



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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*Petrol, diesel
price cut
revised to just
1 paisa a litre*

NEW DELHI, MAY 30 (PTI): The reduction in petrol and diesel prices was today revised to just 1 paisa a litre each, with state-owned oil companies blaming clerical error for previously announcing a cut of up to 60 paise.

State-owned oil companies this morning announced reduction in petrol price by 60 paise to Rs 77.83 a litre and diesel by 56 paise to Rs 68.75 in Delhi. Within hours of the announcement, they revised the cut to just 1 paisa a litre each.

"The reduction was supposed to be 1 paisa but due to a clerical error the price prevalent on May 25 was communicated as today's price," a senior official of Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the nation's largest fuel retailer, explained.

Petrol in Delhi now costs Rs 78.42 per litre and diesel Rs 69.30.

The marginal reduction comes after 16 consecutive price increases since May 14 when fuel retailers ended a 19-day pre-Karnataka poll hiatus to pass on a spike in global oil rates.

Prices vary from state to state depending on local sales tax or VAT. Delhi has the cheapest price among all metros and most state capitals.

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com

All India Bank strike cripples Sikkim

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 30 MAY:**

All public sector nationalized banks in Sikkim will be shut down for two days following the 48-hour continuous All India Bank Strike called by the United Forum of Bank Union. The strike started from 6 am on 30 May and will end at 6 am on 01 Jun.

Needless to add, locals have been facing problems to get their Bank related works done with parents of students studying outside the State complaining about pending online fee payments and monthly pocket money pitfalls.

"We are facing a lot of problems to send money to our children due to the strike. This period being



the month-end, this strike is disturbing and disappointing," expressed one of the parents.

Sikkim was only a small part of banking disruption across the country as 10 lakh employ-

ees, primarily from PSU banks, went on 2-day strike to protest against a "meagre" 2 per cent sala-

ry hike offered by Indian Banks Association (IBA) -- the management body. The strike is also

supported by employees of some old generation private sector banks and foreign banks.

Operations in the new-generation private banks like ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank were however almost normal, barring few activities including cheque clearance.

There were reports of disruption in banking operations in various states. The impact of strike in certain states like Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand was more severe compared to other states.

Nearly 10 lakh employees, working in various branches of 21 public sector banks, 13 old generation private sector banks, six foreign banks

and 56 regional rural banks across the country went on the strike as IBA offered them a nominal wage revision, All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), affiliate of UFBU said in a statement.

Since the strike coincides with the month-end, salary withdrawals from branches are likely to get affected. Some ATMs went dry by the evening.

Operations like deposits, FD renewals, government treasury operations, money market operations were hit by the strike.

AN RBI official said some digital banking work was done through electronic systems like the RTGS but the func-

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Rainfall damages Mantam bridge, motor boats pressed into service

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
DZONGU, 30 MAY:**

Due to heavy rainfall since last few days at Mantam, the bamboo bridge had been partially damaged by huge wooden logs carried downstream by high speed current of the Rongyong river. The bamboo bridge could have been repaired by now however due to excess rainfall and strong water current at Mantam lake, workers are facing difficulties in restoring the bridge, the SDM Dzongu informed.

As such the District Administration, in order to ease the burden, has started using motor boats at Mantam lake. As per directions from the higher authorities the timing of boat service shall be from morning 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Beyond the scheduled time the boat shall



Residents wading through Mantam lake in order to reach the sliding bridge to cross over. With a slight pause in rain today in Upper Dzongu, the water level reduced, making it impossible for motor boats to ferry people. The sliding bridge was earlier submerged. To avoid this adventure will require people to undertake a 3 hour trek from Ruklu Kayam to cross Rongyong river to reach the cut off left bank villages.

not be put to service considering the bad weather conditions and strong water current at Mantam lake at present.

However, in case of medical emergency at night one can contact the following phone numbers:

Tshering Dorjee Bhutia [SDM Dzongu] 9434409281, 9083414429
Lalit Subbha (QRT) 8370870846
Mangal Subba (Home Guard) 8116007715
Buddha Subba (Home

Guard) 9083510487
Lhaakey Sherpa (Home Guard) 8001759007.

It is also informed that the labourers engaged in the construction of Foot Suspension Bridge at Mantam who

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SAMAJIK ADHIKARITA SHIVIR CONDUCTED IN NAMCHI

Assistive devices for differently abled and senior citizens distributed

NAMCHI, 30 MAY [IPR]: Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Krishan Pal Gurjar, attended "Samajik Adhikarita Shivir", a mega distribution free of cost camp which includes allocation of Assistive Aids and Appliances under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana [RVY] to senior citizens under BPL category and to Divyangjan under ADIP scheme of Government of India [GoI], at Community Hall in Namchi today.

The camp organized by Artificial Limbs, Manufacturing Corporation of India [ALIMCO], Kanpur working under the aegis of Department of Empowerment, GoI in close association with Department of Social



Welfare, Government of Sikkim and South District Administration had the attendance of Chairperson [SC, Welfare Board], Madan Cintury, Zilla Adhakshya [South], Farwanti Tamang, Upa-Adhakshya [South], Bhim Badhadur Lakhe, Deputy Manager [ALIMCO], S Sengupta, alongside Heads of Departments and a large number of se-

nior citizens.

At the onset, District Collector [South], Prabhakar Verma, informed that 184 ADIP and 1,020 RVY beneficiaries comprising of differently abled persons and senior citizens will receive the appliances. He also added that the distributed materials included various kinds of assisted

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Sikkim- the next Bollywood haven

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 30 MAY:**

Sikkim is known for its scenic beauty and its snow capped mountains, lush green valleys, and meandering rivers have enchanted not just greats in cinema like Satyajit Ray and Dev Anand but also many new and upcoming directors.

In a latest, actor singer Ayushmaan Khurana is in the State to shoot his new music video. Ayushmaan is not just known for his natural acting talents but also for chartbuster singles like "Pani da".

The actor-singer is in Sikkim for the shooting of the music video of his fifth single "Chann Khitan". The song is written, composed and sung by Ayushmaan. The video is directed by Suresh Triveni, director of hit film "Tumhari Sullu" featuring Vidya Balan.

Web series "Rise," featuring actor Vikrant Massey has already received good reviews where the State is not just an ornamental property but an integral part of the script.

In commercial Hindi cinema, Sikkim

has often been featured as an exotic locale with actors romancing or dancing in locations here like in "Yaariyaan".

It can be safely said that apart from the classic Dev Anand film "Jewel Thief", Sikkim still waits to be an integral part of scripts which explore the State beyond its scenic beauty.

In offbeat and independent cinema veteran director Amol Palekar attempted to give Sikkim a central role in the script in the 2010 film "And Once Again" which had actor Antara Mali in the role of a Buddhist nun for which she had even shaved her head.

Irfan Khan starrer, "Qarib Qarib Single," also featured Sikkim, particularly the capital and its surroundings, towards the end of the movie. However, local audiences were yearning to see more of their capital.

Last year, the state government had taken a decision to create a single window system for all kind of shooting in the State.

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Philatelic & numismatic exhibition “ALPINE 2018” from 01 Jun in Darj

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 MAY: Alpine Philatelic and Numismatic Society [APNS] is all set to organize a two-day philatelic and numismatic exhibition titled “ALPINE - 2018” at Hayden Hall in Darjeeling on 01-02 Jun, informs a press release issued by APNS president, Sushil Karthak.

The philatelic exhibition which is being held in Darjeeling after four years has also invited members of Sikkim Philatelic and Numismatic Society [SPNS] to showcase their collections with Ganesh Pradhan [SPNS president] and Shital Pradhan [SPNS secretary] representing Sikkim.

More than 10,000 stamps will be on display that includes ‘Black Penny’- world’s first postage stamp, Pre - Independence British Era stamps, historic postal cancellation of Darjeeling and its Hills dating back to 1894, Coins from Sikkim, Indian Princely State Coins, Rare Bank Notes and Coins, World-Wide Colourful Polymer Notes and many more, the release adds.

A five-frame philatelic exhibit “Elements

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SDF legislators’ meet, amendments to be made soon in Land Protection Act 2006

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 MAY: Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] party held its legislators’ meet here at Mingtokgang in Gangtok last evening ahead of the two-daylong special session of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly scheduled for 08 Jun next month.

The meeting also decided that the ongoing Jan Seva-cum-Jan Sampark Abhiyan of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for East district which was scheduled to begin from 01 Jun be postponed till further notice.

Among the various

decisions, the ruling party legislators also decided to bring an amendment in Land Protection Act 2006 soon to bring the landed property belonging to the Sherpa community at par with protection as offered by Revenue Order Number 1. The State Government will bring similar line of protection to Central and State OBCs, as well it is informed.

The legislators’ meet also considered the proposal to provide additional social protection to Bhujel, Sunuwar, Thami, Majhi and Mukhia communities as MBC and

has decided to provide separate reservation patterns within the bracket of the OBCs.

Considering that the Below Poverty Line [BPL] families have come down to 5% from 12% in the State, the legislators’ meeting has decided to bring down the reservation ratio for this section to 5% from 12% in higher studies, government service and other allied facilities, it is further informed.

Amongst the other decisions taken in the meeting, the State Government will provide separate seat reservation

to Bhutia-Lepcha community in local bodies and for Limboo-Tamang as well.

Further, a grant of Rs 12 lakh to first division sport clubs and Rs 6 lakh to second division sports clubs of the State will also be provided.

Also, tender of the government works of up to Rs 2 crore will be held at the BDO office level and contract awarded to contractors of that particular constituency.

The meeting also decided to regularise the services of NRHM employees and to start the

appointment process with 261 ANM posts and 30 dental surgeons. The legislators also endorsed the proposal to provide free education in upcoming Pharmacy College and Medical College in the State. Is has also been decided to establish National Law University in the State.

Further, laws are to be framed in order to provide 90% employment to locals of Sikkim in the various private units in the State. It is added that this law will be linked with the Rule 4(4) of Old Laws of Sikkim.

Govt notifies MSP for farmers

Sl. No.	VEGETABLES	MSP/KG PRODUCED BETWEEN MONTH OF OCT TILL MAR	MPS/KG PRODUCED BETWEEN MONTH OF APR TILL SEPT
1	Tomato	17	25
2	Cabbage	14	18
3	Cauliflower	20	25
4	Carrot	20	25
5	Radish	16	20
6	Broccoli	35	45
7	Butter Beans [Green Pod]	50	40
8	Singtamey Beans	40	30
9	Pea [Green Pod]	50	40
10	Chayote [Iskus]	8	6
11	Chilli	15	12
12	Brinjal	22	17
13	Bottle Gourd	15	12
14	Bitter Gourd	22	16
15	Bhendi	22	17
16	Leafy Vegetables [Sag, Coriander, Palak & other leafy shoots]	15/bundle	11/bundle
17	Cherry Pepper	100	125

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 MAY: As per a notification Issued by Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department dated 22 May 2018, the State Government has issued Minimum Support Price with respect to different organic horticultural commodities in the State of Sikkim.

This has been done in order to confer benefits

and improve returns to the producers as well as to get the right prices for their commodities with the aim to protect the farming community of the State, an official press communiqué informs.

With regard to the same, the H&CCD Department will be issuing Identification Cards to all the farmers selling Organic vegetables in the State.

Collection of poems by Hari Dhungel launched

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 MAY: A collection of poems written by poet Hari Dhungel titled “Him Shikhar - Yatra Haruko Suruwat” was launched by former MP, Bhim Dahal in a function held at a local hotel in the capital on Tuesday. The 180-page book has 141 poems written by Mr Dhungel.

Sikkim- the next Bollywood...

contd from pg01

Also with AR Rahman being declared as the State’s brand ambassador, the profile of Sikkim as an entertainment hub could be on the rise.

There are frequent reports of film shootings being conducted across the State from Hindi, Bengali, Nepali, Telugu, Tamil and other language films, documentaries and web series.

Nepali cinema has also opened up to Sikkim warmly with Sikkim occupying central position in the script of many such makers.

In his recent visit, noted actor Bhuwan KC

had said that for an upcoming film “Captain”, his son Anmol Kc is slated to shoot in Sikkim.

Meanwhile, Priyanka Chopra produced Sikkimese Nepali film “Pahuna” in collaboration with the state government and it may just be that film which projects the State holistically.

Likewise, sources at the IPR Department have stated that there are many enquiries for shooting in Sikkim, not just from India and neighbouring countries but also from some huge international players.

Even locally, films

made by Sikkimese directors like ‘Acharya’, ‘Dhokbu’ and ‘Ralang Road’ have garnered rich critical appreciation dispelling notion that it is not possible to make a good film in Sikkim or by Sikkimese.

It is a welcome change that Sikkim has found some prominent filmmaker’s giving it important place in the scripts. With the state government active in the process of engaging with film and entertainment industry, audiences can only hope that the myriad hues of our beloved State will be explored better.

All India Bank strike cripples...

contd from pg01

tioning of banks’ servers was hit.

Digital banking comprises about 5 per cent of the total operations, the official said.

Reserve Bank of India remained operational though the trade unions offered moral support for the ongoing strike, an RBI Trade Union leader said.

As several rounds of talks between banks and the unions of their employees did not make any headway, the United Forum of Banking Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine bank unions, has gone on strike against the proposed wage hike of 2 per cent as against 15 per cent given last time, All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), general secretary CH Venkatachalam said.

In the last wage revision in 2012, the bank employees received a raise of 15 per cent.

“It is kind of an insult to the employees of public sector banks...to be offered this kind of meagre hike. We had no other option but to go on strike, forgoing two days’ salary,” All India Bank Officers’ Confederation (AI-BOC) joint general secretary Ravinder Gupta said.

Success of all government schemes like Mudra, Jandhan and demonetisation were ensured by public sector bankers but the reward is just 2 per cent hike, he said, adding that it is gross injustice to bankers who have worked very hard for nation building.

Employees are participating in the nation-wide strike as part of “our democratic right” by forgoing our salary, Venkatachalam said and hoped that good sense would prevail.

IBA has asked the six banks including SBI, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Union Bank and Bank of Baroda to reconsider

their decision and allow IBA to settle wages for bank employees up to scale seven instead of up to scale three employees.

There are about 85,000 branches of 21 public sector banks across the country having business share of about 70 per cent.

Industry chamber Assocham said the two-day nationwide bank strike may affect customer transactions worth up to Rs 20,000 crore.

It also urged the government to come up with a stimulus plan for restoring the health of PSU banks.

State-owned lenders are grappling with high levels of bad loans and as per reports their losses for the quarter ended March 2018 are set to hit a record Rs 50,000 crore which is more than double the losses of Rs 19,000 crore in preceding quarter ended December 2017, Assocham said in a statement.

Governor inaugurates Nyingma Institute of Higher Studies at Martam

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 MAY: Governor Shrinivas Patil inaugurated the Nyingma Institute of Higher Studies at Martam, East Sikkim, on Tuesday in the presence of Rigzin Dorjee Rinpoche, the founder of the institute, informs a press communiqué from Raj Bhawan.

Members of Nyingma Foundation Trust, monks and representatives of prominent monasteries from across the State, local gentries and scholars from within and outside the State and large number of devotees were present on the occasion.

On reaching the institute, the Governor was accorded a ceremonial reception by the monks and Khenpos of the institute and was escorted to the main chapel. The Governor offered prayers and witnessed the traditional Cham presented by the monks of the institute. He presented the certificates to the scholars who have completed their higher studies and felicitated Ladakhi & Sons, the contractor and other trust



members for their contribution to build the institute of such prominence, the release mentions.

Addressing the massive gathering of monks, devotees and students, the Governor mentioned the significance of Sikkim in both Hinduism and Buddhism. Stating that with the presence of highly reputed Buddhist Monasteries of various sects alongside newly established Buddhist centres, Sikkim

has firmly established itself as a prime pilgrimage centre for Buddhists all over the world. He added that lasting peace and tranquillity, hospitable people and its pure environment has made the state a tourist choice over the years. He further said that now the time has come for Sikkim to be developed as higher education hub for both modern and spiritual education. He also mentioned that establish-

ment of Buddhist University at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Deorali is a step in this direction which will definitely serve the larger purpose.

Hailing the establishment of the institute and the initiative of Rigzin Dorjee Rinpoche, the Governor urged everyone present to collectively work for the betterment of society and the State and imbibe the values that Lord Buddha taught us.

Assistive devices for differently abled and senior citizens...

contd from pg01

living devices namely that of walking stick, elbow crutches, walker crutches, wheel chairs, hearing devices, spectacles and other smart equipment.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Mr Gurjar informed about the aim and objective of the camp and shared that this distribution camp is the maiden camp organized in Sikkim under RVY. He updated that the daily living devices of different categories regarding age related infirmities valuing over Rs 1 crore will be allocated amongst pre identified beneficiaries from South Sikkim.

Mr Gurjar emphasised that the camp will immensely assist in positively transforming the lives of the differently abled and senior citizens into that of a self-reliant and self-sufficient person. He articulated that the GoI is focused on elevating the lives of the senior citizens and that of the differently abled person and updated that mass public places in the country are being converted

into barrier-free disabled friendly spaces.

He also urged the South District Administration to submit a list of children’s names who are in need of cochlear implant and that the GoI will do the needful in procurement of the implants. He further enumerated the various benefits laid down by GoI for the advantage of the differently abled namely that of reservation in jobs, providing of universal I-card and many more services.

Speaking during the occasion, Joint Secretary, MoSJE, GoI, Surendra Singh Meena, spoke in detail about the Samajik Adhikarita Shivir and its initiation from the year 2017 onwards. He highlighted about the growing population of senior citizens in our country and underlined that they are extremely vulnerable on account of disabilities, diseases and terminal illness. As such, the GoI has formulated a variety of schemes for the upliftment of senior citizens, thereby enabling them to live a life of dignity.

In addition, Mr Meena urged the senior citizens of South Sikkim to aim for National Award ‘Vayoshreshtha Samman’ which is given to eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of elderly persons.

It may be mentioned that the identified beneficiaries of the camp at Community Hall were registered during the assessment camp held by ALIMCO at various locations of South Sikkim during the month of Feb, 2018. Total number of 945 wheel chairs, 790 BTE Hearing Aids, 979 Walking Sticks, 400 Spectacles, 114 Artificial Dentures assisted living devices were distributed to Senior Citizens under RVY.

Likewise, a total number of 50 wheel-chairs, 48 crutches, 32 walking Sticks, 202 BTE Hearing Aids, 14 MSIED Kits, 02 CP Chairs, 01 Braille Cane, Braille Kit, 13 Rola-tor, 05 Smart Phone, 01 Daisy Player and 03 Smart Cane were disbursed to divyangjan under ADIP scheme.

Gangtok on Thursday, 31 May

Temp: 26°C/15°C
Forecast: Intervals of clouds and sunshine, a shower or thunderstorm in spots.
Sunrise: 04:41 AM
Sunset: 6:25 PM



Hamro Varta re-launched with a new look

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

After a hiatus of two years, Nepali newspaper, Hamro Varta, was re-launched here at Press Club of Sikkim today. This weekly newspaper will come out every Wednesday. Yogesh Rai of Chumbung-Chakung in West Sikkim is the publisher and editor of the newspaper.

Speaking to media persons this afternoon, Mr Rai informed that Hamro Varta was started in 2012 as a Nepali daily and had been regularly published till two years back.

With a new team, Hamro Varta will now be published as a weekly paper. Likewise, senior correspondent, Mingma Bhutia, informed that the newspaper has been launched with a completely new look and will cover genuine issues of Sikkim and the people.

Philatelic & numismatic... contd from pg02

of Music" by Vivek Yonzon [Secretary, APNS] that won a Silver Medal at Indian National Philatelic Exhibition held in Mumbai last Dec will be the main highlight of the event. The two-day event will also have Sit and Draw Competition along with Letter Writing Competition for students of different schools from Darjeeling.

It may be mentioned here, APNS was formed on 25 Feb, 2018 to promote philately and numismatic among all age of life in the Darjeeling Hills. The society will be organizing more workshops on philately and numismatic at different schools.

The society has invited people interested in philately and numismatic to join the society. The membership registration forms will be available during the event at Hayden Hall. The event will also have booths for dealers from whom people can buy philatelic and numismatic materials, informs the press release.

Rainfall damages Mantam bridge... contd from pg01

were stranded on the left bank of Mantam lake since the last two days have been ferried to the right bank of Mantam lake on a rubber boat to expedite the work.



SAGA DAWA CELEBRATED IN GANGTOK

GANGTOK, 30 MAY: The holy day of Saga Dawa was celebrated in Gangtok on Tuesday with a procession led by monks and participated by devotees. [Rebyna Rana]

Hamro Sikkim Party to be launched at Daramdin

REBYNA RANA

DARAMDIN, 30 MAY:

Hamro Sikkim Party is being launched at Daramdin, West Sikkim, on Thursday. The new political party was announced at New Delhi last month. Many founding members of the party have reached Daramdin for the launch.

Former minister Ran Bahadur Subba, former Indian football captain Bhaichung Bhutia and many party members were at Daramdin bazaar where the pandal for the launch is installed.

Speaking to media, Ran Bahadur Subba said Hamro Sikkim Party is a party for all the Sikkimese people.

"People are saying it is RB Subba's or Bhaichung's party but in reality it is a party of all the Sikkimese communities Bhutia, Lepcha, Nepali and business communities," he said.

He further added that Hamro Sikkim Party was borne out of the need to right the wrongs of the current dispensation.

Mr Subba informed that the venue of the launch was decided following consultations with the people. He alleged that the state government tried to create hurdles in the launch of the party but added that such efforts will not stop the people and our party.

"We are hopeful that it will be a

beautiful launch. The response from the people is positive and we have received response from every section of the society," said MN Dahal.

He expressed hope the party will bring about a drastic change in the political scenario of Sikkim. "Basically the economy is at a standstill and youth have nowhere to go, their livelihood is difficult as agricultural land has decreased and business has gone to the capitalists outside the State," said Mr Dahal.

In such a scenario, people want a way out and they are hopeful that Bhaichung Bhutia and RB Subba are working hard for all sections of the society, said Mr Dahal.

Auditions for Miss Sikkim 2018 in June

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

The Miss Sikkim 2018 auditions will begin from the first week June with the East district followed by other districts of the state later.

This time, the Miss Sikkim 2018 Grand Finale will be held in September rather than in June-July.

Speaking to SummitTIMES, the Chief Executive Officer of the Miss Sikkim Organising Company Positude, Gyurmila

la Bhutia informed that considering various factors they have decided to organise the competition on September this year.

This is the fifth edition of the Miss Sikkim contest being organised by local event management company Positude.

"We have been working hard on creating a platform for the girls of our state in the national fashion and modelling arena and we have been quite successful as Miss

Sikkim winners have represented the State in various national beauty contests including the biggest beauty contest Miss India," said Bijay Subba, the Managing Director at Positude.

Gyurmila informed that Positude has tied up with Miss India beauty contest and is working on helping girls here fulfil the criteria required for Miss India contest.

"We are proud that our objective has been fulfilled and girls from

Sikkim are participating in Miss India," she added.

She also informed that FBB Colors Femina Miss India 2018 also has representation from Sikkim. Pramila Chettri is competing with the beauties of the rest of the country in the Miss India 2018 and is now undergoing various rounds in Mumbai.

"We wish her luck and hope that she will win the competition," said Gyurmila.

Holy Cross student tops CBSE X Boards in Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

Sriya Mishra of Holy Cross School, Tadong, has topped the CBSE X Board

2018 exam in the State with 97.2% in main subjects and 98.2% for the best five subjects. There were a total of 126 candi-

dates out of which 125 have passed the boards bringing the pass percentage of the school to 99.20%, a press release informs.

Paichan Foundation to take out a peace rally from Sombaria to Gangtok on 01 Jun

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

Paichan Foundation has reiterated its demand for provision of practical training to students of every government and private school for proper handling and hoisting of the national flag and to stop sale of national flags and to in-

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KUTSHE 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



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

NOTICE

ONLINE REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION TO UG COURSE IN SIKKIM GOVERNMENT COLLEGES

Last Date for Registration for admission to UG courses in the following Government colleges of Sikkim for the academic year 2018-19 is 10th June 2018, no application shall be entertained after the specified date and Last Date for the payment of Fees through Online and Offline Mode (uploading of Demand Draft Details) is 12th June 2018. (In favor of E-collection Account HRDD Payable at Gangtok) no payment shall be entertained after the specified date. Students seeking admission in Government colleges are directed to apply through website: www.sgcregistration.com / www.rusasikkim.com or through Mobile App.

(RUSA SIKKIM ADMISSION).



Sl.no	College
1	Sikkim Government College, Tadong
2	Sikkim Government College, Burtuk
3	Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok
4	Government College, Rhenock, East Sikkim
5	Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing
6	Namchi Government College, Kamrang
7	Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung
8	Arts College, Mangshila
9	Women Arts College Khamdong, East Sikkim
10	Government Vocational College, Dentam
11	Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng

Important dates:

- Submission of online registration: 29th May – 10th June 2018
- Last date of submission of Fees: 12th June 2018
- 1st Merit list generation: 16th June 2018
- 1st Merit list last date of admission: 26th June 2018
- 2nd Merit List generation: 1st July 2018
- 2nd merit list last date of admission: 5th July 2018
- Counselling: 9th July to 14th July

HELPLINE NUMBER: + 91- 8167734520/8001194118 (From 10 am to 7 pm) or visit www.rusasikkim.com.

Note: Admission for Sikkim Government B.ed College, Soreng will be notified shortly.

Sd/-

Dr. M.P. Kharel
OSD Higher Education (HRDD)

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Cleaning Up, the Singapore Way

And no, we don't mean the Swachh Bharat kind

Sikkim often invokes Singapore when it speaks of its aspirations and plans. That country is taken as a role model more for emulating the "litter and spit free" environs or to underline the growth made possible by stable and unchanged government. Maybe Sikkim should also look towards Singapore to inspire a clean-up drive against corruption. Of course, the other comparison that Sikkim draws - with Switzerland - would also work, because where Singapore is the only country from Asia in the top-10 least corrupt nations (it ranks 7th), Switzerland figures two rungs higher at 5 on the same list. It will not be a bad idea for Sikkim to link similarities with these two countries beyond sharing same first letter. But let's stick to Singapore for today.

Yes, corruption is a shared problem between India and Singapore and was also of the same colonial carryover kind of the privileged few and the omnipresent government. The latter, however, managed to sweep it away after first accepting that wherever there was development underway, the attendant demand of professionals and the importance of projects, there would be corruption as well. In a recent conversation with some officials from Singapore, some interesting tidbits were collected about how their country combated this dishonest mode of profiteering. This Singaporean lesson is worthy of referencing here.

The Singapore government effectively cleaned up a corrupt developing society in a very short time through three clear strategies, we are told. These, broadly, were a "strong-arm theory", a "strong-men theory", and a "strong-wage theory". The format has obviously worked for Singapore and Sikkim could do well to borrow another of its tried system and replicate it here. The strong-arm theory included strict laws and efficient anticorruption agencies. These are already in place in Sikkim as they are elsewhere in the country, although the actual enforcement is far from satisfactory in most cases. The investigations are tacky, the motivations mischievous, convictions rare and the penalties rarely deterrent enough. The strong men theory is interpreted as an unwavering political will from the top leadership. No matter what we might believe about smart bureaucrats corrupting naive politicians, if the public representatives put their foot down and demand transparency and fix accountability, corruption will start faltering. The next step, beyond those forced by groundswells of public opinion, need to be taken as well. For instance, the requirement to file property returns while filing nomination papers during elections was welcome, but now, there should have been an independent body of auditors to check whether what is disclosed is a true reflection of assets. The strong wage theory is high wages for the top leadership. This, on the understanding that corruption at high levels is far more difficult to deal with than petty corruption because the former is better connected and more deeply entrenched. Paying them well is an incentive to remain clean. Also, the stakes are then raised for them every time they get tempted to steal from the cookie jar. For instance, the Singapore Prime Minister, even after a pay-cut taken some years back, earns more than the U.S. President, the Chancellor of Germany, and the British Prime Minister put together! Little reason left for him to be corrupt then. Strong wages are however of no use if the strong arm is not around to complement it.

Sikkim has already tried out this last trick and has among the better paid officials in the country. Sikkim has already tried out one of the other two options as well, but when will it find the political will to get serious about containing the problem? Of course, these options don't work in isolation, they have to come together. If they do, they can't possibly fail. Will Sikkim be interested?

Of late, there has been another option that desperate people have resorted to; the options which have given us Kejriwal in Delhi, and also, even though they hail from completely different ideologies, Modi in the Centre to a large extent, Trump in the US and Duterte in the Philippines. It is now universally accepted that the interplay of corruption and inequality feeds populism, a populism of a very dangerous kind. When traditional politicians fail to tackle corruption, people will grow cynical and seek out options from the opposite end of the spectrum. People around the world, especially in ill-informed or desperately unequal societies, have been turning to wildly populist and alt-Right leaders who promise to break the cycle of corruption and privilege, win them pride and secure them their place in world. Unfortunately, they almost never deliver. What they end up doing is exacerbating the already vexed situations.

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When the poor sponsor the rich: Rwanda and Arsenal FC

FILIP REYNTJENS
theconversation.com

Rwanda keeps surprising. Recently the Rwandan Development Board signed a sleeve sponsoring deal with London Premier League club, Arsenal. Over a three-year period, the 200 sq centimetre ad "Visit Rwanda" will cost the country USD\$39 million.

President Paul Kagame is known to be a committed Arsenal fan. Recently, he even tweeted that the club needed a new coach after Arsenal's once invincible league and cup winning manager Arsene Wenger's poor record over the past number of seasons. One may suppose that it is a coincidence that the deal was struck just after Wenger's retirement at the end of the 2017/18 season.

Rwanda is the 19th poorest country in the world with a per capita income of around USD\$700. Arsenal is one of the richest football clubs in the world. It's not surprising therefore that the nearly USD\$40 million has upset quite a few people.

Dutch lawmakers, including some from the governing coalition, immediately reacted angrily to the news that such a poor country receiving a great deal of aid from The Netherlands would sponsor one of the world's richest soccer clubs. Similar reactions could be heard in the UK, Rwanda's second largest bilateral donor. An MP described the deal as "an own goal for foreign aid".

In addition, those concerned with democracy and human rights think the deal is sending the wrong message about a country that has a strong authoritarian streak running through it.

The question is: Is Kagame entering into a deal with his favourite club to promote tourism or has he done it to enhance his image and shield him from criticism? He appears to have made the decision off his own bat: the contract appears not to have been discussed in the cabinet and the money does not figure in the budget approved by parliament.

RWANDA'S RATIONALE

For the Rwandan government, the deal is part of a broader strategy to develop tourism, which in 2017 accounted for about 12.7% of GDP and USD\$1 billion of revenue. The country sees upmarket leisure and convention tourism as an important growth sector. It has a lot going for it: lush green landscapes, the mountain gorillas of the Virunga volcanos, the Akagera wildlife park, the tropical Nyungwe forest, idyllic Lake Kivu, and even genocide memorials - all compressed into a space of just 26,000 sq kms.

This strategy is integrated and makes sense on paper. The state has invested heavily in its national airline RwandAir and built the Kigali Convention Centre and high-end hotels. And the development of the new Bugesera International Airport, designed to become a major regional hub, is underway.

But there are doubts about the profitability of



these ventures. For instance, RwandAir has yet to break even 14 years after it was launched. The government keeps it afloat with an annual grant of USD\$50 million just for operations.

Investments in a constantly expanding fleet to cater for an ever growing network of continental and intercontinental destinations require considerable borrowing at a high cost. The fiscal risk involved in the government's strategy is high, and economists wonder how sustainable these outlays will be in the medium term.

Calculations like these are for the Rwandan government to consider. But has Arsenal considered the signal it's giving in light of Kagame's human rights and democracy records?

RISKS FOR ARSENAL

Canadian investigative journalist Judi Rever recently recorded in a book, "In Praise of Blood: The Crimes of the Rwandan Patriotic Front", that the Rwandan regime has massacred tens if not hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, particularly in the 1990s.

And last year Human Rights Watch issued worrying reports about human rights abuses. These included the rounding up and arbitrary detention of poor people in "transit centres" across the country, widespread repression in land cases, extrajudicial killings and unlawful detention and torture in military facilities.

In October 2017 the United Nations subcommittee on Prevention of Torture suspended its visit to Rwanda because of "a series of obstructions imposed by the authorities". It was only the third time in 10 years the subcommittee has done this.

On top of this there has been widespread analysis and commentary on the state of democracy in Rwanda. The country is a de facto one-party state with no meaningful political opposition, no press freedom and no independent civil society.

Kagame's grip on power is absolute and in August last year he was reelected with over 98% of

the vote. A referendum on a constitutional amendment in 2015 gave him the right to stay office until 2034.

Realising that battles are fought in the media as much, if not more than on the ground, Kagame's party, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) has developed a formidable information and communication strategy stretching back to the civil war it launched in October 1990.

Kagame once said:

"We used communication and information warfare better than anyone. We have found a new way of doing things."

This has involved paying those who can help promote the right image, including public relations firms.

POLITICAL ETHICS AND SPORT

True, political ethics and sports don't match well. Until recently FC Barcelona agreed to a Qatar sponsorship that saw the country featured on the team's jerseys. Qatar has a very chequered political record. Due to host the 2022 World Cup, it's known for its notorious human rights abuse, especially when it comes to the rights of migrant workers and women.

Another example is Atlético Madrid which was controversially sponsored by Azerbaijan, where the Euro 2020 football tournament will take place. This east European country has been flagged by Amnesty International for its "crackdown on the right to freedom of expression, particularly following revelations of large-scale political corruption".

Not that it should make any difference, but these two countries are very rich, while Rwanda is very poor.

And I nearly forgot: Many Arsenal fans were opposed to the deal, not because of Rwanda's human rights and democracy records, but because they didn't like the design of the sleeve print.

[the writer is Professor of Law and Politics, Institute of Development Policy and Management (IOB), University of Antwerp]

Villages wiped out: why infectious diseases are so much more harmful to isolated peoples

MAXINE WHITTAKER
theconversation.com

Sadly, as I write this piece, three isolated rural communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are being "invaded" by an infectious disease, Ebola. Such infectious disease disasters remain a major threat to many isolated communities around the world.

Historically, we know of the impact of infectious diseases from the "Old World" (Europe) on the "New World" (everywhere else). But many of these are based on scanty records, historical accounts and occasionally archaeological materials.

It's often hard to confirm the agent, or the actual numbers of cases and deaths. However, all tell the story of major social, cultural and human tragedy, and in some cases decimation of whole villages. There are some well-documented cases of the disproportionate effect of infectious diseases on isolated communities - too many in fact.

ISOLATED PEOPLES AFFECTED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As recently as the 1960s and 1970s when some of the last Amazonian populations were contacted by people from outside their communities, death rates of up to 75% were recorded. These deaths were due to a broad range of infectious diseases, often acting together, and the lack of suitable prevention and care to manage the disease impacts.

In Rio Bio Bio, in Chile, smallpox arrived in 1791 via nomadic traders visiting the community. As the traders moved from chieftom to chieftom, smallpox stayed behind, with

deadly outcomes. Intensifying the transmission were the funerals and wakes held for the chiefs who died. As villagers were unable to define what was happening, witches were blamed.

In 1846, a carpenter from Denmark travelled to the Faroe islands to build houses for the inhabitants. However, he brought with him the measles virus, which spread to 6,000 of the Islands' 7,782 people. Some 8-10% of the infants and the over 60-year-olds died. Most of the homes he had built remained empty.

The supply ship "Harmony" arrived into the Inuit community of Okak (now part of Canada) on November 4, 1918. But within five days of the ship's departure, eight people died from Spanish flu, carried by those on board. By Christmas of that year, the flu had killed 204 of the 263 residents of Okak, which was the largest Inuit community in Labrador.



By summer of the next year, all the survivors had left the area.

On the other side of the world, Yule Island in Papua New Guinea had epidemics of whooping cough in 1909 and 1918, with up to six to seven people in every hundred dying from the disease. In these small communities, influenza struck 20 to 49-year-olds, with a 40% death rate between 1920 and 1960, through six epidemics.

A young Brazilian boy travelled to Yanomano land in Southern Venezuela in 1968. He arrived sick with measles, and within three months, a measles epidemic had spread from this "index case" over hundreds of kilometres of waterways and to 15 villages. Up to 70% of people in these communities were sick and between 10-18% of infected people died.

WHY ARE ISOLATED

POPULATIONS SO VULNERABLE?

The main factor that makes isolated populations so vulnerable to infec-

tious catastrophes is a lack of immunity. Our immune system learns how to defend us by encountering bugs and remembering how to destroy them. This is known as natural exposure. And this exposure not only comes from what our own immune system has learnt, but also our mother's. Through breastfeeding, babies' immune systems pick up some of the mother's antigens, for a time.

In the modern world, perhaps the largest source of "learning" for our immune system is through vaccinations. This is, of course, the premise by which vaccinations work.

In the '70s, the term "virgin soil" epidemics was coined, to describe the devastating effects infectious diseases can have in communities with low immunity.

Some of the additional factors affecting the burden of infectious diseases in these communities include:

- physical factors, such as local access to nutritious foods, what type of housing people have and how many people live close together;
- community factors, such as availability of health care, the level and type of contact with animals (which may be reservoirs of infection), availability of safe water and sanitation;
- household factors, which means crowding of living quarters, food resources available in communities and families, the means of preparation of those foods and their nutritional status;
- cultural factors, including the role of traditional curing techniques may aggravate an illness and cause death, or cause delays in accessing the care that may work. Indigenous

turn to OS



SU Zoology Dept organizes two-day national conference

GANGTOK, 29 MAY [PIB]:

The Department of Zoology Sikkim University organized a two-day National Conference on "Recent Trends in Biological Research and Future Prospects" on 28-29 May.

The inaugural session of the programme was held at the Cauveri Hall of the University on 28 May which was attended amongst others by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang and keynote speaker Prof. W. Vishwanath Singh of Department of Life Sciences, Manipur University.

This is the first National Conference organized by the Department of Zoology. Many eminent biological scientists from different universities like Mizoram University, Manipur University, University of North Bengal, Tripura University and North Eastern Hill University have attended the programme.

Prof. Tamang highlighted the achievements of the Department of Zoology and wished them every success in all their future endeavours.

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@summit-times.com

Governor felicitates nomad shepherd Kalden Singhi

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

Governor Shrinivas Patil felicitated the only Nomad Shepherd of North Sikkim, Kalden Singhi, at Raj Bhavan here today.

The Governor gifted Kalden Singhi a book on Guru Padmasambhava and asked about his welfare. This was in addition to a letter of appreciation sent earlier.

Mr. Singhi was recently awarded the In-



dia Biodiversity Award on International Day for

Biological Diversity on 22 May 2018 for shep-

herding the last flock of Tibetan Highland Sheep

(also known as 'Luk' or 'Bhyanglung') in Sikkim's trans-Himalayan cold desert.

The Award for Conservation of Domesticated Species was presented to him by the Ministry of Forests, Environment, National Biodiversity Authority and UNDP at a national celebration held in Hyderabad.

He was nominated for the same by Sikkim Biodiversity Board (SBB) which has its

headquarters in the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department (FEWMD), and whose members include, among others, the Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services Department (AHLFVSD) of the Government of Sikkim. Last year, Mr. Singhi was awarded Breed Conservation Award by ICAR-NBAGR at Karnal, Haryana.

Green Circle, an envi-

ronment group of Sikkim, has "warmly appreciated" the kind gesture accorded to Kalden Singhi by the Governor, as it will go a long way towards easing some of the hardships endured in maintaining his last flock, a press communiqué from Green Circle conveys.

GC has also thanked the Sikkim Biodiversity Board for nominating him; AHLFVSD officials involved and ICAR, Sikkim. **turn to pg06**

Legal Services Camp organized at Mangalbaria

GYALSHING, 30 MAY

(IPR): Legal Services Camp was organized at Mangalbaria by District Legal Services Authority, West District under the aegis of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority as per the new module of National Legal Services Authority on Tuesday.

Besides free legal aid services, other provisions of law including Alternative Disputes Resolution forums, POCSO Act, rights of children and senior citizens, ill-effects of drugs and alcohol and traffic rules were explained. Officers from Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department also informed the gathering about the various schemes that are available for the senior citizens, widows and unmarried women.

The camp was attended by 400 people.

Assistance was provided in filling up the forms for availing the schemes of old age pen-



sion, widow pension and unmarried women pension and for procuring AAY, PHH and OBL cards for the public. Free legal counselling was also provided to the public by Panel Advocates and applications were also filled up for availing free legal aid and services.

The programme was chaired by Chairperson and District Judge, West, Suraj Chettri and attended by Secretary and Chief Judicial Magistrate, West, Subarna Rai, BDO, Mangalbaria, PK Subba, Revenue Officer, Soreng, BB Rai, Senior Welfare Officer, Santosh Alley,

Food Inspector, Munna Hang, Panel Advocates, ASI Jit Man Subba, Zilla Panchayat, Panchayat members and public of Takuthang-Chuchen GPU, Parengaon GPU, Mabong Sigeng GPU, Khaniserbong-Suntoley GPU and Suldung-Kamling GPU.



Riverfront cleanup reaches Jordhara

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

The 13th day of the riverfront cleanup of Rani Chu and its adjoining tributaries, jhoras and nallahs was conducted at Jordhara Area in 5th Mile, Gangtok. Eco club students and green teacher of Tadong Senior Secondary School 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 Jordhara at 5th Mile was cleaned up actively by the students. An awareness rally to sensitize local people at Tadong along National Highway 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.

Panel discussion on journalism for students of Nepali

YOUGAN TAMANG

GANGTOK, 30 MAY:

A panel discussion and an interactive session on the challenges, opportunities and emerging trends of journalism were held at Nepali Department, Sikkim Central University today.

A panel of four journalists from Sikkim namely Joseph Lepcha [President, Press Club of Sikkim and state correspondent of national daily Dainik Jagran], Rupesh Sharma [Editor, Himali Bela], Anita Niraula [Senior Journalist and former News Reader All India Radio, Gangtok] and Yougan Tamang [Co-Founder/Editor Sikkim Chronicle] discussed and highlighted various aspects of journalism in Sikkim to the

students particularly of 4th and 2nd semester, M.Phil and Ph.D. scholars.

Joseph Lepcha while addressing the students highlighted on the advent of journalism in Sikkim and stressed on the transition, challenges of the print media and the future prospects of print journalism while Rupesh Sharma highlighted the importance and the relation of literature with journalism and the need for vernacular language journalists in Sikkim. He focused on how the state is running short of vernacular journalists and thus talked about the opportunities for the students of Nepali in future.

Anita Niraula spoke on the ethics of journalism and the emerging trends of

media. She highlighted the importance of radio and the challenges being faced by broadcast journalism. She stressed on the importance of unbiased reporting.

Yougan Tamang spoke on how digital media/social media is emerging in the state and country. He highlighted the opportunities, challenges and pros and cons of social media. He also stressed on the fact that vernacular journalism can also play a vital role in digital media and thus encouraged students to not limit themselves in any way.

After the panel discussion, the students also interacted with the panelists and asked various questions related to literature and journalism.

The panel discussion and interactive session was an idea conceptualized and organised by Dr. Kavita Lama [Associate Professor, Nepali Department, Sikkim Central University].

"We should not limit students to just text books and theories. Rather we should help them comprehend the approaches of journalism by getting them to listen to journalists on the field. We should help them understand the relation between literature and journalism as well," said Ms Lama.

The session was also attended by Dr. Aruna Rai [Assistant Professor] and Deo Chandra Subba [Assistant Professor, Nepali Department, Sikkim Central University].

Paichan Foundation to take out a peace...

contd from pg03

stead make them available free of cost at every corner of the country on Independence Day and Republic Day.

The organisation has now also raise the demand for provision of basic education on law in schools from classes IX to XII to help them to know their rights.

To press these demands, Paichan Foundation president, Mizoram Subba, has announced a peace rally on 01 Jun from Sombaria in West Sikkim to Gangtok. He will be joined by seven other members of the foundation.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Subba stressed that the Centre should make laws on these issues to pay full respect to the national flag. He informed that the foundation will document the rally along with their demands for presentation at the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr Subba stated that if these demands are not fulfilled then he will sit on a hunger strike in Delhi.

Mr Subba had undertaken a hunger strike from 23 Mar to 04 Apr earlier this year at Ram-lila Maidan in Delhi and had also submitted a memorandum of his two-point demand to the Prime Minister's Office on 04 Apr.

Villages wiped out...

contd from pg04

medical knowledge can be lost over the years. And fear of the "unknown" or stigma may affect care-seeking behaviours;

- politico-economic factors, such as social structure and political organisation can affect who has access to many of the above factors. Critical to survival of the communities is the social structure and leadership to harness the community reactions and lifesaving responses to the "invasion". When several cases occur in the same house, secondary cases become more intensively exposed than the primary case. Many of these communities may be experiencing several infectious at the same time - these infections can then act together and increase the severity of each of them.

This "amplification effect" is exacerbated by large family sizes and crowded living conditions, often found in isolated communities.

A paper from the '90s also found small communities may be worse affected by outbreaks if they had not experienced one for a long time:

"Small communities may remain disease free for relatively long periods, but then, lack of exposure to infection

leads to a build-up of susceptibles, so then when a disease is re-introduced from outside, it is associated with high mortality in children and adults."

The paper also found this can have an effect on fertility rates, if suitable marriage partners in these communities are lost. With few new children born and high rates of death, communities often do not remain viable.

Lessons have also been identified from examining these "first contact" or virgin soil epidemics. Global changes such as agricultural intensification, biodiversity loss and climate changes are effective drivers of infectious diseases.

There are estimated to be at least 50 indigenous groups spread across lowland South America that remain isolated, with only intermittent interactions with the "outside" world.

When contact occurs, it needs to be supported by access to food, water, treatment, shelter, security and health-care workers for a sustained period to prevent extinction, and ensure their human rights to health, protection and their land are assured.

[the writer is Dean, Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, James Cook University]



KASS completes painting drive at Riverine Elementary School

SINGTAM, 30 MAY: Artists from Krypton Arts Society of Sikkim [KASS], Singtam, led by their president, Kripesh Singh, their painting/ beautification drive at Riverine Elementary School in Rongli, East Sikkim, on 29 May. [from YOGEN THATAL]

Menstrual Hygiene Day observed by RM&DD

GANGTOK, 30 MAY

(IPR): With an aim to create awareness on issues related to menstrual hygiene and to break the taboo of openly discussing this issue, Rural Management & Development Department observed the Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May at Jana-ta Bhawan in Gangtok. The programme was anchored by ESS India, an organization committed to work towards menstrual hygiene management at the grass root level.

Speaking on the occasion, Special Secretary cum Mission Director [SBM Gramin], RM&DD, Anil Raj Rai, stressed upon the importance of Menstrual Hygiene and to further discussions on this pertinent issue at the community level.

President, ESS India, Upashna Khawas, elaborated on the need to move beyond sanitary napkins and presented to the audience the advantages of menstrual cups. She further highlighted that the ESS India team will in the



next month start a pilot project to sensitize schools, falling under rural Sikkim, on Sustainable Menstrual Hygiene Management.

The programme also had the representation of 'Prerna', an NGO from Darjeeling working in the field of sustainable menstrual

hygiene management. The representative from the NGO elaborated on their work in menstrual hygiene in the hills of Darjeeling.

The programme had an open-house session where several interesting questions came forth on menstrual hygiene, the related issues and sustainable alternatives of menstrual hygiene management.

A session on Mental Health was also part of the programme wherein Psychologist, STNM Hospital, Sonam Tongden, briefed the audience on the various types of mental illnesses, their symptoms and also provided suggestions on how they can be treated.



FC Pune City and coach Popovic part ways

PUNE, MAY 30 (PTI): Indian Super League franchise FC Pune City and its head coach Ranko Popovic have parted ways.

The Serbian manager, who guided the team to semifinals in 2017-18 season, opted to call it a day with the Stallions as he is looking for new challenges.

The decision was announced by a media release issued by the club today.

The former Real Zaragoza and Buriram United FC coach joined the Indian side in September 2017 and made a lasting impression, helping FC Pune City breach the top-four barrier for the first time.

"The decision to part ways is one of the most toughest I have had to made for a while. The professionalism of the management and the fans' support made my job here a memorable one and I wish the club all the best for the future," said Popovic.

FC Pune City CEO Gaurav Modwel said that the name of the new head coach will be announced in duo course of time.

BUENOS AIRES, MAY 30 (PTI): Lionel Messi warmed up for next month's FIFA World Cup with a hat-trick as he inspired Argentina to a morale-boosting 4-0 win over Haiti in a pre-tournament friendly here.

Messi scored a quickfire second-half double (58th and 68th minutes) to add to a first-half (17th minute) penalty, before setting up substitute Sergio Aguero (69th) as Jorge Sampaoli's side hammered the Caribbean minnows in their final phase of preparations for the showpiece event.

With this hat-trick, the FC Barcelona talisman took his international tally to 64 goals in 124 appearances.

The Albicelestes, who are two-time world champions, had struggled throughout the qualifying campaign but the thoroughly dominating



display here should boost their confidence even though the win came against a side

that has not qualified for the World Cup.

Haiti could not even reg-

ister a shot at the goal in the whole match.

It was a night of celebra-

tion for another Barcelona star as Javier Mascherano joined Javier Zanetti as Argentina's most capped player with 143 international appearances.

"I have no doubt that we are going to grow, we have time, this team is going to take shape. We have been working hard on the physical, I think we have a nice opportunity to try again, we are going to be very excited, as always," Messi said after the match.

Argentina play Iceland in Moscow in their first match of the World Cup on June 16.

Sampaoli was upbeat about his superstar No. 10, saying, "Messi is training very well, he finished the Spanish tournament and two days later he was here, he looks very enthusiastic".

"Against Iceland we will

have to take advantage of the domain, we need a high level of force in the World Cup."

In other friendly matches, Peru eased past Scotland 2-0 in Lima while Panama were held to a goal-less draw at home by Northern Ireland.

Peru were the dominant side over an inexperienced Scotland with goals either side of half-time.

Christian Cueva converted a spot-kick eight minutes before the break, while Jefferson Farfan added the second just after the resumption. There was a celebratory atmosphere in Panama City, but no goals for local fans to cheer.

Panama came closest to breaking the deadlock against Northern Ireland, but Edgar Joel Barcenás saw his first-half header come back off the crossbar.

Park eyes US Women's Open, 20 years on from Pak

MIAMI, MAY 30 (AFP): World number one Park In-bee will take a low-key approach to the women's US Open tomorrow as she aims to cement the legacy of compatriot Pak Se-ri with her eighth major title.

Twenty years ago, Pak blazed a trail for Korean golfers when she stormed to victory in the 1998 US Open, a spectacular triumph that encouraged many of her compatriots to take up the sport.

"Back in '98, I was really just a kid," Park said Tuesday. "My dad was really a big fan of golf. He was watching golf and watching Se-ri play. I remember my dad getting really excited very early



in the morning.

"After that there was a big golf boom in Korea and a lot of the girls my age were starting to play golf. I was one of them."

In 1998, Pak was the sole South Korean golfer plying her trade on the LPGA Tour. There are now more than 50 Korean players on the LPGA, and last year Korean women picked up three of the five majors on offer.

Unsurprisingly, world

number one Park will start as the player to beat at Shoal Creek Gold and Country Club in Alabama.

The 29-year-old Olympic champion, a US Open winner in 2008 and 2013, has prepared for this week's challenge by playing in Korea. She warmed up for the Open with victory in the Doo-san Match Play Championship on May 20.

"Obviously, winning in front of a lot of fans in Korea was a big thing," she said.

"It was a match play, so I played seven rounds in five days. So that was very tough. I was proud of myself that I have done

it in the match play."

Park believes she has benefited from a rest after that win, but remains mindful of a crowded field of contenders.

The last 12 majors have been won by 12 different players, highlighting the depth of the women's game and the LPGA Tour. "Coming into the major, there is a lot of notable players that haven't won this year and they are looking to win," Park said.

"(On the LPGA Tour) You don't see the same players every week up on the leaderboard. You see some kind of different levels of players, a variety of players on the leaderboard."

Park has travelled to

the United States accompanied only by her husband. She said she had welcomed the opportunity to "do nothing" on a rare day off on Monday.

"I kind of needed some time to rest and do nothing," she said. "I don't have to worry about anything and do anything."

One of the biggest challenges to Park's hopes could come from Lexi Thompson. The world number three's long game could give her a crucial edge this week on a course which has been drenched with rain.

"I would say definitely it's an advantage to be longer," Thompson acknowledged. "The course is playing very long.



Saga Dawa at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL

Singtam, 30 May: On the occasion of Saga Dawa on Tuesday, hundreds of devotees from various backgrounds and religions participated in a huge rally which started from the Gumpa at Shanti Nagar, went around Singtam Bazaar and returned to the Gumpa.

Governor felicitates nomad shepherd Kalden Singhi...

contd from pg05

kin, headed by Dr RK Avasthe, whose scientist Dr. Brijesh Kumar carried out studies on his sheep. GC has also thanked the Lachen Biodiversity Management Committee and Forest officials of North Division for their role in documenting Kalden Singhi's work.

"We recognize that the high cold pastures bordering the North of Sikkim are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Dept. where globally threatened species of wildlife like Snow Leopard and Tibetan Argali, even Black-necked

Cranes live in harmony with equally endangered domesticated animals like Yak and Luk, in an area which is home to various medicinal plants and highland wetlands forming the source of River Tista and hope that the various stakeholders of this unique landscape continue to play their part in reviving the last population of this indigenous sheep breed whose wool or fleece is amongst the best obtained from native ovine breeds of the Indian subcontinent," press release from Usha Lachungpa, president, Green Circle, Sikkim, concludes.

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Chinese-owned Mediapro grab French football TV rights in mega 1bn euro offer

PARIS, MAY 30 (AFP): Chinese-owned Mediapro crashed French football's television rights party in style, snapping up the right to broadcast Ligue 1 matches domestically for the period 2020 to 2024 for 1.153 billion euros (1.33 billion) annually, the French league (LFP) announced.

"It was a successful bidding process, with a significant increase of our TV rights," said LFP president Nathalie Boy de la Tour, with the existing deal for 2016 to 2020 valued at 726.5 million euros.

Based in Spain but owned by the Chinese private equity fund Orient Hontai, Mediapro snapped up the leading packages put up for auction on Tuesday as longtime French football broadcaster Canal+ was left empty-handed.

"It's a historic turning point," said



Didier Quillot, the French league's chief executive.

"We haven't quite had time to crack open the Champagne, but we're happy. It proves that our football is getting better, and broadcasters are starting to recognise that too.

"Our football is now more entertaining, we have a seven percent increase in attendances at stadiums and television audiences are up 25 %."

Sources close to the case said broadcasters who missed out during the tender process could strike sub-licensing deals with the majority rights holders in order to show matches.

Two lower-level packages of the seven total match bundles were not awarded after the reserve price wasn't met, the LFP said, and will be put up for sale again before the end of the year.

"We launched a tender that some

said was complicated, but in reality it was simply more sophisticated and pushed the prices higher during the auction," added Quillot, in comments on RMC radio.

"We've always said that the Ligue 1 was undervalued." It is now expected that Mediapro create a channel specifically for French football.

The new deal represents more than a 60 percent increase on the current one and brings the French league in line with its European rivals, ahead of both Spain and Italy but slightly behind Germany.

The English Premier League remains well ahead of the competition with its existing deal worth 2.3 billion euros per season for the 2016-19 cycle.

Tiger can still beat my record- Nicklaus

DUBLIN (UNITED STATES), MAY 30 (AFP): Jack Nicklaus said he believes Tiger Woods can still overhaul his record of 18 Major Championship victories.

Woods last won a major almost exactly 10 years ago, when he battled to a memorable playoff win at the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines in Southern California.

That victory left him four shy of Nicklaus's tally of 18 majors, a target that has looked increasingly beyond Woods in recent years during long injury layoffs.

Nicklaus however, who will host this week's Memorial tournament in Ohio, said he is convinced Woods can win Majors again after playing with him on Monday at Shinnecock Hills, the venue for the 2018 US Open.

"While Tiger has not had that much fun the last 10-years, and I would hate to go through what he's been through as he's been through a lot, but he's a hard



worker, he's a tough competitor and he's still driven, so that's why I would never count him out," said the 79-year-old Nicklaus.

"Nobody ever said 'how's your record, Jack?' as I've always said that if Tiger comes back and plays then I've said he's still got a shot at

breaking my record.

"Whether he does or he doesn't, and even with now 10-years passing it doesn't make any difference he's

still a great athlete and a great golfer."

But while Woods has not tasted success since 2013 in capturing a remarkable eighth WGC - Bridgestone Invitational title, Nicklaus does believe Woods needs to learn how to win again.

"Tiger does need to learn how to win again, absolutely," said Nicklaus "I recall in the '86 Masters I hadn't won for a couple of years and I got to the last round, and I got into the back nine after struggling on the front nine but then I made a putt on nine and I finally remembered how to play.

"So, in holing a couple of putts suddenly you remember particularly if you have been a champion at one time as you will remember and you will have that to draw on.

"That's what I had to draw on and Tiger has that also to draw on but he's got to through the barrier of not having done it for a while.

"When you haven't won for a

while that always happens. That's just human nature but when you have a guy as good as Tiger is and as competitive as he is, he'll break through that barrier and I would not be surprised to see Tiger win this week.

"He loves this golf course and he's played well here in the past, and his remembrance of what he's done here will come back into his head.

"That will help him play better."

The 42-year old Woods has returned to the Nicklaus hosted Memorial for a first occasion since 2015 to tee-up in what will be his ninth event of 2018, and for a first occasion since sharing 11th place earlier this month in the Players Championship.

Woods first won the Memorial in 1999 and then successfully defended his title in both 2000 and 2001 before winning for a fourth occasion in 2009 and a fifth title in 2012.

Ukraine blames Russia for murder of anti-Kremlin journalist

KIEV, MAY 30 (AFP): Ukraine charged today that Russia's "totalitarian machine" was behind the murder of anti-Kremlin reporter Arkady Babchenko, prompting Moscow to furiously deny the blame.

A prominent Russian war correspondent famous for his fierce tirades against Moscow, Babchenko was shot dead on Tuesday evening in an apparent contract-style killing in the stairwell of his building in Kiev. The 41-year-old had moved to the Ukrainian capital last year following a campaign of harassment in Moscow.

He was the latest Kremlin critic living in Kiev to be killed in less than two years.

Ukrainian police have opened a probe into premeditated murder, saying they suspected the crime was linked to his "professional activities".

"I am convinced that the Russian totalitarian machine did not forgive him his honesty and principled stance," Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said late Tuesday.

"A true friend of Ukraine who was telling the world the truth about Russian aggression. His murderers should be punished." An aide to the Ukrainian interior minister, Anton Geraschenko, also pointed the finger at Moscow, writing on Facebook: "The Putin regime targets those it cannot break or intimidate."

He said the Ukrainian government should ensure the safety of Babchenko's family.

Many politicians and observers including Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin suggested Russia wanted to sow chaos in the country -- already wracked by a four-year conflict with pro-Russian rebels in the east -- ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections next year.

Ties between Russia and Ukraine were shredded after a popular uprising ousted a Kremlin-backed president in Kiev in 2014 and Russia annexed Crimea and moved to support insurgents in the east of the former Soviet state.

Russian authorities furiously denied the blame, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov saying it was "very sad" Moscow had been accused of murdering the reporter. "The Ukrainian prime minister is already talking about how it was done by Russian secret services," he said.

"This fashion of conducting international affairs is very sad," Lavrov told reporters. Investigators in Moscow opened their own probe.

"The Investigative Committee is not going to turn a blind eye to the cruel crimes against Russian citizens," it said in a statement. Ukrainian police spokesman Yaroslav Trakalo said Babchenko was found bleeding by his wife after she heard shooting, adding that he died in an ambulance on his way to hospital.

Modi, Widodo visit Istiqlal Mosque

JAKARTA, MAY 30 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid a visit to Indonesia's grand Istiqlal Mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia, during his first official visit to the country.

Prime Minister Modi was accompanied by Indonesia President Joko Widodo during his visit to the mosque which was built to commemorate Indonesian independence and opened to the public in 1978.

"Glad to have visited the Istiqlal Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world," Modi said in a tweet.

"Ramadan Karim! Indonesian President @jokowi accompanied PM



@narendramodi during a visit to Istiqlal Mosque, the national mosque of Indonesia and the largest in southeast Asia, in the holy month of Ramadan," Ministry of External Af-

fairs Spokesperson Ravesh Kumar tweeted.

Istiqlal Mosque is the largest mosque in Southeast Asia and the third largest Sunni mosque in term of capacity. It is

named 'Istiqlal', an Arabic word for "independence".

Positioned next to Merdeka Square and the Jakarta Cathedral, the mosque was built after 17 years of construction and

can accommodate over 120,000 worshippers.

Among foreign dignitaries who have visited the mosque in the past include former US Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, Britain's Prince Charles, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and King Salman of Saudi Arabia.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population followed by Pakistan and India.

Modi arrived in the Indonesian capital Jakarta yesterday on the first leg of his three-nation tour to East Asia during which he will also travel to Malaysia and Singapore to further boost India's Act East Policy.



Saudi Arabia outlaws sexual harassment

RIYADH, MAY 30 (AFP): Saudi Arabia has passed a new law to criminalise sexual harassment, state media said today, less than a month before the conservative kingdom lifts its decades-long ban on women driving.

The kingdom's Shura Council, which advises the cabinet, passed a draft law on Monday which would introduce a prison term of up to five years and a maximum penalty of 300,000 riyals (80,000).

The law has been approved by the cabinet, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It is "a very important addition to the history of regulations in the kingdom", Shura Council member Latifa al-Shaalan was quoted as saying in an information ministry statement.

"It fills a large legislative vacuum, and it is a deterrent," she added.

The new law appears to be in preparation for the historic lifting of the kingdom's driving ban on women on June 24.

The move is part of a highly publicised liberalisation drive launched by powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has also ended a decades-long ban on cinemas, allowed mixed-gender concerts and clipped the powers of the long-feared religious police.

But the social reforms appear overshadowed by the recent arrests of at least 11 activists, mostly identified by rights groups as veteran women campaigners for the right to drive and to end the conservative country's male guardianship system.

Without naming those detained, authorities have accused them of "suspicious contact with foreign parties", providing financial support to "enemies" and attempting to undermine the kingdom's "security and stability".

Reports in state-backed media branded some of the detainees traitors and "agents of embassies".

At least four detained activists were released last week, campaigners including Amnesty International said, but the fate of the others remains unclear.

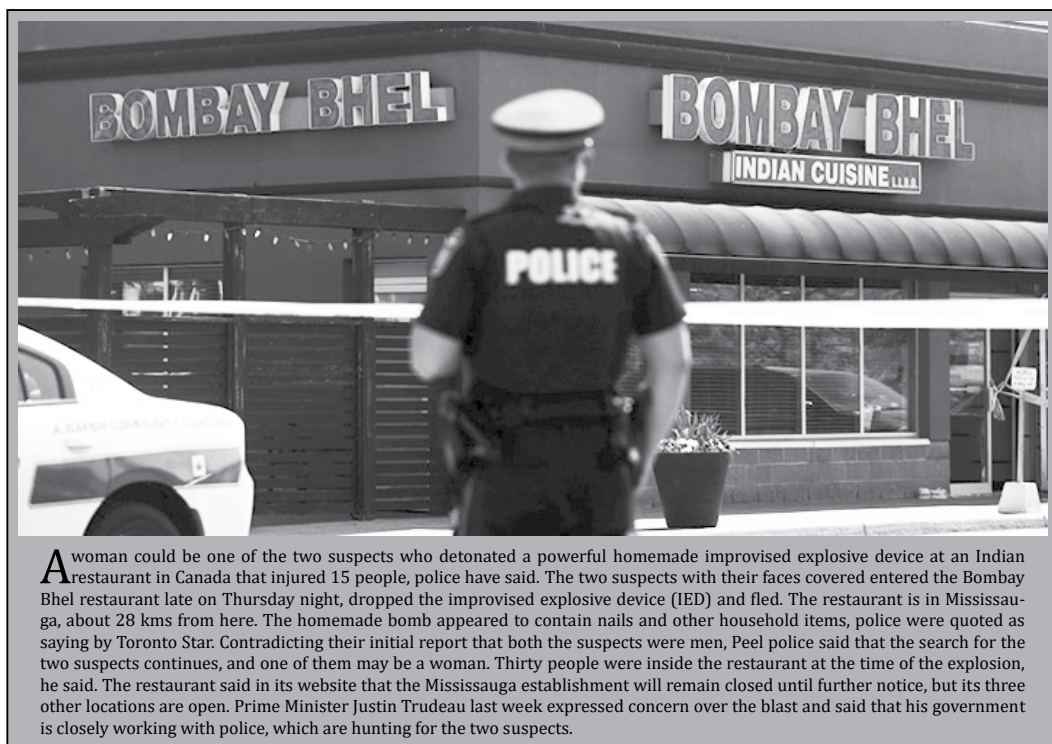
"Given the significant loosening of certain restrictions on women's activities in Saudi Arabia... it is perplexing why both women and men engaged in campaigning for such positive developments are now being targeted by the authorities," the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said Tuesday.

"If, as it appears, their detention is related solely to their work as human rights defenders and activists on women's issues, they should be released immediately." Aside from the driving activists, authorities last week also arrested Mohammed al-Bajadi, co-founder of the Association for Civil and Political Rights (ACPRA), one of the few independent human rights groups in Saudi Arabia, campaigners said.

Human Rights Watch on Wednesday reported the arrest of a second rights activist, but added that he was subsequently released.

"The Saudi government seems so consumed with silencing dissent that even activists who have gone quiet for fear of retribution are being targeted again," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at HRW.

Saudi officials have so far not responded to requests for comment on the crackdown.



A woman could be one of the two suspects who detonated a powerful homemade improvised explosive device at an Indian restaurant in Canada that injured 15 people, police have said. The two suspects with their faces covered entered the Bombay Bhel restaurant late on Thursday night, dropped the improvised explosive device (IED) and fled. The restaurant is in Mississauga, about 28 kms from here. The homemade bomb appeared to contain nails and other household items, police were quoted as saying by Toronto Star. Contradicting their initial report that both the suspects were men, Peel police said that the search for the two suspects continues, and one of them may be a woman. Thirty people were inside the restaurant at the time of the explosion, he said. The restaurant said in its website that the Mississauga establishment will remain closed until further notice, but its three other locations are open. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last week expressed concern over the blast and said that his government is closely working with police, which are hunting for the two suspects.

Belgium shooting rampage was terrorist act, prosecutors say

BRUSSELS, MAY 30 (AP): The man who killed three people during a knife and shooting rampage through the Belgian city of Liege carried out an act of "terrorist murder," prosecutors said today, and authorities were trying to establish whether he acted alone.

Benjamin Herman, an inmate on a two-day release, attacked two female police officers with a knife from behind, stabbing them repeatedly, before stealing their weapons and shooting them as they lay on the ground, officials said.

Crossing the road, he fired several shots at a 22-year old man who was a passenger in a car, killing him. Herman then took at least one woman hostage at a nearby school. When police closed in, he ran out onto the sidewalk firing and police fatally shot him. He yelled "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for God is great, several times during the rampage, authorities said.

Belgian federal magistrate Wenke Roggen said today that the attack was considered "terrorist murder." She said it's being treated as terrorism given the way Herman acted, which she says resembled Islamic State calls via video to attack police with knives and steal their weapons, the fact that he yelled "Allahu Akbar" and was in contact with radicalised people.

Earlier, Interior Minister Jan Jambon confirmed that Herman had already killed another person the day before the attack. Jambon also said that the woman he took hostage may have talked the shooter down and



helped to avoid more deaths inside the school.

"He also committed a murder the night before," Jambon told broadcaster RTL. Jambon confirmed that the fourth victim was a former inmate who did prison time with Herman. Herman is alleged to have killed the man on Monday evening by hitting him over the head with a blunt object.

Jambon, Prime Minister Charles Michel and King Philippe visited the woman in hospital, where she was being

treated for shock.

"She was very courageous and perhaps, but this we will have to verify, she helped avoid more victims in the school," Jambon said.

The minister said an investigation has been launched into the incident, including the circumstances surrounding his release from prison.

"It's really an isolated case. He wasn't part of a network, he didn't receive instructions from anyone else, so there is no need to raise the terror threat alert

level," Jambon said, adding that investigators have no precise information that any other attacks might be likely.

Amid questions about how two officers could have been disarmed, Jambon praised the work of all involved, saying "the police did an extraordinary job."

"They reacted well. All the systems, all the procedures worked. But if you are attacked from behind, as was the case with the two officers, you can't do anything," he said.

Anthyesthi Kriya



The 12th day Anthyesthi Kriya of our beloved mother **Late Dhan Maya Pradhan** who left for her heavenly abode on Tuesday the 22nd of May 2018 falls on **Saturday the 2nd of June 2018**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Melli Dara, Near School, South Sikkim**.

Prem Bahadur Pradhan and Shira Kumar Pradhan (Sons), Kumari Pradhan and Indra Kumari Gurung (Daughters-in-law), Kunti Pradhan and Shanti Pradhan (Daughters), Tilak Bahadur Pradhan (Husband)
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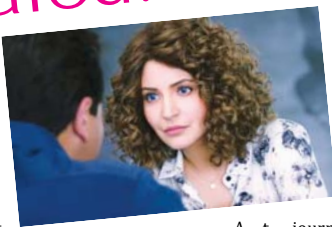


STYLISH STAR Emilia Clarke put on a head-turning show as she stepped out in New York on Tuesday night for the American Songbook Gala at Lincoln Center.

Revealed!

Anushka Sharma's character in Sanju is not something that you expected!

Ranbir Kapoor's Sanju is one of the most interesting films of the year. The film based on Sanjay Dutt's life showcases a lot of his friends, actresses, his ex wives and girlfriends too. We know which characters Paresh Rawal (Sunil Dutt), Sonam Kapoor (his ex girlfriend), Vicky Kaushal (his best friend) and Dia Mirza (Manyata Dutt) play in Sanju. But everyone was curious to know what role Anushka Sharma plays? We knew that Anushka plays the only fictional character in the movie. But what part does she play? Well, it is finally out and it is something that you really never expected.



At the Sanju trailer launch, director Rajkumar Hirani revealed, "Anushka Sharma is basically me and Vidhu Vinod Chopra in the movie. She plays a biographer in the movie. Sanju narrates his story and tries to convince her to write a book on him. But the twist is that she does not want to write it! In real life, Sanju was telling me and Vidhu his story and convincing us to showcase everything in the film. But we have to make a film short and crisp, so we had

to cut out few portions. We were also like biographers. So Anushka is basically me and Vidhu while making Sanju." Earlier it was reported that she plays a journalist in the film, but learning that she is a biographer is really surprising, isn't it?

In the meantime, the Sanju trailer has stolen everyone's hearts. Ranbir's class act and Sanjay Dutt's emotional journey will surely melt your hearts. Anushka also has a standout part in the film and we can't wait to see this movie. Anyway, with the film set to release on June 29, stay tuned to BollywoodLife as we get you all the dope and updates about Sanju right here.

ASHTON KUTCHER'S THORN SAVES 6,000 CHILD VICTIMS OF HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING...

Ashton Kutcher's non-profit organization Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children identified almost 6,000 child victims of human sex trafficking last year, it has emerged.

The 40-year-old actor, co-founded Thorn, originally known as DNA Foundation, with ex-wife Demi Moore in 2009. The organisation helps fight child sex exploitation.

Impact reports from the organisation for 2017 show that Thorn's software allowed law enforcement and investigators to identify 5,791 child sex trafficking victims.

They were able to rescue 103 children from situations where sexual abuse of them was recorded and sold on.

The organisation's manifesto is "Until every child can be a kid."

Thorn uses web application Spotlight which provides law enforcement with information and leads on suspected human trafficking networks, and ads which may be children, in order to identify and recover victims.

It is now used by 5,000 officers in all 50 states and Canada.

In 2016, during an appearance on the Today show, the actor said "We've identified and recovered more than 6,000 trafficking victims this year. We identified and recovered more than 2,000 traffickers."

He also stated his next mission was to eliminate child pornography from the internet.

In February 2017 Kutcher travelled to Washington D.C to give an impassioned speech during a hearing at the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee where he spoke about his work fighting against human trafficking and saving children from sexual abuse.

Kutcher flew out to Washington a week before Shine a Light on Slavery



Day, a day created by the End It organization to raise awareness on the issue.

The famous romcom actor became emotional during his powerful speech, stating his goal was to "defend the right to pursue happiness". "But the right to pursue happiness, for so many, is stripped away. It's raped. It's abused. It's taken by force, fraud, or coercion. It is sold for the momentary happiness of another," he said.

Kutcher described his experiences as chairman of the organization saying he has met victims from Russia, India, and parts of the US and has been on FBI raids where he saw things "no person should ever see."

He was seen holding back tears as he described a time that he watched a video of a child the same age as his own, being raped by an American man who was sex tourist in Cambodia.

Kutcher also added that his organization was the "last line of defense" in helping the Department of Homeland

Security trying to locate a seven-year-old girl that was being sexually abused in content that was circulating around the dark web.

"This is the part where Internet trolls start telling me to stick to my day job," he said.

After detailing his harrowing experiences on the job, Kutcher added: "That's my day job, and I'm sticking to it."

The actor is married to actress and former co-star, Mila Kunis. The couple have two children, daughter Wyatt, three, and son Dimitri, 18 months.

He told 48 Hours last month: "You can roll up your sleeves and go try to be like a hero and save one person or you can build a tool that allows one person to save a lot of people," he said in the episode. "And our algorithms are getting better — we're getting smarter — we're getting the tool in more people's hands."

The star also admitted that he has trouble talking about human trafficking without getting emotional.

Hope issue of ban on 'Kaala' release in K'taka will be solved: Rajini

CHENNAI, MAY 30 (PTI): Superstar Rajinikanth today expressed hope that the issue of a ban on the release of his upcoming film "Kaala" in Karnataka will be solved amicably by the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce.

Miffed with his comments on the Cauvery row, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce yesterday decided not to allow the screening of the film, which is slated to release on June 7.

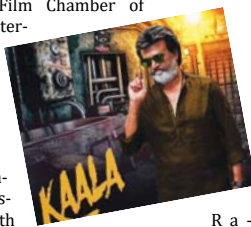
The Karnataka film industry is upset with Rajinikanth's report- ed statement that whichever government comes to power in Karnataka, it should implement the Supreme Court order on Cauvery water sharing.

Speaking to reporters here prior to his visit to Tuticorin to meet survivors of a police firing on anti-Sterlite protestors last week, Rajinikanth said the Karnataka chamber was part of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce.

"The Karnataka chamber is part of the South Indian Film Chamber (of Commerce). Definitely they will intervene and solve it amicably," he said.

KFCC president Sa Ra Govindu had said yesterday that it has been decided not to screen Rajinikanth's film in Karnataka.

"A decision has been taken that Rajinikanth's movie will neither be distributed nor screened anywhere in Karnataka," he had said.



Sonam Kapoor on Kareena Kapoor Khan!

Someone as committed and talented as she is, deserves a team that waits for her...

In late 2017, reports were rife on how Kareena Kapoor Khan was planning to quit Veere Di Wedding due to her pregnancy. It was shocking to read reports that the soon-to-be mommy, Kareena, has quit the film citing health issues. However, BollywoodLife had an exclusive update that the pretty actress was still on board and her pregnancy was never really a hurdle for her. Of course, the movie got delayed after the actress' pregnancy but producers were always adamant on having her in the lead.

Sonam, in her latest interaction with Mumbai Mirror, revealed why replacing Bebo was never an option they considered. Sonam said, "We were very open to shooting with Kareena even when she was pregnant. Unfortunately, you cannot get insurance if you're pregnant and making a film without insurance is impossible. We did not know about this before."

She further added, "As women, we need to stand by each other in every way possible. After Kareena said 'yes' to Veere Di Wedding, there were other actresses who wanted to do the role and we could have gone ahead with anybody else. But she was the best fit



for the role, the first choice, and an irreplaceable part of the film. Someone as committed and talented as she is, deserves a team that waits for her."

Meanwhile, Sonam's Veere Di Wedding will clash with her brother, Harshvardhan Kapoor's Bhavesh Joshi Superhero on June 1. While we expected these siblings to worry about the box office clash, seems like they are far away from it. The actor in fact had a logical reasoning behind this clash. He said, "The films belong to two completely different worlds. It's a great date for both of them because it's the first weekend after the end of the country's biggest cricketing league. With dad, Arjun (Kapoor, cousin), Jahnvi (Kapoor, cousin) and many other siblings working round-the-clock at the movies, there are bound to be more overlaps in the future."

ARIES: You finally understand that the force of your will can't always determine everything. Aries. Your ego is taking a beating, no doubt, but this will help you mature. You accept being wrong and willingly revise your judgment when necessary. In a way, you've just finished your first year at a university for wisdom!

TAURUS: You're currently stuck between two strong desires - the desire to create for your own pleasure and the desire to please others. You come by this latter urge naturally, as it's part of your character. It will understandably be difficult for you to resolve this dissonance. The solution for you

comes from asking why you feel such a strong need to be appreciated.

GEMINI: You may feel more of an urge than ever to search for your family roots. Your search could be so deep and intense that you may even go beyond genealogy and study archeology as a way to learn how to bring some cohesion to the odd bits and pieces of family remnants that you uncover.

CANCER: Today you may be impressed by the powers of concentration and self-discipline of one of your friends. There's a lesson to be learned from your admiring stance, though. The fact that you recognize these

qualities in others means that you're making progress. Don't be shy, Cancer. Strut your stuff!

LEO: Confidence and efficiency are the day's themes. Do you long to bring your romantic involvement to the next level? Do you wish your partner would consent to a more profound commitment? You can take advantage of the energy from today's aspects to give your future a gentle nudge in the right direction, Leo.

VIRGO: The relative tranquillity you enjoy today lets you listen more attentively to your inner self. You're well aware of the toll you pay when you try to ignore those nudges of intuition you

sometimes feel. If you're alone at some point today, Virgo, take advantage of the time to evaluate the events of the past few days. You may gain some insight into what's troubling you.

LIBRA: You can look forward to an enjoyable day, Libra. Neither family matters nor career issues will cloud your spirit, as everything seems to be proceeding smoothly and according to plan. Moreover, the day's aspects seem to be inviting you to be a little more adventurous than usual. Any artistic or romantic undertaking will be especially fulfilling.

SCORPIO: There's no doubt that today will be excellent,

Scorpio. You can find satisfaction that puts a smile on your face and boosts your morale. There's the likelihood that you're challenging some of your core values. While it's true that these values have stabilized your life, you may be starting to feel they're less relevant. Approval from loved ones gives you the assurance that anything is possible.

SAGITTARIUS: The forecast is wonderful today, Sagittarius. You may have been asking yourself a thousand questions about what will become of you, especially in terms of your career. It's as though all your experience so far no longer make sense. The positive aspect of that obser-

vation will energize you today. Live for the moment, be in the present, and know that anything is possible in the future.

CAPRICORN: Admit it, Capricorn. You have a tendency to run away from conflict in relationships. This can get you into some complicated situations. You don't always dare say what you think, and this can block your energy and determination. Try to stop yourself from running away today. Take responsibility for your opinions. Don't be afraid to voice them.

AQUARIUS: Do you feel that your power has increased, Aquarius? You may not know what to do with this newfound strength.

Try looking at how you relate to your friends. Could you improve your relationships? Using power is something that one learns over time. If you let it stagnate, it will create some stubborn obstacles. "Use it or lose it" applies in this instance.

PISCES: You may feel that your current relationships are more complicated than ever, Pisces. This is because you're going through a period when many planets are trying to shed light on your hidden motivations. When you're finished analyzing and have an understanding of what really drives you, your relationships will seem much simpler.