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# SummitTIMES

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

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## Violence marks maratha quota bandh in Maharashtra

**MUMBAI, JUL 25 (PTI):** The bandh in Maharashtra called by pro-quota maratha groups was today marked by violence and arson even as one more protester died, a day after consuming poison.

In the wake of violence, the bandh in Mumbai was called off mid-way, despite which some areas continued to witness incidents like stone pelting till late evening.

Protesters attacked buses, indulged in arson and pelted stones at local trains in several parts of Maharashtra, including Mumbai and the adjoining Thane city, during the bandh called by Maratha outfits to press their demand for reservation in jobs and education.

The Mumbai-Pune and Mumbai-Goa highways were blocked for hours by the protesters.

Three policemen, including a Superintendent of Police, suffered injuries in stone pelting.

Police used force, including teargas shelling and baton charge, to disperse the violent protesters at several places.

A number of places saw pitched battles between the police and protesters.

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## HPV vaccination to begin in State from 30 Jul

**WILL BECOME FIRST  
STATE IN INDIA  
TO IMPLEMENT  
STATE-WIDE HPV  
VACCINATION PROG**

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare will be launching the Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] vaccination programme in Sikkim from 30 July. The programme targets around 30,000 female children across the State between 09-14 years of age.

With this, Sikkim will become the first State in the country to implement a state-wide HPV vaccination programme.



In this context, the Health Department in association with UNICEF organized State Media Sensitization Work-

shop on Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] Vaccine Campaign with Journalists here at a local hotel in Gangtok today, a

press release informs.

The workshop programme was attended by Commissioner cum Secretary, Health De-

partment, Vishal Chauhan, Director, Health Service, Uttam Pradhan, State Immunization Officer, Dr Phumzay Denzong-

pa, Health Officer, UNICEF, Dr Maulik Shah, Surveillance Medical Officer, WHO, Dr Subhendu K Ray, and other officials and representatives of State Health Department, WHO and UNICEF.

Health Commissioner cum Secretary, M. Chauhan, informed that it will be the largest ever immunization campaign in Sikkim. The programme aims to protect girl child from cervical cancer and he also informed that the state government has been giving various vaccines in the state like Hepatitis vaccine in 2001, Measles Rubella in 2009, etc which was later implemented by the Government of India as national programmes, he

turn to pg02

## Zung of Chenrizig statue taken from Chorten monastery to Pelling

### ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

The Zung [Pran Prathistan or inner relics] for the consecration of the 135 feet tall statue of Buddhist Lord Chenrizig being constructed at the premises of Sangak Choeing Monastery in Pelling, West Sikkim was taken out from Chorten monastery in Deorali today in the presence of Deputy Speaker, SLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, as chief guest and Head Rinpoche, Chorten monastery, Kyabje Dhodrupchen Rinpoche.

The Zung referred to as the soul of Chenrizig statue by Buddhists include religious books and other valuable items prepared since last one and a half year at Dota-



pu Chorten monastery. It will be carried to the construction site of Chenrizig statue and installed inside the statue to complete the process of inau-

guration of the Chenrizig Singkham 'Riwo Potala' at Sanghak Choeing in Pelling.

The function today also had the presence

of MLA Gangtok, Pinto Chopel Lepcha, MLA Yangthang, Chandra Maya Subba, Chairperson, Ecclesiastical Affairs

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## As per law, Golay cannot contest next elections: KT Gyaltsen

### SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, argued today that as per law, a person convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act and sentenced to imprisonment stands disqualified from the date of conviction and shall continue to remain disqualified for a further period of six years from the date of release. He was referring to SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay], who is currently serving a one year prison term here at



Rongneck Jail.

Addressing a press conference today, Mr Gyaltsen stressed that it was important to take this fact to the people

based on the law.

He explained the Section 8 the Representation of People's Act which deals with disqualification

turn to pg02

## SIMFED toils to ensure availability of veggies

### REBYNA RANA

#### GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Sikkim State Co-operative Supply & Marketing Federation Limited [SIMFED] has been working hard towards procuring vegetables from different parts of the State and making the produce available at bazaars to ensure availability of vegetables in the markets for consumers and vegetable vendors.

Yesterday, at 5 a.m., two utility vehicles of SIMFED from Gangtok proceeded towards Lachung in North Sikkim to procure a fresh batch of organic cabbages. After collecting the cabbages, the two vehicles returned to Gangtok via the Dikchu route and arrived at Lal Bazaar in Gangtok at around midnight.

The vehicle drivers, Devendra Chettri and Rinchen Gyatso Bhutia, were accompanied by Field Assistant, Bikash Cintury.

"We reached Lal Bazaar only at midnight since there were problems on the road owing to falling boulders at Lanthey Khola. One of our vehicles almost slipped down the road but we continued our journey as the vegetables had to be dropped in Gangtok on prior basis. After reaching here, we slept on our vehicles. We are tired



but satisfied that we delivered the vegetables in Gangtok safely," expressed one of the drivers.

By 6 a.m. today, a team of SIMFED officials and employees including SIMFED inspector, Tshering Tamang, reached Lal Bazaar. They then went about disbursing the cabbages. Vendors and fast food shops in Gangtok had already placed their orders for the cabbages and were provided with the same.

Since there is high demand for fresh cabbages in Gyalshing,

West Sikkim, the excess cabbages were dispatched for Gyalshing immediately after distribution in Gangtok.

Similarly, 300-400 kgs of cabbages have been forwarded for Singtam Bazaar in East Sikkim as per demand.

A certain quantity of cabbages has also been stored and will be taken by SIMFED mobile vans around the town for sale to consumers.

"After completing the distribution procedure, we visit

our office at Kisan Bazaar and update the accounts and note down the quantity that had arrived and was dispatched. Then a report is sent to the head office of SIMFED. We also take updates of demands of vegetables being made from different bazaars and coordinate with the field functionaries for their procurement. We often receive calls from farmers requesting us to take their produce to the market," said SIMFED field inspector, Tshering Tamang.

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## M.A. in Education launched at Loyola College

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 25 JUL:**

M.A. in Education programme was launched today at Loyola College of Education in Namchi, South Sikkim by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Deputy Director, HRDD, Pushpa Lal Sharma, who attended the event as chief guest in the presence of Administrator, Loyola College, Fr Patrick Pradhan, Principal, Dr Sandhya Rai, and Vice Principal, Fr Dr Francis AV, a press release informs.

"As part of the Silver Jubilee initiatives, a new course is added this year for the educational enrichment of Sikkimese students," said Vice Principal, Dr Francis.

Loyola College, a Roman Catholic Jesuit College in Sikkim, was established in 1993 by an agreement between the Fathers of the Society of Jesus and the Government of Sikkim. It has trained almost 5000 teachers [Regular and in-service- IGNOU] for the State of Sikkim, West Bengal and other States of India.

## SILTAC conducts public outreach programme in Mangshila



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**  
**MANGANG, 25 JUL:**

Sikkim Limboo Tamang Apex Committee [SILTAC] conducted its Jan Samparka Abhiyan programme today at Mangshila for three constituencies of North Sikkim in the presence of Deputy Speaker, SLA cum Dzongu MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Forest Minister cum Lachen-Mangan MLA, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, and Kabi-Lungtsok MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia.

Chairperson, SILTAC, CB Subba, highlighted the various demands sought by SILTAC including construction of Limboo Tamang Bhawan at Mangshila. He further added that opposition parties have been spreading rumours and misleading people, and urged the Limboo-Tamang communities of North Sikkim to avoid such political parties.

The committee also felicitated boxers from Mangshila who had participated in the recent State Boxing Championship held in Gangtok.

Highlighting the issue of Limboo-Tamang Assembly seat reservation, Kabi-Lungtsok MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, said that the seat reservation is solely up to the Central Government and not the State Government. He also appealed to all the people of North Sikkim to be united and support the government for further development.

Lashing out against the opposition party Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Forest Minister, Mr Lepcha, stated that SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay], will be disqualified

for six years after his release from jail which means he will not be allowed to contest even in the 2024 election. He went to accuse SKM of making false promises to the people of the State.

Addressing the meeting, SLA Deputy Speaker, Mr Lepcha, said that the reservation of LT seat was delayed due to a dispute in the court owing to Hariram Padhan's [former State BJP president] petition. He further clarified that the Assembly has passed a bill on increasing the number of Assembly seats to 40 from which five seats will be provided to them without even touching the reservation of other communities.

He also highlighted

series of infrastructure developments sanctioned by the State Government in Mangshila-Tibuk GPU in Dzongu and North Sikkim as a whole.

"The opposition parties are creating lame issues to gain power and have been misleading people with fake promises. The issue of LT seat is the issue of every Sikkimese and our government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is working round the clock for its pro people vision," he added.

An interaction session was also held during the programme wherein various queries were raised by the public which were addressed by SILTAC executive members.



## SKM welcomes new members from Deythang

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 25 JUL:**

Thirteen families from Deythang GPU, under Rinchenpong Constituency, in West Sikkim left Sikkim Democratic Front and joined Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today in a joining programme held at Deythang, informs an SKM press release. The programme was attended by CLC president, Soreng Chakung, Binod Basnett, and other CLC

executives from Soreng and Rinchenpong Constituency.

The party has expressed happiness over the joining of the new members as the event today marked SKM's first programme in Deythang Ward which has been loyal towards SDF for a long time. The event was attended by more than 200 people from the village and surrounding areas.



### NAMCHI GIRLS SCHOOL IS MODEL ELC FOR SOUTH DISTRICT

**GANGTOK, 25 JUL:** As per the directives of Election Commission of India, Namchi Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, South Sikkim has been selected as the Model ELC for South Sikkim. An annual calendar for the Electoral Literacy Club [ELC] has been formulated in collaboration with Election Department, Namchi. As the first ELC activity, students of Model ELC painted the ELC logo on their school wall on 24 Jul supervised by teachers who have been appointed as ELC Nodal Officer, Punam Rai, ELC Assistant Nodal Officer, Merina Rai, and Campus Ambassador, Zongree Lepcha, a press release informs.

## HPV vaccination to begin in State from 30 Jul

**contd from pg01**

added. "Our government has decided to provide HPV vaccine free of cost to girl children between 09-14 years and the vaccine has been approved by Drug Controller General of India and it was done under strict monitoring of WHO and UNICEF," said Mr Chauhan.

Director Health Services, Dr Pradhan, said, "Earlier, Punjab undertook it as a pilot project in districts but Sikkim will be the first State to be covering all the four districts."

He further said that HPV vaccine in Sikkim is being introduced not to achieve the status of being the first State in the race but to protect girl children from cervical cancer.

"This vaccine is one of the most cost effective vaccines for protection of girl children from cervical cancer and in more than 70 countries of the world, this vaccine has been given to girl children since past 10-15 years. The introduction of HPV vaccine in the State will be a huge milestone in the health sector and I am sure other States of India will also follow suit and introduce HPV vaccine in their respective States. Health department is confident that this

vaccine is well tested and it has been backed by WHO and UNICEF," said Dr Pradhan.

Health Officer, UNICEF [NE States], Dr Shah, gave a brief about the facts about immunization and HPV vaccine.

State Immunization Officer, Dr Denzongpa, said that HPV vaccination will be implemented in one-go approach in the State and all the schools, both government and private, will be covered.

Surveillance Medical Officer, WHO, Dr Ray, informed that WHO has recommended HPV vaccination for girls between 09-14 years old. He added that WHO recommends that the two doses of vaccine should be separated by a minimum interval of six months and no more than 12-15 months.

HPV vaccine will be available in all District Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Sub Centres. UNICEF is providing the vaccine at Rs 400 while the real cost of the vaccine is Rs 3000. The cost has been discounted for developing countries, it was informed.

The workshop programme ended with open discussion between officials of Health Department, UNICEF and WHO.

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## Violence marks maratha quota bandh in Maharashtra

**contd from pg01**

stone-pelters for hours.

Marathas, a politically-influential community constituting around 30 per cent of the state's population, have been demanding reservation in jobs and education.

The community members have earlier organised several rallies in various districts to highlight their demands.

Last year, a huge rally was organised by the Maratha Kranti Morcha in this connection in Mumbai.

On Sunday last, 27-year-old Kaka-saheb Shinde, a pro-quota protester, jumped off a bridge over Godavari River in Aurangabad and died.

This led to intensification of the agitation.

Yesterday, a man, identified as Jagannath Sonawane, consumed a poisonous substance during the protest in Aurangabad. He died today at a local government hospital.

The latest round of agitation, organ-

ised in the form of a bandh in various places of Maharashtra since Monday, today reached Mumbai where a shutdown was attempted to be imposed.

However, the bandh in the financial capital of India, which began this morning, was called off just before 3 pm after various parts saw violence.

"We only wanted to prove that we are together and proved it. We never wanted protests to get violent and therefore, we are calling off our bandh in Mumbai for today," Virendra Pawar, leader of the Morcha, told reporters here.

"We suspect some people carried out violent activities with political motives. Otherwise, it was supposed to be peaceful like before. But considering the reports of violence coming from outside Mumbai, we decided to call it off," Pawar added.

Another leader of the Morcha said a bandh may be called again on August 9 but a final call in this regard will be tak-

en after consulting all senior members of all maratha morchas.

The Maratha Kranti Morcha had given the call for the bandh, demanding an apology from Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for alleging that some members from the community were planning violence at Pandharpur town in Solapur district.

Fadnavis, who was scheduled to perform puja at a temple on 'Ashadhi Ekadashi' on Monday, cancelled it after the Maratha outfits threatened to disrupt the event.

"Whatever we had to convey to the government, we have done so. But we have been disappointed by the government's response over the last two years," Pawar said.

The agitation leader said not a single representative from the government had reached out to the protesters.

Attacking the chief minister, the agitation leader said Fadnavis has been "confining himself to his AC room" and

never bothered to address their demands.

While imposing the bandh, protesters pelted stones at some local trains as well as buses and set ablaze a bus of the state-owned Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) in suburban Mankhurd.

"Till 1 pm, three buses were damaged by stone pelting and nine buses were damaged by deflating their tyres," BEST spokesperson Hanumant Gofane said.

At around 1.30 pm, protesters set a bus on fire after pouring petrol on it, which was later doused by the fire brigade, he added.

Train movement on a section of the local network was affected due to the protests, police said.

Superintendent of Police Sandeep Patil suffered a minor injury in stone pelting in Satara, while two other policemen were injured in Kalamboli in Navi Mumbai, an official said.

## As per law, Golay cannot contest next elections...

**contd from pg01**

tion on conviction for certain offences.

He stated that laws related to conviction under the PCA clearly mentioned that a person convicted under it and sentenced to imprisonment shall be disqualified from the date of conviction and shall continue to remain disqualified for a further period of six years from the date of release.

On the same, he argued that since nobody was above the law and the Constitution then the possibility of a person convicted under PCA for at least six more years does not arise.

About his differences with Mr Tamang, the SDF Spokesperson stressed that it was a difference of ideologies and that there was nothing personal he held against him. He stressed it was important for the party to take the fact to

the people based on the law.

Mr Gyaltsen also strongly criticised and condemned a recent press statement of TN Dhakal of SKM on the issue of tribal status to eleven left-out communities of Sikkim.

He stated that Mr Dhakal has misrepresented all facts and presented a totally incorrect and fabricated scenario in his press statement.

He mentioned that the SDF government has been working tirelessly and consistently on pursuing the tribal status for all left-out communities of Sikkim.

He added that the State government has been taking up this issue with the Centre with facts and as per the law. He reiterated that opposition needs to understand that this was a Central subject and the State was very hopeful that

the Centre will fulfill this demand very soon.

On the private member's resolution placed by SKM MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha in the recent Sikkim Legislative Assembly session, Mr Gyaltsen stressed that the resolution was a big conspiracy and intended to dilute Article 371F and to bring division among the people of Sikkim.

He also questioned the motive of the resolution to interfere with Revenue Order No 1. He further added that it was an attack on the Old Laws of Sikkim and intended to dilute the Article 371F.

He mentioned that the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has proved his statesmanship and leadership by passing a strong bill for the protection of the land-holdings of the Sherpa community

without disturbing the Revenue Order No 1 and still protecting their land in the same spirit as that of Revenue Order No 1.

Responding to media queries, SDF Party Spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, expressed that SDF was looking at seeing the release of Mr Tamang from prison like a simple incident and the logical end of a legal procedure.

He strongly refuted suggestions that SDF had filed the case against Mr Tamang.

On the same, he informed that Nuk Tshering Bhutia had filed a PIL against Mr Tamang and then he was charge-sheeted and then convicted under the legal procedure. He stated that instead of blaming SDF, SKM should ask its own member Mr Nuk Tshering Bhutia about the case.



**Gangtok on  
Thursday,  
26 July**

**Temp:** 26°C/17°C  
**Forecast:** Variable  
cloudiness; a couple  
of morning thun-  
dershowers, then a  
thundershower in  
parts of the area.  
**Sunrise:** 04:56 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:28 PM

## Zung of Chenrizig statue taken from Chorten monastery...

contd from pg01

Department, Acharya Tshering Lama, Advisor, Pem Tshering Lama, GMC Mayor, and other dignitaries along with departmental heads, monks and devotees.

Speaking to Summit-Times, Chief Executive Officer cum Architect of the project, Gary Chopel, said that the construction of the Chenrizig statue was recently completed and awaits its consecration. The total cost of the mega project is Rs 69 crore, he informed.

"Cherenzig Singkhom is totally funded by the State Government and is one of the most ambitious and mega projects of the government started under the leadership and vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling," said Mr Choppel.

It may be mentioned here, Lord Chenrizig statue project was conceptualized by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and announced in 2009. Construction of the statue began in the year 2010.

Advisor, Mr Lama, on behalf of devotees of the State expressed gratitude to the CM and the State Government for conceptualising the unique project.

The Zung travelled to Pelling with a team of monks halting briefly at Rabongla and Legship wherein devotees offered prayers, it is informed.

# SSA wins battle of hattricks against Unicorn FC



## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Registered its second consecutive victory in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim-League 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In a well contested match played on Wednesday, the SSA edged past Unicorn Football Club 4-3. Interestingly, today's match witnessed two hattricks being scored.

Yogyal Lepcha scored an early lead for Unicorn in the 6th minute. Bouncing back well, Milan Chettri scored the equaliser for the SSA in the 21st minute and soon scored his brace in the 30th minute to take the lead of the team to 2-1.

With both teams trying to score further in the match, Yogyal Lepcha equalised the score-line 2-2 with his brace in the

54th minute. Yogyal completed his hatrick in the 85th minute giving hope to Unicorn FC but within three minutes Milan Chettri again equalised the score-line 3-3 with his hatrick in the 88th minute.

Finally, Ayuk Hang Subba scored the winning goal for SSA in the additional time of the match to get full three points.

Despite their out-

standing performance in the league so far, Unicorn FC again failed to register a first victory, while the SSA now has six points from two victories in the league so far.

Sikkim Aakraman Football Club will take on Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club on Thursday.



## Animal Husbandry Dept conducts vaccination prog in West

### GYALSHING, 25 JUL

[IPR]: Under the Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan [KKA], Department of Animal Husbandry, Livestock Fisheries & Veterinary Services, West Sikkim

carried out vaccination programmes in the district wherein Peste des petits ruminants [PPR] vaccination in goats and sheep, Foot and Mouth disease

[FMD] vaccination in cattle and artificial insemination in cattle was done under Gyalshing, Soreng, Dentam and Tashiding jurisdictions.

## Lt General SL Narasimhan to be awarded PhD by SMU

### SUMMIT REPORT

#### GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Research Scholar from the Department of Management Studies, under Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT], Lieutenant General SL Narasimhan, has successfully defended his thesis on 18 Jul titled "China's Emerging Geo-strategy and India's Response". The thesis was carried out under the guidance of former Vice Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University, SN Mishra and President, Bharatiya Skill Development University, Jaipur, Dr Surjit Singh Pabla.

An SMU press release informs that Lt Gen Narasimhan did his graduation in Maths, Post-Graduation in Defence Studies and is a PhD candidate.

Lt Gen Narasimhan has seen action in Op PAWAN in 1987 in Sri Lanka and has a vast experience in Counter Insurgency Operations, Line of Actual Control and High Altitude Area environment, etc.

After having successfully commanded the largest Corps of the Indian Army in the North East, he attained super annuation after a successful stint as Commandant, Army

War College in June 2016. He has been an instructor in Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School at Vairengte and in the Indian Military Training Team in Bhutan.

Lt Gen S L Narasimhan is also a member of the National Security Advisory Board, India.

He has been recommended for award of Doctor of Philosophy degree by the Board of Examiners of Sikkim Manipal University. The Doctor of Philosophy will be awarded to him during the next Convocation of Sikkim Manipal University.



## Swachh Bharat play staged in Namchi

**NAMCHI, 25 JUL [IPR]:** Swachh Bharat Mission [Gramin] Cell, Rural Management & Development Department [South] in collaboration with National School of Drama, Sikkim Theatre Training Centre showcased a play on Swachh Bharat Mission at Community Hall in Namchi, South Sikkim today.

Present during the occasion were Additional

District Collector [Development], Milan Subba, Under Secretary, Aashis Gurung, staff of RM&DD and students.

At the onset of the event, ADC [Dev], Mr Subba, spoke in detail about the importance of SBM and urged students to imbibe the spirit of reduce, recycle and reuse in order to be eco-friendly and to conserve our environment.

He emphasized that efforts should be made to make cleanliness a continuous endeavour so as to keep the surroundings clean. He also underlined the objective of the play which is to sensitize and generate awareness amongst students on the aim of SBM and the significance of cleanliness and elimination of open-defecation to create healthier environment.

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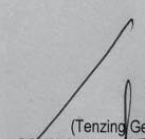
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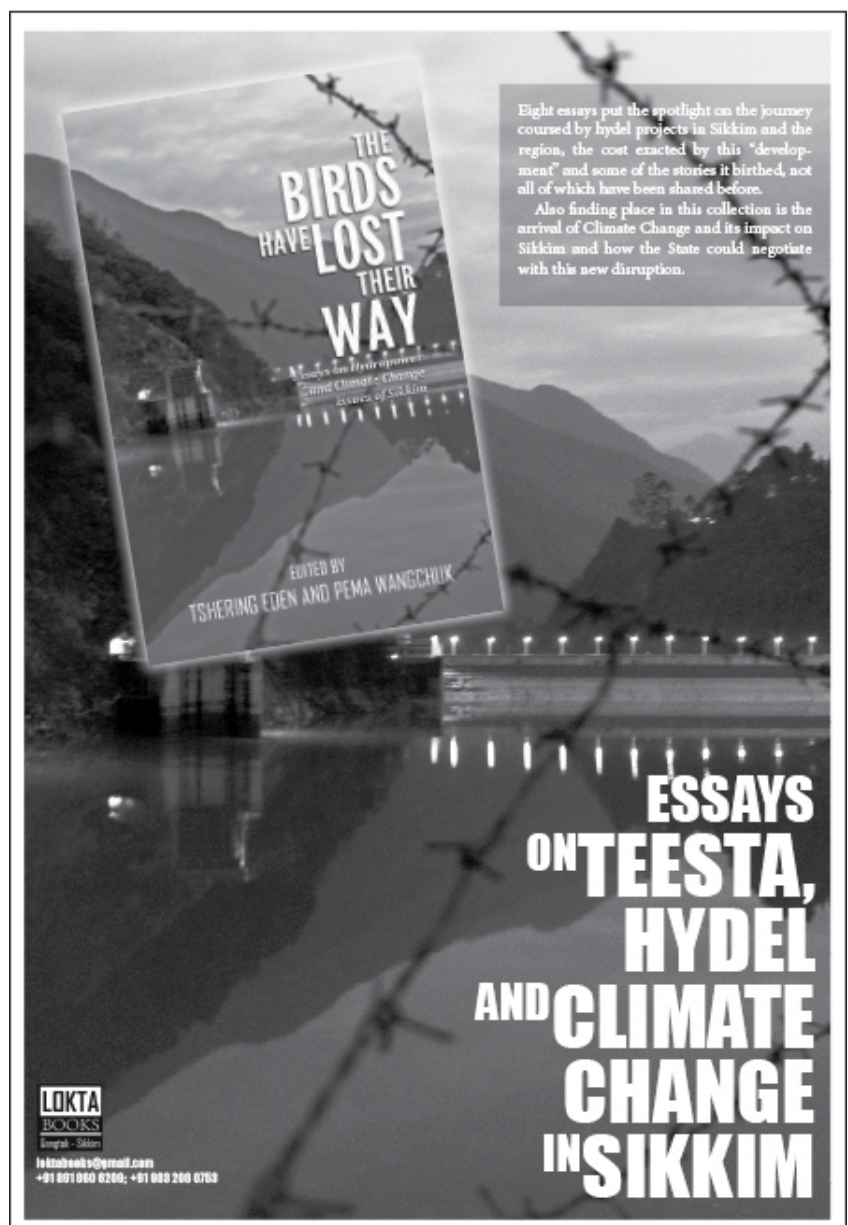
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In view of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's official visit to New Delhi, the meeting scheduled to be held on 27/07/2018 at Samman Bhawan at 11.00 A.M. circulated vide Circular No. M(3)/1561/GEN/DOP, dated 21/07/2018 is postponed.	
New date and time will be intimated as per the convenience of the Hon'ble Chief Minister after his return from New Delhi.	
Inconvenience caused is highly regretted.	
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## Rediscover the Thrill of Competition

*After employability, instill the desire to excel*

Unemployment has a habit of remaining in the news. Or maybe because it is on everyone's minds, that it appears to be in frequent discussion as well and through that affiliation, also getting mentioned often in press releases and becoming standard fare in political pronouncements. Meanwhile, the State Government started with a youth-empowerment year a little over a decade ago and has since developed the initiative into skill development which now has a directorate of capacity building dedicated to it, an institute and livelihood schools in all territorial constituencies and now a whole start-up programme dedicated to supporting young entrepreneurs. Scholarships are also on offer, as are attractive student loans. In a scenario such as this, the focus of those wishing to address the challenge of unemployment should be in expending more energy on ensuring that the skill development initiative, the effort which makes the job-seekers employable, are more effectively carried out. Unfortunately, more energy has traditionally been directed at embarrassing the clutch of officers serving on service extensions. The aspiration for government employment is still so strong that these "extensions" still irk many even though their retirement will only open up a sliver of positions. But can one really blame the unemployed who still aspire for government employment at the cost of compromising their chances in private sector advancement or self-employment options? The salary differential is so staggering and the work ethic requirements so relaxed, that it is really unfair to shoo the youth away from government employment and have them pursue opportunities in the private sector.

But this, in a way, is a lost pursuit. There can never be enough government jobs for the youth hoping for employment and it is only a matter of time before government offices are slimmed down and openings shut even tighter. It goes without saying that when the crunch comes, the survival instinct will kick in and the youth of Sikkim will explore and attain new options and livelihoods. But why wait for resoluteness to evolve only when the going gets tough. Sikkim is undoubtedly among the few places which are lucky enough to have the chance of staving off tough times if they "get going" while the going is still good. Few regions have been as pampered and are as blessed with lucky breaks and opportunities as Sikkim is. For a State that has no political clout by way of parliamentary strength in Delhi, Sikkim has had a good run with the powers-that-be in getting its demands met and problems resolved even in these times of absolute "sevaks" when larger states have been cold shouldered. Many opportunities have been created and continue to be offered. Even a cursory listing of new investments in Sikkim will bear out that opportunities abound in a diverse range of activities, from trading to academics to white-collar jobs. What is now required is for these opportunities to be seized.

Unfortunately, this is where Sikkim is found lacking. Opportunities require hard work for success. It is this drive that Sikkim needs more of. The technical qualifications apart, every job requires only a few more qualities from prospective candidates - diligence, commitment to quality and a tenacity to compete. The faster Sikkim rediscovers these strengths, the sooner the opportunities will start delivering. The Livelihood Schools, apart from the subject-specific trainings they impart, should also include sessions on work-culture and introduce trainees to real achievers from around them and from elsewhere so that they complete their courses inspired to sweat it out, compete, stumble and stand up again.

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# BRICS summit in Johannesburg: here's what the five countries are looking for

XUEBING CAO  
*theconversation.com*

All eyes are on Johannesburg for the 2018 BRICS summit, as the likes of Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi take their places at the table. It marks the tenth annual gathering for this international organisation of the leading emerging economies. So what can we expect?

The summit of the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa – started in June 2009 at Yekaterinburg, when Russia hosted the leaders of this bloc, though it did not originally include South Africa. BRIC became a formal institution the following year, aimed at facilitating global political and economic transformation, and South Africa officially joined in 2011.

Much has been written about this group's threat to the Western-dominated world economic order. BRICS formed the New Development Bank in 2014, the first major international development bank with no participation from the OECD countries. The following year it established the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement, widely regarded as a rival to the International Monetary Fund. The bloc has also been trying to find new ways of engaging in international affairs by leading on key issues such as climate change, regional security and anti-terrorism.

By 2016, the BRICS bloc had 41% of the world's population and just under 30% of the territory. The five countries control 23% of global GDP, worth about US\$40.6 trillion (£30.9 trillion), and 18% of trade. The group is growing impressively if you take it as a single entity, averaging 3.8% in 2015, 4.2% in 2016 and 5.1% in 2017 – though China and India are growing much faster than the rest. Xi Jinping in 2017 referred to the countries' "golden decade", though it does depend on who you are talking about.

### TRADING INSULTS

The summit comes at a time when the West is arguably in decline. We see the US threatening trade wars with most other countries, above all China, but also even allies like the EU. The threat to global trade will be top of the agenda at the BRICS summit – hardly surprising when China's economic weight gives it such a powerful role within the bloc. Russian economy minister Maxim Oreshkin said recently:

"The summit is about the context ... We are at a time when the US and China announce new measures almost every week."

Johannesburg will see much emphasis on consolidating members' trade relations through the



likes of reduced tariffs. This might boost trade between the countries, which has been stagnant or declining in recent years.

Africa and sustainable development will also receive much attention this year. Despite the heavyweight delegates list, South African leader Cyril Ramaphosa will no doubt do his best to steal everyone's thunder both as host and debutante president. His country's economy has been shrinking, with sectors such as mining and farming in the doldrums, made worse by corruption problems that came to symbolise his predecessor Jacob Zuma's administration.

Ramaphosa will be hoping to secure extra investment and trade agreements from his counterparts. The leaders of other African countries and institutions are also attending the summit as part of BRICS' ongoing outreach programme, following tours of the region both by Modi and Xi. These representatives will be particularly interested in the progress of China's Belt and Road Initiative to reduce barriers across Asia, perhaps in the hope that it could one day involve them, too.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian delegation will be looking for new forms of co-operation that can benefit their tenuous economy, which is threatened by various knock-on effects from the American trade and currency war – with China its main trading partner. Brazil also stands in the shadow of debt problems that are troubling much of Latin America. Expect to see President Michel Temer seeking more financial support from the New Development Bank, though his bigger goal should be deepening trade relations that will help his country's balance of payments in the longer term.

### THE PUTIN EMBRACE

We are perhaps not expecting President Putin to provide significant economic leverage to other

members, but Russia's substantial political influence will be his main card to play at the summit. At a time when Russia is on the verge of being a pariah to some countries, not least the UK, it will suit Putin to demonstrate warm relations with his fellow BRICS members.

Following Putin's recent bilateral talks with Donald Trump, the summit is a chance for Russia to enhance its global position and undermine Western containment, particularly the economic sanctions imposed after the Crimean crisis in 2014. The ever closer ties between Russia and China will presumably be a theme, after China's foreign minister recently described them as being at "their best level in history".

As for India, the role it plays at the summit will be very interesting. On the one hand, Modi will be seeking new deals for his country, the second largest economy in the bloc after China. On the other hand, India is playing a delicate geopolitical game with the US, China and Russia as their spheres of influence wax and wane across Asia and the Middle East. Show excessive favour to one side and there is the potential for ramifications across the region.

In all, the summit is a useful opportunity for these countries to remind the world of what multilateralism can achieve, and chart new strategies for the coming decade. We may not see any significant leap forward as discussions get underway, but we'll certainly see the emerging powers attempting to loud-speak their influence at a time of growing protectionism and uncertainty. This bloc has yet to create anything resembling a new world order, but the celebrations from the global south in Johannesburg will certainly reverberate around the world.

*[the writers is Lecturer in Industrial Relations, Keele University]*

# Why does my phone battery die so fast?

STEVE W. MARTIN  
*theconversation.com*

Why do batteries die? And, why can they only be recharged so many times before they won't hold a useful amount of charge? My young son asked me about that years ago when his battery-powered toy car stopped moving, wondering about what he called an "everlasting battery." And this same question has probably crossed the mind of every cellphone user trying to send one last text before the screen blinks off.

Research, like mine, continues around the world to make batteries that charge faster, last longer, and can be recharged and discharged many more times than today's. But as much as you and I would like, it's impossible to make a truly everlasting battery. I have taught thermodynamics for more than 30 years. So far, there is nothing that suggests we can break the fundamental laws of science to get that elusive battery.

Battery scientists and engineers call the main problem "capacity fade." Regular people wonder about it with questions like "Why won't my battery hold a charge?" and complaints like "I just recharged this thing and it's already out again!"



It's a result of the second law of thermodynamics, which states that whenever some real process happens, it creates a certain amount of wasted energy along the way that can never be recovered. Any time a battery is charged or discharged, there's a little bit of wasted energy – a little bit of wasted capacity in the battery that cannot be recovered.

To envision how this works, think about battery use like transferring water between two cups. Using a bat-

tery is like emptying the water from one cup into the other, and charging the battery involves pouring the water back into the first cup. Even if you do it one or two times without spilling a drop, there's always just a little tiny bit left in each cup that you can't pour out.

Now imagine pouring back and forth hundreds or even thousands of times over a period of two or three years (for a cellphone battery) or 10 to 20 years (for an electric car). Over

time, all the thousands of little and big things that go wrong add up to quite a bit of water going missing. Even spilling a barely visible drop – say one-tenth of a milliliter – adds up to an entire liter if it happens 10,000 times. That doesn't even include the possibility of one cup failing in some way that loses even more water – like springing a leak or heating up and causing evaporation.

Just as water inevitably goes missing when pouring from one cup to another, more energy is required to charge the battery than it actually stores, and less energy comes out than is stored in it. The proportion of wasted energy to stored energy grows over time.

In fact, the more you use a battery, the more energy gets wasted, and the sooner the battery will reach a point where it's dead and can't usefully be recharged. I and others are studying ways to have those discharging-recharging cycles run more smoothly to reduce the amount of waste, but the second law of thermodynamics will always make sure that there's no way to get rid of it entirely.

*[the writer is Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Iowa State University]*



## Vodafone Red Plans offer lowest bill guarantee

**GANGTOK, 24 JUL:** Vodafone India has introduced the smartest post-paid plans in India with the lowest bill guarantee, complimentary mobile insurance, unlimited international roaming benefits, un-matched entertainment content offerings and much more with its new Red Plans.

A press release informs that Vodafone is introducing an industry first feature called Bill Guarantee with this new plan. This feature automatically keeps the consumer on the lowest possible bill on their chosen plan by billing them on the best suited plan. Consumers will now be able to bring together friends, family and other devices under Red Together to get guaranteed savings of up to 20% on total rentals.

The new Red post-paid plans also come with power packed entertainment offerings like 12 months subscription of Amazon Prime services at no extra cost. Red postpaid customers also get 12 months of Vodafone Play free to watch unlimited Live TV, latest movies and TV shows, the release adds.

Speaking about the new Vodafone RED propositions, Associate Director, Consumer Business [Vodafone India], Avneesh Khosla, said, "Vodafone India is excited to introduce the latest Vodafone RED Postpaid plans for our consumers, catering to their entertainment, travel and smartphone related needs. Differentiated offerings like complimentary mobile insurance, lowest bill guarantee reflect Vodafone's customer first philosophy of keeping the customer at the centre of every proposition."

## Illegally stored drug seized, one arrested

**MALDA (WB), JUL 25 (PTI):** The Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) has seized around 5000 ampoules of illegally stored buprenorphine drug from Kaliachak area in Malda district and arrested one person, NCB officials said today.

Buprenorphine is generally prescribed as a pain killer but it is also classified as narcotic.

NCB officials raided a house at Kaliachak last night following a tip off and seized 4971 ampoules of buprenorphine, totalling 9.94 litre of the drug which was worth Rs 5 lakh and stored there illegally.

Officials said one person was arrested.

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# Central team inspect border pillar in Manipur

**IMPHAL, JUL 25 (PTI):** A central team today inspected a border pillar along Myanmar near Kwatha Khunou village in Manipur in the wake of a controversy that it was shifted inside the state by the neighbouring country, official sources said.

The three-member team, led by Surveyor General of India Lt Gen Girish Kumar, comprises Joint Secretary (Border Management) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, J A V Dharma Reddy and Joint Secretary (Bangladesh and Myanmar) Ministry of External Affairs, Sripriya Rangnathan.

The team, which came yesterday, surveyed



the border pillar number 81 which locals and several social organisations alleged was shifted three km inside Manipur, the sources said.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on

July 12 had said the India-Myanmar international boundary remained "untouched and unaffected".

"The government, in view of public apprehension, has written to the

Centre to conduct a field visit to check if pillar no 81 at Kwatha Khunou in Tengnoupal district stands at the actual spot as per the 1967 agreement," he said.

Tengnoupal Dep-

uty Commissioner Tombikanta, after visiting the border area last month, claimed that the border pillar 81 had been shifted three km inside the Indian territory. His claim found favour with local people, several social bodies as well as political parties.

The Ministry of External Affairs, taking note of the allegations, had issued a statement on July 8, claiming that the allegation was "baseless and unsubstantiated".

During a recent visit to the site, Manipur Revenue Minister Karam Shyam also said some sections of "political rivals" were portraying a wrong picture.

## BRO DG tells officers to speed up works in north-east

**GUWAHATI, JUL 25 (PTI):** Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Director General Lt Gen Harpal Singh today advised his Project Chief Engineers (CEs) to speed up works in the north eastern states to help connectivity in the region.

Singh discussed in detail the progress of works taken up by BRO with additional director general BRO and all seven chief engineers of BRO in the north east, a spokesman said.

The director general complimented the project chief engineers on the work done by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the NE region, he said.

The DG was speaking at AWP 2019-20 conference at the Headquarters ADG BRO East which was also attended by planning



officers of the Eastern Command and the Corps, the spokesman said.

The DG also discussed with senior officials of

the Indian Oil here on various issues including uninterrupted supply of fuel and oil to the BRO in border areas, he added.

## Arunachal govt to provide support for expansion of NCC units in schools: Khandu

**ITANAGAR, JUL 25 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has assured officials of National Cadet Corps that the state will provide infrastructure, manpower and financial support for expansion of their units in the state.

Khandu also said that he wanted to expand the Indian Military Cadet Corps in all higher secondary schools in the state by raising NCC units in all schools, an official statement said here today.

Khandu, during a meeting with the Additional Director General of NCC, northeastern region, Major General Raju Chauhan here yesterday said upgrading the NCC unit at Pasighat to a full-fledged battalion and raising of another NCC battalion at Tawang will



help in filling up cadet vacancies in schools.

Khandu said it is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the NCC, an Indian military cadet corps with its headquarters in New Delhi, should have its reach in all the border areas of the country, the statement added.

He said that a sense of nationalism, discipline and the ideals of selfless service, could be instilled among the youths through NCC.

## Five Indians arrested for smuggling gold in Nepal

**KATHMANDU, JUL 25 (PTI):** Five Indian nationals were today arrested for being in possession of over 3 kg of smuggled gold, worth whopping Rs 14.7 million, at the international airport here, police said.

The accused had concealed the gold in their suitcases' wheels. "This was an innovative idea to smuggle the gold... It has been seen for the first time," said Superintendent of Nepal Police Dinesh Raj Mainali.

The security unit at the Tribhuvan International Airport has arrested five Indian nationals

with 3.36 kilograms of

smuggled gold yesterday. Ishwar Das, Avatar Singh, Amrit Pal Singh, Harmindar Singh and Rijwan Ansari were arrested after they landed at Tribhuvan International Airport via Thai Airways flight from Bangkok, Thailand, according to the police.

They had distributed the yellow metal among themselves and concealed it in their suitcases, said Mainali.

As per market price, the gold is worth Rs 14.7 million. All the arrestees have been handed over to the customs office for further investigation.

## Rotary Club Gangtok holds 51st Installation Ceremony

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 JUL:**

The 51st Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Gangtok was held on 24 Jul at Hotel Denzong Shangrila in Gangtok in the presence of District Collector, East, Kapil Meena, as chief guest and Assistant Governor, Zone VI [2018-19], Rotary International District 3240, Sanjogita Subba, as guest of honour, a press release informs.

Outgoing president, Dr RN Deokota, thanked the members for supporting him in all the endeavours of his team

during 2017-18 while the outgoing secretary, Gautam Ray, presented the report of the activities undertaken during the period.

Likewise, new president, Prakash Munda, in his acceptance speech, called on all the members to support him and his team in the discharge of the functions of the Club.

"This year marks the golden jubilee of the Club which was formed on 22 Aug 1968. We promise to make this year the best year of the Club and to take the Club to its zenith," he added.



**ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
SINGTAM**

**Memo No:107/SGT/R&B Date:25/07/2018**

**CORRIGENDUM OF NIT**

This is for information to all the concern that the NIT published vide Memo No. 96/AES/R&B Dated:- 23/07/2018 and R.O. No:- 219/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Dated:-23-7/2018 the competitive bidding shall be allowed for bidders within the territorial jurisdiction of concerned **GRAM PANCHAYAT UNIT** only.

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**ASSISTANT ENGINEER  
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**HUMAN RESOURCE AND  
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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

**Reference No: 1014/GOS/HRDD/(N)/66 Dated: 24/7/18**

**NOITICE INVTING E-TENDER NO:**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Additional Chief Engineer (N/E), Human Resource & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tendering Bids from the eligible registered contractors of appropriate class for the work listed below:-

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## Trump: US ready to make “real deal” on Iran nukes

**WASHINGTON, JUL 25 (PTI):** President Donald Trump has said the US is ready to make a “real deal” with Iran over its nuclear programme, days after he warned Tehran of historic consequences for threatening America.

Trump in May pulled the US out of the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement struck by the Obama administration by calling it the “the worst” deal ever negotiated.

Addressing the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Trump said his administration stands ready for Iran to come back to the negotiating table.

“I withdrew the United States from the horrible one-sided Iran nuclear deal,” he said.

Iran, as a result of his decision, is not the same country any more, he asserted.

# Unfazed by final losses, Sindhu eyes medal at Worlds and Asiad

**AMIT KUMAR DAS**

**NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (PTI):** A title has eluded P V Sindhu this season despite three summit appearances but the Indian ace says she is undeterred by the heartbreak and will aim for a fresh start in the upcoming World Championship in China and the Asian Games in Indonesia.

Sindhu has been in impressive form ever since winning the silver at the Rio Olympics in 2016. Last year, she won three titles out of the six finals that she reached.

However, loss in the finals in World Championship, Hong Kong Open and Dubai Super Series Final earned her the choker's tag.

This year too she has reached the summit clash at India Open, the Commonwealth Games and the Thailand Open but failed to cross the final hurdle, prompting many critics to once again describe her as the “perennial bridesmaid”.

“I know sometimes I have been losing in the finals. See there are always negatives and positives. When you lose in the quarterfinals or semifinals, you actually learn a lot from those mistakes. You play



well but sometimes you can't get through it,” Sindhu told PTI in an interview.

“It doesn't bother me, because coming to the finals is the next best thing to winning, I mean losing in the first and second round is much worse, reaching the finals means anything can happen,” added the Hyderabad.

The 23-year-old youngster will be leaving with the Indian team on Saturday for the World Championship in Nanjing, China beginning on July 30.

“I really want to do well in the World Championship. I have been preparing well. Also there is the Asian games, which I want to do well. It is going to be a tough draw in the world championship, so I can't take it easy,” she said.

“It is not like that I can relax till the pre-quarterfinals. It is a draw of 64. I will play Fitriani in my first game. I have played her before. She is playing well and anything can happen.”

Her epic final against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara at

Glasgow last year went down as one of the greatest matches of all time clocking 110 minutes and Sindhu might have to upstage the defending champion as the two finalists are drawn to meet in the quarter-finals.

“I know everyone is talking about Nozomi and my match but I can't afford to think so far ahead. Before that there is Sung Ji Hyun, who is not an easy player. Recently I have lost to her in Asia Badminton Championship, she has got good strokes and

I can't take her easy. So that round would be equally important,” she said.

Remind her of the Glasgow final and Sindhu says: “I take that (match) in a positive way because it was a good game. She also played well. But it is over now and it is a new start and another new year of world championship.”

Sindhu had played Nozomi in the finals of Thailand Open last week and she said it will help in her preparation if she needs to face her again in the world championship.

“Yes (it helps), everytime we have played, it has been very competitive in all the tournaments. She won at the worlds, I won at Korea, then she beat me at Japan and I defeated her at the All England. So basically our game is equal and it is a matter of those crucial 2-3 points that has made a difference,” Sindhu said.

Talking about Asian Games, Sindhu said: “Asian Games is going to be a tough one but I think the standard and quality will be like any other super series events. I mean apart from Carolina Marin, all the rest of the Asian players would be there, so it will be difficult.”

Asked to rate her performance this year, Sindhu said: “I am happy with my progress. It's been good so far. I am very happy that I could reach the finals in CWG and if I could have played well in the second game, it could have been three games.

“I was a little bit tired as I had an ankle sprain but I came back and I took the silver in a positive way because I had won a bronze the last time, so I was happy to win the silver. Hopefully it will be a gold next time.

## India play Ireland in pursuit of first win in women's hockey WC

**LONDON, JUL 25 (PTI):** A golden opportunity to claim an upset win lost, the Indian women's hockey team would be aiming to make amends when it takes on a lower-ranked Ireland in its second game of the World Cup, here tomorrow.

India had a bright chance to score an upset win against world no.2 England in their Pool B opener on June 21 but settled for a 1-1 draw.

The Indians only had themselves to blame as despite leading the English girls for 54 minutes, they conceded a late goal to share the points.

World no. 10 India will fancy their chances against world no. 16 Ireland, but it would be a serious mistake by the Sjoerd Marijne-coached side if they take the Irish lightly.

By virtue of their stunning 3-1 stunning over world no. 7 USA, the lowest ranked side



in the group, Ireland are currently leading Pool B just ahead of England and India.

And a win tomorrow would secure Ireland's place in the knock-out stage of the tournament.

The Indians, on the other hand, would be desperate to score their first win in the tournament tomorrow.

But it would be easier said than done as they

will be up against an Irish side which has the capability of springing surprises.

India lost 1-2 to Ireland in the HWL Semifinals in Johannesburg last year and revenge would be high on the Rani Rampal-led side's agenda when it takes the turf tomorrow.

The Indian coaching staff and senior players like goalkeeper Savita

feel that defeat was history and they have the firepower to beat Ireland.

“We have done well against Ireland in practice matches in the past,” she said.

“In the match last year, we were leading and should have won for sure but conceding two penalty corners one after another proved costly.

We have a strong defence and play an attacking

brand of hockey -- this is a potent combination and makes us strong as a side,” she asserted.

But the Indians will have to lift their game by few notches for that to happen. Against England, they failed to earn a single penalty corner, leaving dragflicker Gurjit Kaur frustrated.

However, goalkeeper Savita was brilliant under the bar to deny England on numerous occasions.

The Indians did create more chances from open play against England and that counted as a positive for chief coach Marijne going into tomorrow's game.

A win tomorrow will take India to the top of the pool and brighten its knock-out chances ahead of its last fixture against USA on July 29.

In the other match of the day, Spain will take on South Africa in Pool C. Match starts: 6:30pm IST.

## Freestyle star Ledesky still pushing boundaries

**IRVINE (UNITED STATES), JUL 25 (AFP):** Katie Ledesky, the freestyle phenomenon who bagged her 14th world record in May, says she'll keep trying to push her boundaries as she looks toward the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Ledesky, who won four gold medals at the 2016 Rio Olympics to take her tally to five, obliterated her own 1,500m freestyle world record at Indianapolis on May 16 -- her first event since announcing she was turning professional and giving up the amateur status that allowed her to compete for Stanford University.

In June she inked a sponsorship deal with TYR Sport Inc., the timing giving her plenty of time to adapt to the demands of a pro career before 2020 arrives.

Ledesky is entered in five events at the US national championships that start on Wednesday in Irvine, south of Los Angeles.

The meet is a qualifier for the Pan Pacific championships in Tokyo next month, with the two meets together serving as selectors for the 2019 world championships in South Korea.

“Make the Pan Pacs team,” Ledesky said yesterday of her goals for the week.

“That's as much as I'm going to share.

“I want to be my best this summer at Pan Pacs, but if it's kind of split between these two meets and some of my best swims are at this meet and some

are at Pan Pacs, I'll take that, too.”

Ledesky was 16 when she set her first world record, in the 1,500m free at the 2013 world championships in Barcelona.

She had improved that record and grabbed the 800m free world record before she set her first 400m free world mark at the 2014 US championships in Irvine.

“I definitely walked in here yesterday and it brought me back to some good memories,” Ledesky said.

“It was the first time I broke that one. So that was a memorable one, not to say all of them aren't. But that was especially memorable.”

Since then Ledesky has proven herself with world and Olympic gold in the 200m free, and she remains in a class by herself in the distance freestyle events.

For Ledesky, 21, that only adds to the challenge.

“I think it gets harder. It's not any easier being me and having the times that I have to go best times,” she said.

“But the work I've put in over the past year has been really, really good, some of my best training I've ever put in.

“I'm someone that really takes confidence from practice and translates it into my racing. So that's something that I know that if I can train that way still, I can race that way still and can still push my boundaries and see what I can do when I step up on the blocks.

# For Masterful Bubba, golf's a family affair

**WASHINGTON, JUL 25 (AFP):** Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson hasn't let golf stand in the way of life's simple joys, his roles as husband and father outweighing that of being a major winner.

The fact that he failed to make the cut at last week's British Open is unlikely to trouble the 39-year-old American left-hander, a three-time US PGA winner this year.

His focus is less on golfing success than on his family, whom he likes to drive to tournaments in his motor home so wife Angie, son Caleb and daughter Dakota can join him on the journey.

“Having a team that loves me, getting an RV (recreational vehicle), camper, whatever you call it. So our kids now have bunk beds, we love it,” Watson said.

Gerry Lester Watson Jr. grew up in the rural south in Florida's western panhandle and still lives in the area near Pensacola, where he owns an ice cream shop, a car dealership and a piece of baseball's minor-league Pensacola Blue Wahoos.

Watson's high-profile purchases include the former Isleworth mansion of Tiger Woods and the “General Lee” car from “The Dukes of Hazzard” television show



for 110,000 in 2012.

Watson won the 2012 and 2014 Masters, his first major title coming in a play-off win over South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen. Two years later, Watson won the green jacket by three strokes from playing partner Jordan Spieth and Jonas Blixt of Sweden.

His career has had its downturns. He struggled this year with a health issue he has not revealed, but victory at Riviera in February showed his return to form and a March WGC Match-Play triumph proved endurance was not an issue.

“It was a slow start to the year, but I knew I was headed in the right direction,”

Watson said.

“Getting trophies is always a pleasure. The goal was always to get the next trophy. So trying to move forward and looking forward to what's ahead, and hopefully get to the Ryder Cup and play well there.”

- FAMILY FIRST -

Watson is winless in three Ryder Cup appearances ahead of this year's event in France in September, going 3-8 overall in matches for US teams in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

“I've never won a Ryder Cup, so making the Ryder Cup team and trying to win a Ryder Cup as a player would be another tournament victory to me, would be a major championship to me just because I've never done it,” Watson said.

“You'd rather do it at home, but it would be fun anywhere you can get a victory.” No US team has won a Ryder Cup in Europe since 1993.

Asked recently where he saw himself in six months, just after the Ryder Cup concludes, Watson put his family first.

“I see myself being an improved father, teaching my kids things now that they're starting school. My little man is reading bedtime stories to us,” Watson said.

“The golf part, it doesn't matter. He could care less if I win or lose. He would rather me not play so I could be home playing toys with him.”

Watson has 12 career US PGA titles, the most recent coming last month when he took his third Travelers Championship crown.

“My whole dream was to get 10 wins. I didn't think it was possible to get 10 wins,” Watson said.

“Then I get 10 wins and now I've got two more.” Watson shared eighth at the Rio Olympics and wouldn't mind another medal chance at Tokyo in 2020.

“It was the best experience of my life to watch all the other events, and then the golf tournament got in the way,” Watson said.

“I'd love to do it again.” Family life might end Watson's career long before his skills fade.

“My motivation is to quit before I keep winning because I want to be there for my family,” Watson said.

“My son asked me in the bunk bed, ‘Dad, when are you going to retire?’ because he wants to spend more time with me.





## At least 27 feared dead in Myanmar jade mine landslide

**YANGON, JUL 25 (AFP):** At least 27 people are feared dead following a landslide at a jade mine in northern Myanmar, police said today, as heavy rains hampered the search for survivors.

The poorly-regulated and notoriously corrupt multibillion-dollar industry in remote Kachin state is frequently hit by fatal disasters, and the victims often come from poor ethnic communities.

The latest disaster hit remote Set Mu sub-township early Tuesday following heavy rains in the area, burying at least 27 people, mostly from the impoverished ethnic Rawang group, local police officer Aung Zin Kyaw told AFP.

"We haven't found any dead bodies yet. We will search again today with the Red Cross and fire brigade," he said.

With only about 70,000 members, the mainly-Christian Rawang are one of Myanmar's smallest ethnic groups and live predominantly in the mountainous north, with many employed in the informal mining sector.

With few regulations and little oversight in the hugely profitable sector -- mostly fuelled by soaring Chinese demand -- conditions are often dangerous, especially during the wet months.

"Before the rainy season, the people looking for jade were destroying the land. Now it is raining and the ground is not stable and very muddy," local resident Shwe Thein told AFP Wednesday.

Dozens of people have been killed by landslides this year in the Hpakan region of Kachin state, where a major incident in November 2015 left more than 100 dead.

Watchdog Global Witness estimated that the jade industry was worth some 31 billion in 2014, a huge proportion of which did not reach state coffers.

Jade and other natural resources, including timber, gold and amber, help finance both sides in a decades-long conflict between ethnic Kachin rebels and the military as they battle to control the mines and the income they bring.

Since a 17-year ceasefire broke down in 2011, more than 100,000 people have been displaced due to the fighting, many multiple times.

Civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi said on coming to power in 2016 that ending the country's myriad conflicts was her top priority but an ongoing peace process is yet to yield any significant results.

# India, Uganda pledge to fight terrorism; renew calls for UN Security Council's reform

**KAMPALA, JUL 25 (PTI):** India and Uganda today voiced their strong commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and reaffirmed the need for the UN Security Council's comprehensive reform to make it more effective to the geo-political realities of the 21st century.

According to a joint statement issued after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, the two leaders underlined the traditionally warm and close ties between the two countries.

They agreed that the terrorism poses a grave threat to global peace and stability and reiterated their strong commitment to combat it in



all its forms and manifestations, it said.

They stressed that there could be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever.

The leaders asserted that strong measures

should be taken against terrorists, terror organisations, their networks and all those who encourage, support and finance terrorism, or provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups, it said.

They also under-

scored the need to ensure that terror organisations do not get access to any weapons of mass destruction or technologies and committed to cooperate for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on

International Terrorism (CCIT), the statement said.

India had proposed the CCIT more than two decades ago in the United Nations as an instrument for a global alliance of nations against terrorism.

Prime Minister Modi and President Museveni reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, including its expansion, to make it more representative, accountable, effective and responsive to the geo-political realities of the 21st century, the statement said.

India along with Brazil, Germany and Japan has been pushing for the expansion of the UN Security Council for long, saying that the current UN and its powerful Se-

curity Council do not reflect the ground realities of the 21st century.

They reiterated their commitment to intensify their cooperation in the UN and other multilateral organisations in order to address current global challenges such as climate change and to foster international and regional peace and security, as well as sustainable development.

The two leaders emphasised the need for regular convening of bilateral mechanisms, including at Foreign/External Affairs Ministers level, to review the overall state of bilateral relations, and for the expeditious implementation of the economic and development cooperation projects.

Modi arrived in Ugan-

da yesterday on a two-day state visit, the first by an Indian prime minister in 21 years.

President Museveni praised the contribution of the 30,000-strong Indian Diaspora towards Uganda's national development and economic growth. India appreciated the significant role played by Uganda for economic integration and maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

During the visit, Modi also announced gifting of 100,000 National Council of Educational Research and Training books for school-going children of Uganda and 100 solar power irrigation pumps for helping Uganda's efforts in the development of agriculture.



**I**n a historic first, women of a conservative tribal district of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan today cast their ballots as the country went to polls, according to a media report. Since Pakistan's first general elections in the 70s, the women in Upper Dir, which was once a Taliban stronghold, had been deprived of using their right to franchise on the pretext of cultural taboos. Queues of women could be seen outside the polling stations in constituencies NA-5 and PK-12 of Upper Dir as polls opened across the country, Geo News reported. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had earlier said that any area where women are stopped from voting could face the election in its constituency becoming invalid, it said. The ECP had also said the results of any constituency would be declared invalid should the female turnout be lower than 10 per cent. Upper Dir has a total of 447,414 registered voters.

## Breaking tradition, women in Pak tribal district cast their ballots for the first time



**ISLAMABAD, JUL 25 (PTI):** In a historic first, women of a conservative tribal district of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan today cast their ballots as the country went to polls, according to a media report.

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stituencies NA-5 and PK-12 of Upper Dir as polls opened across the country, Geo News reported.

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# Pakistan goes to polls; 35 killed in suicide blast

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN**

**ISLAMABAD, JUL 25 (PTI):** Pakistanis voted today in a tense election to choose a new government as at least 35 people were killed in an ISIS suicide attack and poll-related violence, amidst charges of manipulation by the powerful Army and concerns over the participation of Islamic hardliners.

Hours after polling began for the general elections, an Islamic State suicide bomber blew himself up outside a polling station in Bhosa Mandi area of Balochistan's provincial capital, Quetta, killing 31 people, including policemen.

In separate incidents, four persons were killed in poll-related violence. Clashes erupted between rival parties outside several polling stations, reports said.

Nearly 10.6 crore people are registered to vote for members of the lower house of parliament and four provincial assemblies. The election marks the second democratic transition of power in the nation's 70-year history.

The voting started at 8 AM local time on more than 85,000 polling stations. The counting of votes will be done on the spot soon after the conclusion of the polling process at 6 PM and results will be announced within 24 hours.

While polling stations officially opened for voting at 8 AM, enthusiastic citizens queued up outside their respective stations as early as 7 AM.

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa cast his vote in



Rawalpindi.

Shahbaz Sharif, the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) who is hoping to become the next prime minister, was among the first to cast his vote in Lahore.

"Just cast my vote. High time that all of you came out to vote for Pakistan's progress and prosperity. May this election be a source of peace and stability for the nation!" he tweeted.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former Sindh chief minister Murad Ali Shah, MQM-P's Farooq Sattar, Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP) chairman Mustafa Kamal, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Bilawal Bhutto and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman also cast their vote in their respective constituencies.

The two Bhutto sisters Asifa Bhutto Zardari and Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari also cast their votes. Bakht-

awar posted a picture after casting a vote with her sister.

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), 3,459 candidates are contesting for 272 general seats of the National Assembly, while 8,396 candidates are running for 577 general seats of the four provincial assemblies - Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

More than 30 political parties have fielded their candidates for the elections.

The PTI, led by cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, is looking to unseat the incumbent PML-N, which was formally led by the now jailed ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif. The PPP, led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, is also in the race.

According to a survey of polls by Gallup Pakistan on the eve of general elections, PTI and the PML-N are running "neck and neck", with the

PTI ahead nationally and the PML-N ahead in the crucial province of Punjab.

For a smooth polling process, the ECP has deployed around 1.6 million staff at polling stations across the country.

About 4,49,465 policemen and over 3,70,000 military personnel have been deployed for security.

In a special message yesterday, Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retd) Sardar Raza Khan urged voters to cast

their vote.

A public holiday has been declared across the country today in order to facilitate the voting process.

Pakistan's National Assembly comprises a total of 342 members, of which 272 will be directly elected today whereas the rest - 60 seats reserved for women and 10 for religious minorities - are selected later through proportional representation among parties with more than five per cent of the vote.

A party can only form the government if it manages to clinch 172 seats in total.

The run up to the elections have seen a massive crackdown on the media and allegations that the military has secretly backed the campaign of Khan while targeting his political opponents.

The military has ruled Pakistan through various coups for nearly

half of the country's history since independence in 1947. Even during the civilian rule, the generals have wielded enormous power, setting the agenda for the country's foreign and security policies.

The ECP was also criticised for deploying the Army both inside and outside of polling stations.

Army chief Gen Bajwa, however, assured that the Army will only perform a facilitative role in the polls and that the polling process is to remain under the control and authority of the ECP.

Former prime minister Sharif, the supremo of the PML-N who was jailed this month after being convicted in a corruption case, also accused the military of pressuring the judiciary to convict him. Both institutions deny the charge.

Controversy has also arisen over allowing militant groups to participate in the elections.

Some of the infamous Pakistani extremist leaders, accused of spreading religious hatred and instigating sectarian violence, are among hundreds of candidates contesting the elections.

The leading among them are Mumbai-terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led banned Jamat-ud Dawa's candidates who are fighting with an aim to make Pakistan a "citadel of Islam."

In the run up to the elections, the country also witnessed a series of deadly attacks targeting candidates and campaign rallies, including one that killed 151 people in Balochistan.





**OUT AND ABOUT!** The Pretty Little Liars actress, Lucy Hale, 29, flaunted her new hairdo while in LA wearing her brunette hair down and parted on the side while sipping on a Starbucks only hours before reaching out to Demi Lovato.

## LILY COLLINS AND JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER 'END THEIR FIVE YEAR ON/OFF ROMANCE!'

Lily Collins and Jamie Campbell Bower have split once again, after five years of on/off romance. The pair confirmed they were back together in January, when they started writing gushing comments on each other's Instagram posts.

However, The Sun now claims the couple have 'amicably' decided to go their separate ways, after realising they are 'not right' for each other.

A source told the paper: "Lily and Jamie have clearly got a lot of history and they have been close for a long time, but in the end they decided they weren't right for each other and it came to an end amicably."

Assuring they will remain on good terms after so many years, they added: "They are still friends and there are no hard feelings."

The couple were first romantically linked in 2013, after starring side-by-side in fantasy flick The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones. The acting pair dated for a year before going their separate



ways, and briefly reconciling in 2015.

Lily and Jamie confirmed they were giving things a third try in January this year when they re-followed each other on Instagram, and declared their love in a string of gushing comments.

In one exchange, Jamie wrote: "LANDAN. You got me for 24 hours (sic)", causing Lily to reply: "24 whole hours?!"

Another saw Lily write: "On the road again. Jet lag here we come" with Jamie responding: "We shall miss you terribly x", and Lily writing back sweetly: "Already do."

Lily has previously dated Taylor Lautner and Zac Efron, while Jamie was formerly engaged to his Harry Potter co-star Bonnie Wright. It is now believed that Jamie has already embarked on a new romance with someone not in the public eye.

The To The Bone actress has previously spoken about what she looks for in an ideal partner, with their personal connection and chemistry being her priority.

She said: "I've learned a lot about myself because of the relationships that haven't worked out. I've had some good and some bad relationships. I want someone to make me laugh. I need to just be enough for someone. I would like to be accepted in my pyjamas or wearing something glamorous."

## Demi Lovato 'in Los Angeles hospital for suspected overdose'

Demi Lovato is 'awake' and recovering in hospital after being found unconscious in her Hollywood Hills home on Tuesday following an alleged drug overdose.

A spokesperson for the star told MailOnline: "Demi is awake and with her family who want to express thanks to everyone for the love, prayers, and support. Some of the information being reported is incorrect and they respectfully ask for privacy and not speculation as her health and recovery is the most important thing right now."

TMZ first reported that the singer was transported to an undisclosed medical facility in LA shortly before noon on Tuesday after friends called 911.

A law enforcement source confirmed she was given Narcan when she was found, a medication that's used to try and reverse an opioid overdose.

While it's been speculated that Lovato overdosed on heroin, TMZ reported late Tuesday that the star had refused to disclose to paramedics what she had taken and that no drugs were found at her home.

A source told the website that she had not overdosed on heroin but wouldn't disclose any further details. However, the songstress has previously struggled with cocaine and Oxycontin addictions. According to UsWeekly, the Narcan was kept on hand by one of the singer's friends 'in case something like this happened.'

Law enforcement told TMZ that there is currently no criminal investigation because they could not determine what drug Lovato was under the influence of. It's reported that the Confident singer's mother Dianna De La Garza is at her bedside.

Demi's aunt, Kerissa Dunn, posted on social media Tuesday afternoon that the 25-year-old is 'awake and responsive', TMZ reported, and also asked fans to pray for the hitmaker. However, it seems the posts have since been deleted.

Meanwhile, Fox announced it is replacing Tuesday's scheduled episode of Beat Shazam in which Demi appears due to the day's events. She had tweeted about her appearance on the show just hours before she was rushed to the hospital.

The singer's Thursday concert in Atlantic City, New Jersey, has also been canceled, as Variety confirmed.

TMZ is now reporting that Demi's friends were concerned for the star's wellbeing in the weeks leading up to



her overdose. The star's entourage said it was 'apparent' she had fallen off the wagon, with the signs becoming more 'alarming' as the days passed, according to the website.

Demi also allegedly had a falling out with her sober coach earlier this month, accusing him of betraying her. However, the site claims that some of her other friends didn't see it coming at all, with one acquaintance saying she seemed 'great' when he visited her at home just two weeks ago.

Lovato has been incredibly open about her struggles with alcohol and drugs, and earlier this year debuted her single Sober in which she detailed her battles and path to recovery. She performed that song on Sunday night at the California Mid-State Fair, her last appearance before being hospitalized on Tuesday.

During the performance, Lovato struggled to remember the words to her song. Demi got candid about her drug struggles in the YouTube documentary Simply Complicated, which was released last year.

In that documentary Lovato said that she tried cocaine at 17, right around the time she was shooting to fame on the Disney show Sonny With A Chance.

"I loved it. I felt out of control with the coke the first time that I did it," explained Lovato.

She also spoke about how addiction ran in her family, and her mother's attempts to keep her daughter away from drugs.

It was while on tour with the Jonas Brothers that Lovato said her problem got out of control, resulting in one period where she used drugs every day for two months.

At 18, she checked into rehab for the first time. She said she felt great after leaving rehab, but soon found herself relapsing on drugs.

She even gave interviews about her new sober lifestyle while high on drugs she said, while cycling through sober companions.

One night, she mixed cocaine and Xanax she said, in what was almost a fatal mistake.

"I started to choke a little bit, and my heart started racing. I remember thinking, 'Oh my God, I might be overdosing right now,'" said Lovato.

Her low point came in 2012 when she partied all night with strangers in a hotel and threw up on the way to her American Idol appearance. That is when her management team informed her that if she did not get sober they would no longer keep her as a client.

For the next six years Lovato stayed clean as her career thrived, though she admitted to dealing with other problems like an ongoing eating disorder. That came back in a big way in 2016 she said after her split for Wilmer Valderrama, with the singer saying that being alone triggers the disorder.

She also hints in her song Sober that she recently relapsed, and has been candid about her struggles with mental health as well over the years.

## Gary Oldman added to cast of The Woman in the Window with Amy Adams

Gary Oldman, the reigning Academy Award winner for Best Actor, has been inked to star alongside Amy Adams for the film adaptation of The Woman in the Window.

The 60-year-old actor, according to The Hollywood Reporter, will play a neighbor of Adams' character, a child psychologist who suffers from agoraphobia in addition to alcohol-related issues.

She's stayed grounded at her home for months on end when she sees a ghastly crime linked to the family of Oldman's character. Authorities do not trust her word and she begins to trust in herself.

The Alfred Hitchcock-inspired film is derived from the book re-



leased earlier this year by author A.J. Finn (whose real name is Daniel Malory, 38,) that made a significant splash, debuting in the top spot on the New York Times best-seller list en route to domestic sales eclipsing 1 million copies.

According to publisher Harper Collins, the book poses the questions: "What is real? What is imagined? Who is in danger? Who is in control? In this diabolically gripping thriller, no one - and nothing - is what it seems."

Joe Wright is set to direct

and Scott Rudin and Eli Bush will produce, while Julianne Moore is negotiating to play Oldman's wife in the motion picture, the publication reported. Oldman took home his first Academy Award earlier this year for his venerated performance as Sir Winston Churchill in Darkest Hour. He was previously up for the honors in 2012 for his work in Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.

Adams, 43, is a five-time Oscar nominee for her work in the films American Hustle, The Master, The Fighter, Doubt and Junebug.

Should she be cast, Moore would bring even more accolades to the table, as she captured the Best Actress Oscar for 2014's Still Alice.

**ARIES:** Unexpected information may be coming at you today from out of the blue, Aries. You'll find that this information is extremely important, so make sure to keep all lines of communication open. You're apt to learn some important lessons regarding working harmoniously with groups to fulfill not just your own needs but also those of others. Let other people's viewpoints be heard.

**TAURUS:** Don't be so nosy about others' affairs today, Taurus. If you were meant to be included in the conversation, you'd have been invited. Suspicion of other people's actions and motives will only cause them to lose their trust in you. Keep any abrasive and critical thoughts to yourself. Perfection is a hot topic in your mind. Realize that the only person you can control in that department is you.

**GEMINI:** Other people could have some seriously opposing opinions about how things should be done. Be prepared for battle, Gemini, because others are likely to have sharp tongues. Compromise is the key to finding solutions that will work for everyone. Realize that the best solution is probably one that neither party has thought of on his or her own. Work together to come up with the best situation for everyone involved.

**CANCER:** Information is apt to come in erratic bursts today, Cancer. You'll find that a great deal of nonverbal communication is revealed and you should listen not only with your ears but also with your eyes and heart. Keep an open mind. Let others finish their thoughts before you make any judgments. You're probably better off not making any judgments at all. Let people say their peace.

**LEO:** An unexpected opportunity to take a short trip could present itself today, Leo. Hop on that boat or train and see where it goes. If you have no real reason to travel, make one up. You don't need one anyway. The point is that it's time to get away from your current surroundings and explore other ways of living. If the time isn't right for you to get out and travel, at least make a plan now for a trip later.

**VIRGO:** If you aren't paying close attention today, Virgo, you might miss what's said. Important information is being relayed quickly, so don't miss out on the action. It may not be important for you to agree with everything you hear, but at least listen to it and seriously consider incorporating elements into your point of view. Don't dismiss other opinions just because they're new and different from your own.

**LIBRA:** Actively express your thoughts today, Libra. You'll find that a great deal of information needs to be exchanged. You have the power to deliver a strong, thoughtful message to others, so don't give up this opportunity to exercise your acute mind. You may also find people to be rather argumentative, but don't let this keep you from expressing your true thoughts on the matter at hand.

**SCORPIO:** You may be feeling a little bit lost in the dust today, Scorpio. Somehow what you're thinking and feeling isn't exactly coordinating with the current conversation. Don't think you need to agree with the group just to feel like you fit in. Maintaining your own point of view is critical. You're better off rolling with the punches rather than trying to put up a fight.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your thinking is clear and sharp, Sagittarius, and your mental

awareness keen. You should use it to head toward new, forward-thinking projects. Don't waste your time beating around the bush. Cut right to the heart of the issue. You'll easily outwit your opponents in a game of Scrabble or chess. Engage in activities that exercise your brain. There's no reason for you to doubt yourself today.

**CAPRICORN:** You're apt to come up with some new, radical thoughts today, Capricorn, which you should feel free to share with others. There are opportunities around that you should grab hold of. Be aggressive about pushing ahead with your progressive thoughts. Communication with people who possess opposing viewpoints will prove quite valuable. Take a lesson from the bizarre and outlandish.

**AQUARIUS:** Today is a terrific day to express your thoughts, Aquarius.

You'll find your mind especially clear and ready to tackle any mental issue that comes your way. Your tendency is toward free and unconventional ways of problem solving. Express the importance of being able to think for yourself. Write letters, make calls, and surprise someone with a personal visit. Connect with friends you haven't spoken with in a long time.

**PISCES:** Someone may challenge your mental capabilities today, Pisces. Your natural tendency might be to take the information, mull it over for a while, and come back with your decision or opinion at some later date. The truth of the matter is that things are moving quickly and decisions must be made quickly and efficiently. Stay on your toes and have confidence in your mental processes.