

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CBSE class 10 results to be announced Tuesday

NEW DELHI, MAY 28 (PTI): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) today announced that the results of Class 10 examinations will be declared tomorrow.

"The results will be declared on May 29 at 4 pm," an official from the CBSE said.

The board exams were marred by controversy this year with question paper leaks being reported from Delhi-NCR, Haryana and Jharkhand of Class 10 mathematics paper, but the HRD ministry had decided against conducting a re-examination in the "interest of students".

This was the first batch to appear for the Class 10 board examinations after the CBSE decided to junk the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and reintroduce the board exams.

Over 16 lakh students appeared for Class 10 exams this year.

Dhokbu wins best film and actor at Prag Cine Awards NE 2018



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:**

'DHOKBU- THE KEEPER' by Sikkimese director, Dawa Lepcha, has won the best film award at the Prag Cine Awards North East 2018 held in Guwahati on 26-27 May. The lead actor of the film, Lhakpa Lepcha, also won the best actor [male] award.

The Prag Cine Awards North East 2018 was hosted by AM Television Private Limited and had around 32 regional

movies from across the Northeast, which were released in 2017, nominated for the awards in various categories.

For the best actor (male), Lhakpa Lepcha (Dhokbu - The Keeper), Gokul Athokpam (Ichetampha) and Vivek Bora (Gangs of Northeast) were nominated.

In the best film category, Dhokbu was nominated alongside 'Iung U Slaek' (Pnar, Meghalaya) and 'Gangs of Northeast' (Khasi).



Fuel price rise eating into earnings of taxi drivers

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:**

The hike in petrol and diesel prices has come down heavily on local taxi operators of the State as taxi fare rates remain unchanged. Meanwhile, fuel rates are increasing every day according to petrol pump operators in Gangtok.

The rate is increasing daily by 10 to 20 paise. On Sunday, the price of petrol was Rs.81.10 per liter and diesel was Rs. 70.75 per litre. On Monday, the price was Rs. 81.25 per litre for petrol and diesel was Rs. 70.90 per litre.

The rates are the highest so far and they are increasing by 10 to 20 paise every day, say petrol pump operators.

"We do not know much about why the fuel prices are increasing. We only know that new rates come to us in the evening and we charge that rate," they said.

Mainline taxi drivers and Gangtok taxi operators say there has been no corresponding rise in taxi fare even though the fuel prices are increasing daily.

"We are charging the same rate that was in place before the price hike," said Suraj Rai, vice-president, All Cooperative Society Limited

at Deorali mainline taxi stand.

"Our monthly earnings have come down gradually over the past few months as we are spending more on fuel but cannot increase the rates of our seats," Mr Rai added.

The owners and drivers of taxis are suffering due to this, he said.

On behalf of all taxi drivers, Suraj, has appealed to the concerned department to look into the matter at the earliest because this fuel price hike has been severe. He wants the concerned department and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, to fix a meeting as the earliest and resolve the issue.

Likewise, the Gangtok taxi drivers mentioned that they are also worried as the petrol and diesel prices continue to increase.

"If petrol and diesel prices increase, our monthly earnings decrease. If this continues then there should be an increase in our fares also so that we can sustain our families. Otherwise most of our earnings will go in buying petrol and diesel. We hope that the government is also keeping an eye on this and would act accordingly by increasing the fare," said the Gangtok taxi drivers.

Riverfront cleanup reaches Lingding



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:**

On the 12th day of the riverfront cleanup of Rani chu and its adjoining tributaries, jhoras and nallahs was conducted at Lingding.

Eco club students and green teacher of Government Jr High School, Lingding, actively participated in the cleanliness drive, informs a press release.

The event was coordinated

by DFO (Social Forestry) and team with support from ENVIS Cell of the Forest Department. The jhora stretch along Lingding JHS was cleaned up actively by the students. An awareness rally to sensitize local

people at Lingding was also conducted.

The riverfront cleanup drive is part of World Environment Day activity on the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution" and is supported by the MoEFCC.

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Students of 16 schools sensitized on plastic waste



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:**

To reinforce the environmental hazard of single use plastics, Office of the ADC (Pakyong), BAC (Pakyong) and BAC (Parakha) organized a unique challenge as a part of the Himalayan Clean Up initiative where students of 16 schools falling under these two areas

participated and competed in the day long practical awareness and clean up engagement, a press release informs.

School prefects of these schools were taken to the landfill at Martam where they saw the waste and plastic generated from the nearby towns and the capital city Gangtok. The students

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Tipper hits Alto at Ranipool

GANGTOK, 28 MAY:

One tipper truck hit an Alto taxi near Ranipool bridge on Sunday injuring the driver along with three occupants. According to the police, the Alto taxi was headed towards Gangtok from Rangpo when the speeding tipper truck going in the opposite direction hit the taxi and fled before the occupants or the driver could not note down the license plate number. One female occupant has sustained serious injuries while the others escaped with minor injuries. The tipper truck could have been white in colour, according to the victims. The case is under investigation.

Students of 16 schools sensitized on...

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then presented their ideas on solutions to plastic waste and reinforced their commitment to the cause of keeping their schools and surroundings plastic free.

Speaking about the program, ADC (Development) Pakyong, Urvashi Poudyal stated that the mission was to give a firsthand experience of the landfill to the students so that they could see the reality of our waste and also strategize practical solutions for the future.

Speaking after the presentation of ideas by students of various schools, chief guest, SDM, Pakyong, Tenzing Denzongpa congratulated the students for their efforts and encouraged everyone to further contribute towards the cleanliness of Pakyong and its surroundings and also the rest of the state.

The schools that participated were Namcey-bong SSS, Tarethang SS, Pacheykhani SSS, Pachey SSS, Barapathing SS, St.Xavier's School, Dikling SSS, Aho Kisan SS, Aho Senti SS, Padamchey SS, Amba SS, Rorthang SSS, Machong SSS, Linkey SS, Mamring SS, Pushpanjali SS.

The program was also attended by BDO, Pakyong, Chiran Rizal BDO, Parakha, Dichenla Bhutia and PI, Pakyong, Sunil Pradhan among other guests. The ground support for the event was coordinated by 24hours Inspired.

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Large number of SDF workers joining us claims SKM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 MAY:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has claimed that a massive number of members from Sikkim Democratic Front are joining the party.

In a press release

issued today, SKM has said that 18 youths left SDF and joined SKM during the Block level committee formation meeting of Mendogang GPU under Soreng Chakung Constituency, West Sikkim. They were

warmly welcomed by CLC president, Binod Basnet and CLC executives of Soreng Chakung Constituency.

Similarly, four active SDF youths from Poklok Kamrang Constituency

also joined SKM during the joining programme conducted at SKM Headquarter, Gangtok. They were handed over primary membership by Chief Coordinator, Sonam Lama and welcomed into the party.



Cleanliness drive at Rakdong Tintek

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 28 MAY:

A cleanliness drive was conducted by BAC Rakdong Tintek from its premises to Rakdong view point via Butterfly Park on Sunday. The drive was conducted with the Swachhta slogan led by Zilla Panchayat Rakdong-Samdong Territorial.

The function was attended by BDO Tintek, Indra Mani Adhikari,

Gram Panchayat members Rakdong Tintek GPU, SHG members, general public and other officials.

The programme started with the introduction to the mission Clean Mountain by Block Development Officer Tintek BAC.

Taxi drivers were sensitized about cleanliness and urged not to allow littering by tourists. Pledge cards were also distributed with the signature of driver receiving

the card for not allowing any waste to be thrown from the vehicle. Those violating the pledge or not keeping the pledge cards in the vehicle will be fined, it was informed.

The function also saw a signature campaign, appointment of volunteer Swachh Ambassador for Rakdong Tintek GPU, consensus on how to reduce solid waste at household level and installation of bamboos bins.



Clean up drive at Rorathang

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 MAY:

A cleanliness drive in support of Himalayan Clean Up campaign and World Environment Day 'Beat the plastic' theme was organised by

Rorathang Social Welfare Association in collaboration with Titribotey PS and Rorathang Sec School at Rorathang Bazaar. The programme was headed by Ward Panchayat, Anju Gajmer,

a press release informs.

The drive was actively participated by different SHGs, workers from Cip-la-II, students and local public. The Ward Panchayat highlighted the importance of the clean-

ness drive and sensitized the local people about the negative effects of plastic waste which has become a global concern. The programme concluded after cleaning the bazaar and Rorathang PHSC.

DB Chauhan politically and intellectually poor: SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 MAY:

Sikkim Democratic Front has asserted that BJP state president, DB Chauhan has once again shown his political and intellectual poverty while speaking on the occasion of the completion of four years of NDA government at the Centre on Sunday. SDF has suggested that Mr Chauhan engage in practical and purposeful politics.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity

secretary, Chudamani Mishra states that on one hand Mr Chauhan claims to be a well-wisher of workers and farmers but has spoken against the organic mission meant for farmers.

Mentioning that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been appreciating Sikkim's organic mission at national and international platforms, the release states that BJP Sikkim unit should remember this evaluation of Sikkim

organic mission. Cheap statements from the BJP state-unit against Sikkim organic mission, which has been lauded by the highest leadership of the country, is condemnable, SDF has said.

Mr Chauhan cannot evaluate the progress and development in Sikkim even after having travelled across the country, the release states further adding that the BJP State president can only dream of forming government in Sikkim.



Soil Nutrient Management training for Yangthang farmers

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 MAY:

Mevedir organized a daylong ward level Farmer's Training in Soil Nutrient Management through preparation of Amrit Jal at Yangthang GPU, West Sikkim. The training was conducted in Upper Yangthang in the house of Ran Bahadur Pradhan.

A press release informs that the key resource person for the training was VLW, CK Subba along with Mevedir Master Trainer Yangden Bhutia, Passang Bhutia & Sonam Bhutia, Kumar Gurung, Amrita Subba and Bonita Chettri.

Mevedir master, Sonam Bhutia welcomed all the participants and briefed them about the training objectives and outlined the day's training agenda.

In the technical session, Yangden Bhutia briefed and demonstrated the preparation and usage of Amrit jal. Amrit jal is a soil nutrient which enhances the fertility of the soil.

The diluted mixture was prepared in the presence of the participants and the method of application and frequency of application of the liquid fertilizer on crops was explained, the re-

lease mentions.

The next session was taken up by CK Subba (VLW) who highlighted the importance of Organic Farming and how it can be beneficial for human health and why the government is seriously promoting this for the welfare of the farming community. He encouraged all the farmers to sincerely learn the different techniques and be observant of the various package of practices as this was key to the success of the best practices.

In the concluding session, Passang Bhutia informed the farmers about the upcoming Vegetable Collection Centre, why this was being built in several locations across West Sikkim and the purpose behind this infrastructure.

The cluster farmers now need to enhance their vegetable production and develop a system for supply and collection of vegetables from where these vegetables will be collected by supply chain agencies and marketed to urban centres in Sikkim. More than 30 farmers attended the training which concluded with vote of thanks by Sonam Bhutia, the release adds.

SKM youth front completes West tour, selects 850 active youth

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 MAY:

On the last day of its West Sikkim tour, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha youth front convened a meeting for Yangthang constituency at the party's Gyalshing office on Monday.

During the meeting, 65 youth from Yangthang constituency were selected as constituency-level active youth, informs a SKM press release.

The release adds that the SKM youth front team was led by chief convenor Lakpa Moktan and accompanied by other youth leaders of the party. The meeting was chaired by SKM vice-president [press & publicity], Birendra Tamling.

The release informs that during the tour, 850 youth from different constituencies of West Sikkim have been selected as constituency level active youths and added that these youth will play an important role in taking the vision of party president PS Tamang [Goley] to the people at the grassroots level.

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Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight launched in South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 28 MAY (IPR):

A sensitisation program of District Task Force on HPV programme and launch of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) programme organised by South District Health Society was launched through Zilla Adhakshya South, Farwanti Tamang at Namchi District Hospital premises today.

The program also had the presence of DMS South, Dr DC Sharma, DRCHO South, Dr Junita

Yonzon, Vice Chairperson NMC, Diki L Bhutia, ADC South, Satyen Pradhan, JD Nutrition, Bharati Basnett, Welfare Officer, Meena Rai, Deputy Director HRDD, DB Rai, alongside NMC councillors, Health staff and ASHA workers.

The resource person for the day, DRCHO South, Dr Junita Yonzon presented a PPT presentation wherein she informed that IDCF is a two-week long program being held from 28 May-

09 June, which aims at "Zero" child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.

She also stated how childhood diarrhoeal diseases continues to be a major killer in many states with mal-nourished children and children under two years of age being the worst affected group. Thereafter, she informed that these deaths can be averted by preventing and treating dehydration by the use of ORS (Oral Rehydration

turn to pg03

Gangtok on Tuesday, 29 May

Temp: 26°C/13°C

Forecast: A blend of sun and clouds; a couple of morning thundershowers, then a thunder-shower in spots

Sunrise: 04:42 AM

Sunset: 6:24 PM

Saga Dawa greetings from Governor and CM

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:
On the occasion of Saga Dawa, Governor of Sikkim, Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim.

In his message the Governor has said, “Saga Dawa, most prominent and pious among all the Buddhist festival is known worldwide as a day to commemorate three important events in the life of Lord Buddha ie, Birth, Enlightenment and Nirvana. The ideals of truth, non-violence, brotherhood and harmony among all sentient beings as propagated by Lord Buddha has been the guiding light for peaceful coexistence of mankind. The teachings and core philosophy of Buddhism has become all the more important in today’s world plagued by distress, borne out of human misgivings and conflict of ideas. There is greater need today that humankind, for its well being and sustainability, follow the path shown by Lord Buddha.

On this auspicious occasion, let us all pray and pledge to imbibe the teachings and ideals of Lord Buddha in our thoughts and actions. May the auspicious day bring peace and harmony as we vow to strive forward collectively on the path of truth and righteousness, transcending beyond caste creed, gender, religion and nationality.”

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have also extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Saga Dawa.

The Chief Minister, in his greetings says, “I urge my fellow Sikkimese to follow the teachings of Lord Buddha about living a noble life, being kind and compassionate to all sentient beings and to devote themselves to the path of truth and righteousness, transcending caste, creed, gender, religion and nationality.

On this day, I call upon all my fellow Sikkimese brothers and sisters to strive on the path of truth and righteousness, as preached by the Sakyamuni.”

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Prashidh Rai brings music and activism to Gangtok

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:
Singing of alternative societies, of speaking up and of love-in-the-times-of-hardship, 27-year-old Prashidh Rai was at the event “Background with Music”, at Artem, Gangtok. With seven songs, accompanied by brief discussions on each, Rai sang his original compositions, all in Nepali – blending folk and freestyle music, informs a press release.

From Sonada, Darjeeling, the singer-songwriter-activist

believes in “art for people’s sake and not art for art’s sake”. Speaking of his own experiences of the struggle, Prashidh Rai told the audience that “when all forms of communication were cut off, during the Gorkhaland Movement, a cultural group was formed”. Rai is also a part of Lali Guraas, an artist plus activist group, in Darjeeling.

Influenced by the songs of “Narayan Gopal, Bob Dylan and Bob Marley,” Rai addresses wage, gender equality, labour,

and religious fundamentalism, through his music. With frank anecdotes, Rai told the audience of how “a documentary has been made, to paint glossy pictures of medical facilities, private facilities etc,” to hide the true story of the tea estate labourers.

When asked about his own background in music, he said, “My father sang the same songs of freedom, for the working class.” His mother too had equal influence upon his music as she herself was part of a cultural

group. His two siblings took up formal music lessons while Prashidh Rai himself studied psychology and is currently pursuing ITI in electrical engineering. Rai’s songs come with insight from “his own experiences of the struggle in his younger years”.

Moderated by Manila Tamang and Upendra Gurung, the event was organised by Artem, a space that “celebrates work-of-art and artists from the north-eastern states of India”, the release mentions.

Alcoholic beverages to carry don’t drink and drive message: FSSAI

NEW DELHI, MAY 28 (PTI): Come April 2019 and all bottles containing alcoholic beverages will carry warning asking people not to drink and drive, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has said.

The move comes following a Public Interest Litigation filed by social activist Prince Singhal.

Citing Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages Standards) Regulations, 2018, the FSSAI in a recent order said the warning “Consumption of alcohol is injurious to health. Be safe - Don't drink and drive” can be printed on the labels of alcoholic beverages -- both Indian Made Foreign Liquors (IMFL) and the imported ones.

This warning can also be printed in the local or regional language, if any state desires to do so, it said.

“In such cases, there would be no requirement of also printing this warning in English,” the FSSAI said.

The food safety commissioners of all states and Union territories have been directed to ensure that the warning is printed uniformly from April 1, 2019, it said.

The PIL was filed by Singhal, who runs a non-government organisation Community Against Drunken Driving (CADD), in 2017.

“Drinking and driving is an intentional crime and it should be treated as a premeditated criminal act since the person driving

drunk knows or should know that he can cause potential harm while driving,” he said.

Several countries across the world that have adopted such warnings include the USA, Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, Mexico, Turkey and they have been able to bring down drunk-driving tragedies, as not only does it allow consumers to make an informed choice but it also reiterates on the need to practice no drinking-and-driving policy, Singhal said.

With almost 7,00,000 road accidents annually on Indian roads, and 1,65,000 deaths every year, road accidents are a critical public concern which require immediate attention of policy-makers, he said.

Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight...

contd from pg02
Solution) and administration of Zinc tablets along with adequate nutritional intake by child suffering from diarrhoea.

Additionally, she also spoke about how ICDF includes a set of activities to be implemented in an intensified manner to control deaths through advocacy, awareness activities, diarrhoea management service provision, establishing ORS Zinc Corners, distribution of ORS and Zinc by ASHAs, detection of undernourished children and their treatment and promotion of infant and Young Child Feeding activities.

The resource person also gave a detailed presentation on Cervical Cancer which she stated is a cancer arising from the cervix due to the abnormal growth of cells that have the ability to invade or spread to other parts of the body. She underlined and highlighted the major causes of the cancer and also elucidated the dosage of



Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines that prevent infection by certain types of human papillomavirus. She also informed that the HPV campaign will be

conducted by the district level core group at various schools, educational institutions and health facilities in the days to come.

The program also saw a brief discussion between the health officials and the stakeholders on the efficacy and outreach of the sensitization programme.

Interact Club of Bojoghari declared Best Interact Club of NE



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 MAY:
Interact Club of Bojoghari, Gangtok, has been declared the Best Club of RI District:3240 (North East India). The award was presented during the Interact District Conference 2018 hosted by Interact Clubs of Sikkim, under the guidance of Rotary Club of Gangtok & Gangtok South, RI District:3240 at Gangtok on Sunday, a press release informs.

Interactors from 14 Interact Clubs including participants from Assam, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Gangtok attended the conference which was segregated into 3 sections. The theme for the conference was Thundri (Unity).

During the inauguration session, Assistant Governor Zone VI RI District: 3240 was present as the chief guest while Clinical Pathologist, Singtam District Hospital, Deventra Singh

The second session had ADGP, Law & Order, Sikkim Police, Akshay Sachdeva as key note speaker on the topic “Role of youth in today’s

world”. During the third session, awards were presented to different clubs according to their annual reports. Ten awards were presented to individuals and clubs while tokens of appreciation were also given out to five Interact Clubs.

Most Supporting Rotarians Award was conferred to OP Singhi, Rotary Club of Gangtok, Capt. Andrew Philip Lal, Rotary Club of Kalimpong, Diwakar Thapa, Rotary Club of Darjeeling and Danny Dutta, Rotary Club of Tezpur, Assam

Life Time Achievement Award was conferred to Kartik Phukan, of Don Bosco School of Assam for his dedication towards Interact Movement in North East India.

Devesh Agarwal from Interact Club of Tashi Namgyal Academy was installed as District Interact Representative of RI District:3240 (North East India) for the year 2018-19. Devesh Agarwal took the baton of DIR from Amlan Das from Tezpur, Assam. Devesh also released his theme of the year 2018-19.

TN orders permanent closure of Sterlite Copper plant

CHENNAI, MAY 28 (PTI): The Tamil Nadu government today issued a Government Order, directing the state Pollution Control Board to seal the Vedanta group’s copper plant and close it down “permanently” following last week’s violent protests during which 13 people were killed in police firing.

The Government Order (GO) said it endorsed the recent closure direction of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, and also asked the TNPCB to “seal the unit and close the plant permanently”.

The document cited the Constitution’s directive principles of state policy (Article 48-A) enjoining protection of environment and provisions of the Water Act, 1974, to order the permanent closure of the

copper factory “in the larger public interest”.

It referred to the PCB order of April 9 refusing to renew its consent to allow Vedanta’s copper smelter plant at Tuticorin to operate.

The order recalled how on May 23 the TNPCB had issued directions for closure of the unit and disconnection of power supply to it. The power supply was disconnected a day later.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami said the government has issued the GO in deference to the sentiments of the people.

The locals were protesting for the closure of the factory for 99 days. Protesters turned violent on May 22, the 100th day of their stir, and 13 people were killed in police action against them last Tuesday and Wednesday.

KUSTSHE SHEGU

The 49th Day Kutshe Shegu of our beloved father **late Kaching Bhutia (Dorjee Lobhay of Kabi Gumpa)** who left for his heavenly abode on 18th April 2018 falls on **6th June 2018**. All friends, well wishers and relatives are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our resident at **Kabi near BAC in North Sikkim**. We would also like to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement and regret our inability to thank them individually.

Mr. Pintso Tashi Dozepa (son) 7550801904, Mrs. Namgay Bhutia (wife), Mrs. Ongmu Tongden Lepcha (Daughter) 9434870338, Mrs. Hissay Bhutia (Daughter-in-law) 7076335196, Mrs. Laden Bhutia (Daughter) 8967035867, Mrs. Dechen Dolkar Lachungpa (Daughter) 8768926989

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Habituated is Not the Same as Prepared

Preparedness does not mean only post-disaster drills

The South-West Monsoon, officials at the Met department inform, are scheduled to arrive in Kerala on 29 May, Tuesday. If Skymet projections are to be believed instead, monsoon already hit Kerala on Monday. It will take another week or so to hit these parts and as per the weather folk, the monsoon is expected to be normal this year, in all probability even slightly wetter than last year. This is also an El Nino year, a weather phenomenon associated with deficient rain, but that system, we are told, will set in only after September and should not affect monsoon in the country.

So much for the science of meteorology.

Moving on, irrespective of what the South-West Monsoon has in store for the rest of the country, Sikkim, the Gangtok ridge and its attached mountain features, have hosted pre-monsoon showers of substantial intensity, and just these rains have been enough to start scratching at the hill sides. The drainage has taken a hit, site excavations have collapsed and the water supply already disrupted. You can now begin shuddering with speculations of what the remaining four months have in store by way of damage and connectivity disruptions, because, the nor'westers teasers are already unleashing what the monsoon months have always been pregnant with in Sikkim. This will not take much imagination for anyone who has been in Sikkim for any length of time; we are habituated for it. Unfortunately, and surprisingly, Sikkim has still not developed preparedness for it.

Sikkim hills might be young and prone to crumbling, but even a superficial observation will bear out that there are just too many scars on its hills now. Go up to the Ridge and look towards Tsomgo and a monster slide gashes the hill face there. The vision should be shocking, but one does not hear of it having generated any concern. Construction site excavations poke out more than just the marked out sites and the entire stretch from Deorali to Tenzing & Tenzing on the national highway in Gangtok spills muck and slush every time it rains. Neither however appear to have attracted any long-term interventions. The Indira Bypass has seen a rash of constructions in the recent years, and the road surface sinks in ugly reminders of amiss planning. The shoulder of the road has already caved in some sections, retaining walls have given up at others and potholes the size of craters ambush from innocent looking puddles.

The general disinterest towards precautions is dangerous, because the out of sight, out of mind attitude is misplaced. Gangtok is not a very big hill, and when any part of it starts slipping, it leaves the monster above standing on wobbly legs as well.

By now, Sikkim should have mapped all its natural and manmade drainage channels and their carrying capacities, installed rain gauges at least at all disaster-prone locations, worked out a way by which real-time information could be shared so that the moment inundation neared the carrying capacity limit of any jhora or drain, warnings could be sent out and disaster drills put into effect. On ground, however, this has not been explored even for Gangtok. Hence, the administration prepares for post-disaster scenarios, which, while necessary, should not be the only component of preparedness. And, without the deployment of available technology and science, which the policy makers in Sikkim are yet to discover, post-disaster scenarios are all that it can build preparedness for. What that means is that Sikkim begins another blind date with monsoon now. All the best...

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

Philip Roth's journey from 'enemy of the Jews' to great Jewish-American novelist

BRETT ASHLEY KAPLAN
theconversation.com

Like many, I was shocked to learn of novelist Philip Roth's death.

Just a few months ago he was writing to me, making all sorts of snarky comments on the Dictionary of Literary Biography entry I had written about him.

For example, I had noted similarities between Henry Miller's so-sexual-it-was-banned "Tropic of Cancer" and Roth's 1995 novel, "Sabbath's Theater."

In the margins of the proofs, Roth penned the snide remark: "I read Tropic of Cancer in 1959 or 58. It was hardly on my mind almost 40 years later." These kinds of sharp comments were typical of Roth. While I was conducting research for "Jewish Anxiety and the Novels of Philip Roth" at the Roth manuscript collection in the Library of Congress, I was able to see many of his handwritten comments back to his editor. "Keep it to yourself!" he'd write in rebuke to a critique or suggestion.

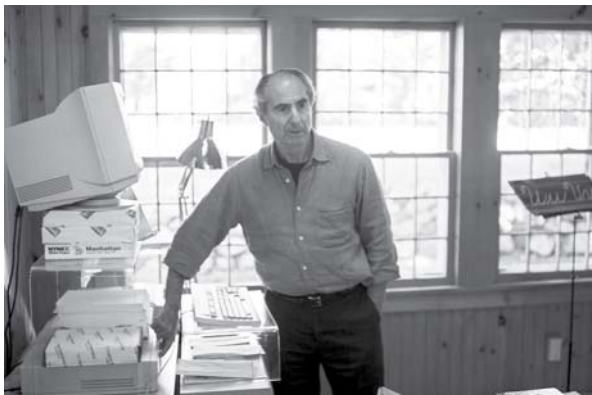
Roth's stubbornness wasn't isolated to these small events. Early in his career, Jewish community members loudly critiqued his work, arguing that, if not openly anti-Semitic, his fiction at least catalyzed anti-Semitic thought. Yet Roth refused to capitulate, staying true to artistic vision. Though he would eventually be mostly embraced by many Jews – including Jewish women like me – it took decades for widespread acceptance to take place.

ROTH, THE JEWISH ANTI-SEMITES? Much of the early criticism of Roth's work was related to the way he depicted his Jewish characters.

Published in 1959, the collection "Goodbye, Columbus" was Roth's first major work.

The title novella traces a summer romance between Neil Klugman and Brenda Patimkin. The problem, especially for Brenda's family, is class. Neil, a librarian and the son of Jewish immigrants, just can't quite seem to fit in with the country club clique that surrounds the Patimkins.

At the time, some Jewish leaders and parents, especially those that wanted to assimilate into American culture, balked at "Goodbye, Columbus." The Jews in Roth's stories were not depicted as beacons of good



taste – as literary, educated, tasteful and well-disciplined representatives of the assimilated mainstream. Instead they were either crass – like Neil's Aunt Gladys – or ostentatiously wealthy, like Brenda's father.

The rebukes were swift, and often hyperbolic.

For example, Rabbi Theodore Lewis said that Roth "depicts the Jewish characters in his short stories and novels as depraved and lecherous creatures." But if Lewis thought "Goodbye, Columbus" was "lecherous," he was in for an unpleasant surprise.

Roth's smash hit, "Portnoy's Complaint," published 10 years later, features a young Jewish bachelor, Alexander Portnoy, who is consumed with sexual longing and frustration. Portnoy narrates the whole novel, in monologic form, to his therapist, Dr. Spielvogel, telling him that he is the "Raskolnikov of jerking off – the sticky evidence is everywhere!" Portnoy describes himself as a "sex maniac" who will not "control the fires in his putz, the fevers in his brain."

Jewish philosopher Gershom Scholem, writing in Haaretz soon after the publication of "Portnoy's Complaint," argued that Roth "revels in obscenity" and claimed that "this is just the book the anti-Semites have been waiting for."

THE HOLOCAUST LOOMS LARGE

It is easy to forget now, but many of the rabbis and other Jewish community members who denounced Roth's prose had lived through World War II. They'd seen all the Nazi propaganda portraying overly sexual Jewish men raping or taking "pure" Aryan women.

As historian Dagmar Herzog points out in her study "Sex After Fascism," "sexual demonization of Jews was a pervasive feature of antisemitism."

But by populating novels with hypersexual Jewish men who lusted after "shiksas," or non-Jews, Roth was actually flipping Nazi propaganda on its head. Rather than suppress this lust, Roth sought to normalize and celebrate it: Jews, just like everyone else, could want to have massive amounts of sex and not be ashamed.

Yet because some of his Jewish readers were so close to the anti-Semitism that ultimately culminated in the Holocaust, they were unable to comprehend this reversal; they could only perceive the similarity between Roth's depictions and those of Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.

While Roth could have easily ignored this censure, he engaged his detractors head-on by including their attacks in his work. Nathan Zuckerman, who appears as the narrator of many of Roth's novels, has often been described as one of Roth's alter-egos.

In Roth's 1979 novel "The Ghost Writer," the character Judge Wapner asks Nathan Zuckerman, "Can you honestly say that there is anything in your short story that would not warm the heart of a Julius Streicher or a Joseph Goebbels?"

In "Zuckerman Unbound" (1981), Nathan, who had recently published "Carnovsky" – a fictional version of "Portnoy's Complaint" – is considered the "enemy of the Jews." He is told that it would be "hardly possible to write of Jews with more bile and contempt and hatred."

By including the controversy in his novels, Roth was able to both air his rage at being unjustly labeled anti-Semitic, while responding to – and, in some cases, lampooning – his detractors.

THE TIDE TURNS

For years, Roth remained a polarizing figure in the literary world: Reviewers either loved him or hated him.

But a turning point came with the publication of his prescient novel "The Plot Against America" in 2004.

In it, he imagines a counterhistory in which aviator Charles Lindbergh has become a fascist, anti-Semitic president, and Newark, New Jersey's Jews are sent to assimilation camps in the Midwest.

With Roth explicitly exploring – and condemning – anti-Semitism in America, critics could no longer claim that Roth was lending anti-Semites a hand. The question of negative stereotyping of his Jewish characters had largely been forgotten by 2004, but this novel was Roth's most sustained focus on the deep terrors of anti-Semitism in America.

Roth was likely thrilled that, in the results of a New York Times poll asking "What is the best work of American fiction in the last 25 years?" six of Roth's novels were included among the 21 runners-up. In 2013, when Vulture asked 30 literary figures "Is Roth the greatest living American novelist?" 77 percent voted yes.

Roth lived to see his canonization as a great American writer – a great Jewish-American writer at that – something unforeseeable in the old days when he was supposedly bad for the Jews.

Many Roth scholars, myself included, were in Newark five years ago to celebrate the author's 80th birthday. He seemed utterly hale and hearty as he read out passages from "Sabbath's Theater," and a parade of literary stars – many of them Jewish – sang his praises and toasted his stunning prose.

As the character Sabbath reflects, "The dead were anything other than dead."

Olav ha-sholom, Roth.

[the writer is Professor of Comparative and World Literature, Director, Program in Jewish Culture and Society, Director, Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, Memory Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign]

The IOC thinks eSports are too violent for the Olympics, but traditional sports are violent too

JOANNE ORLANDO & KEITH PARRY
theconversation.com

If you were a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would you allow professional video gaming (also known as eSports) as a new Olympic Games event? That's exactly what the committee is considering right now.

You might think that the IOC's hesitancy to include eSports is associated with the lack of physical movement it involves. But instead their concern is related to the violence that is embedded in many video games. IOC president Thomas Bach said:

"...the red line would be eGames which are killer games, where you have the promotion of violence or any kind of discrimination as a content. They can never be recognised as a part of the Olympic movement because they would be contrary to our values and principles."

But on-field sport also has a long history of violence – it is often accepted as an intrinsic part of the contest and game. As George Orwell once claimed, sport involves "...sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence: in other words it is war minus the shooting".

Rather than pitting one against the other, however, let's consider the messages around violence and aggression that sports collectively give children and young people – and devise strategies to lessen their impact.

VIOLENCE IN VIDEO GAMES

With titles such as "Counter-Strike," "Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare" and "Streetfighter", it's no wonder that violence is frequently singled out as a defining and negative feature of video games.

About 90% of children younger than 12 years, and 95% of children aged 12 and older, play video



games. More than 85% of video games on the market contain some form of violence.

Video game violence is often based on hyper-realistic bloody battles and shootouts. Players (generally children and young people) commonly select from an arsenal of weapons to kill first-person style, in war or street-crime related narratives. Most violent video games include justifications of the portrayed violence, a distorted portrayal of consequences, and dehumanisation of opponents.

Community and parental concerns centre on whether playing online battles and first-person shooter games will encourage real-life aggressive behaviour and desensitise children to violent acts.

VIOLENCE ON THE SPORTING FIELD

However, others may argue that watching a real boxing match or taekwondo fight – two sports that allow acts that would be deemed illegal if they were committed on the street – would have the same effect on a child. It's a valid point.

At the forefront of the on-field sport violence conversation is the number of injuries – estimated at more than 600,000 per year in US sports. Con-

cussions, which are a serious form of head trauma, are not just being seen among professional athletes but among school-aged children too.

For spectators, the majority of on-field professional sport is watched on a screen. At the same time, professional sport has become increasingly commodified and detached from everyday life.

The celebrity lifestyles of many leading athletes (and their the wives and girlfriends) can "dehumanise" athletes to the point where they seem like characters in a game. Watching professional sport often provides a sense of freedom and escape from modern life and, in this manner, can be viewed as being somehow less "real".

This is apparent in the fact that fighting is "considered by many as an integral part of playing hockey in the National Hockey League (NHL)". Ice hockey fights are so popular with fans that a dedicated Twitter account has been established.

Similarly, the movie Green Street Hooligans depicts football "firms" (violent football fans who induce street fights against supporters of other teams), who rank the achievements of their firm as well as that of their team on the pitch.

It is now generally accepted in the academic community that violent acts on the sporting field often work as a catalyst for violent behaviour. This is often exacerbated by poorly designed stadiums and excessive alcohol consumption by spectators. This context sends a powerful message about violence to children who attend professional sporting events.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE IN SPORTS

While US President Donald Trump is among those

turn to 05

2,952 pigs and piglets die of PRRS and CSF in Mizoram

AIZAWL, MAY 28 (PTI):

At least 2,952 pigs and piglets have died in Mizoram and 6,664 other pigs were taken ill due to the outbreak of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) since early March, state government officials said today.

The officials said that 101 villages in seven out of eight districts in southern Mizoram have been affected.

Only Lunglei district has been declared as safe, they said.

According to animal husbandry and veterinary department officials, veterinary experts had collected blood samples from 467 pigs and 455 samples tested positive.

While PRRS virus was found in 255 samples, 200 samples were infected with CSF virus, an official said.

The PRRS had killed almost 9,000 pigs and piglets in 2013 and 2016, the official added.

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Arunachalee mountaineers scale Mt Everest without sherpas

ITANAGAR, MAY 28 (PTI): Mountaineers Kishon Tek-seng and Taka Tamut from Arunachal Pradesh have achieved the rare feat of scaling Mt Everest without any sherpas, a senior state government official said today.

Tekseng, from Yingkiong in Upper Siang district and Tamut, who hails from Jomlo Mongku in Siang district scaled the world's highest peak on May 24, ten days after Muri Linggi of Roing who became the seventh Arunachalee to achieve the feat, state sports and youth affairs joint director Ramesh Lingi said.

Tekseng and Tamut



reached the peak at 9 am of May 24 and unfurled the national tricolor atop it after a

gruelling 13-hour non-stop climb from camp four (south column) known as Death

Zone without any support staff, Lingi said.

"Both the climbers have

inked a new record with this heroic climbing of the Mt Everest. They did not use supplementary oxygen till camp four (26000ft)," he said.

Almost all mountaineers take the help of sherpas while summiting the Mt Everest. But the duo decided to risk it on their own after one of their sherpas received a head injury when rocks rolled down while climbing at camp three and had to be rescued by helicopter.

The sherpa was airlifted to Kathmandu in a critical condition and underwent head surgery.

The two climbers reached camp four with the help of

one Sherpa, but the man fell ill due to high altitude sickness which prevented him to proceed further.

The two then set out on the last leg on their own.

They had had been trained in mountaineering in different national institutes over the past four years and had scaled Mt Stok Kangri (20,187 ft) of Ladakh as pre-Everest expedition.

The other Arunachalee climbers who scaled the highest peak include Tapi Mra (2009), Tine Mena (2011), Anshu Jamsenpa (2011), Nima Lama (2011), Kalden Paljor (2011) and Tame Bagang (2013).

'Rangabati' music composer Prabhudatta Pradhan passes away

SAMBALPUR (ODISHA), MAY 28 (PTI): Music composer of popular Sambalpuri song Rangabati, Prabhudatta Pradhan, today passed away at his residence here following prolonged illness, family sources said.



Active in the field of music for 45 years, Pradhan had popularised Sambalpuri music and had bagged 14 prestigious awards for his contribution in the field of Samabalpuri music.

He had expertise in percussion instruments like 'Dhol' and 'Mandal'.

The Rangabati song which earned him fame in 1975, was written by Mitrabhanu Gountia and

sung by Jitendra Haripal and Krishna Patel.

He is survived by wife and two sons Ashish and Aseem.

Born in 1943, Prabhudatta started learning music under

his father at the age of three. He was influenced by his father late Pravasa Chandra Pradhan to sing bhajans or Hindu religious songs at home even though they were Christians.

Pradhan learnt tabla from Pandit Jadunath Supkar at Benaras in Uttar Pradesh.

He had joined the All India Radio (AIR), Sambalpur station as an instrumentalist in 1969.

No train services between Kolkata, Bangladesh from June 15-18

KOLKATA, MAY 28 (PTI): Train services between Kolkata and Bangladesh capital Dhaka will remain cancelled from June 15 to June 18, owing to 'Eid-ul-Fitr' celebrations in the neighbouring country, an Eastern Railway spokesman said today.

There will be no services of the 13107/13108 and 13109/13110 Kolkata Dhaka Cantonment Kolkata 'Maitree Express' for the four days from June 15, he said.

The 13107/13108 Maitree Express from Dhaka Cantonment will remain cancelled on June 15 and June 17 and from Kolkata station on June 16 and June 18.

The 13109/13110 Maitree Express will remain cancelled on June 15 from Kolkata station and on June 16 from Dhaka Cantonment, the spokesman added.

The IOC thinks eSports are too violent...

Contd from pg04

who are adamant that violent video games lead to aggressive behaviour – such as school shootings – the evidence is less clear.

Research is often based on laboratory experiments in which researchers randomly assign participants to play a violent or non-violent game. In the short term, the findings paint a patchy picture.

In some studies, violent game play was found to have no effect, while other research has suggested that it increased aggressive behaviour and reduced prosocial behaviour, empathy and moral engagement.

Similarly, on-field sports can negatively affect children who participate. A recent study found that 38% of children experience violence in sport – including psychological and sexual violence. Results showed that this had a significant negative impact on psychopathology and quality of life in adulthood.

HOW TO EDUCATE KIDS ABOUT SPORTING VIOLENCE

Many children today participate in and/or watch both on field sport and video gaming. No single risk factor consistently leads a person to act aggressively or violently, rather, it is the accumulation of risk factors that tends to lead to aggressive or violent behaviour.

Children are influenced by what they observe. Coaches and players across all sports should be encouraged to promote anti-violence messages rather than pushing players to "win at all costs". Pre- and post-game rituals for all sports that highlight connections between opponents, such as handshakes, can make spectators aware of anti-violence norms and promote civility towards others.

Meanwhile, critical conversations with kids about rules embedded in on field and eSports games could potentially lead them to deconstruct the violence they are seeing. Additionally, we need greater acknowledgement of violence in established games and a balance of non-violent games across all sports.

While on-field sport and eSport have many benefits, including team work and problem-solving, sport of all kinds is rife with aggression that impacts kids physically, emotionally and mentally. Instead of asking which is worse, let's consider the collective effect they have on kids, and what we need to change to improve it.

[Joanne Orlando is Researcher: Technology and Learning, Western Sydney University; Keith Parry is Senior Lecturer in Sport Management, Western Sydney University]

15-day campaign against child sexual abuse in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, MAY 28 (PTI): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today flagged off a state-wide campaign against child sexual abuse in the state capital, urging people to fight the menace, an official release said.

As part of the fortnight-long drive – an initiative of the Odisha Police in association with UNICEF – a total of 15 chariots, fitted with LCD screens to display awareness messages, were rolled out from different parts of the state this morning. Only when a society is aware, it can take proper care of children, Patnaik said.

Each specially designed chariot, called Pari Express, will cover two districts before converging in the state capital for a valedictory function on June 12, the release stated.

The rising cases of sexual abuse of minors have prompted the state

machinery to launch the campaign, Odisha DGP R P Sharma said.

"Sexual abuse of minor girls is a challenge the society needs to face. In 90 per cent of the cases, the accused persons are known to the victims," he added.

The UNICEF has provided technical support for the programme and facilitated the training of folk artistes, who would be performing on the chariots as part of the drive, the release said.

The volunteers on board the chariots, with help from the District Council of Culture, will also make arrangements for community interaction in the presence of local gentries.

The campaign would reach out to people in the rural areas to create awareness on the matter. It would stress the need to report such cases to police on time, the release added.

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Proposal to take cases of atrocities against women, children at ‘Child Friendly Court’

Hyderabad, May 28 (PTI): The Hyderabad police is working on a proposal to use the special ‘Child Friendly Court’ here, currently dealing with POCSO Act cases, for trying all cases relating to atrocities against women and children, to enable their speedy disposal.

After obtaining permission from the High Court, the first special ‘Child Friendly Court,’ started functioning here last month at the ‘Bharosa’ centre of the city police, to ensure speedy disposal of child sexual abuse cases.

The city police is now mulling to make use of the special ‘Child Friendly Court’ to take up all cases of atrocities against women and children reported under the limits of Hyderabad Police Commissionerate to fast track them.

A proposal to this effect is being prepared, a senior police official has said.

“Right now the ‘Child Friendly Court’ is dealing with cases under the POCSO Act only. Once this (functioning of this court) stabilises, other cases can be taken up,” Additional Commissioner of Police (Crimes and SIT, Hyderabad Police) Shikha Goel told PTI.

“The idea is that such cases will also get fast-tracked. We are working on it (to send proposal),” he said.

“Certain days can be earmarked only for POCSO cases and other days can be earmarked for other cases... but it (proposal) is in a nascent stage... we are working on that line,” she explained.

‘Bharosa’, an initiative of Hyderabad City Police, is a state-of-the-art centre to support women and children who are victims of violence.

Since its inception in 2016, a total of 3,560 victims have approached ‘Bharosa’ centre with a range of problems.

Of these over 2,600 sought aid with regard to domestic violence.

A total of 339 cases under POCSO Act were reported to Bharosa Centre apart from 86 cases of rape so far.

Watson fires CSK to third IPL title

MUMBAI, MAY 27 (PTI): Chennai Super Kings completed a fairy tale comeback from disgrace to glory, clinching their third IPL title after imposing all-rounder Shane Watson single-handedly hammered Sunrisers Hyderabad into submission with a blazing hundred in the final here today.

Reinstated into the IPL after a two-year ban for their team management’s role in the 2013 spot-fixing scandal, CSK outplayed SRH by eight wickets with Watson’s unbeaten 117 off 57 balls in a high-pressure game being the icing on the cake.

The Australian smashed as many as 11 fours and eight sixes enroute to this second hundred of the season as CSK raced home in 18.3 overs. SRH had posted a challenging 178 for six courtesy Kane Williamson (47 off 36) and Yusuf Pathan (45* off 25).

The other in-form CSK batsman, Ambati Raydu, hit the winning four that led to wild celebrations. Watson also shared a 117-run partnership with Suresh Raina (32 off 24) for the second wicket, ensuring a smooth



chase for CSK.

Such was Super Kings’ domination over an otherwise formidable SRH that they beat the Williamson-led side four times in as many games this season.

The MS Dhoni-captained side had entered a seventh IPL final and their stellar campaign ended with a record equalling third title, tying them up with Mumbai Indians.

The star of the night was one and only Shane Watson.

The 36-year-old, who previously won the title with Ra-

jasthan Royals in the league’s inaugural season in 2008, muscled his way to 50 in only 33 balls and then smashed Sandeep Sharma for 26 runs in the 13th over to make it a virtual no-contest. It was not surprise that he ended with 555 runs in the season including two hundreds and as many half centuries.

Earlier, Williamson missed out on yet another fifty in a highly successful season as Sunrisers Hyderabad piled on a challenging score after a slow start.

Williamson led his side

from the front once again hitting two sixes and five fours in his innings before Pathan pummelled the opposition bowlers in the death overs. Carlos Brathwaite (21 in 11) came up with the much needed big hits towards the end to take his team close to 180.

CSK kept a tight rein on the Sunrisers Hyderabad batsmen initially while also taking a wicket through a run-out. The first four overs saw only one boundary being hit a turn to fine leg for four by Dhawan off Lungi Ngidi.

Super Kings also struck

an early blow when Shreevats Goswami was run out. The fall of the early wicket and a maiden over bowled to Sunrisers captain Kane Williamson by Ngidi kept the score down to 17 for 1 in four.

Deepak Chahar, who was bowling well till then, dug in one short to Williamson in the fifth over who smacked it for a six over long leg and then was pulled for a four by the New Zealander.

And when Shardul Thakur too erred in length, he was hoisted over long on by Dhawan for a maximum, taking SRH to 42 for 1 by the end of Powerplay.

Williamson, by now into the groove, drove and scooped Dwayne Bravo for a four and a six in the bowler’s first over, and the 8th overall, to increase the run-rate further.

The second wicket partnership reached the 50-mark when it was snapped by Ravindra Jadeja who bowled Dhawan when the left-handed opener missed a heave on the 25th ball he faced.

The run-rate dropped a bit after his departure and at the half-way mark Sunrisers were 73 for 2.

The promoted Shakib Al Hasan hit the accurate Jadeja for a six and a four to the mid-wicket region after Williamson’s leading edge ran away to the boundary so that 17 runs were taken off the left-arm spinner in the 11th over to boost the run rate.

Williamson struck Bravo for consecutive fours in the 12th over and was well in sight of his 9th 50 of the season when Dhoni brought back Sharma who lured him out with a wide ball and got him stumped him off the first ball of a new spell.

The Sunrisers captain, by far his side’s major run-getter who also became the third highest scorer in one IPL season, went back after striking two sixes and five fours to leave his side at 101 for 3.

Pathan started in aggressive fashion and put on a useful stand of 32 with Shakib before the latter drove Bravo straight to Raina at extra cover and was caught.

It was later left to Pathan and big-hitting West Indian Brathwaite to give the total a big boost in the death overs as they added 34 runs in the last three overs.

Fitness matters more than age, says Dhoni after IPL triumph

MUMBAI, MAY 28 (PTI): By orchestrating team’s title triumph, Chennai Super Kings’ seasoned players in 30s have confuted the critics, who harp on packing the side with youngsters, and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not stop himself from gushing about it.

After the auction, Super Kings were criticised for picking nine players in their 30s including Shane Watson and Ambati Raydu but they proved to be instrumental in the team’s triumph after coming back from a two-year ban.

Raydu (602) and Watson (555) were among top-five run-getters this IPL.

“We talked a lot about age but what matters is the fitness. Raydu for example is 32, he’s someone who is fit, covers a lot of ground. Even if he plays a few games where he spends a lot of time in the ground and in the field, he never complains. So it is the fitness that really matters more than the age aspect,” said the 36-year-old Dhoni after the crushing win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

“What captains want

is players who move well in the field. It doesn’t matter which year a player is born in, whether you are 19 or 20 - you have to be agile. You have to accept your shortcomings.”

“For example if I push Watson to stop a single, there is a very good chance that he’ll burst his hamstring and won’t be available for the next game. So what you tell yourselves is that they have to commit and try, but there’s no point getting injured for a single,” said Dhoni.

Watson’s sensational unbeaten 117-run knock ensured CSK chased down a challenging 179 with ease. It was a memorable tournament for the 36-year-old Australian, who ended with 555 runs with two centuries and as many half centuries.

“It’s been a special season to be honest. To get a special season especially after the last season with RCB. It means a lot to be with a franchise like CSK. After those first ten balls I was only hoping to catch up to at least a run-a-ball,” said the Australian.

Watson battled pain and injury to take the team home.

Joe Root adamant of ‘way forward’ for England after Pakistan thrashing

LONDON, MAY 28 (AFP): England captain Joe Root insisted his side could bounce back in the second and final Test against Pakistan at Headingley next week after a humiliating loss in the series-opener at Lord’s.

Pakistan completed a nine-wicket win inside four days on Sunday as England suffered their sixth defeat in eight Tests.

What made this latest reverse all the more embarrassing for England is that they are traditionally tough to beat at home in May, with many touring sides struggling to adjust when typically English conditions -- overcast skies and green-tinged pitches -- are at their most pronounced.

Yet it was Pakistan, fresh from a trio of county warm-up matches and a five-wicket win over Test debutants Ireland in Dublin, who looked as if they were the home side.

Their seam bowlers maintained a disciplined line and length as England, suffering their latest batting collapse, slumped to a meagre 184 all out in the first innings after Root won the toss.

England’s second innings was following a similar path at 110 for six before a century stand between Jos Buttler and Test debutant Dominic Bess prevented an even greater margin of defeat.

But the damage had been done and a Pakistan side who have long been a byword for poor fielding outplayed England in this area too.

“We know we’re under-performing... we’ve not performed to anywhere we need



to,” Root said.

He was especially concerned by England’s batting.

Their efforts at Lord’s followed seven winless Tests in Australia and New Zealand where England lost their first five wickets for fewer than 150 runs on six occasions, including an embarrassing 58 all out in Auckland.

“It’s very disappointing,” Root told BBC’s Test Match Special. “We have been out-performed in all three departments, we have not batted well enough, first innings in particular.

“There have been a number of collapses recently and we have to find a way as a group.” He added: “We are ambitious, we want to win but sometimes we make poor decisions.

“We’ve got to be smarter with that -- guys have got to find a way of scoring runs.

“Ultimately it’s about the number of runs you score, not how long it takes you and maybe on occasions we need to absorb a bit

more pressure.

“Over a longer period of time that’s going to pay dividends for us. We can do that next week and we must take that chance.” - Opening pair struggles -

Mark Stoneman was twice out in single figures at Lord’s and the struggling left-handed opener’s place could now be under threat.

Stoneman and Alastair Cook are, statistically, England’s worst opening partnership, the duo averaging just 18.75 for the first wicket -- the lowest average of any of the 16 England opening pairs that have batted together on at least 20 occasions.

Trevor Bayliss, the England coach, was unusually forthright in castigating his side’s specialist batsmen.

“(This) was nowhere near good enough for Test level...to be bowled out for 180 and 240 is simply not good enough.

“We keep making the same mistakes,” the Australian added.

“The batters have to have a good, hard, long look at themselves.” Ed Smith, England’s new national selector, will face pressure to shake up the side after his first game in charge ended in a resounding defeat.

Nevertheless, Root warned: “It’s easy to look at (this result) and say ‘right, we need to make drastic changes’.

“But it’s not just one or two guys -- we were collectively all under par this week. “It would be very easy to go into next week feeling sorry for ourselves and think there’s no way forward for us -- but absolutely there is.

Indian start-ups have potential to be world-class organisations: Rishad Premji

YOSHITA SINGH

NEW YORK, MAY 28 (PTI):

Start-ups in India will see substantial growth over the next decade and many of them will turn into world-class organisations to lead the next phase of building “brand India” in a broader technology landscape, Nasscom Chairman Rishad Premji said.

Premji, Chief Strategy Officer and Member of the Board at Indian IT services giant Wipro, called for enhancing the lens beyond just thinking and looking at the IT services landscape but also to focus on other ecosystems of capabilities that are thriving in the country. He expressed optimism over the future of the start-up ecosystem in the country.

India has over 5000 start-ups today. I think over the next 8-10 years that number will grow substantially and many of them will



be world-class organisations with world-class products, creating world-class employability and value and recognition and be the next phase in many ways of continuing to build brand India from a broader technology landscape, Premji told PTI in an interview here.

We should evolve our thinking just from the traditional IT ser-

vices story to the broader technology story.

On the outlook for the Indian IT industry, Premji said he is very hopeful.

He cited a report titled Perspective 2025: Shaping the Digital Revolution’ by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) which said

the Indian technology and services industry is on track to reach its goal of USD 200-225 billion in revenues by 2020 and may even touch USD 350 billion by 2025.

Premji said this implicitly suggests double digit growth over the next 7-8 years.

I am quite hopeful that if we do many things right, one of which is the skilling piece, he said. There is huge opportunity for the industry not only to survive but to thrive over the next 8-10 years.

Premji noted that there is a dearth of technical talent everywhere in the world today and India is a large producer of technical talent, with a million engineers graduating every year in the country. Even if you assume half of those are employable, there are still 500,000 engineers every year and if you can channelise them correctly, you are still a huge source of tal-

ent, he said.

He asserted that talent still is a “big differentiator in the technology landscape, so I am hugely optimistic and hugely hopeful in terms of the opportunities that lie ahead for the technology industry, in the country.

With companies globally moving towards a new phase of digital transformation, Premji said the industry is sitting on the cusp of transformation, which is the digitalisation of organisations.

The year 2018-19 is a moment of some acceleration and pivot where customers are moving from experimentation and prototyping around digitalization to industrial scaling. That presents a huge amount of opportunity globally for technology service providers and certainly Indian service providers as well. All of us in the IT services industry globally are gearing up to

participate in that opportunity, he said.

Premji stressed that a major implication and enabler to participate in that opportunity is the right capability and talent. So skilling is a big focus for all organisations, he said adding that companies must now reskill and up-skill existing workforce in the industry. It is equally important that they then have the opportunity to demonstrate, enhance those skills through practical application.

We have got to think very closely about the intersection between new-age technologies and their usefulness to business, he said adding that innovating in technology on a stand-alone basis may not be useful to customers. Instead, how one can apply Artificial Intelligence, blockchain to useful scenarios for business is of paramount importance now.

'Hero' Malian who saved child to get French citizenship

PARIS, MAY 28 (AFP): A Malian migrant who saved a four-year-old child hanging from a fourth-floor Paris balcony after scaling the building with his bare hands was honoured by French President Emmanuel Macron today and offered citizenship.

Two days after his daring Spiderman-style rescue -- viewed millions of times online -- Mamoudou Gassama was received by Macron at the presidential palace.

"All the (Gassama's) documents will be put in order," Macron told the sporty 22-year-old who has become a national hero, referring to his immigration status.

In the meeting, live footage of which was carried on the president's Facebook page, Macron gave Gassama a medal for bravery and also proposed that Gassama join the French fire service.

"I was not thinking of anything. I went straight up", Gassama, who wore jeans and a short-sleeved patterned shirt, told Macron, recounting the episode. "Bravo," Macron replied.

"I'm pleased because it's the first time I've received a trophy like that," Gassama, who arrived in France in September 2017, said after receiving his medal.

Gassama leaped into action Saturday evening on seeing a child dangling in mid-air from a balcony half-way up an apartment block in the multi-ethnic 18th district of the French capital.

The video shows him pulling himself up from balcony to balcony as a man on the fourth floor tries to hold on to the child by leaning across from a neighbouring balcony.

On reaching the fourth floor Gassama, who lives in a hostel for immigrants, throws one leg over the balcony before reaching out with his right arm and grabbing the child.

Firefighters arrived at the scene to find the child had already been rescued, with a spokesman saying that "luckily, there was someone who was physically fit and who had the courage to go and get the child." Praising Gassama, government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux tweeted: "This incredibly brave act, which is true to the values of solidarity of our Republic, must open the doors of our national community to him." His story instantly drew comparisons with that of another Malian migrant who was feted as a hero, and given citizenship, for helping save lives during a January 2015 terror attack.

Lassana Bathily helped hide hostages in the freezer during an Islamist jihadi attack on a Jewish supermarket, in which four people were killed. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo also lauded Gassama, who arrived in France in September 2017, for his "act of bravery" as well as phoning him personally to "thank him warmly".

Former chief justice Nasirul Mulk named Pakistan's caretaker PM

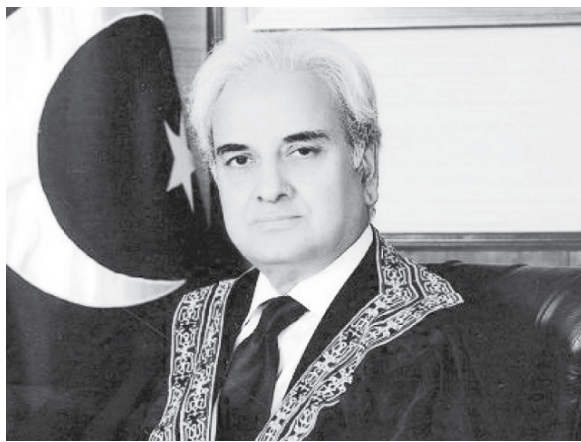
ISLAMABAD, MAY 28 (PTI): Pakistan's former chief justice Nasirul Mulk was today named as the country's caretaker prime minister for a two-month period, ending the political wrangling between ruling PML-N and the Opposition ahead of the general elections on July 25.

The announcement was made by Leader of the Opposition Khurshed Shah at a press conference here which was also attended by incumbent Prime Minister Shahid Khazaan Abbasi and National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.

Mulk, 67, is likely to be sworn in on Friday, June 1. The present government will complete the tenure on May 31 and the caretaker government will remain in office until a new government is set up through elections.

Shah expressed hope that Mulk will successfully conduct free, fair and impartial elections in Pakistan on July 25.

The announcement came af-



ter weeks of deadlock between the PML-N and the Opposition over the name of the caretaker prime minister.

It took the government and the opposition six meetings to decide on a name for the position.

Though, Abbasi spoke first but he let Shah announce the name of the caretaker leader.

Abbasi described the agreed-upon candidate for the caretaker prime minister as someone "who no one

can object to".

"His role as a caretaker PM will be in favour of the country and the democratic process," he said.

Announcing the name, Shah said the NA speaker had played a major role in both parties reaching an agreement.

"We have made a democratic decision. I am thankful to the PM, to the speaker, for making this decision with patience, setting aside emotion. The name of the person I would like to present is very respectable," the veteran PPP leader said.

"The name is Nasirul Mulk, who has remained a chief justice. He has played a historic role... in the judiciary and when he was a lawyer," he said.

The job of the caretaker prime minister is to keep the country running between the dissolution of parliament and the new government being sworn in.

Earlier, several names including retired Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, former State Bank governor

Ishrat Hussain, former foreign secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani and former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Zaka Ashraf were reportedly discussed by the two sides.

Mulk was born on August 17, 1950 in Mingora, Swat, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He worked as lawyer and judge for several years before his appointment as the 22nd Chief Justice of Pakistan in 2014.

President Mamnoon Hussain on Saturday approved July 25 as the polling date for general and provincial elections.

Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf is expected to be the main challenger to the ruling party in the general elections.

In its 70-year-long history, the country experienced its first democratic transition of power in 2013, when Pakistan Peoples Party handed over the power to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which had won the general elections.



Hundreds march in Hong Kong to mark Tiananmen crackdown

HONG KONG, MAY 27 (AFP): Hundreds marched through Hong Kong today ahead of the 29th anniversary of China's crackdown on democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Semi-autonomous Hong Kong is the only place on Chinese soil where the anniversary is openly marked with a famous vigil in Victoria Park on June 4 each year. The march is an annual precursor to the main event.

Organised by a group of veteran democracy activists, protesters demanded justice for the victims of the crackdown and also urged the Chinese government to release Liu Xia, widow of

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, who continues to be under house arrest since her husband's death in custody last year.

Protesters shouted "Accountability for the massacre! End one-party dictatorship," and held banners reading: "Mourn June 4, Resist Authoritarianism" as they walked from the business district of Wan Chai to Beijing's liaison office in the city.

The disqualification of pro-democracy lawmakers from parliament and the banning of some activists from standing for office has heightened concern that Hong Kong's cherished freedoms are being steadily eroded by Beijing.

Pro-Beijing figures

have said recently that calling for an end to one-party dictatorship is "illegal" and that anyone who does so could run the risk of being disqualified from running for election.

"This is our freedom, our right, and also our belief. We do not hesitate to continue saying our slogan. We believe that only by ending the one-party dictatorship can we build democratic China," said Albert Ho, chairman of Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, which organised the march.

Ho said that around 1,100 people attended the protest.

Residents said they were marching to ensure

the bloody crackdown was not forgotten.

"If nobody talks about it, the next generation will never know about this history," said a woman who gave her name as Mrs Ho, and attended the protest with her son.

"China's Communist Party will not listen to citizens and people's voices. Although I was not born at that time, I heard my parents talk about it and I knew Hong Kong people went on the streets... to fight for their democracy and rights," added another protester who gave his name as Kelvin.

However, the turnout figures for the march and vigil have dropped in recent years as many young Hong Kongers are

frustrated by the lack of progress on political reform in the city.

They disagree with the vigil's main message of democratisation in China, saying the focus should be on Hong Kong, not the mainland.

Student unions will not attend the long-standing vigil in Victoria Park this year and have boycotted it for the past three years.

Hundreds -- by some estimates more than a thousand -- died after the Communist Party sent tanks to crush demonstrations in the square in the heart of Beijing on June 4 1989, where student-led protesters had staged a peaceful seven-week sit-in to demand democratic reforms.

Italy's president set to appoint technocrat PM amid political chaos

ROME, MAY 28 (AFP): Italy's president was set to appoint a pro-austerity economist as prime minister today as the country lurched into fresh political chaos after a bid by two populist parties to form a government collapsed.

Carlo Cottarelli, an economist formerly with the International Monetary Fund, arrived at the presidential Quirinal palace on Monday morning, with a temporary technocrat government on the table as Italy faces the strong possibility of new elections in autumn.

The crisis was sparked when President Sergio Mattarella vetoed the nomination of fierce eurosceptic Paolo Savona as economy minister, enraging the far-right League and leading to the anti-establishment Five Star Movement calling for his impeachment.

The two parties' approved nominee for prime minister, lawyer and political novice Giuseppe Conte, stepped aside over the decision, exacerbating the political turmoil nearly three months after March's inconclusive general election.

Mattarella said he had accepted every proposed minister except Savona, who has called the euro a "German cage" and has said that Italy needs a plan to leave the single currency "if necessary".

The leaders of Five Star and the League, Luigi Di Maio and Matteo Salvini, furiously denounced the veto, decrying what they called meddling by Germany, debt ratings agencies and financial lobbies.

Cottarelli, 64, was director of the IMF's fiscal

affairs department from 2008 to 2013 and became known as "Mr Scissors" for making cuts to public spending in Italy.

European stock markets and the euro received an early boost Monday after the veto of the fiercely eurosceptic economy minister, which potentially averted a eurozone crisis.

But Milan's stock exchange proved volatile, turning to losses in mid-morning trading, in a sign that early positivity may not last.

Cottarelli will struggle to gain the approval of parliament with Five Star and the League commanding a majority in both houses.

"They've replaced a government with a majority with one that won't obtain one," said Di Maio. A livid Di Maio later called for the president to be impeached.

"I hope that we can give the floor to Italians as soon as possible, but first we need to clear things up. First the impeachment of Mattarella... then to the polls." "Why don't we just say that in this country it's pointless that we vote, as the ratings agencies, financial lobbies decide the governments." Salvini, who was Savona's biggest advocate and a fellow eurosceptic, declared that Italy was not a "colony", and that "we won't have Germany tell us what to do".

Today, Salvini threatened to break his alliance with the League's pre-election rightwing coalition partner Silvio Berlusconi should the media mogul's Forza Italia party vote for the government.

Pak crackdowns India's Deputy High Commissioner over 'Gilgit-Baltistan' issue

ISLAMABAD, MAY 28 (PTI): Pakistan today summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh and issued

a demarche over the Indian statement that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, which also includes the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' areas, is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession in 1947.

Pakistan Cabinet on May 21 approved Gilgit-Baltistan Order 2018 which was also endorsed by the assembly for the region. The order is being seen as Pakistan's efforts towards incorporating the disputed region as its fifth

province.

India yesterday summoned Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner Syed Haider Shah in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest over Islamabad's latest move, saying any action to alter the status of any part of the territory under its "forcible and illegal occupation" has no legal basis.

The Ministry of External Affairs said it conveyed to Shah that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, which

also includes the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' areas, is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession in 1947.

Commenting on India's remarks, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Dr Mohammad Faisal today said that Singh was summoned on the issue.

Faisal, who is also the Director General (South Asia & South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) issued the demarche to Singh.

Singh was summoned "to

register Pakistan's categorical rejection of the Indian statement on the Gilgit Baltistan Order 2018 and its baseless, fallacious claim" over Kashmir, according to a statement issued by Faisal's office.

It said a written demarche to this effect was also handed over to Singh.

The Foreign Office spokesman in a statement yesterday claimed that the "Jammu and Kashmir was a disputed territory".

"Pakistan categorically rejects India's protest against the Gilgit-Baltistan Order 2018 and its claim over Jammu & Kashmir as an 'integral part' of India. Everything from history to law to morality to the situation on the ground belies India's spurious claim," the spokesman said.

"These resolutions, pledging the right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir, were accepted by India,



TAYLOR SWIFT WOWS THE CROWD AT BBC'S BIGGEST WEEKEND: Taylor Swift made sure all eyes were on her as she stepped out on stage at the BBC's Biggest Weekend in a skimpy black leotard. The star performed six songs for the excited crowd in Swansea, including Gorgeous and Delicate. She praised the crowd for singing along with the performers so enthusiastically, saying: "You kind of took my breath away when I first came out here." Other artists performing at the event on Sunday included Jason Derulo, Demi Lovato and Rita Ora. The four-day music festival ends on Monday.

CHILDREN SHOULD BELIEVE IN THEIR OWN LITTLE DREAMS: SHAH RUKH AS ABRAM TURNS 5



MUMBAI, MAY 28 (PTI): Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has wished his youngest child, AbRam, on his fifth birthday and encouraged all the children in the world to follow their own dreams. The 52-year-old actor took to Twitter to share a sun-kissed photograph of his little one, his "sunshine". "My sunshine turns five years today but he thinks he is nine! Please don't tell him otherwise if you meet him. "Children should hear their own

music, sing their own songs and believe in their own little dreams... And yeah, hug their papa a lot..." Shah Rukh wrote. The actor and his wife interior designer Gauri Khan welcomed AbRam on May 27, 2013 via surrogacy. Gauri also took to social media to wish her son and captioned the pictures: "Happy bday, my gorgeous... (sic)" The couple also share son Aryan (20) and daughter Suhana (18).

Daniel Craig to get 50 mn pounds for final 007 film

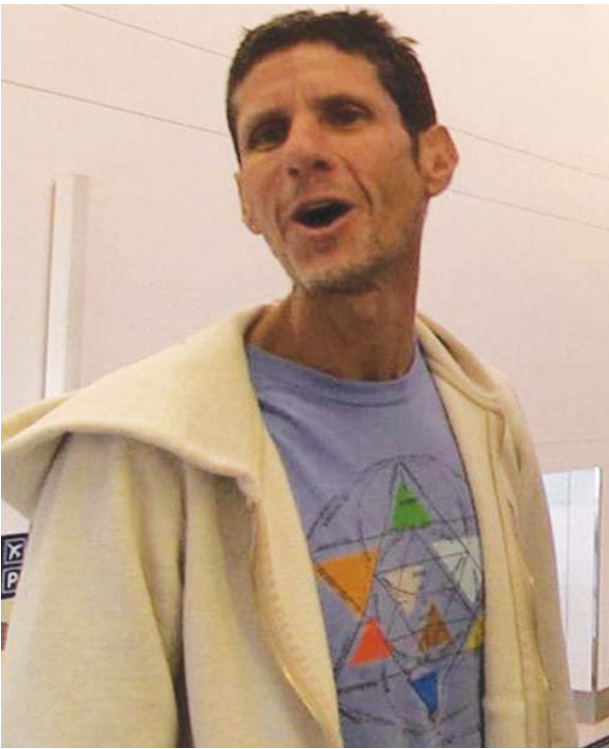
LONDON, MAY 27 (PTI): Daniel Craig will reportedly receive a fat pay cheque of 50 million pounds for his last outing as James Bond in the next 007 film. The 50-year-old actor will also get an executive producer credit, along with endorsements and profits, according to Mirror.com. Craig previously received 37 million pounds for 2015's "Spectre". The film is likely to have a run time of around two hours and 20 minutes, meaning the actor will get 357,000 pounds per minute of screen time. If paid 50 million pounds, Craig's earnings will exceed that of his predecessors' with Sean Connery making 7 million pounds for six official Bond movies. George Lazenby made 72,000 pounds for one outing, Roger Moore bagged 17 million pounds for his seven films as the iconic spy. Timothy Dalton churned 4 million pounds from two appearances followed by Pierce Brosnan raking in 13 million pounds in four films.? Craig starts shooting for the film



in December, which will go on till five months. An autumn release is planned for next year. The actor had earlier said he would rather "slash his wrists" than return as Bond. But after constant denials, he confirmed his comeback in the 25th Bond movie. Oscar-winner Danny Boyle, who is set to direct the as-yet-untitled film, will earn about 7 million pounds. A film source in Los Angeles said, "Daniel is raring to go out with a bang alongside Danny. They have been talking already about their visions and the practicalities once the cameras start rolling in December at Pinewood. "Daniel is worth every penny given that 'Spectre' made over 700 million pounds and 'Skyfall' over 900 million pounds before they sold DVD, streaming and TV rights.

New Beastie Boys book not typical memoir, says Mike D

The new book on Beastie Boys will not be a quintessential memoir, former member Michael "Mike D" Diamond has said. Mike D was a part of the group, which was formed in 1979 and split in 2014. The vocalist-drummer said "Beastie Boys Book" is an account of his days with fellow members Ad-Rock (Adam Horovitz) and the late MCA (Adam Yauch), which will also include a cookbook, TMZ reported. He said it will be "unlike any other music book". According to the website, the cooking part of the book will feature contributions from chef Roy Choi and directors Wes Anderson and Spike Jonze, and actor Amy Poehler. "Beastie Boys Book" releases October 30.



Letitia Wright open to idea of making Shuri the Black Panther



LONDON, MAY 27 (PTI): Actor Letitia Wright says the idea of making Shuri the Black Panther on the big screen excites her. The actor essayed the role of Shuri, T'Challa's sister, in the stand-alone "Black Panther" movie and "Avenegrs: Infinity War". In a Q&A at MCM London Comic-Con, Wright was asked about the prospect, to which she responded, "If the opportunity came about, then why not? It would be comic book accurate. Yeah, that would be amazing. "It means more training, more learning and it would really be an amazing adventure. Shuri becomes a savage in the comic books. From going to comedic and fun and like a kid to then just pulling out some claws. I'm excited.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Early day troubles rather quickly dissipate today, dear Aries, particularly after the Moon's move into your creative sector this morning. It's a beautiful day for communications of all kinds, but especially casual, romantic, and creative ones. You are expressing yourself well with both words and body language conveying the message you intend. **TAURUS:** You're in particularly good shape for learning, sharing, and connecting today, dear Taurus. It's an opportunity period for presenting your ideas, taking tests, and learning important new things. People appreciate your advice, opinion, and mind right now.

It's also a good time for getting out and about, exchanging ideas and information, and positive news. **GEMINI:** The Moon's move into your communications sector this morning increases your craving for mental stimulation, dear Gemini. You are in particularly good mental form now. You can get to the very heart of a problem, and you thrive when formulating strategies. Insight into a past problem is possible now. Analytical powers increase today. **CANCER:** The Moon continues to transit your sign until this morning, dear Cancer, when it moves into your resources sector, and you seek

out more calmness or predictability. You are in particularly good shape for accepting and appreciating what you have. It's an excellent time for building bridges, particularly after some awkward energy in the past couple of days. **LEO:** The Moon's pull out of your privacy sector this morning, dear Leo, brings your feelings up, front, and center. You're likely to come out of your shell and seek out more interaction and acknowledgment. Other influences today support your career, work, and health goals, particularly on mental levels and regarding incoming information. **VIRGO:** Even casual conver-

sations have a lot to teach you about your relationships and yourself today, dear Virgo. You are in a good position to gain new insight into your life and the people you care about. A chance meeting or memory can contribute to your new conclusions. There is a stronger sense that you are moving forward despite recent apparent setbacks. **LIBRA:** The Moon's move out of your career sector and into your social sector this morning brings on a lighter, easier frame of mind, dear Libra. Even so, you still stand to gain much on practical levels. Connections with people closest to you seem to improve, perhaps providing the

missing link or puzzle piece that helps you understand recent events. **SCORPIO:** The Moon moves to the top of your solar chart today, dear Scorpio, and draws out the more ambitious feelings and desires in you now. You are thinking about the long-term and have a strong feel for your responsibilities. After bumpy early day energy, you are likely to appreciate today's more relaxed, flowing pace. **SAGITTARIUS:** Today presents natural energy for making up with loved ones, if necessary, or simply bonding with others and enjoying good company, dear Sagittarius. Sharing ideas or activities

with a partner or good friend can be energizing and motivating. You can come to satisfying conclusions through debate or philosophical discussions. **CAPRICORN:** After a bumpy start to the day, you are in great shape for getting yourself into an easy, natural groove with work, dear Capricorn. It's a good time for taking steps towards making positive lifestyle changes. Also today, excellent opportunities to talk about or play with ideas related to creative projects or love relationships. **AQUARIUS:** The Moon moves into your partnership sector this morning, dear Aquarius, and you move out of a practical frame of mind to a social

one. You are in particularly good shape for romantic or creative expression today. You also have good energy with you starting today and extending the next two days for gaining useful insight into your personal life. **PISCES:** The Moon moves into your sector of routines, work, and self-care this morning, dear Pisces, and you begin to think more and more about your duties, problem-solving, and practical affairs. It's a good time for attention to details, work, and home or family matters. You get a boost today for communicating well and gaining the understanding you crave.