

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Six from Sikkim in ISL this season

**SAURABH RAI  
SILIGURI, 23 JUL:**

Six footballers from Sikkim were picked up by different Indian Super League franchises to play in the cash-rich league in its upcoming edition. A glittering ceremony was held in Mumbai on Sunday where the fortunes of 199 players from across the country were put

to test. Around 30 players from the list were not picked by any teams.

Star Midfielder Bikash Jairu (Rs 55 Lakhs) from Sikkim was picked by the new entrant in the ISL this season, Jamshedpur FC along with Robin Gurung (Rs 26 Lakhs) who plays as a defender.

Senior players Nirmal Chettri (Rs 35 Lakhs) and San-

ju Pradhan (Rs 30 Lakhs) went to North East United FC and Mumbai City FC respectively.

Finally, the two youngsters, Kunzang Bhutia (Rs 10 Lakhs), who plays as a Goalkeeper, was picked up by ATK-Kolkata, and Nim Dorjee Tamang (Rs 15 Lakhs) will be featuring in the Indian Super League for the very first time for FC Pune City.

Nim Dorjee had a brilliant season with Shillong Lajong FC in the I-League this season, he plays as a stopper.

"My new journey in ISL begins with FC Pune City and I don't know how I will ever thank you all for your support and well wishes. As much as I am excited to get into my new home, I will miss all of my teammates,

beloved fans and management team from Shillong Lajong FC. For all that I become today, I owe to you all. God bless," said Nim Dorjee Tamang in his Facebook post today.

Indian Super League 2017 will kick-off on 17 Nov with 10 teams. Bengaluru FC and Jamshedpur FC will be the new teams debuting this season.

## Edathodika, Lyngdoh in 'Crorepati Club' at ISL Draft



**MUMBAI, JUL 23 (PTI):** Defender Anas Edathodika and midfielder Eugene Lyngdoh emerged as the costliest picks for an identical Rs 1.1 crore in the Indian Super League (ISL) domestic players draft here today.

While Edathodika was picked up by new outfit Jamshedpur FC, Eugene Lyngdoh was snapped up by two-time champions ATK.

Other top picks among the 134 players chosen were goalkeeper Subrata Paul, who was chosen by Jamshedpur for Rs 87 lakh, and right-back Pritam Kotal, grabbed by Delhi Dynamos for Rs 75 lakh.

"He was our no. 1 pick. He also scores goals and should be valuable," ATK's legendary coach Teddy Sheringham told reporters when asked about Lyngdoh.

Incidentally, the team's technical director Ashley Westwood was the coach of ISL debutants Bengaluru FC in the I-League with Lyngdoh in its ranks.

The team also chose

India striker Robin Singh for Rs 65 lakh, enabling a reunion with Westwood, under whom he played for Bengaluru FC in the I League.

Steve Coppell, Jamshedpur FC's head coach, said, "Picking Indian players is a priority and we will try and match the skeleton of the team. A decision on choosing foreign players will be taken soon. We have some foreign players in the mind."

We had terrific and solid players in the pick. Now our job is to cement the team."

He supported the expansion of league to 10 teams and by two more months.

"There is more responsibility and it's a step in the right direction," he said.

On Mehtab Hussain's pick he said, "He is very much the devil and will be determined to make an impact. He has been playing for a long time. I am very pleased to get him."

Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) chairperson Nita

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## J-K youth who won digital skills contest recalls challenges

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):** He comes from a state where Internet bans and stone-pelting incidents have hogged headlines in the recent past.

But, against all odds, Prince Sumberia (21) of Jammu and Kashmir won an Asia-level digital skills competition in Singapore, edging out competitors from six other countries.

The 2nd year B.Tech student of a Jammu college was not even sure if he would be able to procure passport for visiting Singapore.

"A relative of mine went to Srinagar to get the passport at a time when stone-peltings were quite frequent. I

turn to pg03



## FRUIT-BEARING TREES PLANTED AT HORTICULTURE COLLEGE

**GANGTOK, 23 JUL:** A plantation drive was carried out at College of Horticulture at Bermiok, South Sikkim, on Saturday. Dr. AB Sherpa, Sr. Assistant Professor, and Raju Pradhan, Farm Assistant of CAEPHT, CAU, Ranipool, coordinated the program and demonstrated the technique of pit making for planting fruit-bearing trees through power-operated Agur digger and the methods of planting to the first batch of BSc (Horticulture) students of College of Horticulture. The students participated actively in the plantation program, an official press release informs. Around 100 saplings of fruit-bearing trees were planted in the college campus.

## Pranab cautions govt against taking ordinance route

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):** President Pranab Mukherjee today cautioned the government against using the ordinance route to bring in a law, saying it should be used only in a compelling situation and not taken recourse to in monetary matters.

At a farewell function in Parliament, he also told the opposition not to disrupt proceedings in the two Houses as it took away from it the opportunity to raise people's concerns.

"I am of the firm opinion that the ordinance route should be used only in compelling circumstances and there should be no recourse to ordinances on monetary matters," he said.

The hour-long function was attended by Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and H D Deve Gowda, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi, Union min-



President Pranab Mukherjee speaking at his farewell ceremony at Central Hall of the Parliament in New Delhi on July 23, 2017.

isters, besides political leaders and MPs.

Eighty-one-year-old Mukherjee said the ordinance route should not be taken on matters which are being considered or have been introduced in Parliament or pending before a House committee.

"If a matter is deemed ur-

gent, the committee concerned should be made aware of the situation and should be mandated to present its report within a stipulated time," he said.

The president's remarks bear significance as after repeatedly failing to amend the Enemy Property Act, 1968 in last three years, the Modi

government had promulgated five ordinances. The Bill was passed by Parliament in March.

Senior Union ministers were reportedly deputed to convince the President to sign the fourth and fifth enemy property ordinances as he was against promulgating them.

Mukherjee said he was

"greatly benefited" from the advice and cooperation extended by Modi at "every step".

"With passion and energy, he (Modi) is driving transformational changes in the country. I will carry with fond memories of our association and his warm and courteous

turn to pg03

## Provide accurate info on missing Indians in Iraq, Punjab Cong to MEA

**JALANDHAR (PUNJAB), JUL 23 (PTI):** The Punjab Congress today accused the External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj of "misleading" the country on the fate of 39 Indians abducted in Iraq and asked her to provide "credible information" on the issue.

"Thirty nine people went to Iraq to get better employment opportunities, they are untraceable for the last three years.

The centre, especially Sushma Swaraj, is misleading their relatives," Satnam Singh Kainth, vice-president, state Congress said.

"Instead of misleading them, she must give credible and accurate information to their family members. If they are alive then the Centre must take strong steps to bring them back," he de-

manded.

Swaraj recently met the family members of the missing workers in New Delhi and informed them that the Islamic State had transferred the Indians at a jail in Badush, near Mosul.

"If the Centre knows where they are then she must tell the nation what steps are being taken to bring them back to the country," the former Leader of Opposition of Punjab Assembly said.

Citing media reports that the jail was destroyed by ISIS long ago, he said these are "tough times" for their families as they are growing restless. Gurudaspur resident Harjit Massih, who fled IS captivity, had claimed that all the 39 Indian construction workers were killed by the militants in 2014.



## Darjeeling tense but without fresh violence

**KOLKATA, JULY 23 (PTI):**

The situation in Darjeeling remained tense today on the 39th day of the GJM-sponsored indefinite shutdown, though there was no fresh violence or arson anywhere in the hills.

The police and security forces patrolled the streets in the hills as shops, except pharmacy stores, restaurants, hotels, schools and colleges remained closed.

The GJM held rallies in various parts of the hills in support of its demand for Gorkhaland.

In the morning, some political activists, dressed in traditional Nepali attire, took out rallies. They were heard shouting slogans in support of Gorkhaland.

Amid a severely hit food supply in the hills due to its ongoing shutdown, the GJM activists and NGOs of the hills were seen distributing food to the local people at many places.



## Ministers and MLAs call on CM with congratulations for doctorate from SU

**GANGTOK, JULY (IPR):** Ministers and MLAs called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his residence at Mintokgang today to congratulate him on being conferred the Doctorate (Honoris Causa) degree by Sikkim University on 22 July during the IVth Convoca-

tion of the University at Chintan Bhawan.

While thanking the ministers and the MLAs, the Chief Minister said that the award was dedicated to the Sikkimese people for always bestowing faith on him and for taking the state forward.

Sikkim Legislative As-

sembly Speaker, KN Rai, while congratulating the Chief Minister said that this was an honor to the state as well since the degree is awarded from by a Central University and is conferred only after approval from the President.

Minister for Health Care, Human Services

and Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani also presented the prestigious Param Vashistha Parayavaran Mitra Award to the Chief Minister which the state had received at a special awards function held in Mumbai on 08 Jul.

The Environmental

Medical Association had presented the award on the occasion of 23rd National Conference on Environment and Respiratory Diseases.

Mr Ghatani said that the state was awarded for the first time in the history of Environmental Medical Association in

recognition to the exceptional pioneering work carried out by the Chief Minister in transforming the state of Sikkim in diversified fields.

The Minister said that under his leadership, guidance, support and encouragement Sikkim had emerged as a model state

in India in cleanliness, pollution free environment, traffic management, tourism development, hospitality which were exclusively highlighted during the function.

The Chief Minister accepted the award and dedicated it to the people of the state.

## Edathodika, Lyngdoh in 'Crorepati Club' at ISL Draft

*contd from pg01*

Ambani said ISL is inspiring youth to take up football as a career.

"It is going to be an exciting new journey, a longer season, kicking off this November. Both in terms of number of matches moving up from 61 to 95 and the duration from two and a half months to five months.

"The longer season will ensure sufficient rest for players between the matches and will help in the quality of play getting better," Ambani said during the opening address of the players' draft.

Subrata Paul said, "I am happy to be associated with Tatas (owners of Jamshedpur FC," he said.

Asked whether he was sure of being picked so early, Paul said, "It's a tricky question, but I was confident. I will try and give my best to the club."

India's star striker Sunil Chhetri, who was among those retained by his club ahead of the draft, said that he will miss the presence of Lyngdoh alongside him.

"I will miss him and wish him all the luck," said Chhetri who used to forge a fine combination with Lyngdoh in I-league for Bengaluru FC.

"On the pitch nothing changes. We want to win every game," he quipped when asked whether Bengaluru FC would follow their successful I-League strategy in the ISL.

Mumbai City FC picked striker Balwant Singh (Rs 65 lakh) in the third round and goalie Arindam Bhattacharya (Rs 64 lakh) in the

fourth round.

Rino Anto went to Kerala Blasters for Rs 63 lakh, Bengaluru FC bagged Lenny Rodrigues for Rs 60 lakh.

In other significant buys, FC Goa got Pranoy Halder (Rs 58 lakh) and Narayan Das (Rs 58 lakh) while Chennaiyin FC bagged Thoi Singh (Rs 57 lakh).

Chennaiyin's co-owner Abhishek Bachchan said, "We wanted a sense of continuity and are happy with the new people on board. There was no added pressure on us."

Draft picks at a glance:

JAMSHEDPUR FC: Anas Edathodika (Rs 1.1 crore), Subrata Paul (Rs 87 lakh), Mehtab Husain (Rs 50 lakh), Sauvik Chakraborti (Rs 45 lakh), Robin Gurung (Rs 26 lakh), Bikash Jairu (Rs 55 lakh), Jerry Mawihmingthanga (Rs 15 lakh), Shouvik Ghosh (Rs 18 lakh), Sairuat Kima (Rs 8.4 lakh), Sanjiban Ghosh (Rs 8 lakh), Farukh Chaudhary (Rs 7.45 lakh), Sumeet Passi (Rs 15 lakh), Yumnaam Raju (Rs 12 lakh), Ashim Biswas (Rs 10 lakh), Siddharth Singh (Rs 6 lakh) Delhi Dynamos FC: Albino Gomes (Rs 50 lakh)), Pritam Kotal (Rs 75 lakh), L Changate (Rs 15 lakh), Sena Ralte (Rs 27 lakh), Seityasen Singh (Rs 50 lakh), Pratik Chowdhury (Rs 30 lakh), Vinit Rai (Rs 12 lakh), Romeo Fernandes (Rs 50 lakh), David Ngaihte (Rs 12 lakh), Sukhdev Patil (Rs 10 lakh), Sajid Dhot (Rs 10 lakh), Rowlinson Rodrigues (Rs 10 lakh), Munmun Lugun (Rs 10 lakh), Arnab Das Sharma (Rs 12 lakh), Simranjeet Singh (Rs 8 lakh).

FC PUNE CITY: Adil Khan (Rs 32 lakh), Keen Louis (Rs 40 lakh), Lalchung Moya (Rs 45

lakh), Jewel Raja (Rs 26 lakh), Nim Dorjee Tamang (Rs 15 lakh), Isaac Vanmalsawma (Rs 15 lakh), Harpreet Singh (Rs 6 lakh), Wayne Vaz (Rs 8 lakh), Kamaljit Singh (Rs 8 lakh), Baljit Sahani (Rs 37 lakh), Rohit Kumar (Rs 8 lakh), Ajay Singh (Rs 8 lakh), Gurtej Singh (Rs 12 lakh), Pawan Kumar (Rs 12 lakh).

KERALA BLASTERS: Rino Anto (63 lakh), Lalruattara (25 lakh), Milan Singh (Rs 45 lakh), Arata Izumi (Rs 40 lakh), Subashish Roy Chowdhury (Rs 37 lakh), Jackichand Singh (Rs 55 lakh), Siam Hanghal (Rs 31 lakh), Lalthakima (Rs 10 lakh), Pritam Kumar (Rs 12.5 lakh), Samuel Shadap (Rs 10 lakh), Loken Meitei (Rs 6 lakh), Karan Sawhney (Rs 8 lakh), Ajith Sivan (Rs 6 lakh).

NORTH EAST UNITED: Hali Charan Narzary (Rs 45 lakh), Nirmal Chhetri (35 lakh), Lalrindika Ralte (Rs 50 lakh), Robert Lalthlamuana (Rs 25 lakh), Semnlen Doungel (Rs 37.5 lakh), Reagan Singh (Rs 25 lakh), Ravi Kumar (Rs 17 lakh), Gursimrat Gil (Rs 6 lakh), Malennmgamba Meitai (Rs 16 lakh), Abdul Hakku (Rs 12 lakh), Lalrempuia Fanai (Rs 8 lakh), Gurpreet Singh (Rs 7 lakh), Sushil Maitei (Rs 6 lakh).

FC GOA: Narayan Das (Rs 58 lakh), Pranoy Halder (58 lakh), Chinglensana Singh (Rs 19 lakh), Brandon Fernandes (Rs 27.5 lakh), Seriton Fernandes (Rs 10 lakh), Pratesh Shiroadkar (Rs 24 lakh), Naveen Kumar (Rs 6 lakh), Mohamed Ali (Rs 12 lakh), Jovel Martins (Rs 7.5 lakh), Ameya Ranawade (Rs 6 lakh), Anthony D'souza (Rs 16 lakh), Mohd Yasir (Rs 5 lakh), Bruno Colaco (Rs 10 lakh).

ATK: E Lyngdoh (Rs 1.1 crore), Jayesh Rane

(49 lakh), Keegan Pereira (Rs 28 lakh), Shankar Sampangiraj (Rs 25 lakh), Anwar Ali (Rs 35 lakh), Hitesh Sharma (Rs 10 lakh), Robin Singh (Rs 65 lakh), Rupert Nongrum (Rs 12.5 lakh), Ashutosh Mehta (Rs 45 lakh), Augustin Fernandes (Rs 30 lakh), Ronaldn Singh (Rs 10 lakh), Kunzang Bhutia (Rs 10 lakh), Bipin Singh (Rs 12 lakh).

BENGALURU FC: L Ralte (Rs 37 lakh), Rahul Beke (Rs 43 lakh), Harmanjot Khabra (Rs 53 lakh), Subashish Bose (Rs 17 lakh), Alwyn George (Rs 35 lakh), Lenny Rodrigues (Rs 60 lakh), Zohmingliana Ralte (Rs 25 lakh), T H-Okip (Rs 30 lakh), Abhra Mondal (Rs 10 lakh), Boithang Haokip (Rs 20 lakh), Collin Abranches (Rs 13 lakh), Joyner Lourenco (Rs 7 lakh), Calvin Abhishek (Rs 4 lakh).

CHENNAIYIN FC: Thoi Singh (Rs 57 lakh), Bikramjit Singh (Rs 53 lakh), Dhanachandana Singh (Rs 50 lakh), Germanpreet Singh (Rs 12 lakh), F Cardozo (Rs 30 lakh), Pawan Kumar (Rs 25 lakh), Keenan Almeida (Rs 20 lakh), Mohammed Rafi (Rs 30 lakh), Dhanapal Ganesh (Rs 44 lakh), Sanjay Balmuchu (Rs 8 lakh), Fransisco Fernandes (Rs 20 lakh), Shalin Lal Meloli (Rs 8 lakh).

MUMBAI CITY FC: Balwant Singh (Rs 65 lakh), Arindam Bhattacharya (Rs 64 lakh), Raju Gaikwad (Rs 47 lakh), Abhinav Ruidas (Rs 18 lakh), Sahil Tavora (Rs 6 lakh), Aiborlong Khongjee (Rs 35 lakh), Sanju Pradhan (Rs 30 lakh), Zakeer Mundampara (Rs 18 lakh), Biswajit Saha (Rs 6 lakh), Pranjal Bhumi (Rs 6 lakh), Mehrajuddin Wadoo (Rs 43 lakh), Kunal Sawant (Rs 15 lakh), L Kimkima (Rs 20 lakh).

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**Gangtok on Monday,  
24 July**

**Temp:** 24°C / 17°C  
**Forecast:** Periods of rain; turning colder in the afternoon.  
**Sunrise:** 04:55 AM  
**Sunset:** 06:29 PM

## Stray dogs attack young tourist in Nainital; she lands in ICU

**NAINITAL, JUL 23 (PTI):** A ten-year-old girl from Rajasthan fell into a ditch after she was attacked by a pack of stray dogs.

The child, named Amtula, was attacked by a pack of stray dogs on the Kathgodam road, SO, Tallital police station, Pramod Pathak, said.

Attacked by the canines, the girl climbed a parapet to protect herself but slipped and fell into a 50 feet ditch, he said.

She was rushed to the Brijlal Hospital in Haldwani where she was admitted to the ICU due to the gravity of injuries sustained, the police official said.

The incident highlights the nuisance of stray dogs which are found in large numbers on the main thoroughfares of this popular tourist resort, according to locals.

Amtula had come to Nainital on a visit with her father Abbas, officials said. The family hails from Dungarpur, Rajasthan, they said.

Stray dogs have become a serious problem in Nainital, with incidents of them biting people being reported every day, locals said.

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## Pakyong mourns passing away of NB Bhandari

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 23 JUL:**

A condolence programme was convened by residents of Pakyong at Pakyong Bazaar to pay respects to and honour the departed former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, a press release informs.

The programme was at-

tended by retired officers Dubo Tshering Bhutia, Dilli Ram Nirola, PK Subba and social workers Bishnu Kumar Khataiwara, Bum Tshering Yonzon, CL Dulal, Binod Sharma, Enchung Bhutia, Nima Wangchuk Bhutia, Hari Rizal, Tilak Ruchal, JB Tamang, LM Tamang and others.

The attendees offered khadas and lit butter lamps in the memory

of the late Chief Minister.

Mr Yonzon, on the behalf of local public of Pakyong, extended heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr Bhandari.

"He was a visionary leader and one of the true sons of Sikkim," he said.

A brief life story of Mr Bhandari was presented by Mr Dulal on the occasion.

## Congress, AAP jump in support of Narmada-ousted families in MP

**BHOPAL, JUL 23 (PTI):**

The Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have jumped in support of the 18,000 families from Madhya Pradesh which have been displaced by the recent closure of the gates of Sardar Sarovar Dam on river Narmada in Gujarat.

The Congress has decided to raise the issue both in Madhya Pradesh assembly and in Parliament. The AAP too will raise the matter in Lok Sabha.

Congress leader of opposition in assembly Ajay Singh said his party is going to take to the task the Madhya Pradesh government in the House for failing to rehabilitate 18,000 families.

"The state government has asked these oustees to vacate the submergence area of the dam by July 31. We are planning to bring an adjournment motion on the issue in the House," he added.

"Our leader and the party chief whip in the Lok Sabha Jyotiraditya Scindia is going to raise the issue in parliament," state Congress spokesman Pankaj Chaturvedi said.

"The affected people

are on tenterhooks given that the water level in the dam was swelling due to the rains. The state government should take immediate steps to save precious lives," he added.

Madhya Pradesh AAP convenor Alok Agarwal said their MP Bhagwant Mann is going to raise the oustees' issue in the parliament.

He said that 18,000 families in Madhya Pradesh's Alirajpur, Barwani, Dhar and Khargone districts are on the verge of drowning following the closure of the gates of Sardar Sarovar dam last month.

"These people in villages close to Narmada river have come under the submergence area of the dam water," Agrawal, who is also AAP national spokesman added.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has turned a blind eye to the oustees' rehabilitation and was not even talking to Narmada Bachao Andolan leaders over it.

Narmada has its source in Amarkantak in eastern Madhya Pradesh and Sardar Sarovar Dam is the possibly the last dam built on its downstream in Gujarat.

## J-K youth who won digital skills contest recalls challenges

**contd from pg01**

was not very sure if I would be able to get it, until I actually got it," he told PTI.

Perhaps these challenges made him more determined as he overcame stiff competition from students from Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Bhutan and Vietnam in the finale on July 20.

"The situation in Jammu and Kashmir creates a lot of problems for us students. We don't know when the Internet will be banned, and when there will be a strike," he says.

The Asia Digital Skills Challenge, one of the biggest competitions of its kind on the continent, was organised by the non-profit International Computer Driving License Foundation and was open to students aged 18-25 years.

The competition was

held in three tiers - college, national and Asia level. The students were tested on their core digital skills through tests including online collaboration, IT security and advanced spreadsheets.

Sumberia faced competition from his counterparts in various prominent institutes in the country before clinching the finale.

"We don't know when things will become stable, and so there is always uncertainty," Sumberia says.

Apart from Sumberia, Josuto Rudupra, a 2nd year B.Tech student from Nagaland, represented India at the competition.

Two finalists were chosen from each country for the grand finale which was a solo contest.

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## Govt to open lateral entry door for private sector specialists

**ASHWINI SHRIVASTAVA**

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):** In a major move aimed at bringing domain expertise to policy making, the government has decided to open its doors for private sector specialists in select departments, a senior personnel ministry official said.

A proposal is being worked out to induct 50 such specialists from the private sector in government departments at the level of director and joint secretary, he said. Many of these posts are manned by civil service officials.

A presentation giving details of the proposal was shown to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi recently by the personnel ministry, the official said.

Private sector talent can be brought in on fixed-term contracts to supplement the government's effort of providing good and effective governance, he said.

About 48 lakh employees work in various central government departments. Over 4.2 lakh posts were vacant as on March 1, 2015, according to latest data.

The move to induct private sector specialists comes following a suggestion from the government's policy think tank Niti Aayog.

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## Pranab cautions govt against taking...

**contd from pg01**

behaviour," he said.

The outgoing president, who will demit office on Tuesday, said he was "mentored" by late prime minister Indira Gandhi whose "steely determination, clarity of thought and decisive action made her a towering personality".

He said she never hesitated to call a spade a spade.

Mukherjee recalled during a visit to London with Gandhi after the Emergency, she had told journalists, "In those 21 months, we comprehensively managed to alienate all sections of Indian people."

Recalling his days as a member Parliament which he entered in 1969 as Rajya Sabha member, Mukherjee said by listening to stalwart in the Treasury and opposition benches, he understood the real value of debate, discussion and dissent.

"I realised how disruption hurts the opposition more than the government as it denies it the opportunity to raise the concerns of the people," he said.

Mahajan said Mukherjee is respected for his impeccable knowledge of constitutional and parliamentary rules and procedures and exemplary memory of events and precedents.

"You have been a 'guru' from whom generations of parliamentarians have received lessons on the operational dynamics of our parliamentary polity," she said.

Mahajan said the president's ad-

mirable administrative acumen and efficiency have played pivotal roles in shaping appropriate responses to various momentous events and challenges before the nation at large.

Lauding Mukherjee contributions, Rajya Sabha Chairman Ansari said his views and pronouncements on issues of national and international importance have enhanced the stature of the high offices held by him.

"From the highest pedestal, he has, on several occasions, urged citizens to rededicate themselves to the cause of upholding the democratic values.

"He has spoken with conviction about India's pluralism and diversity being her greatest strength and the need to constantly nurture and protect them," he said.

Ansari recalled that at a farewell dinner for governors and lieutenant governors last week, Mukherjee had spoken about the constitutional design by which "there cannot be two functional executive authorities in a state" and the governor's role, therefore, is "mainly confined to giving advice to the chief minister".

"He (Mukherjee) added that in certain situations, the governor has no discretion but to accept the verdict of the floor test," the vice president said.

Mukherjee was presented a coffee-table book by the Speaker on behalf of the MPs.

Later, Mukherjee attended a high-tea in Parliament House.

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### ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari who left for his heavenly abode on 16 July 2017 falls on Friday 28 July, 2017. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence, Primula Cottage, Church Road, Gangtok.

Dil Kumari Bhandari  
Primula Bhandari - 8918061018  
Sharmila and Bikram Pal Singh  
Perilla and Bryan Swartz  
Roshan R Bhandari and Naseeb Puri  
Ashwin, Rehaan and Noor (grandchildren)  
And all Bhandari family



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## When Aid to Combat AIDS Flatlines

*...deliver social justice along with supporting the science*

The 9th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science began in Paris on Sunday, 23 July. This biennial gathering is the largest open scientific conference on HIV and AIDS related issues - bringing together a broad cross-section of more than 6,000 professionals from around the world to meet and examine the latest scientific developments in HIV-related research with a focus on moving science into practice and policy. A lot of what is discussed at this conference is technical and scientific and hence beyond the immediate comprehension of the lay audience. The occasion, however, provides an opportunity to take a relook at where the battle to contain the spread of HIV and the morbidity of AIDS has reached.

UNAIDS released a report recently showing that for the first time, the scales have tipped: more than half of all people living with HIV (53%) now have access to HIV treatment and AIDS-related deaths have almost halved since 2005. It is still a staggeringly high number though. In 2016, 19.5 million of the 36.7 million people living with HIV had access to treatment, and AIDS-related deaths have fallen from 1.9 million in 2005 to 1 million in 2016. Provided that scale-up continues, this progress puts the world on track to reach the global target of 30 million people on treatment by 2020. As mentioned, the numbers are still high, and there is not much else to cheer about yet since funds for awareness, care and research are falling short as the developed world tightens its purse-strings on the excuse of the economic recession and changed priorities. You see, AIDS is no longer a major concern for the developed world any more. Donor government funding to support HIV efforts in low- and middle-income countries decreased by US\$511 million from US\$7.5 billion in 2015 to US\$7 billion in 2016. This marks the second successive year of declines, and is the lowest level since 2010. That in itself is a massive slashing of funds and perhaps explains the subdued HIV-AIDS programmes across India and in Sikkim. What is worrying is that funding should actually have doubled, since as per a UNAIDS estimate, US\$ 25 million is required for fighting AIDS in poorer countries. And that was as per 2010 figures. Even then, the AIDS workers were short by 11.3 billion, and now the funding has flat-lined even further, if such a thing is even possible. This cannot be good for the effort against AIDS because some things were finally falling into place and what is required is more, not less financial support. In the absence of adequate financial support, not only are those already living with HIV denied the healthcare they need, but efforts to protect more people from contracting the virus get compromised.

Sample this, as per UNAIDS, around 5 million HIV+ve people around the world are alive today thanks to antiretroviral therapy [ART]. Experts have reasoned that patients treated before their immune system is badly damaged by HIV faced lesser risk of death and sickness. This means that access to ART has to be delivered as soon as possible.

While there is not much that Sikkim can do about the global budgets for AIDS control, there is still much that it can learn from the arguments proffered by experts. Dr. Brigitte Schmied of Austrian AIDS Society, speaking at such an even some years ago had said: "AIDS was never just about science; it has always been about social justice as well." It is the social justice aspect that Sikkim could focus on since funds are not something it can still marshal on its own. The world continues to live in hypocrisy despite increasing evidence that laws that criminalize injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and sex workers, undermine, rather than advance, public health goals. As a result of such laws, as well as stigma and discrimination, members of these communities have significantly reduced access to both treatment and prevention services; a situation which tantamounts to denial of their human rights. Injecting drug users, for instance, data from UNAIDS informs, are 28-times more likely to be living with HIV but still remain marginalized and out of the reach of health and social services because of legal and social stigmas. It is also now coming to light that after the earlier years of wide awareness and targeted interventions, awareness levels are falling again, with young people (15-24 years) the world over lagging behind on multiple fronts—knowledge of HIV, HIV testing, treatment and prevention. This is a social challenge, and in an environment where "funding" for "social work" on HIV and AIDS has gone scarce, it is perhaps the perfect time for some genuine social engagement to evolve in Sikkim to address the AIDS situation.

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# Bleached Girls: India and its love for light skin

NEHA MISHRA & RONALD HALL  
*theconversation.com*

"LET'S SCRUB OUT THAT TAN" is a common refrain in beauty parlours in India, where girls grow up with constant reminders that only fair skin is beautiful.

From Sunday classified ads tout the marriageability of an "MBA graduate. 5-½ ft. English medium. Fair complexion" to elderly aunties advising young women to apply saffron paste to "maintain your skin whiter and smoother", the signs are everywhere.

Even sentiments like, "She got lucky he married her despite her [dark] complexion" are still whispered around India in 2017.

Younger generations are now starting to push back. On July 7, 18-year-old Aranya Johar published her Brown Girl's Guide to Beauty on Youtube. The video, a spoken-word poem containing lines like "Forget snow-white/say hello to chocolate brown/I'll write my own fairy-tale" went viral, reaching 1.5 million viewers around the world in its first day alone.

Johar's candid slam came just before Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui used Twitter to indict the Indian film industry's racist culture when he wrote: "Thank U 4 making me realise dat I cannot b paired along wid d fair & handsome bcz I m dark & not good looking, but I never focus on that."

His post recalled the vehement pushback of actress Tannishtha Chatterjee, who was was bullied for her skin tone on live TV in 2016.

Though many Indians still feign ignorance about social discrimination based on skin colour, the country's obsession with whiteness can also be violent. In recent years, fear of black and brown skin has also spurred harassment and attacks on African students living in India.

Why do Indians so hate their own colour?

### THE BLEACHING SYNDROME

Indian history offers some answers.

Throughout medieval and modern



history, the Indian subcontinent has been on the radar of various European settlers and traders, including, from the 15th to 17th centuries, the Portuguese, Dutch and French. The subcontinent was invaded and partly ruled by the Mughals in the 16th century, and colonised by the British from the 17th century onwards until independence in 1947. All these foreign "visitors" were of relatively fair complexion, and many claimed to be superior.

Being subject to a succession of white(ish) overlords has long associated light skin with power, status and desirability among Indians. Today, the contempt for brown skin is embraced by both the ruling class and lower castes, and reinforced daily by beauty magazine covers that feature almost exclusively Caucasian, often foreign, models.

It's been the dark man's burden in this majority-non-white nation to desire a westernised concept of beauty, and post-colonial activism has not been able to change this.

According to a study we conducted from 2013 to 2016, 70% of the 300 women and men we interviewed reported wanting a date or partner with someone who had light skin. This colourism is what pushes so many Indians to lighten their skin, creating a phenomenon termed "bleaching syndrome".

Bleaching syndrome is not a superficial fashion, it's a strategy of assimilating a superior identity that reflects a deep-set belief that fair skin is better, more powerful, prettier. And it's not limited to India; skin bleaching is also common in the rest of Asia and in Africa.

**A THRIVING BLEACHING MARKET**  
An inventive and growing market of creams and salves has cropped up to fill this demand, which now pulls in over US\$400 million dollars annually.

Some of the most widely-sold products include Fem, Lotus, Fair and Lovely and its gendered-equivalent Fair and Handsome. Most of these appealingly named creams are in fact a dangerous cocktail of steroids, hydroquinone, and tretinoin, the long-term use of which can lead to health concerns like permanent pigmentation, skin cancer, liver damage and mercury poisoning among other things.

Nonetheless, a 2014 marketing study found that almost 90% of Indian girls cite skin lightening as a "high need". These young women are willing to overlook the after-effects of bleaching, and the advent of online sales allows them to use these products in the privacy of their own homes.

Initially focused on feminine beauty, the fairness creams market now also caters to Indian men. Prod-

ucts marketed to men promise to fight sweat, give them fairer underarms and attract women.

And Bollywood stars with huge followings, including Shahrukh Khan and John Abraham, regularly endorse and promote skin bleaches.

### BLEACHING BACKLASH

The brand Clean and Dry took bleaching to new levels in 2012, when it began heavily advertising for a new wash to lighten the vagina.

This time, women had had enough. In 2013, the activist group Women of Worth launched their Dark is Beautiful campaign, which was endorsed by the Indian theatre actress Nandita Sen.

With other feminist groups, the women compelled the Advertising Standards Council of India to issue guidelines in 2014 stating that "ads should not reinforce negative social stereotyping on the basis of skin colour" or "portray people with darker skin [as]... inferior, or unsuccessful in any aspect of life particularly in relation to being attractive to the opposite sex".

This guidance is in keeping with the Indian Constitution, which provides for equality for all (article 14) and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (article 15).

Unfortunately, the law can do little to stop the subtler forms of racism and bigotry present in Indian society. And, to date, that vagina bleaching product is still on the market.

The "bleaching syndrome" goes far beyond skin colour, with Indian women also questioning their hair texture and colour, speech, marital choices and dress style, raising real concerns about female self-esteem.

As Aranya Johar rhymed on Youtube, "With the hope of being able someday to love another/let's begin by being our own first lovers".

[Neha Mishra is Assistant Professor of Law, Reva University of Bangalore; Ronald Hall is Professor of Social Work, Michigan State University]

## Droughts in East Africa: some headway in unpacking what's causing them

FRIEDERIKE OTTO & MAARTEN VAN AALST  
*theconversation.com*

Drought is a common phenomenon in East Africa and has occurred throughout known history. Now, with climate change top of the mind, whenever there's a drought some are quick to blame climate change as the "cause".

It's a fair scientific question to ask: Are these droughts (in part) the result of changes in the earth's climate brought about by human activities? Or are they solely the result of natural processes?

With successive large scale droughts in East Africa in 2010/11, 2014, 2015 and the ongoing drought, it's easy to assume climate change caused by human behaviour does indeed play a role.

But droughts are complex extreme events that result from a combination of drivers. In the atmosphere these include: regular climate variability – including day-to-day weather – but also larger seasonal patterns related to cycles, such as El Nino and La Nina. It could be human-induced drivers – like greenhouse gas emissions, or events like volcanic eruptions.

Beyond the atmosphere itself, the condition of water reserves, soil, and vegetation are critical. This could of course be coupled to human activity like irrigation or the number of livestock.

Finally, whether a drought becomes a problem doesn't just depend on the meteorological conditions but on human decisions on the ground. For example, the effects of a lack of rainfall strongly depends on human vulnerability: how dependent on the climate are people's livelihoods, do they have assets or financial reserves, and access to markets?

### ATTRIBUTION SCIENCE

Let's first look at the science. It's impossible to say for any single event that it could not have occurred without anthropogenic – caused by human activity – influence. But, in the same way that loading a dice can increase the likelihood of rolling a six, the presence of human-induced climate change can alter the likelihood that a drought will occur.

In the last few years there's been rapid development in the science of quantifying what role human activity plays in bringing about extreme weather events. These links can be established fairly routinely for some extreme events. But for others we are pushing the boundaries of this new emerging field. Droughts in a relatively data poor region like East Africa belong in this category.

With the World Weather Attribution initiative and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network we are aiming to shed light on this. We are assessing whether climate change, brought about

by human activities, altered the risk of the ongoing drought in Kenya and Somalia.

We are not the first to do an "attribution" study like this in East Africa. But we are the first to:

- Use three different and largely independent methodologies to analyse the role of climate change.
- Do this while the event is still unfolding.

- Partner with scientists and practitioners in the region.

Every extreme event attribution study has four outcomes when analysing the impact of human-induced climate change. Climate change can make an event more likely, less likely, not significantly changed its likelihood, or we may conclude that the impact of climate change cannot be reliably assessed. The outcome may also depend on how we define the extreme event in question, for instance in terms of the region, and time period we look at.

High quality observational data and local scientific expertise are crucial. Working with national institutions such as the Kenya Meteorological Department and Ethiopia's National Meteorology Agency, we identify the event that captures what's happening on the ground and can be interrogated in climate models.

And we use proven scientific methods. When we initially make these results available, they are not yet peer reviewed. But we apply approaches that have been published in numerous peer-reviewed papers.

### EAST AFRICAN DROUGHT

When examining the current drought in East Africa we can first look at rainfall. We note that some weather stations recorded a decrease in rainfall in recent years. But the region also has large year-to-year natural variability. Combining our multiple methods, we found that human induced climate change is currently not a game changer.

At the same time temperatures in the region are increasing. This may contribute to the current drought conditions. While these increases can be attributed to human-induced climate change, the effect of a changing climate on rainfall is much less straightforward.

On a global average, a warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapour leading to more extreme rainfall. But more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere can also affect what type of weather systems - a lot of low pressure that brings rain or high pressure that brings clear skies - come into a region. This could mean it does rain more on average but at a different place.

Higher temperatures can furthermore affect the interplay between land surface and the atmo-

sphere. For example rain evaporates faster with higher temperatures but once the rain has evaporated higher temperatures don't have much of an effect. Therefore, it strongly depends on the region and the season how human-induced climate change is affecting rainfall, and if it leads to longer or more frequent dry spells.

This demonstrates that science often doesn't provide a simple statement, such as "climate change is to blame". In the case of the drought in Somalia we have no evidence that climate change made this event more likely.

But this does not mean that climate change didn't play any role.

The less-simple-but-more-honest message from science is that these events are part of the regional climate and even without a strong climate change signal will happen again in the near future. We don't know if climate change has made them slightly more likely, and furthermore, a period of low rainfall may now also be aggravated by rising temperatures and more research is needed to quantify this effect.

### RISK AND VULNERABILITY

And that honest message matters even more because of a second element of our analysis: risk is not just determined by what's happening in the climate, but how something in the climate affects us.

In cases of high vulnerability a relatively moderate lack of rainfall can have a dramatic impact on people's lives. Somalia is a case in point, where decades of conflict have left the country unequipped to provide assistance in times of crisis.

As a result, it's important for governments like Kenya's that are preparing legislation on disaster management to understand the different risk factors that result in a drought.

In the presentation of our findings it has become apparent that scientific evidence is relevant to these discussions. And the demand is there for better data and information. This was made clear in the policy brief on the Kenya drought study.

Honest climate analysis can inform public awareness, policy and practice – especially when events are happening and the appetite to address the problem is highest. Let's use that window for well-informed debate about addressing rising risk, rather than playing a blame game.

[Friederike Otto is Deputy Director and Senior Researcher, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford; Maarten van Aalst is Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Adjunct Research Scientist, Columbia University]



SSB seizes  
2.9 kg  
brown sugar  
worth Rs  
14.50 crore

**KISHANGANJ (BIHAR), JUL 23 (PTI):** The Sassastra Seema Bal (SSB) arrested two smugglers and seized 2.9 kg brown sugar, worth Rs 14.50 crore from their possession in West Bengal's Darjeeling district, a SSB official said here today.

During checking at Murarigachh check post in Vidhan Nagar police station area in Darjeeling district bordering Bihar's Kishanganj district last evening, the SSB jawans with the help of West Bengal's Narcotics Department sleuths nabbed two smugglers and seized 2.9 kg brown sugar, worth Rs 14.50 crore, Deputy Commandant of the SSB's 12th Battalion, Kumar Sundaram said at the headquarters in Kishanganj.

The smuggler duo, Bhuli Bibi and Budhadev Biswas, natives of Darjeeling, were carrying the contraband consignment to Siliguri to deliver it to a client, he said.

The two smugglers were part of a wide network of drug suppliers in border areas of Bihar and West Bengal, Sundaram added.

Meghalaya  
planning to  
spend Rs 560  
cr for football  
development

**SHILLONG, JUL 22 (PTI):** Meghalaya government is planning to spend Rs 560 crore for overall development of football in the state over the next five years.

"The government intends to spend Rs 560 crore in the next 5 years for development of football in Meghalaya aimed at developing approximately 1400 playgrounds in all the 11 districts of the state," a vision document on the game said.

The document released by Chief Minister Mukul Sangma today also said that 110 grassroots centres would be set up in the 11 districts and each centre, with a coach each, will train at least 60 children, the document stated.

For this, 1500+ coaches and 300+ referees will be trained in collaboration with FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC), it said.

Present football infrastructure will be developed into full fledged stadia with an investment of at least Rs 5 crore per stadium in seven districts. Intra-centre tournaments would be conducted at state and district levels for under-14 and under-17 age groups for both boys and girls, the document said.

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Parliamentarians bid farewell to Prez Mukherjee

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):** Members of Parliament today bid adieu to outgoing President Pranab Mukherjee at a gala ceremony in the Central Hall of Parliament as leaders recalled his contribution in upholding democratic values.

Eighty one-year-old Mukherjee was received by Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar at Parliament for the farewell ceremony.

In her speech, Mahajan said, "This is a solemn occasion for each one of us to express our profound respect to President Mukherjee."

Ansari lauded Mukherjee for his "unshakable belief in the idea of India" and said he often appealed to the people to rededicate themselves to the democratic values of the country.

Mukherjee also stressed upon pluralism and diversity



"as the greatest strength" of the country, he said.

Ansari also complimented Mukherjee for the manner in which he essayed the role of the president.

"He brought great distinction and dignity to the top office. His views on national and international issues have enhanced

the stature of the office," he said.

The outgoing president expressed gratitude to the parliamentarians for the farewell.

"After Independence, we undertook to promote fraternity, dignity and unity of the nation. These ideals became the lodestar for the country," Mukherjee said.

He asked the members to

avoid frequent disruptions in Parliament saying it hurt the opposition more.

"During my years in Parliament, I learnt that it stands for debate, discussion and dissent. I also learnt that disruptions hurt the opposition more," he said.

Mukherjee also said the government should avoid the ordinance route as it should be reserved only for compelling circumstances.

"It should not be taken for matters being considered for discussion (in Parliament)," he added.

Mukherjee said, "As the President, I have tried to protect, preserve and defend the Constitution, not just in letter, but in spirit as well."

He concluded by saying, "I leave this magnificent building with a rainbow of memories and a sense of fulfilment and happiness of having served the people of this country as their humble servant."

Assam flood situation improves

**GUWAHATI, JUL 23 (PTI):** The flood situation in Assam continued to improve today, though nearly 60,000 people are still affected across nine districts in the state.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), almost 60,000 people are suffering at present in Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Barpeta, Morigaon, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sivasagar and Karimganj districts.

Till yesterday, 90,000 people were affected in the latest wave of floods across 11 districts in the



state. The total number of persons losing their lives in this year's flood-related

cases stands at 76, including eight in Guwahati. The ASDMA said 224 villages are under wa-

ter at present and over 16,000 hectares of crop areas are inundated. The worst-affected

is Golaghat, where over 18,000 people have been marooned by the deluge, followed by Barpeta with nearly 16,000 sufferers.

Authorities are running 40 relief camps and distribution centres in seven districts, where 8,294 persons are currently taking shelter.

Due to the impact of flood waters, many roads, embankments and bridges have been damaged in several districts.

The Dhansiri river is currently flowing above the danger mark at Numaligarh in Golaghat.

New waterways to connect India with  
Bangladesh: Mandaviya

**AGARTALA, JUL 23 (PTI):** Bangladesh and India have already signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to connect the North-East and West Bengal with Bangladesh through new waterways, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has said.

"The new waterways would enable transportation of people and goods by ships. The new waterways would be set up by using major rivers of Bangladesh, West Bengal and Brahmaputra in Assam.

"Dredging in the rivers would be required and the concerned countries would conduct the dredging works in the rivers in their countries,"



the Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping told reporters here last night.

The new project would be operational

in the current year and boost the trade and passenger movement between the countries, he said. The two countries share a 4095 km border of which 1116 km is

through river.

Bangladesh as lower riparian state receives water from 54 rivers from India.

Mandaviya, who is also Union minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers yesterday met Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and Governor Tathagata Roy and discussed about implementation of Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana with a target of providing quality medicine to the poor people.

He said the Narendra Modi government is giving a lot of importance to strengthen "Look East act East" policy by building more infrastructure and institutions in the region to catch up with the rest of the country. Construction of highways was one of them, he said.

Mandaviya said at present there are six national highways having length of 854 km in Tripura and in addition to this four new roads covering 229 km have been approved by the ministry.

Tibetan student,  
who attempted self-  
immolation, dies

**New Delhi, Jul 23 (PTI):** A 19-year-old Tibetan student, who had attempted self-immolation on a university campus in Varanasi demanding a "free Tibet", succumbed to his injuries in a hospital here, doctors confirmed today.

Tenzin Choeying, a student of the Central University of Tibetan Studies in Varanasi, succumbed to his burn injuries at the Safdarjung Hospital yesterday.

"He died yesterday, days after he was shifted here from a Varanasi hospital for specialised treatment," said a senior doctor of the Safdarjung Hospital.

He added that the body would be handed over to the authorities after post-mortem.

According to the police, Choeying had set himself ablaze on July 14 on the university campus, while protesting against the Chinese rule in Tibet, and was being treated at a Varanasi hospital, before being shifted to Delhi.

The police in Varanasi had said that as per the accounts of eyewitnesses, Choeying shouted "freedom" before pouring kerosene on his body and setting himself ablaze.

The police were looking at every possibility which led the Tibetan student to take the extreme step, including failure in examinations.

According to the International Campaign for Tibet, 150 Tibetans have self-immolated since 2009.

Govt to open  
lateral  
entry door  
for private...

contd from pg03

"Today, rising complexity of the economy has meant that policy making is a specialised activity. Therefore, it is essential that specialists be inducted into the system through lateral entry.

"Such entry will also have the beneficial side effect of bringing competition to the established career bureaucracy," a draft agenda report on civil services reform by the Aayog had said.

In areas requiring specialised knowledge, it is important to develop expertise among internal staff and induct lateral entry, the report said.

"This specialisation by the internal staff needs to be complemented by lateral entry of highly specialised staff on fixed-term contracts. Specialists could be brought on three to five year contracts. Such a system will bring top talent and energy into

the government and will lend new dynamism to the ministries," it said.

The government has already been appointing private persons in some departments.

Last month, an ayurveda physician, 'Vaidya' Rajesh Kotecha, was appointed as special secretary in Ayush Ministry.

Usually a senior bureaucrat, preferably an IAS officer, is appointed to such a post.

Last year, former IAS officer and renowned sanitation specialist Parameswaran Iyer was appointed secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Iyer, who had taken voluntary retirement from Indian Administrative Service (IAS), was appointed on contract basis for two years.

The Centre recently also opened banking sector and central public sector enterprises for private sector specialists.

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## Pratap Jayaram quickest in drag race

**CHENNAI, JULY 23 (PTI):** Veteran racer Pratap Jayaram emerged the fastest in the first round of the 2017 MMSC FMS-CI Indian National Drag Racing Championship for four-wheelers at the MMRT track, Sriperumbudur, today.

Jayaram, participating in the top-end unrestricted class in a fully modified Reva car, clocked 13.102 seconds for the quarter-mile drag which also won him the fastest driver award.

Finishing second behind Jayaram was Joel Joseph, also from Bengaluru, with Pune's Raymand Banajee completing the podium.

Another veteran, Radha Selvaraj topped the Indian Open class ahead of Varun Gowda and Vivek Ramachander.

Results (Provisional):  
Unrestricted: 1. Pratap Jayaraman (13.102secs); 2. Joel Joseph (14.184); 3. Raymand Banajee (14.364). Indian Open: 1.

Radha Selvaraj (14.141); 2. Varun Gowda (14.303); 3. Vivek Ramachander (15.174). Indian Touring Cars: 1. Joel Joseph (15.566); 2. Sivaramakrishnan (15.763); 3. Adith KC (16.099).

Esteem cars: 1. Fahad Kutty (16.403); 2. Kashif Kapadia (17.486).

Super Stock: 1. Fahad Kutty (16.417); 2. Swajit N Achrekar (16.532); 3. Kashif Kapadia (17.010). Indian Junior Touring Cars: 1. Kamlesh Parmar (17.649); 2. Biren Pithawalla (17.933); 3. Arjun Zaveri (18.685).

MMSC Support races Pro-Stock (Diesel): 1. Vivek Ramachander (15.093); Vetrivel (15.832); 3. Rayomand Banajee (17.271). Petrol: Adith KC (16.237); 2. Nikunj Vagh (16.390); Swajit N Achrekar (16.634).

# Girls team leaves for Junior National Football Championship

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 23 JUL:**

Sikkim Football Association's Junior Girls Football team left Gangtok today to participate in the Junior National Football Championship which is scheduled to be

held in Cuttack, Odisha from 26 July to 10 Aug.

The championship is being organised by the All India Football Federation.

Sikkim has been placed in Group "A" with Chattisgarh, Andhra

Pradesh and Mizoram.

A month-long coaching camp was conducted at Mangalbaria Girls Hostel under the supervision of coaches Palden Bhutia and Lako Phuti Bhutia to prepare the team for the championship, an SFA

press release informs.

The team is set to play their first match on 28 Jul against Chattisgarh, while on 30 Jul they will play against Andhra Pradesh and their last match in the preliminary round will

be against Mizoram on 01 Aug.

SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, SFA vice-president, Chewang Paul Sangdarpa and treasurer Dorjee Tamang were present to see off the team, the release adds.



## Set up 24x7 helpline for athletes: Gopichand on doping

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):**

Concerned about the rise in doping violations, chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand today suggested setting up of a 24x7 medical helpline to ensure that sportspersons don't use over-the-counter drugs.

The former All England champion came up with the suggestion during the sixth meeting of the All India Council of Sports (AICS) chaired by Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

"Shri Gopichand mentioned that most of the sportspersons take off the counter medicines like Corex and get caught in dope. In the recent case of women athlete also, it is doubted that she took medicine for stomach upset and got caught in dope," the AICS said in a statement.

"Shri Gopichand suggested that NADA should create a 24x7 helpline so as to enable sportspersons to seek advice before taking any medicine."

Sprint queen P T Usha pointed out that only two dope collecting officials are deployed for a large number of sportspersons.

"During this time, there are chances of inter-changing the dope samples."

Sports Authority of India's director general Injeti Srinivas said it would be better if each federation appoints an expert director for each discipline, one who should be available to give advice to their respective sportspersons.

The SAI DG also mentioned that as a precautionary measure, the dope collecting officers are regularly changed to avoid any vested interest.

Malhotra expressed his anguish over the rampant cases of dope and the recent media coverage "tarnishing the image of not only sports but also the image of the country".

**ANAHEIM (CALIFORNIA), JUL 23 (PTI):**

The Indian juggernaut in men's badminton continued to roll with former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Parupalli Kashyap setting up a title clash with HS Prannoy at the USD 120,000 US Open Grand Prix Gold here.

After limping out of the court with a calf injury in October 2015, it was the first final for Kashyap in 21 months, while Prannoy, who has always been plagued by injuries, also reached his first summit clash after clinching the Swiss Open last year.

Kashyap eked out a hard-fought 15-21 21-15 21-16 win over Korean Kwang Hee Heo in the second semifinal which lasted an hour and six minutes. Prannoy, on the other hand, notched up a 21-14 21-19 win over Vietnam's Tien Minh Nguyen in the first semi-final.

It will be the second time



this season that two Indians will fight it out for the title at international badminton. In April, K Srikanth and B Sai Praneeth had played in the finals of Singapore Open with the latter claiming his maiden Super Series title.

Men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy

fought hard before going down 12-21 21-12 20-22 to top seeds Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han. "It is good to reach a final after a long time. It was a tough match against the Korean. He had started really well and I took time to adjust to the conditions today as it was little slow. He was really

patient and he was hitting hard smashes.

But slowly I got a good rhythm and eventually I could pull off," Kashyap told PTI.

"I think it was a difficult tournament to start with as the opening round was also against a player I had always had close matches. I had played him 5-6 times and I was good to win in the first round. Also playing against Sameer was tough.

He is a tricky player and it has always been close matches with him. Really looking forward to the final," he added. It will be third Grand Prix Gold title for Indian men's shuttlers after Sameer and Praneeth clinched the Syed Modi International and Thailand Open respectively. Indian men also won three super series titles with Srikanth clinching the Indonesia and Australia Open and Praneeth winning at Singapore.

# One in three Indians uses free Wi-Fi to watch adult content

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):** One in three Indians surveyed has admitted to having used free public Wi-Fi to watch adult content at places like hotels, airports, libraries and even workplace, says a study by Norton by Symantec.

The global study, which included over 1,000 respondents from India, found "more than one in three Indians admit to using public Wi-Fi to watch adult content".

But Indians are not alone in this behaviour. At a global level, one in six respondents admitted to using public Wi-Fi to watch adult content.

This includes response of people from across countries like Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Brazil, the US and the UK.

Hotels/Airbnb (49 per cent), friend's place (46 per cent), cafe/restaurants (36 per cent) and workplace (44 per cent) were among the top venues with Indian respondents saying they used the public Wi-Fi at

these places to access adult content.

Interestingly, 31 per cent respondents said they had watched adult content on streets using public Wi-Fi, while 34 per cent had done so at a bus/train station.

About 24 per cent admitted to have used public Wi-Fi at libraries, while 34 per cent said they had used the service at an airport.

It is also interesting to note that access to Wi-Fi becomes a deciding factor for a significant chunk of Indians when it comes to choosing hotels, airlines and places to eat.

Such is the love for free Wi-Fi that 73 per cent respondents said "they wouldn't think twice about exchanging, sharing or even doing something to get a strong, free signal".

There is a deep divide between what people think is safe when it comes to using public Wi-Fi versus the reality, says Ritesh Chopra, Country Manager (Consumer Business Unit) at Symantec.

"What someone thinks are private on

their personal device can easily be accessed by cyber criminals through unsecure Wi-Fi networks or even apps with privacy vulnerabilities," he adds.

The cybersecurity solutions firm also noted that 96 per cent of Indian respondents had acted in a risky manner online using a public Wi-Fi.

While 68 per cent had logged onto their social media accounts, 46 per cent had access work emails, 30 per cent said they had accessed their financial information using public Wi-Fi.

Asked about their reaction if hackers accessed/posted their private chat/text conversations, 33 per cent respondents said they would feel angry, while 30 per cent said they would be embarrassed if such a thing were to happen.

About 41 per cent said they would be "most horrified if financial details were stolen and published online".

# More than food on the menu at Delhi's first queer cafe

**RAJAN SHARMA**

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):**

The capital's heritage Mehrauli zone, home to many a hip bar and designer store, is where Sambhav Sharma decided to locate Q Caf, Delhi's first LGBTQ restaurant that provides food, drink and sustenance for the city's rainbow queer community.

With the Qutub Minar providing the perfect backdrop, Q Caf hopes to provide a safe haven for those who fall outside the man-woman binary and struggle to find spaces accepting of their 'other' status.

It started in October when Delhi-based queer rights activist Sharma tied up with Chez Jerome, an expert in French and Indian cuisines. The French chef later stepped down and handed the reins of control to Sharma and his Italian partner Roberto. For Sharma running the cafe comes with a responsibility.

"I have to make sure that this cafe is not specifically for gay men because they already have many spaces in the city where they can hang out. They are dominating queer spaces all around the city," he said. With a small dance floor under an open sky and seating for around 30 people, the cafe usually opens in the evening.

The menu, inspired by French, Greek



and Italian cuisines, could compete with any eatery in the city. On offer are a variety of salads, omelettes, pastas as well as thin crust pizzas with traditional toppings and dips.

Specialties of the house include Greek chicken potato salad, a delicate mix of potatoes, onions, tomatoes and chicken salami, Parisian salad dressed with fresh lettuce and fresh parmesan and freshly baked breads. But it's not all about food.

With events like book reading sessions and trans nights, Sharma wants to sen-

sitise his customers about queer rights beyond Section 377 the Indian Penal Code section that criminalises sexual acts "against the order of nature".

"Obviously, the cafe is not any NGO but it also not a place where people should only come to enjoy. I want to utilise this space to revolutionise the struggle we are going through in India. The transgenders, lesbians and hijra folks of our community need more such spaces," said Sharma.

Despite falling under the broader

queer umbrella, gay men stand out from others in the trans community. As a result, transgenders don't feel safe even in those places where they should be welcome, he said. Delhi is amongst the few cities in the country where late night parties in five-star hotels welcome people from the queer community. But few trans people make it inside the elite doors.

Simran Shaikh, a transgender and senior programme officer at Sexuality Gender and Rights at Alliance India, echoes Sharma and welcomes safer places for the community but associates the profound segregation more with "class" than "gender".

"The segregation among the LGBTQ is only of class and not of gender. The discrimination happens when you are not associated with a particular class of a party.

"I don't foresee any such changes with these cafes and bars. There will still be class differences in particular parties where there might not be trans identified individuals," she said.

According to LGBTQ activist Harish Iyer, homophobia within homosexuals is "rampant".

"It is sad but true. Just because one belongs to an oppressed community (queer) doesn't make them sensitive to everyone

else. Gay men rule the roost in many spaces.

"I think some gay men have an issue with effeminacy. It is just another form of misogyny that runs deep in our society. Some do so, so that they don't get noticed as gay, in the company of those who look gay," the Mumbai-based activist said.

Praful Baweja, who is also based in Mumbai and is an activist, hopes that the workshops he has been organising will change things for the better for the community.

"Usually when one is looking for employees in any company, the person wants them to be trustworthy. The question of orientation is usually hidden. With workshops we are trying to tell people from the community to not be bothered by their orientation.

"Usually MNCs have a diversity and Inclusion unit where gender issues are addressed, but in smaller companies they may not have such a facility," he said.

"Through workshops we want to educate even trans people about company structures and how they can contribute in starting small scale businesses. We are also trying to facilitate information of people within the community so that they can connect to each other," he added.

More spaces like the Q Cafe, they hope, will help in strengthening this connect.

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



SL policeman injured in Tamil judge's assassination bid dies

**COLOMBO, JUL 23 (PTI):** A personal protection officer of a prominent Sri Lankan Tamil high court judge died today after being shot by unidentified man during a failed assassination bid on the judge, police said.

The officer was injured and hospitalised in Jaffna's Nallur area yesterday after the unidentified man snatched his revolver while attacking Justice Manickavasagar Illancheliyan. Justice Illancheliyan was unhurt while the policeman had suffered injuries.

The wounded police officer who was admitted to a Jaffna hospital has died, police said.

"I saw a civilian approach my escort and trying to remove his pistol. He fought for several minutes to grab the weapon," Ilencheliyan told reporters. A fearless judge, Illancheliyan had struck terror in the hearts of criminals in the Tamil-dominated Jaffna town.

"I am handling the most dangerous cases in Jaffna. I call on the authorities to ensure protection of judiciary," he said. Ilanechelian's car was caught in a traffic block in Nallur junction when the shooting took place.

Justice Ilanechelian had presided in high profile rape and murder case of Sivaloganathan Vithya, a young student in May 2015. The incident had caused much public outrage.

A deputy inspector general of police was arrested and remanded last week by the judge.

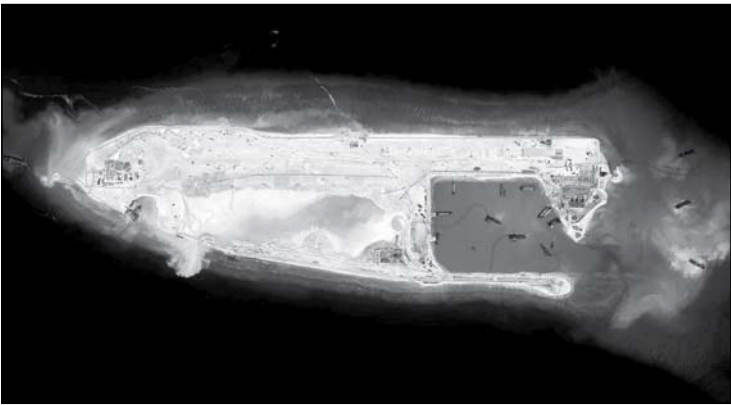
China opens cinema theatre in disputed South China Sea island

**K J M VARMA BEIJING, JUL 23 (PTI):** China has opened a modern cinema theatre on Yongxing Island in the disputed South China Sea as part of its plan to establish authority over the area, the state media reported today.

Over 200 residents and soldiers watched the Chinese movie 'The Eternity of Jiao Yulu' yesterday at the Sansha Yinlong Cinema, located in Sansha municipality, China's newest city in the South China Sea (SCS).

"The cinema will show at least one film every day, so residents and soldiers on Yongxing Island can enjoy films simultaneously with moviegoers across the country," said Gu Xiaojing, general manager of Hainan Media Group.

China has been expanding facilities in the islands under its control encouraging population settlements in the disputed area, where Beijing also built artificial islands some



with facilities for garrison as well as airstrip reinforcing its control over the area. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims over the South China Sea.

The theatre is equipped with advanced projection equipment, including the latest 4K digital projectors as well as a 3D perforated screen for viewers to indulge in the pleasure of big screen, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Chen Zijian, general manager of Hainan Film Company, which operates the cinema, said they have also purchased two mobile projec-

tion units and plan to screen films for free on more islands within the municipality to meet the demands of residents, it added. The opening of the cinema is part of a plan by local cultural authorities to establish community services on islands under Sansha's jurisdiction.

In April last year, Sansha opened its first public library. It also has a stadium and has organised various cultural activities to enrich the lives of residents. Sansha municipality was set up in 2012.

Also, a total of 12 Chinese-developed underwater gliders are carrying out scientific observations in the SCS from the research vessel "Kexue" and sending back real-time data. It is the largest group of gliders to perform simultaneous observations in the region.

Kexue left Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province last Monday for a maritime scientific expedition and stopped in Xiamen, southeast China to resupply Friday after completing the first part of the mission.

"The gliders have collected detailed maritime information, including temperature, salinity, turbidity, oxygen lev-

els as well as the intensity and direction of currents," said Yu Jiancheng, a scientist with the programme. The 12 submersible devices will collect comprehensive ocean data over the next month, said Sun Song, another scientist with the programme.

Underwater gliders are a new type of underwater robot featuring less energy consumption, higher efficiency and better endurance. During the first stage of the mission, scientists also successfully placed three submersible buoys and conducted several diving missions. Kexue will leave Xiamen today for the mission's second stage. Kexue is China's most advanced, independently-made marine science expedition vessel. It was put into operation in April 2014. The 4,711-tonne vessel is capable of conducting deep and open sea exploration and research, the Xinhua said.

RBI to lease currency verification systems to weed out fakes

**NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI):** The Reserve Bank will hire 12 currency verification systems for six months to help it segregate fake ones from scrapped notes of Rs 500/1000 denomination.

The central bank is currently engaged in counting huge pile of old Rs 500/1000 notes which were scrapped following demonetisation on November 9, 2016.

Earlier in May, the Reserve Bank had floated a global tender for leasing of 18 'Currency Verification and Processing System (CVPS)'. However, the tender was later cancelled and now a fresh one has been floated to lease 12 such systems.

As per the tender document, the currency notes of all denominations received at regional office of the RBI would



have to be processed at a minimum speed of 30 notes per second.

The term of the lease contract will be of six months, extendable by three blocks of two months each, it added.

RBI Governor Urjit Patel, while appearing before a Parliamentary panel on July 12, had reportedly said the deposited banned notes were still being counted and therefore he was not in a posi-



A US airstrike has mistakenly killed 16 Afghan policemen in Helmand province. The bombing happened during a US-backed Afghan operation to clear a village of Taliban insurgent in the Gereshk district on Friday, a police spokesman said. It is believed the police were not in uniform - and this may have led to them being mistakenly identified as Taliban fighters, Helmand governor Hayatullah Hayat said.

Afghan police search for villagers after mass kidnapping

**KANDAHAR, JUL 23 (PTI):** Around 30 people have been released while 30 others remain missing, Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani told AFP.

It remained unclear why the villagers were seized. But some officials said they suspected the Taliban had kidnapped or killed them for suspected cooperation with the Western-backed government which the militants are striving to topple.

The insurgents have a heavy presence in Uruzgan, a poppy-growing area. Today they denied involvement, while confirming they had attacked police checkpoints in the area.

"Our mujahideen killed a number of local police and pro-government militias there, also capturing 17 suspects who were later released after interrogation. We have not killed or kidnapped any civilians," the Taliban said in a statement.

Civilians are increasingly caught in

the crosshairs of Afghanistan's worsening conflict as the Taliban step up their annual spring offensive launched in April.

Highways passing through insurgency-prone areas have become exceedingly dangerous, with the Taliban and other armed groups frequently kidnapping or killing travellers.

In July Taliban fighters closed a highway connecting Farah to Herat city in the west, stopping a bus and forcing 16 passengers off it. They shot at least seven of them while the remainder were taken hostage.

Elsewhere in the country, the Taliban today captured a district in the northern province of Faryab after an overnight attack that triggered hours

of heavy fighting, said provincial police spokesman Abdul Karim Yourish. He said troops had retreated two kilometres from the centre of Kohistan district. There was no word on casualties.

Local media today also reported that the Taliban had overran Taywara district in the central province of Ghor, though there was no immediate official confirmation.

There has been a surge in fighting in several northern and southern Afghan provinces in recent days, including in Helmand in the south where 16 Afghan police officers were killed by a US air strike on Friday night. The strike, the latest setback in Washington's efforts to pacify the country, hit a com-

pound in Gereshk district, large parts of which are under Taliban control.

Afghan troops and police are battling largely alone on the ground against the insurgency, after US-led foreign forces withdrew from most combat operations in December 2014. The United States is actively considering sending more troops to Afghanistan and US commanders there have requested thousands of extra soldiers on the ground.

The US contingent now numbers about 8,400, and there are another 5,000 from NATO allies, a far cry from the US presence of more than 100,000 six years ago. They mainly serve as trainers and advisers. (AFP)

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**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

DEAR GENTLE EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:117 DrawDate on:23/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 87E 83419  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 83419 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

23957 25642 26967 37217 49782

59301 60760 74555 77978 85911

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

01122 05467 21625 35611 43383

48347 52334 56403 70909 91509

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

2019 2321 2756 4510 4926 7900 8603 9095 9205 9693

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0787 1255 2540 2710 2845 3062 4487 5082 5112 9243

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0057 0397 0463 0484 0586 0664 0916 1008 1014 1056

1308 1335 1354 1531 1532 1647 1714 1741 1919 2153

2162 2184 2432 2481 2656 2914 2935 3020 3477 3584

3596 3600 3646 3741 3788 3973 4046 4072 4084 4140

4168 4606 4621 4669 4689 4741 4830 4844 4972 5017

5135 5212 5241 5364 5390 5543 5805 6008 6113 6294

6318 6352 6530 6640 6666 6697 6703 7009 7155 7240

7241 7439 7620 7647 7656 7739 7765 7810 7857 7898

8183 8276 8459 8495 8528 8556 8608 8650 8880 9155

9276 9370 9460 9691 9802 9843 9880 9902 9940 9987

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The Director,Nagaland State Lotteries,Kohima,Nagaland  
For Result,Please Visit : [www.nagalandlotteries.com](http://www.nagalandlotteries.com)  
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

**SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES**

DEAR PROSPECT

Draw No:53 DrawDate on:23/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 86C 77513  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 77513 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

12092 39430 51906 53797 57834

59373 62486 62719 76418 89483

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

15568 22073 27231 32255 53217

55264 58985 79730 85271 93904

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0460 0540 3146 3821 4899 6200 6414 7645 8038 8674

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0012 0289 0732 1949 3272 5805 6761 8768 8974 9790

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0010 0030 0361 0575 0619 0928 0942 1174 1181 1258

1305 1390 1562 1652 1739 1787 1988 2201 2305 2396

2461 2999 3063 3084 3113 3129 3178 3218 3240 3354

3397 3727 3787 3809 3874 3947 4076 4319 4552 4577

4611 4620 4682 4712 4781 4797 4816 4874 4960 4969

5001 5056 5173 5187 5204 5385 5470 5565 5696 5760

5820 5840 5863 6147 6229 6262 6266 6507 6521 6563

6648 6656 6707 6864 6989 7297 7375 7411 7560 7632

7722 7781 8006 8144 8368 8385 8600 8609 8652 8986

9000 9087 9161 9189 9199 9357 9561 9632 9751 9997

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**MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES**

DEAR FLAMINGO MORNING

Draw No:49 DrawDate on:23/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 92L 70666  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 70666 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

09617 13267 13934 31690 37838

57701 72696 86114 86207 99659

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

42465 48577 50996 57144 60814

81740 90188 91245 95851 98541

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

2042 3049 4156 5018 5030 6898 7641 8064 8168 8611

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0895 1283 2034 2150 3699 6287 6327 6471 8939 9755

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0022 0228 0250 0354 0605 0651 0736 0770 0809 0864

1003 1010 1028 1031 1052 1177 1356 1457 1462 1472

1502 1871 1885 2321 2368 2718 2728 2748 2755 2911

2922 3007 3060 3311 3367 3431 3450 3474 3498 3969

4001 4062 4390 4505 4548 4599 4735 4907 5043 5173

5395 5476 5508 5551 5637 5681 5702 5805 5904 5908

6121 6139 6186 6568 6598 6687 6745 6840 6967 7005

7152 7318 7497 7582 7614 7651 7658 7689 7791 7832

8028 8387 8524 8638 8840 9049 9125 9281 9305 9335

9354 9413 9610 9630 9647 9689 9817 9832 9886 9903

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**HEROES GATHER:** Justice League actors Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman), Jason Momoa (Aquaman), Ben Affleck (Batman), Ezra Miller (Flash) and Ray Fisher (Cyborg) at 2017 Comic-Con in San Diego, California.

## EVERYTHING MARVEL UNLEASHED AT COMIC-CON 2017

The Marvel panel at Comic-Con is traditionally one of the biggest events of the convention and this year was no exception. Despite a lot of news coming out of Disney's D23 last week, the studio still saved some of the big guns for San Diego. Fans were sent into meltdown as they were bombarded with announcements and sneak peeks during the 90-minute session, as stars across the Marvel universe attended to support their films.

Here's everything that was revealed.

### ANT MAN AND THE WASP

- Michelle Pfeiffer will play Wasp in Ant-Man and The Wasp
- The former Catwoman will join Paul Rudd and play Janet Van Dyne - the original Wasp and first wife of original Ant-Man Dr Henry Pym - played by Michael Douglas - and mother to Hope Pym, the new Wasp, played by Evangeline Lily. Marvel boss Kevin Feige said: "She was our dream choice."
- Laurence Fishburne also joins the cast as scientist Bill Foster, who worked alongside Pym and became superhero Giant-Man.
- Relatively obscure Marvel villain The Ghost will also appear.

### CAPTAIN MARVEL

- Captain Marvel will be set in the 1990s, before Iron Man
- Brie Larson's film - the first Marvel movie to be focused around a female lead - will be set before Iron Man in the



Marvel timeline.

- Samuel L Jackson will reprise his role as Nick Fury and will have two eyes as it takes place before he loses one and adopts his famous eye patch.
- The villains in the film will be The Skrull - green alien shape-shifters.

### THOR: RAGNAROK

- Hulk is going to talk in actual sentences! Mark Ruffalo explained Bruce Banner has been the Hulk for two years after the green giant refuses to turn back.
- Cate Blanchett, who plays villain Hela, revealed she had been "happily dragged" into the Marvel universe "because of my kids".
- Jeff Goldblum confirmed his character, the Grandmaster, is the brother of Benicio



del Toro's Marvel universe character universe The Collector, as seen in Guardians of the Galaxy and Thor: The Dark World.

- A new trailer was unveiled giving a closer look at Hela, the first look at Bruce Banner, lots of explosions and featuring some of the more comedy moments from the film.

### BLACK PANTHER

- A new poster for Marvel's first black superhero to be brought to the big screen was unveiled.
- New footage was also played, showing a fierce battle in a casino, receiving a standing ovation.
- Director Ryan Coogler revealed the origin of his love for the hero: "I wanted to find a comic book character who looks like me. The shop owner gave me Black Panther."

**BUZZWORTHY!!!**

## HOME ALONE FATHER JOHN HEARD DIES AGED 72

The actor's Hollywood career spanned more than 40 years and included TV show The Sopranos and the movies Big and Gladiator.

Actor John Heard, who played the father in the Home Alone films, has died at the age of 72. The US star, best known as Peter McAllister in the hit 1990 comedy, was confirmed dead by the Santa Clara Medical Examiner's office in California on Saturday.

According to celebrity website TMZ, the father of two was found by a maid in a hotel, where he had been recovering from minor back surgery. Details of his death have



**what's TRENDING**

not yet been released and his representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The veteran actor had over

40 years' experience in Hollywood, from blockbusters like Big and Gladiator, to TV shows including The Sopranos.

He was nominated for an Emmy award in 1999 for his role as a detective in the hit crime drama. But it is his part as Macaulay Culkin's irresponsible father in Home Alone and Home Alone 2 which remains his most iconic role. Mission Impossible director Christopher McQuarrie posted a photo of the actor in one of his most underrated roles, as a Vietnam veteran in 1981 movie Cutter's Way alongside Jeff Bridges.

Heard was married three times, including to actress Margot Kidder for less than a week in 1979, and had a son with actress Melissa Leo. The cause of death is still under investigation.

## THE COMIC-CON TRAILER FOR JUSTICE LEAGUE REVEALS THEIR TRUE ENEMY

Warner Bros.'s Hall H panel at San Diego Comic-Con is pulling out all the stops for the DC Extended Universe. For the latest trailer for Justice League, the world is still in mourning after the death of Superman. Now, it's up to the newly formed League to face Steppenwolf (Game of Thrones alum Ciarán Hinds) and his armies of Parademons. Justice League is the superhero team-up Warner Bros. has been promising since the inception of the DCEU. After Superman (Henry Cavill) sacrificed himself in the fight against Doomsday in last year's Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice, Batman (Ben Affleck) takes it upon himself to find other superheroes to fight otherworldly threats. That means teaming up with Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), Aquaman (Jason Momoa), The Flash (Ezra Miller), and Cyborg (Ray Fisher). There's even a mention of both Kryptonians and the Green Lantern Corp, even though they're nowhere in sight. Clearly, the heroes have their work cut out for them.

Warner Bros. celebrating Justice League comes after Wonder Woman's outsized success at the box office. This trailer also makes the movie look like a whole lot of fun, with plenty of action and humor (especially from Alfred (Jeremy Irons) and The Flash). But that doesn't mean the film will necessarily be another feather in the studio's cap. There's still skepticism as to whether or not it will be a Avengers-style landmark and if it will be yet another black mark on Warner's slate. At least there's enough here to keep fans more than invested.

Justice League will hit theaters on November 17th.



### 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY WORLD HISTORY

**1595:** Spanish soldiers landed at Cornwall, England, and burned Mousehold and Penzance before returning to their ships.

**1637:** King Charles of England handed over the American colony of Massachusetts to Sir Fernando Gorges, one of the founders of the Council of New England.

**1880:** First commercial hydro-electric power plant began in Grand Rapids, Michigan USA.

**1903:** The Ford Motor Company sold its first automobile, the Model A.

**1952:** General Mohammed Neguib seized power in Egypt. There was a revolution in Egypt, King Farouk I abdicated. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew the monarchy and established Egyptian sovereignty after 2,300 years of foreign domination.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

**1972:** NASA launched the Landsat-1 satellite. It viewed Earth at different wavelengths and opened a new era in sensing the planet's resources and environment.

### INDIAN HISTORY

**1555:** Humayun re-conquered Delhi after defeating Sikandar Suri.

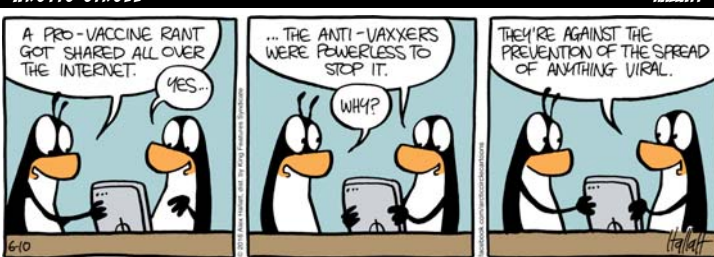
**1904:** The Great Indian Peninsula Railway started First Class restaurant cars on its trains.

**1906:** Famous Indian revolutionary, Chandra Shekhar Azad was born in Bhawra in Madhya Pradesh.

**1927:** Daily radio transmission broadcasting in India started by the first commercial radio station under the aegis of Indian Broadcasting Company in Bombay.



### ARCTIC CIRCLE



### BABY BLUES



**ARIES:** Your heart could experience some wild fluctuations today, Aries. It may seem as if your emotions are on a derailing train. The best thing to do if this is the case is sit by yourself and write them down. Compose a letter, song, or journal entry. You're much less confused than you think. When in doubt, consult someone you love and trust. Go with your instincts.

**TAURUS:** Suddenly things are coming to a head for you, Taurus. The drama is escalating and you aren't sure if you can remember all your lines. Take things one step at a time. Deal with the issues as they come. If you get ahead of yourself, you might be

overwhelmed by the fear that the situation will be more than you can handle. Don't sweat the small stuff.

**GEMINI:** Your focus will center on your emotions today, Gemini, although being centered in itself will be quite a challenge. You may feel like a yo-yo in someone else's hand. Don't fall prey to victimization. Stand up for yourself even if it means that others get upset. You're responsible for your feelings and no one else's.

**CANCER:** Maintaining equilibrium may not be the easiest task today, but if anyone can do it, you can, Cancer. Strong opinions from others could crop up to challenge

you. You have a great deal of ammunition in your arsenal. You can learn quite a bit by accepting this challenge and engaging in a heated debate. Have faith in yourself.

**LEO:** Desire is the name of the game today, Leo. If you want it, you can get it, but it won't come easily. The prize will go to the person who desires it the most. Show the people around you how much you can accomplish. You will impress others with your incredible drive and determination. Don't fall victim to the wasp that could sting you.

**VIRGO:** Today is like playing a game on your home field, Virgo. You have fans supporting you

and you know the territory. Take advantage of the little things that you have going for you. There is a dramatic force at work that is erratic but extremely powerful as long as you maintain control. Stay focused on your goals. True happiness is only a small step away.

**LIBRA:** Enlist the help of others today, Libra. Information exchange is key to putting the last few puzzle pieces into place. Doing things on your own is important and necessary, but at some point you need to realize that the next major step requires a certain amount of input from others. Gather data and apply it to your situation. Don't become a leech or

burden to others.

**SCORPIO:** This is an excellent day for you, Scorpio. Celebrate. Your ego is strong. Beautiful things are flowing your way. You should enjoy a good mood that will attract favorable people and situations to you. There's virtually no limit to the expansiveness of this day. One thing to watch out for is arrogance. Be proud but not obnoxious.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your emotions may be a bit erratic. It may be hard for you to focus on anything today, Sagittarius. Things continue to shift from one topic to the next with little resolution. Others aren't apt to be very sympathetic to your feelings, so don't expect it. You will only set

yourself up for disappointment. It's a better day to focus on your head rather than your heart.

**CAPRICORN:** There's an extra blast of wind ready to fill your sails today, Capricorn, so make sure you have both hands on the tiller. Whichever way your rudder is pointed is the direction you will go. Once you get on course, it will be difficult for you to readjust your position, so make sure your compass is properly set. Continue with your journey, full speed ahead.

**AQUARIUS:** The energy of the day is erratic, and you will probably be hopping all over the place, Aquarius. Don't worry about try-

ing to firm up any plans at this time. You may feel like you're trying to grab a slippery fish with greased hands. If so, don't worry about it. Let the fish swim away for now. Relax. You can always catch another one later if you need to.

**PISCES:** Get up and get going today, Pisces. You have no time to lose. Your mind will be busy tackling many tasks, but this suits you just fine. You're well equipped to deal with the many frantic situations that are likely to come up. There's a great deal of strength to your emotions that you can use to connect with others and communicate your thoughts in a healthy manner.