

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## As stalls run dry, traders and Horti Deptt meet to discuss ban on non-organic vegetables

**TRADERS  
THREATEN  
HUNGER STRIKE  
IF DEPTT  
CANNOT SUPPLY  
ENOUGH ORGANIC  
VEGETABLES  
AND FRUITS**

**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

The State Government's decision to ban entry and prohibit sale of a wide range of non-organic vegetables and fruits in the State has drawn the indignation of traders who believe the move will affect their businesses and lead to a 'food crisis.'

Today was the last



day to empty the stock of non-organic vegetables and fruits, the last

consignment of which was brought in from Sili-guri on 31 March. Most of the vegetable stalls at Lal Bazaar here wore

an empty look and there were also reports of price hike, which some blamed on opportunistic profi-

teering while some sellers explained to the high rates they had picked up local produce for.

Meanwhile confusion still prevailed on what the Horticulture Department may have planned to alleviate the obvious supply problem.

"The decision to ban non-organic vegetables in the State directly affects our livelihoods and if the State Government fails to supply enough organic vegetables and fruits like they promised, we will call hunger strike," All Sikkim Traders Association vice-president, Lakpa Sherpa said.

This was after the

turn to pg02

## SC asks for list of persons claiming IT exemption to be submitted within 4 weeks

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

The Supreme Court, while hearing the petition filed by the Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim, today asked for the names and number of persons from the State claiming Income Tax exemption along with reason for such claim within four weeks. The Court has fixed the date for final hearing in July, later this year.

Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim comprising of around 400 families, mostly belonging to the business community, are seeking Income Tax exemption at par with Sikkimese people under a provision of section 10 (26AAA) introduced in the Income Tax Act 1961 in the year 2008.

After hearing the counsels of the parties, the division bench of Supreme Court headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman directed the State of Sikkim to verify and cooperate with the Central Government so that the claim of the Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim can be considered by the Central Government in accordance with law.

The Apex Court has made it clear that all the contentions of the parties are left open to be considered on the next date of hearing adding that the State respondent may furnish such other information as may be sought by the Central Government while considering the claim of the petitioners in accordance with law.

Meanwhile, counsel for the petitioner,

Sudesh Joshi, was quoted in media reports as stating that the Apex Court has observed that gross injustice has been done to the business community of Sikkim who have been residing in the state before it joined the Union of India. Women married to Non-Sikkimese after 2007 may also submit their names, he added.

The Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim have challenged Clause 26 AAA of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, saying that the clause was discriminatory and violated Articles 14 and 15. They have alleged that 95 per cent of the state's population is exempted from paying Income Tax, out of which about 70 per cent are of Nepalese origin, therefore, "the entire exemption has come about to appease the electorate."

The Centre had exempted Sikkim Subject Certificate holders from paying Income Tax in 2008 after an amendment in the Finance Act by the Parliament based on the State's request.

In the petition, the seven petitioners have said that discussions between Sikkim and the Union of India disclosed that SSC holders and those who became citizens in 1990-91 after the Sikkim Citizenship Amendment Order 1989 have also been exempted for political reasons and to maintain ethnic peace in the state and to reward SSC holders who had voted for the merger of Sikkim with India.

It may be mentioned that acting on a petition filed by "Old Settlers of Indian

turn to pg02

## CM ends North Sikkim tour in Dzongu

**LAYS FOUNDATION  
STONE OF THEKONG  
MUNSOLOONG  
STATUE AT  
LINGTHEM**

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 04 APR:**

"WE WILL institutionalize the research of Lepcha culture and history here in Lingthem," said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling while addressing the people of Dzongu at Lingthem in North Sikkim on the final day of his North Sikkim tour under "Jan Samparka Abhiyan".

Referring to the Thekong Munsoloong statue which is to be constructed at Lingthem, the CM added, "I want the work to be qualitative and completed on time. Implementation of most of the projects is getting delayed due to the slow pace of



construction work. I urge all the Panchayats and people to monitor it."

The CM said that the 1200MW Teesta Stage-III has been taken over by the govern-

ment and is the largest project ever owned by any government in India.

"I want to make my people powerful," the CM added.

He stated that he is tour-

ing Sikkim to make immediate sanctions of necessary works. The CM also shared his vision of making Sikkim MDR Tuberculosis free by 2022.

turn to pg03

IN SUMMIT TIMES THIS SATURDAY

**spotlight**  
STORIES THAT MATTER

Features on Hydropower and  
Climate Change issues



Teestamukh at Chilmari in Bangladesh where the Teesta joins the Brahmaputra

## Tryst with the Teesta

In the second article of the SPOTLIGHT series, Gauri Noolkar-Dak writes about her incredible back-packing journey with the Teesta from Teestamukh, where it drains into the Brahmaputra, to its source in North Sikkim at Tso Lhamo. Her '30-day pilgrimage' is also a journey into the cultural, economic and political aspects of the river, culminating in the realization that the Teesta is so much more. Gauri is a transboundary water conflicts researcher who has researched water problems in the Middle East, South-East Asia and South Asia. She has studied Economics at Fergusson College, Pune and the University of Hong Kong.

"In that moment, from Teestamukh to Tso Lhamo, I sense an intricate web of space and time; the hanging geography of the Teesta enmeshed with the journey of her life. Her course in Sikkim is her childhood, her youth lies in northern West Bengal, and she is at a ripe, old age in northern Bangladesh."

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## SKM demands repairing of Red Panda Gate at Hee-Patal and trekking trail at Hee Gaon

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

On the fourth day of the ongoing Jan Chetna Yatra of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's press & publicity and social media cell, the team visited Red Panda Gate at Hee-Patal and the trekking trail at Hee Gaon in West Sikkim today. The team expressed concern over the poor condition of these infrastructures which have been left ignored and unattended by the State government, informs an SKM press release.

The party has demanded that the government immediately take up the required repairs.

Further, the team also appointed six persons as secretaries of press & publicity and social media cell for Rinchenpong constituency after a brief meeting held with the working committee of the party of the constituency.

## SPCC reconstitutes Youth Congress wing

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

A meeting of the Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee was held today under the chairmanship of National Youth Congress secretary and North-East Congress Youth in-charge, RK Dulom, here at its office in Gangtok with the aim to reconstitute the Youth Congress and initiate its activities.

An SPCC press release informs that Dipendra Gurung has been appointed the new working president of Youth Congress Sikkim.

In his address, Mr Dulom stressed that the Youth Congress needs to be strong to strengthen the party in the State and work for the interest of the nation.

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# Sangha MLA presses for LT seats and restoration of Nepali seats with Centre

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, interacted with several central officials in New Delhi to raise matters pertaining to the State. A press release from the MLA informs that he has urged the Government of India to start "immediate steps" to provide Scheduled Tribe seat reservation for the Limboo and Tamang tribes of

Sikkim in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

In a letter addressed to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, Mr Lama has said, "Despite the incorporation of the Limboos and Tamang communities as Scheduled Tribes about 15 years ago, these two communities have been contesting the election to the SLA from the general category. It is very

unfortunate that owing to the reluctant and unclear stand of the authority, seat could not be reserved to them as ST in the SLA. Sometime the State government comes up with 40 seat formula and now with 38 seat formulas which is only misleading."

He has urged the MoS to "kindly initiate urgent measures to provide seat reservation to the Limboo and Ta-

mang communities as Scheduled Tribes in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly."

The MoS has been requested to introduce a Government Bill in the ensuing session of the Parliament towards this effect so that these communities get their assured by Constitution political rights before the 2019 general elections in Sikkim.

Mr Lama has further

called for immediate restoration of the lost seats of Sikkimese Nepalese in the SLA.

He has added in his letter, "I urge upon the Government of India to restore back the lost seats of seat reservation to the Sikkimese Nepalese people in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly which was illegally snatch away in 1979. This political right is strongly protected under Article 371 F

of the Indian Constitution."

He also presented a Citation of Appreciation & Acknowledgement on behalf of all the monks and monasteries as well as the people of Sikkim to the Union Minister of State in recognition and acknowledgement of his support and coordination in the lifting of travel restriction on the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje.

## Ban on non-organic vegetables has affected the public adversely: BJP

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

The Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit has expressed that while the ban on non-organic vegetables from outside the State was a welcome step to some extent in the interest of local farmers, the order of the government was just for show as vegetables and fruits from the outside have been coming into Sikkim through SIMFED.

The release has further alleged that even the fodder of animals has been coming from outside and was not organic.

The sudden decision of the government to ban non-organic vegetables has affected the life of the people of Sikkim. People have been suffering due to the decision of the government which was taken just to take the credit, the release claims.



## DC SOUTH PRESENTS SCOOTY TO DRISHTI NGO

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:** District Collector [South], Raj Yadav, handed over a 125cc scooty to Drishti NGO, Namchi, today with the aim to provide assistance to the representatives of the NGO for Childline 1098 purpose namely to rescue children in need or during any other emergency, a press release received from the DC Office [South] informs. It may be mentioned here, Childline 1098 is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance.

## Training on ICS and Organic Certification at Riwa Machong

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

International Panacea Limited [IPL], a service provider agency under the Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim, organized a Gram Panchayat Unit level programme on Internal Control System [ICS] and Organic Certification of organic vegetable production at Riwa Machong in Pakyong, East Sikkim, on 03 Apr, a press release informs.

Zilla Panchayat, Sita Rai, along with Panchayat members and farmers of Riwa Machong attended the programme.

Resource person for the event informed about seed treatment and sowing methods for seasonal



vegetables and crops.

Block In-Charge, IPL, Ramesh Sharma, highlighted the standard of Organic Certification and that Aadhaar Card Number and Bank Account of

each farmer is mandatory for record.

He also briefed about the standard of National Programme for Organic Production [NPOP] and National Organic Pro-

gramme [NOP] technical standards.

The Zilla Panchayat briefed about the initiatives taken by the state government for providing better facilities for

marketing of locally produced vegetables, crop, flower and fruits. She also urged the farmers to grow more vegetables and fruits which can be sold in the local market.

The Panchayat president, while speaking on production of vegetables and other crops, said, "Now everywhere green and fresh vegetables are in high demand. Farmers should come forward to grow vegetables on a large scale. Cultivable land should be properly used by sowing different crops in every season."

He further urged the participants to follow the policy and methods of organic farming practices in the villages.

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

The 2nd general meeting of International Human Rights & Anti-Crime Organisation [IHRACO] was conducted today at Rangpo in East Sikkim under the chairmanship of IHRACO State president, Ganesh Sharma.

During the meet, new members for East district were appointed with Kishor Sharma as vice president and Mahindra Adhikari as transport vice president, a press

release informs.

It was further informed that IHRACO will be meeting Police Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Siliguri demanding complete ban on sale of contraband substances in the pharmacies of Siliguri. The organization will also be organising awareness programmes on human rights across Sikkim in the coming days in order to work for the upliftment of underprivileged people of the State, the release adds.

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## As stalls run dry, traders and Horti Deptt meet to discuss...

### Contd from pg01

traders trooped to the Horticulture Department to seek clarifications and were assured that supplies would be dropped off to them by Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, the State government has designated enforcement officers to carry out seizure and disposal of non-organic produce which now stand banned from Sikkim. They are expected to get into action from 05 April, but there was high drama surrounding allegedly non-organic produce being sold through a SIMFED mobile vegetable outlet at Lal Bazaar today.

The traders accosted the vehicle and claimed that its

stock of vegetables – at least the tomatoes and green chilli – were sourced from Siliguri.

The irate traders question why a government agency was being allowed to procure and sell non-organic vegetables when they are being disallowed at the cost of their livelihoods.

To discuss this and other pressing issues, a meeting was held between the traders of Gangtok, Singtam and Rangpo and the Horticultural Department at Krishi Bhawan here in Tadong, East Sikkim, today.

The meeting discussed various issues related to the ban and arrangements of adequate supply of organic vegetables which brought lot of criticism and dissatisfaction

from the traders.

More than 200 traders from Gangtok, Singtam and Rangpo have demanded the State Government for adequate supply of organic vegetables in the market for them to sell and earn their livelihoods.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the improper execution of the ban, the traders accused the State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited [SIMFED] of allegedly selling non-organic vegetables in the market.

As mentioned, a SIMFED vehicle was allegedly caught loaded with inorganic vegetables, the video of which has been uploaded in Facebook. SIMFED has reportedly

claimed that supplies were from Melli in Sikkim and not West Bengal. The traders have rejected this claim.

The traders have demanded the Department to put together alternative arrangements to meet the vegetable demand in the market by 05 Apr failing which they have warned to call a State-wide hunger strike.

"We are onboard with the Government's decision to ban non-organic vegetable, but to misguide us by selling non-organic produces from a government van proves that the Government too has failed to arrange food for its people," Mr Sherpa added.

Mr Sherpa further in-

formed that the demand for fruits and vegetables goes up during tourist seasons adding, "How can the Government expect us to feed the guests if our own people are struggling to meet the food demand."

"Tourism will suffer and along with it our State's reputation and our daily livelihood," Mr Lakpa said.

The traders said that most vegetables will soon be in short supply with only organic cabbage, cauliflower and beans available to meet the local demand since these are produced in large quantity in the State.

"We will sell the available organic vegetables but what about the vegetables which

cannot be grown in the State and are only available from outside the State," Mr Sherpa questioned.

As per ASTA, the Department has to supply enough vegetables to sustain 350 traders in Lal Bazaar, Gangtok alone.

The association has further criticized the Department officials for being 'rude' during the meeting saying, "When asked about the unavailability of green chilies during the meeting, one of the officers allegedly said don't eat what is not available, it won't affect anyone."

However, the Department has assured the traders that it will arrange enough supply of organic vegetables from 05 Apr.

## SC asks for list of persons...

### Contd from pg01

Origin" in Sikkim, the Apex Court had also passed a stay order way back in February 2013 restraining the Income Tax authorities from recovering income tax dues from the petitioners stating that "....no coercive steps shall be taken for recovery of amount pursuant to demand notices..." till the matter is decided upon.



**Gangtok on  
Thursday,  
05 Apr**

**Temp:** 23°C / 10°C  
**Forecast:** Cloudy with  
a shower or thun-  
derstorm around.  
**Sunrise:** 05:23 AM  
**Sunset:** 5:55 PM

## Organic van caught with non-organic produce an "embarrassment": SKM

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Referring to today's incident wherein a SIMFED vehicle was allegedly found loaded with non-organic vegetables, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that the incident is an embarrassment to the State.

In a press release, the party has said, "The government restricted the sale of non-organic vegetables for hawkers but an enterprise of Sikkim government has been selling the same vegetables by calling it organic."

The party has clarified that it is not against the State's organic mission but is protesting against the manner in which the government is implementing it.

"Many lands in villages are barren at present and farmers do not have proper training and inputs for organic farming. Before banning vegetables from outside, the state government should first ensure enough production of the same for the people of Sikkim," the release adds.

The release further informs that SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, treasurer, Keshu Agarwal, and business community convener, Imtiyaz, visited SIMFED outlet at Laal Bazaar this morning and enquired about the matter. The party has warned the state government to stop playing with the sentiments of people by selling vegetables from Siliguri as organic vegetables.

## Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal's birth anniv celebrated

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

The 95th birth anniversary of Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal was celebrated at the Chogyal Memorial Park here in Deorali today. The celebration was organized by Nationalist Sikkim Union Organisation [NSUO] and attended by former Indian football team skipper, Bhaichung Bhutia, SIBLAC convener, Tseten Tashi Bhutia, Sikkim Subject Committee chief convener, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, and others, a press release informs.

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# Civil Military Liaison Conference held at Chintan Bhawan

**GANGTOK, 04 APR [IPR]:** The Civil Military Liaison Conference [CMLC] was held today at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok between the State administration and the Army.

It may be mentioned here, CMLC is an annual conference which provides a platform for discussions between the civil administration and the Army on many issues of mutual and national interests.

Held annually, it is hosted alternately by the state government and the Army. This year it was hosted by Sikkim and was headed by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, while the Army was helmed by Major General [GOC, 17 Mountain Division], NSR Subramani. The heads of many state government departments like Home Department, Forest, Tourism, Finance, Transport, Power, Land Reve-



nue and the Sikkim Police participated in the meeting.

In his welcome speech, the Chief Secretary lauded the role of the Indian Army in the nation building process. He placed on

record his deep appreciation for the help provided by them at the time of natural disasters.

Further, the Chief Secretary also stated that the state government is committed to the

welfare of Army pensioners and war widows. The cooperation extended by the Army in the conduct of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra was also lauded.

In his opening remarks,

the GOC articulated his appreciation for the cooperation extended by the state government since he joined office from January this year. He desired for more meetings between the

Civil and the Army authorities at different levels for resolution of pending issues.

The issues discussed in this year's CMLC revolved around matters pertaining to law and order, forest land and acquisition of private land by the Army for infrastructural development. The discussions were held in three parts namely review of the minutes of the last CMLC held in 2015, discussions on Agenda Points forwarded by the Army and the Agenda Points of the state government.

The CMLC was held in an extremely convivial and cordial atmosphere and both sides showed resolve to settle the issues which were discussed. In his closing remarks, the GOC thanked the state government for the fruitful meeting and the deliberations ahead.

## Mock drill on flood-induced disaster held in Jorethang

**JORETHANG, 04 APR**

**(IPR):** A mock drill exercise on flood induced disaster organized by District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in collaboration with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) was held at Rangitnagar Hingdam today.

Under the administration and supervision of Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], BC Rai, the mock drill exercise was held with an objective of planning, co-ordination and monitoring disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and management in case of dam water flood devastation that triggers disasters of various kinds. The exercise took place across various points in and around NHPC premises including NHPC dam site, downstream of dam followed by NHPC Hospital.

The entire operation was conducted under the Guidelines of Incident Response Mechanism



(IRS) which organizes a coordinated response mechanism at all levels of administration, reducing avoidable loss of life and suffering of the people during disasters. Thus, under the IRS structure, Incident Commander, Purushottam Chaudhary and Range Officer, Karma had the key responsibilities of managing every incident operations of the incident site.

Similarly, medical experts, fire and emergency support personnel and safety managers also played a crucial role in

pursuing their roles and coordinating with one another in during real time disasters.

The mock drill exercise saw the Quick Response Team (QRT) provide rendered assistance in order to evacuate and rescue the injured from sensitive and vulnerable zones in order to help reduce chaos and confusion during actual incident management. Real disaster like situations of drowning and water engulfment were also established for which action plan and mitigation

methods were carried out in real time.

The program was also attended by District Project Officer [Ravangla], K.M Chettri, Medical First Aid Expert and observer for the day, Kunzang Namgyal, Training Officer [DDMA], Abishek Kharel, Station Head Officer [Hingdam], Thinlay Rai, Range Officer [Ravangla], Karma alongside line department officials from SDM Office Ravangla, Fire and Emergency Services and Police Department and stakeholder from NHPC.

## SSA secures win on 2nd day of Dr BR Ambedkar football tourney

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Sikkim Sports Academy [SSA] has secured victory against Kumar Sporting Club [KSC] by 4-0 today on the second day of the ongoing Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti Foot-

ball Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Milan Chettri of SSA was adjudged 'Man of the Match' today.

Area MLA, West Pendam, Gopal Barailay, attended the event as chief guest along with member

of Centre Executive Committee [SDF], MS Limboo, as guest of honor.

In the first match on 05 Apr, South FC will take on Apex Kalimpong while the second match will be played between Khamdong and Remzong FC.



## MUSS hands reaches groceries to Lee Aul Old Age Home

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

To commemorate the 86th birth anniversary of Mata Raj Rajeshwari Devi, Manaw Utthan Sewa Samiti, Gangtok,

donated food items and groceries to Lee Aul Old Age Home at Tintek in East Sikkim today. MUSS, Gangtok team led by its in-charge, Mahatma Gyan Baiji, handed over

rice, flour, cereals, oil, sugar, tea leaves, biscuits, fruits and other items to the in-charge of the old age home, Passangkit Lepcha, a press release informs.

## CM ends North Sikkim tour in Dzongu...

**contd from pg01**

Expressing his gratitude to the press and media, the Chief Minister stressed on freedom of press and said that he welcomes criticisms as warmly as appreciation.

He also warned the people not to be misguided by opposition parties and said that SDF is the only party which is safeguarding the people of Sikkim.

On the day, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of 30FT Thek-ong Munsoloong statue to be built at Lingthem.

He sanctioned Rs 20 lakh to Lingthem Monastery for repair work along with construction of eight-room school

building at Sonam Choda Memorial School, construction of 50 bedded hostel at Gor Secondary School, construction of road from Gor School to Gor Gumpa, construction of road from Tareng to Tareng Gumpa, construction of road from Sudur to Bringbong village, upgradation of Passingdang Secondary School to Senior Secondary level, construction of road from Tingbong Village to the Gumpa, installation of Guru Rinpoche statue at Thingchim Lake, construction of road from Namok to Tibuk village, construction of six-room school building at Lingthem Junior High School, beautification of Man-

tam Lake, construction of road from Passingdang to Leek village and further added that all the demands which are in the interest of the public will be sanctioned.

Chief engineer, Building and Housing Department, RK Pariyar presented the technical report of the Munsoloong project which has been estimated to cost Rs 29 crore. Also in the function today, retired nurse from Gor Lower Dzongu, Lakmit Lepcha was felicitated.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also visited Mantam Lake where he was accorded with a warm welcome by the public and the panchayats.





# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Dying Young

**Piecemeal won't do anymore, Sikkim needs a concerted awareness drive on mental health issues now**

What drives a 14-year-old to suicide? Her whole life ahead of her and yet she decides to end it. What could be the reason that a person apparently "settled" in life decides to throw it all away and commit suicide leaving behind a child still in school and a wife stunned by the extreme step? Of course, there is an underlying psychological condition common to all cases of suicides, but while that may explain the incident, it does not justify the reality that these conditions are allowed to fester unattended (or not addressed in entirety) for so long the mind loses all hope. Tuesday was an especially bad day for Sikkim when at least two suicides were reported here.

Suicide is an aberration that returns to haunt Sikkim too often. Fathers, mothers, grandparents, even children; the State has too many from too many age-groups deciding to give up and end their lives. It is not enough to deduce that people end their lives because of problems they can't deal with any more or due to desperate poverty. These have not been the driving factors in most, if not all, cases reported here. Everyone has problems and many are poor, but only a few commit suicide. What is obviously happening is that the psychiatric help which keeps things in balance in one's mind is not adequately available in Sikkim. Contemplating suicide is one thing, to actually take the leap quite another. Obviously, not everyone does it, but those whose mental make-up has been debilitated by an unnoticed and untreated ailment are more wont to do it. Depression is rampant in Sikkim and although more people are coming forward nowadays to seek medical help, there are too many who still don't. Fact also remains that if everyone who requires psychiatric help started seeking medical help there simply won't be enough psychiatrists and counselors around to attend to anyone with any adequacy. And that is where paramedics, NGOs and social organizations will have to fill in.

With the comforting cushion of a large family gone, and a demanding work schedule to contend with, the pressures of modern lifestyles get the better of many and some snap under it. All this said and done, there is also a need to re-evaluate the awareness, or rather the lack of it, when it comes to mental health. It is not enough to have doctors at hand if the stigma that surrounds matters of mental health are not aggressively dispelled. For all the TB eradication, Leprosy and AIDS awareness hoardings and posters that occupy public spaces in Sikkim, there is not one addressing the looming challenge of mental health here. Sikkim now needs something as big as its CATCH programme to generate wider awareness about mental health issues. These should be directed as much at people directly in need of such attention as to their family and friends. Most people can still not differentiate between mood swings and acute depression. And even when they realize that someone among them is in need of professional help, they do not know how to handle the situation or where to seek help. Even if the State began the process of wider and more effective awareness generation on mental health issues, it would have taken a giant step forward towards saving more lives. It would be wonderful if some non-governmental agencies got the ball rolling, but that is unlikely to happen because that would require professionals and experience and long-term commitment. Most NGOs here do not have access to such resources and while they might be good for one-off awareness camps, these will not suffice anymore because Sikkim is now in desperate need of a statewide concerted effort on this front. That, only the State can deliver.

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

# Why natural resource finds are more than just a curse: the case of Mozambique

GERHARD TOEWS & PIERRE-LOUIS VÉZINA  
*theconversation.com*

Natural resources are often thought of as a curse in developing countries, slowing economic growth rather than driving it. But new results from our research show that discoveries themselves – before extraction happens – have their own economic consequences.

Our research shows that countries where natural resources are discovered are inundated with injections of capital, much like boomtowns during a gold rush. Giant and unexpected oil and gas discoveries act as news shocks, driving the business cycle by triggering foreign direct investment (FDI) bonanzas. Across countries, we find that FDI inflows driven by new projects in new industries increased by 58% in the two years following a giant discovery.

We illustrate how this works using Mozambique as a case study. Following a prolific gas discovery in 2009, foreign companies came pouring in and FDI ballooned off the chart. By our calculations 21,500 out of the 25,500 created by FDI in the five years following the first giant gas discovery in 2009 could be due to the discovery.

Our research upends conventional wisdom that the impact of new resource finds, such as gas, only have negative effects on the economy. Our results suggest that discoveries may lead to simultaneous foreign direct investment in many sectors, possibly diversifying economies and increasing capabilities and thus providing a window of opportunity for a growth takeoff.

This is important because it opens the door to policies being developed that exploit the early gains that can accrue from natural resource finds.

### MOZAMBIQUE'S OFFSHORE FINDS

Mozambique's offshore natural gas discoveries in the Rovuma basin since 2009 have been nothing short of prolific. They are now valued at approximately 50 times the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

While these gas fields are still under development, data from fDiMarkets – a branch of the Financial Times Group that collects and tracks FDI projects around the world – suggest that foreign companies moved in right after the first discovery in a multitude of industries. These companies created around 10,000 jobs across the country in the following three years.

In 2014 alone, the discovery attracted \$9 billion worth of FDI. FDI inflows boomed from 2010 onwards. In 2012 Mozambique received 15% of all sub-Saharan African FDI. In 2013-2015, FDI amounted to 70% of the country's average GDP, the highest share of all African countries.

Analysis suggests that none of this would have come in without the gas discovery. And very few jobs would have been created. A comparison of the weighted average of other developing countries with no discoveries shows that if Mozambique had not discovered natural gas, the number of jobs created by non-extractive FDI would have remained flat at around 1500 per year.

### ONE NEW FDI JOB CREATES AN EXTRA SIX

Our study also measured direct and indirect job-creation stemming from Mozambique's investment boom. We did this by linking projects



Pemba in northern Mozambique has seen a surge of new arrivals in step with investments to exploit off-shore gas deposits.

from the fDiMarkets database and data on firms from the country's 2002 and 2014 firm censuses to employment outcomes across districts, sectors, and periods. Data from the country's 2002-2014 Household Budget Surveys was used.

Our estimate suggests that for each new FDI job, an extra six were created in the same sector in the same district. This is because newly arrived foreign companies might demand services such as catering, driving, and cleaning services, as well as services from local law firms and consultancies experienced with the economic and legal environment.

Moreover, newly created FDI jobs are likely to be associated with higher salaries. Research elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa has shown that foreign-owned firms pay higher wages to non-production and managerial workers. They also offer more secure – or less temporary – work.

Thus, these jobs are likely to increase local income, and in turn, demand for local goods and services. For example, the multinational's employees might increase the demand for local fruit and vegetables, as well as for services such as housing, restaurants, and bars. This increase in demand is likely to be met by local businesses, creating more jobs and multiplying the initial number created directly by multinationals.

Our results also point to other interesting aspects of the extra jobs created. This includes the fact that around 55% are informal, that around 65% are taken by women, and that only workers with at least secondary education benefit.

To better grasp the magnitude of the multiplier effect of FDI, we asked: if we removed all foreign direct investment projects from Mozambique in 2014, how many jobs would disappear? This in-

cludes all the jobs directly associated with incoming investments (131,486 jobs in 2014) but also all the non-FDI jobs due to the multiplier.

We find there would be almost 1 million fewer jobs, out of a total of around 9.5 million jobs in Mozambique. The drop would be especially large in the manufacturing sector and in the capital of Maputo, where more than half would disappear.

### FACING REALITY

Of course, economic growth and diversification do not automatically follow from a large discovery. The Mozambique foreign investment bonanza occurred while the government accumulated an unsustainable level of debt, and many of the FDI projects may only have short-run effects.

This has happened before. For example, a foreign investment boom in Tete province in northern Mozambique went from El Dorado to nightmare when a coal project failed to materialise in 2014-15. This prompted Rio Tinto to sell its \$3.7 billion coal business in the country for \$50 million.

Additionally, the economy is still reeling from a debt scandal that led the International Monetary Fund to cancel its funding for Mozambique in 2016.

Even so, foreign investment bonanzas stemming from natural resource discoveries do provide an important economic growth opportunity, and the FDI effect needs to be considered when analysing the effects of natural resources on economic development.

*[Gerhard Toews is Post-doctoral researcher, Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies, University of Oxford; Pierre-Louis Vézina is Assistant Professor in Economics, Departments of Political Economy and International Development, King's College London]*

# Is it really 2018? The evidence suggests otherwise

CHARLES C. ROZIER  
*theconversation.com*

According to scholars throughout history, we actually aren't living in the year that is printed on our calendars. The more the origins and development of dating systems have been and are studied, the more it becomes apparent that time is only what we make it.

In the Western world, the year – be it 1066 or 2018 – predominantly refers to the number of years it has been since the birth of Jesus Christ. This is either referred to using the centuries-old "anno domini", or AD (a shortened form of "year of our Lord's incarnation"), or by the more recent "common era", or CE. But given that we don't actually know with 100% certainty which year Christ was born in, how do we know that it has been 2018 years since that time?

The problem derives from our sources: the four Gospels and the Pauline Epistles. Matthew and Luke's Gospels tell us that Christ was born "in the days of King Herod the Great", who died in what we would call 4BC. Luke adds that it was also during the census of Augustine and Quirinius' governance of Syria – which began after 6AD. Using this logic, Jesus would have been born either before or after what we use as our year zero, which is meant to signify his date of the birth.

The Gospels also tell us that Christ began his ministry in his 30th year, and that it lasted three years until the Passion. However, the claim that Christ's Passion and Resurrection oc-



curred at Passover (which are dated according to lunar and solar cycles) also leaves holes in the date of Jesus's death had he been born in the year zero: 33AD. Using Matthew and Luke's dates, the Passion should have happened in either 29AD or after 39AD. So how do we reconcile this mess? What year are we really in, according to the AD system?

### DECADES AHEAD

This dating controversy fascinated Christian theologians and thinkers throughout the Middle Ages. In their attempts to reconcile it, the Scythian monk Dionysius Exiguus (who died c.544AD) and then the English scholar, Bede (died 734AD), worked out that the solar and lunar cycles – which gave the day of the week and date of the full moon, respectively – used to calculate when Easter would be each year, repeated themselves ev-

ery 532 years.

This 532-year cycle – based on multiplying the 19-year cycle of the moon and the 28-year cycle of the sun – was laid out in tables, and records of well-known historical events were added to the margins in an effort to match up that particular year's date of Easter with historical events which were known to have occurred in that same year.

And so the search for the date of long past and future Easters (usually referred by medieval authors to as the science of "computus", meaning "calculation" or "computation") became irrevocably linked with the study of dated historical events, and of history. But in using this method, Dionysius and Bede both came to find that their version of the annus domini and their placement of the birth of Christ contained errors.

In what we would call the year 1076, an Irish monk and chronicler, Marianus Scotus, completed a sprawling chronicle of world history. Crunching the numbers on all known dated historical events, Marianus demonstrated that Christ was in fact born 22 years earlier than previously acknowledged, meaning that he was writing in what should have been dated 1098AD, not 1076AD.

Marianus' chronicle was circulated throughout Christian Europe, and although his revised annus domini was well received, the whole of Western Europe did not suddenly change their numbering of the year. It seems that the accuracy of this dating system was less important than the fact that it existed, and worked as a means of locating dates of past and future events in an intelligible framework. To overhaul thousands of years' worth of recorded history and centuries of legal and administrative documentation, just does not seem to have been deemed worth the effort for Marianus' contemporaries.

So, how do we know what year we are in? Clearly, we are in whatever year we say we are, according to whatever dating system we choose to use. While 2018AD/CE dominates current dating measures, we might just as well choose to use the measures provided by other religions, beliefs or cultures. And who knows what measures may be deemed more applicable to future generations.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Medieval History, Swansea University]*



# GTA agrees to railway line NOC; Binay Tamang shares details of project

## SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 APR:

GTA Board of Administrators Chairperson, Binay Tamang, today said that a No Objection Certificate will be handed over to the Indian Railways for the construction of the railway line from Sevoke to Rangpo within a week's time.

"This we are giving as the demands of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration have been agreed upon by the Railways," he said.

A meeting was also held today at Lalkothi today between six railway officials from Delhi and Guwahati and GTA representatives including Mr Tamang.

Mr Tamang maintained that the forest villagers will not be affected by this project and that the demand of Forest Rights Act was being taken up with the centre and state government.

He shared that the railway officials informed him that four railway stations along this line will fall within GTA jurisdiction at Sevoke, Rambh, Teesta (underground) and Melli. The final fifth station will in Rangpo in



Sikkim.

"When the present Bengal chief minister was the Railway minister in the year 2009 the foundation stone was laid for this project but due to political disturbances and some technical difficulties the project could not take off. There were discussions going on regarding the NOC with the Railway ministry for which looking at the public sentiment and welfare we had made some demands which they have agreed to. Moreover, this is also an important project looking at the national interest with Darjeeling and

Sikkim bordering China.

Looking at the Railways agreeing to what we had asked we will soon give the NOC within a week's time," said Mr Tamang.

According to the GTA BoA chairman the project cost in the year 2008-2009 was Rs 1339.48 crore and due to the delay after revision the project cost escalated to Rs. 4084.69 crore in the year 2015 with the cost now being estimated to be anywhere between Rs 5,500 crore to Rs 6,000 crore.

He maintained that the total distance that the railway line will cover from Sevoke to Rangpo will be

44.98 km with 41.52 km falling under GTA area and the rest in Sikkim.

The project will consist of 14 tunnels with the majority of the project being underground at a depth of 30 metres to 1 km below. About 38.46 km of rail line will be underground. Apart from that there will be 22 bridges with 14 of them being major ones and the rest minor.

Mr Tamang added that the railways will be using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) for digging of the tunnels which will be vibration less and a safe method that will not af-

fect the eco-system.

Mr Tamang also maintained that this project would also ensure self employment along a 10 km radius of the railway stations with hotels, restaurants along with taxis that could come up.

Commenting on the demands of the forest villagers, Mr Tamang said, "The project will not affect the forest villagers as about 80 percent of the rail lines will pass through tunnels which will be below the land. The railways have also assured us that they will not allow them to be affected. As for their demand of

Forest Rights Act districts is not related to this project. Districts like Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch-behar has already got them but there are 168 forest villages in the GTA area and all should come under it. We have taken up this matter with both the state government and the centre as forests here fall under both of them along with the GTA and only after verification this can be done."

On the other hand the NFR Chief Administrative Officer [CON II A], Mr Prakash, said, "The process of NOC being given to us has started and we guarantee that all issues of public concern and the commitments we have given will be fulfilled. Once the project starts it will take 4 to 5 years to be completed."

Mr Prakash maintained that the NATM method is used worldwide with such methods already used in Kashmir, Manipur and Mizoram. He also added that their dream was to take the railway line right up to Nathula at Sikkim but that could only come after their present project is completed.



## CPI-ML suspends its lone Jharkhand MLA for casting invalid vote in RS poll

RANCHI, APR 4 (PTI):

The CPI-ML (Liberation) has suspended its lone MLA in Jharkhand assembly Raj Kumar Yadav for casting an invalid vote in place of voting for the Congress candidate to whom the party had backed.

The CPI-ML had decided to vote for Congress nominee in the RS poll on March 23 in Jharkhand, but its lone MLA's vote was rendered invalid. Media reports suggested MLA's design behind it.

Congress second candidate Dheeraj Kumar had lost the poll to the Rajya Sabha in Jharkhand.

BJP's Sameer Oraon and Congress Dheeraj Kumar Sahu had won

the two seats from Jharkhand for the Upper House in the biennials poll in March.

Yadav represents Dhanwar assembly seat in Giridih district.

The party had taken decision to vote for Congress candidate Dheeraj Kumar in the (March 23) Rajya Sabha election. Possibly due to a technical flaw his vote was cancelled, a party release said here.

The CPI-ML (Liberation) office Secretary Sukhdev Prasad said quoting release that Yadav has been suspended following the "technical flaw" that led to the cancellation of the vote.

The party's probe committee would look into it.

## Electoral roll revision ordered for Darj and Kpg

### SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 04 APR:

After a gap of almost a year and a half, the order for Special Summary Revision of Electoral rolls of Kalimpong and Darjeeling district has come out.

The Election Commission of India has sent a letter to State Election Commission to conduct special summary revision which was last conducted with cut-off date of 01 Jan 2017 and final publication was done on 05 Jan 2017. Later last year, because of the agitation no summary revision was conducted in either District.

Chief Electoral Officer (WB), Dr. Aariz Aftab, has sent a letter to both District Election Officers.

The draft publication of Rolls is scheduled for 16 April and till 02 May, electors can file claims and objections.

The final publication of electoral rolls is scheduled for 15 June.

## Sports university to come up at Chabua: Assam CM

CHABUA (ASSAM), APR 3 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today described sports as one of the thrust areas of his government, and said that a dedicated sports university will be set up here.

Speaking at the felicitation ceremony of triumphant teams of the 8th Hockey India Sub-Junior National Championship, Sonowal said the state government has decided to establish the "exclusive" sports varsity at Chabua, realising the immense potential of sporting activities in Assam.

"Sports has been one of the thrust areas of the state government, as the present dispensation has been taking several steps for the promotion and development of sports in the state," he said.

The chief minister said the Assam government is on the threshold of starting indigenous sports events at all villages from this month.

Congratulating the players for helping Assam emerge victorious in the championship, Sonowal, who was earlier sports minister at the Centre, said such feats act as a catalyst to the government's bid of making the state a hub of India's sporting activities.

He also advocated a collective approach between the state government and the people at large for promotion of sports.

## IIT KGP happy to see it ranked in top list of five categories

KOLKATA, APR 4 (PTI):

Figuring in the top list in all five categories in NIRF 2018 ranking, IIT Kharagpur Director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti has said it is great to see the institution tops in architecture and law.

Chakrabarti said in an official Facebook post, "IIT Kharagpur is the only Institute to be ranked in the top list in all 5 categories for which it was considered."

"Overall (5), Engineering (4), Management (7), Architecture (1), Law (4). This shows our unique strength as an overall Institution in the strong competition from specialised Institutes like IIMs, SPAs, NLUs and metro based IITs," the director said.

He said it remained

great to see IIT KGP topped in Architecture and in law in spite of Schols of Planning and Architecture and the National Law Universities.

There was a need to improve in each stream and maintain the position in architecture. The teacher-student ratio was expected to be fixed by next year.

The Jadavpur University ranked 13 in the overall ranking category and six among universities category, JU Vice-chancellor Prof Suranjan Das said.

"While we are happy that JU's record in research and academics has been acknowledged, I think we missed a few points on the two issues of public perception and paving more amenities

for the differently-abled," he said.

Das said public perception needed to be changed about the JU as students' agitation had not impeded the academic activities of the institution and there were institutions like the JNU which also witnessed such agitations. With regard to the facilities for differently abled more features should be added and the matter would be raised in the next meeting.

However, he said, the old building of the JU came in the way to have more facilities for the physically disadvantaged as compared to modern buildings of new institutions which could incorporate such features more easily.



## HPC (D) militants will be brought to Aizawl on Saturday

AIZAWL, APR 04 (PTI):

Altogether 103 Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) militants will be brought here from the Mizoram-Manipur border town of Zikhawchhuah by state police on Saturday next, an official said today.

State additional secretary for home Lalsiamzama told PTI that the HPC(D) cadres were scheduled to be transported from the border from today, but the state

government was forced to defer the exercise due to extreme bad road condition in the border area.

He said that the HPC(D) cadres would lay down their weapons on April 12. The state government and the HPC(D) had signed an agreement on Monday last to bring lasting peace in the north eastern part of the state adjoining Manipur and to bring amicable and lasting solution to the Hmar imbroglio.

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## Smith won't challenge one-year ban

**MELBOURNE, APR 4 (PTI):** Former Australia skipper Steve Smith won't challenge the one-year ban imposed on him for his role in the ball-tampering scandal as the troubled cricketer sought to justify the punishment, saying it was meant to send out a "strong message".

Smith, his deputy David Warner and young Cameron Bancroft were handed bans up to one year by Cricket Australia following the scandal during their disastrous South Africa tour, which ended in an embarrassing 1-3 series defeat.

The trio has time till April 11 to challenge the bans.

"I would give anything to have this behind me and be back representing my country. But I meant what I said about taking full responsibility as Captain of the team. I won't be challenging the sanctions. They've been imposed by CA to send a strong message and I have accepted them," Smith wrote on his twitter page.

There is speculation that Warner may challenge the punishment.

The Australian Cricketers Association (ACA) president Greg Dyer had expressed his displeasure over the severity of the punishment, saying it was disproportionate.

"Of the dozen or so matters of this type (ball-tampering), the most severe suspension to date has been a ban for two one-day internationals. The most expensive fine has been 100 percent of a match fee," Dyer had said.

"The informed conclusion is that as right as the motivation is, the proposed penalties are disproportionate relative to precedent. The grading and sanctions proposed were significantly higher than that applied by the ICC following the game," Dyer added.

Meanwhile, the British media has reported that Smith, who has also been banned to play domestic cricket but allowed to compete in grade cricket in his country, may turn up for an English County side when the season begins April 13.

# Medal quest at Gold Coast: Mirabai Chanu carries Indian hopes on Day 1

**POONAM MEHRA**  
**GOLD COAST, APR 4 (PTI):** World champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu will be in focus for her high medal-winning chances but India's high-profile shuttlers and boxers will also be watched keenly when they open their campaigns at the 21st Commonwealth Games here tomorrow.

Competing in the 48kg category, Chanu, who claimed a silver at the 2014 CWG, is being considered a sure shot medal prospect for India as her personal best of 194kg stands over 10kg more than her nearest rival in the competition.

Chanu had become only the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to emerge a world champion in November 2017 when she created a new world record of 194kg - 85kg snatch and 109kg clean-and-jerk - to lift gold at the World Weightlifting Championships in Anaheim, USA.

None of the lifters in her competition have touched even 180kg with her likely closest rival,

Amanda Braddock of Canada, having a personal best of 173kg.

While Chanu's medal prospects make her the top draw for the Indian contingent, also in action will be the shuttlers, boxers, the women's hockey team and the table tennis players among others.

The hockey team had finished fifth the last time around and will be beginning its campaign against Wales tomorrow morning. The Indians had done well in the tour of South Korea coming into the Games, winning the series in a morale-boosting effort.

"We have practiced hard for these Games, I hope the results will reflect that," coach Harendra Singh said.

The most star-studded Indian line-up in the Games, the badminton squad, has a busy schedule on the first competition day. The team will be in action in the mixed event and has clashes lined up against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

While the Sri Lanka match is scheduled for morning, the face-off



against the rivals from across the border is due in the second half of the day. The likes of PV Sindhu, K Srikanth are not expected to be stretched much in these matches.

After going all out to ensure that her father gets accommodation in the Games Village as an accredited official, including threatening a pullout, Saina Nehwal would be watched for how ferocious a performance she pulls off with the racquet.

Then there are the boxers. Only one of them -- the 2010 CWG gold-medallist Manoj Kumar (69kg) -- will be taking the ring tomorrow.

The veteran would be up against Nigeria's Osita Umeh in his opening clash and will be aiming to ensure that the focus firmly shifts from the needle controversy that marred the squad's build-up.

The controversy ended after their doctor Amol Patil was let off

with a reprimand for not disposing syringes, used to administer multi-vitamins to one of the boxers, as per the stipulated norms.

On the squash court, Dipika Pallikal, Joshna Chinnappa, Sourav Ghosal and Harinder Pal Sandhu will kick off their singles campaigns.

Pallikal and Chinnappa had claimed the women's doubles gold in the 2014 Games and it remains to be seen whether a singles med-

al becomes a reality this time around.

The build-up to the Games has been far from ideal for them owing to the resignation of their foreign coach Achraf El Karargui due to differences with the national federation.

"We've never won a medal in an individual event before. It would be something special if he could do it," said national coach Cyrus Poncha, referring to current world No.13 and third seed Ghosal.

Another controversy-hit squad from India in action tomorrow is table tennis. One of their senior players, Soumyajit Ghosh, was dropped from the team owing to rape allegations, and the TT players would be eager to ensure that this CWG is best remembered for their exploits with the racquet.

While the women's team will square off against Vanuatu and Fiji, the men's team comprising the likes of veteran A Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyam will be facing Trinidad and Tobago and Northern Ireland.

Away from the spot-

light and having dealt with their fair share of selection controversies prior to the Games, the Indian men's team of artistic gymnasts will be presenting their challenge on the opening day of competition.

The spotlight here will be on comeback-man Ashish Kumar, who had scripted history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to claim CWG medals. He had claimed a bronze in floor exercise and a silver in vault.

Plagued by injuries ever since, Ashish would be aiming to reclaim the lost time with a strong showing here.

Also there would be the cyclists even though medal expectations from them are not too high. Nonetheless, a certain Deborah Herold's name continues to evoke some curiosity despite the former Asian medalist's lack of any recent achievements.

The men's and women's basketball teams will also be playing their respective opening matches tomorrow, against Cameroon and Jamaica.

## Ronaldo magic fires Real past 10-man Juventus

**TURIN, APR 4 (AFP):** Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score in 10 successive Champions League games as he struck twice for holders Real Madrid in a 3-0 win at Juventus in the quarter-final first leg.

Ronaldo grabbed the opening goal in Turin after just three minutes and added a second on the hour with a sensational overhead bicycle kick, taking him to 14 goals in this season's competition.

Juventus forward Paulo Dybala was sent off on 66 minutes before Ronaldo set up Marcelo to cap the rout and leave Real in complete control of the tie going into the second leg in Madrid on April 11.

The 33-year-old Portugal star had shared the previous goalscoring record with former Manchester United teammate Ruud van Nistelrooy, who found the net in nine consecutive matches between 2002 and 2003.

"You can say he's one of the most beautiful players in the history of football," said Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

"It's not easy to get three goals past Juve on their own pitch. But in the end it was teamwork, you have to work as a team to get this result."

"Of course Juventus aren't happy with the result tonight, but I will always have Juve in my heart," added Zidane, who spent five seasons at the Italian club as a player.



"This 3-0 is really hard to digest," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, who has guided the club to the final twice in the past three seasons.

"In my opinion, from Cardiff (last year's final defeat) to today we have even improved."

"There is absolutely nothing to hold against the lads. We faced an extraordinary team with probably the best player in the world. Now we have to raise our heads, think about the future and the championship."

Zidane opted for the same line-up as last year's final when the Spaniards crushed Juventus 4-1 to claim a record 12th European title, with Isco preferred to Gareth Bale.

Some dreadful defending from Juventus early gave Isco the space on the left flank to supply Ronaldo for the opener, with goalkeeper Gianluigi Buf-

fon helpless to stop the Portuguese's expert flick.

Mattia De Sciglio sent a shot flashing across goal on 34 minutes that just evaded the sliding Gonzalo Higuain, who was then denied by a stunning reflex save from Keylor Navas after getting on the end of a Dybala free-kick.

Real looked set to score again when Toni Kroos latched onto a loose ball, his blistering long-range effort rattling the crossbar.

The Spanish giants will be without captain Ramos next week after the centre-back was booked for a foul on Dybala, whose resulting free-kick was deflected just wide.

But Real doubled their lead when confusion in the Juve defence allowed Ronaldo to keep alive an attack, Dani Carvajal crossing back into the area



## Tokyo 2020 Olympics 'back on track' after rocky start

**TOKYO, APR 4 (AFP):** On a nondescript patch of land east of Tokyo, cranes are whirring frantically against a city skyscraper backdrop as 200 workers toil on the 2020 Olympic canoe venue.

With the Pyeongchang winter games closed, Tokyo is stepping up preparations for the next event on the Olympic calendar, with busy building sites dotted around the Japanese capital.

Unlike in previous Olympic host countries, where there was a scramble to finish venues on time, Japan appears to be living up to its reputation for efficiency, with foreman after foreman telling AFP on a recent tour of sites: "We are on schedule."

The Aquatics Centre in Tokyo Bay is a hive of activity with workers scurrying around the huge site, pushing to finish a venue that will eventually welcome 24,000

cheering supporters.

"Roughly 25 percent of the work is already done," said Daishuu Tone, director of venues for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

"We are confident we will be on time," he added, with the first test events scheduled for mid-2019. The city's governor Yuriko Koike told AFP in an interview that Tokyo was making "steady progress" towards hosting the games, the second in its history after 1964.

"We hope to make it a wonderful Games," she said during an interview in an imposing 48-floor office looming over the Tokyo skyline.

And Tokyo 2020 chief executive officer Toshio Muto is also bullish, telling reporters: "Everything is going very smoothly and I can clearly say that most of the competition venues are on track and they will be completed as scheduled."

# PIL in Madras High Court against IPL-11

**CHENNAI, APR 4 (PTI):** A PIL was today filed in the Madras High Court, seeking to restrain the BCCI from conducting the 11th edition of Indian Premier League in the absence of adequate measures to prevent match-fixing and betting.

When the petition by IPS officer G Sampathkumar came up, the First Bench comprising Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice A Selvam ordered notice to the Union home ministry and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

It then posted the matter for further hearing to



April 13.

The bench orally observed that though

the apprehensions of the petitioner were bona fide, how could the game be stalled just because there was possibility of match-fixing and other offences.

To this, the petitioner said the intention was not to stall the game and agreed to amend the prayer accordingly.

Noting that it cannot be denied that such offences were still in existence, the bench said it was not sure what preventive measures can be brought in to check them.

"We have many laws to prevent corruption including

the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, but can we say that corruption does not exist in society," it wondered.

The petitioner said as an investigating officer from Chennai, he was instrumental in exposing 2013 spot-fixing and betting in IPL matches.

"Contrary to the Lodha Committee report, vested interests still continue to be protected in the IPL and the questions of conflict of interest remain unaddressed by BCCI," he alleged.

This apart, he claimed the cricket board does not have any system of accountabili-

ty in performance of its anti-corruption unit and does not have a database of earnings of its players nor about bookies, fixers and kingpins of illegal betting.

In 2015, a panel appointed by the Supreme Court suspended Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Rajasthan Royals after finding them guilty in an illegal betting and match-fixing probe. Both franchises are back this season after serving the two-year ban.

The 11th edition of IPL begins on April 7 with a match between Mumbai Indians and CSK in Mumbai.



Myanmar minister to visit Rohingya camps in Bangladesh

**DHAKA, APR 4 (AFP):** A Myanmar minister will tour camps for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, an official said today, the first such visit since Myanmar's army drove nearly 700,000 members of the Muslim minority over the border.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry confirmed that Myanmar's social welfare, relief and resettlement minister Win Myat Aye would visit the congested camps, which are home to nearly one million Rohingya refugees in total.

"His programme has not been fixed yet," Tareque Muhammad, a director-general at the foreign ministry, told AFP. The visit is slated for April 11 or 12.

US and UN officials say the military crack-down which began last August in the mainly Buddhist nation, purportedly to flush out guerrillas, amounted to ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya.

Another Bangladeshi official told AFP it would be the first visit by a Myanmar minister to the camps, which have sheltered Rohingya refugees since the early 1990s, for more than a decade. Win Myat Aye is the deputy head of a task force led by Aung San Suu Kyi on the crisis in Rakhine state, and a top official overseeing a stalled agreement with Bangladesh to repatriate some 750,000 refugees.

Myanmar has approved several hundred Rohingya from a list of thousands to return to their homeland but not a single one has yet crossed back. Meanwhile Myanmar authorities are accused of bulldozing Rohingya villages in Rakhine and seeking to erase evidence at sites where their troops are accused of atrocities. Myanmar has denied the charge but blocked investigators from visiting an area where thousands of Rohingya, long persecuted in the country, are believed to have been killed.

Sharifs and Imran under threat from Taliban: Report

**ISLAMABAD, APR 4 (PTI):** The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is biding its time to target former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his brother Shahbaz Sharif, cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan and their families, a media report said today.

"We have received multiple intelligence reports, submitted by the premier intelligence agency, that the TTP may attack the family members of Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif," a senior Interior Ministry official was quoted as saying by The News.

Following the intelligence reports, the National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta) dispatched a formal threat letter to the police and law enforcement agencies, the paper said.

The reports were received on April 1 and the same day an alert was issued to the departments concerned for taking preventive steps, the paper added.

It said a separate intelligence report was also received stating that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan faced a serious threat to his life.

Citing its source, the paper said the information about the



threat had also been communicated to Imran Khan and his associates on the directions of Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal.

The intelligence report was received a couple of days before Imran Khan's visit to Pind Daden Khan, Jhelum district, on March 14, the source said.

Fawad Hussain Chaudhry, the party's central spokesman and a close associate of Imran Khan, confirmed the threat.

"Yes, we were conveyed about the threat officially," Fawad was quoted as saying by the paper.

Citing the source, it said that when Imran Khan was addressing party workers in Pind Daden Khan, a phone call had advised him to avoid public appearance. The call was also made to his party leaders, including Fawad Chaudhry.

Last year on December 27,

exactly 10 years after the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, a letter written by the ISI to the interior ministry on December 19, 2007 surfaced in a media report in which it was claimed by the agency that al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden had planned her assassination.

The al-Qaeda had claimed responsibility for the deadly attack on Bhutto.

Lanka JO moves no-confidence motion against PM

**COLOMBO, APR 4 (PTI):** Sri Lanka's Joint Opposition today moved a no-confidence motion against embattled Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, a step that could threaten the country's unity government.

The motion was handed over to Speaker Karu Jayasuriya by the Joint Opposition and was debated today in the Parliament.

The Joint Opposition has accused 68-year-old Wickremesinghe of financial mismanagement and failing to tackle anti-Muslim riots last month in the central Kandy district.

Former strongman Wickremesinghe needs 113 votes in the 225-member Parliament to defeat the motion.

Speaking at the motion against the prime minister, R Sampanthan, Tamil National Alliance (TNA) leader, stressed on the need to resolve the ethnic conflict which had plagued the island.

"I see this is the first step of a plan to bring down the government by going against the mandate received in 2015," Sampanthan told the Parliament.

Recalling that the government had proposed a constitutional process to resolve the long standing issue, Sampanthan appealed to the senior members of the Joint Opposition to come together in the task of bringing permanent peace and unity.

"We can become the economic hub in the Indian Ocean if we have lasting peace in the country," Sampanthan said.

The TNA is expected to vote in favour of Wickremesinghe, giving the premier an advantage in the vote.

Reports coming from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) faction of President Maithripala Sirisena suggested that the party was split in the vote.



Russia's spy chief has claimed the Salisbury nerve agent attack was "staged" by Britain and the US, ahead of an emergency meeting of an international watchdog. The top body of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will meet on Wednesday morning, at Moscow's request, to discuss the attempted murder of ex-Russian agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia last month. The OPCW's executive council, made up of countries' representatives, will hold an extraordinary gathering in The Hague with the Salisbury attack the only item on the agenda. Russia demanded the behind closed-doors talks after the UK Government accused Moscow of being responsible for use of a military-grade chemical weapon in the Wiltshire city. The UK Government said Russia was using the meeting to "undermine" the work of the OPCW.

China hits back at US with 25 per cent tariff hike on American products

**BEIJING, APR 4 (PTI):** In a retaliatory measure, China today decided to impose new tariffs of 25 per cent worth USD 50 billion on 106 American products, including aircraft and cars, as the world's two largest economies edged closer towards an all-out trade war.

The move comes after the Trump administration yesterday published a list of about 1,300 Chinese exports that could be targeted for tariffs.

The Chinese Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, in a retaliatory measure, decided to impose additional tariff of 25 per cent on 106 items of products under 14 categories worth USD 50 billion, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

The date of implementation will depend on when the US government imposes the tariffs on Chinese products, it said.

"Disregarding strong representations by China, the US announced the tariff proposals that are completely unfounded, a typical unilateralist and protectionist practice that China strongly condemns and firmly opposes," China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said today.

The MOC said the US published the list in disregard of the mutually-beneficial and win-win nature of the China-US commercial cooperation in the past 40 years, the appeal of the Chinese and American business communities and

the interests of consumers, it said.

The move went against the interests of China, the US and the world economy, violating the basic principles and spirit of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it said.

The US plans to apply the tariffs to about USD 50 billion worth of goods to punish China for its alleged theft of trade secrets, including software, patents and other technology.

US President Donald Trump is demanding China to cut down USD 375 billion trade deficit by USD 100 billion in about a month.

His move sparked concerns over a trade war between the two largest economies of the world.

China has already slapped tariffs on 128 US products, including wine and pork, totalling to USD 3 billion in retaliation to Trump's move to impose tariffs on steel and aluminium.

China plans to immediately bring relevant US practice to the dispute settlement body of the WTO, and is ready to take countermeasures on US products with equal force, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

"We have the confidence and ability to respond to any US trade protectionist measures," the MOC said.

Yesterday, another Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told media that China will not shy away from a trade war and fight till the end.

**MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES**

**LABHLAXMI GEMINI**

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:04/04/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 5854

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3172 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1210

4th Prize Rs.300/- 4799 5th Prize Rs. 202/- 4063

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1010 1015 1092 1108 1120 1174 1201 1216 1218 1240

1285 1325 1340 1353 1402 1430 1488 1495 1508 1510

1516 1578 1581 1594 1606 1607 1611 1677 1688 1702

1706 1716 1717 1726 1758 1854 1868 1923 1962 1970

1972 1990 2018 2077 2078 2083 2092 2151 2181 2183

2187 2219 2223 2227 2238 2287 2310 2319 2329 2336

2393 2466 2584 2606 2611 2612 2625 2764 2768 2776

2792 2830 2852 2871 2879 2904 2921 2940 2946 2947

3001 3027 3038 3052 3066 3115 3123 3128 3196 3233

3266 3281 3299 3337 3372 3410 3429 3441 3444 3470

3493 3495 3545 3570 3578 3584 3601 3602 3622 3677

3725 3741 3755 3805 3819 3870 3872 3878 3886 3922

3938 3944 3950 3979 4003 4011 4023 4032 4078 4099

4100 4103 4118 4135 4139 4146 4190 4205 4225 4272

4286 4328 4342 4376 4448 4457 4480 4487 4498 4541

4597 4631 4658 4664 4678 4701 4768 4844 4883 4890

4898 4935 4972 4984 4999 5003 5057 5061 5131 5141

5146 5165 5189 5218 5233 5271 5293 5329 5369 5379

5407 5426 5429 5468 5482 5494 5525 5556 5607 5643

5721 5790 5816 5830 5837 5913 5924 5931 5937 5981

6026 6029 6043 6161 6163 6187 6188 6203 6206 6221

6241 6372 6397 6415 6431 6439 6446 6454 6478 6508

6515 6517 6534 6567 6633 6637 6647 6678 6703 6724

6750 6823 6842 6844 6848 6863 6877 6923 6940 6992

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The Director , Mizoram State Lotteries,

For result please visit: [www.mizoramlotteries.com](http://www.mizoramlotteries.com)

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES**

**MUMBAILAXMI SEETA**

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:04/04/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 4798 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1094

3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 4780 4th Prize Rs. 502/- 4476

5th Prize Rs.200/-

1015 1017 1228 1234 1327 1332 1344 1359 1382 1409

1453 1502 1513 1533 1592 1594 1660 1694 1801 1803

1810 2049 2070 2132 2205 2209 2354 2422 2530 2782

2863 2973 2994 3040 3046 3076 3109 3130 3160 3176

3201 3312 3398 3399 3435 3436 3535 3584 3601 3606

3630 3642 3689 3745 3914 3932 3935 3936 3961 4000

4086 4220 4252 4408 4431 4434 4473 4523 4539 4712

4733 4772 4786 4815 4937 4985 5078 5086 5102 5109

5128 5152 5239 5244 5287 5291 5317 5436 5450 5516

5622 5750 5798 5846 5850 5892 5944 5986 5991 5999

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1000 1043 1055 1073 1074 1087 1095 1175 1194 1204

1276 1303 1305 1321 1329 1355 1403 1443 1467 1550

1600 1692 1736 1778 1802 1804 1807 1813 1816 1818

1849 1878 1892 1936 1950 1994 2008 2027 2037 2043

2054 2067 2081 2107 2194 2216 2224 2227 2283 2330

2335 2341 2346 2349 2355 2357 2371 2401 2429 2446

2458 2471 2500 2528 2546 2586 2592 2598 2616 2644

2648 2649 2725 2745 2806 2832 2853 2887 2888 2890

2901 2939 2949 2958 2967 3008 3019 3054 3062 3073

3081 3087 3092 3093 3103 3111 3196 3213 3226 3244

3245 3263 3275 3294 3296 3333 3371 3466 3469 3494

3524 3557 3578 3589 3592 3614 3667 3722 3724 3727

3743 3768 3775 3786 3788 3822 3833 3835 3839 3940

4009 4017 4063 4113 4189 4192 4215 4243 4250 4306

4325 4389 4399 4426 4471 4487 4497 4555 4563 4624

4628 4634 4743 4759 4781 4784 4831 4841 4898 4959

4964 5002 5015 5028 5050 5056 5088 5099 5115 5184

5231 5238 5307 5327 5333 5348 5382 5448 5453 5476

5493 5500 5515 5544 5619 5632 5639 5644 5670 5711

5746 5801 5844 5859 5868 5874 5888 5960 5965 5981

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**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR FAITHFUL MORNING**

Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards

Draw No:18 DrawDate on:04/04/18

1st Prize Rs.26.02 Lakhs/- 82C 17261

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 17261 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

01724 08106 23046 45784 51217

53187 57602 68937 70849 97002

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1208 1612 1921 3714 5174 5719 6596 7431 8586 9352

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0413 0872 1027 1688 3705 7429 8218 8253 8673 9516

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0018 0079 0102 0158 0166 0212 0372 0401 0645 0711

0784 0906 1332 1674 1914 1931 1977 1997 2024 2170

2378 2419 2487 2618 3177 3183 3257 3331 3375 3500

3722 3723 3757 4187 4206 4219 4224 4346 4356 4396

4530 4535 4554 4575 4621 4676 4705 4731 5004 5074

5093 5242 5386 5540 5700 5819 6017 6070 6113 6314

6366 6433 6446 6516 6577 6600 6743 6997 7247 7285

7509 7545 7596 7673 7781 7782 7919 7953 8079 8246

8450 8451 8452 8485 8693 8725 8856 8859 8863 8911

8981 9219 9240 9281 9624 9648 9707 9742 9907 9986

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR VALUABLE**

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards

Draw No:18 DrawDate on:04/04/18

1st Prize Rs.26.02 Lakhs/- 84E 36236

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 36236 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

02078 10801 12687 17743 19203

19504 30905 61767 72357 86452

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1517 1885 2180 2233 4490 5966 6405 8507 8713 9236

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0037 2869 5045 5327 6923 7174 7611 8206 8624 9692

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0165 0258 0262 0483 0599 0676 0763 0831 1000 1022

1053 1099 1282 1513 1585 1670 1759 1978 2020 2073

2185 2213 2475 2638 2763 2766 3049 3161 3216 3221

3489 3513 3529 3531 3612 3736 3940 3942 4050 4077

4249 4258 4294 4368 4401 4420 4433 4617 4699 5046

5371 5721 5782 5823 5837 5876 5959 5981 5991 6076

6102 6270 6223 6280 6314 6395 5474 6478 6613 6639

6669 6703 6970 6985 7070 7120 7177 7222 7391 7744

8129 8132 8162 8325 8330 8354 8506 8722 8745 8905

8941 9083 9230 9526 9619 9633 9780 9801 9817 9888

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR EAGLE EVENING**

Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:36 DrawDate on:04/04/18

1st Prize Rs.26.02 Lakhs/- 66J 82576

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 82576 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

08126 27487 33618 47579 62778

66309 70028 72419 90385 90808

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0055 2507 2645 2833 3452 4313 5191 5723 8267 8654

4th Prize Rs.250/- 2754 3676 3879 4280 6098 6359 6876 7607 8228 9277

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0061 0117 0138 0154 0159 0607 1063 1087 1178 1337

1352 1358 1575 1577 1645 1823 1996 2040 2158 2217

2239 2395 2523 2527 2555 2629 2742 2777 2841 3043

3147 3165 3195 3200 3417 3572 3585 3783 3883 3927

4036 4072 4222 4233 4403 4451 4577 4618 4699 4723

4852 5013 5042 5075 5204 5295 5420 5447 5803 5914

6126 6150 6236 6379 6413 6419 6533 6635 6748 6785

6997 7071 7106 7573 7922 7950 8148 8157 8175 8217

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9589 9612 9620 9642 9761 9896 9899 9909 9937 9995

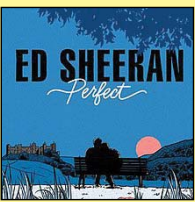
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE





THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

- 1. Drake- God's Plan
- 2. Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line- Meant To Be
- 3. Bruno Mars featuring Cardi B- Finesse [Remix]
- 4. Post Malone featuring Ty Dolla Sign- Psycho
- 5. Ed Sheeran- Perfect
- 6. BlocBoyJ featuring Drake- Look Alive
- 7. Zedd, Marren Morris and Grey- The Middle
- 8. Lil Dicky featuring Chris Brown- Freaky Friday
- 9. XXXTentacion- Sad
- 10. Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug- Havana

ADELE OFFICIATES TV HOST ALAN CARR'S WEDDING

Singer posed in priest's robes as she confirms she officiated wedding of her 'best friends' in the garden of her Los Angeles home

Adele took to Instagram on Tuesday to reveal she wed her 'two best friends', Alan Carr and his now-husband Paul Drayton in the garden of her LA home.

After Alan's earlier appearance on This Morning, when he detailed the nuptials, she shared a snap while posing in priest's robes and standing before a flower wall.

She added a caption reading: 'Seeing as the cats out the bag. I married two of my best friends in January. You know me any excuse to dress up.'

Alan revealed Adele not only hosted his wedding to Paul but she actually conducted the ceremony.

The comedian told the story of his nuptials to stand-in hosts Emma Willis and Rylan Clark-Neal, after revealing the day before on The One Show that the Rolling In The Deep singer had played hostess to the event at her home in Los Angeles.

And adding an extra detail to the mix, the Chatty Man host revealed the singer got ordained so that she could perform the marriage itself.

Alan, who has known Adele since she was 19, confessed: 'Yeah, [it was] in January. We got married in Adele's back garden, in LA. I'm not giving you



any postcodes! She's known me and Paul for ages.

'She said: "I want to do your special day. I want to do everything". She got ordained and she married us. She is the kindest, most sweetest. She flew us to Vegas to see Celine Dion sing. She [Adele] sang my first dance. It was the best day of my life.'

In the city of Los Angeles, you can become ordained via a quick and free online form with the Universal Life Church.

After the application is approved and a minister license is within possession, the individual will be eligible to of-

ficiate a wedding.

All that needs to be done is for the person officiating to contact the county where the ceremony is taking place and ask what documents they need to present.

Meanwhile, continuing to gush about the music star, Adele went on: 'She's the loveliest person going. What you see is what you get. Simon her lovely partner [too].'

'It was lovely. I just want to tell everyone. She won't say because she's so private. Flowers, three-course meal, she just planned it all. It was the best day of our life.'



BLACK PANTHER CRACKS TOP 10 HIGHEST-GROSSING FILMS WORLDWIDE

Marvel's Black Panther has now broken into the top 10 highest-grossing movies of all-time at the worldwide box office. What director Ryan Coogler and screenwriter Joe Robert Cole have accomplished with this film is nothing short of astonishing. Starring Chadwick Boseman as T'Challa/Black Panther and Michael B. Jordan as Erik Killmonger, Black Panther delivered a story that continues to resonate with audiences long after its release – and all of that hype doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon.

Ever since releasing in mid-February, Black Panther has been on a streak of breaking any and all records in its path. It started off by topping Deadpool's February opening weekend record and then went on to surpass all other Marvel Cinematic Universe movies on the weekday charts. After that, it grossed enough to beat Joss Whedon's The Avengers, thus becoming the highest-grossing superhero movie ever at the domestic box office. If that wasn't enough, it's already the highest-rated superhero film. And now, it has crossed yet another milestone.

On Monday, Black Panther added enough to its domestic tally to pass Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck's 2013 film, Frozen (\$1.276 billion), to break into the top 10 highest-grossing movies of all-time on the global chart. Black Panther has now earned \$1.279 billion in 46 days of release, which puts the film on track to top out at just over \$1.3 billion worldwide.

At this point, thanks to increasing competition and the upcoming release of Anthony and Joe Russo's Avengers: Infinity War, it doesn't seem like Black Panther has enough time or endurance to surpass either 2015's Avengers: Age of Ultron (\$1.405 billion) or 2012's The Avengers (\$1.518 billion); they currently sit in seventh and fifth place, respectively. However, it's certainly possible that Black Panther can top Rian Johnson's Star Wars: The Last Jedi on the global chart. The Star Wars film finished its theatrical run at \$1.332 billion. Of course, Black Panther has already passed The Last Jedi at the domestic box office, and as long as Marvel/Disney doesn't pull the film from theaters, it can continue to run much higher.



MADE FOR EACH OTHER! John Cena and Nikki Bella pack on the PDA at the premiere of his bawdy new comedy Blockers.

KATRINA KAIF'S NEXT WILL BE OPPOSITE VARUN DHAWAN AND NOT SALMAN KHAN



All those rumours about Katrina Kaif joining Salman Khan in his next, Bharat, are nothing but just that. If sources are to be believed, Katrina will finish her work on Thugs Of Hindostan and Zero and then move on to shooting what is being called 'The biggest dance film of Bollywood' with Varun Dhawan. Apart from these, she hasn't signed on any other film so far, according to sources.

Remo D'Souza will be directing the dance film starring Varun and Katrina. Varun was seen in ABCD 2 opposite Shradha Kapoor that was also an out and out dance film. And now it's time for him to groove with Katrina Kaif in yet another dance-oriented film.

Katrina has almost finished work on Thugs Of Hindostan alongside Aamir Khan and Amitabh Bachchan while Zero opposite Shah Rukh Khan too is nearing completion. Varun, on the other hand, is working opposite Anushka in Sui Dhaaga and is awaiting the release of Shoojit Sircar's October. Katrina will be promoting both the films after which she will move on to Remo's

dance film. The director cum choreographer is currently helming Race 3 starring Salman Khan and Jacqueline Fernandez.

"Working with Remo again for India's biggest dance film is huge. I performed once with Katrina in New York and it was electric. She's going to bring her A game so I need to get back into shape. Bhushan (Kumar) is not only a strong producer, who has over a period of time built a great marketing and distribution machinery, he also contributes a lot creatively specially in the music department," said Varun to a newspaper. While Katrina reportedly said to the daily publication that she felt great to be part of 'India's ultimate dance film'. "I am super excited to be joining Remo's vision... Varun's passion is so wonderful; he works tirelessly to create magic... I can't wait to start this journey," said the beautiful actor.

Apparently, the movie will also feature actor-choreographer-director Prabhudeva besides Dharmesh Yelande, Raghav Juyal and Punit Pathak, who had featured in ABCD 2. It's produced by T-Series.

JIGSAW WRITERS CURRENTLY WORKING ON NEXT SAW MOVIE

The chances of seeing another Saw movie hitting theaters has taken another small step forward, as the writers of Jigsaw are reportedly hard at work penning Saw 9. As ever, the critical reception for the eighth film in the enduring horror franchise was lukewarm to say the least, but it was a solid box-office hit and laid the groundwork for future sequels, and this certainly appears to be happening.

Seven years after Saw 3D, Jigsaw was released in October of last year. Despite moralistic serial-killer John Kramer actually dying in Saw 3, the subsequent sequels have always found ways to continue his legacy and explore his character in flashbacks. This was also the case with Jigsaw, which was intended to revive the franchise and provide further thrills and twists for horror fans. The co-directors, brothers Michael Spierig and Peter Spierig, sought to 'honor' the original movie and also make it accessible to new audiences. During the opening weekend, the box-office takings in the US did seem disappointing, and the second-lowest for the franchise. However the film went on to gross over \$102m worldwide, from a modest budget of only \$10m,

which made plans for further films much more possible.

If the report is accurate, Goldfinger and Stolberg (who also previously worked on Piranha 3D and the remake of the slasher Sorority Row), will now have to decide how to take the story forward. There's plenty of potential for a straightforward continuation of the plot-strands left hanging at the climax of Jigsaw. There's also scope for re-winding slightly and maybe include some of the surviving characters from Saw 3D. The continued presence of actor Tobin Bell as Kramer is an absolute must – albeit in flashback mode – as he has been for every single Saw movie. Bell himself actually suggested an idea for a future film, where the origin of Billy the Puppet and his significance to Kramer could be explored.

Assuming development on the project continues, we can expect to hear more news about the production shortly. It wouldn't be far-fetched to expect a planned release date for Halloween, although 2019 would be far more likely than this year, even with a quick turnaround. Hopefully the writers will take on-board some of the feedback from Jigsaw and give horror fans something to get excited about again.

THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:** After a few days that were a bit serious, Aries, today you awake with a light heart and boundless energy! Your capacity for seduction will be at its peak, so why not use it to your advantage? The men and women at work, in particular, will yield to your wishes today. Your influence extends to all levels of the organization. If you've been thinking about asking your boss for a raise, do it today!  
**TAURUS:** If you have children, Taurus, you could be feeling a bit overworked and overwhelmed. If you don't have children, perhaps the constraints and demands of your professional life are weighing heavily on your mind. Don't worry - these feelings shall pass. Expect an opportunity to get free of the

ties that bind. Even though it will only be a temporary respite, take advantage of it!  
**GEMINI:** Feeling grumpy lately, Gemini? Don't fret, because your bad mood won't last. This attitude is unlike you. Co-workers notice your change in personality but still treat you with consideration and respect. You're fortunate to be able to draw upon a considerable wealth of kindness and good karma that you have built up over the years. Your friends and loved ones treat your mood as an aberration, which is exactly what it is.  
**CANCER:** How hard you have to work to achieve your purposes, Cancer! It's as though you carry around an overstuffed sandbag and each step requires a huge effort! This would be a good

day to identify the source of the trouble. Ask if you aren't sabotaging yourself and letting your subconscious resist the goals you have so deliberately set. You have a deep inner mystery to solve.  
**LEO:** You could have an urge to invent new things, Leo. You feel compelled to create something in the artistic, technical, or philosophical field. If only you'd give yourself enough time to pursue these ideas! Today, realize that concentration is the key to accomplishment. Put away periodicals, computers, phones, and other such distractions and you might well be surprised by the wealth of inspiration that comes to you.  
**VIRGO:** You might be frustrated with romance because it seems to be causing more tension than

relaxation, Virgo. No one said love was easy, but it doesn't have to be miserable. The key is to not get too stressed out about the little things. Know and expect that some things aren't going to match your expectations. You simply have no control over some aspects of a relationship - the other person, for example.  
**LIBRA:** You think of yourself as fairly modern in your thinking, don't you, Libra? But have you really been able to reject tradition entirely? Have you tried yourself of all the outmoded conventions that confined earlier generations? If not, today you'll be inspired to revamp your role models and lighten your workload. Equality in the home is just as important as equality in the workplace.

**SCORPIO:** There is some likelihood of a slight career conflict, Scorpio. You might have to deal with a co-worker who steps on your toes or runs roughshod over your gentle nature. Defend yourself with your favorite weapons - silence, laughter, and perspective. Let your adversary tangle himself or herself in desperate attempts to justify their behavior. Let your boss be the wise and discerning judge of the matter.  
**SAGITTARIUS:** For a few weeks now you've understood that each day brings its share of constraints, Sagittarius. For example, today you could feel doubts about your physical appearance. Are you questioning your attractiveness or your ability to make an impression on someone special?

Did you use bad judgment at some point, and you're now afraid that you've hurt your reputation? A decision you make at the end of the day will relieve these anxieties.  
**CAPRICORN:** This is a day to think about your private life, Capricorn. Expect to be particularly sensitive to all kinds of demands from those close to you. You have the power to create greater harmony at home, specifically in your relationship. Take stock of everyone's desires and consider any limitations in fulfilling them. Even if the answers aren't found today, it will be useful to simply ask the questions.  
**AQUARIUS:** Today can be a relaxing day, provided you make the necessary effort to deal with material constraints,

Aquarius. You would like nothing better than to spend much of the day planning fun activities for the future. But, alas, demands from your family, friends, or boss force you to concentrate on the here and now instead. Still, don't abandon your wonderfully pleasing ambitions altogether.  
**PISCES:** There is a lot on your mind today, Pisces. Over the last three weeks you've analyzed your relationships on a deep and profound level. New people with attractive qualities could be tempting you to make a change. But is this a good time in your life to start up friendships or love relationships? Are you willing to accept the upheaval such changes would create? These are worthwhile questions to ask.