



**MOUNI ROY QUILTS  
NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI'S  
'BOLE CHUDIYAN'**  
pg 08

**BIG PHARMA EMITS MORE  
GREENHOUSE GASES THAN THE  
AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**  
pg 04

**SAATHI COORDINATES WORLD NO  
TOBACCO DAY OBSERVATIONS**  
pg 03



# Summit **TIMES**

Vol 04 | Issue 148 | Gangtok | Sunday | 02 June 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



## CM returns from Delhi

**JORETHANG, 01 JUN (IPR):** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) was accorded a warm welcome by his Council of Ministers and public at Melli today.

The CM was returning to Sikkim after attending

the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

The CM made a brief halt at Melli, Jorethang and Zoom where he interacted with the public which had gathered to greet him.

## Inter-School cricket tournament gets underway in Jorethang

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 JUN:**

The Inter-School Cricket Tournament 2019-20, organised by Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA), got underway at Jorethang Ground today.

The inaugural match was played between Kitam Senior Secondary School and Jorethang Senior Secondary School.

Jorethang SSS won the toss and chose to field.

Kitam SSS was bowled out for 44 runs in 11.3 overs and Jorethang SSS overcame the total in 10.3 overs, winning the match by six wickets.

Salim Ahmed, who took 5 wickets for Jorethang Senior Secondary School in 4 overs conceding just 8 runs was, was adjudged man of



the match.

The tournament will be played in all four districts of Sikkim with 18 schools participating. The league matches will be played from 01-11 June following which the tour-

namment will enter the knock-out stage.

The main motive behind organizing the tournament is to encourage the youth of Sikkim to play more cricket and take it up as a career.

Meanwhile, the se-

lection process of Senior Men's and Under-23 Men's has been completed, an SICA press release informs while adding that the fitness of the players is being watched by selectors and support staff.

## Skymet says monsoon likely to be delayed further

**NEW DELHI, JUN 1 (PTI):** The sluggish pace of monsoon has further delayed its onset over Kerala to June 7, private weather forecaster Skymet has said, revising its earlier forecast date.

Skymet previously said the monsoon would reach Kerala, commencing the four-month rainfall season in the country, on June 4 with an error margin of plus or minus two days. "(But) present weather conditions are indicating monsoon onset would be now around June 7, with an error margin of plus or minus 2 days," Skymet said.

The India Meteorological Department has said the expected day of monsoon arrival over Kerala could happen on June 6, with an error margin of plus or minus four days.

"Dynamics of monsoon keep changing. So far not even one out of the three criteria needed for declaring the onset of monsoon has been met. In fact, it would take some more days for conditions to become favourable for the same," said G P Sharma, president, meteorology and climate change, Skymet Weather. Sharma pointed out three main reasons for the sluggish pace of monsoon.

There has been a low pressure area off the Somalia coast on the Horn of Africa, which is governing the wind pattern. The system has taken away the moisture and restricting the stream of westerly winds over western Arabian Sea from reaching Kerala, he said.

turn to pg02

## Sanju FA and Brotherhood FC score C-Division victories



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 JUN:**

Sanju Football Academy, Sombaria, pocketed a full three points from another victory at the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League here at Paljor Stadium today.

In a contesting match, Sanju FA outplayed Manik Football Club, Dzongu, 4-1. Tseten Bhutia scored a hat-trick for the

winning team while his teammate Hangsen Subba added one more goal. Jigme scored the lone goal of Manik FC.

In another interesting match, Brotherhood Football Club outplayed Mustang Football Club, Sang, 5-2.

Tikhang Subba scored a brace for Brotherhood FC while his teammates Sameer Pradhan, Sanjay Rai and

Chandra Rai contributed a goal each towards the team's victory. Prakash Rai and Hijah Bhutia scored a goal each for Mustang FC.

A two-minute silence was also observed to pay respects to the memory of Karma Gyatso Bhutia, a founder member and vice president of Sikkim Football Association, who passed away yesterday.

## TN parties cry foul over national policy on language formula

**CHENNAI, JUN 1 (PTI):** Parties in Tamil Nadu including the DMK Saturday strongly opposed the three language formula's continuation with addition features proposed in the draft National Education Policy alleging it was tantamount to "thrusting" Hindi and wanted it junked. The Tamil Nadu government said it would continue with the two-language formula, seeking to cool frayed tempers.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram in a series of tweets in Tamil said: "what is the meaning of three language formula in schools? The meaning is they will make Hindi a compulsory subject..." In another tweet, he

said "If Hindi language is a compulsory subject its import is imposition of Hindi." "The BJP government's real face is beginning to emerge..." he also tweeted.

Meanwhile, "#StopHindiImposition, #TNAgainstHindiImposition" trended on the microblogging site Twitter.

The three language formula which bats for Hindi from "pre-school to class 12 was a big shocker," and the recommendation would "divide" the country, DMK chief M K Stalin said.

The draft policy prepared by a panel led by eminent scientist K Kasturirangan was unveiled on Friday.

Recalling the anti-Hindi agitations be-

ginning as early as 1937 in Tamil Nadu, the DMK leader in a statement here said since 1968 the State was following the two-language formula of learning only Tamil and English. The DMK would never tolerate imposition of Hindi and strongly oppose it. "Still, I believe that the Central BJP government will not make way for another language stir," he said.

The Dravidian party also said recommendations like "Gurukula" mode of education, teaching Sanskrit and sending Hindi teachers from Hindi speaking States to non-Hindi speaking States would in due course cause a "big danger" to non-Hindi speaking people.

turn to pg02

## SFA founding member Karma Gyatso passes away

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 JUN:**

Sikkim Football Association has mourned the passing away of one of its founder members, Karma Gyatso Bhutia, who passed away on 31 May at Central Referral Hospital.

He was ailing for a while and he was under treatment. He was 67 years old and during his association with SFA, the Late Karma Gyatso Bhutia held posts like honorary Treasurer and Vice President. He retired two years back from State Bank of Sikkim where he was posted as Chief General Manager.

An SFA press release informs that a condolence meeting was held at Football House here chaired by SFA president Menla Ethenpa. The members observed a two-minute silence in the memory of their departed colleague. A similar sign of morning was also observed at today's matches of the ongoing C-Division league at Paljor Stadium.

The release informs that the funeral is slated for 8 AM on Wednesday, 05 June 2019.

## EC terms reports of 'ghost voters' in recent polls incorrect

**NEW DELHI, JUN 1 (PTI):** The Election Commission Saturday described the reports about "ghost voters" in the Lok Sabha polls as incorrect, saying the claims were based on provisional turnout data uploaded on its website.

"The provisional voter turnout data reported on ECI website is only the tentative number of voters and not the final numbers. Therefore, it is incorrect inference to find ghost voters when there are none," according to a statement issued by the Commission.

The poll panel reacted days after a section of the media reported that there was discrepancy in the total turnout and the actual number of electors in some states.

Responding to the reports, the EC said two categories of votes are counted to arrive at the final result -- those polled in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and those that are collected through postal ballots from service voters and also from the personnel deployed for poll duties

outside their constituencies. "The provisional voter turnout data is displayed as percentage figure on the Election Commission of India website and Voter Helpline mobile app on the poll day as uploaded by the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer based on the approximate percentage turnout figures obtained from sector magistrates, who in turn get it periodically over phone/in person from about 10 presiding officers," the Commission said.

After scrutiny of documents by the Returning Officer, provisional number of general voters' turnout is compiled and uploaded on the ECI website based on the polling station wise tentative turnout data reported by the presiding officers.

"All these figures are provisional, based on estimates which are subject to change as is made clear from the disclaimer on the website..." it said.

The postal ballot count is added to the

EVM general voters' count to give the final votes polled in every parliamentary constituency and the winning candidate is given return certificate in form 21E by the returning officers.

Based on both the EVM votes and postal ballots, the returning officer prepares Form 21E and Index Card in which the break-up of voter turnout, including tendered votes for the constituency, is tallied to get the final voter turnout for each constituency.

Since the index card takes months to prepare, the commission said it had directed all the Returning Officers on March 26, 2019, to send the Index Cards within 15 days of the declaration of the result.

The commission said reconciliation of voters' data for all parliamentary constituencies have been completed in all the states and the Index Forms of all 542 parliamentary constituencies are expected to reach the ECI from Returning Officers shortly.

**GLAM MISS SIKKIM MISS TEEN SIKKIM 2019**

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# Cong's 52 MPs will fight BJP every single inch, won't allow walkover: Rahul Gandhi

**NEW DELHI, JUN 1 (PTI):** Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that the party's newly-elected 52 members in Parliament will fight every inch of the way like "a pride of brave-hearted lions" to protect the Constitution and the country's institutions and there will be no walkover for the BJP.

Addressing the meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party in the central hall of Parliament, Gandhi cautioned the lawmakers that it will "be like the British period, when not a single institution supported the Congress party" and asserted "yet we fought and won and we are going to do it again".

"We are 52 members and I guarantee you, it does not matter what institutions are standing against these 52 members. It does not matter who is standing against these 52 members. These 52 members are going to fight the BJP every single inch, without giving this much and that applies to the members from Rajya Sabha as well," he told the MPs, adding the Congress party will fearlessly do its duty as the leading opposition party in Parliament and outside.

Gandhi's pep talk to the Congress lawmakers comes as it struggles to come to terms with its second successive crushing defeat in Lok Sabha elections and is facing a leadership crisis after his decision to quit as party president.

The MPs at the meeting unanimously elected Sonia Gandhi as leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party and she has been authorised to



decide the leaders in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

"The Congress Party may have just 52 Lok Sabha members, but we will work together like a pride of brave hearted lions to protect our Constitution and institutions and to fearlessly do our duty as the leading Opposition party. The BJP will have no walkover in Parliament," Gandhi later said on Twitter.

Stressing that the Congress will rejuvenate, he lauded each of the MPs who have won this election and said they would go down in history as the ones who not just fought against a political party but also against every institution.

"You fought a very good election, obviously, because the people who won the Lok Sabha this time need to understand exactly what they fought. You are probably the first people in this country's independent history, who have fought an election not against a political party but against every single institution in this country. "There is not

one institution that did not fight you and tried to stop you from coming into Lok Sabha and you fought every single one of those institutions and you forced your way into the Lok Sabha. And that is something you should be extremely proud of," he said. Gandhi told the MPs that they have to understand that they are fighting for the Constitution of the country and the right of every single individual, regardless of the skin colour, religion, gender or state.

"Who is fighting against you, you have to understand that also. Hatred, cowardice and anger are fighting against you. Lack of confidence, lack of self-belief is fighting against you. The people who are opposing you in Parliament House, they use hatred, they use anger to fight us.

"Throughout the election, there is only one way to fight hatred and anger. There is no other way and that is the love and the affection and the compassion of the Congress Party. "That is why

the BJP sits and says that we want 'Congress-mukt Bharat' because without the Congress they have a free run and no one to counter them. There is no opposition against the BJP other than the love and the compassion, the affection of the Congress Party. And that is what you have to understand," he told the new members.

He asked them to be more aggressive and said they "may have to shout a little more, as they will get less time in Parliament like the last time".

"Last time, if the Speaker used to give us five minutes, this time it may be two minutes, but in those two minutes, we will put forth what the Congress Party believes, we will put forth our defence of the Constitution," he said.

Gandhi also said it would have been better if some of the old faces would have won.

He said there were 5-10 people in the last Lok Sabha who gave tremendous support, but lamented that they did not win this time. "But

they are ideologically with us even though they are standing outside the House. For me, they are standing with us inside the Lok Sabha."

Gandhi also thanked all the Congress workers "who fought for the idea of India and defended it" and said "it is an opportunity for us to introspect, to look inwards, to try and see as to what went wrong, to try to rejuvenate ourselves."

"I have no doubt that the Congress Party is going to rejuvenate. I have to thank all of you specially the seniors who are here. You have given a tremendous service in fighting for the Constitution and now you are fighting every single institution.

"There is no institution that is going to support you in this country, not one is going to support you. It is like during the British period, when not a single institution supported the Congress Party yet we fought and won and we are going to do it again," he told the MPs.

## Legal Services camp in Namchi



**NAMCHI, 01 JUN (IPR):** District Legal Services Authority (South) and Taluk Legal Services Committee (South) in coordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a Legal Services Camp as well as a Legal Awareness at Officers Club, Car Plaza, Namchi, today.

The purpose of the Legal Services Camps are to spread awareness about welfare legislations and schemes and strengthen the community's access to the schemes being implemented by the Legal Services Authority and other Departments of the Government. Today's program focused mainly on NALSA (Legal Services to the Se-

nior Citizens) Scheme, 2016. This camp aimed at identifying and connecting people especially senior citizens welfare schemes to ensure that fruits of the welfare schemes are passed to the eligible Senior Citizens. The camp also looked into understanding their legal needs and addressing their legal problems by giving appropriate legal advice.

The program was launched by the Hon'ble Chairman, DLSA (South), Jiwan Kumar Kharka in the presence of the Secretary DLSA (South), Jwala D Thapa, Panel Advocates Anjan Sharma, Bhim S Pradhan, Sangita Subba, Medical Specialist (District Hospital Namchi), Tarzen Subba

(Additional Director, PGIPF Divison / Pension Cell, Gangtok), Nakul Rawat, Social Welfare Officer, Manab Esh (Development Officer of LIC, Gangtok), Ugen Tshering Bhutia, Police Inspector (Namchi, Police Station) and Para-Legal Volunteers.

The attendees were senior and retired citizens of Namchi and surrounding areas. Dr Sangita Subba, Medical Specialist (District Hospital Namchi) conducted health check-up of Senior citizens. The attendees interacted with the officers and representatives of the Departments present to address their problems and to procure appropriate advice and guidance.

## Mamring School observes World No Tobacco Day



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 JUN:**

Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim, celebrated World No Tobacco Day at the school premises on Friday with placard displays and a special awareness programme on the theme of the day.

The program was organised by the NSS unit of Mamring School in collaboration with SAATHI and Eco Club of the school which has presence of all volunteers, students and teachers of the school.

The programme

started with an awareness speech delivered by Mr Sandeep Poudyal of class XI. Volunteers of NSS, SAATHI and Eco Club displayed placards to spread awareness against tobacco that kills human lives. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Songmith Lepcha from class XII. The anchor person of the day was Suraj Rizal of class XI. The programme was held under the guidance of Mr Bikash Bhattarai, Mr BS Bastola and supported by all the staff and the students of the school.

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## Singtam public toilet placed under CCTV surveillance

**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 01 JUN:**

In an expressed move to check against theft, a CCTV camera has been installed at the pay & use toilet near Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

"People who use the toilet have made several complaints about loss of their bags and purses. Since we cannot pinpoint

who carries out such activities, I have installed a CCTV camera so that the belongings of customers can be protected," informs Shyam Bardewa the janitor who takes care of this toilet.

"Further, the CCTV camera could also prove helpful against the peddling of contraband," he adds.

## Skymet says ...

An anti-cyclone a high pressure system making the air more dense over central Arabian Sea is pushing northerly winds that too are blowing along the west Coast. These winds are not instrumental in giving rains over the coast, Sharma said.

The Somali jet phenomenon too is very important for the onset of monsoon surge, he added.

Somali jet is the core of strong winds that originate from Kenya, cross equator as a part of cross-equatorial flow while blowing along the Somali coast and finally entering the Indian Ocean Region and moving towards Kerala.

This pattern has not been established so far, Sharma said.

Monsoon made an appearance over the Bay Islands in Andaman and Nicobar on May 18, little early than its normal onset date of May 20.

However, its progress has remained extremely sluggish, Sharma said.

By May 27, the monsoon surge covered some more parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and by May 30, it covered a significant portion of Bay of Bengal and Islands including Port Blair.

Usually, by May 25, the Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) covers both Port Blair as well as Sri Lanka, Skymet said.

## Sikkim Citizen Forum expresses concern over SU molestation case

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 31 MAY:**

Sikkim Citizen Forum has expressed concern over the recent case of the molestation of a student of Sikkim University allegedly by a professor of the same university.

The forum has stated that such incidents raise questions on the security of women in the State and has assured to take all possible steps to provide justice to the victim.

## TN parties...

The recommendations, the DMK said rather than lifting the standards of education has led to doubts that it had "ulterior motives" like imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking States and thrusting Sanskrit in schools.

Recalling Jawaharlal Nehru's assurance that English would continue to be in use till such time desired by non-Hindi speaking States, he also pointed out that the State had enacted years ago a Compulsory Tamil Learning Act.

Demanding the Centre to reject the draft recommendations which was "imposition" of Hindi under the garb of three-language formula, he said his party MPs would voice their strong opposition in Parliament as soon as the House was convened. Taking potshots at the AIADMK for being what it called a "yes master," to the Centre, he wanted Chief Minister K Palaniswami to strongly oppose it and if not remove the words "Anna," and "Dravida," from his party's name. The AIADMK is an abbreviation for All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

The BJP must never even dream to implement three language formula in Tamil Nadu and such a "greedy dream," would lead to "catastrophic," conse-

Addressing a press conference here today, SCF president, Thukchuk Lachungpa, while strongly condemning the incident, stated that the Forum has stepped forward on seeing no other social organisation in the State taking any initiative on the case.

He stressed that children were the future of the society and that their security was the responsibility of the forum.

Mr Lachungpa stated that the forum will prepare future action after consulting other NGOs and organisations. He mentioned that the forum will stage a dharna if the action of the Internal Complaint Committee of the university was not satisfactory.

He stated that the forum was taking this case very seriously and appealed to the students not to fear anyone.

quences for them, he said. Parties including the CPI and BJP's ally in the Lok Sabha polls, the PMK too alleged the recommendation on the three language formula was "imposition of Hindi" and wanted scrapping it.

Makkal Needhi Maiam chief Kamal Haasan said "be it language or a project, if we do not like that, it should not be forced on us." He said his party would pursue legal options against it. Education Minister K A Sengottaiyan told Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamil news channel: "There will be no deviation from the two-language formula followed in Tamil Nadu. Only Tamil and English will continue to be taught in our State."

The draft National Education Policy, 2019 available on the government website said the three-language formula will need to be implemented in its spirit throughout the country, promoting multilingual communicative abilities for a multilingual country.

Schools in Hindi speaking areas should also offer and teach Indian languages from other parts of India, it said.

The three language formula, followed since the adoption of the National Policy on Education 1968 and endorsed in subsequent years will be continued.

## Cops booked for thrashing suspects, flee from police station

**SURAT, JUN 1 (PTI):** Eight policemen, including a police inspector, were arrested here Saturday for allegedly beating up three suspects, leaving one of them with a brain injury.

While the accused cops were being granted bail after arrest at Khatodara police station in the city, they fled, and efforts were on to nab them, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) P L Chaudhari said.

The accused detained three men Friday on suspicion of being involved in a burglary and brought them to Khatodara police station. The suspects were beaten up mer-

cilessly, leaving one of them with a severe brain injury, Chaudhari said.

A case was registered against the eight policemen under IPC sections 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extract confession), 324 (wrongful confinement), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and under the Gujarat Police Act.

When the process of granting them bail after arrest was underway, the accused policemen escaped from police custody, the ACP said.

A fresh case under IPC section 224 (resisting lawful apprehension) was lodged and a man-

hunt was launched to nab them, he added.

The accused included inspector M B Khileri of Khatodara police station and six 'detection staff' plain-clothes policemen, identified as Hareshbhai, Kanaksinh, Pareshbhai, Ashish, Kalpeshbhai and Dilubhai. The name of a seventh accused, a sub-inspector, was not disclosed.

Of the victims of police beating, two sustained minor injuries and were placed under arrest for alleged burglary.

Omprakash Pandey, who sustained a brain injury and was critical, was shifted to a private hospital.

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**Foreign climbers go missing on way to Nanda Devi peak, rescue efforts underway**

**PITHORAGARH (UTTARAKHAND), JUN 1 (PTI):** An eight-member team of mountaineers, including seven foreign nationals, has gone missing on its way to Nanda Devi East peak in Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand, prompting the administration to launch a massive search-and-rescue operation. The team, which includes seven mountaineers from the UK, US and Australia besides a liaison officer from the Indian Institute of Mountaineering, left Munsiyari on May 13 to scale the 7434-metre peak. The team is said to have been missing since May 25 when it was supposed to return to the base camp, Pithoragarh District Magistrate V K Jogdande told reporters Saturday.

The route to the peak begins from Munsiyari, about 132 km from the district headquarters. From Munsiyari to the Nanda Devi base camp, mountaineers have to traverse a distance of about 90 km on foot.

"Besides the ITBP search teams, we have sent a 14-member search and rescue team from Munsiyari to the spot this morning. The team comprises SDRF, medical personnel, revenue police and local villagers," the district magistrate said.

A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team also left Dehradun in a helicopter Saturday morning to conduct an aerial survey of the area but inclement weather hampered the operation, Jogdande said.



**World No Tobacco Day**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 JUN:**

NSS volunteers across the state observed/celebrated World No Tobacco Day at their respective institutions/ areas today by conducting rallies, plays, essay and painting competition, and extempore speeches, etc.

**NKK and NDA celebrate foundation day**

**SHRAVAN CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 1 JUN:**

Natarajan Kala Kendra and Nrityaanjali Dance Academy celebrated their first annual foundation day here at Manan Kendra today.

The event was attended by Director, Sikkim Kala Kendra, Chhunilal Ghimirey, as chief guest accompanied by Rakesh Agarwal as guest of honour and a host of other guests.

The event was a collaboration between Nataraj Kala Kendra and Nrityaanjali Dance Academy and showcased performances by classical dancers from the academies dancing to live tabla beats.

The event was followed by a speech from Principal, Reeta Agarwal, Little Pixies School, wherein she talked about development of students and encouraging them to choose their passion rather than studying without purpose, she also emphasized parents



to support their children's on the field they want to opt for.

The event also featured international Kathak artist, Sandip Mallick, performing a classical solo Kathak recital, Sunando Mukherjee sarod

recital and Tabla solo recital by Shubom Mallick.

"We see this celebration as an initiative for the brighter future of our dancers," says organiser and performer Anjali Rai. Along with the performances from the

academies, Nataraj Academy of Dance & Music Kolkata also performed a group kathak dance.

Earlier, the event had kicked off with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony and a welcome address Sumi Rai.

**Bishnu Kumar Gurung bags gold in Sport Climbing**

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 1 JUN:**

Bishnu Kumar Gurung, 13, son of Tara Kumar Gurung and Mamtha Gurung, has clinched two gold medals in Sport Climbing (lead & speed) at the 2nd Bimalch Goswami Memorial North East Open Sport Climbing competition organised by Assam Mountaineering Association in collaboration with Indian Mountaineering Foundation in Guwahati on 25 and 26 May, 2019.



Bishnu credits encouragement received from his parents and the guidance of Sikkim Mountaineering Association (SMA) for his stellar performance.

The pursuit also demands sacrifices. Bishnu informs that he has now dropped out of school to focus on his training and achieve his sport climbing dreams.

Sport Climbing is a

variant of rock climbing and is a recognised adventure sport.

Bishnu has been taking part in sport climbing competitions since 2016 and has also thanked Tenzing Lamtha for providing him support in his journey.

"I hope to represent the country in Olympics one day," shares the young achiever.

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**Tripura health minister dropped for "anti-party activities"**

**AGARTALA, JUNE 1 (PTI):** Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has dropped Health Minister Sudip Roy Barman from the Cabinet, a state government notification said. Barman, who had joined the BJP from the Trinamool Congress two years ago, was removed on Friday night, a week after Deb warned of stern action against "enemies in the BJP". Party leaders on condition of anonymity claimed that 56-year-old Barman was dropped due to "anti-party activities".

Barman could not be reached for a comment.

A notification of the Department of General Administration (Confidential and Cabinet) issued late on Friday night said the departments held by Barman would

be reassigned to the chief minister and Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Devvarma. A five-time MLA, Barman was the leader of the opposition and president of Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC). He joined Trinamool Congress in 2016, and then defected to the BJP in 2017 with a group of Congress MLAs.

There were demands of cabinet reshuffle in the party, BJP spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharya said. Party leaders wanted that cabinet berths should be filled up on the basis of the track records of leaders.

"Three cabinet berths were not filled up when the new cabinet of the BJP-IPFT government took oath of office. With Barman's exit another

berth became vacant," he told PTI. "It is presumed that there will be reshuffle of the council of ministers and some new members will be incorporated on the basis of the performance of those leaders," he said.

The BJP-IPFT government came to power in the state one-and-a-half years ago. The chief minister, who holds seven portfolios including home, would now also be in charge of the departments such as PWD (Drinking Water and Sanitation), Industries and Commerce (IT) and Health and Family Welfare.

The deputy chief minister, who also holds the portfolio of finance would hold the charge of Science, Technology and Environment Department.

**Combined annual training camp for NCC cadets**

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 1 JUNE:**

3rd Sikkim Bn NCC, Gangtok, under the aegis of NCC Group HQ Darjeeling held a 10-day Combined Annual Training Camp at OBC School, Kamrang, Namchi from 21-30 May.

A total of 306 NCC Cadets along with eight Associate NCC Officers from various schools and colleges in East and North districts of Sikkim attended the camp.

The main emphasis was to impart collective training to NCC cadets, acquaint them with community living, foster a spirit of unity & discipline, imbibe leadership qualities and inculcate spirit of adventure for all round development of



Cadets personality.

The Cadets were trained on Military subjects like Weapon training, Drill, Map reading, Field craft & battle craft as also in Social service & community development subjects aiming towards nation building encompassing National Integration, leadership, Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, etc.

Several competitions were also held during

the camp - firing, drill, tent-pitching, obstacle training, cultural, etc.

Col Rajeev Kumar, Camp Commandant Combined Annual Training Camp informs that guest lectures by eminent personalities were also organized for subjects of common interest like fire fighting and rescue, environment awareness & conservation, health & hygiene and career counseling.

**SAATHI coordinates World No Tobacco Day observations**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 JUN:**

Schools under the banner of SAATHI, observed World No Tobacco Day on the theme "tobacco & lung health" on 31 May. The day was focused on educating children, parents and community members and to raise awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco.

SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) has been working against the eradication of substance

abuse from the society. To commemorate the mission, students & teachers of different school took initiative in spreading the awareness among the people of society by carrying placards with slogans, quotes and pictures showing the effects of addiction.

Smoking or chewing of tobacco product is commonly found in every society which is hampers the nervous system of brain and cause harmful disease like lung cancer etc.

To maintain a healthy life, every person needs



to eat healthily, feel healthy and on the top of it, one should avoid those things that are harmful to our health. With an objective to highlight the health risks associated with tobacco use, schools from different

part of Sikkim organised rallies, performed skits, story-telling, conducted pla-card and poster making competition, visited shops and other activities. Mass awareness was conducted which focused on spreading the aware-

ness on the negative consequences of the tobacco consumption.

This year, World No Tobacco Day was observed by Hee-Yangthang Sr Sec School, Melli Bazar Sr Sec School, Mangan Sr Sec School, Sumin Ling-

zey Sec School, Sir Tashi Namgyal Sr Sec School, Mamring Sr Sec School, Hee-Gyathang Sr Sec School, Bardang Sr Sec School, Mangshila Sr Sec School, Modern Sr Sec School, Tadong Sr Sec School, Deorali Girls Sr Sec School, Damthang Sr Sec School, Majhitar Sr Sec School, Bojoghari Sr Sec School, Assanthang Sr Sec School, Raktong Govt Jr High School, Enchey Sr Sec School, KB Limboo Sr Sec School, Phensong Sr Sec School, Ranka Sr Sec School, Luving Sr Sec School, Namchi Girls Sr Sec School.

## It's Everyone's Responsibility

*The minors need to be kept safe and allowed their childhood*

It is not easy to grow inured to issues that demand our involvement. We ease into such somnolence after years of consciously looking the other way until we reach a stage where most people prefer to remain silent spectators even when they are witness to obvious maltreatment. We deflect guilt by pretending sympathy at discussions around the dinner table and convincing ourselves that it is not 'proper' to get involved in what transpires beyond our private spaces. Soon, with this distancing sets in indifference, and with that everything that a society stands for starts falling apart. The collapse is already happening all around us and this is because the society is not striving to make things better for the underprivileged and the marginalised. It is in societal impassivity as this that the government has to step in and make specific laws protecting the ignored, marginalized, underprivileged and even children; sections for whom the society should be looking out, but does not. Had the society remained involved, these sections would not have suffered so much that legislations had to be brought in to ensure humanity.

And with that setting up, we segue again into a problem that refuses to get contained. And no, "catching" the culprit, although necessary, is not the same as keeping the children safe. One of the most difficult demands of putting together a newspaper is filing reports about abuse against minors. Apart from the disturbing chore of piecing together details to highlight the level of depravity that made a victim out of a child who has not even begun understanding the life around her/him, there is the fear of over-sensationalizing the incident in a way that might force the incident and the reaction to it on a tangent that is not necessarily what the situation demands. There is also the worry of underplaying it so much that it trivializes the issue. But that is an uncertainty that challenges journalists; what is that befuddles the society at large so completely that it remains insensate to the trauma of the young victims? It is one of those moments in the process of putting out a newspaper when we regret being the bearers of news [since we have to confront all the gory details] and not receivers [readers do have the benefit of not reading beyond the headline and a sanitized retelling of the incident]. What is even more disturbing is to realize that we continue to fail in keeping our children safe. And make no mistake, this is a societal failing, not a failure of the law and order machinery.

Crimes against minors continue to occur [a few get reported, many get swept under the carpet and too many remain secrets with victims and traumatize them throughout their lives] because Sikkim, as a society, blindsides its children. Secure years while growing up are the least that can be guaranteed to the young, and despite its small size, the society here continues to come up wanting in this regard. The solution is not in lynch mobs to punish the accused, nor even in over-protective cushions created by paranoia. As a society we need to start realizing that children here are in harm's way, as parents and hopefully because we are also responsible citizens, we need to educate the young and ourselves on the ways and means that the young can be kept safe. Child abuse is no longer rare in Sikkim and minors suffer sexual abuse in numbers which are distressing. Still more are denied their basic rights and continue to work as domestic servants in homes across the state, invariably working in conditions which are deplorable.

As per the 2011 Census, there were 64,111 children aged 0-6 in Sikkim. This is also the most vulnerable age-group when it comes to abuse. Given that Sikkim has a population of 6.11 lakh, this means that there are more than 9 people above the age of six to look out for the minors. Pedophiles form a tiny, very tiny, sliver of this remaining population. And no, it is not being suggested that we form nine-abreast wall of bodyguards around the children, but ensure that these nine are adequately informed about warning signs and wrong behavior and are effectively reassured that when they spy a predator, he will be taken one and taken away.

### 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: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)



# Big Pharma emits more greenhouse gases than the automotive industry

LOTFI BELKHIR  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

Rarely does mention of the pharmaceutical industry conjure up images of smoke stacks, pollution and environmental damage.

Yet our recent study found the global pharmaceutical industry is not only a significant contributor to global warming, but it is also dirtier than the global automotive production sector.

It was a surprise to find how little attention researchers have paid to the industry's greenhouse gas emissions. Only two other studies had some relevance: one looked at the environmental impact of the U.S. health-care system and the other at the pollution (mostly water) discharged by drug manufacturers.

Our study was the first to assess the carbon footprint of the pharma sector.

### MORE POLLUTING

More than 200 companies represent the global pharmaceutical market, yet only 25 consistently reported their direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions in the past five years. Of those, only 15 reported their emissions since 2012.

One immediate and striking result is that the pharmaceutical sector is far from green. We assessed the sector's emissions for each one million dollars of revenue in 2015. Larger businesses will always generate more emissions than smaller ones; in order to do a fair comparison, we evaluated emissions intensity.

We found it was 48.55 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per million dollars. That's about 55 per cent greater than the automotive sector at 31.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e/\$M for that same year. We restricted our analysis to the direct emissions generated by the companies' operations and to the indirect emissions generated by the electricity purchased by these companies from their respective utilities companies.

The total global emissions of the pharma sector amounts to about 52 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2015, more than the 46.4 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e generated by the automotive sector in the same year. The value of the pharma market, however, is smaller than the automotive market. By our calculations, the pharma market is 28 per cent smaller yet 13 per cent more polluting than the automotive sector.

### EXTREME VARIABILITY

We also found emissions intensity varied greatly within the pharmaceutical sector. For example, the emissions intensity of Eli Lilly (77.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e/\$M) was 5.5 times greater than Roche (14 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/\$M) in 2015, and Procter & Gamble's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were five times greater than Johnson & Johnson even though the two companies generated the same level of revenues and sell similar lines of products.

We found outliers too. The German company Bayer AG reported emissions of 9.7 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e and revenues of US\$51.4 billion, yielding an emission intensity of 189 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/\$M. This intensity level is more than four times greater than the overall pharmaceutical sector.

In trying to explain this incredibly large deviation, we found that Bayer's revenues derive from pharmaceutical products, medical equipment and agricultural commodities. While Bayer reports its financial revenues separately for each division, it lumps together the emissions from all the divisions. The company also reports and tracks its emission intensity in terms of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e produced for each tonne of manufactured goods, whether fertilizer or Aspirin, for example.

This level of opacity makes it not only impossible to assess the true environmental performance of these kind of companies. It also raises questions about the sincerity of these companies' strategies and actions in reducing their contribution to climate change.

### CLIMATE COMPLIANCE

We also estimated how much the pharmaceutical sector would have to reduce its emissions to comply with the reduction targets in the Paris Agreement.

We found that by 2025, the overall pharma sector would need to reduce its emissions intensity by about 59 per cent from 2015 levels. While this is clearly a far cry from their current levels, it is interesting to note that some of the 15 largest companies are already operating at that level, namely Amgen Inc., Johnson & Johnson and Roche Holding AG.

If those performance levels are achievable by some, why can't they be achieved by all?

These three leading companies are also the ones with the highest level of profitability and revenue growth in the whole sector. Indeed Roche, Johnson & Johnson and Amgen showed revenue increases of 27.2 per cent, 25.7 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively between 2012 and 2015, while managing to reduce their emissions by 18.7 per cent, 8.3 per cent and eight per cent respectively. This supports the premise that environmental and financial performance aren't mutually exclusive.

The pharmaceutical industry is responsible for some serious environmental impacts beyond greenhouse gas emissions. For example, the waste water from drug manufacturers in Patancheru, India has left river sediment, ground water and drinking water polluted. Researchers estimated that in a single day, 44 kilograms of ciprofloxacin, a broad-spectrum antibiotic, was released — enough to treat everyone in a city of 44,000 inhabitants.

Clearly, there is a dire need for more extensive and sustained research as well as more scrutiny of the pharmaceutical industry's environmental practices and performance. Healing people is no justification for killing the planet.

*[the writer is Associate Professor & Chair of Eco-Entrepreneurship, McMaster University]*

# We're in a golden age of black horror films

ROBIN R. MEANS COLEMAN  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

In the horror genre, black is definitely back.

The movie "Ma," which premieres on May 31, will star Academy Award winner Octavia Spencer as Sue Ann, a lonely middle-age woman who clings to a group of teens to the point of obsession.

"Ma" comes on the heels of Jordan Peele's critically acclaimed "Us," which is also led by an Academy Award winner, Lupita Nyong'o. And let's not forget that Peele's previous film, "Get Out," won the Academy Award for best screenplay last year.

Black actors have always had a role in horror films. But something different is taking place today: the re-emergence of true black horror films.

Rather than simply including black characters, many of these films are created by blacks, star blacks or focus on black life and culture.

### OBJECTS OF VIOLENCE AND RIDICULE

For most of film history, black actors have appeared in horror films in supporting roles. Many were deeply problematic.

In my 2011 book, "Horror Noire: Blacks in American Horror Films from the 1890s to Present," I describe some of these tropes.

In the early 20th century, many films — horror or not — had white actors appearing in blackface. The characters could find themselves on the receiving end of especially horrific violence. For example, in 1904's

"A Nigger in the Woodpile," a black couple's home is firebombed and the pair staggers out, charred.

In the 1930s, there was a spate of horror films that took place in jungles, where blacks were depicted as primitive — sometimes indistinguishable from apes. A decade later, black characters started appearing in horror films as objects of ridicule. Actors like Willie Best and Mantan Moreland appeared as comic relief — characters for audiences to dismissively mock.

To be sure, there were some instances in which black actors assumed leading roles. The 1934 film "Chloe, Love is Calling You" starred black actress Georgette Harvey as the vengeful Mandy. In 1957, Joel Fluellen portrayed the smart and reliable Arobi in "Monster from Green Hell."

However, often these characters existed to support the survival of their white counterparts.

### FROM PLACEHOLDERS TO FULL PARTICIPANTS

For a brief period, in the 1960s and 1970s, horror films began to treat blacks as whole and full subjects.

Many of these narratives centered on black culture and experiences. More often than not, blacks played the role of hero. For example, the 1972 film "Blacula" begins in 1780 and is an indictment of the slave trade and its lingering effects. In the 1974 film "Sugar Hill," a black female protagonist named Sugar, with the help of her black zombie army, lays waste to a murderous white crime boss and his cronies.

Then there was Bill Gunn's 1973

art-house horror film, "Ganja & Hess." A gorgeous and deliberative treatise on race, class, mental illness and addiction, it won the Critics' Choice prize at the Cannes Film Festival. However, no Hollywood studio was willing to distribute the film.

The classic of the era is George Romero's 1968 "Night of the Living Dead," which stars Duane Jones as Ben, a strong, complex black character who leads a group of whites during a zombie apocalypse. Confounding the clichéd trope of "the black guy dies first," Ben is the lone survivor of the terrifying battle.

In a turn of realism, he emerges triumphant — only to be summarily shot down by a militia of white police and civilians. Ben's death, which comes at the movie's conclusion, is as unexpected as it is powerful. The scene demands that audiences consider who among us is truly monstrous.

Sadly, these glimpses of blackness faded as many horror films in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s reverted to well-worn tropes. In some, like "The Shining" and "Annabelle," black characters operate as the "sacrificial Negro" who dies to save a white character's life. Then there are the dozens of films, like 1987's "Angel Heart" and 1988's "The Serpent and the Rainbow," in which black characters appear as wicked Voodoo practitioners.

### BLACK IS BACK

Jordan Peele's films should be thought of as an homage to "Night of the Living Dead" and "Ganja & Hess" — films that have strong, complex black protagonists. In fact, Peele has

noted that Ben's fate in "Night of the Living Dead," which was released as the U.S. mourned the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., weighed heavily on him when he wrote the ending of "Get Out."

Peele's character — unlike Ben — survives.

While Peele has shown that the genre can be a daring, unflinching examination of politics, class and race, the black horror renaissance has been brewing for some years.

Over the past two decades, Ernest Dickerson — who directed "The Purge," "Bones," "Demon Knight" and episodes of "The Walking Dead" — and Rusty Cundieff, the director of "Tales from the Hood" and "Tales from the Hood 2," have been stalwarts of the genre. They've paved the way for Peele, as well as newcomers such as Meosha Bean, Nikyatu Jusu and Deon Taylor.

The horror genre is maturing and becoming more imaginative and inclusive — in who can play hero and antihero, and who gets to be the monster and savior. The emergence of black horror films is just one chapter in a story that includes women taking on more prominent roles in horror films, too.

It's about time. As Jordan Peele noted in an interview in the documentary film "Horror Noire," the fact that there had been "such a small handful of films led by black people" was, to him, "the horror itself."

*[the writer is Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity; Professor, Department of Communication, Texas A&M University]*

## FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

# The Turning of Traditional Daily Attire to Occasional Wear

MONGFING LEPCHA

When we ask people to describe the importance of their traditional attire, most would say that it is a symbol of one's identity which is very true in every sense. We live in a society which comprises of different groups of people belonging to different ethnic groups. Every group have their unique culture, tradition, language and so forth. There might be some similarities but something or the other will always differentiate one group with the other. As a student of the subject Anthropology, I would say that so far one of the most important things which the subject taught me or helped me as a person to respect and understand different culture is the idea of cultural relativism including an idea which denotes that every culture is not just rich but unique. This ideas paved way in accepting the fact that no culture is ever richer than the other as no culture is similar to the other but its distinctiveness is what that makes every culture rich in its own way. Although there are many aspects of culture yet this article is based on the traditional attire of the Lepchas. The inputs are based on the observation and data collected

from the different fieldwork area.

Personally, I really admire the traditional attire of different communities or regions because it is different, colourful and holds fascinating stories behind. Talking about the traditional attire of the Lepchas, the women attire is called Dumvun/Dumdyam which is a long piece of fabric wrapped twice around the body, the edges pinned or tied on both shoulders and a belt or fabric tied around the waist. Men wears the Dumpra/Thokro which is again a coarse fabric wrapped around the body, the edged pinned on one shoulder and a belt tied around the waist. While talking about the fabric, now, one can find a lot of different options in the market, right from the simple cotton fabric to expensive silk fabrics used for the traditional wear. However, the introduction of easily available machine woven fabrics is a recent thing. Looking back in time fabric used by the Lepchas was known as Ashyam dum, special fabric made from the threads drawn from the stinging nettle plant. Perhaps, it is not just the Lepchas who used the nettle fabric but people around the world where nettles are available used it before the introduction of cotton fabric which is the most inexpen-

sive and smooth material available so far. Nettles are specially found in the moist areas and it is not

that requires efforts and pain as the plant gives painful stings. The plant need to be cut and dried after which it needs to be left in a flowing river for almost a week. At the time when the moist nettle is taken out the outer skin of the nettle is already worn out leaving behind the fibre which is then turned into thread. The thread is again used in weaving fabric. The fabric texture is the opposite to that of silk but it is very strong and lasts long. With the availability of different fabrics in the market, the tradi-

less people involved in the fabric production, the market price of the fabric has gone very high which is why only few can afford.

Even though everyone may not avail the traditional attire made out of the traditional fabric yet excluding that, the options are plenty but the use of traditional attire have become a rare thing in a general scenario. There are Lepchas especially women who wear the Lepcha attire on a daily basis and find it very easy and comfortable but most wears it only on

to wear as it is readily made and comfortable while working. The younger generation are also seen to be aware and having this conscious notion of love for the traditional attire especially after it was commercialised with the introduction of designer traditional attires and ready/ easy made which skips the troublesome efforts to wear. Now most go by the easy wear methods where the long fabric to be wrapped is turned into two pieces of fabric to be pinned on shoulders and tied a belt around the waist. Many are still sticking to the traditional method while wearing it.

Even though with all this, traditional attire have been left far aside by many reasons one being the western wear which are easy and stylish. Traditional attire which once used to be worn by the entire community has now been transformed into an attire of special events. In one hand we can see the less usage of traditional attire on a daily basis but on the other hand wearing traditional attire on special events have given the attire a special place and special meaning. Of course the traditional attire symbolises one's identity or identity of a community and at the same time there is no denial that choosing something different is based on one's comfort and choice. As it says "stick to the roots", so no matter what we do if we stick to the roots even in the slightest way possible we will survive. Even though the traditional attire is no longer a daily wear yet it plays an important role in our lives and should always be kept alive in a special way.

(the writer is Research Scholar, Sikkim University)



just used in making thread but is also consumed and proven to have many health benefits. The Lepchas in earlier days knew the art of traditionally acquiring the thread from the nettle which is a process

tional knowledge and the fabric lost its popularity. However, there are some who still practices weaving fabrics out of nettle thread for commercial purposes. With the rare uses of the traditional fabric,

special events. Even in the villages I have been too many elderly women were seen wearing Baku the traditional attire of the Bhutias and when asked about it they just smiled and replied that it is easier

## Oli invites Modi to visit Nepal



**SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JUN 1 (PTI):** Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli has extended an invitation to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for a visit to his country and strengthen bilateral relations through regular exchange of visits.

Oli was on a two-day visit to New Delhi along with leaders of other BIMSTEC countries to take part in Modi's swearing-in ceremony on Thursday as the country's prime minister for the second term.

Besides India, BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

According to the statement by the Nepal foreign ministry, Modi has accepted the invitation.

Oli, who returned to Nepal on Friday, also met Modi during the vis-

it where the two leaders expressed commitment to take bilateral relations to a new height.

"He (Oli) extended best wishes for the successful tenure of Modi," the statement said.

"Both prime ministers expressed happiness over the progress made in Nepal-India relations under their respective leadership," it added.

The two leaders underlined the importance of regular exchange of high-level visits between the two countries in order to further strengthen bilateral ties and advance cooperation in all possible areas for the mutual benefits of the two countries, the statement said.

During his first term in office, Modi visited Nepal twice in 2014- in August for a bilateral visit and in November for the SAARC Summit.

## Taki gets Luminous Lummer Dai Literary Award

**ITANAGAR, JUNE 1 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on Saturday presented the Luminous Lummer Dai Literary Award 2019 to Tagang Taki of Siang district, for his contribution in the field of literature during NEFA days.

The award, instituted by Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society (APLS) was given during the 79th birth anniversary celebration of doyen of Assamese literature

Lummer Dai, at Jawaharlal Nehru Museum, here. While recalling the contribution of Dai in the field of literature, Mein said that he is the pride for the state and a 'Sahitya Surjya' in the world of Assamese literature.

The deputy chief minister exhorted the youths to draw inspiration from Dai and carry forward his legacy.

"Our state has large number of tribes having distinct variant cultures and heritages, for a writ-

er there is so much of subjects in offer to write," Mein said and advocated for preservation of oral literature in digital format and in written form.

While lauding the effort of APLS, the deputy chief minister called upon the members of the society to encourage more literary activities in the state and assured his help to them in their endeavour.

Earlier, Mein paid floral tribute to image of the literary icon.

## Tripura HC rejects anticipatory bail petition of IPFT MLA



**AGARTALA, JUN 1 (PTI):** The Tripura High Court has rejected the anticipatory bail petition of IPFT MLA Dhananjay Tripura who is accused of raping and deceiving a woman by not marrying her.

Justice Arindam Lodh on Friday rejected his bail petition, saying the accused was a powerful person.

Public Prosecutor Babul Chowdhury told reporters that the MLA is absconding.

The legislator had claimed that he was framed in the case and opposition parties were trying to malign his image.

In her complaint, the woman claimed that she was "socially engaged" to

the IPFT MLA from Rimal valley constituency.

She said that the accused maintained an intimate relationship with her, but later refused to tie the knot.

The MLA was booked for raping and deceiving the woman.

The IPFT is an ally of the ruling BJP in the state.

## Rio assures Modi Nagaland's full support

**KOHIMA, JUNE 1 (PTI):** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Saturday assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi of full support and cooperation of the state government in achieving the common goals of nation building

and improving the welfare of the citizens of the country.

He also congratulated Modi and his council of ministers on behalf of the people of the state.

"The people of India have given the BJP led

NDA, under your leadership, an overwhelming mandate and I am confident that under your visionary leadership, the country will scale greater heights," Rio said in a letter sent to Modi on Saturday.

## Narada tapes: ED summons ex-mayor's wife, minister's daughter



**KOLKATA, JUN 1 (PTI):** The Enforcement Directorate has issued summons to four persons, including Ratna Chatterjee, wife of former Kolkata mayor Sovan Chatterjee and Shreya Pandey, daughter of state Consumer Affairs minister Sadhan Pandey in connection with the Narada

tapes. ED sources told PTI Saturday that the other two persons were Abhijit Ganguly and Moley Bhattacharya.

While Ratna Chatterjee had been asked to appear on June 6, Shreya Pandey on June 13, Abhijit Ganguly on June 10 and Moley Bhattacharya

on June 11. The Narada tapes allegedly indicted several Trinamool Congress leaders and ministers accepting cash for extending favour from a purported business in a sting operation.

The tapes showed the former mayor allegedly accepting cash and then

## 2 Karbi militants held

**GUWAHATI, JUN 1 (PTI):** Two armed militants of the People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) were arrested from East Karbi Anglong district of central Assam, defence sources said Saturday.

Acting on a tip off, Army troops launched a joint operation with the police and apprehended the two from Bakulia area on Friday.

One .22 pistol along with a magazine, six

rounds of .22 ammunition, three mobile phones, six SIM cards, three memory cards, Rs 5,855 in cash, and other articles were seized from the two PDCK cadres, the sources said.

Interrogation revealed that they are close associates of PDCK 'chief of army staff' David Mukrang and have been collecting extortion money and providing logistical assistance to him, the sources said.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey caused by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before. Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

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# Aditi makes cut at the US Women's Open

**CHARLESTON (US) JUN 1 (PTI):** Indian golfer Aditi Ashok birdied three times on her second nine including the final hole to card an even par 71 and make the cut at the US Women's Open.

Aditi was one-over 143 and placed Tied-33rd as there were still many players yet to complete the round.

Mamiko Higa of Japan, who shot a 6-under-par 65 in her first-ever US Women's Open round on Thursday, rallied with birdies on three of her last six holes on Friday to post an even-par 71 and maintain a one-stroke lead in the weather-hit second round.

Aditi starting from 10th, bogeyed 14th and had pars on rest of the back nine. On the second nine, she birdied first and second and pushed herself up. But she gave



away both those shots on third and fourth before getting another birdie on the ninth.

The round was suspended for nearly two

hours in the late afternoon due to thunderstorms. Play was halted for the day with Higa leading Jessica Korda by one stroke.

Korda, 26, put together rounds of 69-68 to sit at 5-under 137.

Amateur Gina Kim, 19, shot 1-over 72 on Friday for a 4-under total of

138 and sits in alone at third among completed players, although Celine Boutier of France, was also at 4 under with four holes left to play.

# Chelsea boss Sarri close to Juventus switch

**LONDON, JUN 1 (AFP):** Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri has told the club he wants to leave after a single season to join Italian champions Juventus, according to reports on Saturday.

Sarri has been an uncomfortable fit with fans at Stamford Bridge and despite winning the Europa League this week and finishing third in the Premier League, there is a perception the chain-smoking coach is unwilling to adapt tactics when things go wrong.

Sarri has been widely linked with Juventus, who are seeking a successor to Massimiliano Allegri, although sports daily Gazzetta reported Saturday that Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino was also on their radar.

Sarri held talks with Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia on Friday and informed her that he wanted to return to his homeland, the reports in Britain and Italy said.

Granovskaia, it is said, has promised to talk to club owner Roman Abramovich about his future, but it would seem Chelsea will seek compensation from any suitor.

Sarri succeeded Antonio Conte as Chelsea manager last summer after spending three years at Napoli.

The 60-year-old enjoyed a tremendous start at Stamford Bridge as Chelsea went unbeaten in 18 games.

But Sarri endured consistent criticism from a significant portion of the club's supporters throughout the campaign and suffered heavy 4-0 and 6-0 defeats at Bournemouth and Manchester City.

Chelsea, however, reached the Carabao Cup final, which they lost on penalties to Manchester City, before finishing the season strongly.

Sarri claimed the first major trophy of his ca-

reer when Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1 in Baku on Wednesday to win the Europa League final, but refused to commit his future to the club, saying: "You know very well that I love the Premier League, the level of the competition, and I am lucky because I am at Chelsea, one of the best teams in the best championship in the world."

"So at the moment I am happy, but of course I want to know if the club is happy, if we can improve."

"It's normal I think; I have a discussion with the owner after every season with every club."

Chelsea are facing a transfer ban next season which could restrict their ability to attract a big name coach.

The club has been linked with their former midfielder Frank Lampard, now the manager of Championship side Derby, should Sarri leave Stamford Bridge.

# Gayle, Russell to regain full fitness before Australia clash

**NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 1 (PTI):** West Indies captain Jason Holder have put concerns over fitness of Chris Gayle and Andre Russell to rest, saying the star players will fully recover from their niggles before the team's second World Cup game against Australia on Thursday.

Gayle scored a trademark fifty off just 33 balls as the West Indies secured a seven-wicket win over Pakistan in their World Cup opener at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Three massive sixes gave took him to 40 in his career at the tournament, more than any other player, but also took its toll as he struggled with running between the wickets and hobbled towards the pavilion after his eventual dismissal.

But captain Jason Holder is confident the five-day rest between this win and the match

with Australia will be enough. Russell, who turned the match with a barrage of short-pitched deliveries, taking two wickets from his 18 balls, also insists he will be okay despite seeming to aggravate a knee injury.

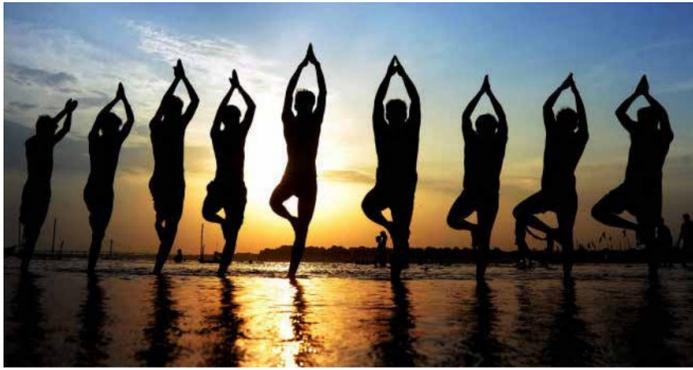
"I've more than enough time to get my knee back to normal and get it settled," he said.

All which is great news for Holder, who couldn't have been happier with the way his team started their World Cup campaign.

This is Gayle's last international tournament but Nicholas Pooran gave a glimpse to the future with a 34 run contribution as the Windies knocked off Pakistan's 105 runs in 13.4 overs.

Pooran faced just 19 balls for his score and unleashed six boundaries, including two massive sixes.

# Centre shortlists 5 cities, including Delhi, for International Yoga Day event



**PAYAL BANERJEE NEW DELHI, MAY 31 (PTI):** The Centre has shortlisted five cities -- Delhi, Shimla, Mysore, Ahmedabad and Ranchi -- for holding the national programme of the International Yoga Day this year.

It will be the government's first mega public event after Narendra Modi became prime minister for a second term.

Names of the four cities have been sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) which will finalise the venue of the main function of the International Yoga Day to be held on June 21, official sources said.

"We have already started the preparations and the event will be organised in a large scale,"

a senior AYUSH ministry official said.

If national capital is selected as the venue, it would be hosting the event for the second time. Delhi had hosted the main event of the Yoga Day in 2015. In the lead-up to the event, a two-day yoga mahotsav is being organised in Delhi by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga starting Saturday. It will be attended by about 10,000 people, including yoga teachers, professionals, enthusiasts among others.

"The aim is to build an atmosphere of yoga in the lead-up to the main event and sensitise the people about the June 21 function," the official said. The United Nations

declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014 after Modi called for the day to be adopted as a global celebration of yoga, an ancient practice that began in India more than 5,000 years ago.

Last year, the main event of the International Day of Yoga was held at the ground of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated.

The first International Yoga Day celebration was organised at Rajpath in New Delhi on June 21, 2015, in which representatives of 191 countries took part. In 2016, the main function was held in Chandigarh and in 2017 it was held in Lucknow.

# S Korea urges restraint after North's missile test

**SINGAPORE, JUN 1 (AP):** South Korea's Defense Minister Jeong Kyoo-doo on Saturday fended off calls to step up pressure on North Korea after it test-fired missiles last month. Jeong told an annual security conference in Singapore that the tests were being investigated and a conclusion is within reach.

"There are discussions whether or not it is a short-range ballistic missile. There is a perspective that it is a Russian Iskander missile, or it is a new tactical ballistic missile," he said.

"There are data that we can verify, and we are working off those data to make sure we have a verification," Jeong was responding to a question on whether the tests were a violation of a military agreement between South and North Korea last September to halt acts of aggression against each other.

He said the North was "in fact acting within the boundaries" of the agreement and tensions between their militar-



ies "have been lowered to a significant extent." "So currently the actions done by the North Korean regime have the intent to carry out the peace process through dialogue and talks. And I believe that's the hidden intent behind the lines in terms of their missile launches," Jeong called on the international community to "assure North Korea that the decision to denuclearize is indeed the right decision."

He said that South Korea sees humanitarian aid and the lowering of military tensions as ways "to lead North Korea into conversation and away from ... the ways of the

past." North Korea itself has defended the launches, saying it was exercising its right to self-defense.

The U.S. and Japan say the short-range ballistic missile tests on May 4 and 9 were a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The tests ended a pause in launches that began in late 2017, and came amid deadlocked negotiations to rid North Korea of nuclear weapons.

Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya, who spoke at the same session on Korean security, stressed that a strict implementation of sanctions against North Korea was necessary.

# US preparing antitrust probe of Google: report

**SAN FRANCISCO, JUN 1 (AFP):** The US Department of Justice is preparing an antitrust investigation of Internet titan Google, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

The Journal cited unnamed sources close to the matter as saying the department would look into Google practices related to web search and other businesses.

Justice department officials share antitrust oversight with the Federal Trade Commission, which conducted a wide-ranging investigation of its own into Alphabet-owned Google that ended in 2013 with no action taken.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A new investigation would come as backlash grows against major tech companies that dominate key segments of the online economy.

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren has argued that big firms such as Facebook, Google and Apple should be broken up through antitrust enforcement. Alphabet's

profit in the first three months of this year sagged under the weight of a hefty antitrust fine in the European Union.

Alphabet said profit in the first-quarter fell 29 percent to 6.7 billion on revenue that climbed 17 percent to 36.3 billion.

The earnings took a hit from a European Commission fine that amounted to 1.7 billion at the end of March, according to the quarterly update.

Google's lucrative advertising platform remained the largest revenue driver for Alphabet, delivering more than 30 billion in revenue, but costs rose sharply as well.

But Google continues to face pressure around the world from regulators, notably in Europe amid multiple investigations over alleged abuse of its dominance in internet search, advertising and its mobile system.

The latest fine imposed by Brussels cited Google's AdSense advertising service, saying it illegally restricted client websites from displaying messages from ad service rivals.

# Tourist guide dies but saves 5 from drowning, hailed for 'actual demonstration of Kashmiriyat'

**SRINAGAR, JUN 1 (PTI):** Displaying the true traditions of 'Kashmiriyat', a tourist guide sacrificed his own life to save five people, including two visitors from West Bengal, after their raft capsized in Lidder river flowing through the picturesque South Kashmir resort town of Pahalgam.

Rouf Ahmed Dar, a registered professional rafter, cared little for his life and jumped into the river when the raft overturned near Mawoora after it was caught in a sudden gusty winds.

The five people, three locals and a couple from West Bengal, were on-board the raft when the tragedy struck it Friday evening at the rafting point in Pahalgam, 96 kms south of Srinagar.

Quoting eyewitness, officials said that Dar, who was escorting the couple as a tourist guide, had initially swam to safety. But on seeing the others getting drawn into the the water, wasted no time and jumped into the water again and managed to save them, they said.

A search and rescue operation was launched immediately afterwards and teams of State Disaster Response Force were joined by the police and locals. The searches continued until



late hours, but were abandoned due to darkness, they said.

The body of the brave tourist guide was retrieved Saturday morning near Bhawani bridge and was handed over to his relatives after medico-legal formalities, they said.

"It was actual demonstration of Kashmiriyat, which teaches love brotherhood and care, displayed by Dar, who successfully saved five people including two domestic tourists, in the true spir-

it of trademark Kashmiri hospitality," said Deputy Commissioner (Anantnag) Khalid Jehangir.

On directions of chief secretary B V R Subrahmanyam, an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh has been sanctioned for the 32-year-old Dar's kin, who is survived by his parents, brother and wife.

The two tourists -- Manish Kumar Saraf and Sweta Saraf hailing from Nandan Nager, Kolkata -- were taken to Srinagar. They said they have got a second life thanks to Dar, a senior police official said.

Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, has recommended Dar for bravery award, the officials said, adding the chief secretary also hailed his bravery and directed the district administration to support his family.

State tourism in-charge and the advisor to Governor Satya Pal Malik Khurshed Ganai offered his condolences on loss of Dar's life. "Without caring for his

own life, Dar braved strong currents of river Lidder to save five people from drowning. It was an ultimate sacrifice one can offer."

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah also expressed condolences. "My salute to this braveheart Rauf Ahmad Dar. He saved the tourists from his capsized raft but lost his own life in the process. May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat."

Pradesh Congress chief G A Mir described Dar as a symbol of true Kashmiriyat.

BJP State General Secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul expressed grief over Dar's death and offered his deepest condolence to the family. Koul appealed the Governor's administration to provide full support to Dar's family.

Former minister and chairman of People's Conference Sajad Lone also paid tributes to Dar.

"A very sad incident. My tributes to the exemplary courage bravery and dedication of Rouf Ahmed. He sacrificed his own life to save the lives of our guests. He is the real hero who will be an inspiration in selflessness and our tradition of hospitality."

# 12 killed, six wounded after mass shooting incident in Virginia

BY LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, JUN 1 (PTI):** A disgruntled veteran public utilities employee stormed a government building in the US State of Virginia and fired indiscriminately at his co-workers, killing at least 12 people and wounding six others, police said Saturday.

The gunman, whose identity has not been released, was killed when police responded to the shooting in the south-eastern coastal city of Virginia Beach.

The suspect, a long-term and current Virginia Beach city employee, fired "indiscriminately" in a public utilities building, police said.

Police Chief James Cervera told reporters there was an exchange of gunfire with officers and a police officer whose ballistic vest stopped a bullet was injured.

"This is the most devastating day in the history of Virginia Beach. The people involved are our friends, co-workers, neighbour, colleagues," Mayor Bobby Dyer was quoted as saying by the CNN.

The shooter was a disgruntled employee, the report said, quoting a Virginia government source.

"The President has been briefed on the shooting in Virginia Beach, VA and continues



to monitor the situation," White House said.

"This is a horrific day for the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are devastated by the tragic shooting in Virginia Beach," said Virginia Governor Ralph Northam after visiting the scene.

The shooting took place shortly after 4 PM within the sprawling Virginia Beach Municipal Center, a campus of city offices and agencies, including the Police Department, when the gunman entered the public works department building of the

city's municipal center.

The attack unfolded on multiple floors in Building No. 2, which includes offices for planning and public works, among others, and is adjacent to City Hall. The name of the gunman, who worked in the public utilities department, was not revealed by the city police, police said.

Police found victims on every floor of the building, the police chief said, adding the identities of the victims were not immediately released nor was the motive of the attack.

According to local Virginian Pilot newspaper, the shooter came armed with a .45-caliber handgun with a sound suppressor on it and shot one victim in a vehicle outside before entering the building. The rest were shot inside.

The FBI is helping the city police in investigating the shooting incident.

Senator Mark R Warner said that he is horrified by what has happened in Virginia Beach.

"I am thankful to law enforcement for their swift and courageous response. My heart goes

out to all the victims of today's senseless violence, their families, and the entire community that has been affected by these awful events. I will be praying for the swift recovery of those injured," he said.

"My heart breaks for Virginia Beach. For the victims, their families, the community, everyone impacted by this terrible act of violence. But the moment we resign ourselves to be just onlookers to such carnage, we lose our soul. We can and will take action," Senator Ed Markey said.

## China raises tariffs on US goods amid escalating tensions

**BEIJING, JUN 1 (AFP):** China on Saturday increased tariffs on billions worth of US goods as it prepares to unveil a blacklist of "unreliable" foreign companies that analysts say aims to punish US and foreign firms cutting off supplies to telecoms giant Huawei.

Beijing's move hits 60 billion worth of US goods with new punitive tariffs ranging from five to 25 percent, and comes in retaliation for Washington raising punitive tariffs on 200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 per cent.

Washington and Beijing resumed their trade battle last month when trade talks in the US ended without a deal, with American negotiators accusing Chinese negotiators of renegeing on previous commitments.

The countries have exchanged tariffs on 360 billion in two-way trade so far.

The tit-for-tat tariff war has been upstaged in recent weeks by Washington's move to blacklist Chinese tech giant Huawei over national security concerns, threatening the firm's global ambitions.

The US Commerce Department placed Huawei on an "entity list" on grounds of national security on May 16, a move that curbs its access to US-made components it needs for its equipment. A 90-day reprieve was later issued.

Hitting back, China's commerce ministry said Friday it would release its own list of "unreliable entities" that break their commercial contracts and stop supplying Chinese firms.

"For China's countermeasures, what we say, we do," said anchor Kang Hui on Chinese state-broadcaster CCTV's primetime news show that aired across multiple Chinese stations Friday.

"Talk and our door is open. Fight, and we'll fight to the end," said

Kang. China's commerce ministry said it would roll out the detailed measures against companies on the list shortly, noting foreign firms that break contracts, cut off supplies or take other discriminatory measures against Chinese firms would be included.

"Obviously it's mostly aimed at Huawei suppliers, Intel, Qualcomm, ARM ... if anything it's probably aimed at non-US companies, so European, South Korean and Japanese companies that may be trying to decide how strictly to apply the US ruling," said Andrew Polk, an economist at Trivium China.

China wants to make it a much more difficult choice to cut off supplies to Huawei, he added.

"It's potentially putting companies in a situation where they are forced to choose between the US and China and that could definitely backfire on them," said Polk.

China's state-owned tabloid the Global Times said the new list would "work as deterrent forming a protective barrier around Chinese companies".

"China is ready to wage a protracted economic and trade war with the United States," the nationalist paper said in an editorial.

Former Chinese officials warned Friday that the trade war could last decades.

"It is quite clear now that this is no longer a trade dispute and will extend much more broadly to punitive economic measures that each side can inflict upon each other," said Christopher Balding, a China expert at the Fulbright University Vietnam, adding it was reasonable to expect further escalation by each side.

"It is quite possible there will be significant collateral damage here," Balding said.

Speaking at a defence

and security conference in Singapore on Saturday, the acting US defense secretary said Huawei was "too close" to Beijing, creating "too much risk".

"The integration of civilian businesses with the military is too close. China has national policies and laws where data is required to be shared," Patrick Shanahan told the forum.

US President Donald Trump more than doubled punitive tariffs on 200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent last month, and launched the process to hit nearly all remaining imports from the Asian giant.

China responded by increasing tariffs five percent to 25 percent on 5,410 American products Saturday, worth 60 billion in trade.

The list includes beauty products, sports equipment, musical instruments, wine, condoms, diamonds, wood, fabric and toys.

Washington's tariffs appear to have already had an impact on Chinese manufacturing activity, which contracted more than expected last month.

While Trump insists China will pay billions in duties, experts note that US consumers and importers bear the brunt of tariffs on products coming into the United States.

"The United States remains an important export market for China, but its importance is declining," said Wang Shouwen, who was on China's negotiating team, according to official news agency Xinhua.

He emphasised the trade war's effect on China's economy would be "controllable".

"If the US wants to force the Chinese to make concessions by engaging in unilateralism and putting on extreme pressure, this is impossible," said Wang, according to Xinhua.

## Pak likely to remove restriction on air space usage

BY M ZULQERNAIN

**LAHORE, JUN 1 (PTI):** Pakistan is likely to lift the airspace ban along its eastern border with India in reciprocation to India's decision to remove all the temporary restrictions on all air routes in the Indian air space, a senior Pakistani government official indicated Saturday. The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday announced on Twitter: "Temporary restrictions on all air routes in the Indian airspace, imposed by the Indian Air Force on 27 Feb 19, have been removed."

Reacting to India's decision, a senior official of the Pakistan government said, "Once the Indian government lifts the air restriction on Pakistani flights, Pakistan is likely to reciprocate it."

The official told PTI that India has yet to inform Pakistan about lifting of airspace ban for its flights. "We only heard about this through the media as there is no communication in this respect has taken place as yet. We may follow the suit once India lifts air restrictions on our flights, he said. The IAF said it had removed restrictions that were imposed on all routes a day after its 12 Mirage 2000s crossed over to Pakistan and attacked a JeM terrorist training camp in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Pakistan fully closed its airspace on February 27 after an IAF strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot.

## India, US strategic partnership has strengthened significantly during the past two decades: Pentagon

BY LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, JUNE 1 (PTI):** Asserting that the strategic partnership between India and the US has strengthened significantly during the past two decades, the Pentagon on Friday told the Congress that both countries recognise the importance of the Indo-Pacific to global trade and commerce and share a common outlook on the region. The Indo-Pacific region contributes two-thirds of global growth in gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for 60 per cent of the global GDP. This region includes the world's largest economies - the United States, China and Japan - and six of the world's fastest growing economies - India, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal and the Philippines.

A quarter of US exports go to the Indo-Pacific. Exports to India and China have more than doubled over the past decade due to free and open trade routes through the air, sea, land, space and cyber commons that form the current global system. Both countries recognise the importance of the Indo-Pacific to global trade and commerce and acknowledge that developments in this region will shape the larger trajectory of the rules-based international order, the Pentagon said in an Indo-Pacific Strategy Report to the Congress amidst China flexing its muscles in the South China Sea.

India, through its Act East policy, continues to make significant security, economic and development investments to secure the vision of a free



and open Indo-Pacific region, said the report which is a comprehensive articulation of its role within a whole-of-government strategy for the Indo-Pacific region. As an implementation document, the report provides clarity on the US National Defense Strategy as it applies to the region and highlights the role of allies and partners in implementing our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Noting that the Indian Ocean Region is at the nexus of global trade and commerce, with nearly half of the world's 90,000 commercial vessels and two thirds of global oil trade travelling through its sea lanes, it said the region boasts some of the fastest-growing economies on Earth and is home to a quarter of the world's population.

While the region offers unprecedented opportunity, it is also confronting a myriad of security challenges, including terrorism, transnational crime, trafficking-in-persons, and illicit drugs. To combat these

challenges, the United States seeks opportunities to broaden and strengthen partnerships with India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal to respond to shared regional challenges, the report said.

The US and India maintain a broad-based strategic partnership, underpinned by shared interests, democratic values and strong people-to-people ties, it said.

The US-India strategic partnership has strengthened significantly during the past two decades, based on a convergence of strategic interests, and the United States and India continue to use their deepening relationship to build new partnerships within and beyond the Indo-Pacific, the Pentagon said.

Noting that in June 2016, the US designated India a Major Defense Partner, a status unique to India, the Pentagon said the designation seeks to elevate the US defense partnership with India to a level commensurate with that of the United States'

closest allies and partners. The establishment of the US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in September 2018 also serves as a tangible demonstration of our commitment to promoting the shared principles of a free and open Indo-Pacific, it said.

According to the Pentagon, the US continues to pursue a range of initiatives with India to enable cooperation, strengthen their inter-operability, and establish a strong foundation for defense trade, technology sharing, industrial collaboration, and broader cooperation on defense innovation.

The signing of the Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement in 2018 represents a significant development in our military-to-military relationship, facilitating greater inter-operability and real-time secure information-sharing. Department of Defense and the Indian Ministry of Defence are increasing the scope, complexity, and frequency of our military exercises.



# Mouni Roy quits Nawazuddin Siddiqui's 'Bole Chudiyan'

**MUMBAI, MAY 31 (PTI):** Mouni Roy is no longer a part of Nawazuddin Siddiqui's upcoming film "Bole Chudiyaan", the makers and the actor announced Friday blaming each other for unprofessional behaviour.

The producer of the film, Rajesh Bhatia claimed that Mouni was being "irresponsible", while the actor's spokesperson alleged that the makers were unprofessional and not her.

"We have invested big amount of money and if asking someone in a civil manner to be professional and committed to the role is being rude than sorry we are in the serious business of making movies with high stakes and it's not a hobby.

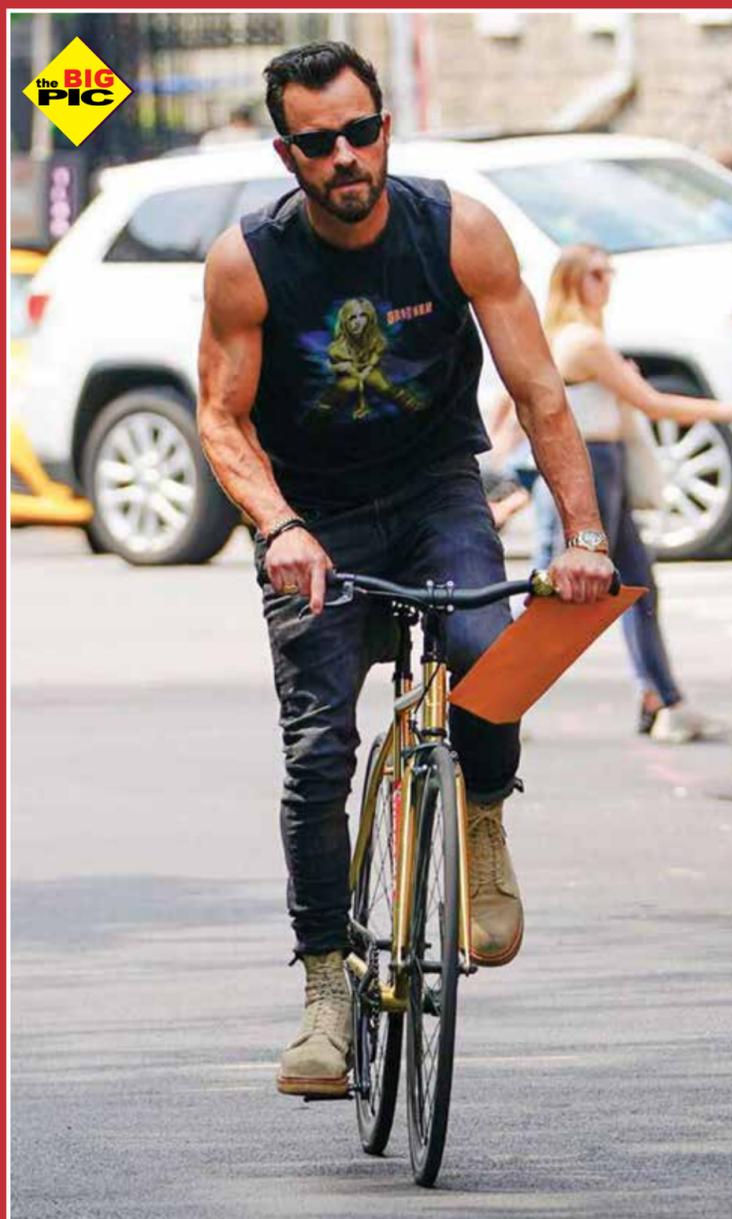
"The actor, director, me and Kiran (Bhatia) as content head and as producers did our best to reason out with her about lack of her professionalism and dedication but she suddenly lost cool and was ill tempered," Bhatia claimed in a statement.

The 33-year-old actor, who made her big screen debut with Akshay Kumar's "Gold", was roped in to play the female lead opposite Nawaz in March this year.

However, in response to Bhatia's claims her spokesperson has said the actor had not even signed the contract

for the film because of "discrepancies" in it. "Mouni Roy is no longer a part of the film. Mouni has done many films before

The spokesperson further added that the actor has decided to maintain a dignified stance on the matter and will



**GUN SHOW!** The actor, Justin Theroux shows off his toned arms during a bike ride through New York City.

## Women can be toxic too, says Meryl Streep

**LONDON, JUN 1 (PTI):** Veteran actor Meryl Streep says she takes offence with the phrase "toxic masculinity".

During a panel discussion to promote the second season of HBO show "Big Little Lies", Streep said toxicity is not just limited to men as women can also be toxic, reported The Guardian. "We hurt our boys by calling something toxic masculinity. Women can be pretty f\*\*\*ing toxic... It's toxic people," the multiple Oscar winner said.

"We have our good angles and we have our bad ones. I think the labels are less helpful than what we're trying to get to, which is a communication, direct, between human beings. We're all on the boat together. We've got to make it work," she added. In "Big Little Lies" season two, the 69-year-old veteran is playing Mary Louise Wright, the mother-in-law of Nicole Kidman's Celeste.

The original cast -- Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Laura Dern, Zoe Kravitz and Shailene Woodley -- are all returning for the show's sophomore run.

## Vikas Bahl gets clean chit in sexual harassment case, to be credited as director of 'Super 30'

**Mumbai, Jun 1 (PTI):** Filmmaker Vikas Bahl has received a clean chit in the sexual harassment case following an internal inquiry by Reliance Entertainment, producer of his next film "Super 30". The "Queen" director was accused of sexual harassment by a former employee at the now dissolved Phantom Films, which had Bahl as one of the partners alongside Anurag Kashyap, Vikramaditya Motwane and Madhu Mantena.

Shibashish Sarkar, Group CEO, Reliance Entertainment said a report by Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the company has cleared Bahl of any charges. "Yes its true that ICC committee report has exonerated Vikas. With ICC clearing Vikas Bahl's name we don't have choice but to reinstate his credit as director of Super 30," Sarkar said in a statement.

The development comes months after Kashyap agreed to oversee the post-produc-

tion work of "Super 30, featuring Hrithik Roshan in the lead. Bahl's lawyer Hitesh Jain said the clean shit "clears the air on him."

"It's the end of the story. This clears the air on him that was thrown in the social media about him. I'm happy he has been exonerated," Jain told PTI.

Bahl had filed a defamation suit against Kashyap and Motwane, alleging they made "defamatory, slanderous and baseless allegations" against him due to which he has suffered irreversible damage.

When asked what happens to the case now, Jain said, "These are two different matters. The most important matter was to inquire about the allegations which were made.

"Once you are exonerated from all that, it proves that there was no substance in the complaint. He faced an inquiry and they (committee) came to the conclusion that he is not guilty.

## Salman Khan takes his work seriously: Satish Kaushik



**MUMBAI, JUN 1 (PTI):** Veteran actor-director Satish Kaushik says Salman Khan has evolved a lot as a performer.

The 63-year-old actor said the Bollywood superstar is dedicated towards his work. "He is very warm and loving person. He is a subdued actor. Today his acting has lot of depth and he has become strong as an actor. He is a huge star and he does take his work seriously," Kaushik told PTI.

The filmmaker, who has also directed Salman in 2003 blockbuster "Tere Naam", will be next seen along side the 53-year-old actor in "Bharat".

The Ali Abbas Zafar-directed film is a remake of Korean movie "An Ode to My Father". Kaushik plays a the role of a naval officer in the film which is releasing on Wednesday. "Director Ali Ab-

bas Zafar offered me this role and I accepted it. It has been a great experience working on this film... for me it was about reconnecting with Salman after long time," he said.

The film also features Katrina Kaif, Disha Patani, Sunil Grover and Jackie Shroff.

Meanwhile, when asked about the recent reports of a reboot of "Mr India", in which Kaushik played fan-favourite character of Calender, the actor said he is not aware about the project.

"It is a big brand. If it was offered to me today I will do it. Calender cannot be erased from my filmography. It is one of my most memorable roles. I will be happy to be part. If it is made today I am sure it will do well. Back then we had a great team of people working on the film from actors to technicians."

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**ARIES:** Stop and smell the antique roses, Aries. Saturday's sensuous alignment of the moon and Venus encourages you to be powerfully present. Romance lives in the here and now, not the elusive fantasy of "someday." If you want to capitalize on the heart-expanding vibes, do less, not more.

**TAURUS:** Look at all the pretty, shiny things! Saturday's beauty-boosting alignment of the moon and Venus makes you restless, mercurial and bubbling over with curiosity. Who you, unreliable? Inconceivable, Taurus! But don't forget that you still own the prerogative to change your mind. Variety is the spice of your day. Flit from brunch and a matinee to a gallery opening, then shopping before a night of dancing.

**GEMINI:** Letting go is shockingly easy Saturday, whether you're saying goodbye to a dying romance or simply giving up control of where you'll meet a friend for brunch. Although it's your preference to play cultural curator, surrender and go with the flow. Surprise! You'll have a far

better time when you stop trying to direct the universe and let spontaneity lead. Pay attention to synchronicities.

**CANCER:** Ask, believe, receive. Today, the soulful moon unites with intuitive Neptune in Pisces and your broad-minded ninth house. This is the day to imagine what you want, because you can magnetize your dreams to you through creative visualization. The ninth house is all about expansion, so don't just aim for the "safe," low-hanging fruit. Go bigger, Cancer! Feeling out of touch with your power to manifest? Try writing up a gratitude list. When you recall all the things you're thankful for, you'll begin to attract more abundance.

**LEO:** You SAY that you want happiness, love and freedom, but do you actually believe that your desires are possible, Leo? Today's moon-Neptune conjunction in your mystical eighth house encourages you to examine your own limiting beliefs. Since you may need tangible proof to REALLY change your mind, hunt for people who are living

the life you want for yourself.

**VIRGO:** Relationships can be hard work, we know, we know. But they can also be a haven from stress and struggle so stop telling yourself that you don't need people. Today, the moon and compassionate Neptune align in Pisces and your partnership house. The tranquilizing effect can be beneficial to your bonds with the ones who matter most. Soften your stance with your partner, and be gentler in your interactions with close friends.

**LIBRA:** Arm candy can be fun to play with, but you need more than empty calories to satisfy your romantic appetite. On Saturday, reserve your final rose for someone with style AND substance. It's a lot easier to teach someone the finer points of fashion than it is to imbue them with a great character. With the right raw materials—a caring heart, a sense of integrity, compatible interests—you'll have more than enough to work with.

**SCORPIO:** Still musing over the weekend's romantic escapades? Don't rush to "back to business" mode. Today, the moon

and quixotic Neptune embrace in your fifth house of passion, adding a sensual spin to your agenda. An attraction could spark, or you could be feeling especially amorous. Nobody to side up to (yet)? Get glamorous for yourself, Scorpio.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Home is where your heart is today, as the moon conjoins with sensual Neptune in your domestic fourth house. If you must trek into the office, bring the cozy vibes with you. Keep an open-door policy so coworkers can plop down and share tales of their weekends. (That expense report can wait).

**CAPRICORN:** Straight to the point? Not today, Capricorn. The reflective moon and compassionate Neptune meet in Pisces, your communication house. Doling out tough love and stern reprimands will get you nowhere. Validating the other person's emotions and experience? That will help you feel connected. Sometimes, a person just needs to be heard before you rush them into problem-solving mode. Instead of being empathic, be empathetic. Catch yourself if you're being too hardcore, and dial back the intensity.

**AQUARIUS:** Bring more intimacy to your exchanges Saturday and don't be afraid to bare your soul. Thanks to a cozy alignment between the moon and Venus, conversations could quickly accelerate from weather talk to tales from your recent vacation and latest dating escapades. Don't just entertain; investigate! People will be warmed by your interest in what's bubbling below the surface in their lives. Plan for a languid movie night or a dinner date with a favorite plus-one.

**PISCES:** A beautiful mind is the ultimate turn-on this Saturday, as the moon and Venus mesh in your mentally agile third house. Go deeper in discussions, Pisces. The sparks of an intellectual connection could fan the flames of romance. A word to the wise: You don't have to impress anyone by interjecting your own stories into the mix. Let others hold the talking stick a little longer. Then, allow your journalistic curiosities to take hold. The more interested you are, the more interesting you'll become. Hand the wheel to your poetic side on Sunday, as artsy Venus and seductive Pluto align in your communication houses.