



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM announcement for laptops not mobile phones, HRDD clarifies

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

The Human Resource Development Department clarified today that the state government will be providing laptops and not mobile phones to Class XII students.

It was reported that the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had announced the distribution of free mobile phones to Class 12 students on 11 Apr while addressing a gathering at Soreng in West Sikkim during his 3-day tour of the district.

In a press release issued today, the department has said that it was a "faux pas" and the announcement may be understood as distribution of laptops and not mobile phones.

This was clarified during the conversation of Additional Chief Secretary, Human Resource Development Department, GP Upadhyaya, with the CM at Soreng in the evening of 11 Apr, the release mentions.

The process for providing laptops to students of Class 12 is underway, the release adds.

The team of HRDD has further requested all stakeholders to kindly acknowledge the initiatives of the state government towards quality education and join hands by creating a great social capital in the education sector.

Salary hike for temporary govt employees

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

The state government has enhanced the salary of temporary govt

NCERT publishes info on child helplines in textbooks

NEW DELHI, APR 12 (PTI): NCERT has published information about helplines for children in all course books from Class 6-12, giving around 26 crore school children access to them, the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry said today.

WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi had suggested the idea to Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar last year during a telephone conversation.

"The National Council Of Educational Research And Training (NCERT) has published the information regarding Childline (1098) 24x7 Helpline for chil-

dren and POCSO e-box on the back side of the front cover of all course books from Class 6 to Class 12. To equip the children with the information regarding the possible modes of protection/complaints," the ministry said in a statement.

Gandhi had requested her Cabinet colleague to popularise POCSO e-box and Childline 1098 through NCERT publications, screening of educational films on child sexual abuse in schools and having strict norms to employ the support staff.

Today, she thanked the HRD Minister and NCERT for implementing her suggestion and

stated that parents, guardians and teachers should remain vigilant about children as well as their behaviour. Any suspected situation should be reported immediately on the Childline No.1098 and the POCSO e-Box, the ministry said.

Through these course books, the information is expected to reach approximately 26 crore students in 15 lakh schools.

NCERT was also advised to include a chapter in social science subject regarding the issues mentioned above.

"The narrative may continue till Class 12 for having a reasonable impact on young

minds. The information will not just reach these children, but is about to stay with them on daily basis. As a result, it is expected that the children will be more aware and they may use the Child Helpline or POCSO e-box, in case of any distress. The easy accessibility of this information in the hand of children themselves may also deter the prospective abusers, at least to a reasonable extent," the ministry said.

The information via these books will also be available to 10 lakh teachers along with the family members and care givers of these children.

Start a "revolution of development" says CM

GIALSHING, 12 APR [IPR]: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, who is on a 32-day Sikkim Public Outreach Campaign, concluded the third day of his tour of West district at Rinchenpong constituency.

The CM today addressed the public regarding development wherein he asked the public to make use of the opportunities and amenities provided to them by the state government. He mentioned that the State and its people need to understand that the governmental emoluments are given to them to increase their economic well-being and living standards making Sikkim a "self-sustaining and self-reliant" society.

Mr Chamling urged the Sikkimese society to work together towards the common goal of making Sikkim better in every way. He asked the public



to start a "revolution of development" where every citizen is conscious and is responsible for the overall development of themselves and the state. Identifying developmental opportunities and ventures to help the State and its people is the duty of every Sikkimese

citizen, he added.

While speaking on the various demands put forward by the Kaluk-Rinchenpong constituency, Mr Chamling assured the public that "public interest" demands will be put forward on priority basis. He also sanctioned the

upgradation of Khaney-sirbong Secondary School to Senior Secondary School in the coming months.

Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Parks and Garden at Rinchenpong along with the construction of the "Statue of Unity" and other infrastruc-

tural demands like VLV Office at Deythang and Community Hall at Mangalbaria was also sanctioned by the CM.

Electricity to the left out villages and areas under the Kaluk-Rinchenpong constituency will also be set up at the earliest, the CM added.

Cal HC stays WB panchayat polls till further orders

Kolkata, Apr 12 (PTI): Displeased with the State Election Commission's (SEC) decision to cancel its own order to extend the nomination process by a day, the Calcutta High Court today stayed the ongoing panchayat election process in West Bengal till further orders.

Rejecting the SEC's contention that the writ petition of the BJP was not maintainable, the court held that the SEC is endowed with powers relating to holding of elections, but in case of any digression, it needs to be corrected by the court of law.

Justice Subrata Talukdar stayed till further orders the ongoing panchayat election process in West Bengal.

Talukdar also sought from the SEC by Monday a comprehensive status report on the poll process, detailing the number of nominations filed and the percentage of those rejected, among other information.

The court said it would hear on April 16 the pleas challenging the SEC's decision to withdraw its April 9 notifica-

tion, which had extended the date for filing nominations by a day.

The BJP had challenged the cancellation of the notification dated April 9 by the commission vide its order dated April 10, withdrawing the one-day extension granted to the candidates to file their nomination papers.

The deadline to file nominations had expired at 3 pm on April 9.

Justice Talukdar observed that the commission had recognised the grievances expressed by different political parties as well as individuals by extending the date.

"However, the order was abruptly withdrawn," he said.

Justice Talukdar had on April 10 stayed the SEC order, permitting the commission to take steps in accordance with the law by treating the operation of its order dated April 10 to have been kept in abeyance.

Referring to the Supreme Court order with regard to a petition by the West Bengal unit of the BJP challenging the

turn to pg02

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IN SUMMIT TIMES ON SATURDAY



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 writes AADIL BRAR. There is no denial, but efforts at addressing the issue have largely ignored the major driving forces behind climate change or involved the masses in mitigation planning...

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11 Apr will be remembered as black day in Sikkim: SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has strongly criticized the disposal of seized non-organic vegetables on 11 Apr. The future generation of the State will remember the day as black day in the history of Sikkim, the party has said.

In a press release, SKM has said that instead of burying the seized vegetables, it could be donated to orphanages, old age homes, monasteries, temples or schools. Disposing these vegetables in this manner is a violation of nature and plant kingdom, the party has said.

Further, the party has alleged that the establishment of industries in the State has reduced the production of organic vegetables by 60% and added that even farmers are not very interested in organic farming because of which the State cannot produce the required amount of vegetables.

CM's State tour a waste of people's money and time: BJP

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that the ongoing State tour of the Chief Minister is just a waste of people's money and pointless.

A BJP press release states that the CM had conducted a 40-day State tour before the 2014 assembly election and had sanctioned many projects on the spot but no work was implemented on the field. This time, the release alleges that the CM is on tour again to speak against BJP in villages.

The party has accused the CM of making false promises to the people all over again. It has also criticized SDF for forcing government employees and students to listen to the CM's speech.

Mamley Kamrang GPU gets a website

NAMCHI, 12 APR [IPR]: Under District Administration Adopted Village [DAAV] Scheme, the South District National Informatics Centre [NIC] has developed a website for Mamley Kamrang GPU which provides details about the activities conducted under DAAV along with other substantial information namely that of demography, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [MGNREGA] and a brief overview about the Gram Panchayat.

District Collector [South], Raj Yadav, informed that the website has been developed to improve transparency in administration activities and to encourage public participation while implementing schemes.

Additionally, in order to give impetus to the booming tourism sector particularly in South Sikkim, the website has listed various festivals or-



ganized in South District and the visiting tourist can browse the website for any kind of update regarding the festivities. The website www.

mamleykamranggpu.nic.in can be accessed by anyone without the need for login credentials. The public can route data at district and Panchayat

levels in various formats including annual development plan of MGNREGA 2017-18 and Five Year perspective plan of Mamley Kamrang GPU.

Gram Sabha held for Rongyek Tathangchen GPU

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

A Gram Sabha was conducted today for Rongyek Tathangchen Gram Panchayat Unit at the premises of the newly built Village Administration Centre in Rongyek, Gangtok, in the presence of Legal Advisor to the Chief Minister, KT Gyaltsen, as special guest.

The Sabha was chaired by Panchayat President, Leeyut Lepcha, who along with Panchayats of the GPU, former Panchayats, Zilla Adhyakshas, Block Development Officer, Zilla members and officials from various departments addressed various ways and means to develop the village.

Ms Lepcha informed that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [NREGA] scheme has been integral to employment generation and asked for cooperation from all stakeholders.

Various issues of the GPU including road connectivity, water supply, ICDS, sanitation and sewerage, school repair



works, village tourism and works in organic sectors, both dairy and animal husbandry, were discussed by the stakeholders during the Sabha.

Request for installation of a common 50 litres water tank in areas with water shortage was also discussed.

The GPU also felicitated its bright students alongside its active organic farmers. Houses under the Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission [CMRHM] scheme were also handed over to

the beneficiaries.

Special guest, Mr Gyaltsen, while addressing the gathering, congratulated the Gram Sabha and its members for successful deliberations. He also welcomed all the suggestions from different stakeholders of the GPU.

Urging the citizens to avail benefits of the various schemes of the State government, he asked them to work in the sectors of organic farming and tourism as envisioned by the Chief Minister.

Singtam youth installs signboards to contribute to road safety

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 12 APR:**

One local youth of Singtam Bazaar, Sujit Gupta, in a noble initiative, has installed more than four signboards at various locations considered to be accident prone zones at Bardang in East Sikkim today.

Bearing the cost and expenditure by himself, Mr Gupta, who is also the Managing Director of ITC Company, says he took the step owing to the increasing number of road accidents along the highway.

"The signboards are a reminder for the drivers to drive safely in order to avoid accidents. Since there are no speed breakers along the highway, these signboards can be of help and have a positive impact," said Mr Gupta.



Amba GP organises awareness prog to address mental health and substance abuse issues

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

The Gram Panchayat of Amba in East Sikkim organised a daylong awareness programme under the Gram Panchayat Development Plan [GPD] on "Mental Health, Drug Abuse, Alcoholism, Adolescence, Sanitation and General Health Care" here at the village Gram Prashasan Kendra today.

The programme was attended by students from Government Secondary School, Amba, senior citizens, local public and others and was presided over by Zilla Panchayat member of Amba-Taza Territorial Constituency, Subhadra Devi Dungal, in the presence of Gram Panchayat members, resource persons, and staff of the GPK.

Dr Mayal Lepcha and

Dr Roshni Tamang from Singtam District Hospital along with their team conducted health check-up of students and local public and distributed free medicines.

Psychiatric Counsellor, Pinkey Bhutia, highlighted issues related to mental health, depression and other related factors. One of the resource persons of the programme and motivational speaker, Suprabha Sharma, presented a talk on challenges faced by the present generation and the importance of positive mindset and thinking.

Zilla Panchayat member, Subhadra Devi Dungal, congratulated the GPU for organising the event and highlighted issues related to the gender discrimination. She urged parents and senior citizens to discourage discrimination between a

girl child and a boy.

She encouraged students to remain focused in their studies and work hard. She also highlighted various schemes of the State government related to girl child.

Panchayat member, Bishnu Kumari Regmi, while addressing the gathering, spoke on the importance of sanitation and hygiene.

"Keep your surroundings clean and this is possible only through a joint effort. Everyone has to come forward and work together towards Swachha Sikkim and Swachha Bharat," she added.

The function was also addressed by Panchayat president, Durga Lal Sewa, Headmaster of Amba SS, Mahindra Poudyal, Panchayat vice president, Amna Basnet, Panchayat secretary, Buddha Tamang, and others.



ITBP holds Swachhta Abhiyan campaign at ITBP School in Pegong

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 APR:**

The 11th Battalion of the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force organized a Swachhta Abhiyan campaign at ITBP School in Pegong,

North Sikkim. Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar, while addressing the students, spoke on the importance of healthy and stress-free lifestyle. Emphasizing on diseases related to

unhygienic lifestyles and polluted environment, he urged the students and teachers to keep their surrounding clean and assured full support for the same, a press release informs.

Cal HC stays WB panchayat polls till further orders

Contd from pg01

SEC's decision to recall the extension order, Justice Talukdar said that the operative part of the apex court order is crucially connected to the cancellation of the notification.

The high court also said that the SEC should have informed it today that it has ensured a level playing field for all players.

Justice Talukdar also expressed his displeasure at the conduct of the BJP representative, Pratap Banerjee, who had moved the petition on behalf of the party in view of an ongoing cease work by lawyers, for not disclosing that a similar petition had been moved by the party before the Supreme Court also.

Justice Talukdar observed that this court must hold a very dim view of the conduct of the BJP representative appearing in person.

"However, in view of public interest involved, this court is not vacating its directions to the

SEC," the judge said.

Likening its conduct to forum hopping, Justice Talukdar imposed a cost of Rs 5 lakh on the BJP which would have to be deposited with the registrar general of the high court.

Representing the Trinamool Congress, its vice-president Kalyan Banerjee earlier prayed for vacating the order on the SEC, alleging that the petitioner had suppressed that it had moved both the high court and the apex court with similar petitions.

Apart from the BJP, the CPIM and the Congress too has moved the high court challenging the SEC's decision.

Opposition parties in West Bengal today termed the high court order staying the rural elections process in the state "victory of democracy over dictatorship" and sought the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the alleged violence during filing of nominations.

BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, who is in the city to participate in a sit-in demonstration to protest against the alleged violence, said the judgment was a blow to the ruling TMC.

"The ruling TMC has tried to turn the panchayat polls into farce by not allowing the opposition candidates to file nominations. This high court ruling is a triumph of democracy over dictatorship," Vijayvargiya told reporters.

Senior BJP leader Mukul Roy said the order is the "victory for the masses of Bengal".

Leader of the opposition and senior Congress leader, Abdul Mannan, too, welcomed the judgment and demanded the resignations of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and State Election Commissioner A K Singh.

"The people of Bengal can get justice only by moving court because the entire state admin-

istration has been turned into a back office of the ruling TMC. The chief minister and the SEC should immediately tender their resignation as they have turned the poll process into a joke," Mannan told PTI.

Senior CPI (M) leader Sujana Chakraborty said "democratic rights were being throttled" in West Bengal under the TMC rule.

The CPI(M)-led Left Front has called for a six-hour strike in West Bengal tomorrow in protest against the pre-poll violence in the state.

TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee, on his part, said people have "full faith" on Mamata Banerjee.

"We will not comment on the court order. Law will take its own course. The opposition parties do not enjoy popularity among the masses and that is why they are approaching the courts (to stall proceedings)," he said.

Gangtok on Friday, 13 Apr

Temp: 24°C / 11°C
Forecast: Occasional rain and a thunderstorm in the morning followed by a tunderstorm in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 05:14 AM
Sunset: 5:59 PM



PhD for SMIT Assistant Professor

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 APR: Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT], Jaya Rani, has successfully defended her PhD thesis on "Direct to Consumer promotion of Pharmaceutical Products in India: Impact assessment" on 31 Mar 2018 under the supervision of Professor & Head of Department of Management Studies [SMIT], Dr Ajeya Jha.

A press release received from Sikkim Manipal University informs that she has been recommended for award of degree by the Board of Examiners of SMU. The PhD degree will be awarded to her during the next SMU convocation.

Salary hike for temporary govt employees

Contd from pg01

ernment employees [Ad hoc/Contract/Consolidated basis etc] through a notification issued by the Department of Personnel on 11 Apr.

The salary of Group 'C' and 'D' temporary employees holding posts equivalent to regular employees receiving Grade Pay of Rs 3800-4200, Rs 3400, Rs 3000, Rs 2600 and Rs 2200 have been raised.

Also, salary of those hired on temporary basis as Medical Officer [Doctor, MBBS], Dental Surgeon, Assistant Professor [HRDD], Lecturer [DIET], Post Graduate Teacher [HRDD], Assistant Architect/Engineer, Graduate Teacher [HRDD] and Primary Teacher/Computer Teacher [HRDD] has been hiked.

The notification mentions that pay for drivers under temporary posts shall be on a daily wage basis at the rate prescribed and notified by the Labour Department.

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Preparatory meeting for State Day celebration held

GANGTOK, 12 APR [IPR]: The first Preparatory Meeting for preparations of the State Day Celebrations was chaired by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, at the conference hall of Manan Kendra in Gangtok today. The meeting had the presence and participation of Additional Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, along with Heads of Departments, officials and representatives from all the departments involved in the celebration of State Day 2018.

The meeting began with the Chief Secretary establishing the essence of the State Day celebrations and asserted that all the concerned departments must come together towards ensuring that the success of the celebrations of the previous years will be replicated this year too.

The State Day celebra-



tions will be observed at Chintan Bhawan with active participation from all the government officers.

It is informed that the highlight of the State Day celebrations will be the presentation of the LD Kazi Award for Democratic Movement along with other civilian awards.

The event will be marked by vibrant traditional dances and singing of patriotic songs by the students from various schools of Sikkim and the Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department. The general public will also be treated to a cultural programme at MG Marg

on the occasion. Important landmarks in and around Gangtok will also be illuminated to mark the occasion.

The Chief Secretary and the Additional Chief Secretary petitioned for active participation of all the concerned departments and allocated in-

dividual responsibilities to them. The meeting featured discussions and deliberations on the individual work distribution and the department heads and representatives committed themselves towards guaranteeing the grand success of the State Day Celebration 2018.

No Class 10 Maths re-test after scientific evaluation: CBSE to HC

NEW DELHI, APR 12 (PTI): The CBSE today told the Delhi High Court that it decided not to hold re-examination of class 10 Maths test as a scientific evaluation of random answer sheets did not indicate any unusual pattern to believe that there was widespread benefit of the alleged paper leak.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) made the submission in an affidavit in which it said it was not conducting the re-test for another reason -- class 10 is a gateway to class 11 and therefore "remains largely an internal segment of school

education system".

The affidavit was filed in response to a PIL, being heard by a bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar, in which an NGO had sought that CBSE be directed to hold the class 10 exam in April, if required, and not in July as it had proposed earlier.

The court had asked the Board to indicate by April 16 its plans, if any, to re-conduct the Maths test for class 10. Subsequently, CBSE had issued a notification on April 3 saying it will not hold re-examination of the class 10 Maths paper.

In its latest affidavit, CBSE cited reasons

for its decision and said "the Board triggered a scientific approach to take a considered view after seeing the general trend emerging out of a random evaluation of the class 10 Mathematics exam on priority basis.

"Accordingly, evaluation of class 10 Mathematics was taken up and same did not indicate spikes or unusual patterns, giving any impression of widespread benefits of the alleged paper leak."

The affidavit, filed through advocate Amit Bansal, had also said that the Ministry of Human Resource Development had set up a High Powered Committee on April

3 to examine the entire system of conducting class 10 and 12 exams by CBSE.

The CBSE's reply came on NGO Social Jurist's plea, filed through advocate Ashok Agarwal, also seeking a court-monitored probe into the recent leaks of the Maths and Economics question papers of class 10 and 12, respectively. The petition had also sought a direction to the Board to award liberal marks to the students in Maths and Economics

re-examination.

The court on the last date of hearing had asked the CBSE how could it wait till July to re-conduct the test and keep the students on "tenterhooks" till then. It had also observed that such a step would not only waste an academic year of the students, but would also be akin to keeping "a sword hanging over their heads."

The CBSE has already decided to re-conduct the Class 12 Economics examination on April 25.

Workshop on neurovascular diseases to be held at SMIMS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 APR:

Daylong Continuing Medical Education [CME] cum workshop entitled "Stroke and Neurointerventional Update 2018" is scheduled to be held here at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences [SMIMS] in Gangtok on 13 Apr.

An SMU press release informs that the CME is being organised by the Departments of Radiology [Interventional Radiology] and Medicine, SMIMS.

More than 100 delegates from Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya have already registered for the workshop which will have guest faculty of international repute in attendance to enlighten the delegates on the recent advances in stroke and its management.

One of the primary objectives of the CME is to spread awareness on the role of Neurointerventional procedures in management of various neurovascular diseases. Utilised in place of more

invasive procedures which require opening the skull or exposing the spinal column, neurointerventional procedures are minimally invasive. These procedures can be accomplished through a tiny incision. The benefits of neurointervention include shorter recovery time, fewer complications and less pain after the procedure is done, the release adds.

The CME is also being organised to sensitise the first person of contact [doctor/paramedical staff] in early detection of stroke and to assess its clinical severity according to National Institute of Health Stroke Scale [NIHSS].

As a part of the CME, training on NIHSS will also be conducted. Subsequently, interested individuals will be able to take an online examination for the same.

It may be mentioned here, this CME is the first step toward establishing a standard of care in management of acute stroke in the State of Sikkim.

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Technology is powerful enabler of mass surveillance: SC on Aadhaar

NEW DELHI, APR 12 (PTI): Technology is a "very powerful enabler" of mass surveillance, said the Supreme Court today, countering the fervent plea of UIDAI that Aadhaar was not needed to carry out surveillance of the citizens as the State had ample means to do it.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, hearing petitions challenging Aadhaar and its enabling 2016 law, also red-flagged certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Rules made under it and asked the Centre how could bank accounts be suspended and then frozen if they are not linked to Aadhaar.

The bench also referred to the testimony of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg before the US Congress to press home the point that technology was a powerful enabler of mass surveillance, which could even influence elections in a major democracy like the US.

"Can you deprive a person of his property (money)? Can a rule be made beyond the scope of the law? The consequence here leads to deprivation. One cannot withdraw his own money as the account is not linked... first, the account is suspended and then it may be blocked after six months. Can you do this," asked the bench, which also comprised Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan.

The PMLA's rule 9(4) has been challenged by the petitioners on the ground of proportionality, the top court said, adding "what is the need to make Aadhaar compulsory when there are other officially valid documents available."

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and the Gujarat government, initiated the submissions by sharing his experience

during Emergency days and said he too had faced surveillance and intelligence officers used to keep a tab on public speeches made by persons against the authorities.

The governments of the day have been putting important persons and political opponents under surveillance and it has ample means to do that, he said.

"No government needs Aadhaar to surveil its own people. There are tools available to do this," he said, adding that for example, it can monitor bank accounts for unusual activities under a master circular.

The bench responded by saying that those days of Kharak Singh (who had moved SC against police surveillance long back) are gone and now data has massive power which can provide "a goldmine of information" for commercial exploitation by private entities.

"The point is that technology is a powerful enabler of mass surveillance," the bench said, adding that elections in one of the most powerful nations has been believed to have been influenced due to misuse of leaked data.

The bench referred to the ongoing testimony of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg by the US lawmakers who accused him of failing to protect personal information of many Americans from alleged Russians's design to upset US Presidential polls.

Dwivedi then said that UIDAI's technology cannot be compared with algorithms of Google and Facebook and moreover, section 33 of Aadhaar Act makes misuse of data punishable and the law is more robust and if there was any issue, it could be regarding its enforcement.

"The Act does not preclude you (UIDAI) from acquiring such a technology," the bench replied.



SIEM Siliguri hosts inter-school & inter-college competition

SMRITA KHAWAS
SILIGURI, 12 APR: Surendra Institute of Engineering and Management [SIEM], Siliguri, hosted an inter-school and inter-college technical competition today with Professor of Physics, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, Bikas Kanta Chakrabarti, as the judge for the event. The SIEM team presented a model and blue print developed to solve traffic problems at Darjeeling More and Siliguri



Junction. one of the members of motive is to solve traffic Addressing the press, the team said, "Our main problem in Darjeeling

More and Siliguri Junction. Since these are the busiest areas of the town, dividing the routes was important. We've built a map which shows that addition of flyovers and introduction of metro railways can decrease traffic by 50%. A fly over from Champasari to City Center and over-bridges can make it much easier for everybody to reach their destination on time." Another electronic engineering team of SIEM had developed a

prototype named Online Patient Monitoring System [OPMS]. One of the members of the ECE team, Ujjal Khanal, said, "OPMS is a new invention which can detect human heartbeat and body temperature of the patient then can send the data to a server. It is basically invented for patients who need to visit doctor regularly. By using this system, they can see the entire data in their mobile with the help of one app."

1146 pigs died of disease in Mizoram since Jan

AIZAWL, APR 12 (PTI): The Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and other swine diseases have claimed 1,146 lives of pigs and piglets in Mizoram since January this year, officials said today. While the outbreak of swine diseases had affected almost all the eight districts of the state, it was mainly concentrated in Aizawl, Serchhip and Champhai districts, they said. There is no medicine to cure PRRS, the officials said, adding that the PRRS infected pigs were treated with vitamins to ensure that other diseases did not aggravate the illness.

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Ban on visitors and phones near hatching site of turtles

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), APR 12 (PTI): With hatchlings of Olive Ridley sea turtles starting to emerge from the eggs near the Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district, the forest department has imposed a ban on use of mobile phones at the site. "We have imposed a restriction on carrying mobile phones for taking selfies and even on visitors going right up to the hatchlings in a bid to protect them," said Ashish Kumar Behera, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Berhampur. He said legal action would be taken against the offenders under the Wildlife Protection Act. At least six flex boards bearing the legal provisions have been displayed near the mass nesting site, he added. "We have made an enclosure for the visitors near the hatching site. They can watch the hatchlings emerging from the eggs and crawling back to the sea to begin their homeward journey from the enclosure itself. The visitors enclosure is around half a km

from the site of hatching," said the DFO. The mass emergence of hatchlings, which started yesterday, is likely to continue for some more days. The forest department has also requested several authorities to put off street lights for the next few days. The baby turtles may get attracted towards the light and fall prey to predators, the officials said. "We have taken all possible steps to protect the baby turtles. Adequate forces have been deployed. Local volunteers and fishermen have also been roped in to help the forest staff to protect the turtles," said Behera. He said the entire five-km stretch from Po-dampet to Bateswar had been fenced to prevent predators like wild dogs, fox and jackals from entering the site of hatching. A record number of 4.45 lakh Olive Ridleys had laid eggs in the rookery during mass nesting from February 21 to 28. After laying the eggs, the female turtles had returned to the sea.

Sushma, Sitharaman scheduled to be in Beijing on same day on April 24

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, APR 12 (PTI): External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are scheduled to be in Beijing on April 24 to attend different meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and interact with their counterparts from the member states. The eight-member SCO, in which India was a latest entrant along with Pakistan, is due to hold its summit in the Chinese city of Qingdao in June. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the summit and also hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The SCO comprised of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. Ahead of the summit, the or-



ganisation which is focused on anti-terrorism cooperation is holding a host of ministerial and officials' meetings to work out a firm agenda for the summit to provide a new direction to the grouping. SCO Foreign and Defence Ministers meetings are scheduled on the same day on April

24 and almost around the same time, according to officials here. The visits of Swaraj and Sitharaman are the first high-profile visits by Indian ministers after last year's 73-day long standoff at Doklam. The two ministers are expected to hold bilateral meetings with their Chinese and oth-

er counterparts. Since December, the two sides are trying to reset the relations and looking to iron out differences on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group and China blocking the efforts to designate Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist by the UN. Besides the two ministers, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is also expected to visit China in the coming weeks. Both sides attach a lot of significance to these meetings to reset their ties as they were taking place after President Xi has commenced his second-five-year tenure last month with the prospect of continuing in power for life following the removal of the two-term limit for the president.

West Bengal govt makes attendance mandatory for Fri

KOLKATA, APR 12 (PTI): The West Bengal government today directed its employees to report for work tomorrow, in view of the 6-hour bandh called by the Left Front protesting against panchayat poll nomination violence in the state. No casual leaves will be allowed in the first or second half of the day, the state government said in

a notification today. "It has been decided that all state government offices including those provided with Grant-in-Aid shall remain open and all the employees shall report for duty on that date," the notification, issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, said today. "It has also been decided that no casual leave for absence either in the first half of the day or in the second half or for the whole day nor any other leave shall be granted to any employee on the said date," the notification said. The employees who are on leave on April 12 shall have to report for duty the day after and no extension of leave shall be allowed, it said. No salary will be admissible unless such

absence is covered by grounds such as hospitalisation of employees, bereavement in the family, severe illness continuing prior to April 12 and employees who had been on child care leave, maternity leave, medical leave and earned leave sanctioned prior to April 12, the notification further said. It said disruption of vehicular traffic will not

be considered reason for granting leave. The heads of the offices have been instructed to issue showcause notices to the employees who will remain absent tomorrow. The absentees would also be asked to explain why no action would be taken against them for the unauthorised absence, the notification said. The Left Front has called a six-hour general strike tomorrow in protest against alleged throttling of democracy during filing of nomination for panchayat polls in West Bengal.


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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK
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The application along-with requisite documents should reach the office of the undersigned during working hours within 15 days of publication of the notice. The application beyond stipulated time given shall not be accepted.
The Authority of STNM Hospital reserves the right to accept or reject any application in case of any discrepancy.
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CONVEY GROUND, TADONG
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Memo No. 36/CHSO/18-19 Date:11/04/2018
Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed manufacturing authorised distributors/dealers/representative for the supply of Chemicals & Reagents, Glasswares & Miscellaneous and Instruments & Apparatus for Pharmacy College, Sajong, Rumtek.
The date of issue of tender documents is from 12th April 2018 11:00 am onwards to 19th April 2018 before 4:00 pm and the last date of submission of the tender form will be on 20th April 2018 on or before 11:00 am and will be opened on the same date at 12:00 noon duly producing challan from State Bank of Sikkim for Rs.5000.00 (Five Thousand) only which is non refundable after depositing under the major head: 0210 – Medical & Public Health – 01 – Urban Health Services – 800 – other Receipt, Sale of Tender Form. The details of the tender documents and terms and conditions may be obtained from the undersigned.
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R.O. No. 24/ivr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 11.4.2018

Tejaswini bags silver in women's 50m rifle prone



BRISBANE, APR 12 [PTI]:

The seasoned Tejaswini Sawant brought her years of experience into play en route to claiming the silver medal in the women's 50m rifle prone event of the 21st Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

Tejaswini shot 102.1, 102.4, 103.3, 102.8, 103.7, 104.6 for a cumulative score of 618.9 over six series to claim her sixth CWG medal.

Young Anjum Moudgil, the other Indian shooter in the fray, finished a lowly 16th with 602.2.

Singapore's rifle ace Martina Lindsay Veloso won the gold medal with a Games record 621.0, while Seonaid McIntosh of Scotland bagged the bronze with 618.1 at the Belmont Shooting centre here.

The 37-year-old former world champion was placed second after four series even as Moudgil faced elimination. She maintained her position at the end of the fifth series and ensured another medal for India with a final-series score of 104.6, her best effort of the day.

On achieving her sixth medal at her third Commonwealth Games, she said, "It is very nice. I'm very, very happy."

About the weather conditions, Tejaswini said, "It was a little windy today, but not too tough."

When asked about her future competition plans, the shooter said, "I'm aiming for the Olympic Games in Tokyo [2020], but next I will go to the Asian Games [in Jakarta in August 2018], and then the world championships in South Korea [August-September 2018]."

A gold medallist at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in 10m air rifle singles and pairs with Avneet Kaur Sidhu events, Tejaswini is also the first Indian to clinch a gold in world championship in 2010.



Aakraman FC to face Sikkim Police in Dr BR Ambedkar tourney finals

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 12 APR:

In the second semi final match of the ongoing 1st Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti Football Tournament 2018 played here

at Paljor Stadium today, Aakraman FC thrashed Brotherhood FC 4-1. Aakraman FC will be playing against Sikkim Police in the final match scheduled to be held on 14 Apr.

The event today had the presence of president of Sikkim Olympic Association, BK Roka, chairperson, Yam P Sharma, and chief owner of Himalayan Sporting Club, Tenzing Norbu

Lamtha.

The final of the tournament on 14 Apr will have the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as chief guest, it is informed.

Sushil, Aware strike gold; Babita settles for silver

GOLD COAST, APR 12 [PTI]:

Double-Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar [74kg] and event debutant Rahul Aware [57kg] provided the golden touch as India snared an impressive four medals on the opening day of the 21st Commonwealth Games' wrestling competition here.

Defending champion Sushil barely spent any time on the mat, his final lasting just a minute and 20 seconds, and claimed easy victories to claim his third successive gold at the Games, a love affair that began in 2010 Delhi edition.

However, another defending champion Babita phogat [53kg] settled for a silver, while debutant Kiran happily flaunted a hard-earned bronze.

Kiran defeated Mauritian Katouskia Pariadhaven by fall in the repechage of the 76kg category for her first major medal at the international level.

Sushil took very little time to defeat Johannes Botha of South Africa on technical superiority. The South African came into the bout struggling with a leg injury and that just about ended any chance of him getting an upset win over the former world champion Indian.

Prior to the final, Sushil scored easy technical superiority victories over Canada's Jevon Balfour and Pakistan's Muhammad Asad Butt before scoring a victory by fall over Australia's Connor Evans.

The celebrated wrestler, however, doggedly avoided the



media after his triumph, refusing to take questions despite repeated requests from even the Games news service volunteers.

Aware, on the other hand, prevailed 15-7 over Canada's Steven Takahashi in an exciting contest during which the Indian was troubled by a groin niggle but chose to carry on with more than a minute left on the clock.

Aware's triumph opened India's gold medal account in the three-day wrestling competition at the Games. He also had a smooth passage into the final with comprehensive wins over England's George Ramm, Australia's Thomas Cicchini and Pakistan's Muhammad Bilal.

"I have been waiting for this medal for the last 10 years. I can't describe how it feels to claim it. I missed out on 2010, even in 2014, the team was sent

without trials. So, I am very happy that I could finally fulfill this dream," said the 26-year-old, who is also the reigning Commonwealth championships gold-medallist.

"My leg was troubling me for a while but I dedicate this to my guru [former CWG gold-medalist Harishchandra Birajdar] who passed away in 2011, I am happy that all the efforts I put in got the result I wanted. I have fulfilled my family's dream. My opponent probably lacked intensity in the final few moments," added the wrestler from Haryana.

However, Babita settled for silver after being outmaneuvered by Canada's Diana Weicker in the summit clash.

Babita, who claimed a silver in the 2010 edition before a gold in Glasgow, failed to break through her rival's defences, go-

ing down 2-5 in the contest.

"I think my weakness today was my attack, I should have been more aggressive but I gave my 100 per cent. I am satisfied with the intensity I put in but obviously I could not get the result I wanted," she said.

"I had a bit of a problem in my knees too but injuries are a wrestler's ornaments. We live with niggles, there is nothing there," she added.

While Babita's bout lacked spark, Aware's showdown with Takahashi was thoroughly engaging. The Indian trailed 6-7 at one stage but claimed points on takedown to recover and keep himself ahead.

Babita made the final after notching wins over Nigeria's Samuel Bose, Sri Lanka's Deepika Dilhani, and Australia's Carissa Holland.

Srikanth rises to World No. 1 ranking



NEW DELHI, APR 12

[PTI]: Kidambi Srikanth today became the first Indian male shuttler to achieve the world number one ranking in the Badminton World Federation [BWF] chart released today.

Legendary Prakash Padukone was revered as the world number one player during his hey days before the modern day computerised ranking system was introduced.

Srikanth thus became only the second Indian after Saina Nehwal, who had occupied the women's top spot in 2015, to achieve the feat, following his consistent run last year, when he won four titles to be also bestowed with the Padma Shri award.

"I'm definitely delighted to have achieved the World No. 1 ranking for the first time, and to become the first Indian man after Prakash sir to achieve this," said Srikanth, who trains at the Gopichand Academy.

"It's a testament to the hard work of Gopi sir, my family, my other coaches and support staff, my team GoSports Foundation, my sponsors, and everyone else who has believed in me over the years."

Srikanth's meteoric rise coincided with world champion Viktor Axelsen's injury lay-off as the Danish star, forced to spend time off the court, slipped one place to second spot after failing to defend his Malaysia Open title that he had clinched in April last year.

After retiring from Indonesia Masters in January due to an ankle injury, Axelsen was forced to withdraw from India Open, the All England Championship, the European Championships as he had to undergo surgery on his foot.

The time away from the court reflected on his ranking as he lost 1,660

points from his aggregate of 77,130 to slip to 75,470 as Srikanth held the number one spot with a total of 76,895 points.

Srikanth, who had clinched titles at Indonesia, Australia, Denmark and Australia last year, rose to greater heights after he dispatched three-time Olympic silver medallist Lee Chong Wei in straight games in the crucial mixed team final to earn India a historic gold at the ongoing Commonwealth Games.

"It's been a great year, but I have many more goals, and right now, my focus is on coming good at the big events and achieving many more milestones. The Commonwealth Games is on, and this year also holds the Asian Games," the 25-year-old Indian said.

"My target is also to do my country proud at the Tokyo Olympics in two years' time. I thank everyone for believing in me, and hope to inspire many other Indians to keep striving in their pursuit of excellence," added Srikanth, who had stunned legendary Lin Dan to claim his maiden Super Series title at the 2014 China Open.

Praising Srikanth, Badminton Association of India [BAI] president Himanta Biswa Sarma said: It is a great thing for Indian badminton and I believe Srikanth's wonderful achievement will motivate other players to perform well and aim to go up higher on the rankings.

"I would like to congratulate him and believe that he will continue inspire the generations to come, he said.

Among other Indians, Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu, who was sporadically ranked number two, is currently at third spot, while Saina is currently at the 12th place.

HS Prannoy, meanwhile, improved a place to occupy 11th spot.

Demonetisation was 'not a good idea': Raghuram Rajan

YOSHITA SINGH

NEW YORK, APR 12 (PTI): RBI's former governor Raghuram Rajan has said that he had made it quite clear to the government that the demonetisation was "not a good idea" and that its implementation was "not well-planned" since 87.5 per cent of the currency was being demonetised.

On November 8, 2016, the Centre banned Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes to curtail the shadow economy and crack down on the use of illicit and counterfeit cash to fund illegal activities and terrorism.

Speaking at the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge yesterday, 55-year-old Rajan rejected the claim that the Reserve Bank of India had not been consulted by the government before it went ahead with the demonetisation.

He, however, reiterated that the move to cancel 87.5 per cent of the currency value was "not a good idea".

"I didn't ever say that I wasn't consulted (on demonetisation). In fact, I have made it quite clear that we were consulted and we didn't think it was a good idea," said Rajan who is currently the Katherine



Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

He said demonetisation "was not a well-planned, well thought-out, useful exercise and I told the government that when the idea was first mooted."

He added that any macro-economist would say that if 87.5 per cent of the currency is being demonetised, then it better

be made sure that a similar amount of currency is printed and ready to be put back in circulation.

"India went into it without having done that. It had a negative economic impact but also the idea was that somehow people who had money stored in their basements without having paid taxes on it would overnight see reason and come to the government and say 'sorry we were

hiding this stuff, let me pay taxes on it," Rajan said, calling it a "naive view".

"Anybody who knows India, knows that very quickly we find ways around the system," he said, adding that with "essentially" all the money that was demonetised coming back into the system, the exercise did not have the direct effect that was sought.

While the longer term impact of demonetisation is yet to be seen, its negative economic impact included people not having currency, not being able to pay and economic activity plummeting especially in the informal sector.

"There may be some longer term impact that people think that if this sort of thing happens then the government is serious about collecting taxes. There may be greater tax payments but we still have to see strong evidence that that is true," he said.

Rajan also expressed concern that a lot of people probably lost their jobs due to demonetisation but that has not been counted well as it would be mostly in the informal sector.

"The positive impacts (of demonetisation) are out there in the future. We have no idea whether they will be important. To

my mind it was not a policy that was useful at that time," he said while speaking at the 2018 Albert H Gordon Lecture on the topic 'Leverage, Financial Crises, and Policies to Raise Economic Growth'.

To a suggestion that demonetisation could have positively impacted growth, Rajan said "you would have to find a new economic theory to explain how it helped the economy".

He said most estimates of the cost of demonetisation vary between 1.5-2 per cent of the GDP.

"It would be a really die-hard government advocate who would say that the growth benefits of demonetisation were immediate," he said.

"Most of the supporters of the move would say that the benefits of the move are coming by changing the incentive to pay taxes. I would say yes, we will have to wait and see whether that in fact is true," he said.

Rajan, who joined the RBI in September 2013 when the country was facing its worst currency crisis since the 1990s, left the organisation after completing his three-year term in September 2016.

Afghan district governor among seven killed in Taliban attack

GHAZNI, APR 12 [AFP]: Taliban militants launched a pre-dawn raid on a district government compound in Afghanistan today, killing at least seven people including the local governor, officials said.

Six police also died and 10 intelligence officers were wounded in the attack on the Khwaja Omari district headquarters in the southeastern province of Ghazni, the provincial governor's spokesman Aref Noori told AFP. The militants used a ladder to climb into the compound in the early hours of Thursday, deputy provincial Police Chief, Ramazan Ali Mohsini, told AFP.

Mohsini put the death toll at 13, including the governor, police and intelligence officers, adding scores of Taliban fighters were also killed but that could not be immediately confirmed. Afghan officials often give conflicting casualty figures immediately after an attack.

"The attack is over and the district is under the control of Afghan security forces after reinforcement forces rushed to the scene following the Taliban attack," Mohsini added.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the raid in a WhatsApp message to journalists, saying "more than 20 police" were killed and several others wounded.

"Our mujahideen have confiscated weapons and ammunition," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. "In the attack three mujahideen were martyred and four others were wounded."

The attack was one of the deadliest by the Taliban in several weeks and comes as the militants prepare to launch their 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 they have not responded directly to the proposal.

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, APR 12 [PTI]: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has told US lawmakers that his personal data was also harvested and sold by Cambridge Analytica and he intends to initiate legal action against the British firm accused of stealing personal information and using it for political purposes.

Zuckerberg replied "yes" when asked if his personal data was included in the information sold to the "malicious third parties" by the lawmakers during a testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday.

Cambridge Analytica compromised personal information of approximately 87 million users, half a million of whom were from India.

The American people are concerned about how Facebook protects and profits from its users' data, lawmakers said.

Beginning this Monday, Facebook has started to notify those users whose data have been breached.

Responding to a volley of questions, Zuckerberg, 33, said it would take some time to work through all the changes



the company needs to make.

"But I am committed to getting this right, and that includes the basic responsibility of protecting people's information, which we failed to do with Cambridge Analytica," he said.

Zuckerberg said he was getting to the bottom of what the UK-based firm did and will tell everyone who may have been affected.

"What we know now is that Cambridge Analytica improperly obtained some information about millions of Facebook members by buying it from an app developer that people had shared it with," he said.

"This information was generally information that people share publicly on their profile pages, like their name and profile picture and the list of pages that they follow. When we first contacted Cambridge Analytica, they told us that they had deleted the data. And then, about a month ago, we heard a

happening again, Facebook is making sure developers can't access as much information, going forward, he said.

"The good news here is that we made some big changes to our platform in 2014 that would prevent this specific instance with Cambridge Analytica from happening again today. But there's more to do, and you can find more of the details of the other steps we're taking in the written statement I provided," he said.

Zuckerberg told lawmakers that Facebook had now removed the option for advertisers to exclude ethnic groups from targeting.

"Every time, there is a control right there - not buried in settings somewhere, but right there, when they're posting about who they want to share it with," he added.

Zuckerberg asserted that Facebook did not sell data.

"We don't sell data. That's not how advertising works, and I do think we could probably be doing a clearer job explaining that, given the misperceptions that are out there," he said in response to a question.

"Facebook is neither a media nor a financial institution,"

he said. "I consider us to be a technology company, because the primary thing that we do is have engineers who write code and build products and services for other people."

"There are certainly other things that we do, too. We do pay to help produce content. We build enterprise software, although I don't consider us an enterprise software company. We build planes to help connect people, and I don't consider ourselves to be an aerospace company," he said.

It is clear now that Facebook didn't do enough to prevent these tools from being used for harm. That goes for fake news, foreign interference in elections and hate speech, as well as developers and data privacy, he said.

"We didn't take a broad enough view of our responsibility and that was a big mistake. It was my mistake, and I am sorry. I started Facebook, I run it, and, at the end of the day, I am responsible for what happens here. So, now, we have to go through every part of our relationship with people to make sure that we're taking a broad enough view of our responsibility," he said.

China continues its provocations in South, East China seas: Pompeo

WASHINGTON, APR 12 [PTI]: China continues its provocations in the South and East China seas and is making a "concerted" effort to compete with the US, CIA Director Mike Pompeo has warned while identifying Russia as a "danger" for America.

Pompeo, who is a nominee for the position of the Secretary of State, asserted that the State Department must be at the center of formulating and executing the China policy.

He also called for taking a tough position on a host of foreign policy issues including Russia, Iran and North Korea.

"Even while America has re-established a position of strength in our diplomatic relationship, China continues its concerted and coordinated effort to compete with the United States in diplomatic, military, and economic terms.

"For years, through Intellectual property theft and coercive technology transfer, China has exploited weak US trade policy and leeches wealth and secrets from our economy. Militarily, it continues its provocation in the South and East China seas, in cyberspace, and even in outer space," Pompeo said.

He said this in his prepared remarks for his conformation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, excerpts of which was released by the White House late last night.

He said the current administration was determined to work diplomatically with the Chinese government in an effort to develop a more productive bilateral partnership.



The Russian defence ministry today said that the Syrian regime flag is flying in the town of Douma, which it said signified government forces have taken full control over Eastern Ghouta. "Today a significant event in the history of Syria took place. The raising of a regime flag over a building in the town of Douma signified control over this town and consequently over Eastern Ghouta as a whole," Major General Yuri Yevtushenko, head of the Russian military's centre for reconciliation in Syria, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

NASA's new planet hunting probe set to search for alien life

WASHINGTON, APR 12 [PTI]: A new NASA satellite, which will hunt for exoplanets that have the potential to harbour alien life, is on schedule to launch next week.

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite [TESS], will launch from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on April 16, at 6:32 pm [EDT].

"We expect TESS will discover a number of planets whose atmospheric compositions, which hold potential clues to the presence of life, could be precisely measured by future observers," said George Ricker, TESS principal investigator.

With the help of a gravitational assist from the Moon, the spacecraft will settle into a 13.7-day orbit around Earth. Sixty days after launch, and following tests of its instruments, the satellite will begin its initial two-year mission.

The satellite, developed by scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] in the US, aims to discover thousands of nearby exoplanets, including at least 50 Earth-sized ones. The spacecraft, not much larger than a refrigerator, carries four cameras that will survey the nearest, brightest stars in the sky for signs of passing planets.

TESS will spend two years scanning nearly the entire sky - a field of view that can encompass more than 20 million stars. The first year of observations will map the 13 sectors encompassing the southern sky, and the second year will map the 13 sectors of the northern sky.

The spacecraft will be looking for a phenomenon known as a transit, where a planet passes in front of its star, causing a periodic and regular dip in the star's brightness.

NASA's Kepler spacecraft used the same

method to spot more than 2,600 confirmed exoplanets, most of them orbiting faint stars 300 to 3,000 light-years away.

"We learned from Kepler that there are more planets than stars in our sky, and now TESS will open our eyes to the variety of planets around some of the closest stars," said Paul Hertz, Astrophysics Division director at NASA Headquarters.

The TESS science team at MIT aims to measure the masses of at least 50 small planets whose radii are less than four times that of Earth.

Many of TESS's planets should be close enough to our own that, once they are identified by TESS, scientists can zoom in on them using other telescopes, to detect atmospheres, characterize atmospheric conditions, and even look for signs of habitability.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI CANCER

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:12/04/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2456

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 6446 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3496

4th Prize Rs.300/- 5906 5th Prize Rs. 203/- 3815

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1017 1052 1053 1060 1068 1108 1131 1135 1162 1170

1178 1189 1202 1215 1219 1246 1274 1306 1327 1342

1357 1426 1462 1467 1469 1487 1497 1515 1521 1558

1577 1613 1617 1639 1645 1678 1789 1806 1855 1879

1909 1925 1941 1942 1971 1991 2001 2027 2082 2102

2114 2150 2199 2214 2229 2230 2288 2308 2365 2400

2424 2428 2465 2511 2515 2519 2522 2654 2693 2694

2716 2747 2778 2817 2820 2830 2838 2848 2870 2902

2937 2970 2993 3035 3048 3102 3109 3117 3131 3173

3176 3223 3235 3314 3319 3353 3357 3385 3388 3464

3475 3499 3513 3538 3569 3603 3607 3614 3668 3691

3695 3710 3722 3772 3777 3852 3879 3887 3923 3947

3966 3992 4047 4064 4126 4179 4183 4220 4228 4261

4319 4322 4359 4368 4396 4440 4458 4472 4518 4522

4523 4529 4563 4595 4641 4648 4735 4744 4780 4788

4808 4815 4845 4876 4886 4920 4929 4943 4981 4984

5010 5011 5029 5037 5041 5067 5087 5090 5139 5144

5163 5203 5259 5280 5286 5364 5379 5380 5389 5406

5438 5578 5600 5637 5666 5686 5727 5749 5829 5893

5981 5993 6002 6014 6066 6130 6161 6264 6239 6248

6263 6289 6296 6306 6324 6347 6389 6391 6501 6512

6526 6534 6539 6560 6618 6627 6634 6643 6645 6677

6698 6701 6717 6747 6756 6761 6766 6804 6809 6812

6817 6824 6833 6842 6850 6860 6872 6878 6894 6933

Issued by:
The Director ,Mizoram State Lotteries,
For result please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES

MUMBAILAXMI CHAND

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:12/04/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 5430 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 2001

3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 3015 4th Prize Rs. 503/- 4073

5th Prize Rs.200/-

1027 1042 1138 1147 1181 1220 1229 1251 1258 1325

1346 1380 1394 1485 1511 1567 1644 1689 1929 1995

2050 2197 2200 2227 2359 2493 2522 2582 2667 2672

2768 2830 2875 2901 2930 2954 2959 2989 3040 3044

3060 3096 3112 3128 3129 3144 3147 3175 3187 3203

3274 3289 3453 3534 3561 3576 3627 3629 3641 3653

3879 3883 3987 4016 4033 4037 4064 4069 4089 4192

4261 4266 4296 4356 4391 4396 4507 4528 4675 4776

4824 4858 4964 5043 5140 5141 5184 5265 5274 5405

5465 5478 5489 5497 5512 5560 5807 5830 5860 5873

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1006 1045 1056 1179 1216 1227 1232 1277 1280 1344

1374 1400 1433 1452 1455 1457 1467 1488 1559 1603

1620 1625 1632 1642 1645 1667 1672 1690 1743 1751

1765 1798 1816 1838 1875 1886 1927 1947 1977 1987

2012 2021 2036 2073 2091 2144 2145 2153 2157 2172

2196 2276 2282 2299 2303 2304 2308 2325 2329 2395

2432 2474 2477 2503 2540 2573 2607 2625 2638 2657

2690 2691 2711 2722 2811 2812 2823 2836 2851 2920

2921 2922 2938 2941 2967 2987 3012 3043 3091 3124

3137 3204 3205 3216 3239 3243 3247 3248 3354 3369

3404 3443 3448 3465 3470 3494 3504 3524 3550 3574

3599 3621 3633 3660 3665 3668 3706 3730 3740 3798

3846 3925 3970 4079 4105 4126 4146 4229 4241 4243

4263 4264 4285 4399 4402 4407 4462 4483 4508 4525

4529 4545 4593 4647 4655 4668 4749 4772 4883 4893

4923 4931 4938 4945 4948 4963 5012 5031 5038 5093

5099 5126 5158 5166 5189 5212 5268 5270 5297 5320

5321 5328 5419 5436 5441 5468 5496 5525 5538 5548

5613 5625 5629 5659 5692 5705 5722 5736 5740 5753

5783 5826 5836 5843 5855 5866 5867 5893 5918 5939

Issued by:
The Commissioner,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.



PICTURE PERFECT! Vanessa Hudgens was the perfect choice of face for nail polish brand SinfulColors' first ever cosmetics range. The 29-year-old actress posed in a floral print dress with a deep plunging neckline at the range's launch in Hollywood.

Brad Pitt's key to new love Neri Oxman's apartment!

There is a rash of rumors that Brad Pitt is dating Neri Oxman, a professor at the renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And on Wednesday there was even more dish as Us Weekly claimed that Neri, 42, has given Brad, 54, a key to her Cambridge, Massachusetts residence.

'Brad has been spotted going into her apartment building on multiple occasions late at night and emerging the next morning after she leaves to teach,' the source said.

The insider gossiped: 'Neri doesn't cook. They have been ordering food in from her favorite restaurants, and Brad has been doing a lot of cooking.'

According to the source, 'Brad and Neri have traveled together internationally' - including to see Haifa-born Neri give a presentation at Cape Town, South Africa's Design Indaba conference in February.

This same source insisted: 'They are very much a couple,' disputing the claim of another insider who maintained that 'this is solely a professional relationship, there's nothing more to it as of now.'



Page Six broke news of the relationship, which appears to be the first Brad has had since his estranged wife Angelina Jolie filed for divorce in September 2016.

In 2005, Brad left his first wife Jennifer Aniston for Angelina, but Brangelina declined to marry until 2014.

The celebrity power couple, who share three biological offspring and as many adopted children, tied the knot at their Chateau Miraval in the South of France.

When she filed to end her marriage to Brad, Angelina enlisted the services of the formidable divorce-lawyer-to-the-stars Laura Wasser, whose previous work includes fighting Johnny Depp's corner during his split from Amber Heard.

A source has previously told Us that 'They got romantically involved almost right away' when her work - specifically 3D-printed chaise lounges - caught his eye. 'He's been going to great length to make sure he's not spotted by prying eyes,' said the insider, who effused: 'Brad's absolutely smitten by her. Their chemistry is off the charts.'

Victoria Beckham SLAMMED by fans for 'painful crown design' on horse!

Victoria Beckham has come under fire from her social media followers after uploading a picture of her daughter riding a horse with a crown design on its rear.

The fashion designer, 43, took to her Instagram on Wednesday to gush over six-year-old Harper's equestrian skills - and was promptly met with confusion over fans who couldn't work out whether the detailing was 'shaved on the horse' or was 'branding.'

Many commenters jumped to conclusions as they slammed the former Spice Girl for bringing the horse 'pain' - and Victoria is now also risking the wrath of animal rights activists including PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

In a similar instance two years ago, former glamour model Katie Price was also criticised for clipping intricate designs on her horses - forcing her to hit back at the criticism.

And on Wednesday, Victoria was spending quality time with her youngest and

ZAYN MALIK PREPARES FOR LATEST RELEASE AFTER SPLIT WITH GIGI HADID...

Professional concerns have been overshadowed by persistent speculation surrounding his personal life and a recent, high-profile split with supermodel Gigi Hadid.

But the turbulence of the last month appears to be behind Zayn Malik as he prepares to sail on what one hopes will be calmer waters with his forthcoming second album and its lead single, Let Me.

And the former One Direction star, 25, insists he has moved on from his recent split with Gigi and is fully focussed on promoting his first musical output since 2016 debut Mind of Mine reached number 1 in the UK and US album charts.

'I think my confidence has grown,' he told Radio 1 DJ Nick Grimshaw on Thursday morning. 'The last year and a half I've been working on a lot of personal issues. Me leaving the band and I didn't know what I wanted. I released the album but I wasn't being prominent as I wanted to be. I'm a lot more confident now and I'm looking forward to the fans hearing it.'

The new sound will be a departure from the conventional R&B that underpinned his last release, hastily recorded following his abrupt departure from One Direction mid-way through the south-east Asian leg of their On The Road Again world tour.

But going solo has not dented the singer's popularity among fans of the manu-



factured pop group, created by Simon Cowell and Nicole Scherzinger during auditions for The X Factor in 2010, and he remains constantly amazed by their loyalty.

'It's anything not but humbling,' he said. 'People who don't know you personally but have a strong connection to it [the music].'

International success, as well as former girlfriend Gigi's New York and Los Angeles based career, inevitably resulted in Zayn following a well-trodden path by relocating to the United States.

But the breezy Califor-

nian lifestyle has not alleviated the singer's longing for home-comforts and his old life in West Yorkshire, where he was raised by Pakistani father Yaser and English mother Tricia.

'You can take the boy out of Bradford but you can't take the Bradford out of the boy,' he explained. 'I miss the food and I miss the atmosphere and the banter. Sarcasm don't go down too well in the States, but they're coming around to it.'

Zayn's new single Let Me will be aired from 1:00pm on Thursday, April 12.



couldn't resist the urge to document the day on social media.

Harper was seen sitting on the horse, with Victoria capturing the snap from the back which put focus on the crown design.

'Riding in the sunshine. kisses from Harper and her prince xx,' she proudly captioned the snap. However her enthusiasm wasn't shared with some of her 19.4million followers, who shared their concerns: 'Did u really brand ur bourse with a crown?? That pain for what?'

'Was it a must to burn/engrave a crown on the horse's back?' Certain that the design was 'branding', animal lovers

ping designs. Are you going to give thousands of those your cruelty comments. It's a hair cut get off your high horses lol.'

Two years ago Katie Price hit back at her adversaries posting a series of angered posts on Instagram, one of which saw her demand that PETA 'bind their beaks'.

The star shared a number of snaps of groomers clipping patterns on to their horses and attempted to shut down any suggestion that her actions were cruel or inhumane.

Proving she wasn't alone in her decision to clip her horses, the Loose Women presenter even posted a grab from a video of British equestrian Mary King showing other horse fanatics how to successfully shave their stallions.

But it wasn't only PETA that Katie attempted to silence as another image - which depicted a horse that had been clipped to create another ornate design - also saw the businesswoman dish out some more feisty words alongside it.

ARIES: Boy, your life seems seriously out of balance, doesn't it, Aries? Today provides an opportunity to rethink what is truly important. Consider exercise as one way to improve your health and manage your stress level. Once you get started with a healthy regimen, you'll see how it helps you gain perspective. It's likely that the cause of all this stress can be eliminated when viewed through a different lens.

TAURUS: You like to feel needed, Taurus, but today you might throw up your hands and say, "Enough!" You've given so much of yourself for so long that friends and loved ones tend to think of your largesse as a right rather than a privilege. Today, remind them

of their error. Take a day off from indentured servitude. Go to a fancy restaurant and enjoy being waited on. Don't forget to leave a big tip.

GEMINI: You could be overwhelmed with information today, Gemini, as you receive more phone calls and email messages than you can possibly answer. Be clear about your priorities and stick with them. Otherwise, you're likely to spend the day being batted around the court like a tennis ball. Take a lot of deep breaths throughout the day and make an effort to keep your temper in check.

CANCER: Your mind is like a sponge today, Cancer, eager to absorb all sorts of information. Take care that the information you're absorbing is accurate.

There's a high likelihood that the fascinating news you hear is mostly a mix of fantasy and fiction. Go to the source and get the facts before acting on this information. If necessary, do your own research online or in the library.

LEO: If you aren't careful, there's a strong possibility that you'll overindulge today, Leo. Your career frustrations may manifest in the form of overeating, excess drinking, or reckless spending. These are just symptoms masking the real problem. If you can take some time to meditate, you'll calm your nerves and reveal the root of your frustration. Once you have the facts, it will be easier to devise an effective solution.

VIRGO: You're too hard on yourself, Virgo. If things haven't gone exactly as planned over the last few days, there's no sense in berating yourself over it. As long as you did the best that you could, what's the problem? It's likely you've experienced a delay and not a cancellation. All signs indicate that your goals will come to fruition even though it might take longer than you'd anticipated.

LIBRA: You're especially intuitive today, Libra. If this is a fairly new occurrence for you, you could be at a loss as to how to make the most of this gift. Only you can know for sure, but one suggestion is to reflect on changes that you'd like to make at work. Pitch them to your boss. With today's keen insight, you'll almost be

able to read his or her mind and anticipate any objections.

SCORPIO: Today's planetary aspects indicate that this is likely to be a day of excess, Scorpio, some of it good, some of it not so good. Take care not to overindulge in food and drink. You could be merely acting out your stress with such behavior. You'd be better served to meditate and get to the root of the problem. On the other hand, money could come your way, possibly a lot of it!

SAGITTARIUS: You should make an effort to be patient and tolerant, especially at the office, even though you might not feel like it, Sagittarius. You'll likely take a lot of deep breaths as projects get delayed and meetings drag on. There

isn't much you can do about it. Stay focused and trust that everything will be resolved by day's end. In the meantime, don't step on anyone's toes. Your colleagues' nerves are raw. **CAPRICORN:** This could be a day of inner turmoil, Capricorn. You'll rethink some of your fundamental values, unsure if they're still relevant to your life. It's clear that some soul searching is needed. There are no right or wrong answers, only what is in your heart. If your goal is to live authentically, then you'll need to make some big changes in your life. Don't act rashly. Think things through before taking steps.

AQUARIUS: You need to pull yourself up by the bootstraps, Aquarius. Why not take a few

steps back and try to look at your life more objectively? Regardless of what you might be thinking at the moment, you do have a terrific life. Stop and count your blessings. Make a list and keep it in your wallet to refer to at low moments. Force yourself to be festive tonight. It will do you good to get out.

PISCES: A particularly tricky situation could occur at work. If you aren't careful, you could lose your cool. Make a concerted effort to keep your wits about you, Pisces. It could be that a colleague is baiting you, but that's no reason to take it. Keep to yourself as much as possible today. Close your office door. At home, go to bed early. Relax with a good book. All will be calmer tomorrow.