

SummitTIMES

Six dead in three landslides in South Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 20 SEPT: South Sikkim saw three landslides this morning resulting in six deaths and damage to some houses. In the first instance, three people out of which two children, one 11-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl along with a 21-year-old woman died and two people were injured in a landslide at Ghurpisey in Namchi at around 02 a.m. The injured people were immediately rushed to Namchi District Hospital for immediate medical attention.

In the second incident at around 03 a.m. a hillock gave way at Upper Bokrong ward under Kateng-Namphok Gram Panchayat Unit in South Sikkim killing a 20-year-old woman and her 02-year-old daughter who were reportedly washed away by the



landslide. In another incident at Ramaram Khorlong in South Sikkim, a 14-year-old boy was washed away along with his house in a mudslide. According to a press



release from the South District Collector's office, a control room has been set up at Namchi Police Station to coordinate and direct rescue and search operations in the affected areas of the district.

In case of emergency and disaster relief people are directed to call the following numbers: 264733, 263722, 264640, 0943444222

(DC South), 9851480932 (Superintendent of Police [South]).

DC (South) has updated that the District Administration has requested a platoon of State Disaster Response Fund [SDRF] team for search and rescue operations. The same platoon will be at Namchi for at least a week to conduct search and rescue operations in landslide affected areas of the district.

All Sub Divisional Magistrates and concerned officers have been sent to the field to access the damages so that ex-gratia can be disbursed as soon as possible.

Senior Superintendent of Police (South) has also activated a police team for the search

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Journalist killed while covering agitation in Tripura

AGARTALA, SEP 20 (PTI): A journalist from a local TV news channel here was today abducted and killed in West Tripura district while covering the agitation and road blockade by the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), the police said.

Superintendent of Police of West district, Abhijit Saptarshi said Santanu Bhowmick, a journalist from 'Dinrat' news channel, was covering the agitation and road blockade by the IPFT at Mandai when he was hit from behind and abducted.

Later, Bhowmick was

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Chief Minister's Startup Scheme to bring paradigm shift in job sector: CM

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today chaired the inaugural stakeholders' meeting of Chief Minister's Startup Scheme (CMSS) here at Chintan Bhawan. The meeting was attended by Minister for Commerce and Industries, Ugen T Gyatso along with stakeholders ranging from senior officers from Banks and other financial institutions, Members of State Level Inter Institutional Committee on MSME, senior officers of the state government, upcoming entrepreneurs, and students from various colleges. It may be recalled that the CMSS was launched by the Chief Minister at



this year's Independence Day state level function. Today's meeting was the first follow-up meeting bringing the prospective beneficiaries and the fi-

nancial agencies under one roof thus setting clear goals for the future.

The Chief Minister, in his address, stated that the CMSS is being envisaged as a result oriented scheme that will bring about a paradigm shift in the job sector in Sikkim. He urged the students and youth to change their mindset of seeking government jobs and embrace the unlimited prospects of entrepreneurship in sectors such as tourism and hospitality, agri-business, and several other avenues.

He stated that the Government has created an enabling environment through readymade platforms like the tourism in-

turn to pg02

WB Govt forms BoA to look into development of Darj hills

KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI): The West Bengal government today announced the formation of Board of Administrators in place of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) for Darjeeling hills and appointed rebel GJM leader Binay Tamang as its chairperson.

The move can be construed as a major blow to Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) chief Bimal Gurung who has been spearheading the agitation for a separate Gorkhaland state for over three months.

"Today, we have tak-

en an important decision to form a nine-member board of administrators. The BoA will enjoy the same power as that was enjoyed by the members of the GTA and look into the development works supervised by them," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters at the secretariat.

Instead of the chief executive of the GTA, the BoA would have one chairman, vice chairman and other members, she added.

Rebel GJM members Binay Tamang and Anit

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Project to build strategy for managing complex disasters launched

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT [IPR]: With climatic changes and rapid development, disasters are becoming complex with various root causes and also multi-dimensional impacts.

To understand these phenomena better and to draw a strategy to counter them a new project, 'Capacity Building Strategies for Managing Complex Disasters in the face of Climate Change', was launched by Chief Secretary, Alok Kumar Shrivastava, at The Deliso Abode in Gangtok today in the presence of senior officials of concerned departments.

Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate



Change, Government of India, the project is being implemented by the Indian Institute of Public Administration [IIPA] and the technical organization, SEEDS, with support from the State Disaster Management Authority of Sikkim Government.

The workshop deliberated on various issues to crystalize the project and ensure that the local nuances are studied and the way forward decided based on the specific local context.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Vinod Sharma of IIPA, who is also Vice Chairman of the Sikkim SDMA, highlighted that the design of safe

and sustainable development in the ecologically fragile setting of Sikkim is no easy task.

"The various social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to this fragility are intricately intertwined. No global or theoretical solutions can

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Special health camp for senior citizens at Mangan

MANGAN, 20 SEPT: District Legal Services Authority [DLSA], North Sikkim organized a Special Health Camp for senior citizens in Mangan on 19 Sept. About 90 senior citizens accompanied by Para Legal Volunteers [PLVs] and their family members attended the camp.

A Legal Aid Clinic was also set up during the programme which was manned by Chairperson-DLSA, Prajwal Khatawada, and Secretary, Bebika Chettri, who is also the Chairperson of the Taluk Legal Services Committee, North.

The health camp was conducted by doctors from Mangan District Hospital namely Dr TR Subba [Senior Dental Surgeon], Dr Pema Sedan Lepcha [ENT Surgeon], and Dr Aruna Pradhan [MD, Physiologist] along with nurse, Naomi Lepcha, and social worker, Mingma Bhutia.

It may be mentioned here, the programme was organized by DLSA, North under the NALSA [Legal Services to Senior Citizens] Scheme, 2016.

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High Court of Sikkim first in country to have video conferencing facility

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT [IPR]: In the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Chief Justice High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish K Agnihotri, a function was organized in the auditorium of High Court of Sikkim today. Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Madan B Lokur, who is also Judge In-charge e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, inaugurated the video conferencing facility between courts and jails of Sikkim from New Delhi. With this, Sikkim has now become the first State in the nation to install this kind of facility.

In his special address, Mr Chamling expressed his happiness to be part of such a momentous occasion and also thanked Justice Lokur for inaugurating the video conferencing facility in Sikkim. He also informed that Sikkim has made considerable progress in the field of e- Governance and



also expressed his happiness that under the directions of Supreme Court the state of Sik-

kim has successfully installed the video conferencing facility in the High Court of Sikkim.

The CM also congratulated all the members of Sikkim High Court, District Courts

including the law enforcing agencies of the State for achieving this feat.

Justice Agnihotri, in his short address, termed the day as a great accomplishment for Sikkim Judiciary while stating that it would not have been possible without the help of e-Committee, Supreme Court of India.

Earlier, the function began with the welcome note by Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, wherein she informed that video conferencing is a part of the module, in phase II of the e-courts mission mode project, prepared by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India.

She also added that the utility of video conferencing will not only be for routine remand of under trial prisoners by the Magistrates but it is also expected to be utilized for recording of evidence in cases where the witnesses are vulnerable or when the victim needs protection.

District level Kala Utsav organized at Mangan



Demonstration on raising tomato nursery in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Krishni Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim in collaboration with North East Rural Livelihood Project [NERLP] conducted a method demonstration on raising nursery of tomato variety, Arka Vikas [Open Pollinated Variety], at Upper Bhaluthang in West Sikkim on 18 Sept. The demon-

stration was attended by 20 participants, a press release informs.

Subject Matter Specialist-Horticulture, Sangay P Bhutia, highlighted the importance of Open Pollinated Variety and its requirement in Sikkim mainly for seed production. She demonstrated the raising of nursery in plug tray using soilless media

namely coco peat & vermicompost and the method of raising nursery by bed preparation with line sowing technique.

Subject Matter Specialist-Plant Protection, Rohini Silwal, demonstrated the use of Trichoderma as seed treatment in tomato and further explained about the seed treatment procedure & its merits.

MANGAN, 20 SEPT (IPR):

A district level Kala Utsav competition was organized at Mangan Senior Secondary School, North Sikkim on Tuesday. The Human Resource Development Department, North Sikkim organized the program under Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan with the aim to bring forward the various talents of the Madhyamik level school children and to encourage them to pursue their talents along with academics. The theme for the Kala Utsav 2017 is 'Ek Bharat, Srestha Bharat.'

Joint Director HRDD, Sonam Lepcha was present on the occasion as the chief guest. The principals and teachers of various participating schools and officials were also present during the program.

Children from 17 schools of North district performed folk dance, plays, music and exhib-



ited traditional items of cultural significance. The competition was divided into four categories. Tasa Tangay and Mangshilla Senior Secondary School, Phensong, Passingdong and Ringhim Secondary School participated in the dance competition. Passingdong Secondary School stood first in the competition.

The theater competition saw participation from Sonam Choda Me-

morial, Manul, Singhik Secondary School and Mangan Senior Secondary School. Mangan Senior Secondary School secured the first position. Gor Secondary School, Phodong Secondary School, Tingchim Secondary School, Kalzang Gyatso Senior Secondary School, Hee Gyathang Senior Secondary School participated in the music competition and Hee Gyathang

School emerged as the winner of the competition. Kalzang Gyatso Senior Secondary impressed the visitors with their amazing collection of traditional items and was declared as the winner in the exhibition category. The winners from the district will compete in the State level Kala Utsav 2017, the winners of which will reach the National Level Competition.

Six dead in three landslides in South Sikkim

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and rescue operation. It was also informed that Namchi hospital has been fully equipped to tackle any kind of emergency.

As informed by Assistant Engineer (Roads & Bridges Department), Ramesh Sharma all the damaged roads of the district will be restored very soon with the restoration works currently progressing.

So far the road restoration teams have managed to restore Namchi to Gangtok via Perbing route along with Namchi to Siliguri via Turuk.

The roads linking Namchi to Jorethang and Namchi to Gangtok via Temi are currently closed but restoration works are underway.



Additionally, property and livestock damages were reported from areas of Turuk, Kitam, Lungchok, Samseybong, Rong-

bul, Donak, Rabitar and Suntaley Sadam.

DC (South), Raj Yadav inspected the sites of damage in Ghurpisey and Bokrong and assured all help and assistance from the district authorities.

Affected families of the calamity have also been shifted to a safer location temporarily. An ex-gratia relief amounting to Rs 13.50 lakh and Rs 9.25 lakh will be released as per norms for the two locations. The damages in other places are being assessed and evaluated.

Chief Minister's Startup Scheme to bring...

Contd from pg01

dustry, the organic farming sector and multiple opportunities emanating out of these sectors. He said that peace and security have been the biggest factors which have brought progress and development in the state. He urged the youth to come forward and benefit from the Chief Minister's Startup Scheme which can make them self-reliant and job-providers.

The Chief Minister thanked the represen-

tatives from various banks and other financial institutions for rendering their services to the people of Sikkim. He appealed to them to lend their services in the Chief Minister's Startup Scheme through active convergence with other related schemes. He called for simplifying the processes involved in seeking loans so that the youth are not discouraged from seeking services of the banks. He added that the CMSS is an important scheme

of the Government to address the challenge of unemployment on one hand, and change the mindset of the youth to secure their future on the other.

A brief presentation on the CMSS was made by Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Arvind Kumar who highlighted the crucial role of banks and other agencies like Small Industries Development Bank of India [SIDBI], National Bank for Agri-

culture and Rural Development [NABARD] and MSME in ensuring the success of the scheme.

Earlier, General Manager and Officer-in-Charge Reserve Bank of India (Gangtok), Manabendra Misra presented a brief report on Development of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in Sikkim.

During the program, the Chief Minister also felicitated partner institutes such as Reserve

Bank of India, NABARD, State Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, MSME-DI, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Khadi & Village Industries Commission by presenting Certificate of recognition to senior representative from each of these institutes.

A dossier containing guidelines as a ready reckoner for the banks and other partner institutes was also released on the occasion.

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thundershower in
a couple of spots.
Sunrise: 05:23 AM
Sunset: 05:34 PM

SKM condones
CM's
'blackmailer'
reference to
RTI applicants

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has stated that the Chief Minister's terming of RTI activists as 'blackmailers' during the state-level Panchayat Sammelan was irresponsible and undemocratic. Raising strong objection on the same, SKM has also written to the Chief Information Commissioner, New Delhi, Radha Krishna Mathur, today with an appeal to take strict action and also to issue an advisory to the state government in this regard.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, stated that the RTI Act 2005 was one of the best Acts dedicated to the people of the country to bring about transparency in the system and to make officials answerable to the people. He alleged that the CM's statement on the RTI activists was very irresponsible.

Mr Khaling alleged that the CM's statement also proves that there is rampant corruption and mistakes in government works and thus the work of RTI activists has created panic in the system.

"If any activist brings any case of corruption and misdoing in the public domain then the government should take strict action by using its investigating agencies," he said.

He also added that the government should report extortion cases if there was any case of blackmailing.

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Blue Whale: Stay informed and aware to keep the children safe

SANGELA DORJEE
What is blue whale?

It is a psychological game made by a Russian boy who is currently serving jail sentence. This game picks out on teenagers who are already depressed and makes them take a 50-day challenge where they get a new task every day. The tasks range from make cuts on your hand shaped like a whale to watching horror videos or listening to sad songs. It also includes going to rooftops or over the bridge a few times so that it prepares you for the next step of pledging to be a whale and then giving them the date on which one is to commit suicide and then the final task is taking one's life.

The person who developed this game is a person suffering from bi polar disorder. For people who don't know what bipolar disorder is, it is one of many mental disorders in which the person suffering has varied mood swings. There are days when

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

MONITORING: Internet access should be monitored and parents should have knowledge about the sites the child is viewing. The best way is allowing the child to access internet from the computer placed in a family room.

BE A ROLE MODEL: The parents should be a role model and demonstrate safe online behaviour such as exploring the internet together and engaging in interesting activities online.

PARENTAL CONTROL: Using parental control on devices being used by children can help keep a check on the child's internet activities and also help monitor the amount of screen time.

STAY UPDATED: The parents should know what's trending on the internet like the game blue whale is now available under different names now such as silent house, a sea of whales and wake me up at 4:20. Since there is so much hype about the game in the media, there is a need for it to be discussed with your child. Address the child's curiosity about the game by providing correct information.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND OUT YOUR CHILD IS PLAYING SUCH GAMES

Firstly, stop all access to internet via any mode.

Try to talk to your child, be the support that he needs as his emotional state may not be as good as you think it is.

Inform the local police authority and seek advice.

HOW TEACHERS CAN HELP

Teachers can also be vigilant as a child spends most of his or her time in the school so you can know when the performance of the child drops.

When there is a sudden change in the child's social behaviour.

When they notice sudden disruptive behaviour in the child

You can speak to the child and inform the parents about the latest observation.

the person feels elated also known as hypomania or highly irritable mood followed by a period of intense sadness or depression.

Who is the target?

This game targets teenagers who are already suffering from some emotional issues, those adolescents who already feel like misfits. It makes the vulnerable ones feel so unwanted that they

land up taking their own lives. Signs to notice in your child

- Suddenly starts to wake up at 4:20 a.m.
- Has cut marks on the arm, cut marks shaped like a whale, cuts on the lips.

- Child is suddenly online at weird hours.
- Child acts aloof and stops talking.

What you can do

As soon as you notice any of these changes try to talk to your child and know what's going on with him or her. Even if the child is not ready to say anything, reassuring the child that you are there for him or her could be of help. Let your child know that she is important in your life and that she is loved not only through words but actions as well, since those who play this game actually go looking for this game. One has to understand the fact that the game doesn't choose the player instead the player chooses the game. This is an indication that the teenager is in some emotional turmoil or unrest and you as a parent can be the support instead of the game.

Noticing the behavioral changes can be the key. We all know that teenagers are under a lot of stress these

days from trying to look good, wear branded clothes to picking out the right photos for social media uploads to being accepted in a group. All these may seem like nothing to us but for them it means the world and considering the age that they are in, there is going to be a lot of confusion in their minds as they are just beginning to understand the world, they are all trying to take a step towards being independent from being always dependent on their parents. We as parents fail to understand that stressors today are very different from the ones we faced as a teenager.

So let's try and understand them more and be the support that they require. Try and know more about how he or she is in school and if you feel it's beyond you, take the child to a psychologist or a psychiatrist for a quick medical review.

[The writer is pursuing an MPhil in Psychology from Amity University, Lucknow]

Governor's Unit Citation
presented to Sikkim Battalion
NCC cadets



GANGTOK, 20 SEPT [IPR]: Governor Shrinivas Patil presented a Letter of Appreciation and Governor's Unit Citation to a group of cadets of 3 Sikkim Battalion National Cadet Corps led by Commanding Officer, Colonel D Mohapatra, at Ashirwaad Hall in Raj Bhavan today. Thirty-seven cadets who had participated in various national and state events were honoured for their contribution.

The event also had the presence of First Lady Rajani Devi Patil, Minister-Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, Additional Director General-NCC Kolkata, Major General LB Chand, officers from HRDD, Principals from various schools, NCC officers and cadets.

The Governor, in his address, said that he was elated that such an event was being held for the first time in Sikkim and since he himself had been

a cadet, this programme was close to his heart. He congratulated all the cadets on their achievements and urged them to keep participating in community service so that they contribute to the welfare of the state and the nation. He also encouraged the young cadets to join the armed forces and serve the country with zeal, dedication and pride.

Additional Chief Secretary, Mr Upadhyaya, in his opening address, termed the event as historic and said that the 37 cadets from different institutions across the state were recognized for their professional excellence and devotion to duty. He also gave a brief introduction about NCC and said that it was formed with the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948.

Mr Upadhyaya further said that the state should feel proud as it has the highest concentration of NCC cadets as compared to the rest of the country.



ITBP launches Swachhata Hi Seva programme at Pengong

Summit Report

Gangtok, 20 Sept:

11th Battalion, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Commandant, Rajesh Kumar Tomar inaugurated the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' awareness

generation and community mobilization programme at Pengong village in North Sikkim, a press release informs.

Mr Tomar, in his address, talked about the importance of hygiene

and how a clean environment contributes to a healthy body.

A cleanliness drive was also held later that day where the battalion jawans and the villagers participated in the drive actively.

Husband attacks wife with
khukuri, commits suicide

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 20 SEPT: A 30-year-old man allegedly made a murderous attack on his wife last night before committing suicide here at Tharpu, Namchi, South Sikkim.

The incident was reported last night at around 11 pm when Pritiman Rai returned home and neighbours heard him arguing with his wife Ranuka Rai (23). As the argument heated up, he is reported to have attacked his wife with a khukuri. Sustaining several deep cuts and suffering blood loss, Ranuka fell unconscious and her husband, thinking that she was dead, committed suicide by hanging himself near his house.

After some time, the neighbors found Ranuka in a pool of blood and rushed her to the Namchi District Hospital after informing the police. She remains in critical condition.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Ref No: 792/DIT/11 Date: 20/09/2017

NOTICE

Suggestions are invited from the I.T. Entrepreneurs for incorporating in the state I.T. policy being re-drafted. The suggestions may be submitted in the state portal www.sikkim.gov.in under the title **IT Policy (Draft)** on the home page of the portal.

Sd/-
JOINT DIRECTOR
R.O. No. 328/opr/pub/classi./17-18 dated: 20.9.2017

Project to build strategy for managing
complex disasters launched

Contd from pg01

be copied and pasted here, and we need to clearly define what our own unique path to sustainability needs to be," he added.

Chief Secretary, Mr Shrivastava, noted that the capacity building initiative is targeting different institutions including schools, Panchayats and concerned departments.

"This approach gives us confidence that we are embarking on a practical approach that will lead to real impact on the ground and for the long run," he said.

He further added that the project will hopefully work towards

formulating 'Citizen Oriented Planning' which will be suitable to local needs and aspirations.

State Relief Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Tsegyal Tashi, urged the agencies to create archives of case studies done on Sikkim so that those could be useful in research that will be carried out in future.

The workshop discussions stressed on the need for addressing complex disasters in a comprehensive manner. It was stated that disasters are becoming more and more difficult to

anticipate, reduce and respond to because of changes in the climate, in built form of the settlements, and in people's economy and behavior.

Many traditional systems are being forgotten, or are failing in the emerging realities. There is a need to understand the complexities and be prepared to address them on an urgent basis to ensure safety of all citizens of Sikkim. Community consultations and field research will be initiated under the project in coming months, with pilot projects also to be taken up, it is informed.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

No. 20/ETENDER/BHD/2017 Dated: 19/09/2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders from qualified & eligible Class II B contractor within the East District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted

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For all details on the bid please visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Sd/-
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

R.O. No. 328/opr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 20.9.2017

SummitTIMES

Empowered Futures

A call for more professionalism, fewer sops and greater merit

The Chief Minister, while addressing the panchayat sammelan on Tuesday, rued the preponderance of personnel-related requests which come to his table at the cost of people's projects and recommendations. The fact that access and influence are often misused for personal gain will not surprise too many, but more than a statement of the obvious, the CM's comment should be seen as a call to improved professionalism and genuine concern among the state's bureaucrats. Also at the meet, the CM shared a policy idea he has been toying with – one which will penalize people for leaving their agricultural lands fallow and unproductive. This latter idea, if fine-tuned with informed and clear thinking holds much potential for Sikkim. While in some cases, the smaller farmers are being left with no option but to leave their lands fallow because either the returns are too poor or because the young are not interested any more, there are also many instances when the larger landholders are keeping their lands unproductive as they wait for companies or the government to buy it off them for projects. Settling farmers on these tracts would make the sales complicated, they perhaps feel, but when large tracts of Sikkim's limited arable lands are left idle, the whole economy, including the Organic Sikkim potential, is compromised. Finding ways to discourage such "waste" would serve Sikkim well and one looks forward to the model the government adopts to achieve this.

A common thread running through the Panchayat Sammelan address was also the belief that real change, the kind that sustains and prospers, cannot come with sops and handouts. The people have to be empowered if things are to really improve in Sikkim, he stressed. Empowerment is not the same as rights, that, the citizens of India already enjoy in plenty. Empowerment demands a wider realization of the rights, the responsibilities that come with it and a stronger desire for pride and securing self/ mutual respect. These are virtues that rarely serve the ends of politics well, at least in the short term because political support is more safely secured through dependence. An empowered people, after all, are unlikely to be swayed by rhetoric and will rarely be available as ready fodder for the intemperate demands of active politics. Populist measures on the other hand provide instant gratification and attract immediate praise even if they deliver only short-lived impact. And Sikkim has enjoyed enough of that. The two takeaways from the CM's address shared above underline a call for the finer virtues.

There was a time when the masses needed to be pampered. And they were. Now, Sikkim has to get more realistic, experiment with more effective empowerment. This transition to the next level will not be easy because indulgence is not easily abandoned. The rural folk have been prioritized, anyone who has seen the numbers in which they now travel to the district headquarters and the capital, the ease with which they make demands and get heard, will agree with this observation. Now is the time to provide coherence to their plans. Not only is this desirable, it is also an urgent need. The Sikkimese economy has survived [and quite obviously also prospered] on Central grants for far too long. While this patronage makes for comfortable living, it also makes the people lethargic. There might not be instances of abject poverty in the State, but there are equally fewer success stories outside the circle of the government and its coterie. The real problem with the Sikkimese economy is that it is too dependent on the State exchequer. This overdependence can prove crippling the day the State cannot support all the kitchens any more, and the strain is already showing.

Sikkim should start sustaining itself. For that the sops will have to be phased away and replaced with rewards for hard work and celebration of merit. It is going to be tough since the State takes care of everything from subsidizing rations to paying for the education of the children. The desire to work hard has atrophied and needs to now be coax back to strength. The inherent lethargy and the refusal to work hard has to be exorcised and the plethora of skill development programmes need to be reworked to inspire new motivation as well.

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



A 1932 photograph showing the minaret of the Great Mosque of al-Nuri, Mosul



The heavily damaged al-Nuri mosque

The enduring power of Mosul's rich and diverse past

STEPHENNIE MULDER
theconversation.com

The Mosque of al-Nuri in Mosul, built nearly a millennium ago and one of Iraq's most revered religious sites, was destroyed when the Islamic State detonated explosives inside it in June of this year.

Founded in the 12th century by one of Islam's most famous rulers, Nur al-Din ibn Zangi, in the medieval period the mosque was considered the "ultimate in beauty and excellence." It was famous for its soaring, 150-foot minaret, the tallest in Iraq and nicknamed "al-Hadba'" or "the Hunchback" because it leaned to one side, like an Islamic Tower of Pisa. Its destruction was a terrible blow to the people of Mosul, and for the rest of the world.

I am a scholar of Islamic art, and my research reveals that such acts of deliberate, ideologically based destruction are unusual in Islamic history. Although today Mosul is famous outside of Iraq primarily as a site of conflict, its rich and diverse history forms an important legacy.

WHAT WAS LOST IN MOSUL?

Mosul was founded in ancient times, on the outskirts of the older Assyrian city of Nineveh. The precise date of the city's foundation is unknown, but at least from the medieval era, it was known as "Madinat al-anbiya'" or "City of the Prophets," with dozens of tombs, shrines, synagogues and churches.

Perhaps the most famous of these was the Tomb of the Prophet Jonah, a figure revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike. In the Bible, God causes Jonah to be swallowed by a whale to convince him of his prophetic mission to preach to the people of Nineveh. For Jews, Jonah is venerated as a symbol of repentance on the holiday of Yom Kippur. And in Islam, Jonah evokes the themes of justice, mercy and obedience – seen as exemplary models for human behavior.

There were numerous other sites in Mosul

linked to prophetic figures: among them, the Monastery of Elijah or Dar Eliyas, a 1,400-year-old Christian monastery thought to be the oldest in Iraq.

Sadly, none of these monuments survived the destruction of IS.

WORLD TRADE, INTELLECTUAL CENTER

Mosul was also an important center for trade as well as scholarly exchange. It sat at a key junction on the Silk Road – a rich network of premodern superhighways – stretching over mountains, deserts and plains across three continents that moved goods from lands that seemed impossibly distant and exotic to those at either end. Mosul itself was known for some of the most luxurious inlaid metalware of the medieval era.

As a center of such exchange, the city was home to a diverse group of people: Arabs and Kurds, Jews and Christians, Sunnis and Shias, Sufis and dozens of saints holy to many faiths.

It was also home to poets, scholars and philosophers such as the 10th-century philosopher al-Mawili and the 11th-century astronomer al-Qabisi, one of a line of famous Mosul astronomers who helped formulate a critique of the Earth-centered model of the universe. That model would eventually make its way to Europe to inform Copernicus' view of the solar system. Mosul also produced one of Islam's most famous historians, Ibn al-Athir, who completed his magnum opus, a monumental universal chronicle called "The Complete History," in the city in 1231.

Important works of mathematics, including a commentary on the Greek mathematician Euclid that was later translated into Latin, were written in Mosul. It was also a center for significant medical advances, including an early description of surgery to remove cataracts.

As mosques were traditionally places of knowledge transmission and learning, it is entirely possible that some of these scholars' ideas were formu-

lated, discussed and refined within the mosque of al-Nuri's walls.

Mosul's medieval past informed its contemporary history as well: in modern times, the city was home to some of the most important museums, libraries and universities in Iraq, including a renowned medical school.

THE MEANING OF THE MOSQUE IN IRAQ

Although the mosque of al-Nuri was transformed over the centuries, it remained a beloved symbol of the ancient city and its diverse heritage. In 1942, much of the mosque, with the exception of the minaret, the prayer niche and some of its columns, went through significant renovation. But the mosque did not lose its value for the citizens of Mosul – in fact, it appeared on the Iraqi 10,000 dinar bill.

In June of 2014, when IS originally captured the city and approached the mosque with explosives, residents of the town formed a human chain around it.

Only a few short weeks later, in a complete about-face, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi stood at the pulpit of that same mosque and declared the creation of his "caliphate."

MOSUL PAST AND FUTURE

Over time, Mosul will rebuild its damaged mosque. But for those of us outside Iraq, who today know Mosul largely through newspaper stories of war and intolerance, the loss of the mosque will make it that much harder to imagine the diverse intellectual and religious world that once characterized not only Mosul, but all of the Middle East.

Although there were conflicts, Christians, Jews and Muslims lived in pragmatic cooperation for much of their history. It was the Christians of the city, after all, who said that the minaret leaned because it was bowing toward the tomb of the Virgin Mary.

[the writer is Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin]

Insularity leaves Indonesia trailing behind in the world of social research

INAYA RAKHMANI
theconversation.com

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country and southeast Asia's biggest economy – yet when it comes to research and peer-reviewed publications on pressing topics such as finding innovative ways to empower impoverished communities, we trail behind countries with lower GDP including Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria.

Having evidence-based analyses of history, politics, social systems, and human behaviour is essential to prevent bad policy-making. It's also important for informing ourselves and the world about Indonesia. Currently, articles about Indonesia in international journals are mostly written by scholars from outside Indonesia, suggesting local institutions are not effective in producing social scholarship.

Meanwhile, nearly 80% of social research by Indonesian state universities is commissioned applied research that does not focus on fundamental understanding of social changes.

What caused this and what should be done to address the problem?

I led a joint research project by University of Indonesia's Communication Research Centre, the Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance and Murdoch University's Asia Research Centre to answer these questions.

Our findings show that in the field of social studies, marketisation of state universities, aimed to give them freedom to seek and manage funds, has failed to increase research activities.

Additionally, state universities' bureaucracy does not support research

excellence. Their closed recruitment system has caused insularity which has stymied efforts to push for more collaborative research in Indonesia.

MARKETISATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES

Since 2000, the Indonesian government has allowed state universities to seek and manage external funding to support academic activities, including research.

This, as well as providing scholarships and increasing research budgets for higher education institutions, are part of an attempt to encourage scientific research and publication, neglected during the authoritarian Suharto regime.

Under Suharto, universities' role were limited to serve the government. Researchers between 1970s and 1990s acted more as technocrats than scientists, producing government commissioned studies for policy recommendations. Basic research and publication in scientific journals were not prioritised.

The new policies, however, have failed to bring about cross-pollination in sciences and research. Instead, universities use their autonomy to increase tuition fees and student intake, as well as engaging in business research and training.

Indonesian academics from state universities have been reduced to service workers under an increasingly liberal system. They are forced to take on many teaching hours due to the large number of students. State universities comprise only 74 of the 539 higher education institutions registered with the state (14%), yet they account for 40% of the total uni-

versity students enrolled.

Academics are also encouraged to carry out research projects to generate income for the institutions they work for. Universities, however, are not required to publicly disclose how they manage the funds from these commercial projects.

BUREAUCRACY AND INSULARITY

While state universities are now open to seek external funding, their recruitment and administrative system are still part of the government bureaucracy. This system gives little incentive for scientific achievements.

Most Indonesian academics are civil servants. Their promotion depends on performance appraisals, subjected to all government employees, that do not co-relate with research productivity. They are also subjected to a complex academic credit system that measures promotion based on administrative requirements, not academic merit.

Most active Indonesian researchers in state universities are over 50 years old, who were recruited through a closed system. State universities mostly hire their own graduates. Those graduates usually continue their higher education within the same university.

Hence, faculty members are often more concerned in pursuing their institution's research interests, which are more income-generating applied research, rather than engaging with international peers for academic excellence.

As a result, out of 354 of lecturers surveyed in our research, only 28 are published in peer-reviewed journals indexed by the bibliometric database Scopus.

Out of the 28, 90% are based in the more developed island of Java. Only 8% have taken sabbatical leave, and 55% do not know how their findings have been quoted by other scholars.

Most hold multiple structural managerial positions on campus, which they perceive as helping to expand their research network.

Our findings show that Indonesian scholars lack academic mobility between institutions and countries. This shapes a culture of insularity that worsens the already low presence of Indonesians in the global academia.

BUILDING ALLIANCES AND PEER CULTURE

Indonesia needs a network of scholars, in different stages of their careers, from various universities and research organisations in Indonesia and beyond, to deepen intellectual engagement among academics.

Alliances must be built in order to reform the poor social research culture in Indonesia. The Indonesian Academy of Sciences (API) and the Indonesian Young Academy of Sciences (ALMI), have initiated this.

These organisations aim to equip Indonesian social scholars with the necessary skills and networks to gain academic mobility required to support institutional research development.

However, for real change to happen, policies and the disbursement of funding must support universities in cultivating a culture of peer-review in order to reform basic social research in Indonesia.

[the writer is Lecturer in Communication Science and Head of Communications Research Centre, Universitas Indonesia]

Revamped staircase from Dev Area to GICI inaugurated

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

The revamped staircase from Sonam building to Directorate of Cottage Industries in Gangtok was inaugurated by Gangtok MLA, Pinto Chopel Lepcha on 19 Sept, a press release informs.

Community members along with Ward councilor, Lalita Sharma were also present on the occasion.

The revamped staircase will provide for safe and secure access for residents of the area with additional support of side rails for senior citizens.

The community has extended gratitude to the MLA for undertaking the initiative and his dedication towards the service of the people.

Mr Lepcha has assured more infrastructural improvements for the constituency in the future, the release adds.

Journalist killed while covering...

contd from pg01

found with serious stab injuries and was rushed to Agartala Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, the SP said.

Tripura Health Minister Badal Chowdhury condemned the killing and state Information Minister Bhanulal Saha visited the hospital.

The SP said the situation at Mandal was tense.

Prohibitory orders under section 144 Crpc were already in force in the area and more police forces was being rushed to there, he said.

Over a hundred activists of the Gana Mukti Parishad (GMP), the tribal wing of the ruling CPI-M, were yesterday injured in a clash with the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) at Chhankhola area of Khowai district, about 40 km from Agartala.

Khowai Superintendent of Police Nagendra Debbarma told reporters that the clash took place when the Parishad supporters gathered at the bus stand at Khowai town to travel to Agartala for a GMP rally.

The IPFT workers attacked the GMP activists with sticks and iron rods and injured at least 118 of them, six seriously, and damaged at least 15 buses.

Personnel from the Tripura State Rifles and Assam Rifles were deployed in sensitive areas of the district and prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC imposed in Tulashikhar and Rajnagar apprehending breach of peace, the SP said.

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Helping Hand to provide relief to landslide affected in South

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:**

In order to provide assistance to landslide victims of South Sikkim, Helping Hand [Gangtok] held an emergency meeting here in the capital today. The meeting was chaired by the organisation's president, Thukchuk Lachungpa and attended by its members as well as representatives of other organizations of Gangtok.

Also present were representatives of Citizens Forum, Body Building Association, Nayuma Television, Yul Dru Tsum, Rotary Club, members from the business community and others.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss ways to extend help to the victims of the landslides in South Sikkim



and raise funds for the same.

The meeting, after various discussions and suggestions, decided to provide relief materials like blankets and financial assistance to the families of the deceased and to the members of families who have lost

their homes.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Lachungpa, said that this is the time to show humanity and do something for fellow citizens who are in trouble. He urged everyone present in the meeting to come forward and extend all possible support.

The meeting decided to collect contributions from all the members present.

The meeting has also decided to visit the landslide hit areas on 21 Sept where the team will provide blankets and financial assistance to the victims. The visiting

team will be led by Mr Lachungpa.

The meeting was also addressed by Palzor Lachungpa who placed the financial report and current status of Helping Hand.

The visiting team will be leaving for Namchi on 21 Sept. The members of the team will conduct a meeting again after their visit to the affected areas and will discuss further actions that need to be taken, it is informed.

It may be mentioned here, Helping Hand is a social organisation which was formed in the year 2011 to help victims of the major earthquake that hit the state the same year. Since then, they have been helping people in need and those affected by natural calamities.



Sikkim Students Newa Pucha welcomes freshers

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Sikkim Students Newa Pucha [SSNP] organised a 'Fresher's Welcome' party for first year students of the Newar community admitted in various Sikkim Government colleges on 17 Sept at Janta Bhawan in Gang-

tok, East Sikkim.

The team of SSNP organized the event in the presence of Director, Human Resource Development Department, Deepak Kumar Pradhan who was the chief guest of the event along with Dr CL Pradhan as a special guest.

Mamata criticises Rajnath on Darj issue, BJP hits back

KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and BJP hit out at each other today over Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh meeting GJM general secretary Roshan Giri despite a lookout notice against him.

Criticising Singh, Banerjee said, "I know that a lookout notice was issued against him (Roshan Giri). When a lookout notice is there, then generally it (meeting the person against whom it has been issued) should not be done."

"The post of the home minister is a constitutional post. They are doing what they consider is right. But if I was in their place, I would not have done so," she told journalists.

The BJP's state unit president Dilip Ghosh hit right back, questioning how expelled GJM



leader Binay Tamang, who has several cases pending against him, met Banerjee.

"She should stop lecturing

others on what is right and what is wrong. If Roshan Giri meeting Rajanath Singh was not right, how can Binay Tamang, who too has several cases against him, meet the chief minister and provided police protection?" Ghosh said.

mang, who too has several cases against him, meet the chief minister and provided police protection?" Ghosh said.

Talking to PTI, he said Binay Tamang does not have a lookout notice against him, but his name has cropped up in several cases.

"Then why is the state government having such a partial outlook?"

A delegation of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), which has been spearheading the over three month-long agitation for a separate Gorkhaland in Darjeeling hills, had met Singh in Delhi yesterday.

Accompanied by the BJP's Lok Sabha member from Darjeeling, S S Ahluwalia, they had met Singh and sought tripartite talks involving the Centre, West Bengal government and the GJM to resolve the festering Gorkhaland issue. Giri was said to be in the delegation.

Mockery of people's aspirations: GJM on board for Darj hills

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 20 (PTI): The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) today termed the West Bengal government's decision to appoint a Board of Administrators to monitor the development of the hills as a "mockery of the people's aspirations".

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said her government had formed a nine-member Board of Administrators (BoA), in place of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), to monitor the development works in the Darjeeling hills.

"Binay Tamang and Anit Thapa have

been expelled from the party. The proposal to form a board of governors was not discussed in our party. We are not in its favour. We had unanimously rejected the idea of the GTA, so what is the use of administrators? We feel the solution to the crisis in the hills lies in a tripartite talk on the issue of Gorkhaland," GJM vice-president Kalyan Dewan said.

Both Tamang and Thapa have been indicted into the BoA.

Dewan, who is also the convenor of the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), said the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland

was in accordance with the "people's aspirations" and nobody should try to ignore it to serve his own interest.

The situation in the hills remained tense, although no incident of violence was reported as the indefinite shutdown in the hills entered its 98th day.

Several shops and markets in the hills remained open, braving threats and intimidation from GJM activists. However, several shops, which had opened yesterday in Mirik and Kurseong, remained closed fearing a backlash from the GJM supporters.

For the 11th consecutive day, the

police, along with the administration, appealed to the locals over public address systems to open the shops and restore normalcy in the hills.

Peace rallies were taken out by the locals at Kurseong, Darjeeling and Mirik, while GJM supporters took out rallies in support of Gorkhaland and the ongoing shutdown in certain sections of Darjeeling, Sonada and Kalimpong, the police said. The chief minister had urged the agitators in Darjeeling to withdraw their strike.

Internet services remained suspended in the hills since June 18.

WB Govt forms BoA to look...

contd from pg01

Thapa were made the chairman and vice chairman of the board respectively, while the six other members were Man Ghisingh of Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), L B Rai (Mirik), Amar Singh Rai (Darjeeling, GJM MLA), Anu Chhetri, Jaitun Khatun and Sanchibir Subba, besides the GTA principal secretary, Banerjee said.

The state government had appointed one IAS as per the GTA Act after members of the GTA had resigned en masse following the agitation in the Hills in demand of a separate Gorkhaland, the chief minister said adding "the notification for the same will be issued by her government today itself".

"After all members of

the GTA had resigned, we as per the GTA Act had appointed IAS Barun Roy as an administrator to run it. He has run the GTA administration for six months. If they had not resigned then they could have run the GTA administration for another year but they had dissolved the elected body so we had appointed an administrator," she said.

"Today, we have decided to form a BoA... and they are from the Hill areas, because it was becoming very difficult for one administrator to manage the GTA. Also with more number of people there, responsibilities will be carried out in a better manner," she said.

Asked about the tenure of the BoA, Banerjee said it would continue

work until the "situation in the Hill areas improves to hold elections for the GTA".

"The BoA has been formed because the situation is not conducive to hold elections to the GTA. It will function till the elections for the GTA are held as soon as the situation in the Hills improves. We want the elections to the GTA is held as quickly as possible," Banerjee said.

The move, the chief minister hoped, will be welcomed by the people of the Hills though "a few may not like it personally".

"I think this will definitely be a good news for the people of the Hills. A few people personally may not like it but we had never asked anybody to resign from the GTA ever," she stated.



Sabhyata outlet opens at Siliguri

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Sabhyata, a premium ethnic wear brand of the country, has opened its first store in Siliguri, West Bengal on 18 Sept. With the inauguration of this store, the fastest growing brand of the country has extended its store in the third largest city of West Bengal.

A press release of the company mentions that being the premium ethnic wear brand of the country, Sabhyata

has been getting encouraging response from fashion lovers from all corners of the Country.

"With the same reason, the company has decided to extend its store in Siliguri," informs the press release.

This is the 57th store of Sabhyata in the Country and has price ranges of its collections from Rs 499 to Rs 1799.

Sabhyata was established in the year 2003 and has been catering to the needs of all sections of people.

Sikkim drivers harassed by WB Police alleges SMTWA

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 20 SEPT:

Singtam Motor Transport Workers' Association [SMTWA] has decided to call on West Bengal Police Department to discuss the harassment faced by drivers plying to Siliguri at the hands of West Bengal Police personnel.

Three commercial vehicles returning to Singtam were stopped at 2nd Mile check post in Siliguri recently wherein a team of WB Police personnel conducted checking and harassed the drivers along with the passengers, informed one driver of Singtam, Hari Chettri, while speaking to SummitTimes.

"My vehicle along with three others from Singtam was stopped by WB Police at 2nd Mile for unauthorized checking for more than an hour. They then asked for our documents. Although our documents were updated, they hesitated to return them. They finally let go of our documents after haggling with them for more than an hour," stated Mr Chettri.

The harassment, however, did not end there, he added.

"When we reached the rail gate at Sevoke road, a similar search was conducted by another team of WB Police. They took one of the vehicles under custody there for a lame reason. They charged the vehicle for carrying cartons of vegetables and fruits," he informed.

The matter has been taken to SMTWA and its president, Tinku Adhikari, has assured to address the situation with WB Police Department.

CONTACT
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AIFF launches low-priced merchandise for fans

NEW DELHI, SEP 20 (PTI): All India Football Federation has launched a limited edition of life-style merchandise of Indian national team for the fans, in a first ever such initiative.

AIFF aims to provide a unique opportunity to the Indian football fans to express their fandom. The merchandise collection has wide range of round neck T-shirts, Polo T-shirts, wristbands, badges, phone covers, posters, among others, and is economically priced between Rs 59 to Rs 649. The initiative was launched in collaboration with 'The Souled Store'.

The exclusive merchandise will have fan's official #BackTheBlue theme tagline with AIFF logo to confirm authenticity or genuineness of the product.

The limited edition fan gear will be available online on thesouledstore.com in addition to select e-commerce websites (like amazon.in, myntra.com and flipkart.com).

"We are delighted to present the attractive range of merchandise collection for our extremely passionate and fast growing football fans," said AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das.

"Their love for Indian football and the passion to #BackTheBlue has been the unique factor in designing the merchandise."

Fifth win for RUSFC in premier league

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 20 SEPT:

Continuing its winning streak, Royal United Sikkim Football Club [RUSFC] has registered its fifth successive win in the ongoing Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. RUSFC outplayed the defending champion, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club 2-0 in its fifth match in the premier division today.

RUSFC finished the first half with 1-0 lead with the help of a goal by its player, Sonam Zangpo, in the 36th minute. In the second half, Sikkim Aakraman FC players tried hard to equalise the score but another goal by Lendup Bhutia in the 81st minute sealed the 2-0 victory for Royal United Sikkim FC.

Another contesting match of the league between the State Sports Academy and Sikkim Po-

lice ended in 2-2 draw.

Sikkim Police striker, Bir Bahadur Pradhan, scored an early lead for the team in the 3rd minute but the police team was unable to keep the lead for long. Sanjay Rai scored the equaliser for SSA in the 15th minute and in the 41st minute, Sanjay Rai completed his brace to extend the lead of SSA to 2-1.

Soon in the second half, Sanjeev Rai scored the equaliser for

Sikkim Police in the 59th minute. Both the teams played neck-to-neck to take the lead in the match but were not able to net any further goals in the second half.

Now, Boys Club, Gangtok will take on Pakyong United Football Club in the first match on 21 Sept while another match will be played between Dzongri Football Club and Royal United Sikkim Football Club.



FC Goa to travel to Spain for pre-season matches

PANAJI, SEP 20 (PTI): A new-look FC Goa will fly to Murcia, Spain next month for pre-season games ahead of the fourth edition of the Hero Indian Super League.

Under new team management in the form of former Barcelona assistant coach Sergio Lobera and Goan football legend, Derrick Pereira, the Goan side have invested heavily in local talent and a vibrant mix of experienced international players.

The 27-man squad, which will include four development team players, will travel to Murcia on October 7 and play five friendlies at the La Manga Club which boasts of world class facilities.

Playing against

quality opposition will help the squad gel together and improve their chemistry.

"I'm pleased that the team is able to travel to Spain for our pre-season. It's a vital part of our preparations and with the quality of the opposition there, we will have a good opportunity to test ourselves.

"We are training in some of the best facilities and this will stand the team in good stead come the season," said head coach Lobera.

FC Goa will play friendlies against FC Cartagena, UCAM Murcia CF, Mar Menor FC, Lorca FC, Almeria FC and former La Liga side Real Murcia before returning to Goa on October 27.

IUC cut to benefit RJio, dent incumbents' earnings: Analysts

MUMBAI, SEP 20 (PTI): Rating agencies and analysts today said the decision to more than halve IUC charges will dent incumbent operators' earnings but benefit new entrant Reliance Jio, even as sector watchdog Trai maintained its decision is scientific and not to help any player.

The Trai decision "would adversely impact the larger incumbents over the medium term, and in the process benefit the new entrant Reliance Jio," domestic rating agency Icria said.

Global ratings agency Fitch said the cut in the interconnect user charges will lead to transfer of up to USD 600 million per year to newcomer Reliance Jio from the incumbent operators.

It said the move will bring a "significant cost-savings and lead to faster-than-expected break-even" in pretax profits for RJio.

The pretax profits of the incumbents, including Bharti Airtel, Idea Cellular and Vodafone, will get dented by 3-6 per cent for the financial year ending March 2018, it said.

Sector watchdog Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has dismissed charges of non-transparency in its decision to cut the interconnect user charge (IUC) by 57 per cent to 6 paise from October and make it zero from 2020, as scientific and driven by considerations of consumer and industry interest, competition and march of technology.



The incumbents are reported to be contemplating to challenge the Trai decision in the courts.

Fitch explained that operators pay the IUC when one of their customers makes a voice call to a user on another network, with the fee going to the operator on which a call terminates and hence, those with large subscriber bases tend to be net recipients of these interconnection fees.

Icria said while larger incumbents had been net earners of IUC revenues, the extent of gain had increased following the launch of services by RJio, with free voice plans leading to higher off-net outgoing traffic from RJio subscribers.

"Thus, the latest TRAI regulation is expected to translate into savings for RJio in

terms of the IUC it had to pay to other operators," it said, adding that Jio paid Rs 2,589 crore to other operators on this account in FY17.

Fitch said Bharti Airtel alone received about USD75 million in interconnection revenue from Jio in April-June quarter this year.

The agency, however, said that the removal of the IUC will have a "much smaller impact" as the payment by Jio, which had a 9.6 per cent subscriber share with 98 million customers in July 2017, for interconnections fees to incumbents will fall with the growth in subscriber base.

For the largest telco Bharti, it estimated a 5 per cent reduction in revenue and pretax profits in FY18 due to the IUC cut and competitive pressures.

The agency maintained its negative outlook on the telecom sector and said it sees the average blended revenue per user falling 5 per cent to Rs 150 during the fiscal ending March 2018.

It said Jio is gearing up with more offers to attract more subscribers and estimated the new entrant's revenue market share to double to 10 per cent by 2018.

Domestic brokerage Kotak Securities said it will hit incumbents' pretax profits by 3-5 per cent in FY18, 6-10 per cent in FY19 and 7-12 per cent hit in FY20.

The impact will be lowest on Bharti and the highest on Idea Cellular, it added.

Confident India eye another big win against edgy Aussies

TAPAN MOHANTA

KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI): India would expect their top order batsmen to make amends for a rare poor show in the series-opener and hope that the spinners continue to torment Australia when the two teams clash in the second One-Dayer, here Thursday.

The Australians are struggling against India's new spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal and the hosts would like to ensure that it doesn't get any easy as the series progresses.

Yadav is proving to be a mystery for the Aussies, who have have also struggled to pick Chahal's sliders. The visitors were seen taking the help of local wrist spinners to find tricks to counter the Indian bowlers.

While Kerala's KK Jiyas helped them before the Chennai ODI, two local club bowlers -- Ashutosh Shibram and Rupak Guha -- provided some practice to the Aussie batsmen, here.

Chasing a revised target of 164 in 21 overs in the rain-interrupted first ODI, Aussies were 35 for four before Glenn Maxwell's power-hitting raised hopes of an unlikely win.

But Chahal and Yadav went about their task meticulously to seal a 26-run win by the D/L method.

The Aussies have a bigger threat to contend with in Hardik Pandya who steered India to a respectable 281 for seven from a precarious 76/6.

Pandya hit another hat-trick of six-



es -- four times in International cricket -- as he smashed 83 from 66 balls in a match-turning 118-run partnership with MS Dhoni (79 from 88).

Pandya's rise since IPL-2015 has been remarkable. From being a careless hitter to restraining his shots in the V, Pandya has matured as a player.

He has also emerged as the utility medium-pace all-rounder that India have been searching for long.

His knock in Chennai not only seized the momentum but had a demoralising effect on Australia's leading spinner Adam Zampa who was left ruing his "lengths".

It remains to be seen how the Australian spin resources challenge the

formidable Indian batting line up. The visitors have three part-time tweekers in Glenn Maxwell, Travis Head and Ashton Agar.

"We have enough variation in our attack but it's about executing your plans," Zampa said.

"In Australia you can mess up your length a little bit and you will probably get away with it purely because of the (size of ground). Here the length is very important."

It is also a challenging time for skipper Steve Smith, who needs to lead from the front. David Warner also must fire to set the foundation.

Looking at Hilton Cartwright's plight in the top order in Chennai,

it won't be a bad ploy to hand the opening slot to Travis Head, who had a promising 65 in their 103-run win in the warm up match against Board President's XI.

Should Australia move Head to the opening slot, either Glenn Maxwell or Marcus Stoinis would be in line to fill the number four slot where they have already experimented six players since George Bailey was dropped earlier this year.

Known to thrive on their all-rounders, the Aussies will also look for significant contributions from the likes of James Faulkner, Stoinis and Maxwell.

As for Indian batting, it's really a healthy sign that their lower-order is living up to the challenge after the failure of top-order. If Dhoni is back in his elements, it was also pleasing to see Bhuvneshwar Kumar's cameo of 32 not out off 30.

India would just hope for a strong start from stop gap opener Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma while skipper Kohli will also look to return among runs after his rare failure in Chennai.

Kohli has an aggregate of 1017 runs in 19 innings with four hundreds and six fifties in ODIs this year.

India and Australia will play only their second ODI at the Eden since their TVS Cup final in November, 2003 but a forecast of rain, induced by low pressure and monsoon, is threatening to spoil the contest.

India blank Palestine in AFC U-16 qualifier opener

NEW DELHI, SEP 20 (PTI): India rode on a stirring second half show to blank Palestine 3-0 in the AFC U-16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers at the Halchowk Stadium in Kathmandu today.

Givson opened the scoreline from an impeccable free-kick in the 51st minute. It was followed by a strike from Bekey in the 72nd minute. The last nail in the coffin was put by skipper Vikram in the 79th minute.

India came very close to draw the first blood in the 8th minute but Bekey's shot whizzed past the crossbar.

In the 25th minute, Givson, who was operating as a free-player at the middle, cut into from the middle but his cutting-edge could have been dealt better by Ricky.

Perhaps the biggest

moment of the first-half for India came in the 28th minute when Harpreet's volley ricocheted off the crossbar to leave the India dugout aghast.

Gurkirat also tried his luck from 30-yards out but the Palestine goalkeeper collected it without any trouble.

Changing over, Givson stunned the Palestine goalkeeper in the 51st minute when his right-footed free-kick found the target leaving him stranded at the other end.

Bekey converted the meticulous cross from Ricky to double the lead in the 72nd minute.

India took the match by the scruff of the neck in the 79th minute when skipper Vikram blasted the net to make it 3-0.

India next play Nepal at the same venue on September 22.



Demonetisation chosen as Durga Puja theme



KOLKATA, SEP 20 (PTI): Demonetisation or 'notebandi' has been chosen as the theme by organisers of at least two community Durga Pujas in West Bengal this year.

The theme has found place in Mitra Sanghati's puja in east Kolkata's Belyghata area and the organisers have printed over 30,000 replicas of the banned currency notes to portray it.

Mitra Sanghati's puja pandal will feature a money tree having the prints of the banned Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes as

its leaves and images of people from various walks of life standing beside the money tree with helpless looks as the notes are of no use, the president of Mitra Sanghati Pradeep Kumar Nema-ni said.

A traditional earthen bowl meant for saving money will be kept near the Durga idol and a human face with teary eyes will signify the sufferings of the people due to the note ban, he said.

"Demonetisation caused a lot of pain to all sections of

people. People had money but suddenly it became just a piece of paper. People had money in their accounts but couldn't withdraw it from their banks," Nemani added.

The idea to take up demonetisation as a theme came from the sufferings that the common man had to face due to the note ban. "As Durga Puja is a festival of the people, we thought it would be an apt theme," he said.

A puja committee in North 24 Parganas district which also opted

for the 'notebandi' theme is using the replica of an ATM machine which is out of money on one side of the pandal and on the other the replica of another machine dispensing new Rs 500 and Rs 2000 notes.

"We want to show how the people, irrespective of their financial condition, had to stand in queue for long hours to withdraw money," a puja organiser told PTI.

The lights of the pandal will portray demonetisation and its after effects.



A 7.1 magnitude quake hit central Mexico hours after preparation drills were held on the anniversary of a devastating 1985 earthquake that killed more than 5,000 people in Mexico City. At least 216 people have been killed in Tuesday’s quake, including 117 in the capital, authorities confirmed.

Pak court issues arrest warrant against finance minister Dar



ISLAMABAD, SEP 20 (PTI): A Pakistani court today issued a bailable arrest warrant against Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and ordered the police to produce him before it on September 25 after he failed to appear in a corruption case linked to the Panama Papers scandal. The accountability court, which is hearing the graft cases filed by top anti-graft watchdog National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on September 8 against ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his children and Dar, expressed anger at the absence of 67-year-old minister. Dar’s protocol officer appeared on his behalf and informed the court that the minister was out of the country and would appear on his return. However, he failed to give any specific date for the return of Dar who is accused of possessing assets beyond his known sources of income.

NAB Prosecutor Sardar Muzaffar urged the court to issue arrest warrants, which the court accepted. Judge Mohammad Bashir directed police to arrest Dar and produce him on the next hearing on September 25. However, the minister can avoid arrest by submitting a surety bond worth Rs 1 million. The judge further warned to issue non-bailable arrest warrants if Dar failed to appear on September 25. The Supreme Court on July 28 had disqualified Sharif from the prime minister’s office in the Panama Papers case. The court is hearing the corruption cases against 67-year-old Sharif, his daughter Maryam, sons Hussain and Hasan, son-in-law Muhammad Safdar and Dar. According to the Supreme Court, the accountability judge should decide the cases within six months.

India, China will reshape world despite their different development paths: Rahul

PRINCETON, SEP 20 (PTI): India and China will fundamentally reshape the world though the two Asian giants have chosen different paths of development, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today said. Gandhi, who was interacting with students at the prestigious Princeton University, said “co-operation and competition” was a part of the relations between the two most populous countries of the world. “There are two large migrations taking place - one is completely free and the other is centrally controlled. The systems respond differently. India and China are two huge countries that are transforming from agricultural countries to urban modern model countries. And that’s a huge chunk of the world population,” Gandhi said. “And how these two countries do is going to fundamentally reshape the world. It’s not for me to say that China should be democratic or not. They have chosen their path and we have chosen ours,” he said. Gandhi said India was not doing well when it comes to competing with China. “We have to figure out how to get our jobs. We



have to basically compete with China,” he said, adding “frankly India is not doing that well”. China, he said, was entering new spheres with the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative, under which Beijing plans to connect Asia with Europe through ports, roads and rail networks. “And China has a particular vision of the world. It’s very clear. And from their perspective it’s a very powerful vision,” Gandhi said. “Does India has a similar vision? What does that vision look like? How much cooperation is going to be between us and them? These are basically the fundamental questions going forward. But the thing to realise is that China is moving with tremendous power and we have to work with that,” he said. On India’s ties with

the US, Gandhi said there was a lot of space for co-operation between the two nations in the creation of jobs and in the education sector. “So I think a lot of synergy between the two countries. Also historically India has maintained balance (in relationship). So India has had a relationship with China and has had a relationship with Russia. To me the strategic relationship with the United States is important,” he said. The scion of the Nehru-Gandhi family underscored the need for a balance (of relationship) in terms of all the other countries. “But balance is also important in terms of all the other countries. So I would say there is a slight difference between us and the government,” Gandhi said in response to a question.

21 schoolchildren among nearly 250 dead in powerful Mexico quake



MEXICO CITY, SEP 20 (AFP): At least 248 people were killed when a powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Mexico, including 21 children crushed beneath an elementary school that was reduced to rubble. The destruction revived horrific memories in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake in 1985, the disaster-prone country’s deadliest ever. One of the most gut-wrenching scenes was at the Enrique Rebsamen primary school on Mexico City’s south side, whose three floors collapsed into one, trapping students and teachers inside.

Local media reported that families were getting WhatsApp messages pleading for help from desperate relatives trapped under debris. Memories of the devastating 1985 earthquake, which killed at least 10,000 people, surged to the surface on what was meant to be a low-key 32nd anniversary. Adding to the national sense of vulnerability, the quake also came just 12 days after another tremor that killed nearly 100 people and left more than 200 injured, mainly in the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Many in the capital ran outdoors when walls around them swayed and cracked. “I’m so worried. I can’t stop crying. It’s the same nightmare as in 1985,” Georgina Sanchez, 52, sobbed to AFP in a plaza in the capital. The quake -- which occurred in the early afternoon, hours after city authorities had conducted an earthquake drill -- caused massive damage in the bustling center of the city. “It was horrible,” said resident Leiza Visaj Herrera, 27. “I had to hold on to the ground.” Scenes of chaos erupted in the quake’s aftermath. Traffic jammed to a standstill before blanked-out stop lights, and anxious people ran between vehicles as ambulances tried to make headway, sirens blaring. In several locations, large crowds of people clambered on buildings that were now piles of stone

unters in Mexico City -- home to 20 million people -- were still clawing through the rubble of dozens of collapsed buildings looking for survivors and bodies. The destruction revived horrific memories in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake in 1985, the disaster-prone country’s deadliest ever. One of the most gut-wrenching scenes was at the Enrique Rebsamen primary school on Mexico City’s south side, whose three floors collapsed into one, trapping students and teachers inside. Local media reported that families were getting WhatsApp messages pleading for help from desperate relatives trapped under debris. Memories of the devastating 1985 earthquake, which killed at least 10,000 people, surged to the surface on what was meant to be a low-key 32nd anniversary. Adding to the national sense of vulnerability, the quake also came just 12 days after another tremor that killed nearly 100 people and left more than 200 injured, mainly in the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Many in the capital ran outdoors when walls around them swayed and cracked. “I’m so worried. I can’t stop crying. It’s the same nightmare as in 1985,” Georgina Sanchez, 52, sobbed to AFP in a plaza in the capital. The quake -- which occurred in the early afternoon, hours after city authorities had conducted an earthquake drill -- caused massive damage in the bustling center of the city. “It was horrible,” said resident Leiza Visaj Herrera, 27. “I had to hold on to the ground.” Scenes of chaos erupted in the quake’s aftermath. Traffic jammed to a standstill before blanked-out stop lights, and anxious people ran between vehicles as ambulances tried to make headway, sirens blaring. In several locations, large crowds of people clambered on buildings that were now piles of stone and tangled metal, trying to pull people out. Emergency workers held up signs commanding “Silence” so crews could listen for the sounds of any survivors. Jorge Lopez, a 49-year-old Spaniard living in Mexico City, said he raced to his children’s school in the central Roma district, to find it collapsed but his offspring safe but terrified. “We arrived at the school and everyone was crying, everyone was frantic, and the kids were holding on to a rope,” he said. Patients were evacuated from a nearby hospital, wheeled out on beds and wheelchairs. Pena Neto said on Twitter he had ordered the evacuation of damaged hospitals. At one collapsed building in the Roma district, dozens of people dug through rubble as they waited for the arrival of heavy machinery to move the massive chunks of stone. Officials called out for more volunteers, and for water. A woman standing and watching the efforts with her husband, a doctor, turned to him and said, “Darling, if you want to help, go ahead. Just give me your glasses, and be careful.” Mexico City’s international airport closed for more than three hours following the quake. The stock market was forced to shut. Fearful residents whose homes were damaged were preparing to spend the night on the street or in parks. On the clogged and darkened roads, muggers came out at night to assault motorists. Officials in several other countries responded to the quake with offers of help. Honduras sent a 36-strong rescue team.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR EAGLE EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:8 DrawDate on:20/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 78K 92759

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9496/- 92759 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

10306 11029 21117 23195 37159

44704 47886 50734 67452 85495

4th Prize Rs.500/- 1855 1980 1990 2118 2229 3276 3439 6070 8019 8642

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0314 2710 2953 3410 4009 4442 4862 6211 6387 7839

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0040 0047 0131 0172 0238 0241 0329 0372 0532 0737

0792 0834 0933 0949 1003 1102 1161 1214 1295 1405

1413 1529 1591 1659 1894 1993 2041 2287 2575 2598

2828 2932 2942 3019 3103 3126 3191 3245 3353 3406

3426 3437 3685 3707 3805 3840 4188 4220 4228 4305

4550 4684 4878 5091 5194 5323 5517 5742 5751 5781

5784 5879 5948 5974 6034 6141 6710 6747 6812 6835

7086 7285 7312 7345 7376 7405 7471 7472 7535 7695

7719 7755 7782 7820 7937 8092 8133 8153 8270 8354

8812 8879 8905 8906 9124 9191 9540 9585 9887 9998

Issued by:

The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR VALUABLE MORNING

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:20/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 92D 84710

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9496/- 84710 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

08204 16743 19572 40794 47195

53166 61619 64060 70834 90548

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0266 0589 2130 2847 4058 6108 6520 7903 8874 9539

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0190 0623 1574 2121 3924 4620 4817 7382 8477 9048

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0271 0275 0403 0719 0764 0864 0909 1053 1064 1100

1162 1213 1323 1513 1529 1926 1935 1979 2087 2208

2302 2340 2663 2874 2919 2986 3062 3087 3090 3118

3198 3462 3615 3646 3791 3838 3854 3877 3894 3940

4081 4166 4167 4201 4417 4673 4689 4702 4812 4883

4902 5024 5144 5226 5312 5327 5736 5780 6026 6187

6295 6308 6324 6361 6490 6550 6718 6731 6796 6926

6999 7014 7072 7150 7330 7333 7579 7811 7887 7922

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

BOOK OF THE DAY

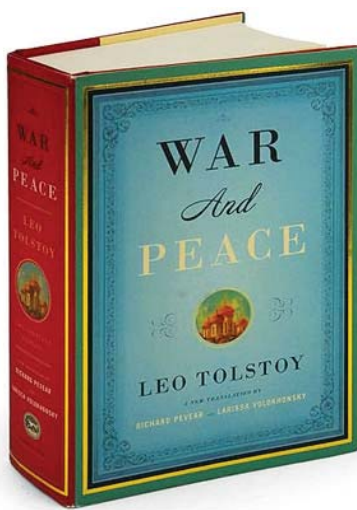
'WAR AND PEACE' BY LEO TOLSTOY

Many of Russia's greatest writers declared Leo Tolstoy's magnum opus as the greatest Russian novel ever. Fyodor Dostoyevsky (Crime and Punishment) showered praise over War and Peace, declaring that Tolstoy had... "profound knowledge- not only of the poetic side of his art, but also the reality he deals with, in its historical as well as contemporary context. In Russia, as far as I see it, only one writer excels in this, Count Lev Tolstoy." Ivan Turgenev, considered to be the second great Russian writer (behind Nikolai

Gogol) from the golden age of Russian literature, who wrote the anti-nihilist novel Fathers and Sons in 1862 and he called War and Peace "one of the most remarkable books of our age". However, it's a shame to know that Leo Tolstoy, himself, rejected both War and Peace and Anna Karenina later in his life because he didn't see them as realistic works. War and Peace, however, is very much an outstanding work of literature and philosophy. At over 1,300 pages long (with reference to the Oxford World's Classics edition), it

may initially seem to be one of the most daunting reads of one's life, but Tolstoy's prose is rich, it flows well and is not at all a tedious read. The book shifts between narrative, historical and philosophical discussion; alternating between the lives of the Bolkonskys, the Bezukhovs, the Rostovs and then to Tolstoy's own views on the philosophy of history and free will.

With regards to Tolstoy's classic story-telling, one will find a multitude of soirees, princes, and princesses, gossip, romance, rich families, disputes, and heartbreaks.



Tolstoy cleverly incorporates the history of the French invasion of Russia at the start of the 19th century into

the lives and lifetime events of his colourful set of characters, switching from gossipy get-togethers or mundane family life to violent battles. For instance, without revealing too much of the plot, Pierre Bezukhov (who many agree to be the character that represents Tolstoy's views) joins the Freemasons in search of a better, more spiritual life; this then suddenly moves to the bloody battle of Austerlitz. Tolstoy was a war veteran of the Crimean War during the 1850's and he fictionalized his experiences and the atrocities of war in one of his earlier works, The Sevastopol Sketches. Here, in War and Peace, Tolstoy takes those experiences and describes the battles throughout the book in graphic detail. I frequently found myself following a character's thoughts during these events, drenched in realism, as he and his platoon were battling the French. In

typical Russian style, some characters break into pages-long monologues to express their individual ideologies on the horrors of war. For example, Prince Andrei, the cynical, philosophical soldier dishes out some criticism on the morality of the military, declaring that ... "the more people slaughtered, the greater the merit. How does God look down and listen to them!"

Although War and Peace boasts over five hundred characters- some of whom you will get to know, some you might fall in love with or others you might dislike passionately- it is the main set of protagonists who make the novel what it is and guide the reader on an exhilarating journey. From princes and princesses to politicians and military men, philosophers and priests to peasants and prisoners, the reader is presented with an overview of the different classes of Russian society interacting with one another during Napoleon's invasion of their country.

(Source: Tumblr)



PRETTY IN PINK: Emma Stone was all smiles while arriving for her appearance on The Late Show With Stephen Colbert in New York City.

EMILIA CLARKE JUST BECAME DAENERYS IN REAL LIFE

Seems like Emilia Clarke can't wait for the next season of Game of Thrones either! The Game of Thrones actress took to Instagram to debut her new hair change and it's fit for a mother of dragons.

Clarke, 30, who plays Daenerys Targaryen a.k.a. the Mother of Dragons amongst many other titles on the hit HBO show, is known for her character's long platinum hair and intricate braided styles. The signature icy hue took the Game of Thrones hair designer, Kevin Alexander, over two months to finalize. According to Time, Clarke has about four character wigs in rotation to the show, each of which she has nicknamed — Dany, Diva, Candice and Blondie.

The actress debuted her Khaleesi-esque hair style on her Instagram with a selfie, captioning it 'AAAAHHHHHH SHHHHHHHHH***** I done did it. Mother of dragons meet Emilia. Emilia meet mother of dragons. If you squint just so you might never know.'

She continues by shouting out her "Khaleesi wig" hair stylists on set, Kevin Alexander and Candice Banks. And went on saying, "(and not forgetting all the hair on Game of Thrones for 8 glorious years) for at long last



making this magical moment a reality. #KhaleesiKickoff #GameofThrones #Coming-HomeNeverFeltSoGood"

She adorned her caption with fire, heart and dragon emojis throughout her post. In the selfie, Clarke winks and is all smiles as her new, much shorter and much blonder locks appear to be freshly washed and cut. Fans everywhere are now questioning what this means for Daenerys in the final season of the show. Does this mean Clarke will turn in her wigs for her natural hair? It is a possibility that we may see our beloved Mother of Dragons with a much shorter hairdo in the new season and we're sure it's going to be just as fantastic as before.

Google+

21ST SEPTEMBER

1921: An explosion at a chemical products plant in Oppau, Germany, killed an estimated 800 people
1937: J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit," is first published which follows the quest of home-loving Bilbo Baggins.
1938: A hurricane with winds reaching 185 miles per hour often known as 1938 New England hurricane landed on seven New England States causing the deaths of nearly 700 and property damage estimated in the hundreds of millions. The Hurricane and resulting flooding left over 60,000 homeless.
1948: The death toll in the area hit by an earthquake which hit Tabas and the surrounding villages on Saturday has now reached 16,000 and Iranian aircraft are spraying areas effected

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

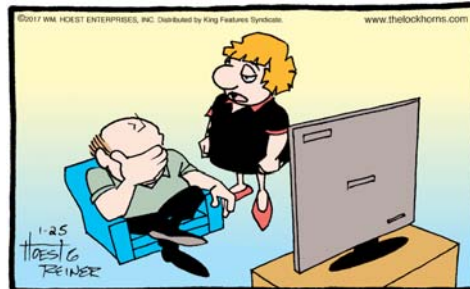
Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College

with disinfectant in a hope to keep diseases from spreading. The smell of death still pervades through the smell of disinfectant as there are still large numbers of dead who have not been buried. Iran has asked the world for help and medical supplies and staff as many wounded men and women are still untreated due to the small hospital in the area.

2011: Google+, social network service is released to the general public. Up to this point it had been by invite only, Google+ was released on June 28th via invite only and over the next 3 months additional features are added and bugs were fixed.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"I WONDER IF ANYONE ELSE CRIES AT THE END OF AN OVERTIME."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



FIRST TOMB RAIDER TRAILER OUT NOW!!

Warner Bros. Pictures and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures have just released the first trailer for Tomb Raider, the third film adaptation in the 25-year-old video game series' history. Academy Award winner Alicia Vikander stars as Lara Croft, whom the studio describes as "the fiercely independent daughter of an eccentric adventurer who vanished when she was scarcely a teen."

Gamers are well aware of Lara's back story, but for those who are unfamiliar, here's the 411: "Without any real focus or purpose," the 21-year-old orphan "navigates the chaotic streets of trendy East London as a bike courier, barely making the rent, and takes college courses, rarely making it to class. Determined to forge her own path, she refuses to take the reins of her father's global empire just as staunchly as she rejects the idea that he's truly gone," according to a press release. "Advised to face the facts and



move forward after seven years without him, even Lara can't understand what drives her to finally solve the puzzle of his mysterious death."

But solve it she must.

So, Lara travels to her father's last-known destination: a fabled tomb on a mythical island, which may be located somewhere off the coast of Japan. It's a "treacherous" journey, to be sure, and Lara "must learn to push herself beyond her limits as she journeys into the unknown."

Directed by Roar Uthaug, the movie also stars Walton Goggins, Dominic West and Daniel Wu. The original Tomb Raider movies, released in 2001 and 2003, starred Angelina Jolie and earned a combined \$431.3 at the global box office. Tomb Raider was shot on location in South Africa and the U.K. and is set for a March 16, 2018 release.

ARIES: If you're presently romantically involved, Aries, you could find that one of you feels very passionate while the other doesn't. Compromise! If you're currently unattached, someone for whom you feel nothing could express an interest in you that's more than friendly. This is a difficult situation, but you have to sidestep this person's attentions without hurting any feelings.
TAURUS: Are you working at home today, Taurus? This won't make your efforts any less intense, especially if your work involves writing or speaking on the phone. Whatever you're doing will probably seem urgent. You need to do things carefully or you may miss important details or express your-

self vaguely. Slow down and don't work too quickly. It may take longer, but you won't regret it.
GEMINI: A strange letter or phone call could come your way today, Gemini, and the information you receive could seem rather garbled. It may be good news or bad, or possibly neither, but don't accept it at face value. Somewhere along the line someone has misinterpreted some important information. If what you hear is important to you, check the facts before accepting it as truth.
CANCER: Today is a day in which you need to use logic. You could receive an unsettling and unexpected letter or phone call, perhaps involving money. The person com-

municating with you is probably operating under a misconception, so don't panic if it's bad news. Talk to people in a position to know the facts before moving ahead with the information. Chances are it's been garbled.
LEO: Your level of concentration generally tends to be strong, Leo, but today you could be temporarily at a disadvantage. Your thoughts seem vague and disjointed and you're less able to express yourself clearly and precisely. Make sure the people around you know that. At the same time put in extra effort to make yourself understood or you could cause confusion.
VIRGO: Today you might intuit some strange and unsettling

thoughts and feelings from a brother, sister, or neighbor, Virgo. This person isn't likely to want to talk about what's bothering them, even if you express concern. Sometimes people have to work these things out for themselves. Just make it clear that you're available to talk about it and then let it go. That's all you can do now.
LIBRA: Some disconcerting information you receive today from a group you're affiliated with could have you wondering if you have a future with this group, Libra. This might be disillusioning for you, but this isn't a good day to make any decisions. Wait a few days and then consider what you heard today objectively and assess its impact.

You'll be in a far better frame of mind.
SCORPIO: Usually your mind is sharp and centered, Scorpio, but today you'll probably feel like you can't think straight. Your thoughts might be vague and disjointed. If there's something you need to do immediately, either make a great effort to focus on the task at hand or get some help. Otherwise, leave major chores or decisions for another day. You'll be your old self again tomorrow.
SAGITTARIUS: You generally tend to be intuitive, Sagittarius, but today your sensitivity might approach the level of an oracle - or seem so! You might have some good luck picking up the thoughts

and feelings of others, but your premonitions, while plentiful, are off track. Write them down and check them out later, but don't put any stock in them, at least not now.
CAPRICORN: You may have a very strange and somewhat disturbing dream about a friend tonight, Capricorn. It may wake you up in an unsettled state. Write it down if you can. This might exercise some of the emotions involved and shed some light on whatever caused you to have the dream. Don't worry! Chances are it's symbolic and not prophetic.
AQUARIUS: A lack of communication between you and someone close could lead to misunderstandings, Aquarius. This might not seem

that important, but sometimes a lack of clarity can lead to bad feelings in the future. Make your intentions clear to everyone. If someone misinterprets anything thing you say, explain it more precisely right then. You don't want some careless words to come back to haunt you.
PISCES: Today you might be so intent on your work that you don't hear what someone says to you, Pisces. No matter how important your task, take the time to listen and pay attention to what someone tells you, however trivial it may seem now. It might not matter in the end, but it's best to err on the side of caution. Sparing a few minutes now could avoid a serious rift in a friendship.