

# Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Trio carrying M16 rifle arrested in Kalimpong



### SUMMIT REPORT

**KALIMPONG, 09 FEB:**

Kalimpong Police has arrested three persons from Gorubathan area who were carrying an M16 assault rifle. The three include one driver from Jalpaiguri and two Manipuri youth.

Kalimpong Superintendent of Police, Ajeet Singh Yadav said, "We have arrested two Manipuri youth and one driver from Jalpaiguri

from Gorubathan area on Thursday. They were carrying an M16 rifle, a highly sophisticated weapon which is used by the US Army."

The trio was traveling in a Wagon R when they were stopped at Pan Dara area of Gorubathan.

Minlun Lenthang and Lalchungnung Sinson hail from Manipur while Chandan the driver hails from Jalpaiguri, informed Mr Yadav.

Kalimpong Police today produced all three before the Kalimpong District Court which sent them to four days of police remand.

"We will interrogate the trio on what the motive was behind bringing such a highly sophisticated weapon to Kalimpong District. Whether they have any link with militant groups, we will look into all the aspects," said the Kalimpong SP.

## Govt pursuing "feku federalism" and "arrogance": Oppn in RS

**NEW DELHI, FEB 9 (PTI):**

Opposition parties in Rajya Sabha on Friday accused the BJP-led government of "feku federalism" and "arrogance", saying the union budget was a "betrayal" of the farmers and warning the ruling party not to mislead the people.

This "feku federalism (of the Centre) won't do", an angry Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress said while referring to the burden imposed on states for railway infrastructure development.

Participating in the resumed debate on the 2018-19 budget, Neeraj Shekhar of the Samajwadi Party said the budget was a "betrayal" of the people, especially farmers who were still committing suicide and being

forced to sell their produce in the market below the minimum support price.

He said there was a "veil of arrogance" shrouding the BJP people which the countrymen will have to recognise.

Shekhar also asked why people were paying Rs 75 per litre of petrol now when the crude prices are USD 68 per barrel and said they were paying the same price when the crude prices had skyrocketed to USD 140 per barrel and sought to know the kind of arithmetic behind this.

On the issue of non-performing assets (NPAs), he sought details on the loans given to big corporates since 2014 when the BJP-led government

turn to pg03

## SBI reports Q3 net loss of Rs 1,887 cr

**MUMBAI, FEB 9 (PTI):** The SBI Group on Friday reported a massive Rs 1,886.57 crore net loss for the December quarter of current fiscal as its bad loans and provisions spiked.

It had, in contrast, reported net profit of Rs 2,152.14 crore for the October-December quarter of the last fiscal, 2016-17.

The nation's largest lender saw its net bad loans ratio spiking to 5.61 per cent of advances, from 4.24 per cent during the third quarter of 2017-18.

The gross dud assets ratio jumped meanwhile from 7.23 per cent to cross the double digits mark at 10.35 per cent during the quarter under review.

In absolute or gross terms, the bank at the standalone level had Rs 1,99,141.43 crore of its assets as non-performing, up from Rs 1,08,172.32 crore in the comparable period in 2016.

Similarly, its net non-performing assets almost doubled to Rs 102,370.12 crore, up from Rs 61,430.45 crore, State Bank of India said in an exchange filing.

The bank saw its non-interest income decline by 29.75 per cent, from Rs 11,507 crore to Rs 8,084 crore, as net interest income plunged due to mark-to-market losses from its treasury operations.

Similarly, non-fee income fell 18.38 per cent from Rs 14,401 crore to Rs 11,755 crore.

Fee income rose from Rs 4,710 crore to Rs 4,979 crore -- a growth of 5.71 per cent.



## Eco Tourism cum Losar fest held in Ganchung Rukumtar GPU

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 09 FEB:**

Ganchung Rukumtar Gram Panchayat in collaboration with local residents organized 'Eco Tourism cum Losar Festival' at Rukumtar under Temi Namphing Constituency today. The programme had Minister for Social

Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Tulshi Devi Rai as the chief guest, a press release informs.

The objective of the festival, as informed by the organizers, is to promote eco-tourism and turn Rukumtar into one of the eco-tourism destinations in Sikkim. The fes-

tival also aims to promote traditional food, cuisines and attire especially of the Sherpa community.

Minister Tushi Devi Rai in her address urged the gathering to embrace the message of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling 'Aafno Gaon Afai Banao' and said that the villagers are the ultimate decision

makers.

Citing the example of Mawlynnong, the cleanest village of India, she said that Rukumtar too can become one of the cleanest villages of the country, thereby contributing in maintaining the image of Sikkim as the cleanest State of India.

Also present were Zilla Adhyaksha (South), Farwanti Tamang, Zilla Upadhaksha, Bhim Lakhey, Advisor to Commerce and Industries, Kumari Thapa, Additional District Collector (South), Block Development Officer, Gram and Zilla Panchayats amongst others.

## Need to take holistic view of people's right to protest: SC

**NEW DELHI, FEB 9 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court today said it needs to take a holistic view of protecting the fundamental rights of citizens to protest, as well as protection of environment and rights of commuters, while earmarking the space for agitations in Delhi.

The Centre today sought time from the apex court saying deliberations are on to earmark a particular place in Delhi, where the citizens can exercise their right to protest.

A bench of justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan granted two weeks time to the Centre to file

a comprehensive reply after taking a holistic view of the situation and posted the matter for further hearing on March 5.

The counsel appearing for the Centre said that deliberations are being held at the ministry level for arriving at a solution after taking a holistic view and earmark a space in Delhi, where citizens can stage their protest.

On December 4 last year, the apex court had said that proper guidelines should be framed on the issue of right to protest so as to ensure a balance between the fun-

turn to pg03

## "Football still my passion"- women's football pioneer Puspa Chettri

### REBYNA RANA

**GANGTOK, 09 FEB:**

Puspa Chettri [Gurung] is synonymous with women's football in Sikkim. She is the first international woman footballer from Sikkim and also the first Asian Football Confederation [AFC] accredited woman coach.

Born in a remote village in Dodak, West Sikkim on 19 Nov, 1972, 45-year-old Ms Puspa got interested in football at a very young age.

Sharing her journey with Summit-Times, Ms Puspa said, "I always loved watching my elders play football. My elder brother was a good footballer. I used to see people dribbling and kicking the ball and a panicked goalkeeper running from one post to another positioning himself to save the goal. When the ball went out of the field during play I was always the first to collect it and kick it back to the players."

"I was fortunate to be born in a big family with three elder brothers and five elder sisters. I had all the liberty to play after school. I watched my brothers play



this beautiful game and learnt from them. The boys used to hesitate to include me in their game initially but they gradually started accepting me in their team," ex-

pressed Ms Puspa.

At the age of 11, she got selected in the school team for an inter-school tournament in 1983. She has not looked back

ever since.

"Gradually, interest turned into passion and I dedicated my time to football. In 1985, I represented Sikkim in a national game in Lucknow. Subsequently, in the same year, I represented Sikkim in the VII Federation Cup Women's Football Championship in Assam and Xth National Women's Football Championship in Manipur. The biggest achievement of my football career came in December 1985 when I was selected for the All India Women's Football Camp in Delhi. I was only 15 years old then and played an international tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia in January 1986," informed Ms Puspa.

"It was an extremely proud moment for me coming from a small village in West Sikkim," she added.

Ms Puspa went on to represent West Bengal in March 1986 for India Gold Cup as Sikkim did not participate then. As her passion for football grew, she started playing in various national championships till 1989.

"Unfortunately, football for women in

Sikkim did not offer opportunities back then so as to develop it into a lifelong career. In 1990, I got married and started a family. I hardly had time to think about football again. To my surprise in the late 90s, Soreng Senior Secondary School, my alma mater, felicitated me during its golden jubilee celebration for which I am grateful. A series of felicitations followed from people of Dodak, Gyalshing School, Bhanu Jyanti Samiti, Gyalshing, etc."

Ms Puspa gives credit to Sikkim Football Association for inspiring her to get back to the game of football again.

"I express my gratitude to SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, and SFA executive committee members for motivating me to undergo training in football coaching conducted by Asian Football Confederation in July 2006 where I acquired 'C' coaching license to be the first woman from Sikkim to play international football and the first woman football coach from my State. Football is still my passion and not a livelihood," said Ms Puspa.

Power supply yet to reach all villages alleges BJP Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 09 FEB:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that Power Department has been failing to provide power supply to some villages of Sikkim. A BJP press release informs that many families in Mengli village under Rangrang-Yangang constituency in South Sikkim are still deprived of power supply.

The party has alleged of corruption in the State with Sikkimese being deprived of power supply even after having more than two dozen hydel power projects in the State. The release further alleges that the people of Sikkim have been paying power bills at high rates and that Sikkimese have not benefitted from these hydel power projects in the State.

The party has also demanded that the government issue a white paper on the utilization of CSR funds given by pharma and power projects in the State.

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## AR Rahman to perform on SDF Day celebration

NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 09 FEB:

AR Rahman is slated to perform in the State with a special song on SDF Day celebration, informed SDF spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen during a meeting held at the party headquarter in the capital today.

Panchayats, Zilla members, Councillors and members of Sikkim Democratic Front from Syari constituency attended the meeting. Mr Gyaltsen, who is also the party in-charge of Syari, attended the programme as chief guest.

In his welcome note, president, Constituency Level Committee, Sonam Tashi Bhutia, informed that the chief aim of the meet is



to discuss the forthcoming SDF Day celebrations and various other issues pertaining to the constituency. Carpeting and sewer-

age of Kopibari road and Nandok road were some chief demands of the constituency. Zilla Panchayat, PT

Lepcha, urged all stakeholders and party members to work in unity. "During elections we have assured voters that

their demands would be fulfilled. Now we have to deliver it," said former MLA, Kunga Zangpo.

Chief guest Mr Gyaltsen urged all party members and Panchayats to connect with the party ideologically. He further held that members should take their responsibilities seriously and end all kinds of groupism and factionalism in the party.

He also assured the elected Panchayats that all the grievances and suggestions from their areas are being considered by the state government.

Mr Gyaltsen asked all Panchayat members to list genuine beneficiary demand list so that projects particularly the housing scheme can be implemented at the earliest.

## SDF holds orientation programme in Mangan

WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 09 FEB:

Sikkim Democratic Front conducted a daylong conference cum orientation programme of district level party functionaries on 08 Feb at North District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan in Mangan, North Sikkim.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, who is also SDF vice president in-charge [West].

A presentation on the party's developmental and disciplinary progress with focus on smart politics was made during the meet. It also discussed various awareness programmes on mass production of organic products and innovative startups and entrepreneurship.

Remodelling and shaping of the party and its future programme proposals were also discussed along with devising strategies to cope with challenges likely to be faced



by the party in the upcoming election.

The meeting highlighted on communicating and building organizational relations with the youth while welcoming creative and innovative suggestions for strengthening the party.

Also present at the conference were Member of Par-

liament, Rajya Sabha cum SDF vice president in-charge [North], Hishey Lachungpa, VP in-charge [East], DB Thapa, VP in-charge [South], GC Rai, president [North], Khamsoom Lepcha, publicity in-charge, Krishna Lepcha, Zilla Adhakshya [North], Namday Lepcha, SNT Chairperson cum

SDF youth convenor, Pinto Namgyal Lepcha, Chairperson, State Social Welfare Board, Phurmith Lepcha, Chairperson, State Civil Service, Sumitra Subba, Mangan Nagar Panchayats, Zilla Panchayats and Panchayats from North district and other SDF party functionaries.

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## Opp MPs meet president, ask for SIT into Loya's death

NEW DELHI, FEB 9 (PTI): Opposition MPs today petitioned President Ram Nath Kovind for a court-monitored SIT probe into the death of CBI judge B H Loya and said they have no faith in either the CBI or the NIA.

MPs from several political parties, including the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and the DMK, met the president and presented him a memorandum with the demand.

The memorandum has been signed by 114 MPs from 15 parties, including the TMC, SP, NCP, DMK, RJD and AAP as well as the Left parties. The BSP is not a signatory to the letter.

"To uphold the majesty of law, we request you to intervene in the matter. What is required is a thorough investigation through a team of independent officers selected and monitored by the Supreme Court," the memorandum stated.

The investigation should not be entrusted to either the Central Bureau of Investigation or the National Investigation Agency, given their track record, the MPs said.



"Such a procedure will ensure the credibility of the institution in the eyes of the public. We sincerely hope you will use your good offices to serve the cause of justice," they told the president.

Loya, who was hearing the sensitive Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case, died of a cardiac arrest in Nagpur on December 1, 2014, when he had gone to attend the wedding of a colleague's daughter.

Rahul Gandhi, who led the opposition charge, said a large number of MPs felt that there is something suspicious in the death of Loya and two more that took place thereafter.

"A large number of MPs feel suspicious and

uneasy over the death of judge Loya and two others. They wanted an independent probe and did not want the investigation to be handed over to the CBI," Gandhi said after the meeting.

He said the president gave a positive response and has assured them that he would look into the matter.

"Two of judge Loya's alleged confidants have also subsequently died under suspicious circumstances. Srikant Khandalkar, a public-spirited lawyer in Nagpur, allegedly fell from a high-rise building in the District Court on November 29, 2015 and Prakash Thombre, a retired District Judge, allegedly died on May 16, 2016 falling

from the upper berth in a train," according to the memorandum.

The leaders have also written in the memorandum that they believe that "lives of judges and lawyers are jeopardised for doing their duty, then democracy is under grave threat.

Recently four senior most judges of the Supreme Court also expressed the sentiment that democracy was in peril."

Stating that they have no faith in either the CBI or the NIA, Gandhi said they wanted an independent SIT, like in the 2G case.

"Because we know what CBI officers do. In the case of Sohrabuddin (Sheikh fake encounter), CBI officers did not appeal (against the discharge of BJP president Amit Shah). We do not have any faith in them," Congress leader Kapil Sibal said.

The issue came under the spotlight in November last year after media reports quoting his sister fuelled suspicion about the circumstances surrounding his death and its link to the Sohrabuddin case.

## Indian Army chief to visit Nepal on Feb 13

KATHMANDU, FEB 9 (PTI): Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat will embark on a three-day visit to Nepal next week to attend the Himalayan nation's Army Day and Maha Shivaratri celebrations, according to Army sources here.

The Indian Army chief and Nepal Army chief Gen Rajendra Chhetri will hold bilateral talks at Nepal Army headquarters during the visit beginning February 13,

said Nepal Army sources without giving further details.

Rawat's trip is a regular visit and there is a tradition of exchange of visits between the chiefs of the two armies.

Rawat's visit comes days after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Nepal.

Swaraj visited Nepal on February 1 where she called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime

Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and held talks with CPN-Maoist Centre chairman 'Prachanda'.

Meanwhile, US Army Pacific Commanding General Robert B Brown held bilateral talks with Chhetri at the Army Headquarters.

During the meeting they discussed matters relating to bilateral interest and mutual cooperation, according to a statement by the Nepal Army

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**Indian journalist among two scribes held in Maldives**

**MALE, FEB 9 (PTI):** Two foreign journalists, including an Indian national, have been detained in the Maldives for working in the country in violation of its immigration rules, the Maldivian police said today amid political turmoil in the island nation.

"Two journalists (a British national and an Indian national) have been handed over to @ImmigrationMV to take action against them for working in Maldives against Maldives Immigration Act and Regulations," Maldives police tweeted, without naming them.

**Pb govt mulling creation of district cadres for teachers: CM**

**CHANDIGARH, FEB 9 (PTI):** Punjab Chief Minister Amrinder Singh today said the government is mulling the creation of

**Kolkata to spend weekend with Gaelic music**

**KOLKATA, FEB 9 (PTI):** The British Council and the Indian Museum, Kolkata, have joined hands with Scotland arts centre 'An Lanntair' for a live music concert in the city tomorrow.

"Yatra; Journey, a live music concert" will be a tribute to Scottish army officer Colin Mackenzie, who travelled from the Isle of Lewis to Indian shores in 1783 to study about the culture and languages of the country, De-

banjan Chakrabarti, the director of British Council East and North East India, told PTI today.

"The programme will see a confluence of Indian classical music and Gaelic songs from Scotland. There is an eclectic mix of musicians involved in this project," he said.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of British Council in India, Chakrabarti said, adding that the concert is musical hom-

age to the epic journey Mackenzie made to India.

UK-based Tabla player Dalbir Singh Rattan, one of the participants of the concert, said the 12 'Sur' (musical notes) is the same for both western and Indian music.

"No matter what the country, music speaks the same language everywhere," he said.

Catherine Maclean of An Lanntair said, "We worked on this project for five years. There

is a huge collection of Mackenzie's souvenirs at Indian Museum and Asiatic Society."

The museum has also organised a Colin Mackenzie exhibition on this occasion, Maclean said.

Mackenzie, a Scottish army officer in the British East India Company, became the first Surveyor General of India in 1810. He was an orientalist and a collector of antiquities.

**Assam Assembly adjourned as no minister present in House**

**GUWAHATI, FEB 9 (PTI):** The Assam Assembly was today adjourned as no minister was present in the House when it assembled for the afternoon session.

The opposition Congress and AIUDF claimed that this is a "shameful episode" in the history of Assam Assembly that never occurred earlier.

This prompted the Deputy Speaker Dilip Kumar Paul, who was running the House at that time, to warn everyone so that it never takes place again.

"We all are respected members. I request all to maintain dignity. There was no quorum

for 4-5 minutes. Then there was no minister. We should be careful from next time so that no such things happen again," he said as soon as the House reassembled after the adjournment.

After the House assembled in the afternoon at 3 pm post the lunch break, business did not start because of lack of quorum, which requires presence of 21 members out of the 126 MLAs.

The House bell kept on ringing for almost seven minutes, following which the quorum was achieved with few more members entering.

However, as soon as the Deputy Speaker wanted to start the

business with the scheduled discussion on Motion of Thanks of the Governor's Speech, the opposition pointed out that no minister was present in the House.

"If the ministers are such irresponsible, then how can the House run?" Congress MLA Abdul Khaleeq said and requested the shouting BJP members to ask their alliance partner AGP's senior leaders Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and Pabindra Deka about the rules.

AIUDF member Aminul Islam asked who will listen to the grievances of the people if there is no government representative.

With no minister present even after 10 minutes, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House for 15 minutes.

Congress MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi said: "It's a day of shame. Assam Assembly never witnessed such a shameful incident in its entire history."

After that, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary entered the House and sat in his position without uttering anything, although some ruling party MLAs were seen whispering in his ears.

The ongoing Budget Session began on February 6 this week and will continue till April 6.

district cadres for teachers to ensure that they remain posted in the same area, thus leading to social pressures on them to perform.

He stated this during discussions with researchers and professors of the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) here on a range of issues, including education and skill development, raising farm incomes and crop diver-

sification.

The state government is also trying to involve corporates in a big way to boost the standard of education in the state through their CSR (corporate social responsibility) programmes, an official release said here.

Expressing concern over the challenges in education in the state, especially in rural areas, the Chief Minister underlined the need to take up its upgradation on top

priority, the release said.

The government was exploring various avenues to raise the quality of both, school and higher education, and also to empower youngsters with the necessary skills to make them gainfully employable, said Amarinder.

The state government was planning to use ITIs as skill centres after their closing time at 5 pm to provide state-wide skill development facilities to youth, he said, listing it as

one of the ways in which the available resources were being optimized to maximise benefit, in view of the constrained fiscal condition of the state.

CRRID, on its part, suggested an employment policy to enable the state government to intervene in matters related to employment.

Pointing out that Punjab was giving the maximum loan waiver despite the financial problems faced by the

**Need to take holistic view of people's right to protest: SC**

**contd from pg01**  
damental right of the citizens to protest and the maintenance of law and order.

The apex court's observation had come as it issued notice to the Centre and the Delhi Police on a plea seeking to declare as illegal the banning of all assemblies and protests in central Delhi and the New Delhi area.

The plea had said that continuous imposition of prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was an "arbitrary and unreasonable restriction" on the fundamental rights of citizens to hold peaceful protest.

The plea, filed by NGO Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, had challenged the "repeated imposition" of orders by Delhi Police under section 144 of the CrPC, saying it virtually declared the entire central Delhi as a prohibited area for holding any public meeting, dharna or peaceful protest.

The petition, filed through advocate Prashant Bhushan, has sought directions to formulate guidelines for holding public meetings, dharnas, peaceful demonstrations in parts of New Delhi.

"As per sub-section 4 of Section 144 CrPC, an order can be issued for a maximum period of two months. Therefore, the Delhi Police has adopted the tactic of issuing the same order repeatedly," the plea said.

It also sought to quash several orders passed by police from January to October last year by which the entire Central or New Delhi areas were declared prohibited areas.

The National Green Tribunal had on October 5 entirely banned protests at Jantar Mantar near Connaught Place on the ground that it created nuisance for the local residents and violated environment protection statutes.

The plea before the apex court has claimed that, "With the NGT order banning protests at Jantar Mantar, it is evident that distancing a protest site from where it is most visible to the government and concerned authorities, will have the effect of diluting the impact that the protest seeks to gain."

"Besides the cost of using Ramlila Maidan for protests is Rs 50,000 per day which would make protests at the site practically impossible for the common citizens," it said.

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**Govt pursuing "feku federalism" and "arrogance"...**

ment came to power.

On claims over Rs 71,000 crore being deposited into Jan Dhan accounts, Shekhar asked how much was deposited in these accounts after November 8 when demonetisation was announced.

"I appeal to the Government not to misguide the farmers, youth and the minorities," Shekhar said.

With BJP ally TDP members holding placards inside the Well demanding special status for Andhra Pradesh, YSRC MP V Vijayasai Reddy asked Basawaraj Patil, who was in the Chair, how come the TDP was protesting without resigning from the Union Cabinet.

When some members including those from TDP began shouting slogans as Trinamool Congress member Derek O'Brien stood up to speak, he assured the protestors that he completely sympathised with their cause.

"We know you are deprived.. We are with you Andhra, you (TDP) have to move now from that (Treasury benches) side to this (Opposition) side," O'Brien said.

Observing that Congress leader P Chidambaram had sought answers to 12 questions on the budget from the Finance Minister, O'Brien solicited replies from Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on 12 queries relating to his ministry.

Asking if railways was a union subject, why were the states being asked to bear the expenditure for its infrastructure creation, he said "this feku federalism (of the Centre) won't do" and the states should not be cheated.

O'Brien asked why the Depreciation Reserve Fund provi-

sion was slashed to Rs 500 crore in the Railway Budget from Rs 5,000 crore. He said the compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of the Railways which was 6 per cent earlier had come down to 2 per cent in the last 3.5 years in the NDA regime.

The TMC leader also questioned the commercial viability policy of the government, saying there was talk of 8 railway routes in Bengal being shut.

To this, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament had suggested it, but the issue was resolved after Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha's intervention.

O'Brien also questioned the government over job creation, saying 1.25 lakh safety job posts in Railways were lying vacant.

"We told you (Government) not to implement GST in July.

You have kept a provision of Rs 55,000 crore for compensation to states in the Budget but the compensation during the first six months alone was Rs 40,000 crore, which implies it will be Rs 80,000 crore for the entire year. From where will you bring the remaining Rs 55,000 crore," he asked.

CP Narayanan of the CPI(M) said the Centre's share has reduced in the centrally sponsored schemes whereas the states were being burdened. He also raised the issue of farmers' suicides, and said unless the mistakes are rectified, the future is bleak.

S Muthukaruppan (AIADMK) said "We were an ally when Jay-alalithaa was alive and our party has supported the BJP at crucial times," but funds have not been given to the state.

Referring to the devastation caused by cyclone Vardah,

Muthukaruppan said "We had requested Rs 25,000 crore from the Centre for rehabilitation but not a single rupee has been given". He also sought a drought package for the south eastern state of Tamil Nadu.

He demanded nationalisation and inter-linking of all rivers in South India, so that water from Cauvery river can be distributed to all parts of the state. He alleged that there was politicisation of the Cauvery Water dispute.

Vandana Chavan (NCP) raised issues relating to nursery, primary and secondary education and said one million teaching posts are lying vacant and the training programmes for them have failed to take off.

Stating that this year's budget was most challenging one since government came to power, SAD leader Naresh Gujral urged the government to fulfill the promise of providing MSP 50 per cent more than the cost of production.

"The next crop will come in the next two months. Farmers are expecting a good deal. Don't let them down. I will not get into the formula (of fixing the MSP). I hope they will get a good deal," he said.

Farmers commit suicides due to debt caused because of inadequate returns, health problem and marriage expenses. The government has announced steps to take care of first two problems. "It must be honoured in letter and spirit."

N Gokulakrishnan (AIADMK) sought 20 per cent increase in the central assistance to Puducherry as the Union Territory is facing tight budget. He also asked the government to implement pending demand of providing a rail link from Dindi-

gal. Rajeev Shukla (Cong) sought to know the formula on which basis the cost of production of agri-produce will be decided while fixing higher MSP as promised in the budget.

He however lauded the Health Insurance scheme but asked the government to be cautious as nursing homes might end up taking advantage of it.

While raising concern about lack of jobs, slowing exports and rising inflation and widening fiscal deficit, Shukla emphasised that the government should also look at undertaking judicial reforms.

D Raja (CPI) said the government suffered from "ideological and psychological bankruptcy and hypocrisy" as it does not have any strategy to generate revenues.

Rather generating revenues, it has forgone revenue to the tune of Rs 2.45 lakh crore by giving concessions to corporates, he alleged and said the government is also disinvesting PSUs and privatising firms like Air India.

Warning the government of facing an alarming job crisis next year, Raja said the International Labour Organisation in its report has projected that 77 per cent of workers will have vulnerable jobs in 2019 and 18.9 million will be unemployed.

He also talked about economic inequality and concentration of 73 per cent of wealth with one per cent corporates and said the budget was anti-poor and not growth oriented.

Sanjay Seth (SP) said it was a disappointing budget. Ram Kumar Kashyap (INLD) and Rajeev Chandrasekhar (IND) also spoke.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM BUILDING & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**  
No:22/ETENDER/BHD/2018  
Dated:08/02/2018  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (S&W), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the West District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website [www.sikkimtedner.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtedner.gov.in) for the work as listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of tender/bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	Construction of Imam Singh Chemojong memorial Hall at Tikjek, West Sikkim.	11.16	446.38	0.30	24 months.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS.**

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018
iii)	Document download/Sale start date and time.	:	9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018 11:00 am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	13 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online submission of completed bids	:	7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit [www.sikkimtedner.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtedner.gov.in)  
Sd/-  
**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(S&W), BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.**  
R.O. No. 552/ipr/pub/classi./pub/classi./17-18 dt. 09.02.18

# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Converts and Support

*The people will be soon important again*

Politicians in our country, as also in Sikkim, have lived in the make-believe world of sycophants and appearances for far too long to be able to see realities unless strained through the reassuring filters that suit and surround them. In their defence, it is not just politicians who take on such imagined sense of power, significance and influence, and one sees such attitudes among government officials, social and religious organisations, and yes, even in the media. It is however only the politicians who need to routinely lobby for direct endorsement of the people to remain of consequence and also stand a chance of deciding policy, hence it becomes important for their priorities to be aligned properly and political-speak nuanced with a better sense of proportions and pragmatism.

One could argue that selective perceptions would affect only individual fates and political careers, but it becomes important to marshal the debate on the right course when these impressions begin hogging public engagement. Take for instance the trend of claiming turncoats, a gimmick which gains currency every time elections come calling. These are fine as campaign-trail asides, but rankle when they become the centrepiece of announcements. One speaks here of the frequent claims and counterclaims of number of supporters gained and weaned away that compete for headlines on pg02 nowadays. While these displays may be necessary to send out a signal of increasing popularity or resurgence, they are not ladders on which political futures can be reached. To begin with, commitments so fickle that they the whiff of elections can signal an ideological shift can hardly be considered endorsement strong enough to power change. Anyone who has followed campaign politics in Sikkim long enough will know how these inductions are managed and of how routinely such claims are announced. At best, these are interesting sideshows to the circus of elections, not the essence of the election itself. Agreed, there are some crossovers which are politically significant in that they help open some unreached pockets, but to believe these to have the potency of changing political fortunes is misplaced and in fact demeaning to the intelligence of the electorate.

To believe that the voters cannot see through the political opportunism at the root of such election-time fluctuations in allegiance reflects an inexcusable disconnect with how and what the people think. The media might play along and ignore the obvious sour grapes/ bountiful opportunism syndrome which defines a bulk of political positions in Sikkim, but that does not mean that the people do not see through things. Induction ceremonies and claims of winning new members, hence, are at best stepping stones to catch the attention of the people, an attention span that should then be held with policy and programme commitments to make voters seriously consider the options on offer.

At the end of the day, it is for the political parties in the fray and their leaders to decide where their priorities rest – whether it is to believe their own PR or work along with and among the people to expand their support base. The Opposition has often made the mistake of buying into the anti-incumbency fiction and the silent wave hallucination because anti-incumbency does not translate into votes by itself and the ruling front would be mistaken to believe that anti-incumbency is not a factor at all in Sikkim. At varying degrees, Elections 2014 proved the previous point rather effectively.

Also, given how small Sikkim is, all parties and leaders need to approach the people as a starting-from-scratch effort; past experience has shown that only those groups which reach out in earnest, and not on the crutches of past record or existing fatigue, win favour with the people. For those watching the “politics” from the sidelines, a wonderful experience will arrive soon when people will be able to twist the weak ears of leaders to make them listen; that is when the people also get to “play” some “politics”. It is not rare in these times to find groups of 10, or even less, come together and claim to speak for all the people of their constituency or community or section of society and communicate either support or condemnation of the sitting representative. In normal times, they would just be scoffed away, but in the uncertainty of an approaching election year, they will be cajoled, pampered, instigated, approached and placated. Counter groups are sponsored to offset the embarrassment that these groups might have caused and either way, it's the people who win because they become important again.

For the next few months, who knows, maybe even a year or more, the people will wrest for themselves the opportunity to talk down to elected leaders and leaders wanting to be elected. In a setting where hierarchical protocols continue to be observed, this is a welcome, albeit brief, change. But then again, like the misplaced perception of new members meaning stronger influence, even this flicker of a more vociferous electorate is far from the realities that remain.

# An international plastics treaty could avert a “Silent Spring” for our seas

LINDA NOWLAN  
*theconversation.com*

Global problems — like our plastic-choked seas — need global solutions.

It was welcome news when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada will use its year-long G7 presidency to turn the global spotlight on ocean plastics and pollution.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna has said plastics will be a main theme of June's summit when leaders from Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States join Trudeau in Charlevoix, Quebec.

But can Canada move these nations to establish enforceable rules?

The G7 has raised the plastics issue before. The Germans launched an action plan to combat marine litter in 2015 and Japan reaffirmed the commitment to address the problem in 2016.

During the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos later that year, headlines blared “More Plastic than Fish in the Sea by 2050” after the release of a report on global plastic waste. In 2017, Italy held a workshop on marine litter during its G7 presidency.

### PROMISES PROLIFERATE WHILE PLASTIC WASTE PILES UP

But despite these promises, plastic production and waste continues to grow.

Globally, millions of metric tonnes of plastic waste enter the ocean each year. In 2010, for example, between 4.8 million and 12.7 million metric tonnes of plastic hit the water. That's equivalent to dumping a garbage truck of plastic into marine waters every minute.

Alarming, production of single-use plastic, like grocery bags, contributed nearly 40 per cent of total plastic production in 2015. Many end up in our oceans.

Boris Worm, a marine scientist at the Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, has warned that if current trends continue, we'll face a new “Silent Spring” of the seas. Today, close to 90 per cent of seabirds have plastics in their guts, similar to the ubiquitous presence of the toxic chemical DDT in the 1960s, the focus of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*.



These voluntary international pledges are failing to stem the plastic tide.

Most of the plastic in the sea comes from land. Most of it is not abandoned fishing gear, but plastic bags, milk and water bottles, and consumer goods like flip-flops dumped into waterways and washed out to sea. We've recognized this for years — more than 100 countries have endorsed efforts to reduce the impacts of marine litter worldwide since 1995. But that was also a non-binding agreement.

Since then, promises to cut ocean plastics have proliferated, including the 2011 Honolulu Strategy and “The Future We Want” agreement at the 2012 Rio+20 conference.

The 2015 Oceans Goal, one of the UN's 20 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), repeats the target of significant marine pollution reduction.

And last year, the United Nations Environmental Programme launched its “war on plastic” with the Clean Seas campaign, which aims to eliminate microplastics in cosmetics and the wasteful usage of single-use plastic by the year 2022.

### LAW RULES

What we lack are binding rules for land-based sources of plastic pollution that apply to countries around the world. As the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) noted: “Current initiatives to tackle plastic pollution focus on the symptoms but not the root of the problem.”

At home, Trudeau can support the development of a coordinated national strategy to combat plastics pollution, backed up by law.

There's plenty of evidence that voluntary actions aren't enough. In 2000, Canada was the first country to act with a National Plan of Action

on land-based sources of marine pollution. But with no legal mechanism to compel action, the national plan to keep plastic pollution from entering the sea has languished.

It would be a step forward even if the G7 only acknowledged the need for binding laws.

### G7 TO THE RESCUE?

Still more can be done. Canada can start a race to the top to see who can put the best laws in place, and who can reap the gains from a new plastic economy.

Trudeau can convince his fellow G7 leaders to emulate Canada's new regulations that prohibit the manufacture, import and sale of personal toiletry products that contain plastic microbeads. The G7 leaders can share their experiences on what's worked well for them, whether it's the European Union's new Plastics Strategy and legislative initiative on single-use plastics, France's ban on plastic cups and plates, or the U.S. initiative called *Save Our Seas Act*.

Canada could plan a “Plastic-Free Day” during the meeting, or host an ocean plastics art competition at the Charlevoix venue with entries from all G7 nations. It could help to bring industry on side by showcasing promising initiatives like the New Plastics Economy, focused on increasing recapture, reuse and recycling of plastics. And it could screen a heart-wrenching film like *Blue for the World Leaders*.

A bold step forward would be a G7 agreement to fast-track an international plastics treaty.

### END GAME: A PLASTIC POLLUTION TREATY

Canada can build on its past leadership on environmental treaties, such as the Montreal Protocol that

eliminated more than 99 per cent of ozone-depleting substances globally, to tackle marine plastic pollution.

During the G7 presidency, Trudeau can take the lead to initiate an international treaty that sets global reduction targets for the production and consumption of plastics, and regulates their production, consumption, disposal and clean-up.

At the U.N. Environment Assembly in December, nations failed to include any reductions targets or a timetable in their resolution on marine litter and microplastics. They did, however, establish a group to “further examine the barriers to, and options for, combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources.”

This group can recommend the formation of a treaty. If the G7 were to endorse this idea, it might get the international treaty-making machinery moving even more quickly. There are many proposals at hand.

One based on the Montreal Protocol — widely regarded as one of the world's most successful environmental agreements — would impose caps on plastics production and trade bans.

Another points to the climate treaty, with countries setting a binding plastics goal and then developing national action plans.

Alternatively, others call for an agreement that institutes a waste hierarchy, where plastics are first reduced, then reused, re-purposed and finally recycled, and creates a global fund to help pay for better waste management practices and infrastructure.

But successful treaties need industry involvement — and commitment to change. A recent CIEL report traces industry awareness of the ocean plastics problem back to the 1970s. There is no time for the kind of industry denial we've seen regarding climate change.

It's an opportune time for Canada to use its G7 leadership to avert another Silent Spring and begin tackling the problem of plastics in the oceans.

*[the writer is Adjunct Professor, Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia]*

# What did Jesus wear?

JOAN TAYLOR  
*theconversation.com*

Over the past few decades, the question of what Jesus looked like has cropped up again and again. Much has been made of a digital reconstruction of a Judean man created for a BBC documentary, *Son of God*, in 2001. This was based on an ancient skull and, using the latest technology (as it was), shows the head of a stocky fellow with a somewhat worried expression.

Rightly, the skin tone is olive, and the hair and beard black and shortish, but the nose, lips, neck, eyes, eyelids, eyebrows, fat cover and expression are all totally conjectural. Putting flesh on ancient skulls is not an exact science, because the soft tissue and cartilage are unknown.

Nevertheless, for me as a historian, trying to visualise Jesus accurately is a way to understand Jesus more accurately, too.

The Jesus we've inherited from centuries of Christian art is not accurate, but it is a powerful brand. A man with long hair parted in the middle and a long beard — often with fair skin, light brown hair and blue eyes — has become the widely accepted likeness. We imagine Jesus in long robes with baggy sleeves, as he is most often depicted in artworks over the centuries. In contemporary films, from Zeffirelli's *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977) onwards, this styling prevails, even when Jesus' clothing is considered poorly made.

There were many reasons why Jesus was portrayed in what has become the worldwide standard, and none of them were to do with preserving historical accuracy. I explore these in my new book *What did Jesus look like?*, but ultimately I look to clues in early texts and archaeology for the real Jesus.

For me, Jesus' appearance is not all about flesh and bones. After all, our bodies are not just bodies. As the sociologist Chris Shilling argues, they are “both personal resources and social symbols that ‘give off’ messages about identity”. We can be old,

young, tall, short, weighty, thin, dark-skinned, light-skinned, frizzy-haired, straight-haired, and so on, but our appearance does not begin and end with our physical bodies. In a crowd, we may look for a friend's scarf rather than their hair or nose. What we do with our bodies creates an appearance.

And so Jesus' appearance would have had much to do with what he was wearing. Once we've got the palette for his colouring right, given he was a Jewish man of the Middle East, how do we dress him? How did he seem to people of the time?

### DRESSED IN BASICS

There is no neat physical description of Jesus in the Gospels or in ancient Christian literature. But there are incidental details. From the Bible (for example, Mark 6:56) you can discover that he wore a mantle — a large shawl (“himation” in Greek) — which had tassels, described as “edges”; a distinctively Jewish tallith in a form it was in antiquity. Usually made of wool, a mantle could be large or small, thick or fine, coloured or natural, but for men there was a preference for undyed types.

He walked in sandals, as implied in multiple Biblical passages (see Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7, 6:9; John 1:27), and we now know what ancient Judean sandals were like as they have been preserved in dry caves by the Dead Sea.

He wore a tunic (chiton), which for men normally finished slightly below the knees, not at the ankles. Among men, only the very rich wore long tunics. Indeed, Jesus specifically identifies men who dress in long tunics (“stolai”, Mark 12:38) as wrongly receiving honour from people who are impressed by their fine attire, when in fact they unjustly devour widows' houses.

Jesus's tunic was also made of one piece of cloth only (John 19:23-24). That's strange, because mostly tunics were made of two pieces sewn at the shoulders and sides. One-piece tunics in first-century Judea were normally thin undergarments or children's wear. We shouldn't think of contemporary underwear, but wearing a one-piece on its

own was probably not good form. It was extremely basic.

### ‘SHAMEFULLY’ SHABBY?

Perhaps it is unsurprising, then, that Jesus was remembered as looking shabby by a scholar named Celsus, writing in the mid second century, in a treatise against the Christians. Celsus did his homework. He interviewed people, and he — like us — was quite interested in what Jesus looked like. From Jews and others he questioned, he heard that Jesus “wandered about most shamefully in the sight of all”. He “obtained his means of livelihood in a disgraceful and importunate way” — by begging or receiving donations.

From the perspective of respectable people, we can surmise then that Jesus looked relatively rough. When the Christian writer Origen argued against Celsus, he rejected many of his assertions, but he did not dispute this.

And so while Jesus wore similar clothes to other Jewish men in many respects, his “look” was scruffy. I doubt his hair was particularly long as depicted in most artwork, given male norms of the time, but it was surely not well-tended. Wearing a basic tunic that other people wore as an undergarment would fit with Jesus' detachment regarding material things (Matthew 6:19-21, 28-29; Luke 6:34-35, 12:22-28) and concern for the poor (Luke 6:20-23).

This, to me, is the beginning of a different way of seeing Jesus, and one very relevant for our times of massive inequality between rich and poor, as in the Roman Empire. Jesus aligned himself with the poor and this would have been obvious from how he looked.

The appearance of Jesus matters because it cuts to the heart of his message. However he is depicted in film and art today, he needs to be shown as one of the have-nots; his teaching can only be truly understood from this perspective.

*[the writer is Professor of Christian Origins and Second Temple Judaism, King's College London]*

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## India eye milestone win, South Africa hope for revival

**CHETAN NARULA**

**JOHANNESBURG, FEB 9 (PTI):** India's indomitable cricket team looks set for a landmark series triumph but an injury-ravaged South Africa would hope for some A B de Villiers magic to halt the visitors' charge in the fourth one-day, here on Saturday.

With an unassailable 3-0 lead in hand, India need just one more win to claim their maiden ODI series triumph on the South African soil.

The closest they came was in 2010-11, when under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, they shot into a 2-1 lead only to lose the five-match series 3-2.

India had previously broken into uncharted territory at Newlands when, for the first time since they began touring here in 1992-93, they won three matches in a bilateral ODI engagement in South Africa.

A fourth consecutive win will also cement their spot as the no.1 side in ICC ODI Rankings.

Before the third ODI, Shikhar Dhawan had highlighted that the team wants to win every game ahead of them, building on victory in the third Test here, and there would be no complacency in the dressing room.

Indeed then, Virat Kohli lifted his side to another dominant win with an immaculate 34th ODI century and later spoke of replicating the same intensity to wrap up the series with two matches remaining.

The fact that Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal have now accounted for 21 out of 30 available wickets is also a driving force behind this confidence.

Despite practicing with at least five different local wrist spinners at Newlands, the Proteas' batting line-up still couldn't contend with India's first-choice spin duo.

Whether this will change on

Saturday remains to be seen.

South Africa may have slight cause for optimism as de Villiers was, on Thursday, added to their ODI squad for the remainder three matches.

The star batsman was ruled out of the first three ODIs owing to a finger injury he had sustained during the third Test.

However, the hosts are still circumspect about his chances of playing and as such Cricket South Africa didn't send out any official media information ahead of this game. De Villiers will be assessed Friday afternoon -- 24 hours before the game -- and a call will then be made on his availability for the match.

If he is fit and available, it is expected that de Villiers will bat at no.3 with JP Duminy dropping down to no.4 thus. One of David Miller or Khaya Zondo will make way for him in the playing eleven.

Unsurprisingly, despite the downturn, Aiden Markram will continue leading the side.

This match is of vital importance for South Africa in their home season. It is the 'Pink ODI', played for the awareness against breast cancer and for the benefit of those suffering from the disease.

It was first held in 2011, and this will be the sixth such occasion. In fact, the Proteas have never lost when playing in their unique pink jersey.

De Villiers has a handsome record on Pink Days. In 2015, he had smashed 149 off just 44 balls against the West Indies.

In 2013, when India were first part of this Pink Day celebration, de Villiers had scored 77 off 47 balls.

South Africa had amassed 358/4 on a Wanderers' wicket full of pace and bounce, and India had lost by 141 runs.

That day Rohit Sharma had struggled against the likes of Dale

Steyn and Morne Morkel, scoring just 18 off 43 balls. The opener's travails have extended to this tour as well.

In 11 ODIs now in South Africa, the three-time double centurion averages a paltry 12.10. His form is the only pressing concern for the Indian team, yet not so much that he will be left out of the playing eleven.

With the Men in Blue looking to wrap up the series, Kohli is expected to field an unchanged line-up once again.

India have an average record at this ground. In seven ODIs here, they have won three and lost four, including the infamous 2003 World Cup final against Australia.

Also, as opposed to their unbeaten Test record against South Africa here, India have lost 3 out of 4 ODIs they have played against the hosts at Wanderers.

Their only cause for cheer against the Proteas here came in January 2011, when Munaf Patel took 4-29 to lead India to a thrilling one-run win.

Thanks to Kohli's imperious consistency and the terrorising form of their wrist spinners, that lopsided record might just be about to change.

Teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Dinesh Karthik, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (capt), Hashim Amla, JP Duminy, Imran Tahir, David Miller, Lungisani Ngezi, Chris Morris, Morne Morkel, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Khayelihle Zondo, Farhaan Behardien, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), AB de Villiers.

## Karman puts India ahead with win over Eudice Chong

**NEW DELHI, FEB 9 (PTI):**

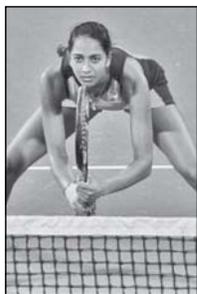
Ankita Raina continued her red-hot form with a fluent win after Karman Kaur Thandi's erratic victory as India blanked Hong Kong 3-0 in the Fed Cup here on Friday.

Karman struggled to contain her unforced errors but prevailed 6-3 6-4 over Eudice Chong to give India a 1-0 lead in the Asia/Oceania Group I matches.

Up against a lower-ranked opponent, placed a humble 761 in the WTA list, Karman snapped a four-match losing streak.

The last time she won a Fed Cup match was exactly a year back when she travelled to Astana, Kazakhstan.

Ankita, who has impressed with her inspirational performance



against higher-ranked players, then overcame Ling Zhang 6-3 6-2 to seal India's first win of the 2018 season.

In the inconsequential doubles, Prarthana Thombare and Pranjala Yadlapalli defeated Kwan Yau Ng and Ching Hu Wu 6-2 6-4.

The last time India won a tie 3-0 was in February 2016, against Kazakhstan in Thailand.

Tomorrow, India will play Chinese Taipei, the fourth-placed team in Pool B in the relegation Play-off. The winner will remain in Group I and the loser will be relegated to Group II.

The last time India played Chinese Taipei was in February 2011 in Thailand and lost 1-2.

Despite playing some energy-sapping matches in the last two days, Ankita did not let the intensity drop as she kept grinding from the baseline and found some delightful winners.

She did not lose a single point on her serve in the first two games and after breaking Zhang in the fourth game, Ankita stayed off four breakpoints in the fifth to take a 4-1 lead.

The break stayed

with her as she closed the set in the ninth.

To Zhang's credit, she did play intelligent tennis, often catching Ankita by surprise with her well-calculated drop shots.

Zhang, ranked 331, also returned well.

Ankita hit a service return winner to earn two breakpoints and converted the first when Zhang hit a backhand wide to take an early lead in the second set.

She had as many as nine breakpoints to open up a huge lead but a dogged Zhang saved all of them. Ankita created opportunities with several winners at deuce points but every time Zhang came out with deep, angled returns to deny Ankita conversion.

## Indra Nooyi appointed ICC's first independent female director

**Dubai, Feb 9 (PTI):** PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi has been appointed to the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board as the governing body's first independent female director.

Nooyi will join the Board in June 2018 to align with the term of the ICC Independent Chairman, following the unanimous confirmation of her appointment at today's meeting, an ICC release said.



"I am thrilled to join the ICC as the first person to be appointed to this role. I look forward to working with my col-

leagues on the board, ICC's partners, and cricketers around the world to grow our sport responsibly and give our fans a new reason to follow every ball and shot," Nooyi said.

ICC Chairman, Shashank Manohar, said: "Adding another independent director particularly a female is such an important step forward in improving our governance. To have someone of Indra's calibre is fantastic news for the global game."

The introduction of an Independent Director, who must be female, was approved by the ICC Full Council in June last year as part of wide ranging constitutional change aimed at improving the governance of the sport.

The Independent Director will be appointed for a two-year term although she may be re-appointed for two further terms with a maximum six-year consecutive period of service.



### GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT GANGTOK, SIKKIM **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**N.I.T. No. 545**

**Dated: 9.02.2018**

For and on behalf of Governor of Sikkim, the Divisional Engineer (East), Urban Development and Housing Department, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim invites sealed percentage rate from eligible contractors of appropriate class registered with Sikkim Public Works Department (SPWD) within the territorial jurisdiction (as per enlistment) mentioned below for the work detailed hereunder:-

#### DETAILS OF TENDER

Sl. No	Name of work	Cost of work put to tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of tender documents (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Territorial jurisdiction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Construction of five storied Sweeper Quarter cum Cobler shed and Tailor unit at Singtam Bazaar, East Sikkim	85,07,925/-	2,12,698/-	5,000/-	12 months	Within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat/ Urban Local Bodies where work is to be executed.

#### B. TIME SCHEDULE

- Date of submission of application with bank receipt/challan for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form): 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 from 10:00 Am to 3:00 PM.
- Date of issue of Tender form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money): 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- Date of submission of Tender forms & documents : 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 upto 1:00 PM.
- Date and time of opening of Tender : 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 2:00 PM.
- No tender shall be entertained after the expiry of the above scheduled date and time.
- Tender form/documents could be obtained from the office of the Divisional Engineer (East), Urban Development & Housing Deptt. Gangtok, East Sikkim.

#### GENERAL GUIDELINES & CONDITIONS.

- The prescribed Non-Transferable **Tender Documents** (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of tender documents (non-refundable) under the receipt Head "0045-80-800-Other Misc.Receipts, "Cost of Tender Form" and submitted the same along with attested copies of the following documents:-
  - An application signed by the contractor for availing the Tender Documents.
  - Latest Professional Tax Clearance Certificate,
  - Validated/ Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate.

**NOTE: It is necessary to produce original copy of the above documents/ certificates for verification at the time of issue of tender documents.**
- The **Tender Form** shall be issued to those contractors who have obtained the Tender Documents only on submission of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) as Earnest Money deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim in favour of the Chief Accounts Officer, UD & HD, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok.
- The rate (in the Tender Form) should be quoted both in **figures and words** and should be inclusive of Value Added Taxes and all other taxes and Levies. The incomplete, invalid and conditional tenders shall be summarily rejected. Overwriting and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated with signature of the bidder for every overwriting/correction.
- The completed tender form should be placed in sealed cover superscripted with the name of the bidder and the name of work tendered for.
- The tender(s) will be opened by the committee in presence of the tenderer or their authorised representative who wish to be present tender.
- The Tender Offer shall remain valid for 90 (ninety) days from the date of opening.
- In case of discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Quantities and Rates issued with the Tender Documents, the rates as per the approved Schedule of Rates (i.e. SOR-2012) will be taken as correct. For the item outside the SOR, the rate shall be as per the technically checked estimate/ analysis.

The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

#### ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

The contractor shall also make necessary arrangements to take photographs of the work at different stages of execution as per the directives of the Department.

The other **CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT** shall be made available along with the tender documents.

**DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (EAST)  
URBAN DEV. & HOUSING DEPTT.  
DEVELOPMENT AREA, GANGTOK.  
EAST SIKKIM.**

R.O. No. 553/jpr/pub/classi./17-18/ dt. 09.02.18



## Raj Shah makes White House press briefing debut

**WASHINGTON, FEB 9 (PTI):** Raj Shah, the Principal Deputy Press Secretary of US President Donald Trump, has made his daily press briefing debut at the White House, becoming the first Indian-American to do so.

Ahead of his debut behind press briefing podium, his boss Sarah Sanders, the White House Press Secretary, described him as one of the best and the brightest in the Trump Administration.

In his capacity as the White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary, Shah is the highest rank-

ing Indian-American in the White House press shop. Shah, 33, has held this position since September last year.

"So proud to work with @RajShah45! One of the best and brightest in the administration," Sanders said in a tweet before Shah took the podium in the historic James S Brady press briefing room of the White House.

Shah held his first press briefing following the resignation of White House staff secretary Rob Porter over domestic abuse allegations, US media reported.

## PM Modi to have packed schedule during UAE visit

**ABU DHABI, FEB 9 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have a busy schedule in the UAE, with meetings lined up with the country's leaders, the Indian community and businessmen, India's envoy here has said.

Modi will reach here tomorrow from Palestine and then will have bilateral engagements in Abu Dhabi followed by a banquet, India's ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri said.

This would be Modi's second visit to the country. He had visited the UAE in 2015.

On Sunday, the prime minister will go to Dubai where he will watch the live streaming of a Hindu temple inauguration ceremony and then address the

Indian community gathered at the Opera House.

The UAE is home to over three million people of Indian origin.

He will proceed to the venue of the World Government Summit where to deliver keynote address.

He has meetings lined up with Gulf business leaders. He will also meet the Ruler of Dubai and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and also visit a paintings exhibition by Ramesh Shukla, Suri said.

Modi had said energy security and infrastructural investments in India would be the key topics that he will discuss with the UAE's leadership.

The investment from UAE to India exceeds USD 11 billion.

# N Korea delegation led by Kim's sister arrives for Olympics

**SEOUL, FEB 9 (AP):** The sister of the North Korean leader today became the first member of her family to visit South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War as part of a high-level delegation attending the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Arriving on her brother Kim Jong Un's private jet for a three-day visit, Kim Yo Jong and the country's 90-year-old nominal head of state Kim Yong Nam are scheduled to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in tomorrow in a luncheon at Seoul's presidential palace.

Dressed in a black coat, carrying a black shoulder bag and hit with a barrage of camera flashes, Kim Yo Jong smiled as a group of South Korean officials, including Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon, greeted her and the rest of the delegates at a meeting room at Incheon International Airport.

The North Koreans, also including Choe Hwi, chairman of the country's National Sports Guidance Committee, and Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North's agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs then moved down a floor on an es-



calator to board a high-speed train to Pyeongchang.

Moon has been trying to use the games as an opportunity to revive meaningful communication with North Korea after a period of diplomatic stalemate and eventually pull it into talks over resolving the international standoff over its nuclear program.

The last time a South Korean president invited North Korean officials to the presidential Blue House was in November 2007, when late liberal President Roh Moo-hyun, the political mentor of Moon, host-

ed then-North Korean premier Kim Yong Il for a luncheon following a meeting between the countries' senior officials.

Skeptics say North Korea, which is unlikely to give up its nukes under any deal, is just using the Olympics to poke holes at the US-led international sanctions against the country and buy more time to further advance its strategic weaponry.

The North Korean delegation's arrival came a day after Kim Jong Un presided over a massive military parade in Pyongyang that was highlight-

ed by the country's developmental intercontinental ballistic missiles, which in three flight tests last year showed potential ability to reach deep into the US mainland when perfected.

South Korean media have been speculating about whether Kim will send a personal message to Moon through his sister and, if so, whether it would include a proposal for a summit between the two leaders.

Kim Yo Jong, believed to be around 30, is the first member of North Korea's ruling family

to visit the South since the Korean War.

As first vice director of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, Kim has been an increasingly prominent figure in North Korea's leadership and is considered one of the few people who has earned her brother's absolute trust.

Analysts say the North's decision to send her to the Olympics shows an ambition to break out from diplomatic isolation and pressure by improving relations with the South, which it could use as a bridge for approaching the United States.

By sending a youthful, photogenic person who will undoubtedly attract international attention during the games, North Korea may also be trying to craft a fresher public image and defang any U.S. effort to use the Olympics to highlight the North's brutal human rights record.

South Korea has yet to announce a confirmed schedule for the North Korean delegates aside of their participation in the opening ceremony and tomorrow's luncheon with Moon.



**P**resident Jacob Zuma's resignation date could be announced next Monday, a leading figure in South African politics has said. The former deputy president of South Africa and key member of the ruling African National Congress, Baleka Mbete, said pressure was being applied by "interested parties" to bring about a resolution to the country's current crisis. "I think that it is the issue that is going to be behind us quite soon... I think early in this coming week it should be clearer, after more consultations that will happen over the weekend," Ms Mbete, who currently serves as speaker of South Africa's sometimes-raucous National Assembly, said. "Hopefully early in the week we should be utterly able to indicate we're moving on."

## Trump's immigration framework will end green card backlog: House

**WASHINGTON, FEB 9 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump's immigration framework will end the diversity lottery visa to help reduce green card backlog of high-skilled workers, the White House said today amid growing demands by Indian H-1B visa holders to remove the per country-limit on its allotment.

Indian-Americans, most of whom are highly skilled and come to the US mainly on H-1B work visas are the worst sufferers of the current immigration system which imposes a seven per cent per country quota on allotment of green cards or permanent legal residency.

As a result, the current wait period for Indian skilled



immigrants for green card can be as long as 70 years.

Over the last one week, many Indian skilled immigrants gathered in Washington DC from various parts of the US to ask the Trump Administration and Congress to remove this major anomaly in the immigration system.

"President Trump's framework would end the visa lot-

tery programme and reallocate some of the visas to help reduce backlog of high-skilled, employment-based immigrant cases," the White House said in a fact sheet titled 'ending the economic harm caused by our immigration system'.

Later in the evening, Trump called for ending the visa lottery system.

"Time to end the visa lot-

tery. Congress must secure the immigration system and protect Americans," he tweeted.

The White House said Trump favoured a merit-based immigration system, which attracts the best and the brightest from across the world.

"I think the president wants to see legal immigration reform. He wants to see us move from a process that currently exists in law of extended family chain migration toward merit-based immigration reforms," White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah told reporters during his first ever White House press conference.

He said the Trump administration wanted to ensure

that people coming into the country are the best and the brightest, regardless of nationality, creed, religion, or anything else in between.

"We want to look at the educational backgrounds, ability to contribute to the workforce in a way that helps American workers. So the president wants to see reforms that improve America's economy," Shah said.

According to Senate Republican Policy Committee, every year the US on an average allocates some 50,000 green cards through lottery for people from countries who do not get an opportunity to come to the US through the merit-based employment visas.

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES

**MUMBAILAXMI SURAJ**

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:09/02/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 4026 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3734

3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 4570 4th Prize Rs. 504/- 1172

5th Prize Rs.200/-

1108 1136 1148 1160 1228 1278 1319 1342 1349 1357

1358 1364 1380 1409 1443 1491 1545 1726 1864 1896

1917 2039 2099 2127 2163 2192 2198 2234 2264 2434

2479 2481 2486 2487 2504 2531 2611 2624 2675 2913

2932 2997 3102 3131 3144 3215 3227 3232 3281 3305

3310 3425 3476 3492 3496 3498 3508 3523 3562 3616

3628 3640 3743 3875 3919 3993 4004 4025 4046 4187

4194 4480 4568 4588 4626 4637 4675 4748 4774 4799

4840 4863 4922 5002 5009 5139 5159 5215 5272 5374

5435 5531 5582 5608 5639 5688 5716 5802 5866 5886

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1050 1057 1102 1103 1122 1130 1131 1152 1166 1213

1235 1255 1288 1337 1373 1378 1467 1485 1495 1546

1567 1596 1617 1629 1633 1669 1695 1708 1717 1759

1791 1804 1863 1865 1890 1895 1902 1967 2015 2071

2149 2151 2175 2185 2239 2272 2285 2357 2435 2445

2505 2527 2563 2586 2607 2626 2635 2640 2642 2652

2693 2698 2726 2765 2789 2791 2792 2801 2843 2854

2867 2892 2956 2971 2978 2992 3050 3083 3106 3119

3149 3152 3154 3180 3185 3222 3285 3289 3299 3316

3317 3330 3354 3365 3386 3422 3432 3444 3453 3462

3474 3480 3494 3522 3533 3539 3546 3566 3588 3598

3641 3719 3722 3767 3784 3789 3831 3864 3890 3923

3932 3984 4048 4078 4125 4149 4178 4181 4196 4277

4288 4294 4295 4331 4348 4368 4376 4382 4393 4408

4411 4418 4421 4437 4465 4475 4503 4515 4520 4545

4572 4580 4581 4604 4624 4650 4673 4678 4736 4763

4765 4794 4945 4960 5059 5120 5127 5181 5204 5226

5234 5292 5298 5344 5384 5430 5431 5464 5492 5507A

5598 5628 5707 5708 5769 5782 5797 5809 5835 5849

5880 5881 5883 5885 5913 5918 5934 5948 5955 5979

Issued by:  
The Commissioner,  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES, ITANAGAR.

### MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

**LABHLAXMI LEO**

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:09/02/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3541

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5209 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2434

4th Prize Rs.300/- 1058 5th Prize Rs. 204/- 3787

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1011 1015 1028 1033 1052 1059 1113 1114 1130 1203

1207 1215 1248 1253 1339 1362 1367 1412 1419 1427

1438 1518 1533 1553 1568 1593 1703 1734 1735 1758

1763 1771 1789 1856 1862 1883 1901 1920 1932 1940

1950 1956 2004 2024 2025 2041 2080 2124 2131 2218

2247 2289 2297 2302 2357 2391 2393 2404 2417 2419

2440 2485 2503 2513 2543 2553 2641 2652 2693 2727

2761 2771 2836 2840 2895 2905 2940 2941 2994 3014

3019 3049 3070 3096 3115 3126 3163 3196 3208 3209

3211 3261 3333 3343 3377 3425 3434 3455 3459 3618

3624 3637 3659 3699 3703 3733 3740 3795 3803 3841

3852 3871 3914 3918 3936 3970 3990 4015 4043 4057

4063 4064 4068 4148 4175 4210 4211 4218 4230 4279

4327 4328 4348 4351 4362 4363 4388 4394 4395 4426

4470 4488 4546 4597 4617 4656 4670 4723 4807 4841

4900 4920 4941 5010 5109 5137 5150 5155 5196 5223

5288 5300 5377 5393 5407 5408 5423 5426 5463 5480

5487 5552 5580 5601 5612 5633 5647 5684 5705 5759

5769 5772 5799 5800 5840 5913 5917 5931 5938 5977

5980 5989 5998 5999 6007 6019 6021 6024 6032 6046

6098 6145 6149 6164 6165 6174 6273 6282 6343 6345

6371 6403 6414 6423 6431 6448 6448 6488 6502 6543

6546 6581 6619 6621 6629 6667 6671 6676 6740 6751

6789 6796 6803 6850 6888 6896 6907 6926 6948 6963

Issued by:  
The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,  
For result please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR TENDER MORNING**

Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:09/02/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 97D 79496

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 79496 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

02572 24893 39812 46014 63849

68994 74895 79569 80436 88774

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1457 2208 2295 3752 4063 4527 4656 5281 7483 8307

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0151 1007 3845 4723 5254 5662 6980 7087 7480 8238

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0101 0117 0167 0383 0527 0649 0865 0887 0897 1020

1093 1095 1203 1271 1678 1722 1844 1896 1986 2211

2224 2293 2473 2530 2686 2907 3008 3036 3054 3168

3204 3308 3358 3405 3613 3614 3736 3785 3968 3973

3979 3986 4291 4389 4400 4606 4621 4861 4899 4927

5103 5290 5331 5353 5507 5554 5561 5737 5802 5901

5929 6080 6101 6178 6242 6266 6300 6310 6509 6634

6796 6873 6893 6991 7029 7069 7227 7289 7457 7597

7679 7689 8110 8184 8412 8858 8874 8956 9035 9089

9383 9431 9500 9566 9567 9600 9628 9737 9787 9833

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR ADMIRE**

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:09/02/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 81J 65523

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 65523 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

20344 24675 33930 49431 55859

60475 61428 80012 92353 95899

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0032 0924 1416 1646 4464 4786 5152 5377 8785 9502

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0137 0938 0940 2522 4243 4698 6001 6311 6741 7140

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0061 0064 0100 0163 0208 0227 0243 0264 0291 0328

0679 0742 0753 0841 0878 0892 0905 9014 1068 1267

1272 1294 1301 1435 1816 1832 2291 2331 2334 2363

2518 2653 2811 2890 3075 3159 3295 3159 3768 3770

3820 3839 3946 4376 4721 4820 4956 4993 5059 5238

5469 5472 5522 5695 5794 6045 6208 6227 6345 6401

6578 6637 6665 6731 6953 7010 7247 7262 7391 7417

7489 7497 7655 7702 7718 7754 7772 7782 7824 7891

7961 8088 8109 8233 8532 8555 8626 8659 8915 9077

9081 9164 9400 9457 9643 9705 9915 9945 9968 9985

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR VULTURE EVENING**

Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:28 DrawDate on:09/02/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 66J 36126

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 36126 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

25338 41383 47532 58461 62017

68607 72716 75855 78403 95136

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2748 3721 5901 6579 7695 7769 7812 9167 9356 9905

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0436 0748 3390 3669 3786 4628 7803 9036 9503 9982

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0043 0140 0222 0278 0291 0314 0461 0792 0942 0955

0972 1000 1002 1073 1076 1140 1198 1221 1224 1333

1340 1461 1466 1687 1688 1712 1736 1749 1947 2063

2173 2470 2529 2559 2646 2655 2757 2824 2889 2982

3114 3198 3205 3401 3471 3691 3710 3755 4089 4100

4151 4194 4328 4350 4472 4584 4900 4914 4917 5065

5124 5486 5531 5587 5703 5897 6032 6205 6208 6387

6418 6575 6742 6789 6876 6906 6957 7054 7244 7283

7302 7524 7602 7737 7968 8165 8291 8381 8722 8929

8957 8992 9073 9242 9253 9484 9533 9543 9786 9920

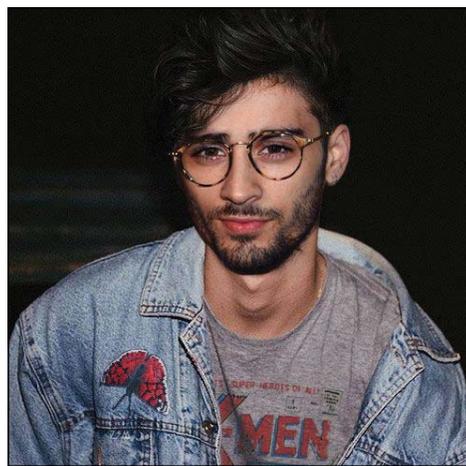
Issued by:  
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland  
For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com

## ZAYN MALIK RECORDS HIS FIRST HINDI SONG FOR A BOLLYWOOD MOVIE

It's true Directioners! Your prayers have finally been answered. Zayn Malik former member of the popular boy band One Direction has announced that he has recorded his first Hindi song for a Bollywood movie. This week there have been a lot of firsts for the singer. He was seen on the cover of a very popular magazine in India in which he also announced that he will be making his Bollywood debut as a singer and he has already recorded a song in Hindi for that.

In his interview with the magazine Zayn said, "It's one of the first songs I've sung in full Hindi, so it's going to be cool to see what the response to that is." This will be really exciting to see as Zayn is truly a global star so there will be a lot of hype to hear him sing a song for a Bollywood movie for the very first time.

Zayn also encountered the



king of Bollywood Shah Rukh Khan himself at an event a while back after which the duo even posted a selfie which went viral on social media. After his interaction

with Shah Rukh Khan he reportedly said "I personally wasn't a huge fan until I met him. I realised how humble he is. Really showed a different side to him. He always came

across as slightly arrogant in the movies to me, but when I met him in real life, he was so nice. He just completely changed my opinion of him," he was quoted as saying.

Zayn also is said to be a huge fan of Bollywood movies and watches them quite often. He also said that he made his girlfriend Gigi Hadid watch Devdas as that was his favourite Bollywood film. Besides this, Zayn also shared some details about his sophomore album.

"There's definitely a lot of Urdu; some nice qawwali sounds. There might even be some bhanga vibes. I have worked with A.R. Rahman on one song," he confirmed. A collaboration with A.R. Rahman and a Bollywood debut, one thing we can certainly say is that fans of Zayn Malik certainly have a lot to look forward to.



**GREEN PARTY!** Zayn Malik shows off his style at the Tom Ford runway show during New York Fashion Week.

## VENOM: FIRST TRAILER RELEASED FOR TOM HARDY'S SPIDER-MAN SPIN-OFF

The long gestating film of the 'symbiote' character from Spider-Man has revealed its first footage - though keeping viewers in the dark about Venom himself. The teaser trailer for Venom has crawled its way online.

The first spin-off movie in Sony's proposed Marvel universe, Venom stars Tom Hardy as antihero Eddie Brock, whose body is possessed by the titular alien symbiote, giving him Spider-Man-like powers. Zombieland's Ruben Fleischer has directed the film, which is rumoured to be receiving



an R-rating in the US, rather than the typical PG-13 rating received by most superhero films.

While Venom's teaser trailer doesn't contain any moments graphic enough to confirm an R-rating, its dark

and sombre tone does suggest something more adult than the teen-movie spirit of the most recent film in the franchise, Spider-Man: Homecoming. Entirely missing from the trailer, however, is the film's title

character, with Brock only glimpsed in human form rather than in his full mutated glory.

One of the more popular characters in the Spider-Man comics, Venom has been a more marginal figure in the big-screen adaptations of the web-slinger, only making its debut appearance in 2007's Spider-Man 3, where he was depicted by Topher Grace. A standalone Venom film has been in development for over a decade.

Venom is scheduled to be released in the UK and US on 5 October.

## TAYLOR SWIFT, WHO? BFF KARLIE KLOSS HANGS OUT WITH KATY PERRY IN L.A.

Wonder what Taylor Swift would have to say about this outing!

Karlie Kloss proved she refuses to pick sides in the apparent feud between her BFF Taylor and Katy Perry, stepping out Wednesday for dinner with the "Chained to the Rhythm" songstress and a group of pals.

Karlie and Katy were joined by mutual bestie and man-about-town Derek Blasberg for the late night sushi run in Los Angeles, adding fuel to the speculation that Taylor is never, ever getting back together with Kloss.

Rumors of a rift sparked when Swift snubbed Kloss' name (as well as Lorde, Ruby Rose and Cara Delevingne) from a squad-inspired shirt worn in her "Look What You Made Me Do" music video. It only continued when Karlie captioned an Instagram photo to "swish swish," referencing Katy's T. Swift diss track of



the same name. She'd later edit the caption after some considered it a jab toward Taylor. So is there actually any truth to Taylor and Karlie's falling out?

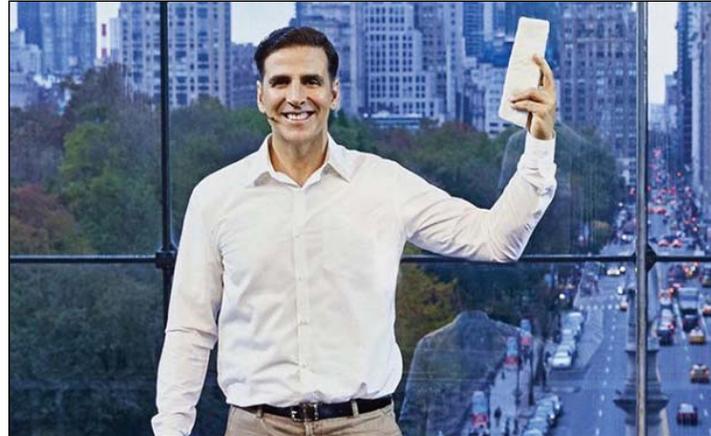
This isn't the first time Kloss has been asked to answer for her allegiance to Swift. After calling Kim Kardashian a "lovely person" in the midst of a tiff with Tay-

lor over Kanye West's song "Famous," Karlie took to Twitter with a message for the haters. "I will not allow the media to misconstrue my words," Kloss wrote. "Taylor has always had my back and I will always have hers... And I will never be the girl that you can use to pit women against each other. That isn't me."

## AKSHAY KUMAR SAYS PADMAN IS ALREADY A HIT FOR HIM

Akshay Kumar, Radhika Apte and Sonam Kapoor starrer PadMan is based on the real-life story of Arunachalam Muruganatham, who found a way of making low-cost sanitary napkins for women, primarily in rural India. PadMan is produced by Twinkle Khanna, Akshay's wife and is based on her novel The Legend Of Lakshmi Prasad. The film is slated to release on February 9, 2018. Posters and teasers from the film have created a lot of stir among the audience. And on the eve of its release, the curiosity has only increased further.

Recently, the PadMan



challenge broke the internet when stars like Alia Bhatt, Madhuri Dixit, Deepika Padukone, Varun Dhawan and more held a sanitary pad in their hands to normalise the process of menstruation. PadMan actor Akshay Kumar told a leading paper that the whole idea of the Pad Man challenge started while they were shooting for the film. He says, "We had taken some local actors for the shoot and they had to hold a san-

itary pad in their hand for a sequence. But they ran away because they didn't want to do it. They said, Hum paap ko apne haath mein nahin lenge. That line stuck with me. Today, we must break that belief and other taboos associated with it. When a man holds a sanitary pad in his hand and says that he is not ashamed of it... that is where the mindset begins to change."

Akshay is very sure

about his project and says confidently, "For me, PadMan is already a hit. It's not because of how much the film could earn. But because we have started a conversation that was much needed. The other day, I overheard a group of six-seven men talking outside my vanity van, and the topic of their discussion was sanitary napkins. Prior to this film, I have never heard men talk about sanitary napkins."

**ARIES:** Today you're likely to complete a creative project of some kind that you've been working on for some time, Aries. You might want to consult with friends or colleagues, get their feedback on what you're doing, and listen to their advice. They may point out both strong and weak points of which you were previously unaware, and this should definitely prove valuable to you. The results you achieve could surprise even you. Go for it!

**TAURUS:** Some revealing conversations with friends or relatives could bring up old traumatic memories from the past that you may have been repressing. This could shed light on a lot of obstacles you've been encountering lately, Taurus, and thus enable you to release these emotions and do

away with the obstacles. Once that happens, the sky's the limit! Your personal power and self-confidence should be stronger than ever. Go for the gold!

**GEMINI:** Today you can expect some noticeable changes in your neighborhood, Gemini. Some new neighbors who might become your friends could be moving in. This could alter your life ever so subtly, turning it in a more positive direction. You could click immediately with these new people, realizing that they share a lot of your interests. Don't overanalyze this situation, but don't write it off as coincidence either. Just make the most of it!

**CANCER:** Efforts to advance your career that have led to past successes might actually put you in the public eye today. You could find yourself

the center of attention, Cancer, perhaps sharing your methods with others or leading a discussion group. An opportunity to write or lecture about your experiences could also be in the offing. Expect compliments from a lot of people, which could boost not only your ego but also your enthusiasm.

**LEO:** An opportunity to travel could come your way today, Leo, perhaps in the company of friends or colleagues. This might involve education in some way. What you learn on this trip is likely to alter your life somehow, as it could open new doors for you. New friends and valuable contacts could also come on the scene. Don't hesitate; go for it! Another opportunity like this might not come around for a while.

**VIRGO:** A number of new people could come your way, Virgo,

perhaps through projects of some kind with which you're involved. Some of them may appear to be trustworthy and some may not. Today, however, your instincts are highly attuned and you'll be better than usual at sizing up people you don't really know. Make the most of this ability, and don't let logic get in its way. Follow your heart!

**LIBRA:** The opportunity to attend one or more huge social gatherings, such as balls or banquets, might come your way today, Libra. You might want to attend in the company of a small group of friends. This could be business related or involve a group with which you're affiliated. Nonetheless, it shows the promise of developing into an enlightening experience in one way or another. Accept the invitation and start making your plans!

**SCORPIO:** Expect a strong boost to your ego and self-confidence today, Scorpio. Your physical and mental energies are very high, and you're apt to feel that you're capable of moving mountains. Take advantage of this new motivation while you can, since today you could make definite progress on any goal toward which you may be striving. The support and encouragement of friends and colleagues should prove invaluable. Go for the gold!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today you should feel more energetic, enthusiastic, and motivated than you have in a long time, Sagittarius. You feel very optimistic about your future, thanks to recent successes and support from those closest to you. As a result, your intellectual and creative faculties are more than inspired

enough to move forward. The only downside is that there could be so many ideas coming to you that you might not be able to choose among them. Think about each one carefully before going ahead.

**CAPRICORN:** An increased level of physical and mental energy could have you feeling especially determined and highly motivated to move ahead with whatever means the most to you at this time, Capricorn. Matters involving home and family might need some attention right now, though in a very positive way. You'll notice that your inner power is much higher than usual today, as if you could move mountains. Go for it!

**AQUARIUS:** New opportunities, perhaps involving modern technology in some way, might present themselves to you in such a

way as to transform your working life, Aquarius. You could find yourself making a lot of phone calls in this regard, which could keep you busy for much of the day. Your level of excitement is likely to be very high, which makes it important that you remember to take breaks, catch your breath, and definitely get a little exercise.

**PISCES:** Changes in your working environment could result in a rise in your income, Pisces. You've been working very hard in order to advance yourself in this regard, and you're likely to continue to do so indefinitely. Your natural communication skills continue to serve you well, and your physical energy is likely to be stronger than it has been for a long time. The only downside is having very little time to yourself! Hang in there!