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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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Parts of NE to witness rains, thunderstorm: IMD in ‘severe weather warning’

NEW DELHI, APR 13 (PTI): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a weather warning and predicted “heavy rains” at isolated places over Kerala tomorrow.

Thunderstorm accompanied with squall is very likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Kerala and Lakshadweep, it said.

Isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, coastal and interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and Tamilnadu are also very likely to witness thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds.

“Squally weather with wind speed occasionally reaching 40 -50 kmph is very likely to prevail over the Maldives- Lakshadweep area. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas,” the IMD said.

Thunderstorm accompanied with squall is very likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya Odisha, north interior Karnataka on Sunday.

Sathya Sai Org to conduct free medical camp for heart patients at Singtam

ARPAN PRADHAN SINGTAM, 13 APR:

A free medical health check-up camp is scheduled to be organised by the Sathya Sai Organisation, Sikkim, on 14 Apr at Kidzee School

turn to pg03

Prices of vegetables skyrocket after ban, consumers struggle to ‘adjust’

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 APR:

The ban on sale of non-organic vegetables in the State by the Government has led to people limiting their choices or paying more. Prices of organic vegetables, which were already higher than the non organic ones, have gone up since the ban came into effect.

Before the ban, non organic beans were priced at Rs 40 per kg while the organic ones were priced at Rs 50 per kg. Now the organic beans available in the markets are priced at Rs

80 per kg. Non organic cauliflower was priced at Rs 25 per kg while the organic ones came at Rs 40-50 per kg. Now consumers have to pay Rs 80 per kg for cauliflower.

A quick survey carried out by SummitTimes in some shops at Lal Market showed that a number of basic vegetables are disappearing from market’s shelves as the effects of the non-organic restriction begin to manifest.

As per the rate board outside the organic market, vegetables like brinjal, karela, lady’s finger and dalley were not

available in the market today while capsicum is not even listed on the rate board.

Radish and cabbage are also in short supply because it is not the season here for these vegetables but beyond the State’s borders they are readily available.

In most shops, coriander leaves, lemons and capsicums were missing from the shelves. Hence, coriander leaves and capsicums have gone missing from dishes in some restaurants.

Customers could only find locally grown beans, peas, carrot, cabbage,

cauliflower and leafy vegetables like rai saag and duku which too are now ‘pricy’, according to some of them.

“We are currently struggling to maintain adequate supply of vegetables due to the ban. However, we have managed to get few vegetables from local farmers who charge more than our usual suppliers,” a vendor from Lal Market said.

The upsurge in vegetable prices has also left many restaurants, especially pure vegetarian eateries in jitters as their menus shrink amid higher prices. If this con-

tinues, we might have to hike our prices in order to serve variety of dishes to our customers, said one restaurateur.

But some restaurants who claim to have always served organic food, say, “We have always supported the Government’s decision to ban non-organic vegetables. We always serve homegrown vegetables to our customers.”

Also, since the recent raid where non organic vegetables worth about Rs 4 lakh were seized and disposed of by the Horticulture Department, traders have been reluctant to speak on the issue.

SC takes cognisance of lawyers’ obstruction in Kathua gangrape case

NEW DELHI, APR 13 (PTI): The Supreme Court today took a serious note of lawyers obstructing the judicial process in the Kathua gangrape and murder case

and initiated a case on its own accord saying such impeding of the process of law “affects the delivery of justice”.

The top court said that lawyers’ bodies have solemn duty to not obstruct advocates representing the accused or the victims’ family in the courts.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud sought responses on the conduct of lawyers from Bar Council of India, Jammu and Kashmir Bar Council, Jammu High Court Bar Association and Kathua district bar association by April 19.

“In our considered opinion no lawyer can prevent the advocates representing the accused or victim’s family in the case,” the bench said. It sought reply from bar bodies on various aspects including the question whether lawyers representing victim or accused can be stopped from appearing in the court by another group of lawyers.

“Obstruction of process of law and delivery of justice, and that too by lawyers cannot be condoned and is unethical. Access to justice cannot be impeded by lawyers,” the bench said.

It said that every party before any court is entitled to engage a lawyer and if advocates oppose this principle then it would be destructive of justice dispensation system.

“It is impermissible under law and is unethical to prevent filing of charge sheet or oppose representation of victim’s family by lawyers,” it said.

The bench also took note of the fact that Jammu High Court Bar Association has passed the resolution to protest and not to attend the court and said that “it is solemn duty of the bar to not create obstruction”.

The apex court agreed to take the suo motu cognisance of the matter after several lawyers of the apex court pointed out the incident in which agitating advocates at Kathua district obstructed police from filing of charge sheet in the court yesterday.

Standing counsel for Jammu and Kashmir Shueb Alam, who was called to the CJI court informed that the police had yesterday filed the charge sheet before the

turn to pg02

Air-conditioned coach added to DHR

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 APR:

A new air-conditioned coach has been added to the New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling narrow-gauge passenger train, an official press communiqué from Indian Railways informs.

This is the first instance in India of a narrow gauge railway having air-conditioned coaches. Now, the train will have two First Class coaches and one Air-conditioned coach with the capacity to seat 15 persons. The first class coach accommodates 18.

The fare for the



NJP-Darjeeling ride in the air-conditioned coach has been fixed at Rs. 1,555 per person.

Passengers can book tickets through any Computerised Passenger Reservation system counter anywhere in the country

and also online through the IRCTC website for railway e-tickets, it is further informed.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, it may be recalled, was recently re-modelled at an approximate cost of about Rs.

43 lakh. Apart from installing air-conditioners, many other features have been added to the remodelled coaches. Now, the coaches have bigger and wider windows so that a visitor to the hills can have better

view, a music system that can play local music or radio, ergonomic and comfortable seats, a new improved design toilet, emergency battery backup and announcement system.

The NJP-Darjeeling Passenger leaves New Jalpaiguri everyday at 8.30 AM and reaches Darjeeling at 03.35 pm. In the reverse direction, Darjeeling-New Jalpaiguri Passenger leaves Darjeeling at 08.15 AM to reach New Jalpaiguri at 03.10 pm.

Currently, one more narrow-gauge passenger train runs between Kurseong and Darjeeling.

For tourists, nine other Joy Ride trains are run between Ghum and Darjeeling. Six of them are hauled by steam engines and the rest by diesel engines.

Paragliding mishap survivor Vivaan Ojha to be airlifted to Bagdogra Airport

NIRMAL MANGAR GANGTOK, 13 APR:

Eleven-year-old Vivaan Ojha from Kolkata who was grievously injured in the recent paragliding incident is scheduled to be airlifted in an Air Force chopper on 14 Apr, Saturday.

Speaking with SummitTimes, mother of Vi-

vaan, Paramita said, “We are deeply touched by the support and help from the people of Sikkim. We received numerous calls from people who were ready to donate blood for my son.”

She further informed that she received ‘unconditional’ support from the members of Paraglid-

ing Association of Sikkim and the doctors and staff of Central Referral Hospital, Tadong.

Vivaan will be taken in an Air Force chopper from Libing helipad in Gangtok to Bagdogra Airport and from there he will be flown to Kolkata in an air ambulance. Vivaan’s

hands, legs and ribs were fractured in a paragliding accident at Reshithang near Gangtok on 03 Apr which also killed the pilot, Santosh Rai.

“We are grateful for all the help extended to us, please pray for the speedy recovery of my son,” said the mother.

Maneka proposes death penalty for rape of children below 12 yrs, changes to POCSO Act

CHANDLAULI (UP), APR 13 (PTI): Termining the Kathua rape case an extremely disturbing incident, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi today advocated death penalty for rape of children below 12 years and proposed an amendment to the POCSO Act.

“I have been deeply, deeply disturbed by the rape case in Kathua and all the recent rape cases that have happened on children. I and the (women and child development) ministry intend to bring an amendment to the POCSO Act asking for death penalty for rape of children below 12 years,” she said.

Her ministry will move a cabinet note on Monday to amend the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO)



Act, she said, responding to media persons’ queries here.

At present, there is no provision for capital punishment in the POCSO Act, with the maximum sentence being life imprisonment for penetrative sexual assault as well aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

An eight-year-old girl in

arrested a juvenile. Later, the case was transferred to the Jammu and Kashmir Police’s Crime Branch.

Two Special Police Officers (SPOs) and later, another five people, including a former revenue official and the alleged conspirator, who surrendered

before the Special Investigation Team, were arrested.

The Union minister defended the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, saying it was serious about the Unnao incident and had transferred the case to the CBI.

“The accused will not be spared, whether he is an MLA or any powerful and influential person. Our government will not make any compromise on the issue of punishing the culprit,” she said.

Gandhi, who was in Chandauli district to take stock of developmental works, held a meeting with administration officials at the collectorate and directed them to ensure that the benefits of central schemes reach the grassroots level.



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Darjeeling's Aditya Agarwal finishes second at APPT Macau Main Event

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 APR: Team PokerStars Pro, Aditya Agarwal from Darjeeling, finished second at APPT Main Event held in Macau, a press release informs.

Aditya is the first-ever Indian Team Pro, selected to represent his home country by PokerStars.

Aditya, who was officially selected to represent India by PokerStars, the flagship brand of The Stars Group Inc, highlighted his role as ambassador to promote Poker in India. PokerStars is focusing to develop the game of skill in India, promoting the game and inspiring more players to play and enjoy the sport like chess.

"Like other online games and chess, poker has maintained its popularity because it has evolved with time. PokerStars continues this evolution by providing a modern twist on traditional poker that we believe will be exciting to not only poker players, but to a broad spectrum of gamers as well. I want to help promote the game in India and inspire the next generation of players to play and enjoy the sport," Aditya said.

VAC building in Tingbong GPU inaugurated

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
DZONGU, 13 APR:

Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly cum MLA [Dzongu], Sonam Gyatso Lepcha today inaugurated the newly constructed Village Administrative Centre at Tingbong Gram Panchayat Unit in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Additional District Collector [Dev], KR Limboo, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Dzongu], Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Block Development Officer [Dzongu], Roshan Subba, Panchayat, Zilla members, officials and general public.

Tingbong GPU also felicitated former Panchayat, Yangching Lepcha for his contribution as the longest serving



public representative in the area.

The new building, built at Rs 30 lakh was funded by Rural Management and Development Department, Government of Sikkim under

Thirteenth Finance Commission as stated by the official representative of RMDD.

The land for the construction of VAC was donated by Palden Wangchuk Lepcha.

ADC [Dev] announced Rs 50,000 for the provision of furniture from the Department.

Addressing the function, the chief guest congratulated the people of Tingbong on getting

a new Village Administrative Centre building and informed that the infrastructure will help in implementing different works sanctioned by the Government for the people.

Mr Lepcha also congratulated the GPU for being selected for Rashtriya Gram Gaurav Puraskar and said that it is a great achievement for the panchayats and public of the area.

The GPU is scheduled to receive the Rashtriya Gram Gaurav Puraskar on 24 Apr.

The Area MLA further highlighted about the development initiated by the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and also underlined about different upcoming schemes.



Ten-day skill dev training kicks off at Sumbuk

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 APR:

A ten-day skill development training on welding and electricity, organized by Sumbuk Kartikey GPU in collaboration with Industrial Training Institute, Nam-

chi, kicked off at Sumbuk on 12 Apr, a press release informs.

30 participants are undergoing training from ITI members, Durga Prasad Sharma and Sabina Diyali, it is informed.

GPU level training on Organic Certification at Namli

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 APR:

International Panaacea Limited, a Service Provider Agency under Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim, organised a Gram Panchayat Unit level programme on Internal Control Systems [ICS] for Organic Certification and organic vegetable production on 12 Apr at Namli in East Pendum, a press release informs.

Agriculture Inspector, Meena Sharma informed about the different types of schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichi Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana. She also emphasized on Mission Organic Value Chain Development [MOVCD] and Crop Insurance for the farmers' community. She further explained about soil health and soil test.

Zilla Panchayat, Banita Rai highlighted about production of vegetables and other crops in both summer and winter season. She further talked about



the present market value of leafy and leguminous vegetables and educated farmers on crop rotation, land and manure preparation and organic seeds and seed treatment for different crops.

IPL block in-charge, Pushpa Lal Dahal mentioned about the standard of Organic Certification

and mandates for ICS such as Aadhaar Card Number and Bank Account of each farmer to be recorded in the documentation. He also briefed the gathering about National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and National Organic Program (NOP).

The programme was coor-

minated by office executive of International Panaacea Limited, Sangay Dem Bhutia and was attended by departmental officials [Horticulture and Agriculture Department], farmers from Namli, IPL members, Zilla Panchayat members and public, reads the release.



Yuksam youth club installs signboards at tourist destinations

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 APR:

As part of its monthly activities, SEWARO [Socially Enlightened Warriors and Re-innovators] youth club from Yuksam, West Sikkim, installed signboards at various tourist destinations

in the area.

The members also placed direction boards at trekking trails for tourists and explorers. The initiative was supported by the National Youth Volunteer, Passang Thendup Bhutia, a press release informs.



Inter-School Essay Writing Competition at Mamring School

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 APR:

Inter-School Essay Writing Competition was held today at Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim as a part of the Inter-School Scholastic Competition jointly organized by Amba, Bering Tareythang and Taza Gram Panchayat and powered by Wandering

Souls of Sikkim, a press release informs.

Students from all the three GPUs participated in the competition.

Results of various contests held under Inter-School Scholastic Competition will be declared on 21 Apr, during the valedictory ceremony at Mamring, the release reads.

SC takes cognisance of lawyers' obstruction in...

Contd from pg01

magistrate at his home.

He strongly opposed the plea of lawyers that case be handed over to CBI for further investigation and said that thorough investigations were being carried out by the state crime branch.

Alam said that it is already a settled law that investigation cannot be transferred to CBI after the charge sheet has been filed in the court.

"Police team was heckled by the lawyers and prevented from submitting the charge sheet before the Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Kathua," Alam said.

He said that subsequently the police had to produce the eight accused in the case and submit the charge sheet at the residence of the magistrate.

Alam informed the court that police have also registered a FIR against some lawyers for attempting to prevent police from filing charge sheet in Kathua rape case.

A group of lawyers including P V Dinesh, Gopal Shankar Narayanan and Shobha Gupta said that an advocate for victim's family was also given threats and obstructed from appearing in the court.

Earlier in the day, the top court had asked a lawyer P V Dinesh to bring materials on record to take judicial note of a strike call given by Kathua and Jammu and Kashmir bar associations in relation to the gangrape and killing of the eight-year-old girl in Jammu region.

Dinesh referred

to the "unfortunate" decisions of the local bar that had allegedly come in support of the people who had gangraped and killed the minor in Kathua.

"Something must come on record. We have nothing on record," the bench had said in the morning, when the matter was first mentioned.

Dinesh submitted that the apex court should take note of bar's actions and issue directions to them and the Bar Council of India to ensure that the rule of law prevails.

The minor girl had disappeared from near her home in the forests next to Rasana village in Kathua, on January 10.

Her body was found in the same area a week later.

The Crime Branch of

police which probed the case filed a main charge sheet against seven persons and a separate charge sheet against a juvenile in a court in Kathua district earlier this week.

The charge sheet revealed chilling details about how the girl was allegedly kidnapped, drugged, raped inside a place of worship before being killed.

Jammu has been on tenterhooks since the brutal incident. The bar associations have been opposing the action against the accused, alleging that the minority Dogras were being targeted.

Lawyers took to the streets shouting slogans and trying to block the road outside the court where the charge sheets have been filed.

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 13 APR:

Seven lactating milch cows along with their calves were distributed with three years insurance coverage at Singithang cluster under Mickhola-Singithang Gram Panchayat Unit in South Sikkim under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana 2017-18 today, a press release from District Collector [South] informs.

The beneficiaries were also provided with packs of mineral vitamins, dewormer and anti-stress tonic.

The aim of the program is to uplift the economic condition of farmers through dairy production in line with Sikkim Organic Mission, it is informed.

The beneficiaries were also briefed on management skills for good health and enhanced milk production from the cows.

Chairperson [State Medicinal Board], Lakpa Ghising, accompanied by Area Panchayat, former panchayat members department officials attended the programme.



IHRACO team visits children's home in Ravangla

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 APR:

A team from International Human Rights and Anti-Crime Organisation [IHRACO], Sikkim, today visited Kapinjal Children's Home in Ravangla, South Sikkim, a

press release informs.

The team led by general secretary, Babita Prasad had vice president [South], Banita Prasad, joint secretary, Aita Maya Rai and organization members from Ravangla. The visiting

members distributed stationeries, gifts and food items to the children.

The visit was supported by South District International Human Rights and Anti-Crime Organisation, the release informs.

**Gangtok on
Saturday,
14 Apr**

Temp: 24°C / 11°C
Forecast: Times of
clouds and sun with
a shower or thun-
derstorm around
the afternoon.
Sunrise: 05:13 AM
Sunset: 5:59 PM

CM's message on Ambedkar Jayanti

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 APR: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Mrs Tika-Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, a press release informs.

In his message, the Chief Minister has said that Dr BR Ambedkar played a vital role in including provisions in the Constitution to remove disparity in the society and ensuring social justice for minorities.

"He believed that an ideal society can only be established by eliminating social ills and dedicated his entire life in the service of the deprived sections of society," the message reads.

"I pay tribute and homage to Dr BR Ambedkar, who believed in an inclusive and just society, devoid of any kind of discrimination whatsoever. As we celebrate the 127th Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb, let us uphold the ideals and principles of the great leader, and promote social harmony for an inclusive country," the Chief Minister has said.

Sathya Sai Org to conduct free medical camp for heart...

Contd from pg01

premises in Singtam, East Sikkim.

The camp is being conducted especially for patients with heart problems. Senior Cardiologist and Head of the Department form Sri Sathya Sai Higher Medical Science (Super Speciality Hospital), Whitefield, Bangalore is scheduled to attend the camp as medical expert.

The organization has requested heart patients from all over the State to take the advantage of the health camp and consult the visiting doctor.

The organization has also directed the patients to bring along their medical reports for reference by the doctor.

The organisation also plans to organise similar medical camps at Sri Sathya Sai Mandir at Kazarit in Namchi, South Sikkim in the future.

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Daylong CME on 'Stroke and Neurointerventional Update' held at SMIMS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 APR:

A daylong Continuing Medical Education/ workshop on 'Stroke and Neurointerventional Update 2018' was held at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) today, a press release informs.

Organised by the Department of Radiology (Interventional Ra-

dology) and Medicine, the chief guest for the occasion was SMIMS Dean, Air Marshal Dr G.S Joneja with Head of Neuro Intervention Surgery, Medanta Hospital Gurgaon, Dr Gaurav Goel, Consultant Neuroradiologist, Apollo Hospital, Bangalore, Dr Sharath Kumar G G, and Consultant Neuroradiologist, Care Group of Hospitals, Hyderabad, Dr Subhendu Parida as

the resource persons,

As per the release, more than 100 delegates from Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya participated in the CME. The CME was supported by Dr Ramdas M Pai and Mrs Vasanthi Pai Endowment Fund.

The programme was also attended by Medical Superintendent, Central Referral Hospital, Dr Gautam Dey.

Arrest MLA Kuldeep Sengar immediately, Allahabad High Court directs CBI

ALLAHABAD, APR 13

(PTI): The Allahabad High Court today directed the CBI to immediately arrest BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, accused in the Unnao rape case, and rapped the Uttar Pradesh government saying the law and order machinery and officials were directly under his influence.

A bench of Chief Justice DB Bhosale and Justice Suneet Kumar gave the direction to the agency after the counsel for the Uttar Pradesh government informed it that Sengar has been detained for interrogation and not arrested yet.

It directed CBI to arrest "forthwith" Sengar and the other accused named in the FIR registered yesterday for offences punishable under sections 363, 366, 376, 506 of IPC and sections 3 and 4 of POCSO Act and carry out further investigation within the time stipulated under the provisions of CrPC.

It also directed the agency to file status report by May 2.

The judges also took strong objection to Advocate General Raghvendra Singh's submission that Sengar would not be arrested on mere

registration of the FIR, saying, "The approach of the learned Advocate General is not only appalling but shocks the conscience of the Court in the backdrop of the instant case."

The bench passed the order on a letter written by senior advocate Gopal Swaroop Chaturvedi demanding a court-monitored investigation of the incident and treated it as a PIL.

The judges said Advocate General Singh has not denied that the case involves commission of a grave and heinous offence like rape, which has been disclosed by the prosecutrix and her family members to the officer of the rank of Additional DGP.

"The arrest of the accused in the circumstances can be considered justified and necessary, not only to restrain his movement but also to infuse confidence in the victim and her family members of fair investigation and to restrain the accused from influencing the investigation and tampering with evidence and witnesses," the court said.

In its 20-page order, the court also said, "The disturbing feature of the case is that the law and

order machinery and the government officials were directly in league and under the influence of Kuldeep Singh. The doctor did not examine the prosecutrix, nor did the circle officer, Shafipur, register the crime, though hand written complaint of the prosecutrix was sent from the office of the Chief Minister."

The bench said the father of prosecutrix was "beaten up by the brother and the goons of Kuldeep Singh and was arrested and in the custody was beaten mercilessly".

It also said it appears that false cases were lodged against the family members.

"Finally, father of the prosecutrix succumbed to injuries. The prosecutrix unable to face the pressures exercised upon her by Kuldeep Singh, who was having the backing of the law and order machinery of district Unnao, attempted to immolate herself to draw the attention of the society that she needs help and protection of the custodians of law, which was put to the winds at the behest of the accused Kuldeep Singh," it said.

Disagreeing with the submissions of the Advo-

cate General, the bench said, "We are constrained to record the approach and attitude of the learned Advocate General, during the course of hearing, in contending that no accused person, including Kuldeep Singh, can be arrested without the Investigating Officer following the procedure prescribed under CrPC and collecting evidence in support of the allegation of rape."

Yesterday, the court had asked the Advocate General whether the state government proposes to arrest Sengar.

Coordination meet for CM visit held at Singtam

SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 13 APR: A coordination meeting for conducting Jan Sewa Karyakram at Tumin Lingee Constituency on 17 Apr was held today at Singtam.

The meeting was attended by Sikkim Democratic Front vice-president, DB Thapa along with Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, party officials, Zilla Panchayats, Ward Panchayats, Block Development Officer and public.

The meeting was followed by inspection of the venue at Makha where the Chief Minister is scheduled to hold a public meeting for Tumin Lingee Constituency on 17 Apr.



SMYM member elected national vice- president Zone (I)

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 APR:

Bikash Kumar Agarwal from Sikkim Marwari Yuva Manch [SMYM] has been elected as the national vice-president Zone (I) of All India Marwari Yuva Manch, a press release informs.

Born to Ramdulari Devi and Pawan Kumar

Agarwal from Singtam, East Sikkim, the newly elected vice-president has thanked the members of West Bengal, Sikkim and Northeast area for putting their faith in him.

Mr Agarwal is the first member from Sikkim to be elected as the national vice-president Zone (I), informs the release.

Governor's greetings on Ambedkar Jayanti

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 APR:

Governor Shrinivas Patil has extended warm greetings and good wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Dr. BR Ambedkar Jayanti, a press communiqué from Raj Bhavan informs.

Highlighting the contributions of Dr Ambedkar, the Governor said, "The Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar reminds us of the ideals and principles that he stood for throughout his life. His relentless struggle for ensuring social justice for downtrodden and marginalised section of our population is a constant reminder that evolving Indian society is in need of such noble leaders at every stage to voice the concern of the oppressed. Babasaheb's crusade against social discrimination, untouchability and economic disparity during early years of our democracy has shaped ours into a liberal democratic society."

Mr Patil has called for equality, equity and liberty saying, "Let us imbibe the ideals of true service to the masses from the life of Ambedkar and carry his mission further till we are able to transform ours into the society that he had envisioned. Our sincere service to the citizens in distress and our fellow countrymen will be the real tribute to this great soul."

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Everything Down the Drain

...except the surface run-off

Drive around the Indira Bypass in Gangtok and you will come across work-gangs clearing out the roadside drains. Much as the exercise is welcome, the mountains of muck they have extracted from these storm drains should get every Gangtokian worried over how carelessly neighbourhoods allow these important safety mechanisms to be get clogged with their refuse and construction debris. This lack of civic awareness was also in glaring display a few weeks ago when another batch of labourers was engaged along the national highway running through town. Those drains, one can wager, are clogged again because clearing them out is only one part of the challenge and the only durable solution will be for localities to devise ways to stop muck-that-clogs from draining into them. Gangtok must realize that these drains are already compromised at several places by shoddy engineering with the drains running higher than the road at several stretches when everyone knows that water runs down and will not be able to swim to drains higher than the roads they are expected to keep clear.

And all of this Gangtok is being reminded with even the Nor'westers still not having arrived. It is Westerly Disturbances which are creating the present string of precipitation and even they are delivering calling cards of how prepped the capital is for the impending monsoons. These showers need to be treated as reminders of infrastructure which need to reinforced and reclaimed from the decades of neglect which were apparently seeded with their clearly inept design.

The weather forecasts consistently predict showers and thunderstorms. Soon, it will also become clear that Gangtok's response to weather patterns remains predictably routine – slips, slides and slush. No surprises there. But what is surprising though, is the fact that the inept drainage system remains consistently failing despite the hordes of engineers that the capital is home to.

How is it that Gangtok's drains refuse to, well, drain?

The price that poorly engineered storm water drains can exact was deeply felt by Gangtok in 1997 when several lives were lost and building toppled when the rain water ran on the road and then into buildings instead of getting carried away by the drains. Two decades since, and the situation has only worsened. New trouble-spots have cropped up and it is not just the drains to blame, also contributing to this madness every time it rains is the insensitivity with which people construct [buildings], store their building material and how many in Gangtok still dispose their garbage. It's the uncivility of the Gangtok way of life that is causing as much harm as the corruption/ ineptitude which delivered Gangtok a drainage system too ineffectual for its topography, road alignments and habitation spread. There is invariably as much household and hotel waste flowing down the highway with every downpour as there is mud and rocks that the rain carved out of the hill. These are not unrelated constituents of a 'landslide'. A pile of garbage in an out-of-sight spot in a too cramped for a garbage truck to reach spot is as effective in triggering a slide as recklessly disposed building excavation mud in an out-of-sight spot. Both are imposed on the slopes and both slip with a heavy shower and scratch out a larger landslide as they roll down and gather strength.

The drains, already of suspect effectiveness, are denied even a face-saving carriage because they are clogged with everything that should not be in them. While this is reasonably harmless in the drier winter months, it adds to everyone's woes when the nights receive rainfall. The downpour washes these piles of garbage off their heaps and spreads them across the road, pours them into nearby homes and squeezes them into drains and clogs them.

The capital still has some weeks at hand to do at least a bandaid repair of its drains. And now will also be the time to have the engineers survey the roads during rains, identify the more serious failures in the drainage system, and if these can't be fixed, then at least keep them on a watch list for disaster mitigation interventions. Does it not worry anyone that the Pani House stretch pours down slush every monsoon, mostly blocking the highway, but also occasionally jumping the lane into buildings across the road? Why is it that this has still not been resolved? There is also the scouring of the road surface every monsoon. This is not caused by water and vehicles, but is a damage wrought by construction litter and debris from exposed, and thereby potentially threatening, slopes.

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

Women are shattering the glass ceiling only to fall off the glass cliff

SUSANNA WHAWELL
theconversation.com

The glass ceiling is an idea familiar to many. It refers to the invisible barrier that seems to exist in many fields and which prevents women from achieving senior positions.

Less well-known, but arguably a more pernicious problem, is the "glass cliff". Originally recognised by academics Michelle Ryan and Alex Haslam back in 2005, this is the phenomenon of women making it to the boardroom but finding themselves disproportionately represented in untenable leadership positions.

Ryan and Haslam presented evidence that women were indeed starting to secure seats at boardroom tables. But the problem was that their positions were inherently unstable. These women would then find themselves in an unsustainable leadership position from which they would be ousted with evidence of apparent failure. The title of their paper sums it up: women are over-represented in precarious leadership positions.

Subsequent research in an array of environments has demonstrated that this is not an isolated issue, nor is it unique to certain industries or geographical locations. It reveals that women in top leadership positions seem to be routinely handed inherently unsolvable problems.

These are problems that they strive very hard to address – but no matter the effort, these problems cannot be solved. The women in charge are then still held personally accountable for failure, ultimately leading to their resignation or dismissal. This creates a damaging, self-fulfilling prophecy that women are unsuitable for leadership positions. Not only does it knock the confidence of the woman in question, it also makes organisations wary of recruiting women to these positions.

A CHEQUERED PICTURE

The glass cliff theory and its supporting evidence appears, at face value, to be at odds with evidence from other sources which confirms that more women than ever before are making it to the boardroom.

But the detail of gender representation in large

organisations presents a more chequered picture. Plus, the snapshots and headlines of more women in the boardroom tend to lack the granular analysis of boardroom turnover – that women are more likely to be over-represented on boards of companies that are more precarious.

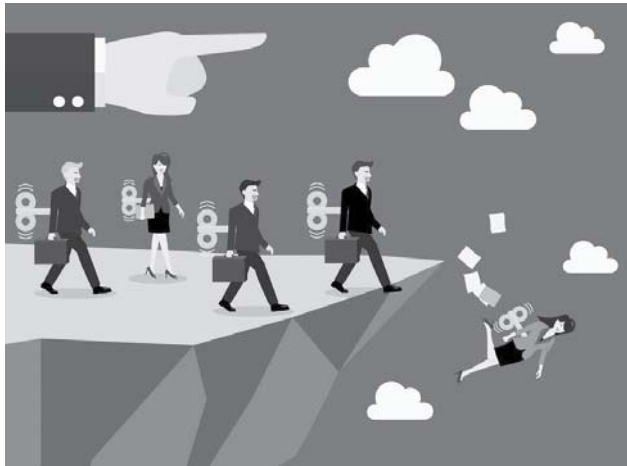
There is also the more challenging question of why any organisation would actively set out to sabotage someone's career, which is what the glass cliff situation appears to do. This is where the data gets really interesting.

A wider look at glass cliff scenarios reveals that in most situations the women in question have experience of the organisation when they are recruited into the top position. They are not external hires, they are internal. This means that, in practice, these women are far more likely to have a fundamental understanding of the politics of the organisation, its culture and power brokers.

The evidence seems to suggest that these women find themselves with the choice of accepting a glass cliff position or resigning altogether. Having worked for many years to secure a leadership or executive role, it is perhaps less surprising to understand why these women feel a sense of obligation to take on what appears to be an impossible challenge.

SUPPORT STRUCTURES

The size of the step up to a senior executive role should not be understated. Support, in the form of



coaching and mentoring for senior executives, is repeatedly shown to be vital if they are to become successful and begin to make a real impact. What appears to be a common characteristic across glass cliff situations is that the women in these roles lack this ongoing support.

What remains unclear is whether this is because the organisation is unwilling to provide it. Or, worse, is blithely unaware that for a woman stepping up to an executive position with no clear role model or social support network, then she is likely to need even more help and likely of a different nature to her male colleagues.

The benign neglect shown by organisations towards female senior executives represents a worrying trend. It is all very well promoting women into the boardroom, but failing to support them when they are there is equally damaging. Arguably it undoes all of the good work, resources and effort to transition women into the boardroom in the first place.

Empirical evidence also demonstrates that women in particular suffer from impostor syndrome. This is the idea that successful people feel that they have become successful through luck, not their own hard work or ability and will be "found out" and fired or demoted.

It is understandable that this is likely to be particularly acute when a woman is the only female around the boardroom table. Impostor syndrome isn't confined to women, but it is markedly more present, and it would seem that one of the possible explanations for a glass cliff scenario presenting itself is that organisations simply fail to consider that women in this position are likely to need a different kind of support in their new role.

Helping to create gender parity in boardrooms is widely shown to be beneficial on multiple metrics. But if organisations aren't keeping good people in the boardroom because of a failure to appreciate individual differences, then this last hurdle arguably undoes all of the good work that quotas, all-female shortlists, and gender pay gap reporting strives to achieve.

[the writer is Part-time PhD Researcher, University of Manchester]

Climate change is slowing Atlantic currents that help keep Europe warm

PETER T. SPOONER
theconversation.com

The ocean currents that help warm the Atlantic coasts of Europe and North America have significantly slowed since the 1800s and are at their weakest in 1600 years, according to new research my colleagues and I have conducted. As we've set out in a new study in Nature, the weakening of this ocean circulation system may have begun naturally but is probably being continued by climate change related to greenhouse gas emissions.

This circulation is a key player in the Earth's climate system and a large or abrupt slowdown could have global repercussions. It could cause sea levels on the US east coast to rise, alter European weather patterns or rain patterns more globally, and hurt marine wildlife.

We know that at the end of the last major ice age, rapid fluctuations in the circulation led to extreme climate shifts on a global scale. An exaggerated (but terrifying) example of such a sudden event was portrayed in the 2004 blockbuster film The Day After Tomorrow.

The recent weakening we have found was likely driven by warming in the north Atlantic and the addition of freshwater from increased rainfall and melting ice. It has been predicted many times but, until now, just how much weakening has already occurred has largely remained a mystery. The extent of the changes we have discovered comes as a surprise to many, including myself, and points to significant changes in the future.

The circulation system in question is known as the 'Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation' (AMOC). The AMOC is like a giant conveyor belt of water. It transports warm, salty water to the north Atlantic where it gets very

cold and sinks. Once in the deep ocean the water flows back southwards and then all around the world's oceans. This conveyor belt is one of the most important transporters of heat in the climate system and includes the Gulf Stream, known for keeping western Europe warm.

Climate models have consistently predicted that the AMOC will slow down due to greenhouse gas warming and associated changes in the water cycle. Because of these predictions – and the possibility of abrupt climate changes – scientists have monitored the AMOC since 2004 with instruments strung out across the Atlantic at key locations. But to really test the model predictions and work out how climate change is affecting the conveyor we have needed much longer records.

LOOKING FOR PATTERNS

To create these records, our research group – led by University College London's Dr David Thornalley – used the idea that a change in the AMOC has a unique pattern of impact on the ocean. When the AMOC gets weaker, the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean cools

and parts of the western Atlantic get warmer by a specific amount. We can look for this pattern in past records of ocean temperature to trace what the circulation was like in the past.

Another study in the same issue of Nature, led by researchers at the University of Potsdam in Germany, used historical observations of temperature to check the fingerprint. They found that the AMOC had reduced in strength by around 15% since 1950, pointing to the role of human-made greenhouse gas emissions as the primary cause.

In our paper, which also forms part of the EU ATLAS project, we found the same fingerprint. But instead of using historical observations we used our expertise in past climate research to go back much further in time. We did this by combining known records of the remains of tiny marine creatures found in deep-sea mud. Temperature can be worked out by looking at the amounts of different species and the chemical compositions of their skeletons.

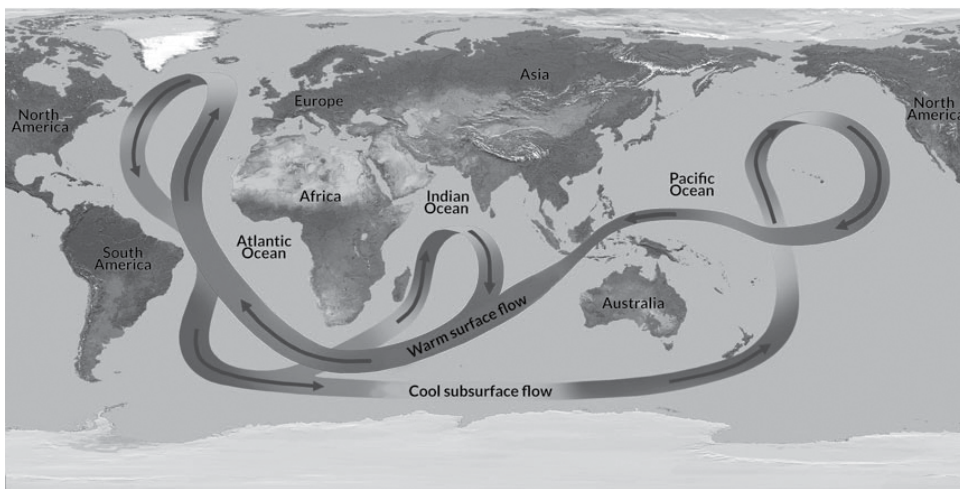
We were also able to directly measure the past deep ocean current speeds by looking at the mud itself. Larger grains of mud imply faster

currents, while smaller grains mean the currents were weaker. Both techniques point to a weakening of the AMOC since about 1850, again by about 15% to 20%. Importantly, the modern weakening is very different to anything seen over the last 1,600 years, pointing to a combination of natural and human drivers.

The difference in timing of the start of the AMOC weakening in the two studies will require more scientific attention. Despite this difference, both of the new studies raise important questions regarding whether climate models simulate the historical changes in ocean circulation, and whether we need to revisit some of our future projections.

However, each additional long record makes it easier to evaluate how well the models simulate this key element of the climate system. In fact, evaluating models against these long records may be a crucial step if we hope to accurately predict possible extreme AMOC events and their climate impacts.

[the writer is Research Associate in Paleoclimatology, UCL]



A monk offers prayers to the Teesta from the bridge near Teesta Bazaar on the National Highway. The ritual, earlier performed at the river bank, was being carried out from the bridge because the reservoir of a dam downstream has submerged the Teesta's banks and blocked access.

People of Sikkim –

THE Repository OF climate change



Discussions on climate change have, for long, been confined to seminars and conferences, failing to garner the attention of the masses. In Sikkim, however, the situation is a little different. There is no denial of Climate Change, but that said, efforts at addressing the issue have largely ignored the major driving forces behind the phenomenon or involving the masses in mitigation planning...

AADIL BRAR

Amitav Ghosh, in his recent book, *The Great Derangement*, argued that the topic of climate change has remained a concern for scientists and policy makers, but the broader field of literature has largely ignored it. The title of Ghosh's book itself is a clever choice. In medical sciences, the word derangement refers to a disturbance of normal bodily function; and Ghosh is calling climate change a derangement in the planetary climate regime due to human behavior in recent human history. What is the significance of Amitav Ghosh's book for Sikkim – there is an immense importance.

Here in Toronto, I was a witness to record-breaking cold weather recently – shattering a 57-year record across Canada – with temperatures dipping to as low as -30 degrees. Climate change deniers across US and Canada stepped up their rhetoric, calling the extreme cold an example of climate change being a hoax. But what about the derangement in climate regimes that is unfolding simultaneously around the world? In that context, a good thing about Sikkim is that there is no climate change denial – there is something else.

Sikkim is situated in a region – the Himalayas – that is directly responsible for the water needs of about 47% of world's population. River Teesta and other rivers of Sikkim, flow into the region with some of the densest populations anywhere in the world. The story of climate change has remained the story of big polluting cities with industries that gush out harmful particulate matter that has direct impact on the climatic regime of the high Himalayas. But with the advent of large industries and the hydropower projects

in Sikkim, the impact of climate change has been accelerated to say the least.

In a 2009 article published in the *New Left Review*, Kenneth Pomeranz highlighted that glaciological research had revealed that Himalayan glaciers have lost all the ice formed since mid-1940s. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has also pointed out that the Himalayan region will warm twice as rapidly as the global average warming. Based on this assessment, an Ohio State University researcher has predicted that a large share of Himalayan glaciers will disappear by 2050. This is an alarm bell – we should all be paying attention to it – it has been

loud and clear for some time now.

In the March of 2011, the Government of Sikkim – in collaboration with various partners – released the Sikkim Action Plan on Climate Change. This plan sought to look at the challenges climate change would pose over the next two decades. This plan provided a broad picture for focus areas such as water security; biodiversity; forest, wild life, and ecotourism; urban-rural habitats; and urban transport. The climate predictions of this report are based on the findings from the PRECIS modelling – among other models -- developed by the Hadley center in UK. The salient finding from the PRECIS modelling is the increase in rainfall in Sikkim and its surroundings by 3-56 mm overall and between 18-75mm during the monsoon season.

In *The Great Derangement*, Ghosh argues that the reason for people to be involved in the process of grappling with climate change is because we all are the repository of knowledge about our environment – collectively better than any other recording machine available. This idea seems to have inspired two researchers -- Kamal Bawa and Pashupati Chaudhary -- who wanted to get around the lack of evidence about climate data in Sikkim. Bawa and Pashupati used people as their repository to gather climate data, and gathered information from both high and low altitude regions of Sikkim. Until most recently the only set of data about climate regimes in Sikkim was available from two out of the 17 weather stations – both are in Gangtok city.

The findings from Bawa and Pashupati's study were similar to what the PRECIS modelling had revealed – the rainfall has indeed been increasing and has become erratic of late. People living in the higher altitude regions of Sikkim have reported greater overall warming, early onset of summer, decrease in snow, drying up of water, among other climatic transformations as opposed to individuals living around the lower altitude areas. People from the lower altitudes have reported early onset of monsoon, decrease in snow, drying up of water, and new crop pests.

The authors of this story point out that gathering climate data for Sikkim over time is a difficult task, and therefore their study relied on survey responses which were gathered from 10 villages located in Singalila National Park in the Darjeeling Hills, and eight villages in Ilam district of Nepal – a region that is in close proximity to Sikkim. Bawa and Pashupati's findings overlap with findings from other scientific data projections, which refer to increase in mean temperature by 2.9 degree Celsius every year, and the increase in rainfall by the 18% by the middle of the 21st century. These are worrying numbers. Sikkim has faced major natural disasters that contribute towards infrastructural collapse every year – roads, bridges, houses, and every other vulnerable infrastructure.

One question that everyone from Sikkim should ask themselves, is climate change the result of events happening afar on the plains of India? That isn't the case – climate change drivers are right here in the state.

The Centre for Policy Research – a New Delhi-based think tank – provided an analysis of the Sikkim Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) put out by the State Government of Sikkim. This is a document that everyone interested in climate change

One question that everyone from Sikkim should ask themselves, is climate change the result of events happening afar on the plains of India? That isn't the case – climate change drivers are right here in the state.

with regards to Sikkim should read – the CPR report unpacks how the SAPCC was developed. The CPR report states that there are only two sectors: water resources and the forests that have been the focus through a forecast in the SAPCC. A topic that was supposed to be a large part of SAPCC – Energy Efficiency – was largely ignored. Why is that so? The Centre for Policy Research's report argues that this would have directly brought Government of Sikkim's plan in conflict with its investiture into hydropower projects across the state of Sikkim. Though the SAPCC has made some suggestions in the forestry section to invest in renewable energy solutions, the elephant in the room is staring down in this action plan – hydropower projects.

The United Nations Development Programme realized the urgent need to address the dynamic climatic transformations happening across the Sikkim Himalayas, and therefore have set up a special initiative for Sikkim and other Indian states. The states currently part of this initiative by the UNDP are Uttarakhand, Manipur, Jharkhand, and Sikkim. United Nations has till date worked with the organizations based in New Delhi, but this initiative is trying to cut through the bureaucratic procedures to work directly with the states to address climate change related concerns. But only time will tell how successful United Nations is at working with Sikkim and other states of India. For now Sikkim has a team of UNDP experts working in Gangtok.

But it isn't just the climate regimes that have been deranged; it is the political consciousness of the people that seems to also have shifted – wavering between ethnicity and religion. As we let our leaders keep us busy with political gimmicks, the fate of Himalayas and rest of South Asia, is being written by large conglomerates that are interested in exploiting natural resources for energy production. It is only the people of Sikkim who hold the key to the collective future of the state, and by acting as a repository of knowledge – recording and writing

– they can develop an agenda of climate action that fights the denial and doublespeak that mires any conclusive action against the forces driving climate change in Sikkim.

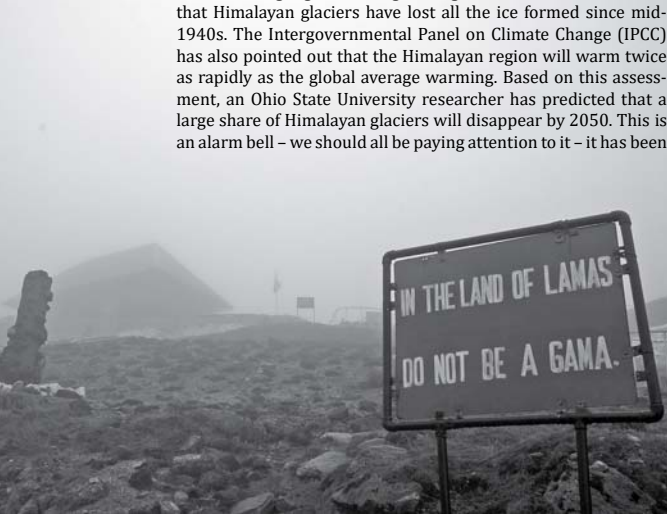
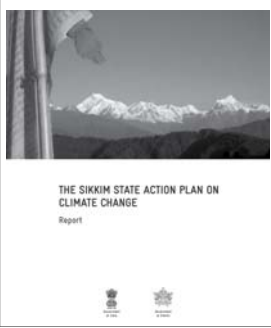
[The writer is an international freelance journalist, writer, and research anthropologist by training. He was also a Young Explorer Grantee at National Geographic Society and is currently based out of Toronto, Canada.]

spotlight

STORIES THAT MATTER

Features on Hydropower and Climate Change issues

But it isn't just the climate regimes that have been deranged; it is the political consciousness of the people that seems to also have shifted – wavering between ethnicity and religion.



SPOTLIGHT - Stories that matter
SummitTimes presents a month-long series focusing on hydel projects and climate change in Sikkim and West Bengal. The series has been made possible with support from Wageningen

University, NWO and UK Department for International Development (DFID) under Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change research project 'Enhancing mediacscapes for sustainability and justice in the

Eastern Himalaya' coordinated by DLR Prerna, a Darjeeling-based NGO. We will be featuring two articles every week.





Lahiri shoots 72, lies T-69th at RBC Heritage

HILTON HEAD (US), APR 13 (PTI): Anirban Lahiri returned to action after three weeks but was unable to make any significant impression as he carded one-over 72 in the first round of the RBC Heritage on the PGA Tour.

Lahiri, who was unable to get into the Masters for the second year, had one birdie and two bogeys, all in the first five holes, before he went through 13 straight pars at the Par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links.

The 30-year-old Indian, who has slipped to 86th in World Rankings, is lying Tied-69th and will need to shoot a steady second round to stay on for the weekend.

Meanwhile, Rory Sabbatini stole the show with a 7-under 64 in the opening round. The six-time PGA TOUR winner played through back pain and went bogey-free for a two-shot lead. He was not sure he was hundred per cent in the morning and unsure whether he was going to play or not.

John Huh, Billy Horschel, Chesson Hadley and 2014 RBC champion Matt Kuchar all shot 66 and are just two shots back.

Sabbatini has only missed the FedExCup Playoffs once, in 2016, since the FedExCup era began in 2007. He showed glimpses of his former self with a T5 at the Valspar Championship last month and a T17 at The Honda Classic before that.

Bungling India hit out of gold race by Black Sticks, to play England for bronze

GOLD COAST, APR 13 (PTI): A profligate Indian men's hockey team squandered eight of the nine penalty corners to suffer a 2-3 defeat at hands of lower-ranked New Zealand in the semifinals of the Commonwealth Games, here today.

Not only the poor conversion but defensive lapses too played a huge role in India's defeat, which means the silver medallists from the last two editions will now fight with England in the bronze medal match tomorrow.

Hugo Inglis, Stephen Jenness and Marcus Child scored for New Zealand in the first three quarters. Harmanpreet Singh scored both the goals for India, converting a penalty stroke before finding the net on the eighth penalty corner.

In the fast-paced first quarter, India had first chance to take lead but Mandeep Singh missed out and the team made it worse for itself by fluffing a penalty corner.

BRISBANE, APR 13 (PTI): Anish Bhanwala, a boy aged 15, trumped, in style, the men on his way to becoming India's youngest ever gold medallist at the Commonwealth Games, the incredible talent making up for his lack of experience with skills, which hogged the limelight in Brisbane on Friday. In a sensational CWG debut, Anish shot a Games record score of 30 to claim the top prize in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event.

Anish entered the six-man finals having topped the second stage of qualification with a total score of 580 and 22 central bulls.

The youngest in the field, he showed nerves of steel and led the more experienced shooters through the event to emerge a deserving cham-



pion. Australia's Sergei Evglevski claimed the silver with 28, while the bronze medal went to Sam Gowin (17) of England.

India's other entrant in the event, Neeraj Kumar (13) was the second shooter to be eliminated in the

finals after a shoot-off.

By winning the gold, Anish bettered teammate 16-year-old Manu Bhaker, who had become the youngest Indian Commonwealth Games gold medallist earlier this week when she emerged

champion in the 10m air rifle finals.

Facing stiff competition from Australian shooter Evglevski, Anish held his nerve and kept his focus through eight rounds to emerge on top. Anish started with two

possible fives, racing to a three-point margin. He stumbled with a three and a one before scoring another five to lead by four points over Evglevski.

In the gold-medal round, with just a one-point margin, Anish, who won the silver at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships last November at Belmont, displayed his skill with a maximum of an unbeatable 30 points.

Evglevski shot a valiant four to claim his first Commonwealth medal and join his mother, 10-time Commonwealth medallist Lalita Yauhleuskaya in the history books.

In the Qualifications, Anish scored 580 to finish top of the tally while Neeraj was second best with 579. Anish scored 286 in stage 1 and 294 in

stage 2 qualifying, while Neeraj had 291 in stage 1 and 288 in stage 2.

So talented is the shooter that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), in an unprecedented first, had agreed to reschedule three papers of his class X exams to help him avoid a clash between studies and competitive sports.

Friday's achievement was not lost on Anish.

On becoming the youngest athlete in the Indian team, he said, "I'm very excited that I became the Commonwealth champion. I am the youngest athlete from India to win Commonwealth gold at 15."

On his next competition and plans of celebration, "Next are the world championships (in South Korea) and Asian Games

(Indonesia). I will celebrate with my coach."

The rising shooter recently won a gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney where he finished atop the podium in the same event.

Last year, the teenager made heads turn when he won the 25m standard pistol gold with a world record score of 579 at the ISSF Junior World Championships, followed by silver in the 25m sport pistol at the same event and another silver at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Brisbane.

The same year, he also outperformed 2012 Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar to win gold medals at the Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Championship and again at the 61st National Shooting Championship.

Chennaiyin FC sign 22-year-old Tamil Nadu midfielder

Chennai, Apr 13 (PTI): Two-time Indian Super League champions Chennaiyin FC today announced the signing of 22-year-old Siniwasan Pandiyan from Chennai City FC on a permanent move subject to transfer window regulations.

The Thanjavur-born central midfielder has penned a three-year contract with the current ISL title holders on the back of an impressive I-League 2017-18 campaign.

He appeared on 17 instances for Chennai City, starting in 16 of them and proved to be a vital component in the side's fight for survival in the competition.

Chennaiyin FC co-owner Vita Dani took



the opportunity to welcome Pandiyan to the club.

"It is a great moment

for everyone at the club to have another player from Tamil Nadu representing us. We are excit-

ed to have Pandiyan join us ahead of a challenging season of title defence. He has come leaps and

bounds in the last few years and we're sure he will only get better with us."

Pandiyan will be aiming to prove his mettle at Chennaiyin FC in what will be a landmark season for the club with AFC Cup commitments on the horizon.

Head coach John Gregory expressed his delight on the new arrival by saying, "It is always great for any football club to promote local talent and in Pandiyan we have one of the brightest talents in Tamil Nadu as well as in India. I believe he is a player with huge potential and I'm looking forward to working with him in pre-season.

Bajrang leads Indian wrestlers' charge at CWG

GOLD COAST, APR 13 (PTI): Bajrang Punia (65kg) was the lone gold-medallist but it was nonetheless an admirable haul of four medals by Indian grapplers on the second of Commonwealth Games' wrestling competition at Gold Coast on Friday.

Punia, the prodigy of Olympic bronze-medallist Yogeshwar Dutt, claimed all his four bouts on technical superiority to finish on top, the most dominating performance of the day by an Indian wrestler.

His final bout against Welshman Kane Charig lasted just over a minute.

Finishing with a silver medals were Pooja Dhanda (57kg) and Mausam Khatri (97kg), while Divya Kakran (68kg) settled for a bronze medal.

"This gold medal proves the significant improvement in my wrestling career as I won silver at the last Commonwealth Games. I played four bouts, and I was prepared quite well for the competition," he added.



Asked about his thoughts on the extremely short final bout, Punia said, "I didn't see the time but I wanted to finish it as quickly as possible."

"I respect all my opponents, but I fear none. We all tried our absolute best, but the sky was my limit today," he added.

Punia defeated New Zealand's Brahm Richards, Nigeria's Amas Daniel, and Canada's Vincent De

Marinis en route the final.

Pooja, on other hand, claimed easy wins in the preliminary stage before being out-witted by defending champion Odunayo Adekunle in the final clash. The Indian lost 5-7 in a close contest, during which she did remarkably well in the second round.

"Had I performed the way whole bout the way I performed in the second round, I could have

won. I lacked in attack and could not take my chances. I would look to to change the colour of the medal next time. It was hard luck for India," she said.

Joining her in the second place was Khatri, making his debut at the Games. The former Asian Games bronze-medallist had a smooth-sailing preliminary campaign before hitting a roadblock in South African Martin Erasmus.

Erasmus prevailed 12-2 in the bout as Khatri had no response to his relentless attacks.

"I wanted a gold which could not happen and I have myself to blame. I will just move forward and ensure that mistakes don't get repeated," he said.

Earlier, Divya Kakran lost to Nigeria's two-time CWG medallist Blessing Oborududu in the semifinal but recovered quickly to easily get past Bangladesh's Sherin Sultana for a bronze medal.

On Thursday, India had won a two gold, a silver and a bronze in the three-day competition.



3 Indians in boxing finals, Naman settles for bronze

GOLD COAST, APR 13 (PTI): The fast-rising trio of Amit Panghal, Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik notched up contrasting victories to enter the finals but teenager Naman Tanwar settled for a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games boxing competition here today.

Manish, competing in the lightweight 60kg category, edged past Northern Ireland's James McGovern in a closely-contested bout to emerge 4-1 victorious.

The 22-year-old, who claimed a gold medal at the Asian Games test event, was at the receiving end of some clean hitting by McGovern but pulled off just enough to get the judges' nod.

"I will be fighting the Aussie (Harry Garside who has qualified for the final). Coach has told me focus on my opponent's mistakes and deliver," he said after the bout.

His opponent today, meanwhile, seemed livid at the decision.

"The bronze medal can stay in Australia, I don't do bronze medals," McGovern said after leaving the ring.

In the flyweight 52kg category, Gaurav got the better of Sri Lanka's M Ishan Bandara, overcoming a sluggish start, which included being at the receiving end of two eight counts in the first round itself.

"Sometimes in boxing these things happen, but by the second round I felt much more in control," he said. "I have a good team behind me and now I'm preparing to take the gold," said the Games debutant, who will square off Northern Ireland's Brendan Irvine in the summit clash.

In contrast, Amit had an easy outing against Uganda's Juma Miro, completely dominating the light flyweight 49kg semifinal.

"It was very comfortable for me. I used my left a lot as it is my strongest punch," he said.

However, the 19-year-old Naman lost to crowd favourite Jason Whateley in another exciting contest in the heavyweight 91kg category.

This was Naman's biggest performance since the bronze medal claimed at the youth world championships.

Defending champs Eastern Sporting Union face Rising Student Club in HERO IWL Final

SHILLONG, APR 13 (PTI): Revenge would be on the minds of Rising Student Club when they lock horns with defending champions Eastern Sporting Union in the summit clash of the second Hero Indian Women's League at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here Saturday.

Rising Student Club had suffered a 3-0 loss against Eastern Sporting Union in the finals of the inaugural edition last year and they have been handed another opportunity to outwit their rivals and lay claim to the crown.

Rising Student Club defeated table toppers KHRYPSEA 4-3 on penalties in a dramatic match to move into the finals, while two late goals in extra time proved enough for Eastern Sporting Union to clinch a win against SETHU FC.

"We have worked hard to get here (into the finals) and the team has grown substantially from last year," said head coach of Rising Student Club Sukla Dutta, adding, "Eastern Sporting Union is a very strong team and we respect them, however come the finals we will be going all out to win."

Perhaps Rising Student Club will be depending on the per-



formance of forward Pyari Xaxa who has been in sublime form.

"We are confident in our abilities and we will be giving our

cent percent on the pitch. Last year we lost 3-0 against ESU but this time the result will be different," said Pyari Xaxa.

"We will fight to get our revenge and take the trophy home," she added.

However, Eastern Sporting Union, the defending champions, will not give up the trophy easily.

Coached by the legendary Bembem Devi, ESU has been a force to reckon with in the tournament, finishing second in the group, albeit level on points with table toppers KHRYPSEA.

"It will not be an easy match," said Bembem Devi. "Rising Student Club are a very talented team and we will have to be on our toes through the entire match if we want to win. Focus and concentration is the key."

"If we score an early goal it will be easy for us to play against them (Rising Student Club) because they are very quick on the counters and on the wings," skipper Prameshwori Devi.

The kick-off is slated for 4PM IST.

Comparisons between India, China unfair: Raghuram Rajan

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, APR 13 (PTI): Comparisons between India and China are “unfair” as India “pales” before the Communist giant, which is about five times India’s size, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has said as he emphasised on improving infrastructure for the country’s growth.

“I think the comparison is often made between India and China. That is a comparison which to some extent is unfair to India. They are two very different countries,” Rajan said.

Rajan, who is currently the Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at The University of Chi-



cago’s Booth School of Business, gave The 2018 Albert H Gordon Lecture on April 11 at the Harvard Kennedy School on the topic Leverage, Financial Crises, and Policies to Raise Economic Growth’.

He said India “pales” in comparison to China, which is about five times India’s size while the per capita is about the same

as populations in both countries are approaching each other.

“By any criteria, except comparisons to China, India is a very impressive story, he said, pointing to the seven per cent GDP growth over the last 25 years.

On what India has not done that China has, Rajan said India has not built out

infrastructure and construction. Rajan said an enormous part of Chinese growth and manufacturing growth has been much better logistics, access to ports and roads, something “which India doesn’t have”.

Rajan cited an hypothetical example of building a six-lane highway in India, saying there will be a pushback for such a project. He said it is difficult to build infrastructure in India as one would be running over so many people’s land.

“You have a close to first world civil society, very entrepreneurial politicians but a third world administration. Put that combination together

and it becomes very hard to build out, acquire land

and build those mega projects in India, he said.

Rajan voiced optimism that at “some point we will figure out how to do it reasonably.”

In this regard, India’s biggest advantage is that it is a democracy, he said.

“Ultimately I believe that the strongest system for growth is not a state-run system, not an autocratic system. When you are at the frontier, a liberal market democracy is the strongest system because of the checks and balances built into it,” he said.

Rajan said India is poised to achieve higher growth.

“India has a lot to do to get there but it doesn’t have a deep constraint in reaching there. It has to

make sure it doesn’t go autocratic on the way but it has all the elements to reach there, he said.

Rajan noted that once India’s catch up growth happens, which could be another 10 years, it will get “closer to the frontier. India is (then) much better positioned to stay there for longer.”

In 2017, China’s GDP growth rate of 6.8 per cent was ahead of India’s at 6.7 per cent, giving the former the tag of being the fastest growing emerging economy.

The Indian economy, which grew at 7.1 per cent in 2016, slowed in 2017 due to demonetisation in November 2016 and GST rollout in July 2017.

Sharif barred from contesting elections for life after Pak SC verdict

ISLAMABAD, APR 13 (PTI): Pakistan’s ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif was today barred from contesting elections for life, after the Supreme Court ruled that the disqualification of a lawmaker under the Constitution is permanent, a landmark verdict ending the political future of the three-time premier.

The verdict was issued unanimously by all five judges of the bench while hearing a petition related to determination of time duration for disqualification of a lawmaker under the Constitution.

The court had grappled with Article 62(1) (f) which only stated that a lawmaker is disqualified under specified conditions but did not set out the duration of the disqualification.

Article 62, which sets the precondition for a member of parliament to be “sadiq and ameen” (honest and righteous), is the same provision under which Sharif was disqualified on July 28, 2017, in the Panama Papers case.

The court later also disqualified Sharif as head of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz.

In today verdict, the SC =said that under the country’s Constitution, no person once disqualified from office by the top court can hold public office again.

The historic ruling ended 68-year-old Sharif’s hopes for a political future.

Likewise, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leader Jahangir Tareen was disqualified on December 15 last year by a separate bench of the apex court under the same provision.

Following the verdict, both Sharif and Tareen have become ineligible to ever hold public office.

The verdict read out by Justice Umar Ata Bandial said the disqualification of any member of parliament or a public servant under Article 62



(1)(f) in the future will be permanent. Such a person cannot contest elections or become a member of parliament.

A five-judge bench on February 14 had reserved the judgement on 17 appeals and petitions challenging the length of disqualification under the Article 62.

Sharif in January had stated through a written statement before the bench that disqualification under Article 62 is confined only to the election in question, and it is not perpetual.

The court had clubbed 17 petitions together to determine the duration of disqualification of lawmakers.

State Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb dismissed the ruling as a “joke”.

“This joke has already been played on previous premiers and all 17 prime ministers of Pakistan have faced a similar fate,” she said.

“This decision is similar to the Supreme Court rulings which took former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the gallows and led to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the information minister told reporters.

Marriyum said that time and again, democratically elected leaders of Pakistan are uncereemoniously removed from their post.

She said, “Decisions against Sharif are made first and trials are conducted later.”

“The verdict has started a phase of Sharif’s politics which our enemies should be afraid of,” the information minister added.

Sharif, known as the Lion of Punjab, became the prime minister in the politically unstable Pakistan for a record three times, but every-time he was forced to quit in the middle of his term.

Militants kill 11 policemen in western Afghanistan

HERAT, APR 13 (AFP): Taliban militants ambushed a checkpoint in western Afghanistan, killing at least nine policemen, officials said today, in the latest attack on the country’s beleaguered security forces.

Two other policemen were killed and four wounded by a roadside bomb en route to the checkpoint to provide backup during the hours-long assault that began late Thursday night, Herat provincial governor spokesman Jailani Farhad told AFP.

Two armoured Humvees were destroyed in the attack in Shindand district, Farhad said. The Taliban also seized weapons and ammunition during the raid, he added.

Shindand district governor Shukrullah Shakir confirmed the casualty figures. He added that the checkpoint was eight kilometres (five miles) from the district centre.

The attack comes a day after Taliban fighters raided a district government compound in the southeastern province of Ghazni, killing at least seven people, including the local governor.

The Taliban frequently attack Afghan security forces and steal their equipment, eroding morale among poorly-paid police and soldiers.

The latest assaults are the deadliest by the Taliban in several weeks and come as the group prepares to launch its annual spring offensive, which marks the beginning of the traditional fighting season.

The Taliban are under pressure to take up President Ashraf Ghani’s offer of peace talks but so far have not responded directly to the proposal.



Russia has said it will protect its people on the ground in Syria if missiles are launched by the US and its allies. Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian foreign ministry, said Donald Trump’s threat to launch missiles at Syrian forces was a “test for each and every country (with troops in Syria) to protect its people on the ground”. Russia and Iran are the Assad regime’s allies in the Syrian civil war. The Kremlin said on Wednesday that the US and its allies - France, Germany and the UK - should “seriously consider” the consequences of their threats to launch military action in response to an alleged chemical attack carried out on Saturday in Douma, eastern Ghouta, on the outskirts of Damascus.

UNSC must prevent Syria spiralling out of control: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, APR 13 (PTI): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appealed to the five permanent members of the Security Council to break the current deadlock on reported use of chemical weapons in Syria and prevent the situation spiralling out of control in the war-torn country.

“I have also been closely following developments in the Security Council and regret that the Council has so far been unable to reach agreement on this issue, Guterres said in a statement. “Let us not forget that, ultimately, our efforts must be about ending the terrible suffering of the Syrian people,” he added.

Guterres said that he called the ambassadors of the five permanent Council members China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States on Wednesday to reiterate his “deep concern about

the risks of the current impasse” and stressed the need to “avoid the situation spiraling out of control.”

On Tuesday, the 15-member body voted on three separate draft resolutions in response to recent allegations of a chemical weapons attack in the Syrian town of Douma. None of the texts garnered enough support.

The first draft penned by the United States which would have established a new investigative mechanism for one year; as well as identify those responsible for the use of chemical weapons, was rejected owing to a negative vote or veto from Russia.

Similarly, a competing draft penned by Russia which would have established the mechanism for one year as well but would have given the Security Council the responsibility to assign accountability for the use of

chemical weapons in Syria, was also not adopted.

The Council rejected a third text also proposed by Russia which concerned the work of the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997.

Despite the deadlock in the Security Council, OPCW has said that it would shortly send a team to Syria to “establish the facts” surrounding the incident.

The UN World Health Organisation (WHO) said it has received reports that an estimated 500 patients at Syrian health facilities have exhibited signs and symptoms consistent with exposure to toxic chemicals, after the shelling of a Damascus suburb over the weekend.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
LABHLAXMI LEO

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:13/04/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 6092
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3308 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3540
4th Prize Rs.300/- 5077 5th Prize Rs. 204/- 5118
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1011 1025 1041 1066 1070 1071 1146 1150 1159 1176
1181 1186 1205 1239 1254 1301 1326 1331 1359 1373
1387 1428 1440 1448 1460 1481 1560 1652 1711 1762
1763 1835 1840 1887 1907 1908 1916 1961 1989 2000
2034 2048 2077 2107 2159 2172 2208 2213 2269 2270
2272 2287 2332 2343 2373 2376 2399 2415 2424 2475
2520 2523 2524 2545 2553 2595 2614 2622 2629 2645
2657 2669 2673 2708 2790 2877 2906 2907 2930 2981
3008 3021 3079 3087 3131 3159 3169 3217 3255 3256
3289 3310 3329 3364 3377 3451 3480 3502 3504 3505
3508 3511 3518 3658 3663 3700 3705 3795 3796 3804
3808 3884 3889 3938 3960 3969 3979 4045 4053 4055
4092 4093 4113 4134 4255 4307 4316 4320 4375 4385
4395 4398 4420 4459 4484 4524 4572 4580 4630 4644
4708 4749 4760 4787 4807 4820 4849 4872 4880 4887
4896 4902 4927 4935 4948 5006 5038 5064 5069 5072
5089 5101 5102 5115 5142 5187 5191 5196 5209 5238
5241 5299 5308 5354 5381 5417 5428 5450 5452 5492
5494 5503 5523 5550 5555 5558 5561 5575 5646 5665
5676 5736 5746 5774 5788 5791 5803 5833 5853 5878
5885 5905 5918 5950 5953 6031 6039 6047 6125 6168
6209 6257 6265 6285 6342 6343 6406 6444 6446 6454
6521 6531 6546 6558 6594 6664 6693 6708 6726 6768
6772 6797 6811 6842 6870 6891 6902 6903 6907 6910

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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR TENDER MORNING
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:19 DrawDate on:13/04/18
1st Prize Rs.26.04 Lakhs/- 941 50845
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 50845 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
08391 13906 14650 18639 30685
42607 59272 59358 65876 69555
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1102 1263 2153 2551 2836 4874 5729 6280 8723 9685
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0895 3690 4717 4873 5136 5607 6179 7442 9528 9623
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0081 0097 0413 0497 0585 0644 1027 1090 1248 1300
1330 1435 1463 1620 1764 1800 1813 1852 1855 1922
1997 2107 2361 2716 2799 2813 2916 2929 2931 3135
3248 3504 3554 3598 3644 3971 4122 4249 4376 4637
4713 4764 4812 5004 5067 5215 5287 5298 5315 5366
5476 5657 5690 5756 5761 5772 5866 6069 6157 6177
6180 6375 6407 6454 6482 6587 6591 6611 6659 7008
7135 7142 7267 7367 7369 7453 7503 7667 7729 7744
7978 8061 8168 8232 8509 8580 8707 8786 8906 8908
9056 9104 9469 9478 9554 9580 9674 9710 9824 9829

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR ADMIRE
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No:19 DrawDate on:13/04/18
1st Prize Rs.26.04 Lakhs/- 961 19937
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 19937 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
17341 30915 37102 39423 51777
54896 58405 77479 88227 98409
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1303 1952 2001 3782 5103 6316 6479 6598 6744 9747
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1189 1245 2606 2937 5071 6709 7784 9124 9800 9977
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0149 0283 0307 0517 0534 0545 0621 0688 0762 0777
0784 1281 1300 1486 1574 1591 1670 1766 1804 2037
2116 2124 2350 2356 2472 2586 2590 2720 2786 2891
3152 3180 3235 3332 3632 3802 3986 4020 4350 4907
4992 5011 5086 5209 5419 5631 5708 5710 5796 5851
5868 5933 6018 6174 6229 6261 6352 6446 6469 6477
6666 6698 6739 6774 6832 6833 6851 6896 7018 7105
7109 7213 7283 7399 7519 7747 7791 7976 7989 8093
8150 8157 8160 8401 8417 8501 8683 8733 8901 9069
9111 9197 9240 9245 9346 9484 9522 9722 9908 9936

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR VULTURE EVENING
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:37 DrawDate on:13/04/18
1st Prize Rs.26.04 Lakhs/- 69G 59972
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 59972 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
04438 05035 25540 33613 35981
49630 77735 86385 88883 94208
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2580 3358 4017 4661 5014 5400 5704 5951 6212 8247
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0368 0558 2169 4916 5483 7612 8935 8991 9000 9898
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0181 0183 0209 0220 0749 1101 1130 1178 1219 1239
1290 1533 1667 1746 1792 1967 2021 2215 2694 2701
2711 2723 2788 2812 2995 3055 3148 3292 3438 3448
3515 3610 3615 3680 3683 3923 3949 4056 4075 4093
4098 4176 4411 4547 4910 5056 5255 5313 5317 5382
5440 5463 5693 5993 6080 6182 6317 6706 6862 6941
6970 7180 7229 7367 7479 7656 7714 7727 7736 7739
8028 8108 8162 8164 8195 8254 8285 8287 8339 8406
8431 8453 8460 8649 8813 8826 8845 8868 8895 8990
9096 9167 9234 9395 9508 9533 9548 9775 9897 9950

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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES
MUMBAILAXMI SURAJ

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:13/04/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 5940 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1192
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 1092 4th Prize Rs. 504/- 4326
5th Prize Rs.200/-
1043 1070 1081 1134 1168 1184 1329 1331 1356 1421
1440 1563 1645 1673 1714 1721 1733 1739 1834 1862
1973 2009 2226 2259 2324 2364 2367 2375 2382 2412
2518 2519 2572 2591 2628 2663 2691 2860 2893 2911
2937 2986 2987 2996 3111 3245 3286 3405 3462 3553
3555 3628 3713 3726 3789 3859 3891 3958 3994 4044
4199 4209 4229 4259 4433 4499 4506 4510 4528 4554
4563 4617 4666 4852 4927 4980 5036 5075 5076 5093
5116 5140 5142 5243 5255 5319 5412 5475 5559 5624
5699 5721 5735 5784 5786 5795 5804 5921 5974 5993
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1011 1023 1033 1054 1074 1083 1111 1113 1152 1166
1169 1177 1183 1243 1251 1344 1353 1357 1366 1367
1373 1394 1409 1434 1495 1505 1521 1554 1567 1697
1703 1709 1716 1761 1779 1794 1874 1903 1907 1952
1963 2011 2012 2045 2054 2056 2089 2177 2184 2190
2202 2220 2228 2244 2258 2284 2343 2357 2362 2392
2415 2423 2431 2558 2575 2632 2659 2667 2673 2684
2718 2720 2734 2746 2763 2803 2808 2829 2830 2907
2923 2946 2983 3006 3146 3153 3169 3190 3196 3238
3256 3268 3281 3285 3304 3330 3336 3369 3373 3415
3420 3571 3652 3654 3657 3682 3749 3765 3778 3796
3812 3834 3857 3863 3876 3885 3910 3911 3917 3918
3926 4032 4060 4095 4109 4116 4126 4145 4148 4172
4198 4268 4303 4403 4439 4451 4487 4488 4503 4505
4508 4589 4616 4619 4640 4667 4679 4692 4721 4781
4823 4860 4874 4903 4923 4924 4979 4993 5004 5010
5013 5019 5052 5058 5059 5062 5082 5102 5149 5168
5171 5179 5232 5234 5290 5379 5393 5409 5426 5453
5468 5530 5579 5582 5609 5615 5635 5641 5655 5663
5702 5724 5803 5805 5809 5822 5843 5891 5904 5963

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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.



ICONIC! Pop star Britney Spears looks flawless as she arrives at the GLAAD Media Awards to receive their Vanguard Award.

IT: CHAPTER 2 LINES UP JAMES MCAVOY & BILL HADER

James McAvoy and Bill Hader are in talks to join the IT: Chapter 2 cast, with Jessica Chastain already onboard to play the grown-up version of Beverly Marsh in the film. Last year's IT movie was a runaway critical and commercial success for Warner Bros.; that was all the more welcome news for the studio because it left the second half of Stephen King's original horror novel for a sequel to adapt.

Chapter 2 will focus on the latter half of the source material, picking up with the members of the Losers' Club as adults 27 years after their first battle with Pennywise the Dancing Clown aka. IT.

Bill Skarsgård is all but formally confirmed to return as Pennywise in the IT movie sequel, with Andy Muschietti once again directing from an adapted script written by Gary Dauberman. Chastain was the favorite to play the grownup Beverly in the film



even before the news became semi-official, and has even been featured in multiple IT: Chapter 2 fan trailers at this stage. It now appears that she won't be the only A-list actor playing a Loser in the followup either.

Certain reports are suggesting that McAvoy and Hader are in talks to play the grownup versions of (respectively) Bill Denbrough and Richie Tozier in IT: Chapter 2. The characters were portrayed as kids in the first IT movie by Jaeden Lieberher and Finn Wolfhard, both of whom are expected to return

along with the other young Losers' Club actors in Chapter 2 via flashbacks. While Muschietti teased as much with a recent social media update alluding to the start of production on Chapter 2, sources are cautioning that the deal is still being worked out on that front.

IT: Chapter 2 will pick up in 2016, as the now forty-something Losers come to realize that Pennywise has resurfaced and they must all return to Derry, Maine, in order to battle and hopefully defeat him at last. In King's original novel, Bill grows up

to become a horror writer still traumatized by what happened to his brother Georgie all those years before. Richie, meanwhile, now works as a disc jockey in Los Angeles, his smart aleck attitude and penchant for foul-mouthed humor still mostly intact.

McAvoy tends to excel at dramatic acting roles whereas Hader has shown a real knack for combining drama and comedy with his performances, mostly recently on HBO's acclaimed hitman comedy/drama TV series Barry. Like Chastain, they both come off as natural picks for their respective roles in IT: Chapter 2 and further suggest that the sequel could either match or exceed the quality of its predecessor. IT producer Roy Lee has confirmed that Chapter 2 aims to begin filming in July, so it shouldn't be long before the remaining four adult Losers have been cast too.

DISNEY'S LIVE-ACTION MULAN CASTS JET LI, GONG LI & MORE

Disney's adding more star power to Mulan with the additions of Jet Li and Gong Li. The live-action remake of Mulan is the latest effort from Disney to recycle their animated tales in a new light. This formula has so far proven to be very financially lucrative for the studio, spurring them on to develop even more projects of this ilk. Although the live-action Mulan was delayed to 2020 earlier this year, the casting process is well underway now.

Casting began late last year, when Liu Yifei was confirmed to play Mulan in the live-action retelling. However, she was the only cast member officially onboard for director Niki Caro's film until yesterday, when Donnie Yen joined the cast as a Commander in the Chinese army. Now, the film has further cast its villain, along with the key role of the Chinese emperor.

Both Jet Li and Gong Li are onboard for Mulan now. Jet Li is a major action star thanks to his martial arts background, which has made him one of his home country's biggest draws internationally. He will play the emperor of China, previously voiced by the late Pat Morita in Disney's animated Mulan. Gong Li is another seasoned veteran of the Chinese filmmaking industry, and is now set to play Mulan's villain – a powerful witch. In addition, Chinese-Viet-



namese actress Xana Tang has joined the cast as Mulan's sister, a new role created for the film.

The addition of Jet Li is an impressive get for Disney. Between him and Yen, the studio is clearly looking to make sure Mulan will have international appeal and is casting big stars to guarantee just that. Considering his previous roles, maybe this version of China's emperor will be a bit more hands-on and give Jet an opportunity to utilize his martial arts talents.

While Jet is the bigger name, the role for Gong is perhaps the more notable one. Her casting indicates a major departure from the animated film, as the villain there was Shan Yu. The leader of the Huns was an imposing and

purposefully villainous looking man. Changing the villain to be a woman should create a brand new dynamic for the live-action take. Really, this is the latest example of how Disney's straying from their animated film with the live-action rendition.

Between switching to a female villain, giving Mulan a sister, and bringing on a male mentor, the live-action Mulan is shaping up to be significantly different from its predecessor, in multiple respects. There was also previously talk of Mulan not featuring any songs (as in, musical numbers) either, so Caro's take could wind up being quite different from the Mouse House's previous iteration. Just how different it will actually be remains to be seen, of course.

SALMAN KHAN STARRER RACE 3'S TRAILER TO BE OUT ON APRIL 27, 2018?

Choreographer cum director Remo D'Souza is helming Ramesh Taurani's Race 3. The film stars Salman Khan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Daisy Shah and Saqib Saleem in crucial roles and will be the third part of the Race franchise.

Race 3 will have Salman and Jacqueline collaborate for the second time after the 2014 release Kick. The cast and crew of Race 3 are currently



shooting for the last leg of the film and are expected to wrap up by the end of this month.

Latest reports suggest that

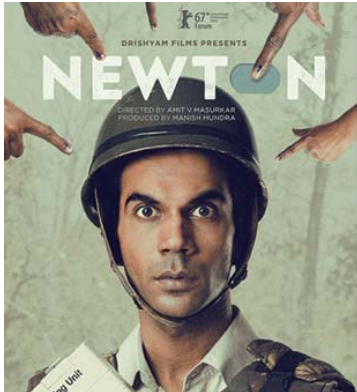
the trailer of the film will soon be seen in cinema halls. It is being said that the trailer will be attached to Marvel's Aveng-

ers: Infinity War film that is slated to release on April 27, 2018.

A source close to the film told a leading tabloid that, 'Avengers' is expected to hit more than 2000 theatres in India. Attaching the Race 3 trailer stems from its expected viewership across the country. Salman enjoys a huge fan following among the youth who are bound to watch the Hollywood film too."

Race 3 will hit the theatres on June 15, 2018.

SRIDEVI NAMED BEST ACTRESS AT 65TH NATIONAL AWARDS



The 65th National Film Awards were announced on Friday, 13 April, and as per early reports, Baahubali 2: The Conclusion and Rajkumar Rao-starrer Newton were among the major winners. And in a moving gesture, late actress Sridevi has been named Best Actress for MOM.

The jury, headed by filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, had handed over its recommendations to Information and Broadcasting minister Smriti Irani, on Thursday. The jury also counted screenwriter Imtiaz Hussain, lyricist Mehboob and ac-

tress Gautami Tadimalla among its members.

The 2017 National Awards were mired in controversy after Akshay Kumar was named Best Actor for his role in Rustam. There were allegations of favouritism against the jury head, filmmaker Priyadarshan, who has worked with Akshay on several projects.

Malayalam actress Surabhi Lakshmi had been named Best Actress for Minnaminungu. Mohanlal (Pulimurugan), Sonam Kapoor (Neerja) and Zaira Wasim (Dangal) had also won awards.

ARIES: A friend or family member could be feeling rather grim, taciturn, and not open to communication. He or she could have you wondering if you've done something wrong, or they're angry with you. If you use your warmth and generosity of spirit to induce this person to open up, Aries, you'll probably find that the issues have nothing to do with you. You might even help relieve them! Tonight, prepare everyone's favorite meal.

TAURUS: A warm, loving phone call or letter could come your way today from a lover or close friend who's presently out of town. You'll wish with all your heart that he or she could be home! In the meantime, you're likely to keep yourself quite busy, Taurus. Creative projects,

activities in your community, or both could keep you too busy to miss anyone too much. Tonight, spend some time alone.

GEMINI: Today you could discover a talent for investment, real estate, or other form of money management that you never thought you had, Gemini. The opportunity to make an investment or cash in on one could enable you to take strides toward making your money grow. This might be a good time to buy or sell any type of property. You might also want to do some reading on future investment opportunities.

CANCER: You might wake up today feeling a little grumpy and out of sorts, Cancer. You could aspire to nothing more strenuous than spending the day without any distractions

other than a good book. However, by the middle of the day a warm and loving letter or phone call is likely to snap you out of your reclusive mood. You could spend the evening strolling through your community, visiting shops or restaurants. Enjoy!

LEO: Some pretty heavy soul searching could reveal that the time has come to make use of a talent you may have always had but never developed. This could involve nothing more than a little practice, or you could decide to get some formal training in the skill. This is a positive sign, Leo, but your determination could waver over the next few days. Don't hesitate - stay with it!

VIRGO: You're looking good and your social skills are at

their peak, Virgo. Therefore, social events and group activities that you might attend today could well be the most satisfying and beneficial you've known in a long time. People you meet should be impressed with you, and you could make a lot of new friends. If you aren't romantically involved now, a new love could come your way. **LIBRA:** Today you could find yourself brainstorming a way to put your inventiveness and ingenuity to work so that you can advance your career by leaps and bounds and increase your income. You could also become involved in artistic projects of some kind. Don't be surprised if great ideas come to you with little effort. You're very intuitive today, Libra, so

enjoy it. **SCORPIO:** An intense study of philosophy, religion, or some other exalted school of thought could find you involved with a group that shares your interest in the subject. You could make a new friend today, or if you aren't currently romantically involved, meet a potential romantic partner. This should be a very satisfying day on both mental and emotional levels. Remember how it all came about, and enjoy yourself!

SAGITTARIUS: Sex and romance should be at the top of your priority list today, Sagittarius. You should be feeling especially warm, loving, and passionate. Romantic novels and movies could be especially appealing, as could an intimate evening with

a lover! Career and money matters look fairly strong and stable at this time, although it might take a little effort to keep them that way. Go for the gold! **CAPRICORN:** A lack of communication on the part of your mate or perhaps a business partner can cause you to feel uncertainty about the relationship. Don't fall into this trap, Capricorn. Use your warmth and understanding to open up the communication between you. You'll probably find that all is basically well. Your partner just needs some space. Take some space for yourself, too! A little solitude might do you some good.

AQUARIUS: The right moment to ask for a raise or apply for a promotion or new job could come your way today,

but you'd better make use of it or the opportunity could pass you by. A chance for a romantic encounter or fun evening with friends could also come up. Whatever pleasant things arise today aren't sure things, Aquarius, so don't let them escape. They could be significant milestones for you. **PISCES:** Love and romance are definitely on the agenda for today, Pisces, and you should be feeling warm, passionate, and particularly sexy. You're likely to be looking quite attractive, too, and romantic partners or potential partners could seem especially attractive to you. This is a wonderful day to shop for new clothes, have your hair styled, or prepare a candlelit dinner for someone very special. Go for it!