SummitTIMES

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Govt notifies prohibition on sale of non-organic produce

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 MAR:

In a notification issued by the Home Department on 10 March, the state government has put into effect a ban on sale of 27 non-organic agricultural and horticultural commodities in the State.

As per the notification signed by Additional Chief Secretary, SC Gupta,

Linguistic data of Census 2011 finalised: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI): The linguistic data of Census 2011 has been finalised and will be released after approval of the competent authority, Union minister Hansraj

Gangaram Ahir said today. He was replying to question in the Lok Sabha on whether the government has taken any steps to make the linguistic data available to the public soon.

"The linguistic data of Census 2011 has been finalised and will be released after the approval of the competent authority," he said in the written

CII to set up multiskill centre in Dari

DARJEELING (WB), MAR 13 (PTI): The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today said it will set up a multi-skill centre in Darjeeling in partnership with the Gorkha Territorial Administration.
CII Director General

Chandrajit Banerjee said this at the inaugural ses-sion of the two-day Darjeeling Business Summit.

"This multi-skill centre will initially deliver training in hospitality, beauty and wellness and health-care," Banerjee said.

Since the region has huge potential in agri-culture, floriculture and horticulture. CII's Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence can also work with the administration in proposing a sustainable model, he said.

"This would include better market linkages, increased productivity and quality and better variety of the produce.

All this leads up to a more value added food chain, including process-ing," said the CII Director

General.

He said since many parts of Darjeeling conturn to pg03

clude beans, brinjal, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, capsicum, carrot, chayote, cucumber, drum-stick, lady's finger, leafy vegetables, palak, pea, radish, tomato and point-ed gourd [potol] while ba-

nana, guava, orange and

papaya are amongst the banned fruits.

the list of restricted cereals while banned spices and condiments include ginger, green chilli and turmeric.

"If there is any con-

travention to the notification, the commodities (banned) shall be liable to be seized and disposed of," states the aforementioned notification.

government has banned these 27 non-organic agricultural and horticultural commodities con-sidering the drawbacks of using chemical fertilizers and pesticides for the interest of the farming community and for the overall health of the people of the State.

Although the notification does not mention a specific date on which the ban is to come into force, it does state that "the State Government hereby restricts the sale of non-organic agricul-tural and horticultural commodities as specified in the Schedule appended to the notification in the State of Sikkim."



Lachung Dzumsa endorses Organic Farming, seeks govt support to move forward

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 13 MAR:

In an awareness pro-gramme and workshop on off-season vegetable production held at Lachung in North Sikkim today, the Lachung Dzumsa put on record that the Lachungpas were ready to undertake Organic farming in earnest and called on the concerned departments for provision of organic farming related equipment and manure. The sought support and assistance pointing out that Lachung lies at a high altitude which could make exclusive Organic farming

The programme was organised by Horticulture & Cash Crop Department and was attended by the Horticulture Min-ister Somnath Poudhyal, accompanied by the area MLA, Forest Minister TW Lepcha, and officials from the Department.

The Lachung Dzumsa placed a demand letter seeking marketing sup-port for vegetables, supply of seeds, green house for each house, distribution of Milch cows, farm tractor for Lema and

They further pointed out that earlier, due to the use of fungicide by the Agriculture Department, apples in Lachung were struck by blight. The Lachung Dzumsa also put forward their grievances regarding complications

faced during marketing of Rajma grown by them. At the programme, Managing Director, Sikkim State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd, spoke about marketing of Organic vegetables while the area MLA incows will be taken on top priority and also request-ed the concerned Minister for solar lighting in the area as demanded by the people.

Horticulture Minister Mr Poudyal, in turn, stated that the State government's main objective is to provide facilities to its people and added that tourism and Organic farming should be linked.

He further added that a marketing centre will be set up at Lachung and Lachen at the earliest

Sikkim Govt has not been intimated about scrapping of transport agreement

GANGTOK, 13 MAR:

Principal Secretary of
Transport Department, SBS Bhaduria, today said that they have not received any inti-mation from the West Bengal government regarding scrapping of the reciprocal transport agreement.

The members of taxi and truck drivers' asso-ciations today met with the Principal Secretary after the news surfaced in a national daily.

The Hindu has quoted Bengal Transport Min-ister, Suvendu Adhikari stating that Bengal will not continue the recipro-cal transport agreement with Sikkim.

According

agreement, commercial vehicles from both the States could freely ply in different notified areas of West Bengal and Sikkim

Mr Adhikari has alleged that Sikkim has regularly violated the agreement by entering restricted areas in North Bengal while the vehicles from Bengal are not allowed to ply in many areas of Sikkim

"We have not received any form of intimation in this regard. We shall take up the matter once we get anything in a written

form," said Mr Bhaduria. Meanwhile, president of All Sikkim Truck Drivers Association, Mingma Sherpa, said that this will create problem for Sikowners from Sikkim had applied for the special per-mit at Darjeeling District Administration which was rejected. Also the West Bengal Motor Vehicle and Traffic does not entertain the special permits issued by Sikkim Transport De-

partment," said Mr Sherpa.
One Gangtok-based
tour operator alleged of unnecessary harassment by Bengal police mainly in Siliguri and Jalpaiguri areas.
"Our drivers face ha-

rassment almost every day in Bengal roads. It must be known that this is largely affecting the tour operating business of both the States. There must be a concrete solution to this

Reshme to join referee course in Japan

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 13 MAR:

National female foot-ball referee hailing from Sikkim, Reshme Chetrri, is all set to par-ticipate in the AFC Foottournament cum AFC Project Future Referees Course scheduled to be held at Fukuoka in

Japan, from 14-19 Mar. "After many practical trials, fitness trials and theoretical tests, one or two get a chance to attend this course from each country. Reshme is sincere and a hard working woman. Due to her rigorous practice and dedication, she has been chosen," said head of referees of Sikkim cum referee's assessor of All India Football Federation, Chamchuk Lama, while speaking to Sum-



Reshme, Chamchuk Lama, says, "I want to encourage more wom-en referees to come forward for training to follow in the footsteps of two women national referees, Reshme Chettri and Phurki Lhamu Bhu-tia. Reshme is from Pangthang and works at Forest Department apart from being a referee. Ms Bhutia from Pabyuik Naitam, East Sikkim who is also a national refer-ee will be participating in the Indian Women's League [IWL] Football Tournament at Shillong from 24 Mar."

Reshme started her refereeing career from 2012 and has participated in many international assignments till date. Among many interna-tional referees, only two Indian referees namely Reshme Chettri [Sikkim] and Kusum Mandi [IFA Bengal] will be participating in the AFC Course

"Victorious" farmers leave Mumbai



MUMBAI, MAR 13 (PTI): With hopes in their eyes and written assurance from the Maharashtra government to meet their demands, thousands of farmers, who had gathered here from all over the state, have gone back to their native places.
Under the banner of the Akh-

il Bhartiya Kisan Sabha (AIKS) of the CPI(M), over 35,000 farmers trekked 180km from Nashik to here over six days under the blaz-ing sun, some even barefooted, with a slew of demands which included their right to till forest land and a complete loan waiver. The farmers called off their ag-

itation yesterday after the BJP-led government announced it has accepted "almost all" of their demands in writing and assured to implement them in a time-bound manner.

The protesters, mostly farmers

and tribals, had taken their agitation to Mumbai where they gathered in the Azad Maidan yesterday.

They hailed from Nashik, mednagar district, Thane, Ahmednagar district, Thane, Raigad districts and other parts of the state.

The agitators left for home by various modes of transport, a senior police official said, adding two trains were arranged by the government to ferry them back.

Farmers and tribals from Na-shik district boarded the special trains arranged by the government, Ashok Dhawale, AIKS president and a member of the CPI(M) Central Committee, told PTI.

All farmers bought tickets and boarded the trains as it was not fair to take any favour from the government, he said.
"When our march reached So-

maiya Ground in Sion on the night

of March 11, the government was ready to provide us 100 BEST (civic) buses to take us to south Mumbai. But, we declined to take any

favour that day too," Dhawale said.
"We decided to march past midnight because we did not want to cause any inconvenience to Mumbaikars and students who were having their SSC and HSC ex-ams," he said.

Dhawale said the farmers were

happy with whatever they got from the government.

'We won the battle, but the war is still on. We are going to see at the ground level how the government is going to implement the written

assurance given to us.

"Smiles have returned on the faces of farmers and adivasis as their long-pending issues and de-mands are going to be sorted out,"

SKM condemns rumors of its MLAs joining BJP SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 MAR: "DUE TO THE increasing

popularity of SKM party, some anti-Sikkimese elements have been trying to spread rumors through social media regarding the two SKM MLAs joining BJP," SKM's Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, said in a press re-

lease today.

While strongly condemning such attempts, he stressed that the rumours are false and that people should not believe such posts on social media. He has added that they will not leave the party in any situation and will keep working for the people of the State.

Meanwhile, the re-lease informs that son of former MLA, Ashok Subba [Tsong], Todi Yong Subba [Tsong], formally joined SKM here at its head-office in Gangtok to-day. He was welcomed by MLA and chief coordinator, Sonam Lama, secre-tary general, Arun Uprety, district vice-president incharge zone 1, Anand Lama, and Gangtok constituency president, Sanjeev Gurung.

Sikkim fully committed towards eliminating TB by 2022, says Minister Ghatani



DELHI, 13 MAR "Delhi End TB Summit - innovation and action to end TB" was held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi today where Sikkim's Health Minister, Ariun Kumar Ghatani underlined the commitment of the State government to eliminate Tuberculosis from Sikkim by 2022.

He outlined the existing scenario of TB in the State and urged the Union government to extend all necessary sup-port to march towards control and elimination

of TB by 2022.

The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner-cum-Secre-

Vishal Chauhan, tary, and Additional District Health Officer-cum-State TB Officer, State TB Cell [Revised National Tuberculosis Control Pro-gramme] Sikkim, Dr De-

bya Shree Kerongi.

The inaugural session of "Delhi End TB Summit" was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as chief guest and launched the TB-free India campaign and recorded his commitment to eliminate TB from India by 2025, five years ahead of Sustainable Development Goal of 2030. The inaugural ses-

sion was also addressed by Minister of Health, Indonesia, Dr Nila F Moeloek, Minister of Health, Nigeria, Issac Fadewole, Director-General, WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghe-

breyesus.

Later, addressing a parallel session chaired by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare,

JP Nadda, in the presence of Union Minister of State, Anupriya Patil, Mr Ghatani said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Cham-ling, Sikkim was fully committed to eliminate TB by 2022.

He said that the State has been preparing a comprehensive elimination strategy to involve all stakeholders, public representatives, communities and civil societies to achieve the commit-ment made during the recent Assembly Budget

Minister informed that all investigations including blood tests, X-rays, CT Scan & MRI are free with provisions of free inpatient admissions in Sikkim. District hospitals and the PHCs have been provided with facilities for the management of TB patients, he added.

He detailed the CM's

seriousness prevention and control of TB in the State and informed about his recent announcement to supplement the ongo-ing RNTCP. He also shed light on the upcoming 127-bedded Isolation Chest and Respiratory
Disease Ward within a newly constructed 1000 bedded multi-specialty

hospital in Gangtok.

Mr Ghatani also spoke about Focus Group Discussions [FGD] held at grass root level followed by district level workshop and State Level Workshop "To-wards Elimination of TB in Sikkim by 2022" on 07-08 Mar. The final strategic plan for Sikkim will be ready by 15 Apr, 2018, he added.

Health Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, and STO, Dr Kerongi, also participated in the interaction with other States on RNTCP chaired by Secretary of Health & Family Welfare Ministry.



SDF WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS FROM BELBOTAY

GANGTOK, 13 MAR: Seven persons of Belbotay, Melli, in South Sikkim, today joined Sikkim Democratic Front in the presence of area MLA Tulshi Devi Rai. Offering khadas, Ms Rai welcomed them to the party and thanked them for choosing SDF. While interacting with the new members, she highlighted the pro-poor and pro-Sikkimese programmes of the SDF party under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, a press release informs.



South DAC and Panchayats convene coordination meet in Namchi

NAMCHI, 13 MAR [IPR]: A daylong co-ordination meeting with the heads of the line departments under South District Administration and the Pan-chayats was held at the Officers' Club here today.

The meeting was chaired by Adhakshya [South], Farwanti Tamang, accompanied by Upadhakshya [South], Bhim Badhadur Lakhey, District Collector [South], Raj Yadav, Superintendent of Police [South], Dr Siva Prasad Yellasiri, Additional District Collector [Development]. Benu Gurung, officials and Panchayats.

Addressing, the gathering, Adhak-

shva Ms Tamang highlighted the objective of the meeting, which, she said, was to share details of activities and future plans of each department so as to avoid

NSUO conducts meeting for Samjhuata Diwas

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 MAR:

Ameeting of the Naed Organisation (NSUO) was held at Metro Point, Tadong today to discuss preparations for "Sam-jhuata Diwas" observed by the organization and scheduled to be held on 08 May to mark the Tripar tite Agreement of 1973, a press release informs.

Last year, Samjhuata Diwas was held in Dha-nukay, Rorathang where four resolutions were adopted and a memo-randum submitted to the Chief Minister, Governor and Chief Secretary.

The meeting decid-

ed to conduct this year's Sanjhuata Diwas at MG Marg in the capital, the

release informs.
Organizing committee of the event will be

constituted on 02 Apr, the release reads.

The meeting was attended by members of Gorkha Apex Commit-tee, Chettri Bahun Pirit Sanghatan, SLBNUS, Team 365 Padh Yatra and various other dignitaries from various organization.

A follow up meeting is scheduled to be held on 02 Apr.

Last year, the Sam-jhuata Diwas passed res-olutions seeking "com-plete protection of Article 371F, introduction of Inner Line Permit in Sikkim as in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, 8th May to be declared a State Holiday and Jahan bagcha Teesta Rangeet to sung after Indian National Anthem in every Govt functions and schools in Sikkim".

CII to set up multi-skill centre in Darj

Contd from pg01

tinue to face water scarcity following increasing demand-supply gaps, the CII will apply its water scanning tool for developing catchment area plans.

"The water scanning tool leads to identification of promising sites for rainwater harvest-

ing and storages (micro and medium), irrigated agriculture, and control of Silt and contaminant transport into water bodies," he said.

The inaugural session was attended, among others, by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Indrajatra Management Committee of Kathmandu felicitates Sikkim Newar Guthi The IMC also felicitatethnic groups in Sikkim.

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 MAR:

Delegates from Indra-jatra Management Committee [IMC], Kathmandu, felicitated Sikkim Newar Guthi [SNG] on 11 March at a function organized here at Hotel Mt Sinolchu.

A press release in-forms that an plaque was handed over to Sikkim Newar Guthi by the del-

The plaque states that the IMC "highly appreciates the efforts and



achievements made by the SNG in preservation of Newar culture in Sikkim and especially on celebration of Yeng [Indrajatra] in Sikkim"

ed MLAs, Bikram Pradhan and Shyam Pradhan, who attended the event

of honour respectively.

Similarly, the SNG also felicitated the members of the IMC while handing over souvenirs to Gautam Ratna Shakya [Chairman, IMC] and Udaya Pashakhala [Programme Manager].

MLA Bikram Pradhan,

in his address, stressed on the need for conservation of culture of various

He detailed the efforts of the State govern-

ment in helping preserve Newar language and culture in Sikkim. Chairman, IMC, Mr Shakya, narrated leg-ends about Kumari and also appreciated SNG for

organizing cultural rally on the occasion of Indrajatra annually in various parts of Sikkim and also making this a symbol of cultural rejuvenation of

Newars. Vice-President, SNG,

Hari Prasad Pradhan, expressed gratitude to the Newar cultural activists of Kathmandu who come to Sikkim every during Indrajatra and help the locals here get acquainted with the cultural aspects of the Newars.

A video highlighting the Newar culture of Kathmandu Valley was also presented on the occasion followed by Newari dance perances presented by



Cafe Fiction and Queer Ink invite you to

Love is Love

a conversation with Dr Mark Macleod on Queer Literature and an exhibition of sketches by Devdutt Pattnaik The Queer in Ancient Hindu Mythology

The growth of storytelling about sexual diversity challenges stereotypes, but the values embedded in the stories are often surprisingly conservative Consultant editor for India's first LGBT publishing house, Queer-Ink, Dr Mark Macleod leads this workshop on one of the most dynan important developments in contemporary publishing.

Dr Mark Macleod, published 'Ready or Not', the first Australian anthology of LGBT writing for teens. He is editing 'The Ocean that We All Swim In': a collection of memoirs by Indian writers for Queer-Ink publishers in Mumbai

Rachna Books | 5:30pm | 14 March 2018







Mizo scribes

protest against

attacks on them by

Assam police

jured in the incidents, he

claimed and accused the

Assam Police of attack-

ing the Mizo journalists

despite being shown the press cards and told about their identities.

sam police took

The action by As-

Thursday and Satur

day last week when the

scribes were covering the

erection of a guest house

by Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP),

the student apex body of the state, in Kolasib dis-

trict on a piece of land gift-

ed to them by the widow of the first chief minister

Ch Chhunga, Vantawl said.

The two injured women journalists are of a private national TV

news channel and the AIR, he claimed.

AIZAWL, MAR 13 (PTI): Scribes in Mizoram or-

ganised sit-ins in the

town of

headquarters to protest against alleged attacks

by Assam police on their

colleagues, including two lady journalists while

the alleged Assam police

attack at Kolasib on the

inter-state border was held by the Mizoram Jour-

nalists Association (MJA).

MJA president Vanlal-rema Vantawl said, "The

journalists were not only

attacked with batons by the Assam Policemen, but also fired at them."

Seven scribes, two of them women, were in-

The protests against

they were on duty.

and seven district

Gangtok on Wedesday, 14 Mar

Temp: 23°C /09°C Forecast: Times of clouds and sun with a shower in spots in the aftern Sunrise: 05:47AM Sunset: 5:43 PM

Bombay HC grants woman's plea to remove father's name from daughter's birth certificate

Mumbai, Mar 13 (PTI): The Bombay High Court today allowed the plea of a 22-year-old unwed mother from the city who had sought that the name of her daughter's biological father be removed

from her birth certificate.
A bench of justices AS Oka and RI Chagla directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to issue a fresh certificate, with the space for the name of biological father left blank.

The bench, however, rejected the woman's prayer that the father's name be removed from all records of the BMC.

"The Registration of Births and Deaths Act mandates that at the time of the birth of a child, the biological fa-ther or mother provide the names of both par-ents, their addresses, oc-

cupations, etc.
"The BMC then enters the same in its records as per the provisions of the Act and the birth certificate is issued on the basis of above entries," the hench said

"The BMC's power to amend the entries thus made in its records is limited. Therefore this court cannot direct that the name of the biological father be deleted from the entire records,"

the judges said.
The petition said that the woman gave birth to the child out of wedlock in November 2013.

She never gave the name of the child's father to the BMC, and was unaware who disclosed that information to the authorities at the time of

filling forms, she said.

The father's name should be removed from the child's birth certificate as well as from the corporation's records,

she demanded.
The BMC rejected her application, saying that an amendment can be carried out only if any entry in the birth certificate or records is erro-

At the time of the birth of the child, the pe titioner had willingly disclosed the name and occupation of the biological father, the BMC claimed.

The child's biological father -- who was summoned by the court stated that he had no objection to his name be ing removed.

The bench also relied on the 2015 landmark judgement of the Su-preme Court which stated that single mothers cannot be compelled to disclose the name of their child's biological father in the birth certificate.

Indian classical concert 'New Feel' receives standing ovation

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 MAR:

A complete Indian 'New Feel', organized by Reeyaaz Sangeetalaya, Gangtok here at Janta Bhawan on 11 Mar received a standing ova-tion. Reeyaaz Sangeetalaya director, Manoj Rai, has expressed gratitude to the people for their support and encouragement towards the event.

The programme also featured soulful flute performance presented by Panchajanya Dey from Kolkata. He was accompanied by Arijit Saha from Kolkata on the tabla. The stage was also shared by Dr Surendra Kumar [Assistant Professor in Music Department, Sikkim University] with his

SIX DAYS (TDAYS) WORKSHOP

Wkshp on Learning

Experience for Children

begins in Gyalshing

South DAC and Panchayats...

GYALSHING, 13 MAR

(IPR): A six-day work-shop on "Learning Expe-rience for Children" be-

gan today at DIET, Gyalsh-

ing. 50 primary school teachers from all over

West District are partic-

ipating in the workshop designed to equip them

with the evolving strat-

egy in education. Learning Outcome, POCSO,

Mental Health, Inclusive

Education, Jodo Gyan are the areas of focus for the

Chief Guest for the day, Joint Director, HRDD, West, Tshering Eden

process of implementing the schemes and policies earmarked for the public.

called for smooth and effective co-ordination between the Panchayats and the officials with re-

gards to the execution

and timely completion of

"Panchayats are the local form of governance

and are particularly responsible in empowering the society at the grass-

roots level and entrusted

with the holistic growth and well being of the

tral and State flagship programmes which are

currently being carried out in several blocks in South District so that

officials and the Pancha-

public," she stressed. She also urged the Panchayats to monitor the outcomes of the Cen-

the line departments.

arious schemes through

Additionally,

contd from pa02 overlaps and to prom cooperation between the departmental officials and the Panchayats in the Bhutia, was also felicitated by the DIET-West fam-

ily on having received the State Meritorious Award

Republic Day for her "re-

lentless effort in bringing visible changes in the ed-

DIET (West) has been

providing Short Term Trainings and Orienta-

tion Courses for teachers and school heads here.

The idea is to bring about

qualitative enhancement in the education sector.

AD's and AEO's from all

the nine BACs also at-tended the inaugural ses-

yats can gauge how effec-tively the scheme and the

policies have benefited the public at large.

DC Mr Yadav, in turn,

described the meeting

as a platform where the Panchayats and officials

from line departments can come together to qualitatively discuss various schemes and

He also emphasized

that the schemes and

policies need to be sanc-

tioned promptly for the

advancement of the gen-

eral public. He further spelled out the roles and

responsibilities of Pan-

chayat and Zilla mem-

bers for comprehensive

from the various wards of South district placed a

number of demands and

suggestions for their re-

spective wards. Officials

from different line de-

partments also present-ed brief updates about

ongoing schemes.

development of a GPU. During the course of the meeting, Panchayats

ucation sector".

PRIVIARY TEACHERS ON LEARNING EXPERIENT



CapitalTIMES

Mr Rai informed that the main motive of the concert was to inspire students and also to promote Indian Classical music in Sikkim. "We will continue to hold such events in the future if we get the support and love from people. We have been work-

ing hard towards estab lishing classical music

culture in our beautiful State," he said.

SPA demands solution for transport dispute between Sikkim and WB

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 MAR: Cikkim People's Alliance

Sikkim People's Alliance [SPA] has expressed serious concern over allega-tions of Sikkim registered transport vehicles being unnecessarily harassed in Siliguri, West Bengal, after the supposed lapse of the Inter State Transport Agreement between the Government of Sikkim and the West Bengal Gov-

In a press release, SPA has alleged that the State has been crippled by "the administrative failure of the Sikkim Democratic

Front led government in dealing with Inter State disputes.

The tourism industry in the State was expecting to bounce back this season after suffering heavy losses last year due to the Gorkhaland agitation but this new controversy has led to hopelessness and uncertainty among tourism stakeholders, SPA

SPA has demanded a permanent solution to the inter-state dispute within the framework of the Indian federal

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 agains people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have oer (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carr forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate

Faulty drainage affecting Rangpo residents: BIP Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 MAR:
Ateam of Bharatiya Janta
Party Sikkim Pradesh led by its president, DB Chauhan, interacted with the people of Rangpo Bazaar in East Sikkim today. The team enquired about the affected road and houses at Tallo Bazaar in Rangpo due to heavy rainfall on 12 Mar, informs a BJP press

As per the release, people complained that drains which have been made recently by UDHD are not functioning well due to which people of the area have been facing flood-like situation in the area. It is informed that the people residing around the football ground have been most affected. The release also informs that lands of 37 families who have been living in the area since 40 years have not been regularized so far by the government despite promises made before every election.

The party has sug-gested that the state government stop misguiding people and deliver its responsibilities sincerely.

> 22.03.2018 23.03.2018 by

12.00 PM.

1.00 PM

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HOME DEPARTMENT **MANAN BHAWAN GANGTOK-737101** NO:13/HOME/2018 DATED: 10/03/2018 **NOTIFICATION**

Whereas, the State Government has deemed it expedient to acknowledge the importance of supporting sustainable management practices, thereby to deliver log term benefits to our communities, our environment, our economy and our country. With regard to this, one of the most pivotal approaches followed by the Government is 'organic farming';

And whereas, with regard to the natural life-cycle systems, organic farming provides to the consumers tasty and reliable health oriented food. Unnatural substances such as chemical synthetic pesticide, synthetic fretilizer etc are prohibited in an organic farming process;

And whereas, considering the drawbacks of using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, for the interest of the farming community and for the overall health of the people of the State, it would be a prudent step to potentially help reduce the chances of disease/health related issues by ensuring consumption of proper organic produces in the State

suring consumption of proper organic produces in the Śtate which will confer benefits and returns to the producers;

Now therefore, to regulate the sale of non-organic ag-ricultural and horticultural commodities, with an object to prevent the risk to the health of human beings, animals prevent the risk to the health of human beings, animals and environment, the State Government hereby restricts the sale of non-organic agricultural and horticultural commodities as specified in the Schedule appended to the notification in the State of Sikkim.

If there is any contravention to this notification, the commodities shall be liable to be seized and disposed of. By order and in the name of Governor.

Sd/- (S.C. GUPTA) IAS

ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKING GOVERNMENT OF SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SIKKING SELECTION OF SIKKING SELECTION OF

SCHEDULE LIST OF NON ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

SI.No.	PARTICULARS (REFERRED
	TO IN NOTIFICATION
	NO.13 DATED 10/03/2018
1	2
1.	Cereals
	(i) Maize
2	Vegetables
	(i) Beans
	(ii) Brinjal
	(iii) Bitter gourd
	(iv) Bottle gourd
	(v) Broccoli
	(vi) Cabbage
	(vii) Cauliflower
	(viii) Capsicum
	(ix) Carrot
	(x) Chayote
	(xi) Cucumber
	(xii) Drumstick
	(xiii) Lady's finger
	(xiv) Leafy vegetables
	(xv) Palak
	(xvi) Pea
	(xvii) Radish
	(xviii) Tomato
	(xix) Pointed gourd (Potol)
3	Fruits
	(i) Banana
	(ii) Guava
	(iii) Orange
	(iv) Papaya
4.	Spices and condiments
	(i) Ginger
	(ii) Green Chilly
	(iii) Turmeric
₹.O. No. 62	20/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 13.3.2018

MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT RN MARG 04, MANGAN NORTH SIKKIM

email@mnpnorthsikkim@gmail.com Fax: 03592234044

Sealed Tender are invited from individual having COI/SSC/RC and registered organisation for the award of Bazzar Contract, Car Parking Contract, Car Wash Centre, Pay & Use Toilet Contract and Restaurant under Mangan Nagar Panchayat for the year 2018-19.
The details of the contract and the tender documents can be obtained

from the office of the Municipal Executive Office, Mangan Nagar Pancha-yat, Mangan, North Sikkim on payment by depositing the amount at Canara Bank, Mangan on all working days between 11.00 Am to 3.00 PM. 19.03.2018.

First Date for issuance of Tender Documents: Last Date for issuance of Tender Documents: 3. Last Date for submission of Sealed Tender : 4. Date and Time of Opening of Tender

5. The rate quoted below the offset price will be out rightly rejected.

6. The detail term and conditions can be seen in the Tender Documents.

MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT.

Of Latrines in a Nirmal Rajya

Now, Focus on the Left-Out

The socioeconomic indicators for Sikkim, as recorded in the Census 2011 data for household amenities and assets data present an impressive improvement when compared against the indices recorded ten years earlier in Census 2001. While congratulations are aptly due to the State Government for having ensured such a substantial improvement within a decade, the data also flags sectors which need special attention. These stats are of seven year old vintage now, but in the interim arrived the Earthquake and an apparent slowdown in "development"; safe then to suggest that the situation on ground would not have changed too much. Progress, it needs to be accepted does not always march forward on a steady clip and dips and spikes can happen due to several factors, not all of which are avoidable. What statistics also do is flag issues of significance and help inform where the "developmental" thrust should focus. We take up the socioeconomic indicators of Census 2011 to flag some of those issues here.
While the socioeconomic improvements in Sikkim have

been universal, in that the amelioration has been across the board, what remains a worry is that those who have been left out remain cut off from most of the amenities.

To begin with sanitation levels in the State - Sikkim was deservedly the first State to bag the Nirmal Rajya award for the total sanitation it achieved some years ago. There had been a qualitative improvement in this sector with 75% of the households (as of 2011, and this figure must have grown) having water closet latrines [with flush] as against 32.1% in 2001. Sikkim was the best performing State on this count, posting the strongest figures among the States with only the metropolitan union territory of Chandigarh doing better at 87.1% in Census 2011. This is obviously conversion from pit latrines to the better water closet option because the number households with pit latrines has come down from 32.1% in 2001 to 12% now. If one were to focus just on the rural scenario, the numbers remain as impressive for Sikkim. The State tops the listings among State with 68.5% of the rural households having water closet latrines, a huge leap from the merely 24.3% in 2001. Against the 40.6% of the rural households which had no latrines in 2001, the number had come down to 15.9% in 2011 and continues to fall These statistics for urban Sikkim are also the best in the country with 91.8% of the urban households having water closet latrines, 3.3% having pit latrines, and only 8.2% in 2011 having no latrines. The overall figure for Sikkim reveals that against 36.6% of the households in Sikkim which had no latrines in 2001, in 2011, only 12.8% are so disadvantaged. This is indeed a noteworthy achievement.

A rural-urban comparison reveals that the improve-ments in sanitation levels has been more marked in rural Sikkim where the number of rural households without latrines has come down from 40.6% in 2001 to 15.9% in 2011. For urban Sikkim, the numbers have dropped from 8.2% in 2001 to 4.8% of the households. When the percentages are converted to numbers, one realizes that of the 1,28,131 households in Sikkim, 16,400 households have no latrines. This lack is explained to the large migrant population in Sikkim and the less than adequate tenements available to them [39,208 families in Sikkim

live in rented accommodations].

But what needs immediate attention is the worrying fact that only 1,922 households [of the 16,400 without latrines] have access to public toilets. The remaining 14,478 households have to rely on open latrines. And this is a worry. Most of the already underprivileged and denied section of the population here remains left out from access to proper sanitation. It is important that immediate measures are undertaken to expand the footprint of public toilets to ensure that this section of the people receive at least the most basic of amenities.

Another section of the 'left out' from the strides made in socioeconomic indicators are the 18.2% of the households here which have none of the "assets" common to the rest of Sikkim. 23,320 households here own neither a radio, nor a TV, computer, telephone nor a vehicle. This section obviously needs to be prioritised in the release of whatever aids or grants are released by the State Government Admittedly, a substantial number of this group might not qualify to make it to the beneficiaries list, so the least that can be done is extend all civic amenities to them which they deserve by way of their residence in Sikkim. Undoubtedly, the entire lot of households without latrines will fall in this category as well. It would have been ideal if this section had been serviced first when Sikkim made a stab for Nirmal Ra-jya status, but since that is in the past, one hopes their requirements are addressed on priority now

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

SummitTIMES What makes Kim Jong Un tick?

STEPHEN BENEDICT DYSON

Kim Jong Un is a "smart Coookie," President Donald Trump said of North Korea's leader in April 2017.

enough, Smart seems, to merit a face-toface meeting. President Trump's acceptance of Kim's invitation to discuss North Korean denuclearization is a stunning move that some have greeted as a potential breakthrough and others have decried

as a massive risk.

If he does indeed meet with Kim, Trump will need to understand what nakes the North Korean leader tick. Finding the answer to this vital ques tion will require figuring out how the North Korean leader sees the world.

Although Trump will be the first

sitting U.S. president to meet with a North Korean leader, he will be far from the first president to try to understand a foreign statesperson. As was the case with figures such as Ad-olf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, and Nikita Khrushchev, figuring out a dangerous international interlocutor is once again an urgent national security challenge

Are there lessons from the past that can help President Trump as he prepares to meet Kim?

LESSONS OF THE PAST
In the spring of 1943, the director of the first centralized U.S. intelligence agency, Colonel William "Wild Bill" Donovan, sought help in understanding Hitler. Donovan wanted to give nt Franklin D. Roosevelt a sense of "the things that make him tick."

Donovan called Walter C. Langer a psychoanalyst helping with the war effort, in for a meeting, and asked: "What do you make of Hitler? If Hitler is running the show, what kind of a person is he? What are his ambitions?

Langer combined the scant intel-ligence on Hitler with insights from Freudian psychoanalysis into a study on Hitler. He accurately predicted that Hitler would commit suicide rather than be captured by Allied forces. But his insight was largely ir-



relevant to the military strategy for defeating Germany. The report took so long to produce that the war was nearly over by the time it was delivered to Donovan

More recently, the former top U.N. weapons inspector Charles Duelfer and I studied what made former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein tick. For several years, Duelfer was the senior point of contact between Irag and the U.S. After the regime fell, he produced the definitive report on its weapon

Looking for logic in Saddam's decisions, we found instead a morass of idiosyncratic thinking. Most astonishing was his misreading of President George W. Bush's June 2002 speech to the West Point Military Academy. Intending to warn Saddam that he must comply with U.N. demands or face war. Bush struck a stern tone "gravest danger to freedom," he said, was "unbalanced dictators with weapons of mass destruction." Later in the speech, Bush praised President Ronald Reagan for standing up to "the brutality of tyrants."

What Bush said and what Saddam

heard were two very different things.

Saddam did not see himself as un-balanced, and he knew that he did not weapons of mass destruction. And U.S.-Iraq relations had been excel-lent under President Reagan, Saddam recalled. The United States had tilted toward his side during the Iran-Iraq war. Things started to deteriorate only under the Bushes, in his view.

Our analysis showed that Sadd-am believed Bush could not have

been talking about him. Instead, Saddam concluded he must have been threatening North Korea, not Iraq. Kim Jong Il, father of Kim Jong Un, possessed the nuclear weapons that the Iraqi president desired but

Bush was dumbfounded by the lack of Saddam's response to his threats. Later he asked, "How much clearer could I have been?

Duelfer and I had the academ-ic luxury of malleable deadlines in studving Saddam, Langer spent many months on his Hitler study. Scholar-ship on Kim Jong Un may be too slow for the current crisis.

Major American decision-makers may instead need to rely on their

EMPATHIZE WITH YOUR ENEMY

Former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara spoke about intuition in a 2003 documentary about his role in the Koppedy and Industry. in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. McNamara revealed crucial new details about the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev had smuggled nuclear missiles into Cuba, threatening 90 million Americans. President John F. Kennedy's first reaction was that he must destroy them with a massive air strike. This would have courted war with the USSR.

Seeking the widest possible range of advice, Kennedy asked Llewellyn "Tommy" Thompson, former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, to supplement his foreign policy team during the crisis. Thompson had come to know Khrushchev well and

Moscow.

"Mr. President, you're Thompson saying of the air strike plans. "I think Khrushchev's gotten him-self in one hell of a fix." The former ambassador knew that Khrushchev could be impulsive and later regretful. He imagined a terrified Khrushchev, in awe of the events he had set in motion. Thompson suggested that Kennedy help the Soviet leader find his way out of the crisis.

Kennedy decided on a na-val blockade rather than an air strike, and Khrushchev backed down.

The lesson McNamara drew? Empathize with your enemy, and intuit how the world looks to them. "We must try to put ourselves in their skin, and look at ourselves through their eves," he said.

Turning to today's crisis, Trump will have to reckon with several uncomfortable facts. The Kim dynasty has invested decades of effort in their pursuit of nuclear weapons; it is unlikely that they will negotiate them away. Further, Trump must recognize that by meeting with Kim, he is giving the North Koreans something they have long sought: to be dealt with as diplomatic equals.

With the president's dearest hope off the table, and with the meeting itself already representing a win for the North Koreans, what is it that Trump can realistically expect to gain from talks? He and his staff will have to think about how they might cajole and persuade Kim to agree to things the U.S. values, such as a permanent freeze on further missile and nuclear tests.

History tells us that to influence Kim, we must empathize (note: not sympathize) with him. If the meeting is to be a success, Trump and his advisers must first understand how we look to the North Korean leader, peering at us from his very particular antage point

[the writer is Associate Professor of Political Science

Celebrating Marion Walter- and other unsung female mathematicians

JENNIFER RUEF

When I was teaching mathematics in the 90s, before the internet, I had a book of "women mathematicians." This was helpful for sharing in spirational stories with my middle school students, but there were just six women in this short book.

These days, we have the internet – and more

stories about women in mathematics. For example, the 2016 blockbuster movie "Hidden Figures," based on the book by Margot Lee Shetterley, introduced the world to African-American women mathematicians Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan and Christine Darden. The world recently lost Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman to win a Fields Medal (sort of like the Nobel Prize, but in mathematics).

But we still need more stories about women in mathematics. While many mathematicians know of my colleague Marion Walter, she isn't known well outside her field. And she should be, for her own story and the lessons she brings to our under-standing of mathematics.

MEETING MARION WALTER Marion Walter will turn 90 years old this July, but when vou ask her about growing up, she'll tell you she hasn't yet.

She was born in 1928 to

a Jewish family in Berlin, She and her sister, Ellen, attended a Jewish boarding school 390 miles away, in Herrlingen, Germany.
In 1939, Marion and El-

len left Nazi Germany on a Kindertransport, the rescue operation that evacuated

thousands of Jewish children to England before the outbreak of World War II. When the war began, her school - like many others on the south coast - was evacuated to the English countryside. At Christmastime in 1944, the headmistress of

Marion's secondary school called her to ask if she knew yet what her plans were now that she had graduated. It was the middle of the winter, in the middle of the war, and the math teacher had just

guit unexpectedly. So the headmistress offered Marion the position, for the salary of 10 shillings per week. This was enough for Marion to purchase fish and chips in the neighboring village, if she biked there

Though Marion still had to sleep in the dormitory with her students, she was pleased to have access to the teachers' lounge. At age 16, Marion taught math to students aged 5 to 16, and says that her graduating students all passed their school cer-

LEARNING AND HELPING OTHERS LEARN

Marion taught for two terms before moving on to her next adventure: academic studies in mathematics and education.

She arrived in London in the fall of 1945, where she began her formal study of mathematics at the Regent Street Polytechnic. After she attained her intermediate Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, she moved with her family to New York City. While there, she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and education from Hunter College then a master's degree in

mathematics from New York

University.

She studied at night because she did computing work during the day. Mari-on worked on computations for research professors at New York University, using a Marchant calculator. This mechanical computing machine required the user to physical-ly move a cylinder over when adding numbers with multi-ple digits.

Marion went on to earn

her doctorate in mathematics education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and was hired to teach at Simmons College. While in Massachusetts, she founded the Boston Area Mathemat ics Specialists, a group focused on improving the teaching and learning of mathematics for school children. In 1977, she moved to the University of Oregon. I met her there in 2016.

Marion's major mathematical line of study has

been problem posing - the art of asking and refin-

ing mathematical questions.

Her most significant book is likely "The Art of Problem Solving", co-authored with mathematics educator Stephen Brown. She has also written several articles and children's books about mathematics.

Marion is also one of few people to have a theo-rem named after her, based on the following question: If the sides of a triangle are trisected, what is

the resulting area of the hexagon that's created?

Like Marion, we can benefit from cultivating a sense of wonder. Wonder at how people make sense of mathematics, and wonder at how math-ematics can describe the world. Wonder keeps us learning and growing.

REPRESENTING MATH

I asked Marion, who retired in 1993, if she had any advice to share. She was adamant on two counts First, adults should never tell children, "I was not good at math." And second, they should not tell children that they are wrong.

Research supports both claims. Telling students we're not good at mathematics sends the message that they might not be either. And when children think they are not good at math, it hurts their ability to engage with it. On the second count, when someone has a "wrong" answer in mathematics, it's often because they are thinking about a different problem, or the same problem in a different way.

That said, sometimes there are mathematically incorrect answers. So what do we say? Marion suggests asking, "How are you thinking about the problem?" When children are partners in problem-solving, they are invited into an apprentice-ship as mathematicians.

The next time you have a reason to think about mathematicians, I hope you will remember Marion Walter. Women and girls have been told, in many ways, that there is no room in math and science for them. Representations matter. The more powerful women we see in mathematics, the more evidence we have that mathematics is for all people. Children who are learning about the world, and their potential place in it, benefit from visions of who they might become – perhaps a woman in mathematics.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Ed-

ucation Studies, University of Oregon)

Darj is the heart of WB, says Mamata at 1st Darj Business Meet

GANGTOK, 13 MAR: Inaugurating the first Darjeeling Business Summit at Chowrasta in Darjeeling today, West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, urged the people of Darjeeling hills to maintain peace in order to let industries and development into

"Darjeeling is the heart of West Bengal. I will never let anyone divide Darjeeling for political bene-

fits," expressed Ms Banerjee.

Addressing the event organized
by State Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise [MSME] Department and the Department of Tourism and Gorkhaland Territorial Administration in association with Confederation of Indian Industry [CII], Ms Banerjee said, "Darjeeling has a huge potential for development of trade and business. We can tap this potential to create employment opportunities for the youth of Darjeeling. Apart from promoting tour ism, tea industry, horticulture and floriculture, there is a lot of scope for development of cinchona culti-



vation in the hills. We want to hear what the industrialists have to say. We need to understand what they have to say. Bengal means business and we are number one at e-governance and other fields of commerce and industries."

Expressing hope that the CII would extend cooperation in set-ting up some high-end hotels in

the hills, Ms Banerjee asked the CII to prepare a Plan of Action on how development and industri-alisation could progress together. She also requested the CII to prepare a Detailed Project Report on cultivation of cinchona, orchid and medicinal plants, which have huge

"The Darjeeling administra-

tion has faced huge loss during the 6-month long shutdown in Darjeeling last year. The layman suf-fered the most. This should not be repeated if people want to change their future. Let us make a new beginning with peace. Our government is ready to help you and I can assure that industrialists will offer

Apart from focusing on eco-tourism and adventure tourism, the GTA is identifying heritage sites which can be converted into effective tourism products, she informed.

Tea tourism could also provide a lot of employment opportuni-ties in the hills, she said adding that places like Sandakphu, Mirik, Kurseong, Kalimpong, Lava, Lole-gaon and Tiger Hills could be made more attractive.

The CM also said that Kurseong will be developed as an Education Hub while two IT hubs will be

coming up in Kurseong and Mirik. Chairperson, GTA, Binay Ta-mang, on behalf of the GTA, BOA and the people of the Hills extend-ed gratitude to the CM for inaugurating the first of its kind business

meet in Darjeeling.

"In this we see the sincerity
of our CM. This unique business meet will be a great boost to the Hill economy. It will help us move forward. There is a great potential for Information Technology too. We have a large population of eduIn order to change this, focus on traditional strengths of the hills such as horticulture, tourism and the rapidly expanding "Homestay" sector is needed. I along with the people of Darjeeling would like to give our commitment that Darieeling and Kalimpong will be a strike free zone and there won't be any political disturbances anymore as we have already suffered a lot," said Mr Tamang.

Urging for the state govern-ment's support and co-operation, Mr Tamang concluded, "We need to be self-reliant and must learn to stand on our own feet and move ahead. I thank all the prospective investors who have come all the way here to attend the meet. We will provide every support, help and co-operation required for their ventures. Bengal means busi-

ness and GTA means growth."

On 14 Mar, the meeting will be taking up ideas and statements from potential investors and stakeholders under the chairmanship of the CM.

Death toll in Nepal crash rises to 51, Bangladeshi experts join probe

The toll in Nepal's worst avia tion disaster rose to 51 today with the death of two more passengers, as Bangladeshi experts joined the probe amid reports of an apparent confusion between the pilot and air traffic control over the run-

way.
The Dhaka to Kathmandu US-Bangla Airlines flight, with 67 passengers and four crew members on board. caught fire after it careened off the runway and ploughed into a football ground near the Tribhuvan International Airport yesterday.

The Nepal Home Ministry confirmed the death of 51 people in the crash the deadliest aviation accident in 25 years in Nepal, according to Himalayan Times.

Earlier today, hospital authorities confirmed the death of pilot Captain Abid Sultan. His co-pilot First Offi-cer Prithula Rashid was died



yesterday, the report said. Meanwhile, a Bangladeshi

delegation today joined a six-member Nepali commit tee to probe the crash-landing. The Bangla delegation includes Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism A K M Shahjahan Kamal, Foreigr Minister Abul Hassan Mah

mood Ali and senior aviation officials, the report said.

The Bangladeshi airline d airport authorities in Kathmandu have blamed each other for the tragedy, after it emerged that there was confusion over landing instructions.

The last four minutes of

pilot and Air Traffic Control at the airport indicates a possible confusion in the mind of the pilot about Runway 02 (the southern end) and Runway 20 (the northern end), a Nepalese newspaper reported.

The Nepali pilots of other aircraft are heard warning

the ATC that the US-Bangla pilot seems disoriented, according to the Nepali Times.

At the very outset of the tape, the control tower was heard warning the pilot, "I say again, do not proceed towards Runway 20." And later, he is warned to remain on hold and not to land because there is another aircraft on approach.

After the plane apparent-ly takes a right orbit, the ATC asks the pilot whether he wants to land on Runway 02

The latter responds and says "We would like to land on 20"; he is cleared to land on that end of the runway, the report said.

The pilot was then asked if he has the runway in sight, to which he replies, 'Nega-tive', it said. He was asked to turn right, but immediately after that, the Flight 211 pilot says "Affirmative", that the runway is in sight.

The pilot then

"Cleared to land Runaway 02", even though he had sought permission for 20. However, ATC too now clears him to land on Runway 02.

Meanwhile, speaking to the Army 53 aircraft which is on hold about 10 kilometres away, the ATC says the Ban-gladesh aircraft is "on final for

The last recorded words of the pilot are: "[Unintelligiblel said sir, are we cleared to land?" After some silence, the clearly alarmed ATC controller shouts, "I say again, turn

There is silence for a while, then a 'Fire One' calls the tower, indicating that a crash has occurred and the airport fire tender has been

There were 33 Nepalese nationals on board flight UBG 211, a Bombardier Dash 8 Q400. Others include 32 Bangladeshis, one Chinese and one Maldivian.

Bombardier is a twin-engine, medium-range and turboprop aircraft.

Canadian plane Bombardier said it was sending an air safety investigator to the site, as well as a field service representative.

The Dhaka-based US-Bangla Airlines is a private carrier that launched in July 2014 with the motto "Fly Fast Fly Safe". The airlines is a unit of the US-Bangla Group, a US Bangladeshi joint company.

Nepal has witnessed a number of accidents involving aircraft in recent years.

Yesterday's accident is deadliest since September 1992 when all 167 people aboard a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane were killed when it crashed near the Kathmandu airport.
In February, 2016, Tara

In February, 2016, Tara Air's Twin Otter 400 crashed in Rupse of Myagdi, killing 23



Doctors, bikers start 2,200-km long ride for cancer awareness

(PTI): A group of doctors and bikers have joined hands to travel through 2,200 kilometres across the North East to create awareness about cancer by enacting street plays organising talks

along their entire journey.
Twenty-five doctors
and staff of Cachar Cancer Hospital & Research Cen-tre and members of biking group 'Silchar Thumpers' have kick started their ride yesterday from Silchar in Assam.

Members taking part in the rally - a collab-oration of Tata Trusts, Cachar Cancer Hospital and others - will criss-cross seven NE states and will touch Shillong, Guwahati, Tezpur, Itanagar, Dibrugarh, Kohima,

Imphal, Aizawl and Agartala before ending the ride again at Silchar on March 22.

"Our purpose is to both support delivery of high quality and afford-able cancer care close to patients' homes and also to generate mass awareness about its prevention and early detection," Tata Trusts Medical Direc-tor (Cancer Care Programme) Arnie Purushotham told PTI.

There is a high incidence of tobacco-related cancers in the North East such as oral and lung cancer, many of which are curable through are curable through preventative measures, screening and early de-

tection, he added.
In every state capitals and town that the rally would pass, the riders' arrival will be accompanied by a series of events, including street plays, sensitisation and educational talks as well as stories of cancer patients, he

In addition, workshops on cancer research and careers in oncology will be conducted for medical students and nurses in Guwahati by Tata Memorial Hospital (Mumbai), Adyar Cancer Institute (Chennai) and Regional Cancer Centre (Trivandrum).

During the rally, the

doctors will interact with people at locations along the route to spread awareness about cancer, its preventive measures, detection aspects and treatment modalities

According to data available with Tata Trusts, the Northeastern region with a population of approximately five crore sees about 45,000 new cancer cases every Across India, Aizawl

district in Mizoram reported the highest rate of cancer cases among men, while Papumpare district in Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest incidence among women.

Tata Trusts is also
working with Emman-

uel Health Association, Ajmal Foundation, Deepshika Foundation, National Service Scheme and Rotary Foundation among others for cancer care awareness and screening in the outreach



Book signed by Tagore auctioned for USD 700



Boston, Mar 13 (PTI): A signed hardcover copy of Nobel laureate Rabin dranath Tagore's 'The King of the Dark Chamber' - the English trans-lation of his famous Bengali play 'Raja' - has been sold for USD 700 at an auction in the US.

Signed on a prefatory page in fountain pen by Tagore, the Bolpur edition of the book was published by The Macmillan Company in 1916.

The play revolves around a mysterious, unseen, omniscient king, who is both benevolent and efficient.

His reluctance towards being seen causes most of the drama in the story, rattling his beautiful wife and the kings of nearby kingdoms.

signed by an American book dealer, according to US-based RR Auction.

The book was con-

It was initially expect-ed to fetch USD 500 at the online auction.

Tagore became the first Indian to win a Nobel Prize (Literature) in

He wrote successfully in all literary genres, but was first and foremost a poet, publishing more than 50 volumes of poetry.

Tagore was knighted by the British in 1915, but gave up his knight-hood after the Jallian-wala Bagh massacre in

B'desh court sentences 39 ruling party activists to death

DHAKA, MAR 13 (PTI): A court in southeastern Bangladesh today sen-tenced to death 39 activists of the ruling Awami League for brutally killing a fellow local level party leader four years ago.

Ekramul Haque, the

upazila Awami League president, was hacked, shot and burnt alive by miscreants inside his car in broad daylight in Feni town's Academy area on May 20, 2014.

"The court handed down the death penalty to 39 people in this single case," a prosecutor told PTI over telephone

"All the convicts were local leaders and activists of Awami League," he

He said the district judge's court, however, acquitted 16 people, one being a local leader of the main opposition BNP, though initially he appeared to be the prime accused in the case.

Haque's Rezaul Haque Jasim had filed the murder case accusing BNP leader Minar and 30-35 unidentified

A total of 44 arrests were made over the years and 15 of them confessed in court



State pugilists bag 14 medals at East Zone Boxing Championship

GANGTOK, 13 MAR:
Sikkim pugilists have returned with 14 medals from the 1st edition of Boxing Federation of India Elite [Men's & Women's] East Zone Boxing Championship 2018 held from 09-11 Mar at Dergaon in Assam. The team

bagged one gold, five silver and eight bronze medals for the State in the championship.

The only gold for the State was won by Sukraj Rai while Roshni Subba, Neera Kumari Sharma, Pawan Singh Darnal, Jas Bahadur Mangar and Yougel Subba bagged silver medals.

Puja Ranpal, Sabitri Limboo, Sunita Rai, Raj Kumar, Sukraj Rai, Prem Kumar Rai, Subash Tamang and Sauray Gurung won a bronze medal each in the cham pionship with Roshni Subba being adjudged as the Best Chalnger of the championship.

The 14-member team was ac-

companied by Sports & Youth Affairs Department coaches, Vabi-ya Gurung [women's team] and Mukesh Rai [men's coach] and Sunita Chettri as team manager.

Women's coach, Ms Gurung, expressed her happiness on the performance of the State's pugilists during the championship.



SBI reduces charges on non-maintenance of minimum balance

MUMBAI, MAR 13 (PTI): The State Bank of India today reduced its charges on non-maintenance of an average monthly balance (AMB) in savings account by up to 75 per cent, effective April 1.

The charges for non-maintenance of AMB for customers in metro and urban centres have been reduced from a maximum of Rs 50 per month plus goods and services tax (GST), to Rs 15 per month plus GST. The above revision will benefit 25 crore bank customers.

For semi-urban and rural centres, the charges have been reduced from Rs 40 per month plus GST to Rs 12 and Rs 10 per month plus GST, respectively, the bank said in a release.
"We have reduced

these charges taking into account the feedback and sentiments of our customers," SBI's managing director (retail and digital banking) P K Gupta said.

"The bank has always

focused on keeping the interests of its customers first and this is one of our many efforts towards fulfilling customers' expectations" he said The SBI also offers its

customers to shift from a regular savings bank account to basic savings bank deposit account (BSBD) on which no charges are levied.

A customer always has the option of convert-ing the regular savings bank account to BSBD account free of charge, in case he desires to avail basic savings bank facilities without being sub ject to maintenance of

AMB, Gupta said.
The lender has 41 crore savings bank accounts, out of which 16 crore accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna/ BSBD, and of pensioners/ minors/ social security benefit holders are already ex-empted from charges on non-maintenance of minimum balance.

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IndiGo, GoAir cancel 65 flights after grounding of faulty planes

MUMBAI, MAR 13 (PTI): Budget carriers IndiGo and GoAir cancelled as many as 65 flights on Tuesday after the country's aviation regulator DGCA grounded 11 of their A320Neo planes with faulty Pratt & Whitney engines, causing se-vere inconvenience to

hundreds of flyers. The Gurugram-based IndiGo cancelled 47 of its 1,000-odd flights per day, the Wadia Group-pro-moted GoAir said it had

cancelled 18 flights.

GoAir has cancelled
18 flights originating
from over eight cities, the airline said in a state-ment to PTI. GoAir operates 230 flights per day.
IndiGo announced on

its website the cancellations of some 47 flights across its domestic network for Tuesday.

The flights that have been cancelled are from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ban-galore, Patna, Srinagar, Bhubaneswar, Amritsar, Srinagar and Guwahati, among others.

Later in a statement to the media, IndiGo said the affected passengers have been given the option to either choose another flight at no additional cost or cancel their booking and get a full refund without any cancellation charges.

"IndiGo has cancelled

certain flights due to the grounding of our aircraft further to the DGCA directions which has been issued in the interest of safety," the airline said.

While we understand that this may cause inconvenience to some of our passengers, given that we have multiple flights to the same destination, we are proactively re-accom-modating all our affected passengers on other flights," it added

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) cracked the whip after an IndiGo flight

within 40 minutes of its getting airborne due to a mid-air engine failure on Monday.

Citing safety of aircraft operations, the Director of the DGCA, in the March 12 order, said that A320Neos fitted with PW1100 engines beyond ESN 450 have been grounded with immediate effect.

Three other IndiGo A320Neo planes have been on the ground since February following similar engine problems.

On Monday, hundreds of passengers were stranded across the country as dozens of flights were cancelled by IndiGo and GoAir due to the grounding of the 11 A320 Neo planes of the two carriers.

IndiGo carries about 40 per cent of domestic flyers, while GoAir has a market share of around

Serena Williams ousted from Indian Wells by sister Venus



INDIAN WELLS, MAR 13 (AFP): Serena Williams' return to tournament tennis came to an abrupt end here Monday as she crashed out of Indian Wells with a 6-3 6-4 loss to her sister Venus.

Venus closed out the

29th career meeting be-tween the two on her second match point as Serena sailed a forehand long to end the third round match.

The 10th seeded Venus moves on to the round of 16, where she will face either Anasta-sija Sevastova or 12th seeded Julia Georges.

It was the first meet-ing between the two sisters since they clashed in the final of the 2017 Australian Open which Serena won before taking a 15-month hiatus due to her pregnancy. It is rare for the Wil-

liams sisters to play this early in a tournament. It is the earliest they have faced each other since their first encounter at the Australian Open in

1998. The sisters arrived outside the stadium to gether on a golf cart then walked through the tunnel with Serena entering the court first with many in the cross and cheering. Vanus blasted in the crowd standing

Venus blasted six aces but had eight double faults in the one hour 26 minutes main stadium match. Serena is still shaking off the rust after the long layoff as she hit four aces but had her serve broken four times.

This was their first encounter with Venus as an aunt and Serena as a new mother after giving birth to her baby daughter, Alexis Olympia, on September 1. Venus's victory also comes 17 years after an ugly booing incident led to a 14-year boycott of the tournament by the sisters.

But for some brought closure to the once testy relationship between Indian Wells and the sisters who hail from the Los Angeles suburb of Compton.

NIA to issue fresh summons to former Nagaland CM Zeliang

NEW DELHI, MAR 13 (PTI): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) will issue fresh summons to former Nagaland chief minister T R Zeliang after he did not appear before it for questioning in con-nection with an alleged terror financing case being probed by it, official sources today said.

The federal anti-terror agency had asked Zeliang to be present for the questioning at its head-quarters here today.

Zeliang has expressed inability to appear before the NIA, they said, adding that the agency will issue fresh summons to him.

The NIA is investigating massive scam in which funds meant the Nagaland gov ernment ernment ances, went to militant group allegedly

other regional terrorist organisations, according to the agency officials. The agency is looking

into the alleged terror fi-nancing since 2016, they Zeliang was Nagaland

chief minister during May 24, 2014 and February 19, 2017, and be-tween July 19, 2017 and March 7, 2018. Neiphiu Rio has be-

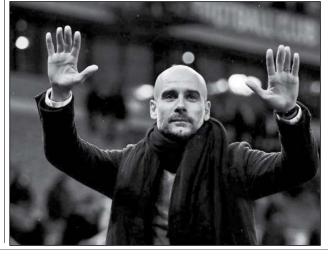
come a new chief minister of the state and took over the office on Thursday.

Zeliang, leader of the galand People's Front (NPF), is at present the Leader of Opposition.

A statement issued by

his office has termed the timing of the summons conspicuously and alleged political mo-

Guardiola plays down hopes of clinching title in derby



MANCHESTER, MAR 13 (AFP): Pep Guardiola tried to play down growing excitement among Manchester City supporters over the possibility of winning the Premier League title when they face bitter rivals United in the derby early next month. Jose Mourinho's side visit the

Etihad Stadium on April 7 for a game which could see City make mathematically certain of being crowned champions following their 2-0 victory at Stoke yesterday.

First, City must win their visit to mid-table Everton but, should they do so, Guardiola will win his first league title in English foot-ball with victory over his old rival Mourinho at the Etihad.

"Everybody is always asking this question," said Guardiola. "But the important thing is on March

12, we have 81 points, that is a lot of points.

'We want to be champions. We need three wins, but we are able to do it with two (if City beat United).

"But before and after United. we have the (Champions League) quarter-finals, and at the moment that is the most important thing to

focus on.
"I understand for the fans, okay, but the important thing is to be champions. When and where, it doesn't matter."

The in-form English team are also in with a strong chance winning Europe's premier prize

for the first time in their history.

The draw for the Champions
League last eight takes place on Friday and Guardiola will watch it live, along with his first-team squad, at their warm weather training camp in Abu Dhabi, where City flew immediately following the Stoke win.

City's shock exit from the FA Cup, at the hands of third-tier Wigan, leaves them without a game until the clash with Everton on the final day of the month.

"We are going to be together and make three training sessions in five days," said the City manager.

"We are going to have lunch together, dinner, some people are playing golf. But the weather conditions are better than here - the forecast in Manchester is rain, rain,

"So we are going to go there and do the training we should be doing here. Last season we were there and it was good and that's why we're going to the airport



Clinton criticised for her remarks against **Trump** supporters

WASHINGTON, 13 [PTI]: Hillary Clinton has been criticised for her remarks during the former US Secretary of State's India visit in which she targeted people who supported President Donald Trump in the 2016 elections.

Clinton, at a conclave Mumbai, suggested that those who supported Trump did so because they did not like black people getting rights, women getting jobs or Indian-American succeeding more than them.

"You know, you didn't like black people getting rights. You don't like wom en, you know, getting jobs. You don't want to see that Indian-American succeedng more than you are. Whatever your problem is, I'm going to solve it," Clinton said during the India Today Conclave 2018, Mumbai.

Puneet Ahluwalia, a member of 2016 Trump Asian Pacific Adviso-ry Committee said that Clinton remarks were "a desperate attempt to overshadow her divisiveness and shortcomings by accusing President Trump's first year in office successes.

Donald J Trump Jr, who was recently in India on a business tour. also supported the Indian-Americans.

"Iust when you think she can't get worse... she does. She always does, Trump Jr said.

He also re-tweeted a short video clip of Clinton from the India Today

Conclave.
"If you look at the map of the United States, there's all that red in the middle where Trump won. I win the coasts, I win Illinois, I win Min-nesota, places like that, Clinton said.

"What the map doesn't show you is that I won the places that represent two-thirds of America's gross domestic product," Clinton explained.
"So I won the places

that are optimistic, diverse, dynamic, moving forward. And his whole campaign, 'Make America Great Again,' was look-ing backwards," alleged 2016 Democratic presidential candidate.

'The 'most qualified candidate ever' folks. What a joke," Trump Junior said in another tweet along with a you-

tube video of her speech.
"The whole interview at the India Today Conclave is outrageous. She is trashing America's heartland. There are a lot of hardworking Ameri-cans, including Indian, Asian and Africans in those states and just because they did not vote for her, doesn't mean they were moving back-wards," Ahluwalia said.

Explosion strikes Palestinian PM's convoy in Gaza

ElseWhere

JABALIYA [GAZA STRIP], MAR 13 [AP]: An explosion struck the convoy of the Palestinian prime minister today as he was making a rare visit to Gaza, in what his Fatah party called an assassi-nation attempt it blamed on Gaza militants.

The explosion went off shortly after the convoy entered Gaza through the Erez crossing with Israel.

Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdal-lah was unharmed and went on to inaugurate a long-awaited sew-age plant project in the northern part of the strip But Fatah quickly held Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers responsible for the "cowardly attack" on the convoy, further escalating tensions between the bitter rival factions.

Three of the vehicles

in Hamdallah's convoy were damaged, their win-



dows blown out. One had signs of blood on the door.

Hamdallah, who is based in the West Bank, arrived in Hamas-run Gaza to inaugurate the sewage plant and said there that the attack will "not deter from seeking to end the bitter split. We will still come to Gaza."

rival factions have been trying to rec-

oncile since 2007 when Hamas seized control of Gaza from Fatah forces have suffered sev eral setbacks in their efforts since. The takeover left the Palestinians with two rival governments, Hamas in Gaza and the Western-backed Pales-

tinian Authority govern-

ing autonomous enclaves in the Israeli-occupied

In November, Hamas handed over control of Gaza's border crossings to the Palestinian Authority. It was the first tangi-ble concession in years Egyptian-brokered reconciliation talks. But negotiations have bogged down since then.

Hamdallah's comes amid a time of crisis in Gaza.

Today, the White House is hosting a special meeting to discuss Gaza's

devastated economy.

The plant in question was envisioned in 2007 after overburdened sew-age reservoirs collapsed, killing five villagers.

The World Bank, Eu-ropean Union and other European governments have paid nearly USD 75 million in funding.

Hamas' takeover of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in 2007 and the ensuing Israeli-Egyptian blockade, power shortages and conflicts delayed the opening of the project for four years.

Besides the old res-

ervoirs, the plant will receive wastewater from four towns and villages. After treatment, the water will be transferred for irrigation and the remainder will be safely dumped to the sea.

Trump sacks Tillerson; appoints CIA chief as new Secretary

WASHINGTON, MAR 13 ald Trump today fired his Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who is currently on a visit to Africa, and replaced him with CIA

The position, however, needs to be confirmed by the US Senate.

"I am confident he is the right person for the job at this critical juncture. He will continue our program of restoring America's standing in the world, strengthening our alliances, confronting our adversaries, and seeking the denuclearization of

"A great deal has been accomplished over fourteen months, and I wish him and his

Tillerson, 65, the former chairman and CEO of Exxon Mobil was appointed last year on February 1. He had never previously held political office.



Bhandari relected as Nepal president

KATHMANDU, MAR 13 (PTI): Nepal's first wom-an president Bidya Devi Bhandari was today relected for a second

term in office. Incumbent President Bhandari defeated Nepali Congress leader Kumari Laxmi Rai with an over-

whelming majority in the presidential election. Bhandari, 56, won since her nomination was backed by the ruling Left alliance of the CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Centre), the Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum-Nepal

and other fringe parties.

She became Nepal's first woman president in

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:13/03/18

1st Prize Rs.10.000/- 3186

6th Prize Rs 100/-

With 148 lawmakers and 243 in Provincial Assemblies, the CPN-UML commands a total vote of

CPN (Maoist Centre) has 65 lawmakers in parliament and 108 in provincial assemblies, which account for 10,319 votes.

The Nepali Congress, which has 76 seats in parliament and 113 in provincial assemblies

has a total vote of 11,428. Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum-Nepal and other fringe parties had also announced support for Bhandari.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI TAURUS

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 6696 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1924

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5697 5750 5766 5780 5863 5886 5918 6001 6005 6041

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4th Prize Rs.300/- 3870 5th Prize Rs. 201/- 3285

of State

Director Mike Pompeo.

"Mike Pompeo, Director of the CIA, will become our new Secretary of State. He will do a fantastic job!" Trump tweeted, in a surprise announcement.

the Korean Peninsula," Trump said.

"His experience in the military, Congress, and as leader of the CIA have prepared him well for his new role and I urge his swift confirmation," the

US president added.
Trump also thanked Tillerson for his service.

family well," he said.

Thirty-eight people have died after the bus they were travelling in plunged off a cliff in northern Ethiopia, state media said today. "A total of 38 people, [28 male, and 10 female] were killed in the accident," state-affiliated Fana Broadcast Corporate said of the crash in the Legambo district of the regional state of Amhara, citing

Nepal plane crash: B'desh team arrives in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, MAR 13 [PTI]: A high-level delegation from Bangladesh coday arrived here to today arrived discuss with Nepalese officials the issues related to a crash involving a US-Bangla Airlines aircraft that killed 49 peo-

The Bangla delegation includes Minister for Civil Aviation and Tour-ism A K M Shahjahan Kamal, Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and senior aviation officials, My Republica reported.

The team will meet the survivors of the crash and also discuss the possible reasons for the accident with Nepali authorities, amid reports



of confusion between the air traffic control and the pilot of the ill-fated plane. The Dhaka to Kath-

mandu US-Bangla Airlines flight, with 67 passengers and four crew members on board, caught fire after it careened off the runway and ploughed into a football ground near the Tribhuvan International Airport yesterday, killing 49 people.

Meanwhile, six officers stationed at the Air Traffic Control Tower who witnessed the air crash have been shifted to another department to "minimise shock of the accident," the paper said.

"This is a standard procedure to release stress after a fateful incident. They witnessed a huge disaster and they are shocked. Hence, we have transferred them to other departments to reduce their stress postcrash," said Rajan Pokha-rel, deputy director gen-eral at the Civil Aviation

Authority of Nepal.

Pokharel also clarified that the transfer was not due to the leaks of audio conversations between ATC and the pilot

efore the accident.

The airline and air-

port authorities have blamed each other for the tragedy, the worst in the country in 25 years, after it emerged that there was confusion over landing instructions. There were 33 Nep-

alese nationals on board flight UBG 211, a Bom-bardier Dash 8 Q400. Others include 32 Ban-gladeshis, one Chinese and one Maldivian.

A six-member com-mittee led by former director general at the Civil Aviation Authority of Ne-pal Yagya Prasad Gautam has been formed by Nepal to probe the accident.

The panel has been

assigned to initiate an

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES MUMBAILAXMI LAXMAN

raw No:6 DrawDate on:13/03/18 st Prize Rs.10,000/- 1194 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1029 rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 3412 4th Prize Rs. 501/- 1404

e Director ,Mizoram State Lotteries,

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Commissioner, NACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR SINCERE MORNING
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
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1st Prize Rs. 26 Lakhs/- 86C 23341
(Including Super Prize Amt)
495/- 23341 [ReNAINING ALL SERIALS)

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

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RED CARPET KICKOFF! Heidi Klum attends the red carpet launch of "America's Got Talent" season 13 at Pasadena Civic Auditorium in CA as the search begins to see who'll follow in the footsteps of 2017 winner Darci

Mel B dishes on Spice Girls Reunion & that Royal Wedding performance!



Mel B, 42, shared some exciting news about what's to come regarding her solo career and her career as one of the Spice Girls in an EXCLUSIVE interview with HollywoodLife.com at the America's Got Talent kickoff event in L.A. on 12 Mar.

The talented singer was happy to answer the many questions people have been hoping to get answers to and we loved every minute of it! When talking about her popular girl group, Mel gave us hope about that highly anticipated reunion.

"It is already confirmed, we are all signed to Simon Fuller," she revealed. "All five of us..." How amazing is that?! Will we see them at the finale of America's Got Talent? She stayed tight lipped but gave us hope with her answer. "I can't say anything... But you definitely will see us, all five back together this year... And not just in Geri's front room...," she stated. With this news, it's definitely time for a

celebration!

In addition to the reunion news, Mel told us about what she's looking forward to most when she gets back with Victoria Beckham, Emma Bunton, Geri Halliwell, and Melanie Chisholm.

"Well we are friends at the end of the day, we have tea and hangout and we talk about stuff, we are all parents now and for us five to be able to say that we can sell out arenas and concerts, that is a good feeling," she said with gratitude. "My nineteen year old calls me vintage and I don't know if that is cool or not but I will take it as cool..." So funny!

The America's Got Talent judge also answered about that Royal Wedding performance everyone has been talking about.

"I can't really say anything about that because I will get into trouble... Gosh!," she carefully said. "But we are definitely going to do stuff this year, that is for

sure..." Hmm... That definitely sounds like a firm maybe [leaning more toward a yes] to us! Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are set to get married at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle on 19 May, 2018 and we very well may see our five favorite British gals at the festivities!

The chat didn't end there, either. Mel also dished on how happy she is to be back on America's Got Talent along with her fellow judges, Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel, Simon Cowell, and Tyra Banks.

Cowell, and Tyra Banks.

"I mean they are like family and I love Heidi and I adore... Do I adore Howie?," she jokingly said. "He is a bit annoying but I do adore him because I sit next to him and he is such a great guy. And Simon, this is his idea and his creation so it is nice to be a part of something time and time again where you watch people's dreams come true, so I feel very honored... I do!" Aw! We're so glad she's back on the competition show too!



The inspiration behind Rani Mukerji's film Hichki...

Motivational speaker, Brad Cohen, whose story has inspired Rani Mukerji's upcoming film, Hichki, says though he was outcast as a child, he never gave up and faced it all with courage. Sharing his story with the media from Atlanta, Brad said: "I was 10 years old when the medical condition started and I knew that I am different. But my mother never made me feel like one because she said if you have a positive attitude you can win the battle. Growing up with Tourette syndrome was not easy. I was always pushed into a corner."

He went on to add that his teachers gave up on him. He recalled, "Nobody trusted my potential. But I knew that I will be a teacher when I grow up. I wanted to tell everyone whether you are dealing with Tourette syndrome or any other challenges in life there is a way to face them and not

to give up."

Asked about what made him write the book, Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had, he said: "In my childhood, nobody understood me in school. My teachers had no confidence in me and that used to affect my confidence. Now that I learnt to overcome my challenges in life, I want to stand by my every student and other people who are facing any kind of disorder that is creating an obstacle in their lives."

JB 'Cool' With Selena Taking Time-Out!

Justin Bieber isn't too worried about his 'break' with Selena Gomez.

For Selena Gomez, 25, and Justin Bieber, 24, distance makes the heart grow fonder. And amid reports that they're taking some time apart, JB and Sel are still very much in love. In fact, the "What Do You Mean" singer is okay with the idea that Selena needs a little space. "Justin is cool with Selena taking some time out from their relationship. This time around, they're both in it for the long run, so they're committed to not sweating the small stuff, and to giving each other space when needed," sources report.

needed," sources report.

"It's definitely a much more mature and grown-up relationship this time, and they don't argue over any of the stupid petty things that they did previously. They've also been working super hard at their trust issues, and that's been helping a lot when it comes to their relationship," the source continued. So, all of you beliebers



out there can relax! We're happy to hear their break isn't serious, and apparently they're still in contact, according to E! News. Phew!

Plus, just one day after their "split," Jelena was spotted at the same church. They were photographed leaving the service separately on March 7, but the fact that they were there together lets us know they will be just fine.

While apart, Selena is reportedly trying to repair her relationship with her mom Man-

dy Teefey, 41.

If you recall, Mandy isn't a big fan of Justin, so we guess this break is definitely good for something. We hope Mandy comes around, but we understand her concern. After all, this is Jelena's third time giving their relationship a chance!

BOXOFFICE

Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety box office collection!



Kartik Aaryan, Nushrat Bharucha and Sunny Singh's Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety is having a fantastic run at the domestic box office. The movie has not only impressed the au-

The movie has not only impressed the audience, but is also raking in the moolah across the country. On day 18, the film remained rock steady as it added another Rs 1.82 crore on its third Monday. With that, the film has now raked in Rs 88.58 crore.

Talking about the current trend and break-

Talking about the current trend and breakdown of collections in the third week, trade analyst Taran Adarsh mentioned on Twitter, "#SonuKeTituKiSweety is ROCK-STEADY. [Week 3] Fri Rs 2.27 crore, Sat Rs 4.12 crore, Sun Rs 4.66 crore, Mon Rs 1.82 crore. Total: Rs 88.58 crore. India biz. #SKTKS."

Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety is Kartik, Nushrat and Sunny's third film together after Aakash

Vaani and Pyaar Ka Punchnama 2. With the audience loving their pairing and with a hilarious plot and fantastic execution, Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety was an instant hit. In fact, even though the critics weren't so impressed, the audience loved the movie. They raved about it on social media, helping develop tremendous word of mouth publicity for Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety. This in turn helped increase the footfalls for the movie and with that, it raked in such a huge amount at the hox office.

Looking at the current trends, the movie is expected to continue earning decent amounts of money over this week. However, with Ajay Devgn's Raid releasing this Friday [16 Mar], it is quite sure Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety will end its run at the domestic box office.

ARIES: You should be feeling especially strong, healthy, and charismatic. You're likely to receive some invitations to exciting parties. You might be surprised at what seems a sudden increase in your popularity. Expanded career opportunities could also come your way from new acquaintances, and you could find doors opening to a whole new life - new friends, new position, and possibly a new home.

TAURUS: Optimism and enthusi-

quaintances, and you could find doors opening to a whole new life - new friends, new position, and possibly a new home.

TAURUS: Optimism and enthusiasm for the months ahead have you feeling confident and strong. The sky's the limit! A male visitor could have some surprising news for you. This is a great day to make investments or purchase property. If you've been expecting money through legal

papers or contracts, it could come in the mail today. The night could bring vivid and interesting dreams. In all, it's a thoroughly satisfying day. GEMINI: Some interesting information could come to you from

GEMINI: Some interesting information could come to you from another state or country, Gemini. This could induce some pretty deep thinking, leading to decisions that could alter the course of your life in some way. You might be considering returning to school to advance your education. Your mood today should be optimistic and positive. You could be full of utopian schemes for the future. Wait a few days and then start to make definite plans.

CANCER: You should wake up feeling strong and confident, Cancer. Expect to receive some

good news today, which will only heighten your mood. In the afternoon you could attend a party or neighborhood get-together. You'll have a good time talking to friends and meeting new people. In the evening, relax!

LEO: Your outgoing and jovial nature is intensified today, Leo, and so you're probably going to be sought after for any parties or celebrations. Your generosity is also at an all-time high, and will take many forms, which will be appreciated by that special someone in your life. Think about taking your partner with you as you make the social rounds tonight and making him or her the star of the evening. VIRGO: Inspiration is the key-

word for today, Virgo. An opti-

mistic and enthusiastic attitude could lead to powerful imaginings, which may take solid form as plans for future projects. These could be artistic, business related, or centered around your home in some way. Whatever they are, this is a good day to put those plans into motion. All signs indicate success on any project begun or completed today.

indicate success on any project begun or completed today. LIBRA: A group you're associated with could bring information to your attention that puts you in a very positive frame of mind and almost has you skipping all the way home. You should enjoy socializing today, Libra, as you're even more gregarious than usual. Both old and new friends could seek out your company. A victory of some kind has come

your way, contributing to your great mood. Enjoy your day! SCORPIO: Your faithful and diligent work, Scorpio, in addition to a lot of sacrifices for the sake of your career, will soon bear fruit. The anticipation of a great evaluation, with possible advancement, is likely to have you walking on air all day, full of dreams and plans for the future. Enjoy this well-deserved peace of mind. Spend some time today enjoying your family. Perhaps you could plan a pre-celebration. SAGITTARIUS: Congratulations, Sagitarius! You've finally reached a goal you've been working toward for a long time. Success and advancement are on their way, and you should be feeling extremely enthusi-

astic and optimistic about your future. Some vast changes may take place in your life, but they all promise to be positive. Expect to travel and learn a lot. Make the most of these energies.

CAPRICORN: Vivid, wonderful dreams may have haunted your

the most of these energies.

CAPRICORN: Vivid, wonderful dreams may have haunted your sleep last night, Capricorn, leaving you disappointed that they weren't real. They have a message for you, so write them down, set them aside, and analyze them later. Your psychic abilities and imagination are very sharp today. This is a great day to start an artistic project that has been in the back of your mind for some time. Findy your day

AQUARIUS: Feel free to take full advantage of the very open social energies of today, Aquarius.

You, especially, will feel at home in any social gathering, totally at ease talking to new people and charming the room. This would be an ideal day to meet someone new. Someone of the opposite sex may be particularly attracted to you. Feel free to be as flirtatious as you want!

PISCES: Expect some very pleasant surprises today, Pisces. If you're single, you're likely to receive a phone call from someone who interests you romantically. This should greatly increase your level of self-confidence, and you're therefore likely to float through the rest of the day. With these aspects, any new relationship or project begun today will have a wonderful energy behind

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