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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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Sikkim Summit for Tribal Status kicks off

UNTIL SIKKIMESE
NEPALESE ARE
PROTECTED,
SIKKIM WON'T BE
PROTECTED: CM

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

"UNTIL THE Sikkimese Nepalese are protected, Sikkim won't be protected," Chief Minister Pawan Chamling said while addressing the gathering at Sikkim Summit for Tribal Status 2018, at Manan Kendra in the capital today.

The Sikkim State Commission for Backward Classes and the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare, Government of Sikkim, in association with the Eleven Indigenous Ethnic Communities of Sikkim [EIECOS] kicked off the two-day National level summit here in the capital today.

The Chief Minister stressed on the need for the Government of India to expedite the process to grant Tribal Status to all the 11 left out communities - Bhujel, Gurung, Mangar, Newar, Jogi, Bahun-Chettri (Khas), Rai, Sunuwar, Thami, Yakha and Sanyasi.



Highlighting the historical background of Sikkim's 'unique history' of integration in the Indian Union through a popular referendum, the Chief Minister said that 'grave injustice' has been meted out to the Sikkimese Nepalese.

"Under the Chogyal rule all the three communities [Bhutias, Lepchas and Nepali] in Sikkim enjoyed equal rights," he said.

He cited the example of the parity formula under the erstwhile Kingdom of Sikkim where all the three communities of the State enjoyed the same status with 50-50 stake in power.

The Chief Minister said that the 'unfortunate' loss of seats by the Sikkimese Nepalese in the Assembly and subsequent silence of the post merger L.D Kazi government and the then

administration's 'feudal' mindset resulted in the loss of the tribal status of the majority community, which Government of India was also keen to give.

He also informed that his government has been consistently putting this demand to the Centre irrespective of which party is in power.

Adding further, he stated that it is now up to the Centre to grant tribal status to the

eleven left out communities.

He also said that partial justice was given in 2003 when Limboo and Tamang communities among the Nepali community were granted tribal status by the then National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government.

"They can also give other communities tribal status as territorial tribals," he said citing similar examples in Himachal Pradesh.

He stressed further that 'injustice' has been meted out to the Sikkimese Nepali community who have actively taken part in the democratic movement and nation building without proper understanding of historical perspective.

Mr Chamling also added that Sikkimese Nepalese have a unique identity in the nation but are frequently clubbed with other Nepalese.

The Chief Minister said that there are three types of Nepalese in India, Indian Nepalese who have been living in the country as citizens who have sacrificed their life in Indian freedom struggle like those in Darjeeling, Indian Sikkimese Nepalese who became Indian

turn to pg02

HC pulls up SPCB for contradictory affidavits

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

The High Court of Sikkim has pulled up the State Pollution Control Board for filling contradictory affidavits within a period of 10 days and directed the Board to conduct fresh inspection of all the pharmaceutical industries including the other polluting industries in the presence of the Amicus Curiae.

While passing the order last week, the division bench of the High Court said that "...there is no clear statement on the part of the State Pollution Control Board as to why there are wide gaps and differences between both the affidavits. The Secretary, Pollution Control Board has annexed a chart under the heading 'Findings on compliance with mandatory parameter as prescribed under Office Order vide No. 713/SPCB/1975 dated 16.01.2017 under Sub-section (3) of Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 read with sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981'.

This chart is prepared on the basis of inspection done way back in February and March 2018. The chart is undated and does not indicate whether this is prepared by the Secretary or by any other person."

The bench was of the considered view that a fresh inspection of all the Pharmaceutical and other polluting Industries be done in the presence of the Amici Curiae. The Amici Curiae is at liberty to inspect the file of the State Pollution Control

Board as well and file a report, the bench said.

Meanwhile, the court also issued a notice to the state government regarding permission for M/s Pristine Life Sciences Pharma Company situated opposite Bhanu Park, NH-10, Singtam, East Sikkim to remove its plant and machineries from Sikkim.

Pristine Life Sciences Pharmaceutical industry was closed down for violating the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and Hazardous & Other Wastes management Rules.

The High Court also issued a notice to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gangtok to have an inspection of the said pharma company and file a report.

The bench also granted permission to Mrs. Ruth Kartak Lepchani, from whom the said pharma company had taken the land on lease, to file objections, if any.

Pristine Life Sciences Pharma Company had violated several norms dumping hazardous chemicals in surroundings and releasing contaminated water until the issue was brought to the notice of the High Court.

It has not properly installed and maintained IONEXCHANGE filtration equipment and also used to dump and bury hazardous waste i.e. Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) sludge, rejected finished products and raw materials behind the factory premises.

These hazardous wastes are not being treated through the Effluent Treatment Plant,

turn to pg02

Stray leopard creates panic in Siliguri

SILIGURI (WB), MAY 3 (PTI):

A stray leopard, spotted near a downtown shopping mall along Sevoke Road, created panic in North Bengal's Siliguri town, forest officials said.

The incident was reported late yesterday evening and efforts to catch the animal even today bore no fruit.

As people raised an alarm, forest officials reached the spot yesterday with net and tranquilizers, but failed to nab the frightened animal which took shelter on a tin roof of a godown located opposite the shopping mall and remained perched there overnight.

At the break of dawn today, the leopard climbed down an adjacent tree and escaped.

Umarani, Divisional Forest Officer of Baikunthapur said a net has been cast wide in the area to ensure safety of residents. Announcements over public address systems are also being made to ward off any possible attacks from the leopard.

"We are trying to get hold of the leopard," the DFO said. Recently, leopards ran amok at a tea estate in Bagdogra near here. A leopard also entered a house in Siliguri's Hakimpara locality last month.

Aggrieved Assistant Lecturers question recently held SPSC examination process

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

A group of aggrieved assistant lecturers who were working in different Colleges of the State on temporary basis and had sat for the recently held Sikkim Public Service Commission [SPSC] examination for regular appointment to the post have expressed dissatisfaction over the examination process and its results. To register their protest, the group has also announced an indefinite dharna at the District Administrative Centre [East] from Friday.

On behalf of all aggrieved assistant lecturers, Lobsang Chopel Lepcha, Dinesh Adhikari, Sanjay Rai, Sushma Rai, Chuki Bhutia, Karma Choden and Dr Sapna Gurung expressed their dissatisfaction during a press conference here today.

The group has raised doubts over the selection process of Assistant Lecturers

alleging that there was no transparency in the examination conducted by SPSC. According to them, after the deadline for applications ended, it was extended for a week in January this year and those who applied during this period have been selected for the post of Assistant Lecturer. They have also alleged that male candidates have been selected under seats reserved for women while OBC seats have also been occupied by candidates of other categories.

"SPSC held viva on Wednesday and announced the results within less than half an hour of the viva which also raises questions about the entire process," they said. They have demanded an investigation into the entire process of the examination.

"A panel constituted by the state government five years back had appointed us as Assistant Lecturers on the basis of our

qualification and other parameters. But now another panel of the government has disqualified us for the post of Assistant Lecturers and cancelled our appointment," they expressed.

Many of these assistant lecturers have been working since the past 10 years and students under them have already passed out.

"Even the Chief Minister and others assured us of regularization but we are now shocked with the recent result of the SPSC examination," they said.

They have requested the concerned authority not to give appointment orders to the candidates who have cleared the SPSC examination. They have also decided to approach the court if required.

The group has further demanded that since they have been appointed on the basis of their qualification so they should be appointed on regular basis.

Int'l Conf to spread Sikkim Model of Biodiversity Conservation

GANGTOK, 03 MAY (IPR): As a curtain raiser for the one-day International Conference on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals themed "Sustainable Livelihoods and Protecting the Planet" to be organized in the State capital on 04 May, 2018, a press conference was held this evening at Samman Bhawan, Gangtok. The event was chaired by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and had the distinguished presence of national and international luminaries in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Addressing the press conference, renowned environmentalist and Founder of Navdanya, New Delhi, Dr. Vandana Shiva stated that the one-day Conference seeks to spread the Sikkim Model of Biodiversity Conservation vis-à-vis Organic Agriculture to the rest of the Himalayas.



There will be more collaboration and exchanges among the mountain States in the Himalayas and we could even see MOU being signed in future for an Organic Himalaya, with Sikkim leading the way, she shared. It will be a transition from Bio-diverse Organic Sikkim to a Bio-Diverse Organic Himalayas, she iterated. The Conference will also help establish a clear link between biodiversity conservation

practices and Sustainable Development Goals locally, nationally and at the international level, informed Dr. Shiva.

Congratulating the Chief Minister of Sikkim for becoming the longest serving Chief Minister in the country and for his leadership in Organic Agriculture and Sustainable practices, Dr. Vandana Shiva stated that Mr Chamling is one of the very few long term democratically-elected lead-

ers in the world.

"The reason we have come to Sikkim for this Conference is because Sikkim has established itself as a beacon for biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices and other States in the country can emulate these practices," stated Dr. Shiva.

She added that Sikkim's good practices can become a learning for other States through this Conference.

"We want to celebrate

Sikkim's success and share it with the rest of the World," she concluded.

Dr. Vandana Shiva invited the Chief Minister for the Biodiversity Congress to be held in October this year and requested for Sikkim's leadership role in the Conference. She also gifted the Chief Minister a basket of organic products from Navdanya.

Director, COLABORA, Germany, Bernward Geier commended the contribution of Sikkim towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices and stated that the world has started to look towards Sikkim for inspiration. Sikkim has become the point of reference for those taking steps towards Organic Agriculture, he added.

He stated that diversified farming and cropping pattern and maintenance of biodiversity leads to enhancement in the

incomes of farmers thus promoting sustainable livelihoods. Terming Sikkim as an ecological wonderland, he expressed happiness to be in the State for the International Conference.

Earlier, Secretary Agriculture & Horticulture, Government of Sikkim, Khorlo Bhutia, welcomed the dignitaries to the Conference.

PCCF cum Secretary Forest Department, Dr. Thomas Chandy gave a brief outline about the various sessions of the Conference to be held on 04 May.

The event had the presence of Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly, KN Rai, Minister Agriculture, Somnath Poudyal, Minister Forest, TW Lepcha, host of national and international delegates who will lend their expert participation in the Conference, and senior officers of the Government of Sikkim.



West Sikkim celebrates Kisan Kalyan Karyashala

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

Under the guidance of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Agricultural Technology Management Agency [ATMA] in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra [KVK] West Sikkim celebrated Kisan Kalyan Karyashala in all nine blocks of West district on 02 May with the theme “Doubling of Farmer’s Income [DFI]” by 2022, a press release informs.

In Gyalshing, the programme was held at the training hall of KVK in the presence of Chairperson, State Poultry Development Board [Government of Sikkim] as chief guest along with Panchayat members, Block Development Officer, Joint Director [Agriculture], Joint Director [Horticulture], Deputy Director [Horticulture], other field functionaries from the line departments and 122 farmers from different villages of Gyalshing block.

During the programme, Senior Scientist & Head of KVK West Sikkim made a presentation on various farmer centric schemes being implemented by the Government of India viz Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana [PMJJBY], Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana [PMSBY], Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana [PMKSY], Soil Health Card Scheme and Kisan Credit Card. He further laid stress on the use of toll free Kisan Call Centre [KCC] number by the farmers to address farm related issues of the farmers.

Thereafter, Joint Director, FS&ADD West district in his brief remarks highlighted about the various agricultural inputs that can be provided by the

department and briefed the gathering about the objectives of Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana [RKVY], Param Paragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and PMKSY which are being implemented in the district.

Likewise, Joint Director, Horticulture encouraged the farmers to get engaged in large scale cultivation and sale of organic vegetables to reap the benefits of prohibition of import of inorganic vegetables from outside the State to strengthen the farm income. He also informed the house about the refrigerated mobile van provided by the department for the purpose of collection and sale of vegetables from the door step of the farmers. He further requested the farmers to avoid leaving any land barren.

Subsequently, BDO, Gyalshing highlighted about the Ujala Scheme for Unnat Jeevan implemented by the Government of India where citizens are given LED bulb at affordable rates to promote efficient use of energy by every household in the country. He further briefed on necessity of Solid Waste Management, Urban Composting and minimal or no use of any plastic items.

The chief guest in his remark encouraged the gathering to take full advantage of the initiatives of the government and actively participate in organic farming so that the farm income could be doubled within a stipulated time.

Similarly, in the remaining eight blocks, the programmes were attended by area MLA, Zilla Panchayats and Panchayat members along with Block Technology Managers [BTMs], Agricultural Technology Managers [ATMs] and Subject Matter Specialists from KVK West Sikkim as resource persons.



Twinning programme held between Lingi Paiyong and Badamtam schools

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

A learning exchange/twinning programme was conducted for Class IV students of Lingi Paiyong Secondary School and Badamtam Primary

School, under Yangang block, South Sikkim at the Badamtam school today. The students of Lingi Paiyong SS were accompanied by three teachers from their school, a press release informs.

The programme also featured a literary competition which was won by Badamtam PS. Lingi Paiyong SS gifted two packets of stationery items to Badamtam school students.

Kissan Kalyan Divas observed in Kabi



SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 03 MAY:

On the occasion of “Kissan Kalyan Divas”, a day devoted to the welfare of farmers, Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA], North district, in co-ordination with agriculture and allied sectors, organised “Kissan Kalyan Karayashala” at BAC hall in Kabi, North Sikkim on 02 May.

The function was attended by area MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, as

chief guest in the presence of Zilla members, Panchayat presidents & members, farmers & officials from concerned department.

The theme of the event was doubling the farmers’ income with intervention of all programmes and schemes implemented by various departments following which representatives of agriculture & allied sectors disseminated schemes & programmes under their respective departments which

will benefit the farming community.

An animal health camp was also set up at every block during the occasion wherein de-worming and health check-ups were conducted by doctors and staffs from Animal Husbandry Departments.

The ATMA [North] also felicitated two innovative achiever farmers from every block of North Sikkim with token of appreciation for recognition of their hard work.



Kissan Kalyan Karyashala held at Rhenock GPK

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA], East, Department of Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, organised a Kissan Kalyan Karyashala at Gram Prasashan Kendra in Rhenock, East Sikkim on 02 May, a press release informs.

Deputy Director, Rongli [FS&ADD], IS Chettri, while addressing the gathering, spoke on the importance of

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sechai Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, etc.

East district Zilla Adhyaksha, Samsher Rai, who attended the event as chief guest, urged farmers to coordinate with the department and Panchayats and practice cluster farming.

The programme was also attended by KVK Agriculture Scientists Dr Manoj Kumar and Dr Janak Singh, Zilla Pan-

chayat member, Rhenock, Indira Hingmang, Sudunglakha Zilla member, Madhu Sharma, and Gram Panchayat members of Rhenock, Tarpin and Sudunglakha GPU.

During the programme, the FS&AD Department also felicitated Arun Pradhan of Upper Khamdong for his active participation in dairy farming, Durga Prasad Sharma for agriculture and Som Bahadur Mazi for horticulture with cash prizes.



Corn husk artisans enrolled for Pehchan card in Namlung

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

Office of the Development Commissioner [Handicrafts], Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Gangtok, organized a camp for the enrollment of artisans for Pehchan card at Lower Namlung in South Sikkim today, a press release informs.

Handicrafts Promotion Officer, Shashikant Gupta, enrolled 22 artisans who weave corn husk [natural fibres] obtained from maize crop. He informed that the products from natural fibres have more demand and get good price due to its eco-friendly nature.

“This fibre can be utilised to prepare several products like floor mat, basket and other lifestyle products instead of treat-

ing it as waste. The production of natural base fibres from the waste of corn husks is eco-friendly. Therefore, it benefits the society towards sustainability of environment and the economy,” he added.

Empanelled designer and entrepreneur, Chimi Ongmu Bhutia, who is reviewing corn husk weaving craft under her brand LAGSTAL at Mangardam in South Sikkim with the help of local women artisans, said that she will be creating various combinations of colour and design to get diversified products.

“Corn/maize is a well grown crop in Sikkim. The innovation of corn husk fibres is an alternative for goldthread which hopefully will be commercialized soon,” she added.

Fitness Club extends aid

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 MAY:

Likeminded fitness enthusiasts from Gangtok formed a group, Fitness Club, earlier this year to encourage the younger generation towards fitness and living a healthy life. The group, which was formed on 26 Jan, has been taking various initiatives since its inception.

Apart from organising cleanliness drives at Paljor Stadium, the

group also carried out a blood donation camp on 07 Apr, donated food for animals at the SARAH clinic on 14 Apr and provided financial help for the treatment of ailing Passang Tshering Lepcha who is suffering from kidney failure, it is informed.

“We have taken these initiatives to encourage people to come forward and help others in need and to give care to animals,” they said.

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HC pulls up SPCB for contradictory affidavits

contd from pg1

which is in contravention to the provision of Section 8 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and also the provisions of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Trans-boundary movement) Rules, 2016.

It is alleged that M/S Pristine Life Science used contaminated and dirty water from “Jhora” for the purpose of manufacturing pharmaceutical medicines and other drugs which was supplied for human consumption to the market across the country through its distributors.

Sikkim Summit for Tribal Status kicks off

contd from pg1

citizens after the merger and lastly Nepali citizens working or settled in India due to 1950 Indo-Nepal friendship treaty.

He added that tribal status will not just benefit the Sikkimese Nepalese but also all Indian Nepalese across the country.

The Chief Minister further appealed to the Bhutia-Lepcha communities and the already tribal Limboo Tamang communities to understand that securing tribal status for the left out communities will not affect their rights.

He also asked for unity in opinion and to be able to justify the demand.

Going back to 2008 when the Union government decided to provide IT exemption relief for all Sikkim subject holders and their descendants, the Chief Minister added that it was given to all Sikkimese including the Sikkimese Nepalese.

The Chief Minister urged members of the eleven communities not to dwell on criteria like social and economic backwardness but to ‘de-

mand our rights back’.

“We were tribals. We all merged Sikkim with India,” said the Chief Minister strongly.

“Government of India must recognize our constitutional demand,” held the CM.

Speaking on the identity of the Indian Nepalese, the CM stated that the community still faces identity crisis. He added that questions are still raised on his own citizenship even after becoming the longest serving Chief Minister in India.

“We are equal partners in nation building, we are not here on lease,” added the Chief Minister.

He also said that a fear psychosis is being fanned by vested interests pitching one community’s rights against others.

“Despite being surrounded by international borders and turmoil, communal harmony, secular fabric and federal structure have been maintained for the last 24 years,” he said.

Coming to the issue of LT seat reservation in the Assembly, he as-

sured members of the Bhutia Lepcha community that their seats and rights will be protected.

“Limboo Tamang communities have not been able to contest due to the existence of the BL seats in the assembly inspite of being equal tribals,” he said.

The Chief Minister added that in an ideal situation in line with democratic norms, 60% non tribal Sikkimese population should get 60% of seats in the Assembly and a 50-member State Assembly would be ideal giving all Sikkimese equality.

However, with the State’s low population, the government gave the 40-seat formula to give seats to the Limboo Tamang community.

This arrangement however he held was still injustice to the other communities but in the present context, the best solution.

“This all depends on the centre,” he stated adding that the centre has agreed to this formula in principle.

The CM asked the Bhutia-Lepcha community to accept the reality of a democratic Sikkim where their in-

terests will be fully safeguarded and not to give in to fear psychosis that their rights will be watered down in any way.

“Let’s not repeat mistakes of the past governments,” said the Chief Minister.

He further asked the Indian Nepali community in general to be self dependent and to be equal partners in reaping the dividends in a democratic country like India.

The Chief Minister said that the eleven left out communities are dissatisfied due to the historical injustice to the Sikkimese Nepali community.

He further asked all the communities of the state to take ownership as Sikkimese and sincerely hope to get justice.

Former Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and senior Congress leader, KC Chandra Deo in his key note address stated that there should be no politics in matters related to granting tribal status to various communities.

He also gave some details on mechanism that is in place at the union level with regards to recogni-

tion of a community as a Scheduled Tribe.

He stated that recognizing only Bhutias and Lepchas as Scheduled Tribe leaving aside the majority Sikkimese Nepali community could have been inspired by the neighboring State of West Bengal where only these two communities enjoyed that status.

Informing the audience, Mr Deo said that scheduling of communities is in the domain of the State and there is no need for Sikkim to follow other cases or even Centre’s thrust to accept their proposal.

Mr Deo also stated that a community can be granted different recognition by the centre depending on their location.

He further congratulated the Chief Minister on being the longest serving Chief Minister in India.

KC Deo was the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Panchayati Raj from 2011 to 2014 and has been members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for multiple terms representing the Indian National Congress.

Gangtok on Friday, 04 May
Temp: 23°C / 12°C
Forecast: Variable cloudiness; heavy showers in the morning followed by a shower in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 04:55 AM
Sunset: 6:10 PM

6 months maternity leave for MR employees

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 MAY:
The State Government has issued a notification regarding paid maternity leave of six months to female muster roll employees and female workers in various industries in Sikkim. Female muster roll employees working in different departments and female labourers/workers engaged by various organisations/ industrial establishments in the State of Sikkim will be entitled to avail maternity leave for six months with full wages, the notification reads. The notification was issued on 28 Apr, 2018 by Secretary, Department of Labour, LP Chhetri.

BJP celebrates Int'l Labour Day

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 MAY:
Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh celebrated International Labour Day at Rangpo playground in East Sikkim on Tuesday. On the occasion, the party passed the resolution to end the labour contract system in the State and reiterated that the BJP has been committed on this issue, informs a BJP press release. The state president, DB Chauhan alleged that local workers in different industrial units have been facing lots of problems and exploitation due to the labour contract system. He further alleged that the State Government and the concerned department have not been speaking in the interest of workers. Workers have been facing problems and injustice due to the labour front of the ruling party which has been taking donations from industrial units, the release alleges. Mr Chauhan also questioned the silence of the ruling party on injustice meted out to local workers and appealed to workers to protest such injustices. The release informs that that the celebration was also addressed by youth president, Laten Sherpa and others.

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Relief Commissioner takes stock of statewide monsoon preparedness

GANGTOK, 03 MAY (IPR): Amidst the ongoing spell of pre-monsoon showers across the state, a state level Pre-Monsoon Preparedness Meeting was held today at Chintan Bhawan. The meeting was chaired by State Relief Commissioner, Secretary Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Tsegal Tashi. The meeting was also attended by Special Secretary of Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Rinzing Chewang, officials from all line departments, representatives from Central Government agencies, Central Water Commission (CWC), Army, ITBP, SSB, BSNL, Hydropower developers, nodal officers from different departments, officials and staff from Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and representatives from NGO agencies. The State Relief Commissioner took stock of the preparedness of various state and central agencies to tackle the situation in the event of a disaster. During the meeting, lessons learned from the previous preparedness meetings and disaster response activities were shared among the participants. In his opening remarks, the State Relief Commissioner directed all the line departments to further review and submit their Office Disaster Management Plans as soon as possible. He urged the participants to take advance action in order to tackle the upcoming monsoon. He also sought better coordination between the personnel of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in order to tackle disasters collectively. He said that natural disasters are unpredictable and inevitable therefore it is imperative to impart necessary training to SDRF personnel and Civil Defence institutions. He further emphasised the need for greater coordination and co-operation from various stakeholders and non-governmental agencies. He also highlighted on the crucial role of the Police and Fire & Emergency Department, Health Department, Food and Civil Supplies Department, PHE Department, Power Department, SSDMA, NDRF, ARMY, ITBP, Civil Defence Institutions and NGO in combating disasters and future calamities. Various issues like framing of Office Management Disaster Plan by all the departments, preparation of department-wise monsoon preparedness plans, disaster relief measures, early warning systems, checking the readiness of equipment and communication systems, advance procurement of necessary relief materials, coordinated approach for disaster response in the four districts and community-based disaster management were highlighted at the meeting. Vital suggestions and preventive measures for the upcoming monsoon were shared and deliberated upon by the participants. During the meeting measures and good practices being adopted by the state and central government to address disaster management related issues in the state were discussed at length.



Various issues like framing of Office Management Disaster Plan by all the departments, preparation of department-wise monsoon preparedness plans, disaster relief measures, early warning systems, checking the readiness of equipment and communication systems, advance procurement of necessary relief materials, coordinated approach for disaster response in the four districts and community-based disaster management were highlighted at the meeting. Vital suggestions and preventive measures for the upcoming monsoon were shared and deliberated upon by the participants. During the meeting measures and good practices being adopted by the state and central government to address disaster management related issues in the state were discussed at length.

Upper Thambong farmers trained on pest and disease management

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 MAY:
A daylong ward-level training for farmers on 'Pest and Disease Management' was organized by agro-based firm, MEVEDIR, today at Upper Thambong in Sombaria, West Sikkim, a press release informs. The programme was attended by Ward Panchayat, Dawa Lhamu Sherpa, Block Technology Manager [Agriculture Technology Management Agency], Dawa Tshering Sherpa, MEVEDIR master trainers, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Chuten Sherpa and Mangal Moti Subba along with farmers of the area. MEVEDIR master trainer, Mangal Moti Subba outlined the objective of the training programme and requested participants to stay informed and adopt local organic methods available in their natural surroundings. MEVEDIR master trainer, Kamal Kumar Sharma, demonstrated the process to prepare herbal sprays and Fermented Plant Extract (FPE) using locally available resources from the area such as Eupatorium (Banmara), Artimisea (Titeypati), Dhatura (Dhokray), Lyonia (Angeri), Hatibar (Agave). FME preparation was demonstrated with active participation of the farmers. ATMA Block Technology Manager, Dawa Tshering Sherpa, delved on the importance and benefits of organic farming and the schemes being promoted by the Government. Ward Panchayat, Dawa Lhamu Sherpa, assured all required help from the panchayat members in promoting organic farming. More than 30 farmers from the ward attended the programme, the release informs. Seeds of carrot, coriander and radish were also distributed to the farmers.



REINFORCE THE PROTECTION WALLS TOO

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 05 APR:
The pedestrian flyover spanning Rongni Chu here is progressing fast and is now around 60% complete. This much awaited projected is also being monitored closely by the concerned officials and the Singtam residents. There remains one aspect of the project, however, which could use some attention. The foundation base of the old metal bridge has worn out and the protection walls rising from the river up to the roads also needs maintenance and reinforcement.



Former Union Minister for Tribal Affairs calls on Governor

SUMMIT REPROT GANGTOK, 03 MAY:
Former Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Panchayati Raj, Kishore Chandra Deo, today called on Governor Shrinivasa Patil at his official residence here at Raj Bhavan, a press release informs. This was a courtesy call by Mr Deo who had arrived at Gangtok to deliver the keynote address at the two-day Tribal Status Summit 2018 organised by the State Government.

Ordinance to amend law to speed up disposal of commercial disputes comes into force

NEW DELHI, MAY 3 (PTI): An ordinance aimed at amending a law to allow speedy disposal of commercial disputes came into force today. The government says the move will help improve India's ranking in the ease of doing business index. According to the ordinance issued today, the specified value of a commercial dispute will be brought down to Rs 3 lakh from the present Rs 1 crore. The ordinance amends the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act. The ordinance will replace the bill. It would bring down the time taken from the present 1,445 days for resolution of commercial disputes of lesser value. Ease of doing business is an index of the World Bank which refers to the dispute resolution environment in a country that facilitates an investor in deciding to set up and operate a business. The amendment also provides for establishment of commercial courts at district judge level for the territories over which the high courts Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Himachal Pradesh have ordinary original civil jurisdiction.



Ghewa

The 49th Day Ghewa of our mother Late Indra Maya Lama w/o Harka Singh Lama who left for her heavenly abode on 18th March 2018 falls on 5th May 2018. We request all friends, relatives and well wishers to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Chongey Busty (below POC, School), Gangtok, East Sikkim. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement. **Harka Singh Lama (husband), Urmilla Lama & Passang Pakhrin, Sharmila Lama & Samden Dorji Lama (daughters & sons in law). Ph 9733029453, 9933733062, 8945812246.**

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

No: 590/SD-IV/R&B/17-18/22

Dated:26.04.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Additional Chief Engineer (N/E), Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim invites item bids through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

PACK-AGE NO.	NAME OF WORKS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	BID VALUE (RS IN LAKHS)	COST OF TENDER/ BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS)	COMPLETION PERIOD.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Link road from NH-10 (near Old India Press, Burtuk) towards ICDS & Gurung Gaon, Burtuk via Gurung Crematorium in East Sikkim	7.04	281.79	0.30	24 months

The date and time of pre-bid meeting, submission of completed bid document is as under:

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	09 th May, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	12 th May, 2018.
iii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	09 th June, 2018 at 1500 Hrs.
iv)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	12 th June, 2018 up to 1600 Hrs.
v)	Date of opening of bids	:	13 th June, 2018 at 1100 Hrs.

For all details of the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

Sd/-
**ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (N/E),
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.**

R.O. No. 59/ipr/pub/classi/18-19 dt. 30.4.18

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Institutionalize Engagement

For once, let's try genuine collaborations affected people

Projects, whether hydel, road or industrial, go through a lot of teething problems. Given their labour-intensive and landscape-ruining nature, they arrive neither with aspirational job openings nor pleasing environmental interventions. This is why mantras like "nation-building" and "development" are played out on a spool to win public endorsement. Speaking about Sikkim, experience also shows that the initial resistance to such projects is invariably tranquilized with handsome compensations, tall promises and political and administrative "pressure". But these projects have a long gestation period and even longer construction phases which lead to a situation where the compensations, even along with the solatium component, are long spent before the project has been completed. Resentments then return, and every slight, even the perceived one, gets amplified, leading to a complete breakdown of trust between the local community and the project-investors and their personnel on site.

Sikkim has seen this cycle play out with just about every project, and occasionally the distrust manifests in gheraos and confrontations which then find mention in newspapers. Most of the times, however, the ill-will festers under a façade of apparent normalcy and acceptance. This is not a healthy situation because the bitterness does not always find release against the management of such units and sometimes erupts against the establishment and other agencies which the people feel did not look out enough for their interests. Surely, these are not developments that the planners or the executors originally had in mind. And yet these are situations which develop often.

In the latest instance, Sikkim saw "affected people" of pharma companies and the like lay out a litany of complaints against the company management. Similar complaints and allegations have been heard against hydel developers and the promoters of other "projects". Like in those cases, this bushfire will also be addressed piecemeal, focused only on the immediate demands, but ignoring the larger issue of the lack of adequate consultations, information-sharing or oversight. The problem, hence, will remain.

What is required is for every project to begin with a more transparent public hearing preceded by gram sabhas where every aspect and the fine print are discussed in detail. The state machinery should only provide information and not exert influence. Every project should have a project monitoring committee with affected people in majority representation and ex-officio posts for government officers and public representatives only holding secretarial responsibilities of taking the minutes and drafting resolutions. Proper schedules should be dictated to keep these committees updated on project components and these committees should then be required to brief the gram sabhas or other panchayat meetings on a regular basis. This way, not only transparency, but also accountability can be ensured, and once this is achieved, possible problems can be addressed in advance and issues resolved before things boil over. Such engagement will also reassure the local community and, in the long run, help the projects as well because once the people are involved in the decision-making process, even if it is only by way of regular and clear updates, they will develop a real sense of ownership and extend sage advice where the current system of things leaves them only with the option of registering condemnations.

It is important that the "developers" and the administration trust the affected people more and respect their capacity to even absorb bad news and setbacks. People understand that development comes at a cost, it is the unforeseen ones, more like the intentionally ignored aspects of it which offend them sow distrust.

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

Having a severe mental illness often means dying before your time

ANN JOHN
theconversation.com

People with severe mental illness have at least a two-and-a-half times higher risk of dying than the general population. In essence, people with severe mental illness are dying for the same sorts of reasons as the rest of the us – but there are more of them and they are dying younger. We examined the causes of deaths of almost 400,000 people over ten years to try and find out why.

We have known for a long time that people with illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder die earlier than the rest of us by 10 to 15 years. This means that while men in the UK are expected to live to about 78 and women 82 – if you have a severe mental illness and are known to mental health services, those ages drop to 68 and 72 years respectively. It's called premature mortality.

This issue remains one of the major health injustices of modern life, comparable to premature mortality in those who are socio-economically deprived. But many of these early deaths are preventable.

TRIPLING THE RISK

In our study of almost 4m people, we compared deaths in the general population to those with severe mental illness who are seen in general practice and hospitals. Such a detailed examination of different causes of death has not been done before. Most studies have focused on just one type of healthcare setting. We found that not only did people with severe mental illness have at least a two-and-a-half times higher risk of dying than the general population, but that this rose to almost three times higher in those with a hospital admission.

Nearly two thirds of all the deaths in those with severe mental illness were from cardiovascular disease (heart attacks or strokes), respiratory disease (particularly pneumonia) and cancer (most commonly lung and bowel). For these common causes of death, even a small increase in risk of death above everyone else will have a huge impact in terms of numbers. It's in these areas we can po-

tentially save the most lives. We found a tripling of risk from respiratory disease and a doubling for cardiovascular disease (there was little difference for cancers) in those with severe mental illness.

Other deaths from so-called natural causes were also particularly high when compared to the general population. These included those with severe mental illness who also had Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or dementia. It may be that we are better at diagnosing these illnesses in those already being seen in services or it may be that the age-related decline in cognition of those with severe mental illness is mislabelled. Understanding this will have implications for addressing it.

We found that the single biggest difference in mortality for those with severe mental illness compared to the general population was for those who died from ill-defined or unknown causes (13 times higher), followed by suicide (12 times higher) and substance misuse (eight times higher). These types of deaths were relatively uncommon compared to heart attacks and strokes but the risk compared to the general population was greater.

Studies have shown that deaths labelled "ill-defined" or "unknown" are often from suicide and heart disease. So although we know the risk of suicide in the severely mentally ill is disturbingly high compared to the general population (12 times higher for all those with a severe mental illness, 16



times if they had a hospital admission and 21 times if female) the problem may well be worse than we currently think.

The current national policy focus on suicide prevention is important but it should also be looking at hospital and community settings for supporting those with severe mental illness.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

From a public health perspective, patients with severe mental illness should be considered a high risk population for physical illness. There needs to be improved access to care across the board. The onus is on developing services that people can engage with and addressing the

causes of the causes (housing, deprivation, social connection).

For those with these long-term conditions getting to appointments and follow-up care can be challenging. Some of the differences we found relating to infections may be because those with severe mental illness present later than the rest of us, and so do worse.

Lifestyle factors also play a huge role. The significant emphasis on improving physical health care for people with severe mental illness through screening and management for cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, such as diabetes, is important. Families and friends should encourage them to engage in programmes to stop smoking and recreational drug use, increase activity and healthy eating, keep a healthy body weight and control high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

There are no easy answers. Long-term studies are also needed to look at links between between anti-psychotic treatment, lifestyle choices, social deprivation, metabolic indicators, age and genetics. There is also a need for intervention studies to assess if more novel prescribing, such as gardening or walking groups, may work better. But there is no doubt we need to find ways tackle this health injustice.

[the writer is Clinical Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry, Swansea University]

'Assadism' is destroying Syria— here's where it came from

JULIETTE HARKIN
theconversation.com

As Syrian president Bashar al-Assad prosecutes his 18th year in office, he is presenting himself as a secular leader in a sea of Islamist extremism and terror. But his record makes a mockery of that claim. However long he stays in office, he will forever be remembered a president who oversaw the devastation of his country and resorted to hideous attacks on civilians in order to remain in power. And as for Assad's pretensions to secularism, the foundations of his government's supposed ideology were cast away even before he succeeded his father as president.

The Syrian government's professed secularism dates back decades, and derives from the school of political thought known as Arab Baathism, the core principles of which were Arab unity, freedom and socialism. In the years after World War II, these were not hollow words, they were political imperatives in the struggle against colonialism and elite rule.

The Syrian branch of the Baathist movement came to power in a coup d'état in 1963. In the 1970s, one of the military officers involved in the coup, Hafez al-Assad, took the helm and steadily entrenched the his family and its political network as the rulers of Syria.

As the Assad family took control, it exploited the infrastructure of the Arab Baath movement and party to retain power. But for all that they paid lip service to Baathist principles, the Assads were less interested in serving the Syrian people than in dominating them. Decades later, the political traditions of Arab Baathism are long dead, and Assadism holds sway in its place.

GOVERNMENT FOR THE FEW

The gap between these two modes of government is all too apparent. Cen-



tral to influential strands of Baathist thought was an inclusive definition of what it meant to "be Arab" – a definition that revolved around geographical, cultural and linguistic aspects of being an Arab rather than mere ethnic origin.

Yet the supposedly Baathist Syria was never so inclusive; its Kurds, in particular, have been suppressed for decades. Baathism was supposed to rise above sectarian and ethnic differences among Arabs, but in Assadist Syria, sectarian differences were fanned from the start.

As for notions of equality, the benefits of economic reforms were distributed unevenly and selectively, marginalising communities in the Syrian provinces even as elites enriched themselves.

The older and younger Assads followed similar paths. Where Hafez al-Assad violently crushed dissent in the city of Hama in the 1980s, and nurtured complex social and political allegiances, his son Bashar continued a programme of economic reform that benefited big industry and established a broad patronage network.

In some respects Bashar was a reformist and forward-looking pres-

ident, introducing the internet and allowing a private media sector to develop. But his reformist agenda ultimately devolved into runaway capitalism and rapacious self-enrichment for a small clique of Syrian families and businesses. Today, it's these people who are central to the government's survival.

LOCKING UP POWER

It didn't have to be this way. In the early years of Bashar's reign, there briefly seemed to be a window for civil society to open up – but soon enough, that window was closed. Key opposition figures such as Michel Kilo were imprisoned, and the brief Damascus Spring of 2000-1 was bitterly shut down.

But once we accept that Assadism was never truly concerned with promoting a secular and equal society, it's easier to understand why today's government is working so closely with such odd bedfellows as the theocracy in Iran and the religiously conservative Hezbollah.

A longstanding feature of Assadist rule has been a tendency to lock up secular and leftist thinkers and intellectuals. The communists were locked in Syria's prisons together with the

Islamists, and anyone else who spoke out of line. If not imprisoned, anyone who might pose a threat was co-opted. Pockets of space for some Sunni sheikhs to promote their religious thought and practice – notably in the education system – were bartered in exchange for blind loyalty.

Since the 2011 revolution, the government has aligned itself with and promoted a proto-fascist nationalism that encourages an utter disdain for the majority of Syrians, namely the pious Sunnis who live in restive areas of Syria's provinces and countryside. And any claim the government had to lead a resistance against oppression were severely tested when a new grassroots opposition emerged in Syria's towns and villages only to be cruelly crushed by government forces.

Claims to resistance and to be the voice of the Palestinian cause merely obscure a politics of pragmatic self-preservation and dictatorial practices. It has always been progressive leftist voices that have posed the most threat to Assad's rule. The troika of myths about the Syrian state – that it is secular, modern, and leads the resistance against imperial and Zionist threats – simply do not bear scrutiny.

Who actually benefits from the continuation of Assadism? The same people who were embedded in the Assadist networks and enriched themselves before the 2011 revolution and current civil war. They are doing well out of Syria's war economy, which has made some people very rich. And even as Assad oversees brutal attacks on civilians and one of the world's worst refugee crises, the war provides disturbing new symbols and ideas to provide a rationale for his continued rule.

[the writer is Associate Lecturer, Politics and International Relations, Anglia Ruskin University]

New book to decode Bengal's 'didi' Mamta Banerjee

NEW DELHI, MAY 3 (PTI): She was one of India's youngest parliamentarians ever, she served as the union railway minister for two terms, and founded the All India Trinamool Congress. But, Mamata Banerjee's political career reached its peak when she defied all odds to become West Bengal's first woman chief minister, bringing an end to the 34-year-long Left regime in the state. Banerjee's eventful life and political career is the subject of a new book "Decoding Didi". Penned by journalist Dola Mitra, the book explores the various facets of the chief minister -- sometimes being eulogized as a leader of the masses, and at other times being pilloried as a mad, whimsical dictator.

CADC chief to be sworn-in tomorrow

AIZAWL, MAY 3 (PTI): BJP leader Shanti Jiban Chakma would be sworn-in as chief executive member (CEM) of the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in Mizoram tomorrow, official sources today said. The CEM is the administrative head of the 20-member CADC, formed under the sixth schedule of the Constitution in 1972. Shanti Jiban Chakma will be sworn-in by Deputy Commissioner of southernmost Mizoram's Lawngtlai district. N Chakhai, the sources said. Mizoram Governor Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma yesterday invited the United Legislature Party (ULP) to form the executive committee that will rule the CADC, an autonomous council for ethnic



Chakma people living in South-Western Mizoram bordering Bangladesh and Myanmar. Traditional rivals the BJP and the Congress floated the ULP after the April 20 election to the CADC had thrown a fractured mandate. While the Mizo National Front (MNF) bagged 8 seats, the Congress won 6 and the BJP 5. Election to one seat was stayed by the Gauhati High Court. All the 19 elected members of the CADC

would also take oath on Friday, the last date fixed by the State Election Commission for taking oaths by the newly-elected members, the sources said. State Sports Minister Zodintluanga of the Congress had said on April 25 that a post-poll alliance, the ULP, was forged after the two parties' local leaders reached an agreement, and this would not have any bearing in Delhi or in the coming Assembly election in the north eastern state. BJP sources had, at that time, said the party may take action against its elected CADC members for forging the alliance with the Congress. Later, the leadership agreed to the tie-up after the six Congress members decided to join the ULP as individual members leaving their party identity behind. The MNF had also been optimistic of forming a coalition with the BJP, but rejected the BJP's demand of electing its party leader to occupy the top post of the CADC.

Bharti skips event organised for meals with dalits

CHHATTARPUR (MP), MAY 3 (PTI): Union Minister Uma Bharti skipped an event organised for having a meal with Dalits near here in Madhya Pradesh, saying she was not Lord Rama who would purify people by having food with them. Later, she apologised, claiming that she was not aware that she was supposed to have food with them. At the event held at Dadri village near here two days back, the senior BJP leader had said she does not take part in such community meals as she doesn't consider herself Lord Rama, who would purify people by having food with them. "I don't go to the houses of Dalits to have meals, though I support

this trait (breaking bread with the people of scheduled caste category)," said the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister while addressing a function in the village. She said that instead, she invites Dalits to her home to have food. "I want to share a secret with you. I don't take part in 'samrasta bhoj' (community meals) because I do not consider myself Lord Rama, who went to Shabri's home and the Dalits became purified," she said. Since the last couple of months, the RSS and the BJP are promoting 'samrasta bhoj' (community meals) to spread across the message of social harmony and to eradicate casteism. "I am not Lord Rama

that if I sit with them, they will be purified... instead if they come to our home and sit in our kitchen, we will be sanctified," Bharti said. She added that she believes that when she serves food to Dalits on her dining table, "her place ... utensils will attain purity." "Come to Delhi...my nephew's wife would prepare food for you, I will serve meal to you, my nephew will collect your plate after you finish eating and wash them," she said. "I invite you to my place but I can't have meal with you because I have already taken it...I love you all. I am with you, always," she had said. Subsequently, a state-

ment issued on behalf of Bharti said she had clarified from the dais during the programme that she was not aware that she was supposed to take food in the programme, organised by her close associate Harshu Maharaj. "I had to go to Papoda in Tikamgarh district, which is 150 kms away from here, and meet Vidyasagar Maharaj. Therefore, I apologised for not taking meals with them," Bharti was quoted as saying. She added that the time has gone when one needed to have food with Dalits to bring about "samrasta" (harmony). "Instead, now you have to bring them on par politically, socially, in government and ad-

ministration, among others, to ensure harmony... Now, we need to bring harmony by overcoming discrimination that is being done with them (Dalits and backwards) in politics," she said. Economic empowerment, societal honour and equal participation in the government and administration are the only basic requirements of social harmony, the statement said quoting Bharti. The Union minister also expressed surprise when media persons asked her after the programme that she did not want to have food with Dalits. "Now people can even talk things like this," the statement said quoting her.



ANTHEYESTI KRIYA
The Anthyesti Kriya of **Bikash Prasad** falls on **05 May, 2018, Saturday**, and will be held at the **Nepali D h a r m a s a l a , Singtam.**
Uncle (9932963921) Brother (8670689403)

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DERBY MEET THURSDAY

Draw No:15 DrawDate on:03/05/18
1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- 87A 0345
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
2560 3866 3988 6851 8849
3rd Prize Rs.3,000/-
0978 1051 1752 2554 3776 3961 4193 4632 5847 7985
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0608 2542 3875 3927 5167 5169 5595 5823 7243 7341
5th Prize Rs.500/-
2298 3471 4380 5227 5363 5809 6491 8332 8798 9115
6th Prize Rs.100/-
0019 0041 0047 0053 0067 0087 0096 0101 0133 0140
0154 0173 0197 0238 0248 0308 0312 0333 0335 0378
0402 0442 0469 0487 0532 0555 0573 0638 0642 0651
0690 0712 0739 0753 0796 0814 0847 0858 0868 0907
0926 0961 0981 0988 0989 1011 1061 1078 1110 1114
1131 1135 1160 1187 1201 1203 1260 1312 1313 1359
1437 1459 1466 1471 1518 1520 1572 1579 1588 1591
1606 1651 1655 1659 1668 1687 1723 1774 1779 1797
1808 1849 1882 1948 2005 2006 2037 2083 2087 2089
2110 2132 2149 2150 2153 2158 2176 2284 2295 2322
2324 2328 2341 2349 2389 2396 2449 2480 2489 2490
2616 2622 2631 2647 2664 2675 2682 2691 2711 2721
2731 2795 2820 2913 2965 2985 3102 3120 3131 3133
3159 3168 3182 3188 3193 3210 3231 3236 3290 3311
3316 3320 3367 3370 3373 3383 3394 3448 3463 3466
3481 3547 3564 3565 3580 3596 3632 3641 3649 3658
3663 3715 3717 3763 3769 3809 3880 3900 3905 3924
3939 3941 3954 3973 4005 4018 4059 4070 4072 4074
4075 4086 4097 4112 4146 4149 4152 4174 4184 4188
4306 4318 4349 4359 4369 4385 4394 4399 4422 4428
4429 4437 4438 4455 4460 4470 4490 4503 4515 4522
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4894 4937 4951 4952 4956 5004 5028 5035 5094 5121
5127 5130 5132 5137 5151 5158 5170 5198 5225 5245
5265 5272 5292 5331 5344 5351 5386 5411 5454 5495
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5663 5720 5727 5762 5773 5779 5797 5821 5830 5841
5848 5883 5924 5931 5938 5954 5957 5973 5980 6010
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6252 6274 6315 6338 6339 6383 6388 6414 6421 6441
6467 6494 6544 6553 6556 6581 6601 6606 6632 6644
6667 6692 6704 6717 6722 6723 6766 6773 6789 6850
6891 6893 6901 6913 6918 6950 6987 7002 7015 7024
7030 7031 7058 7060 7106 7178 7180 7207 7227 7308
7350 7405 7415 7421 7444 7448 7467 7474 7479 7483
7485 7496 7502 7523 7534 7547 7564 7580 7602 7605
7608 7637 7668 7669 7704 7708 7734 7797 7841 7849
7865 7882 7895 7929 7934 7938 7953 7960 7972 7992
8001 8024 8141 8147 8152 8161 8176 8188 8211 8212
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9229 9250 9261 9262 9265 9269 9325 9333 9373 9377
9399 9421 9437 9438 9481 9510 9553 9562 9573 9579
9581 9588 9598 9648 9661 9669 9717 9728 9750 9755
9760 9782 9787 9805 9808 9809 9845 9951 9962 9995

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Markets retreat as US-China trade war jitters return

MUMBAI, MAY 3 (PTI): Benchmark Sensex snapped its four-session rising streak today amid a broad downtrend in global equities on little hope of the US and China reaching a resolution at the negotiating table on their trade dispute. Unabated capital outflows by foreign funds and lower-than-expected quarterly numbers by InterGlobe Aviation and some other companies added to the wariness among investors, brokers said. Officials of the US and China met in Beijing to find a way forward in their trade tussle, with experts cautioning against expecting a quick resolution to the tit-for-tat tariff war between the world's two largest economies. The 30-share Sensex shed over 73 points to finish at 35,103.14, while the broader Nifty closed 38.40 points lower at 10,679.65. Realty, capital goods, IT, tech, infrastructure, FMCG, consumer durables, oil and gas and auto suffered as participants pulled money off the table. After opening higher, the 30-share Sensex quickly slipped into the red largely in line with weak Asian cues and hit a low of 35,020.08 before settling at 35,103.14, still down by 73.28 points, or 0.21 per cent. The index had risen 675.15 points in the past four sessions, spurred by sustained buying by domestic institutional investors (DIIs) and encouraging quarterly earnings by some companies. The 50-share NSE Nifty slipped

below the 10,700-mark and finished at 10,679.65 -- down 38.40 points, or 0.36 per cent. During the day, it shuttled between 10,720.60 and 10,647.45. Meanwhile, on a net basis, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold shares worth Rs 525.93 crore, while DIIs bought shares to the tune of Rs 165.84 crore in yesterday's trade, provisional data showed. "Market was volatile even after 10-yr domestic bond yield slid and rupee strengthened following Fed's dovish monetary policy. "The global market is trading weak as US starts trade talk with China while any escalation of trade war will dampen investor sentiment. Back home, results and upcoming state election will give near term direction," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Wipro fell the most among the Sensex counters, plunging 1.94 per cent, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank at 1.90 per cent. Other laggards were Asian Paints, L&T, HUL, Coal India, Infosys, RIL, ITC Ltd, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, TCS, Adani Ports, HDFC Bank, Yes Bank and Hero Moto-Corp. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, NTPC, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, ONGC, Power Grid, SBI and HDFC Ltd ended in the green and absorbed the overall fall to some extent. Shares of InterGlobe Aviation,

after slumping nearly 20 per cent in early deals, clawed back some lost ground to end 10.57 per cent lower after the company yesterday reported a 73 per cent plunge in profit for the March quarter. Sectorwise, the BSE realty index lost 1.79 per cent, followed by IT (1.62 per cent), capital goods (1.60 per cent), tech (1.39 per cent), FMCG (1.14 per cent), infrastructure (1.07 per cent), oil and gas (0.59 per cent), auto (0.39 per cent), consumer durables (0.33 per cent) and power (0.21 per cent). Metal, bankex and PSU indices managed to end higher. The broader markets too reflected a bearish trend for the second day. The mid-cap index fell 1.16 per cent while the small-cap finished lower by 0.84 per cent. Global shares too displayed a similar trend following overnight losses on the Wall Street after the US Federal Reserve kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 1.5-1.75 per cent and reiterated plans to continue raising rates gradually amid firming inflation. In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.34 per cent, while Shanghai Composite Index went up 0.64 per cent. Some other markets were closed for a four-day holiday week-end. European shares too were trading in the negative terrain in morning deals, with Frankfurt falling 0.31 per cent and Paris CAC 40 down 0.30 per cent. London's FTSE fell 0.09 per cent.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

Indigo flight delayed for 5 hrs, passengers protest at IGI

NEW DELHI, MAY 3 (PTI): A Guwahati-bound IndiGo flight carrying 177 passengers from here last evening was delayed by about five hours due to bad weather conditions, triggering protests by a group of passengers at the IGI Airport.

The protesting passengers even allegedly came out of the stranded A320 aircraft and tried to block the taxiway, sources in the know of the incident said. Flight operations were partially affected last evening as a dust storm hit the national capital, and some adjoining states, resulting in about 21 diversions from the Indira Gandhi International Airport here, officials said.

Passengers of flight No 6E-694 were agitated over the delay and alleged there was no communication from the airlines about the cause of the delay and the expected departure time.to about the delay.

Justin Langer appointed Australia coach, vows to “earn respect”

SYDNEY, MAY 3 (AFP): Justin Langer vowed to fix the scandal-hit Australian cricket team's behaviour and win back respect after being named head coach in all three formats of the game Thursday.

The former Test opener, 47, starts his new role on May 22 for a four-year term which takes in two Ashes series, a World Cup and a World Twenty20 tournament.

He takes the reins at a time of crisis following the 12-month suspensions of ex-captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner over a ball-tampering scandal which also saw previous coach Darren Lehmann quit.

“The expectations are high in the Australian cricket team. We have got to make sure the behaviours are good. If we do that, I think the outcomes will look after themselves,” Langer told a media conference.

“I think one of the things that's really important is that we keep looking to earn respect. To me, respect is worth more than all the gold in the world.”

Cricket Australia has ordered a review of the damaged sport's culture in the wake of the scandal during the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town that tarnished Australian cricket's reputation.

“We all know what the ac-



ceptable behaviours are. There is a difference between competitiveness and aggression and we've got to be careful with that,” Langer said.

“We look to encourage great cricketers, but also great people. So we if we can encourage great people and great Australians over the next four years, I think that's a really important foundation for us.”

Langer opened the door for a return of Smith, Warner and Cameron Bancroft, who was also banned for the tampering incident.

“We'll learn from what's happened,” he said. “They are great kids and it was such a surprise they made the mistake they did. But they are great kids, we have all made mistakes, we can all get better at things.

“If we can keep mentoring and helping them and they want to meet the standards of the Australian cricket team, then of course they'd be welcomed back.”

Langer comes into the job after dominating domestic cricket in recent years as coach of Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers.

CA chief executive James Sutherland said he was the “clear standout” choice. “Whilst Darren Lehmann was not due to complete his term until next year, we have had a succession plan in place for this role for some time,” Sutherland said.

“The plan has allowed us to consider several worthy candidates, but Justin was the clear standout, particularly based on his recent coaching and player development achievements.

“We firmly believe Justin is the right person to lead this team and have huge confidence in what he will bring to the role.” Langer had a highly decorated playing career, representing Australia in 105 Test matches and eight ODI matches.

He scored more than 7,500 Test runs -- including 23 centuries -- and was an integral member of the team during one of its most successful eras.

His playing career spanned almost 20 years and 360 first-class matches, scoring more than 28,000 first-class runs.

As a coach, he had been in charge of Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers since November 2012.

Langer led the Scorchers to Big Bash League T20 championships three times, the most of any coach, in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17.

He also led the WA Warriors to one-day Cup titles twice, in 2014-15 and 2017-18.

Langer was involved in the Australian team as an assistant coach for three years from November 2009 and has twice been head coach on an interim basis -- in an ODI tri-series in the Caribbean in 2016, and a home T20 series against Sri Lanka in 2017.

Tagore festival opens in Cairo

CAIRO, MAY 3 (PTI): India is organising a five-day cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate the 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

An exhibition on the paintings of Tagore titled Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours' will be held at the Museum of Ahmed Shawky at Giza as part of the Tagore festival which began today.

The festival is being organised by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC), the cultural wing of the Indian Embassy in Cairo.

Like the last two years, we shall continue the tradition of commemorating Tagore's birth anniversary in Egypt. We believe that there are certain iconic figures who have played a very important role in linking the hearts and minds of the people of India and the people of Egypt. Tagore and Gandhi are obviously two great instances, India's Ambassador to Egypt Sanjay Bhattacharyya told PTI.

Spurred by a spirit of inventiveness, Tagore's paintings merged the familiar with the unknown. Landscapes are the smallest output to Tagore's art. After he developed his love for painting, Tagore described the visible world around him as a vast procession of forms.

Most of the landscapes he painted showed nature bathed in the evening light, skies and forms coagulating into ominous silhouettes.

His landscapes invoke mystery and a sense of disquiet and silence. Tagore did not name his paintings, but by leaving them untitled he freed them from the limits of literary imagination.

He wished his viewers to read the paintings in their own light and admire them in individual ways. His painted faces speak of vast human experience and intrinsic human emotion.

His faces speak of various moods: mysterious, brooding, dramatic, and romantic; of wonderment, fear, and melancholia.

Desperate MI look for solutions against rampaging KXIP

INDORE, MAY 3 (PTI): Defending champions Mumbai Indians will be aiming to sort their ‘opening woes’ in both departments of the game when they take on a rejuvenated Kings XI Punjab in a must-win IPL encounter, here tomorrow.

The three-time IPL champions are starting at an inglorious exit having brought up the rear so far, with only two wins in their kitty from eight games.

On the other hand, Kings XI Punjab, under Ravichandran Ashwin's leadership, have won five out of their seven games, slowly but surely inching towards the Play-Offs.

A week off has certainly helped the likes of Chris Gayle and KL Rahul recharge their batteries and they will be aiming to come out all guns blazing at their adopted home.

Kings XI Punjab's season has been about collective performance. They don't have the ‘Orange Cap’ or ‘Purple Cap’ holders in their ranks but everyone has chipped in with impactful performances as and when required.

‘Universe Boss’ Chris Gayle (252 runs) came into the tournament with a bruised ego and battered the bowlers into submission with two half centuries and a hundred. Rahul (268 runs) also showed why he is rated so highly with the fastest ever 50 in IPL.

Afghanistan's rookie mystery spinner Mujeeb ur Rahman, with an economy rate of 6.51 and seven wickets, has been nurtured well by skipper Ashwin, who has marshalled his resources well.

The pace duo of Ankit Rajpoot (7 wickets at 6.27) and Andrew Tye (9 wickets at



7.78) have also done the job for the Preity Zinta co-owned outfit.

For Mumbai, the primary reason for six defeats in eight matches has been poor start by openers along with new ball bowlers leaking too many runs in Powerplay overs.

While Suryakumar Yadav, with 283 runs from eight games, has performed decently after being promoted up the order, Caribbean left-hander Evin Lewis (194 in

7 games) has not been able to replicate his form in international matches.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (196 in 8 matches) has shuffled his own batting position but his inconsistency has also hurt Mumbai Indians big time.

The opening stands in eight games has so far yielded: 7, 11, 102, 0, 1, 12, 69, 5.

A look at the statistics will reveal that they have got solid foundation in only two games

of which they won the match against CSK. The other problem that has plagued Mumbai has been the performance of their two all-rounders -- Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya.

With Pollard not fit enough to bowl, his contribution of 76 runs in 6 innings has been an issue. Hardik has also blown hot ‘n’ cold during the season with 111 runs, including a toiling 50 in the last game along with 11 wickets.

Left-arm pacers Mustafizur Rahaman (7 wickets) and Mitchell McLaren (9 wickets) have both been expensive at the start and back-end of the opposition innings with unimpressive economy rates of 8.34 and 8.66 respectively.

That has put immense pressure on Jasprit Bumrah (9 wickets at an economy rate of 7) and Hardik (11 eickets at 8.74).

The only silver lining for the Mumbai Indians this season has been the emergence of young leg-spinner Mayank Markande (11 wickets) . The teenager has shown admirable temperament against the biggest names.

However it will depend on the big guns as to whether IPL's most successful franchise makes it to the Play-Offs this time.

Squads: Kings XI Punjab: Ravichandran Ashwin (captain), Chris Gayle, Aaron Finch, KL Rahul (wk), Karun Nair, Mohit Sharma, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Barinder Sran, David Miller, Andrew Tye, Ankit Rajpoot, Axar Patel, Akshdeep Nath, Mayank Agarwal, Manoj Tiwary, Yuvraj Singh, Manzoor Dar Pandav, Pardeep Sahu, Ben Dwarshuis, Marcus Stoinis, Mayank Dagar.

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (captain), Suryakumar Yadav, Evin Lewis, Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Kieron Pollard, Mayank Markande, Mitchell McLaren, Mustafizur Rahaman, Jasprit Bumrah, Akila Dananjaya, Ben Cutting, JP Duminy, Rahul Chahar, Sharad Lumba, Adam Milne, Siddhesh Lad, Md Nidheesh, Mohsin Khan, Anukul Roy, Pradeep Sangwan, Tajinder Singh, Aditya Tare (wk), Saurabh Tiwary.

Rested Woods ready for Wells Fargo return



MIAMI, MAY 3 (AFP): Tiger Woods embarks on the latest stage of his comeback at the Wells Fargo Championship on Thursday, refreshed from an extended post-Masters break and still thankful for the back surgery that saved his career.

The 14-time major winner has not played since finishing tied for 32nd at Augusta National last month, and returns to Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina this week for the first time since 2012.

The 42-year-old former world number one told reporters on Wednesday he had benefited from an extended break from golf following Augusta.

“I threw my clubs in the closet for about 10 days, got away from the game,” Woods said. “I didn't touch a club, didn't make a golf swing. Then I started to lift a little bit, to get my muscle strength back and eventually my speed. I've got it all back now.

“It felt great. It felt good to just shut it down, to reflect, analyse, and try and think about how I can win events.” Woods only returned to the USPGA Tour this season after missing most of the previous two years through back injury.

His return following back fusion surgery has prompted an outpouring of goodwill from fans and fellow players, something Woods is still savouring.

“I've sensed it since I started playing this year,” Woods said. “I've been away from the game for a few years. The support's been incredible.

“From the fans, to the players, the guys that I grew up playing against on the Champions Tour, the players that have emerged since I've been away. From one generation to the other, at both ends of the spectrum, it's been incredible.”

“Thankful to be back” -

As recently as last September, before he underwent back sur-

gery, he was uncertain he would ever play golf again.

“My back wasn't fused. That was only September. I didn't know if I would ever be able to play golf again, let alone get back out here on Tour,” Woods said. “These were all unknowns. So yeah, I'm very thankful to be back.

“There was a long period of time where I didn't think I would ever play golf again. I was just hoping I could walk without pain. And now I'm out here playing against these guys.”

Woods' back surgery has allowed him to rediscover the club head speed which he once took for granted. In March he registered the fastest club head speed of the season after clocking 129.2 miles per hour on a drive at the Valparaiso Championship.

“I didn't have any speed the last four or five years because my back wasn't very good,” Woods said. “What I thought was speed was not. It was slow motion.

“Swinging at 115 mph an hour is not very quick. I didn't realise for a number of years how bad my back was until I had it fixed. It's kind of neat. I'm seeing speeds and velocities I haven't seen since my early 20s.” Woods will be chasing only his second victory at Quail Hollow after winning the title in 2007. However he has not made the cut there since finishing fourth in 2009.

Woods said Wednesday the demanding 7,442-yard par-72 layout had grown more challenging in his absence.

“The golf course is much harder than it used to be,” Woods said. “It's longer and it's more difficult. The greens aren't quite as fast as I remember but they are more difficult.

“I've got to get the ball on the fairway here. These greens are tough to hit from the fairway let alone the rough.

“So you have to get the ball on the fairway.

Mahathir wants to rule Malaysia again, shakes up election

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 3 (AP): Malaysia's former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad wasn't invited to the forum that planned to debate whether at well past 90 years he was too old to be prime minister again. He turned up anyway.

"As far as health is concerned, I am not senile yet," he announced to the stunned participants, maybe of whom stood and snapped photos with their smartphones.

For good measure, Mahathir sat in the front row and tweeted: "I'm here guys. Say it to my face." The recent move was trademark Mahathir. During more than two decades of strong-arm rule, he rarely shied from aggressively confronting opponents, real and perceived. And at 92 his appetite for political brawling remains apparently unsated.

The difference is that Mahathir's targets aren't those of yesteryear such as an imagined Jewish conspiracy against the Muslim world or the domestic opponents he ruthlessly silenced or imprisoned.

In an unlikely comeback, he's switched sides in Malaysian politics, coming out of retirement to unite an opposition that's seeking to end his



former party's 60-year hold on power and oust his protege, Prime Minister Najib Razak, in May 9 elections.

Mahathir, a maverick in the early days of his political career who survived expulsion from the dominant United Malays National Organization party, was the first commoner to become prime minister of Malaysia.

Though credited with transforming the Southeast Asian backwater into a modern economy, his dominance, like that of his contemporary, Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore, was stifling.

Under his rule, the judiciary was a tool of the government, the media was muzzled and a system of economic privileges for the Malay majority remained entrenched. His retirement in 2003 was

welcomed by many Malaysians who wanted the country's progress to be measured more by more than just GDP figures.

Despite that mixed legacy, Mahathir is now welcomed by many "as a messianic figure, someone who has come back from the past" to redeem the country, said Rashaad Ali, a researcher at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

Even after stepping down, he remained influential, smoothing Najib's ascent to the top in 2009 after criticizing his first successor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for poor economic management and also supported Najib in 2013 elections.

Then he became Najib's most ferocious critic as the prime minister, initially regarded as a cautious reformer, turned to Mahathir's author-

itarian playbook to survive a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal at the 1MDB state fund that damaged the country's reputation abroad.

The US and several other countries are investigating allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering at 1MDB, which was set up and previously led by Najib to promote economic development but accumulated billions in debt.

The US Justice Department says at least 4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib and it is working to seize 1.7 billion allegedly taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

Analysts say the unfair electoral system that Mahathir himself helped maintain means the opposition has only a slim chance of gaining a majority in parliament, even if it wins the most votes as it did for the first time in 2013.

But Mahathir could wound Najib, 64, by denying him a decisive victory. An ethnic Malay nationalist, Mahathir by being part of the opposition has lessened the potency of the Malaysian ruling class's perennial race card: playing on fears an opposition win would allow

the Chinese minority to dominate Malays.

Despite two coronary bypass surgeries, Mahathir keeps up a hectic campaign schedule. Sometimes he speaks several times a day at rallies that often last till the night and has also updated his tactics for the social media age.

He takes questions on weekly Facebook webcasts to reach younger voters. He has written poignant poems and produced short videos, telling Malaysians he only has a short time left and urging them to vote and save Malaysia from a venal elite.

"I am already old. I am past 90. I don't have much time but within my means, I will try my very best to work together with all my friends to rebuild our nation," Mahathir said in a recent video.

He looks remarkably robust but opponents are quick to seize on any sign of physical weakness and often try to portray him as tired and incapable of leading.

In February when he was hospitalized for a chest infection, he tweeted a photo of himself undergoing treatment.

"Taking a short break," it was captioned. "The fight will go on."



Chinese FM met Kim Jong Un in N Korea: Chinese foreign ministry

BEIJING, MAY 3 (AFP): Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a rare visit to Pyongyang, China's foreign ministry said today on its official social media account.

The two-day visit by Wang Yi -- the highest-ranking Chinese official to travel to North Korea in years -- follows a landmark inter-Korean summit and precedes a planned meeting between Kim and US President Donald Trump in the coming weeks.

The meeting with Kim followed talks Wednesday between Wang and his North Korean counterpart Ri Yong Ho, where the two discussed issues including the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Wang, who arrived in Pyongyang Wednesday, is the first Chinese foreign minister to visit the North since 2007, a lapse that highlights the rough patch in relations between the allies in recent years.

China -- North Korea's sole diplomatic ally and economic benefactor -- has supported a series of United Nations sanctions against Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programmes.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
LABHLAXMI CANCER

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:03/05/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 6728

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 1575 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3728

4th Prize Rs.300/- 6283 5th Prize Rs. 203/- 4818

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1053 1060 1090 1100 1109 1114 1145 1160 1172 1212

1277 1328 1358 1372 1386 1388 1441 1453 1459 1466

1473 1488 1490 1501 1551 1584 1593 1624 1637 1638

1658 1664 1722 1729 1755 1800 1840 1842 1864 1868

1882 1889 1918 1926 1956 1959 1996 2016 2041 2049

2079 2090 2138 2157 2165 2182 2227 2235 2268 2318

2355 2371 2389 2402 2450 2466 2499 2505 2562 2565

2596 2599 2638 2656 2774 2816 2848 3006 3010 3038

3064 3166 3170 3244 3249 3256 3284 3285 3308 3387

3418 3422 3431 3448 3453 3460 3482 3488 3496 3502

3522 3524 3535 3549 3584 3596 3601 3604 3606 3623

3642 3669 3689 3690 3716 3758 3789 3812 3829 3858

3864 3915 3936 3997 4028 4042 4061 4072 4141 4142

4166 4167 4200 4224 4240 4246 4249 4253 4295 4298

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4646 4653 4660 4686 4690 4725 4727 4730 4731 4735

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5011 5048 5055 5057 5078 5155 5289 5312 5334 5337

5344 5373 5469 5487 5494 5555 5598 5622 5688 5695

5793 5795 5839 5857 5858 5881 5885 5900 5929 5994

6004 6030 6066 6090 6091 6149 6162 6206 6227 6341

6354 6412 6427 6550 6570 6597 6607 6640 6697 6703

6716 6719 6727 6762 6774 6795 6815 6837 6911 6996

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Heavy rains destroyed or severely damaged 115 Hawaii homes

HONOLULU, MAY 3 (AP): Last month's record rains destroyed or did major damage to 115 homes on Kauai and Oahu islands, the state of Hawaii has said as it sought a disaster declaration from the president.

The cost of emergency work and damage to public property was pegged at more than 19.7 million, excluding repairs to a Kauai highway which was hit by 12 landslides. Repairs to the highway are estimated to cost 35 million.

The landslides have blocked the only land route in and out of the small communities of Wainiha and Haena. Kuhio Highway is also the only land route to the Kalalau hiking trail popular with tourists.

Gov. David Ige says the roadbed was eroded, meaning significant work will be required to shore up the road's foundation.

"We're committed to restoring access for that community," Ige told reporters at a news conference. Crews have been working to clear and fix the road so residents will

be able to get in and out. So far, only one lane is open and only emergency vehicles are being allowed on it.

The highway isn't expected to reopen to normal vehicle traffic until July or early August, according to Ige's disaster declaration request.

The damage estimates don't include the cost of removing green waste from Kauai beaches and debris from county roads on Oahu.

It also doesn't include money spent by the state Department of Education to open a school for Haena and Wainiha children prevented from commuting to their usual classrooms. Ige said the satellite school will be open through the end of the school year.

The National Weather Service said preliminary data indicated the rains broke a national rainfall record. A gauge in Waipa on Kauai's north shore recorded nearly 50 inches of rain over a 24-hour period. If certified, the rain would break the current record of 43 inches hit in Texas in 1979.



Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has warned Syrian's civil war may be about to escalate and enter a new phase.

On video link from his secure bunker, for fear of Israeli assassination, he addressed supporters in the Bekaa Valley ahead of Lebanese elections. Voters are going to the polls there for the first time in nine years, with the small Mediterranean country having been under the leadership of Prime Minister Saad Hariri since December 2016. He resigned in November, accusing Iran and Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilising the broader region, but went back on that decision just a month later. Now, ahead of his potential re-election, Nasrallah has warned that the proxy war being fought in neighbouring Syria could be replaced by a bigger war fought by larger powers.

Russian fighter jet crashes off Syria, both pilots killed: agencies

MOSCOW, MAY 3 (AFP): A Russian fighter jet crashed after taking off from an airbase in Syria today, killing both pilots, Moscow's defence ministry said in a statement carried by news agencies.

"As it was climbing after taking off from the Hmeimim airbase, the Russian fighter Su-30SM crashed into the Mediterranean Sea.

Two pilots, who fought until the last minute to save the plane,



died, according to reports from the scene," the statement said.

The ministry said the plane had not come under fire, adding that "according to preliminary information, the reason for the crash could have been a bird falling into the engine".

The accident brings Russia's official military losses in Syria to 86.

The most recent acknowledged military loss came when a transport plane crashed on landing at the Hmeimim airbase in March, killing all 39 people on board.

But Russian nationals are regularly reported to be serving as paid mercenaries in Syria and taking on dangerous missions that often lead to casualties.

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DEAR KIND MORNING
Draw Time : 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:22 DrawDate on:03/05/18
1st Prize Rs.26.03 Lakhs/- 94H 99793
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 99793 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
42908 55987 64600 67545 69688
57594 78305 79310 79832 88647
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0836 1757 2709 2867 3754 4465 4641 5133 5190 5911
4th Prize Rs.250/- 2347 4302 4996 5385 6750 7397 7415 8687 8801 9542
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0100 0282 0345 0367 0508 0570 0575 0777 0814 0837
0845 0901 0902 0946 0991 1007 1075 1079 1126 1168
1211 1264 1285 1477 1624 1631 1657 1885 1966 2154
2159 2181 2213 2246 2305 2455 2476 2629 2646 3011
3255 3453 3475 3488 3528 3656 3860 4122 4196 4213
4240 4493 4545 4548 4734 4764 4812 4858 4982 4998
5026 5039 5096 5149 5175 5221 5258 5714 6007 6038
6364 6504 6606 6656 6791 6882 6961 7004 7147 7208
7290 7405 7538 7601 7612 7629 7777 7844 7896 7917
7961 8027 8128 8247 8367 8462 8754 8806 8934 9912

DEAR WORTHY
Draw Time : 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No:22 DrawDate on:03/05/18
1st Prize Rs.26.03 Lakhs/- 74A 24760
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 24760 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
11343 30833 35450 35712 50021
52509 71741 72148 94501 96918
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1256 2277 2353 3116 4082 6792 7945 8404 9180 9654
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1357 2050 2198 4386 5420 5478 6152 6642 7943 8256
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0032 0049 0052 0116 0394 0410 0414 0471 0504 0528
0568 0713 0728 0859 1066 1072 1144 1379 1403 1595
1696 1758 1854 1866 1880 1929 1950 2030 2108 2109
2156 2170 2317 2606 2625 2702 2728 2870 2923 3020
3065 3111 3171 3249 3345 3439 3523 3578 3591 3612
3766 3917 3956 4193 4206 4320 4357 4675 4822 4904
4931 4960 5053 5127 5421 5654 5703 5747 5758 6409
6431 6643 6810 6852 7095 7227 7308 7614 7830 8352
8397 8438 8454 8809 8824 8868 8899 8939 9022 9084
9272 9345 9397 9609 9625 9736 9738 9763 9764 9831

DEAR FALCON EVENING
Draw Time : 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:40 DrawDate on:03/05/18
1st Prize Rs.26.03 Lakhs/- 93B 23302
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 23302 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
23489 27551 34194 46013 52468
55417 61333 65316 86202 98189
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0283 2469 2696 3505 3606 4023 5261 5752 7501 7636
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1263 2061 2328 3342 4490 4758 5439 9248 9573 9952
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0054 0069 0801 0150 0506 0581 0649 0738 0900 0973
1024 1052 1071 1168 1317 1352 1423 1520 1660 1683
1724 1784 1999 2369 2647 2735 2777 2816 2922 2946
3133 3180 3278 3312 3341 3634 3724 3818 3845 3954
3970 4085 4120 4131 4165 4183 4211 4321 4322 4640
4656 4691 4858 4883 4888 4935 4955 5017 5178 5289
5327 5677 5948 6030 6041 6066 6126 6168 6187 6198
6422 6446 6449 6707 6711 6755 6762 6957 7335 7522
7739 8066 8169 8207 8250 8373 8401 8440 8662 8761
8788 8940 9045 9070 9109 9204 9333 9575 9823 9979
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MUMBAILAXMI CHAND

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:03/05/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 4724 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1211

3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 5292 4th Prize Rs. 503/- 1978

5th Prize Rs.200/-

1013 1160 1278 1280 1373 1382 1386 1456 1470 1565

1625 1680 1765 1893 1903 1946 2002 2302 2310 2338

2491 2497 2502 2558 2567 2664 2715 2741 2750 2798

2866 2889 2906 2957 2958 3068 3099 3217 3220 3255

3277 3309 3389 3437 3470 3541 3549 3569 3687 3700

3861 3943 4007 4048 4137 4139 4142 4148 4156 4286

4289 4311 4324 4336 4350 4389 4415 4422 4442 4448

4515 4555 4644 4808 4861 4864 4916 5024 5045 5157

5427 5441 5523 5528 5549 5568 5655 5704 5711 5722

5724 5747 5796 5868 5870 5877 5883 5908 5914 5915

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1108 1139 1149 1152 1161 1164 1171 1177 1183 1285

1419 1432 1433 1438 1439 1442 1450 1488 1500 1515

1528 1544 1548 1549 1618 1663 1675 1682 1695 1786

1801 1869 1923 1939 1963 1997 2030 2033 2055 2065

2172 2216 2249 2326 2331 2340 2342 2345 2376 2404

2421 2430 2446 2493 2538 2543 2560 2565 2649 2657

2659 2686 2733 2764 2773 2843 2847 2875 2907 2923

2962 3000 3022 3031 3038 3143 3153 3195 3358 3341

3374 3381 3395 3436 3476 3496 3515 3517 3539 3582

3587 3591 3623 3636 3669 3670 3692 3713 3729 3730

3745 3752 3759 3760 3778 3786 3821 3831 3837 3852

3871 3882 3911 3930 3947 3975 4000 4017 4057 4086

4125 4153 4177 4249 4308 4316 4325 4426 4450 4546

4554 4564 4565 4573 4594 4613 4619 4625 4641 4643

4675 4705 4708 4713 4719 4738 4751 4780 4801 4806

4826 4827 4837 4899 4928 4959 4960 4968 4975 5013

5025 5042 5057 5084 5101 5119 5206 5264 5253 5301

5312 5314 5346 5367 5375 5376 5461 5466 5539 5560

5563 5579 5590 5593 5644 5660 5671 5701 5706 5786

5792 5806 5810 5813 5819 5841 5901 5903 5919 5982

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X-MEN PRODUCER CONFIRMS CHANNING TATUM GAMBIT MOVIE STILL ALIVE

X-Men franchise producer Simon Kinberg says the Channing Tatum-led Gambit spinoff film is still moving forward. Tatum become formally attached to star in the Gambit solo movie in 2014 and had begun to express his interest in playing the Ragin' Cajun even before then. In spite of the actor's undying commitment to the project, Gambit has struggled to get off the ground and has gone through no less than three big-name directors by now. Gore Verbinski (Pirates of the Caribbean, A Cure for Wellness) was the most recent filmmaker to abandon ship on the spinoff.

Fox didn't include Gambit on its list of upcoming X-Men movies during its CinemaCon presentation last month, further fueling rumors that the film is either dead in the water or on life support. Of course, X-Men fans probably know better than to jump to conclusions by now; after all, it took seven years for Ryan Reynolds to get his Deadpool solo movie after making his debut as The Merc With a Mouth in X-Men Origins: Wolverine. Kinberg is calling for patience when it comes to Gambit too, even with so much uncertainty surrounding the future of



the X-Men franchise at the moment.

Most of that uncertainty can be attributed to the Disney/Fox deal, which won't be finalized until 2019 at the earliest. Because of that, Reynolds told "I really genuinely don't know a thing" about Disney's plans for the Deadpool franchise, beyond Disney CEO Bob Iger's public comments about wanting to make more Deadpool films once the deal is done. Kinberg added that for legal reasons, they can't ask Disney about their plans either and are thus moving forward with the X-Men franchise as planned, the Gambit movie included:

"We haven't had any discussions yet about what the Disney acquisition

of Fox would look like for the Marvel properties because I think legally they're not allowed to talk about it until it's done. So no we haven't talked about it all. We're just moving forward as we move forward. Once Drew Goddard's ready we'll get into X-Force and, believe it or not, we're still trying to get Gambit [starring Channing Tatum as the cajun mutant] up and running. The hope is to keep moving forward until we hear otherwise. To me, I have no idea what to expect but I think it could be really exciting."

Fox is holding onto a June 2019 release date for Gambit, but the lack of concrete updates recently – save for a

rumored filming start date – makes it highly improbable the film will keep that date. It sounds like X-Force is the bigger priority now anyway, in anticipation of this month's Deadpool 2 (which features an early version of the X-Force crew) becoming a big hit at the box office. With Kinberg also preparing for X-Men: Dark Phoenix pickup shoots later this year and The New Mutants undergoing heavy reshoots for its release next year, it's presumably all the harder for Gambit to get off the ground with everything else happening on the X-Men front right now.

Still, there are other signs that Gambit could start moving forward properly again, in addition to Kinberg's comments. It emerged this week that Ben Wheatley is working on a Marvel film, leading to speculation that Gambit is the mystery movie in question. The High-Rise and Free Fire director sounds like a good choice to bring the Ragin' Cajun's world of warring criminal guilds to cinematic life, so here's to hoping that rumor pans out. Failing that, a more concrete update on where Gambit is at would be welcome.



MARVEL'S ANT-MAN AND THE WASP TRAILER DROPS

Marvel superheroes Ant-Man and the Wasp may not have made an appearance in the latest Avengers: Infinity War film, but that doesn't mean the duo won't get a chance to save the world themselves.

In the trailer for Ant-Man and the Wasp, Avengers original and Captain America: Civil War alum Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) sits with his daughter Cassie (Abby Ryder Fortson) as she asks when he became Ant-Man again. Ant-Man struggles with work-life balance as he "grapples with the

consequences of his choices as both a superhero and a father." The Wasp (Evangeline Lilly) joins forces with Ant-Man and they work together to fight a new villain called the Ghost.

Michelle Pfeiffer and Laurence Fishburne join the Ant-Man and the Wasp cast as Janet Van Dyne and Dr. Bill Foster. Michael Douglas returns as Dr. Hank Pym, Ant-Man's predecessor. A new poster also debuted right before the trailer came out. Ant-Man and the Wasp hits theaters July 6.



Quantico actress Priyanka Chopra is seen wearing a cut-out Dion Lee dress in Midtown in New York City.

HAPPY SONAM IS GETTING MARRIED, ANAND A GREAT GUY: HARSHVARDHAN KAPOOR

MUMBAI, MAY 2 (PTI): Actor Harshvardhan Kapoor says he is happy for sister Sonam Kapoor, who is set to tie the knot with beau Anand Ahuja.

Sonam, 32, has been in a relationship with Anand for a few years and their families released an official statement announcing the wedding date as May 8.

The preparations are on in full swing at the Kapoor bungalow in suburban Juhu.

"I am really happy she is getting married. Anand is a great guy," Harshvardhan told reporters here at a promotional event of his upcoming film "Bhavesh Joshi".

The actor said he would be taking a break from the film promotions to take part in his sister's wedding.

"The wedding is on 7th and 8th. After that, I will get into film promotions... So there is enough time for both," he said.

"Bhavesh Joshi" is slated to be released on May 25.



FACEBOOK IS TAKING ON TINDER WITH NEW DATING FEATURES

Facebook is adding a dating layer to its main mobile app, CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced on 01 May during the company's F8 developer conference keynote in San Jose, California. The features are a long time coming for the 14-year-old social network, which has allowed users to broadcast whether they're single or in a relationship since it first went live in February 2004.

The move will likely transform Facebook, with its more than 2.2 billion monthly active users, into a major competitor of Match Group, which owns and operates mobile dating app Tinder and popular dating platform OkCupid. Match Group's stock

plummeted by more than 17 percent as soon as the news was announced.

"This is going to be for building real, long-term relationships — not just for hookups," Zuckerberg joked onstage. He added that it's going to be within the main Facebook app, but it will be completely optional and opt-in only. "We have designed this with privacy and safety in mind from the beginning. Your friends aren't going to see your profile, and you're only going to be suggested to people who are not your friends."

Facebook product chief Chris Cox took the stage after Zuckerberg to shed more light on the new dating fea-

tures and to give the audience a tour of the design. The profiles look similar to other mobile-focused dating apps like Tinder and Bumble, with full-page profile photos. However, Facebook's take on dating is more community-focused, with integrations for the events and groups you're a part of on the platform.

Cox also mentioned a feature called "unlocking," which will let any user of Facebook's dating platform make his or her profile visible to other attendees of events or members of groups. From there, messaging takes place in distinct chat threads separate from Facebook Messenger. Cox says Facebook will

announce more information, including a release date and rollout info for the dating features, later this year following a testing phase.

Some people speculated that Facebook would restrict its dating app features based on a user's provided relationship status, such as "in a relationship" or "married," as Zuckerberg introduced the feature by saying it was designed to appeal to users who list themselves as "single." The company does not appear to be doing that, however, and there is no indication that Facebook is interested in excluding open relationships or other non-monogamous forms of dating from the platform.

ARIES: It's possible you could meet someone today who will act as a kind of Pygmalion for you. You need to be surrounded and encouraged by people who believe in you, Aries, and it's good for you have people around to support you. If you do meet this kind of person, don't be a showoff. Listen to what he or she has to say to you. It's for your own good.

TAURUS: You are particularly inspired by and sensitive to crisis situations. What that means is that you can't stand to see other people suffer. Sometimes even you suffer because you don't allow yourself to do the things you like best and the things that help you feel fulfilled as a person. Why don't you think about going

easier on yourself, just for today? Try it - you might like it!

GEMINI: Days like today push you to act in the areas of your life where you may have hesitated before. Does your love life need a breath of fresh air? Have you been dreaming of a nice candlelit dinner with your partner? A weekend in the country? A new home? It's time to stop dreaming of happiness and do what you need to do to get it. It's well within your reach.

CANCER: You might have questions about the satisfaction you feel about your personal life, Cancer. It's possible you have more demands than ever. Things seem so urgent to you now. Why not take advantage of this attitude

to talk about your deepest desires with your partner? Things will be much clearer. You may just need to express some of your negative emotions. It's important to do this before you begin to resent your partner.

LEO: Today is excellent for just letting your intuition guide you, Leo. If you have time, you might want to let your mind go and follow the train of thought wherever it takes you. You could find something out about yourself of which you unaware, something just waiting to be noticed. Remember, your desires are fantasies before they become realities, so dream a little.

VIRGO: Today is the kind of day when all you want to do is think

about a vacation. You're usually such a responsible, conscientious worker that you can afford to escape for just a few minutes. You could visit the world inside of you. You may even find something that's been on your mind for quite some time that requires some action by you now.

LIBRA: You are an excellent friend, and you take pride in helping the people around you. Have you ever thought about getting involved in a humanitarian cause or giving a few hours of your time every week to your local community? Today, Libra, these kinds of ideas could become a real part of your life. It's time to use all of your great ideas to help others.

SCORPIO: Your natural compassion may have led you to choose a profession in which healing or helping other people is your primary duty. Even if this isn't the case, Scorpio, the people around you may seem particularly demanding today. But be careful not to go beyond your personal limits or else you could be the one who needs other people's help!

SAGITTARIUS: You have a rather strange day in front of you, Sagittarius. The celestial atmosphere could be playing tricks on you. You might get aggravated for no reason at all, that is, unless it's because you've been meeting too many people who don't appreciate the original way you go

about doing things. You may feel as if you live in a world full of dinosaurs. Don't give up yet!

CAPRICORN: You might be upset by certain financial matters today, Capricorn. Either you realize just how much you've been spending lately or you see that things will be tight in the months ahead. It's possible you invested a good deal of money in something that could have waited, and now you can't invest in something much more important. These are hard lessons to learn, but everyone learns them some time.

AQUARIUS: Just for today, Aquarius, ignore your habit of always trying to find an explanation for everything. Something is changing inside you and in the

way you react to situations. The desire to incorporate life's more unpredictable aspects into your personality is the basis for these changes. A lot of your theories are only there to reassure you, but you probably know that. Why not try being honest with yourself?

PISCES: The planets want to make a deal with you today, Pisces. Either you stay in bed fantasizing about life as a CEO or rock star or you get up, get dressed, and do what you have to do to make your dreams come true. Try and convince yourself once and for all that you don't have to lose your childlike wonder when you enter the real world. That never goes away, no matter how old you get!