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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## e-trade license facility 'very successful': GMC

**REBYNA RANA/ IPR  
GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**  
Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) commissioner, Tshewang Gyachho, today clarified the doubts on the implementation and practice of E-Trade License in a press conference at GMC conference hall today.

Mr Gyachho claimed that the issuance of trade licenses and renewal of trade licenses under E-Trade License GMC has been 'very successful' and has helped people in obtaining trade licenses

through its online portal-www.gmcsikkim.in in an easy manner.

He further informed that the online software of the GMC has been designed by National Informatics Centre, Sikkim and after several rounds of trial and errors the same has been made successful and since Monday about 13,000 trade licenses have been renewed.

He mentioned that GMC in collaboration with Sikkim GST Consultancy Services, a consultancy service under

the Chief Minister's Start Up Scheme will conduct camps in four places within the GMC area to assist trade license holders in online renewals and application submission.

The camp is scheduled to kick off from 28 May at District Control Room in MG Marg, Sikkim GST Consultancy Services in Daragaon, GMC Deorali, NIC office and District Collectorate, Sichey.

The commissioner further informed that through E-Trade License, stakeholders can easily

access a host of services digitally, conveniently and safely thus bringing about accountability, transparency and efficiency of the civic body and easing the process of getting licenses.

The online applications will be scrutinized at three levels- level I, II and III.

Level I applications will be examined by Lower Division Clerk or Upper Division Clerk, level II applications by Inspector or Block Officer and level III by the Dep-

uty Commissioner or the Commissioner of GMC.

The commissioner also informed that GMC has already started the online renewal of trade licenses from 21 May and has appealed the trade license holders to renew their trade licenses before 31 July.

He further announced that new trade licenses will be issued from the first week of June for new applicants.

With respect to online payment gateway, the commissioner iterat-

ed that facilities like debit card, credit card, National Electronic Funds Transfer [NEFT], Real Time Gross Settlement [RTGS] and Bharat Interface for Money [BHIM] are incorporated in the portal but for traders not familiar with these modes of payment system, challan system will be provided shortly.

Axis Bank was integrated for the payment gateway services but soon ICICI Bank would also be incorporated considering convenience

## Ahead of party launch, Bhaichung says open to third front

**New Delhi, May 26 (PTI):** Former Indian footballer Bhaichung Bhutia, who is set to formally launch his political party on Thursday, has said that he is "open to" the idea of a federal front of regional parties but made clear that his priority would be to first defeat the ruling Sikkim Democratic Party.

The SDP has been in power in Sikkim for nearly 25 years.

Bhaichung, who spoke to PTI from Sikkim, said his focus would be to strengthen his Hamro Sikkim Party to oust the state's longest-serving Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his SDP.

"We are open to a federal front or a third front. But today our focus is to build our party stronger and change the government in Sikkim.

Our party would fight the corrupt government of Sikkim," the 41-year-old former striker said.

He said his party is inspired by the Aam Aadmi Party, which governs Delhi. He said the AAP's fight against corruption has brought the party "close to the people".

"In terms of corruption, we were inspired by how the Aam Aadmi Party came up. Compared to Delhi, Sikkim is not a very democratic state. People here are not able to voice their discontent. If they raise their voice against the government, they are victimised. That is one of the biggest challenge in the state," he said.

Bhaichung had contested the 2014 Lok Sabha poll and the 2016 Bengal state election as Trinamool Congress candidate.

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## Landslide blocks Lingdem-Upper Dzongu stretch



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
DZONGU, 26 MAY:**  
A fresh landslide today blocked the Lingdem-Upper Dzongu road at Mantam, forcing authorities to suspend traffic on the road.

Local residents appealed to Station Head Officer, Mangan Police Station, KE Kaleon, Sub-Inspector, Mangan PS and Range Officer, Passing-dang Block Administrative Center to restore the road at the earliest.

However, the road was cleared around evening and traffic resumed at around 04.30 p.m.

The residents have appealed to the con-

cerned authorities to repair the Lingdem-Upper Dzongu stretch with proper RCC [Roller-compacted concrete] carpeting and iron railings along the road to prevent road mishaps.

The officials have assured to discuss the matter with the District Administration and come up with a plan in favor of the public.

The public further informed that vehicles plying towards Tingvong and Lingzya are facing difficulties due to rise in water level in Mantam Lake forcing people to rely on the bamboo bridge for transportation.

## 'Himalayan Cleanup and Beat Plastic Pollution' organized across Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**  
Various educational institutes and Non Governmental Organizations organized 'Himalayan Cleanup and Beat Plastic Pollution' programme at different areas in the State today.

Mamring's National Service Scheme [NSS] unit, Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] club and Eco Club of Mamring School jointly organized the programme by conducting a series of events including speeches, quiz competition, awareness rally and cleanliness drive stressing on the importance of waste management.

The cleanliness drive was conducted as per the guidelines given by ENVIS, Sikkim for World Environment Day programme on 05 June.

Rekape Primary School in South Sikkim and the local panchayats also organised a cleaning campaign under the 'Himalayan Cleanup and Beat Plastic Pollution' initiative. Plastic bottles



and reusable items collected from the cleanup campaign were kept for future use.

Likewise, residents and panchayats of Chalamthang, South Sikkim conducted a cleanup drive under the 'Himalaya Cleanup and Beat Plastic Pollution' initiative.

In Gyalshing, the Block Administrative Centre (BAC) organised a massive cleanliness drive at Kyongsha, Bhanu Salig, Legship-Gyalshing highway, Rabdentse Bird



Sanctuary and Pelling School Ground under the initiative.

Collecting of waste, segregation, and analysis of the waste collected, volume analysis, brand

audit, disposing recyclable waste to scrap dealers and finally disposing of the ultimate discards was exercised today by the officials.

## DC calls meeting to discuss RVY and ADIP scheme

**GANGTOK, 26 MAY [IPR]:** District Collector [East], Kapil Meena, today called a meeting to discuss various aspects of the upcoming distribution camp to provide aids and assistive devices to senior citizens belonging to BPL category under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP scheme) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana is a first of its kind Central sector scheme in India and the programme in Gangtok is scheduled

to be held on 31 May.

Discussions on selection of beneficiaries, venue for the programme, transportation, distribution kits and various other factors were discussed during the course of the meeting.

The DC assigned each department and agencies their respective work for better coordination and management.

The meeting was also attended by officers and staff of Social Welfare Department, Sikkim Nationalized Transport Department, Chief Medical Officer [East], Traffic Police and other officials.

## Girls out-perform boys in CBSE Class 12 results

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26(PTI):** Girls outshone boys in the CBSE Class 12 results announced today with Meghna Srivastava, from a Noida school, topping the examination this year.

The overall pass percentage was 83.01 per cent as against last year's 82.02 per cent.

Girls did better than boys with a pass percentage of 88.31 per cent against boys' 78.99 per cent, officials at the CBSE headquarters said here.

Meghna Srivastava topped the CBSE Class 12 examination getting 99.8%. She secured 499 marks out of 500. She is a student of Step By Step School, Noida, and is from the Humanities stream.

She scored 99 in English (Core), while in other subjects --Psychology, History, Geography and Economics -- she scored 100.

The second position was bagged by another girl, Anoushka Chand, also a humanities stream student from a school in Ghaziabad. She got 498 marks out of 500.

She scored 98 in English (Core) and 100 in History, Economics, Political science and Psychology.

The third position was held by seven students who got 497 marks out of 500, the officials said.

The best performing region was Trivandrum in Kerala with a pass percentage of 97.32 per cent. Chennai region's pass percentage was second

best at 93.87 per cent.

Delhi was at the third spot with 89 per cent pass percentage, the officials said.

A total of 12,737 candidates scored 95 per cent or above, whereas 72,599 candidates scored 90 per cent and above in the exam, the officials said.

The topper among the differently abled students category was Vijay Ganesh from Palakkad, Kerala, securing 98.4 per cent. Pooja Kumari, from Dehradun, stood second among the differently abled students with 97.8 per cent, while Lavanya Jha of DPS RK Purnam came third with 97.4 per cent.

A total of 141 candidates in the differently

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# Golay still strong political force, says SKM

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Refuting allegations of misinterpreting the Chief Minister's statements, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that Sikkim Democratic Front can take legal action if there is any merit in their allegations.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling stated that

workers and supporters of SKM have been standing with the party due to the sincere leadership of its leader, PS Tamang [Golay].

"The dedication of SKM workers and increasing popularity of the party has forced the CM, who otherwise would have been busy on personal foreign tours, to go on this 32-day long State tour," he stated.

Fear has prompted

the CM to invite SKM workers and supporters to join the ruling party, he added.

A fresh movement will start with the release of PS Tamang [Golay] after two months and with it a horde of SDF workers and supporters will join SKM, stated Mr Khaling.

While terming the ongoing tour of the CM as 'Janta Maha Dhan Yatra', Mr Khaling alleged that the CM has been lying

and misinforming people during the tour and repeating 24-year-old promises to the people. He further accused the CM of misusing government money and functionaries in the tour.

Due to engagement of officials in the State tour the offices are empty and people have been facing severe problems, he alleged further adding that even students are being forced to listen to politi-

cal speeches of the CM.

Mr Khaling further accused the ruling party of distributing anonymous leaflets against PS Tamang [Golay] and a retired official in South Sikkim. The ruling party is going back to the 1994 politics of distributing anonymous leaflets, he said.

SKM student's front general secretary, Chopel Sherpa stated that PS Golay has be-

come a popular leader among others in the State due to his selfless contributions. He also alleged that he has been sent to jail due to his increasing popularity.

"The revolutionary can be jailed but not the revolution. We are in the SKM party with a vision so no workers and supporters will go to the ruling party," he said.

## SKM asks Tourism Minister to 'fulfill' departmental obligations

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, in a press release issued today, has criticized Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso's recent statement regarding the shortage of taxis due to the peak 'tourist season' affecting local commuters.

According to the party, Mr Gyatso when asked about the shortage of taxis in the capital had told a leading daily, 'kehi paunu ko, lagi kei gumaunu parcha [one has to lose something to gain something]' which the opposition has said is 'irresponsible' on the part of the Minister to 'blatantly' ask the local commuters to accept the existing situation and move on instead of deploying a strategy to meet the challenges of shortage of vehicles in the capital.

"These commuters comprising of public from various walks of life are the strength that holds the fabric of our society together. The Minister should be reminded that it is his responsibility to come with logical answers and not preposterous statements," a press release from the party reads.

The party has further pointed out that Mr Gyatso's prediction of 20 lakh tourist footfall in 2018 should have been almost double if the State had taken adequate measures to ensure proper infrastructural facilities.

"It can be observed that rampant constructions carried out under the pretext of development lack quality and

taste. Some infrastructural projects that were constructed apparently to boost tourism have been languishing in a deplorable state devoid of purpose therefore indicating a lack of foresight and commitment on the part of the Government," the release reads.

The party has further suggested that the tourism and hospitality sector of the State take adequate measures in providing skill-development trainings to the unemployed to tackle the challenge of hosting tourists in the State and create diverse employment opportunities in different sectors like accommodation, food and beverage, transportation, travel agencies etc.

"The authorities should prioritize participation of local stakeholders in tourism and hospitality sector of the State," the party has suggested.

The party has also pointed out that the State's online portals are 'obsolete' and 'non-responsive' urging the department responsible to embrace digital technology and integrated marketing communication.

The party has further suggested that the State Government appoint a monitoring panel to check hike in prices by tourism service providers.

"SKM would like to suggest that the Tourism Minister fulfill his Departmental obligations rather than give baseless statements to the media," the release reads.

## Golay sent to prison by Court, not us: SDF

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly condemned the allegation that SDF put Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay] in jail. The party has asserted that Mr Tamang is presently in jail after being convicted in a corruption case by a special court and then by the High Court of Sikkim.

A press release from SDF spokesperson, Bhim

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## SKM holds youth coordination meet at Shyari

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held its youth coordination meeting at Shyari today, a press release from the party informs.

The meeting was chaired by acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha, youth convener [East Zone], Sabin Subba and youth coordinator [East Zone], Zulu Namcho.

Issues like 'pathetic' road conditions, improper implementation of organic mission, lack of transparency in public works were discussed during the meeting, the release reads.

Youth members shared ideas on how to strengthen communication between party workers in the constituency.

Mr Lepcha, in his address, assured that he will closely monitor the implementation of public works in the constituency.

He further appealed to the party members to work selflessly for Sikkim.

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# Himalayan Cleanup programme held in North

**MANGAN, 26 MAY [IPR]:** Himalayan Cleanup programme was held across the North District today in various towns, schools and villages.

District Collector [North] launched the programme from the District Administration Centre premises in the presence of brand ambassadors, Nirmal Chettri and Kunzang Lachungpa.

The District Collector stated that a collective and joint effort was required from all the stakeholders in the district right from officials, panchayats, students, teachers and public to make the programme successful.

Brand ambassadors, footballers Nirmal Chettri and Kunzang Lachungpa were also felicitated on the occasion.



Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Police Department,

private schools and volunteers partici-

pated in a cleanup drive of the North District

headquarter.

# SCA passes resolution forbidding 'outside players' from playing in State team

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Sikkim Cricket Association in a press release issued today has said that it has unanimously passed a resolution to forbid 'outside players' from representing the State in any of its national games.

SCA president, Lob-

sang G Tenzing in a mail addressed to Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] officials stressed that the decision is made to protect the 'local interest and build up local talents.'

Technically, the BCCI has a rule to let three outside players play in the State team.

Mr Tenzing has also

written to the Chairperson, Technical Committee of BCCI, Sourav Ganguly to scrap the rule of allowing three guest players in all State bodies, the release informs.

The release further informs that BCCI hails the decision of the SCA to not allow any guest players from outside in its State team.

In a reply to the mail, Professor Ratnakar Shetty of BCCI has expressed his happiness on the stand taken by Sikkim Cricket Association. He has stressed that all

Northeast states should harness the ability of local talents rather than depend on borrowed talents and BCCI shall help all the states including Sikkim to develop cricketing facilities at the grass root level, the release further informs.

It is worth mentioning here that NADP (New Area Development Program) was launched by BCCI to help the development of cricket in these areas.

It is to let the local cricketers and the cricket lovers of Sikkim know

that BCCI has committed to develop a world standard cricket ground in Mining Cricket ground with seven pitches and an indoor stadium at its own expense at an estimated cost of around Rs 2.50 crore.

Sikkim Cricket Association has been communicating with the State Government for renewal of the lease of the ground which the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs has abruptly terminated before the expiry of the agreement, the SCA release informs.

# SPCC criticizes Centre for hike in fuel prices

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] president, Bharat Basnet has strongly criticized the Central Government on the rise of petrol and diesel prices across the country. The Congress party has said that the rise in petrol and diesel prices is responsible for rise in prices of other

commodities, which has put extra burden on the people.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Basnet condemned the policies of Narendra Modi's government for the price rise of petroleum products. He added that the Congress party has been protesting the policies of Modi government responsible for

rise in prices of essential commodities. He further stated that the people of different sections of the Country have been facing extra burden due to GST.

Mr Basnet stated that the people of Sikkim have also been facing problems due to price rise of petrol and diesel. He demanded that the State government give relief on VAT on fuel to

provide some respite to the people of Sikkim.

Speaking on the ongoing State tour of the Chief Minister, he alleged that the speeches of the CM are full of lies and false announcements. After the failure of its policies and principles the SDF government has started the politics of announcements prior to elections, he added.

He also mentioned that the increase in the strength of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly to 40 is a direct violation of Article 371F.

Mr Basnet urged SDF and BJP to stop misleading people, and appealed to all opposition parties of the State to come together in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

# e-trade license facility 'very successful': GMC

**Contd from pg01**

to the general masses, he informed.

GMC Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary, in his address expressed that since Monday the renewal and issuance of licenses has been going smoothly and by embracing online renewals and issuance of licenses, GMC has become transparent and accountable too.

The press conference was also attended by Deputy Mayor, LD Bhutia, software developer (NIC), Prateek Shashanker and GMC officials.

A follow-up meeting was called by the GMC Mayor to seek views and solutions on parking issues in Gangtok.

The meeting was chaired by GMC commissioner, Tshewang Gyachho along with Deputy Mayor, Lashey Doma and GMC officials.

Speaking on the meeting, Mr Gyachho responded to various issues faced by GMC with regards to parking in-and-around Gangtok. The commissioner urged the vehicle owners to be disciplined and tolerant while deal-

ing with the parking contractors and appealed to the vehicle owners to co-operate fully with the parking contractors.

He further informed the gathering that GMC is working hard to ensure that necessary steps are being taken for parking lot issues in order to facilitate parking of vehicles within the capital.

He also highlighted that in case there is damage to a particular vehicle in the parking premises, the parking contractor is to be held accountable only when the vehicle

owner produces a parking receipt.

Regarding the cleanliness of the parking premises, the commissioner said that the cleanliness is to be strictly undertaken by the parking contractors.

Also during the meeting, the Commissioner clarified about the parking charges to be levied on owners of two wheelers, four wheelers and heavy vehicles.

Mr Gyachho stated that with respect to parking rates, the State Government has issued a notifica-

tion wherein the charges applicable for one time parking are Rs 10 for two wheelers, Rs 20 (Day/Night) for four wheelers and for heavy vehicles Rs 30 per day and Rs 40 per night accordingly.

He further assured that GMC will take complaints from the public on an urgent basis and have asked the public to send their queries, grievances and suggestions at their mailing address- gmc.sikkim@gmail.com and Gangtok Municipal Corporation Facebook page.

## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY & POWER DEPARTMENT

Advertisement No: 599/Adm

Dated: 24.05.2018

### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Application are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up of 5 (five) posts of Driver on temporary regular basis in PB-I of Rs.5200-20,200 + Grade Pay of Rs.2400/- under Energy & Power Department through direct recruitment.

However, during the period of probation/apprenticeship/training their pay shall be governed by Not. No.489/GEN/DOP dated 31.10.2011.

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE POST	NUMBER OF POST	EDUCATION QUALIFICATION	RESERVATION			PAY BAND & G.P.
1	Driver	5 (Five)	Class VIII (Passed)	Sl. No.	Category	Number of posts	PB-I of Rs.5200-20,200/- & G.P. Rs.2400/-
				1	Unreserved	1	
				2	Bhutia / Lepcha (Women)	1	
				3	Other Backward Classes- Central List	1	
				4	Other Backward Classes- State List (Women)	1	
				5	Schedule Tribe	1	
					Total	5	

1. Age limit- Should have attained the age of 18 years, but should not have exceeded 40 years as on 31.05.2018, in terms of Notification No: M(3)/(55)/GEN/DOP/Pl.III Dt: 03/07/2017.

2. Candidates should have knowledge of Motor Mechanism (the candidates should be able to remove minor defects in vehicle).

3. The Selection will be made through Open Competitive Examination.

Candidates seeking admission for the Examination should obtain prescribed form from the Office of the Additional Secretary, Energy & Power Department on production of a Bank Receipt of Rs.100/- (ONE HUNDRED) only credited under Revenue head 0801-Power-01800-Other Receipt – 02 other Receipt (Cost of Application Form).

Application Forms shall be available at any working days from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm from 28.05.2018 to 28.06.2018 at Room No. 508 (of the Administrative Section of the Energy & Power Department).

Application form complete in all respects along with the attested photocopies of the following documents must reach the Office of the Additional Secretary, Energy & Power Department on or before 03.07.2018 till 3.00 PM.

1. Sikkim Subjects Certificate (SSC)/Certificate of Identification (COI)
2. Class VIII Passed Mark sheet and Certificate onwards.
3. Valid Local Employment Card in case of unemployed candidate.
4. N.O.C. from the Head Office/Department in case of in-service candidate.
5. Scheduled Tribe (BL) Certificate/OBC Certificate/Scheduled Tribe Certificate.
6. Unmarried Certificate issued by SDM/DDO in case of unmarried women.
7. A copy of Valid Local Driving License.

The written exam of 68 marks shall be held on 30.07.2018 and the candidates who qualify with minimum 50% marks in the written examination shall be called for Viva-Voce of 12 marks and Driving Skill Test of 20 marks.

Admit Card shall be issued to eligible candidates from the Office Room No. 508 (Administrative Section) from 09.07.2018 to 14.07.2018 during Office working days from 11 AM to 3.00 PM.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS SHALL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED**

Sd/-

(ADDL. SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM)  
ENERGY & POWER DEPARTMENT  
GANGTOK, SIKKIM

R.O. No: 99/IPR/PUB/ Classi/18-19 Date: 25/05/2018



**Gangtok on Sunday, 27 May**

**Temp:** 26°C/14°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly cloudy; a heavy morning shower, then heavy showers  
**Sunrise:** 04:42 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:23 PM

## Girls out-perform boys in CBSE Class 12 results

Contd from pg01

abled category scored 90 per cent and above marks. Twenty five candidates in the differently abled category scored 95 per cent and above.

The overall pass percentage of the Delhi region saw an increase from 88.37 per cent in 2017 to 89 per cent this year.

Pass percentage of candidates in foreign schools this year stood at 94.94 per cent as opposed to last year's 92.02 per cent.

Number of candidates placed in compartment was 91,818.

A candidate failing in one of the five subjects of external examination shall be placed in compartment in that subject provided he or she qualifies in all the subjects of internal assessment. The candidate would have to appear in the compartmental examination later.

Over 11 lakh students had registered for the Class 12 examination, which was marred with controversy over the paper leak issue.

The board had conducted a re-test of Class 12 economics paper on April 25, nearly a month after it was leaked triggering widespread outrage and confusion among students across the country.

## Ahead of party launch, Bhaichung says open to third front

Contd from pg01

didate but lost the polls and quit Mamata Banerjee's party in February.

He then formed his political party along with a few friends. Bhaichung said though his political party is youth-based, there are experienced people to guide the new outfit.

"Our main aim is to fight against corruption and the present government, which is extremely corrupt. And also (against) menaces like unemployment and drug abuse," he said.

Winning elections has been tougher than scoring goals for Bhaichung, however he believes his second innings in the political field would be rather successful as he is the "son of the soil" and understands the problems that hinder the development of Sikkim.

## Sanitary napkin vending machine installed at Burtuk College

**NIRMAL MANGAR**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

A sanitary napkin vending machine was installed at Government College in Burtuk in Gangtok on 25 May.

The machine was installed at women's wash room in the college premises as part of an awareness and support campaign about menstrual health and hygiene of the Women's Empowerment Committee of the Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok.

Chairperson, Sikkim State Women's Commission was present as the chief guest

The club had installed a similar machine at Tadong Government College few days back.



## ARTEM to host Darjeeling based singer-songwriter and activist Prashid Rai

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

ARTEM, a platform for people engaged in the creative field is set to host singer-songwriter and social activist from Darjeeling, Prashid Rai on 27 May at its office in Sichey, East Sikkim.

The event will feature a discussion on his music which are largely political, a press release informs.

Born and brought up at Magaret's Hope Tea Estate in Darjeeling, Prashid Rai had close relatives who worked in the very gardens that have

been the backdrop of many of his songs.

Prashid credits his musical influence to his social activist father and his mother who were both part of a cultural group.

Prashid Rai previously studied psychology and is currently pursuing ITI

electrical engineering.

Prashid is a part of various organizations and has been associated with Laali Guraas for the past six years. Chai Bagan Sangram Samiti (CBSS) is another forum with which he has been working with since its inception in 2014. CBSS

works for the rights of the tea garden workers.

Prashid Rai's music calls for awareness and an awakening against oppression, a call which emanates from the social and political situation in the Darjeeling Hills, the release reads.

## Voyage Sikkim cleans up drive Namnang view point

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Recently launched youth-centric organisation, Voyage Sikkim participated in a full-fledged waste and brand audit segregation of waste at Namnang View Point on 25 May, a press release informs.

Voyage Sikkim undertook the initiative as a part of the Himalayan Cleanup and Beat Plastic Pollution initiative which is supported by various governmental and non-governmental organisations, reads the release.

Students from Burtuk College, Tadong College also volunteered in the cleanup drive.



## Riverfront cleanup team reaches Upper Burtuk on Day-11



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 MAY:**

Forest Department, as part of its ongoing riverfront cleanup drive, cleaned the jhoras and nallahs at Upper Burtuk in the capital, a press release informs.

The cleanliness drive

which entered its 11th day today was participated by eco-club students and green teachers of Burtuk Government College and Burtuk Junior High School.

The event was coordinated by Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry) and team with

support from ENVIS, Sikkim.

An awareness rally to sensitize local people on clean environment premises was also conducted by the organizers.

The Forest Department and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govern-

ment of India, have been carrying out extensive riverfront cleanliness drives along Rani Khola and its adjoining streams since 15 May as part of activities leading up to World Environment Day, the release informs.

## DC East chairs monsoon preparedness meet



**GANGTOK, 26 MAY [IPR]:** District Collector cum Chairperson District Disaster Management Authority [East], Kapil Meena today chaired monsoon preparedness cum coordination meeting with all the Public Sector Units [PSUs] and private companies of the district today at the Zilla Panchayat Bhawan in the capital.

The meeting was participated by Nodal Officers from all the companies.

The DC reviewed monsoon preparedness of all the companies in the district. Onsite disaster management plans were also submitted by the companies.

The companies, however, were also asked to prepare offsite disaster management plan.

Elaborate discussions were held on trainings related to disaster management, conducting mock drills on various disasters by the companies, Corporate Social Responsibility activities undertaken by

the companies during the last three years including the current year, issues pertaining to local employment, labor related issues, compensation for employees injured during working hours, pollution control and waste treatment facilities and health camps/ medical camps and career counseling undertaken by the companies.

Mr Meena requested all the companies to make a comprehensive onsite and offsite plan including the preparedness and mitigation plan and submit it to the District Administration within 15 days.

With regard to CSR activities being undertaken by the companies, the District Collector urged the companies to select specific areas and focus on its overall development. He also stressed that CSR activities should be focused on State Government Programs like organic farming, eradication of Tuberculosis, etc.

## Golay sent to prison by Court, not us: SDF

contd from pg02

Dahal states that Mr Tamang is serving time following a judicial process and SKM is just deceiving people by making baseless allegations.

On SKM's claims that the CM's state-wide tour was borne out of fear that SKM is gaining

ground, Mr Dahal has said that the CM conducted a similar tour in 2011 when SKM was not even formed.

SDF has also strongly refuted and condemned SKM allegations on the party's workers distributing anonymous leaflets.

## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

### NOTICE

#### ONLINE REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION TO UG COURSE IN SIKKIM GOVERNMENT COLLEGES

Last Date for Registration for admission to UG courses in the following Government colleges of Sikkim for the academic year 2018-19 is 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018, no application shall be entertained after the specified date and Last Date for the payment of Fees through Online and Offline Mode (uploading of Demand Draft Details) is 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. (In favor of E- collection Account HRDD Payable at Gangtok) no payment shall be entertained after the specified date. Students seeking admission in Government colleges are directed to apply through website: [www.sgcregistration.com](http://www.sgcregistration.com) / [www.rusasikkim.com](http://www.rusasikkim.com) or through Mobile App.

(RUSA SIKKIM ADMISSION).



Sl.no	College
1	Sikkim Government College, Tadong
2	Sikkim Government College, Burtuk
3	Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok
4	Government College, Rhenock, East Sikkim
5	Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing
6	Namchi Government College, Kamrang
7	Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung
8	Arts College, Mangshila
9	Women Arts College Khamdong, East Sikkim
10	Government Vocational College, Dentam
11	Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng

Important dates:

- Submission of online registration: 29<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Last date of submission of Fees: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- 1<sup>st</sup> Merit list generation: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- 1<sup>st</sup> Merit list last date of admission: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Merit List generation: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018
- 2<sup>nd</sup> merit list last date of admission: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Counselling: 9<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> July

HELPLINE NUMBER: + 91- 8167734520/8001194118 (From 10 am to 7 pm) or visit [www.rusasikkim.com](http://www.rusasikkim.com).

Note: Admission for Sikkim Government B.ed College, Soreng will be notified shortly.

Sd/-

Dr. M.P. Kharel  
OSD Higher Education (HRDD)

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Peer Pressure Can be Positive too

*To help the young grow well, provide them access and counsel*

A young lad, having arrived at the age when he needs to begin thinking about which career to begin preparing for, has decided to explore the option of working on his “hobby” – photography – and refining it to professional levels. He caught the shutter-bug early in life inspired by the passion of his grandfather, who, by the way was not a professional photographer but obviously a passionate one. It is not rare for the young to follow, or at least initially inspire to, in the footsteps of their parents, but these are mostly the regular professions. But as this anecdote bears out, introduce them to a passion, and out of the box thinking follows almost instinctively. And that is what one wants from the young, the courage to dream different. We call on them often to challenge themselves more, but don't provide them the environment or the catalysts to feed their inherent inquisitiveness or open their horizons. With the society “modernizing” and the joint family system splintering, exposure to a diversity of careers, hobbies and pursuits has also shriveled. But the kids still have friends. Here is another story. A 13-year-old who used to tear open a bag of chips or karkure whenever his hands were free and the moment allowed, has managed to stay away from such “junk” food for over a year now. And for the past two months, he has not even taken the occasional cheat days. True story. From Gangtok. What convinced him to go “clean” and “live healthy” was the discovery of football as a passion and a senior who came along at the right moment and coached and guided him. And the 13-year-old is not even a good footballer! He does however have a passion for the sport which motivates him to be the best footballer that his late initiation into the sport and lean frame will allow. Earlier, no amount of sage counsel or dire warnings succeeded in weaning the child away from junk food. Eventually, all it took was for a peer elder to say, “Sportspersons need discipline. We do not do junk food”.

We have often seen such course corrections around us. Some of us might have even experienced it first hand when had a peer, elder or colleague who put things in perspective and gave us context, may be even set us off on the course of our life. In the episodes shared here, three things converged – inspiration, access and counsel. While the photography example is still rare, it is not so for soccer. The latter child developed an interest in football because just about every school and town has a ground where one can kick a ball around. What if he had taken an interest in lawn tennis?

Just access to something one can get passionate about is obviously not enough. What also came along at the right time was counsel in the form of a senior at school who could channel the passionate energy into what will hopefully be lifelong discipline. There is an important lesson here for Sikkim which is grappling with more teen-problems than it has fashioned solutions for.

Significant attempts like SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) are underway at select schools to build a network of peer-educators and counselors who can intervene and assist fellow students deal with the challenge of addiction and other influences that beset them. But this, if we are to go by the analogy drawn above, addresses only one part of the problem. Sikkim, hence, needs to also provide access to its young if it wants to keep them away from, as leaders here are wont to say, “antisocial” activities and distractions. The young, as anyone who was young at one time will attest, are not excited with counseling sessions and rarely take such advice seriously, which is why it is a good idea to have someone closer to their age speak to them about their concerns. But even this will meet with limited success unless their energies find proper release. Iceland has done so with remarkable success. Teenage smoking, drinking and drug use have been radically cut in the past 20 years, a development directly credited to a policy shift which saw the country invest heavily in after-school activities by setting up well appointed clubs and community centres for sports, music, dance, art or whatever else the young could take a fancy for. Simultaneously, mentors from among the young were groomed. And now, twenty years down the line, the change is obvious. The need for “human” mentors and physical activities cannot be stressed enough in these times of online connectedness and human detachments. Sikkim will do well to ponder of this option...

**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)

# Judges sentence youth offenders to chess, with promising results

MONIQUE SEDGWICK, JEFFREY MACCORMACK & LANCE GRIGG  
*theconversation.com*

Since January 2018, every Friday afternoon, one campus classroom in Canada is transformed. Tables are set up with two chairs facing one another; a chess set invites players to begin. An interactive white board shows a game in progress. Off to the side, another board is set up with a “chess problem.”

At half past one, the players begin to show up. The room fills with noisy young voices, sharing how their week has gone and clamouring for cookies and juice.

The scene is like any youth gathering, with one difference: Group home workers and probation officers are in attendance.

All of these youth are involved in the criminal justice system and are attending what's known as the Chess for Life Program at Alberta's University of Lethbridge as part of their sentence.

Sentencing practices for youth who engage in non-violent crimes have traditionally adopted a punitive approach — for example, ordering time in a juvenile detention centre. However, research suggests that punitive models have little impact on reducing the chances of reoffending.

In fact, punitive sentencing can result in poor social outcomes, low rates of employment and higher school dropout rates.

### CHESS FOR LIFE

Some people suggest a more rehabilitative approach to sentencing is needed. For example, youth could be sentenced to programs that provide opportunities for developing life skills and establishing more positive relationships. This may result in increased levels of self-confidence, reducing the chance of reoffending.

Alternate sentencing initiatives focus on fair sentencing practices that are appropriate and support the reintegration of youth back into the community.

Within the Young Offenders Branch of the Alberta government and the province's Assistant Deputy Minister's office, there is a movement towards alternate sentencing for youth involved in non-violent crimes. As a result, Alberta's Ministry of Justice and the faculties of education and health sciences at the University of Lethbridge have teamed up to deliver a unique program as an alternate sentence: Chess for Life.

Chess for Life is a 25-hour chess instruction program lead by longtime chess players Dr. Lance Grigg and assistants Riley Kostek and Josh Markle. Youth learn opening, middle and end-game strategies while playing the program leaders and each other.

While the youth may not know it, they also are developing skills in reasoning, problem-solving, paying attention, planning, focusing and decision-making.



The Chess for Life research team, from left to right: Josh Markle, Jeffrey MacCormack, Monique Sedgwick, Riley Kostek and Lance Grigg.

### 'EVERY MOVE HAS A CONSEQUENCE'

Although all of this sounds great, there is little research into the influence learning to play chess may have on self-regulatory functions and on the life choices youth make.

To address this gap, our research team, led by Monique Sedgwick and Jeffrey MacCormack, is conducting a study that explores how youth caught up in the criminal justice system, and participating in the Chess for Life Program, view themselves as they learn how to play chess.

So far, we have observed that the youth, for the most part, like to come to instructional sessions.

They say they really like how quiet the room is and that for the couple of hours they're in the classroom, things slow down and it's just chess.

They can leave the distractions, challenges, hurt and pain of their day at the door.

We've also noticed the youth have become more thoughtful. They ask good questions about moments in the game — questions that demonstrate they are developing problem-solving and planning skills.

They now know why the four middle squares of the board are important; we all need a strong centre. Before they move a player, we hear them plan their moves by working through the consequences of moving a piece in a particular way.

Perhaps the most revealing comment one youth has shared — reflecting the positive influence of the program — is that he wishes he had “learned to play chess a lot earlier.”

In life, like chess, every move has a consequence.

Although the study is in preliminary stages of collecting data, initial observations suggest the Chess for Life program is a good alternate sentence choice for helping these young people get their lives back on track.

[Monique Sedgwick is Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Lethbridge; Jeffrey MacCormack is Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Lethbridge; Lance Grigg is Associate Professor of Education, University of Lethbridge]

# Why we perceive ourselves as richer than we think we are

ALBERTO CARDACI  
*theconversation.com*

Everyday billions of people make countless decisions that have economic implications. Buying new clothes, having dinner at a Japanese restaurant, renting a house: most of our decisions determine how much money we spend or save. Some of our decisions also increase the amount of debt we have accumulated, such as when we buy a book and pay by credit card or when we obtain a loan to buy a new car.

Do people always weigh up pros and cons, use all the available information and commit to their long-term goals when making such decisions? Research in behavioural economics suggests this is not the case.

For example, even though many Americans argue that they should be saving more for retirement, they declare that they frequently do not commit to their saving decisions.

In general, psychologists and behavioural scientists have long found that the gaps between people's intentions and their actual behaviour are often due to cognitive biases – systematic errors in thinking that affect individual decisions and judgements.

Cognitive biases explain why our economic decisions often appear to be flawed by self-control problems, myopic behaviour, changes in preferences over time and other behavioural inconsistencies.

For instance, scholars have found that people have a cognitive bias that often leads them to underestimate the true cost of debt, thus borrowing more than what they can afford.

As another example, research in economic psychology has shown that



the perceived cost of an item is lower than the actual cost if people compare it to greater, rather than smaller, financial resources.

For instance, even though a person knows that the objective cost of a T-shirt is 25 euros, that person is more likely to buy the T-shirt if she mentally compares the cost to the money in her bank account (for instance 23,000 euros) rather than the money in her wallet (let's say 100 euros).

### THE BIAS ON WEALTH PERCEPTION

Following this line of research, at the Complexity Lab in Economics (CLE) of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, I have recently started a new project, “Cognitive biases, perceived wealth and macroeconomic instability”, with the help of a post-doctoral scholarship by the AXA Research Fund.

By combining findings from behavioural economics and social cognitive psychology with the techniques of experimental economics, the project essentially tests the hypothesis that some people tend to spend more than they “should” because they have the wrong percep-

tion of how wealthy they are.

In other words, our working assumption is that, depending on the value of leverage (that is, the ratio between debt and net worth), people may feel wealthier even when their net worth has not changed, and that this makes them psychologically more prone to increase their spending, as well as their borrowing. We call this the “leverage bias hypothesis”.

At CLE we have run some preliminary laboratory experiments to test the presence of the leverage bias. Our first results (to be published) confirm that around 78% of the participants have a wrong perception of the amount of wealth owned and this perception changes based on how wealth is composed, even when the net value remains constant.

We postulate that this misperception of wealth may play a significant role at explaining individual consumption and borrowing decisions that do not appear rational based on canonical economics.

Indeed, the potential implications of a cognitive bias of this type are substantial. An individual with a distorted perception of wealth may feel

financially better off, consume more, borrow a larger amount of loans and overestimate her ability to pay back her debt in the future.

This behaviour would have consequence not only for the borrower, but also for the lender: a borrower's inability to meet the debt obligations would result in the accumulation of non-performing loans on the balance sheet of financial institutions in the credit market.

### PARTIAL EXPLANATIONS FOR MASSIVE CRASH

By extending this reasoning to a greater scale, it is also possible that macroeconomic fluctuations be (at least partially) explained by the excess spending and debt accumulation trigger by the leverage bias. This is the case when a large number of people perceive themselves as richer than they actually are: consumption can rise in the aggregate to the extent that such people possibly increase their debt being inaccurately confident that they will be able to pay it back.

Before the 2007 financial crisis the level of household debt skyrocketed, going beyond 100% of GDP. In those years, the American society easily and quickly moved from debt-led to debt burdened.

While almost certainly not all personal debt accumulated in society could be attributed to behavioural fallacies, it is worth investigating whether distorted perceptions of wealth may have tremendous costs not only at the individual level but also at the macroeconomic one.

[the writer is Post-doctoral fellow, Complexity Lab in Economics (CLE), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Catholic University of Milan]



Bomb scare at Kolkata Metro Railway station

**KOLKATA, MAY 26 (PTI):** An abandoned can lying near an escalator at Rabindra Sadan station today created a flutter as commuters suspected it to be a bomb which turned out to be a hoax, Metro Railway officials said.

However, train services remained unaffected, a Metro Railway spokesperson said.

Police said soon after receiving information at around 11.10 am, bomb squad officials with sniffer dog reached the spot and began investigation.

A detailed report is awaited.

A senior officer of Bhawanipur Police Station said a stray can was found close to one of the escalators in the Rabindra Sadan metro station that caused panic but primarily it seems to be a hoax.

The can has been taken out for further investigation, he said.

Woman fights off leopard, saves daughter in TN

**COIMBATORE, MAY 26 (PTI):** A woman bravely fought off a leopard to save her 11-year-old daughter at Valparai in the district, police said today.

30-year-old Muthulakshmi, along with her daughter Sathya, were picking firewood in the backyard of their house last night, when the feline pounced on the girl and began dragging it away by her neck, they said.

Immediately, Muthulakshmi hit the leopard so hard with the firewood that the animal let go of the girl and fled into the jungle, the police said.

Sathya sustained injuries on the neck and was taken to the government hospital at Pollachi, they added.

On hearing this, forest department personnel decided to trap the leopard, which reportedly has been on the prowl in the area for over the past 10 days or more.

Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate inaugurated in Jorethang

**JORETHANG, 26 MAY [IPR]:** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling attended the inaugural ceremony of Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate at Jorethang sub-division today.

Mr Chamling was accompanied by Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri and Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Chamling declared that Jorethang is the first sub-division under South District to have a court building for judiciary dealings which will indeed be a great asset for the people of Jorethang as well as the neighboring areas.

Terming the inaugural session as a momentous occasion, the CM spelled out the brief history of the Indian Judiciary System whereby he stated that the judicial system administers a common law system of legal jurisdiction, in which customs, precedents and legislation, all codify the law of the land.



Further, the CM stated that the State Government has been able to create more judicial infrastructure for making judicial redressal system accessible and affordable for the public of the state under the guidance of the Chief Justice. He also spoke in brief about the history of judiciary system established in Sikkim after 1975.

Among the announcements made by the CM on the occasion was the establishment of two more sub-divisional courts at Pakyong and Ravangla in days to come.

The programme was also addressed by Chief Justice High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish

sized how the Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate at Jorethang will henceforth deliver speedy hearing and quick disposal of all civil and criminal cases of the sub-division as well as the adjoining State of West Bengal.

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The programme was also addressed by Chief Justice High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish

Kumar Agnihotri where he spoke about how the Constitution of India establishes a single integrated judicial system for the whole country. He also explained how the Supreme Court of India is the highest court of the country and how it controls and runs the judicial administration of India. In addition, he also determined the importance of judicial review in the Indian Judicial System which he indicated protects the fundamental rights of citizens, upholds the principle of the supremacy of the consti-

tution and also maintains federal equilibrium.

The programme also saw the presence of Minister Law, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs Department, RB Subba and Area MLA cum Health Minister, AK Ghataani alongside department officials of South District and Jorethang sub-division, members of the Bar Association, para legal volunteers, Nayabazar Jorethang Municipal Corporation members and panchayats of Zoom Salghari constituency, school heads and various school representatives.

Tourism can help Arunachal develop economically: Khandu



**ITANAGAR, MAY 26 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has said that tourism is the only sector after hydro power that could help the state to develop economically.

Speaking at the 12th Arunachal Pradesh Tour Operators' Association (APTOA) Travel Congress here yesterday, Khandu said after hydro power, tourism holds maximum potential.

"We need to concentrate on our next viable potential sector, which is undoubtedly tourism," he said.

Lauding APTOA, a conglomerate of local tour operators of the state, Khandu said the tourism sector has grown exponentially in the last couple of years due to their sincere efforts.

Despite increase in the number of tourists, the state is way behind the national average and has to work much more, Khandu said.

"We can attract tourists more than what we are doing right now," he said. The chief minister also called upon the state tourism department authorities to finalise the draft of the state tourism policy that will chalk out a roadmap for the sector to grow.

He also announced a corpus fund of Rs 1 crore for APTOA to take up various initiatives for its growth.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju speaking on the occasion emphasised on projecting and promoting Arunachal Pradesh as a cultural tourism hotspot.

"Arunachal Pradesh has got everything to satisfy the taste of every visitor," he said.

Five rescued from traffickers near Rangia rly station

**RANGIA (ASSAM), MAY 26 (PTI):** Five persons, including a minor boy, were rescued from a house where they were lodged for alleged trafficking near Rangia railway station, the police said today.

Acting on a tip off, a police team raided the house and rescued the five persons yesterday, a police officer said.

The trafficker who had kept the five persons in the house is absconding and a search launched to track him.

On being interrogated the five told the police that they had separately come to Guwahati's business area Paltanbazar yesterday from different parts of Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal in search of employment when an unknown man suddenly came to them and offered them jobs in biscuit and iron factories in Jammu and Kashmir.

The four men in their early 20s and the minor boy about 15 years old belonging to poor families in Darjeeling in WB, Shillong in Maghalaya and Helem, Gohpur and Lakhimpur in Assam were offered Rs 8000 per month as salary and other facilities, they told the police.

The unknown trafficker brought them to Rangia from Guwahati and lodged them in a room near the railway station.

The police have arranged to send the five rescued persons back to their respective homes with the help of their family, he said.

Rangia railway station is being used as a transit point by human traffickers due to easy communication from there to the rest of the country and Nepal, the police said.

The Railway Protection Force rescued six girls, including four minors, on May 21 when they were being allegedly trafficked at Rangia railway station, five minor boys and five men on May 15, besides sixteen girls, including nine minors, early in the month from the same place, the police said.

CBSE sets up helpline for students to deal with post-result stress

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26 (PTI):** The Central Board of Secondary Education today operationalised a helpline for students to battle post-result stress.

The CBSE announced its Class 12 results today with an overall pass percentage of 83.01 per cent as against last year's 82.02 per cent.

"The CBSE has also set up special counselling facility for dealing with post-result anxiety. There are 69 counsellors, principals and special educators, who will be assisting the caller on any issue pertaining to post-exam anxiety," said Rama Shar-

ma, senior public relations officer, CBSE.

Out of the 69 counsellors, 49 are in India, including two special educators, while 20 experts are located in Nepal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Al-Khobar, Jeddah), Oman, the UAE (Dubai, Sharjah, Ras-Al-Khaimah), Kuwait, Singapore and Qatar.

The helpline will be functional from 8 AM to 10 PM on all days till June 9.

The CBSE will be providing counselling services to students and parents to overcome common psychological problems and general

queries related to Class 10 and 12 results, the board said.

A tweet from the official Twitter handle of the board said, "Be Positive #CBSE Exam Results Result is not the ultimate decisive factor. Explore and choose the next option. Being positive is always the first step to success."

There were other messages too which asked the students to not indulge in criticism or comparison.

"#CBSE Exam Results: Good news is that many students do better after school because of maturity and greater focus, in-

creased awareness level and exposure to options. Avoid criticising or comparing with others. Be realistic. Remember, exams are not the end of the world," the board tweeted.

In another message, the board asked the students to be positive and look forward to the future.

"#Be Positive #CBSE Exam Results Counseling: Examination Results are a spring board to future achievements, better prospects and scope for improvement. Whatever be the result, you have done your best. Now prepare for your future," another tweet said.

CID seizes 2,499 turtles in West Bengal, four detained

**KOLKATA, MAY 26 (PTI):** The West Bengal CID today seized 2,499 turtles from Dhulagarh area and detained four persons in this connection, a senior official said.

Acting to a tip-off, CID sleuths along with officials of the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau and the state forest department, intercepted a truck and seized 92 boxes containing the turtles, including 700 dead Indian soft shell turtles, he said.

The turtles have been sent to the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in Salt Lake.

The death of the turtles was caused mainly because of "improper" and "unhealthy" manner of transportation, he said.

"This is most probably the highest recovery of turtles in West Bengal and second highest in the country as reported by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau," the CID officer said, adding, the market value of the turtles could be worth around Rs 20,00,000.

Miss World to celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 MAY:** The current Miss World, Manushi Chhillar is coming to Sikkim to attend the Menstrual Hygiene Day celebration on 29 May here at Manan Kendra. On the occasion, she will be interacting with girl students and women on menstrual hygiene.

Ms Chhillar is scheduled to arrive at Gangtok on 28 May.

The beauty queen won the Beauty with a Purpose crown for her project in Female Hygiene and Health and has been presently creating awareness among adolescent girls and women on good menstrual hygiene.

This was informed

by Menstrual Hygiene Day celebration adhoc committee in a press conference here today, which was addressed by its president, Tshering Gyatso, general secretary, Krishna Lepcha and publicity secretary, Wangchuk Bhutia.

They informed that girl students from different schools and col-

leges and ASHA members from throughout the State have been invited for the celebration. They informed that the Miss World and experts will interact with participants on concerned topics in the 2-hour long programme. They added that the celebration has also targeted to create wide awareness on cervi-

cal cancer and to support womanhood.

"We have come forward with a noble cause and it is a good opportunity to interact with the current Miss World on this important topic. So we would like to appeal to all to attend the programme," they urged.

West Bengal to get four new universities: Partha

**ASANSOL, MAY 26 (PTI):** West Bengal Higher Education Minister Partha Chatterjee today said four new universities will come up in the state in the future.

Chatterjee, who was present at the convocation of Kazi Nazrul University here, said the new universities will be set up in Alipurdwar, Jalpaiguri, East Midnapore and Jhargram.

The minister said during the seven years of Trinamool Congress rule, 22 new higher edu-

cational institutions have come up in West Bengal.

The state will set up two-three colleges and one university in each district, as part of the objective to bring higher education to more people, Chatterjee said.

At the convocation earlier today, the Kazi Nazrul University conferred a D Litt (honoris causa) on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"It is a matter of pride to confer the honour on Hasinaji from a state uni-

versity named after Kazi Nazrul Islam on his birth anniversary," Chatterjee said.

"Our government has worked to make Churulia, the birth place of Kazi Nazrul, a place befitting his stature as a poet of the Bengalis, and restored it," he said.

The minister added that more students from Bangladesh will be enrolled in the higher educational institutions for future studies.

Court seeks status report in Maj Gogoi hotel incident

**SRINAGAR, MAY 26 (PTI):** A local court today directed the police to submit a status report on the investigation into the hotel fracas involving Army officer Major Leetul Gogoi.

The directions came after an NGO filed an application before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Srinagar, seeking directions to the police to furnish the status report with respect to the case.

SHO (station house officer) Khanyar to submit report in light of the application by May 30, the CJM directed.


The application was moved by chairman of

International Forum for Justice and Human Rights (IFJHR), J-K, Mohammad Ahsan Untoo.

On Wednesday, Gogoi was briefly detained by police in Srinagar after an altercation when he and his driver were allegedly trying to enter a hotel with an 18-year-old woman, according to a police official.

The state police has initiated an inquiry into the incident involving Gogoi, who was set free after being detained briefly.

Gogoi had sparked a row in April last year when he tied a local to his jeep and paraded him in Budgam district.



**Government of Sikkim**  
**State Surveillance Unit (IDSP)**  
**Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department,**  
Gangtok- 737101, Telefax: 03592-232847

**ADVISORY**

The Health Department on Thursday issued an Advisory and said there were minimal possibility of Human Nipah Virus (NIV) in Sikkim but people need to take precaution. The Health Department issued the advisory in the aftermath of NIV outbreak in the South Indian state of Kerala that has claimed 12 lives so far including a nurse.

The symptom of the virus includes fever, headache, vomiting and fainting. Some may show symptoms of epilepsy. The symptoms may last for 10-12 days followed by unconsciousness and death as a result of brain fever.

The virus spreads from infested bats to animals through bites and from animal to other animal through body fluids and from human to human through body fluids. It is advised to the general public:

- Not to eat fruits and vegetables bitten by birds, bats and animals.
- Wash hand properly after contacting infested person.
- Monitor fever cases with history of travel to affected area i.e. Kerala.

Since human Nipah virus (NiV) is restricted to two districts of Kerala, there is no travel restriction imposed. There is no restriction for eating clean fruits after washing. There is no need to panic.

R.O. No. 103/ipr/pub/class/18-19  
dt. 26.5.2018

In Public Interest.  
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## Rollback hike in fuel prices instead of 'showing fitness': Cong

**JAIPUR, MAY 26 (PTI):** The Congress said today that the government should rollback the increase in fuel prices instead of "showing fitness", apparently referring to Union ministers and BJP leaders posting videos of their workouts on social media.

"Someone is doing push-ups and someone is showing fitness (in other ways) but fuel prices are rising," Congress leader Sachin Pilot told reporters in Jaipur.

His comments came after Union ministers Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Kiren Rijiju posted videos on social media as part of a 'fitness challenge', which has also been accepted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others.

Delhi BJP leader Manoj Tiwari has also posted a similar video.

Pilot said state governments can provide relief by cutting the Value Added Tax (VAT) and cess levied on fuel prices.

He said people annoyed with the increasing fuel prices will give a befitting reply to the government in upcoming polls.

Petrol and diesel prices were raised for the 11th day in succession until May 24 as state-owned oil firms decided to pass on the burden to consumers.

Avinash Pande, AICC general-secretary in charge of Rajasthan, said the increasing fuel prices have badly hit the common man but the government is doing nothing to address the issue.

"When crude oil prices in the international market was quite high, the price of petrol in the country was Rs 65-68 per liter during the UPA government's rule. But now crude oil prices have remained comparatively low yet prices skyrocketed in the NDA dispensation," Pande said.

He urged the government to reduce taxes to bring down the fuel prices.

## Kairana bypolls: BJP MP booked for violation of model code of conduct

**MUZAFFARNAGAR, MAY 26 (PTI):** BJP MP Kanta Kardam was booked for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct by inciting religious sentiments in her speech on Tuesday, police said today.

Nukud Police Station SHO Yashpal Singh said a case was registered against Kardam on the directives of the Election Commission.

Kardam had allegedly made the remarks inciting religious sentiments during an election meeting at Nukud town in Saharanpur district, the police said.

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# Super Kings, Sunrisers to square off in high-voltage IPL finale

**SS RAMASWAMY**

**Mumbai, May 26 (PTI):**

Nerves will play a big role as two title-hungry outfits, Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad look to outdo each other and regain the coveted Indian Premier League crown when they square off in what promises to be a humdinger of a summit contest in Mumbai on Sunday.

The winners-take-all T20 final, in front of a capacity crowd at the Wankhede Stadium, will see Chennai Super Kings, who are gunning for their third IPL crown, take on 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad five days after their first play-off game at the same neutral venue.

These two southern rivals met at the bull-ring on May 22 in Qualifier 1 in which the Super Kings, champions in 2010 and 2011, just about managed to ward off their rivals in a low-scoring thriller after looking down in the dumps at one stage during the run-chase.

That victory, by 2 wickets, enabled the Super Kings to enter their seventh final in nine attempts directly, while dumping their Hyderabad rivals to their third successive defeat in head-to-head contests this season.

Sunrisers had to travel to Kolkata to book their final berth after knocking out two-time former champions Kolkata Knight Riders by 14 runs in Qualifier 2 last night.

While the Super Kings are blessed with a four-day break in between their two games, Sunrisers will be hoping that their winning momen-



tum will help overcome the tiredness of travelling to and from Kolkata and playing their third game, which also happens to be the championship-deciding one, in seven days.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who came up with a sensational 3 for 19 stint on Friday night apart from scoring a rapid-fire 34 in 10 balls and then taking two catches and effecting a run-out, had troubled the Super Kings with a 2 for 11 burst in the first qualifier.

CSK got out of the jail courtesy the calm and assured innings of 67 not out from South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis who played the game only after Sam Billings was ruled out due to injury.

The Super Kings batting was left

floundering at 62 for 6 with Rashid taking out danger men skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Dwayne Bravo. He nearly had du Plessis too before the latter reviewed a leg before decision successfully and stayed till the end to guide Super Kings home.

The talented leggie, who has been described as the best T20 spinner currently by Sachin Tendulkar, again looms as a huge stumbling block for the Super Kings' strong batting lineup. He will also have back up from, notably medium pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Siddharth Kaul.

Super Kings will also be wary about the match-turning all-round abilities of Carlos Brathwaite, the hero of the Caribbeans title-win-

ning contest in the 2016 World T20 Championship. The big West Indian shone with the ball at the death against KKR after his blistering innings of 43 not out here against CSK.

Sunrisers will, however, need captain Kane Williamson to get back into the sort of stupendous form he exhibited in the league stage, along with India opener Shikhar Dhawan to improve their title-clinching chances.

Their middle and lower order have not really been firing barring the odd game.

Super Kings had depended a lot on their top order of Shane Watson, Suresh Raina and Ambati Rayudu in the round-robin stage of the tournament, apart from Dhoni's finishing

flourishes.

With du Plessis and Bravo too in the mix, along with Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh and Shardul Thakur with the ability to play cameos, the batting looks formidable.

Harbhajan, strangely, was not given a single over when the two teams met in the first play-off game and needs just one wicket to complete 50 IPL wickets at this ground which was his home ground when he played for Mumbai Indians in the first ten seasons.

The Super Kings' bowling attack also has a well-oiled look, giving them a more rounded visage.

**Teams (From):**

Chennai Super Kings: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (C), Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Faf du Plessis, Harbhajan Singh, Dwayne Bravo, Shane Watson, Ambati Rayadu, Deepak Chahar, K M Asif, Kanish Seth, Lungi Ngidi, Dhruv Shorey, Murali Vijay, Sam Billings, Mark Wood, Kshitiz Sharma, Monu Kumar, Chaitanya Bishnoi, Imran Tahir, Karn Sharma, Shardul Thakur, N Jagadeesan, David Willy.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Kane Williamson (C), Shikhar Dhawan, Manish Pandey, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Wriddhiman Saha, Siddharth Kaul, Deepak Hooda, Khaleel Ahmed, Sandeep Sharma, Yusuf Pathan, Shreevats Goswami, Ricky Bhui, Basil Thampi, T Natarajan, Sachin Baby, Bipul Sharma, Mehdi Hasan, Tanmay Agarwal, Alex Hales, Carlos Brathwaite, Rashid Khan, Shakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Nabi and Chris Jordan.

Match commences at 7 pm IST.

## Iniesta greets Japanese football fans, vows to conquer Asia

**KOBE (JAPAN), MAY 26 (AFP):** Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta made his first appearance at Vissel Kobe since signing for the Japanese side, greeting thousands of fans and vowing to make his new club the biggest in Asia.

Wearing the number eight shirt -- like he did at Barcelona -- the 34-year-old World Cup winner attended a welcome ceremony at the J-League club's home stadium in the western port city of Kobe, together with team owner Hiroshi Mikitani.

"This is a big challenge for me," Iniesta told some 4,000 fans through an interpreter two days after signing his contract at a glitzy unveiling in Tokyo.

He displayed his ball-juggling technique and kicked footballs into the crowd, delighting fans.

"I aim to contribute to the team as much as possible," said Iniesta, who is reported to have agreed



a three-year deal with an annual salary of 30 million, a J-League record.

"I think I should pursue the best objectives in both football and my life," he added, saying he

wants Vissel to win the league and "if possible, conquer Asia".

The midfielder, who famously scored Spain's winning goal against the Netherlands in the 2010

World Cup final, lifted 32 major trophies and made 674 appearances for Barcelona.

The Spain icon's decision to choose Kobe arguably represents Japanese football's biggest transfer coup, with many top players now moving to cash-rich Chinese clubs in the twilight of their careers.

Iniesta had said earlier this month that moving to a Chinese club was also an option for him.

His signing is a timely boost to the J-League, which used to attract luminaries such as Brazilian great Zico and former England star Gary Lineker when it began in 1993 but has struggled to attract marquee players in recent years.

Following the World Cup in Russia, Iniesta will join former Arsenal striker Lukas Podolski at Vissel, currently sixth in the J-League first division after 15 games.



## Eden Gardens voted best ground of IPL 2018

**KOLKATA, MAY 26 (PTI):** Kolkata Knight Riders may have lost in the final race but its home venue, the hallowed Eden Gardens, was voted as the best ground in IPL 2018.

In a tweet, former India captain Sourav Ganguly revealed this ahead of the official BCCI announcement tomorrow and also thanked the ground staff for their contribution.

"The CAB is happy to inform that Eden Gardens has once again been awarded the best venue

and ground of IPL 2018," the Cricket Association of Bengal president wrote on his official Twitter handle.

This season, Eden Gardens went on to host nine matches of IPL 2018 after getting two bonus matches in the playoffs which were originally slated in Pune.

The Eliminator and second Qualifier were moved to Kolkata after the western city became Chennai Super Kings' home venue in the middle of the tournament due to Cauvery river water dis-

pute in Tamil Nadu.

"The CAB takes this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to this success beginning with the ground staff, BCCI and ICC," Ganguly added.

CAB joint secretary Avishek Dalmiya also profusely thanked in a post on his official Facebook page.

"Eden Gardens is what it is because of the cricket Loving people of the state, so many thanks to them for being such a great crowd.

## Docs perform open heart surgery on 3-wk old girl

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26 (PTI):** Doctors at a city hospital performed an open-heart surgery on a three weeks old infant who was suffering from a rare heart condition, offering her a fresh lease of life.

The 19-day-old baby was admitted to the hospital on April 10 as an emergency case.

The case presented huge challenges at every step, the doctors said.

The baby was diagnosed with Infra Diaphragmatic Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection and the oxygenated blood from her lungs was not reaching the heart.

"The blood had to reach the heart in some way to sustain life. In her condition, the blood was draining through a channel which was joining a vein in the

liver. Due to this, the lung pressures were very high, Manisha Chakrabarti, senior consultant, Paediatric Cardiology at Indraprastha Apollo hospitals.

This condition was a true paediatric cardiac emergency, she said.

At the time of admission, the baby's lung pressures were very high but the biggest obstacle was her overall health. She weighed just 2.2 kg and was very weak, she said.

This was probably the smallest baby (in terms of weight) to undergo an open-heart surgery at our institution. So her treatment method was also distinctive from other cases," the doctor claimed.

Detailing the surgical procedure, Muthu Jothi, senior

consultant, paediatric cardio thoracic surgeon at the hospital, said they stopped the blood circulation completely for 30 minutes.

"To ensure that her organs don't suffer shock, especially the brain, we lowered her body temperature by placing ice all around her little body. During this time the channel was closed and the chamber was connected to the left side of the heart," Jothi said.

The baby girl was put on a heart-lung machine for the procedure. After successfully connecting the systemic circuit of the blood vessels in the correct order, circulation was slowly re-established and she was taken off the heart-lung machine, he said.

After the operation, the baby

was in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for one week and her recovery was uneventful. Post-operative ECHO revealed good recovery and she was discharged on April 21.

"She has been coming to us for follow up and I am delighted to see her doing well. She has been gaining weight and is expected to make a full recovery without any hiccups, Jothi said.

The child's father said, It was an immensely distressing experience, having to witness our newborn child go through so much trauma."

"The happiness of her birth was overshadowed by her ailment. We are grateful to the doctors, due to tireless efforts of whom, we have our daughter back with us," he said.

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*Pak Army summons former ISI head over book co-authored with ex-RAW chief*

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, MAY 26 (PTI):** Pakistan's powerful army has summoned former ISI chief Asad Durrani to seek his explanation over a book he co-authored with India's ex-spy chief AS Dulat, accusing him of 'violating' the military code of conduct. Lieutenant General (ret'd) Durrani, who headed the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency from August 1990 till March 1992, along with Dulat has written "The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace". The book was released on Wednesday.

The Pakistan Army in a statement said that Durrani was being called to General Headquarters (GHQ) on May 20 and "will be asked to explain his position on views attributed to him in book 'Spy Chronicles'."

"Attribution taken as violation of Military Code of Conduct applicable on all serving and retired military personnel," according to the statement issued last night.

Durrani was summoned after ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday demanded an urgent meeting of the high-powered National Security Committee (NSC) to discuss the content of the book.

Former chairman Pakistan Senate Raza Rabbani criticised the book by rival spy chiefs.

"Had a politician done the same thing he would have been labelled a traitor," he said.

*Gold falls Rs 105 on global cues, weak demand*

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26 (PTI):** Gold prices drifted lower by Rs 105 to Rs 32,370 per 10 grams at the bullion market today, halting its four-day rising streak on the back of weak global cues amid easing demand from local jewellers at prevailing higher levels.

Silver followed suit and dropped by Rs 350 to Rs 41,200 per kg backed by reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

Traders said besides weak trend overseas, as strength in dollar against other currencies overseas eroded the appeal of the precious metal as a safe-haven investment, fall in demand from local jewellers and retailers at existing higher levels at domestic spot market weighed on the prices.

Gold prices fell 0.22 per cent to USD 1,301.20 an ounce and silver by 0.99 per cent to USD 16.47 an ounce in New York in yesterday's trade.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity fell by Rs 105 each to Rs 32,370 and Rs 32,220 per 10 grams, respectively. The precious metals had gained Rs 600 in the previous four sessions.

Sovereign gold, however, remained unaltered at Rs 24,800 per piece of eight grams in limited deals.

Following gold, silver ready plunged by Rs 350 to Rs 41,200 per kg and weekly-based delivery by Rs 495 to Rs 40,265 per kg.

Silver coins, however, were unaltered at Rs 76,000 for buying and Rs 77,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

# China orders crackdown on outdoor religious statues

**KJM VARMA BEIJING, MAY 26 (PTI):**

China's ruling Communist Party has ordered the provincial governments to regulate construction of large outdoor religious statues in a bid to prevent "commercialisation" of Buddhist and Taoist religions, official media reported today.

Both Buddhism and Taoism have been officially recognised in Communist China with thousands of temples, even though they were subjected to

heavy crackdown during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) headed by Communist Party of China (CPC) founder Mao Zedong to cleanse China of its spiritual past.

Local governments have been asked to ramp up efforts to regulate the construction of new large outdoor religious statues, the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of the CPC directed yesterday.

Chinese society has reached common ground on regulating the com-

mercialisation of Buddhist and Taoist activities and the practice of building large outdoor religious statues has made some progress, but more challenges still lie ahead, according to a meeting held by the UFWD in Beijing on Wednesday, Global Times reported.

While Buddhism which emanated from India remained the oldest religion in China, Taoism, also known as Daoism, is an indigenous religious or philosophical tradition of Chinese origin.

Buddhist statues are dotted all over China as Buddhism remained a dominant religion in the country.

An official white paper on religions in China released last month said China has 200 million believers.

The major religions practised in China, which are Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism, have more than 3.80 lakh clerical personnel, it said.

There are about 5,500 religious groups in China,

including seven national organisations, and about 144,000 places of worship registered for religious activities, including 33,500 Buddhist temples of different schools, 9,000 Taoist temples.

Since President Xi Jinping took over power, heading the CPC, the Presidency and the military, and becoming the most powerful leader of China in recent years, he has been emphasising on the CPC strengthening the credentials of its core Marxist ideology wedded

to the atheistic values.

The UFWD has asked the local governments to create specific plans and timetables for regulating the construction of any new large outdoor religious statues and preventing the further commercialisation of religions must be their "top priority".

"The regulation on religious statues doesn't mean the country is against religion, it aims to stop religions from profit-making activities," Xiong Kunxin, a profes-

sor with Beijing's Minzu University of China, told the Times.

Over-commercialisation will contaminate the sanctity of religion and threaten social stability, Xiong said.

Zhu Weiqun, former chairman of the ethnic and religious committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said that "the crackdown must be resolute. We cannot give up halfway. The phenomenon still largely exists across China".

## S Korea welcomes prospect of 'reignited' US-N Korea talks

**SEOUL, MAY 26 (AFP):** South Korea today welcomed the renewed prospect of a summit between the United States and North Korea after President Trump cancelled talks with Kim Jong Un only to suggest they might still take place.

"We find it fortunate that the embers of the North Korea-US talks are reignited. We are watching developments carefully," Presidential Blue House spokesman Kim Eui-gyeom said.

Trump's cancellation of the summit blindsided treaty ally South Korea, which had brokered the remarkable detente between Washington and Pyongyang.

President Moon Jae-in had to scramble his national security team when news of Trump's decision first reached Seoul late Thursday evening as he called Wash-

ington's u-turn "shocking and very regrettable".

Yesterday, Trump turned on his heels again, saying the meeting with Kim could go ahead after all -- and would "likely" happen on the originally scheduled date of June 12 in Singapore.

The summit would be an unprecedented meeting between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader, which Washington hopes will result in full denuclearisation of the recusive state.

South Korea's Moon has pushed diplomacy as he desperately sought to calm spiralling tensions on the Korean Peninsula and an escalating war of words between Kim and Trump last year sparked by Pyongyang's detonation of its largest nuclear bomb to date and a series of intercontinental ballistic missile tests.



**PRIYANKA CHOPRA SHARES STORIES OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:** Priyanka Chopra with an 8-month old baby in a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh (Instagram). UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Priyanka Chopra, who is on a field visit here, has shared her on-ground experiences from the Rohingya refugees shelters - from stumbling upon "calmness" in the conflict-stricken zone to urging global community to come to their aid. The 35-year-old actor took to Instagram to document her visit - day-by-day - through posts, pictures and videos at various camps. "As I walk into the Women Friendly Space at the Jamtoli Camp, I am instantly struck by a certain calmness. These camps are loud & crowded, actually overcrowded, and so to find a quiet oasis, in this case a small hut with a tarp roof and thatched bamboo walls, is surprising.

# Weinstein released on USD 1m bail over rape and abuse charges

**NEW YORK, MAY 26 (PTI):** Harvey Weinstein, who was arrested and arraigned on charges that he raped one woman and forced another to perform oral sex on him, has been released on USD 1 million bail.

According to USA Today, the disgraced Hollywood producer also agreed to wear a GPS tracker and to surrender his passport after turning himself in to police on Friday.

Weinstein was carrying three books, including Todd Purdum's "Something Wonderful: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution," as he got out of a black

SUV and walked past the swarm of TV cameras and reporters and through the front door of the New York Police Department's First Precinct in Manhattan yesterday.

His is defense attorney Benjamin Brafman told reporters that Weinstein would enter a not guilty plea.

"Mr Weinstein has always maintained that he has never engaged in non-consensual sexual behavior with anyone. Nothing about today's proceedings changes Mr Weinstein's position. He has entered a plea of not guilty and fully expects to be exonerated," Brafman was quoted as saying in

the US media.

"We intend to move very quickly to dismiss these charges. We believe that they are constitutionally flawed. We believe that they are not factually supported by the evidence, and we believe that at the end of the process Mr Weinstein will be exonerated," Brafman, one of US' renowned criminal defense attorneys, told reporters outside the courthouse.

More than 100 women, including prominent Hollywood celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek, Ashley Judd, Uma Thurman and Asia Argento, have publicly accused

Weinstein of sexual misconduct, including rape with some allegations dating back to decades.

Weinstein's career saw a sudden downfall last October following an expose by The New York Times and New Yorker magazine.

The criminal sex act charge against Weinstein stems from an encounter with Lucia Evans, who told The New Yorker and then investigators from the Manhattan district attorney's office that Hollywood producer forced her to perform oral sex on him during what she thought would be a casting meeting. The victim in the rape case has not been publicly identified.



## Pakistan rejects charge of treating US diplomats badly

**ISLAMABAD, MAY 26 (PTI):** Pakistan has rejected US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's accusation that American diplomats were treated badly by authorities in Islamabad, saying it has not received any specific complaint about it.

Pompeo during a briefing to the US lawmakers had raised concerns over the "bad treatment" meted out to US diplomats in Pakistan.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal told the media yesterday that it had not received any specific complaints from the US side after establishment of the mechanism to resolve the issue on treatment of the US diplomats in Pakistan.

"Diplomats hailing from all countries enjoy diplomatic privileges alike and are provided every possible support as per international laws and norms as well as reciprocity," he said.

Talking about the reduction in the annual US assistance to Pakistan, Faisal said that the US had suspended the security related assistance to Pakistan earlier this year, including the CSF (coalition support fund) reimbursements.

"We believe, and the fact has been frequently acknowledged by the US officials also, that the security-related assistance served the mutual interest of stability in the region," he said.

## Hamburg to host 2018 Global Wind Summit

**ABHISHEK SONKAR HAMBURG (GERMANY), MAY 26 (PTI):** The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held here from September 25-28, 2018.

The organisers of the four-day event are expecting speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark.

"A number of Indian companies would be participating in the global event. We are also in touch with the Indian government," Anja Holinsky, project director, WindEnergy Hamburg, Hamburg Messe and Congress GmbH, told PTI here.

The conference on wind is the largest and most important meet-

ing of the wind industry worldwide.

The event combines two conferences, WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope, Holinsky said, adding both the events together will witness about 1,400 exhibitors and 250 speakers from all over the world.

The event will provide a platform for experts from across the globe to discuss innovative and green technologies for harnessing wind energy making, S Gnanasekharan, Secretary General, Indian Wind Power Association, said.

"The focus of the conferences would be on three major subjects. Dynamic markets, cost efficiency and smart energy.

How to develop new markets, make product competitive in auctions and use wind power for all energy applications (will be discussed)," he said.

India is fourth largest country -- after China, the US and Germany -- in terms of wind energy installation capacity at around 33 GW, Gnanasekharan said, adding the government has set a target of achieving 60 GW by 2022.

"I am sure India has potential to meet the target in the given time. India is also a huge market for this sector. Today many companies are eyeing India," said Steve Sawyer, Secretary General, Global Wind Energy Council.

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# Gangtok rapper UNB releases Breakup Anthem 'Khair'

Breakups are the worst. You know that, we know that and apparently, UNB knows that as well. The rapper recently released his latest endeavor, an infectious hip-hop/rap song titled 'Khair', that perfectly reflects those fabulous post-split feels that we're all so familiar with.

"Khair" follows UNB's previous effort "Hoina Ki Vanana", and makes for an undeniably catchy track with its tinkling verses and earworm of a chorus.

The lyrics of the song are about the feeling after a breakup where you think you might literally never get over it, and you're living with what feels like an endless cycle of self-destruction, loathing, and emptiness.

However, he makes it a point to encourage the listeners to not be self-destructive during a break-up by saying: "Churi boki katney chu mo haath... na soch, timilai sochi runey chu din raath... na soch..... aafulai naramro gardina ma"

A part of his ongoing project, UNB has been adding to the collection of songs all written by himself about his struggles, love-life, betrayal and self-actualization, the playlist will continue to evolve as he periodically releases new songs.

UNB is currently basking on the success of his songs resonating with fans from all over the country. With 82,000+ subscribers on his YouTube channel and his recently released songs clocking in 100,000 views each, the rapper is here to

stay!

'Khair' released on 24 May has already garnered more than 20,000 views in just two days of its release. Without any promotions and additional publicity the rapper has managed to build a loyal fan base which he calls 'Team Kauso'.

UNB's popularity peaked when he released the politically charged 'Jai Jai Khukuri', a song based on Gorkhaland Agitation. After that he released a mashup song featuring hit songs of 2017 which till date has pulled in more than 6.7 million views.

His hits include- 'Pani', 'Feel It', 'Na Vana Testo', 'Mid Fin Up', 'Prathna Garidew' and 'Hoina ki Vanana'.



## DISNEY REPORTEDLY DEVELOPING ANIMATED DRAGON EMPIRE FILM



It appears that Disney's next Original animated film is going to be a fantasy adventure that's tentatively known as Dragon Empire. The Mouse House's animation studio has knocked out hit after hit for the good part of the last decade now, with films like Tangled, Zootopia, and Moana pleasing general audiences and critics alike. Up next for Walt Disney Animation Studios is this November's Ralph Breaks the Internet: Wreck-It Ralph 2, followed by another animated sequel a year after that in the form of Frozen 2. However, for the time being, Disney doesn't have an official animated entry scheduled for release in 2020.

Back in 2015, Disney announced it was developing an animated Jack and the Beanstalk re-telling titled Gigantic, which re-imagines the infamous giant from the fairy tale as a precocious 10-year

old girl (giant). The Mouse House eventually shifted the film back to a 2020 release before it announced last fall that Gigantic had been shelved over concerns about the creative direction of the project (translation: it just wasn't working). Disney has yet to announce what will take Gigantic's former spot in November 2020, but it sounds like Dragon Empire is a plausible candidate, based on this new update.

Disney is reportedly actively moving forward with Dragon Empire, an animated film that (by the sound of it) is an original venture that's not based on any IP. Frozen and Big Hero 6 head of story Paul Briggs is making his directing debut on the movie alongside longtime Disney story artist Dean Wellins, with Cars and Cars 3 screenwriter Kiel Murray handling the script. Story details for Dragon Empire are

being kept under lock and key for now, though THS has learned that the main character is a young heroine named Jan-Nin, who is joined on her quest in the film by Bolin - the male lead, described as a 900 year old comic relief and mentor to Jan-Nin - and, possibly, a male supporting character named Katsu.

Further, Jamie Chung has reportedly expressed an interest in voicing Jan-Nin in Dragon Empire, though it doesn't appear that she's firmly set to play the character just yet. Chung has a history with the Mouse House that works in her favor, having previously voiced Go Go Tomago in Big Hero 6 - a role she's reprising for Disney XD's Big Hero 6 sequel TV series - and played the live-action Mulan in Once Upon a Time, the recently concluded ABC TV show that takes place in a universe populated by various Disney fairy tale

characters. For the time being, she's the only actor reported to be circling one of the main roles in Dragon Empire.

DreamWorks has its own dragon-centric franchise in How to Train Your Dragon and will conclude that animated film series next March with the long-awaited third chapter, How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World. Dragons aside though, it thankfully doesn't sound like Dragon Empire and How to Train Your Dragon have much in common, either in terms of their cultural influences or lead (human) characters. Dragon Empire will further continue the recent trend in Disney animated films of focusing on a non-romantic couple and could make for another memorable fantasy heroine's journey in the vein of Moana, based on the details available at the moment.



**WELL HELLO!** Ocean's 8 actress Anne Hathaway waves to fans while exiting her hotel in New York City.

## Kit Harington and Rose Leslie's wedding date revealed

Former Game of Thrones co-stars Kit Harington (Jon Snow) and Rose Leslie (Ygritte) are getting married on June 23 in Scotland, according to BBC News.

"A 23 June date has been posted at the Huntly registration office in Aberdeenshire. The actress's father, councillor Seb



Leslie, owns a castle in his West Garioch constituency," the outlet reports.

Back in Sept. 2017, the couple's engagement was announced in The Times

paper. "The engagement is announced between Kit, younger son of David and Deborah Harington of Worcestershire, and Rose, middle daughter of Sebastian and Candy Leslie of Aberdeenshire," the announcement read.

Shortly after their engagement was revealed, Harington admitted on the Jonathan Ross Show that he botched his proposal to Leslie.

"I was going to string up some lights in some trees and do all the romantic stuff

but we were in the country and we were under this beautiful night sky and had a log fire burning and red wine and I blew my load early," Harington said. "Sorry that's a really bad expression!"

After realizing what he just said, the actor then explained, "What I meant to say was, I popped my question a bit early. Not blew my load."

Back in March, Leslie dished about how wedding planning was going amid her filming schedule for The Good Fight

and Harington's for Game of Thrones.

The actress admitted that figuring out "tiny little details" over FaceTime or email "is hard" and the distance "does make things a little bit trickier, but no, for the most part we agreed on most things," she said with a laugh. "Which is good."

Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke [Denarys] also recently opened up about the couple's upcoming wedding, telling Vanity Fair, "Their wedding is going to be siiiick."

**ARIES:** Recent opposition standing in the way of long-term goals is apt to ease a bit today, Aries. Situations surrounding these issues should become clearer, and you should have a better idea of what exactly it is that you're up against. You'll find that this is a very climactic time for you in a great number of ways. You will now begin to reap the rewards of what you've sown.

**TAURUS:** It's time to review your dreams and fantasies, Taurus. It could be that you've been neglecting them lately. Perhaps things you've been working toward haven't exactly panned out the way you'd hoped. The good news is that things should be turning around in your favor starting

today. Take control of your dreams and you'll find that you can get them moving forward again.

**GEMINI:** Things that have been out of whack in your life should begin to come back into balance, Gemini. The bad news is that it may take a while for the pendulum to return to the optimal point. The good news is that this shift is taking place at all. It will be a gradual change, but you're at a pivotal point in which you can set your sights on exactly what you want.

**CANCER:** The tide will start to ebb today just after it reaches its highest point. There is a pause now, Cancer, and you'll find that things are about to pick up considerably again. The shift that's happening

within you is profound. Even though you may not notice its effects all at once, you should trust that things will be coming your way as the weeks go by.

**LEO:** You may have been engaged in a battle with the facts lately, Leo. Perhaps new information has forced you to take a step back as you contemplate the next move in your game plan. Research time is over and now you need to get back into the game with full force. When it comes to delicate issues regarding other people's property, you should make sure to be respectful at all times.

**VIRGO:** Goals that may have seemed unreachable in the recent past are finally starting to come into focus, Virgo. It could be that you've been neglect-

ing your dreams because they only seemed to move farther away every time you addressed them. Have faith that your luck is starting to change. Be patient and you'll find that even your wildest fantasies will start to come to fruition.

**LIBRA:** You may have had a hard time launching long-term personal projects lately, Libra. Today marks a critical starting point toward attaining your goals. Perhaps there has been some confusion or delay in this area. You'll find that things are suddenly becoming much clearer. Move forward with projects that you've put off because they were too frustrating to deal with.

**SCORPIO:** Shake off the dust of the past few weeks and put the

confusion behind you, Scorpio. Your tremendous imagination and creative ability have been dormant lately because you may have not known how best to channel them. Perhaps they've been used negatively, leading to fallout in certain areas of your life. The good news is that things are changing. You should make a conscious effort to refocus this creativity in a positive direction.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Long-term projects that you've been working on are apt to shift into forward gear today, Sagittarius. This change may be subtle, but it's quite powerful and extremely helpful to whatever it is you have going. Dreams that may have seemed difficult to achieve now have more of

a chance to actually manifest. You should take this opportunity to reset your dials and make big plans for your ideal future.

**CAPRICORN:** Parts of your life that may have recently taken a backward turn now get back on track, Capricorn. You should find that large projects involving electricity, gadgets, or any mechanical parts will finally be favored now. Be patient, for today's energy shift may be subtle. You should begin to feel this increase in forward motion even more over the next few weeks.

**AQUARIUS:** Issues involving fashion, magazines, and the spoken or written word will all slowly begin to take a turn in a positive direction today, Aquar-

ius. You may find that these things have been somewhat obscured lately, or at least their development has been more backward than forward. The good news is that the tide is turning. You should notice over the next few weeks that things are getting back on track.

**PISCES:** It could be that you've been losing faith in your dreams and fantasies lately, Pisces. Now is the time to refocus on what you want and move forward with confidence. You've done enough reflecting and reviewing. It's time to implement and create. Dream big and don't let others stand in the way of your progress. Today's shift may be subtle, but it should indicate smooth sailing for the next few weeks.