

Summit.TIM

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Minh

Minh and Singapore's Senior Minister of State

for Defence and Foreign

Affairs Maliki Bin Osman

will be among the leaders

who will attend the 9th

India-ASEAN ministerial dialogue on July 4 with

an aim to intensify and

broaden political, strate-gic and economic coop-

Also known as 'Delhi Dialogue', the conference

has emerged as an important forum at which political leaders, policy makers, researchers,

academicians, business

leaders and media persons converge for brain-

eration in the region.

Pages 8 | ₹ **5**

Right-bankers want Teesta to be allowed its last stretch of free-flowing run

Save Dzongu Committee reiterates position against Stage-IV, will approach CM with petition

WANGCHUK BHUTIA Dzongu, 02 Jul:

Positions for and against the Teesta Stage-IV hydel project continue to harden. To-day, affected people, mostly from the right bank (falling in Dz-ongu) gathered at Hee-Gyathang to reiterate their opposition to the project and decide on the future course of action



They are aligned with the Save Dzongu Committee It may be recalled that a week ago, the pro-dam group had formalized under an organization by

opment Committee" and lashed out against the project's opponents.

Today's meeting, at-tended by around 450 affected people resolved to approach the State Gov-

ernment with a demand that the 6KM stretch of the Teesta between the Stage-III powerhouse at Singhik and Stage-V dam at Dikchu, the last patch of free-flow-

ing Teesta he retained in

its natural condition.

They plan to approach the Chief Minister with this request during his upcoming visit to North Sikkim and demand will be grant-ed since Dzongu has already sacrificed a lot for nation-building through hydel projects. Teesta Stage-IV has

been a pending-project since the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Nation-Hydroelectric Pow-Project (NHPC) and Sikkim government in 2006. At first, the project stayed long in incubation, and when it appeared to be getting ready for con-struction, opposition to it gathered momentum and now includes the Dzongu MLA and other elected representatives in the ranks of those who want the project scrapped.

The residents of Dzongu know me very well.
I have always been there turn to pg06

Dialogue' on Jul 4 New Delhi, Jul 2 (PTI): storming on a range of issues pertaining to ASE-AN-India relations. Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Binh

Top ASEAN leaders to attend 'Delhi

> Coming in the back-drop of evolving security and economic scenario in the region, the meet will also provide an opportunity to leaders to explore ways to boost coopera-tion in these key areas and also in the field of

connectivity and touris Relationship with the ASEAN grouping is one of the cornerstones of In-dia's foreign policy and Act East policy, which has deepened across the three pillars of politico- security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation ASEAN-India

turn to pg06

US state dept issues Guardian drone export license for

India

WASHINGTON, JUL 2 (PTI): The US state department has issued the necessary license for the export of 22 predator Guardian drones to India, a government source here said, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump had their first bilateral meeting at the White House.

The state department has "issued the DSP-5 Guardian export license" for India, the source told PTI.

A DSP-5 category license is issued for per-manent export of military hardware as found in the US Munitions List which is defined by the International Traffic Arms Regulations.

The Guardian drones will enhance India's maritime surveillance capabil-ities in the Indian Ocean region and their sale was announced by Trump on June 26 after he met Modi for their first face-to-face

meeting.
The drones are estimated to cost around USD 2 billion and are being built by General Atomics, considered a pioneer in the unmanned aerial vehicles domain.

The speed with which the Trump administra-tion decided on India's request for the drones, the source said, is reflective of the desire in White House to strengthen In-dia's military capabilities in the Indo-Asia Pacific region, where China's ag-gressive diplomatic and military posture has un

turn to pg06

SU takes stock, aims high as it turns 10

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

The 10th foundation day of Sikkim University was celebrated today at Manan Kendra here in the capital. Governor Shriniwas Patil was present as the chief guest. The Governor, it may be recalled, is also the Chief Rector of the university.

In his welcome ad-ess, Vice Chancellor Prof. TB Subba held that the university was one of the best with 32 full-fledged departments and three research centers. He added that the University also prided in its high professionalism in



university is now conduct-

ing conferences, work-shops and collaboration

with other institutions for further advancement of the institution. Touching upon the issue of a permanent campus, he said that structures would be earthquake resistant.

Governor Shriniwas Patil, in his address, said that the university has shown consistent growth with quality and quantity. He pointed out that the university has added three new departments of languages- Lepcha, Bhutia and Limboo. also asked all to prepare to become a better persons which will lead to

turn to pg02

Cong, NGO to hold 'tweet morcha' against unfair bank charges

MUMBAI, JUL 2 (PTI): The Mumbai Congress, along with a non-profit organisation, has organ-ised a 'tweet morcha' on July 4 against the alleged unfair charges and fees being levied on customers by banks.

Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam and Sucheta Dalal, founder of NGO MoneyLife Founda-tion, recently put out a video on a social media platform calling on the affected customers to take part in the agitation.

They have appealed to the aggrieved customers to tweet about their grievances to Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi.

"#TweetMorcha

#BankSeBachao Ioin me & @suchetadalal on 4th July at 3 PM. Tweet to PM Modi from wherever You are," Nirupam recently tweeted.

He alleged that banks have been twisting and tweaking the existing norms to levy arbitrary charges.
Some banks have lim-

ited the monthly free use of ATM card, penalised the customers for having a balance less than Rs 5,000 in their savings accounts or restricting them from depositing money into their acvond a certain number of times, the former Congress MP said.

Not just supplies, even patience is running out in the hills

Boredom too is now a real worry

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 02 Jul:

The strike in Darjeeling for Gorkhaland enters its twenty-third day on Monday. It is the eighteenth day of the general strike in the region, but Darjeeling had begun shutting down much ahead, it

may be recalled.

While the all-party collaboration of the region has resolved to continue with the indefinite bandh to sustain the pressure, residents of Darjeeling are finding it hard to weather through the scarcity of basic commodities, erratic mobile phone connec-tivity, difficulties in traveling

and rising boredom. That said, besides affecting the hill economy, the strike has also deepened the divide between the hills and plains. For instance, the introduction of the Bengali language in schools across the state was not well received by the Darjeeling residents,



who saw it as an attempt to impose the dominant Bengali language and culture on them.

This, despite Nepali being a Constitutionally recognized language. What started as a protest against this impo-sition of Bengali on hill students, has now conflated into a demand for statehood, arriving at a standoff from which neither side appears inclined Empty Vehicle Stand in KPG

to step away and the people, despite their privations, will-ing to stand fast for the "final battle" for Gorkhaland that the leaders promised this latest round of agitation to be.

The emotions aside, the problems are aplenty.

Arbina Rai, a private school teacher of Darjeeling says that unreliable mobile network in the region has caused her to

miss an important exam

"I was supposed to appear for one of the most important exams of my career, but I could not go due to the agitation. Internet is everything nowadays. People fill forms online and they get to know about important deadlines and stay informed, and not being able to do that is really frustrating," she adds.

Although she does not miss the internet so much, not being able to make phone calls has her worried as is the inability to travel especially since she has

an ailing mother to look after. However, she hopes that the upcoming all-party meeting on 06 July will loosen the complete shutdown that the strike imposed.

According to another resident, Passang Bhutia, people are not allowed to visit shops and stores in Jorethang-Ma-jhitar in Sikkim unless for a medical emergency occurs.

"They want us to stay united for the cause, but at what cost?" Passang says.

And then there are those with ailing parents who might not be in a medical emergency, but require to regular re-view check-ups, something which they are unable to do at present. There are many who need monthly check-ups and are now due for a visit to the doctor, almost all of them out-side Darjeeling.

Rikhil Subba, a student of

North Point School, says that his summer vacation is ruined due to the bandh. Rikhil's family had planned a trip to Manali this summer but they had to cancel it due to the strike. "I am not disappointed at

that but I am bored staring at the walls all day," he says.

Rikhil says he misses internet and the 'pop' of his Facebook notifications.

"I would have been happy if I at least had access to the inter-net. I miss Facebook and Musically and Whatsapp. Not being able to use them and catch up with my friends is frustrating," he complains, still, in a way too young to understand issues of statehood and identity.

"Some people have also deliberately blocked the road with trees and stones," he further adds.

According to some of the residents some organizations in the area have come forward to help the residents with essential commodities like daily rations.

"We have survived thus far, but I don't know how long we can keep up with the strike. People are getting frustrated," a par-ty supporter has also been quoted in media reports as saving.

As for the Darjeeling region and the strike, come 06 July and the all-party meeting might have some announcements.

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SKM condemns attacks on Sikkim vehicles in Siliguri SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has criticized and condemned the vandalizing of Sikkim vehicles and harassment of the people of Sikkim in Siliguri.

A SKM press release issued by its general sec-retary, Birendra Tamling, has demanded that the Sikkim government convene a high-level meeting with the West Bengal government to work out ways and means to and means to ensure protection and safety for the people of Sikkim.

The party has also accused the State gov-ernment of ignoring the damage to vehicles from Sikkim and demanded that the State government take full responsi-

bility of it.

The release also points out the inflation in prices due to supply disruptions and said that the government should make proper market ar-

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DM-East passes orders to check hoarding and black marketing in light of disrupted supply lines

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 Jul:

District Magistrate (East) yesterday passed an order to control production, supply and distribution of essential commodities as provided un-der Section 03 of the Essential Commodities Act. 1955 due to the possibility of disruption in the normal movement of heavy vehicles, trucks, tank-ers carrying essential com-

modities to the district due to the ongoing disturbances in Darjeeling which have affected vehicular movement along National Highway10.

All Sub Divisional Magistrates in the district have been directed to form Sub-Divisional inspection teams and carryout intensive inspection of all bazaar areas in their respective jurisdictions to curtail malpractices like illegal hoarding, black marketing and unjustified escalation in the commodity prices. Necessary legal action shall be tak-en by the concerned Station Head Officer and Food Inspectors as per the penal provi-sion of Essential Commodities Act. 1955.

All petroleum products/ fuel outlets in the district have been instructed to ration the sale of High Speed Diesel and

Motor Spirit to the buyers.
For the general public not more than 20 liters of HSD/MS will be given per vehicle per day by the petrol pumps on production of requisite coupons/permis-sions from the designated authorities.

All petrol pumps in the district are required to maintain a minimum buffer stock of 1,500 liters each of HSD & MS excluding the dead stock in the storage tank.

In case of emergencies, 30 liters of HSD/MS is admissi-ble on the production of requisite coupons/ permission from the issuing authorities on submission of valid reason. Further, all petrol pumps are directed to maintain proper record of sale of fuel.

District Magistrate (West) had also passed a similar or-

der on 01 Jul to tackle the shortage of commodities in West Sikkim.

(The Essential Commodities Act was enacted way back in 1955. It has since been used by the Government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares 'essential 'in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.)



EMRS-North land donors complain of unmet promises

ARPAN PARDHAN GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

Claiming that made to them assurances made to them when their lands were acquired for the Model Residential School in North Sikkim back in 1998 remain largely unmet, a group of the land donors have now contacted the International Human Rights Council's Sikkim branch to take up the matter and get their demands heard

They are appealing to the concerned department and authorities and the State Govern-

ment to initiate and fulfil clauses assured to them when their land was acquired for the school.

Addressing a press conference here today, they informed that a total 21 families parted with their lands for the school on the promise that they will be provided 4th Grade employment in the school and contracts for the construction

"We have not received anything; not a job, nor a contract and not even compensation for the land till date. We have suffered a lot since cultivable school," said Dawa Tshering Bhutia, one of the land donors.

He went on say that they have been making the rounds of government offices with their demands for 17 years now, but have not received any positive

Hok Tshering Bhutia, anoth er land donor, shared that his family has no earning member and with their land gone, they were also landless but the concerned authority appears to be in no mood to address their

They state that while som of the affected land owners did receive a job, most of them have

They have now handed over the matter to International Hu-man Rights Council, Sikkim Branch, to pursue on their be-

President of IHRC-Sikkim, Robin Rai, in turn informed that they have the concerned authority a month's time to resolve the matter, failing which they will be writing to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and even take the matter to the Courts.

Singtam continues Bhanu Jayanti preparations

Cow vigilantes

stop vehicles ferrying

cattle near Guwahati

"On checking, found that there were some irregularities in the permits of the vehicles only. We have sent the vehicles to the Transport Department for proper verification," he added. While local TV chan-

the animals. According to a police official, a truck and two tempos were carrying the cattle near the Sonapur area of Guwahati dis-

"We got the information that the members of the Hindu Yuba Chhatra Parishad's Dimoria unit have stopped three vehicles transporting cattle. We dispatched a police team which took control of the vehicles and the persons," the official told PTI over phone.

GUWAHATI, JULY 2 (PTI):

A group of cow vigilantes today stopped three ve-hicles transporting cattle

and allegedly beat the

drivers and helpers on the outskirts of Guwahati

despite the victims having 'valid papers' to ferry

The official said the transporters had proper challans for transporting the cattle.

The truck was com-ing from Tinsukia in Upper Assam while the two tempos returned from the Jagiroad market, he

nels aired visuals of the drivers and helpers be-ing thrashed by the vigi-

lantes, the police official did not confirm it. "The drivers themselves drove the vehicles to the office of the District Transport Officer and nobody complained of any physical assault. No one has filed any complaint We cannot confirm any assault," the official said.

Guwahati Police Deputy Commissioner (East) Mohneesh Mishra too declined to confirm the beating up of the drivers and helpers as no one filed any complaint with

the police yet.

Asked if this was a case of cow vigilantism, Mishra said it was being

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SU takes stock, aims high...

contd from pg01 He further said that many works of the students and researchers have been published in many leading houses in-cluding some in Oxford. About the problem regarding the still-awaited campus, he said that the accommodation can be a problem in the beginning.

Sikkim University Teachers Association President, Durga Chettri, appreciated the state government's initiative has given

the state a university.
While addressing the gathering
Pradeep Tamang, President, Sikkim University Non Teaching Staff Association, held that mutual respect for teaching and non teaching staff should be maintained. He also shared the hardships caused due to a scattered campus. He appealed that the process of setting up a

permanent campus be expedited.

"It took 30 years for Sikkim to get
a central university," said SUSA president, Patrush Lepcha, underlining how special this institution was. He recalled the achievements of the student body.

He said that there is an increase in scholarships for students and added that 5 hostel messes have been opened

for eight hostels. He also sought for the library timings to be increased. Adding that leadership development was key to education, he informed that the first democratic elections for the student body along with department represen-tatives have now been held. "Time will come when we will have

our own campus with own area for fests and activities," he said. While delivering the Foundation

Day Lecture, Professor Chandrakala Padia, spoke on, "Role of women in con-flict resolution"

She pointed out that everything used to be written from the lens of men and remarked that credit goes to feminist scholars for breaking the notion of patriarchy. In conflict-struck areas, she said that only the army and male heroes get their due with women struggling with their families ignored completely.

She added that in the field of international relations women are neglected with women protests against wars and nuclear proliferation being ignored. In this regard, she said that the even in India, there have been many great women but there was lack of awareness on "our own contributions".

SINGTAM, 02 JUL:

Singtam's Bhanu organizing committee, after coor dination meetings held on 27 and 29 June, conducted the third coordination meeting today to check on progress in preparations for the upcoming 203rd Bhanu Jayanti celebrations on 13 July.

Another coordina-

uled for 06 July. Different NGOs and organizations of the region were assigned chores and assignments for the celebration. The organizing committee has resolved to put adequate safety and security procedures to guard against thieves and miscreants at the

Cong, NGO to hold 'tweet morcha' against unfair bank charges

contd from pg01

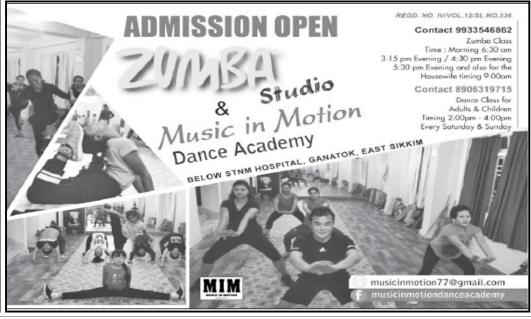
"Since the customers are unhappy with these policies, we are tweeting and tagging (their com-plaints) to the prime minister as he is very active on

Twitter," Nirupam said.

Dalal, a veteran financial journalist, said the objective of the tweet morcha is to unify the voice of angry and helpless bank customers who are allegedly being subjected to exploitation and unfair practices by banks.

She alleged that since the finance minister and the RBI did not pay heed to the issue, they have now decided to make their voice reach the PM.
"We would start our

tweet morcha at 3 pm and people across the country or overseas can tweet with #TweetMor-cha #BankSeBachao and tag the PM," said Dalal.



Gangtok on Monday, 03 July **Temp:** 25°C /19°C Forecast: Some cloudy and not as warm with a thundershower in parts of the area Sunrise: 04:45 AM

SC makes all preparations to go paperless

Sunset: 06:34 PM

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): In a bid to make the Supreme Court paper-less, the apex court has made all the prepara-tions to implement an ambitious project.

According to the apex court registry, the project would be imple-mented gradually and at the first instance, only fresh matters listed in first five courts would be accessed by the judges digitally on a interactive display device.

The registry said that all the high courts in the country had been pro-vided with login IDs to upload digitised records in the prescribed format

"The Supreme Court has made all the preparations to make the court paperless. As the concept of paperless court involves various technical and functional issues, it is proposed to implement the project gradually, as it would be a new method of working for the advo-cates and judges," the apex court registry said in a press release.

The release said that after the launch of the integrated case management information system (ICMIS) of the Supreme Court, different high courts in the country had uploaded a large number of case files on it.

"The Supreme Court registry is communicating with all the high courts, even video-conferences have been held with the nodal officers of the high courts. The process will be periodically updated with the eventual aim of making the court paperless," it said.

The registry said that the apex court had extended the facilities of disseminating details of all those concerned by providing two help desks at both the reception counters in the court premises and anyone desirous of having any in-formation about implementation of ICMIS and related issued could approach these help desks.

SFA C-DIVISION SIKKIM LEAGUE

CapitalTIMES



United Dzomsa and Sadarians Register convincing victories

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

United Dzomsa Football Club and Sadarians FC registered convincing victories today in the ongoing Sikkim Football Associ-

With the help of a hattrick by Suman, United Dzomsa outplayed Chujachen Sports Academy 4-2. Tenzing Chogyal contributed one goal in the 09th minute for United Dzomsa FC after which Suman took over.

For Chuiachen Sports Academy, Daniel Lepcha [12th] and Emmanuel Subba [70th] scored one goal each.

In the second match, Sadari-

ans Football Club thrashed Football Club Pakyong 5-0. Suman Dewan and Sagar Subba scored a brace each for Sadarians FC, while their teammate Bhupen Tamang added one more goal in

Men make 2017 a summer of content for Indian badminton

New Delhi, Jul 2 (PTI): K Srikanth's sensational run, H S Prannoy's giant-killing spree and the rise of B Sai Praneeth -men have stolen a rare march on women in what has been a summer of content for Indian badminton this year.

Ever since the emer-

gence of a certain Saina Nehwal, women's singles has dominated with the gutsy Harvana-born shuttler winning titles galore. And P V Sindhu's meteoric rise only added to the supremacy that the wom-en shuttlers enjoyed.

In 2010. Saina won three Super Series titles at Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong, besides clinching the coveted gold at the Delhi Commonwealth Games. feat that has never been matched by any Indian ever since.

Cut to mid 2017, In-dian shuttlers have so far won an unprecedented four super series titles out of six and barring P V Sindhu's win at the India Open, it's the Indian men's brigade led by Kidambi Srikanth, which has been on a rampage.

clinched Srikanth back-to-back titles at In-donesia and Australia, while Sai Praneeth lay claim to his maiden Super Series title at Singapore after defeating Srikanth in the summit clash

If the duo won the ti-

after he sent a shocking reminder of his talent by stunning Olympic silver-medallist Lee Chong Wei and Rio gold-medallist Chen Long of China in successive days in Jakarta.

The last two weeks has been fantastic. Not only for me, but for Pran-noy and Sai. It is great, the way men's singles is progressing and I think we have a great chance of winning a medal at the World Championship now," said Srikanth, who is also a winner of the 2014 China Open and 2015 India Open.

Prannoy adds: "I am really glad that badminton is growing in popularity and glad that I am a part of that. I just hope we can have three or four players in the top ten in the next couple of years."

India have six shut-India nave six snut-tlers inside the World top-35 with Srikanth, Praneeth and Ajay mak-ing it to the top 20 and chief coach Pullela Gopichand, who produced two Olympic-medallists in Saina (London Games bronze) and Sindhu (Rio Games silver), feels time has come for the men to come out of the shadows

of women's singles.
"I think overall, these wins have put the men's singles in a platform now. So we can say that they have come out of the shadows of women's singles. The way the players are playing, we can expect more results in the coming months and I hope for more consistency from the players," he told PTI.

Besides the World Championship in August, there are many more Super Series and Super Series Premier tournaments which will be up for grabs at Korea (Sept 12-17), Japan (Sept 19- 24), Denmark (Oct 17-22), France (Oct 24-29), China (Nov 14- 19), Hong Kong (Nov 21-26) and Dubai World Super Series Finals (Dec 13-17) this year.

A lot of credit for the

turnaround in men's singles goes to the arriv-al of Indonesian coach Mulyo Handoyo and his assistant Hariawan, who joined Indian badminton at the start of 2017 and completely overhauled the training program by going for back-breaking long sessions.

Handoyo's technique bore results as Prannov Srikanth and Praneeth showed great physical and mental energy to outlast their more il-lustrious rivals in ener-

gy-sapping rallies.
"I think we only had
Gopi sir before and now we have Indonesian coach Mulyo, he has seen the highest level of badminton and with both of their inputs, it has really

helped me. Now two people are working to im-prove Indian badminton and it is really working for us," opines Srikanth. "After Mulyo joined,

our practice sessions have become longer. He changed our schedule to three hours instead of 90 minutes and this has really increased our stami-

na," Praneeth explains.

The rampaging form of men's shuttlers have meant that they are now hunting in a pack and Gopichand, who took over the charge of Indian bad-minton in 2006, feels it is the culture of sharing that has helped the shut-tlers to go from strength to strength.

that we can't work in iso-lation, it is important to share and grow. People like P Kashyap and RMV Gurusaidutt have been great in building team spirit, Prannoy, Praneeth and Srikanth respect each other, support each other, and encourage each other," said the 2001

"We should realise

One of the challenges is the proper management of injuries as many top players, including Prannoy, Kashyap and Sameer Verma, have been left on the sidelines due to multiple injuries.

All England champion.

Gopichand said:
"There is such a fine line turn to pg06

Swar Sikkim releases first video of upcoming album



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 JULY:

he team of Swar Sik-The team of Swar Sinch kim today launched their first video album here at a special function organised at the confer-ence hall of the Tourism

Department.

The album was released by the Minister DD Bhutia, who is also the founder and the chief patron of Swar Sikkim.

Swar Sikkim is a state-level talent hunt show first organised in the year 2007 under the supervision of the Minister DD Bhutia.

A lyric-writing com-petition was also held as part of Swar Sikkim, the best of which were com piled under a Geet Manjari.Of these, the bestsongs have been provided with accompanying videos, one of which was released today.

Work for preparing videos for the rest has also been initiated.

The function had the presence of Padmashree Sanu Lama, Managing Director (Nayuma Television) Roshan Rai, GM Gajendra Ghalay, Dharma Bhushan Gajmer and other guests.

The album has been

produced by Minister DD Bhutia and features local singers, composers, artists, models and artists.

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MISSING

In c/w Mangan PS case no.09(05)17 dated 23-05-2017 u/s

Details of the Missing Child Name: MIKMA DOMA BHUTIA, d/o Palden Wangyal Bhutia, r/o Pakshep, Mangan, North Sikkim Sex: Female Age:17 years Height: 4.5 feet

Complexion: Fair

Clothes: Black track pant, yellow house dress of

Clothes: Black track pant, yellow house dress of Singhik School, white canvass.

Missing Since: 20/05/2017 evening from her residence at Pakshep,Mangan,North Sikkim.

If found/ seen please contact Mangan PS at 8388806750/8967688626

DONATE A BOOK! GET THE YOUNG READING!!

nt Secondary School in Gangyap, West Sikkim is setting up a library for stu-dents, an initiative of the school Headmaster, Tashi Ongyal. The SMC and the guardians have constructed and contributed wooden almirahs, out of the fund collected in the village to store the books. The school is currently engaged in a drive to collect books.

Those interested in contributing in this

effort can donate old or new books. You can drop the books at SummitTimes office at DPH, Gangtok.

CORRIGENDUM/EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID



SIKKIM HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AWWAS BHAWAN, CHURCH ROAD, GANGTOK

In partial modification to the earlier Notice Inviting Bid for Project Development Consultancy Services for "Construction of Residential Housing Complex at Lumsay, 5th Mile Tadong, Gangtok, East Sikkim", advertised previously in Local and National papers, please read the following changes in the said Notice viz:-

- 1. The last date of submission of Bid is extended till 12:30 PM of the 18th July, 2017.
- 2. The revised time for opening of bids by the Committee is $1:\!30\ PM$ of $18th\ July,$ 2017.
 - 3. The earnest money to be deposited is revised as **Rs.1.00 lakhs**.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Further details and Appointment Document are available on our website www.sikkimudhd.org.

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,

GRAND OFFER RAMOLA CELLULAR LALL MARKET ROAD GANGTOK

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Probably Not Even About a Road

China might have other designs for the Doka La confrontation

After the Fingertip area north of Gurudongmar Where India and China have exchanged claims and counterclaims on the Sikkim border, we are now being introduced to the Doka La confusion. Of all the passes in Sikkim, Doka La is probably the least famous, probably because it is not even technically in Sikkim, falling as it does in the route of a few Bhutanese vak herders accessing pastures in the Doklam area. Since it sits in territory claimed by a very friendly nation, Indian forces in the past, used to have free access to it on patrolling duties, even standing guard along it for Bhutan because the region is very remote for Bhutanese forces. Batang La is the pass from Sikkim into this region and Indian soldiers have been deployed there since much before the merger, moving up from Kalimpong in the pre-1975 days and sometimes spending their entire deployment in the region without even visiting Gangtok. But the region was strategically always important since it marked the trijunction between Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. Officers posted along this tract in the late Sixties share that they had noticed worrying Chinese troop movement in the area during their tour of duty here at the time. They had also sent word up the chain of command to address the situation with Bhutan since not only was this a trijunction, but the Amu river watershed here was also considered strategically important and not advised as a territory which China should be allowed to encroach away from Bhutan. Fifty years since, their warnings have come true, signaling as much the pa-tience that China can display when pursuing strategic interests as also the general disinterest that babus in Delhi receive fauji wisdom with. Even at that time, Indian forces would frequently "jostle" with Chinese patrols in the Doklam area so there is nothing really new in the recent videos of one such shoving match. In fact, some years ago, at almost the same area, China had accused India of having constructed military bunkers on Bhutanese territory and raised a lot of stink about it.

The current trouble started with China appearing to be constructing a road across territory which India and Bhutan (at least thus far) claim to be Bhutanese. India and China have skirmished over much less on the Sikkim border. The infamous Younghusband Mission into Tibet in 1904 was launched after it was claimed that two Dokpas from North Sikkim had been arrested by Tibet and that British India had to come to the rescue of its Protectorate! Much later, the Cho La incident of 1967 on the Nathula sector which actually led to many casualties on both sides, was triggered by Indian soldiers marking the border there with barbed wire which the Chinese protested. Now, it is a road into Bhutan. That said, no one expects this to explode into a confrontation any bigger than some more rounds of jostling matches between the troops because neither country, despite all their bombast, is really itching for an "incident". Why then has China allowed this to grow so big?

A hint comes in one of its recent comments that if there is any confusion over territorial claim, it was between China and Bhutan and that India had no business interfering. This, by the way, is not the only border confusion between China and Bhutan, but is the only one in which India is also attached. It would not come as surprise if China never really intended to build a road, and that this entire exercise was a move to rile feathers, make headlines (as were made with the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathula cancellation over the Doka La episode) and then take up the territory issue bilaterally with Bhutan, even letting it win the negotiations so long as India was cold-shouldered away from the table. Should China pulls this off, it would have scored a major victory in pulling Bhutan out of India's sphere of influence something it worked on for a long time and managed with Nepal. It should have been expected that it will try the same with Bhutan, and that should be the angle from which the mandarins in Delhi's defence and external affairs think-tanks approach the latest developments.

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

From New York to Romania, Restoration Ecology is Helping Nature Heal (and maybe humanity, too)

MIHNEA TANASESCU

 $N^{\text{ew York City's Bronx River used to} \\ N^{\text{ew York City's Bronx River used to}} \\ \text{be an open sewer, more useful for carrying industrial waste than for host-control of the control of the contr$ ing fish. Today, thanks to the efforts of environmental groups and the communities that live along this 37-kilometre stretch of water, the river is steadily making its way back to health.

This is called restoration ecology

And from the northern reaches of New York City, as elsewhere, this 80-year-old philosophy is slowly making its way into the political mainstream, now taking ate change and modern living into

WHAT RESTORATION MEANS

Success stories aside, there is a long-standing debate about the value of restoring natural environments

Opponents say that we are not really able to return degraded landscapes to their previous states. And that claiming to have done so risks more destruction because it generates the expectation that things can always be put back together. This problem is known as moral

If restoration is feasible, then what's to stop mining companies from blowing mountains up and then just "repairing"

On the opposite side of the debate are pragmatists, who believe restoration efforts to more good than harm They're not unconcerned about mora hazard, nor do they assert that humans are able to recover landscapes to exactly as they once were. But, they say, if we can make terrible

situations better for people and nature alike, why not try?

Aldo Leopold is a towering figure in this camp. His 1949 Sand County Almanac, an account of the now famous "land ethic" that urges people to reconnect with nature, is one of the cornerstones of the environmental movement.

In the 1930s, he led the world's first restoration project, the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, which established the basis of modern restoration ecology: returning degraded environ-ments to their pre-disturbance states.

The Wisconsin project aims to recreate the pre-colonial environment once present south of lakes Mendota and . Wingra, restoring prairie, savanna, forest and wetlands.

Though the aim of turning back the clock remains, environmentalists think about restoration in other ways, too. Given the rapid advance of climate change, it might not be possible to make landscapes as good as new (how would one tackle, say, the melting Arctic ice fields?), a goal that was, in any case, always complicated by the inherent dynamism of nature.

In this framing, partly theorised by William Jordan in his 2003 book Sunflower Forest, the historic condition of a natural environment is more a guideline



The Bronx River will never be the way it used to be, but it looks a lot better today than it did 20 years ago.

than goal. Instead of restoring landscapes to a prior state, then, efforts should focus on changing our exploitative, destructive relationship with nature.

Increasingly, what restoration aims to heal today is the human–nature divide.

OUR LANDSCAPES, OURSELVES

This is the view taken by the Bronx River Alliance, a not-for-profit organisation that has been engaged in restoring the Bronx

River for the better part of a decade.

After centuries of being used as a dumping ground for industrial and residential waste, the river can never be returned to its pre-colonial state, replete with thick forest along its banks. Nor can we simply wish away the Kensico dam or the Cross-Bronx Expressway.

But it is possible to make the Bronx River healthy. The Alliance has learned that the key to doing this effectively is local involvement: to heal the river and keep it that way, it must become meaningful in people's lives.

And the surest way for people to feel that they have a stake in something is by acting on its behalf. From West Farms and Hunts Point to Norwood and Williamsbridge, a network of Bronx volunteers engages in outreach and education, monitors the river's vitals and helps restock it with fish.

Some 7.000 kilometres away, in the Southern Carpathian mountains in the Western Romanian commune of Armeniş, the World Wildlife Fund Romania and Rewilding Europe have been engaged in an effort to bring the European bison back to its historic range

The biggest land mammal of Europe was barely saved from oblivion after the second world war. And today's population descends from the gene pool of just 12 individuals.

The return of this magnificent animal would help manage the mosaic environment of these mountains. Without big grazers like the bison, the open pastures that many animals depend on risk being taken over by trees.

Rather than simply sticking dozens of captive-bred animals in the Carpathian woods, the program has involved the local community at every step. It was Armenis villagers who built the fence that surrounds the reintroduction area and Armenis villagers who protect the bison as park rangers.

The first reintroduction took place in 2014 when 17 animals were released into the forest. It was blessed by the local Orthodox Christian priest, and the community gathered by the hundreds to witness it. The association trying to turn the animals into an economic opportunity is also made up of locals.

MAN VS NATURE

These are refreshing stories. Normally, the history of human engagement with the natural environment is a laundry list of failures and destruction: another species gone extinct, another precious swathe of land destroyed.

Ecological restoration projects like those underway in the Bronx and Armenis have the potential to reverse this trend, restoring not just nature but also humanity's relationship with it.

By directly engaging in the act of res toration, people can come to understand themselves as animals who also live on and benefit from the land. Beyond the eco-centric arguments for nature's intrinsic value, there is evidence that nature is good for our psychic health, relaxing us and improving the quality of our thinking.

If communities around the world follow in New York and Romania's footsteps
– supported by public funds thus making government a stakeholder in restoration projects – the wonder of nature may just outlast this century. That would be good

for Earth, and for humanity. [the writer is Research Fellow, Environmental Political Theory, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

in 2167: Internet implants and no sleep

Humans

BRYAN GAENSLER

We live in a world shaped by technology, and another 150 years of advancement and discovery will transform it even further. Life in the year 2167 will be amazing, exciting, convenient—and yet still recognizable and yet still recognizable to someone from 2017

Any specific prediction about what the 22nd century will look like will almost cer-tainly be wrong. Neverthe less, breaking developments in science and fiction may point the way to what the future might hold.

It is inevitable that we will experiment on ourselves. The wealthy will routinely edit their genes and design their babies. Rich or poor, almost everyone will be implanted with internet chips, so that with a flutter of an eyelid we can always be on-line. And having removed the need for sleep, we will be far more productive and have far more time for leisure.

MORE HUMAN

We will certainly live longer than we do now, and remain largely healthy until we reach the end. But earlier promises of rejuvenation and immortality will have never come to fruition. And those cryogen-ically frozen heads? They'll

still be in storage.

More audacious experiments will begin to change the very definition of con-sciousness: Computers will have achieved sentience, and many (but not all) of us will accept that machines have the same rights as human beings. Some people will even have begun heading in the opposite direction, uploading their consciousness into software, freeing themselves of the limitations of a decay-

ing human body.

Nuclear fusion or other new power sources will mean limitless, cheap energy. As a result, flying cars will finally be a reality

NO MIRACLES

However, Canada at 300 will not be a land of miracles. Our lives will be set against a backdrop of permanent cli-mate change — the damage will already be done. Wars will have been fought, gov-ernments will have fallen, and the gap between rich and poor will have increased dra-matically. But in the big cities of North America reclaimed by the water, the stark reality is that people will adapt and life will go on.

Looking outward, the stag-gering number of stars in our Milky Way galaxy suggests that we will have made radio contact with other intelligent life — and will be wrestling with the consequences. In-deed we may have begun the journey to the stars our-selves, using slow, cumber-some arks that take centuries to make the trip.

REALITY CHECK

As futuristic as all of this sounds, the utopian Star-Trek style future that many of us hope for will still be a work of fiction. Teleportation will be theoretically possible, but utterly impractical. And whether by warp drive or worm

turn to pg05

The Winners and Losers of Antarctica's Great Thaw

IASMINE LEE. IUSTINE SHAW & RICHARD FULLER

theconversation.com
When you think of Antarctica, you probably picture vast, continuous ice sheets and glaciers, with maybe a penguin or two thrown in. Yet most Antarctic plants and animals live in the permanently ice-free areas that cover about 1% of the continent. Our new research predicts that these areas could grow by a quarter during this century, with mixed prospects for the spe-cies that currently live there.

Besides everyone's fa-vourite Emperor and Adélie penguins, terrestrial Antarctic species also include beautiful nosses, lichens, two types of flowering plants, and a si of hardy invertebrates such as nematodes, springtails, rotifers and tardigrades, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Tardigrades – tiny creatures sometimes nicknamed "waterbears" – are so tough they can survive in space.

Antarctica's ice-free areas are currently limited to a scattering of rocky outcrops along the coastline, or cliff faces, or



Adélie penguin at the Mt Siple breeding colony, West Antarctica

the tops of mountain ranges They form small patches of suitable habitat in a huge sea of ice, much like islands.

As a result, the plants and animals that live there are often isolated from each other. But as Antarctica's climate warms, we expect ice-free areas to get bigger

up. This would create more habitat for native species, but also new opportunities for

non-native species to spread. Our study, published to-day in Nature, forecasts that climate change will expand Antarctica's ice-free areas over the course of this cen-

and eventually start joining tury. Under the most severe scenario that we modelled (which is also the one on which the globe is currently tracking), more than 17,000 square km of new ice-free area could emerge across the continent by 2100.
This would increase the

turn to pg05

CBI questions **Tripura** CPI(M) leader on chit fund scam

AGARTALA, JUL 2 (PTI): The CBI quizzed Tripu ra's ruling CPI(M) leader Gautam Das last month on the Rose Valley chit fund scam involving duping of investors.

In a statement issued last evening, Das, while denying media reports that he was interrogated twice last month by the CBI, said he was quizzed only once.

Das, a central commit tee member of the party, said the questioning was held on June 16 in the office of party mouthpiece 'Daily Desherkatha'

In his statement, Das said "an inspector of CBI's Kolkata office con-tacted me over mobile phone on June 15 last and said he was keen to speak to me about the Rose Valley group court case at any convenient place.

"I told him to come to Daily Desherkatha office on June 16. The officer my e-mail address and sent me a notice under 160 CrPC as witness.

Das said an Additional SP and an inspector met him in the office and asked him some ques tions in the presence of an advocate.

"They spoke to me for about one hour and then issued me a written certificate that I have fully cooperated with them. I want to clearly state that I have no connection with the Rose Valley or any chit fund group," he

Das said he did not tell anyone about the matter and the report in the newspaper was defamatory and "aimed at maligning me and my party.

CBI officials had earlier interrogated Tripura s Social Welfare Minister Bijita Nath in connection with the Rose Valley chit fund scam here on June

Humans in 2167...

contd from pg04

holes, we will not be zipping around the galaxy at speeds faster than light. We will not have yet reached a post-scarcity society, where money no

longer exists.

And finally, what about the most exalted of science-fiction dreams that of time travel? Well, there's a reason why any story about time travel is full of paradoxes: be cause it's sadly something that (at least in my opinion) will never happen in the real world.

Even in the year 2167, there will only be one way to travel through time: year by year, to-gether, into the unknown future.

[the writer is Director, Dunlap Institute for Astronomy and Astrophys-ics, University of Toronto]

visit us at

Incessant rains hit life in Arunachal

sant heavy rain in Arunachal Pradesh since the past two days has thrown life out of gear in the state by triggering landslides, damaging houses and roads and hitting basic essential services.

The capital town of Itanagar has been cut off from the rest of the country due to landslides on NH 52 A, official sources here

The incessant rain has disrupted road communication by causing heavy damage to roads and culverts, damaged houses and affected water pipelines and basic essential services both in Itangar and the districts.

Officials said a portion of NH 415 connecting Itanagar and Naharlagun has been eroded forcing the administration to divert traffic through Pappu Nallah-Jullang road, which is the lifeline for the people of Ban-derdewa, Nirjuli, Naharlagun and Itanagar.

The Gyan Mission Orphan-age (GMO) for homeless children at Jollang village near here



is on the verge of collapse due to continuous downpour and a massive landslide behind it.

Orphanage chairperson Yasi Nalo Sonam said the inmates are suffering from fear psychoand ten students have been

Chief Minister Pema Khandu accompanied by Itanagar MLA Techi Kaso, PWD commissioner Bilatee Pertin, disaster management secretary Jokey Angu, chief engineer (highways) Toli Basar took stock of the road damage yesterday.

Officials said he discussed measures to be taken to open the road for traffic at the earliest and directed the department's officers to start work on war footing so that vehicles can move within a day or two

He also directed the secretary and deputy commissioner to inspect the damaged and vulnerable areas in the capital complex and to submit a report immediately.

Angu was also asked to monitor and report on rain damages across the state round the clock, the sources said.

general secretary Ram Madhav, who called them last night urging them to vote for Kovind in the election to the country's top con-

A week ago, Assam minister and senior BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also the convener of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), formed last year by the saffron party along with a few other parties in the region, had openly appealed to the TMC MLAs in Tripura to vote for the



Torrential rain triggers flash flood in Manipur

IMPHAL, JUL 2 (PTI): Torrential rain in the last two days led to flash floods in many parts of Manipur affecting many areas in the Imphal valley and the state capital.

A portion of Imphal riverballa riverbank collapsed at Bashikhong in Imphal East district creating panic among the people, said officials of flood control department.

With more than 300 households affected many fled their homes to seek refuge at voluntary relief camps and govern-ment provided tempo-rary relief camps.

Other low lying areas in various localities of Imphal were also flooded as the Nambul river overflowed. Several farmlands were also inundated.

Meanwhile, vehicle

movement along the Imphal-Ukhrul road has been affected following landslides between Mahadev and Litan area

Similar landslides also occurred at Konghom village in Kangpokpi district along the NH-2.

With landslides reported in other parts of the highway, goods and other vehicles to Imphal from Dimapur got stranded.

Senior officials visited the affected areas to take stock of the situation and to provide nec-essary items for those seeking refuge in the relief camps, said an of-ficer of the flood control department.

The latest flash floods in the state is the fourth since monsoon season started from April end this year.

TMC legislators in Tripura to vote for Kovind in prez poll

AGARTALA, JUL 2 (PTI): Even though party supremo Mamata Banerjee has voiced her support to opposition's presidential nominee Meira Kumar, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislators in Tripura have decided to vote for NDA candidate Ramnath Kovind on July 17.

"All the six TMC MLAs held a meeting here yesterday and decided to vote for Kovind in the presidential election, because we will not vote someone who is supported by the CPI (M).

"We are fighting hard to oust the CPI(M) from power in Tripura in the 2018 (Assembly) election. So, we cannot vote for Kumar," TMC leader in the state Assembly Sudip Roy Burman told reporters here today.

He added that the TMC MLAs had informed of their decision to BJP national

to the masses.

NDA's candidate in the presidential election.

Intimacy with audience, minimalism keeps Manipur's Sumang Kumhei alive New Delhi, Jul 2 (PTI): A table have always been a glamorous lure to to the audience. We know what the au-

and two chairs on a stage and an audience sitting out in the open on all four sides.

This sparse setting is all that is needed for a typical Sumang Kumhei performance -- a minimalist Manipuri theatre form with a social message for the masses.

Literally meaning 'lawn en-tertainment', Sumang Kumhei employs the barest minimum of props.
Aided only by background mu-

sic and the imagination of the viewer to drive a narrative, it allows the proponents of the art form to pull off performances on topics that would normally be bound by the constraints of the stage.

Iboyaima Khuman, a renowned and celebrated Sumang Kumhei artiste-cum-director says, "We did a play on the September 11 at-



tacks. We did not need to create a building. And so at a very low budget our purpose is fulfilled."

Another element of the form is that the troupes are exclusively male. The female roles are

essayed by men known as Nupi Saba, who -- in their looks, bodily

"To imitate this is not possible for the others. We are gifted. We

gestures, attire and facial expressions -- embody the female form.

ing locally, nationally and internationally," says Sana Yaima. According to Santosh Athokpam, a popular Sumang Kumhei artiste who has been performing for 13 years, the form is popular because it attracts aucutting across class barriers who sit together and enjoy.

the audience," says Sana Yaima, a Nupi Saba artiste who has been performing

for nearly 25 years.
Sumang Kumhei can adapt nation

al and international issues to the local $% \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) =\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right$

context. Popular plays like 'Lidicegee

Gulab' bring the theme of anti-fascism

The play 'Ee Mari' of the Sana Lei-bak Nachom Artistes' Association de-

picts the importance of the endangered

brow antlered deer locally known as

ing medium. It has social and political content. It is spreading news to the

common people about what is happen-

'Sumang Kumhei is a message giv-

The real taste of being a Sumang Kumhei artiste is in the immediate response we get from the audiences. I feel the popularity of this genre lies in the fact that we feel closely connected dience wants and this makes us work hard and perform better every time," he

Sumang Kumhei in its present form is the result of various stages of flux

starting from the mid 19th century.
"It evolved in the form of 'Fagi
Kumhei' (farce) during the reign of Ningthou Chandrakirti in the 1850s while the performances we see to-day clearly evolved in the 1950s with the introduction of scripts, says Iboyaima.

According to Santosh, what makes this art form tick is the disciplined adherence to customs and rituals that have remained unchanged over the

"For instance making an entrance to the stage can only be from the north west or south west. Also, prior to the performance, the goddess 'Khangjeng Lairembi' has to be worshipped. The discipline one maintains has an immense effect on once's acting."

"Though we are able to attract the audience with contemporary trends like modern costumes and music, the traditional art form is not jeopardized. The format is not changed," he said.

The Winners and Losers of Antarctica's...

contd from pg04

current total ice-free area by near ly a quarter. The majority of this new ice-free land will be on the Antarctic Peninsula, which could have three times as much ice-free area as it does today.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

As the ice-free areas expand, the distances between them will decrease, giving plants and animals more opportunity to spread through the landscape. On the Antarctic Peninsula, which has already warmed more than anywhere else in Antarctica, many of the ice-free patches will expand so much that they will start joining together.
Will this increase in habitat

availability benefit the plants and animals that live there? It will definitely provide new opportunities for some native plants and animals to expand their range and colonise new areas. The warming climate may also give a boost to species that are currently hampered by the lack of warmth, nutrients and water. Some Antarctic mosses, for example, are expected to grow faster as temperatures rise, and Antarctica's two flowering plant species

are already expanding southward. However, the potential benefits seem likely to be outweighed by the negatives. The joining-up of habitat patches could allow species that have been isolated for much of their evolutionary past to meet suddenly. If the newcomers to a particular area outcompete

the native species, then it may lead to localised extinctions. Over the coming centuries this could lead to the loss of many plants and an-imals, and the homogenisation of Antarctica's ecosystems.

ANTARCTIC ALIENS

An even bigger concern is that Antarctica's great thaw could provide new opportunities for species to invade. Antarctica's best bulwark against non-native species is its harsh climate and extreme weather, to which native Antarctic species have spent many thousands of years adapting.

We already know that many

plants and invertebrates are reaching Antarctica, most often in food or cargo shipments. As the climate warms, some of these non-native species may be able to establish themselv on the Antarctic Peninsula, and the increasing connectivity will allow them to easily move through the landscape. Many of these animals and plants may become invasive. competing with the native species for space and resources.

We don't know how Antarctica's species will cope with the increasing competition. But if the sub-Antarctic islands provide any indication, the outlook is depressing. Australia's World Heritage-listed Macquarie Island, for example, was severely impacted by invasive cats, rats, rabbits and mice (although it has since been declared free of these pests after an intensive eradication effort).

Several non-native species have

already come to Antarctica, including the invasive annual meadowgrass Poa annua (a common weed around the world), which has colonised new-ly ice-free areas left behind by retreating glaciers. It is thought to outcompete Antarctica's native plants, although we don't yet know what the impact will be on animals.

Humans – both scientists and tourists – are key transporters of non-native species to the continent, and tourist numbers continue to grow (almost 37,000 visited in the 2016-17 summer).

Biosecurity is paramount for the ongoing protection of Antarctica. If bags, shoes, clothes and field equipment are not proper-ly cleaned and inspected before arriving on the continent, then non-native seeds, microbes and insects could be transported to Antarctica and begin to spread.

We call for protection of ice-

free areas that will remain intact in a changing climate, and for the Antarctic scientific and tourism communities to pinpoint key areas where greater biosecurity and monitoring for invasive species may be needed.

[Jasmine Lee is PhD candidate, biodiversity conservation and climate change, The University of Queensland; Justine Shaw is Conservation Biologist, The University of Queensland; Richard Fuller is Associate Professor in Biodiversity and Conservation, The University of Queensland]

MISSING CHILDREN FROM SIKKIM













speid@sikkimpolice.nic.in ALL THE POLICE STAT ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT, CB-CID, SIKKIM PO

Tendulkar bats for electric cars, backs govt move

RAIKIIMAR LEISHEMBA

MUMBAI, JUL 2 (PTI): From the humble Maruti-800 to the Rs 2.62 crore BMW i8 hybrid, Sachin Tendulkar has se driven and owned them all.

The cricket legend has now thrown his weight behind the government's plan to have an all electric car fleet by 2030 in India, saying the present generation has a responsibility to look after the planet and hand it over to the next in a better

Although the road to having environment-friendly mobility solutions is going to be long and winding, Tendulkar believes that it is never too soon to make a start with real

"It is about looking after the planet. It becomes our responsibility to look after the planet

US state

dept issues

Guardian

drone...

contd from pg01

nerved other countries

"We are extremely pleased that President

Trump and Prime Min-ister Modi have had ex-

cellent deliberations and

the path forward for a

game-changer in US-In-dia defence relations has

been charted," said Vivek Lall of General Atomics.

vious capacity at Boeing, was instrumental in the

sale of high-tech military

hardware to India, is be

lieved to have played a

role in convincing the

Trump administration to

accelerate the sale of the

ian's capabilities, such a

response to the Indian

Navy's request demon-

strates a major change in

US policy as this type of aircraft capability is only exported to a very select

few of America's closest

defence partners," he

gible implementation of US Congress' designation

of India as a 'Major De-fence Partner'," said Lall.

US Vice President Mike

Pence on the sidelines of the annual US-India

Business Council sum-mit, when Pence en-

dorsed the deal to pro-

vide India with Apache attack helicopters, C-17 transport aircraft, be-

sides the drones.

The deal is seen as the biggest tangi-

ble takeaway from the Trump-Modi meeting

towards the operation-

alisation of the major defence partner rela-

tionship. The India Navv

requested for the drones early last year.

On Tuesday, Lall met

"This represents tan-

"Given the Sea Guard-

drones.

said.

Lall, who in his pre-



and make sure that when the next generation takes over, it is in better shape," Tendulkar

He was responding to a query on his views on alter-native fuels and environmental-friendly mobility solutions, considering rising cover pollution in India.

Referring to the government's initiative to have an all

electric car fleet by 2030, he said it was a step in the right

I think the world is going in that direction," he said.

Yet, the master blaster, known for his whirlwind run scoring, sees the journey to eco-friendly vehicles being more like playing a long in-

nings in a Test match.
"That process is a lengthy

process, change is not going to happen overnight. Results are not going to happen overnight ... (but) somewhere, we need to start and we need to have that intent. As long as we all are moving in the right direction results will follow," Tendulkar

Being an automobile en-thusiast himself, he said electric vehicles can also provide what normal internal combustion engines offer.

Recollecting his experience of driving the i8 hybrid, Ten-dulkar said the electric motor of the car can offer power for sudden acceleration like other normal 'muscle cars'.

"My experience with i8 has been fabulous. It has some-thing to it because of the way it handles, power for sudden accelerations, instant braking He expressed optimism that with "many experienced brains working finding the right solution", expensive technologies such

and it's light weight," he said.

as the one used in i8 hybrid could make their way to mass market vehicles over a period of time.

In April this year, Power Minister Piyush Goyal had said that the government was look-ing at having an all electric car fleet by 2030 with an objective of lowering fuel import bill and running cost of vehicles.

Policy think-tank Aayog has also proposed giv-ing both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and subsidies to push sales of electric vehicles while discouraging the use of petrol and diesel-run

Sita turns warrior in Amish Tripathi's latest

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): After spinning alternative tales around Hindu mythological characters like Shiva and Ram, Amish Tripathi's latest book 'Sita- Warrior of Mithila' portrays the main female character of Ramayana in a stronger and braver role.

Written in a "multi-linear narrative", the second book in the 'Ram Chandra Series' tells the story of Sita, the princess of Mithila, from long before she was born, leading to her life af-

ter getting married to Ram.
Offering Sita an identity of
her own, Tripathi has developed the protagonist, which is different from her conventional portrayal as a coy and obedient wife of Ram, as she rises from an ill-tempered princess to a strong-headed warrior and milry strategist.
Instead of focusing on her



'Sita- Warrior of Mithila', Tripathi turns the spotlight on Sita's relationship with her mother

relationship with her sister Urmila also forms an im-

portant part of the narrative.

It gives a glimpse of Sita taking hold of the reins of Mithila when her father Janak gets occupied with spirituality.

Besides Sita, other female

colours of strength and valour.

VARRIOR OF MITHILA

COMING MID 2017

the slums to take the position of a high-ranked chief in the male dominated police force of Mithila, or Manthara, a powerful businesswoman taking revenge from Ram for the injustice done to her, each woman is independent and

intense in her own right.
Vivid descriptions warfare and the battle scars

Tripathi, who has planned four books in the current series, says that it was the new style of writing that took him so long to release the book.

Three of these books will simply tell the "backstory" of the three main characters -- Ram, three main characters -- Ram, Sita, and Raavan-- while the fourth will bring together all the narratives to a culmination.

"I have been inspired by a storytelling technique called hyperlink, which some call the multi-linear narrative. In such a narrative, there are many char-acters; and a connection brings them all together.

"The three main characters in the Ram Chandra Series are Ram. Sita. and Raavan. Each character has life experiences which mould who they are and their stories converge with the kidnapping of Sita. And each has their own adventure and riveting back-story," the author says.

Tickets for Vijender's bout go on sale

MUMBAI, JUL 2 (PTI): The online ticket sales of Indian boxing star Vijender Singh's showdown with Chinese Zulpikar Maimaitiali in a double title fight next month started today.

WBO Asia Pacific Su-per Middleweight Champion Vijender Singh will take on the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight champion in a winnertakes-all clash on August 5 at NSCI Dome The tickets Mumbai will be available on www.bookmyshow.com.

The tickets are priced from Rs 1200 12,000 in different categories. Tickets for general stands are divided into two categories, Purple and Blue stand are priced at Rs. 1200 and Bronze Stand for Rs. 1500.

The Ringside tickets are divided into three categories - Silver 3000, Gold 8000 and Diamond Rs. 12,000 respectively.

Speaking on fighting in Mumbai. Vijender said, "I love the city of Mumbai, the people here are very welcoming, the vibe of this city is very exciting. I hope a lot of people come out and support me. I am confi-



dent there will be loud cheering for me and people will enjoy watching the bout."

This will be an interesting fight since both the boxers are undefeated in their respective coun-tries and hold almost the same record of having fought 8 bouts since they turned professional.

Vijender Singh holds a record of 7 knockout wins which gives him an edge over his opponent who has 5 knockout wins under his name.

The event will feature other boxers in under-card fights.

The 2008 Olympic trio of Vijender Singh, Akhil Kumar and Jitneder Kumar will be seen after a gap of 9 years in the professional ring. WBC Asia Welter-

weight champion Neeraj Goyat, Pardeep Kharera. Dharmender Grewal and Kuldeep Dhanda are amongst the other names that will be a part of 'Bat-tleground Asia'.

Men make 2017 a summer of content for Indian...

contd from pg03

in between pushing and crossing over. If you don't push you won't get the result and if you push too much then there will be injuries.

So it is a tough call, there are no easy answers but we can't stop training hard." To reach optimum fitness and to face the growing de-mands of competition, the Gopichand academy is now creating an athreport after testing their genetic information

Looking at badminton's run, expectations have soared for 2020 Tokyo Olympics but Gopichand says his next challenge is to see the doubles players reaching the finals of big events "Doubles events is the

next challenge. I think we are getting there. Pra-naav-Sikki, Sikki-Ashwini doing well. Manu- Su-meeth, Chirag-Satwik, Shlok-MR, we are looking good. We have 6-8 dou-bles players qualifying at the World Championship," he said.
"Some of the players

are very young and there is a bunch of them com-ing and I'm sure we will have good results. The idea is to create more competitions, it will take time but when they come up they will be strong," he signs off.

relationship with Lord Ram, characters are also painted in Right-bankers want Teesta to be allowed its...

for the development of Dzongu and its people," said Sikkim Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker and Area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepchs while winding up a coordination meeting at Hee-Gyathang in Dzongu North Sik-

"Now I am taking your (anti-dam group) support for the welfare of the people and Dz-ongu," he said. The questionable viability of Teesta Stage-IV hydel project has been a persistent worry for him ever since he learned of the details after a visit to Delhi, he shared.

The coordination meeting also lashed out against the stand taken by the Dzongu Develop-ment committee and warned against any more efforts by NHPC to lure people over to its side.

The Dzongu MLA also reminded the meeting today that the public hearing for Teesta Stage IV held in 2012 was unanimously boycotted by the people of Dz-ongu and pointed out how only 12 persons from the right bank attended that public hearing.

The meeting was also attended by North Zilla Adhakshya,



Anguli Lepcha, Chairperson SNT, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, Joint Director HRDD North, Sonam Lepcha, panchayat members, employees, NGO representa-tives, members of Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association and the gener-

Delivering the welcome speech, the panchayat president Hee-Gyathang GPU, Samroo Ugen Lepcha underlined the agenda of the meeting.
Gyatso Lepcha, general sec-

retary-ACT, reiterated that ACT's position was clear and simple – "No More Dams in Dzongu". He applauded to Dzongu MLA for his position against Stage-IV and added that the Rahi Chu project also be postponed for the time

Tenzing Lepcha shared that

ACT was alone till recently in its fight against hydel projects, and welcomed the support it was now

Ugen Palzor Lepcha, an NGO representative underlined that the Save Dzongu Committee was an apolitical unit fighting to save Dzongu.

Dawa Lepcha, the former general secretary of ACT, stated that this meeting should be considered the final meeting when it comes to registering the opinion of the people of Dzongu

when it comes to hydel project.

Joint Director HRDD North, Sonam Lepcha explained that the Rahi Chu hydel project in Upper Dzongu was not a mega-project and would not entail the formation of a reservoir. It is being developed by Sikkim En-

gineering Pvt. Ltd which has five board members from Saffo-Salem Pakel villages.

Ugen Lepcha, president, Save Dzongu Committee, which was formed on 16 June 2017, explained the ideology of the organization and its future commitments. The meeting was also addressed by ACT president, Athup Lepcha, who spoke about the land survey and alleged that it had not been done properly earlier.

Chairneson SNT Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, urged that even though positions for and against the project have hardened, one should not forget that the people on the other side are also "our own people" and "we should bring them into confidence with discussions so that there is no ill-

will among our people".

The North Zilla Adhakshya also admitted today that their position in support of the project was a mistake and that there was initially much confusion among the people regarding the project. Now, most are convinced that the project was not advisable, she said, while calling for a united opposition to Stage-IV.

Top ASEAN leaders to attend 'Delhi...

contd from pg01

logue relations have grown rapidly from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992 to a full dialogue partner-

ship in December 1995. The relationship was further elevated with the convening of the ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 in

Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then the ASEAN-India Summit has been held

inually.

The leaders are also expected to have bilateral

meetings with the leadership here.

Apart from Singapore and Vietnam, the other ASEAN countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines,

Global assessment test that tracks learning launched in India



ΜΩΗΔΝΑ ΒΑΩΙΙ

New Delhi, Jul 2 (PTI): A global tool that can identify gaps in learning and help students im-prove academic skills has been launched in India.

Macmillan Education, a leading publisher of English lane school curriculum material, has now brought the ICAS programme to the Indian subcontinent.

ICAS, an independent skillbased assessment test known only by the abbreviation, is an initiative of the University of New South Wales in Australia.

It is a diagnostic tool that gives parents and teachers insight into students' capabilities

ssessing their problem-solving skills, logic and thinking.

Currently 14.500 schools in over 20 countries participate in ICAS and over 8.9 million stu-

dents are assessed by it.

"Existing exams across different educational boards are based on the school curriculum. Yash Mehta, Director of Macmillan Education India, told PTI. The ICAS assessment is the

first of its kind test in India. Most other exams that measure student aptitudes are competitive in nature. The ICAS assessment tests students on their skills which are compared against global benchmarks.

"The assessment will benefit

stakeholders at four levels - students, teachers, principals and the government," Mehta said.

The multiple choice tests pinpoint the areas which students need to strengthen. The data col-lected can also identify the performance of individual schools compared to regional, state or even global counterparts.

We are not interested in ranking students based on their performance; rather we want to help identify the learning gaps so that students can improve,

Developed by a team of subject experts, he said ICAS breaks through the traditional markers of evaluation which are based

"The programme helps iden tify a student's strength and weaknesses in specific skill ar-eas, which can drive better targeting of teaching and improve learning," Mehta said.

The programme starts from Class 2 and goes up to Class 12,

"We are going to start the programme with private schools. A number of leading schools across the country have already signed through," Mehta

Over the next 5 years, Macmillan aims to reach out to over 10,000 schools and about one million students in India.

China issues map to claim Indian troops' 'incursion' in Doklam

has released a map to back its claim that Indian troops "transgressed" into the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector, which it

claims as part of its territory.
In the map, released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, a blue arrow with markings in Chinese points Indian troops alleged transgression into the area to prevent the PLA troops from building a strategic road.

The map shows Doklam as

part of Chinese territory.

Bhutan has protested to China asserting that the area is part of its territory and Chinese action is vocative of 1988 and 1998 agreements.

The map is in addition to two photographs released on



Thursday purportedly showing Indian troops on the Chinese side of the border.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang displayed

the photographs of the alleged Indian "incursion" into the area during a media briefing.

Later, the ministry uploaded them on its website. One

photo showed two bulldozers stated to be that of the Indian military while another showed one bulldozer. A redline in the photos was showed as "Chinese side of the border".

ElseWhere

A standoff erupted be-tween the two militaries after the Indian Army blocked construction of the road by China in the Doklam area.

Of the 3,488-km-long India-China border from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, a 220-km section falls in Sikkim.

China alleged that the Indian troops "trespassed" the recognised delineated boundary between China and India on

India on Friday expressed deep concern over China con-

structing the road in the disputed area and said it had conveyed to Beijing that such an action would represent a sig-nificant change of status quo with "serious" security implications for India.

India's reaction follows a face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in the area, prompting Beijing to take a tough stance and demand withdrawal of Indian troops from the Sikkim sector as a precondition for "meaning-ful dialogue" to resolve the situation.

The stand-off between the Indian and Chinese troops led to the cancellation of the Kailash Mansarovar yatra through Nathu La in Sikkim.

GENERAL LAND FOR

SALE: An area measuring 50"x 50" ft at roadside below Yangang Bazzar at Yangang, South Sikkim is for sale. Expected Price Rs.12.50 lakhs (negotiable). Interested parties may 7047558497/ contact: 9593984403.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

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1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 90L 58772

Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 58772 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

09040 13659 17924 38595 46208

0065 53957 69011 71386 80561 3rd Prize Rs.9000/

14608 15456 20484 25575 38786

55471 61418 76640 80519 87087

th Prize Rs.1000/-. 1704 3997 4439 4490 6728 7413 7577 8060 8509 9261 th Prize Rs.600/-

1204 3536 3584 3635 4349 5201 5884 6372 7327 8677 th Prize Rs.250/-

0111 0284 0448 0464 0553 0564 0649 0717 0894 0899 .089 1093 1231 1333 1379 1535 1543 1552 1650 1767 1798 1863 1910 2208 2283 2559 2762 2805 2876 2915 2971 2985 3029 3208 3401 3469 3608 3688 3872 3934 945 3960 4132 4266 4300 4520 4521 4644 4692 4707

4737 5129 5472 5531 5533 5674 5813 5824 5859 6019 6025 6062 6122 6178 6251 6377 6469 6516 6560 6598 6673 6716 6744 6891 6908 7047 7057 7104 7130 7562 7622 7962 7966 7978 8296 8373 8600 8680 8875 8918 8939 9010 9049 9072 9217 9286 9377 9664 9740 9929

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The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall have joined Canada's Prime Minister and hundreds of thousands of people at a star-studded event to mark the nation's 150th birthday. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau kicked off the celebrations at the open-air event in the capital Ottawa by saying: "Canada is a country made strong not in spite of our differences but because of them. Prince Charles, who shared the stage with Mr Trudeau, praised the Commonwealth nation for their positive attributes, from championing human rights to being responsible stewards of the environment.

The unsung heroes who made GST a reality

New Delhi, Jul 2 (PTI): India ushered in a new economic reality with a 60-minute star-studded midnight gala at the imposing Central Hall of Parliament, thus becoming only the seventh country in the world to have a nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST).

But away from the media glare and relentless public commentary, there were men and women who worked tirelessly to bring to fruition the country's biggest taxation overhaul since Independence.

The rollout of the GST was in the making for over a decade, which was effected through an amendment to the Constitution and five supporting laws being passed by Parliament and state assemblies.

Since the passage of the Consti-tution Amendment bill in August 2016, there were over 175 officers' meetings and 18 sittings of the GST Council -- leading to 18,000-plus man hours of discussions for a smooth roll

out of the new tax regime.

A battery of Central and state government officials burnt the midnight oil to meet the July 1 target for launching the GST.

Official sources said as many as 30 sub-groups and committees worked tirelessly to devise rules and laws as well as fix tax rates for over 1.200 goods and services.

While the final decisions were taken by the GST Council comprising Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and his state counterparts, who met on an average twice a month in the last nine months, officials in the fitment and rate committees met thrice or four times a week to sort out differences between the Centre and states and present an

acceptable proposal to the Council.

Most of the state tax officers would camp at the national capital for the entire week during the meetings, before returning to their states over the weekend to look into issues there. The widespread deliberations of Central and state officials laid the groundwork for

the new law's implementation.
While Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia and CBEC chairperson Vanaja Sarna were at the forefront, Commissioner GST Upendra Gupta,

ultant in the Department of Revenue P K Mohanty, Joint Secretary (TRU) Alok Shukla, Chief Commis oner CBEC P K Jain, Commissioner CBEC Manish Sinha and many other Central officers ironed out numerous ues behind the scenes.

Among state officials, sources said innovative ideas came in from Commissioner Commercial Tax (CCT) Karnataka Ritvik Pandey, CCT Gujarat P D Vaghela, CCT Ma-harashtra Rajiv Jalota, Additional Secretary CT Bihar Arun Mishra. and Anwar Khalid Additional Commissioner, West Bengal.

All the state officers worked overtime to make the GST rates and rules as user-friendly as possible.

Joint Secretary Revenue Udai Kumawat was the man behind drafting of the GST Constitutional Amendment law as well the comensation to states law.

PK Dash (Director General-Training) manned the training academy preparing officers for the high-voltage reform which subsumes over 17 different taxes and transforms India

AI employees' union to meet, plan stir against privatisation

New Delhi, Jul 2 (PTI): Air India's largest em-ployees' union will hold its general body meeting here this week to "organise its members for a movement" against the government's decision to privatise the debt-ridden national carrier.
The Air Corpora-

tions Employees' Union (ACEU) is also planning to meet a group of min-isters to be set up by the government to look into the disinvestment of its stake in the airline.
The ACEU is a group-

ing of Air India's non-technical staff and comprises nearly 8,000 of the total

21,137 employees.
"The meeting will be held to enlighten the rank and file about the priva-tisation of Air India and how it will affect them. This will also be a forum to organise them as we plan a movement against the privatisation of the national carrier," said a member of the ACEU.

"The move is clearly aimed at benefiting private airlines. If the government is so concerned about the taxpayers' money, then why does it not recover Rs 7.5 lakh crore borrowed by corporates from public sector banks?" the member asked.

Seven unions of Air India have already joined hands to oppose the privatisation of the financially bleeding airline.

Their representatives met last month and wrote to Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ashok Gajapthi Raju, warning him of an "industrial unrest".

The letter was written jointly by the AI Air Cor-porate Employees Union, AI Employees Union, AI Aircraft Engineers' Association, United Air India

Officers' Association, AI Engineer's Association, AI Cabin Crew Associa-tion and AI Service Engineers' Association.

These unions will also hold talks with the two pilots' unions -- Indian Commercial Pilots' Association and Indian Pilots' Guild -- and Indian Aircraft Technicians' Association to bring them on board.

They have called NITI Aayog's report on Air India "arbitrary and unilateral" and said it was prepared without consulting the employees, who are the largest stakeholders.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

SINGAM RUBY MORNING
Draw time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:9 DrawDate on:02/07/17

1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 88G 02695

2710 14230 43297 45271 49693 5439 57090 68953 84010 90384

d Prize Rs.500/-34 1430 4475 5133 5818 6820 6867 7000 7192 7371

rize Rs.300/-1404 1619 1804 3560 3763 5044 5796 6076 6310 rize Rs.130/-

DEAR GENTLE EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards w No:114 DrawDate on:02/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 88H 42710

7212 07400 07747 41339 45615 8625 60045 61411 74771 86604

I Prize Rs.9000/-965 07933 19565 19700 39595 572 58056 62457 74877 76872 1 Prize Rs.1000/-67 0899 3673 5112 7715 8437 8664 9389 9574 9889

Prize Rs.600/-13186 5437 5953 6376 6808 7528 7591 8250 9069

th Prize R.250/03S 0150 0194 0430 0465 0572 0747 0780 0866 1003
162 1252 1316 1382 1420 1431 1697 1772 1798 2033
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056 2115 2133 2375 3398 4134 3190 4375 4709 4747
752 4794 4995 5044 5091 5102 5117 5373 5401 5835
879 5963 6152 6156 6254 6372 6406 6514 6632 6833
8899 7195 7240 7315 7362 7433 7445 7503 7524 7536
1488 8489 8513 8603 8679 871 8766 8789 8888 8941

9501 9539 9689 9787 985

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

on:02/07/17 Draw No:50 DrawDate on st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 98G 93744

01354 07944 23832 25576 51143

5931 31803 41180 59686 84833

h Prize Rs.1000/-.51 2913 3059 5324 5894 6510 7888 9068 9390 9954

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07/EU/06. 1324 FM - 1000 CH - 1000 C

SINGAM ZEAL EVENING

Draw No:21 DrawDate or st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 93B 60939 n:02/07/17

no Prize Rs.5,000/-7720 13593 18535 35714 60090 7599 82600 86669 93111 97845 rd Prize Rs.500/-150 3891 4765 5751 6613 7531 8635 8867 8985 9251

0.00 0130 0243 0250 0470 0700 0703 0600 0371 1139 1337 1363 1375 1398 1523 1642 1861 1915 1958 2046 1119 2132 2190 2515 2633 2644 2645 2743 2853 2920 1994 3042 3100 3420 3606 3633 3666 3785 3823 3925 1963 4052 4072 4086 4150 4212 4221 4303 4459 4551 905 4022 4026 4130 4130 4212 4221 4303 4433 4331 815 15124 5246 5340 5349 5551 5572 5600 5890 5906 909 6134 6367 6381 6643 6663 6821 7268 7308 7353 435 7460 7528 7572 7633 7645 7779 7818 7856 8164 212 8287 8327 8376 8558 8705 8774 8799 8990 9218

Nearly 100 Indian sailors stranded in UAE waters: Report

DUBAI, JUL 2 (PTI): About 100 Indian sailors aboard 22 ships have been stranded in UAE waters and have sought the help of the Indian Consulate General in Dubai, according to a media report.

Citing the Indian Consul General of Dubai, Vipul, the Gulf News said that the number of distress calls from Indian sailors stranded in

UAE waters had hit its peak this summer:
"We are currently dealing with cases of
22 ships. There are 97 Indians aboard these vessels," the diplomat said.

Though the exact number of crew members

belonging to other nationalities is not available with the Indian Consulate, the mission said there are sailors from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Myanmar and Pakistan also on these ships. "Outstanding salary, non-availability of food, fresh water, fuel, harsh living conditions

and no sign-off after the contract period are the major concerns voiced by the sailors," the mission said in reply to questions by the paper

Majority of the sailors have complained about not being paid by their employers for several months. They have also sought to sign off and fly home after receiving payment of their pending dues, the paper said.

The consulate said it had been contact-ing the owners and agents for settlement of the dues, provision of food, water and fuel, request for sign off, it added.

The mission has helped repatriate 36 sailors from six ships MV Gulf Pearl, MV Ayah, Enjaz 2, MV Salem, MVRock and Al Hamad 1 in the past few weeks, the daily said.

In some cases, the Consulate has been providing food, water and even fuel and recharge of their mobile phones, it added. Vipul said the mission had been taking up the issues of the stranded sailors, case by case, with the relevant authorities.

We alone cannot solve their problems, especially related to their pending salaries,

He also urged Indian seafarers to con-

duct proper checks on the credibility and financial status of shipping companies before joining them to avoid such situations.

Girish Pant, an Indian social worker, who

has been closely working with the consulate in aiding the stranded sailors, said the growing number of such cases is a big concern that authorities need to address immediately.

"I would like to request authorities to take strict action against such companies owners and agents. Most of them are not showing any humanitarian consideration to these sailors who have been stuck without salaries, food and water.

"The situation on some of these ships is really pathetic. Without fuel to operate the generator, they are suffering a lot in this scorching summer," he was quoted as saying by the Gulf paper.

Sailors from a couple of vessels have also been stranded in UAE waters following fire accidents on their ships.

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AKSHAY KUMAR SHARES FIRST LOOK OF OLYMPICS-BASED FILM GOLD

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, who has created waves with the trailer of his upcoming film Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, took to Twitter to share the first look of his next.

The national award-winning actor who has taken off to London captioned the monochrome first look as, "Set out on a brand new journey, aiming for nothing less than #GOLD! Day 1 of Gold, need your love and best wishes as always:)."In the photograph shared, a waistcoat-clad Akshay can be seen sporting a mustache, carrying a sling bag and striking an



intense pose for the camera.

The period sports drama is based on India's first Olympic medal win as a free nation in the year 1948 at Games of the XIV Olympiad, London and Akshay's tweet stands a testament to that The film to be directed by Reema Kagti and slated for the Independent Day release, marks the Bollywood debut of television actress Mouni Roy. The film also stars Amit Sadh and Kunal Kapoor in pivotal roles.

ADELE FANS FLOCK TO WEMBLEY TO SING IN HER HONOUR AFTER SHOWS CANCELLED

Adele can't sing for us, but we can sing for her,' say fans Adele might have been

forced to cancel the final two shows of her world tour but this has not stopped her fans from flocking to Wembley to perform their own renditions her songs. The pop superstar was left with no choice but to cancel her tour after damaging her vocal chords, telling fans she had been left "heart broken".

But rather than lamenting the news at home, fans ha shown support for Adele outside Wembley Stadium. This was sparked by a social

what's

TRENDING

media callout using the Sing For Adele hashtag urging people to perform their own rendition of her tracks

It said: "Adele can't sing for us, but we can sing for her".

Some devoted fans even brought guitars and microphones for their performances. What's more, the craze even spread as far as Oxford Street, where a girl per-formed with a piano in the middle of the pavement.Writ-ing in a Facebook event titled Sing for Adele, fans said: "It's

I think we should send her some love."

The event spreads across shows this week had been

plained: "I had to push a lot harder than I normally do... it turns out I have damaged my vocal cords. On medical advice, I am simply unable to perform over the weekend.

"I've considered doing Saturday night's show, but it's highly unlikely I'd even make it through the set and I simply can't crumble in front of you all and walk out on you in that way."

Celebrity names you're probably saying wrong



Wonder Woman, Gal AGadot can do anything apart from getting people to pronounce her name correctly

You've probably been calling her Gal Gah-dote or Gal Gah-doh all this time. Or maybe you're not at all sure and have been mumbling her surname, hoping no one will

But the Israeli actress recently cleared up the confu-sion by telling Jimmy Kimmel it's actually pronounced Gal Gad-dott.

She's not the only one who's struggled with name issues. Here are a few other famous faces whose name you may have been saying LONG DRIVE HOLIDAY +91 9830200785

ARCTIC CIRCLE

CONTACT:

WANTED ON LEASE

WANTED HOUSE OR FLAT ON RENT OR LEASE FOR HOME STAY IN GANGTOK-RAVANGLA-PELLING ON LONG TERM BASIS.

fair to say that Adele could do with a pick me up right now. "She's just had to cancel

her last two shows because of damage to her vocal chords, and she's absolutely gutted.

two days, meaning loyal fans will be there again today at 8pm performing as well. In the early hours of Saturday, Adele posted a long apology to her fans for being forced to cancel Saturday and Sunday's shows. The 29-year-old said her first two Wembley

"the biggest and hest shows of my life", but that she had really struggled vocally.She ex-



VORLD HISTORY

1790: In Paris the Marquis of Condorcet proposed granting civil

rights to women.

1844: U.S. Ambassador Caleb
Cushing successfully negotiated
a commercial treaty with China
that opened five Chinese ports
to U.S. merchants and protected
the rights of American citizens in

China. **1907:** A Papal decree, a Charter issued by a Roman Catholic Pope, forbade the modernization of the-

ology.

1912: Elizabeth Taylor, novelist and short story writer, was born.

1950: American and North Korean forces clashed for the first time in the Korean War. U.S. carrier-based planes attacked airfields in the Pyongyang-Chinnampo area of North Korea in the first air-strike of the Korean War.

1989: The movie "Batman," set a record of quickest \$100 million graph



Dr. RAIEN IIPADHYAY

diate arrest of Tilak by the British on charges of sedition and was sentenced to a jail term from 1908 to 1914 in Mandalay in Burma. 1947: Hindu Mahasabha observed the "Black Day" against the Mountbatten Plan for the Partition of India on religious demographics.

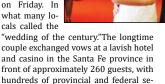
LOCKHORNS I WAS TRYING TO LEARN THE POKEMON GAME

ND THIS IS WHERE IT TOOK ME.

CAR RADIO LOUDER?

LIONEL MESSI MARRIES CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART ANTONELA ROCCUZZO IN LAVISH ARGENTINA WEDDING

ionel Mes-₄si married his childhood sweetheart, Antonela Roccuzzo, in their h o m e t o w n of Rosario, Argentina, on Friday. In what many locals called the



curity guards on hand. The celebrities in attendance included the groom's . Barcelona t e a m m a t e s Luis Suarez, Neymar and Gerard Piqué, in

addition to Piqué's wife, pop star Shakira.The bride's stunning dress, which featured a heart-shaped lace back and a sweeping train, was crafted by famed Spanish designer Rosa Clara. Messi, 30, and Roccuzzo, 29, met in Rosario when they were 5 years old. They reunited several years ago, long after he moved to Spain at the age of 13 to further his soccer career."That he chose his city, to choose Rosario to come to marry, to bring his companions of Barcelona and other guests to discover the city that saw him grow ... it's just who Leo is," Messi's former coach Enrique Domínguez told CNN ahead of the ceremony. "A guy with affection, with memory, a grateful guy because being who he is, he could have been married in the best place in the world."Messi and Roccuzzo share sons Thiago, 4, and Mateo, 21 months.







ARIES: Today you will tend to analyze your life. You will think analyze your life. You will think about your lifestyle and the food you eat. Are you eating foods that are good for your body? Are you exercising enough? The stars will help you focus on your health. Health-promoting activities are recommended today, Aries. Try to

but you need to keep an eye on your strong personality and let oth-ers express themselves. Try to stay

vigilant. You can't impose your views on other people all the time. GEMINI: Some people have a tendency to be shy. They almost apologize for being alive. For them, it's recommended today, Arres. Iry to relax and find a sport you enjoy. TAURUS: The next few weeks will be full of changes in your per-sonal life, Taurus. Your relation-ships will evolve. You have con-vivial relations with your friends,

essential to keep a low profile. You probably think that you're like this, but you're mistaken, Gemini. You need a bit of reassurance. There a on or reassurance. There are a lot of interesting things inside you that need to come out. Believe in yourself. CANCER: You're a real master of seduction, Cancer. For quite some time, you've been able to draw a number of people to you. It seems that no one can resist

your charms. But today you will start thinking about this process of seduction. Even if you appreciate luxury, you should be careful and stay vigilant.

FC

stay vigilant.

LEO: You're a real charmer.

None of your friends can resist
you, Leo. Today you should try to
put the finishing touches to your
personality. Indeed, you will be
able to benefit from the planetary
alignment as you interact with
others. You will look for a little
more authenticity in your personal more authenticity in your personal and professional relations

VIRGO: The day will be calm and quiet, Virgo. You feel strong-

ly about finishing whatever you undertake. You probably have the opportunity to add the final chang-es to some projects you've been working on. This reorganization will give you some spare time, which will probably enable you to meet some very interesting people. meet some very interesting people. LIBRA: You're very tolerant to-ward a particular person in your entourage, which is probably due to your generous nature, Libra. You think everyone should have his or her own experiences and setbacks. After all, we learn from our mistakes. Sometimes you ar-en't very humble, but your friends are lucky to have someone they

SCORPIO: Today you may have a difference of opinion with a rel-ative. You will try to resolve this problem. You will be irritated by this present situation, and almost feel that your relationship has feel teel that your relationship has been altered for good. There is probably just a lack of communi-cation between you. You have to try to work things out together. SAGITTARIUS: You're an emotional person, Sagittarius. You can easily be destabilized by

omething you read in the news or see on television. Why are you addened or hurt by the problems

of the world? If you've felt some violence surrounding you lately, you will be happy to know that you can heal your wounds today.

CAPRICORN: The time has come to focus on your personal life, Capricorn. Your life has certainly had ricom. Your life has certainly had its moments. During the past few months, it has been especially full of new and deep emotions. If you're persistent about keeping your determined frame of mind and course of action, you will attain the goals you've set for yourself.

AQUARIUS: Even though you should watch your finances you should watch your finances, you have a tendency to spend a lot of

money, Aquarius. Happily, you have the opportunity to make a lot of profit. Your investments are solid, and you will soon benefit from them. Don't spend your newfound wealth on frivolous things. You will fulfill your objectives if you're vioilant. tives if you're vigilant.

PISCES: You often neglect your health and body. Your equilibrium suffers from this, Pisces. The time has come to consider a medical checkup just to be on the safe side. You love to discover new things. Your thirst for knowledge incites you to expend a lot of energy. Try to find the time to rest and relax. Avoid all unnecessary effort.

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