do with today's verdict in the Mecca Masjid blast case," the senior judicial officer told PTI, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Reddy, had apparently taken the decision to resign sometimes back itself, the officer said.

**turn to pg03**

## BCCI appoints Sikkim girl as Fielding & Wicket Keeping coach for U-19 NE camp

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

Sikkim girl Kikam Bhutia of Tadong has been appointed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as Fielding & Wicket Keeping Coach for the U-19 (Girls) Zonal Cricket Academy NE Zone/Bihar Camp commencing from 23 Apr to 13 May 2018 at Imphal arranged by Manipur Cricket Association.

As per Sikkim Cricket Association's Facebook page, Kikam has been playing for Sikkim Cricket Association since



2009 in various national level tournaments. She is currently coach of Sikkim Women's Cricket team.

Kikam completed her Level-B coaching in 2010 under National Cricket Academy and is the only

Level B Women's Coach in the Northeast Zone. She has also been Intern coach for the Indian Women's camp at NCA, Bangalore in 2011 and Intern coach for the East Zonal camp U-19 in 2015.

## North Sikkim's Got Talent grand finale held

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 16 APR:**

In order to give a platform to the underprivileged children from rural areas of North Sikkim, the Scheduled Caste Welfare Association of Mangshila, North Sikkim organised North Sikkim's Got Talent 2018 here at Gram Prashasan Kendra, Mangshila, North Sikkim. The grand finale of the event was held on the occasion of 127th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

The auditions of the 1st and 2nd round were held on 06 and 08 Apr while the semi final round was held on 12 Apr. Young artists from different corners of North Sikkim participated in the competition.

The winner of North Sikkim's Got Talent in Singing category was Chandra Kumar Limboo of Mangan while the 1st runner up was Sahara Pradhan, Mangshila and 2nd runner up was Nissamma Limboo of Mangshila.

Similarly, the winner of North Sikkim's Got Talent in Dancing category was Abhijit Dey of Mangan while 1st runner up was Priyatam Biswakarma



of Mangshila and 2nd runner up was Annu Limboo, Mangshila.

The function was attended by Chairperson, Transport Department, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha as

chief guest, accompanied by social worker, Mingma Doma Bhutia, NHPC Teesta Stage-IV representative, Mohammad Tariq, Zilla Member, Namok Swayem, Ongdup Bhutia, Zilla mem-

ber, Mangshila-Tibuk, Zomin Limboo, vice convener, ASDTF, Santosh Lohia, Panchayats, and public.

The programme was sponsored by NHPC stage IV, Sanjay Malu, vice

convener, ASDTF, Santosh Lohia and Sachin Agarwal, Sandip Agarwal of National Insurance, T. V. Jewellers, Ashish Agarwal, Tours & Travels, Nari Samaj Mangshila, vice president, Dilliram Limboo, Mon Kumar Limboo, Zomin Limboo, Bhanu Das Biswakarma, Bishnu Das Biswakarma, Jas Bdr, Thalatal and others.

The programme was hosted by Anil Darjee, sound by A. R. Sound, Ranipool while the judges panel comprised of Suraj Malik and Ms Nikita.

The programme also had a children's fashion show and concluded with prize distribution by the chief guest.

Also in the function, the organizers felicitated, Binod Biswakarma of Mangshila for winning the title of Mr. Sikkim, social worker, Mingma Doma Bhutia from Mangan, senior citizen of the area, Bal Bahadur Limboo, dancer, Suraj Mallick and singer, Nikita Cintury.

The organizing committee has expressed gratitude to all the sponsors and well wishers for lending their support in making the event a grand success.



## Man falls to death

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:** One 26-year-old man from Nandugaon in South Sikkim died after falling from a height on Saturday. According to police, the man was in an inebriated state and was walking to his parent's home at around 10 p.m. when he fell from a height near HeliPad jhora, Poklok Samseybong. His body was discovered the next day. The deceased, Dilliram Sharma was a driver by profession.

## Driver killed in tipper accident

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:** A tipper vehicle met with an accident on Sunday claiming the life of the driver. The vehicle had tumbled around 200 ft below the road at Mangley in South Sikkim. The vehicle was plying from Singtam to Lower Tarku village. The accident occurred at around 11 a.m. and was reported to the police by a local resident. The deceased has been identified as Bhanu Limboo [28], a resident of Lower Tanak.

## Two injured in road mishap

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:** A Savari vehicle plying towards Bardang from Singtam met with an accident at 19th Mile on Sunday at around 10 40 p.m. As per the police, the driver lost control of the vehicle on reaching the spot and tumbled around 100 ft below the road. The driver escaped with minor injuries while a laborer, residing on the banks of the Teesta, was seriously injured when the vehicle crashed into him. The injured was taken to District Hospital Singtam by locals. The driver has been arrested and the case is under investigation.

## BJP expresses concern over delay in construction of SU complex

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 APR:** Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged of carelessness by the State Government and Sikkim University management in the construction of the university's complex. The party has demanded that the construction of Sikkim University complex be completed at the earliest. In a press release, the party has expressed its concern on the running of the university from rented rooms in the absence of its own complex even after 11 years since it was established. A university's complex plays an important role and students, professors and lecturers of Sikkim University have been adversely affected by the lack of a proper complex, the release adds.

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## Mangan SHO convenes awareness meet with business community and taxi drivers

### SUMMIT REPORT

**MANGAN, 16 APR:**

SHO Mangan Police Station, PI Karma Euden Kaleon, accompanied by SI Sonam Lachenpa and SI Gaurav Gautam, Traffic Police, addressed an awareness meet for Mangan Bazaar business communi-

ty and local taxi drivers at the Police Station conference Hall here today.

Addressing the gathering, the SHO sought the cooperation of the gathering to make Mangan Bazaar litter-free, no smoking zone and consider the option of bringing the bazaar area under CCTV sur-

veillance for the safety of business settlements and shops.

She also delved into driving rules and etiquette for the gathered taxi drivers while also briefing the gathering about laws against employing children under 14 years of age in any establishment.



## SPCC observes Ambedkar Jayanti

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee observed the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar at the party head-office here at 6th Mile Tadong on 14

April. An SPCC press release informs that the meeting was chaired by the SPCC vice-president, former Minister PL Gurung, and was attended by other leaders and workers of the Congress in Sikkim.

## Annual sports meet at NIT-Sikkim

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

The annual sports meet of the National Institute of Technology at Rabongla was declared open today by the Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba, who was invited over by the institute as the spe-

cial chief guest.

A press release from the NIT-Sikkim PIO, Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi, informs that the event witnessed a "fantastic turnout" of faculty members with the pleasant weather providing the perfect ambience for a day dedi-

cated to sports.

The Faculty In-charge Dr. Pranab Kumar Kundu took the salute following which the faculty and students participated in various events like badminton, volleyball, basketball, table tennis and chess.



## SKM convenes meeting for Rinchenpong, appoints CLC office bearers

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

A constituency level meeting of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was held for Rinchenpong constituency under the chairmanship of SK Dong at Reshi

Bazaar on Monday. During the meeting, Passang Tamang of Reshi was appointed as president for the CLC with Shiv Laxmi Mangar as secretary and 14 others as member secretaries, informs an SKM press release.

## Sikkim band Granite Yard in finals of ShiRock Band Competition in Manipur



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

Rap metal band from Sikkim, Granite Yard, has made it to the finals of ShiRock Band Competition to be held in Manipur. The competition is part of the SHIROCKFEST, an annual international rock festival of Manipur, organised by Tourism Department, Government of Manipur. It will be held from 24 to 28 Apr in Bakshi Ground,

Ukhrul Headquarters, Manipur.

Altogether 20 bands from the North East have made it to the finals through auditions held on 09-10 Apr in Imphal and 12-13 Apr in Guwahati.

Different bands from the entire Northeast region will clash for Shi-rock 2018 title worth Rs 10 lakh. This edition of ShiRock will feature two internationally renowned Rock Bands

"Steelheart" and "Queensryche" on the opening and closing days, respectively. These famous bands will perform in India for the very first time at Bakshi Ground, Ukhrul, Manipur.

Granite Yard has Donny on vocals, Yogain on guitars, Rupen on bass, Alvin on drums and D Freestyla J as the band's DJ. Rage Against the Machine, Limp Bizkit, POD, Korn are some of the band's influences.



**ORIENTATION FOR OATH COMMISSIONERS:** Sikkim Judicial Academy organized an orientation course for Oath Commissioners on 14 April here at Sikkim Judicial Academy in the High Court premises. Benoy Sharma, Chief Judicial Magistrate, North Sikkim, was present as the resource person for the programme attended by 50 Oath Commissioners from all the four districts. [IPR]





**Gangtok on Tuesday, 17 Apr**

**Temp:** 24°C / 11°C  
**Forecast:** Clouds and sunshine with a shower or thunderstorm around.  
**Sunrise:** 05:11 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:00 PM

## Judge acquits Mecca blast accused...

Contd from pg01

Soon after the verdict, the NIA had come in for attack by opposition parties, including the Congress and AIMIM.

Apart from Asemanand, those acquitted are -- Devendra Gupta, Lokesh Sharma, Bharat Mohanlal Rateshwar alias Bharat Bhai and Randerndra Chowdhary.

Though there were 10 accused in the case, only these five were tried. Two other accused -- Sandeep V Dange and Ramchandra Kalsangra -- are absconding, while Sunil Joshi was murdered. Investigation is continuing against two others.

The bomb had exploded in an area of the mosque where devotees performed ablutions. Two more Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were later found and defused by the police.

The incident had triggered violent protests and riots, prompting police action in which five more people were killed.



## Strength Lifting Assoc felicitates medal winners

**SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

Sikkim Strength Lifting Association (SSLA) felicitated three strength lifters on Monday for winning medals for the country in the recently held 6th International Strength Lifting & Incline Bench Press Championship 2018 from 07 to 10 April at Bali in Indonesia.

In the championship, Pema Dorjee Bhutia bagged 2 silver medals in master's category, Pema Tamang bagged a silver medal and a bronze medal and Santosh Gupta won a bronze medal in senior category for India.

They were part of the

52-member Indian team in the championship and contributed five medals to the total of 36 medals won by the country in the championship.

In a small function, SSLA president, Tenzing D Denzongpa and other executive members congratulated them for winning medals for the country.

Mr Denzongpa lauded them for continuously winning medals for the country in international championships. On behalf of the association, he further expressed his best wishes to them for future competitions. He also encouraged up-

coming young athletes to take these lifters as inspiration to do well in the future.

Mr Bhutia, who is also the chief coach of SSLA, expressed his happiness on winning medals for the country.

"The competition was really tough but we gave our best. Now, we will work hard to take our young lifters especially girls to international levels in the near future," he said.

Mr Gupta expressed his happiness on representing the country in the championship. He also thanked his coach and SSLA members for their continuous sup-

port and encouragement. He also assured to work harder to do better in the future.

Likewise, Mr Tamang expressed his immense happiness on winning two medals for the country in his debut appearance in the international championship.

"The tournament was tough and a learning experience for me to train harder to win gold for the country in the future," he said.

The function was also attended by vice-president, Mani Kumar Rasaily, assistant treasurer, Ranju Sundas and publicity secretary, Pema Wangdi.

## Four-day Art of Living workshop for youth concludes



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 APR:**

The Youth Empowerment & Skills Workshop (Yes! +) organized by Art of Living Sikkim Chapter concluded here in the Capital on Sunday. The four-day workshop was facilitated by International Yes! + faculty and soft skills trainer Amit Periwal and was held at the Art of Living Happiness cum Yoga Centre at Tadong, informs a press release.

The workshop had the participation of youth comprising mostly of college and university students.

The Yes! + is a powerful life-skills

program designed specifically for students and young professionals in the age group of 18-35 years, the release informs.

The Youth Empowerment & Skills (Yes! +) workshop builds and enhances the life skills / abilities in youth such as coping with emotions, stress management, creativity and innovation, communication skills, leadership, teamwork, ethics and integrity, decision making, youth and conflict, negotiation skills, dynamism & entrepreneurship, time management, interpersonal skills, volunteering spirit, and analytical & problem solving.

## To contact

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## CM announces setting up of Vet College...

Contd from pg01

he urged them to use their sense of discrimination to decide what is right and wrong and not be swayed by negative opinion makers. He added that Sikkim is steadily moving towards being a 100% literate state.

The government has established 26 colleges and 7 universities in the last twenty two years, along with providing various incentives to encourage total literacy and ensure that students can study any subject of their choice, said Mr Chamling. We are also coming up with our own State University, he further stated.

Addressing the monks, Mr Chamling recalled the initiatives taken by the government for their overall upliftment through various incentives and schemes.

Addressing the government employees, the Chief Minister stated that the government has implemented the Pay Commission and enhanced the salaries

and allowances of employees working under various capacities. He urged them to work with a sense of responsibility and accountability for the welfare of the people of Sikkim.

Speaking on organic agriculture, he explained that its main objective is to improve and preserve the health of the soil so that our ecosystem is healthy, along with preserving human health. He urged the people to use their land for mixed agriculture and not leave any land fallow.

"We have to reverse the economy and make our farmers richer," he stated adding that farmers should be 100% producers.

He announced compensation for produce which does not sell for various reasons, Market price support, and vehicle and vehicle fare to transport organic products for the next five years

The Chief Minister also announced a one-time grant of Rs 1 lakh to Khamdong Senior Sec-

ondary School.

Concluding his address, the CM granted in-principle approval and sanction to all the demands presented by the Area MLA, Panchayats and Nagar Panchayats of the Constituency. He assured that the construction of new roads will start in two months time. He maintained that all the work should be done in the interest of the people and should not be contractor-oriented.

He stated that farm houses and other government resources should be used as a model for the benefit of the entire region rather than being for mere employment of few temporary staff.

The CM announced that MR workers who do not possess COI and have been serving for over 20 years will be absorbed on Work Charged basis.

"In the span of over twenty years of the tenure of our government, the life expectancy of the people of Sikkim has increased by 10 years. This

is the biggest outcome of all-round and inclusive development of our government," he concluded.

Earlier, Minister Agriculture and area MLA, Somnath Poudyal in his welcome address placed some of the demands of Khamdong Singtam constituency. He said that road connectivity is a serious issue for the constituency and needs to be improved. He added that DPR for the same at an estimated cost of Rs 60 crore has been sanctioned.

Earlier, the Zilla and Gram Panchayat Members of all the GPUs under Khamdong Singtam

Constituency and Singtam Nagar Panchayat submitted various demands under their respective GPUs and Nagar Panchayat.

The CM was presented with a letter of gratitude for his commitment to establish the first and only all-women college in the State at Ralap in East Sikkim.

Anganwadi workers also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for the recent hike in their monthly honorarium. The programme concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Former MLA, Acharya Tshering Lama.



**STATE PROJECT OFFICE  
RASHTRIYA MDHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
REF NO: GOS/HRDD/2018/278/24 DATED: 13/04/2018  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim invites proposal through e-tendering from qualified and reputed Firms/Private/Public Limited companies for implementation of ICT@ School Scheme at 82 Government /Government Aided Secondary Schools of Sikkim on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model.

For more information and tender details: [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) may be visited.

Sd/-  
**JOINT DIRECTOR  
T.E/ EXAMS/ICT  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.  
GOVT. OF SIKKIM**

R.O. No. 30/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 13.04.18

**HEALTH CARE HUMAN SERVICE & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
SIR THUTOB NAMGYAL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK**

### ADDENDUM

**Addendum to advertisement published in the daily newspaper Himali Bela Vol. No.100/Gtk.Dated.13.04.2018**

The date for the walk in interview for the post of six (6) Safaikarmchhari is fixed on 07.05.2018 at 11 a.m. at the chamber of the Medical Superintendent, STNM Hospital, Gtk.

Sd/-

**UNDER SECRETARY  
STNM HOSPITAL, GANGTOK.**

R.O. No. 33/ipr/pub/classi/18-19 dt. 16.04.18

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Confer & Collaborate

*Don't dither and dodge*

Sikkim has now clearly reached a stage where none of its problems - be they political or societal - can really be tackled piecemeal. An integrated approach is an imperative to accomplish the task. By an integrated approach, one means an approach which should have always been the standard approach - the one involving policy-makers, the executive arm, law enforcement agencies, grassroots representatives and lay people, all engaging at an equal footing and not talking down or implementing across hierarchies. Consensus should be pursued in earnest and delivery on ground should be without compromise. Diktats and dodging, the two traditional approaches here need to go.

Sikkim now needs an administrative outlook which does more than just snuff out the odd bush fire and political philosophy needs to address the problems of society in the real sense. The stress of reckless consumerism and unbridled corruption is now telling and the strain is clearly nearing breaking point. Sikkim and its people need to close ranks and simply say, "enough, let's confer and collaborate".

But before that, as this section has often argued, Sikkim, and its people, need to accept that they face a problem. Once that is accepted, the enormity of the situation will sink in quickly as well and then the push back can begin. It is clear that there is near unanimous agreement that some things need addressing, but what rankles is that this comes in the form of acceptance and only the very superficial expressions of shock and disdain. A society that has lost its collective conscience is the most unstable. Sikkim needs to shake off its lethargy. There are still too many who will prefer excuses over involvement and ignore engagement on the pretence that the problem is too big. Take substance abuse or suicides for instances, there are too many being sucked into this vortex and too few who are will to engage. The problem feeds off the indifference of the society too numbed to express itself. Or take corruption. A "raid" is considered more an act of "victimisation" than at least some action. While it is true that only those who have fallen out of favour get "raided," it still does not take away from the fact that they could be corrupt. It is not enough to say that a corrupt bureaucrat/ politician is unjustly harassed while others in the same boat walk free. What one must consider is that even their time will come. No compromised by corruption individual can remain in favour for always; that is not just how the nexus works. And as referred to earlier, corruption is not even the biggest problem infecting the Sikkimese society - that position is occupied by addiction and suicides.

Unfortunately, while corruption receives the occasional attention even if via "victimization", suicides and addiction [which is different from peddling] eat away without even this occasional attention.

At the root of the problem is what appears to be a disturbing trust deficit in the society, and this is essentially a community affliction even though the noises are screamed individually and in private. People who are expected to decide on policy matters, drawing their decisions from years spent honing statecraft in the public domain, are rarely taken at face value any more. Every decision, move and promise is slotted by people to fit an ulterior political motive. Of course, this is not a recent notion.

That said, where are the people? Where is their voice? They wait and see; see and criticise; criticise and do little else. If the politicians fail to deliver policy or pressure to address real issues, it is perhaps because we, as the people, are incompetent too. We ignore issues that confront us. The public has seldom taken the initiative in solving contentious issues or addressing clear and present challenges. It waits for the politicians to do it for them and politicians desist because they don't want to take a strong stand and risk losing a vote-bank or taking on a challenge that requires more than rhetoric or a press release. So Sikkim dithers, from all sides. And continues doing so until it has painted itself into a corner and then the only way out is by stamping all over fresh paint, an ugly, ungainly sight.

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

## Syria, chemical weapons and the limits of international law

ANDREW BELL  
*theconversation.com*

Consider this shocking fact: Despite horrific images of yet another chemical weapons attack in Syria, the U.S.-led humanitarian intervention to protect civilians on April 13 was fundamentally illegal. Under current international law, President Trump lacks the authorization to launch a single missile to stop future attacks, even for the clear and just purpose of saving civilian lives.

No matter how wise you consider this intervention, legal scholars generally agree that the United Nations Charter doesn't allow the use of military force to prevent chemical weapons attacks - no matter how evil - without U.N. Security Council approval. This fact seems both morally wrong and harmful to the goals of opposing "rogue" regimes and protecting human rights.

My research into the Syrian crisis highlights the fact that when it comes to protecting the innocent from atrocities, international law is fundamentally broken.

Before the next horrific round of attacks on civilians begins - in Syria or elsewhere - it is important to improve the U.N.'s flawed legal framework for authorizing the use of force in response to chemical weapons attacks on civilians.

But how?

### RULES FROM THE PAST

Let's start by considering the process that's in place today.

Under the U.N. Charter, states can use force against other states only for self-defense or when authorized by the U.N. Security Council. The council includes five permanent members with veto powers: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia.

These rules were created following World War II and were designed to enhance global stability. By giving a veto to the five major powers, the Charter ensured that no Security Council decision would lead to conflict between these major powers.

In our era, however, they allow a single state to paralyze any Security Council decision, including action to prevent mass atrocities against civilians.

Russia, in support of the Bashar al-Assad regime, has repeatedly vetoed any proposal to act forcefully against Syria. This leaves the U.S. few options to legally use force against the regime, even to prevent further chemical attacks.

Such prohibitions haven't prevented the U.S., the U.K., France and other countries from acting to save civilians. In cases such as NATO's 1999 humanitarian intervention in Kosovo and Trump's April 2017 missile strikes in Syria, military force has been used in violation of international law to protect civilians.

Tellingly, global public opinion has tacitly accepted - or even cheered - such "illegal" strikes. Indeed, a day after the bombing, 12 of 15 members of the U.N. Security Council voted



against or abstained from voting on a Russian proposal to condemn the strikes on Syria. Such a vote indicates widespread support or acceptance for the intervention.

Despite this confusion, the current crisis shows that there are decisive ways the U.S. can act to improve international law and limit such violence against civilians in the future.

### POSITIVE STEPS

First, the U.S. should formally seek approval from the U.N. Security Council for the intervention in Syria. By presenting a clearly humanitarian purpose and incurring a likely Russian veto, the U.S. will starkly highlight, once again, the disjuncture between justice and legality in the current framework. Such votes further show the world how broken international law currently is.

Second, the U.S. should work to stop future chemical weapon attacks against civilians by sponsoring an international initiative to update the U.N. Charter framework. Such an initiative, similar to one Canada sponsored in 2001, can develop proposals to authorize legitimate humanitarian interventions even in cases of Security Council deadlock. As I have argued elsewhere, intervention against chemical weapons use offers a limited, qualitative threshold that would gain greater support than current proposals for humanitarian intervention.

Third, the U.S. should use diplomacy to mobilize a global coalition supporting the adoption of such proposals in the U.N. That won't be easy. The U.N. has adopted few changes to its governing principles in its 72-year history, and current Security Council members have little incentive to reduce their influence.

Despite this fact, the ultimate goals of these initiatives - the promotion of the principles of humanity, legitimacy and coherence in international law - make such efforts worth the effort. While the successful adoption of such changes may be distant, the conversation associated with this debate could have lasting effects in shaping a currently broken system. Such developments would, in the long run, help to promote human rights, deter future chemical attacks on civilians, and ultimately strengthen the law's ability to promote humanity and justice in the international system.

*[the writer is Assistant Professor of International Studies, Indiana University]*

## Alexis Wright wins 2018 Stella Prize for Tracker, an epic feat of Aboriginal storytelling

BEN ETHERINGTON  
*theconversation.com*

Alexis Wright's book *Tracker*: Stories of Tracker Tilmouth has won the 2018 Stella Prize. *Tracker* is, in Wright's words, an attempt to tell an "impossible story", using the voices of many people to reflect on the life of Tilmouth, a central and visionary figure in Aboriginal politics.

At one telling point in the book, Gulf of Carpentaria activist and political leader Murandoo Yanner relates an encounter between Tracker and Jenny Macklin, then Minister for Indigenous Affairs in the Rudd government. Tracker was helping Yanner to lobby Macklin over the Wild Rivers legislation in Queensland.

Notoriously, Macklin had persisted with the Howard government's "Northern Territory Intervention", and was regarded with suspicion by most Aboriginal leaders. Nevertheless, she was the federal minister and had to be dealt with.

As they approached, Tracker called out, "How ya going, Genocide Jenny?"

Yanner recalls the atmosphere that followed: "You could have heard a pin drop and pistols drawn at twenty paces, and the whole thing went sour pretty quickly".

It tells you a lot about the man. He had regular access to the corridors of power yet still called a spade a spade. He was capable of dealing with politicians of any background and station yet did not forfeit his never-back-down attitude.

He was able to gain the upper hand from the first with an irreverent comment. And, above all, he was a funny bugger. (Another memorable thumbnail character sketch, this one related by Tracker himself, is of current senator Pat Dodson as a "mobile wailing wall": a place where white people go to confess and forgo their sins.)

THE MILES FRANKLIN  
SHIRAZ-WINNING AUTHOR'S  
TRIBUTE TO THE VISIONARY  
ABORIGINAL LEADER  
TRACKER, TILMOUTH

Alexis Wright  
*Tracker*



til his death in 2015.

This is not a book about Tracker's life authored by Wright, but consists of stories and recollections told to Wright by the man himself as well as 50 others, from family and school mates, to Aboriginal and non-Indigenous leaders in our time. Wright brilliantly intersperses and weaves these together into an epic of stories and storytelling.

As the tributes to Tracker have flowed in the months since its publication, and many will surely follow as it garners further prizes and draws in ever more readers, so have proliferated the attempts to describe both the work's genre and the mode of authorship it enacts.

In their award statement, the Stella judges call it a "biography", but also "new way of writing memoir". These descriptors capture aspects of the book - a birth to death tale does emerge from Wright's layering of stories, and these are, of course, conjured from memory - but they also obscure.

Wright didn't "write" the work but elicited the stories that comprise it through conversation. Towards the end of the book there is an unbroken sequence of nearly 100 pages of Tracker and Wright conversing, the contents of which are largely a mixture of philosophy and political economy. In these pages, Tracker's voice is mostly serious, even earnest, as he expounds on the need to create a sustainable economic basis on which Aboriginal people can palpably enjoy their hard-won land rights and native title.

While it is no doubt true that readers accustomed to biographies in the European tradition will be struck by the novelty of reading a tribute to a storyman made up of many stories, Tracker's strengths as a work are not dependent on this putative departure from the biographical genre. It is simply remarkable to hear Tracker's genuinely funny jokes and stories told repeatedly, often word for word and channelling Tracker's unmistakable style, by such a range of different speakers. Over the course of the book, the repetition of these stories consolidates them and imprints them on the memory.

It is fitting that a book written in the mode and genre of Aboriginal storytelling should win a prize that encompasses both non-fiction and fiction. It is a work, epic in scope and size, that will ensure that a legend of Central Australian politics is preserved in myth.

*[the writer is Senior Research Lectureship-literature, Western Sydney University]*

## Book covers vast landscape of history of Indian art

NEW DELHI, APR 16 (PTI): Children's writer Mamta Nainy profiles Indian Art by covering a millennia of artistic expression in her new book as it time-travels chronologically through the many art schools and artistic periods.

Billed as the first comprehensive guide for art enthusiasts - young and old, 'A Brush with Indian Art' showcases exquisite full-colour photographs and illustrations of some of the most celebrated Indian artworks.

From cave to contemporary paintings, it's like a walk through the history of Indian art.

According to Nainy, the book is about stories, which have been plucked from the many art traditions in India.

The book, published by Puffin, has interesting anecdotes and colourful trivia.

One of these is related to the Ajanta Caves.

"The tale goes that anyone who tries to deface the paintings in any way or reproduce them is struck by bad luck. Mysteriously many attempts to make copies of these paintings and then exhibit them in museums have been highly unsuccessful," Nainy writes.

"In most of these cases, either the museums at which they were to be exhibited caught fire and the canvasses were destroyed, or the curator went insane!" she says.

The extravagant Mughal miniature paintings provided inspiration to many future artists and schools, and they continue to inspire even today, the author says.

"If it hadn't been for the Mughal rulers, such extraordinary art wouldn't have emerged or been developed in India. It seems that the Mughals were as passionate about art and architecture as they were about warfare and expanding their territories," the book says.

The British, says Nainy, had different aesthetics with regard to art, and the Indian artists knew that if they were to survive, they'd have to start understanding and painting from the British point of view.

"Hence, the artists moved to a more realistic sort of painting style, which meant that they tried to draw exactly what they saw, for these paintings were as much for documentation purposes as they were for artistic ones," she says.

"They tried adapting to the ways of the British, and what came out of that was a mix of Indian and European art styles. Not surprisingly, the painters used familiar techniques from the Mughal paintings and then joined them with the features of a Western style of painting."

In the late 19th century, with the arrival of the European painters and with Indian painters being exposed to and adapting to European styles of painting, came about a major swing in public taste.

Lifelike paintings done in an extremely realistic fashion suddenly became very popular. And to promote the European style of painting further, the British opened several art schools in India, like Government School of Art in Calcutta and Sir J J School of Art in Bombay. Here they admitted Indian students from educated, well-to-do backgrounds and trained them

turn to 05



Cong, LF hit  
Kolkata streets  
against panchayat  
poll violence

**KOLKATA, APRIL 16 (PTI):** The state units of the Congress and the Left Front organised two separate demonstrations in the city today in protest against the alleged violence during the filing of nominations for the upcoming panchayat polls in the state.

Senior Congress leaders and MLAs observed a daylong fast at Rani Rashmoni Road here, raising slogans against the state government with placards in hand.

“The state government is trying to turn the panchayat polls into a farce. Never before the opposition parties in the state have faced such a situation where they were not allowed to file nominations by the ruling party,” state Congress president Adhir Chowdhury asserted.

“If the TMC is so confident of their development work in the past seven years, why are they afraid of opposition candidates,” he said.

The Left Front, led by the CPI(M), organised a protest rally around 2.30pm from Birla Planetarium in Maidan area of the city to Esplanade.

Democracy is under threat and all efforts are

being made to undermine the State Election Commission, which has turned into a back office of the TMC, CPI(M) legislative party leader Sujan Chakraborty said.

“The TMC is afraid of the Left Front that is why they have not allowed our candidates to file nominations,” Chakraborty said.

Violence was reported from parts of West Bengal after the State Election Commission issued notification for the panchayat polls. The opposition parties accused the ruling TMC of attacking its candidates to prevent them from filing nominations. The SEC had issued a notification to extend the deadline for filing of nominations by a day, following the allegations.

The decision was, however, reversed the next day, prompting the BJP to approach the Supreme Court and the High Court.

A single bench of the Calcutta High Court today extended the stay it had earlier imposed on the election process till the next date of hearing as an appeal on the maintainability of a petition by the BJP is pending before a division bench.

Woman assaulted  
in ‘moral policing’  
case, 1 held

**TURA, APR 16 (PTI):** In a case of ‘moral policing’, a woman was allegedly assaulted by a group of men for enjoying a picnic with her friends in Garo Hills of Meghalaya with a video of the incident uploaded on social media, police said today.

A person was taken into custody in connection with the incident, the police said.

The video which was shot near Chibinang village in West Garo Hills, shows a mob purportedly assaulting and shaming the young woman. The date of the incident was not known.

The place of the incident was narrowed down to the Mronggre-Bikongre area where the woman had gone out with her friends for the picnic, the

police said.

The police have identified and arrested the main accused Biren Sangma, while his accomplice Martin B San have managed to escape.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of West Garo Hills Dr MGR Kumar said, “She was assaulted by the group, led by Biren Sangma, who did not like her presence in a picnic along with her other friends.

“We have contacted the South West Garo Hills district (SWGHT) police for further action in the case. While Biren Sangma has been taken into custody yesterday night, the other accused in the case have fled. Police squads have been mobilised to arrest the other culprits,” he said.

Book covers vast...  
contd from pg04

in modern India and is, therefore, an important milestone in Indian art history. From the paintings of Ajanta to Mughal miniatures to scenes of humble village life - the artists of the Bengal school always sought inspiration from Indian history and from the reality they saw around them,” she writes.

She also talks of modern artists, such as FN Souza, SH Raza, MF Husain and their companions at the Progressive Artists’ Group, as they created masterpieces; and finally, understood the intricacies of contemporary Indian art that explores different mediums and modes of expression like performance art, videos, and installations.

<div></div> <div>GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK</div> <div>Ref No. 36/SSTRB      Dated: 09/04/2018</div> <div>NOTICE</div> <div>On the basis of the Written Examination, Classroom Demonstration and Viva-voce (interview) the following candidates bearing roll nos. in order of merit are declared selected and recommended for the appointment to the post of Primary Teacher (General) under Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim.</div>	
ROLL NO.	NAME OF CANDIDATES
18200407	SAJANA TAMANG
18200344	RINCEN DOMA BHUTIA
18200102	BINNIE BHUJEL
18200097	SUJATA CHETTRI
18200080	USHA SHARMA
18200400	TSHERING CHUNKI LACHENPA
18200286	DHAN KUMAR CHHETRI
18200072	BENU PRASAD CHETTRI
18200079	DIKI DOMA TAMANG
18200403	JAYANTI CHHETRI
18200402	NIROJ CHETTRI
18200419	HIMADRI SHARMA
18200073	BISHNU RAI
18200099	SUNITA PRADHAN
18200248	DIKENDRA RAI
18200467	SAWKIT LEPCHA
18200454	SARDA ADHIKARI SHARMA
18200002	SMRITI GURUNG
18200235	BIJOY RAMUDAMU
18200096	PRAVA CHHETRI
18200085	RATNA GURUNG
18200285	BINA KUMARI KARKI
18200323	KUNCHOK NAMGYAL BHUTIA
18200330	KAMALI SUBBA
18200233	ALINA LEPCHA
18200237	RUDRA PRASAD DULAL
18200355	JUNENA LIMBOO
18200234	RABIN RIZAL
18200090	ICHHU HANGMA LIMBOO
18200098	ROMAN GURUNG
18200179	EDEN LEPCHA
18200140	GAYLEENA LEPCHA
18200191	MANGAL DHOJ SUBBA
18200228	JYOTI RAI
18200004	DINESH GAUTAM
18200121	TSHERING CHHIKI BHUTIA
18200253	SNOW LEPCHA
18200449	SANDHYA SHARMA
18200172	PRERNA RAI
18200252	DIWASH GURUNG
18200401	ANJU SHERPA
18200190	PHUPU LHAMU LEPCHA
18200552	BHARATI LEPCHA
18200043	DILIP KUMAR CHETTRI
18200480	DILIP CHETTRI
18200448	RHICHA SUBEDI
18200425	PRANITA RIZAL
18200033	DECHEN DOLKAR BHUTIA
18200184	UMA NATH SHARMA
18200590	RESHMI SHOMA BHUJEL
18200315	RUTAM CHETTRI
18200485	BHAKTI SHARMA
18200163	GANGA SHARMA
18200123	KABITA TAMANG
18200536	KUNAL DHUNGYAL
18200042	JEEWAN CHHETRI
18200008	RINZING NORBU BHUTIA
18200174	AMRITA KAMI
18200302	ALEENA GURUNG
18200173	DEPENDRA KARKI
18200433	ERIC TIRUWA
18200487	GANESH DARJEE SEWA
18200435	GEETA SHARMA
18200542	UDAI KUMAR RAI
18200230	USHA PRADHAN
18200493	SAMTEN DOMA BHUTIA
18200584	SANJIV CHETTRI
18200095	SUMAN THAPA
18200450	SUMITRA SHARMA
18200108	ANUPAMA CHHETRI
18200113	ONGKIK BHUTIA
18200408	MAMTA RAI
18200415	PRAYASH TAMANG
18200009	DORJEE WANGDI LEPCHA
18200444	MINGMA DOMA SARKI
18200580	LISA MARIE LINGKHEM RAI
18200466	DIPTI RAI
18200337	TENZING LHADEN LACHENPA
18200353	MAHESH GAUTAM
18200484	LUCI MEETA RAI
18200006	MEENA HANGMA SUBBA
18200380	NANDU KUMARI LIMBOO
18200359	CHONGZAT LEPCHA
18200360	JHARNA SHANKER
18200112	NAMRATA TAMANG
18200231	TSHERING YANGZOM LEPCHA
18200475	GAWALA BHUTIA
18200015	ARCHANA RAI
18200126	PADMA PANDAY
18200159	SEEMA RAI
18200183	BINDU SHARMA

18200303	RUBEN LEPCHA
18200101	RANJU GURUNG
18200145	PURNA KALA SUBBA
18200022	DEEPIKA SHARMA
18200078	NIMA LHAMU LEPCHA
18200119	KEEDEM BHUTIA
18200579	JIWA LALL CHETTRI
18200300	BUDDHA GURUNG
18200106	POONAM RAI
18200305	ANG PEMA SHERPA
18200156	BINDU RAI
18200187	BARSHA SHAILEE MOKTAN
18200406	SARALA RAI
18200581	BASAN RAI
18200083	KABITA NEOPANEY
18200390	DEOKIT LEPCHA
18200010	SURYA KUMARI SUNAR
18200037	PRAMITA MUKHIA
18200255	TENZING NORBU SHERPA
18200293	ANJANA TAMANG
18200411	SANG DOMA YONZONE
18200041	LEDIYA SUBBA
18200044	NAMITA RAI
18200497	INDRAWATI SHARMA
18200189	BAL KUMARI SHARMA
18200367	BHAWANI SHANKER POUDYAL
18200422	KAJAL GURUNG
18200069	NITU CHETTRI
18200150	TSHERING PINTSO LEPCHA
18200284	SUSAN PRADHAN
18200382	GEETA SHARMA
18200035	RINZING CHOPEL BHUTIA
18200199	ANUP SUBBA
18200210	BIJAY TAMANG
18200440	ASHISH RAI
18200100	KARMA DOMA BHUTIA
18200104	ROSHNA GIRI
18200334	ANITA RAI
18200544	RAMESH CHALISEY SHARMA
18200245	HOM NATH SHARMA
18200381	DAL BAHADUR CHETTRI
18200124	SARITA RAI
18200076	PEMKIT LEPCHA
18200446	TIKA MAYA SHARMA
18200498	LEDIA BASNETT
18200548	DAWA LHAMU LEPCHA
18200347	BIKASH MANGER
18200013	DICHEN ONGMU BHUTIA
18200398	MENUKA DEVI PRADHAN
18200470	RUKMALALL SHARMA
18200604	ASHA TAMANG
18200339	BEE MAYA TAMANG
18200366	KABITA RAI
18200471	RANJIT RAI
18200045	LAKCHING LEPCHA
18200185	JIGYASHA SHARMA
18200494	CHRISTINA LUKSOM
18200410	LAZEE DOMA BHUTIA
18200578	BEENA KUMARI LIMBOO
18200545	PHURMIT LEPCHA
18200573	SHRISTI CHETTRI
18200117	NIKITA PRADHAN
18200077	CHEWANG DADUL LEPCHA
18200328	SUJATA SHARMA
18200260	BINITA RAI
18200297	TSHERING DIKI BHUTIA
18200329	PABITRA BAHUN
18200510	GYALMOO SHERPA
18200622	BHUMI RAM DAHAL
18200054	SARU CHETTRI
18200084	ANU GURUNG
18200453	KEEMI LEPCHA
18200462	BHIM BAHADUR RAI
18200597	ROJINA RAI
18200226	BINITA MANGER
18200350	ASHIKA GURUNG
18200423	SAROJ RAI
18200443	SONAM DOMA LEPCHA
18200505	PEDAN ONGMU BHUTIA
18200521	SUJATA SUBBA
18200261	MON MAYA SUBBA
18200188	DIKURA SHARMA
18200298	YANKEE DOMA BHUTIA
18200554	PHURBA CHOPEL LEPCHA
18200322	MERRY RAI
18200585	YASODA ADHIKARI
18200003	SUMAN RAI
18200239	SUNIL GURUNG
18200535	PHURBA KHANGDUP SHERPA
18200116	DAMBER KUMARI PRADHAN
18200157	AMBIKA CHHETRI
18200222	DEEPA CHHETRI
18200363	YOLOMBER HANG SUBBA LIMBOO
18200209	JANUKA TAMANG
18200038	SUNITA TAMANG
18200138	JENNIFER TAMANG
18200304	SOLOMIT LEPCHA
18200399	SARBADA SHARMA
18200469	HARI CHANDRA SHARMA
18200175	BHIM BAHADUR CHHETRI
18200204	UMA DEVI SHARMA
18200492	CHANDIKA LIMBOO
18200562	MANI KUMAR CHETTRI
18200040	YANGCHEN DOMA BHUTIA
18200349	ANITA RAI
18200592	BISAHANG SUBBA
18200207	MANIKA RAI
18200417	SANGAY DOMA LEPCHA
18200488	RANJANA LIMBOO
18200482	LEEGAIN LEPCHA
18200491	SABITRI SUBBA
18200067	LALIT SUBBA
18200368	PRANIL SUBBA
18200595	PUNAM CHETTRI
18200125	CHUKI BHUTIA





# Don’t need to use my back as my arms can do the job: Dhoni

**MOHALI, APR 16 (PTI):** Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s powerful forearms won many a matches for India and no wonder the former India captain has confidence to clear the boundary even when he is suffering from excruciating back pain.

For lofted shots, a batsman needs to maintain shape while transferring body weight into the shot. However against Kings XI Punjab on Sunday night, the Chennai Super Kings captain was in real pain but kept clearing the ropes with consummate ease.

Dhoni’s unbeaten 79

off 44 balls got CSK agonisingly close to the target before the visitors fell short by four runs.

When asked how he could hit those lofted shots with a painful back, Dhoni replied, “The back is pretty bad but God has given me lot of power and I don’t need to use my back a lot. My arms can do the job.”

However Dhoni maintained that it was not a very serious injury.

“It shouldn’t be too bad because I know what happened. And when you know the extent of your injury, you know how bad it really is,” he said.

## Winless MI take on formidable RCB in high-octane clash

**MUMBAI, APR 16 (PTI):** Winless Mumbai Indians will pit their might against formidable Royal Challengers Bangalore in an adrenaline-charged Indian Premier League match in western Indian state Maharashtra’s Mumbai on Tuesday.

B o t h teams, with a plethora of explosive bats-



men, are yet to find their feet in the T20 league and would be keen to gather some momentum with a victory in Mumbai at the Wankhede Stadium.

If MI have their problems to sort out, having lost at the death in all three games so far, RCB too have their own shortcomings to address with only one win in three games under their belt.

Both the games held here so far have gone down to the wire and on both occasions MI have had their chances to go across the line and fumbled on the doorstep - against Chennai Super Kings in the season opener and then Delhi Daredevils.

blistering 45-ball 92 not out.

After the pace trio’s profligacy RCB need to set right their bowling woes as MI possess a strong batting line up that threatened to score over 200 in their previous game before the Daredevils bowlers restricted them below that

threshold.

Barring leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, who bowled brilliantly to grab 2 for 22, the other RCB bowlers had an off day against the Royals.

But on the positive side was the encouraging return to form of captain Virat Kohli who struck a quick-fire 57.

With a batting line-up boasting of Brendon McCullum, Kohli and A B de Villiers, no target will look insurmountable for the visitors, and three-time champions MI will be aware of this.

MI’s batting, on the other hand, failed to rocket off in the first two games and when it clicked the bowlers lost the plot.

The move to promote local guy Suryakumar Yadav has been a success but their best batsman, skipper Rohit, is yet to make a big contribution with the bat.

The Pandya brothers - Hardik and Krunal - along with giant West Indian Kieron Pollard too have not made big impacts in the first three games.

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The Pandya brothers - Hardik and Krunal - along with giant West Indian Kieron Pollard too have not made big impacts in the first three games.

In between they had also lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad in their first away game of the season, so that the three-time champions led by Rohit Sharma are placed at the bottom of the eight-team table.

MI had been in worse situations before recovering poise to become eventual champions.

RCB started off on the losing note away from home to Kolkata Knight Riders, brought their campaign on track immediately with a convincing victory over Kings XI Punjab at home and then lost a high-scoring game to Rajasthan Royals at home yesterday.

RCB’s bowlers, especially Umesh Yadav who had broken the back of KXIP innings with a three-wicket burst in one over, went for plenty against the Royals who set up the highest total so far of the season, 217, by riding on Sanju Samson’s

Rookie leg spinner Mayank Markhande has been their most successful bowler with good economy rate along with Mustafizur Rehman, but Jasprit Bumrah has also not lived up to his tag of the world’s best white ball bowler.

MI have replaced injured Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins with New Zealander Adam Milne and will be looking up to a comprehensive combined show to avoid a fourth straight defeat of the season.

18200621	SABITRI GURUNG
18200290	ASHIKA CHETTRI
18200429	TASHI LHAMU LEPCHA
18200591	SACHIN GURUNG
18200617	HARI KUMAR CHHETRI
18200623	SUDARSHANA RAI
18200311	BINODH SUBBA
18200071	MUNNA GAUTAM
18200193	SAPANA SHARMA
18200428	SONGMIT LEPCHA
18200081	TENZING PEGGY LEPCHA
18200110	TIK MAYA PRADHAN
18200147	SONAM PADEN TAMANG
18200254	ONGCHU LEPCHA
18200301	MANISHA MANGAR
18200529	TULSI PRASAD SHARMA
18200001	SUREKHA RAI
18200031	ELICIBA LEPCHA
18200075	PURNIMA RAI
18200122	BANDANA BASNETT
18200196	SUMITRA GURUNG
18200441	KUMAR CHETTRI
18200312	FANSISKA GURUNG
18200321	PRIYANKA TAMANG
18200474	LAPHUN HANGMA SUBBA
18200570	PUNAM KARKI
18200223	GEETANJALI CHETTRI
18200250	TSHERING KIPU LEPCHA
18200463	ARJUN KUMAR CHETTRI
18200136	ONGMU SHERPA
18200489	SUK MAYA SUBBA
18200158	PARBATI GAUTAM
18200412	JANGMU SHERPA
18200495	SHO HANG LIMBOO
18200610	LILA DEVI CHETTRI
18200317	YOJNA MANGER
18200464	PEMO CHOMO LACHENPA
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18200258	PRATAP MANGER
18200283	PINKU THAPA
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18200242	DHAN MAYA LAMICHANEY
18200308	EDEN LEPCHA
18200092	KAYUSA LEPCHA
18200212	PRIYANKA BISWAKARMA

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# China says it wants to stick to ‘right path’ of bilateral ties with India

**KJM VARMA**  
**BEIJING, APR 16 (PTI):** China wants to stick to the “right path” of bi-lateral ties with India, explore new areas for cooperation and ensure sound and steady devel-opment of the relation-ship, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said today.

Foreign Minis-try spokesperson Hua Chunying’s remarks came during a media briefing as she repled to a question on a series of high-level meetings be-tween the two countries.

After last year’s stand-off in Dokalam, India and China have stepped up dialogue at various levels to reset the ties.

Hua said China’s ties with India have seen new progress and all round cooperation this year.

“This year under the guidance of the two lead-ers (Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi), China and India relations have been developing with a sound momen-tum,” Hua said.

“China attaches great importance to develop-ing relations with India and we would like to work together to im-plement the consensus reached by leaders, stick to the right path of the bilateral ties, accumulate more positive energy, explore new areas for cooperation and ensure sound and steady devel-opment of bilateral ties,” she said.

“We have seen close exchanges at all levels and new progress in all round cooperation,” Hua said without elaborating.

On April 13, a meeting was held between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Yang Jiechi, Director of China’s Foreign Affairs Commission and member of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in Shanghai.

Besides the meeting between Yang and Doval, the two countries “suc-cessfully” held 11th Joint Economic Group meet-ing and the fifth Strate-gic Economic Dialogue (SED), she said.

Hua said officials from the two foreign ministers also met. The two sides also held work-ing mechanism meeting on border affairs and cross border rivers, she said.

“These interaction show that China and In-dia share wide range of common interests and our bilateral cooperation holds great potential,” she said.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are also due to visit China on April 24 to take part in the meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Prime Minister Modi himself is scheduled to visit China in June to take part in the SCO summit in the Chinese city of Qingdao.

# Trump ‘morally unfit to be president: ex-FBI chief Comey

**WASHINGTON, APR 16 (PTI):** Donald Trump is “morally unfit” to be president, former FBI chief James Comey asserted today as he claimed “it’s possible” that Moscow may have information on him that could be used to com-promise him.

Comey, who was unceremoniously fired by the US president in May last year, in a wide-ranging interview to ABC News also warned that if Trump ever tries to sack special counsel Robert Mueller, then it would be his “most serious attack yet on the rule of law” and causing “tremendous damage” to the country’s institutions.

Mueller is investigating alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US election and any potential ties between Trump campaign and Russia. Trump has repeatedly called the inves-tigation a witch hunt and denied any collusion.

The former Federal Bureau of Investi-gation director’s blunt comments came as the 57-year-old lawyer kicked off a high-profile tour to promote the release of his new book, “A Higher Loyalty.”

Asked if he thinks the President has been compromised by the Russians, Comey said, “I think it’s possible, I don’t know,” Comey said.

“I wish I wasn’t saying it, but it’s the truth. It always struck me, and still strikes me, as un-likely, and I would have been able to say with high confidence about any other president I dealt with, but I can’t, it’s possible,” he said.

Comey expanded on that statement in an interview USA Today published today.

“There’s a non-zero possibility that the



Russians have some, some sway over him that is rooted in his personal experience, and I don’t know whether that’s the business about the activity in a Moscow hotel room or financ-es or something else,” Comey said.

Trump, 71, has said the “badly reviewed book” raises “big questions”. He also suggest-ed Comey should be imprisoned, and in recent days began referring to him as a “slime ball”.

In the ABC News interview, Comey offered a scathing judgment about whether Trump is qualified to serve as president, saying that he believes Trump is “morally unfit” to serve in the nation’s highest office.

Comey also said, “I don’t buy this stuff about him being mentally incompetent or ear-

ly stages of dementia.”

“I don’t think he’s medically unfit to be president. I think he’s morally unfit to be pres-ident.”

“Our president must embody respect and adhere to the values that are at the core of this country. The most important being truth. This president is not able to do that,” Comey said.

The former FBI director went on to say that a person “who talks about and treats women like they’re pieces of meat, who lies, constan-ly, about matters big and small, and insists that the American people believe it -- that person is not fit to be president of the United States on moral grounds.”

During the interview, Comey repeated his

assertion that Trump told him that he expect-ed loyalty and pressured him to drop an inves-tigation into Michael Flynn, the former nation-al security adviser.

Flynn has since pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI and is now cooperating with the spe-cial counsel.

When asked “was President Trump ob-structing justice?” Comey responded, “Possi-bly. It’s certainly some evidence of obstruction of justice.”

Trump has denied asking Comey to stop in-vestigating Flynn and insisted he never asked for loyalty.

When Comey testified before the Senate In-telligence Committee last year, he said that he did not know if Trump obstructed justice, add-ing, “that’s Bob Mueller’s job to sort that out.”

In his book, Comey deferred to the Mueller investigation on the question of obstruction.

“I presume that Bob Mueller’s team is in-vestigating ... whether or not urging me to back the FBI off our investigation of his nation-al security adviser and in firing me, President Trump was attempting to obstruct justice, which is a federal crime,” Comey writes. “It’s certainly possible.”

After the interview aired, Trump’s party - via the Republican National Committee - re-leased a statement saying Comey’s publicity tour for his new book showed “his true higher loyalty is to himself”.

Comey served as the seventh director of the FBI from September 4, 2013, until he was fired on May 9, 2017.

# Bangladesh rejects Myanmar’s claim of repatriating Rohingya

**DHAKA, APR 16 (AP):** Bangla-desh today rejected a claim by Myanmar that the Buddhist-ma-jority nation had repatriated the first five among some 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled to the neighbouring country to escape military-led violence against the minority group.

A Myanmar government statement said on Saturday that five members of a family had re-turned to western Rakhine state from the border area. It said the family was staying temporari-ly with relatives in Maungdaw town, the administrative centre close to the border.

The statement said author-ities determined whether they had lived in Myanmar and pro-vided them with a national verifi-cation card. The card is a form of ID, but does not mean citizen-ship - something Rohingya have been denied in Myanmar, where they’ve faced persecution for decades.

The statement did not say whether any more repatriations were being planned. Bangla-desh has given Myanmar a list of more than 8,000 refugees to be-gin the repatriations, but there have been delays due to a com-plicated verification process.

Bangladesh’s Home Minister, Asaduzzaman Khan, today said Myanmar’s claim that the family had been “repatriated” was false, noting that the family had never reached Bangladeshi territory.

Khan said Myanmar’s move was “nothing but a farce.” “I hope Myanmar will take all the Rohingya families back within the shortest possible time,” he said.

Bangladesh’s refugee, relief and repatriation commissioner, Abul Kalam, said the Rohing-ya family involved had never crossed the border.

“By no definition can this be called repatriation. No re-



patriation has taken place,” he said by phone from Cox’s Bazar. “Bangladesh is no way part of it.” Cox’s Bazar is a district in Ban-gladesh where camps have been set up to shelter the Rohingya.

Asif Munier, an independent refugee expert who had handled the Rohingya crisis in Bangla-desh for years as part of the United Nations, said Myanmar’s claim was a public relations stunt.

“They are doing it again and again,” he said. “Bangladesh’s government and the interna-tional community must ask Myanmar for an explanation for this move. While there is a bilat-eral process going on and inter-national agencies are involved, such a move by Myanmar is again very unfortunate and un-expected.”

Myanmar’s security forces

have been accused of rape, kill-ing, torture and the burning of the homes of Rohingya villagers after insurgents attacked about 30 police outposts on August 25.

The United Nations and the United States have described the army crackdown as “eth-nic cleansing.” About 700,000 Rohingya Muslims flooded into neighbouring Bangladesh to es-cape the violence.

Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed in December to begin repa-triating them in January, but there were concerns among aid workers and Rohingya that they would be forced to return and face unsafe conditions in Myanmar.

On Friday, the UN refugee agency and Bangladesh finalised a memorandum of understand-ing that said the repatriation process must be “safe, voluntary

and dignified ... in line with in-ternational standards.”

UNHCR said it “considers that conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for returns to be safe, dignified, and sustain-able. The responsibility for cre-ating such conditions remains with the Myanmar authorities, and these must go beyond the preparation of physical infra-structure to facilitate logistical arrangements.”

Rohingya Muslims have long been treated as outsiders in Myanmar, even though their families have lived in the coun-try for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

**MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES**  
**LABHLAXMI ARIES**  
Draw No:11 DrawDate on:16/04/18  
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 6901  
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5804 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3425  
4th Prize Rs.300/- 5517 5th Prize Rs. 200/- 5123  
6th Prize Rs.100/-  
1001 1014 1052 1163 1186 1231 1238 1248 1253 1310  
1335 1336 1353 1359 1374 1411 1431 1511 1525 1584  
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The Director ,Mizoram State Lotteries,  
For result please visit: [www.mizoramlotteries.com](http://www.mizoramlotteries.com)

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES**  
**MUMBAILAXMI RAM**  
Draw No:11 DrawDate on:16/04/18  
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 1193 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3778  
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 3119 4th Prize Rs. 500/- 3763  
5th Prize Rs.200/-  
1168 1349 1404 1422 1456 1507 1510 1535 1537 1711  
1750 1816 1834 1955 1979 1985 2004 2203 2205 2246  
2255 2274 2298 2331 2413 2460 2461 2706 2787 2854  
2867 2884 2938 2954 3025 3113 3164 3214 3223 3234  
3247 3335 3336 3337 3347 3456 3475 3498 3522 3557  
3559 3566 3618 3653 3659 3725 3751 3761 3768 3792  
3818 3959 3972 4027 4110 4123 4128 4175 4236 4249  
4348 4566 4612 4626 4637 4642 4745 4834 4877 4921  
4960 5076 5186 5189 5262 5277 5294 5296 5363 5447  
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6th Prize Rs.100/-  
1003 1083 1138 1144 1183 1184 1194 1214 1223 1225  
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Issued by:  
The Commissioner,  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

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2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 02880 16324 30084 34870 56941 59544 77323 81823 97352 98103 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1808 2783 2899 3893 6341 6572 7249 7783 8495 8916 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0432 0746 1669 2624 3137 5162 6556 7326 7612 9620 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0120 0152 0747 0796 0861 0871 1185 1412 1664 1706 1769 2046 2164 2169 2346 2398 2399 2648 2728 2987 3015 3088 3100 3120 3240 3315 3447 3468 3500 3607 3761 3764 3971 4014 4033 4436 4520 4544 4604 4641 4654 4798 4831 4953 5210 5270 5319 5508 5542 5613 5670 5673 5784 6108 6167 6310 6345 6452 6502 6525 6687 6714 6825 6865 7014 7076 7222 7331 7311 7380 7417 7451 7475 7479 7537 7646 7776 8026 8141 8224 8229 8242 8340 8377 8596 8647 8717 8962 9139 9169 9209 9362 9383 9428 9575 9576 9646 9792 9889 9969		2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 12338 18101 32215 33406 47001 52109 56637 57541 61805 76084 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0458 0587 3452 3511 4376 5151 5859 6269 9006 9700 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0504 4090 4435 5143 5158 5865 7437 8229 8547 8774 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0101 0136 0279 0286 0539 0545 0702 0722 0757 1060 1090 1215 1302 1483 1574 1807 1906 2105 2243 2337 2379 2419 2508 2545 2834 2946 3198 3630 3653 3698 3775 3808 4140 4205 4377 4451 4474 4491 4492 4621 4637 4768 5047 5162 5238 5313 5336 5367 5525 5533 5639 5650 5726 5729 5828 5845 6252 6259 6319 6430 6454 6533 6613 6651 6677 6878 6939 6997 7006 7295 7450 7531 7591 7716 7924 8081 8196 8359 8389 8429 8461 8577 8632 8662 8914 8927 9058 9125 9132 9229 9371 9422 9461 9511 9530 9636 9681 9694 9788 9818		2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 02808 40368 41866 45620 63657 67420 68811 82988 92909 94373 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0642 1555 1772 2591 4747 5821 5918 7570 7790 8834 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0606 0614 0802 1842 2545 3340 4608 5476 6486 7066 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0240 0821 0857 0908 1001 1101 1217 1260 1264 1334 1338 1384 1780 1787 1795 1973 1991 2002 2038 2223 2235 2380 2428 2440 2501 2651 2995 3112 3277 3369 3370 3525 3611 3911 3943 4021 4025 4048 4085 4337 4467 4507 4780 4785 4930 5234 5566 5781 5901 6110 6176 6419 6421 6462 6521 6594 6608 6643 6672 6761 6770 6852 6903 6920 6962 7032 7104 7108 7406 7498 7658 7670 7755 7881 7908 8076 8131 8215 8290 8293 8321 8370 8650 8733 8762 8797 8816 9119 9140 9245 9389 9428 9464 9629 9663 9813 9872 9895 9915 9925	
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# I am good at keeping secrets: Benedict Cumberbatch

SHUBHA DUBEY

**SINGAPORE, APR 15 (PTI):** He is one of the few stars who knows how the story of "Avengers: Infinity War" unfolds, but do not expect any spoilers from Benedict Cumberbatch as he says he is good at "keeping secrets".

The 41-year-old actor, who plays Doctor Strange in the much-awaited movie, said it was not a curious fan in him, but an old-school performer that demanded the script from Marvel.

"I am kind of old-school in terms of filmmaking. I don't know how I managed to get the complete script. I am good at keeping secrets. As a fan, I didn't want to know what was going on, but as a character I had to understand the bracket in which I had to be operating. I had more reasons, other than curiosity," Cumberbatch said in a group interview here.

Marvel has been very guarded throughout the production of "Infinity War". So much so that



directors Joe and Anthony Russo kept the full script out of the stars' hands; only providing them with their scenes.

At the beginning of the world-wide promotional campaign of the film, the duo also put out a letter appealing to the fans to keep spoilers to themselves.

Cumberbatch said reading the

script made no difference as he is confident that there will be many more surprises for him when he finally catches the film at its premiere.

"It doesn't make a difference. I will be sitting in the premiere and going like, 'Did I read that?'. A Marvel film is never what it is on script and that's what the joy is. There is a great fluidity and improvisation,"

he said.

Set to release on April 27, "Infinity War" is the biggest superhero saga to be witnessed by the audiences ever, with fan favourites such as Captain America, Iron Man, Spider-Man, the Hulk, Black Widow, Thor, Black Panther among others, joining forces to defeat the most powerful villain, Thanos.

And while fans are curious as to who emerges unharmed in the climax, Cumberbatch said the film is all about staying "united".

"We strongly stand together. 'We are united' that's what the feeling you get from the Avengers. It is about putting away your differences and uniting. These Marvel films always bring people together. They always have science, logic, social and political tones. This one is about 'United We Stand'."

The actor said working on the film was a "big deal" for him as a number of people have devoted their lives in creating this magical universe of superheroes which in-

spires generations.

"This film is a big deal. This doesn't happen every day. Making this film may be just 10 years of the talents' life, but years of work by many people to get to this place. It is pretty hard. I am like 'holy crap To be a part of something like this extraordinary without repeating,'" he said.

"I went to dinner of the Avengers and there I realised that many people have given their lives and families and their children to make it a huge success. It was incredible to see the first clip of the film at D23 (Expo). I was pretending not to cry thinking that it would be it be a little bit hysterical. It was generally very moving not just because of the arc of the story but the time people have invested in this unique enterprise," the actor added.

The British star was at his wit-tiest best as he promoted the Russo Brothers-directed film here.

Staying true to his English sense of humour, the actor said if

given a chance, he would like to play Groot from the "Guardians of the Galaxy" as it is "like a walk in the park".

He also shared that it took him around two-and-a-half hours to get ready for his role of Doctor Strange.

"I watch Netflix during that time. I eat when they are putting make-up and that drives them crazy. It is difficult. Also, I meditate a lot at that time," he added.

Earlier in the day, during a press conference, Cumberbatch and Iron Man Robert Downey Jr left everyone in splits when they were asked if they ever shared a "Sherlock" joke on the sets.

To which Cumberbatch funnily replied, "There wasn't any joke and I hope there isn't any in future."

Downey Jr played the legendary detective in 2009 film "Sherlock Holmes" and its 2011 sequel, while Cumberbatch essayed the title role in a crime drama TV series based on Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes detective stories.



## Swara blasts troll for shaming Kareena

**MUMBAI, APR 15 (PTI):** Swara Bhasker today defended her "Veere Di Wedding" co-star, Kareena Kapoor Khan, from a troll who shamed the actor for marrying Saif Ali Khan.

The 30-year-old actor recently shared Kareena's photo on Twitter, where she could be seen holding a placard demanding justice for the minor girl, whose gangrape-murder in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district shocked the entire country.

A user criticised Kareena for marrying into a Muslim family and naming her son, Taimur.

"She should be ashamed of the fact that despite being a Hindu (she) is married to a

Muslim. Has a child with him and named him Taimur, after a brutal Islamic barbarian (sic)" the person wrote in reply to the actor's tweet.

Swara slammed the Twitter user for spreading hate.

"You should be ashamed you exist. That God gave you a brain which you chose to fill with hate and a mouth you chose to spew filth from.

"You are a shame on India and Hindus. That s\*\*ts like you feel emboldened to talk this crap publicly is this government's legacy," she wrote back.

Kareena and Saif were relentlessly trolled on social media shortly after the birth of their firstborn in December 2016 when they named the baby boy, 'Taimur'.

## B-town celebs hit the streets to protest against Kathua, Unnao rapes

**MUMBAI, APR 16 (PTI):** Several Bollywood celebrities, including Rajkumar Rao, Twinkle Khanna and Kalki Koechlin, joined a protest to demand justice for the victims in the Kathua and Unnao rape cases, which have caused nation-wide outrage.

The protest, held here last evening, saw hundreds of people gathered at Carter Road holding placards with messages such as 'Don't let this movement fade away'.

Veteran actor Helen, who was present at the protest, told reporters, "I'm ashamed, I'm sad. I have no words to tell you... It's horrifying. What will be the punishment?"

"After a few days, they will make you forget about it. What can we do? The higher authorities should come forward."

The protest was joined by other Bollywood personalities such as actors Aditi Rao Hydari, Patralekhaa, Sameera Reddy, singers Sona Mohapatra, Anushka Manchanda and music composer Vishal Dadlani, among others.

Actor Priyanka Chopra, who is currently in Ireland, had shared the invite for the protest on Twitter and appealed to people to attend it.

"If you can make it, please do. We all agree that armchair activism isn't enough. There is strength in numbers and in unity," she tweeted.

Vishal feels rapists should be given the harshest punishment and said it was extremely sad that some people came



in support of the perpetrators of such a heinous crime.

"But remember, those who tried to save the rapists in both the cases, they come from the same thought process. We need to understand, India doesn't belong to these people, it's ours. We need to wake up and save India right now," he added.

Aditi, who was seen holding a placard with a message 'Politicians/Police/Court help citizens, not rapists', said, "Till we do something, change won't happen."

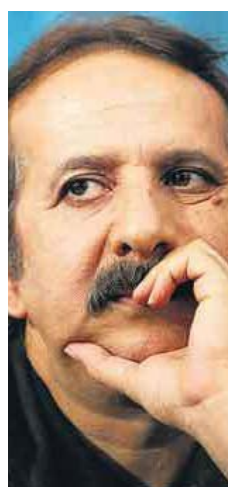
"We need to understand the problem and make sure we tackle it, because no

one is doing that so we will have to do it," she further said.

An eight-year-old girl was raped and killed in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A Special Investigation Team has arrested eight people, including two Special Police Officers (SPOs) and a Head Constable, in connection with the horrific incident.

In Uttar Pradesh's Unnao, a teenage girl alleged she was raped by ruling BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who has been arrested by the CBI, which is probing the case.



## Majid Majidi catches IPL match at Eden Gardens

**KOLKATA, APR 15 (PTI):** Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi was one of the many spectators at Kolkata's Eden Gardens as he watched the IPL match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The 58-year-old director was in the city to promote his latest film "Beyond the Clouds", starring Ishaan Khatter and Malavika Mohanan in the lead.

Majidi was accompanied by Mohanan at the stadium.

Majidi, is best known for world cinema classics like "The Song of Sparrows", "Baran", "The Color of Paradise" and "Children of Heaven".

SRH won the match after managing to restrict KKR at 138 and chased the target with 5 wickets to spare.

"Beyond the Clouds" will release worldwide on April 20.

## Working with Chris Martin was 'surreal', says Dua Lipa



**LONDON, APR 16 (PTI):** Dua Lipa says watching Coldplay frontman Chris Martin dance to one of her songs was a "surreal" experience for her.

The 22-year-old singer, who co-wrote the song "Homesick" with Martin, said he would dance on her songs "New Rules" and "IDGAF", Femalefirst reported.

"During 'New Rules' and 'IDGAF', he would get up and dance. It was so surreal, Chris Martin dancing to my music," Lipa said.

"I remember saying to him, 'You've written one of my favourite songs ever, the Nelly Furtado song 'All Good Things (Must Come To An End)' and he was like, 'God, I forgot I wrote that,'" she added.

**ARIES:** You might feel lonely and insecure due to lack of contact with a close friend or romantic partner, Aries. You might wonder if the person has forgotten you or simply doesn't care anymore. Take the time to try to connect with this person. You may discover that no neglect was intended and that the relationship is solid. It's better for you to tackle this directly rather than speculate.

**TAURUS:** Juggling work and home may seem difficult today, Taurus. Work responsibilities may weigh on your mind to the point where they interfere with the harmony of your home life. This can cause some inner conflict. It might be wise to prioritize work tasks on paper and schedule duties and deadlines.

Then you can spend time with your family without worrying that work will be forgotten.

**GEMINI:** If you have to deal with some disappointment today, try not to let it get you down, Gemini. You may receive a letter or phone call that brings less than favorable news. Perhaps someone you were hoping to see won't be able to make it, or a friend has to turn down an invitation to a party you're having. Try not to let this spoil your mood. These things happen. Keep yourself busy.

**CANCER:** You may be worried about your financial situation today, Cancer. You might feel a tug at your purse strings. If you've experienced a delay in receiving some funds you were expecting,

this may add to your concern. You might want to tackle this directly by examining your situation. Check up on expected funds and make any necessary arrangements to alleviate this stress.

**LEO:** An unexpected event might cause you to be temporarily separated from your partner today, Leo. Confusion about the incident and your mate's role in it might plague you. You might doubt his or her motives. If so, it may be best to talk and clear up any suspicions. Letting such thoughts sit for even a short time can create challenges for a relationship. Deal with the situation now.

**VIRGO:** You might have a sore throat and mild cold symptoms

today, Virgo. It may affect your ability to work. Chances are that you're an active person. Having to slow down to tend to your health may frustrate you. Consider going to the doctor's office now rather than ignore your health. This could make all the difference in how long you stay under the weather and are kept from things you want to do.

**LIBRA:** Spend some quality time with your partner today, Libra. Perhaps he or she is a little jealous of your friends or feeling left out. Perhaps you've received invitations lately that are just for you. It might be a good idea to turn one down in favor of being with your partner. Plan a romantic interlude. A little quality time can help get things back on track.

**SCORPIO:** You may want to take a day off from your obligations, Scorpio, perhaps to take care of unfinished creative projects. Chances are this may not be possible. Concerns about work issues might keep your mind occupied and distract you from the task at hand. This and possible family disagreements may have you upset. Try to remain centered and focused despite it all. It's the only way to get anything done.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may reminisce today, Sagittarius. Perhaps you're thinking about friends and family who live far away. You could feel a bit nostalgic, not to mention blue, thinking about times long past. Consider making some phone calls to counteract these feelings. If you

can't connect with a particular person, spend a little time looking through a photo album to bring him or her closer to you.

**CAPRICORN:** Money matters might be a bit tangled today, Capricorn. There may be an unexpected delay in receiving funds due you. Your bank statement may have you confused. Getting to the bottom of things may prove a bit frustrating but not necessarily impossible. If you find that you're uncertain about your financial situation, consider talking with those involved to get a better understanding.

**AQUARIUS:** You may need reassurance today, Aquarius. Trouble with friends or a romantic partner may have you feeling un-

loved, insecure, and emotionally blocked. You may see the situation as more serious than others do. Perhaps a misunderstanding has caused the dilemma. Take the time to reach out to those you're concerned about and get some reassurance. If you owe an apology, give it freely and move on.

**PISCES:** You may feel a little under the weather today, Pisces. You may even develop sniffles or a sore throat. If so, consider going to the doctor. This can be an especially unwelcome development, as it keeps you from certain activities. If you act quickly, your ailment may not worsen. Take the time you need to feel healthy again before returning to your routine.