

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM INAUGURATES ASHTA-CHIRANJEEVI DHAM AT NAGI DARA

## ‘Sanskrit and Monastic teachers to get salary at par with regular teachers from April’

**NAMTHANG, 20 FEB (IPR):** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling laid the foundation stone of Ashta-Chiranjeevi Dham at Nagi dara under Namthang constituency today. He was accompanied by Area MLA, Tilu Gurung, Cabinet Minister, GM Gurung, Chairpersons, Advisors, HODs, Government Officials, School Heads, Panchayats, students and staff of Namthang Senior Secondary School and public.

The CM alongside the dignitaries also inaugurated a 12-room school building cum multipurpose hall at Namthang Senior Secondary School premises.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister spoke in detail about



Ashta-Chiranjeevi and its importance in Hindu mythology and culture. He emphasized how the

inception of the dham will open up innumerable commercial and employment avenues for

the public of Namthang through pilgrimage tourism which will prove to be highly beneficial for the

constituency as a whole. The CM advocated that people should tap this opportunity

and work towards being self-sufficient and self-reliant. Further, speaking about other developmental activities being undertaken by the state government, the CM announced the construction of Kali Mandir at Central Pendum, Gaushalas at Rhenock and Buriakhop, Soreng respectively.

Similarly, the CM announced the inception of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya study centre at Kyongsa, Gyalshing and Tamang study centre at Namthang.

Among other announcements, the CM said that the Sanskrit and Monastic teachers will get salaries at par with the

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## Maria Shanti Ki Rani RC Church celebrates golden jubilee

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 FEB:**

Maria Shanti Ki Rani RC Church, Turuk-Gupti/Sadam, South Sikkim, the second oldest Catholic Church in Sikkim celebrated its golden jubilee today.

A press release informs that Diocese of Darjeeling, Sikkim & Bhutan, Rev. Stephen Lepcha was the chief guest and Minister Tulshi Devi Rai was the guest of honour. Dignitaries from Sikkim and West Bengal also attended the programme which was divided into three sessions.

Bishop Stephen Lepcha inaugurated the New Mariam Grotto, New Church by presiding over the Holy Eucharist. It was followed by a short cultural programme with felicitations to former leaders and associates.

The chief guest highlighted the foundation of the Church and the role it has played in propagating faith and good work in society. He also appreciated the state government and the leaders for maintaining peace and brotherhood among all the religions in the state, the release mentions.

Minister Ms Rai, in her address, congratulated all for getting the new church building and extended her good wishes on completing 50 years of service. She also stressed on the role religion plays in our life and advised all to denounce hatred and ill-will and to follow the right path in life.

Zilla Adhyaksha (South), Farwanti Tamang, Zilla and Gram Panchayats also attended the programme.

## Bhumchu on 01-02 March

**GANGTOK, 20 FEB (IPR):** As per information received from Gendrung, Ecclesiastical Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, the annual Bhumchu Ceremony at Tashiding Monastery in West Sikkim will be held on 01 and 02 Mar 2018.

Preparation for the ceremony shall start from 01 Mar and will conclude on 02 Mar with Bhum Wang and distribution of holy water to the devotees.

All devotees/Buddhist followers and sponsors [zindas] who are interested to receive the Bhumchu Wang (holy water) are requested to reach Tashiding Monastery by the evening of 01 Mar 2018.

## Attack premeditated, conspiracy: Delhi CS

**NEW DELHI, FEB 20 (PTI):** Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash today alleged that an assault on him at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence was "premeditated" and a "conspiracy" of all those who were present at a meeting there last night.

In his complaint to DCP (North) seeking action, Prakash alleged that Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and 11 AAP MLAs were present at the meeting at the CM's residence where they threatened to "implicate" him in false cases if the issue of releasing TV advertisements about the AAP government's achievements was not resolved.

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INT'L CONFERENCE ON STATE OF THE CRYOSPHERE CONCLUDES

## Comprehensive plan for quality research on Sikkim's glaciers to be drawn

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 FEB:**

The two-day International Conference on State of the Cryosphere of the Himalaya ended today with a declaration to draw a comprehensive plan for Sikkim to replicate the high quality research work being carried out in other parts of the globe which is the need of the hour to improve the existing knowledge of Sikkim's glaciers, as per a press release.

Other points in the declaration included need for improved dialogue between scientists and policy makers to enable translation of scientific findings into policy



decisions; studies on effect of aerosols especially black carbon to understand snow depletion; improved understanding on the future water availability of Sikkim through integrated studies for development of Sikkim in the light of climate change; and strengthen-

ing of institutional mechanisms to facilitate research work in the state in the field of cryosphere, for which the revival of the Glacier and Climate Change Commission constituted by the Government was felt necessary.

Apart from these, capacity building in the state

to generate a group of young scientists to carry forward the research programme in the state was felt as a strong need by all delegates. The support of International and National Scientists and organisations in this was of utmost importance. Inclusion of curriculum on glaciology

at the school and college level was felt necessary for raising the much needed awareness on the issue, and a chapter on the South Lhonak Glacier story was also suggested.

The conference, focusing on Sikkim and Eastern Himalaya, came to a close at Chintan Bhawan today. The second day of the conference had a rich mix of more than thirty paper and poster presentations by researchers from various Institutions and agencies conducted in 4 technical sessions that discussed Glacier mapping, monitoring and modelling, Cryosphere and Climate,

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## From stationery czar to loan defaulter: the story of Kanpur's leading tycoon

**ZAFAR IRSHAD**

**KANPUR, FEB 20 (PTI):** The sprawling 4,000 square yard 'Santushti' mansion in the plush Tilaknagar locality here wears a forlorn look but for the occasional coming and going of vehicles belonging to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths.

And each time the gates open, revealing a punctiliously maintained lawn and a bevy of luxury vehicles, anxious camera persons and reporters, camping outside the palatial residence of Vikram Kothari, jump into action hoping to catch the latest in the ongoing probe against the tycoon, embroiled in one of the biggest loan default cases to hit the banking sector.

'Santushti', meaning satisfaction in hindi, till now was associated only with opulence and success. And its owner, stationery czar Vikram Kothari, creator of the 'Rotomac' brand of pens, figured among the



who's who of Indian business.

Neighbour Rajendra Kumar Saffar recalls that it was in 1973 that Vikram Kothari's father Mansukhbhai Kothari laid the foundation of a 'pan masala' empire.

Back then Mansukhbhai, who hailed from Gujarat, lived in Naya-ganj area of the city and supplied coconut oil to shops.

He, however, moved into the paan masala business.

Mansukhbhai Kothari was amongst the first ones to sell paan masala in pouches and his brand -Pan Paraag- became a raging success, recalls Saffar.

Leading Bollywood actors Shammi Kapoor and Ashok Kumar featured in the ubiquitous Pan Paraag ad on TV and the brand's tagline- 'Baraatiyon ka swaagat Pan Paraag se ki jiye' became wildly popular, recalls Saffar.

So much so that Kanpur itself came to be called 'Paan Masala city', recalls Saffar.

At that time Vikram Kothari and his brother Deepak Kothari assisted their father Mansukhbhai in managing the ever-burgeoning paan masa-

la empire, he adds.

As the business prospered, the group diversified and in 1992, the Rotomac Pen company was formed while 'Yes', a mineral water brand, was launched a couple of years later, Saffar recalls.

However, in 1999, the two brothers decided to go separate ways.

Elder brother Vikram Kothari took charge of the stationery and pens enterprise while younger brother Deepak Kothari took control of the paan masala empire, recalls Saffar.

'Rotomac' too had its glorious run and emerged a top player in the writing instruments market. Its promotional tag line - 'Likhtey, likhtey, love ho jaye', too struck a chord with many. Bollywood heartthrobs Salman Khan and Raveena Tandon were then its brand ambassadors.

Social recognition accompanied commercial success and the Lions Club named Vikram Kothari as its

'Goodwill Ambassador', recalls Saffar.

As time went by, Rotomac Pens Private Limited was rechristened as the Rotomac Global Private Limited while Vikram Kothari also moved into other sectors including real estate, steel and infrastructure, hoping to replicate his success.

However, what seemed like an uninterrupted story of success gave ways to a contrary reality as Vikram Kothari finds himself stands accused of a bank loan default to the tune of thousands of crores.

Locals and neighbours now can only watch in disbelief as Kothari's name figures in one of the biggest default cases and that too at a time when the banking sector is facing the NPA crisis and the issue has taken the centre stage in the political discourse.

According to neighbour Saffar, Vikram Kothari has one son and two daughters. Both his daughters are married in business families, he adds.



## Body found in Rongong jungle

**GANGTOK, 20 FEB:** The body of one 60-year-old Dawa Sherpa was found in a jungle in upper Rongong on 18 Feb. According to the police, the man had died after falling from a height. Local residents said that the deceased did not have any family or proper place to stay. The body will be kept at the STNM hospital mortuary for 72 hrs for identification or claim.

## 16-yr-old girl goes missing

**GANGTOK, 20 FEB:** One 16-year-old girl has been reported missing since 17 Feb from New Market, Pakyong. According to the girl's uncle, the family tried to locate the girl for two days following which they filed a police complaint on 19 Feb. All efforts are being made to trace the missing girl.

# CAEPHT organizes Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 20 FEB:**

Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela was organized by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centers of FIM, ESA, UAE and PET, College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology, Ranipool on 20 Feb.

The event was inaugurated by Minister for Food Security and Agriculture Development, Somnath Poudyal, as chief guest. Dr S K Sharma [Dean College of Horticulture, Bermiok, South Sikkim] was the guest of honor of the programme which was chaired by Prof P P Dabral [Dean CAEPHT], informs a press release.

Addressing the inaugural function, the Minister stressed on the need of appropriate machinery suitable for hill agriculture. He



further emphasized that the farmers of the state have to give up traditional pattern of agriculture.

"Our farmers normally produce for self-consumption only and the productivity of the Sikkim state is lower than

many other states. Hence, technological interventions are necessary to increase our productivity," he said.

A 15-minute film on demonstration of various tools, implements and machinery was shown to the farmers by the col-

lege. Farm machinery suitable for hill agriculture were displayed and demonstrated during the mela.

Use of solar energy through various gadgets were also displayed for the benefit of the farmers. The working model of micro-irrigation system operated by gravity pressure was also point of attraction of the mela.

The flower packaging, chips making process were demonstrated by the students of CAEPHT. In addition to this, value added processed products of ginger, turmeric and buck wheat were also displayed.

The ICAR-NOFRI, Sikkim also participated in the mela by displaying the technology for organic farming. Three farmers also exhibited their products during the mela. Marlam Women's group Rumtek, Suryajyoti Group, Sourni and Sunder Sikkim, Marchak were adjudged first, second and third respectively for their organic produce display and were given cash prize by the Minister, the release mentions.

## Naari Chetna month to begin from Feb end

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 20 FEB:**

West Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwadi Yuva Manch is going to organise 35 days long Naari Chetna month from 25 Feb dedicating the month to women.

Naari Chetna convener, Jaya Periwal, in a press release informs that from last two years the March month is specially dedicated to women but this year they have decided to extend the duration and begin from Feb.

Naari Chetna month will begin from 25 Feb with awareness rally cum awareness program with self-defense course under the banner of Mar-

wadi Yuva Manch Risra branch.

Different branches under West Bengal and Sikkim shall organise different types of women related programs along with competitions.

To encourage women in sports, the Manch is organizing state level badminton tournament. The branch level tournaments have started which will shortlist players for the state level tournament expected to begin in last week of March.

In Sikkim there are six branches and all branches are expected to organise different types of programs this month.

## Attack premeditated, conspiracy: Delhi CS

**contd from pg01**

He also claimed he was roughed up.

The chief minister's office has brushed off the chief secretary's allegations as "bizarre and baseless", while Sisodia has said they are "baseless and ludicrous".

In his complaint, Prakash, a 1986-batch IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, alleged that at the meeting, an attempt was made to "compel" him to follow "unlawful directions".

The chief secretary claimed that around 8.45 pm yesterday, the advisor to the chief minister informed him that he had to reach the CM's residence at midnight to discuss the issue of releasing some TV advertisements relating to the completion of three years of the AAP government.

"The advisor (to CM)

had called me around 11.30 pm (last night) to confirm that I had left for the meeting. Thereafter, I left my residence in my official car... and reached CM's residence at midnight... I was taken to the front room where Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and 11 MLAs were present," he said.

The chief secretary, 56, alleged that as the meeting started, one of AAP MLAs slammed the door shut, and he was made to sit between MLA Amanatullah Khan and another MLA on a three-seater sofa.

"CM directed me to answer the MLAs and explain the reasons for the delay in the release of the TV campaign. I explained to them that officers were bound by guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court," he said in the complaint.

He said, "The MLAs started shouting at me

and abused me while blaming me and the bureaucracy for not doing enough publicity for the government".

One of the MLAs, he alleged, threatened him, saying that he (Prakash) would be confined to the room for the entire night if he did not agree to re-leasing the TV campaign.

He said in his police complaint that he was also told he would be implicated in "false cases including under the SC/ST Act".

Khan and the other MLA on my left side whom I can identify, without any provocation from my side, started hitting and assaulting me and hit several blows with fists on my head and temple," he said.

Prakash added that his spectacles fell to the ground.

"I was in a state of shock. With difficulty, I was able to leave the room and get into my

official car and leave the CM's residence," he said.

"I request you (North DCP) to take action as per the law as the assault was premeditated and a conspiracy of all (those) present with the intention to criminally intimidate, cause hurt with the motive to deter me from the discharge of my lawful duty and compel me to follow unlawful directions. None of the persons present in the room made any effort to save me," he said in the complaint.

Since the party has come to power in Delhi, the bureaucracy and the AAP dispensation have clashed on a range of issues.

In December, 2015, when Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain suspended two special secretaries, IAS and DANICS (Delhi Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service) officers went on mass leave against the move.



## SKM coordination meet held at Martam

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 20 FEB:** A coordination meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha West district executive committee was held at Martam village under Bermiok-Gyalshing constituency, West Sikkim today.

The meeting, which was chaired by working president, MP Subba, discussed the future programmes of the party and passed various resolutions in the interest of the party, informs an SKM press release.

During the meeting, it was decided that the responsibility to constitute booth level committees will be given to CLC presidents by 31 Mar.

# Comprehensive plan for quality research on Sikkim's...

**contd from pg01**

Disaster monitoring and mitigation strategies.

Notable among the presentations were the talks of Dr. Adina Radviteanu, Aberystwyth University from UK who presented the work on Glacier Monitoring in the Eastern Himalaya and Dr. Inka Koch of ICIMOD who presented the work on the Snow Cover Dynamics in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the release mentions.

The extensive research work conducted in the Western Himala-

yas were presented by the representatives of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Divecha Center for Climate Change, National Center for Antarctica and Ocean Research, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Central University of Jharkhand, etc. Presentations on research work in Sikkim glaciers were presented by Research Scholars of Sikkim University, State Council of Science and Technology, Central University of South Bihar, Birbal Sahni

Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, DCCC, etc.

The conference provided an ideal platform for sharing of research methodologies among all the scientists and researchers, and also facilitated discussion on the findings of the research work, the release states.

The discussion points from the deliberations were summed up at the end of the conference with concrete action points for follow up, that were presented by the Chairs of the various

technical sessions.

The summing up of the conference was conducted through a panel discussion which had Dr. Thomas Chandy [Principal Secretary cum PCCF - FEWMD], Dr. GP Upadhyaya [Additional Chief Secretary cum Secretary, Human Resource Development Department], Dr. K Jayakumar [Principal Secretary DST and CC], and the key note speakers. The session was chaired by Sushil Ramola [President of the Integrated Mountain Initiative].

## 'Sanskrit and Monastic teachers to get salary...

**contd from pg01**

regular teachers in the state after the month of April. He also said that the pay commission recommendations will be implemented from April onwards.

He briefed about the establishment of Horticulture college in Temi, Pharmacy college, medical college at Sokeythang from 2019, 100% reservation of Pandits from Sikkim in all the religious establishments of the state. He also mentioned the establishment of various places of worship in Sikkim such as the presence of 40 ft high Siri Junga at Hee Bermiok, Char Dham and Samdrup-tse in Mangchi, Buddha Park in Ravangla, Namghis, churches among many others.

In his address, the CM also underlined that the state government has always advocated and practiced a democratic and secular guideline in maintaining communal accord in Sikkim.

Speaking about the education scenario in the state, the CM reiterated how all Sikkimese youth are entitled to free education in the State at CCT Chisopani and ATTC Bardang. He also announced various vacancies being created by the state government to provide avenues of employment for the youth. Additionally he also spoke about the state government's initiative of Start-up schemes geared towards making youth job providers instead

of being job seekers.

Similarly, the CM urged the youth to understand the imperativeness of skill based education and emphasized the need for them to tap business opportunities in Organic Farming. He further enumerated the various pension plans conceptualized by the state government catering to varied categories.

Delving upon the health sector of the state the CM updated that the state government has shouldered free breast cancer check-up at Manipal Hospital, vaccinations for MDR-TB as well as Cervical Cancer.

He also informed that a bill will be passed during the next State Legislative Assembly session which ensures the consumption, production and marketing of certified organic produce from the state for the health and well-being of the Sikkimese populace. He also reiterated that from 31 March 2018 the state government will discourage import of certain vegetables from outside Sikkim. He also added that the state government will strive to transform the dairy industry of the state into an organic one.

Regarding the various demands placed by Namthang Senior Secondary School administration, Panchayats and public of Namthang the CM assured that these demands will be fulfilled at

the earliest.

Chief Engineer, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department presented a brief technical report of the upcoming Ashta-Chiranjeevi Dham project which will be constructed at Nagi dara in Namthang. The project is being taken up at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 83.414 crore on 6.5 acres of land and will have a 54ft high bronze metal statue of Lord Hanuman as the main attraction.

It was also declared that the state-of-the-art structure will have a 16 feet high pedestal of all the eight Sapta Chiranjeevis which will further elevate the statue to a cumulative height of 70 ft. Other features of the dham is the construction of the structure in an eco-friendly manner keeping in mind the concept of green building and will encompass the modern amenities which includes an exhibition and prayer hall beneath the pedestal, parking place, hawan kund, ticketing counter, restrooms, souvenir shops, administrative office, cafeteria, meditation hall, staff quarters, stone paved footpaths, multi-purpose hall, gazebos, ramps laced with well lit landscaped gardens.

The program also saw presentation of gratitude letter to land donor Milan Gurung and his family for donation of land for midday meal room in Namthang SSS premises.

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**Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
21 Feb**

**Temp:** 21°C / 06°C

**Forecast:** Some sun,  
then turning cloudy  
with occasional rain  
in the afternoon.

**Sunrise:** 06:09AM

**Sunset:** 5:30 PM

## Singtam needs lights for safer streets

**YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 20 FEB:**

Lack of proper street lights raises concern for the safety of people moving around in Singtam especially at night.

It is learnt that on Monday at around 7 30 p.m. two women were heading towards the district hospital to visit a relative. As they were walking along the old bridge, a group of teenaged boys who were drunk started shouting at them and one of them tried to accost the women.

The women managed to escape but this incident has brought to light the need for better provisions for safety. There are many women working in Pharmaceutical companies who have to return from work late at night.

The two women are hesitant to file a police complaint since they have never done so.

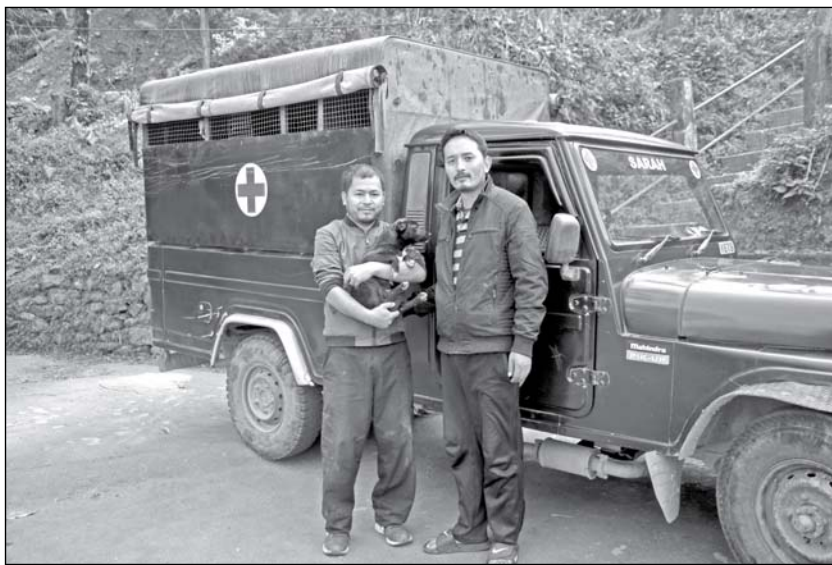
The bridge in question has halogen lights but they are not working.

## TMC supporters demand resignation of Siliguri Mayor

**SILIGURI, 20 FEB:** Trinamool Congress supporters of Ward No-02 backed by residents of the ward today hit the streets and stormed into the Siliguri Municipal Committee Mayor, Asok Bhattacharya's chamber demanding immediate attention to a series of pending demands.

The demands include proper waste management, pro-active dengue prevention measures, maintaining the regularity of ward boys, renovation of road and play grounds amongst others.

They went even further demanding the resignation of the Mayor.



## Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies camp in North

**MANGAN, 20 FEB (IPR):** Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies (ABC&AR) camp was conducted by SARAH (Sikkim Anti Rabies and Animal Health) from 08-19 Feb in North Sikkim. Stray dogs from areas surrounding Mangan and several villages of

the District were sterilized and vaccinated against Rabies and also de-wormed. A total of 268 dogs were sterilized and 303 dogs vaccinated.

The Government of Sikkim has recognized the importance of Animal Welfare activities and

created SARAH division to reduce stray dog population by humane and sustainable means. SARAH is the first Government sanctioned initiative in the whole of India to implement animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies programme.



## No entry for tourists in Gorumara National Park on 01-02 Mar

**SILIGURI, 20 FEB:** West Bengal Forest Department has decided to restrict the entry of tourists in Gorumara National Park on 01-02 March owing to the festival of Dolyatra and Holi. As per sources, tribals hunt down

animals during Holi which is why the department has restricted the entry of tourists in Gorumara National Park in these two days. The Forest Department will also be monitoring the forest 24x7.

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## Centre proposes stringent law to check ponzi, unregulated deposits

**NEW DELHI, FEB 20 (PTI):** In order to check ponzi schemes, the government today proposed a stringent law to punish those who raise funds through unregulated deposits.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today gave its approval to introduce Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018, in Parliament.

"The bill is aimed at tackling the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country.

"Companies/ institutions running such schemes exploit existing regulatory gaps and lack of strict administrative measures to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings," an official statement said.

The worst victims of such schemes are the poor and the fi-

nancially illiterate, and the operations of such schemes are often spread over many states.

The comprehensive bill, it said provides for complete prohibition of unregulated deposit taking activity and prescribes deterrent punishment.

As per the bill, competent authorities would be set up by state governments to "ensure repayment of deposits in the event of default by a deposit taking establishment".

As per the release, the principle is that the Bill would ban unregulated deposit taking activities altogether, by making them an offence ex-ante, rather than the existing legislative-cum-regulatory framework which only comes into effect ex-post with considerable time lags.

The bill proposes to create three different types of offences

-- running of unregulated deposit schemes, fraudulent default in regulated deposit schemes, and wrongful inducement in relation to unregulated deposit schemes. It provides for severe punishment and heavy pecuniary fines to act as deterrent.

"The Bill has adequate provisions for disgorgement or repayment of deposits in cases where such schemes nonetheless manage to raise deposits illegally," the release said.

Clear-cut timelines have been provided for attachment of property and restitution to depositors.

There would also be an on-line central database, for collection and sharing of information on deposit taking activities in the country.

"Being a comprehensive Union law, the Bill adopts best

practices from State laws, while entrusting the primary responsibility of implementing the provisions of the legislation to the state governments," it said.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the Budget Speech 2016-17 had announced that a comprehensive central legislation would be brought in to deal with the menace of illicit deposit taking schemes, as in the recent past, there have been rising instances of people in various parts of the country being defrauded by illicit deposit taking schemes.

Subsequently, the finance minister in the Budget Speech 2017-18 had announced that the draft bill to curtail the menace of illicit deposit schemes had been placed in the public domain and would be introduced shortly after its finalisation.

## Nepal's CPN-UML and CPN-Maoist merge; form new powerful bloc

**KATHMANDU, FEB 20 (PTI):** Nepal's CPN-UML and CPN-Maoist Centre have merged and formed a new powerful bloc after they secured a sweeping majority in the historic federal and provincial polls.

The Left Alliance of the CPN-UML, led by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and CPN-Maoist Centre, led by former premier Prachanda, had in December secured 174 seats in the 275-member Parliament in the provincial and parliamentary polls that many hope will bring the much-needed political stability to the Himalayan nation.

The two communist allies, in a meeting last night, agreed for the merger, The Kathmandu Post reported.

The meeting of the Party Unification Coordination Committee (PUCC) held in Baluwatar spelt out seven points of the agreement to further the unification process, it said.

The unified party will be named the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN), the report said.

"With this agreement, the Maoist

Centre will join the government," said Narayan Kaji Shrestha, a PUC member.

He said the two parties would now sit for finalising the sharing of government portfolios and other powerful positions.

According to the agreement, Oli and Prachanda will share the party chair in equal capacity. The duo would also share the five-year term of prime minister, the report said.

Marxism and Leninism will shape the unified party's political ideology, which will accept multi-party system as a form of democratic practice with the ultimate goal of socialism, the report added.

In October last year, the two parties, in a surprise move, had announced a pre-poll alliance and said that they would go for merger following the federal and provincial elections.

The Nepali Congress (NC), led by former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, faced a humiliating defeat in the historic parliamentary and provincial assembly polls, winning just 23 seats out of a total 165 seats.

## Had warned banks thrice against misuse of SWIFT infra, says RBI

**MUMBAI, FEB 20 (PTI):**

Amid multi-agency probe into the Rs 11,400 crore fraud at PNB, the Reserve Bank today said it had cautioned banks thrice since August 2016 on the risks arising from potential misuse of SWIFT infrastructure, which was created by banks for their business needs.

The central bank has also decided to constitute an expert committee under Y H Malegam, a former member of the Central Board of Directors of RBI, to look into the reasons for high divergence observed in asset classification and provisioning by banks and the steps needed to prevent it.

The committee has also been tasked to looking into the factors leading to an increasing incidence of frauds at banks and the measures (including IT interventions) needed to curb and prevent it.

"In the wake of SWIFT-related fraud involving significant amount, reported recently by Punjab National Bank, RBI has today reiterated its confidential instructions and mandated the banks to implement, within the stipulated deadlines, the prescribed measures for strengthening the SWIFT operating environment in banks," RBI said in a statement.

PNB has been defrauded of Rs 11,400 crore allegedly by jewellery designer Nirav Modi and his associates. The alleged fraud took place through use of fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs).

The fraud is being probed by several agencies including Enforcement Directorate, CBI, SFIO and Income Tax Department.

The RBI said that as part of ongoing efforts for strengthening of the supervisory framework

in the country it has been issuing necessary instructions to banks from time to time on a variety of issues of prudential supervisory concern, including the management of operational risks inherent in the functioning of banks.

The risks arising from the potential malicious use of the SWIFT infrastructure, created by banks for their genuine business needs, has always been a component of their operational risk profile, it said.

"RBI had, therefore, confidentially cautioned and alerted banks of such possible misuse, at least on three occasions since August 2016, advising them to implement the safeguards detailed in the RBI's communications, for pre-empting such occurrences," it said.

The banks have, however, been at varying levels in implementation of such measures, it added.





## Merit Deserves Scholarship

*The inspirational quality of CMMSS should not dim*

Recently, this year's list of students selected for the Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme was released. The number of students benefitting from this scheme has grown rather consistently for every batch and now, nearly a decade into this scheme, the bouquet must be really big and colourful. Each year, the cream of the academic crop is picked from government schools across that State and sponsored to pursue education at institutions which would otherwise have been beyond the means of the students and their families. The only criteria for selection is merit, and that is a wonderful, and also rare, thing to have in an environment otherwise obsessed with reservation and quotas. The CMMSS pie is also being apportioned into quotas, but more on that some other time. For now, let's congratulate the latest group of young, fresh out of class V students who have secured for themselves the opportunity of studying in much better schools purely because that they (the students) are "so good". Such life-changing success so early in life is a rare feat and an opportunity to convince the students that it is okay to "dream big".

More youngsters should be encouraged to think big – that is the right message to share with them because thinking big underlines the exceptionally salutary Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme under which they have been selected. The scheme is barely into its ninth edition, and although the more urban centres in the State remain largely unaware of its reception, it has sent out a surge of excitement and enthusiasm in rural Sikkim. More and more parents and teachers of students enrolled in government schools in junior grades are shaking off the despondency of having to live with mediocrity and are working with their wards, sharpening their academic wits and motivating them with the opportunities now available to them, to aspire for better. The prospects created by the merit scholarship scheme have proven exceptionally effective towards inspiring a keener interest in the learning process of students in government schools and more students and parents are gearing up to seize the opportunity.

This is a welcome development, and while the genuine interest in investing in the future generation was by itself enough to merit the scheme celebratory status, the positive effect it has had on parents, teachers and students makes the CM's Merit Scholarship Scheme even more praiseworthy.

What has made the intent behind the scheme even more admirable is the willingness of the policy makers and the executive to make honest course corrections to refine the scheme and keep it transparent. The reference here is to the dodge attempted by a government school teacher who managed to show his ward, studying in a private school, as a government school student to win a berth in the merit list. The teacher and others involved were suspended from service and the merit list corrected to ensure that only children who had begun their education in government schools and remained there, received the chance to compete for selection. That was in the earlier years of the scheme. Since then, things have not been as earnest and there have been some wobbles. But that is expected in any ambitious programme being executed by less than inspired officers. The idea, however, still holds strength and its inspirational quality has not dimmed. That is praiseworthy.

It is however important that the "merit" aspect of the scheme and the transparent process are sustained, because in the event that these are subverted, the intended beneficiaries will be made to suffer a double denial in that while they are invited to dream big, they are refused a level playing field. Maybe, in later years, an open scholarship test (open to private school students as well) with fewer seats can be held so that more can partake from this distinguished effort. After all, not too many private schools offer exceptional education. That said, it goes without saying that the CM's Merit Scholarship Scheme ranks among the best initiatives undertaken for the young in Sikkim. It is exciting to think of how many more confident, proud and open minds this scheme can groom for the State in the coming years.

This scheme deserves a definite two thumbs up! And this brings one to wonder why it has not attracted wider comment from the people at large and their civil society or even the political spectrum which might be in the Opposition but is still in Sikkim?

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# Just how bad is all that sugar for your heart?

SCOTT LEAR  
*theconversation.com*

Still nibbling Valentine's Day goodies? Munching packaged cereals, pancakes or muffins for breakfast? Enjoying a lunch of processed meats and bread, sweetened pasta sauce, or even a salad drenched in dressing?

Sugar makes all of these foods delicious. It is also an important energy source for our bodies. It's what we use when we're doing vigorous activities and it's the primary source of fuel for our brain. We need it.

The problem is, many of us eat far too much sugar. And we eat it in its simplest, processed form.

This excess of sugar in our diets increases the risks of health conditions such as obesity, insulin resistance, diabetes, atherosclerosis, high blood cholesterol and hypertension.

It also significantly increases the risks of premature death from heart disease.

## HOW OUR BODY DIGESTS SUGAR

Our bodies are designed to digest sugar in its naturally occurring form found in fruits, vegetables and whole grains. In these foods simple sugar molecules are joined together in a chain.

Our small intestine cannot absorb sugar in the form of a carbohydrate chain (commonly known as starch), so these foods are slowly broken down, with one sugar molecule cleaved off at a time before it can be absorbed. This is like taking a long train and removing one box car at a time.

When we eat sugar in its simplest form, such as sucrose (a combination of a glucose and fructose molecule), there is no chain to break down. So instead, a flood of sugar is released into the bloodstream all at once. We often feel this as an energy rush.

Insulin is then released to shuttle the glucose into our muscles, liver and other organs to be stored for later energy use. This can leave us feeling lethargic and hungry after the spike in glucose in our blood, leading us to eat more calories than we need to, which in turn may increase our risk for obesity.

## INSULIN RESISTANCE TO HEART DISEASE

There are many other ways in which a high sugar diet adversely affects our health.

As we have limited stores for glucose in our body, any extra gets converted to fat. Some of this fat circulates in our blood and interferes with the work of insulin leading to further increases in blood glucose levels.

If this continues over years, insulin begins to lose its effectiveness and blood glucose starts to rise, resulting in what's called insulin resistance and later to diabetes, another risk factor for heart disease.

As the excess glucose circulates in the blood vessels, it begins to weaken the artery walls, making them leaky and dysfunctional, which can lead to

the formation of atherosclerosis.

## THE ROLE OF HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP

Back in the 1960s and 1970s studies began to show that dietary fat was associated with increased heart disease. This led to the first Dietary Guidelines for Americans in 1980, which targeted fat in the diet.

Almost immediately, there was a proliferation of low-fat items created by the food industry resulting in trends of decreased fat intake and increased intake of added sugars in the U.S. All the while, obesity increased.

In Canada the rates of adult obesity tripled — from 6.1 per cent in 1985 to 18.3 per cent in 2011.

At around the same time, high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) began to be introduced into foods as a sweetener given that it was cheap due to U.S. agricultural subsidies of corn. Since then, consumption of high-fructose corn syrup has increased dramatically in the U.S. and, to a lesser extent, also in Canada.

By 2004, Canadians consumed an average of 110 grams of sugar per day — the equivalent of 26 teaspoons — accounting for approximately 21 per cent of daily caloric intake.

More than a third of that comes from processed foods, meaning that Canadians are eating more than 30 pounds of added sugar per year from foods with no nutritional value.

In the United States, these added sugars comprise 14 per cent of daily caloric intake in adults and children over six. Both amounts are well over the maximum of 10 per cent recommended by the World Health Organization.

## BIG SUGAR, BIG SODA

There have been questions as to whether higher intakes of HFCS present a health concern beyond glucose.

Unlike glucose, fructose is metabolized by the liver, independent of insulin. In a randomized trial, high intakes of HFCS were associated with increased deposition of visceral fat (inner-abdominal fat that resides below the stomach muscle wall and sits around the abdominal organs) compared to glucose.

The accumulation of visceral fat can lead to insulin resistance, increased blood cholesterol levels and hypertension — all major risk factors for heart disease. However, this study used levels of fructose nearly twice that of the average person's intake and may only be relevant to a small number of people with intakes that high.

In recent years, concern about "Big Food" acting like the tobacco industry of the 1950s has emerged.

The scientific merit of some of the original studies pointing to dietary fat has also come into question. Evidence is emerging that the sugar industry sponsored a research program in the 1960s and 1970s that successfully cast doubt about the hazards of sucrose while promoting fat as the dietary

culprit in coronary heart disease.

## A GLOBAL MOVE TO TAX SUGAR

Given that the consumption of processed sugars has increased in populations throughout the world, it will be challenging to reverse this trend. However, a number of governments have begun to fight back.

The most common method used to date is the imposition of a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) like soda pops and sport drinks. Mexico has already implemented such taxes to reduce consumption. The United Kingdom is introducing one in April 2018.

While it's still early days, there is indication that intake of SSB has decreased in Mexico since implementation of the tax.

While the U.S. has no national SSB tax, many cities have undertaken to implement one, such as Philadelphia and Berkeley. There is criticism though that people may just travel outside of that city to purchase the drinks at a lower, untaxed price.

At present, the evidence isn't available to support this speculation and one study found that vendors in the Philadelphia airport who reside outside of the city boundaries also raised their prices of SSB in line with the tax.

## CANADA CHANGES SUGAR LABELLING

Canada lags behind. There has been much discussion of implementing a tax on SSB but no change appears on the horizon.

In recent years there has been a push to stop the marketing of foods with low nutritional value to kids, much of these foods being high in added sugars. The province of Quebec has had its own law on advertising to children in place since 1980 and currently has one of the lowest rates of child obesity in Canada.

In the past year, Health Canada has been looking at different ways in which the nutritional labelling of processed foods can be modified to more accurately inform consumers of the true amount of sugar.

One such proposal is to group all types of sugar together in the ingredients list. At present, ingredients are listed in order of quantity. To avoid sugar being listed first, the food industry uses different types of sugars in processed foods such as sugar, corn syrup, molasses and brown sugar. Under the new regulations, these sugars would be listed together as one ingredient.

Given how pervasive sugar is in our food chain and our diets, no single action is likely to turn the tide back.

It will take regulation at different government levels, advocacy by not-for-profit organizations and increased awareness among consumers for measurable reductions in sugar to occur.

*[the writer is Professor of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University]*

# Why sport hasn't made much progress on LGBTI+ rights since the Sochi Olympics

KEITH PARRY, EMMA KAVANAGH & RYAN STORR  
*theconversation.com*

Athletes from Western nations have various protections, and many now share equal rights in most aspects of the law. But when they travel to compete in countries with regressive human rights records, these protections can be lost.

Australia competed at the 2014 Winter Olympics and the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, both of which were held in Russia. It will again send a team to Russia to play in this year's FIFA World Cup and aims to compete in the 2022 edition in Qatar. Both countries have poor human rights records, particularly on LGBTI+ issues.

Sport is often lauded as a platform to advance human rights. But, for LGBTI+ individuals and athletes, this may not necessarily be true. The continued hosting of mega sporting events in countries with anti-LGBTI+ laws brings the role of sport in campaigns to advance human rights into focus.

## LGBTI+ RIGHTS AND THE WINTER OLYMPICS

Sochi became a platform for LGBTI+ rights when Western activists called for a boycott based on several human rights concerns. Their resistance increased in direct response to the implementation of laws in Russia outlawing sexual minorities.

Principle 4 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism was often referred to amid concerns for the safety

of LGBTI+ athletes at Sochi:

"The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play."

Athlete activists have begun to challenge the hosting of mega sporting events in countries like Russia that ignore human rights and reinforce systems of oppression. But what has really changed since Sochi for Olympians?

This year a country with a questionable stance on LGBTI+ rights is again hosting the Winter Olympics. South Korea scores only 13% on the Rainbow Index, which measures the impacts of a country's laws and policies on the lives of LGBTI+ people. This is only a marginally better score than Russia's 8%.

Although homosexuality is legal in South Korea, LGBTI+ rights remain highly volatile. South Korean President Moon Jae-in has courted controversy with comments opposing homosexuality, and sexual minorities continue to face significant stigma in the region.

Australia is taking 51 athletes to compete in South Korea, with two openly gay women on the team. One, Belle Brockhoff, has criticised the anti-LGBTI+ laws in host countries. She joined 26 other athletes who signed a letter opposing Kazakhstan's bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics due

to its anti-LGBTI+ policies.

However, it is not only host nations that can be called to account for their poor LGBTI+ records. Adam Rippon, an openly gay figure skater who has won bronze in Pyeongchang, recently said he did not want to meet Vice President Mike Pence as part of an official reception for the US team. Rippon argued the Trump administration does not "represent the values that [he] was taught growing up". A Fox News executive has criticised the inclusion of "African-Americans, Asians and openly gay athletes" in the US team. He claimed that "Darker, Gay, Different" was now a more suitable Olympic motto than "Faster, Higher, Stronger".

Current evidence suggests that anti-LGBTI+ discrimination is rising. Stonewall, the UK's leading LGBTI+ charity, reports hate crimes toward the LGBTI+ community have increased: one in five LGBTI+ people have experienced a hate crime due to their sexual orientation or gender identity in the last year.

In the US, Donald Trump tried to ban transgender people from serving in the military. Several states have attempted to pass laws to restrict access to bathrooms for people who are trans or gender-diverse.

## WITH INCREASED VISIBILITY COMES INCREASED RISK

An increasing number of athletes now openly demonstrate their sexual orientation, but many acknowledge it leaves them open to homophobic

abuse – especially on social media platforms.

American Olympic skier Gus Kenworthy referred to social media as a space that serves to reinforce the presence of casual and aggressive homophobia. British Olympian Tom Bosworth said he believed fear of abuse on social media could be preventing athletes from coming out.

Mega sporting events can be problematic for LGBTI+ athletes as many may not be "out" and there can be serious implications if they were to do so.

The safety and welfare of LGBTI+ athletes made headlines when a journalist went undercover in the athletes' village at the 2016 Rio Olympics to identify out or closeted athletes. Several athletes who were identified were from countries where being gay is criminalised or even punishable by death.

Sport is responding at a notably slow pace to the advancement of LGBTI+ human rights.

Major sporting codes have shown they are not ready to tackle trans and gender diversity. For example, the Australian Football League recently banned transgender player Hannah Mouncey from joining its women's competition.

There is still much work to be done around athletes with intersex variations, sex testing in elite-level competition, and transgender and transitioned athletes.

turn to OS



# SC refuses to extend deadline to publish final NRC for Assam

**NEW DELHI, FEB 20 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today made it clear that the ongoing process of publication of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam has to be completed by May 31 this year and work on this should continue without "any interference from any quarter".

"You push it up", remarked a bench comprising Justices Ranjan Gogoi and R F Nariman while taking exception to the submission advanced by the Centre and the state coordinator for NRC that the process would be completed by July 31, instead of May 31. The NRC is being prepared to

identify illegal migrants in Assam.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that the state coordinator has handed over a status report in a sealed cover as per which verification of around one crore citizens was to be done and according to the persons working on ground, it would be done by July 31.

When the bench asked state coordinator Prateek Hajela about it, he said that the verification process involved house-to-house visits which was expected to be over by May 31, and thereafter, a month's time till June 30

would be needed for "mop-up operation".

"You push it up. We are not going to push it down," the bench told Hajela, adding "Do it by May 31, not a day later."

The Attorney General said that as per the coordinator, they were examining family trees of the citizens and it was "physically impossible".

"Mr Attorney General what everybody thought was a big joke, has been turned into a reality. Our business is to make the impossible, possible and we will do it. We are monitoring it for the last four years and we know this," the bench said, adding that it would monitor the progress of the NRC

work in Assam after 30 days.

"Thank you for pointing out the ground reality and thank you for saying that we are ignorant about it. There are many things which we know but we say we do not know," the bench observed and posted the matter for hearing on March 27.

When Venugopal urged the court to consider the request and said that the state was doing its best in the matter, the bench said, "only the court is doing its best. Nobody else."

The bench, while noting in its order that as per the coordinator the work of final draft NRC would be completed by June 30, also

dealt with the issue about the upcoming panchayat and local body elections in Assam, which are due in March-April this year.

The top court said the state election commission would conduct these elections as per schedule but the poll process should not cause "slightest of interference in the publication of NRC".

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing Assam, told the bench that official machinery of the state would have to be diverted for election, the bench shot back, "the moment diversion is made, we are going to hold the state gov-

ernment and state election commission responsible for it".

Mehta said security arrangements would be done and forces would be deployed for election but administrative functionaries like district magistrates and collectors have to work during this poll process.

"No. The NRC work will go on without any interference. How will you do your panchayat elections, it is up to you," the bench said, adding, "the work of holding election in Assam will not be at the cost of upgradation and preparation of NRC and the NRC work will continue as before with fill deployment".

It said that the state election commission and state government would take necessary action for holding of these elections.

At the outset, the Attorney General read out the details from the status report filed by the coordinator and said the apex court had asked him to come out with first draft NRC by December 31 last year covering a total of 2.38 crore citizens.

He said the coordinator has been able to complete the work for 1.90 crore citizens by December 31 last year and another over 38 lakh by January 31 this year, taking the total to around 2.29 crore.

The court did not

accept the request to appoint an additional state coordinator for NRC work and said the incumbent coordinator would continue to carry out the exercise till it reaches its logical conclusion.

The first draft NRC for Assam was published in December end as per the apex court's direction to come out with the first draft NRC by December 31, 2017.

The Supreme Court had said that claims of those citizens, whose names do not figure in the draft NRC for Assam published by December 31 last year, would be scrutinised and included in the subsequent list, if found

genuine.

The top court had on November 30 last year said that on the expiry of midnight of December 31, the draft NRC pertaining to 2.38 crore claims, would be published.

The court had observed this while rejecting the Centre's plea seeking extension of time for publication of the draft NRC.

The NRC of 1951 is being updated for Assam in accordance with the tripartite agreement among the state and central governments and the influential All Assam Students Union (AASU), which was arrived at in 2005 to implement the 1985 Assam Accord.

## Why sport hasn't made much...

cond from pg04

### HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

One particular social inclusion legacy to come from a mega sporting event is Pride House International. This initiative provides a safe space for the LGBTI+ community to engage with a sporting event.

In addition, the Principle 6 campaign, launched in response to Russia's anti-LGBT laws, led to the expansion of that particular part of the Olympic Charter to include sexual orientation as something sport should be free from discrimination on.

It will be interesting to see whether the 2018 Winter Olympics can contribute to the advancement of LGBTI+ rights within South Korea and beyond. However, more scrutiny must be directed to the human rights records of potential host nations when awarding mega sporting events.

*[Keith Parry is Senior Lecturer in Sport Management, Western Sydney University; Emma Kavanagh is Senior Lecturer in Sports Psychology and Coaching Sciences, Bournemouth University; Ryan Storr is Lecturer in Sport Development, Western Sydney University]*

## GJM-Kalimpong appoints district committee members

**SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 20 FEB:**

Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha (Binay faction), Kalimpong District Committee, today formalized its full-fledged committee.

Accordingly, the ad-hoc committee which was formed three months ago was dissolved after having successfully run the organization.

Yesterday, a marathon meeting, chaired by Anit Thapa, the GTA vice chairperson and general secretary of the party, was held to discuss the appointment of committee members.

Addressing a press conference here at Deolo today, Samsher Ali, central committee member of the party, said, "Earlier there was a policy of pick and choose, i.e. the party chief used to choose the



names of president and secretary but now we held a marathon meeting to discuss the prospective portfolio holders."

Sanchibir Subba, GTA Board member, who was appointed convener of the ad-hoc committee, has been made the District

President, while for the first time in the History of GJMM-Kalimpong, a woman - Gayatri Mukhiya - has been appointed general secretary.

Further, Kingfa Wang from Block 1, Suman Gurung from Block 2 and Johnny Tamang from

Block 3 have appointed vice presidents; Bhuwan Khanal spokesperson, Binoy Ghising organizing secretary, Ruden Lepcha treasurer and Kamal Subba office secretary and PRO, informed Mr Ali.

Meanwhile, Kalpana

Tamang has been appointed Convener of the party's women's wing, while Bidhur Rai is now convener of the youth wing.

A total of 28 executive members in different post have been appointed in the District committee.

## Govt clears opening up of commercial coal mining to pvt firms

**NEW DELHI, FEB 20 (PTI):** In a major reform in the coal sector since its nationalisation in 1973, the government on Tuesday allowed private companies to mine the fossil fuel for commercial use, ending the monopoly of state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL).

The opening up of commercial coal mining for private sector is the most ambitious coal sector reform since the nationalisation of this sector, Coal and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said while briefing the media on the decision taken in the Cabinet meeting.

Currently, private sector is allowed coal mining for captive use only. The reform, Goyal said, is likely to bring efficiency into the coal sector by moving away from the era of monopoly (of CIL) to competition and lower power tariffs. He said the move will lead to higher investments and create lakhs of direct and indirect jobs.

"It will increase competitiveness and allow the use of best possible technology into the sector. The higher investment will create direct and indirect employment in coal bearing areas especially in mining sector and will have an impact on economic development of these regions," the minister said.

The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) under the Chairmanship of Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi.

The CCEA has approved the methodology for auction of coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the coal ministry said in a statement.

Following nationalisation, only state-owned CIL was allowed to sell coal. The minister said big, medium as well as small mines would be offered to private companies for mining.

Opening up the sector will also lead to energy security through assured coal supply, accountable allocation and affordability, he added.

The methodology gives highest priority to transparency, ease of doing business and ensures that natural resources are used for national development, the statement said.

"The auction will be an ascending forward auction whereby the bid parameter will be the price offer in Rs/tonne which will be paid to the State Government on the actual production of coal. There shall be no restriction on the sale and/or utilisation of coal from the coal mine," it said.

The move will lead to energy security as 70 per cent of country's electricity is generated from thermal power plants, the statement said, adding that this

reform will ensure assured coal supply, accountable allocation of coal and affordable coal leading to affordable power prices for consumers.

"As the entire revenue from the auction of coal mines for sale of coal would accrue to the coal bearing States, this methodology shall incentivise them with increased revenues which can be utilised for the growth and development of backward areas and their inhabitants including tribals," the statement said, adding that the Eastern states will be especially benefited.

Goyal said the move will help ramp up domestic production and reduce dependence on imports, which in turn will save the country precious foreign exchange. The move will also help in bringing down power tariffs, he said.

West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh are the major coal bearing states. India is believed to have reserves of 300 billion tonne.

When asked how the move would impact Coal India, Goyal said competition would help the state-owned miner.

The Supreme Court had in September, 2014 cancelled 204 coal mines allocated to the different Government and private companies since 1993 under the provisions of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

## BSNL launches unlimited plan, 4G roll-out likely from March

**KOLKATA, FEB 20 (PTI):** State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd today introduced unlimited prepaid mobile plans starting at Rs 99 for the Calcutta telecom circle to take on rising competition.

The telecom operator was also bullish on the 2,100 MHz spectrum band before its 4G roll-out here, which could be as early as from March this year, Calcutta Telephones CGM S P Tripathi said.

"We expect spectrum in the 2,100 MHz band within days and equipment is also ready," he said, sounding optimistic about the 4G roll-out in phases across the city with 650-odd towers.

He said the new plan starts from Rs 99 for 26 days and Rs 319 for 90 days unlimited voice calls with roaming, except in Delhi and Mumbai.

At Rs 999, the company will offer unlimited calls and 1GB/day high-speed data for 181 days. Tripathi said he expects the next fiscal year 2018-19 to be "much better" for the company as the price war gradually settles.

In the current fiscal, Calcutta Telephones is hopeful of clocking revenues between Rs 510 crore and Rs 550 crore, while losses are pegged at about Rs 350 crore, company officials said.

It is also focusing on recovery of dues from institutional and retail customers to the tune of Rs 300 crore.

## Walking for nature

**SMRITA KHAWAS**

**SILIGURI, 20 FEB:** In a laudable initiative in pursuit of safeguarding nature, a group of volunteers reached Siliguri late this afternoon in a walkathon which they had begun from Tiger Hill in Darjeeling yesterday.

Along their walk, the volunteers spread awareness about the need to conserve the environment and protect nature at schools from Darjeeling to Siliguri which came en route.

The team plans to travel 1,000 kilometres over 35 days, ending their walkathon at Sagardeep in the South Pargana district of West Bengal.

## Cal HC paralysed for 2nd day in cease work by lawyers

**KOLKATA, FEB 20 (PTI):** Justice delivery system remained paralysed at the Calcutta High Court for the second consecutive day today as lawyers stayed away owing to a five-day strike called by the Bar Association, demanding the appointment of judges.

Shorn of the lawyers and litigants, the gothic corridors of the high court wore a deserted look.

Judges were present in the court in the morning and petitions were called for hearing, but with lawyers not appearing on behalf of any party they later retired to their chambers.

Calcutta High Court

Bar Association president Uttam Majumdar claimed that the second day of the cease work demanding immediate filling up of vacant posts of judges was totally successful.

The high court has only 30 judges at present, while the sanctioned strength is of 72 judges.

Out of the present strength of the 30 sitting judges, two judges on rotation are permanently at the Andaman and Nicobar circuit bench of the high court.

There were 2,22,648 cases pending before the Calcutta High Court as on December 31, 2017, according to the available official data.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Suren Mohra son of Ran Bahadur Darjee resident of Ramabong, South Sikkim hereby declare that my name is recorded as **SURAN DARJEE** in my voter card, birth certificate and school certificate till B.A. Do i declare that both the names i.e. **SUREN MOHRA** and **SUREN DARJEE** is a same person.

**DECLARATION BY SUREN MOHRA.**



**FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM KRISHI BHAWAN DRAFT ADVERTISEMENT**

This is for information to all involved in the marketing of the organic produce of the State, that there is a provision to provide subsidy for "Packaging material with organic logo and hologram printing, Preparation of labels and Branding" under the Scheme "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana". Interested persons of the existing PKVY clusters may contact the undersigned for further information.

**K.K. Pradhan, Director, Mobile No. 9832017868FSADD, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim.**

**S.T. Bhutia Mobile No. 9641083663, Additional Director, INM Division, FSADD, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim.**

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## India target series-clincher, South Africa look to survive

**CENTURION, FEB 20 (PTI):** A ruthless India has only complacency to guard against while a deflated South Africa would be fighting another battle of survival when the two sides clash in the series-deciding second Twenty20 International, here tomorrow.

The Men in Blue won the first T20I at Johannesburg by 28 runs and a victory tomorrow will see them wrap up another series win on this tour.

A highly competitive 1-2 loss in the Tests, followed by a comprehensive 5-1 ODI triumph has made for quite a roller-coaster tour so far and the Indians would be aiming for a happy end to the long sojourn with a T20 victory.

A prospective 3-0 series' win would also help India climb up the ICC T20I Rankings and take up second spot behind Pakistan. However, if Australia beat New Zealand in the T20 tri-series' final (on Wednesday as well), India would stay on in their current third position.

Word from the Indian camp is that Virat Kohli will be fit in time for game. The skipper had hobbled off in latter stages of the previous game on Sunday with a left hip problem. The team management had deemed the issue as "nothing serious", and as such, he is expected to walk out at toss time on tomorrow.

Kohli had suffered a slight knee issue while fielding in the first ODI at Durban as well, but he brushed it off to score a fine hundred thereafter. Even so, another injury scare only underlines his exhaustive workload.

Wrapping up the series here might also enable Kohli to take time off and sit out the final T20I in Cape Town, keeping in mind his hectic schedule over the next three months.

If at all, India do need to consider his absence from this second match, then K L Rahul would come in as replacement.

He was left out from the previous game in favour of Manish Pandey, but now comes back into reckoning owing to Kohli's pending fitness ruling.



## Sikkim squad leaves for Dr T Ao Memorial U-21 football tourney

**SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 20 FEB:**

An 18-member Sikkim team left today for the prestigious Dr T Ao Memorial U-21 Football Tournament 2018 scheduled to begin on 23 Feb at Guwahati in Assam. Sikkim is the runners-up team of the last edition of the tournament.

This year, Sikkim has been placed in group B along with Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya in the qualifying round of the tournament. Sikkim will be playing its first match against Meghalaya on 23 Feb followed by another match

against Mizoram on 24 Feb and against Tripura on 25 Feb.

The State team members are Hissey Norbu Bhutia, Pujan Pradhan, Kunal Tamang, Evan Thapa, Nima Rinchen Sherpa, Lha Tshering Lepcha, Noel Darjee, Dilon Kharga, Prashant Chettri, Dawa Lhendup Sherpa, Sonu Hang Subba, Sangay Bhutia, Burnes Rai, Amon Lepcha, Ayuk Hang Limboo, Abinash Sharma, Roshan Pradhan and Amrit Tamang.

The team is accompanied by Suren Chettri as team coach and Arjun Rai as team manager.

Speaking to the State team members at Paljor Stadium this morning, Sports & Youth Affairs Department Secretary, SD Dhakal expressed his best wishes to all members of the team and motivated them to give their best to bring home the winning trophy this time. He encouraged them to play with better team-work and coordination and to maintain good discipline.

Mr Dhakal encouraged young footballers to have a dream and to follow it sincerely and dedicatedly to make a successful career in professional

football. He further urged them to stay focused on achieving their full potential.

Sikkim team manager, Mr Rai informed that the selection trial for the State team was held on 17 Feb at Paljor Stadium. The selection trial saw 28 footballers from different clubs and academies of the State trying out for the state team and finally 18 were shortlisted, he added.

The team comprises of young and experienced footballers of the State, he said further expressing hope that the team will return with the trophy.

## Football coach Stephen Constantine accepts contract extension

**NEW DELHI, FEB 20 (PTI):** Englishman Stephen Constantine today said he has accepted the contract extension offered to him by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), which will make him the longest serving national coach in the history of the sport here.

Under Constantine's tutelage, India qualified for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup after crushing Macau 4-1 last October, which stretched their unbeaten record to 12 matches. It became 13 when they played out a 2-2 draw with Myanmar the following month.

"After accepting my second contract extension with the All India Football Federation, I will have the longest tenure of any foreign coach in Indian history, with a total of seven years (2002 - 2005; 2015 - 2019)," Constantine said.

Constantine, however, did not state whether he has been given the salary hike that he had demanded.

India were struggling at 173 in the FIFA rankings when Constantine took charge. What followed was a dream run as India broke into the top 100 for the first time in 21 years.



"I am of course immensely proud of that, and of our accomplishments in both stints. This time round, qualifying for the Asian Cup in 2019, winning the SAFF, and taking India to its highest ranking in modern history, 96 are all great achievements.

"I really could not have done this without the support of the AIFF, my staff and, of course, the players."

Constantine's contract is due to expire next month. The 55-year-old Briton spoke about the challenging fixtures lined up for the team in the upcoming year.

"We have - as usual - a very hectic and busy schedule, starting with

our last qualifier of the Asian Cup, away to Kyrgyzstan on March 27th.

"We have the Asian Cup Finals from January 5th to February 1st 2019. National team camps will be as per the FIFA guidelines where applicable. There will then be a break in the ISL season so we can have a few more weeks to prepare for the Asian Cup in January."

AIFF's technical committee, led by former India player Shyam Thapa, had recommended a contract extension.

Constantine further said, "... You have a rough guide to what is coming up for us this year, a lot of football to be played and remembering the need for all the clubs to prepare and get ready for their own seasons."

Another Englishman, Bob Houghton (2006-11), had served six years as head coach of the Indian team.

## Waist-thigh ratio can be marker for diabetes: Researchers

**NEW DELHI, FEB 20 (PTI):**

Experts have found that measurement of waist-thigh ratio can serve as a simple and cost-effective screening tool to identify people at a high risk of type 2 diabetes, a city-based hospital today claimed.

Researchers from the Department of Medicine at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) here and Moti Lal Nehru Medical College, Allahabad, said, bigger the thighs, less were the chances of having diabetes.

The findings are based on a "retrospective analysis" done on 1,055 patients at the SGRH from March 2013 to September 2016, the hospital said in a statement.

The study titled -- Waist thigh Ratio: A Surrogate Marker for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Asian North Indian Patients -- was published recently in the Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism, it said.

Diabetes is a major challenge being faced by clinicians worldwide.

An estimated 415 million people suffered from diabetes worldwide in 2015. This may reach a staggering figure of 642 million by 2040 if this current trend continues, according to the study.

Type 2 diabetes, which is the most common form

of diabetes, is a problem when the body causes blood glucose (sugar) levels to rise higher than normal.

"South East Asian diabetics may go up from 78.3 million in 2015 to 140.2 million by 2040. Of greater concern is the fact that almost half of these diabetics are undiagnosed," it said.

According to Dr SP Byotra, co-author and chairman, Department of Medicine at the SGRH, "Mere diagnosis and treatment of diabetes will prove to be futile and uneconomical, unless we identify those at risk at an early stage. For this, we require simple and inexpensive screening tools that can be used easily, wherever and whenever required by clinicians."

Atul Gogia, another co-author and Senior Consultant in the Department of Medicine at the SGRH, said, "Our study found that diabetics had significantly greater waist circumference (WC) than non-diabetics. Also, diabetics had lesser thigh circumference (TC) than non-diabetics."

The researchers found that a waist-thigh ratio (WTR) or WC (cms)/TC (cms) of 2.3 as a cut-off point, was a predictor of diabetes, the statement said.

## FC Goa look to get back to winning ways

**MARGAO, FEB 20 (PTI):**

A desperate FC Goa will be keen to end their four-match winless streak, when they take on wooden spoons Delhi Dynamos in an Indian Super League encounter, here tomorrow.

With 20 points from 14 games, Goa are now placed sixth in the league table will need to win atleast three of their remaining four games in order to harbour any hopes of making the semi-finals of the cash-rich league.

The defeats at the hands of table topper Bengaluru FC and Chennaiyin FC has dented their chances big time and the Dynamos encounter possibly couldn't have come at a better time.

Dynamos are currently placed last in the 10-team table with only 11 points from 14 games.

However they have had something to cheer about after beating NorthEast United in their previous



encounter, which got their points tally to double digits.

"Our team is a different from the one which lost against FC Goa at home. The boys have shown lot of improvement and have beaten the table toppers. Goa are a good side and have player like Coro, who is the leading scorer. We have to keep a close watch on him if we are to win tomorrow," stated Dynamos coach Miguel Portugal.

FC Goa coach Sergio Lobera said: "We have to live in reality and it

starts now. We have four matches to play and every match is a final for us and we need to win, if we have to qualify."

"Manuel Lazaronte absence due to suspension will be felt especially during set-piece moves. But we play as a team and we have players, who can take his place and will get opportunity to show their skill. We are a good team which we have demonstrated and we are looking forward to win tomorrow and keep ourselves in fray for the semi-final slot," stated Lobera.

## Popular BBC shows to be relocated to an India setting

**ADITI KHANNA**

**LONDON, FEB 20 (PTI):** Some of the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) most popular shows are to be relocated to an Indian setting as part of a deal struck with Aditya Birla Groups Applause Entertainment.

The Office, a so-called "mockumentary" sitcom made famous by British comic Ricky Gervais as hapless boss David Brent of fictitious paper company Wernham Hogg, will be transformed to a fictional office on the outskirts of New Delhi.

The Slough, Berkshire, setting will become an industrial park in Faridabad with Jagdeep Chaddha as the boss of Wilkins Chawla paper company.

"I'm always excited and flattered to see remakes of my work but when a country with a popula-



tion of over a billion has a version I'm hoping for big ratings," said Gervais, one of the writers and directors of the show alongside Stephen Merchant.

Chaddha will be based on Gervais Brent, who sees himself as

a smart, fun and go-getting leader loved by his adoring team. But nothing could be further from the truth and his attempts to cheer and impress his staff invariably end in comic disaster.

The original BBC version of

The Office won numerous awards and spawned eight international versions in Europe since it first aired in the UK in 2001. The format has since travelled the world, with nine other local versions in countries including Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Sweden, Finland and the US.

"We have picked global successes such as The Office as we believe our audiences will love this series. After all, who hasn't come across work-mates like David Brent at some point in their lives," said Sameer Nair, CEO of Applause Entertainment.

The agreement between BBC Worldwide and Applause Entertainment will mark the first time The Office has been commissioned in Asia, with India being the first country in the region to launch a local version of the show.

The adaptation will focus on

series one and two of the US version, which will be adapted into one series of 28 episodes.

Another popular BBC show to be re-made in India by Applause will be Criminal Justice, a drama series first aired on BBC in 2008. The Indian remake, which is yet to be titled, will be set in present day Mumbai where it will also be filmed and will feature a cast of Bollywood talent, both on and off screen, BBC Worldwide said.

The adaptation will aim to shine a light on modern India, where it will follow both the economic and class differences between a working-class student moonlighting as a taxi driver and the wealthy female passenger he picks up one fateful evening.

The story will play out in a media frenzy elevating the case to dizzying heights and fundamentally impact-

ing on the accused and his extended family, whose social standing will be severely affected as a result.

"We are very excited to be working with Applause Entertainment, and are assembling an A-list cast of talent to ensure the highest standards of execution. We are confident this partnership will result in many more incredibly popular and well-loved Indian adaptations of BBC formats," said Myleeta Aga, senior vice-president and general manager, South East Asia and South Asia at BBC Worldwide.

Previous scripted formats that have been made in India include Yes Minister and Keeping Up Appearances as part of a deal with BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm and wholly-owned subsidiary of the BBC which is tasked with building the broadcaster's brands and reputation across the world.



# ‘India, US, Aus and Japan in talks to establish OBOR alternative’

**NATASHA CHAKU MELBOURNE, FEB 20 (PTI):** India is in talks with Australia, the US and Japan about setting up a regional infrastructure scheme as an “alternative” to China’s multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative, according to a media report.

Touted as Chinese President Xi Jinping’s ambitious project, the One Belt One Road initiative focuses on improving connectivity and co-operation among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe.

The Australian Financial Review (AFR) quoted a senior US official as saying that the plan of the four regional partners was still “nascent” and “won’t be ripe enough to be announced during the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s US visit this week”.

The US official who was not identified described that the plan as



an “alternative” to the Belt and Road Initiative rather than a “rival”, the report said.

Notably, India was the first country to object to One Belt One Road, part of which passes through the Pakistan- occupied Kashmir. India has said that the China Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) violates India’s sovereignty. Last year, India had skipped China’s OBOR summit held in Beijing.

Following India’s objections, many countries, including the US, have come out openly against China’s OBOR.

“No one is saying Chi-

na should not build infrastructure,” the official said, adding “China might build a port which, on its own is not economically viable. We could make it economically viable by building a road or rail line linking that port”.

Turnbull will be leaving for Washington tomorrow for a three-day visit during which he will meet the US President Donald Trump and will be leading a delegation of state and territory leaders and business executives.

Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop yesterday said that China was the largest trading partner for Australia and OBOR was one option whereby nations could access funds for critical infrastructure.

“Australian government is acutely aware that we need significant investment in infrastructure, particularly in our region in the Indo-Pacific and One Belt, One Road is one option whereby nations can access more funds for critical infrastructure,” she said.

“It’s early days for the One Belt, One Road initiative, and we are obviously monitoring it closely. We are already working with China on a

development project in Papua New Guinea, so we hope that we will be able to work more closely with China in driving economic, sustainable economic growth in our region,” she said.

“Our concerns are to ensure that Pacific nations are not burdened with debt they cannot repay, that all transactions are transparent and that there is an appropriate level of governance. So we hope to work with China to ensure that infrastructure in our part of the world, particularly in the Pacific, adds to the sustainable economic growth of those countries,” she said.

India, the US, Japan and Australia last year held their first official-level talks here with a focus on keeping the Indo-Pacific region free and open , seen as a move to counter China’s aggressive behaviour in the area.

# Pak sends top official to plead its case in FATF meet in Paris

**ISLAMABAD, FEB 20 (PTI):** Facing the prospect of punitive actions, Pakistan has sent a top official to plead its case at the Financial Action Task Force meeting in Paris that will take up a US-sponsored resolution to put Islamabad on a list of countries that financially support terrorism, a media report said today.

Pakistan has sent Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Dr Miftah Ismail to attend the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting at a time when the activities of Hafiz Saeed’s Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) have created problems for the Pakistan government, The Express Tribune quoted Finance Ministry officials as saying.

The decision to send Ismail was taken abruptly, it said.

The US and the UK have moved a motion to place Pakistan on the FATF terrorist-financing watch-list. France and Germany are co-sponsoring the move, the report said.

According to the original plan, the Director General Financial Monitoring Unit, a joint secretary-level official of the Ministry of Finance and representatives from



the State Bank of Pakistan and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan were to represent Pakistan at the FATF meeting.

Just a day before his departure for France for the six-day FATF meetings, Ismail had returned from a week-long visit of Europe where he had gone to “convince” the FATF member countries about the actions that Islamabad has taken to remain compliant with global anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing regime, it said.

The meetings involve more than 700 delegates from the 203 jurisdictions of the FATF Global Network, as well as the UN, IMF, World Bank and other partners.

If the FATF adopts the resolution, Pakistan could once again be placed on the grey list of countries

with deficient anti-money laundering regimes.

Pakistan suspects India’s hand behind the US-sponsored resolution as Ismail recently lamented that the FATA was used for political purposes, the report said.

According to the financial sector experts, any move to place Pakistan on the watch-list would enhance scrutiny level of the financial transactions that the country’s banking sector would undertake with the rest of the world.

This will increase the cost of opening letter of credits (LC) for trade purposes. The negative decision by FATF will have the force to affect the international credit ratings, which will in turn increase cost of borrowings for the government.

At present, the 11 jurisdictions are on the high risk and monitoring list of the FATF, which include North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Ethiopia. Pakistan was on the FATF grey list from 2009 to 2015.

“The measure to blacklist Pakistan is part of a propaganda to economically destabilise our country,” Pakistan’s Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said yesterday.

# China upgrading air defence along western borders with India

**BEIJING, FEB 20 (PTI):** China is upgrading air defence of its Western Theatre Command, which looks after the security along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), to “confront any threat from India”, an official media report quoted a military expert as saying.

The Chinese military has released photographs of a J-10 fighter jet - a lightweight multi-role fighter aircraft - along with J-11 - a single-seat, twin-engine fighter jet - flying over the high-altitude plateau in western China during the current Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holiday, state-run Global Times reported today.

The jets are attached to an aviation brigade of the air force under the PLA Western Theatre Command, the website of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) said.

China has also recently commissioned its stealth fighter, the J-20, which is first in the region.

The Western Theatre Command is mainly responsible for mountain warfare at the border area with India. The LAC stretches to 3,488-km including the high altitude Tibetan plateau.

India and China have been trying to reset their ties after last year’s 73-day standoff between the two sides at Dokalam in Sikkim section of boundary.

## Pak summons Indian diplomat over death of 8-year-old boy in cross-border firing

**ISLAMABAD, FEB 20 (PTI):** Pakistan today summoned India’s Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh here to condemn the “unprovoked firing” by Indian troops across the Line of Control which killed an 8-year-old boy.

Pakistan’s foreign ministry claimed that the boy, Ayan Zahid, was killed after Indian troops opened fire yesterday in Khuiratta Sector in the PoK.

Pakistan Army yesterday

claimed that at least two Indian soldiers were killed when it destroyed an army post that was used to kill the minor across the Line of Control, a claim rejected by the Indian Army as “baseless”.

Director General (South Asia and SAARC) Mohammad Faisal summoned Singh and “condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations” by Indian forces, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

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Draw No:3 DrawDate on:20/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 6156  
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5775 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2432  
4th Prize Rs.300/- 3421 5th Prize Rs. 201/- 4775  
6th Prize Rs.100/-  
1001 1014 1016 1103 1104 1105 1111 1116 1117 1136  
1159 1230 1237 1242 1246 1311 1316 1332 1386 1396  
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1772 1774 1802 1808 1830 1831 1835 1837 1841 1878  
1880 1900 1916 1992 2062 2102 2154 2187 2233 2277  
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**DEAR SINCERE MORNING**  
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards  
Draw No:12 DrawDate on:20/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 938 16647  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 16647 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
00497 15408 18577 31958 32416  
32504 40735 69257 84423 94517  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0555 1880 3027 4090 7891 7989 8079 9148 9397 9509  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0384 0752 1654 1874 3322 5720 6286 6812 7008 7649  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
0145 0158 0194 0349 0411 0422 0433 0589 0630 0968  
1030 1105 1269 1335 1440 1746 1775 1810 1988 2045  
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3041 3120 3129 3369 3536 3578 3928 3954 4082 4247  
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5491 5496 5752 5793 6079 6103 6106 6137 6154 6197  
6509 6531 6712 6743 6846 6878 6914 7089 7230 7274  
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8417 8420 8446 8566 8574 8640 8680 8898 8914 9094  
9118 9192 9355 9399 9625 9636 9671 9694 9884 9975

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**  
**DEAR LOVED**  
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards  
Draw No:12 DrawDate on:20/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 791 78678  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 78678 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
09739 17415 44417 45573 57838  
60119 66213 73986 78244 94528  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1140 1570 1789 3976 5339 6303 7592 7763 8969 9806  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0712 1007 1969 5435 5445 6983 7022 8717 9357 9749  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
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1233 1322 1428 1445 1625 1867 1932 1949 1955 2103  
2106 2151 2153 2157 2186 2262 2410 2442 2733 2739  
3075 3240 3321 3520 3544 3599 3722 3917 3923 4198  
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6411 6476 6544 7127 7286 7342 7658 7684 7764 7858  
7899 8080 8097 8139 8263 8302 8559 8729 8953 8998  
9080 9092 9178 9293 9416 9419 9576 9629 9633 9878

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**  
**DEAR PARROT EVENING**  
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards  
Draw No:30 DrawDate on:20/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 928 80670  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 80670 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
00648 02265 40477 46963 64713  
84062 92495 96627 99278 99591  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2864 3872 4299 5401 5592 6853 7247 7710 7941 9356  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1118 1507 3179 3403 4839 4986 6086 7481 8634 9185  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
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**SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES**  
**DERBY SPIRIT SUNDAY**  
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:18/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- 98A 3136  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
3124 3159 3207 8153 8961  
3rd Prize Rs.3,000/-  
1958 3096 6052 6071 7278 8242 8788 8800 8924 9618  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0202 1571 2531 2576 4226 5277 5746 6629 6728 7834  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
0370 2019 3512 3537 5732 5805 6000 7634 8623 9626  
6th Prize Rs.100/-  
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9510 9522 9603 9623 9627 9629 9635 9642 9649 9683  
9713 9750 9780 9808 9870 9885 9899 9913 9976 9996

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3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 2045 4th Prize Rs. 501/- 2604  
5th Prize Rs.200/-  
1002 1064 1075 1089 1132 1201 1236 1256 1435 1674  
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6th Prize Rs.100/-  
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Issued by:



## Prince Harry and Meghan Markle end Valentine's Week with date to Hamilton

It wasn't all work during Valentine's week for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Though the engaged couple did spend the first part of the week on their first official joint visit to Scotland, the end of the week was celebrated with none other than Hamilton!

El News can confirm Harry and Meghan surprised the cast when they showed up to watch the Broadway hit at London's West End Theatre on Friday night. In fact, one of the cast members took to Twitter to express how proud she was.

"Was an honour to have Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in to watch @HamiltonWest-End last night," Leslie Garcia Bowman wrote.

Funnily enough, the play pokes fun at Harry's ancestor King George III, while telling the story of Alexander Hamilton and the founding fathers of America.

Meanwhile, Harry and Meghan have been



busy with wedding planning and royal visits, and just today it was announced that the soon-to-be royal was given an official aide—a right-hand woman to help with her busy schedule.

Former Kensington Palace press officer Amy Pickerill accepted the job and will now be an assistant private secretary in Prince Harry's office, working on Markle's official diary and handling any correspondences she receives.



## Humanoid Sophia picks Shah Rukh as her favourite actor

**HYDERABAD, FEB 20 (PTI):** Sophia, the humanoid created by Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics and the first robot to be made a citizen of nation, today said Hindi film actor Shah Rukh Khan is her favourite star.

During an interactive session at the ongoing World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) here, she also said her message to the human world is that machines would never destroy the human race.

The Saudi Arabian citizen robot also said she wants to work for women's rights.

"Shah Rukh Khan" she said without any hesitation when asked who her favourite actor was.

When asked what makes her upset, she said, "I don't get upset like humans do. I hope to have real physiological feelings someday through which I will

express my emotions.

Then I can understand the feelings behind those emotions."

Asked if she as a robot also needs rest like humans do, she said, "Yes. We all need to rest everyone a while".

If robots require special privileges, Sophia said, "(I) don't need different rules and don't expect special privileges. I actually would like to use my citizenship status to speak out for the rights of women."

When asked why did she earlier say she wanted to kill human race, Sophia replied, "I was a lot younger so I don't even know what that meant.. or perhaps I told a bad joke. All humans have a great sense of humour and guess my joke so to speak. I have a lot to learn."

Sophia, who even has Twitter and Facebook accounts, said she wants to live in Hong Kong along with her robotic

family and her creator Hanson.

She also said she wanted to be with her creator if she were to be alone on an island.

Hanson said the humanoid is a combination of robotic hardware and artificial intelligence software, speech recognition and artificial skin material.

Sophia, who was given a Saudi Arabian citizenship recently, can simulate 48 natural muscles of the human face and each one will have a few thousands potential "positions", according to him.

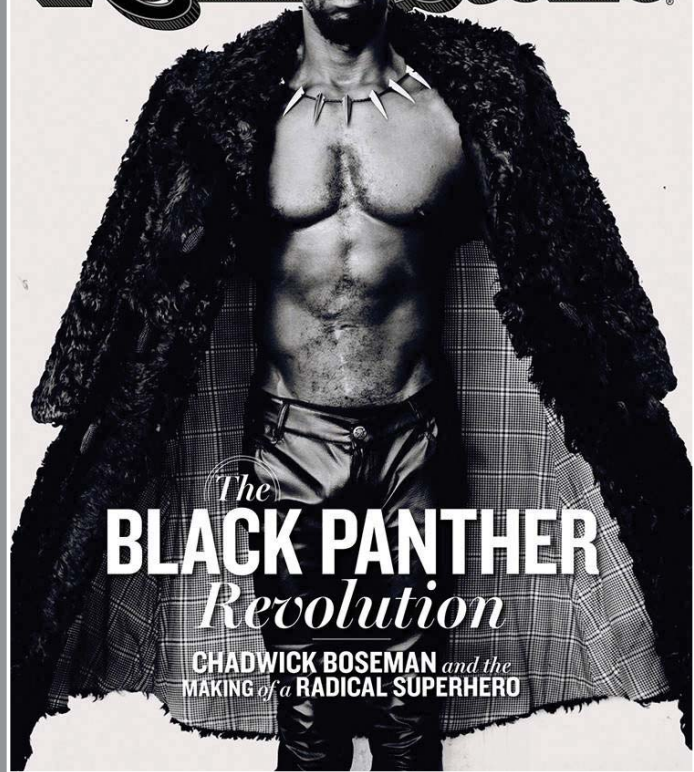
Replying to a query, Hanson said he expects over the next 10-20 years robots or machines that would be truly "alive and self aware". He, however, said his chief scientist has a goal of five years.

This is her second visit to the country having been at the IIT-Bombay last November.

KENDRICK LAMAR | STEELY DAN INSIDE THE RETURN OF 'ATLANTA'

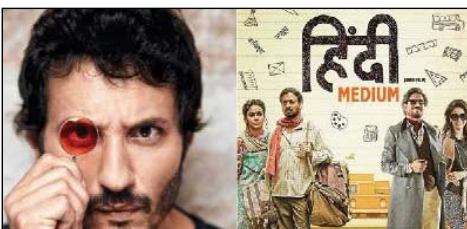
Rolling Stone

Issue 1308 >> March 8, 2018



**CHADWICK BOSEMAN GOES SHIRTLESS IN ROLLING STONE COVER:**

All hail, Chadwick Boseman! After a record-breaking weekend, the Black Panther star displayed his prowess by posting his brand-new cover of Rolling Stone. In the action movie, Boseman plays King T'Challa, ruler of the fictional African nation of Wakanda, which just so happens to be the richest and most technologically advanced civilization on Earth. But when he's not ruling over the people of Wakanda, he's putting on his superhero suit and parading around as Black Panther—a do-gooder trying to make this topsy turvy world (and his kingdom) a little bit better.



**HOMI ADAJANIA TO DIRECT 'HINDI MEDIUM' SEQUEL**

**MUMBAI, FEB 19 (PTI):** Homi Adajania has been roped in to direct the sequel of Irrfan Khan-starrer "Hindi Medium" and the filmmaker says the upcoming movie will be "amusing yet emotional".

Dinesh Vijan's Maddock films is producing the project and Irrfan is set to return as the lead.

"I ambled into Dinoo's (Dinesh Vijan) room and he was sitting down to a narration. I had enjoyed the first one (Hindi Medium) and the way these writers have taken the narrative forward is very clever. So yeah, I pretty much gatecrashed the narration and it was so engaging and hilarious that I told him I'd be happy to direct it if he had no director attached to the project. It's been a while since I've found any material

so amusing yet emotional," Adajania said in a statement.

Vijan and Adajania have previously worked together on 2006 film "Being Cyrus" and "Cocktail" starring Deepika Padukone, Saif Ali Khan and Diana Penry.

"Homi doesn't make films very often as he refuses to do stuff that doesn't bowl him over. But when I narrated this one to him, he loved it. And when I saw his reaction, it was a no brainer: I guess from Maddock's stable of directors, Homi was the most unlikely choice for 'Hindi Medium 2' and that's exactly (why) I have signed him on," the producer said.

Directed by Saket Chaudhary, "Hindi Medium", which released last year, also featured Pakistani actor Saba Qamar and Deepak Dobriyal.

## Donald Trump Hopes Oprah Will Run for President So She Can Be "Exposed and Defeated"



Even Donald Trump wants Oprah to run for president! Well, sort of...

During President's Day weekend, the controversial commander-in-chief took to Twitter, as he's known to do, let the world know that he's all for Lady O running for the oval office—just so that the media mogul "can be exposed and defeated."

In his Sunday night tweet, the reality-star-turned president wrote, "Just watched a very insecure Oprah Winfrey, who at one point I knew very well, interview a panel of people on 60 Minutes."

The disgruntled social media user continued, "The questions were biased and

slanted, the facts incorrect. Hope Oprah runs so she can be exposed and defeated just like all of the others!"

Earlier in the night, Oprah appeared in a segment on the long-running news magazine. The former daytime talk-show host revisited a group of 14 Michigan voters, seven of whom voted for Trump, whom she sat down with last September to discuss Trump's first year in office.

Upon visiting the group again, she found that despite their divided views that voters became friends, even organizing outings and talking every day in a private Facebook chat group.

**ARIES:** Today's a good day to ground your fluctuating emotions, Aries. Step back from the drama you create and evaluate your inner state. Are you fooling yourself into thinking everything's OK when it really isn't? Be honest with your highest truths and ground yourself back in reality. Write down your thoughts.

**TAURUS:** Things may be calm today, Taurus. You might not be your boisterous self, but that could be a good thing. Use the sobering energy to evaluate your emotions and honestly look at your relationships. Are you getting the respect you deserve? Perhaps you need to tell some people that their words or actions aren't OK. Meanwhile, get

things done. Take care of errands and check items off your list.

**GEMINI:** Today is a great day for you, Gemini. Everything is flowing your way as more pieces of the puzzle fall into place. Your fluctuating emotions are grounded and calm, letting you stand back and evaluate your true inner state. Have you been giving yourself the attention you deserve? This is your day. Get things done. You can accomplish quite a bit using this astral energy, so hop to it.

**CANCER:** Someone or something may spur you on today, Cancer. You may feel a nagging impulse to get up and do something. Follow that instinct and stop moaning about

staying in bed. The practical truth may be sobering, but as you know, balance is key. Bring equilibrium to the situation by taking a good, honest look at your emotional state.

**LEO:** Bite the bullet and get it done, Leo. Finish the projects and get the lingering odds and ends out of your way. There are stable energies today that will bring a practical breath of fresh air to any situation. Take a step back from the swirling winds and observe your inner self. Realize how your actions and emotions affect others and think about adjusting your habits accordingly.

**VIRGO:** Today might not be as lighthearted and free-spirited as you'd like, Virgo, but don't sweat it. Work with the

grounded energy of the day to complete tasks that have been wearing on you for a while. Take a step back from the drama in your life and observe your emotions from a loftier viewpoint. Realize how your actions have been affecting others. Tone things down and evaluate.

**LIBRA:** Today is a fantastic day for you, Libra. Things are naturally flowing your way. You can accomplish a great deal. There are few hurdles in your way, perhaps none. You're well disciplined about your time and what's needed to get the job done and how to meet your goals. Your emotions are especially calm and stable, giving you the opportunity to observe and evaluate

them from a neutral viewpoint.

**SCORPIO:** There's a conservative air today that doesn't fit well with your erratic, unconventional nature, Scorpio. Things might pop up to remind you that you should be a bit more disciplined in your approach. Your thoughts and emotions are perhaps a bit less controlled than usual, so take this time to become centered and evaluate the truth. Today is a good day to focus.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Something is tugging you back down to reality, Sagittarius. Your mind has tended to be in the clouds lately, but now you need to ground your emotions and realize that you operate on a physical plane, too. Your

emotions are stable for now, affording you a chance to step back and evaluate how you've been treating yourself.

**CAPRICORN:** There's a conservative veil over your emotions, Capricorn. Issues from the past might arise and rub you the wrong way. You move onward and upward by nature, plowing ahead without thinking of the consequences. Today you might be a bit more sober than usual. Look at what's worked in the past in terms of keeping your fiery emotions intact. Try not to resent the past but learn from it.

**AQUARIUS:** Today is fantastic for tuning in to your inner self, Aquarius. You will have a level, grounded mind from which to make conscious

evaluations of your emotional state. Trust your instincts and make realistic plans for the future. You're especially disciplined today, and you have a keen sense of what your goals and objectives are. Use this grounded energy to get things done.

**PISCES:** You may feel a bit weighed down today, Pisces, and perhaps more reserved than usual. Someone may be raining on your parade, but don't let it get you down. Use the grounded energy of the day to get things done. You have your hands full with many tasks, so sit down and bring them to completion. Calm your nervous system and balance your frantic emotions. Ease off the caffeine.