



SummitTIMES

122 students participate in SAATHI camp

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 31 JUL:

Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] conducted their 4th offsite training camp for the year 2016-17 which saw the participation of 122 students from Government Senior Secondary Schools of Tashiding, Yuksam, Rateypani and Perbing from 27-29 Jul.

A press release received from the office of SAATHI informs that it conducts these residential camps at the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism [IHCAE] in Chemchey, South Sikkim, as an ongoing endeavor to curb drug abuse amongst school children. The students are accompanied by the Teacher Coordinators of the respective schools and also the SAATHI Project Team.

Over the two and a half days



in the camp, various motivational and technical sessions on drugs along with learning based fun and physical activities are conducted with the students.

The session on the medical aspects of drug abuse was undertaken by Dr Reshma Subba from Namchi District Hospital while the inspirational and life skills

sessions were facilitated by instructor from IHCAE, Shanti Rai, followed by an experience sharing session conducted by Uday C Rai from Serenity Home.

The newly launched SAATHI App was presented and demonstrated to the students by the SAATHI Project Team.

Military doctors from Tibetan Army of Ravangla, Major Ram, Major Divakar and Captain Shyam, attended the programme as guests. Captain Shyam also gave a presentation on the 'Basics of Drugs'.

Other activities during the camp included team building sessions, planning sessions, meditation, nature walk/physical training and talent hunt.

The camp saw a positive response from the students as most of them pledged to be peer educators and help the greater cause of fighting against drugs in the State.

The next off site training camp will be held from 11-13 Aug at Chemchey, the release adds.



Call Gorkhaland agitators for talks: NCP MP

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): The issue of ongoing unrest in Darjeeling today figured in the Rajya Sabha with a NCP member asking the government to call the agitators for talks to restore normalcy in the picturesque hill station and the affected region.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the House, Majeed Memon said the agitation for a separate Gorkhaland by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) has taken a violent turn and has been going on for almost eight weeks.

He said the people were suffering due to shortage of essential items like water and food.

Due to the prolonged agitation, it is for the first time in 150 years that Darjeeling tea has not come to the markets for auction.

Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM), which is spearheading an agitation in Darjeeling hills, is demanding a separate Gorkhaland state.

"It is felt that the agitation that is going on for whatever demand, may be justified or may not be justified ...

the ruling party in West Bengal probably is not in good terms with the Centre and it is because of the hostility between the two, the Centre and the state...the people are sandwiched, they are suffering," he said.

Memon urged the government to call the agitators for talks so that normalcy could be restored in the region.

"Well, you may or may not accept their demand...please invite the agitators and have a talk so that normalcy can be restored," the NCP member said.

Core sector growth slows to 19-month low of 0.4 pc in June

NEW DELHI, JUL 31

(PTI): Infrastructure sector growth fell to 19-month low of 0.4 per cent in June due to decline in output of coal, refinery products, fertiliser and cement, official data showed.

The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity -- was 7 per cent in June last year.

The production of coal declined by 6.7 per cent, refinery products by 0.2 per cent, fertiliser by 3.6 per cent and cement by 5.8 per cent, as per the data of the commerce and industry ministry.

Crude oil output rose to 0.6 per cent last month as against a decline of 4.3 per cent in June 2016.

According to the data, natural gas output rose by 6.4 per cent in June.

Steel production and power generation slowed to 5.8 per cent and 0.7 per cent in June

this year from 8.8 per cent and 9.8 per cent in the same month last year, respectively.

Slow growth in key sectors would also have implications on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) as these segments accounted for about 41 per cent to the total factory output.

In May, these eight sectors had recorded a growth rate of 4.1 per cent.

The previous low was recorded in November 2015, when the sectors' output had declined by 1.3 per cent.

During April-June period of the current fiscal, growth of the eight core segments slowed down to 2.4 per cent against 6.9 per cent in the same period last year.

Rating agency ICRA said: "Available indicators present a subdued picture for industrial growth for June 2017, with the sequential decline in growth of non-oil exports, core sector output and automobile production."



First batch of Sikkimese sailors complete service

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 31 JUL:

The first batch of Sailors from Sikkim in the Indian Navy returned home on 31 Jul after serving in the Indian Naval Service for 15 years. Twelve sailors from different parts of the state, have served the nation and retired from the Naval service.

During the last fifteen years, these men served onboard various warships, aircraft carriers and establishments. In addition, they also represented their country as a goodwill ambassador on numerous occasions in different countries. These energetic young personnel had shown high degree of professionalism and put in ex-

emplary service, which has paved the way for a better future for aspirants of the state and its neighbors.

Being the first batch to join the Indian Navy from Sikkim, they represented and bore the flag of the state and have set an example in terms of discipline, integrity, credibility, professionalism and devotion towards duty.

WB Govt to effect pay cuts for absentee GTA, Darj DM office employees

KOLKATA, JUL 31 (PTI): West Bengal government has decided to effect one month pay cut for its employees working with the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) and the District Magistrate's office in Darjeeling district who failed to attend their regular duties.

According to state secretariat sources, there will be pay cuts for the month of July for state government employees who had failed to attend their regular duties ow-

ing to the indefinite shutdown by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) in the Hills.

There are around 8,000 employees at the GTA, while another 200 are there with the Darjeeling DM's office.

"There will be pay cut for around 80 per cent of employees at the GTA. That means pay cut will be for around 6,500 employees there," a senior official at the state finance department said.

turn to pg03

Hoping against hope, a wish of many

SUDIPTA CHANDA

SILIGURI, 31 JUL:

Eighty kilometers! That is what separates chief minister Mamata Banerjee and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) chief, Bimal Gurung now that the CM is in Siliguri and Gurung expectedly in Darjeeling.

That is the physical distance. Mentally they are worlds apart. If only the mental distance could be erased and the physical distance brought down to two chairs across a table, Darjeeling could be "smiling" once again. Spin doctors could do it.

Some might construe the

thought as outlandish. But, with the Gorkhaland movement now entering an ominous stage, all efforts must be made to convert such wishful thoughts into tangible progress.

Nudging two months now, the separate state movement in the hills has witnessed hostilities of all hue. But, and despite all the destruction it entails, the movement has so far remained free from communal strife. Credit at least is due to the hill political parties and their rank and file on this count.

The movement, however, is now threatening to embroil the Terai and

Doors and that is portentous. The hills have a monolithic population structure where Nepali / Gorkhali is the lingua franca. Burning in every hill resident's heart, the Gorkhaland demand therefore commands absolute support in the hills.

The same, however, is not applicable in the Terai and Dooras which have a cosmopolitan population and so the demand co-exists with resistance. How forceful the resistance can be manifested during the GN-LF-led movement from 1985-1988 and then during the GJM-led movement from 2007-2011.

Blood spilled both times and

friends turned into foes. Several community-based outfits and pressure groups all resisting the separate state demand mushroomed in both areas. In hibernation for the past few years, those units are once again springing back to life riding the 'no division of Bengal' maxim as the Gorkhaland movement rolls down to the plains.

Add to that several opinion-based outfits formed over the social media pouring out on the streets in a moment's notice to swell the anti-Gorkhaland movement rallies, and the fear of the unknown is very real. One clash between the Gorkhaland

seekers and opposers any time anywhere and the situation could spin out of control.

The Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC) that was formed to provide a roadmap to the ongoing movement meets in Delhi on Tuesday against this backdrop. What clout the GMCC commands among its constituents is questionable, but it would be wise to instruct its supporters not to go hammer and tongs while demonstrating in the Terai and Dooras.

The fallout of a counter-movement could inflict incalculable loss to all sides.

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Governor visits Rangit Power Station

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 JUL:**

Governor, Shrinivasi Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil visited Rangit Power Station in Rangit Nagar, South Sikkim, on 27-28 Jul.

A press release informs that on arrival at Rangit Power Station on 27 Jul, the Governor was welcomed by head of the project, Sahadev Khatua by presenting khadas while Mrs Patil was welcomed by president of Ladies Welfare Association, Nibedita Khatua.

Indian Reserve Battalion personnel presented



guard of honour to the Governor and the student

from DAV School presented him with flowers.

Mr Khatua apprised him about power genera-

tion and CSR-SD works undertaken by Rangit Power Station while Ms Khatua informed them about various social works taken up by Ladies Welfare Association.

The Governor and the first lady appreciated the works of Rangit Power Station & LWA and encouraged them to continue such activities, the release adds.

On 28 Jul, before their departure, the Governor and the first lady planted saplings near VIP guest house area. NHPC Executives, Members of LWA and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



Commandant RK Tomar takes charge as ITBP chief

**SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 31 JUL:**

Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar has taken charge of the 11th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police force. Commandant Tomar has served in various states of the country and was in charge of the security of Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Due to his experience at various levels and the present day scenario along the Indo-China border, he has been assigned with the task of commanding the 11th Bn ITBP which has been guarding the Indian borders.

He interacted with the ITBP personnel and shared his experience with them.

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Bharat Basnet lobbies Gorkhaland issue with party high-command

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 JUL:**

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee president, Bharat Basnet is presently in New Delhi to apprise the All India National Congress on the present situation in Sikkim and Darjeeling and related incidents. He has been camped there since 28 July, a Congress press release informs.

In his meetings with Congress MPs in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and the party high command, he apprised them on the ongoing Gorkhaland movement and excessive use of force there by the WB Government, informs a Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee press release issued by Tara Shrestha.

The release adds that Mr Basnet also taking along representatives of the Gorkhaland movement to leaders and MPs with an appeal to bring a solution in a peaceful manner.

Decide on payment of salary in pvt engg colleges: SC to AICTE

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): The Supreme Court today directed the technical education regulator AICTE to decide the issue of regularising and ensuring timely payment of salaries to staffers in all private engineering colleges in the country.

A bench of Chief Justice JS Khehar and Justice D Y Chandrachud disposed of the petition that had raised the issue of non-payment of salaries to the staff in these colleges and asked the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to treat it as a representation.

"Having given our thoughtful consideration, we are of the view that at the present juncture, it will suffice if a direction is issued to the petitioner to submit a paper book of the writ petition to the secretary of the AICTE.

"The AICTE shall treat the same as a representation, and shall take a conscious decision in respect of issues canvassed and take such remedial action, as may

be called for, in consonance with the law," the bench said.

The petition, filed by one K M Karthik, had sought a direction to the government to regularise and ensure timely and complete payment of the staff salaries in all the private engineering colleges in the country through the electronic clearing service of the nationalised banks.

It had also sought that inspection be carried out in such colleges "to verify the recommended student-staff ratio, which shall be verified by the annual salary paid statements to the staff and not only by identification parades".

The petition had said that no college should withhold or collect any of the original educational or professional certificates of any staff member and that penalty be imposed on the authorities for doing so.

A welfare board or a commission for the welfare and grievance redressal of the staff in these colleges should be established, it had said.

2 zoos in UP faced difficulty in feeding beef to carnivorous animals: Govt

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Two zoological parks in Uttar Pradesh faced difficulty in supply of beef meant for feeding carnivorous animals following a ban imposed by the state government on illegal slaughter houses, the Rajya Sabha was informed today.

Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan in a written reply to the Upper House said apart from these two zoos situated in Lucknow and Kanpur, no other zoo in the country faced any difficulty in feeding the carnivorous inmates.

"As per information received from the Central Zoo Authority, only Nawab Wazid Ali Shah Zoological Garden, Lucknow and Kanpur Zoological Park, of Uttar Pradesh faced difficulty in the supply of beef for carnivorous animals due to ban on illegal slaughter houses," he said.

The minister was asked whether carnivorous animals in various zoos of the country were facing inconvenience in their food consumption due to the unavailability of beef.

"The carnivorous animals of above mentioned two zoos were served with goat meat (mutton) instead of buffalo meat," Vardhan said.



Preparedness meeting on I-Day celebration in South

NAMCHI, 31 JUL [IPR]: A preparedness meeting for the grand celebration of the upcoming 71st Independence Day was held at the chamber of District Collector-South today. The meeting was chaired by the DC, Raj Yadav, Superintendent of Police-South, Pratap Pradhan, alongside HODs from various departments.

Addressing the meeting, the DC spoke about the significance of Independence Day celebration. He also urged the attendees to work collectively and in coordination in order to make the

Independence Day celebration a successful one.

Additionally, the DC also allocated various roles and responsibilities to respective departments for the I-day celebration. He laid down the line of events scheduled for the I-day celebration and updated that the march past practices would commence from 06 Aug onwards.

The DC along with the attendees discussed in brief the distribution of various awards to be provided on behalf of District Administration South.

15,500 NSS volunteers to observe Swacchata Pakhwada from 01-15 Aug

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 JUL:**

The Sports and Youth Affairs Department will be appointing 15,500 National Service Scheme volunteers to observe Swacchata Pakhwada from 01-15 Aug wherein the volunteers will take oath on the inaugural day to maintain cleanliness wherever they go.

All together 157 Units of NSS from all over the state in various schools and colleges will be involving themselves in this mission without hampering their regular school/college activities informs a press release from the Secretary of Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

The programme will be inaugurated in all schools through the Principal and Programme Officers. The cleanliness of school premises, classes, toilets, auditorium, play-

ground, hostel and kitchen will be conducted on 02-03 Aug.

Similarly, the NSS volunteers will be visiting the nearby villages and public places for mass awareness and cleanliness and they will also be conducting door-to-door campaign on 04-06 Aug.

The five-day programme from 07-12 Aug will be devoted for intensive cleanliness in the adopted villages and public places by each unit in their respective localities. On 13-14 Aug volunteers will be visiting the nearby villages to take care of old people or small children whosoever requires special care and services.

On 15 Aug, they will participate in Independence Day celebration by organizing awareness campaigns through mass rallies all over the State.

Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration at Yangyang cancelled



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 JUL:**

The Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association conducted an emergency meeting with the Tendong Lho Rum Faat Celebration committee-Yangyang on 30 Jul at Lepcha Heritage Centre in Yangyang, South Sikkim with regard to calling off of the celebration of Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2017 owing to the untimely death of one Lepcha youth from the locality.

A press release issued by SLYA general secretary, Lobzang Chopel Lepcha, informs that the meeting unanimously passed the decision to call off the celebration which was to be

held at Lepcha Heritage Centre in Yangyang.

After observing two minutes silence for the departed soul, it was further made clear during the meeting that although the celebration has been called off, the ritual [puja] of Tendong Lho Rum Faat will be observed for universal peace and harmony.

Owing to the annulment of celebration at Yangyang, SLYA has decided to fully concentrate on the State Level Celebration of Tendong Lho Rum Faat at Daramdin [Taalom Purtam] in West Sikkim besides observing it at Mt Tendong on 08 Aug, the release adds.

The association has also

thanked well wishers who have contributed for the celebration of Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2017 and extended their warm welcome to the people of Sikkim at Taalom Purtam, Daramdin for the celebration.

On the sidelines of the said emergency meeting, the SLYA also had a meeting with the youth of Lingmoo, South Sikkim, for the formation of Kyong [village] branch of the association in their locality. These youths had earlier approached the association with a request to constitute a Kyong branch of the association at Lingmoo.

Later the individuals who were nominated to be the office

bearers of the newly constituted Kyong branch of SLYA at Lingmoo were offered khadas and certificates.

The office bearers include Sonam Lepcha as advisor, Phurden Lepcha as president, Pempa Tshering Lepcha as vice president along with Samten Lepcha as general secretary.

Senior members present including the president of SLYA, Ongden Tshering Lepcha, congratulated and extended their best wishes to the newly constituted body and also encouraged them to work selflessly for the upliftment of the Lepcha community in particular and Sikkimese society as a whole.

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Gangtok on Tuesday, 01 August

Temp: 26°C / 19°C
Forecast: Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a thundershower; not as warm.
Sunrise: 04:59 AM
Sunset: 06:25 PM

SKM inspects Tareythang-Pakyong road carpeting work, finds it inferior

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 31 JUL:

A team of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha members inspected the carpeting work undertaken along a 9 KM stretch from Tareythang, Amba-Mamring to Pakyong under Rhenock constituency and have returned unimpressed.

The team had SKM Scheduled Caste cell vice-president, Tilak Singh Ruchal, social media member Boom Tshering Yonzon and other party workers.

An SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Bikash Basnet, informs that the inspection revealed alleged carelessness in the road carpeting work.

The release informs that the carpeting was announced by the CM as a priority work and was scheduled to be completed within 6 months. Now, even a year since the announcement, the work remains incomplete.

The release alleges that the work was of inferior quality and has demanded that the government immediately complete the work as per the prescribed parameters.

Sikkim vehicles being forced into CRPF duty in Siliguri, SKM alleges

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 31 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that the West Bengal administration was forcibly acquiring Sikkim-registered vehicles for CRPF duty in Siliguri.

On the same, the party has demanded that the Sikkim government immediately take appropriate action against this to give justice to Sikkim drivers.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling, informs that the party has been receiving complaints that the WB police have been threatening Sikkim drivers with impounding and other measures to get them to provide their vehicles for CRPF duty.

The release contends that outside vehicles have never been used in such manner in Sikkim and has questioned who will responsibility in case of any mishap.

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I-Day Challenge Football Cup begins at Pakyong

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 31 JUL:

The 71st Independence Challenge Football Cup Tournament 2017, organized by Pakyong Football Association, kicked off today at St Xavier's School playground in Pakyong.

MLA-Rhenock, Hemendra Adhikari, attended the programme as chief guest along with MLA-Gnathang Machong constituency, Dorjee Tshering Lepcha, as guest of honour. Also present on the occasion were Principal of St Xavier's School,

Fr Francis Banerjee, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Pakyong, Yadav Kafley, and other dignitaries.

Twenty two teams from all four districts of the state including some teams from outside the State are participating in the senior boys' category

for the tournament. The winner will be awarded cash prize of Rs 1 lakh along with trophy with the runner-up receiving Rs 70,000 along with trophy.

In the junior boys' category, eight teams will be participating wherein the winner will

be awarded Rs 20,000 and trophy and the runner-up will be handed over Rs 10,000 cash prize and trophy.

The finals of the 71st Independence Challenge Football Cup Tournament 2017 is scheduled to be held on 15 Aug.



Veterans write to PM expressing concern over growing incidents of vigilantism

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): A group of Indian armed forces veterans have flagged their concern over "divisiveness" and "relentless vigilantism" gripping the country and condemned the targeting of Muslims and Dalits.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 114 veterans wrote that issues like vigilantism and "targeting of Muslims and Dalits" have "compelled" them to pen the letter, which has also been marked for the chief ministers and Lt. Governors.

They observed that the recent happenings "strike" at all that the armed forces, and the Constitution, stand for. The veterans also lent their support to the 'Not In My Name' campaign in the letter.

"We are witness to unprecedented attacks on society at large by the relentless vigilantism of self-appointed protectors of Hinduism. We

condemn the targeting of Muslims and Dalits.

"We condemn the clampdowns on free speech by attacks on media outlets, civil society groups, universities, journalists and scholars, through a campaign of branding them anti-national and unleashing violence against them while the state looks away," said the letter, dated July 30.

The retired personnel stressed that, collectively, their group holds no affiliation with any single political party, and their only common commitment was towards the Constitution of India.

"We can no longer look away. We would be doing a disservice to our country if we do not stand up and speak for the liberal and secular values that our constitution espouses.

Our diversity is our greatest strength. Dissect is not treason; in fact, it is the essence of democracy," they added.

WB Govt to effect pay cuts for absentee GTA, Darj DM office employees

contd from pg01

Around 180 employees with the Darjeeling DM's office will face pay cuts for the month of July, he added.

On June 21, the Mamata Banerjee government had issued a notification that employees, who will remain absent from duties, will be sent show cause notices, to which they should reply explaining the reasons of their absence.

The show cause notices will ask the employees who remained absent from work during the agitation, to explain as to why no action will be taken against them for their unauthorised absence.

Those who do not re-

spond to the show cause notice will be liable to disciplinary actions, the notification had said.

The absence of employees will be treated as 'dies non' constituting a break in service of the employees and no salary will be admissible unless such absence was covered under permissible grounds, the notification had stated.

The GJM has called an indefinite bandh from June 12 demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland and the Mamata Banerjee government had issued a notification stating that government offices in Darjeeling and Kalimpong will remain open and all employees should report for duty each day.

India submits Mallya's extradition paperwork to his legal team

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, JUL 31 (PTI): The Indian government has submitted the requisite "opening note" and paperwork related to Vijay Mallya's extradition case to the liquor baron's legal team within the UK court deadline today.

Chief Magistrate Emma Louise Arbuthnot, presiding at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London at the last hearing in the case on July 6, had set July 31 as the deadline for the Indian side represented by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to provide Mallya's defence team with a detailed opening note on the case.

The 61-year-old tycoon is sought by Indian authorities for allegedly defaulting on several bank loans amounting to nearly Rs 9,000 crores.

"All matters are on track," official sources confirmed to PTI today.

Mallya, who has been in self-imposed exile in the UK since March 2016, was arrested by Scotland Yard on an extradition warrant on April 18 and is currently out on bail.

The CPS, arguing on behalf of the Indian government earlier this month, had told the court that they had "excellent cooperation" with the Indian authorities in the case and now had sufficient material to establish a prima facie case for the extradition of the former chief of erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines.

"We have completed a review of materials and I am happy to state that we have had excellent cooperation with the Indian authorities in this case. We are ready and willing to proceed and would invite the court to fix a hearing date at the earliest, CPS barrister Mark Summers had said.

The judge agreed with the CPS to

"progress with some rigour" and retained December 4 as the date for a final hearing in the case.

If the Chief Magistrate rules in favour of extradition at the end of the trial, the UK home secretary must order Mallya's extradition within two months of the appropriate day.

However, the case can go through a series of appeals before arriving at a conclusion.

India and the UK have an Extradition Treaty, signed in 1992, and Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi had recently indicated it was working fine.

We are on the verge of extraditing an individual from India to the UK in the next week or 10 days. The extradition treaty is working just fine and there is no difficulty in the extradition treaty. We have extraditions already successfully completed," Mehrishi had said during his UK visit earlier this month.

So far only one extradition has taken place from the UK to India under the India-UK extradition treaty that of Samirbhai Vinubhai Patel.

"He was extradited with the due process of law. We do understand that extradition does take time and there are multiple levels of appeal in either country and it is not the easiest of processes to complete. But being a liberal democracy that we are, we have to allow for the law taking its own course," Mehrishi added.

Mallya's extradition is also believed to have featured during bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Theresa May on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Germany earlier this month.

Sudha's name quietly removed from list of Indian participants



NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Indian 3000m steeplechaser Sudha Singh's name has been quietly removed from the list of Indian participants at the World Championships, starting Friday in London.

Sudha's name was there in the entry list issued by International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) on Saturday. She was among the three athletes who did not figure in the original 24-member squad selected by the AFI despite winning gold in the recent Asian Championships in Bhubaneswar.

Her name is no longer in the list updated by the IAAF today after the AFI wrote to the world body that Sudha was not a part of the Indian squad.

Winners of the Asian Championships qualify

for the world event but the IAAF rules clearly stated that the national federation can choose not to send the gold medallist of the continental event.

Yesterday, deputy national coach Radhakrishnan Nair had told PTI from London that Sudha will not take part in the prestigious championships, without explaining how her name was included at the first place.

"No, she is not taking part in the World Championships," Nair had said when asked whether Sudha will run in the women's 3000m steeplechase event in the World Championships.

Now, all the 25 athletes (24 originally announced plus Dutee Chand who was added later as a quota entry) have already reached London.

Families affected by closing of Narmada dam gates do not cook in protest

BHOPAL, JUL 31 (PTI): Around 40,000 families in Madhya Pradesh, whose houses were facing submergence due to the closing of the gates of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, did not light their 'chulhas' (stoves) as a mark of protest today, the fifth day of the indefinite fast announced by Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar in this regard, said an activist.

Most of these families have not left the catchment areas of the dam in Barwani, Alirajpur, Dhar and Khargone districts. The state government had given them time till today to evacuate.

Even though the water level of the Narmada river was on the rise, the families were not willing to leave, said Narmada Bachao Andolan activist Himshi Singh, speaking from Barwani.

Some 40,000 families did not cook and observed a fast today to protest the closing of the dam gates without proper rehabilitation measures for the affected people, she added.

Patkar is on an indefinite fast, demanding a proper rehabilitation of the affected people, at Chidhalda village along the river in Barwani district.

Singh alleged that the government shelter homes for the affected people lacked even basic amenities.

She added that they had moved the Supreme Court over the issue of their rehabilitation, seeking an urgent hearing, and the petition would be heard next week.

Neighbouring Gujarat got the Centre's nod to close the gates of the Sardar Sarovar Dam last month.

Northeast Career Guide

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ON TOP OF THE SIXKIM

Theatre in These Times of Development Seeking an audience for the performing arts

The National School of Drama has had a Sikkim campus for some years now. The State now has a handsome repertoire of graduates who boast of some refined skills in all aspects of stage craft. In fact, they now even have a collective which has staged some excellent productions. The theatre artists, those in training and the graduates occasionally put up new plays, entry for which is free. And still, the Mannan Kendra is thinly visited even when the productions are excellent. One would have thought that people whose only exposure to the arts for a very long time were government-sponsored drab cultural shows would have lapped up the entertainment and joie de vivre that a professionally staged play guarantees. That, most unfortunately, did not happen. It is easy to dismiss theatre as a waste of time in these days of instant gratification and 24-hour entertainment channels on TV and dolby digital bollywood experiences in town. But that would be too simplistic.

Theatre has to be seen as an art form, an expression of local talent to local issues for the local audience, something that the regular mediums of mass entertainment or information cannot deliver. So, why is that theatre remains near nascent in Sikkim? The problem is not in the lack of topics or even practitioners, it is the absence of the third aspect cited above that keeps theatre down in Sikkim – the audience... there does not seem to be enough of them. Going by the experience of the several festivals and standalone shows held of late in Gangtok, the attendance, save on the inaugural and closing functions, was slim and disinterested. Here, one needs to also accept that theatre does not have a history as a cultural activity in Sikkim due to which the audience does not feel a connection to it. This can easily be overcome by staging good theatre and winning over new converts. But that has already been attempted with very limited success. But this again is the chicken and egg situation – what should come first? It will have to be for the handful of theatre enthusiasts to figure out how Sikkim can be introduced to theatre. This is necessary as much for the creativity it sparks as for the sense of community that a unanimous celebration of the arts and craft can instill. And this is something that theatre, because of its immediacy, has always been synonymous with.

Sikkim has been looked down upon for far too long for its preference of consumerist mores over artistic subtleties, theatre should provide an entertaining way out of this stereotype.

More than 600 pre-worlds blood tests

LONDON, JULY 31 (AFP): More than 600 blood samples will be collected prior to the IAAF World Championships, which get under way on Friday, to tackle doping.

Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) and UK Athletics said those samples would be used for Athlete Biological Passport profiling and to detect prohibited substances, such as human growth hormone.

A further 600 urine tests for detection purposes will also be conducted in competition "in order to detect a wide range of substances including EPO and steroids".

"The Athletics Integrity Unit is pleased to announce a very comprehensive intelligence-based anti-doping programme for the IAAF World Championships," said AIU chairman David Howman.

"What is key to this programme is the significant work that has been done by the Unit and its partners in

the 10 months leading up to the championships to ensure that athletes competing in London have been part of a robust testing programme."

That 10-month out-of-competition testing strategy, which included more than 2,000 blood tests and approximately 3,000 urine tests, targeted athletes likely to compete in London in the August 4-13 championships.

The AIU, an independent body that manages all doping and non-doping integrity-related matters for the sport of athletics, added that it would continue the strategy first initiated by the IAAF at the World Championships in Helsinki in 2005, in which "all samples collected at the event will be transferred to, and stored in, a dedicated and secure facility for the purpose of re-testing at a later date after the initial analyses".

That re-testing policy has to date seen 27 positive cases since 2005.

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

Africa's cities face unique risks. What can be done to manage them?

SARAH COLENBRANDER
theconversation.com

Cities in sub-Saharan Africa are growing fast. Nigeria alone is projected to add 212 million urban dwellers by 2050, equivalent to the current population of Germany, France and the UK.

But focusing on population growth leads many to overlook the other unusual features of African cities. Urban economies across the region are markedly different from those of other cities around the world: they are more expensive to live in, more informal and less industrial.

In a recently published paper, we explore how these distinctive traits are increasing vulnerability.

Environmental risks range from everyday hazards such as water-borne diseases (cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery) to larger, less frequent disasters (tropical storms, flooding, fires). Their impact is much greater where people and governments can't afford to invest in basic infrastructure.

In our research we demonstrate that African cities are too often developing in ways that perpetuate poverty and marginalisation. The amount of money that people have to spend on basic necessities, the precarious nature of their employment and their exclusion from the formal economy mean that they have limited resources to cope with environmental risk.

There are ways around these problems, but they need governments to work much more collaboratively with people living in informal settlements and working in the informal economy.

AFRICAN CITIES ARE EXPENSIVE

For many, African cities are inextricably linked with poverty. It therefore seems counter-intuitive that the cost of living is higher in urban Africa than in other cities in the global South.

One estimate suggests that food and drink cost 35% more in real terms in sub-Saharan African cities than in other countries, while housing is 55% more expensive.

This means that urban dwellers have to spend more of their income to enjoy the same quality of life. The average urban household in sub-Saharan Africa spends 39% to 59% of its budget on food alone.

Of course, there is considerable variation across the continent. Cities in The Gambia, Mauritania, Madagascar and Tanzania remain relatively affordable. Those in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and Mozambique are the most expensive.

The high price of basic goods and services means that people living in African cities have little money to spend on reducing risk, such as upgrad-



ing their homes, preventative health care or buying insurance.

AFRICAN CITIES ARE NOT INDUSTRIALISING Urbanisation has historically been closely linked to industrialisation. From Detroit to Manchester to Shenzhen, the rise of a vibrant manufacturing sector fuelled rapid population and economic growth in cities.

In sub-Saharan Africa, urbanisation is taking place without industrialisation.

One explanation for this unusual trend is that higher living costs mean that the labour force requires higher wages than competing cities in Asia. This makes it difficult for African cities to attract international capital.

In other cases, the export of commodities such as oil and diamonds have generated high income for a small share of people in countries such as Angola, Nigeria and Libya. The wealthy beneficiaries then create urban employment through demand for non-tradeable services such as retail, transport and construction.

Whatever the driver, urbanisation without industrialisation means that jobs and livelihoods too often remain low-skilled and poorly paid. Without the opportunity to develop skills and organise collectively, workers exert little influence over working conditions.

Instead, urban residents continue to depend on precarious livelihoods in the agricultural and services sectors. This means that they are susceptible to environmental shocks, such as extreme weather that can make it impossible for street vendors, waste pickers and other informal workers to ply their trade.

By comparison, manufacturing jobs have a number of spin offs. They offer income security and skill development. Local employers in the public and private sector benefit from new knowledge and skills, while workers can accumulate capital. This offers a

path out of poverty. Few African cities are enjoying these positive spillovers.

The lack of industrialisation also means that there's little political incentive for governments to invest in risk reducing infrastructure like sewers, drains and all weather roads.

AFRICAN CITIES HAVE A LARGE INFORMAL ECONOMY

In many cities in sub-Saharan Africa, the informal economy is larger and more dynamic than the formal economy. The informal economy responds to demand when commercial banks are not willing to offer loans or when there isn't enough housing. When formal jobs in industry or services are scarce, the informal economy absorbs much of the labour force. In Cotonou (Benin), Lomé (Togo) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), for example, the informal sector accounts for over 80% of non-agricultural employment.

Yet, in many African cities, government policies discriminate against these workers. For example, street vendors and waste collectors are often banned from using public spaces. They may even suffer harassment from government officials.

Yet they play a central role in increasing the resilience of the city.

Waste pickers recycle large amount of material, reducing pollution and maintain city cleanliness. This helps prevent diseases, particularly those spread by bacteria, insects and vermin that might otherwise feed or breed on garbage.

Street vendors play a critical role in providing and producing food, particularly to poor people living in urban areas.

The informal economy is not perfect. Informality creates risks for consumers and workers. A lack of state oversight makes it difficult to enforce regulation, such as water treatment standards or minimum wages. Waste pickers in particular face severe health risks due to their work. Informal housing is often in hazard prone parts of the city.

But there can be little doubt that informal service provision or informal livelihoods are better than none at all.

Successful strategies to reduce risk therefore need to be developed in collaboration with informal workers in sectors such as food, water, housing and solid waste management. Similarly, partnerships with communities living in informal settlements can ensure that the voices of vulnerable urban residents are heard, and their needs are addressed.

Only through a more flexible and inclusive approach will African cities be able to manage the risks associated with their unique economic development path.

[the writer is Researcher, IIED, University of Leeds]

Credit Card Fraud: What you need to know

BRUNO BUONAGUIDI
theconversation.com

If you are the owner of a credit or a debit card, there is a non-negligible chance that you may be subject to fraud, like millions of other people around the world.

Starting in the 1980s, there has been an impressive increase in the use of credit, debit and pre-paid cards internationally. According to an October 2016 Nilson Report, in 2015 more than US\$31 trillion were generated worldwide by these payment systems, up 7.3% from 2014.

In 2015, seven in eight purchases in Europe were made electronically.

Thanks to new online money-transfer systems, such as PayPal, and the spread of e-commerce around the world – including, increasingly, in the developing world – which was slow to adopt online payments – these trends are expected to continue.

Thanks to leading companies such as Flipkart, Snapdeal and Amazon India (which together had 80% of the Indian e-commerce market share in 2015) as well as Alibaba and Jingdong (which had upwards of 70% of the Chinese market in 2016), electronic payments are reaching massive new consumer populations.

This is a goldmine for cybercriminals. According to the Nilson Report, worldwide losses from card fraud rose to US\$21 billion in 2015, up from about US\$8 billion in 2010. By 2020, that number is expected to reach US\$31 billion.

Such costs include, among other expenses, the refunds that banks and credit card companies make to defrauded clients (many banks in the West cap consumers' liability at US\$50 as long as the crime is reported within 30 days for credit cards and within two days for debit cards. This incentiv-

ises banks to make significant investments in anti-fraud technologies.

Cybercrime costs vendors in other ways too. They are charged with providing customers with a high standard of security. If they are negligent in this duty, credit card companies may charge them the cost of reimbursing a fraud.

THE TYPES OF FRAUDS

There are many kinds of credit card fraud, and they change so frequently as new technologies enable novel cybercrimes that it's nearly impossible to list them all.

But there are two main categories: - card-not-present (CNP) frauds: This, the most common kind of fraud, occurs when the cardholder's information is stolen and used illegally without the physical presence of the card. This kind of fraud usually occurs online, and may be the result of so-called "phishing" emails sent by fraudsters impersonating credible institutions to steal personal or financial information via a contaminated link.

- card-present-frauds: This is less common today, but it's still worth watching out for. It often takes the form of "skimming" – when a dishonest seller swipes a consumer's credit card into a device that stores the information. Once that data is used to make a purchase, the consumer's account is charged.

THE MECHANISM OF A CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION

Credit card fraud is facilitated, in part, because credit card transactions are a simple, two-step process: authorisation and settlement.

At the beginning, those involved in the transaction (customer, card issuer, merchant and merchant's bank) send and receive information to authorise or reject a given purchase. If the purchase is authorised, it is settled by an exchange of money, which

usually takes place several days after the authorisation.

Once a purchase had been authorised, there is no going back. That means that all fraud detection measures must be done during the first step of a transaction.

Here's how it works (in a dramatically simplified fashion).

Once companies such as Visa or Mastercard have licensed their brands to a card issuer – a lender like, say, Barclays Bank – and to the merchant's bank, they fix the terms of the transaction agreement.

Then, the card issuer physically delivers the credit card to the consumer. To make a purchase with it, the cardholder gives his card to the vendor (or, online, manually enters the card information), who forwards data on the consumer and the desired purchase to the merchant's bank.

The bank, in turn, routes the required information to the card issuer for analysis and approval – or rejection. The card issuer's final decision is sent back to both the merchant's bank and the vendor.

Rejection may be issued only in two situations: if the balance on the cardholder's account is insufficient or if, based on the data provided by the merchant's bank, there is suspicion of fraud.

Incorrect suspicions of fraud is inconvenient for the consumer, whose purchase has been denied and whose card may summarily be blocked by the card issuer, and poses a reputational damage to the vendor.

HOW TO COUNTER FRAUDS?

Based on my research, which examines how advanced statistical and probabilistic techniques could better detect fraud, sequential analysis – coupled with new technology – holds the key.

Thanks to the continuous mon-

itoring of cardholder expenditure and information – including the time, amount and geographical coordinates of each purchase – it should be possible to develop a computer model that would calculate the probability that a purchase is fraudulent. If the probability passes a certain threshold, the card issuer would be issued an alarm.

The company could then decide to either block the card directly or undertake further investigation, such as calling the consumer.

The strength of this model, which applies a well-known mathematical theory called optimal stopping theory to fraud detection, is that it aims at either maximising an expected payoff or minimising an expected cost. In other words, all the computations would be aimed at limiting the frequency of false alarms.

My research is still underway. But, in the meantime, to reduce significantly the risk of falling victim to credit card fraud, here are some golden rules.

First, never click on links in emails that ask you to provide personal information, even if the sender appears to be your bank.

Second, before you buy something online from an unknown seller, google the vendor's name to see whether consumer feedback has been mainly positive.

And, finally, when you make online payments, check that the webpage address starts with <https://>, a communication protocol for secure data transfer, and confirm that the webpage does not contain grammatical errors or strange words. That suggests it may be a fake designed solely to steal your financial data.

[the writer is Researcher, Inter-Disciplinary Institute of Data Science, Università della Svizzera italiana]

Lt Gen Abhay Krishna new chief of Eastern Command

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Lt. Gen. Abhay Krishna has been appointed as head of the Army's crucial Eastern Command which guards a major part of Sino-India border including the Sikkim sector where armies of India and China have been locked in a face-off.

Lt. Gen. Krishna, who was heading the Army's South Western Command and has vast experience of the Sikkim sector, succeeds Lt. Gen. Praveen Bakshi, who retired today.

"Lt Gen Abhay Krishna brings with him a great measure of professional competence and vast operational experience," the Army said in a statement.

He has served four tenures along the Line of Actual Control on the northern borders and commanded an infantry battalion in Sikkim. He had also commanded an infantry division and a Corps in the Northeast.

Krishna will assume charge of the Eastern command tomorrow.

He is a gallantry award winner in counter insurgency operations in Manipur and commanded Rashtriya Rifles Battalion in the Kashmir Valley.

He had also served two tenures as UN observer in Mozambique and Rwanda and another in Burundi.

In December, Lt. Gen. Bakshi was the front runner for the post of the army chief. However, keeping aside the trend of seniority being the lone criteria, the government appointed Lt Gen Bipin Rawat.

Rawat was a batch junior to Lt Gen Bakshi.

The military standoff between armies of India and China began on June 16 when Chinese troops attempted to lay a road in the Doklam area in the Bhutan-India-China tri-junction. India and China share a 220-km-long border in Sikkim section.

GJM gives 10-day limit to Centre to intervene

DARJEELING (WB), JULY 31 (PTI): The Gorkha Janamukti Morcha has given a ten-day deadline to the Centre to intervene in the Gorkhaland statehood stir as the indefinite shutdown in the hills entered its 47th day today.

"We have given a

ten-day deadline to the Union government to intervene. An indefinite shutdown is going on for the last 47 days. The Centre can't just sit idle when the hills are burning," GJM assistant general secretary Binay Tamang told reporters last night.

The 30-member Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), a body of all the hill parties of Darjeeling, is in Delhi for an all-party meeting.

The GMC has sought an appointment with Union Home minister Rajnath Singh to brief him

on the ongoing crisis in the hills.

"We have sought a meeting with Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in order to brief him on the ongoing crisis in the hills. The indefinite shutdown has entered its 47th day, which is the longest-ever shutdown in

the history of Darjeeling. The Centre needs to take concrete action," Bhartiya Gorkha Parisangh president Sukhman Moktan told PTI.

The police and security forces patrolled the streets of the hills and kept a tight vigil at all entry and exit routes.

No dearth of talent in Bihar: Super 30 founder

Moscow, JUL 31 (PTI): There was no dearth of talent in Bihar but students in the state needed proper encouragement and guidance to come out of the shackles of poverty, according to the Super 30 founder and mathematician Anand Kumar.

He was speaking in the Russian capital Moscow today at a function organised by the 'Overseas Bihar Association' (OBA), a non-commercial socio-cultural organisation of Indians in Russia, in association with the support of Embassy of India, Moscow, a statement from Super 30 said.

Kumar was felicitated for his contribution to the education of the poor students and usher-

ing in a silent revolution through his Super 30.

"In Bihar, there is abundance of talent. The students are hard working. All they need is proper encouragement and guidance to come out of the shackles of poverty. Many students today have succeeded to bring about generational change," he added.

Anand runs Super 30 programme for talented students from the underprivileged sections of the society and provides them free of cost mentoring at his home, where the students from different backgrounds live and eat under one roof. So far, over 400 students mostly from underprivileged sections of the society have made it to the IIT.

Lynchings: Oppn, govt trade charges in LS

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Charges and counter charges flew in the Lok Sabha today over the issue of lynchings, with the Congress saying 'Hindustan' should not be allowed to become 'lynchistan' and the government accusing the Opposition of enacting a "drama" in the name of secularism to defame Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The government asserted that mob-lynching or anything related to it was "unacceptable" and noted that the prime minister has himself condemned this several times while terming the acts as the "worst form of crime".

As the House discussed the issue of lynchings, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said it is the responsibility of the state governments to deal with such crimes and the Centre, on its part, has issued clear advisory in this regard.

"How is it possible for the Centre (to intervene in a state subject)? Does the opposition want the prime minister to break the federal structure and want the Centre to take over," Rijiju asked while replying to the debate.

The Congress, Left parties and AIMIM expressed unhappiness over the minister's reply and staged a walkout.

During the discussion on "incidents of atrocities and mob-lynching" in the country, members of all parties condemned the killings in the name of cow.

However, Opposition parties like the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Left and AIMIM accused the BJP-led government of encouraging groups be-

hind the violence by cow vigilantes.

Initiating the debate, Leader of the Congress Mallikarjun Kharge said 'Hindustan' should not be allowed to become "lynchistan".

He alleged that this government was against minorities, Dalits and women, claiming that these sections had borne the maximum brunt of mob violence.

The Prime Minister says he is against such violence but what action has he taken, Kharge asked and added, "He (PM) says something and does something else."

He asked the government to give details of the action taken against the accused in these cases, claiming that they had become brazen because of lack of action.

Kharge, while citing the incidents of this year, said the lynchings had mostly happened in the BJP-ruled states and that there was an atmosphere of fear and terror across the country, which has brought a bad name to India in the world.

In his reply, Rijiju told the Opposition: "You have to stop vitiating the atmosphere of the country. If the prime minister has appealed, that should be respected. Everybody in India and outside is praising the prime minister. You get unmasked when you raise these issues. I am warning you. The more you malign us, we become stronger."

He added, "The image of the country does not get maligned by surgical strike (conducted by the Army), but by those who seek proof of it. The atmosphere does not get vitiated by respecting the Army, but it does by

calling the Army Chief by names."

Kharge accused organisations like the VHP and Bajrang Dal of being involved in such violence.

"It is also being done so that your ideology and philosophy could be established in the country," the Congress leader said, pointing to the BJP's "links" with these outfits.

BJP-ruled Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh had become centres of mob lynching, he said, adding that such incidents would become a major threat to the nation's integrity.

Rijiju countered, "They (Opposition parties) are trying to find a political link in this (lynchings) to malign the image of the prime minister. They have made a joke in the name of secularism and are doing a drama."

He said the figures of incidents of communal violence will "unmask" the Opposition.

Accusing the opposition of "selective amnesia", the minister said an environment is created in the country that there is intolerance and no freedom of expression.

Recalling Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's visit to JNU after its student leader Kanhaiya Kumar was arrested over alleged 'pro-Azadi' slogans, Rijiju said a majority of the students in the varsity are "desh bhakts" (patriots) but some vitiate it.

He said the atmosphere in the country is not vitiated by saying 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', but it does when someone talks of breaking the country into pieces.

Referring to the murder of a BJP worker in Kerala, Kharge said the

Governor there summoned the DGP on the issue, but nothing of that sort was done in other states where lynching incidents took place.

In his reply, the MoS for Home Affairs said Kerala had reported the highest number of incidents of communal violence in 2014 when it was governed by the Congress.

Uttar Pradesh topped the list in 2015, followed by Telangana and Karnataka, he said. In 2016, Uttar Pradesh against reported highest number of cases of communal violence, followed by West Bengal and Kerala, Rijiju added.

In terms of attacks on scheduled castes in 2016, he said UP topped the list, followed by Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Referring to attacks on churches in Delhi ahead of the assembly polls in 2015, Rijiju said he had sought a report from the police commissioner on the incidents related to attacks on places of worship.

The data showed that over 300 incidents of attack related to temples, around 30 to gurudwaras, 40-50 to mosques and 4-5 to churches, the minister said, adding this was contrary to the impression created by the Opposition parties which "tarnished" the image of the country.

While attacking the Congress, Rijiju said, "I want to tell Congress that during the regime of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi an order was passed that no Christian missionary or Father can enter Arunachal Pradesh .if they entered, they

would be arrested...they did not even allow Mother Teresa."

Rijiju hails from Arunachal Pradesh.

He went on to add, "Until three years ago, there was this issue of corruption, but after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, the issue of corruption is no more there...So you people (Opposition) are discussing mob lynching."

BJP members earlier objected to Kharge citing incidents, saying many of the cases he was referring to were sub-judice.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar also objected to his reference to former President Pranab Mukherjee's speech, saying it was against rules.

Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena) said God had created man and "we have divided man into Hindu and Muslim. I pray that we work together for security and harmony" of the nation.

Jayadev Galla (TDP) said that mob violence represents the breakdown of law and order.

Whichever might be the time period, the mob violence has been increasing, he added.

He said if Sougata Roy (Trinamool Congress) says that 52 per cent of the mob lynching cases was from BJP-ruled states, then 48 per cent of the incidents have been from the non-BJP ruled states.

"All political parties are looking after themselves and see how they are dividing society," Galla said.

He further said that cow issue is not only social issue but it is also economic and environmental issue.

Women's rights bodies urge CJI to review directions on 498A

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Several women's rights groups have written to the Chief Justice of India seeking a review of the Supreme Court's July 27 ruling that no arrests be made under Section 498A without verifying allegations.

Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provides punishment for subjecting a married woman to cruelty to meet any unlawful demand for any property or valuable security.

The letter is signed by 16 women's rights organisations and states that the SC order "completely overlooks" the fact that women are subjected to daily harassment for dowry and domestic violence.

"We are deeply concerned and dismayed that the entire judgement proceeds on premise that women are liars and file false cases under Section 498A IPC not only against their husbands, but also

against his family members. This judgement is part of a backward trend that we have noticed in earlier judgements also," the letter states.

The SC had recently voiced concern over "abuse" of the anti-dowry law and had directed no arrest should "normally be effected" without verifying allegations as violation of human rights of innocents cannot be brushed aside.

The women's groups have said, "Our experience of dealing with cases through the years has also shown that domestic violence is perhaps the most pervasive kind of violence against women and deeply affects their health and wellbeing."

Citing the National Crime Records Bureau data for 2015, the letter stated that 1,13,403 cases of violence under Section 498A IPC were filed, of which charge sheets were submitted in 89.4% of cases.

Mizoram keeping close watch on swine flu & JE in Manipur

AIZAWL, JUL 31 (PTI): Mizoram government is keeping a close watch on the prevalence of swine flu (H1N1) and Japanese encephalitis (JE) in neighbouring Manipur, a senior state Health department official today said.

State Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (ISD) Nodal officer Dr Pachau Lalmsawma said that vigilance along the Mizoram-Manipur areas, especially entry points are being carefully watched and prohibitory order would soon be issued to prevent entry of animals regarded as carriers of the diseases.

Lalmsawma told PTI that while swine flu outbreak had affected Mizoram earlier, no JE cases have been detected in the state till date.

Rapid Response Force would soon be activated in the border areas to maintain strict vigil in the border areas, he added.



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'To make UP ODF by 2018, 44k toilets need to be built daily'

LUCKNOW, JUL 31 (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh government will have to construct 44,000 toilets per day to make the state open defecation free (ODF) by October 2 next year, Chief Secretary Rajiv Kumar today said.

He also directed district magistrates to speed up the work, saying they should spare at least half an hour per day for monitoring it.

"To make the state ODF by October 2 next year, 1.55 crore toilets are to be constructed. To achieve the target, 44,000 toilets are to be made everyday," Kumar said while reviewing works done under the Swachh Bharat Mission through video conferencing.

He said that on 10th of every month, a meeting of divisional commissioners will be held with him in which work progress will be reviewed.

"Prior to this meeting, divisional commissioners should meet with respective DMs under them on 5th of every month to review the progress," he said.

The chief secretary on the occasion congratulated officers for making Shamli district and all villages on banks of river Ganga defecation free.

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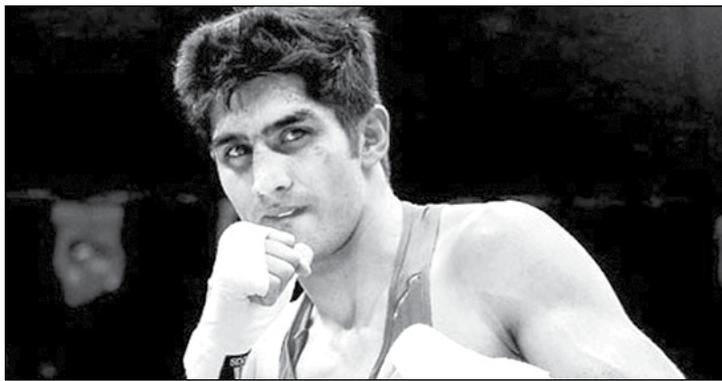
Vijender eyeing another knock-out punch

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): An impressive seven knock-outs out of eight bouts under his belt, star Indian boxer Vijender Singh today said he is aiming for another "early finish" when he faces WBO Oriental super middleweight champion Zulpikar Maimaitali of China in Mumbai on Saturday.

Saturday's "Battleground Asia" fight night will give both the boxers a chance to claim double titles in a winner-takes-all show.

While Vijender is the current WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight champion, Zulpikar is the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight champion and whoever wins Saturday's fight will claim the twin titles.

"Just pray for me. I will try



my 100 per cent for another knock-out. I will try to finish the bout as early as possible," a confident Vijender told reporters on the sidelines of an event where he was named the brand ambassador of Plat-

inum Heavy Duty Cement.

"But you never know with the Chinese. Chinese products are not known to last long," the Beijing Olympics bronze-medallist said in jest.

Nine years younger to Vi-

jender, the Chinese no.1 boxer has age on his side and he made his intentions clear when he said that he was training 10 hours a day to up-set the Indian.

Asked about the age factor,

Vijender said it will be experience which will matter in the professional circuit.

"I don't think age matters because it's all about experience. I still feel like 20 although I have crossed 30," Vijender said.

"I don't know much about Zulpikar. I searched his profile in wikipedia but didn't get any significant results. I saw his fight on TV just once but now I have asked my trainer to take that responsibility and train me accordingly."

Talking about the coveted World Championship title, Vijender said he is in no mood to hurry things and would like to achieve one goal at a time.

"It will take time. We are going slowly. My coach always tells me one thing that choose the right fight at the right

time. I am happy with the way I am doing right now," he said.

"After here, my next fight will definitely be out of the country in either Dubai, UK or US."

In May earlier this year, Vijender had terminated his contract with the UK-based Queensberry Promotions, complaining that the company failed to deliver on its obligations in the last one year.

But the Indian boxer said he has got back with Queensberry as a freelancer and he is ready to join hands with anyone who will bring fights for him.

"Queensberry is still there but we are ready to work with everyone be it in UK, US or Europe. If you bring fights we are ready to work with anyone," Vijender said.

L-Mangan MLA Challenge Cup kicks off



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 31 JUL: The 'L-Mangan MLA Challenge Cup' football tournament, sponsored by Minister Forest-cum-area MLA, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, in coordination with North District Football Association [NDFA] which is the organizing

committee, kicked off today at Mangan public ground.

Sixteen teams from Sikkim and outside will be participating in the event.

The first match was played between North Sikkim Football Association [NSFA] and Mangan United where the former team won the match by 3-2 in a

penalty shoot-out.

This year the winning team will be awarded with cash prize of Rs 1.2 lakh and runner up with Rs 60,000 along with trophies. The finals of the tournament will be held on 15 Aug.

The inaugural match today was attended by Chairperson-Transport,

Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Additional District Collector-Development [Rural Management & Development Department], Tashi Chopel, Additional Director-Horticulture [North], TT Lepcha, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Headquarter], PW Lepcha, Additional

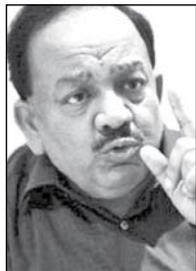
Director-Sports, Janim Lepcha, president-NDFA, Jigme Namgyal Bhutia, along with a National level woman referee who had represented the country at Tajikistan and Vietnam, Reshmi Chettri, and panel referees-Sikkim Football Association, Susmita Rai and Nima Diki Bhutia.

Around 750 projects awaiting environmental clearance: govt

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Around 750 projects in various states are awaiting environmental clearance, with a maximum of 194 from Maharashtra, Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan said today.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, he said that a total of 741 proposals are awaiting environmental clearance of which 194 are from Maharashtra.

He further said that 95 proposals from Gujarat and 86 from Uttar Pradesh were awaiting



environmental clearance.

The Environment ministry has taken various steps to speed up the process of disposing the applications for environmental clearance.

"They include dedicated online portal for effective monitoring, standardisation of terms of reference for preparation of EIA reports and the Environment Management Plan, exemption from public consultations to certain projects, streamlining the procedure among others," Vardhan said.

Replying to another question on forest based projects approved by the central government during the last three years, he said the proposals for forest clearances

under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of forest lands, for non-forestry use are considered in the Ministry and is accorded in two stages.

He said that they are stage I or in principle approval, which mandates conditions to be complied with for the issue of the subsequent stage II or final approval, which is the prior approval of the central government.

The state or UT then issues an order for di-

version of forest land on receipt of this prior approval of the central government, he said.

"A total of 2,196 proposals have been accorded stage I or in principle approval by the central government during the period 2014-2017," he said.

He added, "At present a total of 357 cases are pending for prior approval of the central government under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 including in Rajasthan."



Delhi Dynamos sign Uruguayan midfielder Matias Mirabaje

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Delhi Dynamos today announced the signing of Uruguayan midfielder Matias Mirabaje for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League.

The 28-year old attacking midfielder becomes the second foreign recruit for the club alongside Paulinho Dias.

He has previously excelled in teams such as Nacional de Uruguay, San Lorenzo, Atletico Paranaense, among others and will now be hoping to make his mark in India.

The midfielder was part of the San Lorenzo side that won the Copa Libertadores in 2014 and finished runners-up in the FIFA Club World Cup the very same year.

Matias also featured in the FIFA U-20 World Cup for Uruguay, helping the side reach the Round of 16.

Upon completing his transfer, Matias said: "I'm very happy with the new club and I can't wait to

wear the jersey of Delhi Dynamos. It will be a great challenge for me in a league that is growing every day and is bringing in great players."

Matias's versatility can see him occupy the position behind the striker or on the wings and his lethal left foot makes him a potent threat from set pieces. Known for his blistering pace, he could prove to be a handful for the opposition defense.

Matias made his debut shortly after his 18th birthday and became a mainstay in Racing Montevideo's side, scoring nine times in 43 appearances.

"I'm happy to have Matias join Delhi Dynamos this season."

He is going to be an attacking threat in our midfield with his ferocious left foot. He brings a lot of experience and I'm sure he's going to make an impact in our midfield," Delhi Dynamos director Rohan Sharma said.

Teen jumps to death; police probe 'Blue Whale' challenge angle

MUMBAI, JUL 31 (PTI): A 14-year-old boy has allegedly ended his life by jumping off a building here and police were probing if the incident is linked to 'Blue Whale' suicide challenge as his friends were discussing the online game.

The Class 9 student jumped off the fifth floor of the building in Sher-e-Punjab area of suburban Andheri at around 5 pm on Saturday, the police said today.

A person, who was standing near the building at the time of the incident, alerted the police.

The police were yet to find the reason behind the extreme step and trying to ascertain if it was anyway related to the online game.

"The teenager's friends were chatting on social media groups about his death being linked to the Blue Whale online suicide challenge game. But, we are yet to examine his mobile phone and social media groups where he was active," a senior police official said.

'Blue Whale', the online game which originated in Russia, starts by asking participants via social media to draw a blue whale on a piece of paper, the police said.

The participants are then asked to carve the whale onto their body. The participants and given other tasks, like watching horror movies alone, they explained.

According to media reports, the tasks also include harming oneself and waking up at unusual hours.

"Police were probing if the death is related to Blue Whale suicide challenge," Milind Khetle, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Meghadi Division), told PTI. Police are making enquiries with his friends and some members of social media groups in this connection, he said.

"We could not meet his family members as they have gone to Nashik to perform post-death rituals," he said.

REGD. NO. IV/VOL. 12/SL NO. 336

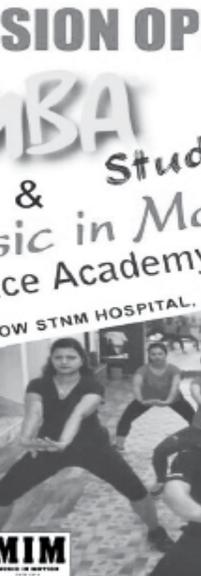
ADMISSION OPEN

ZUMBA

Studio & Music in Motion Dance Academy

BELOW STNM HOSPITAL, GANATOK, EAST SIKKIM





Contact 9933546862

Zumba Class
Time : Morning 6:30 am
3:15 pm Evening / 4:30 pm Evening
5:30 pm Evening and also for the
Housewife timing 9:00am

Contact 8906319715

Dance Class for
Adults & Children
Timing 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Every Saturday & Sunday

MIM

musicinmotion77@gmail.com
musicinmotiondanceacademy

US bombers fly over South Korea after North's 2nd ICBM test

SEOUL, JUL 31 (AP): The US flew two supersonic bombers over the Korean Peninsula in a show of force against North Korea following the country's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test.

The US also said it conducted a successful test of a missile defense system located in Alaska.

The B-1 bombers were escorted by South Korean fighter jets as they performed a low-pass over an air base near the South Korean capital of Seoul before returning to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the US Pacific Air Forces said in a statement.

It said the mission was a response to North Korea's two ICBM tests this month. Analysts say flight data from the North's second test, conducted Friday night, showed that a broader part of the mainland United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

Vice President Mike Pence said Sunday during a visit to Estonia that the US and its allies plan to increase pressure on North Korea to end its nuclear program.

"The continued provocations by the rogue regime in North Korea are unacceptable and the United States of America is going to continue to marshal the support of nations across the region and across the world to further isolate North Korea economically and diplomatically," Pence said.

China tells Trump not to link trade to N. Korea

BEIJING, JUL 31 (AFP): China said today the US should not link trade to discussions about North Korea's nuclear programme, after President Donald Trump accused Beijing of taking no action on Pyongyang despite profiting from business with America.

"We believe that the North Korea nuclear issue and China-US trade are two completely different domains," Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming told a press briefing, adding the issues "are not related, and should not be discussed together".

"In general, China-US trade, including mutual



investment, is mutually beneficial, and both China and the United States

have gained great profits from bilateral trade and investment cooperation," he said.

The comments came in response to a question

about tweets from Trump Saturday warning that he would no longer allow China to "do nothing" on North Korea, after the hermit state launched its second intercontinental ballistic missile test.

Trump, who is at loggerheads with Beijing over how to handle Kim's regime, has repeatedly urged China to rein in its recalcitrant neighbour, but Beijing insists dialogue is the only practical way forward.

In his critique, Trump linked trade woes with the Asian giant to policy on North Korea, after South Korea indicated it was speeding up the deployment of a US missile defence system (THAAD)

that has infuriated China. "I am very disappointed in China. Our foolish past leaders have allowed them to make hundreds of billions of dollars a year in trade, yet they do NOTHING for us with North Korea, just talk," Trump wrote.

"We will no longer allow this to continue. China could easily solve this problem!"

The president's tweets coincided with a 10-hour bilateral mission that saw US B-1B bombers along with fighter jets from the South Korean and Japanese air forces practise intercept and formation drills.

It was followed Sunday by the successful test

of a THAAD missile defence system in Alaska.

China, Pyongyang's main economic and diplomatic ally, opposes any military intervention and calls for a resolution through dialogue.

It has also long argued that the THAAD deployment in South Korea will destabilise the region.

On trade, the United States has blamed the unbalanced relationship -- marked by a trade deficit with China of 309 billion last year -- on Beijing's policies that impede access to their market.

China says Washington's own rules restricting US high-tech exports are partially to blame.

Gold sees sharp Rs 350 jump on demand build-up

NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (PTI): Gold made a powerful statement today with a sharp gain of Rs 350 to Rs 29,650 per 10 grams, riding on brisk buying by local jewellers, even as the metal lost traction overseas.

The precious metal made the most of increased buying by local jewellers to meet ongoing festive season demand, but a weak trend overseas came as a spoiler.

Silver strengthened by Rs 250 to Rs 39,500 per kg on increased offtake.

Globally, gold fell 0.24 per cent to USD 1,266 an ounce and silver by 0.30

per cent to USD 16.68 in Singapore today.

At the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 350 each to Rs 29,650 and Rs 29,500 per 10 grams, respectively.

Sovereign too traded higher by Rs 100 to Rs 24,500 per piece of eight grams.

Tracking gold, silver ready advanced by Rs 250 to Rs 39,500 per kg while weekly-based delivery shed Rs 10 to Rs 38,450 per kg.

Silver coins spurred by Rs 1,000 to Rs 72,000 for buying and Rs 73,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

IS claims attack on Iraq embassy in Kabul

KABUL, JUL 31 (AFP): The Islamic State group claimed it had attacked the Iraqi embassy in Kabul today, as a series of explosions and the sound of gunfire shook the Afghan capital in a continuing assault.

A security source told AFP that a suicide bomber had blown himself up outside the Iraqi embassy. "Civilians are being evacuated" from the area as the attack is ongoing, said the official, who declined to be named.

There was no immediate information about casualties.

Two members of "the Islamic State attack the Iraqi embassy building in the Afghan city of Kabul," said the jihadist group's propaganda agency Amaq without providing further details.

At least four explosions, along with the sounds of gunfire and grenades, were heard near the city's diplomatic quarter shortly after 11:00 am (local time).

Security forces rapidly descended on the area and the sirens of ambulances rushing to the scene could also be heard.



A column of smoke rose from the blast site.

Police confirmed at least one blast but said they did not immediately have further information.

The Iraqi embassy is located in northwestern Kabul, in a neighbourhood that is home to several hotels and banks as well as large supermarkets and several police compounds.

"I heard a big blast followed by several explosions and small gunfire," said Ahmad Ali, a nearby shopkeeper.

"People were worried and closed their shops to run for safety. The roads are still blocked by security forces."

The attack is the latest to rock Kabul, and comes as the resurgent Taliban intensify their offensive across the country.

A week ago, a car bomb struck the city during morning rush hour, killing at least 26 people in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

But the Islamic State group, recently ousted from the Iraqi

city of Mosul, have been expanding their footprint in eastern Afghanistan and claimed responsibility for several devastating attacks in Kabul.

A recent UN report showed that nearly 20 per cent of all civilian deaths in Afghanistan in the first half of 2017 took place in Kabul.

Many of those deaths occurred in a single attack in late May when a truck bomb exploded during the morning rush hour, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds.

No group has officially claimed responsibility for that attack, the deadliest in the capital since the US invasion in 2001.

NATO forces ended their combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014. Since then Afghan troops and police, beset by soaring casualties, have struggled to beat back the insurgents.

The US is considering whether to send thousands more troops to help the beleaguered Afghan forces as the war-weary country is gripped by increasing insecurity.



Govt to make efforts to pass Transgender Bill soon: Athawale

HYDERABAD, JUL 31 (PTI): The Centre would make efforts to soon pass the Transgender Bill, which seeks to empower the community by providing them a separate identity, Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said today.

Expressing regret over the "discrimination and injustice" meted out to the transgender community, Athawale said men and women have their rights,

and the transgenders should get their rights.

"A bill has also come in 2016. That bill has been sent to the standing committee. Very soon, the Government of India, the government of Narendra Modi, will pass that bill to give you your rights," the minister for social justice and empowerment said.

He was speaking at a national workshop on "Developing Modules for Sensitising Transgender People and Stakeholders", organised at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD and PR) here.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016, which seeks to define transgenders and prohibit discrimination against them, was introduced in the Lok Sabha last year.

It was referred to the parliamenta-

ry standing committee on social justice and empowerment for examination and report.

Athawale said the members of the transgender community are subjected to injustice and discrimination, sometimes even by their family members, and they have to beg to make their both ends meet.

Stressing on the importance of education for the welfare of transgenders, he favoured giving reservation in jobs to this community.

W R Reddy, the director general of NIRD and PR, said the workshop has been organised to understand and take "baby steps" towards the welfare of transgenders.

Leaders of the transgender community, who spoke on the occasion, narrated the "discrimination and agony" they had to face in their lives.

BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER, EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK

AFFIDAVIT ANNEXURE - E

By this deed I, the undersigned **Kesang Namdol Bhutia** previously called Kesang Namdol doing as a self-employed and permanent resident of near Corporate shop, Upper Chandmari, P.O. Raj Bhavan and P.S. Gangtok, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

- That for and on behalf of myself and my parents and remitter issue. I wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of **Kesang Namdol** and in place thereof, I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname **Kesang Namdol Bhutia** so that I and my parents and remitter issue may hereafter be called, known and distinguish not by my former name/surname, but assume name/surname of **Kesang Namdol Bhutia**.
- That for the purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name of **Kesang Namdol Bhutia** as my name/surname in place and in substitution of my former name/surname.
- That I express authorize and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address me, my parents and remitter issue by such assumed name/surname of **Kesang Namdol Bhutia** accordingly.
- In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my former and adopted name/surname of **Kesang Namdol Bhutia** and affix my signature and seal, if any this 15th day of June 2017.

Sd/-
KESANG NAMDOL BHUTIA
DEPONENT.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR GENTLE EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:118 DrawDate on:30/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 871 27710
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 27710 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
05928 07124 22817 30272 39711
52546 55481 59001 74147 89712
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
06627 15698 19715 23313 25656
30606 49487 70986 71701 86866
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1440 2679 3063 3950 6112 6229 6477 8380 8757 9116
5th Prize Rs.600/-
1707 2040 2482 3335 4188 5388 7980 8744 9928
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0022 0115 0150 0379 0388 0411 0487 0723 0792 0954
1031 1063 1155 1263 1306 1341 1344 1382 1477 1546
1663 2056 2071 2268 2292 2837 2902 2903 3029 3206
3261 3377 3532 3749 3797 3887 3941 3967 4063 4082
4091 4116 4208 4213 4350 4369 4575 4661 4837 4853
4856 5071 5077 5391 5427 5589 5691 5872 5873 5899
5957 6109 6308 6330 6463 6487 6509 6568 6575 6694
6695 6824 7030 7143 7171 7244 7510 7539 7671 7809
7923 8289 8354 8374 8375 8504 8607 8686 8704 8772
8817 8915 9026 9295 9567 9573 9597 9616 9955 9981
Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LOVING

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:31/07/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 81K 59852
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 59852 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
02747 04478 07617 08756 21547
28076 69684 81513 85573 97707
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
11579 16948 26498 43231 54033
6163 6609 6841 6857 6978 7056 7214 7397 7428 7441
7477 7491 7531 7552 7560 7614 7628 7690 7975 8060
8075 8080 8118 8122 8592 8617 8934 9104 9168 9236
9278 9293 9474 9595 9604 9748 9764 9876 9898 9981
Issued by:
The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FLAMINGO MORNING

Draw No:50 DrawDate on:30/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 89K 31123
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 31123 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
08377 11653 15417 33446 52516
61526 70918 88796 90183 90386
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
08707 12993 17473 20381 27567
36296 51237 63262 83410 86189
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1701 1729 1825 3061 4295 4804 8395 8661 8907 9226
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0329 1060 1226 3761 4879 5997 6076 6137 7042 7419
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0143 0492 0497 0622 0710 0886 0896 0992 1141 1265
1320 1401 1404 1567 1578 1680 1725 1861 1956 1967
2026 2035 2049 2121 2184 2726 2789 2808 2928 2934
3012 3050 3052 3170 3495 3574 3631 3641 3748 4007
4053 4231 4331 4577 4742 4950 5025 5097 5119 5331
5368 5510 5624 5655 5668 5694 6047 6095 6277 6398
6432 6830 6874 6876 6899 7055 7312 7681 7684 7689
7846 7975 8054 8131 8281 8305 8359 8371 8410 8525
8546 8623 8660 8689 8699 8734 8782 8806 8966 9047
9092 9127 9272 9298 9338 9536 9580 9581 9593 9823
Issued by:
The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,
For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

'AVATAR' SEQUELS PROGRESS TO NEXT LEVEL



THE PASSCHENDAELE COMMEMORATIONS! The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge watch as the poppies fall from the roof of the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium for the official commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele in Ypres, Belgium.

Visual effects studio Weta Digital has begun work on the four sequels to James Cameron's "Avatar," one of the highest-grossing films ever.

The Wellington, New Zealand-based shop was most recently in the limelight for its motion-capture work on "War for the Planet of the Apes."

"What Joe Letteri and Weta Digital bring to these stories is impossible to quantify," said Cameron, referring to Weta Digital's senior visual effects supervisor. "Since we made 'Avatar,' Weta continued to prove themselves as doing the best CG animation, the most human, the most alive, the most photo-realistic effects in the world."

He added, "And of course, that now means I can push them to take it even further."

"The depth of talent at Weta is impressive and the culture of excellence is one that matches how we do things at Lightstorm," said Jon Landau, producer on all the avatar movies. Lightstorm Entertainment is the production company behind "Avatar" and other Cameron-directed features, including "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" and "Titanic."

Landau hinted at breakthroughs to come. "We also know that these next films promise to be even more ambitious than the first film," he noted.

"Avatar is the ideal type of film for us," said Letteri. "Jim's vision for the world of Pandora was always so much bigger than what we created for the first film. Helping him expand the language of cinema through new narratives set in such an expansive universe is the type of opportunity that rarely comes along twice. Projects like this allow everyone involved to push themselves to do their best work."

"The excitement at Weta around 'Avatar' is obvious and the fact is that we have already been working on it for a number of years," said Weta Digital executive producer David Conley. "During that period we have grown the company to a size and model that allows us to expand beyond any one project. This enables us to find a mix of other films that can help us grow along with 'Avatar,' as is the case with 'Alita: Battle Angel,' 'Avengers: Infinity War' and 'Mortal Engines,' to name a few of the other films we are currently working on."



published on Sunday.

"Why should it be a man?" McCarthy proposed. "It could be a man, it could be a woman, it could be transgender, it could be nonconformist."

The announcement comes as part of a push by MTV for more inclusive awards, including the decision to get rid of gendered acting categories at its Movie & TV Awards. Emma Watson beat out Taraji P. Henson, Daniel Kaluuya, Hugh Jackman, James McAvoy, and Hailee Steinfeld to become the award's first winner.

what's TRENDING

McCarthy also announced a new series called

"We Are They." The docu-series will recount gender nonconforming youths' coming-of-age stories. He also revealed plans to bring back "Total Request Live" or "TRL."

"Who's not going to support a platform that's covering all of the buckets of social media and cable to allow your artist to go on, play a video, perform a song and to talk about their new music that just got released?" he asked. "How do you say no to that? We're going to give it a shot, a big shot."

Carson Daly originally hosted the series from 1998-2005, and was replaced by a rotating lineup of hosts until the show's cancellation in 2008. The new iteration will also have a revolving series of up-and-coming hosts, including rapper-comedian DC Young Fly and radio host Erik Zachary.

Katy Perry will host the 2017 VMAs on Aug. 27.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

1ST AUG WORLD HISTORY
1968: The Beatles finish recording their first record "Hey Jude" for Apple Records part of Apple Corps Ltd which they had created earlier in the year, it is released on 26th August with the B side "Revolution".

1936: Possibly one of the most controversial Olympic games of modern times opens in Berlin, Germany with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler. The Games of the XI Olympiad were used by Germany as a tool for propaganda, to promote their ideology, and its promotion of the superiority of the "Aryan Race" by only allowing Germans of "Aryan race" to compete for Germany.

1966: Ex Marine Charles Whitman with a stockpile of guns and ammunition on the observatory platform at a 300 foot tower at the University of Texas proceeds to shoot 46 people, killing 14 people and wounding 31. He had killed both his wife and mother

the night before.
1997: The National Cancer Institute released information that nuclear testing during the 1950s could be a cause of thyroid cancer and as many as 10,000 to 75,000 people, exposed to the 1950s fallout as children, could develop thyroid cancer.

INDIAN HISTORY
1672: English laws were introduced and Courts of Judicature were set up as directed by the Company.

1899: Kamala Nehru was born.
1920: Bal Gangadhar Tilak died.

1953: All airlines in India were nationalized by an act of parliament known as the Air Corporation Act.
1957: National Book Trust was set up.

1975: Durga Banerjee was the first professional lady pilot in the world to command a commercial passenger flight.

Manish Malhotra's 'Sensual Affair' at ICW finale

India Couture Week celebrated its tenth anniversary in style by putting up a spectacular grand finale with Manish Malhotra as the designer and young stars Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh as his muses.

Manish MalhotraThe designer, who has been a part of the FDCI India Couture Week for the past seven years, tried to break out from the "quintessential bridal" space with his new collection titled "Sensual Affair".

"I wanted to put up a show which was a bit different. I didn't want to do a quintessential bridal collection. Clothes are all about the cocktail, sangeet and reception, but not about the wedding day," Manish told reporters here post the show.

The designer said for him Alia and Ranveer signify the "young and different" and hence the actors were the obvious choice to be the showstoppers.

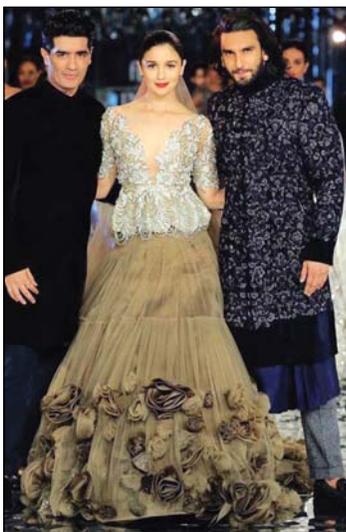
Manish said he wanted to collaborate with Ranveer for the past three years and is happy that finally he could get the "Bajirao Mastani" star to walk for him.

"For me, when you think of young and different you can only think about Alia and Ranveer. They are eclectic, fabulous and talented and are just getting better day by day. I have been telling Ranveer to walk for me for the past three years.

"He is always enthusiastic and lovely. He said, 'There will be a day when I will walk for you and it will be fabulous.' And yes, it is fabulous."

Talking about Alia, the designer said, "Alia is ours. Karan (Johar) and I... We both are like 'she is ours'. Every step she takes we all feel like proud elder brothers. She is evolving and it is just fantastic."

Recreating a bygone era, the collection fo-



ocused on luxuriant volume and noble fabrics that added a sensuous feel to the garments.

From the colour palette and the meticulous detailing to the softness of the drapes, each element was mindfully constructed to weave together subtle nuances of legacy with the intricacy of couture. Fine antique threads and vintage motifs were used to accentuate the subtle elegance of each outfit.

Donning one of the most stunning pieces from the collection, Alia looked nothing less than a princess on the ramp. The beige and silver dress, with a long train, made the actress the star of the night.

'MOONMAN' STATUE TO 'MOON PERSON' AT VMA '17

MTV has decided to change the name of its Video Music Award trophy — the Moonman statue — to Moon Person. Network president Chris McCarthy shared the news during an interview with The New York Times

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER

"IF YOU'RE STUPID ENOUGH TO PAY \$199 FOR IT, THEN YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT SMART ENOUGH TO WIN AGAINST IT."

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT

THE MISTAKE WAS TO LET THEM CURATE THE ART.

BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HE SPILLED PAINT IN THE GARAGE.

ZOE! **WHAT? I WAS JUST THINKING OUT LOUD!**

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Walk to the beat of your own drum, Aries. If you try to latch on to the smooth-talking, fast-paced information of the day, your voice could get lost in the crowd. But if you plant your feet firmly and try to plan, you might deprive yourself of spontaneous events that prove the most fulfilling. Chart your own course and don't be afraid if no one else follows along.
TAURUS: Connect with the fellow sitting next to you or perhaps the woman behind you in line at the store. He or she could share a piece of wisdom that changes your life forever. Be aware that you also could be that person who changes someone else's life with a single

thought or slice of wisdom that you've picked up in your travels. Communication is the key to expanding your world in many ways.
GEMINI: Your self-esteem may be challenged today by a fast talker or unpleasant situation, Gemini. Don't accept things at first glance. There's a much deeper meaning brewing below the surface, and you'd be foolish not to recognize that. Stick to your guns and stay grounded. Newfangled devices and big promises may not be all they're advertised to be.
CANCER: Jump on board the fast train and see how far it takes you, Cancer. You'll be surprised at how far you can go with minimal effort. Your grace and polite social manner-

isms will help you navigate quickly to where you need to be. You have the wind at your back today. Make the most of this energy by aiming for the top and not resting until you get there.
LEO: Flexibility is an important part of today, Leo. Take a relaxed, laid-back approach. Trying to ram your ideas through isn't the best tactic. Having tunnel vision will restrict you in many ways. Keep an open mind and be receptive to others' ideas and opinions. You have a lot of power readily available. It would be a shame to waste it by lacking the breadth of vision to see all your options.
VIRGO: Things coming at you

from all sides are forcing you to make a move, Virgo. Don't be pressured into something you don't want to do. A nervous restlessness may urge you to act. Don't let other people boss you around. Secure your position and be strong. Try not to be tempted into situations that you know are going to be bad for you.
LIBRA: Lock into the practical, grounding force of the day that is not only realistic but also flexible. Attend to details and organize yourself, Libra. Be aware that you may need to alter your course a bit in order to fit the group dynamic. Try to work with those around you to achieve a common goal. Initiating the help of others is easier than you

think as long as you stay focused and motivated.
SCORPIO: Today is one of those days in which prosperity is much closer than you think, Scorpio. You may know what you seek, but it's up to you to take the first step toward going after it. You're probably looking for solid answers to your deep, probing questions. Don't let your inquisitive mind rest until you find answers that ring true for you.
SAGITTARIUS: Indecision may leave you helpless at a crossroads today, Sagittarius. Others may be just as undecided regarding which way to go. At the same time, you may feel pressured to take immediate action, and you're tired of wait-

ing for others to make the first move. Find the answers in simple solutions. There's more than one correct way. Your choice is always the right one if you believe it to be so.
CAPRICORN: Latch on to the expansiveness that comes when you connect with others in a social arena, Capricorn. Communication is a key aspect of the day. If you go with the flow you will land exactly where you need to be. Take the adventurous route and skip around from one thing to another. There's no need to pin yourself down to one route or way of doing things.
AQUARIUS: Connect with the stable, grounding energy of the day, Aquarius, but beware that tension

may come in the form of fast talk and misinformation. People could be fickle and frantic. Wait for the dust to settle before you pick a road to travel. Impulsive decisions may lead you down paths that aren't the best choice for you now. Relax and try not to think about it too much!
PISCES: Any expansive feeling you experience may be rained on today. You could get the feeling that you've lost touch with reality. Make sure you connect with real life, Pisces, and do a bit of planning to balance your whimsical side. Things that you haven't accounted for might crop up to serve as a reminder that you need to deal with real life.