



# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 146 | Gangtok | Tuesday | 05 June 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## CABINET DECISIONS

The following decisions were taken in the Cabinet meeting held today at Samman Bhawan:-

### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES & VETERINARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.150 lakhs for implementation of entrepreneurship development through poultry broiler farming.

2. En-bloc approval and sanction of Rs.81,62,800/- including approval to transfer the fund to District heads in two installments for purchase of livestock feed ingredients for 12 months for Government farms.

3. Approval and sanction of Rs.30 lakhs for procurement of veterinary medicines to support for livestock health management through preventive and curative measures.

### TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

4. Approval of Sikkim Greenfield Airport, Pakyong (Settlement of Claims for Loss and Damages) Bill, 2018.

### URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

5. Approval and sanction of Rs.49.77 lakhs for upgradation & beautification of Lingdok Bazar in East Sikkim.

6. Approval and sanction of (i) Rs.886 lakhs as basic grant under 14th FC to be transferred to ULBs, subject to receipt of funds and (ii) Rs.252 lakhs as Performance Grant under 14th FC to be transferred to ULBs, subject to fulfilment of conditions and receipt of fund from Central Ministry.

7. Approval and sanction of Rs.88,89,880/- for construction of amphitheatre at Singtam Bazar

turn to pg05

## HRDD introduces reformed Annual School Calendar

ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 04 JUN:

The Human Resource Development Department, had earlier this year, decided to bring some changes in the Annual School Calendar with major reforms in the duration of summer and winter break.

Following the same, the department has issued the rescheduled Annual School Calendar across the State, it is informed.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Director [Examination & Text Book], HRDD, Dr YP Nepal, has said that the department has issued the new calendar to be followed for this academic session along with reforms.

"The changes have been made with the aim to benefit students of the school and also to con-



cur somewhat with the calendar of rest of the nation. The new calendar will also align Sikkim's academic calendar with that of CBSE and NCERT to some extent which will help and benefit the local

students in many ways," said Dr Nepal.

He further informed that summer and winter vacations for the academic session 2018-19 has been rescheduled in the best interest of the

students and taking into account weather conditions especially during rainy season.

It may be mentioned here, previously Government Schools throughout the State had sum-

mer break of 10-15 days which has now been extended to 25 days.

According to the new calendar, students of all Government Schools will enjoy summer vaca-

turn to pg02

## Over 95% of waste collected during the Himalayan Cleanup was plastic trash!

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 JUN:

The Himalayan Cleanup that took place across 12 mountain States on 26 May has revealed that more than 95% of the trash collected during the cleanup was plastic waste.

Responding to the call of the Integrated Mountain Initiative [IMI] and Zero Waste Himalaya, 200-plus organizations, involving over 15,000 volunteers from across the 12 mountain states, stood in solidarity to organise over 300 events of The Himalayan Cleanup, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here that the Himalayan Cleanup was organised to focus attention on the

turn to pg03



## Govt to waive loans given under CM's Self Employment Scheme

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 JUN:

The State Cabinet today cleared the proposal of Commerce and Industries Department to waive loans provided under the Chief Minister's Self Employment Loan Schemes as promised by the Chief Minister during his 2014 election campaign. The matter had also been raised in the last assembly session by lone Independent MLA, RN Chamling.

As per the approved cabinet proposal, the

state government has taken the decision that loans below Rs.50,000 given under CMSES shall be borne as subsidy from the Government, exempting both principal and the interest.

With the waiving of the CMSES loans, the state government will have to bear losses of Rs. 94 crore in principal amount, according to sources.

The proposal further said that loanes under Chief Minister's Self Em-

turn to pg02



## Indian Gorkha Rifles regiment scales Chomo Yummo in North Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 JUN:

The Gorkha regiment of India Army organised a mountaineering expedition to scale Chomo Yummo located in North Sikkim from 24 May to 04 Jun.

With a towering altitude of 22,533 feet [6828m] above sea level, Chomo Yummo is part of the Greater Himalayan range.

Additional Directorate of Public Information, Ministry of Defence, South Block informed

that the team led by Lieutenant Chiranjivi Bhadracharya and assisted by Naib Subedar, Arjun Thapa – a veteran mountaineer, along with support staff comprising of a Medical Officer and four other Ranks located at Camp II during the duration of the summit.

The ten-member team started their expedition from on 24 May last month from Chatten, North Sikkim and successfully scaled Chomo Yummo on 03 Jun, it is

turn to pg02



## SFA's C-Division State league to commence this month

ORGANISERS SEEK IMPROVEMENT OF PALJOR STADIUM PLAYING FIELD; PERMISSION FOR FANS TO PUT WORLD CUP FLAGS ON VEHICLES

SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 04 JUN:

Sikkim Football Association 'C' Division Football Tournament 2018 will kick off on 06 Jun here at Paljor Stadium.

Twelve clubs are in the fray in the Division this time.

The participating teams have been divided into four groups of three teams each.

The teams are: Young Boys Academy, JVC Singtam, Chujachen Sports Academy, Ranipool Football Club, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club, Kumar Sporting Club, Nintar Football Club, Sikkim Boys Football Club, Dzongri Football Club, Sasenians Football Club, Sumin Football Club and Young Orchid.

turn to pg02

NOW OUT ON THE BOOKSTANDS!

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

The SummitTimes Spotlight series now in a book!

AVAILABLE IN GANGTOK AT  
RACHNA BOOKS, Development Area; KANDOIKA, New Market;  
JAINGO, Metro Point; GOOD BOOKS, MG Marg

LOKTA  
BOOKS  
Gangtok - Sikkim

For trade and other enquiries,  
contact Lokta Books at [loktabooks@gmail.com](mailto:loktabooks@gmail.com)  
or call us at +91 891 860 6209; +91 983 208 0753





## Forest Dept exhibits State's environmental initiatives at New Delhi

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JUN:**

A contingent of Sikkim Forest Department led by the Principal Secretary cum PCCF, Dr. Thomas Chandy along with Principal Scientist (SPCB), Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Additional Director, BB Gurung, State ENVIS Cell and State Medicinal Plants Board participated in the World Environment Day #BeatPlasticPollution exhibition at New Delhi from 02-05 June.

A press release from the Forest Department informs that the team exhibited the environmental initiatives of the state government. Those visiting the Sikkim stall appreciated the efforts of the State Government for its clean, green and organic image. The exhibits featured eco-policies and green achievements through video walls, posters, kiosk, models and publications in a 57 sq meter stall allotted to Sikkim.

The exhibition is organised on an international platform with India being the host country for this year's World Environment Day celebration and Sikkim is the only other state besides Assam from the Northeast to be given this opportunity on this international forum, the release mentions.

# Governor Patil attends Governors' Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JUN:**

Governor Shrinivas Patil today attended Governors' Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The three-day conference, which started on 03 Jun with an informal meeting of Governors and Lieutenant Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan, was formally started this morning at Ashoka Hall in New Delhi and was presided over by President Ram Nath Kovind, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

The inaugural session had the presence of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, Governors and Lt Governors of all the States and Union Territories and senior officials of the Central Government.

The ongoing conference of Governors is of five formal sessions and will cover key areas namely "Flag-



ship Programmes & Internal Security", "Status of Higher Education in State Universities & Skill Development for Employability, Best Practices", "Agriculture, a vital Component of Food Security-Ways and Means to Enhance", "Role of Governor as a Chancellor and Rector of Universi-

ties", "Making Cities Livable", "Steps taken on the report of the Committee of the Governors" and "Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji in 2019, suggestions and ideas".

Addressing the session on "Status of Higher Education in State Univer-

sities & Skill Development for Employability, Best Practices", Governor Patil highlighted the overall scenario of higher educational institutions in Sikkim with special reference to the measures taken by the State Government. He also mentioned about the steps taken towards establishment of Sikkim University and Sikkim National Law University through appropriate legislation in Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

Highlighting the initiatives of the State Government in the field of Capacity Building, the Governor mentioned about the activities of autonomous State Institute of Capacity Building and livelihood schools towards ensuring better employability of the youth through various specialised courses. He further added that PM-KVY, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushal Yojna and North Eastern Rural Livelihood programmes have been implemented in the State and also underlined the need to enhance these

schemes for better employability and productivity.

He also mentioned about Chief Minister Start Up Scheme launched by the State Government which provides finances with 25% subsidy to set up start ups in the State.

Addressing the fourth session on "Steps Taken on the Report of the Committee of Governors", Governor Patil provided a brief insight on the initiatives taken by Raj Bhavan Sikkim towards making Raj Bhavan more people friendly, active and forthcoming. He mentioned about the active involvement of Raj Bhavan on State's Green Mission and Organic Farming, encouraging youth and students in the State, felicitating achievers and Martyr's family, preservation of heritage, digitisation, facilitating and sponsoring student exchange programme with Maharashtra and facilitation of more tourists, students and common people to visit Raj Bhavan.



## Phalidara JHS conducts cleanliness drive

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JUN:**

Phalidara Junior High School, South Sikkim, organized a daylong cleanliness drive under the Himalayan Cleanliness Campaign today

with the participation of its students and teachers.

At the onset of the programme, Headmaster Suresh K Subba, highlighted the importance of cleanliness for the health of the environ-

ment and an individual's role in maintaining healthy living.

During the drive, the participants cleaned the school premises and moved towards the main road up to Perbing Taar.

## SJE&WD hands over scholarship assistance



**GANGTOK, 04 JUN [IPR]:**

To ensure proper education of children living in Child Care Units, Orphanages/Semi Orphanage Homes, who are financially underprivileged or who have lost their parents, the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare, handed over cheques to them as scholarship assistance.

Social Welfare Minister, Tulshi Devi Rai, handed over cheques of Rs 24,000 each to the beneficiaries at a function held at the Department's conference hall in

Gangtok today.

The department has selected 37 children from South district under Integrated Child Protection Scheme [ICPS] for scholarship assistance wherein each child will get scholarship assistance of Rs 24,000 annually for three years, it is informed.

The Minister also interacted with the children and urged them aim high when it comes to deciding their future careers.

One of the beneficiaries from Chisopani in

South Sikkim, Pramila Limboo, expressed her happiness and thanked the department for extending financial support for her studies.

She said that this scholarship assistance will help her further studies and motivate her towards building a life for herself.

Additional Secretary, KB Pradhan, Additional Secretary cum Director, ICPS, Social Welfare Department, Dushyant Pariyaar, and other officials were also present in the function.

to book advertisements in Summit-Times, call 03592-208698, 9734152541 9647102692 advertise@summit-times.com

## HRDD introduces reformed Annual...

**contd from pg01**

tion of 25 days this year which will start from 28 Jun to 22 Jul while the duration of winter vacation has been reduced to one month which was two months previously.

Dr Nepal further added that these reforms will help improve academic quality of the students and make them more competitive and focused towards their studies.

"As per the new calendar, the academic session 2019 will re-open on 01 Feb next year," he added.

Speaking on various benefits of the new calendar, Dr Nepal said, "The number of holidays, winter and summer put together, remains the same. Summer break has been increased keeping in view adverse monsoon conditions. Winters here are not as harsh as it

used to be and so schools can utilise more days of the winter vacation as working days to minimise the learning gap."

He further added, "Class XI will start in Jun-Jul to give students sufficient time to not only complete their syllabus but to also give them adequate preparation time for competitive examinations during extended winter vacation. From the next academic session, the annual examination for Class XI will be conducted in the month of Feb which used to be earlier conducted in Dec."

"We have received no negative feedback till date. It is understood that all have accepted and welcomed the decision of the department and have no issues with the new calendar," Dr Nepal added.

## Govt to waive loans given under CM's...

**contd from pg01**

ployment Scheme category who later secured government employment shall also be exempted from payment of interest as subsidy from the Government provided the principal amount is paid within a period of two months. The grace period of two months shall be counted from the date of publication of Government Notification in Sikkim Herald and other local newspapers.

The Cabinet has also directed the SIDICO Board to adopt the said Government directive for the benefit of existing stressed beneficiaries of CMSES.

Besides this, the state government has cleared as much as five amendments to legislations that are to be tabled in the next Assembly session which will commence from 08 June.

The state government has also approved the Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for introduction in the ensuing session of the Assembly. Similarly, the draft Bill on amendment of Sikkim Legislative Members (Payment of Pension) Act, 1984 and draft Bill

on amendment of Sikkim Ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of Legislative Assembly (Salary and Allowances) Act, 1977 for introduction of the Bills in the ensuing session of the Assembly.

As promised and declared, the Cabinet has also approved Draft Bill on amendment of the Sikkim National Law University Act, 2018 and the Draft Bill on amendment of the Sikkim Panchayat Act, 1993 for 20% reservation of seats in the Panchayat Bodies for Bhutia and Lepcha communities. Reservation of BL community in Gram Panchayats and Zilla Panchayats is also come up in the summer session of the Assembly.

## Indian Gorkha...

**contd from pg01**

informed. "The Indian Army is identified world over for its courage, valour and audacious approach in overcoming challenges and accomplishing tasks at all costs. The successful conduct of the expedition is yet another demonstration of the indomitable spirit prevailing in the Indian Army," said Additional Directorate of Public Information while speaking to SummitTimes.

"The mountaineering expedition to scale Chomo Yummo undertaken by 2/4 Gorkha Rifles has also displayed the mettle and morale prevalent in our forces to our friends across the border," he added.

## SFA's C-Division State league to commence this month

**contd from pg01**

The inaugural match will be played between Young Boys Academy and JVC-Singtam on 06 Jun at 12 noon, followed by another match between Sase-nians FC and Sumin FC.

This was informed during a press conference here at Football House this afternoon by Deputy Chairman, Tenzing Gyamtso, and chief coordinator of League Organising Committee, Phurba Sherpa, joint secretary, Arjun Rai, and vice-president of Sikkim Football Association, Chewang Paul Sangderpa.

Mr Gyamtso mentioned that the topper of each group after the league matches will enter the semi-final round.

The semi-final matches will

be played on 13 and 14 Jun and the final match is scheduled for 16 June.

He informed that the top-2 teams will be promoted to Second Division Sikkim League 2019.

It is added that SFA will be starting the State Premier Division and Second Division League simultaneously from July this year.

Mr Rai informed that although 30 clubs of the State had applied to participate in the C-Division League this time, only registered clubs of the State have been given entry.

He added that SFA has been strict this time in allowing entry to registered clubs in the league in a bid to encourage

club culture here and to bring higher professionalism to Sikkim football.

Chief coordinator Mr Sherpa thanked that the State Government for its recent announcement to provide a grant of Rs 12 lakh to first division sport clubs and Rs 6 lakh to second division sport clubs of the State and 5% reservation to sportsperson in government employment.

On the same, he urged the government to release these grants to the clubs at the earliest if possible as it will help them to make a better team in this season of the league.

Mr Sherpa mentioned that the present condition of Paljor Stadium ground needed attention since the field has become

dangerous for players.

"If a new turf is laid on the ground then there should not be any other activities on the new turf except football and other sporting activities. Parades and other events on the ground will again decrease the life of the turf. Or else, the government can turn the ground into sandy as it will be suitable for all activities and utilise the saved funds to make better galleries," he said.

Likewise, the SFA has urged the State administration to allow football lovers and people to put flag of their favourite World Cup teams in their vehicles.

"FIFA World Cup is the biggest festival in the world of football. Football fans here

should get the chance to support their favourite teams by putting flags of their favourite country in their vehicles," he expressed.

They stated that the people in the neighbouring hills and other parts of the world have been supporting their favourite teams in this way already so the administration should consider and allow the people to put suitable size of flags on their vehicles.

Meanwhile, AIFD D-license course will be held from 11 to 15 June at Paljor Stadium. It is informed that 31 players are attending the D license course which includes 23 from Sikkim, 03 from Assam, 04 from Kalimpong and 01 from Nagaland.

www.summittimes.com | news @  
summittimes.com | advertise @  
summittimes.com



*Gangtok on  
Tuesday,  
05 June*

**Temp:** 28°C/16°C

**Forecast:** Partly sunny, a stray thundershower.

**Sunrise:** 04:40 AM

**Sunset:** 6:28 PM

## Sikkimese female referees to supervise national games

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 JUN:**

Presila Tamang and Sen Hangma Subba of Sikkim Football Association Referee Board have been appointed to supervise matches of Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship organised by the All India Football Federation and scheduled to be held at Cuttack in Odisha from 01 to 12 Julu this year, a press release informs.

Similarly, Head Referee, Sikkim, Chamchuk Lama, has been appointed as Match Assessor by AIFF for the tournament.

SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, has congratulated all three on their selection for the national level championship and has expressed hope that they will display their skills adequately at national level and bring a good name for Sikkim.

**GANGTOK, 04 JUN [IPR]:** A co-ordination meeting for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2018 was held at the conference hall of Manan Kendra in Gangtok today. Additional Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, chaired the meeting in the presence of District Collector [East], Kapil Meena, heads of various departments of the State Government and central organizations including BRO, ITBP, NDRF, Customs and Immigration and BSNL.

Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation [STDC], Suman Thapa, briefly presented the details of the previous yatras conducted by the State Government for the pilgrims since 2015 while STDC General Manager, Vijay Thapa, put forward a note on the preparedness and management of the pilgrimage for this year. Mentioning that there will be a total of 10 batches of pilgrims, he provided a copy of the itinerary.

The first batch will arrive on 15 Jun after clearing their medical examination in New Delhi. They will then be sent on a four days long acclimatization to 15th Mile and Sherathang. On the fifth day, the yatris



will have to clear the final medical examination conducted by the ITBP and on approval will head out for the pilgrimage to the Chinese territory. This schedule will be followed by all the ten batches, it is informed.

Additional Chief Secretary, Mr Gupta, stated that it was of utmost importance for the departments and bodies involved to be cautious while maintaining clear communication so that all issues and emergencies can be dealt with promptly and efficiently.

He also enquired about the basic facilities and services in detail including accommodation for acclimatization, power and water supply, transport, health and medical assistance and communication. He further instructed that a WhatsApp group should be created for the exchange of relevant information and details of the pilgrimage.

Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, CP Dhakal, spoke about issues faced by pilgrims last year and various solu-

tions and suggestions provided by the department. Controller of Accounts [FRED], BK Pradhan, explained the management and the breakdown of resources while General Manager, SNT, informed that two new AC buses and two new non-AC buses have been procured for the yatris.

General Manager, BSNL, Deepak Agarwal, informed that phone connectivity was functional and that there will be no hindrance in communication.

The Additional Chief Secretary also raised the importance of print and social media in generating publicity as well as information. Therefore, it is essential to update and upload information on paper and online. For social media, the hashtag #KMY2018 will be used for every tweet/status upload, he added.

District Collector [East], Mr Meena, said that he will extend all help possible in order to make the process for the pilgrimage less time consuming and work in co-ordination with the Superintendent of Police [East], Dr Siva Prasad.

Medical Superintendent, Dr KB Gurung, mentioned that the health sector will work in sync with the Army, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department and the Home Department in case of medical emergencies or airlifting/evacuation.

The meeting ended with the Additional Chief Secretary reminding and instructing that the primary responsibility lay in the hands of the State departments and organizations involved and that there should be no ambiguity in communication and emergency.

## SJA conducts workshop on Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881

**GANGTOK, 04 JUN [IPR]:** Under the auspices of Sikkim Judicial Academy, a workshop on "The Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881" was organised for Chief Judicial Magistrates and Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrates on 03 Jun at the High Court auditorium here in Gangtok. The workshop was presented by Additional District & Sessions Judge, Re-designated Court, West Midnapur, Dr Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee.



## Over 95% of waste collected during the Himalayan Cleanup was plastic trash!

*contd from pg01*

problem of waste in the mountains specifically that of single use plastic waste.

The Himalayas, long been portrayed as sacred, pristine and untouched, has a flip side too, of plastic clogged waterways, waste being rolled down hill sides and burnt, and this was what was intended to be revealed by the Himalayan Cleanup. Remote places in the mountains have serious issues of dealing with plastic waste that have no solutions.

At a presentation on 01 Jun at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi during the session on Himalayan Ecosystem organised by the MoEF CC as part of World Environment Day, IMI and Zero Waste representatives, Priyadarshinee Shrestha and Roshan Rai, presented the findings of the cleanup campaign to an audience that consisted of Government officials, NGO members and other dignitaries.

They presented the details of information collated by number from 89 sites spread across 12 states that revealed that 97% of waste collected was plastic.

"Not a patch of ground is free of plastic waste was the most common expression across the cleanup sites in the 12 mountain States," they stated.

Result of the waste audit organised as part of the cleanup provide insights to the consumption patterns as well as the type of waste being generated in the mountains. The top five polluters by number across the sites were multi layered plastic such as that of popular snack food items, PET bottles, single use plastic items, other plastic items and tetrapak packaged items.

Taking the question of who is responsible for the waste, the Himalayan Cleanup included a brand audit which was conducted



in collaboration with Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives -GAIA's national brand audit which has covered 10 cities in India. The brand audit reveals the top brands that are polluting our mountains and demands that the brands take responsibility for the waste through Extended Producer Responsibility mechanisms.

The Himalayan Cleanup shows that the top 15 plastic polluters include prominent brand names including Hindustan Coca Cola, Pepsi Co India, Britannia Industries and others.

The Himalayan Cleanup has recommended Mountain Policies to stop single use plastics and to phase out multilayered plastic. Extended producer responsibility especially for multilayered plastic, PET and tetrapak is of utmost necessity. No incineration/burning of waste in the sacred and ecologically sensitive Himalaya is also an important recommendation, for the Himalayan states, where burning is seen as the most common solution. Tourism and defense which have large waste footprints in the mountains

need to be integrated into waste management systems. Special resource support to the mountain states needed considering the challenges of geography and connectivity, the release adds.

Member of Parliament from Sikkim, PD Rai, who delivered the keynote address at the event, spoke about the urgent need to address the issue of plastic pollution in the mountains, and that local and regional policies must be strengthened to bring about sustainable waste management.

It is to be informed here, the Himalayan Cleanup was anchored together by the Integrated Mountain Initiative and Zero Waste Himalaya. IMI works across the 12 mountain States on issues of mountain policies and advocacy. Zero Waste Himalaya is a platform of organisations and individuals that advocates for sustainable waste management practices in the Himalayan region based on principles of zero waste.

The group has been actively working across the Sikkim Darjeeling landscape with the relevant government institutions, and also on building a volun-

teer base with an outreach to schools and colleges. The Zero Waste Himalaya group has been working on waste issues for the past 10 years, and the theme of beat plastic pollution for World Environment Day provided the right opportunity to voice the concerns and challenges of waste in the mountains to a larger audience.

A workshop organised by IMI, ZWH and RMDD on 'Envisioning Sustainable Waste Management Pathways for the Indian Himalayan Region' on 11-12 May in Gangtok paved the way for The Himalayan Cleanup with the participation of 12 mountain States where the planning for the cleanup was done.

The workshop highlighted that mountain States currently had little or no waste management and the most common practice was to transport and dump, and burning of waste. Mountain specific management issues and policies on waste were also deliberated upon during the workshop along with planning processes for embedding zero waste practices.



## 600 saplings planted by public in Rangrang Chandey Ward

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

**MANGAN, 04 JUN:**

Rangrang Chandey Ward of Dzongu, North Sikkim today observed World Environment Week which was attended by around 200 people under the supervision of Ward Panchayat, Rangrang, MB Thapa, Ward Panchayat, Chandey, Tshering Tamang, Nava Yuva Samaj president, BB Giri, and NYS

general secretary, MB Limboo.

Members of Lotus, Samarpan, Ekta and Utsav Self Help Groups, senior citizens and youth dedicated the entire day towards planting 600 saplings provided by Tingchim nursery under Forest Department. They also constructed footpath and log-bridge at Ambithang Khola landslide zone which is

a short and convenient path for students and commuters connecting Rangrang to Chandey and Mangan.

This stretch has been in deplorable condition since past few years with rainy season causing frequent landslides at the sinking zone.

The public of the area have urged the State Government to look into the matter.

## BJP Sikkim in-charge confident of allying with other parties and forming next govt

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 4 JUN:**

Baratiya Janta Party Sikkim in-charge, Ranjanish Kumar, admitted today that despite lack of party organization in the grassroots level, BJP was eyeing to form the next government in Sikkim with the help of like-minded political parties, hinting at a pre-poll alliance with Hamro Sikkim Party and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha.

Mr Kumar, who has been in town for the past three days, told media persons today that BJP has tried to bring the North Eastern Region into the mainstream through development, adding that this will help them wrest power from Sikkim Democratic Front.

Mr Kumar did not however reveal any specific poll strategies and contended that projecting Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi's face will be enough to gain public mandate in the strategically located State of Sikkim.

Countering the alleged statements of the CM that BJP was an outside party, Mr Kumar said that SDF has no right to say so as Sikkim was a part of the Union of India and if it continues saying so, then SDF was not working for India's interest or Sikkim's.

## Organic farming awareness programme Okhrey GPU farmers

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 04 JUN:**

A daylong training on ICS Management and Organic Farming was held at Chengba Gaon, Ward No 5 in Okhrey GPU, West Sikkim in the presence of Ward Panchayat, Tshering Yangzom Sherpa, as chief guest and master trainers from Mevedir, Chuten Sherpa and Pasang Dawa Sherpa, as resource persons, a press release informs.

The training addressed various activities undertaken in ICS management and the major responsibilities of the farmers in the entire ICS management programme. Various important documentation, reason for internal inspections undertaken in cropping season in summer and winter and the mandatory training programmes conducted to enhance awareness of the stakeholders were

highlighted.

Chief guest Ms Sherpa addressed the scope of Organic Farming in Okhrey and the benefits marginal farmers can get from various welfare schemes promoted by the State Government.

She encouraged the farmers to avoid keeping land barren and highlighted on how the farming community need to take advantage of the farmer friendly policies

*turn to pg05*



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Make Riverfront Cleanups More Meaningful

*After force-engaging the young, allow them to get genuinely involved*

There is an extensive riverfront cleanup drive underway around the Gangtok hill leading up to World Environment Day coming up on Tuesday. It is always a good idea to get the young engaged with real nature, and given the increasing stress that water bodies are under, exposing them to how recklessly we litter, pollute and obliterate the water courses is a welcome initiative. Sikkim if fortunate that it has riverfronts to cleanup, because all it takes is a drive down to Siliguri to realize that rivers, even ancient ones, are no longer perennial. They remain slushy dump-yards for most of the year, encroached and polluted, and then flood the encroachments when monsoon arrives. Clearly then, the move to take the young to streams around the capital should pay some dividends because the staggering loads of plastic removed from even out of the way streams will get the students thinking about the need to dispose more responsibly.

But that is still only the first step. Clearing riverfronts of litter is necessary, but it has to be a yearlong engagement and not just a once in a very long while picnic. Since the grown-ups and their departments are not doing much to address the clogging of streams, may be it will be a good idea to invite the young to form riverfront care clubs in their respective neighbourhoods. Community-level donations and grants from the government could easily sustain these initiatives and the involvement of the young just might deliver Sikkim a more durable solution to the stress run-away consumption is putting the State's water bodies under. These checks were part of the traditional lifestyles here as well, but these were snuffed out when governments took control of everything. Within two generations, the balance was upended in the hands of an uninformed and an uninspired bureaucracy, which, due its insecurities and compromises, has grown suspicious of traditional knowledge and community participation. That talking down can be chipped away by involving the young early, and since riverfront cleanup drives are the current pursuit, it should be taken a step further and a real sense of ownership instilled in the students.

It is also important that the cleanup drives do not end with the loading of trucks with the collected litter. These groups should be invited to accompany the garbage trucks to the garbage dump-yards so that they realize that most of our waste is not even biodegradable anymore and recognize that one area is cleaned at the cost of another areas health and ecology. When the children are taken to garbage dumps, they should not just get a tour of the facilities established there to "treat" waste, but also encouraged to interact with residents of the surrounding area to learn of how their daily lives have been affected just so that other towns and villages of Sikkim can be emptied of their filth. It is not enough to just hold your breath when your vehicle zooms past the Marchak garbage dump on the highway, and if the young learn about the condition there first hand, they will at least empathise with the situation and, in the long run, realize the need for less messy solutions. No one expects them to come up with a solution immediately, but at least they will be seized of the issue, and who knows, when they take charge in the future, will be able to factor in more considerations than just the civil engineering and land acquisition components for projects.

One also wonders whether the children realize that the streams and jhoras they have been so diligently cleaning for more than a fortnight now flow into rivers which were inexcusably allowed to be more harmfully polluted right under the watch of a subsidiary of the very organization which has been condescendingly reminding them of keeping rivers clean? It took the High Court's involvement recently to remind the pollution control board here that its responsibility is towards the environment and not industry (pharma in the present case). Pharmaceutical units along the Singtam-Rangpo axis, it was revealed, were not even meeting 60% of the pollution control requirements but were still allowed to operate and wantonly pollute in just about every production cycle. A High Court order led to the pollution control mechanisms at these units get inspected; what has still not happened though is a study on the scale of pollutants spewed into the Rani Khola and Teesta and may be even Rangeet and the damage it has caused the water bodies and the life it sustains. The young should ask these questions of the organizers of the riverfront cleanup exercises. Like it was said before, the young, after they are forced to get more engaged, should resolve to get more involved as well.

visit us at:

[www.summittimes.com](http://www.summittimes.com)

# 5 Latino authors you should be reading now

LAURA LOMAS  
*theconversation.com*

You likely recognize that the depiction of Latin American immigrants in politics today – as a menacing mass of recalcitrant Spanish-speaking invaders – is overwhelmingly negative.

What you may not know is that stereotypes suggesting that Latin Americans represent a threat to United States culture are not just morally repugnant – they're also historically inaccurate. Spanish-language literature actually predates the Puritans' writing in English by nearly a century.

As my research reveals, many renowned Latin American writers actually produced some of their finest work while living in the United States. Latina and Latino writers have made exceptional contributions to American literary history.

For a fresh take on what it means to be a Latina or Latino in the U.S. today, check out these five literary luminaries.

**1. JOSÉ MARTÍ (CUBA, 1853-1895)**  
For Cubans, José Martí is the equivalent of George Washington, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman combined. Born in 1853 in Havana, Cuba, Martí wrote the bulk of his 28 volumes of prose, poetry and speeches in late 19th-century New York.

Working as a diplomat, translator, Spanish teacher and journalist, Martí interpreted current events and cultural questions from his office on Front Street, in lower Manhattan's South Street Seaport.

He witnessed immigrants arriving by the boatload to New York – except the Chinese, who were banned in 1882. He knew about the lynching of black Americans and of atrocities against Native Americans. These stories found their way into Martí's thinking about Latin America and its diaspora in the United States.

Martí also wrote dazzling accounts of New York, his adopted hometown, likening the cables of the brand-new Brooklyn Bridge to sated "colossal boa constrictors" resting atop towers.

Upon the unveiling of the Statue of Liberty in 1886, Martí alluded to the fact that his distant island home, Cuba, remained a Spanish colony: "Those who have you, O Liberty, do not know you. Those deprived of you must not merely talk about, they must win you."

Martí died in 1895, fighting for Cuba's independence. In 2018, he was inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame, alongside local



luminaries Colson Whitehead and Alexander Hamilton.

**2. JULIA DE BURGOS (Puerto Rico, 1914-1953)**

Puerto Rico's greatest poet also migrated from her Caribbean home island, where she was a teacher, to the isle of Manhattan. Julia de Burgos recounts this literary journey in one of her most famous poems, "Yo misma fui mi ruta" – "I was my own route."

De Burgos' inventive, daring poetry did indeed forge a new path for feminists, Latina and otherwise, in the early 20th century.

Against pressure to identify as white, the mixed-race de Burgos proclaimed her African heritage, calling herself "Black, of pure tint."

In one experimental 1938 poem, de Burgos addresses the distance between her liberated identity as a writer and her constricted role as a woman.

"You in yourself have no say; everyone governs you; your husband, your family," she writes in "To Julia de Burgos." "In me only my heart governs, only my thought; who governs in me is me."

In 1953, de Burgos was found dead, without identification, in uptown Manhattan and buried anonymously in a potter's field on Manhattan's Hart Island. A month later, her compatriots retrieved her remains and reburied her in Puerto Rico.

The New York Times featured de Burgos – a "poet who helped shape Puerto Rico's identity" – in its overlooked women's obituary series in May.

**3. GLORIA ANZALDÚA (Texas, 1942-2004)**

The poet and essayist Gloria Anzaldúa came from a family of Mexican-American farm laborers.

Her ancestors had for generations

lived in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, near the border that Anzaldúa memorably defined as "an open wound where the Third World grates against the first and bleeds."

Anzaldúa's work often celebrates her community's bilingualism. She portrays it as an act of survival against the "linguistic terrorism" of the U.S. public school system, which required English-only teaching and offered "accent elimination" classes in a part of the U.S. that used to be Mexico.

Anzaldúa found such insults to her nonstandard way of speaking excruciating. "Until I can take pride in my language," she once wrote, "I cannot take pride in myself."

Anzaldúa is increasingly recognized as one of the 20th century's most influential feminist and anti-racist essayists.

**4. SANDRA CISNEROS (Chicago, 1954-present)**

No list of Latino authors is complete without Sandra Cisneros, author of the beloved "The House on Mango Street," which has sold nearly 6 million copies and has been translated into over 20 languages.

Why Cisneros has not received the same acclaim as Junot Díaz – a childhood sexual assault survivor who was recently accused of his own sexual impropriety – is perplexing.

My favorite of her novels is "Caramelo." In this transnational coming-of-age story, a Mexican-American woman digs into her family history.

Learning from her abuela, Soledad, she discovers hidden truths about family tensions, border crossings and why her doting migrant papá, Inocencio, is not so innocent after all.

**5. CRISTINA HENRÍQUEZ (Delaware, 1971-present)**

Cristina Henríquez, who was born in the U.S. after her Panamanian father went there to pursue graduate studies, is the best novelist you've never heard of.

Featuring first-person perspectives of Central and South Americans and Caribbean migrants, her books dramatically expand the popular conception of the U.S. Latino, long centered on Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans.

"The Book of Unknown Americans" tells the story of recent arrivals from Paraguay, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama, Puerto Rico and Mexico who live in a dingy apartment complex, enduring the back-breaking labor of harvesting mushrooms. Sometimes, after a 12-hour shift in the dark, they eat only oatmeal for dinner.

The teenage love story between the characters Maribel and Mayor – written in prose that The Washington Post says rises "to the level of poetry" – may help American readers appreciate the myriad reasons why Latin Americans migrate north, including dictatorship, a lack of specialized health care and violence.

That is, I think, Henríquez's hope. As one Mexican character angrily states, in the U.S. he feels both invisible and vilified.

"I want them to see a guy who works hard, or a guy who loves his family," he says. "I wish just one of those people, just one, would actually talk to me. ... But none of them even want to try. We're the unknown Americans."

*[the writer is Associate Professor of English, Rutgers University Newark]*

# Coke has promised 'less sugar', but less is still too much

ROSEMARY STANTON  
*theconversation.com*

At last count, 28 countries and seven large cities in the USA had moved to introduce a tax on sugary drinks. Potential benefits are clear and include reducing costs from obesity and health-care spending, as well as the potential to increase a healthy life. Health groups in Australia have long called for the same to be done here.

When Britain legislated for a sugary drink tax, graded according to the quantity of sugar used, some manufacturers significantly reduced the amount of sugar in their drinks before the law even came into practice.

Echoing the tactic of some British companies, Coca-Cola in Australia is claiming it has taken action by "reducing sugar in 22 of our drinks since 2015", and is committing to "make all our new Coca-Cola flavours either reduced or no sugar". Their aim is for a 10% reduction across their range by 2020.

Coca-Cola's products with less sugar include:

- Coca-Cola with Stevia: 19g of sugar per 375mL, compared with the classic product with 40g per 375mL
- Kirks reduced sugar drinks: now 38g sugar per 375 mL (4-5% reduction)
- Sprite, sugar reduced with added stevia: 40g sugar per 375 mL (14% reduction)
- Raspberry Fanta, sugar reduced with added stevia: 36g sugar per 375 mL (19% reduction)
- Lift hard hitting lemon, sugar reduced: 31.5g sugar per 375 mL (23% reduction)
- Deep spring mineral waters, three orange-based flavours sugar reduced: 28g sugar per 375 mL (26% reduction).

No nutritionist is going to knock reductions in sugar content, but even a single can of the new Coca-Cola with Stevia has 37% of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended maximum daily intake of

sugar for an adult. The other products listed still have 55-78% of the WHO maximum recommendation.

Smaller pack sizes are being introduced and will help. And no-sugar versions of their major products are available, sweetened with intense (artificial) sweeteners such as stevia, acesulphame K, sucralose and aspartame.

## SUGAR ALTERNATIVES?

Stevia can be made from the leaves of the Stevia rebaudiana plant which contain a variety of steviol compounds. These bypass digestion in the small intestine and are broken down by bacteria in the colon.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand has approved the use of a wide range of different steviol compounds. Labelled either by its name or "additive 960", stevia is marketed by some as a "natural" product. Although what is added to drinks and other foods is a highly purified extract, often blended with a sugar alcohol (usually erythritol) or complex carbohydrates called oligosaccharides.

In its favour, stevia has virtually no kilojoules, and can be used by those with diabetes. But its effect on "good" bacteria in the colon may be undesirable.

Arguments continue to rage over whether intense sweeteners are beneficial or not. Some studies claim they help with weight loss. Others say they may increase the risk of excess weight and some associated health problems. Their effect on the "good" gut bacteria also needs careful evaluation.

The real problem is that sweet drinks maintain a taste for sweet drinks.

Nor does the dental disaster associated with soft drinks disappear with low or no sugar varieties. This is because much of the damage to dental enamel comes from their inherent acidity. The solution is to confine drinks to water or milk.

## SUGAR COATING?

Those marketing sugary products cannot ignore

the public outcry against sugar. But nor can their business stand too strong an anti-sugar movement. The "less sugar" move may be an attempt to tone down the criticism.

How do we define moderation? It's an issue that has dogged those formulating dietary guidelines. In 1979, one of Australia's dietary goals was to "decrease refined sugar consumption". Two years later, the first guidelines included advice to "avoid eating too much sugar".

Sugar sales fell, moving the sugar industry to mount a massive seven-year PR and advertising campaign to influence health professionals, the population, health ministers and food companies that sugar was "a natural part of life".

With every subsequent revision of the guidelines, the food industry has campaigned strongly for the sugar guideline to be dropped. They succeeded in so far as the wording was changed to "eat only a moderate amount of sugars and foods containing added sugars". Sales steadied.

A review for the 2013 guidelines showed even stronger evidence that all added sugars should be limited, especially sugar sweetened soft drinks and cordials, fruit drinks, vitamin waters, energy and sports drinks.

Confectionery, cakes, biscuits and pastries were also specifically added to the list along with advice that for many Australians there was no room in the diet for any of these foods. "Only moderate" amounts may be comfortable for the industry but it was way too vague to fit the evidence.

"Less" sugar in sugary drinks is also too vague. Even for those who are not overweight, these drinks remain a hazard for our teeth. The only solution is to stop drinking them.

*[the writer is Nutritionist & Visiting Fellow, UNSW]*





## Day 2 of cleanliness drive by Singtam Nagar Panchayat

YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 04 JUN:

On the second day of the cleanliness drive initiated by Singtam Nagar Panchayat in Singtam, East Sikkim today, the administration section of SNP along with concerned Ward Councillor inspected Ward No 01 in Singtam.

During the inspection drive, some parts of the existing drainage system were found to be damaged with cracks following which residents living nearby

had been facing seepage problems.

The Ward Councillor has informed the concerned authority about the same.

The inspecting team also expressed concern over the protection wall that supports the infrastructure of Singtam Government Senior Secondary School that was damaged by the landslide that occurred on 27 Sept last year. Repair works are yet to be initiated.

## CABINET DECISIONS...

contd from pg01

8. Approval and sanction of Rs.25,00,000/- for extension of walkway from crematorium shed to Goskan Dara at Singtam.  
9. Approval and sanction of Rs.18,60,71,321/- for design and construction of Bye Pass Tunnel for traffic at Ridge Park, Gangtok.

10. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,50,00,000/- construction of Organic Vegetable Market at Rangrang, North Sikkim.

11. Approval and sanction of transfer of funds recommended by 4th State Finance Commission to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as under:-

i) Approval and sanction of Rs.303.70 lakhs as share of Net Proceeds to be transferred to ULBs under 4th SFC,  
ii) Approval and sanction of Rs.130.80 lakhs as Primary Grant under 4th SFC to be transferred to ULBs and  
iii) Approval and sanction of Rs.56.06 lakhs as Improvement Grant under 4th SFC to be transferred to ULBs subject to fulfilment of specified conditions.

### HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

12. Approval and sanction of Rs.5 crores as grant-in-aid to SMIMS and confirmation of the decision that henceforth no more grant-in-aid is to be paid to SMIMS.(Post facto)  
13. Approval and sanction of Rs.27,41,400/- for enhanced and dedicated water supply to District Hospital Namchi.

### ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

14. Approval and sanction of Rs.2,46,42,000/- for construction of link road from Mangsari Bazaar to Magerjung (Manger Memorial) in West Sikkim.  
15. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,81,32,000/- for upgradation of road to ICAI College turning to STP, Sichey in East Sikkim.  
16. Approval for amendment of Sikkim Public Works Manual.

### FINANCE REVENUE & EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT

17. Approval and sanction for payment of Dearness Allowance/Relief at enhanced rates

from existing rate of 5% to 7% for revised pay scale based on 7th CPC recommendations and from 139% to 142% for pre-revised pay scale w.e.f 01.01.2018.

### DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, TRAINING AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

18. Approval and sanction of Rs.25,59,000/- for Foundation Training Programme for the newly recruited SCS Probationers.

### SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

19. Approval and sanction of Rs.50 lakhs repair and renovation of White Hall, Gangtok.  
20. Approval of Sikkim State Youth Policy (SSYP) – 2018.

### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

21. Approval and sanction of Rs.1355 lakhs for the year 2016-17 and Rs.1750 lakhs for the year 2017-18 for payment under Chief Ministers' Merit Scholarship Scheme.

### HOME DEPARTMENT

22. Approval and sanction of Rs.2,40,55,000/- for construction of Police Memorial at Aritar, East Sikkim.

### LAW, LEGAL, LEGISLATIVE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

23. Approval of Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for introduction of the Bill in the ensuing session of the Assembly.  
24. Approval of the draft Bill on amendment of Sikkim Legislative Members (Payment of Pension) Act, 1984 for introduction of the Bill in the ensuing session of the Assembly.  
25. Approval of draft Bill on amendment of Sikkim Ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of Legislative Assembly (Salary and Allowances) Act, 1977 for introduction of the Bill in the ensuing session of the Assembly.

### ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

26. Approval and additional sanction of

Rs.228.61 Lakhs for completion of the work 'Construction of 66 KV Extension Bay at Khamdong and Installation/Construction of 7.5 MVA, 66/11 KV Sub-Station at Lower Khamdong, East Sikkim'.

### FOREST ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

27. Approval and sanction of Rs.14.38 crores to be transferred to Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department from the Sikkim Ecology Fund and Environment Cess. (Post facto)  
28. Approval and sanction of Rs.76.53 crores for Annual Plan of Operation (APO) of JICA – assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP) for the year 2018-19.

### BUILDINGS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

29. Approval and additional financial sanction of Rs.322.52 lakhs for construction of Romlyang Tungrong (Stairway to Heaven – Tower Portion) at Daramdin, West Sikkim.

### LAND REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

30. Approval and sanction of the following for establishment of Sub-Divisional Administrative Centre at Yangang:-  
i) Approval and sanction of Rs.1,91,28,023/- for making final payment to Gyen Tashi Palding Gumpa at Yangang, South Sikkim towards cost of land and  
ii) Confirmation of action taken during the financial year 2017-18 for releasing Rs.250 lakhs as part payment for land.  
31. Approval of Draft Notification pertaining to registration of property in the name of Sikkimese women who are married to non-Sikkimese.

### HORTICULTURE AND CASH CROPS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

32. Approval for creation of Checkposts by the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture.

### DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, TRAINING AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

33. Approval of revision

of Reservation Policy for employment in the State Government.

### ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

34. Approval for renaming of Sadam to Bhanjyang Road as 'Shaheed Kumar Prasad Pradhan Marg' in South Sikkim'.

35. Approval and sanction of Rs.345.36 crores construction of fair weather roads in the State of Sikkim.

### URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

36. Approval of Concession Agreement for the construction of Car Park-cum- Commercial Complex at Star Cinema Hall, New Market, Gangtok.

### HOME DEPARTMENT

37. Approval and sanction of Rs.4,23,20,330/- for construction of infrastructure for 2nd and 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion at Mangley, South Sikkim.  
38. Approval and sanction of Rs.9,23,29,736/- for construction of High Court Phase-IV building at High Court Complex, Gangtok.  
39. Approval and sanction of Rs.1619.14 Lakhs for construction of Additional Courts and re-designing of existing Courts under 14th Finance Commission.

### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES & VETERINARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

40. Approval for revision of Entry fee and Service Charge on Livestock and Livestock products.

### RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

41. Approval and sanction of Rs.500 lakhs for maintenance of rural roads.

### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

42. Approval of Draft Bill on amendment of the Sikkim National Law University Act, 2018.

### WATER RESOURCES AND RIVER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

43. Approval and sanction of Rs.1995.75 lakhs for implementation of different Rural and Urban Schemes under Flood Control and River Training Works.

### LAND REVENUE AND DISASTER



## FITNESS ATHLETE LALIT KUMAR RAI SECURES THIRD POSITION IN STRONGMAN INDIA LEAGUE

GANGTOK, 04 JUN: Fitness athlete from Sikkim, Lalit Kumar Rai, has bagged the third position in the Strongman India League held on 27 May in Goa. Lalit and Bhim Chettri from Sikkim Hardcore Gym were the only participants from Sikkim. The team was led by instructor, Legden Bhutia. More than 100 athletes from across India showcased their strength via different forms of lifting weights. "It was a completely new and fabulous learning experience for us. Apart from physical endurance, it also requires mental power and focus," says Lalit. Legden Bhutia promotes power lifting, weightlifting and natural bodybuilding in Sikkim and will be soon starting Strongman league in Sikkim as well.

### MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

44. Approval and sanction of Rs.32.09 lakhs for releasing the State Share to Sikkim Geo-tech Society during 2017-18 for implementing the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme.

45. Approval and sanction of Rs.1489.11 lakhs for covering the remaining 862 beneficiaries and confirmation of action taken during the financial year 2017-18 in releasing Rs.200 lakhs to the South and West Districts for implementing the Sikkim Sukumbasi Welfare Scheme.

46. Approval and confirmation of the action already taken for notifying the Block Rates of Land in the State.

47. Approval and confirmation of the action taken during the financial year 2017-18 for release of Rs.50 lakhs to Sikkim Geo-tech Society for conducting the Cadastral Re-survey of land in the State.

### RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

48. Approval of Draft Bill on amendment of the Sikkim Panchayat Act, 1993 for 20% reservation of seats in the Panchayat Bodies for Bhutia and Lepcha communities. The scheme of reservation of BL community in Gram Panchayats and Zilla Panchayats has been approved.

### COMMERCE AND

### INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

49. Approval of the following :-

(a) Financial Relief to existing loan beneficiaries under Chief Ministers' Self Employment Loan Scheme (CMSES) for time bound closure of stressed loan accounts with SIDICO as under;  
(i) Loan below Rs.50,000/- given under CMSES shall be borne as subsidy from the Government, exempting both principal and the interest,  
(ii) Loan amount of Rs.50,000/- and above taken under CMSES shall be provided 50% subsidy by the Government on the principal and interest free from repayment also exempted as subsidy from the Government if

the loan is repaid within two months,

(iii) Loanees under Chief Ministers Self Employment Scheme category who later secured Government employment shall also be exempted from payment of interest as subsidy from the Government provided the principal amount is paid 100% within a period of two months and  
(iii) The period of two months shall be reckoned from the date of publication of Government Notification in Sikkim Herald and other local newspapers.

(b) The SIDICO Board shall be directed to adopt the said Government directive for the benefit of existing stressed beneficiaries of CMSES.



## Organic farming awareness programme Okhrey GPU farmers

contd from pg03

of the present Government and how even the Old Age Pension Schemes were being rolled out for the elderly rural population of Sikkim.

The participants were given hands-on training on preparation of FPE and Amrit Jal. Locally avail-

able materials were collected and the steps and methodology, usage, dosage details were highlighted.

The master trainers informed that the participants need to prepare these formulations and use it in their field crops and find out the efficacy of these formulations. He cautioned that the usage can

be improved through observations and usage.

Some queries of farmers were entertained before the vote of thanks which was given by master trainer, Passang Dawa Sherpa. More than 22 farmers attended the day's programme.



# Brazil fans relieved after Neymar's return before World Cup

**Liverpool, Jun 4 (AP):** Neymar needed only 23 minutes to reassure Brazilians that his recovery is right on track for the World Cup.

Three months after undergoing surgery on his right foot, Neymar returned to action for Brazil and inspired a 2-0 win over Croatia in an international friendly that showed fans, teammates and coach Tite that he's in good shape for Russia.

"Any team would be relieved having such a player back," defender Thiago Silva said after Sunday's win at Anfield.

"We are a great team, but Neymar has that light. When the game gets tough, he steps up to the challenge."

The first half was dominated by heavy marking. But after Neymar replaced Fernandinho, the five-time-World Cup champions were much more fluent and effective playing with the formation - Neymar joining Willian and Gabriel Je-



sus up front - that is likely to start at the World Cup.

Brazil fans, who appeared to be in the majority of the 35,000 fans

at Anfield, were quiet in the first half but got noisier with Neymar's appearance in the second half.

Musician Daniel Adriano was

among the Brazilians who left Anfield in higher spirits than when they arrived.

"Without Neymar we can't win

it," Adriano said. "After watching him score I am confident again that Brazil can win in Russia. I didn't come here expecting him to do well, to be honest."

As Brazil's teamwork improved, Neymar's individual skill level rose, too. He opened the scoring in the 68 minute after receiving the ball on the left edge of the penalty box, dribbling past Croatia defenders Sime Vrsaljko and Duje Caleta-Car and smashing the ball into the roof of the net with his right foot.

He then ran to hug Brazilian soccer confederation doctor Rodrigo Lasmar, his surgeon, on the sidelines.

"I am so happy to play football again. I have waited and worked a lot for this," Neymar said.

"I suffered, these were very tough three months. When I saw the ball hit the net I only thought of those that helped me, Dr. Lasmar,

my family, friends." Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored Brazil's second goal to seal the win.

Brazil coach Tite agreed Neymar's return exceeded expectations, but he wanted to be cautious with the recovery to ensure his star player peaks at the World Cup.

"We were indeed under pressure from Croatia in the first half and his presence made us better," Tite said in a press conference.

"But we planned how Neymar was going to be used, he is different."

He said Neymar shouldn't have the responsibility to produce the match-winning play every game, "otherwise it gets inhuman. He is part of a strong team."

Tite did not disclose whether he planned for Neymar to play the entire match against Austria in a friendly next Sunday in Vienna, which will be Brazil's last warmup game for the World Cup.

## Leander returns, Yuki exempted for Asian Games

**NEW DELHI, JUN 4 (PTI):**

The iconic Leander Paes today made a comeback to the Asian Games bound Indian squad while Yuki Bhambri was "exempted" as AITA threw its weight behind country's top singles player in his quest for Grand Slam glory.

Paes, who has won eight medals at the previous editions of Asian Games, has not competed in the prestigious quadrennial event since winning the men's doubles gold with Mahesh Bhupathi and mixed doubles gold with Sania Mirza at the 2006 Doha Games.

The AITA backed Yuki in skipping the Games in Indonesia, where tennis events will begin on August 19, saying there are not many Indians competing in the singles at Grand Slams, thus, "the boy must be supported."

visit us at  
www.summittimes.com

## Indian women claim 2nd successive win at Asia Cup cricket



**KUALA LUMPUR, JUN 4 (PTI):** Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur delivered a solid all-round performance as the Indian women's cricket team defeated Thailand by 66 runs in the Asia Cup T20 tournament, here today.

Put in to bat, India posted 132/4 in the designated 20 overs before restricting Thailand to 66/8 in theirs to record a second successive big win and stay at the top of the points table in the

six-nation tournament.

The Indian team, which had hammered hosts Malaysia by 142 runs in its opening match, put up another dominating show.

The entire top order batting contributed well with Mona Meshram's 45-ball 32 being the top score.

However, the impact innings of the match was played by the in-form Harmanpreet Kaur, a 17-ball unbeaten 27 which

steered India to, what became, a winning total.

Kaur's knock was laced with three hits to the fence. Smriti Mandhana too continued her fine form for a 22-ball 29, which included one four and a couple of sixes.

Kaur than did the job with the ball as well, grabbing three wickets with her off-spin, yielding a mere 11 runs in three overs. Kaur's superb all-round performance fetched her

the Player of the Match award.

Deepti Sharma also picked up a couple of wickets in her four overs, which went for a mere 16 runs.

For Thailand, Nattaya Boochatham top-scored with a 40-ball 21 but the slow knock was hardly what the team needed in the slam-bang format.

The Thai team just could not break free during the chase, shackled by an accurate Indian

bowling attack.

After a rest day tomorrow, India will take on Bangladesh in their third match of the tournament.

**Brief Scores:**  
India: 132/4 in 20 overs (Mona Meshram 32, Harmanpreet Kaur 27 not out, Wongpaka Liengprasert 2/16).

Thailand: 66/8 in 20 overs (Nattaya Boochatham 21, Harmanpreet Kaur 3/11, Deepti Sharma 2/16).

## New Zealand, Chinese Taipei look for first win

**MUMBAI, JUN 4 (PTI):** Having suffered a loss in their respective opening games, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei will look to open their account when they lock horns in the Intercontinental Cup here tomorrow.

A young Chinese Taipei side was drubbed 5-0 by India, courtesy a hat-trick by skipper Sunil Chhetri. New Zealand suffered a shocking 1-2 defeat at the hands of Kenya, despite having taken the lead.

The two teams will have to regroup themselves ahead of tomorrow's encounter at the Mumbai Football Arena.

New Zealand will have to improve if they are to beat Chinese Taipei. They failed to convert their chances against Kenya and the passing was erroneous, and the Kiwis will have to pull their socks up.

Also the coordination between their forwards will have to be much better for the side to score.

All eyes will be again

on Sarpreet Singh, who had given the side lead against Kenya, and his role will be crucial.

New Zealand coach Fritz Schmid had admitted that his team struggled against the physically stronger Kenyas and they would need to improve on this aspect too.

"We struggled in the latter half in physicality and that's another point we have to look at. Big amount of the team plays in off-season, some of them are inactive and that's where we lagged," Schmid had said after the team's loss to Kenya.

For Chinese Taipei, they will look to redeem pride after the humiliating loss to India.

They would need to learn their lessons from the India game and work in all the areas. Their ball possession was much lower and they hardly went near the Indian goal post.

Their defence also will have to improve as New Zealand have strong strikers.

# Nature's vagaries upset mango cart in UP; quality, price hit

**SANGITA BAKAYA**

**LUCKNOW, JUN 4 (PTI):** Nature's wrath has rendered a big blow to mango output in Uttar Pradesh this year, not only hitting the price of the 'king of fruits' but also its quality and the quantum of exports.

Mango production, which was estimated to be around 50 lakh metric tonnes this year, is now expected to reach only 25-30 lakh metric tonnes in the state because of continued thunderstorms, dust storms and untimely

showers this season.

"The flowering of the fruit was very good this year, almost 99 per cent, and we had expected that the production would be around 50 lakh metric tonnes," President of All India Mango Growers Association Insram Ali told PTI.

Uttar Pradesh -- with 14 major belts -- is among the major producers of the 'king of fruits'.

The mango belts in Saharanpur, Bulandshahr, Barabanki, Hardoi, Hasanganj in Unnao, Pratapgarh, Amroha besides

Malhabad produce the best of the succulent varieties of Duss-heri, Chausa and Langra. Duss-heri and Chausa varieties are exported from the state.

Ali said the temperature required for the fruit was not steady. It kept fluctuating, resulting in the crop getting infested by pests, he said.

The temperature for the fruit to settle has to increase gradually but this time round it kept cooling down very often which created problems and the quality of fruit suffered, he explained.

Another major problem that the mango growers faced was that of pests, for which the farmers had to go for regular sprays.

As per norms, the growers are advised to use minimum amount of pesticides to ensure that the fruit remains healthy but it becomes necessary to check the pests, he said, adding that this time round the problem was aggravated as duplicate pesticides are being commonly sold in the markets.

Unlike the previous years

when two to three sprays were sufficient, this time seven to eight sprays had to be used to control the spread of pests, he said.

The matter of duplicate pesticides is also being taken up with the authorities, Ali said.

"All this led to an increase in the cost of the produce and practically the government's aim of doubling the income of farmers by 2020 was blown away," he said.

This will definitely have a toll on the prices in the mar-

kets and the rates right at the starting of the season could be as high as Rs 50 to Rs 60 a kg, he said.

The exports are also likely to be hit because the produce this time round will not be as good as in the past, he said.

According to the data of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda), India's total exports stood at 52,761 tonnes (worth Rs 443.66 crore) in FY17 compared to 36,779 tonnes (worth Rs 320.64 crore) a

year earlier.

As it is, a lot remains to be done to fully exploit the potential of mango exports which could help the growers in raising their income and popularising the varieties grown in the state, Ali said.

The mango belt farmers have also been facing problems of insufficient power and water supply and they have not got any special advantage, Ali said, adding that these issues are being constantly taken up with the central and state governments.

# India flouting global laws by taxing international air tickets: IATA

**SYDNEY, JUN 4 (PTI):** The International Air Transport Association (IATA) today castigated India for taxing international tickets, as it asked governments to facilitate the growth of worldwide connectivity by avoiding creeping re-regulation, maintaining the integrity of global standards and addressing a capacity crisis.

We must take governments to task. It is unacceptable that global standards are being ignored by the very governments that created them, IATA's Director General and CEO Alexandre de Juniac said.

Asserting that India was taxing international tickets in contravention of the resolutions of the UN body International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), de Juniac said, India helped develop ICAO resolutions prohibiting tax on international tickets.

Yet it persists in taxing international travel, he said, apparently referring to the imposition of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and enhancement of its rates on international air tickets, especially business class.

The Indian government had announced the implementation of the GST from July 1, 2017. The tax covers airline products and services including tickets, ancillary, change, refund and other products and fees.

De Juniac was presenting a report on the air transport industry at the opening session of the 74th IATA Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit, which began here today.

On aviation's core mission to deliver safe, secure, accessible and sustainable connectivity, the state of our industry is

strong and getting stronger. And with 'normal' levels of profitability we are spreading aviation's benefits even more widely.

But there are challenges. Smarter regulation needs to counter the trend of creeping re-regulation. Global standards must be maintained by the states that agreed (upon) them. And we need to find efficient solutions to the looming capacity crisis, he said.

Alluding to the recent announcements by the Trump administration in the US on imposition of hefty tariffs on import of steel and other products, he warned that the spectre of a trade war looms which would hit the aviation industry as well, specifically in terms of cargo movements and business travel.

The forces of protectionism are gathering strength. Sanctions, tariffs and geo-

political conflicts are the mainstay of daily news. The spectre of trade war looms. Debates on migration and immigration rage. And trust among nations is showing fragility, the IATA chief said.

He said airlines flew over four billion passengers in 2017 while more than 60 million tonnes of cargo was delivered by air, accounting for a third of the value of goods traded globally.

Every day, goods, people, investment and ideas are connected by aviation. That directly supports 63 million jobs and improves the quality of life for all, de Juniac said.

However, it is a challenging industry to operate, he said, adding high taxes, costly and ill-conceived regulation, infrastructure capacity constraints, market shifts and the demands of labour are the normal

repertoire.

Protectionism could derail successful international joint ventures. And fuel costs are expected to be up 25 per cent on 2017, he said.

However, despite such a scenario, the aviation industry's financial foundation has grown stronger, he said, projecting that the airlines would make nearly USD 40 billion this year as passenger demand is expected to grow 7 per cent and cargo by 4 per cent.

There are challenges. We will meet them head-on. How? By building the partnerships and understanding needed to further the reach and expand the benefits of the amazing industry... I will say it proudly again, we are the business of freedom, de Juniac said.





## Swaraj calls for joint action against money laundering, terrorist-financing at BRICS meet

**Pretoria, Jun 4 (PTI):** External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today underlined that multilateralism, international trade and rules based world order was facing “strong head-winds” as she called for joint action by the BRICS nations against money laundering, terrorist-financing and de-radicalisation.

Swaraj, who is on a five-day trip to South Africa, was attending BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Foreign Ministers’ meeting. The meeting is expected to lay the foundation for the annual summit of the grouping in Johannesburg next month.

“Our deliberations here will contribute towards enriching intra BRICS cooperation further,” Swaraj said.

India attaches importance to the role of BRICS in consolidating intra-BRICS cooperation and in international affairs, she was quoted as saying by a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Swaraj called for joint action of the BRICS nations against challenges to long-term growth.

“Our meeting today takes place at a time when multilateralism, international trade, and rules based world order face strong head-winds,” Swaraj said.

“Though, the global growth has exhibited signs of recovery, the challenges to long-term growth continue to persist. Ensuring that the benefits of globalisation are shared widely remains a challenge,” she added.

“Prime Minister Modi had given a call for a BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy for joint-action with a focus on money laundering, terrorist-finance, cyber-space and de-radicalization as our priorities,” Swaraj said.

“Our leaders have also called for making UN Counter Terrorism framework efficient and effective. We reiterate our commitment to implement our Leaders’ mandate on counter terrorism under South Africa’s BRICS Chairship,” she said.

The other foreign ministers attending the meeting were China’s Wang Yi, South Africa’s Lindiwe Sisulu, Brazil’s Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvao and Russia’s Sergey Lavrov.

BRICS Cooperation in strategic areas of security, counter-terrorism, UN reforms, peacekeeping, de-radicalisation, cyber security, energy security, global governance, and international and regional hot-spot issues are deliberated in detail during National Security Advisor’s meetings, she said.

# China welcomes Modi’s remarks on bilateral ties at Shangri-La Dialogue

**BEIJING, JUN 4 (PTI):** China today welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “positive remarks” on India-China relations at the Shangri-La Dialogue and expressed willingness to work with India to follow the consensus between the leadership of the two countries to maintain the momentum in the bilateral ties.

Prime Minister Modi in his keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Asia’s premier defence and strategic affairs conference, last week had said that Asia and the world will have a better future when India and China work together with trust and confidence while being sensitive to each other’s interests.

The prime minister said both India and China have displayed “maturity and wisdom” in managing issues and ensuring a peaceful border, adding cooperation between the world’s two populous countries was expanding.

Welcoming Modi’s remarks at a media briefing, Chinese Foreign Minis-



try spokesperson, Hua Chunying said, “We have noted the positive remarks made by Prime Minister Modi on China-India relations. We highly appreciate

such kind of positive remarks.”

Recalling the informal summit between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Wuhan in April this

year, Hua said, “They had in-depth exchange of views on the international landscape and bilateral relations and reached many consensus.”

“The two sides agreed to adopt a mature and wise way to properly handle differences,” she said.

“China is willing to work with the Indian side to follow the guidance of this consensus to maintain the positive momentum of the development of bilateral relations, to promote mutually beneficial co-operation, properly handle differences, maintain peace tranquillity along the border areas and thus move forward the China-India relations,” she said.

Modi and President Xi had met in April in an unprecedented two-day ‘heart-to-heart’ summit in the central Chinese city of Wuhan to “solidify” the India-China relationship after the Doklam standoff last year.

Troops of India and China were locked in the 73-day standoff in Doklam after the Indian side stopped the construction of a road by the Chinese army in the disputed area.



Paris police today began evacuating around 1,000 migrants from two makeshift camps in the city five days after another 1,000 were taken to temporary lodgings. The operation began at dawn at a camp along the Canal St Martin northeast of the city centre where an estimated 550 mainly Afghan migrants were staying, an AFP reporter said. Another 450 people were being evacuated from a camp to the north at Porte de la Chapelle, police and city authorities said in a joint statement. The St Martin Canal is near the site of a sprawling former camp by the Stalingrad Metro stop, which was cleared only to spring up again several times last year. Today’s operation comes less than a week after the dismantling of a camp along the Canal St Denis, north of the St Martin canal, where around 1,000 migrants mainly from Eritrea and Sudan had sheltered. France received a record 100,000 asylum applications last year and offered refugee status to around 30,000 people, official figures show. Forced expulsions numbered 14,900.

## At least seven dead in Kabul suicide blast near clerics’ gathering

**KABUL, JUN 4 (AFP):** At least seven people were killed today when a suicide bomber detonated near a gathering of top clerics in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul, roughly one hour after the group proclaimed such attacks a sin, police said.

The blast in the western part of the city, near universities and a police academy, is the latest demonstration of the militants’ chilling ability to carry out attacks in the heart of Kabul, which is now the deadliest place in the country for civilians.

The bomber detonated at about 11.30 am [0700 GMT] at the gates of Kabul’s Polytechnic University, police and officials said. The Loya Jirga tent where thousands of clerics from across Afghanistan were meeting is on the campus.

The tent is a huge venue often used for top religious or government gatherings. “Loya Jirga” means “grand assembly” in Pashto. Most of the casualties were civilians.

“According to our initial information, seven people have been killed including a policeman. Nine others have been injured, including two policemen,” police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai told media.

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish confirmed it was a suicide attack, and said the bomber had been on foot when he detonated his explosives at the university gate.

Police spokesman Stanikzai said the blast was outside the tent. No group has claimed

the attack, but the Taliban issued a statement on Twitter saying its fighters had “nothing to do” with the bombing.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group have stepped up their headline-grabbing assaults on the heavily fortified capital in recent months.

Local media said thousands of clerics had gathered at the Loya Jirga tent for the meeting of the Ulema Council, Afghanistan’s top religious leaders.

Earlier, they issued a fatwa against the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have been fighting an insurgency against government forces for nearly 17 years, while other militant groups have also been carrying out attacks.

The Ulema Council – seen by the militants as having some links to the government – termed suicide attacks a sin against Islam. They have issued such fatwas in the past.

“The ongoing war in Afghanistan does not have a legal basis, only Afghans are the victims of this war... [it] does not have religious, national or human value,” they said, according to government officials.

Roads around the university were quickly blocked by security officials after the blast, with heavy traffic jams building in the city as many commuters headed home due to Ramadan, the holy Islamic fasting month, during which government offices close early.

## Trump pardoning himself would be ‘almost self-executing impeachment’: Preet Bharara

**WASHINGTON, JUN 4 (PTI):** It “would be outrageous” for a sitting US president to pardon himself, former attorney Preet Bharara has asserted after Donald Trump’s lawyer said probably the President has the power to pardon himself in the Russia collusion affair.

The question of self-pardon arose after the New York Times published a 20-page letter to the special counsel Robert Mueller from Trump’s lawyers.

In the letter, they say the president has absolute power as US legal chief to end investigations, or “even exercise his power to pardon.”

Asked about the letter of Trump’s attorney Jay Sekulow and then-Trump lawyer John Dowd, Trump’s attorney Rudy Giuliani said yesterday that the President is not going to pardon himself but “probably does” have the power to do it.

“He has no intention of pardoning himself,” Giuliani told ABC’s “This Week.” He added, “It would be an open question. I think it would probably get answered by gosh, that’s what the Constitution says, and if you want to change it, change it. But yes.”

Reacting to the letter as well as Giuliani’s explanation, Bharara, the Indian-origin attorney, who was fired by President Trump last year, said that it “would be outrageous” for a



sitting president to pardon himself.

“I think (if) the President decided he was going to pardon himself, I think that’s almost self-executing impeachment,” Bharara, a CNN legal analyst, said on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

“Whether or not there is a minor legal argument that some law professor somewhere in a legal journal can make that the President can pardon, that’s not what the framers could have intended. That’s not what the American people, I think, would be able to stand for,” he said.

Bharara, who served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2009 to 2017, said that he doesn’t believe Giuliani’s assertion that the President is not considering granting himself a pardon.

“Rudy, just like Jay Sekulow, keeps coming up with things that end up being false. When he says the President is not con-

templating something, I have no faith in that whatsoever,” he said.

The case stems from the investigation by special counsel Mueller into alleged collusion between the Trump team and Russian officials in the 2016 election campaign that brought the Republican billionaire to power.

Trump has always maintained there was no collusion and that the investigation is a “witch hunt.”

Part of Mueller’s investigation is looking at whether Trump sought to criminally obstruct it, especially with the sacking of ex-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and former FBI director James Comey, and with his reaction to Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ recusal from the investigation.

In the letter to Mueller, which was sent in January, Sekulow and Dowd has acknowledged for the first time that Trump “dictated” a statement put out about

his son’s controversial 2016 meeting with Russians at Trump Tower, CNN reported.

It also says that the letter contradicts several public statements by Sekulow and also by White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, who said Trump “certainly didn’t dictate,” but rather “weighed in, offered suggestion like any father would do.”

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said he does not think a president should pardon himself or herself.

“I don’t believe that would be a legal question,” McCarthy, a Republican lawmaker from California, said.

“The President is not saying he is going to pardon himself. I don’t know why we’re walking through hypotheticals here in this process. The President has never said he pardoned himself. I don’t know where the President would go forward pardoning himself. But I don’t think a president should pardon themselves,” McCarthy added.

Mueller has so far indicted 19 people as part of his probe, including four members of the Trump campaign team or administration.

A total of 13 Russians have also been charged over their links to the Internet Research Agency, a Russian “troll factory” accused of spreading fake news stories through US social media.



### KUTSHE SHEGU

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

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





**THAT YOU JOHNNY?** Johnny Depp, 54, greeted fans outside his Berlin hotel on Sunday afternoon after prompting concern over his notably gaunt appearance.

## ANGRY INDIANS SLAM PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S LATEST QUANTICO EP FOR SHOWING INDIANS AS TERRORISTS

She's called the Desi girl but looks like the recent episode of Quantico is taking that tag away from her. At least that's what the internet is hinting at with their sudden outrage against Priyanka Chopra's latest episode of Quantico. Turns out the recent episode of Quantico had a sequence showcasing Indians as terrorists. It was basically a few men planning to bomb Manhattan but the fact these men were Indians plotting to put the blame on Pakistan has not gone down too well with the Indian audience. People are calling out the show for showing India in the bad light.

It's quite unexpected how Quantico has landed itself in a controversy, few days before going off air. But we don't entirely blame the people slamming this segment. After all, most of the Indians who have been following Quantico is because it stars Priyanka Chopra and then when you see the show defaming India, it obviously will take them aback.

Unlike the previous two



seasons of Quantico, this third season only has 13 episodes. But with this new out-

rage, it's left to see how the makers and PC will react to the controversy, hereafter.

## Rajinikanth's Kaala in trouble again!

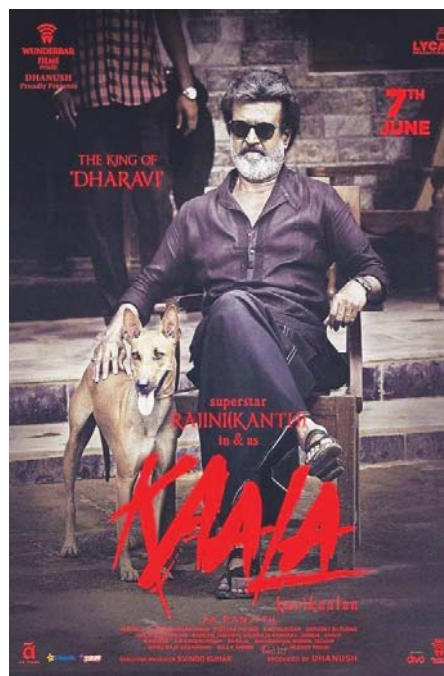
Rajinikanth's Kaala is one of the most anticipated films of 2018. Prior to its release, the movie is facing its fair share of controversy. After being banned in Karnataka, a defamation suit has been slapped on the film by a journalist who goes by the name - Jawahar Nadar.

According to reports on Deccan Chronicle, the film is based on the journalist's father, S Thiraviam Nadar. He believes the film is depicting his father in a negative light.

As per the same reports, Jawahar Nadar has demanded an apology and even filed a defamation suit. Reportedly, he has asked R 101 crore. He is waiting for a response from the Kaala team who is currently busy with promotions. As revealed by Jawahar, his father is not involved in illegal activities. He used to stay in Thoothukudi district and shifted base to Mumbai in 1957. He was also known as Gudwala Seth, Kaala Seth.

Only recently, it was declared that Karnataka has declared a ban on Kaala. Owing to Rajinikanth's bold statement on the Cauvery issue, Karnataka fringe groups and the Karnataka film Chambers of Commerce have decided to not support the release. As per reports, Rajinikanth hopes that the South Film Chambers of Commerce would look into the matter.

But these controversies haven't damped the excitement around Rajinikanth's Kaala. The film is set to release worldwide in Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam and Telugu. The film is set to have a grand release in USA. This will mark the superstar's second collaboration with Pa Ranjith after Kabali. Reportedly Rajinikanth, will play the Don Of Dharavi. The movie also stars Nana Patekar, Huma Qureshi and Anjali Patil.



## Taylor Swift sends 'love' and 'respect' to LGBT fans

Taylor Swift has told fans she is sending them 'love' and 'respect' to LGBT people who haven't felt comfortable coming out yet.

The singer made the passionate speech on stage at Chicago's Soldier Field to mark the start of Pride Month.

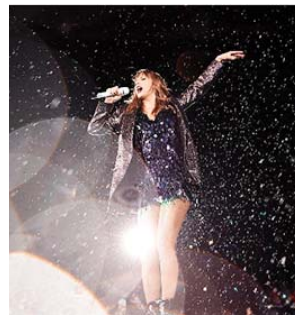
"It's very brave to be vulnerable about your feelings in any sense, in any situation" she told the audience on Saturday night. But it's even more brave to be honest about your feelings and who you love.

You know that that might be met with adversity from society. So this month, and every month, I want to send out my love and respect to everybody who has been brave enough to be honest about the way they feel, to live their lives as they are, as they feel they should be, as they identify.

And this is a month where I think we need to celebrate how far we've come, but we also need to acknowledge how far we still have left to go.

I want to send my love and respect out to everybody who in their journey hasn't yet felt comfortable enough to come out, and may you do that in your own time.

May we end up in a world where everyone can live and love equally and



no one has to be afraid to be vulnerable and say how they feel. When it comes to feelings and when it comes to love and searching for someone to spend your whole life with, it's all just really really delicate."

The singer, who performed at the BBC's Biggest Weekend last month, is currently on her Reputation tour.

Her performance in Swansea was effectively a stripped-back version of Reputation, with the six-song, 28 minute performance largely focused on the star's 2017 album.

Taylor brings her tour to the UK and Ireland in June - with six shows in London, Manchester and Dublin.

## James Bond makers want Helena Bonham Carter to play villain



James Bond producers are keen to cast actor Helena Bonham Carter in the role of an antagonist in the upcoming film.

If things work out, the actor, who has played villain in the "Harry Potter" movies and "Alice and Wonderland", would join Daniel Craig as 007 and Ben Wishaw as Q. Danny Boyle is directing the film.

"Everyone thinks Angelina Jolie is going to get the part but bosses want Helena more. At the moment they are just finalising the cast," a source told The Mirror.

If Jolie gets the role, it would mark her second time acting alongside Craig after 2001's "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider".

The new Bond movie, the 25th in the series, is scheduled to release in 2019.

## Veere Di Wedding scores a poor 2.8 on IMDB

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja starrer Veere Di Wedding enjoyed a fantastic opening weekend at the box office. Despite not having any known male star, the female buddy comedy film shattered many records at the ticket windows. But there is also another side to this, while the film has minted Rs 36.52 crore in just three days, it has scored only 2.8 out of 10 on IMDb with almost 4000 votes.

Talking about the film, Veere Di Wedding has received positive reviews from the critics, especially for its



bold and unapologetic tone and subject along with superb star performances. But it seems a section of Twitterati, who criticised the film for cuss words, bold scenes and Swara Bhasker's famous masturbation scene, are the

reason behind this low score on the Internet Movie Database. Well, we don't think the trolls and low ratings will be of any concern to the makers as Veere Di Wedding continues to attract its target audience in the cinema halls in

large numbers.

Directed by Shashanka Ghosh, the film also features Shikha Talsania, Summeet Vyas and Vishwas Kini in pivotal roles. The film marks the second collaboration between Shashanka Ghosh and Sonam Kapoor after Dolly Ki Doli. The film is jointly produced by Rhea Kapoor, Nikhil Dwivedi, Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor under their respective banners. Since there is no big Bollywood release in the coming week, Veere Di Wedding will continue its dominance among its target group.

**ARIES:** You may have been looking forward to a social event, group activity, or perhaps a get-together with a lover today, but circumstances beyond your control throw some unexpected obstacles in your way. Don't panic, Aries. If you're focused and objective, you can find a way to get around the obstacles and do what you want to do. If you're involved in creative projects, you might seem blocked today. This should pass by tomorrow.

**TAURUS:** Although you've been feeling especially strong physically over the past few days, Taurus, today you might feel a little under the weather. You could even experience some giddiness. This is nothing to worry about, but you should try to take it easy. Don't exercise if you don't feel up to it.

Get some rest. Even if you have to postpone some chores, you'll be better off in the long run.

**GEMINI:** Emotional matters could hit the fan today at a social event or group meeting of some kind. Those around you are apt to be feeling especially stressed and volatile. Gemini, so be prepared for anything. Try to stay out of passionate confrontations, and don't try to put oil on troubled waters. At times like this, such attempts only cause unwanted attention to focus on you. Stay centered.

**CANCER:** Stress might be getting the better of a household member today, Cancer. This person feels emotionally volatile. The least irritation could set off a temper tantrum. Try to ease the pressure by staying out of the

way. Don't offer advice, however well intentioned it may be. This person needs to come to terms with whatever is bothering him or her. Distance yourself and do your own thing.

**LEO:** Friends, neighbors, and relatives could be feeling especially stressed out and explosive today, Leo. This isn't a good day to initiate intense communications with them. Keep your talk light and inconsequential. This is a great day to stay home and read, especially since your mind is particularly receptive to unusual ideas. The Internet, videos, and TV documentaries could be most informative.

**VIRGO:** The economy could well take a small dip, Virgo, and you might hear from people expressing concerns about financial

matters. Don't take them to heart, and certainly don't worry about your own financial condition. The trend will probably reverse itself soon, and this time in the right direction. Take no drastic action just yet. Wait and see what happens. You'll probably breathe a sigh of relief.

**LIBRA:** Oppressive stress on you or those close to you could cause disconcerting upsets within your relationships today, Libra. Try to be objective and work things out rationally instead of going to pieces. Avoid being sucked into quarrels where you might say things you'll regret. Don't let this temporary situation get the best of you. Make the effort to stay focused and relaxed. Tomorrow all should be back to normal.

**SCORPIO:** Stress could take a toll on you today, Scorpio. You might temporarily lose your ambition and be left wondering if it's all really worth it. This isn't a good day to start projects or engage in important discussions. Stay home and get some rest if you can. You might skip a few chores, but you'll be better off in the long run. Treat yourself to a good book and some ice cream.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Surprising new developments in close friendships or love relationships could come your way today, Sagittarius. Someone might move away or perhaps move closer to you. This could prove a little unsettling at first, but you'll be happy once you get used to the idea. Social events and group activi-

ties could also bring unexpected events your way. Be prepared for some bombshells. On the downside, expect some trouble with machines.

**CAPRICORN:** Unexpected developments might interfere with your home life or with plans to spend a quiet evening with your family, Capricorn. This could have you feeling a little down at first, but don't let it get to you. Whatever you do today might open doors that will benefit both you and those close to you. Gird your loins and do whatever needs to be done. Later you'll be glad you did.

**AQUARIUS:** You may be looking forward to talking on the phone with someone dear who lives far away, Aquarius, but circumstances beyond your control

could get in the way. Perhaps you keep missing each other, or problems with computers or phones throw a monkey wrench into the works. Don't let this dim your enthusiasm. Once you reach your friend, expect to have an exciting and emotionally gratifying conversation.

**PISCES:** Although business and money matters continue to go well, some rather unsettling news regarding either your finances or the economy in general could reach you today, Pisces. However, don't accept as truth anything you hear until you check the facts. The planetary energies now lend themselves to the spread of rumor, gossip, and misinformation. This is definitely the day to hang on to your objectivity.