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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**SKM wants  
pay revision  
effective  
from 2016,  
arrears in  
one release**

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN:** Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has demanded that the new pay and scale be effective from 01 January, 2016 and that arrears against it be paid out in one release and not staggered as has been proposed.

The State Government, it may be recalled, has accepted the recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission and that the new scales will be revised notionally from 01 Jan 2016 and effectively from 01 Jan 2017 and arrears paid out in three equal instalments.

SKM publicity secretary, Abhishek Sharma, and CLC President of Gangtok, S. Gurung, today said that the government has sidestepped the legitimate rights of the employees from getting their due arrears as per established norms with this move and adding that the Government cannot snatch away the rights of employees who have served for the state.

They have also demanded regularization of adhoc teachers appointed under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and that HRDD consider the case at par with the government decision to regularized other temporary employees.

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## Gangtok runs for plastic-free environment

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN [IPR]:** Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department today organized a mini-marathon in the capital as a part of World Environment Day-2018 on the theme 'Run To Beat Plastic Pollution'.

The marathon was flagged off from MG Marg by Forest Minister, TW Lepcha, with Gangtok Mayor, SS Chaudhary, department officials from Forest Department and Sports Department.

418 runners - 291 men and 127 women - took part in the 3.5 KM run which began from M.G Marg covering Zero Point, Tashi Namgyal Academy Gate, Palace Gate, Kazi Road, State Legislative Assembly and Namnang before culminating back at MG Marg.

The runners comprised of school kids, Indo Tibetan Border Police jawans, senior citizens, fitness enthusiasts and college students.

The marathon aimed



to engage the general public in spreading awareness on curbing plastic pollution.

Uttam Bhujel from District Court area stood first in the men's category followed by Ram Bahadur Neopaney from

Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School coming in second and Ganga Hang Subba from Ranka Senior Secondary School in third position.

In the women's category, Enchey Senior Secondary School student,

Anjali Subba, bagged first position with Ranjana Tamang and Eaksu Hangma both from Development Area securing second and third position respectively.

Allen Targain, Kunga Nima Kazi, Babita Adel-

en, Pratstha Rai and BS Sikdal were all chosen from consolation prizes based on their performances.

Winners of the mini-marathon will be felicitated on 21 June during the Mith Day cele-

bration at Pangthang, the organizers informed.

First, second and third position holders in both men's and women's category will be receiving cash prizes of Rs 20,000, 15,000 and 10,000 respectively.

Consolation prize winners will also be receiving Rs 5,000 each for their performances.

In his short address, Mr Lepcha informed that Bollywood singer and Green Ambassador of Sikkim, Mohit Chauhan, is scheduled to attend the Mith Day celebration at Pangthang on 21 Jun and is also set to perform at Manan Kendra the same day.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is also scheduled to attend the event, the Minister informed.

Under the Sikkim Forest Tree (Amity and Reverence) Rules for 2017, State Government has framed the policy of forging brotherhood/sisterhood relationship

with trees by entering into a 'Mith' or 'Mithni' relationship.

"The CM had himself formed 'Mith/ Mithni' bond with a rhododendron tree located at Mintokgang few months back," he said.

The CM will also hand over the Green School Rolling trophy to the winning school, he informed.

Meanwhile, Forest officials informed that Paryawaran Mahotsav was officially launched today with Forest Minister and other officials planting number of saplings at Temi and Damthang in South Sikkim.

It may be mentioned here that India is the official global host of World Environment Day 2018.

With "Beat Plastic Pollution" as the theme for this year's edition, various activities are currently underway, led by the Forest Department including the Riverfront Cleaning of Rani Khola and the mini-marathon.

## Tunisia migrant death toll rises to at least 35

**TUNIS, JUN 3 (AFP):** The bodies of 35 migrants have been recovered off Tunisia's southern coast, the country's defence ministry said Sunday, revising upwards an earlier toll. As of 1300 local time (1200 GMT), "35 bodies were recovered and 68 migrants rescued," a spokesman for the defence ministry told AFP. The interior ministry had earlier said the bodies of 11 migrants had been recovered and 67 people rescued off the coast of Sfax province after the navy and national guard responded to a distress call from a boat that was "about to sink."

## Auditions for Miss Sikkim 2018 wrap up



**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN:**

Auditions for Miss Sikkim 2018 organized by Positude, an event management company of the State, officially wrapped up in the capital today.

Chief Executive Officer, Positude, Gyurmila Bhutia, informed that 31 contestants auditioned to compete in the beauty pageant.

"The contestants are more confident and will be easy to groom as the quality of the contestants has increased immensely," Ms Bhutia said.

She added that the finale, slated to be held in September, will have 19 finalists from among whom one will be crowned Miss Sikkim 2018.

Expressing sadness on not being able to induct girls with height less than 5'4", she said that she hopes to tie up with other competitions where the height requirement is 5'3".

It must be noted that Miss Sikkim is cur-

rently tied up with Miss Diva which sends country's representative in Miss Universe and Miss Supranational contests among others.

There will be a 15-day grooming session by Positude with speaking skills, fitness and creativity as important elements, she informed.

A representative of Miss India will be a judge in the finale.

It was further informed that the company is in talks with a leading actress from Nepal, Priyanka Karki, along with some Bollywood personalities as judges for the finale.

The judges for the auditions were CEO, Positude, Gyurmila Bhutia, Founder, Fidgety Fingers, Devika Gurung, Journalist Yougan Tamang and Anjali Chettri.

The theme for this year's edition of Miss Sikkim is, 'Fight Against Cancer'.

Winners of Miss Sikkim will get a chance to enter the finals of Miss India Diva which can turn models into Miss Universe and Miss Supranational.

## Bhaichung says Chhetri will be crucial in Asian Cup

**ABHISHEK HORE**

**NEW DELHI, JUN 3 (PTI):**

Glorifying Sunil Chhetri's voracious appetite for scoring in superlatives, former captain Bhaichung Bhutia says the talismanic striker will be crucial to the Indian football team's prospects in the 2019 Asian Cup.

One short of appearing in his 100th international game, Chhetri's silken touch was on full display in the Intercontinental Cup-opener against Chinese Taipei, as the skipper recorded a hat-trick with aplomb.

"Though we have an easier draw than last time. Clearing the round robin stage looks realistic for us this time. Sunil will obviously be expected to play a crucial role. It's important that he is



fit and at his prime. He has done exceptionally well for his country and club," Bhutia told PTI.

The last time India participated in the Asian Cup, they were hammered by the likes of South Korea, Australia

and Bahrain.

"This time, definitely, we have a much better chance. I am confident that our team would qualify from the group. The players have done really well over the last

turn to pg03

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## SKM women's wing kicks off Naari Ekikaran Yatra

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's women's wing held the first phase of Naari Ekikaran Yatra at Tadong, East Sikkim today.

The meeting, led by SKM women's wing chief, Kala Rai, was attended by wing members and supporters.

A press release from the party informs that five families from Tadong officially joined the SKM during the meeting.

Another team of the party's women's wing, led by Mingma Tamang, started their yatra from Yuksom-Tashiding today.

Ms Tamang in her address urged the gathered members to come forward and fight 'nepotism' and 'corruption' in the State.

## Urmila Gurung remembered in special memorial service

### SUMMIT REPORT

JORETHANG, 03 JUN:

Srijansheel Sahitya Lekhan Organizing Committee (Jorethang) organised a memorial service in the memory of Late Urmila Gurung, daughter of Tika Gurung and Shakuntala Gurung, at Green Park Jorethang today.

STCS chairperson, Rastaman Rai, Joint Director (Nutrition) SJE&WD, Bharati Basnett, who also chairs the Manjusha Management Committee, DRISHTI general secretary Passang Tshering Bhutia, along with NJMC Chairperson Pema Tamang, councilors NJMC, literary enthusiasts, friends and family attended the program.

The memorial service saw members and children of Manjusha - a short stay in Namchi - present a memento as a token of gratitude to Late Urmila Gurung's family for the selfless service undertaken during her lifetime.

The Late Urmila Gurung was closely attached with the children's home where she spent a lot of her free time among the children.

The program also saw recitation of poems and passages in her memory and a short prayer service for her.

The Late Urmila Gurung's family also gifted items of clothing to the children of Manjusha in the memory of their youngest daughter on the said occasion. Suggestions to honour Urmila Gurung in order to keep her memory and legacy alive were also discussed.

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# SDF coordination meet held in Dzongu

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

DZONGU, 03 JUN:

A coordination meeting of Sikkim Democratic Front office-bearers was held at Nam-prikdang in Dzongu, North Sikkim, today.

Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, area MLA Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, while addressing the meeting, urged the gathered party officials, including the panchayats, to work for the benefit of the people.

Our commitment to the interest of Dzongu should be unanimous, he said.

He further urged the gathering to work together to strengthen the party and spread the 'pro-people policies' of the SDF-led State Government in the constituency.



"SDF party is the only party working for the welfare of the people," he said.

The Deputy Speaker further highlighted various government programs and policies passed

in the recent legislature meeting called by the party president and Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling.

He further called on department officials to complete all the pending work at the earliest.

Highlighting on the demands of road construction in the constituency, the MLA said that the work will be sanctioned phase wise.

General Secretary, Publicity [North], Krishna Lepcha, underlined the party's principles and ideology to the gathering. He further highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the party workers and urged them to be loyal to the party.

The function was also addressed by Constituency Level Committee president, Choden Lepcha.



## Minister inspects PHSC construction at Sigeng

SIGENG, 03 JUN [IPR]: Health Minister, area MLA [Salghari Zoom], Arjun Kumar Ghatani, inspected the construction of Primary Health Sub Centre (PHSC) at Middle Sigeng today.

During the visit, Mr Ghatani inspected the construction work and in-

structed the contractor to complete the work within the stipulated timeframe without compromising quality in any aspect.

The Minister also attended a Devi puja at the area and offered prayers after which he interacted with the people of the locality.

# GPU level farmer's prog in Namli



### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUN:

International Panaacea Limited [IPL], a service provider agency under Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim organized a Gram Panchayat Unit level programme for farmers on

International Certification Service [ICS], organic certification and organic vegetable production Namli in East Sikkim, on 02 Jun, a press release informs

IPL field functionary, Khemnath Dahal distributed farmers ID card to the participants and

briefed them about the current status of organic farming and certification in the area. The ID cards were only distributed to the farmers producing organic fruits and vegetables in their farms.

IPL has been conducting similar programmes in other

GPUs of the State as a part of its project under Sikkim Organic Mission, reads the release.

A ward level farmer's interaction and training programme was conducted recently by the IPL at Lingdok Namphong GPU, the release informs.

## Avenue plantation along Damthang-Temi Tarku road

BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 03 JUN:

Forest Department, along with Roads and Bridges and Public Works Department, initiated a mass avenue plantation drive today along the Damthang-Temi Tarku stretch in South Sikkim.

The plantation drive is one of the initiatives under State Government's 'Paryavaran Mahotsav' which starts from 15 June every year. The plantation drive is also a curtain raiser for World Environment Day 2018 on 05 June being held this year on the theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

The plantation drive was attended by Forest Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, Roads & Bridges Minister, GM Gurung, department officials and residents.

During the interaction with panchayats, officers and general public, Mr Lepcha urged the residents to become caretakers of the planted saplings and be more responsible towards the environment.

Mr Gurung, in his address, urged the gathering to protect trees in order to prevent landslides. He advised the forest officers and the panchayats to carry out plantation drives throughout the



area.

Earlier, Forest Minister along with department officials had carried out a cleanliness drive at Damthang Bazaar.

More than 300 saplings of rhododendron and cherry were planted.

The plantation drive is set to continue for the next four days.



## SKM CLC exec meet for Rhenock and Khamdong

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a constituency level executives meeting at Rhenock, East Sikkim today.

The meeting was chaired by vice president [in-charge Zone 02], Bishnu Khatiwada, and was attended by constituency level committee executive members, youth and party workers, party officials and supporters.

A press release from the party further informs that 14 families from Dhanukey ward under Rhenock constituency officially joined SKM during the meeting.

The new members were welcomed and handed primary membership by the party officials, reads the release.

The meeting mainly focused on strengthening the party's reach within the constituency and resolved to form various committees within the CLC body.

The speakers asserted that the party was gaining support all over the State with new members joining every day.

"We have the potential and support to bring down Sikkim Democratic Front Government in the coming election," the party has said in the release.

Meanwhile, a 12-member ward level committee was formed in Nageything ward under Khamdong constituency where another CLC executives meet was conducted. Four families from Nageything ward joined SKM on the day, the release informs.

## Anti-rabies vaccination drive at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 03 JUN:

A team of veterinarians from Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health [SARAH], carried out animal birth control and anti-rabies vaccination programme here at Singtam Nagar Panchayat today.

"The purpose of the vaccination is to control the virus [rabies] and birth rate amongst the dogs," informed one of the senior vets.

More than six cases of dog bite incidents have been reported in Singtam in the recent past. However, no serious cases of infection have been recorded till date and the current drive will continue keeping things safe.

**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



**Gangtok on  
Monday,  
04 June**

**Temp:** 26°C/16°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly  
cloudy; periods of  
rain in the morning,  
then a thunder-  
shower in spots.  
**Sunrise:** 04:40 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:27 PM

## Bhaichung says Chhetri will be crucial in Asian Cup

**contd from pg01**

many months and they will look to carry forward the momentum," said Bhutia.

A leg injury marred Bhutia's campaign in Doha seven years ago. Consequently, he missed the team's first two matches against Australia and Bahrain and came on as a second-half substitute in the final group stage match against South Korea.

That still rankles the 'Sikkimese Sniper'.

Now, India are paired alongside hosts UAE, Bahrain and Thailand.

Tomorrow's game against Kenya will be Chhetri's 100th in the international arena. He will become the second man in the Indian football history to reach the milestone, Bhutia, with 100 appearances, being the other.

"Playing 100 matches for your country is a huge achievement. I welcome him to the elite club. He has been one of the most sincere and focussed footballers I have come across," said Bhutia who had combined with Chhetri to form one of Indian football's most potent striking duos.

Former skipper Bhutia, who served India with distinction for more than a decade and a half and scored 40 goals, recalled his playing days with Chhetri.

Both would speak in the same language, which made things a "lot easier," according to the 41-year-old Bhutia.

Bhutia has been the torchbearer of Indian football till he passed on the baton to Chhetri, who is eight years younger to the former captain.

"He has accomplished everything with sheer hard work. His has got amazing ability to read match situations, it's actually unparalleled," Bhutia added.

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# SILTA takes issue with inordinate delay in Stairway to Heaven project

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN:**

Sikkim Indigenous Lepcha Tribal Association [SILTA] has expressed deep dismay over the incomplete state of Romlyang Tunrong, the Stairway to Heaven project at Daramdin, West Sikkim, despite 22 years having elapsed since the project commenced.

The association stressed that the project was very important as it is related to the beliefs of the Lepcha community.

SILTA advisor, Phuchung Tshering Lepcha, had filed a Right To Information application with the Buildings & Housing Department [West/South] with eight questions related to the project. It is informed that the RTI was filed on 05 May, 2018 with an official reply received on 31 May.



However, he expressed deep dissatisfaction over what he sees as the incompleteness of the answers from the concerned department.

The project was started in the year 1996 at Daramdin but after some foundation

works, the project has been left incomplete.

He informed that his RTI query revealed that the concerned department had awarded the work to contractor Mahendra Lakhota and released mobilization

advance of Rs 2.20 crores but no substantial work has been carried out on site.

SILTA president, Mayalmit Lepcha, alleged that the department has failed to furnish proper information and suspected corruption as having held up the project.

She added that the disinterest of the State government has hurt the sentiments of the Lepcha community the world over.

She informed that as per the RTI answers, Building & Housing Department, Cultural & Heritage Department and Lepcha Association of Sikkim were responsible for the project.

"It is very disappointing that Sikkim Lepcha Association has failed to fulfill the aspirations of the community. SLA should explain the situation to the community," she

added.

Ms Lepecha also demanded the Lepcha MLAs, Ministers and members of the ruling party explain the delay and has also served an ultimatum of one month to the Building & Housing Department, Culture & Heritage Department and Sikkim Lepcha Association to explain the delay.

She informed that SILTA will also go to the people with this issue and will take stringent action if nothing happens.

"We have scholars and experts of Lepcha history, so we are ready to provide all possible technical support and information to the government for the completion of the project in the earliest," she said.

In a response to the RTI queries of Phuchung Tshering Lepcha, the implementing agency

State Building & Housing Department revealed that as of now, the department has already disbursed Rs 47,783,397 [2.20 crore in mobilisation advance, stock booking to the tune of Rs.1,21,27,773, contingency and consultancy charges amounting to Rs 93,05,624 and contractor bill of Rs 43,50,000].

The implementing agency further revealed that the work was entrusted to contractor Mahendra Lakhota but delays forced it to withdraw the project from the contractor, adding that the said project was again retendered in November 2011, which is still under negotiation process with PAN Architecture & PP Architects in Department of Planning & North Eastern Council and Finance Revenue & Expenditure Departments.



## Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization conducts medical camp at Middle Syari

**ARPAN PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN:**

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, Sikkim, Gangtok & North District, organised a free medical health checkup camp and

health awareness programme at Middle Syari today.

The camp was conducted by Dr Shital Chhetri (Medical), Dr Ashis Pradhan (Pediatric),

Dr Shika Gurung and Dr Rubina Rai (Dentist) accompanied by nurses.

114 patients were attended to by the doctors. The camp was co-

organized by local club members and Sai Sevalal.

The medical camp was supported by Saipatri Samaj, Middle Syari.

## To hike rate or not? RBI panel to brainstorm for 3 days

**MUMBAI, JUN 3 (PTI):** Rising inflation and high crude oil prices will weigh on the minds of the six Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) members at their three-day meeting beginning here tomorrow to decide the key policy rate.

The seven-quarter high growth rate of 7.7 per cent in January-March 2018 and forecast of a normal monsoon has reduced the clamour for a cut in the benchmark lending rate (repo) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Retail inflation (CPI), a key data for the RBI, has remained above 4 per cent since November 2017. The government has mandated the RBI to restrict the retail inflation at 4 per cent (with a margin of +/- 2 per cent), while supporting growth. The RBI has refrained from revising the repo rate since August 2017 citing inflationary concerns.

Indicating hardening of the interest rate scenario, several major lenders including SBI, PNB and ICICI Bank have already raised their lend-

ing rates from June 1. Some of the banks have also increased the deposit rates.

"Notwithstanding the clamour for a rate hike in market, we believe ground realities call for caution and not rate action," India's largest lender SBI said in a research report.

One of the reasons it cited was that while the GDP numbers are strong, private consumption continues to lose pace, dropping to 6.6 per cent in 2017-18 from 7.3 per

cent in the previous year.

The MPC, headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel, will for the first time meet for three days as against the usual two.

The resolution of the second bi-monthly monetary policy meeting for the current fiscal will be announced in the afternoon of June 6.

In the last MPC meet, held in April, RBI Deputy Governor and member of the panel Viral Acharya had indicated that he would vote for withdrawal of monetary

accommodation in the June policy.

Another member Michael Patra had voted for a hike in repo rate but was overruled by majority that opted for status-quo.

Currently, repo rate -- the short term lending rate at which RBI lends to banks -- stands at 6 per cent. Consequently, the reverse repo rate is 5.75 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate stand at 6.25 per cent.



### FOREST MINISTER LAUNCHES MANUAL ON RESPONSIBLE USE OF PLASTIC

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN [IPR]:** Forest Minister TW Lepcha launched a manual titled, 'Towards Responsible Use of Plastics; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', at the onset of mini-marathon in the capital today.

Published by the Centre for Environment Education, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the book contains a teacher's manual, three posters and a booklet for students which provides information about plastics, plastic pollution and promotes activities towards their responsible use as part of a sustainable lifestyle.

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### BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER SOUTH SIKKIM, AT NAMCHI AFFIDAVIT

I, **DHEERAJ KUMAR SHARMA**, S/o. Pyare Lal Sharma, aged about 37 years, Hindu by faith, permanent residing at Lupin Residential Complex flat No. 18 Majhitar, P.O. Majhitar and P.S. Rangpo, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That, my name has been recorded as **DHEERAJ KUMAR SHARMA** in my relevant official documents including in Aadhaar card bearing no. 2201 4395 6674 issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India.
2. That however, my name has been recorded as **DHEERAJ KUMAR** in my entire Academic Certificates and Marksheets.
3. That, similarly my name has been recorded as **DHEERAJ SHARMA** in my appointment letter and other documents issued from the office of the LUPIN LIMITED, 4th Mile, Bhasmey, Kamarey Bhasmey Block, Duga Ilaka, East Sikkim.
4. That, I have sworn this affidavit to declare that the above stated name i.e. **DHEERAJ KUMAR SHARMA, DHEERAJ KUMAR and DHEERAJ SHARMA** indicate and mean one and the same person i.e. MYSELF.
5. That, this affidavit is made bonafide and for the satisfaction of authority concerned.

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# SummitTIMES

## Going Green

### Weed hypocrisy out of WED

It's World Environment Day on Tuesday. The State has been consistently trying to reconnect the people with their organic and more environmentally conscious roots at least when it comes to farming for a while now. Before that, there was the Green Mission, the Ten Minutes to Earth initiative and the attempt to have all road projects include avenue plantation as part of their work have been some of the efforts towards this end. Some efforts have done well, while others have received only token observance by the people. On Tuesday, the Chief Minister's Green School awards will be conferred, and hopefully this initiative has had some success in building a constituency for the environment among the young, which, really, is the only way to go if the planet is to have a future. The present elder generation has distanced itself too far away from ecological concerns to be rehabilitated and it will fall upon the young to grow up with more sensitivity to correct the damage we have wrecked.

The criteria for the CM's Green School award is still not very widely known, but one hopes that it provides durable guidelines to equip students with the capacity to see through the hypocrisy of our generation which sees nothing wrong, in fact even makes a virtue out of doing things only for photo-ops. Environment Day events have become a gathering of VIPs and a gaggle of pleased-to-be-among VIPs who arrive at the venue one person to a vehicle and leave behind a litter of used cups, plastic bottles, wrappers and other such articles which go into putting up an official tamasha. The young should be encouraged to question such excesses and reconnect with their grandparents to understand how things were done more responsibly during their pre-plastic and bottled water days. While some might argue that littering is perhaps the more minor of all environmental concerns, it is perhaps because this first step was not taken purposefully enough that we still need to remind people that the environment needs to be protected. It is important for the young to internalize the obvious - that nature can do rather well for itself without humans, but humans cannot make it without nature.

Once people begin putting that toffee wrapper back in their pockets to throw it into a bin later, they will also be able to comprehend environmental concerns better and real engagements can begin from thereon. Schools should be encouraged to go green in more ways than the paint which the urban spaces are opting for. If the young grow up conscious of their carbon footprint and worried enough to reduce damage wherever they see destruction, Sikkim will become the Eco-City that the world will envy. The language of development has to change from its pride in "exploiting" resources to one which not only "harnesses" but also nurtures. A real green school is one where students put their foot down and refuse to be force-marched to rallies carrying banners mouthing empty slogans to listen to patronizing VIPs speak of environment even as their minds plan an unnecessary road to cut through another virgin forest.

It is also obvious that the awards are given to schools which incorporate the most innovative Green Ideas in an academic year. Here again one hopes that these ideas are allowed to grow from the imagination of the students and are not directed by teachers because although teacher-involvement might win them awards, it will not institute a lasting connection with the environment. Sikkim is a small State. Just as it will not take much time for a good idea to manifest exceptional results, so will continued ignorance not take very long to squander away what has been retained [by way of environment]. Two generations of rather shortsighted consumption have already brought things to an edge here and Sikkim will need its young to grow up more responsible to pull things back. All the best...

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

**SIMON GOTTSCHALK**  
*theconversation.com*

In the 1950s, scholars worried that, thanks to technological innovations, Americans wouldn't know what to do with all of their leisure time.

Yet today, as sociologist Juliet Schor notes, Americans are overworked, putting in more hours than at any time since the Depression and more than in any other in Western societies.

It's probably not unrelated to the fact that instant and constant access has become de rigueur, and our devices constantly expose us to a barrage of colliding and clamorous messages: "Urgent," "Breaking News," "For immediate release," "Answer needed ASAP."

It disturbs our leisure time, our family time – even our consciousness.

Over the past decade, I've tried to understand the social and psychological effects of our growing interactions with new information and communication technologies, a topic I examine in my book "The Terminal Self: Everyday Life in Hypermodern Times."

In this 24/7, "always on" age, the prospect of doing nothing might sound unrealistic and unreasonable.

But it's never been more important.

### ACCELERATION FOR THE SAKE OF ACCELERATION

In an age of incredible advancements that can enhance our human potential and planetary health, why does daily life seem so overwhelming and anxiety-inducing?

Why aren't things easier?

It's a complex question, but one way to explain this irrational state of affairs is something called the force of acceleration.

According to German critical theorist Hartmut Rosa, accelerated technological developments have driven the acceleration in the pace of change in social institutions.

We see this on factory floors, where "just-in-time" manufacturing demands maximum efficiency and the ability to nimbly respond to market forces, and in university classrooms, where computer software instructs teachers how to "move students quickly" through the material. Whether it's in the grocery store or in the airport, procedures are implemented, for better or for worse, with one goal in mind: speed.

Noticeable acceleration began more than two centuries ago, during the Industrial Revolution. But this acceleration has itself ... accelerated. Guided by neither logical objectives nor agreed-upon rationale, propelled by its own momentum, and encountering little resistance, acceleration seems to have begotten more acceleration, for the sake of acceleration.

To Rosa, this acceleration eerily mimics the criteria of a totalitarian power: 1) it exerts pressure on the wills and actions of subjects; 2) it is inescapable; 3) it is all-pervasive; and 4) it is hard or almost impossible to criticize and fight.

### THE OPPRESSION OF SPEED

Unchecked acceleration has consequences.

At the environmental level, it extracts resources from nature faster than they can replenish themselves and produces waste faster than it can be processed.

At the personal level, it distorts how we experience time and space. It deteriorates how we ap-

proach our everyday activities, deforms how we relate to each other and erodes a stable sense of self. It leads to burnout at one end of the continuum and to depression at the other. Cognitively, it inhibits sustained focus and critical evaluation. Physiologically, it can stress our bodies and disrupt vital functions.

For example, research finds two to three times more self-reported health problems, from anxiety to sleeping issues, among workers who frequently work in high-speed environments compared with those who do not.

When our environment accelerates, we must pedal faster in order to keep up with the pace. Workers receive more emails than ever before – a number that's only expected to grow. The more emails you receive, the more time you need to process them. It requires that you either accomplish this or another task in less time, that you perform several tasks at once, or that you take less time in between reading and responding to emails.

American workers' productivity has increased dramatically since 1973. What has also increased sharply during that same period is the pay gap between productivity and pay. While productivity between 1973 and 2016 has increased by 73.7 percent, hourly pay has increased by only 12.5 percent. In other words, productivity has increased at about six times the rate of hourly pay.

Clearly, acceleration demands more work – and to what end? There are only so many hours in a day, and this additional expenditure of energy reduces individuals' ability to engage in life's essential activities: family, leisure, community, citizenship,

spiritual yearnings and self-development.

It's a vicious loop: Acceleration imposes more stress on individuals and curtails their ability to manage its effects, thereby worsening it.

### DOING NOTHING AND 'BEING'

In a hypermodern society propelled by the twin engines of acceleration and excess, doing nothing is equated with waste, laziness, lack of ambition, boredom or "down" time.

But this betrays a rather instrumental grasp of human existence.

Much research – and many spiritual and philosophical systems – suggest that detaching from daily concerns and spending time in simple reflection and contemplation are essential to health, sanity and personal growth.

Similarly, to equate "doing nothing" with nonproductivity betrays a short-sighted understanding of productivity. In fact, psychological research suggests that doing nothing is essential for creativity and innovation, and a person's seeming inactivity might actually cultivate new insights, inventions or melodies.

As legends go, Isaac Newton grasped the law of gravity sitting under an apple tree. Archimedes discovered the law of buoyancy relaxing in his bathtub, while Albert Einstein was well-known for staring for hours into space in his office.

The academic sabbatical is centered on the understanding that the mind needs to rest and be allowed to explore in order to germinate new ideas.

Doing nothing – or just being – is as important to human well-being as doing something.

The key is to balance the two.

### TAKING YOUR FOOT OFF THE PEDAL

Since it will probably be difficult to go cold turkey from an accelerated pace of existence to doing nothing, one first step consists in decelerating. One relatively easy way to do so is to simply turn off all the technological devices that connect us to the internet – at least for a while – and assess what happens to us when we do.

Danish researchers found that students who disconnected from Facebook for just one week reported notable increases in life satisfaction and positive emotions. In another experiment, neuroscientists who went on a nature trip reported enhanced cognitive performance.

Different social movements are addressing the problem of acceleration. The Slow Food movement, for example, is a grassroots campaign that advocates a form of deceleration by rejecting fast food and factory farming.

As we race along, it seems as though we're not taking the time to seriously examine the rationale behind our frenetic lives – and mistakenly assume that those who are very busy must be involved in important projects.

Touted by the mass media and corporate culture, this credo of busyness contradicts both how most people in our society define "the good life" and the tenets of many Eastern philosophies that extol the virtue and power of stillness.

French philosopher Albert Camus perhaps put it best when he wrote, "Idleness is fatal only to the mediocre."

*[the writer is Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas]*

# Russia's imperial mindset dates back centuries– and it is here to stay

**KEVORK OSKANIAN**  
*theconversation.com*

Postcolonial scholarship has overwhelmingly focused on the legacy of Western empires – but despite a long history of foreign expansionism and domination, Russia, in its various incarnations, has never received the same amount of critical scrutiny. The Tsarist empire's position outside the West proper, the Soviet Union's stated opposition to imperialism, and the fact that Russia's empire was a contiguous land empire rather than an overseas one all helped shield it from postcolonial critique.

The result is a strange oversight – especially considering the fact that the heir to the largest continental empire in modern history clearly remains uncomfortable with the independence of many of its former subordinates.

That discomfort stems from an imperial mindset that has survived the 20th century's revolutions and geopolitical transformations, and which remains fundamentally entwined with Russia's complex and longstanding sense of its place in the world.

Neither fully European nor fully Asian but instead played over the Eurasian landmass, Russia has always



struggled with its ambiguous identity. Pre-modern Russia was Christian, but Orthodox; in the 19th century, its intellectual elites engaged in Europe's great enlightenment debates, while its autocratic government and feudal-agrarian economy increasingly set it apart from a liberalising, industrialising Europe. Similarly, the Bolsheviks' Marxism-Leninism was simultaneously a product of the European enlightenment and a clear ideological break from Euro-American capitalism.

The upshot is that for centuries, Russia's multifaceted, complex identity has led it to justify its imperial dominion in its own peculiar way, over subjects both Eastern and Western. Like its Western counterparts, Russia pursued distinct civilising missions that it imposed – by force if necessary – on subject peoples in a centuries-old pattern that has continued into the present. But unlike the Western powers, it did so by arrogating itself "spheres of influence" situated in both East and West.

Depending on when and where they were undertaken, these civilising ventures were enforced in different ways. In "its" East – the Caucasus and Central Asia – imperial Russia styled itself a protector of Christianity, or an "enlightening force" much in the same way as Western powers, using identifiably Orientalist tropes against Muslim "backwardness" and Eastern "irrationality". In the West, conversely, Russia posed as a guarantor of Orthodoxy against the corrupting dangers of Catholic "Jesuitism", or the more liberal expressions of the European enlightenment.

Soviet Russia invoked Marxism-Leninism to justify a similar onslaught, this time against "bourgeois nationalisms" – first in areas like Ukraine, and after World War Two, in Eastern and Central Europe. This it managed to do while also framing a campaign against Islamic traditions as a secular struggle against oriental backwardness.

Today, in an age where formal empire is considered anathema, this Eastern/Western ambiguity still shapes Russia's attitude towards "its" neighbourhood. It means the Kremlin can argue that its western "dominated in both East and West."

turn to 05



## Tripura tribals cross over to B'desh to collect food: CPI (M)

**Agartala, June 3 (PTI):** The opposition CPI-M today claimed that the people of Tripura's tribal inhabited areas were regularly crossing over to Bangladesh to collect food and return home and demanded that the areas be declared as "distressed".

"I have visited many areas, mainly in Dhalai district where indigenous people live in hill areas. They cross the Indo-Bangla border to collect forest produce to earn their livelihood. Due to starvation they are doing it. It is a matter of shame," CPI(M) MP Jiten Chowdhuri told reporters here.

"Three to four hundred people everyday cross the border and return after collecting forest produce including medicinal plants," the CPI(M) Central Committee member said.

Chowdhury, who is also the president of the party's tribal wing Gana Mukti Parishad (GMP), said the BJP-IPFT government should declare the areas as "distressed" and take appropriate measures without any delay.

No minister or government official is available to comment on the issue

## Two-day philatelic and numismatic exhibition wraps up in Darj

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 03 JUN:** A two-day philatelic and numismatic exhibition 'Alpine 2018', organized by Alpine Philatelic and Numismatic Society (APNS), Darjeeling, featuring events like workshops on philately and postcards officially wrapped up on 02 Jun, a press release informs.

Four postcards featuring Darjeeling's Toy Train, tea plantation, pine trees and logo of APNS were released by Public Prosecutor, Darjeeling Bar Association, Pranay Rai, on the first day of the exhibition.

The first day of the two-day event featured events like sit and draw competition, letter writing contest and display of philatelic and numismatic materials on different themes.

President, Sikkim Philatelic and Numismatic Society, Ganesh



Pradhan was presented with a memento for being honored with Sikkim Sewa Samman by the Sikkim State Government recently.

The concluding day of the event had a philatelic workshop by Vivek Yonzon and numismatic workshops by Saibal Sengupta and Vikrant

Yonzon.

APNS president, Shishil Karthok distributed trophies and certificates to the winners of various contests held during the

course of the two-day long event.

The event was attended by more than 1000 visitors, the release informs.

## Durga Puja committee to decorate pandal with Chinese 'Hulu'

**KOLKATA, JUN 3 (PTI):** With Bengal's biggest festival still a few months away, members of a Durga Puja committee in Kolkata has tapped the Chinese Consulate here to theme their pandal on Hulu, a thin gourd popular in a mainland province, and the art forms surrounding it.

"Hulu which is believed to bring good omen and prosperity, is very popular in Yunnan where it is grown widely. We also have a musical instrument made out of the gourd called 'Hulusi', it is like a trumpet," the Consul General in Kolkata, Ma Zhanwu said today.

A team visiting Yunnan will find for themselves more about the concept of Hulu and the art forms surrounding the same for their puja, Zhanwu said.

The Consul said Hulu also accounts for popular public installations and the Hulu themed pandal at BJ Block in Salt Lake may have Chinese carvings, which will be discussed with the organisers.

There is an important part of Durga Puja celebrations with organisers competing with each other to execute different themes based on which pandal, ambience and illumination are created.

The Consul said the BJ Block Durga Puja, Salt Lake, in was not being sponsored by the Consulate. However, the Consulate was only trying to find sponsors to help "the chief architect (of the pandal) and organisers to visit Yunnan province.

"They would go to China and see the structures in person and also may be, some illumination ideas for the 'Hulu' pandal. They can take inspiration from the 'Hulu' art installations.

"Hulus can be cut into half and used as water container, there can be hulu shaped artificial water body, fountains, it could be musical instrument," he said.

He said the organisers of BJ Block puja also wanted to have some Chinese artefacts and Indian handicrafts displayed on either side of the pandal and there can also be Chinese artistic performances.

"Some artists from China are likely to perform at BJ Block during pujas and their will be lion dance as well," there will be no artist from China for making the pandal, the Chinese diplomat said.

"The Chinese Consulate in Kolkata has taken part in best pandal competition activities and have invited the winners to visit China for a week. We have also sent lion dance groups to different pandals to demonstrate the Chinese culture," Zhanwu said,

A spokesman of the puja committee said, "Our puja had always been a frontrunner in terms of aesthetic appeal and creativity. This year, we hope the crowd will be bigger. We are holding discussions with the Chinese Consulate to discuss details."

The spokesman said the approximate budget will be Rs 40 lakh.

## Deceased jawan's samples test negative for Nipah virus

**Kolkata, Jun 3 (PTI):** The fluid samples of a jawan, who died here days after returning from his hometown in Kerala, has tested "negative" for Nipah virus infection, a defence official said today.

The Command Hospital at Kolkata had sent Seenu Prasad's fluid samples to National Institute of Virology at Pune for the medical test, the official said.

Prasad, posted at Army's Eastern Command Headquarters Fort William, had gone to his hometown in Kerala on a month's leave. He rejoined office on May 13.

His deteriorating medical condition, upon his return, prompted the authorities to admit him to Command Hospital on May 20, the defence spokesperson said, adding that the 27-year-old jawan passed away five days later.

(CPI-M) in January this year.

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUN 3(PTI):** The 11th session of the Kerala Assembly, devoted exclusively for legislative matters, will begin here tomorrow.

It is the first assembly session after the much-hyped Chengannur bypoll, in which ruling CPI(M) had retained its sitting seat with a remarkable majority beating opposition Congress and BJP.

While the members of CPI(M)-led LDF would come to the House with added confidence following the bypoll victory, the opposition Congress-led UDF MLAs are expected to take up a host of issues including the recent honour killing incident and alleged police inaction to beat the ruling bench.

The newly elected Saji Cheriyan, who won by a margin of 20,956 votes over his nearest rival D Vijayakumar (Congress), would be sworn in as the MLA after the question hour session tomorrow.

The by-election was necessitated by the death of sitting member K K Ramachandran Nair

Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan said as many as 17 ordinances were awaiting its turn to become Acts in the 12-day-long session.

The Kerala Municipality (amendment) Bill, 2018, the Kerala Panchayat Raj (amendment) Bill, 2018, Sri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (amendment) Bill, 2018, Kerala University (amendment) Bill, 2018 were among the six bills that would be considered in the first two days, he said.

The discussion and voting on the supplementary demands for grants for 2018-19 would be held on June 13, Sreeramakrishnan told reporters here yesterday.

As per the schedule, June 14 and 15 would be holidays and the session would be concluded on June 21, he said.

As part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Kerala Assembly, a six month 'festival of democracy' comprising meetings of legislators and conferences would be held from July, the speaker added.

### CONTACT

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## Russia's imperial mindset dates back...

Contd from pg04

ions" are in fact separate from the West proper, while simultaneously justifying its lordship over "irrational orientals".

### RUSSIA TO THE RESCUE

To distinguish itself from the liberal West, the Putin government elevates and glorifies traditional elements of Russian identity, among them Orthodox Christianity and carefully selected aspects of the Soviet legacy - chief among them the "Great Patriotic War", the Russian term for the fight against Nazi Germany on the Eastern Front.

By invoking this history, Putin's Russia lays claim to an "authentic", traditional European identity. The West, so the argument goes, has degenerated into postmodern decadence, and only Russia is able to salvage Europe's conservatively defined values before they fall victim to what Putin has called "chaotic darkness".

On another front, Russia de-

fines itself as a civilising force over Caucasian and Central Asian "Orientals", whom it presents as irrational and prone to misrule. Accordingly, the "authenticity" of Western and Eastern nations and peoples is defined on distinctly Russian terms.

The "good", "authentic" Ukrainian is by definition pro-Russian, and so is the "authentic" Chechen or Georgian. Those in the "Russian" East who do not conform are branded as madmen and Islamist terrorists; in "its" West, they are fascists or moral degenerates.

Non-Russian Ukraine is apparently the most deviant, with the Kremlin frequently making largely unfounded accusations that Kiev is under the sway of neo-Nazis. The Russian government's descriptions of its Eastern opponents are no less flattering, harking back to Tsarist and early Soviet times. Adversaries such as Georgia's Mikhail Saakashvili or Chechnya's Dzhokhar Dudayev are "madmen", "brigands"

and "bandits"; meanwhile, back in Russia itself, ordinary "individuals of Caucasian (or Central Asian) nationality" are routinely confronted with that ultimate indicator of imperial hierarchy: racism.

This is about more than just "Putinism". It is a pattern that's repeated itself for centuries, and it stems from a deeply held aspiration to "great power" status. The Tsarist Empire did it, so did the Soviet Union, and so does today's Russian Federation. "Decolonising" the Kremlin might therefore take much longer, and much more, than overthrowing the Tsar, dismantling the Soviet Union, or securing some kind of "regime change" in today's Moscow. It will require nothing less than a fundamental redefinition of Russian identity.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham]*

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Won't be another like me & Ambrose but new gen will create own stuff: Walsh

DEHRADUN, JUNE 3 (PTI): West Indian pace legend Courtney Walsh doesn't foresee another one like him or Curtly Ambrose coming along in international cricket but neither does he believe that fast bowling is on the decline.

"You are not going to get bowlers like me and Curtly anymore because we are long gone, retired," Walsh told PTI in an interview when asked about his legendary partnership with the lanky Antiguan.

"The new generation will create its own stuff, bring its own technique. When I played, I used what Wesley Hall and Andy Roberts taught me. It keeps evolving. If you can get those senior players to pass on their tips and use it with what is happening now, you will only be a better bowler," he reckoned.

The exponential growth of slam-bang T20 cricket has forced the fast bowlers to come up with a plethora of variations. The pacers end up using those same tricks even in the longest format where sheer speed and accuracy remain the most potent weapons.

Walsh, who formed one of the most celebrated pace bowling partnerships alongside Ambrose, says a modern-day fast bowler represents the constant evolution of the game.

"All aspects of the game are evolving. So, I don't think fast bowling is on the decline. You just have to combine the old school fast bowling with the new stuff that is happening now to keep improving your game," Walsh, who is the interim coach of Bangladesh, said.

MUMBAI, JUN 3 (PTI): Sunil Chhetri will be the cynosure of all eyes as he seeks to make his 100th international memorable by continuing his scoring spree in the Intercontinental Cup match against Kenya here tomorrow.

With 59 goals to his credit, the talismanic striker is India's all-time leading scorer.

Another win at the Mumbai Football Arena will ensure the home team's passage to the final of the tournament, which is being used as preparation for next year's Asian Cup.

The 97th ranked side is on a high having drubbed Chinese Taipei 5-0 in the tournament opener.

Chhetri was in imperious form, scoring his third hat-trick in international football, and he would look to continue in the same manner against the physical stronger African team, which likes to attack.



Chhetri and his strike partner Jeje Lalpekhua have shown in the past that if they get going, any defence can be breached.

India coach Stephen Constantine has an option up-front in Balwant Singh and, depending on the situation of the match, he can be consid-

ered.

If the Chhetri-led Indian forward line is able to strike at will again, then the Kenyans will have have some

tough time at the back.

India have an array of attacking midfielders like Udanta Singh, Anirudh Thapa and Pranoy Halder, who clicked in the last game.

Udanta and Pranoy scored against Chinese Taipei and they will certainly start tomorrow.

India has an equally strong defence with the experienced Sandesh Jhinghan and Pritam Kotal manning the backline. Add to it the likes of Narayan Das and Subhashis Bose, and the line-up looks solid.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is the best in the business and his role will be crucial after a game in which his service was rarely required.

Constantine was pleased after his side put up a dominant show in the last game but had warned that they should not get carried away.

India are ranked much higher and are used to the conditions here.

Kenya, on the other hand, would look to spoil Chhetri's party.

Their coach Sebastian Minge had described India as a quality side.

India Squad: GOALKEEPERS: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Vishal Kaith

DEFENDERS: Pritam Kotal, Anas Edathodika, Salam Ranjan Singh, Sandesh Jhinghan, Lalruaththara, Narayan Das, Jerry Lalrinzuala, Subhashis Bose

MIDFIELDERS: Udanta Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan, Rowlin Borges, Anirudh Thapa, Pronay Halder, Md. Rafique, Halicharan Narzary, Laldanmawia Ralte

FORWARDS: Sunil Chhetri, Jeje Lalpekhua, Balwant Singh, Alen Deory.

## Cahill, Arzani in Australia's final World Cup squad

SYDNEY, JUNE 3 (AFP): Tim Cahill will play in his fourth World Cup and teenager Daniel Arzani made the final cut as Australia's coach Bert van Marwijk finalised his 23-man squad today.

The 38-year-old Cahill is his country's most prolific international scorer with 50 goals and has scored at his three previous World Cups.

Cahill got the nod for the tournament, which kicks off in Russia on June 14, despite limited appearances for Millwall in England's second-tier Championship since returning to south London in January.

Iran-born 19-year-old Arzani and Dimi Petratos were included but James Troisi, Josh Brillante, Nikita Rukavytsya and Fran Karacic were left out of the squad.

Striker Jamie Maclaren was retained in the 23 after coming in as injury cover for Tomi Juric, who was also selected.

Dutchman van Marwijk released his squad following Friday's 4-0 friendly win over the Czech Republic in Austria.

"I have been very pleased with the effort and application of all of the players during our



time in Turkey, and in Austria," van Marwijk said in a statement.

"Every step of the selection process has been difficult because the players have all given everything to make the final selection."

He believed the squad would make their country proud at the tournament "if we continue to work collectively and intensively over the next two weeks and into the competition".

Australia have another friendly against Hungary in Budapest on Saturday ahead of their World Cup games against

France, Denmark and Peru.

Australia's final 23-man World Cup squad: Goalkeepers: Brad Jones (Feyenoord/NED), Mathew Ryan (Brighton/ENG), Daniel Vukovic (Genk/BEL)

Defenders: Aziz Behich (Bursaspor/TUR), Milos Degenek (Yokohama Marinos/JPN), Matthew Jurman (Suwon Bluewings/KOR), James Meredith (Millwall/ENG), Josh Risdon (Western Sydney Wanderers/AUS), Trent Sainsbury (Grasshopper Club Zurich/SWI)

Midfielders: Jackson

Irvine (Hull City/ENG), Mile Jedinak (Aston Villa/ENG), Robbie Kruse (VfL Bochum/GER), Massimo Luongo (Queens Park Rangers/ENG), Mark Milligan (Al Ahli/KSA), Aaron Mooy (Huddersfield Town/ENG), Tom Rogic (Celtic/SCO)

Forwards: Daniel Arzani (Melbourne City/AUS), Tim Cahill (Millwall/ENG), Tomi Juric (FC Luzern/SWI), Mathew Leckie (Hertha BSC/GER), Jamie Maclaren (Hibernian/SCO), Andrew Nabbout (Urawa Red Diamonds/JPN), Dimitri Petratos (Newcastle Jets/AUS).

## FOR PATH-BREAKER REAL KASHMIR PLAYERS, FOOTBALL MORE THAN JUST A MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD

NEW DELHI, JUN 3 (PTI): A hope for a better life not just for themselves but also for the troubled state they have put on the national footballing landscape -- for the path-breaking Real Kashmir FC players, the 'beautiful game' is far from being merely a means to earn a livelihood.

Their odd jobs, family backgrounds, and determination to rise above it tick all the boxes for the story that is Indian sports. But just as any other story like theirs, it was nonetheless inspiring when the club, founded just a couple of years ago, qualified for the elite I-League.

A daily-wage earner, who hopes he never has to go back to that job, a small-time private telephone company employee, and a cricket buff-turned footballer -- it is a diverse group that makes up the team.

But what unites it is the game, famously described as a matter bigger than life or death by Bill Shankly -- the man who transformed a second division Liverpool into the force that it became in Europe.

"It is very difficult to get a secure job in Kashmir. I work on daily wage in a dry fruit factory. From 7am to 9am, I have my football training and after that from 10am to 6pm I work at a factory and things like packing, sending parcels, etc.," 22-year-old defender Suhail Ahmad Bhat told PTI.

Bhat, Amir Rehman (defender), Danish Farooq (midfielder) and Muhammad Hammad (defender) are all from Srinagar and in their early 20s. It wasn't easy for them to pursue football given their diversely difficult circumstances but not they are hoping to inspire many more like them.

Bhat's father is a diabetic and his mother a housewife. He has a family to care for while pursuing his passion on the field. All he earns after a day's hard work is a measly INR 300.

"Is haalaat mein, aadmi ko patthar banna padta hai (In such circumstances, one needs to harden himself like a stone). By the grace of God, I feel I am going towards success. I hope to play in big I-League and ISL (Indian Super League) clubs in future and earn even more," he said.

"The amount I am getting from the club (Real Kashmir FC) is a good sum and I can manage my family with that better than before. Now that we have qualified for the I-League, I hope my financial position gets better.

"I hope I don't work as daily wage earner again. Football is my future," he added.

The 23-year-old Amir Rehman has been working as an FOS (Front Office Service) for a mobile company after his training to help his self-employed father run the family.

"From 8am to 10am, I train and from 11am to 6pm, I work as FOS of Aircel (mobile company) in Srinagar. I need to do this to supplement my family income. My father does embroidery work at home and that is not enough," said the midfielder who played in the Santosh Trophy National Football Championships in 2016.

He signed for Real Kashmir this year and wants to play in an ISL. Of course, the national team too figures in his life goals.

For Danish Farooq, football is in blood as his father played for Mohammedan Sporting in eastern Indian city of Kolkata.

"My father, uncles, and grandfather had played football. My father used to take me to football matches and so I got interested in the sport. I got enrolled in the J & K Bank Academy and then I played for the bank team and became captain. That is how I began. After that I played for Lonestar and then this year signed for Real Kashmir," said the B.A. final year student.

## Writing is a lonely and thankless job: Ritesh Shah

MUMBAI, JUN 3 (PTI): Writer Ritesh Shah says writing stories is a lonely and thankless vocation and finds it difficult to detach himself from the arduous process even in his sleep as he feels inspiration can strike any time.

The 42-year-old scribe has been behind some of the biggest and critically-acclaimed films of recent times, including "Pink", "Airlift", "Kahaani" and the latest, "Raid" in various capacities -- story writer, screenplay or dialogue writer.

"Writing is lonely, difficult, thankless and damn hard. It's not even sit-on-the-table process, it is lonely. Most of the times you are writing alone, the story can come to you at any place - in a bus, while you're having a drink or in the washroom.

"There is no escape from it. It troubles you in sleep also. Sometimes, you think you have solved it. Sometimes a scene comes, or the full film comes, and then you realise in the morning, it was all nonsense," Shah told PTI in an interview.

The scribe says he would be doing "dis-service" if he glamourises writing.

"It is a terrible job. It's hard to write and very hard to write commercial Hindi films. It doesn't come easily," he says, who has a loyal listener to all his story ideas - Roger, his dog.



Mainstream films have been Shah's forte and he attributes his love for it to movies penned by veteran writer duo Salim-Javed, which fuelled his appetite in his growing up years and it ended up having the biggest influence on him.

The writer, who penned commercial-viable films like "Namastey London" and

"Force", however, emphasises the skill is not easy as "there is a lot of pressure of pleasing".

"Forget the audience, first the actor has to be happy with it, then the technicians, the director, the producer, the finance-marketing people have to like it. So, how can you write something, which pleases you and the audience?" Shah says.

Born in south Kashmir's Anantnag and raised in Srinagar, the writer remembers his 15-year-old self living in the conflict-hit state. He recalls there was not only a threat to life but the education system was also in shambles.

"The education got badly affected in the '90s and the middle-class Kashmiris went to different parts in the country to study," says Shah, who migrated to Delhi in the summer of 1990.

He pursued English Literature at the Hindu College and later opted to do mass communication from Jamia Milia Islamia.

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali and TV personality Roshan Abbas were his seniors and "Udta Punjab" director Abhishek Choubey was his junior.

"There are two-three boys in every batch, either in Hindu or Jamia, who migrate to Mumbai. That's a pattern," he says.

His calling to Mumbai happened somewhere around 1998 when he adapted Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek's play "The Police", which a lot of people from the film fraternity saw and liked.

An actor, who featured in the play - Shah swears he will never disclose his identity - asked him to move to the metropolis and told him that a film can be made on his adaptation.

"I came to Mumbai with that script. I was able to make initial contact with him but after that he didn't get back to me and I didn't know what to do with my time. So, by chance I went for a TV meeting with a friend and happened to get a writing job," he says.

After working for six years in the TV industry, he landed his first writing job for films with Sujoy Ghosh's "Home Delivery", for which he would later pen the dialogues. Soon after, he bagged "Namastey London". Nine years and several movies later, came the massive recognition in form of the National Award-winning film "Pink".

"There's nothing that I desire to do as much as I wish to write. I am not tempted to produce or direct or choreograph. I love writing. I love my lines to be spoken on the screen or to be sure that now the audience will laugh or go quiet," Shah says.

Currently, the writer has his slate full - he has penned the upcoming Arjun Kapoor-Parineeti Chopra starrer "Namastey England", Diljit Dosanjh's "Arjun Patiala" and Nikkhil Advani's "Batla House".

Shah says he has more to stories to tell and his stock is far from over.

"I came to Mumbai for a week and have stayed here for 18-odd years. I am an extended guest in this city. I am supposed to go back but I haven't yet," he says.



# Hafiz Saeed’s JuD to contest general elections on AAT platform

**LAHORE, JUN 3 (PTI):** Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed’s Jammat-ud-Dawah will contest the July 25 general elections on the platform of Allaha-u-Akbar Tehreek as the group’s Milli Muslim League is yet to be registered as a political party, a senior member of the outfit said yesterday.

Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), a front for the Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group that carried out the deadly 2008 Mumbai attack, launched its political front Milli Muslim League, but it has not been yet registered by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

With general elections approaching, the group has decided to contest on the platform of the “dormant” political entity Allaha-u-Akbar Tehreek (AAT), which was registered in the ECP.

“It was a kind of dormant party registered by a citizen Ehsan. There are several such parties registered with the ECP and such an arrangement



is made ahead of the general elections if any mainstream party or organisation faces any issue or complication,” a member of the JuD told PTI.

“Since the Milli Muslim League (MML) fails to get registered with the ECP it is going for this arrangement (contesting the upcoming polls on AAT platform),” he said.

MML president Saifullah Khalid will make a formal announcement regarding this shortly, he added.

The AAT’s election symbol is ‘chair’.

“Now the JuD/MML candidates will contest on the ‘chair’

symbol across the country,” the member said.

He said since the MML has hardly any chance to get registered with the ECP as it had announced the election schedule and issued election symbols, it had no other option but to contest the election on any ‘dormant’ entity like AAT or support the Muthahidda Majlis Amal (MMA), an alliance of mainstream religious parties of the country.

“But Saeed chose to contest independently,” he said.

The MML has also confirmed contesting the July 25 election on the ‘chair’ symbol.

“We have decided to support the candidates of AAT in July 25 elections,” MML President Saifullah Khalid told PTI.

“We will play a role in the victory of those contesting on the symbol of chair. To save Pakistan, patriotic people should be supported in the elections,” he said.

Khalid said the MML had been denied registration in the ECP for the last 11 months but will take part in the polls by supporting the candidates of AAT.

“Meanwhile we will continue fighting our case (registration of MML) in the court and ECP,” he added.

The MML president said over 350 political parties were registered with the ECP but there are objection regarding the MML.

“I ask the MML workers to get ready and make full preparations across the country to make the AAT candidates successful in the upcoming elections. We have to serve human-

ity and no one can stop us from our political struggle,” he said.

Meanwhile, the MML has filed a contempt of court petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the ECP for using delaying tactics regarding its enlisting as a political party as per law. June 11 is fixed for the case hearing in the IHC.

The court in March had set aside the ECP order declining registration of the MML.

Justice Aamer Farooq of the IHC bench had referred the matter to the ECP, directing the electoral body to pass a speaking order.

The MML had challenged the October 11 order of the ECP declining registration to the MML as a political party allegedly on the behest of the interior ministry.

The interior ministry had opposed enlisting of the MML as a political party arguing it’s an offshoot of the Jamaatud Dawa of Hafiz Saeed banned under a UN resolution.

## Philippines’ Duterte tells UN expert to ‘go to hell’



**MANILA, JUN 3 (AFP):** President Rodrigo Duterte has told a United Nations rights expert to “go to hell” over criticism of the Philippine leader for threatening the country’s top judge.

Duterte’s latest profanity-laced diatribe came after Diego Garcia-Sayan, the UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, said the president’s statements against former chief justice Maria Lourdes Sereno were a “vicious attack” on the judiciary.

Sereno’s colleagues voted to remove her from office last month, shortly after Duterte openly called her his “enemy” and demanded her swift ouster.

“Tell him (Garcia-Sayan) not to interfere with the affairs of my country. He can go to hell,” Duterte told reporters in Manila, insisting he had nothing to do with Sereno’s dismissal.

“He is not a special person and I do not recognise his rapporteur title,” Duterte,

73, has slashed out in the past -- often using less-than-parliamentary language -- at critics of the deadly drug war he launched soon after coming to power in 2016.

Several of his opponents have since been ousted, punished or threatened.

Police say they have killed 4,279 drug suspects in the anti-narcotics campaign but rights groups believe the actual number is three times higher.

Sereno was one of the few remaining high-profile critics of the crack-down at the time of her ouster.

The UN’s Garcia-Sayan said Friday that Duterte’s public threats against Sereno appeared to have had a “chilling effect” on her colleagues in the judiciary.

“The use of such derogatory language... sends a clear message to all judges of the Philippines: in the so-called ‘war on drugs’, you’re either with me or against me,” Garcia-Sayan said.



A senior medical official in Gaza has urged the international community “not to stay silent” and do more to protect civilians protesting at the border fence with Israel. His plea comes after a 21-year old medic was shot dead by Israeli forces as she ran to treat injured protesters at the border fence, according to health workers at the scene. Israel says it is investigating. The funeral of Razan al Najar was held in the Gazan city of Khan Younes - with thousands of mourners attending. Hundreds cried out as the body of Razan al Najar, wrapped in a Palestinian flag, was held aloft before being placed in an ambulance.



## Egyptian president sworn in for a second term

**CAIRO, JUN 3 (AP):** Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi was sworn in for a second four-year term yesterday after being re-elected in a vote earlier this year in which he faced no serious challengers.

El-Sissi took the oath of office before parliament amid tight security enforced throughout Cairo. After the oath, artillery delivered a celebratory 21-gun salute.

In an address to the packed chamber, el-Sissi vowed to continue working to restore stability, revive the economy and combat the insurgency in the northern Sinai Peninsula. He said in his second term he would focus on education and health care.

“Egypt can include all of us, with all our diversity and richness... except those who choose violence and terror to impose their will and power. Egypt is for all and I am a president of all those who agree with me or disagree,” he said at the ceremony, which was also attended by his Cabinet and religious leaders.

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

**NOTICE**

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

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

**(RUSA SIKKIM ADMISSION).**

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

Important dates:

I. Submission of online registration: 29<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018

II. Last date of submission of Fees: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018

III. 1<sup>st</sup> Merit list generation: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

IV. 1<sup>st</sup> Merit list last date of admission: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

V. 2<sup>nd</sup> Merit List generation: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018

VI. 2<sup>nd</sup> merit list last date of admission: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

VII. Counselling: 9<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> July

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

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

Sd/-

Dr. M.P. Kharel

OSD Higher Education (HRDD)

**KUTSHE SHEGU**

The 49th Day Kutshe Shegu of our beloved father **late Kaching Bhutia (Dorjee Lohbay of Kabi Gumpa)** who left for his heavenly abode on 18th April 2018 falls on **6th June 2018**. All friends, well wishers and relatives are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our resident at **Kabi near BAC in North Sikkim**. We would also like to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement and regret our inability to thank them individually.

**Mr. Pintso Tashi Dozepa (son) 7550801904, Mrs. Namgay Bhutia (wife), Mrs. Ongmu Tongden Lepcha (Daughter) 9434870338, Mrs. Hissay Bhutia (Daughter-in-law) 7076335196, Mrs. Laden Bhutia (Daughter) 8967035867, Mrs. Dechen Dolkar Lachungpa (Daughter) 8768926989**

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT**  
**N.I.T**

Sealed tenders are invited from the registered firms for following components:  
(a) Monthly SAMETI Newsletter (English and Nepali) for the year 2018-19 and  
(b) Annual Wall Calendar for the year 2019. (Approximately 5000 nos.)  
The detail specifications are as follows:

SL. NO.	PARTICULARS	QUANTITY	REMARKS
01.	Monthly Newsletter	Quantity 1000 copies (English 500 copies and Nepali 500 copies),	Including English to Nepali Translation, Compose or Typing, Design and Editing, Size 8.5 x 10.63 inches, No. of Page 8-12 pages. Paper Quality – Art Paper 170 gsm. Four colour printing. Centre Stitch Binding.
02.	Annual Calendar 2019	Approximately 5000 nos	Size 19.5x29.5 inches, Paper Quality – Art Paper 130 gsm. Four colour printing, both side mounting (including English to Nepali Translation, Compose or Typing, Design and Editing).

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**  
1. Sealed quotations may be submitted (**Separate Quotation for Newsletter and Separate Quotation for Annual Calendar- 2019**) to the office of the Director SAMETI from 10:00 am to 03:00 pm on or before 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018.  
2. The date for opening for the Tender will be 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2:00 pm at the Chamber of Additional Director-Administration, FS&ADD, Govt. of Sikkim, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, in the presence of the Tender Opening Committee and the representative of interested firm/ tenderers.  
2. The following documents should be submitted along with the quotations:  
(i) Sikkim Subject or COI of the owner/ Proprietor of the Firm.  
(ii) Valid Trade License,  
(iii) Firm Registration Certificate,  
(iv) GST Registration Certificate,  
(v) Profession/Sales/Tax Clearance Certificate.  
3. The Rate should be F.O.R. destinations and inclusive of Packing and Forwarding Charges.  
4. If the party does not meet any of the required conditions mentioned above, their quotation will be rejected outright.  
5. Draft of Monthly newsletter should be shown to the department and approval in writing should be obtained before the same is sent for the final printing.  
6. The Tender Committee reserves the full right to accept or reject any quotations/ tenders without assigning any reason or reasons.  
7. Delivery of the Monthly Newsletter should be within 10 days from the receipt of Matters from the office, every month.  
8. A sample copy of Monthly Newsletter and Calendar 2018 can be collected from SAMETI OFFICE, Tadong.

Sd/-

**DIRECTOR,**

**STATE AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND EXTENSION**

**TRAINING INSTITUTE (SAMETI)**

**FS & ADD, GOVT. OF SIKKIM, BELOW CONVOY GROUND, TADONG.**

R.O. No. 114/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 1.6.18



# LGBT PRIDE MONTH 2018: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ITS HISTORY

Every summer in the United States, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and allies come together for a month-long celebration of love, diversity, acceptance and unashamed self-pride.

Here's everything you need to know about LGBT Pride Month.

## WHAT IS LGBT PRIDE MONTH?

The commemorative month is meant to recognize the sweeping impact that LGBT individuals, advocates and allies have on history in the U.S. and around the globe, according to the Library of Congress

## WHEN IS IT?

LGBT Pride Month is celebrated every year in June, with a series of events and parades taking place across the nation.

## WHY IS IT IN JUNE?

The month of June was chosen for LGBT Pride Month to



commemorate the riots held by members of the LGBT community against a police raid that took place at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969.

The so-called Stonewall riots were a "tipping point" for the gay liberation movement in the United States, according to the Library of Congress. The uproar also paved the way for the modern fight for LGBT rights.

Previous presidents of the United States have, on

several occasions, officially declared June as LGBT Pride Month.

## HOW DO PEOPLE CELEBRATE LGBT PRIDE MONTH?

LGBT Pride Month events draw millions of participants from around the world each year. Today, the month-long celebrations include pride parades, marches, parties, concerts, workshops and symposiums across the nation.

Memorials are also of-

ten held for members of the LGBT community who have lost their lives to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS.

The rainbow LGBT flag is prominently displayed throughout the month. Gilbert Baker, an American artist, gay rights activist and U.S. Army veteran, created the flag in 1978 as a new symbol for the gay and lesbian political movement, at the suggestion of his friends and colleagues, including Harvey Milk, a San Francisco city supervisor and the first openly gay elected official in California. Milk was assassinated later that year.

According to Baker's website, the colors of the LGBT flag each have a meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for harmony and violet for spirit.

Baker died at the age of 65 on March 31, 2017, though his rainbow flag remains an iconic, powerful symbol for LGBT pride.



## CHRIS HEMSWORTH: AVENGERS 4 IS 'EVEN MORE SHOCKING' THAN INFINITY WAR

**AVENGERS:** Infinity War proved to be the deadliest Marvel film to date by wiping out half the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and if this was too much to handle, you might want to get ready for Avengers 4, as Chris Hemsworth assures it will be even more shocking than its predecessor.

The third Avengers film brought together most of the current roster of the MCU in order to stop Thanos from collecting the Infinity Stones, mounting them on the Infinity Gauntlet, and creating ultimate chaos. In the end, Thanos gathered the stones and with the snap of his fingers, brought an end to half the population in the universe. This ending has sparked multiple theories around possible plot details of Avengers 4, and while the official plot is still a mystery, Thor himself assures fans they are in for an exciting ride.

In an interview with Esquire, Chris Hemsworth spoke about the next Avengers film without giving any-

thing away - after all, Marvel is all about secrecy. But what he did share is that the followup to Infinity War will be "more shocking" for different reasons. Hemsworth explained:

"If you were shocked by [Infinity War], I think the second one is even more shocking, for other reasons entirely. That's what kind of blew me away the first time I read both scripts, is how they managed to orchestrate so many different characters but give them each their own separate shot and moments, and have it be elevated and feel fresh and unique - not just like a messy, thrown-together assembly of these guys."

Hemsworth added that he is excited for people to see what they've been working on, and that with each step they've been taking with these films there's been "growth and evolution and it continues to surprise people as opposed to sort of flat lining."

Although we saw various heroes disappear in front of

our eyes at the end of Infinity War, they will all be returning for Avengers 4 and will be joined by Captain Marvel, Hawkeye, Wasp, Ant-Man, Happy Hogan, and others. As mentioned above, plot details are still being kept under wraps, but a first synopsis for Avengers 4 teases that "sacrifices must be made" in order to preserve reality itself. What these sacrifices might be remains to be seen, though it has been heavily rumored Avengers 4 will involve time travel and alternate realities.

Whatever the methods to bring the vanished heroes back might be, Avengers 4 is set to be an emotional (and shocking, per Hemsworth's words) journey just because it will be the culmination of a decade of Marvel films and the (potential) goodbye to some of the original Avengers, such as Chris Evans' Captain America, Robert Downey Jr's Iron Man, and Chris Hemsworth's Thor, as their Marvel contracts end with this film.



**BEHIND YOU!** Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom co-stars Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard get photo bombed by a T-Rex at The Grove in L.A.

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## FACEBOOK TO REMOVE 'TRENDING TOPICS' SECTION NEXT WEEK

Facebook will remove the Trending news box that's sat to the right of the desktop News Feed for the last four years, the company said recently. The removal comes after years of criticism around how Facebook picked stories to sit in the Trending box, not to mention more than a year of struggles with the reliability of any news being distributed through its platform.

The Trending box will be removed next week. Facebook says it was active in five countries and accounted for "less than 1.5 percent of clicks to news publishers on average." The company is currently testing other ways to deliver news, including breaking news labels and a section that collects local stories.

Backlash against the Trending box started in 2016 after Gizmodo published a report saying that former Facebook editors — who were able to curate headlines, to a degree — claimed they "routinely suppressed" conservative stories. That al-

legations seem tame in light of everything that happened next (the entire platform was co-opted for frequently conservative propaganda), but it led to Facebook firing its editorial team and was in many ways a precursor to some of the rethinking it's been doing on news distribution.

On top of all that, the Trending box was just bad. It's been a long-running joke that Facebook runs a day behind Twitter when it comes to news and jokes, and the Trending section rarely helped matters. The system does seem to have gotten faster at picking up stories over time, but it's still hard to imagine it being the place someone learns about a major story.

Facebook says the removal of Trending will "make way" for future news products. It's not clear if that means it's planning something else for the side of the News Feed, or if it just means that it's taking a different approach to distributing news in the first place.

## VEERE DI WEDDING WITNESSES AN UPWARD TREND ON DAY 02



There's no stopping for Veere Di Wedding as it "witnessed an upward trend" on the second day of its release and it's Sunday business is also likely to be in "double digits," reports Bollywood trade analyst Taran Adarsh.

The film's Saturday business was Rs. 12.25 crore and it has so far managed to collect Rs. 22.95 crore. Mr Adarsh tweeted: "Weekend should comfortably close at Rs. 35 crore, as per trends."

Veere Di Wedding had a grand opening at the box office as it collected Rs. 10.70 crore on the first day of its release. The film starring Sonam Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania, also made its

way to the top five openers of 2018 and currently ranks third on the list, headed by "Baaghi 02".

Veere Di Wedding is performing well even in the international arena and has also made it to the Top 10 charts of Australia, UK and New Zealand and it is "not a small achievement," tweeted Taran Adarsh. He also mentioned in a tweet how the film has "shattered the myth that cuss words and adult themed Indian movies do not work overseas."

Directed by Shashanka Ghosh, Veere Di Wedding clashed with Vikramaditya Motwane's Bhavesh Joshi Superhero, featuring Harshvardhan Kapoor.

**ARIES:** Travel could be on your mind. You're probably excited about a forthcoming vacation. You might need to finalize some arrangements today but find it difficult to reach people you need to speak to. This is frustrating, Aries, but it shouldn't lessen your enthusiasm. Keep trying. You'll eventually reach the appropriate person and finish whatever you're trying to accomplish. Hang in there.

**TAURUS:** Today you might need to execute some paperwork regarding money, Taurus. Bills might need to be paid, deposits made, or checks collected. Minor incidents could interrupt you, causing some frustration. Communication of all kinds, including those with people close to you, might go awry during the day. It

doesn't change the positive turn your life is taking. Keep at it.

**GEMINI:** Today you might be feeling particularly warm and loving toward a romantic partner, and the feeling is likely reciprocated. You could have trouble reaching each other to make arrangements to meet, Gemini. Phone messages may not be received, or perhaps the person has something important to do. Eventually the two of you will speak, even if you aren't able to do what you want before tomorrow.

**CANCER:** Ideas for creative, artistic, or service-oriented work might be coming thick and fast, although you could be torn between different possibilities, Cancer. All your ideas seem workable, yet you feel you should

settle on one for the moment. It might be a good idea to ask the advice of others. Even if you don't do exactly what they suggest, the advice might show you new options. Hang in there.

**LEO:** Your enthusiasm for group activities and social events is high, Leo. You might want to discuss your ideas with others. However, you could have trouble reaching people you need to speak with. This can be frustrating, but your enthusiasm isn't likely to flag because of it. Keep trying. Eventually you'll accomplish your goal. Whatever you plan today is likely to be gratifying even if the process is difficult.

**VIRGO:** You might be expecting some visitors to your home, Virgo, and looking forward to it.

However, your plans could be frustrated in some way through miscommunication, undelivered messages, delays due to traffic, or other obstacles. Don't let this dim your enthusiasm. Whatever you're trying to do will eventually come to fruition in spite of temporary frustrations. Don't give up. Enjoy your evening.

**LIBRA:** Today you might feel a powerful need to write down your thoughts, Libra, but they could prove a bit too amorphous for you to put into words. You might also have difficulty making contact with friends or loved ones. You may keep missing each other. Getting around in neighborhood traffic could prove frustrating. In spite of small irritations, this should be an enjoyable

day. Hang in there.

**SCORPIO:** A small financial windfall might have you in a bit of a quandary about how to spend it. Scorpio. You could have a bill you particularly want to pay, but you might also want to treat yourself to a minor luxury of some kind. The best option now might be to indulge yourself a little. You've been working hard, and unless you're behind on your bills, you deserve a little treat. Go for it.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Communication with those closest to you might prove difficult today, Sagittarius. You might end up playing endless phone tag. This can be a bit distressing, because you're feeling especially warm and loving toward them right now. You might even worry that perhaps they're angry

and don't want to talk to you. This isn't the case. Keep trying. You'll eventually reach them and receive the response you want.

**CAPRICORN:** Today you might work on an artistic project of some kind. You'll put in a lot of effort, Capricorn, yet the results may not turn out to be exactly what you wanted. This could result in many revisions. Eventually, you're going to have to stop. It's possible to revise and correct too much. Whatever you're working on, try to remain objective and not get too caught up in unrealistic expectations.

**AQUARIUS:** Although you should be feeling especially close to friends, lovers, and family, Aquarius, you might find it hard to communicate with them to-

day. Perhaps they have troubles they prefer to keep private and you're confused, wondering if they're upset with you. Chances are they aren't. However, they probably need to work things out for themselves. Be patient. Try to understand. They may share their problems with you tomorrow.

**PISCES:** A desire to do some redecorating, perhaps in anticipation of hosting a social event, might prove frustrating today. You probably have some definite ideas, Pisces, but can't find the materials you need to produce the results you want. Whatever you're planning, it might be a good idea to phone around in advance and see what resources are available. It could save you some frustration.