

PIL challenges gender discriminatory rules used to establish Sikkimeseness

No rule stating that Sikkimese daughters marrying out cannot retain Certificates of Identity but practice remains, petition argues
SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:
In a Public Interest Litigation representing 68 Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese but residing and/or working in the State has petitioned the High Court of Sikkim to strike down rules which per-

petuate gender discrimination in Sikkim. The PIL raises a host of issues, all of which challenge the separate set of rules imposed on Sikkimese women to establish their Sikkimeseness. These range from denial of inheritance if they are married to non-Sikkimese, disqualification from being entitled to Certificates of Identification as they marry out and the demeaning practice of Sikkimese women with COI's based on the documents of their fathers to keep procuring "unmarried" certificates every six months if they

wish to continue using their COIs. These rules, all inter-linked and interpreted from the Sikkim Subjects Regulation of 1961, have been in practise in Sikkim for a long while, but the petitioners have argued that there is no extant rule which allows for Sikkimese women married to non-locals to lose their COIs after marriage. And yet, such a denial is practised across the board and is at the source of all complaints highlighted in the PIL. Even though there has often been talk about challenging these rules,

this is the first time that a formal opposition has been put on record. The PIL alleges that the Sikkim Succession Act of 2008, because it denies this right to women married to non-Sikkimese, is gender discriminatory because the same set of rules are not extended to men. After hearing both the sides of the case, the division bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri and including Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, issued notices to the State Government seeking its response within four weeks.

The state government by imposing unconstitutional parameters binding the women folks of the state has been suppressing the Fundamental Rights as guaranteed under the Constitution and has created fear psychosis in the minds of women, the PIL has alleged. The Succession Act, 2008 of the country provides and guarantees the safeguard of equal rights and other Fundamental Rights of women. However, the Sikkim Succession Act 2008 denies to the Sikkimese Women their "Fundamental Right to choose a spouse of their

choice and found a family", which is tantamount to gender discrimination, the PIL argues. Counsel for the petitioners, Rachhita Rai and Dr Doma T Bhutia, contended that in the federal structure wherein Part III of the Constitution of India guarantees equality before law, as enshrined under Article 14 and also the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth under Article 15 to all the citizens, the prescription in the Sikkim Succession Act is not only discrimi-
turn to pg02

Ex-Gratia cheques handed over to kin of drivers killed in road mishaps in 2016-17

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:
The Motor Vehicles Division of the Transport Department handed over ex-gratia cheques of Rs 3 lakhs each to the nearest kin of seven drivers who lost their lives in road accidents while driving commercial vehicles at different places in Sikkim between 14 Apr 2016 to 21 Mar 2017. The ex-gratia was sanctioned as per the policy of the Ex-Gratia Welfare Scheme, Government of Sikkim, a press release from the Deputy Regional Transport Officer, Transport Department informs.

The cheques were handed over by the respective Regional Transport Officers, Deputy Regional Transport Officers and Assistant Regional Transport Officers of all the four districts under whose jurisdiction the accident had occurred. Out of the seven applicants, three hailed from East Sikkim while two applicants were from South Sikkim. West

Governor condoles passing away of CM's sister

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:
Governor Shrinivas Patil has expressed deep sorrow and grief on the demise of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's sister, Rita Chamling, today. The Governor, in a condolence message sent to the Chief Minister, has said, "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the news of passing away of your beloved sister Smt Rita Chamling today. Please accept my heartfelt condolences. I pray to the Almighty that may her soul rest in eternal peace and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss."

Hazard, Risks and Vulnerabilities of Mangan, Gyalshing and Namchi documented

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:
Release of "Report, Atlas and Capacity Building Workshop on Hazard, Risks & Vulnerability Assessment [HRVA]" of Mangan, Gyalshing and Namchi towns was held in the heart of town. The programme was organised by the Sikkim State Disaster Management Department, United Nation Development Programme and TARU Leading Edge. In his welcome address, Special Secretary-Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Rinzing Chewang, hailed the document as "an important work on disaster management." He also congratulated the consultancy firm TARU for doing a "marvellous job" with the report.
turn to pg02



Sombaria gets a SISCO Bank ATM

GYALSHING, 07 JUNE [IPR WEST]: SISCO Bank Ltd inaugurated its ATM facility at Sombaria in West Sikkim on 06 June to boost its financial inclusion drive. The ATM, equipped with latest pin and chip technology, was dedicated to the people of Sombaria in the presence of Block Development Officer-Daramdin, Zonal Head and officers of the Bank. The Bank will further introduce ATM facilities at Soreng and Heegaon in West district within this month.



Residents upset with location of garbage collection centre, Singtam Nagar Panchayat reconsiders

YOGEN THATAL
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE: The initiative taken by the Singtam Nagar Panchayat to collect garbage (both dry and wet), while welcome, has received criticism for its location in the heart of town. The youth of Ward No. 02 and the other residents have expressed discontentment over the location of the garbage collection center as it is in the middle of the town. The inauguration of

the garbage collection center, 'Eco Bank', was scheduled to be held on 05 June. However, due to complaints by residents and miscommunication between the Nagar Panchayat officials, the inauguration date was postponed on the insistence of the youth of the ward. As informed by the youth, the location of the collection center was not discussed with the residents of the area. "They went ahead



and chose the area without consulting us," a local resident said. Disappointed, the residents have submitted a letter to the area MLA, Somnath Poudyal condemning the Nagar Pan-

chayat's decision of establishing a garbage dumping/ collection center in the middle of the town. Three doctors with clinics in the area and Singtam Taxi Drivers Association president, Tinku Adhikari along with the shop owners of the area have also come forward in support of the residents. "Singtam is already packed and is facing acute shortage of parking spaces and playgrounds."
turn to pg02

SDF mourns passing away of CM's sister

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:
Daughter of late Ash Bahadur Chamling and Asha Rani Chamling and the only sister of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Rita Chamling, passed away at the age of 63 today at 4:05 pm here at STNM Hospital. She leaves behind her only son, Bikram Chamling, mother, husband, NB Rai, five brothers and relatives, friends and well wishers, informs a press release of Sikkim Democratic Front spokesperson, Bhim Dahal. The release shares that she was a simple and friendly person and had a compassionate personality and radiated respect and love to everyone. The release added that her demise was a great loss to the society. The SDF party has expressed deep sorrow and extended condolences to the CM and the entire grieving family and prayed for the departed soul. The release informs that the last rituals are scheduled to take place on 08 June at Yangyang in South Sikkim.



To Switzerland via Mirik: Will Mamata walk the talk?

SUDIPTA CHANDA SILIGURI, 07 JUN:
Please do not let the heading baffle you. There is material behind it. Here goes. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has an oft spoken desire – to turn the Darjeeling hills into Switzerland. How is that relevant here? It sure is for she now has at least a slice of the Darjeeling hills – Mirik in her kitty. Will she now walk the talk? Turning Kolkata into London, another of her wish, and the Darjeeling hills into Switzerland are metaphors. The implicit comparison lies in the spirit the two most symbolically prominent spots in the accident represent. The dual allegories have

been top in Mamata's list of priorities since she became chief minister of Bengal for the first time in 2011. Switzerland's immaculate urbanization policy without destroying the country's pristine alpine settings is an example the world over. Constructions do come up in Switzerland all the while, but anything garish is strictly nyet, nyet. So, in its bid to introduce a touch of Swiss bliss in the Darjeeling hills, the state government took up its maiden venture at a spot equally famous the world over – Tiger Hill, earlier this year. The idea was to renovate some existing edifices and construct some new ones. The venture ran into a wall of protest from the

locals and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) custodians. So unhappy was the GTA with the incident that it approached the Union environment ministry with its objections and threatened to take legal steps to halt construction work. One can well understand the fate of the Tiger Hill initiative. That was in the month of March. Two months have rolled by since and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool has made deep inroads in the hills in that time to the extent of winning the Mirik Municipality. Now she has the opportunity to convert Mirik into a genuine tourist hotspot and end its sob story of playing second fiddle to Darjeeling. But, that is where the compari-

To be fair, Mirik has the possibility to usher a touch of Switzerland, for the ingredients are already present in the hill station's sylvan settings. All it requires is a push of intent. As Geneva, Switzerland's most admired city, sits on the shores of Lake Geneva, Mirik too sits on the shores of the Sumendu Lake (popularly known as the Mirik Lake), a favourite haunt of tourists. As Geneva is surrounded by the Alps and Jura mountains offering fantastic views of Mont Blanc, Mirik too is almost an amphitheatre surrounded by pine-laden mountaintops including the Shingalila range overlooking Mt. Khanchenzonga. But, that is where the compari-

son ends. Unlike its western cousin, the Sumendu Lake and its surrounding Savitri Puspaudyan are unkempt. Boating on the lake, horse riding along its shores or strolling on the promenade along the lake are attractive options, but mismanaged. The hill town's proximity to Nepal, Darjeeling, Kurseong and Siliguri makes it easily accessible from different ends and include it in the tour itinerary of all prospective tourists to these parts. Improving its hospitality potential will also boost Mirik's chances to come of age as a full-fledged tourist destination. So, the possibility to introduce a dollop of Swiss charm in Mirik is real. Over to Mamata Banerjee.

Tharpu School organizes legal awareness session for locals

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:

A legal awareness programme was organized by the Legal Literacy Club of Tharpu Senior Secondary School, West Sikkim today for more than 100 residents of the area, a press release informs.

Para Legal volunteers of Taluk Legal Service Committee, Soreng Sub Division, PL Pradhan and TM Rai, volunteered as resource persons. They shed light on the various free legal aids and other legal aspects.

Mr Rai highlighted the legal aspects of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Narcotics, Drugs related



Aspects of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Narcotics, Drugs related

Acts. On the other hand, legal issues related to domestic violence and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

Act, 2012 (POCSO) were covered by Mr Pradhan.

Principal NK Chettri, in his address, urged the people to

leverage the rights given to them by the Constitution and other free legal aids provided by the government.

The school's Legal Literacy Club in-charge, Malati Tamang, informed that the school has adopted Tharpu as per the guidelines of Legal Literacy Club and the programme was organized in order to bring legal awareness in the village.

The programme was also attended by Panchayat Secretary, Ajay Limboo and panchayat members of the Gram Panchayat Unit along with the School Management Committee chairman, JK Dhital, teachers and the students of the school, informs the release.

Hazard, Risks and Vulnerabilities of Mangan, Gyalshing...

contd from pg01

A presentation on the HRVA document was also made by TARU.

Director-TARU, Dr Mahesh Rajashekharan, explained that the project was a detailed investigation with over 2000 households surveyed.

He added that there are analysis, impact and vulnerabilities in the report which can help reduce risks.

He informed that a web/ mobile based GIS application is now available for the three towns of Mangan, Gyalshing and Namchi which can lead to dissemination of information across stakeholders.

Secretary-LR Department, Tsegyal Tashi, while addressing the gathering, said, "We should not be complacent with the risk that surrounds us."

With global climate change and lives being

affected directly, the state has taken measures in view of the present context. However, he added that in order to implement the same, all stakeholders must come on board.

He also added that risk assessment was important which was why UNDP commissioned the work to TARU to prepare a valid and informed document.

In the absence of risk assessment, plans cannot be fool-proof, he added. He also requested the concerned authorities to expand the GIS service to Gangtok as well.

The results of this study are to assist Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority [SSDMA] and other line departments by enumerating a set of recommendations for the state to mitigate the risks posed by climate induced disasters for the three district headquarters.

Residents upset with location of garbage collection...

contd from pg01

Establishing a garbage collection center in the middle of the town is not the way to tackle the already polluted environment. Traffic and garbage are not healthy to anyone," the doctors said.

The dumping center was earlier a food godown until it was relocated to Sangkhola in late 2016. The new dumping center was an initiative taken by the Nagar Panchayats for the dumping and segregation of recyclable items

like tetra pack milk pouches and other items.

When contacted, the Singtam Nagar Panchayat president, SK Pradhan, said that the authorities have already set out to find a new spot for the dumping center.

"We were on the verge of inaugurating the center, but if the people are dissatisfied and when they put up right reasons to relocate the center we had to reconsider the decision. They are our first priority," he said.

PIL challenges gender discriminatory rules used to establish...

contd from pg01

natory but also violates the Fundamental Rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution of India.

The PIL further points out "Un-married Sikkimese Women" are "harassed illegally" when they are forced to retain an "unmarried certificate" for seeking employment, for pursuing higher education, for registration of deeds of will, gift and deed of sale, for seeking job on compassionate grounds etc. since these are privileges available only to Sikkimese, which authorities in Sikkim have always linked to men when it comes to verifying the credentials of women here.

The petition alleges that since there is no rule in place which specifies that the COIs of women become invalid when they marry a non-Sikkimese, this is being perpetuated solely out of gender prejudices and

gender biases.

The State, it is argued, has encroached upon the Right of Privacy and Right to life and the right to live with dignity of women here by practising such conditions.

The petitioners, who introduce themselves as Sikkim's Daughters, have pleaded the High Court to pass writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ order directing the State respondents to quash and set aside the Sikkim Succession Act in order to stop gender discrimination and also immediately stop seeking "Un-married Certificate" for any purpose from Sikkimese women and appropriate writs, order directing the State Respondents to declare that the COI issued to "all Sikkimese Women, irrespective of their marital status and condition, shall be valid for all purposes as applicable to all other COI holders."

Lepcha Association supports anti-Stage IV voices

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:

Members of the executive body of Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum [Sikkim Lepcha Association] interacted with the representatives from the anti-dam group of Dzongu, including aggrieved land owners, the youth and other public over the proposed Teesta Stage IV hydel project.

An official press release informs that representatives from Dzongu have objected to the proposed hydel project and shared their misgivings with the Tarjum. They spelt

out the effects the said project would have on the fragile eco-system of their protected and religious land, the release details.

The Tarjum release adds that the association has "strongly felt" that the said project should not be implemented and is convinced that its after-effects would surely be seen not only in Dzongu but the whole of the state of Sikkim.

Implementing the said project would surely hamper the fragile environment preserved till date for centuries by the people of Dzongu who hold their land dearly and

have strong religious and sentimental values attached to it, the association has put on record.

The RMRT has further extended its support to the cause and endorsed that the aggrieved voices of the people of Dzongu are genuine and their plea must be taken seriously by the public of North Sikkim, the project developers, the Government, and the people of Sikkim to safeguard the future from the harmful impact on the ecology & environmental changes.



Refresher on mental health for health workers

GANGTOK, 07 JUNE (IPR):

A daylong refresher training on mental health for the health workers of east district was organized under District Mental Health Programme, District Hospital Singtam at European Commission Hall, STNM Hospital Complex today. The training programme was attended by Health Minister, A.K. Ghatani as the chief guest. The training programme also had the presence of Joint Director (Non-Communicable Diseases Cell), Dr Rinzing Lhamu Bhutia and was facilitated by District Nodal Officer, Mental Health, Dr Satish Rasaily.

The training programme had psychiatrists from STNM Hospital, Dr C.S. Sharma and Dr Geeta Gurung, Psychiatric Social Worker from

Singtam District Hospital, Dr Pinky Bhutia and Psychologist District Hospital Singtam, Sonam P. Tongden as resource persons.

55 multi-purpose health workers from 47 Public Health Sub Centres and 07 Public Health Centres attended the training.

On the occasion, Mr Ghatani launched the 'Grameen Manasik Swastha Abhiyan', a pilot project aimed to heighten awareness about mental health in the rural areas of Sikkim. The training will build the capacity and skill of grass-root level health workers to equip them to address mental health challenges in their respective areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ghatani stated

that Mental Health has been a very important area and initiatives were being taken to address the challenge. He lauded the service rendered by the psychiatrists in S.T.N.M Hospital as well as in the Districts. He however emphasized on taking the campaign right up to the PHSC level so that people come forward to avail treatment without any apprehension or fear of stigma. He urged the health workers to initiate innovative campaigns to make people aware about Mental Health.

Launching the Grameen Manasik Swastha Abhiyan, the Minister called for active participation from all quarters.

"Mental Health is a

burning issue and we have to reach out to the people from all sections of society," he added.

He suggested that tuberculosis patients and pregnant mothers should also be counseled by mental health experts and health workers.

Speaking about the growing concern of suicides and depression, the Minister advised that a fine balance between materialism and spirituality has to be maintained. He added that yoga, pranayam and meditation have a healing effect on the mind and body and should be encouraged.

Earlier, a Handbook on Mental Health prepared by District Hospital Singtam was released by the chief guest.

Impact of Spirituali-

ty on Mental Well Being, Mental Health Issues during pregnancy, tobacco alcohol and substance abuse, signs and symptoms of depression, psychosomatic illness and anxiety disorders were topics that were deliberated upon during the training programme. 873 Mental Health Programs have been conducted in the East District alone between April 2014 to March 2017. Over 2000 stakeholders which include health workers, teachers, police, NGOs, ASHA and Anganwadi workers have been trained during this period.

It may be mentioned here that a similar training is scheduled to be held on 08 June for ANM Nurses of 47 PHSCs and 07 PHCs of East District.

Barishkop Senior Secondary School is the greenest school of Sikkim this year

GYALSHING, 07 JUNE [IPR WEST]: Bariakhop Senior Secondary School under Daramdin constituency has bagged the Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy 2017 for its positive and constructive efforts towards the upliftment and preservation of environment.

At the state level World Environment Day programme held on 05 June at Kaluk Block Administrative Centre, under Rinchenpong constituency, Principal of Bariakhop School, Sonam Gyatsho Bhutia, was handed over the Chief Minister's Rolling Trophy on Green Mission and a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh by Minister of Forest Department, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, who was present for the event as chief guest.

The programme also included the presentation of Green School Awards to four other schools from different parts of the state which were adjudged as the second best performing schools under the state's Green Mission. Cash prizes of Rs. 1 lakh and souvenirs were presented to each school.

The awardees are Sopakha Secondary School [West Sikkim], Pasingdang Secondary School [North Sikkim], Lingmo Higher Secondary School [South Sikkim] and Kewzing Higher Secondary School [South Sikkim].

Primary school awardees including Sunshine School [South Sikkim], Tingda Primary School [North Sikkim] and Raley Primary School [East Sikkim] received cash prizes of Rs. 50,000 and souvenirs under Green Mission during the programme.

Further, the Forest Department presented the State's Environment Conservation Award along with letters of felicitation and cash of Rs. 10,000 to two employees of the department namely Block Officers, Binod Chettri and Nar Bahadur Subba.

A plantation drive around the surrounding areas of Kaluk BAC was also conducted with participants including officials and staff of government departments and students from different schools.

Minister Tshering Wangdi Lepcha in his brief address said that the plants after plantation should not be ignored and proper care should be taken for ensuring growth of plants. He added that the state government's positive approach towards the betterment of environment, organic mission and other ventures have contributed a lot in the growth of tourism industry in the state.

"We should not encourage deforestation as such activities endanger the existence of human civiliza-

tion. It is a noble duty of every sikkimese to work towards afforestation, preservation and conservation of forest," said the Minister.

The Minister further added that the state government is committed to work to create Sikkim as one of the greenest and cleanest state in the country and initiatives are being taken up to make the dreams of a pollution free state a reality.

Similarly, on account of World Environment Day, the Forest Environment & Wild Life Management Department also organized a plantation drive around Cherenjee construction site of Pelling which is nearby Sangacholing Monastery, under Yangthang constituency.

Among the participants in the comprehensive plantation drive were area MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, Chief Administrative Secretary, R Ongmu, Secretary of Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, AK Ganariwala, Chairman of Culture & Heritage Board, Sonam Wangchuk, Divisional Forest Officer [wildlife], KS Lama, Range Officer, Bindiya Subba, monks of Sangacholing Monastery and Pemayangtse Monastery along with students of Pelling Senior Secondary School.

SKM alleges discrepancies in Janta Mela beneficiaries list

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has criticised the speech delivered by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at the Janta Mela held at Makha, East Sikkim on Tuesday. The party alleged that some of the statements were irresponsible.

An SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Bikash Basnet alleges that the list of beneficiaries is yet to be passed in a Gram Sabha. The party further alleges that the benefits were meant for the poor, but were given away even to government employees.

The release adds that the SKM has raised this issue earlier as well but the government has not paid any heed to it.

The release stated that instead of blaming the Ministers, MLAs, panchayats and government employees, the CM needs to take equal responsibility for rampant corruption and indiscipline in the execution of the schemes.

Sikkim

Limboo

Youth Assoc

welcomes

MHA circular

on LT seats

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

Sikkim Limboo Youth Association [SLYA] convened a meeting today here at Limboo Bhawan chaired by SLYA president, Sukra Kumar Limboo, and attended by executive and other members.

An SLYA press release informs that the meeting welcomed the circular issued by Deputy Secretary [North-East], A Radha Rani of the Union Home Ministry on 26 May 2017 regarding seat reservation issue of Limboo and Tamang communities of Sikkim.

SLYA sees the circular as being in the interest of Limboos and Tamangs by providing 5 seats to them in a 40-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly and further expressed gratitude towards the Union Home Ministry, Law & Justice Ministry, Scheduled Tribes Ministry and National Tribal Commission.

turn to pg3

**Gangtok on
Thursday,
08 June**

Temp: 24°C / 16°C
Forecast: A couple of showers and a thunderstorm in the morning; otherwise, cloudy.
Sunrise: 04:40 AM
Sunset: 06:29 PM

Free SNT travel for journalists in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:**

The Transport Department has decided to provide free bus travel to journalists working in Sikkim. The department today asked the Press Club of Sikkim to provide the list of journalists working in the state.

A PCS press release informs that the executive committee of PCS met the Transport Department Secretary on 14 June last year and had submitted an application to provide free passes for SNT buses to journalists working in Sikkim.

The release adds that accepting the request of the PCS, the Transport Department has announced to provide free passes to accredited journalists recognised by the State Information & Public Relations Department.

It is informed that the department has decided to issue two different cards, of which one can be used to travel inside the state and the other for travel outside Sikkim on SNT buses.

The release informs that the passes provided by the department will be renewed every year on the basis of the list of accredited journalists of IPR Department.

The PCS has conveyed gratitude towards the Transport Department for providing the free passes to journalists. The PCS has also thanked the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Transport Minister, DT Lepcha, for the same. The club has also extended gratitude to Transport Department Secretary, SBS Bahaduria. The club termed the decision as an important achievement for journalists.

Sikkim Limboo Youth Assoc...

contd from pg02

The meeting also thanked Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and others for working actively to secure reserved LT seats in the State Assembly.

The release adds that the SLYA asserts that the formula accepted by the MHA delivers justice to both communities and has hence welcomed and supported the decision.

The association has also urged the Centre and State government to pass this amendment in the upcoming Parliament session itself.



Sikkim team leaves for next phase of Oorja football tourney

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:**

Sikkim's boys and girls teams have left to participate in the second phase of Oorja CAPFs U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament 2017 to be held from 12-17 June at Jammu.

Governor Shrinivas Patil flagged off the teams from Raj Bhawan today.

A 20-member state boys' team has Mayal Lepcha as the team coach while the

20-member girls team is led by Pem Lhamu as the team coach and Lako Phuti as team manager. The teams have Thupten Rappgal as the contingent leader accompanied by four ITBP officials.

The Indo Tibetan Border Police, Sikkim, organised the first phase of the tournament in Gangtok last month in association with Sports & Youth Affairs Department and Sikkim Football Association.

The tournament had the par-

ticipation of eight teams each in boys' and girls' categories.

A selection committee then shortlisted talented players from the tournament to put together the teams to represent the State in the second phase.

Addressing the flag off ceremony organised by ITBP Sikkim, the Governor spoke about the passion with which the people of Sikkim follow football. He mentioned that Sikkim has been producing talented footballers in the national and

international levels and encouraged the young footballers to continue with their hard work and practice to reach still higher levels.

He also urged the parents to support and encourage this interest of their children.

While conveying his best wishes to the state team members, the Governor encouraged them to perform well and hold the name of Sikkim high in the tournament.

The function was also ad-

dressed by ITBP-Sikkim Director In General, APS Nimbadiya.

On the occasion, a girls team member, Passang Lhamu Sherpa, and a boys team member, Manoj Rai, shared the experience of their football career thus far and of the first phase of the tournament. They thanked the ITBP for providing a platform and opportunity to showcase their talents and requested it to continue organizing this tournament on an annual basis.

NDTV searches: CBI examines complainant

NEW DELHI, JUN 6 (PTI): The CBI today examined complainant Sanjay Dutt in connection with alleged irregularities in the foreclosure of a bank loan by NDTV from ICICI Bank which resulted in a purported loss of Rs 48 crore to the bank.

The agency has filed an FIR on the basis of a complaint from Dutt which it had received on April 28 this year and had carried out searches at the premises of NDTV promoters Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy.

Dutt was called today to give his statement and other details about the case. "The complainant was examined today. Relevant documents related to the loan and further details of correspondence have been sought from the ICICI Bank," a CBI spokesperson said.

Sources said names of ICICI Bank officials who were concerned with the

turn to pg06



Saga Dawa prayers at Chudep Maney Lhakhang

**SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 07 JUNE:**

A special prayer ceremony was held today at Chudep Maney Lhakhang at Lingdong in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim, to mark the auspicious occasion of Saga Dawa.

The ceremony was led by Gunzang Rinpoche from Phatak Gumpa.

Around 150 monks from different monasteries joined the prayers.

Devotees from different areas attended the prayer and received kawang today.

Also attending the programme were Deputy Speaker SLA-cum-area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, District Collector-North, Karma R

Bonpo, Joint Director-Human Resource Development Department, Sonam Lepcha, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Dzongu, TD Bhutia, and other dignitaries.

The prayer ceremony was conducted on the initiative of the North Zilla Adhyakshya, Anguli Lepcha.

College fest at Kamrang College



SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 07 JUNE: The two-day college fest, 'Anu Naath', of Government College Kamrang wrapped up today with Human Resource Development Minister, RB Subba, attending as the chief guest and Roads and Bridges Minister, GM Gurung as the special guest.

The fest organised

was organized by the Student Representative Council of the college in coordination with college administration and featured cultural performances by the students along with a string of competitions ranging from singing, elocution, talent hunt, fashion show, painting, essay writing and a half marathon.

Addressing the function, the HRD Minister urged students to embrace positivity develop an inquisitive mind.

He appreciated the work of the SRC members and applauded the college administration for organizing the event.

Mr Subba also assured to fulfill all the

turn to pg05



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR CUM CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (DDMA)
DISTRICT COLLECTORATE, EAST, SICHEY- 737101
Phone: 03592-202922/ Email id: dmgtangtok@gmail.com
/ Facebook: DDMA East Sikkim**

APPEAL

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA East) in coordination with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department is conducting a mock drill on the earthquake scenario on 08/06/2017 at 11:00 am at different locations in and around Singtam Bazar.

As such, I on behalf of District Disaster Management Authority would like to appeal all the public that this exercise is being carried out to sensitize & create awareness on earthquake drills for preparedness and all are requested to participate during mock exercise. Help us build a safer and a disaster resilient state.

It is further appealed to all citizens of the district that the activity undertaken is purely on mock basis & there is no apprehension of danger and panic due to the activity as all necessary measures of public safety has been undertaken

**District Collector cum Chairman
District Disaster Management Authority**



Limboo fashion show and photo exhibition

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:**

Limboo Traditional Fashion Show-cum-Photo Exhibition, the first of its kind in the state, was organized by Niyara Limboo and her team on 04 June

here at Terrace Valley Hotel in Ranipool, East Sikkim.

The main objective behind organizing the programme was to raise awareness among the youth about traditional and cultural values, a

press release informs.

Attended by former MP from Sikkim, Pahal Man Limboo, as chief guest along with guests from West Bengal and Nepal, the show had participants from Sikkim and

different parts of WB.

During the event, a bulletin titled, 'Chasok Tangnam 2016', and a documentary film of the same name was released by the chief guest and other special guests.

CONTACT

Summit

TIMES @

9832556698,

9832369520

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

History Lessons for All

Make it interesting by making it relevant

History, they say is always written by the victor who decides which aspects of the vanquished history suits its greater plans and which bits are best left untold. The same has held true for the history taught in schools in India. The curriculum is embarrassingly North-India-centric, and they are referred to as the “victors” since they dominate the politics of the country. The situation is now such that even though students learn by rote the names of all those who made it emperor in the Slave Dynasty, ask them about what the northeast was up to in the meantime and they draw a blank. It is accepted that prior to the advent of the East India Company, there was no unified India as we know it today. The region was a collection of one big empire and several kingdoms and princely states in the periphery; each with its own intrigues and their own histories. So, is the history we learn in school even close to the composite histories of the areas which came together to form the Union of India in 1947 and later? Well, not really.

The focus is too limited to the areas which either the British researched initially or were studied in detail by later-day historians. Turn the textbooks, and it becomes apparent that only the histories of areas which were on the ascendant in the 19th century and since are taught. Take a close look at the number of MPs each state has and the number of pages devoted to those areas in books teaching Indian History will be directly proportional to that number. But that’s not history because it speaks too much in isolation. There can be no sense of history if there is no interplay with what was happening elsewhere and how developments there influenced histories in the area of study. How many of us, for instance, are told of the generals that the East India Company “received” in the form of pro-Crown adventurers of America who left after USA won the war of Independence? One of them proved decisive in winning the Anglo-Gorkha war of the early 19th Century which also brought Sikkim into the Company influence.

The blind-spotting of areas that got cut off with partition is also unfortunate. The Muslim League for example was a part of the Indian Freedom Struggle and the demand for the creation of Pakistan came much after the movement had gathered the required momentum. We, however, read very little of the role played by this group. Icons like Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh too are glossed over. But that’s for another debate.

Before progressing further it is important to make clear why we study history at all. The main reason is to get a better understanding of where we belong - where we fit into the larger scheme of things, where we come from. There has been much talk about making Sikkim join the mainstream which is why it is not enough to just study Sikkimese history in schools in Sikkim. Sikkim needs to figure in the history books studied elsewhere in the country as well. In junior school, students learn of what Confucius meant to China even before they are taught (if ever they are taught) when and how Sikkim joined India. One is not suggesting going parochial here, but Sikkim does have a history that’s worth learning. Few dynasties have ruled for the three hundred years that the Namgyal dynasty has to its credit. The British rule, for instance, which hogs the history books lasted less than a hundred years. Surely the British intrigues with Tibet should make for interesting reading as should the Nepali adventures in Sikkim under the generals who followed Prithvi Narayan Shah’s unification of Nepal. It might not be out of place to even suggest here that Sikkim should prepare two chapters on Sikkimese history to fit into text books for schools all over the country and take it to the Centre for whetting by the text book boards for inclusion in the syllabi. Everyone is talking about rewriting the History textbooks anyway, why not slip Sikkim in too.

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

Saudi rift with Qatar exposes growing division in the anti-Iran alliance

MOHAMMED NURUZZAMAN
theconversation.com

This is the worst diplomatic crisis in the Gulf region in decades.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt decided to break off ties with Qatar, accusing the Gulf state of supporting terrorism and of destabilising the whole region.

Qatar had fired the opening shot by what seemed to be open criticism of the Saudi-led and US-assisted anti-Iran alliance pushed by Donald Trump after his visit to Riyadh on May 21.

On May 24, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the ruler of Qatar, allegedly criticised the US-Saudi move and described Iran as an “Islamic power”. The Qatar News Agency quoted the emir as saying, “There is no wisdom in harbouring hostility towards Iran”. This infuriated Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Qatar then questioned the veracity of the comments and said its news agency was hacked. Nevertheless, the diplomatic rift been deepening, culminating in the current crisis.

NOT THE FIRST DIPLOMATIC IMBROGLIO

This is not the first time that Qatar, a thumb-shaped emirate of the size of the US state of Connecticut, has become embroiled a diplomatic imbroglio with its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partners Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

These three Gulf Arab states withdrew their ambassadors from Qatar’s capital Doha in early 2014, on the pretext that the country had links to the Muslim Brotherhood and gave refuge to its leaders after the fall of Egypt’s first democratically elected government in July 2013.

Saudi Arabia declared the Muslim Brotherhood, which it views as an alternative source of authority that’s opposed to hereditary monarchical rule, a terrorist organisation in early March 2014.

But the current crisis is much more serious than the 2014 diplomatic spat, which was resolved after eight months, with Saudi, Emirati and Bahraini ambassadors returning to Doha in November of the same year on the condition that Qatar would never allow the Muslim Brotherhood to operate from its territory.

IRAN IN THE CENTRE

Unlike the 2014 crisis, the current Qatari-Saudi rift is not just an intra-GCC falling out, as it involves Saudi Arabia’s regional rival Iran.

Qatar is seen by the Saudi government and its Emirati and Bahraini counterparts as a spoiler of efforts to forge a unified Arab-Muslim position, undergirded by the Trump administration, against Iran’s so-called “terrorist agenda” in Arab countries.

A week before US President Donald Trump visited Riyadh to consolidate the anti-Iran alliance, the Saudi Arabic-language daily newspaper Okaz reported a secret meeting between the Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, who was officially visiting Baghdad at the time, and the Iranian Quds Force Command-

er Qasim Sulaimani.

The newspaper accused Qatar of exiting “early from the Arab-Islamic consensus” on Iran, adding “its defence of the Iranian terrorist regime shows the secret Doha-Tehran alliance intends to strike at Arab and Islamic solidarity.”

All of this while Qatar signed the anti-Iran Riyadh Declaration issued after the Arab-Islamic-America summit on May 21 2017.

But why would Qatar, a country that hosts the largest US air force base in the Middle East (Al-Udeid), veer off the Saudi-led GCC military and diplomatic track?

Gulf watchers know that Qatar is suspicious of Saudi goals under the GCC umbrella, and it wants an independent foreign policy, free from Saudi or Iranian influence.

Qatar hardly sees Saudi Arabia as a harmless neighbour. Tensions in Saudi-Qatar relations started right after the former emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khaifa Al Thani (1995-2013) came to power via a bloodless coup in 1995 by overthrowing his father Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani. Sheikh Khalifa was visiting Saudi Arabia at the time, which embarrassed the Saudi government.

Sheikh Hamad’s takeover in 1995 was preceded by a Saudi attack on a Qatari border security post in September 1992, in violation of a mutual defence treaty the two states had signed in 1982.

Riyadh also thwarted Qatari initiatives to export liquefied gas to other GCC member states in the 1990s. Emir Sheikh Hamad began to pull Qatar out of the Saudi shadow, a policy that Emir Sheikh Tamim is also pursuing.

Qatari satellite news channel Al Jazeera occasionally broadcasts programs criticising Saudi Arabia and, much to the anger of Riyadh, it hosted Saudi dissidents in a popular talk show in June 2002.

The incident led to Saudi Arabia recalling its ambassador from Doha in September 2002. Full diplomatic relations between the two countries were restored five years later, in September 2007, on Qatari assurance that Al Jazeera would refrain from broadcasting anti-Saudi programs.

A BIG PUSH IN THE REGION

At the same time, Qatar, with the massive amount of oil and gas-generated income in its coffers (US\$191 billion GDP in 2012), has been pushing for a bigger foreign policy and diplomatic profile in the region.

Doha successfully mediated a series of conflicts in the 2000s. It broke the political impasse in Lebanon by persuading the Sunni-led Lebanese government and the opposition Hezbollah to sign the May 2008 Doha Agreement; it mediated the conflict between the Yemeni government and Houthis in February 2008 (though it failed subsequently to find a permanent solution to the conflict); and, in February 2010, it facilitated a ceasefire agreement between the Sudanese government and the opposition Justice and Equality Movement.

These successful mediations brought the tiny country enviable diplomatic plaudits from home

and abroad.

In 2011, to the surprise of many regional states, the Qatar military participated in the NATO-led intervention to dislodge the Gaddafi government in Libya. It wanted to achieve a similar goal in Syria – to topple the Bashar Al-Assad government – but did not succeed primarily due to Iranian and Russian opposition.

Despite being an autocracy, Qatar presented itself as a frontline Arab state for politically transforming the Arab world, under the rubric of the Arab Spring movements.

Its objective was to strengthen Qatari national security and foreign policy autonomy in the Gulf region, a neighbourhood dominated by giants such as Iran and Saudi Arabia.

WHAT NEXT?

Nonetheless, the diplomatic spat with Saudi Arabia does not bode well for Qatar. The Saudi-led diplomatic offensive has isolated it from the rest of GCC and the Middle East region by cutting off air, land and sea routes to Doha.

Doha has been accused again of supporting regional terror groups – al-Qaeda and ISIL in Iraq and Syria – and cooperating with Iran.

Qatar has always denied funding extremist groups, but the small country has been accused in the last few years of allowing terrorist financiers to operate within its territory with impunity.

The Qatari government has also pledged support for Hamas, the Palestinian group regarded as a liberation force against Israeli occupation by most Muslim countries, but as a terrorist organisation by the United States, Israel, Egypt and Canada.

Qatar can expect no serious help from Iran either, as any possible Iranian political or diplomatic help runs the risk of further embittering Saudi-Qatar relations and permanently subject Doha to Saudi wrath.

The Trump administration is definitely not on Qatar’s side, as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, speaking in Australia, indirectly hoped to resolve the intra-GCC irritants and put Qatar back in the Saudi-driven GCC orbit.

Cracks in the Saudi-Qatar relationship would undercut the joint Arab-US fight against regional terror and extremist groups. It’s difficult to say how long Qatar would be in the position to resist the Saudi diplomatic offensive.

But backing down from the fight with Riyadh looks set to produce two outcomes. First, Doha would be obliged to downgrade its support to rebel groups in Syria, linked to either Muslim Brotherhood or al-Qaeda. And second, it must be willing to shed some degree of its foreign policy autonomy to participate in the Saudi-led offensive against Iran.

In either case, Qatar has undermined the anti-Iran alliance, giving Tehran more time to reassess the situation and consider its options.

[the writer is Associate Professor of International Relations, Gulf University for Science and Technology]

Meet the villagers who protect biodiversity on the top of the world

LÜ ZHI
theconversation.com

It was a chilly February day. Dangwen and his wildlife monitoring team patrolled along the upper reaches of the Yangtze River. The river was frozen solid, easy for poachers to walk over.

That day, they encountered 220 blue sheep, five white-lipped deer, and a line of otter footprints. On the infrared camera traps that they had set up throughout the valley, three snow leopards appeared, a mother and two cubs – and the cubs had grown much bigger than three months earlier.

Dangwen comes from Yunta, a village located in Sanjiangyuan, Qinghai Province on the Tibetan Plateau. Sanjiangyuan, is a 400,000 km² area that serves as an important habitat for rich and unique biodiversity and a watershed of the three largest rivers in Asia, the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong, which serve a billion people downstream.

Dangwen isn’t officially a researcher or an activist. But he has taken upon himself the task of monitoring local wildlife with a team of other villagers, as part of a conservation project driven by the Shanshui Conservation Center, a Beijing-based non-governmental organisation

A PILOT VILLAGE FOR CONSERVATION

A mining company attempted to prospect the area almost a year before wildlife monitoring in the region started. The villagers were deeply disturbed because mining the mountains would go against the spiritual values of Tibetan Buddhism and



A red-billed chough, thought to be the reincarnation of this woman’s daughter, sits on her shoulder.

threaten their safety.

So, when the Shanshui NGO proposed in 2013 the idea of organising villagers to monitor wildlife and protect their lands, Dangwen volunteered without hesitation. Having grown up in the village, he is very familiar with the land, the river and the wildlife, and he is especially proud of the sacred mountains that surround all of them. This is the fourth year that Yunta villagers have carried out this monitoring, patrolled the village to spot poachers, and managed rubbish to keep the land and rivers clean.

Monitoring data shows that local wildlife populations, including snow leopards, are increasing. The villagers’ conservation conduct is officially

authorised by the local government – their stories have been reported by China Central Television – and the mining company never returned.

AN INSPIRATION FOR THE TIBETAN PLATEAU

Inspired by Yunta, four neighbouring villages began their own wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching patrols. With encouragement from local authorities, a village-based conservation network is being formed along the Tongtianhe Valley.

Recognised as a conservation priority in China, the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve was set up in 2003 and designated a national park in 2016. But the area faces big conservation challenges: government

agencies have limited manpower to manage this vast area and grazing rights to all its grasslands were given to households in the 1990s.

This means that conservation in Sanjiangyuan would not be possible without support from local Tibetan communities. As Buddhists, these communities embrace the value of respecting nature and caring for other living beings. Their system of sacred lands is very similar to modern protected areas.

That makes them natural allies for conservation. Yunta’s experience has proven that, with proper training, villagers can become very qualified conservationists. Essentially, they are providers of ecological services and should receive benefits from conservation in return.

Based on this experience, a policy recommendation was made to the government, and the newly designated Sanjiangyuan National Park quickly responded.

A total of 16,400 jobs as guards, with monthly salaries of 1,800 yuan (about US\$260), are to be offered to villagers living inside the park (one per household). The next step is to explore the possibility of reducing grazing in key habitats to allow wildlife – especially large carnivores such as snow leopards – to increase, and to slow down grassland degradation.

PROTECTING ANIMALS AND HUMANS

The Tibetan Plateau is the last place in Asia that still maintains a relatively intact ecosystem where large carnivores and ungulates, many unique to

turn to pg05

Border haat site selected in Tripura

AGARTALA, JUN 7 (PTI): A joint team of governments of India and Bangladesh has selected a site for establishing a border haat in Dhalai district of Tripura.

"We have agreed to set up a border haat at Kamalpur (Kurmaghat) after conducting an on the spot visit by a joint Indo-Bangla team," Additional District Magistrate of Dhalai, D K Chakma, said.

Besides location, items to be sold at the proposed border haat and finalisation of vendors were also done in a

turn to pg06

Meet the villagers who protect biodiversity on the top...

Contd from pg04

the region – such as the snow leopard, the Tibetan brown bear, the Tibetan antelope, the wild yak, the Tibetan wild ass, the Tibetan gazelle, and the blue sheep – roam freely.

Maintaining this vast ecosystem is challenging because its population of pastoralists is rapidly increasing. The human population of Sanjiangyuan has doubled since 1980.

Meanwhile global climate change may have added to pressures on the grassland. Is it possible, under these conditions, to protect the ecosystem successfully while supporting the cultural and economic well-being of Tibetan communities?

After three decades of fast economic development, and demands by the Chinese people and government, a better environment is becoming a higher priority. Several large ecological programs have been initiated – perhaps among the largest financial schemes in the world – to pay for protecting and restoring forests, grasslands and wetlands, though their effectiveness could be improved by more scientific planning and participation.

The call for nature education from citizens, especially parents, is rapidly growing, and this has generated broad concerns over ongoing ecological degradation. Public participation in conservation is now protected by environmental laws. Political will, the interests of society, and traditional values are all coming together.

This makes us believe that co-existence between humans and nature is not just wishful thinking. Yunta offers a strong starting point.

[the writer is Professor for Biology, Peking University]

SCHOOL AFFILIATION

We provide legal assistances and Documentation for School N.O.C & Affiliation under CBSE / ICSE / STATE BOARD

Call: 97347-79243

Email: info@schoolaffiliation.com



Neil Tara Academy shines with engagement

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 07 JUN:

Students of Neil Tara Academy undertook a heritage walk through town today and capped it with a thorough cleanliness drive at Bhanu

Park here at Zero Point.

A press communiqué received from the Vice Principal, Navraj Tiwari, informs that the walk started from the school premises at Church Road, moved through Diesel

Power House to STNM Hospital to Zero Point, Sonam Gyatso Marg, Tibet Road and back to school via MG Marg.

"Our students cleaned the Bhanu Park at Zero Point

with great enthusiasm and hope. I felt that this small act of kindness rendered by the students should be shared with one and all so as to pass on a positive message to our society," Mr Tiwari conveys.



Inspiria Knowledge Campus student in GOI's top-10 Young Entrepreneurs list

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 07 JUNE:

A second year BBA student of Inspiria Knowledge Campus-Matigara, Amit Agarwal, has been selected by the Government of India's Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship as one of the Top Ten Young Entrepreneurs with a vision to change India.

In recognition of this achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will felicitate Amit along with the other awardees at a special programme to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 28 Sept this year,

a press release informs.

During the entrepreneurship programme, Amit pitched the idea of an innovative company - UPCART - which will deliver robust and innovative solutions to the problem of luggage carriage and movement up and down stairways.

Managing Trustee of Inspiria Knowledge Campus, Atul Gupta, has expressed happiness at Amit's achievement and said producing students like Amit who gain practical insight in addition to text-book knowledge was the main focus of this institution.

Deuba takes oath of office as new Nepal PM

KATHMANDU, JUN 7 (PTI): Veteran Nepalese politician Sher Bahadur Deuba was today sworn in as the new prime minister of Nepal by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

The 70-year-old leader, who became Nepal's prime minister for the fourth time, succeeded Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who had resigned after nine months to honour a power-sharing deal and proposed Deuba's name.

Deuba, the president of Nepal's oldest party - the Nepali Congress, was elected the 40th prime minister yesterday, following a voting in the parliament. He secured 388 votes out of a total of 558 votes cast in the 601-member legislative parliament. He was the only contender in the election.

Prime Minister Deuba formed an eight-member cabinet comprising three deputy prime ministers and four ministers.

Senior Nepali Congress leader Gopal Man

Shrestha was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education and Gyanendra Bahadur Karki as Minister for Finance.

Krishna Bahadur Mahara of CPN (Maoist Centre) was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, while Nepali Congress leader Farmullah Mansoor was appointed as Minister for Labour and Employment.

CPN (MC) leader Janardan Sharma has been appointed as Minister for Home Affairs and Prabhu Sah of the same party as minister without portfolio.

Nepal Loktantrik Forum Chairman Bijay Kumar Gachhadar has been appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Federal Affairs and Local Development.

Deuba, who was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2016, is said to enjoy a good rapport with prom-

inent Indian leaders, which could potentially aid him in arresting the increasing disenchantment between the Madhesi and the hill people.

He played an important role in amending Nepal's Constitution promulgated in September 2015 to address the demands of Madhes-based political parties. Deuba also played a key role in bringing the Madhesi parties on board for the second phase of the local-level elections.

Deuba, who has been elected to the parliament from far- western Dadeldhura district, has promised to amend the new Constitution to fulfil the demands of the Madhesi people.

During Deuba's previous term as prime minister in 1996, Nepal and India signed the historic Mahakali Treaty for shared utilisation of the waters of the river by the same name.

GJM to sit-in outside Gorkha Ranga Manch ahead of WB Cabinet meeting

SUMMIT REPORT

DARJEELING, 07 JUNE:

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha [GJM] has announced plans to undertake a sit in demonstration in front of Gorkha Ranga Mancha Bhawan in Darjeeling on the way to the Raj Bhawan on 08 June. The State Cabinet is scheduled to meet at the Raj Bhawan at 2 pm.

"There will be GJM protest rallies from Batasia Loop, Darjeeling Railway Station and Singamari. The rallies will culminate in front of Gorkha Ranga Mancha Bhawan where the protestors in huge numbers will be staging a 2 hour long sit in demonstration," announced the GJM president Bimal Gurung.

The Ranga Mancha is short distance from the Raj Bawan, both located at the Chowrastra.

The sit in demonstration is scheduled to take place from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm on 08 June coinciding with the State Cabinet meeting which is scheduled to commence at 2 pm in the Raj Bhawan premises.

With the rallies and the sit in demonstrations, the cavalades of the Ministers could find it difficult to negotiate access to the venue of their Cabinet meeting.

"We do not believe in the CM's words. She changes her statements frequently. We want the State Cabinet to adopt a resolution on Thursday that the Hills, Terai and Dooars will be exempted from having to study Bengali. If they do it, well and good, otherwise we will continue with our agitation," stated Mr Gurung.

He stated that the GJM will hold another meeting on Thursday to decide on the future course of action.

"The future agitation programmes will depend on whether the Cabinet adopts the Bengali language exemption or not," he added.

Wednesday saw GJM protest rallies in the day and a torch rally in the evening. Mr Gurung, however, did not announce any Gorkhaland agitation programmes today.

KUTSE SHEGU



The Kutse Shegu of the late Pema Lhamu Bhutia, who left for her heavenly abode on the 23rd of April 2017 falls on the 10th of June 2017 [Saturday]. All friends, family and well-wishers are invited to join us on the said date at our residence below the Forest Check Post, Lower Chandmari, Changthang Basti, Gangtok, to offer prayers for our beloved mother. We also take this opportunity to thank all for standing by us in our hour of bereavement and regret our inability to do so personally.

Jigme Dorjee Bhutia, son (9609756956) and Deechen Penzom Bhutia, daughter (7093157826)

letters@summittimes.com / news@summittimes.com

College fest at Kamrang College

contd from pg01

demands like UGC affiliation, improved road connectivity and assistance for running college hostel and staff quarters from the next session onwards.

Minister Roads & Bridges, GM Gurung said that the state government is always looking for opportunities to establish premier institutes in the state. He also urged the students to be proactive in every field and activities of the college.

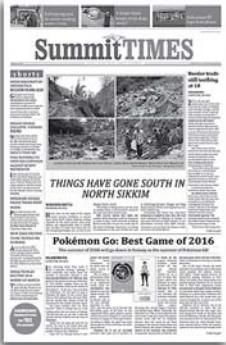
He also stressed on the value of time and assured to put forth the demands placed by the college with the concerned authorities.

SRC President, Prakash Subba in his address thanked Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for his support and financial assistance due to which the fest was organised. He thanked the college administration for their support in organizing the fest.

The function was also ad-

ressed by Director Higher Education, DK Pradhan.

Adhoc lecturers of Namchi Government College and SRC members were also felicitated by the ministers. The SRC members also felicitated Mingma Sherpa and hand over financial support to Khangchendzonga Smart City Society of Tinzir which was collected by students and staffs of Kamrang College. Later, Minister RB Subba also extended financial support to this society.



SummitTIMES

informed, inquisitive, relevant



Goat eats master's currency notes worth Rs 62,000

KANNAUJ (UP), JUN 7 (PTI): Leaving your live-stock hungry could cost you dearly, as a farmer in Uttar Pradesh realised the hard way.

Much to the shock of Sarvesh Kumar Pal, his goat chewed up currency notes worth Rs 62,000 kept in the pocket of his trousers while he had gone for a bath.

The incident occurred on Monday in Si-luapur village in Talgram area here.

Pal had gone to the washroom after putting the money, with which he intended to buy bricks, in his trousers which were kept outside.

But the scene that he came across after he came out to dress got his goat. His hungry pet had already chewed up 31 notes in the denomination of Rs 2,000.

He had kept Rs 66,000 in his pocket and only two notes were left but they too were badly damaged.

Border haat site selected in Tripura

contd from pg06

meeting held yesterday in presence of Additional DM of Moulavi Bazar of Bangladesh, he said.

"This was the first meeting of border haat management committee and it was very much successful. We will meet on regular basis to establish the Border Haat at the earliest," Chakma said.

However, there was a problem too in setting up the haat at Kamalpur/ Kurmaghat as a canal would come on the way if it was set up along the zero line of the international border.

As per guidelines, border haats should come up along the zero lone of Indo-Bangla border.

The Industries and Commerce department would send an expert to find a solution to the problem, said Chakma, who led the Indian team.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

whatsapp
Summit TIMES
@
7001622863

Confident India aim to seal semi-final berth

KUSHAN SARKAR

LONDON, JUN 7 (PTI): A near flawless demolition of Pakistan achieved, India will eye another dominant performance to seal a semifinal berth when they take on Sr Lanka in the ICC Champions Trophy here tomorrow.

Having pulverised Pakistan by 124 runs, India will start as overwhelming favourites against Sri Lanka, who looked in total disarray during their 96-run defeat at the hands of South Africa. The only worry is the fickle London weather, with forecasts of 40 percent chance of heavy rainfall.

Contrasting performances aside, the sheer difference in quality also puts India a few notches ahead of the cricketers from the island nation.

On paper, the two sides are a total mismatch.

While India ticked almost all the boxes in their victory against Pakistan, the Sri Lankans, in their opening fixture, looked as if they have only entered the tournament to add numbers.

The winners of the last edition have a formidable batting line-up, which is being backed very well by a potent bowling attack.

And therein lies the problem with Sri Lanka, which is a side that is going through a rebuilding phase for the longest time now.

To make matters worse, the form and fitness of regular captain Angelo Mathews is a cause for concern, while senior opener Upul Tharanga's two-match suspension has added insult to injury.

It's two years since both Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara quit ODIs post the 2015 World Cup but Sri Lanka have not been able to single out even a couple of players, who can show steely resolve.

The likes of Dinesh Chandimal or Chamara Kapugedara have



been around for some time but both have been guilty of not realising their full potential till date.

No wonder Sangakkara, in his column for the ICC, has made it clear that Sri Lanka need to show aggression against India while conceding that it may not be easy for them.

Playing in his final first-class season, Sangakkara has been in sublime form for Surrey with four centuries in county cricket.

For India, playing Sri Lanka before facing South Africa (on June 11) is an advantage as they can go into the final group league game with a free mind.

Rohit Sharma hitting a 91 on comeback is a reassurance while Shikhar Dhawan's positive approach will keep the 'Men in Blue' in good stead.

Skipper Virat Kohli has over the years been Sri Lanka's nemesis and the 81 not out against Pakistan, is just the tonic he needed before taking on the likes of Lasith Malinga, Suranga Lakmal and Nuwan Pradeep.

Yuvraj Singh was in vintage form at the Edgbaston and a placid Oval pitch will only help get a few more runs under his belt.

Hardik Pandya's power hitting at No 7 and his ability to chip in with quick wickets makes this Indian side more intimidating.

The only thing that Virat Kohli would want now is Mahendra Singh Dhoni getting some batting time before the big game against South Africa.

Kohli promoting Pandya ahead of Dhoni is an indication that the skipper is looking to use his former captain more as an accumulator -- in Javed Miandad mould who would rotate strike, frustrate bowlers and launch a furious counter-attack after getting his eye in.

India's bowling unit has been sharp off late. Bhuvneshwar Kumar's controlled swing bowling, Umesh Yadav's fiery pace backed by Jasprit Bumrah's overs at the death has have troubled the oppositions.

Such has been the quality that bowlers of Mohammed Shami and Ravichandran Ashwin's calibre are warming the benches since the first XI picked for the matches so far have not given any reason to complain.

It is unlikely that Kohli

would tinker with the winning combination although one feels for Ashwin, who is India's strike bowler in the red-ball format.

For Sri Lanka, this is a do-or-die match where a lot will depend on how well skipper Mathews plays and the kind of performance Malinga gives while bowling first up.

If the duo fails, one can be sure that Sri Lanka will meet Pakistan's fate against this current India side.

Teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Kedar Jadhav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, Dinesh Karthik

Sri Lanka: Angelo Mathews, Upul Tharanga, Dinesh Chandimal, Niroshan Dickewalla, Chamara Kapugedara, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Thisara Perera, Sekkuge Prasanna, Nuwan Pradeep, Suranga Lakmal, Lakshan Sandakan, Lasith Malinga, Asela Gunaratne, Nuwan Kulasekara.

NDTV searches: CBI examines complainant

contd from pg01

sanction of the loan have also been asked from the bank.

The loan of Rs 375 crore (disbursed Rs 350 crore) was sanctioned in 2008 and was repaid within 10 months by NDTV.

The agency has said that the repayment was done by reducing the rate of interest from 19 per cent per annum to nine per cent per annum which caused a loss of Rs 48 crore to the bank.

The searches which sent ripples in the media fraternity saw criticism from Editors' Guild of India, SAHMAT and various political parties which termed the move as

muzzling of the press.

"Entry of police and other agencies into the media offices is a serious matter," the Editors' Guild statement had said after the raids yesterday.

Press Club of India and All India Newspaper Editors' Conference also condemned the CBI raids on NDTV.

The CBI defended its move saying it respects freedom of the press and it did not search the studio or newsroom of NDTV.

Its searches were limited to residential premises of the promoters of NDTV, it said.

In an unusually lengthy statement, the agency said it has not

conducted any search on the registered office of NDTV, media studio, newsroom or premises connected with media operations.

"CBI fully respects the freedom of the press and is committed to the free functioning of news operations," it said and clarified that the allegations under investigation are not regarding the default in loan repayment.

The allegations "relate to the wrongful gain of Rs 48 crore to the promoters -- Pranroy Roy, Radhika Roy, RRPR Holdings Pvt Ltd and a corresponding wrongful loss to the ICICI Bank arising from their collusion and criminal conspiracy," the CBI said.

Textbooks tells students to write emails as short as skirts, sparks row

NEW DELHI, JUN 7 (PTI):

A BCom (Honours) textbook advising students to write emails short enough to be interesting like skirts has created an outrage on social media.

The book 'Basic Business Communication' has been authored by C B Gupta, a former head

of the commerce department of a Delhi University-affiliated college.

The textbook is widely prescribed by professors to B Com (Honours) students in most DU-affiliated colleges.

The book, which has been in print since over a decade, said, "Email messages should be like skirts--short enough to be interesting and long enough to cover all the vital points."

A student, who did not want to be named, said, "Some students from socially and economically weaker sections have a tendency to memorise everything written in the textbooks, without realising that such analogies may legitimise casual sexism in our society."

"Thankfully, we are able to realise and question the reliability of such textbooks in our course. Why didn't anyone question this statement in this book which is being reprinted for years?" she asked.

Now, a septuagenarian, professor C B Gupta expressed regret for hurting people's sentiments and said that the analogy was taken from an article by a foreign author.

"I have already deleted the statement from my book. I will also advise the publisher to remove the content before publishing the latest edition," Gupta told PTI.

To a question on why such an analogy was made, he said it was a mistake on his part. "It was not to hurt anyone. I took the analogy from an article written by a foreign author," Gupta said.

Comments on a Facebook page--DU Updates--that released the pictures of the textbook and the content initially, attracted mixed responses.

The pictures were accompanied by a post which read, "Words have power, and to impose such kind of a learning

on an impressionable youth will never lead to gender equality. As a student I have the power to fight this casual sexism in my own university prescribed textbook and if I don't exercise this power, shame on me."

While a user commented on it saying it was a great metaphor and not a sexist remark, another Facebook user slammed the former for an attitude of taking it easy.

"And people are reacting (to the post) with laughing emoticons," said another irate commentator.

The post was widely circulated in the social media.

Recently, a class XII physical education textbook defining 36-24-36 as the "best body shape for females" had created an outrage on social media with critics demanding that it be withdrawn.

In another instance, a book which forms part of the Delhi University's history curriculum had called Bhagat Singh a "revolutionary terrorist", prompting the freedom fighter's family to raise the issue with university authorities as well as the HRD ministry.

"A textbook should be neutral and provide balanced viewpoints and leave the rest to the student to form an opinion. Such controversies will create more awareness among textbook authors," said a DU professor who wished to remain anonymous.

The Madras High Court had directed the CBSE to remove alleged objectionable content in class IX social science textbook about the Nadar community.

to book advertisements in SummitTimes, mail us at advertise@summittimes.com or call 03592-208698

Tribal women in Attapady fight odds to make umbrellas

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUN 7(PTI): They may be reeling under scorching summer heat in this rain-shadow region.

But, fighting all odds to empower themselves, a group of tribal women in Attapady, the most backward tribal hamlets in Kerala, is busy making umbrellas for city dwellers.

Quality umbrellas of multi-colour and designs, made by around 60 women from various settlements in the region notorious for infant deaths due to malnutrition, and other health issues, are on high demand in the local market.

Tilted 'Karthumbi', the Attapady-brand umbrellas have many high-profile takers including IT hubs, Technopark and Infopark, Kochi Metro Rail Corporation, Cochin University and a number of schools and colleges across the state.

These colourful umbrellas, born in remote settlements, are now not only ensuring financial security to these poverty-stricken women and their families, but also helping them empower themselves.

'Thambu', a tribal voluntary outfit, has launched the initiative to help the tribal folk make a livelihood of their own.

The outfit not only has imparted training for the women in umbrella-making, but also helped them



market the product outside their settlements.

Though the project was started on an experimental basis last year with a modest production, now they were finding it difficult to meet the overflowing demands, President of 'Thambu', Rajendra Prasad said.

"Around 60 women belonging to various settlements are making umbrellas under the initiative.. Women jointly make umbrellas at the community halls in their respective settlements," Prasad told PTI.

The local marketing of the product is also done by tribal youths, which helps them earn income of their

own, he said.

"The initiative is not just to ensure income for the tribal folk but to empower them and instill self confidence and pride in their minds and to make them feel that they are not marginalised but very much part of the mainstream society," he added.

Though fund crunch was a major hurdle in the initial days, well wishers have helped the outfit collect interest-free loans from individuals to meet the production cost.

"We have collected a total of Rs 6.60 lakh with the support of our well wishers.. Now, the state Scheduled Tribes Department has allotted Rs 16 lakh for making 10,000 umbrellas," Prasad noted.

A total of 1212 umbrellas, ordered by Technopark here, have already been supplied.

The black colour 'Karthumbi' umbrella costs Rs 350, while the colourful one (12 different shades are available) are priced Rs 360.

Printed umbrellas are charged Rs 370 while those with frilled ones are priced at Rs 390.

Women, belonging to the age group of 20-40, are involved in umbrella making under the initiative.

They are working as five units, comprising 12 members each.

"A woman makes an average of 10-15 umbrellas

daily. For each umbrella, they get Rs 50 as production charge.. Rs 50 is given for those who market the product. That means, the tribals get Rs 100 for each umbrella," he said.

The salary is credited to their bank account weekly. A tribal woman earns over Rs 3000 every week through umbrella making, he said.

"All those who are involved in the project have their own bank accounts.. The crediting of the salary in banks will not only ensure transparency but also make them aware about the bank dealings," he said.

Peace Collective, a social media group, has helped 'Thambu' for promotion and online marketing of the tribal brand.

On plans to come up with more products to ensure steady income for tribal families, Prasad said, "Umbrellas have only seasonal market.. Its demand comes only during rainy season. So, we are seriously thinking about other projects like branding of ethnic products of tribals."

Attapady, located in the north eastern side of Palakkad, comprises 192 tribal hamlets.

Majority of local inhabitants, mostly belonging to Muduga, Irula, Kurumba and other such tribal groups, have depended on forest produce for a living, till recent times.

RBI lowers growth forecast to 7.3% for FY18

MUMBAI, JUN 7 (PTI): The Reserve Bank today marginally lowered the economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.3 per cent even as it hoped that remonetisation would enable pick-up in consumer spending, especially in the cash-intensive segments.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has pegged the growth of real gross value added (GVA) for 2016-17 at 6.6 per cent, 0.1 percentage point lower than the second advance estimates released in February 2017.

"With the CSO's provisional estimates for 2016-17, the projection

of real GVA growth for 2017-18 has accordingly been revised 10 bps downwards from the April 2017 projection to 7.3 per cent, with risks evenly balanced," the central bank said in its second bi-monthly monetary policy, 2017-18.

It said however that the continuing remonetisation "should enable" a pick-up in discretionary consumer spending, especially in cash-intensive segments of the economy.

Also, the reductions in banks' lending rates post-demonetisation "should support both consumption and investment demand of house-

holds and stress-free corporates", it said.

RBI further said government spending continues to be robust, cushioning the impact of a slowdown in other constituents.

"The implementation of proposals in the Union Budget should crowd in private investment as the business environment improves with structural reforms, including the GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and the abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board," it said.

The resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also said rising

input costs and wage pressures may prove a drag on the profitability of firms, pulling down overall GVA growth.

Further, the twin balance sheet problem -- over-leveraged corporate sector and stressed banking sector -- may delay the revival in private investment demand, it said.

As per the RBI, gold imports surged in volume terms, initially driven by seasonal and festival demand but subsequently by stockpiling in anticipation of the roll out of the goods and services tax (GST).

Hit hard by demonetisation, India lost the

tag of the fastest growing economy to China in the March quarter with a GDP growth of 6.1 per cent, pulling down the 2016-17 expansion to a three-year low of 7.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, RBI left lending rates unchanged citing risks to inflation due to spurt in farm loan waivers by states but raised lending capacity of banks to support economic growth.

The government has been pressing for a cut in interest rates to increase private investment and had sought a meeting with the members of the Monetary Policy Committee, but RBI Governor

Urjit Patel said that all of them declined to meet.

Senior officials of the Finance Ministry were scheduled to meet MPC members on June 1 and 2 but all six members decided against the meeting.

Headed by Patel, MPC for the fourth straight time kept the repo rate unchanged, at which it lends to the banks, at 6.25 per cent. The reverse repo, at which RBI borrows, will be 6 per cent.

The central bank has however slashed the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) or the percentage of deposits that banks have to park in government securities, by 0.5

per cent to 20 per cent. The move is expected to raise buoyancy in the loans market as banks would have slightly higher funds for lending.

"The current state of the economy underscores the need to revive private investment, restore banking sector health and remove infrastructural bottlenecks. Monetary policy can play a more effective role only when these factors are in place, it said.

RBI raised concerns over the possibility of fiscal slippages due to the farm loan waivers.

~ SummitTIMES ~
CLASSIFIEDS

To book advertisements in this space, call 03592-208698; 9933427505; 9734152451

TRIBAL PLOT FOR SALE: Land situated at Jorehang Road, Namchi [backside] touches Tinner road measuring 70ftx200 ft approximately is available for immediate sale. For details contact: **85097-06344, 973312662.**

FLAT FOR RENT: 2BHK including toilet-bathroom, located above Accountant General's quarters, Development Area. Contact **9734764711** for details.

Cabinet briefing & Agri Min press conference cancelled

NEW DELHI, JUN 7 (PTI): A day after five farmers were killed in Madhya Pradesh, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh today called off a cabinet briefing and a scheduled press conference here.

The press conference, slated to focus on the "successful completion" of the government's 'Swachhta Pakhwada' programme, has been "postponed due to unavoidable reasons", an official statement said.

Farmers have been protesting since June 1 in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, demanding loan waivers and higher minimum support prices among other agriculture benefits.



US-backed forces have launched an offensive to capture Islamic State's de facto capital, Raqqa. The group, which claimed responsibility for the attack on Central London that left seven people dead, will face a fierce fight for the Syrian city it has held since 2014. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said an operation to begin liberating the city had already begun, coordinated with a US-led military coalition. "We declare today the start of the great battle to liberate the city of Raqqa, the so-called capital of terrorism and terrorists," SDF spokesman Talal Sello told reporters in the village of Hazima, north of the city.

UN chief warns of serious clean water shortages by 2050

UNITED NATIONS, JUN 7 (AP): Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that by 2050 global demand for fresh water is projected to grow by more than 40 per cent and at least a quarter of the world's population will live in countries with a "chronic or recurrent" lack of clean water.

He told the Security Council that "strains on water access are already rising in all regions," noting that three-quarters of the 193 UN member states share rivers or lake basins with their neighbors.

"Water, peace and security are inextricably linked," Guterres said. "Without effective management of our water resources, we risk intensified disputes between communities and sectors and increased tensions among nations."

The secretary-general said the United Nations is ready to engage

in preventive diplomacy to keep the competition for water from sparking conflicts.

Bolivian President Evo Morales, whose country currently holds the council presidency, noted that since 1947, some 37 conflicts have taken place between countries related to water.

"Our planet, the human family and life in all its myriad forms on Earth are in the throes of a water crisis that will only get worse over the coming decades," he said.

"If current patterns of consumption continue unabated, two-thirds of the world's population will be facing water shortages as a daily reality by 2025," Morales added.

Right now, he said, more than 800 million people lack access to safe drinking water and more than 2.5 billion don't have basic sanitation.

Morales, who presided over

the meeting, said the limited availability of fresh water underscores the importance of tackling the issue and ensuring that access to clean water is shared and doesn't become "a pretext for domestic or international conflict."

British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said the world has already seen what can happen "when the waters run dry," pointing to drought in Somalia that is driving acute food shortages and threatening famine and a lack of clean water that is exacerbating the crisis sparked by Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria and sickening thousands.

He said the world currently is not on track to meet UN goals for 2030 calling for improved water security, access to drinking water and sanitation, as well as stronger management of water resources shared by countries.

60 per cent of world's diabetes will come from Asia: US expert

NEW DELHI, JUN 7 (PTI): With diabetes projected to affect 380 million by 2030, there's some bad news for Asia with a noted American physician and researcher warning that 60 per cent of the world's diabetes will eventually come from the continent because of its population, dietary habits of people and weaker environmental laws.

"The number of individuals with impaired glucose tolerance or pre-diabetes will increase substantially because of increased genetic susceptibility to the harmful effects of sugar and processed food," says Mark Hyman.

Hyman, MD, founder and medical director of The UltraWellness Centre and director of the Cleveland Clinic Center for Functional Medicine, has come out with a book "The Blood Sug-

ar Solution: The UltraHealthy Program for Losing Weight, Preventing Disease, and Feeling Great Now!" in which he tells how to lose weight and prevent not just diabetes but also heart disease, stroke, dementia, and cancer is balanced insulin levels.

"Interestingly, people in this Asian population (who are uniquely susceptible to diabetes even though they may not be obese) are increasingly affected as they adopt a more Western diet. Weaker environmental laws and regulations also expose them to increasing levels of toxins, which are a significant cause of diabetes," he writes.

Hyman describes the seven keys to achieving wellness: boosting nutrition, regulating hormones, reducing inflammation, improving digestion, maximizing detoxification, enhancing

energy metabolism, and soothing the mind in the book, published by Hachette.

With advice on diet, green living, supplements and medication, exercise, and personalising the plan for optimal results, the book also teaches readers how to maintain lifelong health.

Diabetes, the continuum of health problems ranging from mild insulin resistance and overweight to obesity and diabetes, is the single biggest global health epidemic of our time, he says.

"It is one of the leading causes of heart disease, dementia, cancer and premature death and is almost entirely caused by environmental and lifestyle factors. This means that it is almost 100 per cent preventable and curable," Hyman writes.

He also suggests a six-week action plan: eat medicines, opti-

mise metabolism with nutritional supplements, relax mind and heal body, fun and smart exercise, living clean and green, and personalising the programme.

"The six-week action plan is a practical six-step, six-week programme you can do on your own, or in partnership with your healthcare provider. It also shows you how to create a community of support for yourself," he says.

According to Hyman, insulin resistance is the major cause of aging and death in the developed and most of the developing world.

"Even if you have perfectly normal sugar, you may be sitting on a hidden time bomb of disease called diabetes, which prevents you from losing weight and living a long healthy life," he warns.

Mauritania cuts ties to Qatar amid Gulf rift

DUBAI, JUN 7 (AP): Mauritania has become the latest country to cut diplomatic relations with Qatar as part of a growing rift between the energy-rich Gulf nation and other Arab countries.

In a statement by the Foreign Ministry, the African country accused Qatar of having connections to terrorist organisations.

It said Qatar is "promoting extremist thoughts and spreading chaos and disturbances across many of the Arab countries, resulting in big humanitarian miseries."

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
SINGAM PLATINUM MORNING Draw time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:6 DrawDate on:07/06/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 91C 13388 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 13388 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 08906 22857 29129 37399 45448 52910 64077 66099 71354 81276 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0786 0868 1786 1882 2599 2788 3187 4126 8479 9626 4th Prize Rs.300/- 1449 2030 2306 2835 3152 3203 4089 7540 7998 8346 5th Prize Rs.130/- 0116 0342 0354 0616 0735 0780 0919 0938 1220 1245 1278 1477 1555 1677 1707 1734 1759 1900 1987 2022 2055 2149 2153 2307 2434 2461 2553 2786 2794 2850 2870 2896 2993 2949 2966 3154 3208 3228 3378 3557 3610 3666 3744 3856 3912 4003 4021 4131 4506 4519 4547 4655 4708 4969 5165 5304 5390 5519 5600 5667 5713 5722 5725 5730 5809 5819 5831 5864 6060 6144 6189 6506 6797 6841 7030 7101 7116 7199 7557 7851 8085 8192 8384 8501 8503 8664 8666 8693 8720 8783 8851 8970 9135 9209 9459 9507 9568 9571 9617 9954	DEAR SINCERE EVENING Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:111 DrawDate on:07/06/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 94E 23572 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 23572 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 05613 05988 08396 52430 60271 67453 73995 80467 81334 95195 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 01382 06805 06806 29449 31301 61957 62221 78442 80754 92671 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0522 1371 3210 3267 4088 4436 6450 7634 8389 8946 5th Prize Rs.600/- 1358 1478 1542 1633 1764 2742 2821 4530 7685 9992 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0325 0745 0764 0897 0979 1003 1025 1056 1354 1386 1622 1636 2227 2242 2243 2272 2381 2452 2513 2608 2657 2864 2870 2950 3155 3344 3353 3373 3417 3580 3664 3776 3798 3848 3856 3942 3979 4192 4273 4280 4313 4315 4434 4469 4559 4568 4732 4775 4851 4869 4938 5032 5049 5240 5267 5379 5535 5557 5596 5657 5798 5812 5950 5973 5978 6301 6387 6410 6501 6526 6645 6705 6942 7025 7049 7057 7220 7239 7546 7562 7646 7786 7845 8168 8311 8315 8419 8471 8582 8680 8696 9106 9155 9468 9473 9601 9641 9792 9846 9961
Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland. For Results, please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com	Issued by: The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries, For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.	

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FORTUNE Draw No:47 DrawDate on:07/06/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 76I 50296 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 50296 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 09308 14717 43193 56910 74212 80796 82207 82701 85004 97125 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 17652 19847 30202 43149 66841 67426 78333 78634 94892 98049 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 1058 1238 1263 2359 4669 7500 8668 8769 9931 9968 5th Prize Rs.600/- 1349 1434 3133 3651 6001 6637 6830 7967 9357 9617 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0192 0405 0533 0569 0622 0696 0712 0794 0901 1117 1171 1203 1230 1532 2001 2075 2500 2679 2696 2904 2993 3063 3079 3461 3514 3607 3616 3620 3650 3705 4130 4665 4686 4724 4820 4850 5255 5284 5296 5335 5351 5370 5385 5431 5567 5577 5602 5821 5845 5877 5954 5978 6133 6244 6338 6408 6414 6511 6571 6606 6988 7109 7226 7242 7287 7459 7656 7770 7797 7843 7954 7965 7987 8108 8164 8209 8308 8418 8456 8462 8546 8608 8636 8664 8724 8919 8942 8989 9050 9181 9224 9314 9333 9427 9433 9525 9552 9620 9691 9971	SINGAM VIGOR EVENING Draw No:18 DrawDate on:07/06/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 91E 85608 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 85608 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 13183 22358 52623 58997 62884 64509 69034 72956 74881 84602 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0015 0193 1441 4243 4604 4725 5324 5468 5881 7604 4th Prize Rs.300/- 0829 2479 3347 3580 4472 5537 6275 7491 8678 9086 5th Prize Rs.130/- 0009 0060 0129 0551 0689 0783 0936 1104 1290 1391 1469 1583 1598 1619 1926 2219 2292 2404 2571 2637 2665 2673 2705 2733 2774 2886 2927 2992 3104 3299 3419 3668 3784 3819 3893 4037 4074 4276 4284 4430 4373 4437 4446 4464 4527 4608 4824 4828 4915 4925 5046 5113 5229 5395 5487 5693 5709 6271 6384 6534 6576 6587 6601 6797 6858 7005 7094 7118 7277 7351 7633 7643 7701 7755 7756 7999 8016 8182 8184 8207 8209 8238 8380 8563 8633 9006 9021 9125 9236 9247 9258 9306 9369 9447 9717 9732 9850 9939 9971 9998
Issued by: The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102 Please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com	Issued by: The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102 Please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.	

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES	ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES
SHAKTHI GANAPATHY Draw No:93 DrawDate on:07/06/17 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- A 00547 2nd Prize Rs.5,000/- 1358 2401 2405 3566 4613 4795 5409 5987 9885 9954 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2708 2950 3068 3626 4090 4860 5073 5485 6416 8720 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0233 4562 5656 6022 7129 7174 8249 8277 8935 9984 5th Prize Rs.100/- 0793 1627 2528 3365 4371 6066 6120 6407 6837 6998 6th Prize Rs.50/- 0253 0998 1628 3185 3955 4713 6412 7259 7946 8593 0314 1011 1836 3290 3963 4760 6481 7263 8198 8718 0435 1048 1852 3407 3996 4807 6158 7452 8216 8915 0462 1118 2576 3507 4109 5300 6598 7484 8232 9025 0562 1291 2589 3558 4133 5315 6742 7519 8328 9310 0596 1367 2793 3599 4315 5406 6924 7653 8348 9452 0598 1395 2940 3618 4321 5484 6941 7733 8379 9487 0866 1511 2974 3721 4478 5486 7003 7757 8399 9630 0887 1554 3029 3802 4487 6077 7070 7760 8508 9680 0965 1555 3040 3867 4690 6096 7242 7833 8579 9949	TULA RASI Draw No:93 DrawDate on:07/06/17 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- A 03447 2nd Prize Rs.5,000/- 1556 1853 2777 3616 3733 4134 4528 6184 8092 8681 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1068 1962 2510 2987 3499 5672 8805 8912 8963 9314 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0392 4661 5139 5652 6079 6142 7150 8011 9227 9543 5th Prize Rs.100/- 1879 2187 3807 4230 4452 5186 5326 6709 7979 9813 6th Prize Rs.50/- 0023 0784 2127 3121 4374 5436 6081 7402 8227 8809 0031 0810 2145 3285 4485 5445 6126 7433 8268 8814 0068 0832 2158 3533 4507 5505 6196 7649 8380 9074 0193 0864 2159 3541 4796 5547 6309 7668 8419 9098 0280 0894 2503 3692 4810 5555 6497 7844 8435 9208 0296 1180 2513 3901 4896 5574 6671 7888 8565 9278 0389 1386 2753 3910 5026 5737 6811 7895 8596 9353 0491 1873 2878 3983 5122 5960 6920 7985 8732 9516 0630 2048 2893 3983 5122 5960 6920 7985 8732 9516 0714 2115 3022 4328 5156 6034 7306 8217 8768 9659
Issued by: The Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh State Lotteries, Itanagar.	Issued by: The Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh State Lotteries, Itanagar.



STEPPING OUT: New dad Liam Payne went solo at the Glamour's Women of the Year Awards 2017 in London on Tuesday, June 6.

AMAL AND GEORGE CLOONEY WELCOME TWINS ELLA AND ALEXANDER



George Clooney's publicist confirmed the news and joked that the star "is sedated" and should recover soon.

International human rights lawyer Amal Clooney has given birth to "happy, healthy" twins Ella and Alexander. Stan Rosenfield, publicist for her actor husband George Clooney, confirmed the babies were born on Tuesday.

In a statement, he said: "This morning Amal and George welcomed Ella and Alexander Clooney into their lives."

"Ella, Alexander and Amal are all healthy, happy and doing fine. George is sedated and should recover in a few days."

The twins were safely delivered at a hospital in London, where the couple has been living during the pregnancy. George Clooney, who is 56, married 39-year-old Amal Alamuddin in 2014 - and this is the first time either of

them have had children.

"Ten years ago, he was the one saying he was never going to get married, never going to have children, never going to settle down. Amal is the one who changed all that."

The couple had kept a low profile during the pregnancy, but news they were expecting was confirmed back in February by the actor's close friend Matt Damon. People magazine reports that former president Barack Obama had visited the Clooneys in their countryside home near London on 27 May.

Last weekend, George Clooney cancelled a visit to a humanitarian event in Armenia, telling organisers: "If I came there and my wife had twins while I was there, I could never come home." Unsurprisingly, the births have been welcomed with countless messages on social media - and it was not long before "Ella and Alexander" was trending on Twitter.

what's TRENDING

ARIES: You have the sensitivity to pick up on what's going on in every situation today. Aries. Powerful emotions may conflict with extremely strong opinions. Welcome to the battle between the head and the heart! On this day you may be more apt to side with the heart. Realize that this arena is heated and that the forces around you are extremely stubborn.

TAURUS: The fantasy world that you've built for yourself is a pleasure, Taurus. People frolic in it and have a grand time. Your presence delights people. Today, however, this world may be threatened by harsh realities that are coming in the form of electronic information.

This force is powerful and apt to be erratic and spontaneous. Be prepared to stand your ground.

GEMINI: It may be difficult to stay grounded today with all the information flying around and all the emotion rolling in your heart. Try not to take things too seriously, Gemini. This is the key to maintaining a level head today. Approach the day with passion and take care of any investigative work that needs doing. There are important facts coming from unexpected sources.

CANCER: You may be pushed around by two very powerful camps today, Cancer. Since you're the kind, diplomatic, and sensitive

type, you make the perfect target for the more abrasive and opinionated. You may want to side with the cold, hard facts presented to you, although there is a great deal of emotional power working to stir up the pot. Things may not be as clear as they seem at first glance.

LEO: You're apt to feel a bit wilder today, Leo. There's a wave of powerful energy working to strengthen your ego and self-confidence. Use this boost to the best of your ability. You will need it. There is a strong, fact-oriented force working to combat your aims, and you will find that it's equally powerful and stubborn.

VIRGO: A good tactic today

would be to convert your fears to motivation for positive action. You have a great deal of energy at your disposal, Virgo. Don't waste it. Be aware that it's one of those situations when the smallest comment or insult may set off a chain reaction of misinformation. People are emotionally charged, so be careful where you step.

LIBRA: You're likely to be faced with conflicting reports today, Libra. Information may be tainted with emotion, so be careful about going with the choice that shouts the loudest. You may get pigeonholed into a place you don't want to be in. Heed the internal warnings you pick up. This is a good day to

work and play with passion. Take care of any investigative work that needs to be done.

SCORPIO: You may be seduced by fantastic promises that offer wonderful rewards. Beware of lots of bells and whistles, Scorpio. There may be a great deal of talk but not much to substantiate such wonderful claims. Don't be surprised if people with intense emotions are stepping up to add their opinions about how you should run your life. Don't forget who's boss.

SAGITTARIUS: People are apt to be quite emotional when it comes to the image they wish to project today, Sagittarius. Be careful where you step. It's your job to see through

the trendy makeup and fashion that hide the true personalities of the people who insist on wearing these masks. The key is to not be fooled by those who hide behind a facade built by society.

CAPRICORN: Capricorn, don't be surprised if some of your fantasies and dreams are put on trial by a harsh force that cuts right to the truth of the matter. People may be extra passionate, and most aren't going to be impressed with unrealistic plans. You can try your normal approach of simply ramming straight ahead with your plans, but a better approach might be to think first and be more strategic.

AQUARIUS: You're at an emo-

tionally climactic point now, Aquarius, and you might find that harsh opposition is coming at you for no clear reason. There's a stubborn, strong force surrounding you, and you should be aware that the more rigid your viewpoint, the harder it will be for any resolution. **PISCES:** Be careful to not be too cavalier today, Pisces. It would be wise to adopt a more serious tone than usual. You might be inclined to say words carelessly, but people are going to take you literally. Make sure you mean what you say. Your attention to fashion and pop culture may conflict with a force that's asking you to focus on things of deeper spiritual value.

PARESH RAWAL IS ALL PRAISE FOR RANBIR KAPOOR

Ranbir Kapoor's pictures as Sanjay Dutt have left everyone stunned with the uncanny resemblance the actor has managed to achieve merely through his body language and hair-styling. Rajkumar Hirani's biopic on Sanjay Dutt is in the making and Ranbir's co-star Paresh Rawal who plays his father Sunil Dutt, is just as impressed by the actor as everyone else.

Paresh Rawal had some amazing things to say about the young actor. He shared that Ranbir has a unique talent and is one of the finest actors in the country. He also highlighted the fact that Ranbir is dedicated towards his work and revealed he has become a big admirer of the actor. He

thinks no one else could have played Sanjay Dutt's part better than Ranbir.

Although Paresh Rawal has worked with Sunil Dutt, he revealed that he never interacted with the late actor except for a couple of times during the 1993 Mumbai riots. He says that he is aware that he was a fine human being.

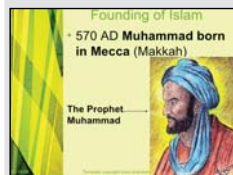
Rawal also went on to say that it's a huge challenge to play the character of Sunil Dutt and hopes that he does a good job.

The much awaited biopic will hit the screens on March 30, 2018. The film also stars Manisha Koirala, Sonam Kapoor, Anushka Sharma and Karishma Tanna in pivotal roles.



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

1. Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber- Despacito
2. Bruno Mars- That's What I Like
3. DJ Khaled featuring Quavo, Justin Bieber, Lil Wayne and Chance The Rapper- I'm The One
4. Kendrick Lamar- Humble
5. Ed Sheeran- Shape Of You
6. Future- Mask Off
7. Zedd and Alessia Cara- Stay
8. The Chainsmokers and Coldplay- Something Just Like This
9. Lil Uzi Vert- XO TOUR LIF3
10. Post Malone featuring Quavo- Congratulations



08TH JUNE WORLD HISTORY

570: Religion of Islam founded in Mecca.

632 AD- Prophet Mohammad, the founding father of Islam, died of fever in Medina Saudi Arabia.

1794- Robespierre, the most influential figures associated with the French Revolution inaugurated the French Revolution's new state religion, the Cult of the Supreme Being.

1949- Helen Keller was named in an FBI report as a Communist Party member.

1949- George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four was published.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

INDIAN HISTORY

1871: Satank, Kiowa Indian chief, shot to death.

1906: S Nazir Ali, cricketer was born today.

1915: Geeta Rahasya', written by Lokmanya Tilak, published.

1936: Indian State Broadcasting Station was renamed All India Radio (AIR).

1948: Malabar Princess', Air India's first international flight, takes off from Bombay to London via Cairo and Geneva. This was a weekly air service that was started between India to United Kingdom.



JAMES CORDEN PAYS TRIBUTE TO LONDON AFTER TERROR ATTACK

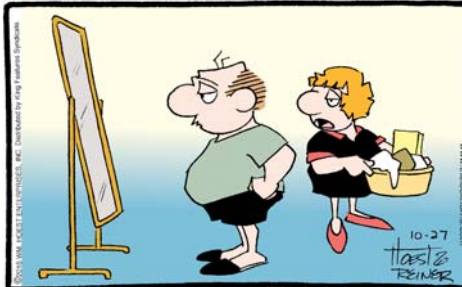
James Corden paid tribute to his hometown of London in his Late Late Show monologue on Tuesday, June 6, just days after a terrorist attack killed seven people and injured 48 others. "I think about all the times since I took this job that I had to open our show talking about such atrocities. Trying to find the right words to say is impossible because there are none," the 38-year-old said as he walked through the streets of London at night, pointing out where the attack took place on Saturday, June 3.

Corden revealed that the show's crew and staff were staying at a hotel just two minutes from where the attacks took place, and said that some people might think it's strange timing to do a variety show from the British capital as the country reels from London attack and one that took place less than two weeks earlier at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester. "I couldn't disagree more," he continued, referencing Britain's upcoming election for a new prime minister. He also pointed out the Houses of Parliament, which "represent democracy, something that the people who carried out this attack hate." "We're going to bring you the silliest, stupidest, most fun-packed shows we've ever made for you to celebrate London, and Britain, and everything it has to offer," added Corden, who is

broadcasting his show from the UK on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. "And you know what? The people who carried out that attack, they would hate that too. I'm so proud to be broadcasting here from my hometown. I'm proud to show off its beauty, its diversity and its stoic British determination to let nothing or anybody stand in our way. This is not a country that feels afraid." Corden's guests include Ed Sheeran, who will be joining the late-night host for Carpool Karaoke on Tuesday night, as well as David Beckham, Tom Cruise, Kit Harington and Nicole Kidman.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

