

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Chamling and Mamata mend fences

SIKKIM IS OUR CLOSE FRIEND, WE WANT TO SEE THE SEVOKE-RANGPO RAILWAY LINE COMPLETE, SAYS BANERJEE

NITESH R PRADHAN  
SILIGURI, 16 MAR:

A crucial meeting between Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was held at the WB mini secretariat in Siliguri today to sort out issues that had led to a souring of the relationship between the two States.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of a war of words between the political leaderships of the two States ever since the Gorkhaland agitation last year.

Addressing a press conference after the meet, West Bengal CM, Ms Banerjee, said, "Sikkim is a close friend of ours. If all is well in Sikkim, then it will be the same in Bengal. From



now on, we will be helping Sikkim in every way possible. We will work in tandem keeping aside all the differences and misunderstandings that had occurred between Sikkim and WB. The issue is solved now and we will work for promotion of tourism and various other sectors."

She further stated, "Sikkim is very important for us. Whatever problems may arise between us, we will sort it out with communication.

All the misunderstanding about Darjeeling has also been cleared out during the meet."

Echoing similar sentiments, CM, Mr Chamling, held that all the misunderstandings have been cleared and from now on, both the States will work in tandem with each other.

The issue of Sevoke-Rangpo railway line, which will decrease the overdependence of Sikkim on the national highway, figured prominently in the discussions.

Ms Banerjee mentioned that WB is serious about the project and wants to see it completed.

Both the CMs stressed that development and co-operation will be the priority for the two States.

They also invited each other to visit their respective States.

Ms Banerjee expressed happiness and said, "I will visit Sikkim because I love Sikkim. I also invite Mr Chamling to visit Darjeeling and Kolkata."

On a positive note, Mr

Chamling took to Facebook and wrote, "Today, I had a fruitful meeting with Ms Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal at Branch Secretariat of Government of West Bengal, Uttar Kanya in Siliguri. We deliberated on issues pertaining to the development of both Sikkim and West Bengal, including strengthening of tourism prospects in both the states. All issues and misunderstanding, if any, that had cropped up between Sikkim and West Bengal Governments, is a thing of the past and now all matters stand resolved. We have agreed upon providing full co-operation to each other, and give support for progress and prosperity of our respective states. We have decided to work together for the development of Sikkim and West Bengal in the days to come."

vested interests in Sikkim did not want development in the hills of Bengal.

"The vested interests in Sikkim trigger violence in Darjeeling by using money, so that tourists flock to that state and the business increases there," she had said.

On the other hand, Mr Chamling had voiced support to the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland during the over three months long Darjeeling agitation last year and written to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, saying the statehood would fulfill the demand of the people of the hills and bring permanent peace in the region.

The West Bengal government too had written to Mr Singh, protesting against the CM's support to the Gorkhaland demand.

Various stakeholders in the State most importantly - tourism and transport - have welcomed the engagement between the two CMs and its outcome.

## SC rejects Gurung's plea for protection, probe by independent agency

NEW DELHI, MAR 16 (PTI):

Former Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung today failed to get any relief from the Supreme Court which dismissed his plea seeking protection against coercive steps by the West Bengal Police in cases lodged against him.

The apex court said the matter cannot be said to be a case of "individual's persecution" by the state authority and it was not a "fit case" where the court may exercise its jurisdiction to transfer the cases to an independent agency for probe, as pleaded by him.

A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan observed that Gurung was not entitled to any relief and there was no material to substantiate that state functionaries, including the police, was "biased" against him.

Referring to the violence in Darjeeling hills in West Bengal during the agitation for separate Gorkhaland, the bench said, "the state is obliged to maintain law and order and to protect live and property of the citizens. It has to take necessary steps to contain such agitation and restore the peace."

"The cases lodged in the FIR submitted at the instance of the police or other complainants cannot be discarded on the specious pleas that they have been lodged due to bias of the state and with the intent to persecute the petitioner (Gurung)," the bench said in its 60-page judgement.

The bench referred to Article 19 of the Constitution which relates to freedom of speech and expressions and said that it guarantees some of most "important fundamental rights" to the citizens and protects im-

portant attributes of personal liberty.

"Freedom to air ones view is the lifeline of any democratic institution. The word freedom of speech must be broadly construed to include right to circulate one's view by word or mouth or through audio visual instrument. Right of public speech is one form of expression which is also part of freedom of speech and expression," it said, adding that demonstrations were also a mode of expression of the rights under Article 19(1)(a).

It, however, said that protests "whether political, religious or social or other demonstrations, which create public, disturbances or operate as nuisances, or create or manifestly threaten some tangible public or private mischief, are not covered by protection under Article 19(1)".

The apex court said that Article 19(1)(a) and (b) gives constitutional right to all citizens regarding freedom of speech and expression but violent public demonstration, during which public and private properties are damaged and people lose their lives, goes beyond the fundamental rights and becomes an offence punishable under law.

The top court also referred to an order passed by the Calcutta High Court in the matter related to protests in the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong and said the situation was "deteriorating" and insurgency and violent agitations were continuing unabated.

"The protest no longer remained peaceful and democratic. The allegations made of the offences with regard to which various FIRs have been lodged cannot be

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## Quell passenger-anxiety over aircraft engines: Bombay HC to DGCA

MUMBAI, MAR 16 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court today directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ensure that "passenger safety was not compromised with," in light of the engine troubles being faced by some aircraft belonging to private airlines Indigo and Go Air.

A bench of Justices Naresh Patil and GS Kulkarni also directed DGCA to test the airworthiness of all Pratt and Whitney engines used for A320 neo planes including those which had not been flagged by expert air safety bodies.

The bench directed the DGCA to file, within a week, an affidavit on all steps taken to quell the anxiety of passengers over the aircraft engines.

The bench was hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by a city resident, Harish Agarwal, seeking appropriate directions to the civil aviation authorities over recent reports that certain 'Pratt & Whitney (PW) engines' which power A320 neo planes were more susceptible to engine failures.

In February this year, a European Air Safety Authority issued an airworthiness directive for

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## PRE-MONSOON SHOWERS HALT TRAFFIC OVER NEW BRIDGE AT MANTAM

DZONGU, 15 Mar: Just two days after a sliding bridge finally restored connectivity to villages cut off by the Syok Bhir landslide, vehicular movement over the bridge was halted for some hours today owing to the high water levels in the Mantam lake. The downpour this morning had caused water levels to rise in the lake making it dangerous for vehicles to ply over the bridge. However, as the water levels subsided by afternoon, vehicular movement resumed. The bridge was inaugurated by Area MLA cum Deputy Speaker, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha on Wednesday. [WANGCHUK BHUTIA]

## Strength lifter takes voluntary retirement from SAP to groom youth



SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 16 MAR:

International strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia from Sikkim has taken voluntary retirement from Sikkim Armed Police to focus on grooming world class strength lifters from the State. He was working as Head Constable in SAP and retired from service on 01 Mar. The 49-year-old strength lifter had joined SAP as a Constable on 31 May in 1992 and served for 26 years.

With encouragement from then Commandant of SAP, Akshay Sachdeva, he started working out at SAP gym in 1999 and went on to participate in state, national and international tournaments.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Bhutia thanked ADGP Sikkim Police, Akshay Sachdeva for motivat-

ing and supporting him to join a gym. He expressed his gratitude to the entire family of SAP for their continuous support and motivation throughout his sports career. He also thanked his family members and well wishers for their continuous support.

"Age is no bar but just a number. I started working out in a gym only in my early 30's and won Mr Sikkim title at the age of 40 years," he shared. He talked about his journey and various achievements in body building and other disciplines.

A bronze medal in Mr Pangthang bodybuilding competition in 2000 was the first achievement of Mr Bhutia. In his debut appearance in the Mr Sikkim contest, he stood on the fourth position in his weight in 2002 and then won silver medal

in his weight in Mr Sikkim 2004. Then he continuously won gold medal in his weight category in Mr Sikkim contest from 2005 to 2012. In 2009, along with gold medal in his weight category he also won the title of Mr Sikkim.

Mr Bhutia has also proved his mettle in international competitions. In his debut appearance in the international strength lifting championship in Bahrain in 2015, he won 2 gold medals and the title of Champion of Champions in master's category. He won 2 gold medals and the title of Champion of Champions in 4th edition of the international championship at Bangkok in 2016 and again 2 gold medals and the title of Champion of Champions in the 5th edition of the international championship in Sri Lanka in 2017.

After passing the examina-

tion in 2015, Mr Bhutia is also an international referee in the strength lifting.

"Now after my voluntary retirement, I will work harder as a player to maintain my form and title and will more rigorously promote strength lifting mainly in rural parts to bring out national and international products from all corners of the State," he said. He assured to promote strength lifting and fitness among women to take them to national and international levels.

Mr Bhutia has also set up a gym in his native village Martam in East Sikkim to encourage youth of the area in fitness and to live a healthy life. He is also organising strength lifting contest every year at Martam and has already produced national lifters from the area.



## VAC and Aanganwadi inaugurated in Chakung

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 15 MAR:**

A Village Administrative Centre and an Aanganwadi Centre were inaugurated today at Soreng by area MLA, HRDD Minister RB Subba, at Chakung in West Sikkim.

The VAC has been built at a total cost of Rs 30 lakh and the Aanganwadi Centre under the Rural Project. The land for the construction of Soreng VAC was donated by CB Pradhan and Chandra Maya Pradhan of Soreng. Similarly, Chandra Bahadur Subba of Suntalay is the land donor for the Aanganwadi Centre.

## Hillary Clinton fractures right wrist, treated in Jodhpur hospital

**JODHPUR, MAR 16 (PTI):** Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who is on a visit to India, has suffered a hairline fracture on her right wrist after a fall, the director of a private hospital said here today.

Clinton, 70, was brought to the hospital at 5 am on March 14 and doctors conducted a CT scan and an X-ray on her right hand, Goyal Hospital director Dr Anand Goyal said. They found a hairline fracture on her wrist following which she was given a temporary cast, he said.

She had injured the hand during a sight-seeing tour of Mandu in Madhya Pradesh on March 12, according to sources in Umaid Bhawan Palace Hotel in Jodhpur where she stayed.

According to hotel sources, Clinton was suffering from pain in her hand after slipping while climbing down a staircase at Jahaz Mahal in Mandu.

## SC rejects Gurung's plea for protection, probe by independent agency

**Contd from pg01**

rejected as false and concocted as contended by the petitioner. On the record there is sufficient material to indicate the severe damage to life and property," it said.

It also took into account the number of deaths of several persons, including police officials, which was admitted to by both the parties before it.

It noted that over 300 cases were registered after May last year and Gurung was named in 56 such cases.

"Thus, FIR registered at the instance of police leading serious offences involving petitioner and supporters of GJM, cannot be discarded on the plea that it was police, who has roped in the petitioner and other supporters by lodging the FIR," the court said.

"No bias or mala fide has been pleaded against any individual State functionary or police officer nor any such person has been impleaded in the writ petition so as to

# Pest management training for farmers of Rey-Mindu concludes

**SUBASH RAI**

**REY-MINDU, 16 MAR:**

Two-day training programme on Human Resource Development in Integrated Pest Management [IPM] organized by Central Integrated Plant Management Centre [CIPMC], Gangtok, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India concluded here with more than 40 farmers of Rey and Mindu villages in East Sikkim as trainees.

Addressing the gathering, BR Meena [Plant Protection Officer, CIPMC] said that pests may not be destroyed completely but they can be managed through proper methods and technologies. He said that local plants and other available ingredients can be used to control pests as well as to increase production in organic farming.

"Though we are a central government agency, it is our duty to protect the crops from pests by



training Sikkimese farmers using organically prepared pesticides because it will support the state government's efforts to make Sikkim an organic farming state," Mr. Meena said.

He along with his team comprising of K Elangovan [Asst. PPO], Ram Naresh Prasad [Scientific Assistant] and Mukesh Chettri [Field Assistant, Food Security & Agriculture Development

Department] trained the farmers on pest control using locally available plants, herbs and other ingredients. They also detailed the farmers on how to differentiate between anti-farmers and farmer-friendly insects in their fields.

Earlier, Dy. Director, FS&ADD [East], Phup Lhamu Lama, who attended the programme as a special resource person briefed the farm-

ers about the benefits of organic farming and various schemes launched by the state government in assisting farmers for the same.

"Farming is a life saving profession," she said encouraging the gathering. Organic farming is just a revision of traditional farming done by our ancestors, she added.

She also urged the farmers to insure their crops to avoid losses

incurred by natural calamities which occur frequently in Sikkim. Ms Lhamu suggested that every farmer should insure their crops under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to avoid major losses in the future.

She also urged the farmers to keep in touch with the field workers of the department to avail all the benefits sponsored by the government.

## SKM to conduct State-wide publicity tour



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 MAR:**

A meeting of the social media cell of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party was held at Deorali today. The meeting was chaired by vice-president [press & publicity] SKM, Birendra Tamling and attended by leaders and workers of the party. The meeting

discussed the state tour by publicity and social media cells of the party to expand its reach and to provide training to the party workers, informs an SKM press release. The release further reads that the meeting passed a resolution to start the publicity tour from the first week of April.



## BJP kicks off 'Vijay Rally' from Rangpo

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 MAR:**

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh kicked off its 'Vijay Rally' today from Rangpo Bazaar in East Sikkim to celebrate the victory of BJP in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya. The rally led by BJP state president, DB Chauhan covered

Jorethang, Naya Bazaar, Daramdin, Sombaria, Soreng and other places on the first day, informs a BJP press release.

The Vijay Yatra team also invited residents of West Sikkim to the party's 28th foundation day scheduled to be held on 06 Apr at Singtam Bazaar in East Sikkim.

## SKM demands action against police officer for harassing members

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 16 MAR:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that the State's Police administration is being used as a tool to suppress opposition members in the State. An SKM press release informs that a complaint has been lodged against SHO of Sombaria with SP West Office, Gyalshing for unnecessarily harassing SKM members.

The release adds that the SKM team was touring villages with the purpose to spread



party's policies and programmes, without disturbing or breaking law

and order. However, the SHO Sombaria allegedly threatened the members

without any reason.

It may be mentioned here, SKM Jan Yodha team has been touring Daramdin-Sombaria constituency in West Sikkim since the past two months. During the visit, the team interacted with the public wherein they shared their grievances and dissatisfaction with the government, according to the release.

SKM has threatened to take the matter to higher authorities if no action is taken against the SHO.



## Locals come together for cleanliness drive at Mangan

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**MANGAN, 16 MAR:**

Mangan Nagar Panchayat along with the residents and shopkeepers of Mangan Bazaar organized a daylong cleanliness drive today.

The drive led by Municipal President, Zangmoo Bhutia was participated by councilors, Municipal Executive Officer, Mahendra Chettri and Mangan Nagar Panchayat staff members.

The cleanliness drive covered the area from Bus Dara to Shopping Complex. Many clogged drains were cleaned by the participants.

The drive wrapped up with an Information Education and Communication [IEC] session in which Sub-Inspector, Sonam Palden Bhutia explained the role of residents and shopkeepers in keeping the bazaar clean.



## Anil Srivasta preaches benefits of organ donation to students

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 16 MAR:**

With the mission to spread awareness on organ donation, Anil Srivatsa from Gift of Life Adventure [GOLA] Foundation with his wife Deepalai Srivatsa reached Sikkim on Tuesday. During his stay at Gangtok, he interacted with the students of Tadong Senior Secondary School and Tadong Government College on organ donation.

50-year-old Anil Srivatsa from Bangalore has covered 40 countries

and around 70,000 KMs with a single mission: to spread awareness on organ donation. He donated his kidney to his ailing brother in 2014 and presently, his mission is to spread the message of organ donation and encourage people to save lives with organ donation.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Srivatsa mentioned that his mission is to spread awareness on medical, legal and social aspects of organ donation.

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## Quell passenger-anxiety over aircraft engines: Bombay HC to DGCA

**Contd from pg01**

A320 neo planes fitted with PW1100 engines having a particular serial number.

As per the directive, PW1100 engines are classified into two types or series of numbers, 449 and 450 and beyond.

The EASA ruled that engines having the serial numbers 450 and beyond had combustion and other safety problems.

It ruled that across the

world, all A320 neo aircraft with both engines having serial numbers 450 or beyond should be grounded, while those with only one engine having serial number 450 and beyond could continue to fly.

However, DGCA's counsel Adveth Sethna told HC that earlier this month, the DGCA conducted its own independent study and ruled that aircraft with even one 450 and beyond PW1100 engine should be grounded.

Nine aircraft belonging to Indigo and five to Go Air had one or both engines belonging to the flagged serial number, said Sethna.

"Keeping public safety in mind, we grounded all affected aircraft. The issue is being further examined by the DGCA and by authorities in the United States where such engines are powered," said Indigo's counsel senior advocate Janak Dwarkadas.

Go Air's counsel Venkatesh

Dhond made similar submissions.

"While we appreciate your decision to ground the affected flights, you must take steps to ensure that air passengers are not inconvenienced due to the consequent cancellation of flights. Take all possible steps to address the issue," the bench said.

It also told the DGCA to conduct a meeting of experts and the affected airlines to ensure maximum cooperation

and an effective resolution of the problem.

"Take all players on board to implement remedial measures. Ensure that passenger safety is not compromised with. Tomorrow, when a citizen boards a plane, he or she should not worry about the efficiency of the aircraft engine," the bench said.

"Conduct a test of airworthiness for all PW1100 engines to ensure they are absolutely safe," it said.



**Gangtok on Saturday, 17 Mar**  
**Temp:** 20°C /07°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly cloudy with occasional rain and a thunderstorm in the afternoon.  
**Sunrise:** 05:44AM  
**Sunset:** 5:45 PM



*SMU to award PhD degree to Bengaluru techie*

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 16 MAR:** Software Technical Manager in Evolution Digital India Pvt Ltd [Bengaluru], Hemappa B, has successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis on 05 Mar 2018. He did his research under the guidance of Professor & Head, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT], Professor [Dr] Rabinranath Bera, and PG BoS in Computer Science, Department of Computer Science, Mangalore University, Karnataka, Professor [Dr] Manjaiah DH.  
A press release received from Sikkim Manipal University informs that the title of his PhD thesis is "Reliable Data Accumulation in Wireless Sensor Networks for Industrial Data Streaming Applications" in Electronics Communication Engineering. He has been recommended for award of degree by the Board of Examiners of SMU.  
The work proposes generic algorithms to improve performances of wireless sensor networks data communication which finds number of applications like agriculture field conditions monitoring, industrial machinery monitoring and industrial automation, etc.  
The Doctor of Philosophy will be awarded to him during the next convocation of SMU, the release adds.

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# Drikung Lyab Drikung Kyabgo Chetsang meets farmers in Sajong, praises Organic Mission



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**SAJONG, MAR 16:** Drikung Lyab Drikung Kyabgo Chetsang visited Sajong village here in East Sikkim today and interacted with the organic farmers of the area. He congratulated and lauded the Organic Mission of the State Government.  
Based in Ladakh, the Rinpoche belongs to the Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism and is known for his commitment to the environment, education, historical research and cultural preservation as well as his pragmatic approach to sustainable development projects.  
While interacting with the farmers, he underlined that organic farming promotes the basic essence of Buddhism and remarked that such positive

activities protect nature, environment and the lives of all sentient beings.  
Being an ambassador of Organic farming himself, the Rinpoche is also the founder of Go Green & Go Organic NGO that promotes sustainable forest and agricultural practices in remote mountain areas.  
Drikung Lyab Drikung Kyabgo Chetsang hailed Sikkim as one of most peaceful and secular states in India and also lauded the Chief Minister for his leadership and works done for the betterment for people here and expressed his desire to meet the CM during his next visit.  
He also assured to send some technical experts from his NGO to assist the farmers here.  
Later, the Rinpoche also visited some organic farms in Sajong.

## World Consumer Rights Day observed in Gangtok

**ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 16 MAR:** Nayuma Television, Gangtok organized a grand programme today at MG Marg in Gangtok to observe World Consumer Rights Day. The programme was sponsored by Legal, Metrology Unit & Consumer Protection Cell under Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim.  
The function had the presence of Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Advisor, Satish Chandra Rai, Secretary, SK Shilal, Joint Commissioner, CK Sharma, Assistant Superintendent of Police [East], Karma Bhutia, General Manager, Nayuma Television, Gajendra Ghaley, Programme Manager, Neelam Neopaney, senior officers and other dignitaries.  
The main objective of the programme was to spread awareness amongst the general public and students on issues related to Consumer Rights, Consumer Protection and others.  
Executive Engineer, Power Department, Pempa Lepcha, presented a talk on Power Conservation & Safety while Assistant Director, Commercial Taxes Department, Bikash Diyali, highlighted

on various subjects under GST.  
Similarly, Joint Commissioner, Legal Metrology Unit & CP Cell, Mr Sharma, spoke on Consumer Rights, Consumer Protection and various issues related to the consumer and urged everyone to stay informed about consumer rights.  
He urged everyone to visit the concerned department for any further information related to cheating cases, frauds, over billing and other issues.  
"No one can cheat an informed consumer," said Mr Sharma.  
While addressing the function, chief guest Mr Lepcha thanked the department and Nayuma Television for organizing the programme and urged everyone present to take advantage of such awareness programmes and not get deceived by anyone.  
"An aware consumer can never be cheated but can lead others towards awareness about their rights," said Mr Lepcha.  
The programme was telecast live by Nayuma Television through local cable network and YouTube.  
Certificates and souvenirs were also presented to participants and guests. The event also featured cultural performances.

## Anil Srivasta preaches benefits...

**contd from pg02**  
tion. He stated that many people don't have any idea about organ donation and mentioned that organ donation is an act of humanity and to save someone's life is the greatest privilege.  
However, he explained that it was important for donors to inform their families as they would have the rights to allow organ transplant after the donor's demise.  
Mr Srivatsa mentioned that only awareness can change superstitious beliefs of people regarding organ donation.  
"I am a living example of living a perfect life even after organ donation. As

fear comes from ignorance so I have been travelling across the world to spread the message," he said.  
Policy makers can play an important role on this issue and laws related to organ donation need to be made people friendly, he stressed.  
"I have been getting encouraging response and support from the people in my mission. It should be a community effort and not only an individual effort," he said.  
Mr Srivatsa has also launched an app 'GoL-Million Donor Project' to encourage people to come forward as donors.  
He is scheduled to leave for Arunachal Pradesh on Friday.

## 12-day National Level Special Handloom Expo begins at DHH premises



**GANGTOK, 16 MAR [IPR]:** Sikkim Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation (SHHDC), Government of Sikkim kicked off a 12-day National Level Special Handloom Expo 2017-18 at Directorate of Handicraft and Handloom premises, Zero Point in the capital today.  
The expo aims to provide platform for weavers, sellers and create awareness on handloom sector as an employment and income generation industry.  
The expo is a joint collaboration between Directorate of Handicraft and Handloom

(DHH), Government of Sikkim under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) (NERTPS) and Development Commissioner (Handloom), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.  
Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister, Government of Sikkim, Mohan Khatriwara inaugurated the expo.  
The chief guest visited stalls and witnessed live demonstration of handloom weaving and interacted with the participants from 13 different States of India and expressed keen interest and

happiness in various activities displayed by the exhibitors. He also urged the participants to visit Sikkim with their handmade products in future as well.  
The expo has weavers, Self Help Groups and Cooperative Societies from Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Bangalore and Ladakh.  
The National Level Special Handloom Expo 2017-18 is an annual feature of SHHDC calendar.

The inaugural function was also attended by DHH Director, Jyotsna M. Karthak, Joint Director (Marketing), Karma S Bhutia, Joint Director (Production), Chosang Tshering Lepcha and other officials and staff from DHH.  
"I think this expo will help out weavers and SHGs to rebuild the handloom culture and it will also open doors to enter international markets where handloom products have huge demand," said one of the participants.  
The expo is scheduled to wrap up on 26 Mar.

## Sindhu enters All England semifinals after thrilling win over Okuhara

**BIRMINGHAM, MAR 16 (PTI):** Olympic silver medallist shuttler P V Sindhu produced a top-notch performance to eke out a thrilling three-game victory over 2016 champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to progress to her maiden semifinal at the USD 1000,000 All England Championship here today.  
The quarterfinal clash lived up to its billing as Sindhu and Okuhara strained every sinew to dish out yet another nail-

biting contest at the Arena Birmingham.  
It boiled down to finding the right balance of aggression and patience and Sindhu ensured that she had the last laugh as she outwitted Okuhara 20-22 21-18 21-18 in a battle that lasted an hour and 24 minutes here.  
With this victory, Sindhu registered her fifth win over the Nagano-born World No. 6 Japanese, who robbed her of a World Championship gold

at Glasgow after a 110 minute marathon battle which went down in history as one of the greatest.  
"It was like the World Championship and Dubai Super Series match, not so long may be but it was not easy to play against Okuhara. We know each other's game so there were long rallies. We had to give our best," world no 3 Sindhu said moments after the match.  
"We can't expect easy points, we have to strategies our game

focusing on each point. I was down in the decider and she was leading 16-12 like yesterday against (Nitchaon) Jindapol. So I am just happy I could fight back and win. It feels really great to be at the semifinal.  
"But it is not over because tomorrow going to be a big match. I have to recover and give my 100 per cent," added the Indian, who will face either Olympic champion Carolina Marin or world no 2 Akane Yamaguchi tomorrow.

WEEKLY MARKET PRICE OF LARGE CARDAMOM & FRESH GINGER COLLECTED BY THE SPICES BOARD, GOVT.OF INDIA, SINGTAM ON 15.03.2018							
Large Cardamom	Name of the markets						
	Gangtok	Singtam	Mangan	Jorethang	Geyzing	Kalimpong	Siliguri
Badadana (Rs/kg.)	587.50	575.00	562.50	562.50	612.50	600.00	800.00
Chotadana (Rs/kg.)	525.00	525.00	537.50	512.50	562.50	500.00	575.00
Badadaba (Rs/ mound)	23500.00	23000.00	22500.00	22500.00	24500.00	24000.00	32000.00
Chotadana (Rs/ mound)	21000.00	21000.00	21500.00	20500.00	22500.00	20000.00	23000.00
Ginger	Singtam	Rangpo	Jorethang	Geyzing	Kalimpong	Siliguri	
(Price - Rs/kg.)	Mota	15.00	15.00	---Rs	---	15.00	20.50
	Patla	15.00	15.00	---	---	15.00	25.00
Assistant Director							

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## Road Safety

*Slogans and documents do not make travel safer, better driving does*

Mountain roads are rarely safe roads, but that should not mean that consistent efforts are not made to make them safer.

Sikkim's roads are notoriously accident-prone, and not because the roads are treacherous, but more so because the hands that control the wheels are not always the surest. The State Government had moved a legislation some years ago which aspired to ensure that those driving passenger vehicles on Sikkim roads have the skills required to justify the task of ferrying lives from destination to destination. This proposal had sought to reconfirm the skills of people with taxi driving licences procured from outside the State. It is unclear whether this rule was ever notified or implemented, but had such an over-watch been undertaken, the roads could have become safer. This approach appears to be returning at the policy level again and the coming times will bear out how effectively it is implemented and abided by.

For now, all that Sikkim can do is join the nation in observing Road Safety Weeks and play with newer models of breath analysers and more frequent checking of vehicle documents. What it should actually do instead is re-initiate a practice attempted for too short a time - also several years ago - involving the passengers. The focus here is on taxi services although even private driving needs special attention. Some years ago, following a slew of accidents triggered by rash driving, the cops had started a massive highway checking routine in which, apart from checking on the health of the vehicles, like the brakes and general engine road-worthiness, they enquired on the driving habits of the drivers. Passengers were encouraged to lodge complaints if the driving was rash.

Admittedly, Sikkim Police is too understaffed and too busy with keeping city roads jam free to make such patrolling a regular affair, but it could use the surprise element to its benefit by springing it every now and then.

The monsoons will soon be upon us and although the landslide zones along the highways do not witness accidents unless slopes collapse unannounced, the delay caused while waiting the turn to cross troublespots and the anxiety of completing the to-and-fro runs or making good time over diversions can make driving on the rest of the stretch dangerous. All it takes for disaster to strike on a hill road is for the concentration to slacken for a split second. It could happen to the best of drivers on the safest of roads. If passengers are encouraged to keep the driving safe, the roads will automatically become safer.

With the tourist season and its tremendous demand for vehicles already upon Sikkim, what the drivers associations and the traffic police should also perhaps work on is a guideline which ensures that the drivers are not overworked. It is not rare for drivers to make multiple trips, stretching both, the engine and their own faculties, to dangerous levels. They would not do this if the rules did not allow it. A tired driver operating a tired vehicle is a combination that does not lend itself too well to safe roads.

These are some initiatives one hopes will be attempted.

# Hawking tackled the biggest question of all: how did the universe begin?

TAMARA DAVIS  
*theconversation.com*

With the death of Stephen Hawking, the world has lost an adventurer.

I was one of the many who first encountered the deep ideas of cosmology through Hawking's book *A Brief History of Time*, and found myself inspired. To his readers Hawking revealed a whole new world — showing how physics can address some of the deep questions of our existence, all the way to the deepest of all: how did the universe begin?

Physics is often perceived to be dry and devoid of imagination, but as researchers we realise that could not be further from the truth. In research, we routinely throw assumptions in the bin, play with “what if” scenarios, and rely on insight and creativity to explore new ideas that could take us beyond the bounds of the physics we already know. Stephen Hawking was a master at this.

## THEORY OF EVERYTHING

What made Hawking such a trailblazer was his attempts to merge quantum physics and general relativity.

The situation in modern physics is both powerful and dire. We have two incredibly strong theories that have passed every test we can throw at them, and yet we can't unify them.

General relativity is our theory of gravity, with thanks to Einstein, and quantum physics is our theory of everything else — in particular, how particles interact. Both have been tested to incredible precision and have become everyday tools. We use general relativity to make our GPS system accurate, and quantum physics is used to design key elements of all high technology.

However, we still have no theory that combines the two, and this has perplexed physicists for a century. Merging the two theories engaged Einstein for the latter half of his life to no avail.

The quest for a quantum theory of gravity that can also explain the whole universe, is known as the search for a “theory of everything”, or “ToE”.

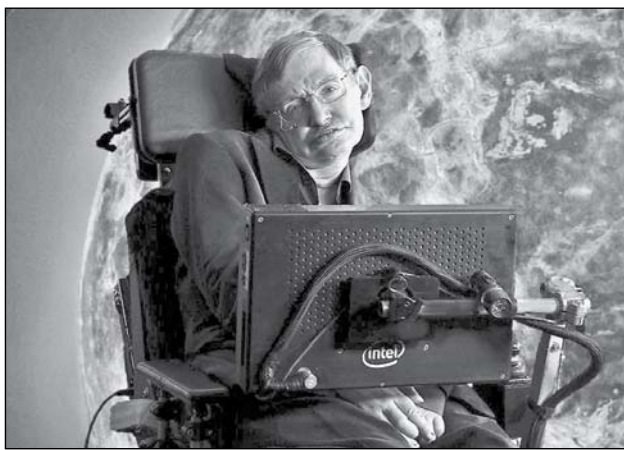
Hawking's most famous insight was to take seriously the question of what would happen if you took a quantum system and put it near the event horizon of a black hole. Even without a final theory of quantum gravity, he revealed that in some special circumstances you can calculate solutions anyway.

## THE 'MIND OF GOD'

Hawking famously described the quest for a theory of everything in analogy to God: “If we do discover a theory of everything... it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason — for then we would truly know the mind of God.”

He was forced to explain this line many times. As a devout atheist he made it clear that he didn't mean we would understand a deity, but rather that we would be able to explain, using physics, the birth of the universe itself, and all of the processes within it, thus demonstrating there is no need for a god.

In his own words:



“God may exist, but science can explain the universe without the need for a creator.”

## HOW THE BIG BANG BANGED

We know that nothing, not even light, can escape a black hole's gravitational pull. Nevertheless, Hawking discovered that black holes should “glow”. The light they emit is now known as “Hawking radiation”. But if light can't escape from black holes, how can they glow?

The event horizon of a black hole is the point of no return. Once you are within the event horizon you can never escape, and no light you emit will ever be seen outside. The reason black holes can glow is because no light actually emerges from inside the event horizon. The light gets created just outside of it, thanks to the black hole's interaction with the quantum vacuum.

This leads to another question, because another important rule of physics is conservation of energy; you can't create something from nothing. So in order to glow, the black hole has to pay a price, and it pays with the only currency it has — its mass.

As the black hole emits light it gets lighter, and the lighter the black hole the more dramatically it shines, which accelerates its demise, until it evaporates into nothing in an intense flash of radiation.

As spectacular as that may be, it may seem a trifle esoteric: why should we care how black holes behave? Well, the theories Hawking was developing also have implications for the question of how the universe began. Hawking proposed a mechanism, through quantum physics, by which a universe could be born. In other words, he proposed an answer to how the big bang banged.

## THE SYMPHONY OF SPACE

Hawking became one of the world's most recognisable physicists. His fame saw him appear frequently in popular culture including on the *Simpsons* and *Star Trek* (where he played himself). Not only a superb researcher, he was a brilliant communicator, and this set him apart from his peers. His *A Brief History of Time* sold more than 10 million copies and was translated into at least 35 languages.

One of the fantastic things about *A Brief History of Time* was that it made complex ideas simple, but also didn't shy away from giving the gory details. Hawking showed respect to his readers and to

their potential to understand — perhaps having higher expectations of them than they had of themselves. As a result, he was able to convey a great feeling of the depth of thought behind the theories.

Millions of readers engrossed in his book left with a sense of wonder, even if they fell short of full understanding. Like listening to a symphony, you can appreciate the beauty and complexity of the music without knowing how to play any of the instruments.

Hawking played the symphony of space into words on a page, which left people with the feeling they had experienced something profound, even if they hadn't fully understood it.

## BE CURIOUS

That Hawking survived until age 76 is truly remarkable.

Diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) as a 22 year old, he was given only two years to live.

Rather than being defeated by such a diagnosis he dove into research with an urgency perhaps inspired by his limited time. He determined to do something significant with his time remaining, and thus attacked some of the most profound and challenging questions in physics.

To the benefit of humankind he did not succumb to the disease and was able to continue researching for another half-century. That he refused to let physical difficulties deter him from his life's work is an inspiration to us all.

He was also a real character, and is famous for placing high-profile bets on big physics questions (which he usually lost). In 1974 he bet that the x-ray source at the centre of our galaxy, Cygnus X-1, was not a black hole, but conceded the loss due to overwhelming evidence by 1990.

From our modern perspective it's astonishing to realise that all of his early research on black holes was done before we were even sure they existed.

One of Hawking's most fascinating bets was about the “information paradox”. The fact that black holes can evaporate turned out to be extremely perplexing, because all the information about what went into them is lost as the black hole vanishes. In quantum physics you can't destroy information, thus the paradox.

Although Hawking conceded this bet very publicly in 2004, most physicists would still argue that the answer is unresolved. Recently it has seen a resurgence of interest with the “firewall paradox” and Hawking himself was adding new ideas to the debate even in his last few years.

As we say farewell to one of the greatest thinkers of our time, I leave you with some of his best advice: “Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.”

With Stephen Hawking's passing, humanity has lost a brilliant mind and an inspirational human being.

*[the writer is Professor, The University of Queensland]*

# How investigative journalists helped turn the tide against corruption in South Africa

ANTON HARBER  
*theconversation.com*

Every year South African investigative journalists are recognised for their hard work when the winners of the Taco Kuiper Award for Investigative Journalism are announced. This year has provided a chance to assess the highs and the lows of our investigative reporting after an extraordinary year.

For the last few years, it seemed that the country was facing an impervious culture of impunity. Many state institutions of accountability faltered, and corruption appeared to be undermining democracy and destroying the economy. But small groups of investigative journalists beavered away. They pieced together the elements of what grew into a remarkable story of a systematic attempt to control the machinery of state for personal gain — what has become known as state capture.

For some time it had been a back-and-forth of allegation and counter-allegation, charge and denial. But in the last few months things turned around with the emergence of a trove of leaked emails. These provided the hard evidence of the depth and breadth of the attempt to take control of elements of the state. Teams of journalists did meticulous and highly skilled work to mine the emails and weave together a full picture.

South Africa now appears to have



started — only started, as there is a long way to go — the process of forcing accountability and transparency on those who were responsible, and can appreciate how central journalists have been to this apparent turnaround.

I know of only a few times in the history of a nation when journalists have played such a clear and crucial role in bringing a country back from the brink. South Africa's journalists were not alone in this. They worked side-by-side with civil society and the judiciary in particular. But never has it been clearer how important

a free press, skilled investigative reporters and the support of brave editors is to a democracy, its economy and the people who live in it.

## IMPORTANT TRENDS

Some important trends can be seen from this year's Taco Kuiper Awards.

The major one was how much of this work has become collaborative. The collaboration has not only been in the form of teams of people working together. What's different is that the teams have cut across media outlets and types. This is an international pattern, as the scale and complex-

ity of large investigative stories are often too much for one journalist or even one newsroom to handle.

What's also notable about the South African experience is that journalists from different newsrooms didn't just cooperate, but helped, promoted and protected each other.

Print and online journalists led the charge with the power of the broadcast media only occasionally being brought to bear. And most of the best work was done with the support of philanthropists and foundations, rather than in commercial newsrooms. This is a major signal of where South Africa's journalism is headed.

Interesting too is that although there was one big story, there was also a remarkable array of other investigative work. A science writer used mortality data to expose the problem that one in 10 bodies in the country's mortuaries are unclaimed and get pauper' burials. Another used sophisticated tools to uncover who lay behind fake news websites. And one journalist went in search of former mine-workers who could not be found to give them their pensions. He showed that they were easily found, and their lives would be radically changed by getting the money owed to them.

This is work that changed the lives of ordinary people.

## RISE IN HARASSMENT

The last year also saw a rise in the intimidation and harassment of journalists in the country. This included violent attacks on reporters at work, threats to those covering contentious issues and the “weaponisation” of social media — the use of robots and fake news to target critical journalists.

Thuggish protesters threatened an editor in his home, and disrupted a public meeting of journalists. Fake news perpetrators targeted editors, and for the first time that I know of journalists took out a restraining order against organisations and individuals that were responsible for some of this activity. Veteran muckraker Jacques Pauw was pursued by authorities who wanted to stop him publishing and get his sources.

The other negative trend was that a few news outlets were accused of promoting or supporting state capture, where journalists allowed themselves to be used by those who wanted to cover up what they were doing. This drives home, the award judges said: “the need for vigilance and the utmost professionalism to ensure that journalists build trust and credibility and serve the public interest — rather than narrow, personal or factional interests.”

*[the writer is Caxton Professor of Journalism, University of the Witwatersrand]*



## Textiles ministry pitches for GI tag for more Bengali sarees

**KOLKATA, MAR 16 (PTI):** The textiles committee of the union ministry of textiles has asked the various weaving communities of West Bengal to go for the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection.

So far, only three types of sarees from West Bengal - Baluchari, Santipur and Dhaniakhali have obtained the GI tags.

"We are asking the different weaving communities of West Bengal to go for GI registration. Some of them are the weavers of Bengali Jamdani, Begumpuri and Bengali Tangail sarees which have huge export markets", deputy director of the Textiles Committee of the textiles ministry T K Rout told PTI.

The weavers of scarves and stoles of Fulia should also apply for GI registration, he said.

Rout said that once these weaving communities get the GI tag, there IPR would be protected and legal action could be initiated against those who were not bonafide claimants of these textile products.

"Even the export markets of these products would be protected", he said. Rout said "GI is IPR which provides protection to the products which have origins in a particular geographical location and different from patents and trademarks".

It also gives protection to those weaving communities from counterfeit claims by others, he said adding that the ministry was working to facilitate this process.

## Nagaland seeks to have own land laws: minister

**KOHEMA, MAR 16 (PTI):** The Land Revenue Minister Neiba Kronu today emphasised on the need to have the state's own land laws with patta system as people's inability to mortgage land in Nagaland.

"The Naga people do not have the clarity of Article 371(A) it is agreed that land and resources in Nagaland belongs to the people of the state, but there is a need for proper cadastral survey and bringing about our own land patta system in order to attract investors to the state," Kronu told



reporters here.

Naga entrepreneurs and young educated unemployed cannot approach the bank as our land cannot be mort-

gaged and even if the government provides Rs 2-3 lakh through the Special Development Fund or CM Corpus Fund it is not enough because en-

trepreneurs require Rs 20-30 lakh while bank is not coming forward to their rescue because of our land system, he said.

The minister expressed hope that once land laws with patta system is introduced, foregoing the affidavit system, Nagas will be able to approach the bank and financial institutions for loans by mortgaging land.

He also said that co-ordination meeting will be soon held with the civil society for bringing about the new laws.

Unless we do this in-

vestors will not come to Nagaland, because we are unable to mortgage and lease out our land, as social clearance is required for all Foreign Direct Investment and Externally Aided Projects," he said.

The minister, who also holds Planning and Coordination Department portfolio, asserted that things would move faster and all stagnant mega projects including the Cultural Hall, Multipurpose Parking at New NST and Old Medical Directorate would also be taken up.



## Mamata Banerjee welcomes TDP's decision to quit NDA

**KOLKATA, MAR 16 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today welcomed the TDP's decision to quit the NDA and urged all opposition parties to work closely together against "atrocities, economic calamities and political instability", Banerjee said.

Banerjee's remark came after the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) this morning formally decided to exit the Narendra Modi government over the Centre's refusal to grant Andhra Pradesh Special Category Status (SCS).

"I welcome the TDP's decision to leave the NDA. The current situation warrants such action

to save the country from disaster," the TMC supremo said in a tweet.

"I appeal to all political parties in the Opposition to work closely together against atrocities, economic calamity and political instability," Banerjee said.

The TDP is also likely to move a no-confidence motion against the Modi government over the injustice meted out to the state.

The party's politburo unanimously took the decision during a tele-conference with party supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

## North east can be new engine for India's growth: PM

**IMPHAL, MAR 16 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today dubbed the north east the new engine for India's development and said the country's growth story will remain incomplete till the east comes at par with the west.

Modi laid stress on infrastructure development in the region and said in 2014 Manipur had 1,200 km of declared length of the national highways.

"But in the last four years we have declared another 460 km length of roads as national highways", he said.

The prime minister said now seven out of eight states were connected by rail network and projects were underway to connect the remaining state capitals, including Imphal, to broad gauge network.

"I have always maintained that India's growth story shall never be complete until the eastern part of our country progresses at par with the western part. The north east can be the new engine of India's growth," he said.



The prime minister was speaking at a function for the foundation stone laying ceremony and dedication of multiple development projects in Manipur.

Lauding the work of the Biren Singh-led government in the state, Modi said, "Last year I told you what the Congress government could not do in last 15 years we would do in 15 months. The BJP government has done more work in less than 15 months."

He said the BJP government

was able to solve the law and order problem in the state even though three months were still left for the completion of 15 months.

Modi said there were no corruption charges against the government and infrastructure development was going on at a great speed, unlike ever seen before.

The state government was working to reduce the problems faced by girls in hill and tribal areas for their education, he said.

"The state government has also undertaken construction of a new hostel for girls in tribal areas. I'm fortunate to inaugurate one such hostel today", Modi said.

He said the Centre had sanctioned 10 India Reserve Battalions for north-eastern states, including two battalions for Manipur.

They would directly provide job opportunities to about 2,000 youths in the state, the prime minister said.

He also said that 438 people, including 136 women, from the north-eastern states had joined the Delhi Police.

Modi, who laid foundation stones for accommodation for teachers, doctors and nurses at 19 specified locations, said they faced hardships due to lack of proper accommodations in remote areas and hill districts.

The prime minister inaugurated 1000 Anganwadi centers in the state and a park dedicated to Rani Gaidinliu. He said the woman power in the state had always been a source of inspiration for the country.

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## I have been diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour, says Irrfan

**MUMBAI, MAR 16 (PTI):** Actor Irrfan Khan on Friday revealed that he has been diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour and is out of the country for treatment.

The actor, 51, said it has been difficult dealing with the disease but people around him have given him hope and support to fight it.

"The unexpected makes us grow, which is what the past few days have been about. Learning that I have been diagnosed with Neuro Endocrine Tumour as of now has admittedly been difficult, but the love and strength of those around me and that I found within me has brought me to a place of hope," Irrfan said in a statement.

"The journey of this is taking me out of the country, and I request everyone to continue sending their wishes," he added. The 'Piku' actor also addressed the rumours surrounding his illness, saying neuro is not always about brain but thanked those who did not speculate about his health.

## Court orders Pak govt to explain JuD, charity ban

**LAHORE, MAR 16 (PTI):** The Lahore High Court today gave a deadline of 15 days to the Pakistan government to explain why Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's outfit JuD and its charity wing had been banned and their accounts frozen.

The court order came during a petition filed by Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Saeed yesterday, challenging a notification of the interior ministry of Pakistan to ban his social welfare activities.

Saeed filed the petition through his counsel Advocate A K Dogar.

He submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) that the interior ministry on February 10 had issued the notification related to freezing bank accounts and taking over assets associated with the JuD and Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) under the Anti-Terrorism (amendment) Ordinance 2018.

The LHC today ordered the federal government to submit its reply in court by March 29 on why the organisation and its charity wing had been banned and their accounts frozen, Dawn News reported.

The petitioner alleged that the government of Pakistan had acted under the pressure of foreign powers, including the US and India, the report said.

He contended that Pakistan is a sovereign independent state and makes its own laws to govern its citizens.

He added that if there was a conflict between the laws of the land and any provision of the United Nations Security Council Act, 1948, the law of the land shall prevail, it added.

The FIF owns 369 ambulances,



helped 72,000 persons to charity hospitals and treated 600,000 patients only in 2017, Saeed said.

He pleaded the court to declare the impugned notification of the interior ministry null and void with regard to taking over the assets of the organisations.

Separately, Saeed last week challenged the presidential ordinance under which his group has been banned for being on the watch-list of the United Nations in the Islamabad High Court.

President Mamnoon Hussain last month promulgated an ordinance amending the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 with regards to proscription of terrorist individuals and organisations to include entities listed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - in a move to declare Hafiz Saeed-linked JuD and FIF as proscribed groups.

Saeed, who in November last year was set free from a 300-day-long house arrest, has been repeatedly accused by the US and India of masterminding the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people.

Saeed was declared a global terrorist by the US and UN over his alleged role in the Mumbai attacks.

JuD is considered by the US and India to be a front for LeT, the militant group blamed for the attacks.







## Nepal earn ODI status for first time

**HARARE, MAR 16 (PTI):** Nepal have gained ODI status for the first time in their history after defeating Papua New Guinea by six wickets in the Cricket World Cup Qualifier play-off in Harare.

Nepal's bowlers laid the platform for the comprehensive win, with Sandeep Lamichhane and Dipendra Airee taking four wickets apiece to dismiss their opponents for 114 in just 27.2 overs at Old Hararians Sports Club.

It was another disappointing batting display from PNG, who have now been bowled out for 200 or fewer in four of their five matches in the competition. The defeat confirms they will lose their ODI status.

Paras Khadka's decision to field upon winning the toss was vindicated when Sompal Kami trapped Assad Vala, the PNG skipper, lbw in the third over for 10. Karan KC then got into the act, getting rid of the dangerous Tony Ura for 11, as the scoreboard read 29/2.

Chad Soper and Sese Bau took PNG past the 50-mark, sharing a third-wicket stand of 22, but from then on Nepal's bowlers ran amok.

Lamichhane, the 17-year-old leg-spinner, was irrepressible once again, claiming figures of 4/29 to take his wicket tally for the tournament to 11. He took a wicket in each of his first four overs, trapping Soper lbw for 10 and then sneaking one past the defences of Bau (11) before accounting for Mahuru Dai (5) and Kiplin Doriga (10). That left PNG floundering at 78/6.

Charles Amini and Jason Kila tried to rectify the damage by forging a 28-run stand for the seventh wicket, but then it was the turn of the off-spinner Airee to tear into PNG, taking the last four wickets to finish with the impressive figures of 4/14 the 18-year-old's best in List A cricket.

# Prannoy enters quarters, Srikanth crashes out

**BIRMINGHAM, MAR 16 (PTI):** Indian shuttler H S Prannoy progressed to the quarterfinals but title contender Kidambi Srikanth crashed out after suffering a narrow defeat to China's Huang Yuxiang in the USD 1000,000 All England Championship here.

The unseeded Prannoy, who came into the tournament after recovering from foot warts, outwitted former world no 3 and 2014 world championship bronze medalist Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia 21-10 21-19 in a pre-quarterfinal match.

The world no 3 had defeated Yuxiang, ranked 42, to claim the 2016 Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold title but Srikanth failed to see off the unseeded Chinese at the Arena Birmingham, losing 11-21 21-15 20-22 in a 52 minute battle.

"I didn't start well but then I came back really



well in both the games. I missed out on easy points in the third," Srikanth said.

"Well, there were too many service faults in opening game. I didn't expect that to happen. Yesterday I didn't get any, today (Thursday) it was totally changed. That should not happen in a tournament. There should be a specific rule.

"The umpire couldn't

find faults yesterday (on Wednesday) but today the umpire sitting found too many faults.

It is ridiculous," an upset Srikanth said.

Prannoy, who slipped to world no 16 after missing a few tournaments earlier in the year, will now face Yuxiang in the quarters.

India's rising doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag

but in the third game we were neck and neck," Satwik said.

"We lost three times to them, it was always close. Unfortunately today after every two points in crucial points we had service faults. This is our first All England, so there is a little bit of nerves. We were bit unlucky today," Chirag said.

The mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy, however, failed to put up a fight against second seeds Wang Yilyu and Huang Dongping of China, losing 6-21 10- 21 in just 24 minutes.

Olympic silver medalist P V Sindhu will clash with seventh-seeded Japanese Nozomi Okuhara in a re-match of the World Championship final, which went down in history as one of the longest and greatest battles, clocking 110 minutes.



## Aditi Ashok starts Founders Cup with solid 70, lies T-17th

**PHOENIX (USA), MAR 16 (PTI):** Aditi Ashok shot a highly creditable 2-under 70 in demanding conditions at the Wildfire Golf Club in the opening round of the Bank of Hope Founders Cup.

This has only been her second start on the LPGA this season, after missing the cut in her season-opener in Australian Women's Open.

She is placed Tied-17th and is three shots behind co-leaders, Frenchwoman Karine Icher and Chella Choi, who carded 67 each. Korea's Inbee Park and Thai Ariya Jutanugarn shot 68 each to be Tied-3rd with four others.

Though the Wildfire course has yielded some low winning scores over the years, the wind really made scoring difficult. The wind and cooler conditions meant scores were higher than last year.

Aditi, 19, attracted a lot of attention in her LPGA rookie season in 2017 as she finished 82nd in the Race to CME Globe standings of the LPGA Tour. She had to sit out limited field LPGA events in Thailand and Singapore before getting

into the Bank of Hope Founders Cup.

The hugely talented Indian golfer had five birdies against three bogeys in her 70.

Aditi had a great start with birdies on first two holes, before she bogeyed the fourth. She made amends with a birdie on fifth and another came her way on ninth and she turned in 3-under 33 that included birdies on both Par-5s.

On the back nine, dropped shots on 12th and 14th but birdied the 16th to finish at 70.

Icher did not let the unseasonably cool conditions bother her. She made five birdies over her first eight holes. She added birdies on 11 and 14 to get to 7-under.

However, she faltered towards the end of her round as the wind picked up and made bogeys on 15 and 18. Icher playing on LPGA since 2003 has 45 career top 10 finishes, but no wins.

Late in the day, Chella Choi turned in a 67 to share the opening round lead. Choi started with four birdies in her first five holes and was bogey-free through 17 holes until a 3-putt at the last.

# Model club Bengaluru FC eye ISL glory on debut

**BENGALURU, MAR 16 (PTI):** Chennaiyin FC stand in the way as Bengaluru FC, the model club of Indian football, seek a triumphant conclusion to what has been a remarkable maiden campaign in the Indian Super League, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Having clinched the prestigious Federation Cup and I-League twice, Bengaluru FC will attempt to crown themselves with the ISL trophy before their home fans at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

After moving into ISL from I-League, Bengaluru have scripted a fairytale narrative, winning 13 of their 18 matches and qualifying for the playoffs with four games to spare. They were eight points clear of second-placed Chennaiyin.

Miku and skipper Sunil Chhetri have got Bengaluru major chunk of the goals, bulging the net on 24 occasions, a feat which has the potential of sending shivers down the rival's spine.

Miku stands second on highest goal-scorers' list by scoring 14 times and Chhetri stands fifth with 10 to his credit, which includes his fantastic hat-trick in the second leg semifinal against FC Pune City last week.

Nishu Kumar, Udanta Singh and Erik Paartalu have been extremely good before their



home fans.

Though Bengaluru may miss defender Harmanjot Khabra due to a rib injury that he has been nursing since February, chief coach Albert Roca still have a formidable defence lineup to bank on. The list includes Spaniard Dimas Delgado, John Johnson, Juanan, Lenny Rodrigues, Rahul Bheke and Subashish Bose.

Apart from possessing some top class strikers and effective midfielders, Bengaluru boast of having India's No 1 goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in their ranks.

Sandhu had been instrumental in bringing up some spectacular saves at crucial stages.

The club has won two league titles, including the I-league in their debut season, and two Federation Cups. In November

2017, the club began playing in the Indian Super League after becoming an expansion team in the league.

Despite only playing four seasons in the I-League, the club were considered one of the model clubs of Indian football.

Bengaluru drew praise for bringing a new sense of professionalism to Indian football, including the use of on field equipment meant to help player fitness.

Roca would be expecting his players to execute 'set-piece' instructions to perfection and make his trusted deputy and compatriot Carles Cuadrat a happy man at the end of the match.

How Bengaluru banks on set-pieces is reflected in their opening two matches of the campaign against Mumbai City

and Delhi Dynamos. Three of the Blues' goals in those two wins came from set-pieces.

On the other hand, Chennaiyin have done well this season to storm into the title clash.

The visitors never looked like they would not qualify for the semifinal slot, but they had some anxious moments here and there. They ploughed their way back under the guidance of English coach John Gregory who has instilled a sense of belief into the squad.

Jeje Lalpekhlua has struck form at the right time when he scripted a brace against Goa FC in the second leg of the semifinal, helping Chennaiyin to blaze through to the summit clash.

Jeje has scored nine goals this ISL after a harrowing time in some of the matches.

Giving company to Jeje will be Raphael Augusto, who is a nightmare for defenders.

Karanjit Singh has been in supreme form and so have been the midfielders, Bikramjit Singh and Dhanpal Ganesh, who have 30 games between them this season.

Second-choice midfielders Anirudh Thapa and Germanpreet too have fulfilled the expectations of Gregory whenever they were given a chance.

Thapa is one of the best young midfielders in India.

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# Age no barrier for Japan's grandpa goaltender

**PYEONGCHANG, MAR 16 (AFP):** At 61, Shinobu Fukushima is the oldest ice hockey player at the Winter Paralympics -- but the Japanese goaltender laughs off the suggestion that he might retire any time soon.

Para-ice hockey sees players with leg impairments strapped into double-bladed sledges, and they then use two short sticks to zip around the rink and shoot.

It is one of the toughest sports -- and most popular among spectators -- at the Paralympics, and players are kitted out in helmets and padding to avoid injury in clashes.

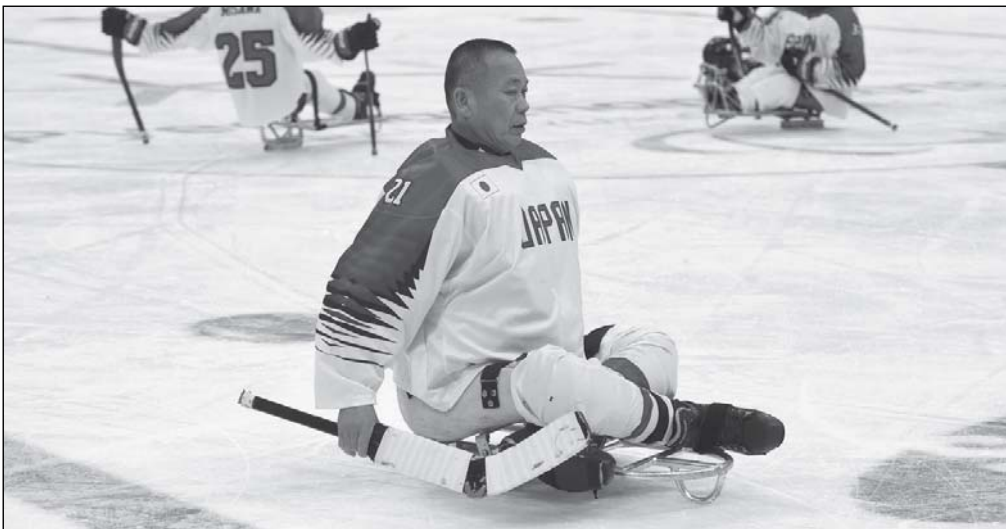
But Fukushima, who is competing in his fourth Paralympics in Pyeongchang, shrugs off the suggestion that his age is an impediment to playing at the highest level.

"I don't really think about it," he told AFP, after the Japan team lost 6-1 to Norway earlier this week. "I am just a player."

He admitted however he tried to retire on one occasion in recent years.

"I thought I wanted leave it to younger guys," he said.

Ageing athletes often opt for slower-paced Paralympic sports, in particular wheelchair curling, rather than the fast and furious form of hockey played at the Games.



Still, Fukushima is not the only ice hockey player in Pyeongchang getting on a bit. At least four other players -- three in the Swedish team and one in the Czech -- are over 50, highlighting a difficulty to in-

terest the younger generation in the sport.

With only about 30 dedicated para-ice hockey players to pick from in the whole of Japan, Fukushima was pulled out of retirement to come to Pyeongchang.

Now when asked how long he plans to keep playing he replies with laugh -- until 101.

His advancing years have made him something of a star back home in Japan.

Fukushima lost the use of his legs due

to a spine injury sustained in a traffic accident aged 24. He first tried wheelchair basketball, before later taking up para-ice hockey.

He first competed at the 2002 Paralympics in Salt Lake City, and he has since appeared for Japan at three other editions of the Games.

His crowning glory was helping the side to win a silver medal in the Vancouver Games in 2010.

Still, Japan's ice hockey team have not done well in Pyeongchang. They have lost all four of their matches so far, including a 10-0 drubbing to reigning Paralympic champions the United States.

Player Wataru Horie said the disappointing performance was a sign that Japan needed some fresh blood in its para-ice hockey team, noting the average age of the side was around 42.

"Our average is very high, I am 38 years old, and I am one of the youngest," he said.

"We definitely need young players." Still there is no ill feeling towards Fukushima, who is regarded as a pillar of strength and support for the younger players.

Asked whether he gets teased about his age, he replied with a loud laugh: "Other players call me 'grandpa'.



# India biggest strategic opportunity for US: Pentagon

**WASHINGTON, MAR 16 (PTI):** India is the “biggest strategic opportunity” for the US with New Delhi showing more openness to strengthen bilateral security ties, a top Pentagon commander has said, underlining a mutual desire for global stability and support for the rules-based international order.

Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of the US Pacific Command also told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, that the Quad, comprising India, US, Japan and Australia is an important idea of like-minded nations that can go after the challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

In his prepared testimony, Harris said the US and India are natural partners on a range of political, economic, and security issues.

“I think India is the biggest strategic opportunity for the

US. We share democratic values, we share the same concerns, and we operate more frequently in the Indo-Pacific region together, Harris said.

He said with a mutual desire for global stability and support for the rules-based international order, the US and India have an increasing convergence of interests, including maritime security and domain awareness, counter-piracy, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and coordinated responses to natural disasters and transnational threats.

Noting that India will be among the US’ most significant partners in the years to come due to its growing influence and expanding military, Harris said as a new generation of political leaders emerge, India has shown that it is more open to strengthening security ties with the US and adjusting its historic poli-

cy of non-alignment to address common strategic interests.

Harris’ comments came amid China flexing muscles in the East and South China seas.

The US has been sending its navy warships in the disputed South China Sea as part of its “freedom of navigation” operation, which evoked strong protests from China .

Harris said the US seeks an enduring, regular, routine and institutionalised strategic partnership with India and the Pacific Command identifies a security relationship with India as a major command line-of-effort.

Over the past year, US and Indian militaries participated together in three major exercises, executed more than 50 other military exchanges, and operationalized the 2016 Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).

He said defence sales are at

an all-time high with India operating US-sourced airframes, such as P-8s, C-130Js, C-17s, AH-64s, and CH-47s, and M777 howitzers.

The Pacific Command, he said, will sustain the momentum of the strategic relationship generated by the President-Prime Minister-level meeting and the emerging 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue through strengthening their military-to-military relationship and working toward additional enabling agreements to enhance interoperability.

“At the moment, India is considering a number of US systems for purchase, all of which Pacific Command fully supports: the F-16 for India’s large single-engine, multi-role fighter acquisition program; the F/A-18E for India’s multi-engine, carried-based fighter purchase; a reorder of

12-15 P-8Is; a potential purchase of SeaGuardian UAS; MH-60R multi-role sea-based helicopter; and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter,” Harris said.

Responding to a question on Quad from Senator Tim Kaine, who was the 2016 Democratic vice-presidential nominee, he said

“I think the Quad is an important construct of like-minded nations that can go after the challenges that are in the Indo-Pacific region. So that’s Japan, the United States, Australia, and India...The Quad is an idea. It’s not rigid. It is not exclusive.” “I think the Quad is an idea, and it’s an important idea that I think the countries are starting to get their arms around, including the US. But India presents a great opportunity for us, and I think we present a great opportunity for India, Harris said.



## Queen consents to Prince Harry, Markle wedding

**LONDON, MAR 15 (AFP):** Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II has given her formal consent for her grandson Prince Harry to marry US actress Meghan Markle, according to a transcript of a meeting with her advisers released on Thursday.

“I declare My Consent to a Contract of Matrimony between My Most Dearly Beloved Grandson Prince Henry Charles Albert David of Wales and Rachel Meghan Markle,” the Queen said at a meeting of her Privy Council in Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

She said her consent would be “signified under the Great Seal” and entered into the register of the Privy Council, an ancient body of councillors that dates back hundreds of years.

Prince Harry and Markle, who starred in the US television drama “Suits”, will marry on May 19 at St George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle, a royal residence located west of London.

British law states that the monarch must give their consent for the marriage of the six people next in line for the throne.

Harry is fifth in line after his father Prince Charles, brother Prince William and William’s children George and Charlotte.

He will be bumped down to sixth place when William’s wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, gives birth next month.

The Privy Council is a kind of royal advisory body and has around 400 members, including religious and political leaders.

Markle was baptised by the leader of the Church of England earlier this month ahead of her marriage to Harry out of respect for the Queen’s role as head of the denomination.

## Russia will ‘of course’ expel British diplomats: Lavrov

**ASTANA, MAR 16 (AFP):** Moscow will expel British diplomats in response to London’s move to kick out 23 Russian officials over the poisoning of ex-double agent Sergei Skripal, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said today.

“Of course we will,” Lavrov told journalists when asked whether Moscow will respond in kind to the expulsion of Russian diplomats announced by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

Lavrov was speaking in the Kazakh capital Astana following talks on Syria with the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey.

The Russian foreign minister on Thursday said Moscow would respond by expelling British diplomats “soon”.

He said his country had no motive to target Skripal, but suggested others could use the poisoning to “complicate” the World Cup.

He said his country had no motive to target Skripal, but suggested others could use the poisoning to “complicate” the World Cup.

Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier said Vladimir Putin would ultimately choose the option that “most suits Moscow’s interests”.

In a rare joint statement, the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and the US on Thursday condemned the attack on Skripal and his daughter Yulia as an “assault on UK sovereignty”.

The escalating international scandal is unfolding as Skripal and his daughter remain in critical condition after exposure to the Soviet-designed chemical Novichok on March 4 in the English city of Salisbury.

**LOST:** It is notified for the information that my original class X passed Marks Statement bearing Roll No 3121540, 99999 private candidate and class XII passed Marks Statement bearing Roll No 3222273 from 05446 Govt Sr.Sec.School Namthang, South Sikkim, both issued by CBSE have been lost. My actual name is Saroj Rai son of Mon Moti Rai (mother) and Rup Narayan Rai (father) of Ramaram village, South Sikkim. Who ever find it, please contact in this number: **7384528562**



Hope of finding any more survivors in the rubble of a collapsed pedestrian bridge in Florida has faded, officials have said. Four people were killed and nine injured when the newly installed 950-ton bridge at the Florida International University collapsed on Thursday afternoon. Rescuers worked through the night, using high-tech listening devices, trained sniffing dogs and search cameras in a race to find anyone still alive in the rubble. But they found no sign of life.

# UNSC calls upon Taliban to go ahead with peace talks without any preconditions

**UNITED NATIONS, MAR 16 (PTI):** The UN Security Council has urged the Taliban to go ahead with the peace process with the Afghan government without any preconditions and threat of violence, as it welcomed Kabul’s offer to the terror group to engage in direct talks.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on February 28 unveiled a plan to open peace talks with the Taliban, including eventually recognising them as a political party, days after the militants called for direct negotiations with the US.

Welcoming the offer for the peace talks, Security Council President Karel Jan Gustaaf van Oosterom of Netherlands, in a statement said the UNSC members commended the convening of the second meeting of the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation in Afghanistan



last month and the declaration agreed to by its participants.

“The members of the Security Council also welcomed the offer made by the Afghan Government to the Taliban to engage in direct peace talks, and called upon the Taliban to accept this offer without any preconditions and without the threat of

violence, with the aim of an ultimate political settlement that leads to sustainable peace for the people of Afghanistan, the statement said yesterday.

The 15-nation Council underlined the importance of an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process for the long-term prosperity and

stability of Afghanistan and expressed their full support for the Afghan government’s commitment to developing a practical plan for reconciliation.

They welcomed that the participants of the meeting recognised the Kabul Process as a forum and vehicle under the leadership of the Afghan government to lead peace efforts to end violence in Afghanistan.

“The Kabul Process must lead to the renunciation of violence and breaking of all ties to international terrorism, as well as the respect for the equal rights of all Afghans, including women, under the Afghan Constitution, the Council said in the statement.

The members of the Security Council also welcomed ongoing international efforts to advance peace and stability in Afghanistan.

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SING IT: Singer Lorde performs onstage at the Staples Center in L.A.

RAJKUMMAR RAO OPENS UP ABOUT PLAYING ONE OF THE DEADLIEST TERRORISTS OF THE WORLD

Rajkummar Rao has steadily earned the reputation of being a formidable actor. He has wowed critics and masses with his acts in films like Shahid, City Lights, Trapped, Newton, Queen, Aligarh, Bareilly Ki Barfi and many more. The actor recently spoke to a leading daily about his upcoming film Omerta, in which he will be seen essaying the role of one of the deadliest terrorists of the world. Hansal Mehta has helmed the film and the trailer of the film was recently released amidst much appreciation.

When the actor was questioned about how difficult it was to essay the role of a terrorist, Rajkummar said, "I think it (Omerta) was even more difficult than Trapped. That film was physically taxing but this one mentally shook me up. I was exploring the world, which I had no



idea about. I was exploring dark roots and secrets about that world. I was very disturbed while shooting for it because I had to play that. I had to believe in his ideologies and that was an extremely disturbing process. It is not something I really enjoyed doing."

The leading daily also questioned the actor about how he prepared for the role, to which he replied saying, "I could not connect with him at any level. I don't think

anyone would agree with his ideologies. There is no way any sane person would connect to him. What these guys do is extremely inhumane. We all strongly condemn them. But yeah, I chose to do this and had to start my process by watching those disturbing videos and documentaries. I would listen to his hate speech over and over again, trying to get myself charged up and gather a lot of hatred and anger inside me, which I used while playing the part."

THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:** In an effort to be the brightest and best star on the stage, Aries, you might actually be driving away the most important members of your audience. Make sure that you aren't putting on different masks with different people just so you can appease those you're with. Others can see right through any disguise you try to put on. Trying to deceive others is simply a sign of disrespect.

**TAURUS:** Go ahead and make a list today, Taurus. Powerful emotions are likely to lure you from your current path unless you have some sort of concrete plan to fall back on. Put idle hands to use by delegating tasks to the people around you. You'll be amazed at the little blocks

of time you have when you stay on task and keep yourself and everyone else around you in motion.

**GEMINI:** If you look carefully today, Gemini, you're apt to notice aspects of people that you never noticed before. There could be a frenzy of activity that catches you in its net and takes you away. Look to other people for guidance as you go along. When you ask for help, you'll get it. At the same time, you'll learn a great deal about the people who end up helping you.

**CANCER:** Be careful about becoming too stubborn today, Cancer. This is one of those days in which you're asked to build a structure in a very windy area. If you insist on using the most

rigid materials, you'll find that the structure you build ends up snapping in two. If, however, you construct your building with flexible materials, it will bend in the wind and last far longer.

**LEO:** It's a good thing you have a flexible attitude, Leo, especially today. Your adaptive powers could be put to the test as you find yourself surrounded by fickle emotions and stubborn attitudes. Don't get too hung up on getting straight answers from people today, for they're apt to be just as confused as you about certain issues. Play it cool for now and ride the waves easily to shore.

**VIRGO:** You could be frustrated by others' lack of commitment today, Virgo. You could try to

make plans with people but they keep changing their minds about what they want to do. Perhaps they're emotionally insecure and afraid to take the next step. Don't let other people hold you back. Make plans and stick to them. Other people will fall into place accordingly. You don't need to prod them.

**LIBRA:** You should be feeling emotionally strong today, Libra, although you could find that an idea runs through your head that asks you to slow down and take things once step at a time. The internal dialogue could drive you crazy if you aren't careful. The most important thing to do now is simply follow your heart. Do what you love to do, and associate with the people you love

and respect the most.

**SCORPIO:** Make the effort to get to a body of water today, Scorpio. Whether it's the ocean, a river, or lake, the sense of expansion and comfort that you'll find there will be extremely healing. Know that you are the greatest healer you have for yourself and that you have incredible power to share this gift with others, too. Augment this healing energy with a return to nature.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may find it hard to connect with your emotions today, Sagittarius. It could be that it's difficult to find a bit of quiet time when you can really sit down and listen to your inner voice. There are distractions all around that are pulling you in many different directions. Keep

in mind that these forces aren't necessarily acting in your best interests.

**CAPRICORN:** You may find that your heart is bouncing back and forth like a tennis ball today, Capricorn. One minute you could be drawn one way, while the next minute you're drawn in a completely different direction. Instead of trying to fight this feeling, take advantage of it. Consciously or unconsciously, what you're really doing is exploring. Try new things until you're sure that you've found what you need.

**AQUARIUS:** Your energy level is high today, Aquarius, but don't let this turn into a head-in-the-clouds attitude. Keep one foot firmly planted on the ground,

because you may need to keep a level head in a work or personal situation. Keep in mind that the best way to deal with this is to use your positive energy to heal the difficult situation instead of letting this difficult situation get you down.

**PISCES:** You could think that your life is too boring for anyone else to care about, Pisces. Don't fall into a well of self-pity and convince yourself that there simply isn't enough excitement in your life and never will be. Believe that you have the power to cure any such downtrodden feeling that you might have at this time. Consider joining a spiritual support group where you can honestly share your feelings.

STEPHEN HAWKING: A LIFE IN QUOTES

One of science's greatest minds, Stephen Hawking left behind inspirational quotes that will live on for many years.

On Wednesday morning, 14 March, Stephen Hawking, one of the greatest minds of our time died at the age of 76.

Apart from his priceless work, the late professor left behind quotes that will guide us for many years.

Here are just a few of Hawking's greatest quotes:

- "We are all now connected by the Internet, like neurons in a giant brain."
- "My advice to other disabled people would be, concentrate on things your disability doesn't prevent you doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with. Don't be disabled in spirit, as well as physically."
- "It surprises me how disinterested we are today about things like physics, space, the universe and philosophy of our existence, our purpose, our final destination. It's a crazy world out there. Be curious."
- "It is no good getting furious if you get stuck. What I do is keep thinking about the



problem but work on something else. Sometimes it is years before I see the way forward. In the case of information loss and black holes, it was 29 years."- "Keeping an active mind has been vital to my survival, as has been maintaining a sense of humor."
- "My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."
- "One of the basic rules of the universe is that nothing is perfect. Perfection simply doesn't exist.....Without imperfection, neither you nor I would exist."
- "So next time someone com-

plains that you have made a mistake, tell him that may be a good thing. Because without imperfection, neither you nor I would exist."- "Quiet people have the loudest minds."
- "We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special."
- "Life would be tragic if it weren't funny."
- "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change."
- "I believe the simplest explanation is, there is no God. No one created the universe and no one directs our fate."

This leads me to a profound realization that there probably is no heaven and no after-life either. We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe and for that, I am extremely grateful."

- "If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans. We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet."
- "There is a fundamental difference between religion, which is based on authority, [and] science, which is based on observation and reason. Science will win, because it works."
- "Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious, and however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up."
- "I am just a child who has never grown up. I still keep asking these 'how' and 'why' questions. Occasionally, I find an answer."

NATURE'S SECRET: GINGER FOR DANDRUFF



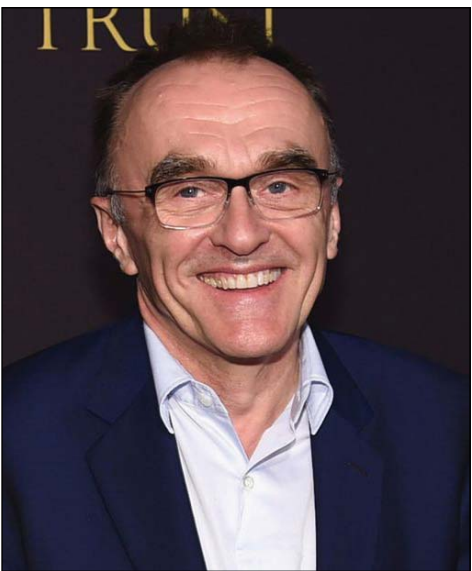
How do you control dandruff naturally? Dandruff is caused by a fungus like Malassezia or yeast feeding on an oily scalp. So, the easiest remedy for dandruff is killing the infection that is causing it.

ENTER, GINGER:

Using ginger for hair is one of the most time-tested Indian Practices because it's one of the best remedies for dandruff. Why? It is a natural antiseptic and keeps the yeast infection at bay, and your scalp squeaky clean.

Here's how to control dandruff using ginger: You Will Need:

- 2 tbsp of grated ginger
  - 3 tbsp Coconut Oil
  - A dash of Lemon Juice
- Procedure:
- Mix 2 tbsp of grated ginger with 2 tbsp of coconut oil. Add a dash of lemon juice and mix.
- Instructions:
- Apply and leave this mix in for 30 minutes, then rinse your hair as usual. Repeat this thrice a week.
- Who would've thought that you could learn how to control dandruff with a routine kitchen ingredient like ginger.
- Disclaimer: Ingredient portions specified are as per shoulder-length hair.



DANNY BOYLE CONFIRMS HE IS WORKING ON SCRIPT FOR BOND 25

The Trainspotting director has ended months of speculation as he says he and John Hodge have a "great idea" for the script.

Danny Boyle ended months of speculation on the red carpet in New York, when he said he is working on the next in the M16 spy franchise.

He had long been rumoured to be in the running to write and direct what will be the 25th film. Speaking on the red carpet for his new US TV series Trust, he said: "Well, we're working on - we're working on a script. John Hodge and I are working on a - the guy who wrote

'Trainspotting,' the 'Trainspotting' films.

"We're working on a script at the moment, and we'll see what happens. But it's a great idea, so hopefully it will work, you know?"

"I'd love to be able to tell you more, but I'm not going to." He has also hinted at a possible timeline for the film, revealing he is due to start shooting a Richard Curtis script in six to seven weeks time with the Bond film starting at the end of the year.

The sequel to Spectre is expected to be the last Bond film Daniel Craig will star in.