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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## NASA blasts off Mars lander, InSight

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (US) MAY 5 (AFP):** NASA today blasted off its latest Mars lander, InSight, designed to perch on the surface and listen for "Marsquakes" ahead of eventual human missions to explore the Red Planet. "Three, two, one, lift-off!" said a NASA commentator as the spacecraft launched on a dark, foggy morning atop an Atlas V rocket at 4:05 AM Pacific time (1635 IST) from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, marking NASA's first interplanetary launch from the US west coast.

The USD 993 million project aims to expand human knowledge of interior conditions on Mars, inform efforts to send human explorers there, and reveal how rocky planets like the Earth formed billions of years ago.

If all goes as planned, the lander should settle on the Red Planet on November 26.

Its name, InSight, is short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport.

NASA chief scientist Jim Green said experts already know that Mars has quakes, avalanches and meteor strikes.

"But how quake-prone is Mars? That is fundamental information that we need to know as humans that explore Mars," Green said.

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## Irate mob pelts stones at BJP minister's vehicle in Kathua

**KATHUA (JK), MAY 5 (PTI):** An irate mob today stopped the vehicle of BJP minister Sham Lal Chaudhary as they pressed for a CBI probe into the Kathua rape-murder incident.

The public health engineering minister was on his way to attend a board meeting when the slogan-shouting crowd gheraoed his car at Kootah Morh in Hiranagar area, officials said.

The group also pelted stones at the minister's vehicle, but the police swiftly cleared the crowd, they said.

The crime branch has arrested eight persons, including a juvenile, for allegedly raping and murdering an 8-year-old girl from a nomadic community at Kathua recently.

Meanwhile, JK BJP in-charge (IT and social media) Jai Dev Rajwal came out in support of a 'factual' report submitted by five women to the Centre over the Kathua incident.

The group of five women had submitted the report to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh, and demanded a CBI

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## CM interacts with govt employees of West Sikkim



**GYALSHING, 05 MAY (IPR):** An interaction program between the State Government employees of the West District and the Chief Minister was held at the Kyongsa Girls School Auditorium Hall. The Chief Minister along with his Ministers, MLAs, Zilla Members, State and District HODs had a face to face interaction with employees of the West District.

"I am no Superman but I am as ordinary as all but the love for the people and land of Sikkim gives me the zeal to move forward and work for the benefit of the state," said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in his address to the employees of the West District.

While addressing the officials from different departments of the district, the CM gave the message of making Sikkim great in all forms. He said that the department employees have the

power and the tools to implement the policies passed down by the Government which benefits the public of Sikkim.

He urged the employees to work whole heartedly like him so that they can help bridge the gap between the policy makers and the policy beneficiaries. He termed the meet to be a sort of 'get-together' where each is free to express their views and participate in the state building process through fruitful discussion and solutions. He asked the officials to make sure that they make the public aware of the 'sense of ownership' which is the need of the hour.

"Knowledge doesn't have a gender", he said while addressing the congregation and in an age where knowledge is power he said that knowledge needs to be grafted into everyone's minds and one needs to keep learning

in order to survive. He also said that since in a developed world, education and health are the primary focus and essential, the state has provided them with these facilities freely and without any bias. He also urged the employees to work for the benefit of the public, to be an example and help them in every way possible so that the government which belongs to the public can have full faith in them.

While addressing the demands put forward by the employees, he said that the demands which are genuinely urgent and justifiable would be met immediately and in a phase-wise manner. Regarding the demands relating to needs of the schools, all necessary equipments will be provided.

Similarly other such employment related demands will all be dealt with after careful consultation with the concerned departments and heads.

## Organic Farming and Democracy a success in Sikkim: Vandana Shiva

**ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 05 MAY;**

"SIKKIM'S CHIEF MINISTER PAWAN Chamling is not only the longest serving CM of India but he is also the longest serving democratically elected leader of the world," said well-known environmental activist, Vandana Shiva.

A physicist and social activist, Ms Shiva founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN), an organization devoted to developing sustainable methods of agriculture, in 1982. In 1991 she launched Navdanya, which has formed over 40 seed banks in India and attempted to educate farmers on the benefits of conserving their unique strains of seed crops.

In a special interview with SummitTimes, Ms Shiva said, "Sikkim is celebrating Organic Farming as well as the success of democracy."

Ms Shiva who was in the State to participate in the daylong International Conference on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals: Sustainable Livelihood &



Protecting the Planet held at Chintan Bhawan on 04 May, added, "We have chosen Sikkim for this international conference as Sikkim is in the lead in Organic Farming and environment protection."

She also appreciated various initiatives and schemes that the state government has implemented to protect the environment and biodiversity as a whole.

"Organic Farming is the only way to save and protect biodiversity so in this way, Sikkim is leading the world with its various policies that could be a model for the rest

of the world," she said.

Speaking about the CM, she expressed that Sikkim has got a great leader who is committed, dedicated and serious towards protecting the biodiversity.

"I work with genuine people which is why I follow and respect Mr Chamling. He has a very important role in turning the entire Himalayan State organic by 2022 and the world by 2050. Sikkim is really a role model for all and could lead the world in organic farming and biodiversity protection," Ms

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## Ranka School & BP School girls qualify for LD Kazi football tourney finals

**REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 05 MAY:**

The cluster-level girls' matches of the Late LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup Inter School Football Tournament for East district was held at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok today which had Ranka Senior Secondary School and BP Senior Secondary School as winners from cluster 1 & 2 respectively.

In the boys' category matches played on 03 May, Tashi Namgyal Academy and Modern SSS won the cluster-level matches of the tourney from

cluster 1 & 2 respectively.

The winners are now qualified to play in the finals of the tournament scheduled to be held at Chakung ground [for boys] and Soreng ground [girls] in West Sikkim later this month.

Deputy Director, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, CL Rai, informed that from East district, six teams each for boys' and girls' categories will be qualifying for the final round of the tournament. Four more teams in both the categories are still to qualify for the finals from the district.

## Research scholars' meet at the Chief Minister's Office

**NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 05 MAY:**

State Entrepreneurs' Hub & Consultation Center organized a research scholars' meet today with the theme "To Know Young Minds and Scholars" at the Chief Minister's Office [CMO] in Samman Bhawan.

Over 60 research scholars from all over the State attached with various universities participated in the meet which also had the presence of Senior Research Officer, CMO, Jeewan Rai, entrepreneur Rewaj Chettri and journalist/ research scholar, Yougan Tamang.

"We discuss not just problems but also offer solutions. This is a platform to engage with our research scholars and create a space to express so that we can offer solutions," said research scholar and one of the organizers, Yougan Tamang.



He added that the idea was to mobilise young minds to come up with consensus and offer an intellectual feed-

back to the State government.

The research scholars discussed on various issues faced by them and also placed

some demands for the advancement of academics and research in the State.

Research scholar [Bot-

any, Sikkim University], Patrush Lepcha, while addressing the function, highlighted the urgent need for the establishment of a State University for agriculture keeping in mind the ongoing organic movement.

He also stressed on the need to establish scientific posts in Science and Technology Department "to streamline the vast resource of the State".

"People with agricultural background should only be included in the Agriculture Department," he added.

He further held that the State should also focus on subjects like microbiology.

Another speaker, Niraj Adhikari [research scholar, Peace and Conflict Studies, SU], stated that his subject and subjects like International Relations need to be introduced at Undergraduate levels due to Sikkim's strategic location in the North East of

the country with international borders with the State now being ready for engagements with the outside world.

He also suggested that the government include Nepali language in the state-level SLET examinations for the benefit of Language students.

The need for exam centres in Sikkim for entrance to various courses along with reservation for locals in SU was also highlighted by Mr Adhikari.

"Data on government websites should also be uploaded in time for the benefit of researchers," he said.

He also stressed on the need for Social Science Research Center in Sikkim.

Another research scholar of Anthropology from SU, Yogesh Sharma, while stressing on the need for Tribal Cultural Research Institute, held on the need for cultural revivalism with Sikkim's richness

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# Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission observes Aajeevika Evam Kausal Vikas Diwas



## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 05 MAY:

Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission (under Rural Management and Development Department) celebrated Aajeevika Evam Kausal Vikas Diwas today on the theme, "Exploring Markets for Products of Women Self Help Groups [SHGs] in Sikkim," at Janta Bhawan in Gangtok today, a press release informs.

Members of women SHGs represented by Block/ Ward Resource Persons and the office-bearers of Ward Development Societies from 14 intensive blocks of two National Rural Livelihood Mission [NRLM] districts of North and

East Sikkim participated in the programme.

East Adhyakshya, Samsher Rai, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by State Project Manager, Tenzing Geley, State Mission Management Unit staff including Project Managers and Deputy Project Managers along with 120 women SHG members and the line department officials.

During the programme, the progress and the achievements of the SHGs under SRLM were also highlighted.

The chief guest, in his key note address, urged the SHGs to partner in the organic mission of

the State government and promote the organic brand which will ultimately ensure premium income for their produce. He assured full support to the mission from the government.

Similar programmes at Block level was organized on the theme "Promotion of Livelihood among Women SHGs" in Khamdong, Regoh, Rhenock, Duga, Pakyong, Martam, Pararkha, Rakdong-Tintek, Ranka and Gangtok-Nandok Blocks in East district and Kabi Tingda, Dzongu-Passingdang, Chungthang and Mangan Blocks of North district, the release adds.

## Chungthang bids adieu to outgoing SDM, Sonam Topgay Tashi



## SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 05 MAY:

The public and Panchayats of Chungthang GPU, North Sikkim, organized a farewell programme for the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Sonam Topgay Tashi, who has completed four years at Chungthang and has been transferred, while welcoming the new SDM,

Yadev Krishna Sharma.

The farewell was attended by Member of Parliament, Raja Sabha, Hishey Lachungpa, District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo, former Up-Adhyakshya, Pipons of Lachen and Lachung, Panchayats of Shipgyer, Toong-Naga and Chungthang GPUs along with the general public.

## Seizures of over Rs 120 cr made in Karnataka, says official

**NEW DELHI, MAY 5 (PTI):** The Election Commission-appointed surveillance teams have seized suspect cash, jewellery and other inducements worth over Rs 120 crore in the poll-bound Karnataka, a senior official said today.

Cash amounting to over Rs 67.27 crore, over five lakh litres of liquor worth Rs 23.36 crore, gold valued at 43.17 crore and other items such as pressure cookers, sarees, sewing machines, gutkha, laptops and vehicles, among others, worth about Rs 18.57 crore, have been seized, he said.

The official said Rs 32.54 crore in cash, out of the total seizures of Rs 152.78 crore, has been released after verification.

The figure also includes seized narcotics worth more than Rs 39.80 lakh, according to official data since the declaration of the elections for the Karnataka Assembly.

The seizures have been made by various surveillance, police and Income Tax department teams that have been deployed in the state by the poll panel to check the use of black money and illegal inducements, the official said.

The state will go to polls on May 12. The counting of votes is scheduled for May 15.

## Irate mob pelts stones at BJP minister's vehicle in Kathua

**contd from pg1**

probe into the incident. The report claimed that the charge sheet filed by the Jammu and Kashmir crime branch in the case had discrepancies and the investigation was "botched-up".

Rajwal also defended posting of the report on party website.

Loading the video (of the report) on the BJP official website is not an endorsement of their findings. It was already in public domain and since the people of Jammu are interested, we uploaded the video, he said.

"The stand of the party is well known in this case. The case is before the court and whatever the outcome, the BJP will respect the order which will be final, Rajwal added.

## Kitam Manpur GPU imposes 'strict ban' on disposable food packaging materials

## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 05 MAY:

The Kitam-Manpur Gram Panchayat under Melli constituency, South Sikkim, distributed two water filters, 100 steel glasses, dessert bowls and dessert spoons to representatives of five Wards of the GPU - Sahara Club for Upper Kitam, Munal Club for Middle Kitam, Sahayog Samaj for Lower Kitam, Community Development Groups of Belbotey and Manpur on the occasion of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Kitam in South Sikkim today, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, during the 14th Gram Sabha of Ki-

tam-Manpur GPU held earlier this year, the GPU had accorded approval to impose strict ban on use of mineral water, disposable stereo foam, plastic articles and aluminium foil laminated paper plates and bowls at public functions, ritual ceremonies and official functions.

The distribution programme was conducted in a bid to support the aforementioned policy decision.

Further, the revenue acquired from hiring of the same is to be utilized for Operation & Maintenance [O&M] and up-escalation by beneficiary organizations.



## Mangshila Tibuk GPU holds Gram Sabha



## WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 05 MAY:

The annual Gram Sabha of Mangshila Tibuk GPU of North Sikkim was conducted today here at its Village Administrative Centre. The Gram Sabha was chaired by Panchayat President, Meena Maya Limboo, in the presence of Zilla Member, Zomin Limboo, and others.

Representatives of different wards pre-

sented the demands of their respective wards which were then passed during the Sabha.

The Zilla member also highlighted various activities and schemes taken up under the Zilla Fund.

The Gram Sabha also decided to conduct the annual felicitation for dedicated individuals from the GPU in different fields. The Sabha also unanimously passed resolutions

like development of Smriti-Van, prevention of subletting of trade license, etc.

The public raised their queries to the attending line departments which was explained and clarified by the representatives of the concerned departments.

Also, BPL families were provided with single-line free connection power supply under Pradhan Mantiri Bijli Yojana.



## Lingi Paiyong SS conducts primary-level inter-house quiz comptt

## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 05 MAY:

Lingi Paiyong Secondary School, South Sikkim, conducted inter-house quiz competition for primary level students of the school today. Gurudongmar [Yellow] house secured the first position in the competition with Deeki Sherpa of Class IV being adjudged as the best participant, a press release informs.



## Research scholars' meet at the Chief Minister's Office

**contd from pg1** and diversity.

Entrepreneur Rewaj Chettri shared his story of starting from a small start-up to now being recognised in several national and international platforms.

The issues that were raised by the scholars included need for establishment of more B.Ed colleges, development of indigenous organic fertilisers and bio pesticides, inclusion of Nepali language in B.Ed course, financial help from the government for students willing to pursue post doctoral studies abroad and establishment of research scholars' hostel.

The scholars were unanimous in their suggestion for the government to put an effort to collect or record primary data like artifacts and documents on Sikkim from an individual to the Sikkim State archive for the benefit of the research scholars.

They rued that the State Archive lacks pri-

mary data with limited secondary data that is at present available.

Introduction of Mass Communication at Undergraduate levels in all colleges of the capital was also suggested by the scholars with Gangtok having offices of almost all the media houses operating in the State.

Senior Research Officer [CMO], Mr Rai, said that he is encouraged by the response of the scholars and added that it was the vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to engage with the research scholars of the State that such a function is being held in his office.

"This is done to create a niche for the scholars," he added.

He also welcomed all suggestions and said that these would be put forward to the CMO.

Later, he received a congratulatory letter from the research scholars to be presented to the CM on his historic term in office as the longest serving CM in India.

## I&B ministry mulls sending nat film awards to 'protesting' winners via post

**NEW DELHI, MAY 5 (PTI):** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is contemplating to send the citations, medals and cheques to over 50 absentee awardees at the 65th National Film Awards this year, through post.

The National Film Awards were presented on May 3 in the national capital, but many recipients decided to "boycott" the ceremony over the president handing over the honour to only a select set of winners.

"The ministry is contemplating to send the National Film Awards to those who missed the function, through post. A decision regarding it will be taken soon," ministry sources said.

They said it was not a new practice to send the awards via post to those who missed the event due to any reason.

In a departure from tradition, the function, held at Vigyan Bhavan, was divided into two phases. The first set of awards was conferred by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani and Minister of State Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.

The second lot, which included posthumous recognitions for Vinod Khanna and Sridevi (Dadasaheb Phalke and Best Actress, respectively), was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind.

The murmurs of discontent over the new practice under which the president was not going to present the awards to each of the winners began to gain ground during the rehearsal of the ceremony on May 2 when the winners were informed about the change.

Traditionally, the president gives away all the National Film Awards.

Earlier, over 70 artistes, in an open letter had said, that they were skipping the ceremony as they "felt dejected rather than honoured" on being informed at the last minute that the president would give away only 11 awards.

Gangtok on Sunday, 06 May

Temp: 24°C / 12°C  
Forecast: Variable cloudiness with afternoon thundershowers.  
Sunrise: 04:53 AM  
Sunset: 6:11 PM

## NASA blasts off Mars lander, InSight

contd from pg01

The key instrument on board is a seismometer, called the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure, made by the French Space Agency.

After the lander settles on the Martian surface, a robotic arm is supposed to emerge and place the seismometer directly on the ground.

The second main instrument is a self-hammering probe that will monitor the flow of heat in the planet's subsurface.

Called the Heat Flow and Physical Properties Package, it was made by the German Space Agency with the participation of the Polish Space Agency.

The probe will bore down 10 to 16 feet (three to five meters) below the surface, NASA said, 15 times deeper than any previous Mars mission.

Understanding the temperature on Mars is crucial to NASA's efforts to send people there by the 2030's, and how much a human habitat might need to be heated under frigid conditions, said Green.

Daytime summer temperatures near the Martian equator may reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees C), but then plunge by night to -100 F (-73 C).

"It is an important part of knowledge of how this planet is evolving," Green said. "We have to be able as humans living and working on Mars to survive that."

The solar and battery-powered lander is designed to operate for 26 Earth months, or one year on Mars, a period in which it is expected to pick up as many as 100 quakes.

"Hopefully it will last a lot longer than that," said Tom Hoffman, InSight project manager from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The spacecraft was initially supposed to launch in 2016 but had to be delayed after temperature tests showed a problem with part of the seismometer, which engineers have since fixed.

InSight aims to be the first NASA spacecraft to land on Mars since the Curiosity rover in 2012.

"There is nothing routine about going to Mars, especially landing on Mars," said Stu Spath, InSight program manager at Lockheed Martin Space.

# Singha Bahini Mandir Management Committee felicitates PI, now DSP Sabitri Pradhan



SUBASH RAI  
GANGTOK, 05 MAY:

Former Station House Officer of Ranipool Police Station, East Sikkim, Police Inspector Sabitri Pradhan, was felicitated today by the members of the Singha Bahini Mandir Management Committee, Rey Khola, under Martam-Rumtek constituency for her contributions towards the development of Devi Bahini Mandir infrastructure at Rey Khola while also congratulating her on her promotion as Deputy Superintendent of Police and taking new charge as the Commander of IRBn at Police

Training Centre in Ranipool.

The felicitation was handed over by area MLA, Martam-Rumtek, Dr Mechung Bhutia, in the presence of Zilla Panchayat, Narpati Bhattarai, former Zilla Panchayat, Karma Doma Bhutia, Panchayat members, school heads and staff of Adampool Junior High School and Katuk Vidhyasagar Primary School.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Pradhan thanked the committee members and the villagers for the felicitation and regarded her tenure at Ranipool PS as one of the most memorable of her life.

"I will always be available for any social cause in the

area whenever needed," DSP Pradhan further assured.

Ms Pradhan had contributed towards the construction of the retention wall of the Mandir complex and had also organised Sarva Dharma Puja for the peace of the departed souls who had drowned in Rey Khola in the past three years.

In his address, Dr Mechung appreciated the works of the DSP and congratulated her for her achievements.

Likewise, Zilla Panchayat, Mr Bhattarai, in his address assured to install roofs for the Shiva Linga in the Mandir before the month of Sawan this year.

## Lal Bazaar youth organize Sarvajanic Sansari Puja at Hurhuray Dara

REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 05 MAY:

Lal Bazaar Youth Development Committee [LBVDC], Gangtok organized a Sarvajanic Sansari Puja here at Hurhuray Dara here at Namnang today.

Advisor [LYDC], Kishor Subba, explained that the main reason behind holding the puja annually is to ensure continuing peace, happiness and well-being in the State and the world.

"This is the worship of Mother Nature and with this puja, we offer prayers to the Almighty to bless the world with good fortune while preventing any natural calamities, diseases and other hazards," Mr Subba said.



## Phalidara JHS conducts inter-house cricket



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 05 MAY:

Phalidara Junior High School, Phalidara, South Sikkim held an inter-house cricket match between Red and Yellow houses as a part of its co-curricular activities today at the school playground.

The match had each inning of 10 overs and Red house won. The match was conducted by Sports in-charge of Phalidara JHS, Amber Sing Subba, a press release informs.

## Organic Farming and Democracy a success in Sikkim: Vandana Shiva

contd from pg1  
Shiva added.

She has also appreciated the policies framed by the state government with regard to the protection of forest, environment, wildlife and others. She has also appreciated the bold decision of the state government to ban the sale of non-organic vegetables and fruits in Sikkim.

Speaking on the opposition to the ban from certain sections, she said, "I am aware of the fact but there is always a negative feedback to a good initiative and the government should be ready to face criticism but in the long run, it will definitely achieve success."

Speaking to SummitTimes, one of the delegates who participated in the international conference, Bernward

Geier, who is also an Agricultural Journalist and a member of the International Foundation of Agricultural Journalists, said, "Sikkim's CM is the longest serving democratically elected leader of the world. There may be other leaders who have been on the chair for a long time but they are not democratically elected."

Mr Geier hails from Germany and will be shooting a documentary based on organic farming in Sikkim to be screened at international forums and channels.

"The organic movement is for all and every citizen should come forward and support the state government in the mission," added Mr Geier.

### KUTSE SHEGU

The 49th Kutse SHEGU of former Mangan SHO late. Karma Denzongpa who left for heavenly abode on 21st March 2018 falls on 8th May 2018. All relatives, friends, and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence Kesang Residency, Ranipool, Gangtok. We also would like to take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards all those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.



Tshering Doma Bhutia(wife), Kesang Choden Bhutia (daughter), Kunzang Tshering Bhutia (son) and all family members.

## DDMA conducts meet for monsoon preparedness in East district

GANGTOK, 05 MAY [IPR]:

In view of the onset of the monsoon season, a District Level Monsoon Preparedness Meeting for Disaster Management organised by District Disaster Management Authority [DDMA] was convened at the conference hall of East District Zilla Panchayat today. The meeting was chaired District Collector [East] cum Chairperson [DDMA], Kapil Meena.

The meeting was also attended by Additional District Collector [East], M Bharani, and Superintendent of Police [East], Shiv Prasad, along with Sub Divisional Magistrates, Block Development Officers, nodal officers from all line departments and representatives from Central government agencies, Army, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited [NHIDCL], National Disaster Response Force [NDRF], BSNL, Indo-Tibet Border Police [ITBP], Sasrastra Seema Bal [SSB] and Civil Defence Agencies.

The objective of the meeting was to bring all the stakeholders together to strengthen and streamline the administrative response for an effective disaster preparedness initiative at the district level.

The DC [East] along with SP [East] and ADC [East] took stock of the preparedness of various line departments and Central Agencies.

Various key issues on disaster mitigation like clearing of clogged drains and jhoras, maintenance of potholes, clearing private water lines and water leakages, maintaining inventory lists of equipment, quick clearance of internal roads within the district, restoration of electricity during the ensuing monsoon, traffic issues, health issues mainly relating to communicable diseases, water testing, assessment and insurance of crops, vaccination and assessment of animals and livestock death, maintenance of building and housing, tourism, dissemination of information, provision and deployment of Central agencies like defence and civil defence agencies were discussed at length.

During the meeting, various feedback and positive recommendations with regard to pre-monsoon disaster management were placed and shared among

the participants. Lessons learned from series of previous joint meetings on Disaster Management were shared among the participants.

Addressing the meeting, the DC [East], Mr Meena, briefed the gathering on the importance of conducting such preparedness meeting on Disaster Management with regard to the ensuing monsoon. He urged the respective line departments and central agencies to be fully prepared for any natural and man-made disaster that may occur due to the ensuing monsoon.

All the line departments and central agencies shared their invaluable inputs and placed forth remedial suggestions and feedback in regard to the preparedness for any disaster that may occur during the ensuing monsoon.

Mr Meena directed the respective line departments and central agencies dealing with essential services to identify vulnerable points and spots and have a proper coordinated system to tackle the problem faced during the time of emergency.

He also asked respective SDMs to conduct similar pre-monsoon preparedness meeting on disaster management at the village and GPU level. Further, he specifically directed respective departments to appoint two nodal officers for each department.

Reiterating the importance of having a disaster management plan for all the departments, Mr Meena touched upon the need to prepare a disaster management plan for those departments who have not prepared disaster management plans yet. He highlighted that disasters are unpredictable and hence urged the participants to be seriously prepared for any disaster.

He also directed all departments to have more participation and presence in social media and WhatsApp groups to sensitize the public on disaster management. He urged all the line departments and central agencies to work collectively and in tandem for the benefit of the society at large.

The SP [East] also provided valuable inputs and placed positive feedback and suggestions during the meeting.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Real Concern for Safe Roads, Please

*Tourist season is always a good time to check against the fast and the rash*

The tourist season has begun. It is warming up rather well, assisted by the sweltering plains, and the numbers coming to Sikkim also benefitting from the rural polls in West Bengal which are likely to have tourists avoid Bengal for some time even though Darjeeling Hills will still not be electing panchayats, Sikkim can expect the season to shape up well. Given that memories of ruined holidays in Darjeeling are still fresh in traveler minds, tourists will likely play safe with their itineraries and Sikkim can look at a bumper 'season' as tourists add days to their Sikkim stay.

Traditionally, however, road safety has been inversely proportional to the robustness of a tourist season here. There are no indications that things will be any different this time around because nothing, repeat, nothing, is being done to make travel any safer in Sikkim. This is unfortunate, because this really is also the season of speeding and rash driving as tax-race to pack in more tourist drops and pick-ups as the highway travel will allow and as many sightseeing jaunts as Gangtok's permanent traffic jams will sustain. Given the state of the global warming, there is also no guarantee on what the weather will be like or how the roads will fare. More reason to pack as many sorties to and fro from Siliguri as possible for the cabbies. More reason also to wake up in time and get some effective policing on the roads – to check rash driving, not documents. Unfortunately, however, checking of documents continues to be the limit of imagination as far as highway patrolling goes. The status of vehicle documents is about the revenue the state exchequer earns, and has nothing in it to validate either driving skills or vehicular health or road etiquette which are the aspects that need checking if road travel is to be made safer.

Although no updates have been made available on the "investigations" into various accidents that have happened in the past, thumb rule suggests that speeding claims more lives than mechanical failures. One look at the glazed eyes behind the wheels as taxis scream into Gangtok and rash driving also gets confirmed. It is time that the traffic police began patrolling the highways and conducting surprise checks, again, not to check documents or even pull out their breath analysers. The document issue has been mentioned earlier; and breath analysers can detect only alcohol, not the substances of abuse which are as debilitating when it comes to driving reflexes and are also more popped than the pegs that used to be downed earlier. Long back, the East District police had undertaken such a measure when they stopped passenger vehicles and advised passengers to warn drivers if they were over-speeding and stop at the nearest police checkpoint to lodge a complaint if the driver continued to remain rash on the roads. Police personnel also checked the condition of the tyres and the reliability of brakes during such checks. The move had been very effective. This initiative was however short-lived. It has to be resumed.

The policy decision to have drivers [with driving licences from outside the State] undergo a driving test on Sikkim roads before being allowed to ferry passengers here was a welcome one too, but even that appears to have fallen out of practice. Too many lives are being risked to reckless driving and it is time that stricter action was taken against delinquent drivers instead of time and energy wasted on checking only documents.

ALVARO JARRIN  
theconversation.com

In the U.S., if you want a face lift or a tummy tuck, it's generally assumed that you'll be paying out of pocket. Insurance will tend to cover plastic surgery only when the surgery is deemed "medically necessary" and not merely aesthetic.

In Brazil, however, patients are thought of as having the "right to beauty." In public hospitals, plastic surgeries are free or low-cost, and the government subsidizes nearly half a million surgeries every year.

As a medical anthropologist, I've spent years studying Brazilian plastic surgery. While many patients are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to become beautiful, the "right to beauty" has a darker side to it.

Everyone I interviewed in Brazil admitted that plastic surgeries were risky affairs. In the public hospitals where these plastic surgeries are free or much cheaper than in private clinics, I heard many patients declare that they were "cobaia" (guinea pigs) for the medical residents who would operate on them.

Yet these patients, most of whom were women, also told me that living without beauty in Brazil was to take an even bigger risk. Beauty is perceived as being so central for the job market, so crucial for finding a spouse and so essential for any chances at upward mobility that many

can't say no to these surgeries.

The very long queues for plastic surgery in public hospitals – with wait times of several months or even years – seem to confirm this immense longing for beauty. It's made Brazil the second-largest consumer of plastic surgery in the world, with 1.2 million surgeries carried out every year. **BRAZIL'S 'POPE OF PLASTIC SURGERY'** Today, Brazil considers health to be a basic human right and provides free health care to all its citizens – a hard-won victory of social activists after Brazil's dictatorship fell and a new democratic constitution was written into law in 1988. However, public hospitals remain severely underfunded, and most middle-class and upper-class Brazilians prefer to use private medical services.

In effect, Brazil has a two-tiered system. There is a private health care system that is cutting-edge and luxurious and a public one that is strapped for cash but provides essential services to the working class.

Plastic surgery is considered an essential service largely due to the efforts

## Five lesser known footballers who broke down racial barriers



[clockwise from left]: Arthur Wharton, Hassam Hegazi, Mohammed Abdul Salim Bachi Khan, Frank Soo and Walter Tull

MARTYN DEAN COOKE  
theconversation.com

Netflix has commissioned Julian Fellowes, the creator of the award-winning historical period drama Downton Abbey, to write a new TV series exploring the early development of modern football and how its creation "reached across the class divide" as Etonians and factory workers came together to create the world's most popular sport.

The origins and early history of association football is certainly full of prestigious names and colourful characters. People like Charles William Alcock, the Sunderland ship merchant who invented the FA Cup, and William McGregor, who ran a draper's shop and established the Football League in 1888 with his club Aston Villa. So Fellowes will have no shortage of potential content. But will he look to explore the stories of less renowned figures such as Arthur Wharton, Walter Tull and Frank Soo?

All three were early non-Caucasian pioneers in British football that had to face and overcome racial barriers, both on and off the pitch as "men of colour". Yet most people will never have heard of them. There is a danger that their stories, along with other less prominent players, will disappear from the collective memory of society, and their accomplishments, achievements and struggles will be forgotten if we don't give them the credit they deserve by remembering them.

### THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL

Arthur Wharton is widely accepted as the first professional non-Caucasian football player in the world after he appeared for Rotherham United in 1889. Born in Jamestown, Gold Coast (now Ghana), he was a talented all round athlete who was

renowned for his "prodigious punch" when playing as a goalkeeper and for equalling the amateur world record of ten seconds for the 100-yard sprint. Wharton played for numerous clubs as both an amateur and professional, including Preston North End, Sheffield United and Darlington, prior to retiring in 1902.

### THE WAR HERO

The second non-Caucasian to play in the Football League was Walter Tull. The inside forward signed for Tottenham Hotspur in 1909 and participated in the club's tour of South America prior to joining Northampton Town in 1911. But the outbreak of the First World War saw Tull enlist in the British army where he rose to the rank of second lieutenant in 1917, becoming the first officer of colour despite contemporary military regulations forbidding it, before being killed in northern France in 1918.

### THE EGYPTIAN ENGINEER

Hassam Hegazi became the first Egyptian to appear in the Football League when he made his debut for Fulham in 1911. He had arrived in London to study engineering but had gained a reputation for being a talented striker while playing for amateur side Dulwich Hamlet, attracting the interest of local professional clubs. However, despite scoring on his debut for Fulham (a 3-1 win against Stockport County) and being asked to play the following week, Hegazi opted to return to amateur football with Dulwich so that he could focus on his studies.

### THE BAREFOOT WINGER

Mohammed Abdul Salim Bachi Khan, also known as Mohammed Salim, was an Indian winger who arrived in Britain in 1936 after winning five successive Calcutta Football League titles with Mohammedan SC in his homeland. Despite making only two official appearances for the Glasgow

Celtic reserve team, his presence attracted a great amount of interest from the public as he would play in bare feet that were swathed in bandages rather than boots. He was given the nickname "The Indian Juggler" and impressed in his duo of performances but returned to India after he became homesick.

### THE ENGLISH PIONEER

Contrary to popular belief, the first non-Caucasian player to represent the English national team was Stoke City half-back Frank Soo in 1942 – as opposed to Viv Anderson who made his debut three decades later in 1978.

Soo was of mixed Chinese and English heritage – his father, Our Quong Soo, had migrated to Britain and married a local girl, Beatrice Whittam, in 1908. Soo became the first player of Chinese heritage to appear in the Football League when he made his debut for Stoke in 1933 and he quickly became a regular fixture in the first team, culminating in him being proclaimed one of the "finest half-backs in the country". Soo made nine appearances for the national team between 1942 and 1945 but this accomplishment is often overlooked as the Football Association do not class wartime internationals as "official" fixtures.

These players should play a prominent role in our understanding of the history of the game and wider society. Their achievements and accomplishments – in addition to the racial barriers and challenges that they faced – deserve to be recognised. The stories of the early non-Caucasian pioneers of British football should never be lost and, in my opinion, might even make a good Netflix series.

[the writer is Postgraduate Teaching Assistant (PTA) and PhD Candidate (Sport History), Manchester Metropolitan University]

## In Brazil, patients risk everything for the 'right to beauty'



of a surgeon named Ivo Pitanguy. In the late 1950s, Pitanguy – now known as the "pope of plastic surgery" – convinced President Juscelino Kubitschek that the "right to beauty" was as basic as any other health need. Pitanguy made the case that ugliness caused so much psychological suffering in Brazil that the medical class could not turn its back on this humanitarian issue.

In 1960, he opened the first institute

that offered plastic surgery to the poor, one that doubled as a medical school to train new surgeons. It was so successful that it became the educational model followed by most other plastic surgery residencies around the country. In return for free or low-cost surgeries, working-class patients would help surgeons learn and practice their trade.

Brazil was the perfect testing ground for this idea. In the early 1920s, Brazilian eu-

genic scientists suggested that beauty was a measure of the nation's racial progress. Beauty started to assume more cultural clout, and plastic surgeons inherited these ideals, seeing their trade as "fixing" the errors of too much racial mixture in Brazil, particularly among the lower classes.

### BEAUTY'S HIDDEN COSTS

In my recently published book, "The Biopolitics of Beauty," I question the idea that humanitarianism is the driving force of plastic surgery in Brazilian public hospitals.

Burn victims and individuals with congenital deformities were once the main beneficiaries of plastic surgery in these hospitals. But at many of the clinics where I carried out my research, nearly 95 percent of all those surgeries have become purely aesthetic. I documented hundreds of instances where surgeons and residents purposely blurred the boundaries between reconstructive and aesthetic procedures to get them approved by the government.

Since most of the surgeries in public hospitals are carried out by medical residents who are still training to be plastic surgeons, they have a vested interest in learning aesthetic procedures – skills that they'll be able to later market as they open private practices. But they have very little interest in learning the reconstructive procedures that actually improve a bodily

turn to 05

# Around Rs 49 lac worth works passed without proper process, SKM alleges

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 05 MAY:**

**S**ikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged of corruption in the execution of developmental works at Samdong GPU under Rinchenpong constituency in West Sikkim. The party has also alleged of violation of Implementation Manual in the tender process for works in the area.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM Panchayat of Ward No 5 of Samdong GPU, Sonam Tshering Lepcha, informed that the tender processes of four works in the GPU were completed without the knowledge of the people of the area thus violating the Implementation Manual. He informed that all works were awarded through short tender.

Samdong GPU has seven wards and except ward No 5,



all others have SDF Panchayats. These four works were passed from Jan-Mar this year without the knowledge of the local people, Mr Lepcha alleged.

These works included Rs 5.29 lakh worth upgradation

of sub-station at Upper Sreebadam, Rs 7 lakh worth construction of cremation shed in Upper Sreebadam, Rs 20 lakh worth construction of new room at Reshi Junior High School and Rs 16.99 lakh worth augmentation of RWSS

from Saulay source to Kami Gaon, it was informed.

"We complained about it verbally and in written as well to the concerned Block Development Officer of Sanga Dorjee BAC and requested him for re-tender but no action

has been taken. Then we approached DAC [West] and the matter was forwarded to the SDM who then forwarded the same to the BDO," Mr Lepcha said.

However, all works have been kept on hold after the complaint by the SKM Panchayat, he added.

He alleged that the Panchayats of the GPU from the ruling party and the administration have been involved in corruption in passing these works. He informed that in papers, SDF Panchayats have tried to show that the tender process for these works was held at Gram Prashashan Kendra but in reality, nothing has happened on ground.

"We will not allow for the commencement of around Rs 50 lakh worth developmental works in the area without proper tender process. We want these works to be first

passed in a Gram Sabha in the presence of the people and re-tender should be held in a fair manner and local youth should also get equal opportunity to participate in the tender process," Mr Lepcha demanded.

We will gherao the BAC and approach the court if no action is taken by the administration, he warned.

He also informed that being a Panchayat of the opposition party, he has not received his monthly honorarium since the first day of his office as Panchayat from Nov last year.

SKM acting president, KN Lepcha, added that this is the story of every opposition Panchayat in the State who has been facing ignorance and suppression in every way. He also alleged that the BDO has been appointed to benefit ruling Panchayats and to suppress the opposition.

**Bengal CID busts petroleum product racket, 2 held**

**KOLKATA, MAY 5 (PTI):** The West Bengal CID has busted a racket dealing in supply of a low-priced petroleum product from Birpara in Alipurdwar district and arrested two persons, a senior officer of the agency said.

Acting on a tip-off, a CID team conducted a raid yesterday night at a petrol pump at Birpara in Alipurdwar district, while a tanker was unloading an industrial solvent into an underground reservoir, he said.

The industrial solvent was procured from Dankuni and supplied to different pumps, according to preliminary investigation, the officer said.

During the raid, one tanker with 7,000 litres of the solvent was seized and two persons were arrested in this connection, he added.

**Independent candidates meet SEC, seek security for campaigning**

**KOLKATA, MAY 5 (PTI):** Several independent candidates today met the West Bengal State Election Commissioner (SEC) AK Singh and demanded adequate security for themselves during campaigning for the panchayat polls scheduled on May 14.

Two candidates -- Jakir Molla and Fatima Bibi -- who are contesting from Bhangore area, met Singh and accused Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Arubul Islam of threatening them.

"We are contesting as independent candidates and we are being threatened from the very first day. Earlier, it was regarding withdrawal of candidature, now we are being asked to leave the area. We want protection from police and SEC," said Fatima Bibi.

Those who are willing to cast their votes have also been threatened of dire consequences, she alleged.

The TMC, however, rubbished the allegations.

The filing of nominations last month was marred by violence following clashes between the ruling TMC and opposition parties in which several people lost their lives.

## China records first current account deficit in 17 years in Q1

**KJM VARMA**

**BEIJING, MAY 5 (PTI):** China has recorded its first quarterly current account deficit in nearly 17 years, ending its dream run of accumulating trade surplus as a top exporter for a period during which it amassed the world's largest foreign exchange reserves of over USD 3.14 trillion.

China saw a current account deficit of USD 28.2 billion in the first quarter of this year, the country's first quarterly deficit since the second quarter of 2001, data released yesterday by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange showed.

The goods trade still ran a surplus of USD 53.4 billion, but registered a 35 per cent slump year-on-year, while the service trade posted a deficit of USD 76.2 billion, the

biggest quarterly deficit since 1998, China's Caixin magazine reported.

SAFE tried to play it down saying that the rare red figure in the current account was a result of seasonal factors, but economists said it could signal a fundamental shift in China's international payment position, which in turn is a result of global economic rebalance in the last decade.

Ding Shuang, the chief China economist with Standard Chartered in Hong Kong, wrote in a note that China has run a current account surplus on an annual basis in the past 25 years and people tend to take (China's) surplus for granted.

The situation that people have been taking for granted for a quarter of a century was about to

change, Ding noted.

A moderate shock, against the backdrop of intensifying trade frictions, can push China's current account into deficit, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted him as saying.

For China, the dip in its current account could not have come at a worst time as it is engaged in crucial trade talks with the US to meet the demands of President Donald Trump to reduce America's USD 375 billion bilateral trade deficit immediately by USD 100 billion and USD 200 billion by 2020.

The two-day talks between the US delegation, led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He ended here yesterday during which they are re-

ported to have reached some agreements while differences remained.

Both sides lined up tariff hikes on a spate of items to resort to a tit-for-tat increase if the trade talks fail amid assertions by Trump that he is ready for a trade war.

The current account surplus was the pride of China for the last 17 years as it emerged as the world's factory with enormous amount of exports to all nooks and corners of the world. In the process, it accumulated at one time over USD 4 trillion in foreign exchange reserves, unprecedented in the world.

China has the biggest holding in US government debt amounting to USD 1.19 trillion last year. In March this year its foreign exchange reserves stood at over USD 3.14 trillion.

**6 TMC members of Dabgram Fulbari expelled**

**SMRITA KHAWAS**  
**SILIGURI, 05 MAY:**

Six members of Trinamool Congress [TMC] of Dabgram Fulbari Block, Siliguri were expelled from the party today.

Block president of Dabgram Fulbari, Debashish Prannik, said, "Today six TMC members namely Sanjai Biswas, Nirala Roy, Babita Mandal, Amita Roy, Bina Roy and Bimal Biswas were thrown out of the party because they were violating the rules of the party and doing as they wanted. Keeping their activities in view, we called a meeting at our block and carried out the process."

**Family of four commits suicide**

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**SILIGURI, 05 MAY:**

A family of four hail from Siliguri committed suicide by hanging this morning near Eastern Bye-pass in Siliguri. According to sources, the husband had a gambling problem and had collected a lot of debt.

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## Suo motu FIR registered in Kolkata Metro incident

**KOLKATA, MAY 5 (PTI):** Police has registered a suo motu FIR to probe the recent incident of alleged moral policing in the Kolkata Metro Railway, following a mass petition in this regard.

"We have registered an FIR. We have already started taking action so that those who were involved in the incident can be identified and nabbed," DC (North) Debasis Sarkar said.

Police started the case yesterday after the petition, signed by several passengers, was forwarded by Metro Railway authorities.

According to media reports, a few people on Monday objected to a man



hugging his woman friend in a metro train coach. An argument ensued between the two sides and the protestors heckled the couple, pushed them out of the train and beat them up at Dumdum metro station.

Protests were held outside Tollygunge and Dumdum metro stations on Wednesday against the incident.

There was alleged assault of some girls protesting against the moral policing by unruly Metro Railway passengers on Thursday evening near Dum Dum metro station, and a complaint was lodged with the police.

Police were trying to procure CCTV footage to investigate the case of the alleged assault.

A senior officer at the Kolkata Police headquarter in Lalbazar said police was also planning to record statements of witnesses.

## In Brazil, patients risk everything for the 'right to beauty'

**Contd from pg04**

function or reduce physical pain.

Additionally, most of Brazil's surgical innovations are first tested by plastic surgeons in public hospitals, exposing those patients to more risks than wealthier patients. Working-class patients are understood as subjects of inquiry, and I spoke to the small but significant number who were very unhappy with the results of their surgery.

Take one woman I interviewed named Renata. The medical resident who operated on her left her with deformed breasts and uneven nipples. She also developed severe infections that took months to heal and left significant scars. She considered suing the doctor, but discovered she would need a costly expert medical evaluation. She also knew that the Brazilian legal system would likely grant her very little in terms of damages. In the end, she settled for another free surgery, one that she hoped would provide

a better result and leave her less unhappy.

This was a typical story among low-income patients that were harmed by plastic surgeons. Their lack of financial resources made it nearly impossible for them to find any justice if anything went wrong, so they assumed all of the risk.

Plastic surgeons, on the other hand, are eager to try new techniques if they seem promising, no matter how risky they might be. A technique known as "bioplastia," for example, consists of injecting a liquid compound called PMMA into the body in order to permanently reshape a patient's features. The compound, which is similar to acrylic glass, doesn't cause problems in most patients. But in a small minority it causes very severe complications, including necrosis of facial tissue. Yet many doctors I interviewed strongly defended the technique, claiming it was a phenomenal tool that allowed them to transform the human body. Risk, they argued, was inherent in any surgical procedure.

Around the world, Brazilian plastic surgeons are known as the best in their field, and they gain global recognition for their daring new techniques. During an international plastic surgery conference in Brazil, an American surgeon I interviewed told me, "Brazilian surgeons are pioneers... You know why? Because [in Brazil] they don't have the institutional or legal barriers to generate new techniques. They can be creative as they want to be."

In other words, there are few regulations in place that could protect low-income patients from malpractice.

In a country where appearance is seen as central to one's very citizenship, patients agree to becoming experimental subjects in exchange for beauty. But it's often a choice made under duress, and the consequences can be dire.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of the Holy Cross]



# India can qualify for Asian Cup knockout stage: Constantine



**DUBAI, MAY 5 (PTI):** India have the ability to qualify for the knockout stage of the 2019 Asian Cup, said national football team coach Stephen Constantine, giving wings to his players' aspirations, quite appropriately, from the world's tallest building -- the Burj Khalifa.

India were last night clubbed with hosts United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Bahrain in Group A of the AFC Asian Cup, the draw for which was held at the iconic Burj Khalifa here.

"I think it's a group from where we can qualify to the knockout stage. I won't say it's an easy group but we have the ability to win against some of these teams and on our day, we can beat most of them," Constantine, who attended the draw along with team manager Shanmugam Venkatesh, said.

"All these teams will give us different kinds of problems and we have to be prepared before facing them in the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019," he added.

The last time India participated in the continental tournament, in 2011, they were thrashed by South Korea, Australia and Bahrain, returning home bruised and battered after conceding a barrage of goals.

Meanwhile captain Sunil Chhetri,

along with Iranian legend Ali Daei, iconic Chinese player Sun Jihai and Philippines' star Philip James Young-husband coordinated the picks for the four respective pots helping AFC General Secretary Dato Windsor John to conduct the draw.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chhetri said: "The AFC Asian Cup is an enormous opportunity for us and we are looking forward to it. Back home in India, everyone is excited and we have the blessings of all the people and we will do our best."

"The AFC Asian Cup gives us the opportunity to rub shoulders with the best of Asia and play against players who many of whom play in many a Premier League across Europe and other parts of the world."

Chhetri, India's all-time leading scorer, will be the lynchpin of the team.

"It will be an eye-opener and even if it is a learning experience, we aim to be competitive and give our best on the pitch," he said.

"I was part of the national team in 2011 in Doha where we last played in the Continental Championship. Qualifying to the Asian Cup for the second time in eight years is great for Indian football," he added.



## Sai Praneeth goes down fighting in semifinals

**AUCKLAND, MAY 5 (PTI):** Indian shutter B Sai Praneeth went down fighting to second seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in the men's singles semifinals of the New Zealand Open badminton here today.

The 25-year-old Sai Praneeth was the lone Indian left in fray in the tournament after he entered the semifinals of the men's singles event yesterday.

However, his run came to an end after he succumbed to a 14-21, 21-19, 21-8 loss in a match that lasted over an hour.

The Indian, who was seeded third for this tournament, won the first game comfortably and was leading the second game for a while.

But Christie fought back, eventually winning two straight points when the score was tied at 19-19 to win the second game and force the match into a deciding third game.

Praneeth struggled to compete against his Indonesian rival in the third game, as Christie dominated it to enter the final.

Yesterday, Praneeth hardly broke a sweat as he took just 28 minutes to quell the challenge of Sri Lanka's Niluka Karunaratne 21-7 21-9 in the quarterfinals.

In the title clash, Christie will face the winner of the other semi-final between China's Lin Dan and South Korea's Heo Kwang Hee.

## Kings XI Punjab, RR look to break winless run

**INDORE, MAY 5 (PTI):** Mid-table side Kings XI Punjab will look to get their campaign back on track after a couple of defeats when they lock horns with bottom-placed Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here Sunday.

While Kings XI Punjab are placed fourth in the table with five wins and three losses from eight appearances, inaugural edition winners Rajasthan Royals are last with three victories and five defeats.

Like KXIP, RR too are coming off two straight defeats, but the Punjab outfit is placed much than its next opponents and is pretty much in with a chance to qualify for the playoffs.

While they would regret letting Mumbai Indians off the hook at the Holkar International Stadium last night, Kings XI Punjab have a side capable of making a turnaround.

For a team that boasts someone like Chris Gayle at the top of the order, it can always afford to hope. That the big-hitting Jamaican has been in red-hot form in this ongoing edition of the league, only adds to their



confidence.

With his stupendous run of form, Gayle has already silenced his detractors and if his brisk fifty against Mumbai Indians is any indication, he is no mood to relax as yet.

While his bowlers were taken to the task by Rohit Sharma and Krunal Pandya in the last five overs, KXIP skipper Ravichandran Ashwin blamed his batsmen for not putting enough runs on the board after they went down to Mumbai Indians.

Put in to bat, Kings XI Punjab failed to capitalise on a good batting track and barring Chris Gayle's 40-ball

fifty, no other top-order batsmen stood up.

It was Marcus Stoinis' (29 not out off 15 balls) last-  
over blitz that carried Kings XI Punjab to 174/6.

Ashwin, nevertheless, sounded optimistic of better days ahead.

"We fought well, if a few things had gone our way, we might have ended as winners (against MI). We bowled pretty well, but this wasn't our night," Ashwin said after the game against MI.

He refused to believe that the week's break had any impact on the team's performance.

As far as Rajasthan are concerned, Englishman Jos Buttler will be the one to watch out for. Fresh from his 18-ball half century against Delhi Daredevils, Buttler will look to replicate that showing tomorrow, albeit in a winning cause this time.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane would himself look to score some quick runs and inspire his success-starved players. The last time RR emerged victorious was on April 22, against Mumbai Indians, and they would be eager to get back to winning ways.

## Resurgent Mumbai Indians take on confident KKR

**NIKHIL BAPAT**

**MUMBAI, MAY 5 (PTI):** Looking, at last, like a team wanting to defend its title, Mumbai Indians' road to redemption in the Indian Premier League faces another tricky test, as they host a formidable Kolkata Knight Riders here Sunday.

The defending champions seemed resurgent after a tense win over Kings XI Punjab, though their play-off hopes were still hanging by a thread, thanks to a spate of reverses over the past few weeks.

The 21-ball 56-run blitzkrieg between Krunal Pandya and Rohit Sharma in Indore is history and MI will next need to tame KKR, who have a reputation of being fierce opponents, at the Wankhade Stadium.

MI's under-performing batsmen finally clicked last night against Kings XI and will look to replicate their performance against another top of the table outfit.

Mumbai jumped to the fifth spot having won three of their



nine games while KKR are sitting comfortable in the third position. The hosts have to win all their remaining five games to make it to the play-offs.

For Mumbai Indians, Suryakumar Yadav (340 runs) has been in great form and has scored runs consistently.

But his opening partner, Evin Lewis, has been a disappointment and the home team will need to relook at its opening pair, especially after the West Indian's flop show at the Holkar International Stadium.

The hosts, however, will be pleased that skipper Rohit is back among the runs and will be looking up to him to lead

them from the front.

Wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan, JP Duminy, Hardik Pandya and his brother Krunal, who played a splendid cameo against Kings XI, along with yesterday's Man of the Match Yadav and Sharma, make up a formidable batting line-up.

Out-of-form West Indian Kieron Pollard is expected to be benched again in favour of Ben Cutting.

An area where MI need to improve is their bowling in the death overs. While New Zealander Mitchell McClenaghan was hammered for three sixes in the final over by the Royal Challengers Bangalore batsmen,

Hardik leaked over 20 runs in the final over against KXIP.

Jasprit Bumrah, Cutting and young leggie Mayank Markande (12 wickets) need to play their part to perfection if KKR's strong batting line-up is to be restricted. Krunal, too, needs to chip in with the ball along with Hardik.

Significantly, MI have won only one of their four home games, against RCB, this season.

It is a different story for KKR with skipper Dinesh Karthik leading the charge in style. Following an emphatic six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings, KKR have jumped to the third spot and a third

win on the trot will boost their qualifying hopes considerably.

Karthik has amassed 280 runs in nine matches but is still outside the top-10 list of leading run-getters and he's followed by Chris Lynn and Andre Russell, with 260 and 207 runs respectively, to their credit so far this season.

The firepower of Sunil Narine at the top and the emergence of youngster Shubhman Gill down the order provide KKR with one of the most devastating batting orders. Only vice captain Robin Uthappa has not played to potential.

KKR also boast of three quality spinners - Narine (10 wickets), Piyush Chawla (8 wickets) and Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav (8 wickets). And if Nitish Rana, who was suffering from a back spasm, is back, it will add more variety to their attack.

KKR pacers Tom Curran, veteran Mitchell Johnson and rookie Shivam Mavi need to step up and deliver.

"There was no objection to the special cards either from our relatives and friends or the groom's family," he added.

To a question on whether the family would follow the practice in the future, Azad said, "There is nothing wrong in it... it's only a gesture, welcoming them..."

Mohammad Salim said he would be happy if this gesture helped bridge the gap between Hindus and Muslims.

"It is a goodwill gesture for my Hindu brothers. If we show respect to their gods, they will definitely show respect to the Muslim community," he added.

**SULTANPUR (UP), MAY 5 (PTI):** Sending a strong message of communal harmony, a Muslim family in a nondescript village here got special cards printed for the Hindu invitees to their daughter's wedding.

Two sets of cards were printed separately for the Hindu and Muslim invitees for the wedding of Mohammad Salim's daughter, Jahana Bano, with Yusuf Mohammad on April 29 in Baghsarai village here.

"Around 250 to 300 cards were printed for the Muslim guests in tradi-



tional Islamic style, while 130 to 140 cards were printed for the Hindu invitees in the shape of a calendar (scroll)

with the pictures of gods and goddesses," Mohammad Salim's son and the brother of the bride, Azad, told PTI.

Besides the pictures of Ram and Sita, the invitation card also had a "kalash" (pitcher), "diya" (earthen lamp), banana leaves and even a "pooja thali" (plate) with coconut, flowers and fruits -- all auspicious symbols for Hindus -- printed on it.

"It was the idea of the entire family... we have friends among the Muslims as well as the Hindus and the invitations had to be sent to them," Azad said.

## Gold touches Rs 32,000-mark, up Rs 100 on jewellers' buying

**NEW DELHI, MAY 5 (PTI):** Gold prices reclaimed the Rs 32,000-level by rising Rs 100 to Rs 32,080 per 10 grams today, taking strength from scattered buying by local jewellers amid a firm trend overseas.

Silver also strengthened by Rs 200 to Rs 40,500 per kg due to increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

Gold prices firmed up after falling for three straight days, mainly because of fresh buying by local jewellers at the domestic spot market, coupled with a better trend globally.

Globally, gold rose 0.26 per cent to USD 1,315 an ounce and silver by 0.64 per cent to USD

16.50 an ounce in New York yesterday as the dollar backed off its day's highs, raising demand for the precious metals.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity rebounded by Rs 100 each to Rs 32,080 and Rs 31,930 per ten grams, respectively. It had lost Rs 220 in the previous three days.

Sovereign, however, held steady at Rs 24,700 per piece of eight grams.

In step with gold, silver ready advanced by Rs 200 to Rs 40,500 per kg, while weekly-based delivery by Rs 30 to Rs 39,095 per kg.

Silver coins too spurted by Rs 1,000 to Rs 75,000 for buying and Rs 76,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

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# ElseWhere

## US Navy veteran sentenced to life for killing Indian techie

**LALIT K JHA**  
**WASHINGTON, MAY 5 (PTI):** A US Navy veteran was today sentenced to life imprisonment for killing Indian engineer Srinivas Kuchibhotla in a racially motivated hate crime at a bar in Kansas City last year.

A federal judge in Kansas sentenced Adam Purinton to nearly 78

years in prison as part of a plea agreement reached in March. Purinton would not be eligible for parole until after he turns 100, KSHB reported.

In March this year, Purinton, 52, had pleaded guilty to the charges of murdering Kuchibhotla.

Purinton was charged with first-degree murder of Kuchibhotla, 32, and

two counts of attempted first-degree murder in the shootings of his friend, Alok Madasani, and a bystander, who chased Purinton after he fled the Austin's Bar and Grill in Olathe city on February 22 last year.

In addition to the state charges, Purinton faces prosecution in federal court. The US Attorney's

Office in Kansas filed hate crime charges against Purinton last June.

Purinton, yelled, "Get out of my country," before shooting Kuchibhotla, who later died from injuries sustained in the attack.

Kuchibhotla is survived by his wife Sunayana Dumala, who welcomed the court's

decision.

"Today's sentencing in the murder of my husband will not bring back my Srinu, but it sends a strong message that hate is never acceptable," Dumala said in a statement.

"I want to thank the District Attorney's office and the Olathe police for their efforts to bring this

man to justice," she said.

Kuchibhotla hailed from Hyderabad. He had a master's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso. He earned his bachelor's degree from the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in Hyderabad.

## Trump to meet S Korean president at White House on May 22



**WASHINGTON, MAY 5 (PTI):** Ahead of his much-awaited summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, US President Donald Trump will host his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in at the White House on May 22, according to an official announcement today.

During the meeting, Moon would brief Trump on his recent summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Moon met with Kim Jong-un last week at a Korean border village during last week's inter-Korea summit. The two leaders agreed to end hostile acts against each other along their tense border, establish a liaison office and resume reunions of separated families.

They also agreed to achieve a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, but failed to produce specific time frames and disarmament steps.

Trump himself is scheduled to have a summit meeting with Kim Jong-un, the date and venue for which "have been decided and will be announced soon".

"This third summit between the two leaders affirms the enduring strength of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance and the deep friendship between our two countries," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said.

"The two leaders also will discuss President Trump's upcoming meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un," she said.

## China has become 'very spoiled' with US trade wins: Trump

**WASHINGTON, MAY 5 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has indicated adopting a tough approach against China on trade disputes, as his high-powered delegation headed back home from Beijing after talks.

Trump said that he would meet the delegation, led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, today.

Other members of the delegation included Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Larry Kudlow, and Assistant to the President for Trade and Manufacturing Policy Peter Navarro.

"Our high-level delegation is on the way back from China where they had long meetings with Chinese leaders and business representatives," he said.

"We will be meeting tomorrow to determine the results, but it is hard for China in that they have become very spoiled with US trade wins!" Trump tweeted.

US has a massive trade deficit of about USD 500 billion per annum with China. The Trump Administration has sought a reduction of USD 200 billion in trade deficit, which, according to media reports, China has rejected.



## Major quake hits Hawaii, prompts further volcano eruptions

**LOS ANGELES, MAY 5 (AFP):** A magnitude 6.9 earthquake shook Hawaii's Big Island today, prompting fresh eruptions of a volcano that is threatening residential neighborhoods, the US Geological Survey said. It said the shallow temblor struck at 12:32 pm (2232 GMT) and was centered on the south flank of the Kilauea volcano, which first erupted yesterday after a series of quakes on the island. It had a depth of five kilometers. "This is in almost exactly the same location as the deadly 1975 M 7.1 quake," USGS said in a tweet.

## India nudges ADB to invest in fintech, health startups

**MANILA, MAY 5 (PTI):** India today asked ADB to invest in fintech and health startups to help improve the quality of life in Asia while sharpening focus on infrastructure lending by ensuring loan disbursals within a year of request.

Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg

said that the Asian Development Bank should factor in the number of poor people in a country while deciding resource allocation.

He was speaking on the sidelines of ADB's annual board meeting. The multilateral lender is making efforts to create 'Strategy 2030' to sustain its ef-

forts to eradicate extreme poverty and to achieve sustainable growth in Asia and the Pacific.

"ADB should continue to place its primary focus on infrastructure creation, energy, communication, transportation, cities, rivers cleaning.... New technologies ... is the new revolution

-- the digital age. While agriculture and industrial age will continue to exist, and we should not ignore that the digital age is going to shape up our future.

"ADB should become a facilitator of ushering in digital age in Asia. It should invest in innovations, in startups and

venture capitals to help countries produce goods and services using technologies in digital age.

"It should invest in fintech, healthcare and other ways in which public services can be delivered to people of Asia to improve their quality of life," Garg said.

# Economic centre of gravity shifting to APAC, need to reinvent ADB: Nakao

**JOYEETA DEY**  
**MANILA, MAY 5 (PTI):** With the economic centre of gravity shifting to the APAC region, Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao today committed to "reinventing" the bank to meet the challenges of a transforming Asia.

In his opening address at the 51st annual meeting of the ADB, Nakao said the multilateral lender is developing a new long-term 'Strategy 2030' which will renew its commitment to eradicate poverty in the region and expand vision to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific (APAC).

"Today, the economic centre of gravity is shifting to Asia and the Pacific, and almost all our developing member countries have advanced to middle-income status. Yet, large challenges remain, and new ones are emerging," Nakao said.

"There is still persistent poverty. We must address rising inequality, growing environmental pressures, and rapid urbanisation. Aging in

some countries and an increasing youth population in others present opportunities as well as challenges," he added.

Stating that ADB plans to complete the process of formulating the 'Strategy 2030' by mid-2018, he said the multilateral lender will pursue differentiated approach for lending to various developing member countries.

"Our task ahead is to reinvent ADB and meet the challenges of a transforming Asia and the Pacific," Nakao said.

Highlighting 10 priorities in 'Strategy 2030',

Nakao said ADB will foster regional cooperation and integration, building on its experience in sub-regional cooperation initiatives since the 1990s in Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.

"We will promote regional public goods such as transportation and logistical networks, and protection against communicable diseases. We will support a regional approach to energy security, education, tourism, and financial stability. ADB will cooperate with existing and emerging in-

ternational and regional initiatives," he said.

Earlier in the week, addressing a press conference, Nakao had said the Manila-based bank is looking at ways on how to fund the 'One Belt One Road' initiative, which would connect China with the rest of Eurasia and is also open to collaborate with China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

The ADB was founded in 1966 and was mandated to lift people out of poverty and fund projects which will benefit society at large. Since

its inception, ADB has been led conventionally by a Japanese governor, with larger quantum of funding coming from Japan and United States. The ADB has 67 member countries, including 48 from the Asian region.

Nakao, in his opening address at the ADB board of governors meet, said implementing the 'Strategy 2030' will require a stronger, better, and faster ADB.

"We will continue to use our financial resources efficiently and creatively... We will expand our presence on

the ground. We will modernise business processes to speed up our services to clients. A 'One ADB' approach will break down silos and bring together expertise across ADB. We will continue to work with a wide range of partners," he said.

India is a founding member of the ADB and is currently the fourth-largest shareholder and the largest borrower of ADB sovereign lending since 2010. The multilateral lender has so far committed sovereign loans totalling USD 35.9 billion to India.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES		
DEAR GENTLE MORNING	DEAR PRIZED	DEAR OSTRICH EVENING
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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES	
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## This Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh Twitter exchange is dripping love



Bollywood gossip will have you believe that Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone may tie the knot soon. While we await either of the stars to discuss the issue, their latest Twitter exchange seems like a giant heart emoji. So, without further ado, let us tell you what happened.

On Friday, Ranveer topped a 'Most Desirable Men List', which has Prabhas, Virat Kohli, Hrithik Roshan and Sidharth Malhotra rounding off the top five. The actor said he was very flattered to receive the honour. He thanked everyone who voted

for him and wrote on Twitter, "Most desirable! Sweet! A big Thank you to @timesofindia ... and to everyone who voted for me!" For good measure, there were heart and thank you emojis to go with the message on Twitter.

Without missing a beat, Deepika replied to his tweet, "your welcome (sic)." She had a heart emoji to go with it too. Deepika and Ranveer have been dating for a few years but have never publically accepted their relationship.

However, they never shy away from public display of affection now and then.

Speculation suggests that the couple may tie the knot later this year. Ranveer and Deepika have worked together in blockbusters such as Padmaavat and Ram-Leela.

Earlier, speaking about topping the list, Ranveer had said in a statement, "I do not consider myself to be the best-looking actor, but it is very flattering to be considered desirable. It's important for people to feel desirable for the sake of their self-confidence. I do not consider myself to be the best looking actor. Also, I was an overweight kid till about Class 9."

## Baahubali 2 earns over 2 million in China on opening day

SS Rajamouli's blockbuster film Baahubali 2 recently released in China, and to say that it has been received favourably would be putting it mildly. The film has already collected a sum of Rs 16.24 crore on its opening day.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh recently shared the figures on his Twitter handle. He wrote, "#Baahubali2 opens VERY WELL in CHINA... Debuts at No 3 position... Opening day numbers are lower than #SecretSuperstar and #HindiMedium, but higher than #Bajrangibhaijaan [all 2018 releases in China]... Fri \$ 2.43 mn [₹ 16.24 cr]. Shows: 51,494. Footfalls: 484,276."

However, it is to be noted that the epic drama has not fared better than Aamir Khan's Secret Superstar and



Irrfan Khan's Hindi Medium. But its opening is bigger than that of Salman Khan's Bajrangibhaijaan.

Baahubali 2 had hit the

big screen in April, 2017 in India and had done exceedingly well. It had become the first film to cross the Rs 500 crore mark. Baahubali:

The Beginning had earned 123 million dollars in China. Therefore, the great numbers for the sequel don't really come as a surprise.

## I am a big flop actor: Karan Johar

**MUMBAI, MAY 5 (PTI):** Filmmaker Karan Johar is in mood to take up full-fledged acting jobs.

The director-producer, who made his acting debut in Hindi films with Anurag Kashyap's box office debacle, "Bombay Velvet", believes he is a "big flop actor".

Karan was recently seen in "Welcome to New York" and the film, featuring Sonakshi Sinha and Diljit Dosanjh, also bombed.

When asked if he would like to take up acting offers in Marathi cinema, Karan said, "I am a big flop actor. None of my films run. I did 'Bombay Velvet' and 'Welcome to New York' and both didn't

work. Nobody should cast me in any film. I should not be taken. No viability with me. I am a very big flop actor."

The filmmaker, however, is ok doing cameo appearances in movies.

Karan was speaking at the trailer launch of "Bucket List", a Marathi film that he is presenting. The film marks dancing diva Madhuri Dixit's debut in Marathi cinema.

Meanwhile, when prodded about "Kalank", that brings Sanjay Dutt and Madhuri on the big screen together after a gap of more than two decades, Karan refused to comment saying, "it is not the right time to talk about it".



**CHEWBACCA!** May the Force be with you! Chewbacca shows off his guns during a photocall for Solo: A Stars Wars Story in Germany.

### Michelle Monaghan to star in Netflix Drama 'Messiah'

**LOS ANGELES, MAY 5 (PTI):** Actor Michelle Monaghan is set to play the lead role in upcoming Netflix series "Messiah".

The 10-episode series details the world's reaction to a man (Mehdi Dehbi) who emerges from the Middle East creating a groundswell of followers who claim he is sent from God.

Other people question whether he is what they say he is or rather a dangerous fraud bent on dismantling the world's geopolitical order, causing civil havoc as he beguiles the world's media and its audience.

According to Variety, the series is told from multiple viewpoints, including a US Intelligence agent, a Palestinian refugee, an Israeli Shin Bet officer, and a Latino preacher and his daughter.

Monaghan will play Eva Geller, a US intelligence officer, who pits her wits and years of experience against Al-Masih (Dehbi).

"Messiah" was created by writer Michael Petroni who brought the project to Netflix with Mark Burnett.

James McTeigue will direct the series.

## Patty Jenkins to receive 2018 Women in Motion Award at Cannes Film Festival

**CANNES, MAY 5 (PTI):** Director Patty Jenkins will receive the 2018 Women In Motion award during the Cannes Film Festival.

The "Wonder Woman" helmer will receive the honour from festival president Pierre Lescure, artistic director Thierry Fremaux, and Francois-Henri Pinault, president and CEO of luxury goods firm Kering, which is behind the initiative.

According to the organisers, Jenkins is being honoured this year in recognition of the fact that her work has enabled significant progress to be made in the fight for gender equality.

The presentation will take place at a Women in Motion dinner on May 13.

It will be the fourth edition of Women in Motion, which is part of the film festival's official program.

Previous winners of the award include Jane Fonda, Geena Davis, Susan Sarandon and Isabelle Huppert.

"Wonder Woman" was the highest-grossing summer movie of 2017. Jenkins has signed up to direct the upcoming sequel, which is currently in pre-production.

The festival runs from May 8 to May 19.



**ARIES:** An increased focus, clarity of mind, and sense of concentration could lead to success in career matters and increased income. Aries. Intuition can provide practical guidance to help you advance. A male friend might give you some good advice with regard to savings plans, investments, or a more efficient use of resources. This could be a fruitful day that opens new doors for you. Make the most of it!

**TAURUS:** Invitations to attend social events, perhaps business related, could bring surprising results, Taurus. You might meet more than one person who shares some of your interests, and these people could become friends. Expect some interesting practical and philosophical discussions. An

opportunity to travel abroad or to a distant state might open up for you. This could prove to be a most exciting and stimulating day. Make the most of it!

**GEMINI:** While you may not have been feeling quite your usual self over the past day or two, Gemini, today you're likely to be feeling mentally and physically stronger and more focused. You could discuss new ideas for future projects, either personal or business, and formulate plans of action. Your financial future could be on your mind. This is the day to look into ways to ensure it. Enjoy your day.

**CANCER:** A date with a significant other could bring up discussions about plans for the future, Cancer. Talk could run the gamut of all your concerns, from the prac-

tical to the artistic to business to philosophical matters. The overall impact of this might be that it brings the two of you closer together. You might decide to partner on some kind of creative project.

**LEO:** A number of visitors could come to your home today, Leo, and a number of fascinating subjects could come up in the course of your conversation. Some interesting ideas might come directly or indirectly from these discussions. You might want to put them to use formulating plans of action to make your future more fulfilling. Professional, financial, and spiritual opportunities could all open up for you. Go for it!

**VIRGO:** Some short trips in your neighborhood and contact with neighbors or visitors to your com-

munity could bring some interesting information your way, Virgo. It gets you thinking about ways to improve your socioeconomic status and probably your professional standing. Spiritual and philosophical discussions could also take place. In addition, your insights can prove as valuable as any outside information. Trust your intuition and follow your heart.

**LIBRA:** A talent for interior decoration that you may or may not have been aware of could inspire you to do some work on your home. You'll probably consider a lot of different options and make long lists of possibilities, Libra. Discussions with friends and family members can bring new ideas to mind. You might want to take a chance and try something a little

different. Go to it and have fun. **SCORPIO:** Spiritual and intellectual matters may be very much on your mind, Scorpio. A lot of ideas could have come your way, although until now they may not have been very focused. Today, however, your mind should be clear enough to write down your thoughts and read the works of others in order to gain more insight. The possibility of a short trip out of town could also arise. Enjoy your day.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Although your mind may have been a bit clouded over the past few days, today the fog should clear and you'll feel more focused. Money matters might need some attention, Sagittarius, and you're in just the right space to dig in and take care of

them. Once practical matters are settled, however, this is a great day for spiritual studies or meditation. Creative projects can also benefit from your increased concentration. **CAPRICORN:** Stimulation that you could receive today from group activities might open doors to a wealth of rich experiences, Capricorn. Your innate organizing talents may be called upon. Discussions with others lead to a new understanding of social, spiritual, or political philosophies and expand your intellectual horizons. An increased ability to concentrate can lead to success with whatever you try to accomplish. Go for it!

**AQUARIUS:** Uncertainty about professional matters can lead to an increased determination to get ahead, Aquarius, despite confu-

sion as to how to do it exactly. It might be wise to do some research, organize all your information, and use that to formulate a plan of action. The resulting advancement may be slow moving, but it's sure and steady. A wealth of experience that enriches your life should follow.

**PISCES:** The opportunity to travel, perhaps with friends or a group you belong to, could come your way today, Pisces. Discussions with others could lead to the confirmation of practical arrangements. You might also seek to advance your education, as your intellect is especially active now. Whatever new experiences come your way could lead to new paths, interests, and opportunities. Don't let doubts or fears get in your way.