



**BJP SIKKIM CAMPAIGNS  
WITH RAM MADHAV'S  
MESSAGE**  
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**PORTRAYING RWANDA'S GENOCIDE  
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pg02



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**SHRI D.B. CHAUHAN**  
Sikkim-BJP President  
and Arithang candidate



**SHRI LATEN  
TSHERING SHERPA**  
Lok Sabha candidate

**Sikkim ki Janta Bhare Hunkaar  
Yuvaon ki Berozgari door karne  
Aa Rahe Hein Chowkidaar**

**Modi Sarkar Aa Rahi Hain, Casino Sarkar Ja Rahi Hain**

Appeal By: BJP, SIKKIM



*SDF unloads  
on SKM for  
communally  
inflammatory  
Greater Nepal  
allegations*

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

Spokesperson, Lok Sabha MP PD Rai, countered today that the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha allegation that SDF president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, was harboring Greater Nepal designs was a disservice to all Indians of Nepali origin.

Mr Rai stressed that SKM was playing out the ill-informed trope with which the community has often been typecast by prejudiced minds. He added that the SKM allegation was also dangerously seditious and that the SDF was exploring legal options to hold SKM to account on the matter.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Rai strongly condemned the allegation leveled by SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, and pointed out that Mr Khaling's arguments matched the claims made by SIBLAC convenor, Tseten Tashi Bhutia. This, he added, further reinforced the suspicion that SIBLAC and SKM were colluding behind the scenes and hoodwinking the people into believing that there was no collaboration between them.

Mr Khaling, it may be recalled, had made the Greater Nepal allegations while claiming that the SDF and its president were "conspiring" to ensure that PS Tamang [Golay], introduced by Mr Khaling in this context as an indigenous Sikkimese Nepali, did not become the Chief Minister of Sikkim.

In this regard, Mr Rai pointed out, again, that Mr Tamang cannot become Chief Minister or hold any constitutional post because of his conviction in a corruption case for which he served a year in jail. This debars him from contesting elections for six years.

SKM, he countered, has been coming up with far-fetched and contradicting statements on

turn to pg02

**DEJECTED THAT SOME LEADERS FAILED TO  
CONNECT WITH THE PEOPLE: CHAMLING**

**"All shortcomings of last govt  
will be rectified and governance  
improved manifold"**



**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GYALSHING, 06 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, shared today that it pains him to notice that some MLAs and Ministers have not been able to

convey the principles of the party to the people or connect with the people in the manner expected of them in return for the trust imposed in them by the party.

Mr Chamling was addressing the seventh edi-

tion of the party's election campaign meetings as part of the "Vijay Sankalpa Yatra" at Gyalshing in West Sikkim today.

Despite of heavy, the campaign meeting attracted a large gathering

turn to pg02

**Will reward Upper Burtuk after  
forming government: Golay**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay] met and interacted with the people of different areas under Upper Burtuk on Saturday. He was accompanied by SKM candidate, N Bikram Gurung.

Mr Tamang interacted with the people of Lingding, Reshithang,



Sangtong, Phenjong, Thami Dara, Upper Luing, Manbir Colony, Burtuk and Lower Sichey, informs

an SKM press release.

The SKM president expressed his gratitude to the people of Upper

Burtuk for always supporting him and SKM. He stated that after forming the government, SKM will compensate all losses faced by the constituency in the last ten years.

He assured to give justice to the people of Upper Burtuk and to take full responsibility of Upper Burtuk.

Mr Tamang also

turn to pg02

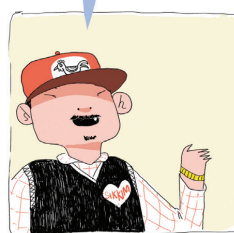
**SIKKIM को  
ELECTIONS**



नमस्ते  
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Yo pali Kukhura Party  
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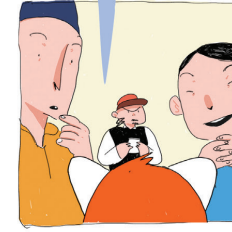
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## SDF rallies for DT Lepcha at Tumlabong

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front took out a rally in support of its candidate, DT Lepcha at Tumlabong ward under Martem-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim on Saturday. The rally was led by Samlik-Namli Zilla Panchayat, Binita Rai and participated by ward panchayat, Pravin Rai and SDF supporters of Tumlabong, Zilla Panchayat, Ms Rai said that SDF has never lost from Tumlabong ward and has always got the highest number of votes. She added that the people will continue to vote for SDF.

## Sports Dept felicitates 2 medal winning pugilists

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

Sports & Youth Affairs Department felicitated two young pugilists for winning medals for the State in the recently held 1st East Zone Sub Junior Boys and Girls Boxing Championship at Golaghat in Assam. Anne Lepcha of Sichey Senior Secondary school won a gold medal and Sunana Tamang of Modern SSS bagged a silver medal for the State.

On the occasion, Sports & Youth Affairs Department Secretary, Dr RK Tamang congratulated the medal winners and other members of the State team for their performance in the championship. These boxers are undergoing regular boxing training at the training centre of Sports & Youth Affairs Department under the state coach, Pratima Goorooong.

## GO West visits

## Soreng

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

General Observer, Aftab Faisal, West Sikkim visited Soreng Sub Division covering the assembly constituencies of Rinchenpong (BL), Soreng Chakung, Zoom Salghari (SC), Daramdin (BL). He visited polling stations that were critical and also some model polling stations. He also interacted with Sector Magistrates, Sector Police Officers, FST, VST, SST, BLOs and also voters of these areas. He was accompanied by the Nodal Officer-Joint Director, Anand Thapa and the SDM Soreng, Himmat Rai.

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## Final round of training for Presiding and Polling Officers in North

**MANGAN, 04 APR [IPR]:** The last and final round of three days long training to the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers in connection with their duties on polling day and a day prior to poll day was successfully concluded today. The training programme which was held at the conference hall of Zilla Bhawan, Mangan had the presence of National Level Trainer cum SDM, Kabi, Mahesh Sharma who imparted training to the Presiding and Polling Officers.

Training programme was carried out in two shifts i.e. Morning and Evening shift. As informed by the Master trainer, Mr Sharma, there are 11

# Madhav's statements reveal BJP-opposition conspiracy: SDF

## BJP wants backdoor entry into Sikkim

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen today alleged of an internal agreement between Bharatiya Janata Party, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha and few other political parties of Sikkim in order to facilitate a backdoor entry for BJP into the State.

He was referring to the statement of BJP national general secretary, Ram Madhav given on Friday in a BJP public meeting at Ranipool truck stand.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Gyaltsen stated that although pre-poll alliance between SKM and BJP could not happen,



there has been an internal agreement between BJP, SKM and few other political parties of Sikkim.

He alleged that the statement of Ram Madhav reveals a BJP conspiracy to enter Sikkim through the backdoor since they cannot enter directly by winning elections. The BJP want to form the government in Sikkim at any cost, he added.

He also alleged that the BJP's promise to reserve seats for Limboo and Tamang immediately after forming the government at the Centre is a totally false promise. If it was possible then the BJP should have done it by now, he said further accusing BJP of making false promises just as elections are around the corner.

Mr Gyaltsen went on to cite the example of the

Gorkhaland demand of the neighbouring hills, wherein he alleged that BJP MPs betrayed the people by never raising the demand at the Centre.

He urged people of Sikkim to beware of such conspiracy and false promises further adding that this is the reason why the Chief Minister has been repeatedly saying that this election is not about winning but

about saving the identity, existence and future of Sikkim and its people.

Mr Gyaltsen stated that opposition parties have been lacking policy, principle and leadership so they have now started personal attacks. He stated that SDF party was never for the personal war but has been doing the politics of policy, programme and principle.

The SDF spokesperson also attacked SKM on the allegations made by its spokesperson, Jacob Khaling in a press conference on Friday. He dismissed all allegations as false and baseless.

"We strongly condemn the threat issued by Ram Madhav to form the government without people's votes and we challenge the statement of BJP to form the government by winning elections," said another SDF spokesperson, Bhim Dahal.

## RO North casts vote through postal ballot

**MANGAN, 06 APR [IPR]:** District Election Officer (DEO) cum Returning Officer (RO), North, Raj Yadav, cast his vote for Parliamentary and Assembly Constituency, General Election 2019 at postal ballot facilitation centre (DAC), Mangan, North Sikkim on 06 April.

After casting his valuable vote he appealed to the people of Kabi Lungchok, Dzongu, Lachen Mangan and Sangha of North Sikkim to come forward to exercise their voting right by casting their vote on 11 Apr, 2019 from 7 a.m to 5 p.m at designated Polling Station.

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## Will reward...

announced that N Bikram Gurung will be a Minister in the SKM government.

He also lashed out against the SDF government on different issues.

## SDF unloads...

this issue to continue confusing the people and its latest collapse of reason was clearly triggered by the many CM aspirants with the SKM ranks.

These sentiments were also echoed by Mr Rai's fellow spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, who condemned SKM for its communally inflammatory comments.

## "All shortcomings..."

with people staying back to hear Mr Chamling who delivered an impassioned speech.

"Too many are running after personal benefits and are being very selfish. They look at the government only for what they can extract from it and do not think of what they can do for the society at large. Some are leaving the party and joining the opposition for petty reasons," he said.

In this regard, he called on the people not to hold such failures against the party or its government because corrective measures have always been taken and what could not be delivered in the last term in office will be fulfilled in the next government, he said.

He highlighted that people should realize the peace, security and well-being delivered by the SDF Government and trust it to always have the best interests of the people in mind.

The shortcomings of individuals do not reflect the priorities of the party or its government, Mr Chamling said, while adding that the one thing that has always been consistent, has been SDF's commitment to the people.

He announced today that everyone left-out from government benefits or schemes will be covered within 100 days of government formation.

He also announced that new approach roads will be sanctioned, existing roads upgraded, a tunnel project initiated to connect all districts, a ropeway at Sangha Choling, Bazar Upgradation and Beautification, construction of underground markets and many facilities.

He assured that even the minor mistakes and oversights of the Government will be rectified and action be taken within 100 day of government formation.

Addressing the drivers, Mr Chamling said that drivers were like Mahagurus for the SDF government which is why he started his election campaign by travelling in a Savari Taxi.

He also contended today that SKM played spoilsport and played a role in the ban on the entry of Guru Hajur. He announced today that the next government will send Minister NK Subba to invite him to the State.

The programme was also addressed by Lok Sabha candidate DB Katuwal and others.

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 APR:**



Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has stated that all Assembly candidates and the Lok Sabha candidate of BJP in Sikkim are campaigning on war-footing and taking the message given BJP national general secretary, Ram Madhav on Friday to the people.

A BJP press release states that BJP state president, DB Chauhan along with BJP Sikkim election in-charge Nitin Nabin

have been going to all 12 constituencies of their candidates with the message of Mr Madhav.

In a public meeting held on Friday at Ranipool, Mr Madhav strongly criticised the corrupt politics of the Chief Minister and asserted the need to change the government in Sikkim to bring sincere and honest government, the release mentions.

## Expenditure Observer visits East District



**GANGTOK, 06 APR [IPR]:** Expenditure Observer, Rajesh Kumar, Assembly Constituencies (17-22) visited Khamdong Singtam, Mangan and Sangha of North Sikkim to come forward to exercise their voting right by casting their vote on 11 Apr, 2019 from 7 a.m to 5 p.m at designated Polling Station.

He interacted with the Sector Magistrates, Sector Police Officers, FST, VST, SST and briefed them about their respective roles and responsibilities. He also enquired on the basic minimum facilities available at the Polling Stations and also assessed the election preparedness in various places of his visit.

The Expenditure Ob-

server informed the expenditure and accounting teams to supervise and monitor the expenditure incurred by their candidates and their respective political parties. The observer emphasized that it is imperative for them to maintain a register detailing the complaints filed by the contesting candidate and the representatives of political parties. He also added that the officials should be equipped and well-versed with ECI guidelines and articulated that the election officials need to be vigilant in order to conduct a free, fair, transparent and inclusive election in the district.

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Two field reporters for Gangtok (East) and one for West District. Should be fluent in english. Have basic knowledge in journalism. Walk in interview:

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### KUTSHE SHEGU

Our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to all our dear friends and well wishers who have been so supportive and forthcoming during our time of bereavement, the sad demise of our beloved daughter Late **Kes-sang Tongden Lepcha** who left for her heavenly abode on 19/02/2019. Once again in all humility we request your benign presence in offering prayer for the departed soul, the 49th day of Kutshe Shegu which falls on **07/04/2019** (Sunday) at our residence at Tongden Lee, Dikchu Bazar, East Sikkim.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us in our hard time and regret our inability to thank them individually.

**Wangchuk Bhutia (Husband)  
& all family members.**





### DEO-East involves Anganwadi workers for voter awareness

**GANGTOK, 06 APR [IPR]:** The Office of the District Election Officer, East, has taken the initiative to involve Anganwadi workers in creating wider awareness under SVEEP.

Under this initiative, Anganwadi workers will visit every household under their respective jurisdictions on 10 and 11 April.

On the first day, they will take signatures of voters on a pledge sheet exhorting them to cast their vote on 11 April.

On the second day, these workers will again visit the same households to verify if the voters cast their votes or not.

If they find that the electors have still not gone to cast their votes, they will request and try and persuade them to do so.

A training session was conducted for Anganwadi workers today at the SJEDW conference hall at Lumsey by Rohan Agawane, Assistant Collector, in association with the nodal officer from SJEDW, Garjama Subba.

The training was attended by 112 workers in two batches.

In addition to this, Voluntary Identity Cards and pledge sheets were handed over to the participants.

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### GO inspects polling stations around Gangtok

**GANGTOK, 06 APR (IPR):** General Observer B Ram Sashtri visited polling stations at Nandok Senior Secondary School, Rongay Junior High School and Krishi Bhawan, Daragaon in

the East District today.

During his visit, he interacted with the concerned Sector Magistrates, Flying Squad Teams and Booth Level Officers. The General Observer also looked

into the facilities available at the polling stations for the convenience of voters.

He also enquired after provision of drinking water, sanitation and other basic facilities.

### PO starts field visits from Khamdong-Singtam



**GANGTOK, 06 APR (IPR):** The Police Observer, Naveen Arora today started his field visits from Khamdong-Singtam. He visited 17/9 a critical polling booth at Dochung Jr High school and 17/7 at Dipu Dara Pry School.

He visited the three polling booths, 17/16, 17/17 and 17/18 at Singtam Community hall and booths 17/14 and 17/15 in Singtam Sr Sec school.

He also thoroughly inspected the strong room and the control room at Ranipool and discussed

in detail the security arrangements of the complex with the concerned SDM and SSB personnel present in site. He also visited the all female police station at Ranipool and interacted with the SHO and reviewed the election arrangements, area of jurisdiction, crime situation, law and order, NBW, arrests of criminals, arms licence register, 107/116 & 151 CRPC, traffic duty and liaisoning with the SSB and IRB personnel.

The Sector magistrates of Singtam Khamdong and Sang Martam constituencies, the Sector Police officer of Singtam Khamdong constituency along with their FST, SST and VST were present during the inspection of the booths.

### Second inspection of candidate accounts held in East

**GANGTOK, 06 APR (IPR):** The District Election Officer/ East, Kapil Meena informed the 2nd Inspection of accounts of contesting candidates standing for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha was held at EDZP Conference Hall on 04 April.

The inspection was done by the Assistant Expenditure Observers in the presence of Expenditure Observers. Notices have been issued to contesting candidates to furnish their expenditure report within 48 hours of issuance of notice.

The 3rd inspection of Accounts and re-conciliation is scheduled to be conducted at EDZP Conference Hall on 08 April 10am which is required

to be attended by the candidates or expenditure agents.

Hands-on training for Presiding and Polling Officers has been arranged at the Conference Hall of the DAC, Sichey from 10am onwards upto 2 p.m every day, till the 09 Apr, 2019 for the benefit of all polling parties and Sector Magistrates.

Further, he informed that postal ballot facilitation centre has been set up at the Conference hall of the DAC which will be functional from 2 p.m to 4 p.m till the 09 April and on the 10 April, it will be set up at the Strong Room premises at Brihaspati Senior Secondary School, Ranipool from 7 a.m onwards for receiving of Postal ballots and also for casting them.

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## World Health Day celebrated in Mamring School



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 06 APR:** SAATHI, NSS and Red Ribbon Club of Government Senior Secondary School Mamring East Sikkim jointly organised an awareness programme on "Health care and Awareness" on the eve of World Health Day i.e. 07 Apr, 2019, in the school premises today, a press release informs.

The programme started with the speech on introduction and background of World Health Day, delivered by Songmit Lepcha, peer educator from class XII.



It was followed by a quiz competition conducted on Health issues by Ramesh Ghimirey, a volunteer of class XII.

The vice principal of the school, IP Kathiwarra addressed the programme by sharing the importance of sound health in every individual for a healthy society. At the end of the programme, Palden Lepcha, a volunteer from class XII shared six basic health tips which can be followed by everyone to remain healthy throughout the life.

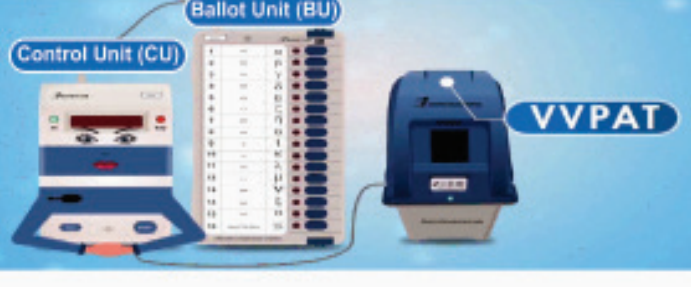
Awareness on HIV

AIDS, addiction, cancer and many diseases was also conducted. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Siddharth Mishra, a volunteer from class XII. The program was attended by all teachers and students.

Principal of the school, Prahlad Sharma appreciated the role of Nodal Teachers and volunteers for organising the program effectively. The program was jointly supervised by Health Nodal Teacher (RRC), CK Sharma GTA and GTA Coordinator (SAATHI/NSS), Bikash Bhattarai.

### EVM with VVPAT Unit



**Q12. Is it possible to vote more than once by pressing the button again and again?**

**Ans. No.** As soon as a particular button on the Balloting Unit is pressed the vote is recorded for that particular candidate and the machine gets locked. Even if one presses that button further or any other button, no further vote will be recorded. This way the EVMs ensure the principle of "one man, one vote". The next vote is enabled only when the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit releases the Ballot by pressing the Ballot Button. This is a distinct advantage over the ballot paper system.

**Q13. How can a voter be sure that the EVM is working and his vote has been recorded?**

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## Planning Well Means Preparing for the Worst

*Not everything can be left to fate because history carries enough lessons*

An evening of torrential downpour scoures the roads, leaving them pock-marked with potholes and sinks. If strong winds come along, branches and trees litter places they should not be invading. This scenario plays out with clockwork precision every time the skies open up in Sikkim, but it is not the rain's fault that roads and slopes take such a battering – what gets reinforced is the failure of the capital's drainage system (if at all it can be called that). The present showers are technically not even the nor'westers yet and are still erratic westerly disturbances, but even if these carry such potential for damage, one shudders to think what June and July have in store. It is never too late to start learning, and it is even more apt when the worries of manmade disasters are discussed on the anniversary of what is probably the worst catastrophe of development. On that note, let us try and learn from the past in a distant land.

On 26 April in 1986, the world's worst nuclear fallout took place at Chernobyl in what was still USSR. It was not a nuclear bomb that released radiation several times higher than the atom bombs detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but a peaceful nuclear power plant. Most people have forgotten Chernobyl and to jog memories a bit it is worth recording that Chernobyl had state of the art [even by present standards] safety mechanisms in place. The whole incident was a horrific accident; an experiment that went wrong with no mala fide intent. An area extending 30 KMs on all sides of the reactor remains heavily poisoned, with officials estimating that it would not be safe for human life again for another 20,000 years. On an aside, tourists though can make quick daytrips to the area which is also seeing some civil works to further contain the ground zero.

The reason remembering Chernobyl makes sense in Sikkim is because the State too has been on a heightened development mode, a condition made risky by the short-cut engineering and still dodgy civil works. The lesson to be learnt from Chernobyl is not that things “go wrong,” rather, it is that things “could always go wrong.” We learn from the past, and not always our own, not to abandon ideas, but to avoid the mistakes. Sikkim has identified hydel as one of its thrust sectors for the economy. No one can fault this attention since better lettered experts have zeroed in on this option. What the State needs to ensure is that all worst-case-scenarios are identified and back-up plans worked-in in advance. This process has to be frank and open and every fear, no matter how far-fetched it sounds, addressed and prepared for. Yes, most will roll their eyes and point out that Sikkim has missed that bus already, but the dams are going to be around for many more decades even if constructions have ended. It is thus still not too late to commission a study on post-hydel project situations [studying especially the already commissioned projects]. This study could delve into how the affected people adjusted to new lifestyles, how they managed their compensation kitties, how the projects affected the socio-cultural environment, what kind of unexpected fallouts came about etc. And it could also project the potential catastrophes that these manmade interventions on what were once free-flowing rivers can wreck.

We got a sense of this aspect being addressed from the several NDRF disaster drills undertaken at settlements along rivers which have hydel projects upstream. While these drills are welcome, one wonders if there is any science being deployed to the scale of manmade disasters being prepared for.

Here, one would also like to reiterate that if the pro-hydel lobby was so worried with the risks posed by the Mantam lake to projects downstream, how is it that the dams, which hold back much more water, are not flagged for the risks they pose. Again, not necessarily because of faulty design, but because of scenarios they are not adequately prepped for like a mega-quake of a massive landslide into the reservoir itself.

Agreed, our country does not believe in such preparations, but that does not mean that Sikkim should not? The area of study is still very manageable and even a small team of dedicated scholars [it has to be scholars, not bureaucrats or ex-hydel sector employees] can carry out such a study and the findings could end up ensuring that development happens at minimal human cost in Sikkim, and the State continues to show the nation how things should be done.

It is time that Sikkim realized that uninformed decisions and not preparing for the worst leaves everyone vulnerable. Take Gangtok's example, it was allowed to urbanise in a free for all, and now, everything from fighting fires to fleeing earthquakes to avoiding landslides and repairing roads presents a logistical nightmare. Had the planners planned at least with the obvious threats in mind, Gangtokians would not find themselves in a situation where all they can do is build and pray. All developmental works for the future should rely more on planning and not just the grace of guardian deities.



## Portraying Rwanda's genocide as an encounter with hell

CHIGBO ARTHUR ANYADUBA  
*theconversation.com*

Quoting the words of one local missionary, the Time magazine cover of May 1994 reads: “There are no devils left in Hell, They are all in Rwanda.”

As many as 800,000 people, mainly Tutsi, were killed in a 100-day orgy of brutal murder and rape by members of the majority Hutu in Rwanda.

Time's evocation of hell presents the genocide as an unimaginable phenomenon. It's also a theological framing of the violence as a product of pure evil.

This vision of the Rwandan genocide as hell is not incidental. Similar iconographies of hell define popular imagination and understanding of the genocide. Consider, for example, the title of Canadian Romeo Dallaire's memoir, Shake Hands with the Devil. The book provides details of General Dallaire's experience as the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the genocide.

Also, a short documentary film produced on Dallaire by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2002 was titled ‘A Good Man in Hell’.

The distinct impression these accounts give of the genocide in Rwanda is that it's, as the American diplomat and political critic Samantha Power's book aptly suggests, ‘A Problem from Hell’.

The imagining of genocide as hell conveys the impression that the horrors are not fully imaginable. They can only be witnessed in symbolic forms. In addition, such imaginings encourage a moral – or theological – response to an otherwise violent phenomenon spurred by political events.

The examples I explore constitute the pivot of Western media and artistic representation of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Yet such iconographies are not exclusive to Western representations of the atrocities. As I point out, they are also part of

a central feature in major stories on the genocide written by African authors.

### COMING INTO AWARENESS

Genocide, understood as hell in several other literary projects, is profoundly marked by immense horror. The Rwandan hell figures as a site of unqualifiable cruelty. There, brutal rape is prevalent. Violence is inflicted with extreme sadism and decadence is the normal order of things.

A notable representative work of the kind is Canadian Gil Courtemanche's celebrated novel, Un dimanche à la piscine à Kigali [A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali]. In the novel, the encounter by a Canadian journalist with the Rwandan mass atrocities presents as a descent into hell.

The examples from Africa include Boubacar Boris Diop's celebrated novel, Murambi, le livre des ossements [Murambi, the Book of Bones]. The novel relies heavily on the Biblical story of the Gentile's conversion to Christianity. Cornelius's conversion and meeting with apostle Simon Peter is central to understanding Diop's thematic concerns in this novel.

The main story of Murambi is about Cornelius Uvimana, a Rwandan exile returning from Djibouti. Cornelius arrives four years after the genocide to witness what he believes to have been the extermination of all members of his own family, and to write a play about the genocide.

His journeys through massacre sites are presented as a descent into different parts of hell. Within this hell, Cornelius's main guide is his uncle Siméon Habineza, who, like Biblical Simon Peter, “baptizes” Cornelius into ideas and helps him find new insights into human cruelty.

Cornelius's journey to his hometown of Murambi could symbolise a process of coming into awareness. His ignorance about the genocide and his sense of self-righteousness disappear as he delves

deeper into the hell of post-genocide Rwanda. He realises while inside this hell that the massacre of over 50,000 people including his mother and siblings has been planned and executed by his own father, Dr Joseph Karekezi.

### DESCENT INTO HELL

Just like Diop's Murambi, some other accounts of the genocide present encounters with atrocity as descent into hell. These include Veronique Tadjo's memoir, L'ombre d'Imana: voyages jusqu'au bout du Rwanda (The Shadow of Imana: Travels in the Heart of Rwanda). There's also a genocide survivor memoir Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by [Immaculée Ilibagiza], Benjamin Sehene's novel, Le Feu sous la soutane [‘Fire Beneath the Cassock’]. Finally, the novel, Le Passé devant soi (The Past Ahead) by Gilbert Gatore.

All differently and in fascinating ways represent the 1994 genocide in Rwanda in some form constituting descents into hell.

The prevalence of the hell narrative suggests that stories about the 1994 genocide have been evolving as descent narratives. These narratives represent the sites in which one encounters the casualties of genocidal violence as hell and the journey there as a descent into hell.

In such narratives, the protagonist usually descends into an infernal underworld that looks like an afterlife. After a “tour” of the infernal underworld, he or she emerges bearing a new moral awareness put into the service of bearing witness to the unspeakable horrors and evil he or she saw there.

Understood in this way, the Rwandan Genocide narratives are a legacy of cautionary tales in which the damned bequeaths to posterity the moral “truths” about its genocidal past.

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## Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities endure worsening racism and inequality: this must be a turning point

PHILIP BROWN  
*theconversation.com*

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities continue to experience open discrimination and prejudice, both in the UK and Europe. Just in the past few weeks Roma people have been attacked in France as a result of fake news spread about the community. Meanwhile in the UK, the Equality and Human Rights Commission intervened in a holiday park which held a “no Travellers” rule, and a caravan site allocated for use for Travellers was subject to an arson attack.

April 8, 2019 marks International Roma Day – a day created to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Roma people. The day was established in 1990, but since this time the challenges Roma face have remained and even increased, driven by the rise of the Far Right and austerity.

The reality of their situation has been driven home by a new report from the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, which provides a damning critique of the progress made on addressing the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. It also challenges the government to do more to improve communities' outcomes in education and health care, tackle discrimination and hate crime, as well as violence against women and girls.

The committee report demands that the government develop a clear and effective plan to support Gypsy,

Roma and Traveller communities, in line with the inequalities they face. The report also suggests a key role can be played by the Race Disparity Unit, which gathers information on the experiences of minority groups in the UK, by demanding that government departments must “explain or change” any disparities between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and the general population.

### A HISTORY OF NEGLECT

The fact is, the discrimination and adverse life chances faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller populations in the UK and Europe have been a problem for decades. Reports from the Commission for Racial Equality (in 2006), the Equality and Human Rights Commission (in 2010) and the European Commission (in 2018) have rigorously documented the inequalities and discrimination faced by these communities.

Indeed, the most recent of these confirmed that countries with larger Roma populations experienced an increase in anti-Roma hate speech, segregated and poor accommodation, even as hundreds of thousands of Roma endured a lack of access to basic services including clean water and sanitation. With the steady arrival of Roma from central and eastern Europe to the UK, there's a real risk of replicating the hostile anti-Roma environment seen in much of central and eastern Europe, which forces such communities to flee and polarises neighbourhoods.

The UK government's record on

Roma issues has been one of inaction and neglect. Plans, such as the coalitions 2012 strategy to tackle inequalities have been widely derided for having limited scope, little ambition and weak recommendations. The most recent inquiry failed to consider the shortage of pitches and site accommodation across the UK, which many groups representing Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities would consider to be one of the most pressing concerns.

Yet the report represents a significant intervention against government inaction and hostile policy making. Few politicians – with notable exceptions such as Kate Green and Baroness Whitaker – speak out against the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Indeed, during the inquiry, Conservative MP Jackie Doyle-Price said: “Let's be honest: we are all Members of Parliament and we all know there are no votes in championing this group of people”.

As with all reports prepared by parliamentary committees, the government has 40 days to respond. With the current atmosphere of anti-migrant sentiment in the UK, coupled with the continuing hostility to Gypsies and Travellers, it is difficult to predict the sort of response the report will receive. But maintaining the status quo cannot be an option.

### TURNING POINT

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, on average, continue to die far younger than members of other communities and have poorer health

than members of other communities. They also experience the death of a child far frequently than other communities. The needs and position of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are so stark that considered steps must be taken.

So this should be an opportunity for the government and other public bodies to take more forceful and co-ordinated action. One way forward is for the government to use the Race Disparity Audit to address inequalities. Vocal leadership is also required from within government at all levels. For too long, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have been used as a political football, with few people in positions of power speaking up for their needs.

Successive governments have tried doing nothing, pilot projects have been attempted and mainstreaming the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities has been the recent approach. But all have failed over the long term or led to very little improvement. Government needs to lead and to foster leadership in others – there needs to be coordinated plans and actions. As in most areas, resources will also be an issue, but a desire and an ability to affect change is critical. In doing so, the UK will address some of the longstanding issues for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and make communities more equal and less hostile places.

*[the writer is Professor of Social Change, University of Salford]*



# Rice beer and life lessons in Sadolpara

CK LEPCHA

While it was my first time in Garo hills, it was not that I did not know about the place. My friend from Tura would often bring cashew grown in Garo hills and another friend had contracted malaria while he was doing fieldwork there. But the one event that puts them in the map of India is the Wangala drum festival which is celebrated every year in the month of November. It is a post harvest festival as they play their drums and give thanks to the gods for their harvest. Though it is celebrated in every village on a smaller scale, it is now a state-organized affair as a hundred-drum festival with participants joining from all over. It has also become a symbol of Garo identity as their drum performance has also been taken to the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.



Garos call themselves 'A-chik' and have been of interest to scholars and anthropologists since the colonial times as the first

observation was made in the late eighteenth century by John Eliot who wrote 'Garrow' for the Garos. Though the earlier studies were mostly done for administrative purposes, it was the beginning of the introduction of Garos to the rest of the world.

One of the most fascinating aspects for people has been the matrilineal form of descent among Garos. Like the Khasis, the Garo children take the mother's last name and the husband usually goes to the wife's family after marriage. But what is more interesting about the Garos is a form of marriage called 'marriage by capture' that is practiced in their society. Besides the regular marriage pattern that takes place everywhere, Garo women are also able to choose their man of interest as she would tell her brother/uncle, who in turn goes and captures the man of her choice and brings him home. However, the man can try to escape if he doesn't want to end up in the family and the whole process is quite amusing for people like us.

With a few of these ideas about Garos, we headed to Sadolpara, a typical Garo village on a Wednesday morning and found ourselves transferred to a world of simple living at its best.

We entered a Garo house made of thatch and bamboo and went through

the main room where there is a traditional hearth and they sleep around it. Then we headed towards the end of the house which was like a kitchen and a terrace

the death rituals of this community whose traditional religion is called 'Songsarek'. It looks like a scarecrow but it was a good reminder of the one who left as it was

family dispute in the village. Each member of the household was expected to be present and contribute a vessel of rice beer.

The daughter of the house we visited



where they could eat and socialize. We were served the traditional rice beer as we reached there and neighbors started pouring in, curious to see the new people who have arrived in the village.

The Garo rice beer locally known as 'chubitchi' is judged the best, among rice beers served in different tribes of Northeast India and I remember my friend bringing a bottle for our teacher every time she came from home. We were enjoying the drink but didn't realize that they would keep pouring as our glass was being emptied. So, before we got too comfortable in our bamboo terrace in the mid-day sun we decided to take a walk around the village.

One of the first things I noticed was a wooden post in memory of the deceased in front of their homes. In case there has been a death in the family, they would build a wooden post called 'kimla' and adorn it with the clothes, accessories and items owned by the dead. It is part of

also one of the most prominent features around the village.

As we walked around, we noticed the red earth and the tall green betel nut trees against the clear blue sky. We had indeed been transported to a world away from our concrete urban dwellings as there was a house under construction too. The bamboo poles and wooden frame was almost ready as it awaited the roof and outer walls. We asked how much time it takes to build a house and they said, three days. We couldn't believe our ears but when the whole village comes together, it was a probable task.

The people we met along the way were



friendly and stopped by to shake hands. As we neared the headman's house, we noticed a huge gathering discussing some

earlier was also on her way to the headman's place with their family's share of rice beer as we got back. The settlement could take all day and all villagers were expected to be a part of the decision making process leisurely drinking and listening to both sides. A lady stopped by saying she was trying to avoid going to the headman's because she did not have the rice beer. We weren't sure if she was avoiding because she didn't have rice beer or had not had time to prepare the same.

But we were now being served rice beer once again. This time we sat inside the house and were also served local yams as appetizers before the meal that afternoon. The bamboo floors were comfortable and practical as we were served rice and local chicken for lunch. It was such a generous giving for strangers to whom they owned nothing.

Our hearts were overwhelmed as we bid goodbye and headed out of the village. On our way out, we met an elderly lady and I quickly put a hundred rupee note in my hand as I tried to shake her hand. When she shook my hand and found that I had slipped some money, she held it and asked, 'why is she giving me money?'. I felt embarrassed. She didn't need money. She had everything. Her village had everything. It was me who needed what she had.

## FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

# The stones that tells stories

MONGFING LEPCHA

Looking back at the history of humankind in context to how they lived and invented new tactics as means for survival, it often leaves us awestruck and wondering if life was difficult then or have become difficult now. As in the earliest days the only challenge was to survive and make it through the end of the day and now we all know it isn't merely about surviving but maintaining that standard for survival.

Although many things we learn of the past is based on theories which is again based on some findings that supports the theories. Like the theories on invention of stone tools, fire, pottery, practice of agriculture, hunting and gathering, the earliest human civilization, etc. each theory is the outcome of evidences found. While talking about evidences and findings, I am primarily focussing on the material culture which is an important aspect of human culture be it the culture of past or present. Defining material culture for basic understanding, we can say that it is the aspect of culture which is in the physical form. For instance, the evidence of earliest stone tools gives us the idea of the human culture of the past. The material culture profoundly carries with it the history and stories of human culture. It not only helps in defining a culture but also helps in understanding the transition in the culture that occurs in due course of time. The stories and information behind the objects of material culture are mostly passed down orally or by the practical use of that object in day to day living. This is also the reason why I feel that the two aspects of culture material objects and oral tradition complement each other well.

To defend the statement I would like to cite



the Lepchas known as "Aashyam" or the fabric made out of nettle thread. The material object defines the culture of using nettle fabric by the Lepchas and origin of the use including the practice of obtaining the fabric is passed down practically and orally. Now, in order to safe guard the traditional knowledge people are documenting the practice in various forms like written and audio-visual which again shows the transition of material culture as the documents will also be a part of material culture that contains the traditional knowledge.

Talking about the material culture and the oral tradition my idea is primarily to showcase things I came across during my fieldwork which made me aware of the concept of the material object and oral tradition going along side by side especially among the Lepchas as my

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research work is on the said community. By looking at the topic of this article I am sure the readers might be wondering how is that even possible. Well, that is where the concept relies. Stones have always been a very important part of human culture right from the very beginning of human cultural history. Right from the crude stone tools to the great megaliths, each structure craved out of stones tells us stories of human culture. Be it used as hunting tool or as a symbol of brotherhood or any other things for that matter. As, such during my field work in different Lepcha villages of Sikkim, I came across many stories based on the stones/rocks which plays an important part in the lives of those people. To start with the first one, it was at my neighbouring village known as Ringhim which is situated few kilometres above the Mangan town at North Sikkim where a huge rock in the shape of butcher block is there in its natural state. The fascinating thing about the rock is that the upper portion of the rock has marks (naturally) as told by one of the villagers just like on the butcher block. People of that area call it as "Mung Anchu" which in English translation is devil's butcher block. Now how is that stone that is placed naturally a part of material culture of the people? Well, it is said that not till many years ago whenever any misfortune was to happen in that area or the surrounding areas especially any deaths, people residing in that areas used to hear noises of mincing meat on that rock. It was a symbol of bad omen for which people used to burn incenses and pray. It had become a part of their lives. Upon asking whether they still hear the sound to which they said that now it's not as often as before. The rock still exists with scars but the stories behind sure-

ly is fading with time. Another, rock which I came across is again in its natural state which has footmarks and some marks carved on it. This rock is situated at Saffo, a Lepcha village in North Sikkim. The said rock is an important part of the people living there. Every year a ritual "Param Rong Lungten Rumfaat" is performed on that rock by Bongthing. It is believed that failing to conduct that ritual can bring bad omen to the village. The rock had footprints which are believed to be that of Guru Padmasambhava. Apart from that some marks that of some stone games are also seen carved on the rock. People of that village also believe that it is the place where the origin of consuming pork originated. All in all that rock is an important part which holds with it many stories which are part of the people's lives. The whole idea of the footprint and the folklore gives us the idea of influence of the Buddhism going alongside the traditional belief system of that area.

Apart from these stones/rocks that are in their natural state but still are important part of the people's lives, there are other stone objects which after being given a human touch have been created a symbol of something meaningful. Like the Longchok at Kabi which everyone is familiar about depicts the symbol of brotherhood. The stories of it has been passed down both in oral form and in written documents as it marks an important event in the history of Sikkim. Upon understanding it deeper, it also showcases the culture of erecting stones usually among the Lepchas. The three stones erected are not just stones but considered the epitome of sacred mountain Mt. Kanchenjunga and its connecting peaks. Apart from symbolising it as sacred mountain, stones are also erected to mark boundaries which I saw in few of the villages.

The above examples are merely based on my experience of being encountered with things that paves way for looking at things from whole new perspective which obviously does not mitigate the importance of the already existing history but rather gives way for understanding it from a broader perspective. The topic "the stone that tells stories" in itself is a conceptual approach of putting forward the idea of understanding our culture based on the material objects. The focus is given on the importance of stones/rocks yet it applies to the rest of the material objects as well which practically cannot tell stories but culturally they are the story tellers that add value and meaning to the human existence.

[the writer is Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University]

## Assam: 34 pc candidates in phase 1 are matric pass or below

DIBRUGARH, APR 6 (PTI):

Fourteen of the 41 candidates in Assam contesting the Lok Sabha election in the first phase on April 11 are either matriculates or not even that, including a sitting BJP MP, according to their poll affidavits.

However, the list also has an ex-ITian, a retired professor of political science and some law and masters degree holders among others. Polling on five of the 14 seats in Assam will be held on April 11. A total of 75,16,284 people are eligible to vote in Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Tezpur, Kaliabor and Jorhat constituencies.

According to a law in Assam, a person needs to be at least Class 6 pass to become a member of a panchayat. The state's BJP government wants that a minimum educational qualification for people wanting to contest assembly and parliamentary elections should also be fixed. The Supreme Court is hearing a plea seeking to fix educational qualification for poll candidates.

In Dibrugarh, BJP's Rameshwar Teli, who is seeking a second successive term, is HSLC pass from Tipling Ghat High School in Dulaijan.

Among his rivals are veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Paban Singh Ghatowar, a Bachelor of Arts from St Antony College, Shillong, and Titus Bhengra, a retired professor of political science from DSK College here.



## Rajasthan to battle it out with rampaging Knight Riders

DINESH SHARMA

**JAIPUR, APR 6 (PTI):** High on confidence after their maiden victory, Rajasthan Royals will look to carry the momentum by exploiting familiar conditions when they host a rampaging Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here Sunday.

The visitors will also be brimming with confidence with their batsmen Nitish Rana, Andre Russell, Robin Uthappa and Shubhman Gill in top form. Rajasthan bowlers Jofra Archer, Jaidev Unadkat and Ben Stokes have leaked runs in the death overs. They will have to rethink their strategy after Russell's sensational display of power hitting (48 off 13 balls) against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The biggest positive for the Royals has been Sherays Gopal, who, with his googlies, deceived the likes of Virat Kohli, A B Dvilliers and Shimron Hetmyer, finishing off with 3 for 12. Despite the victory against RCB, Royals will still look to iron out certain flaws which have plagued them recently.

**APARAJITA UPADHYAY NEW DELHI, APR 6 (PTI):** The simmering 'aggression' of David Warner has found its release in the ongoing IPL and his desperation to play well on comeback makes him a dangerous batsman says his Sunrisers Hyderabad teammate Yusuf Pathan.

Warner and Steve Smith were banned by Cricket Australia for a year for their roles in the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa last year. On road to redemption, Warner has hit a purple patch, scoring two half-centuries and an unbeaten century in the four matches he has played.

"A successful batsman is the one who comes back after a big match and scores again in the next. There is a lot of aggression inside Warner which is helping him play so well. It is reflecting in his batting even after not playing for a year he has the aggression to do well. Such aggression makes him a dangerous batsman," Pathan told PTI in an interview. "He is fo-



cussed and determined. Watching him bat is so entertaining. It's great for us and it's a plus point for Australia to have him perform like this ahead of the world Cup," Pathan added.

On his own preparation for IPL this season, Pathan, who switched sides from KKR to SRH last season, said playing

in domestic tournaments has given him ample match practice.

"I have been competing in a lot of tournaments before heading into the IPL. Syed Mush-taq Ali, Vijay Hazare etc. There were matches the entire season so I was in the loop. I got to focus on areas I wanted to work

on. Playing regularly the entire season helps with match practice, it was very advantageous," said Yusuf, who also runs the Cricket Academy of Pathans.

With three IPL titles and a World Twenty20 trophy to his name, the 36-year-old is a veteran in the format and Yusuf

says he relies on his experience to do well.

"I try to use my experience from the 12 years I have played in the IPL. T20 is a very short format so you just have to be mentally strong, have to back the team and your game." "Matches change in 1-2 overs, one minute the team is in control the

other minute it can be losing so I am working to adapt quickly to the match situation and help my team."

Although, Pathan is yet to bowl this season, the off-spinner said he's been working with SRH bowling mentor Muttiah Muralitharan.

"Murali sir observes us closely during net practice. He has advised me on where my foot should be while delivering the ball, how long I should hold the ball.

"When you are in the game, you don't always realise what are the areas you need to work on. But he keeps on repeating it so it's engraved in my mind," the all-rounder said.

Sunrisers' consistent top order comprising the explosive duo of Warner and Jonny Bairstow have seldom burdened the middle-order with responsibility. However, Yusuf is prepared to help his side out at crucial junctures. "It's great that the top-order is firing for us but I am ready for the situation in which my

team needs me to pull them through. Against Rajasthan we were at a ball-to-ball situation, loss of a wicket there would have turned the match away from us I knew my wicket was important. I have also batted up the order when the team needed me to."

SRH bank heavily on their foreign line-up in all departments. However, the 2016 winners may face a depleted foreign line-up should they progress to the playoffs as Warner, Bairstow and the Afghan duo of Moham-med Nabi and Rashid Khan may leave the tournament early, owing to national commitments.

"SRH isn't the only team which will miss its foreign players. All eight franchises have such players and the team management has prepared well for that situation. We have good players to replace them. Yes, will miss players who are playing consistently but we are confident we will manage well," Pathan said.

## Arsenal hoping to cure travel sickness at Everton



**LIVERPOOL, APR 6 (AFP):** Stellar home form has propelled Arsenal into the Premier League top four but their chances of staying there now depend on improving patchy results away from the Emirates Stadium.

The Gunners can climb above Tottenham into third place should they avoid defeat at Everton on Sunday.

However, with five of their remaining seven league fixtures on the road, a trip to Goodison Park will be a stern test of whether Arsenal can maintain a hot streak of 16 points from the last 18 available in the Premier League.

Arsenal have won their last eight league games at the Emirates and have as many home points as title-chasing Liverpool.

A league table on away form only, however, would place them down 10th with just five wins from 14 matches. As well as Ever-

ton, Unai Emery's men must travel to Watford, Wolves, Leicester and Burnley.

The first four are all in the mix for Europa League qualification and it is not inconceivable that the latter could need points on the final day to stay up.

"We are thinking game by game and we know we have five of seven matches away - for us it's a big challenge," said Emery on Friday.

"We want to achieve the same good performances as when we play at Emirates Stadium. We have confidence now but we know it's very difficult. We know other clubs will take a lot of points." Arsenal have won just twice away from home since November - at League One Blackpool in the FA Cup and already relegated Huddersfield in the Premier League.

That run has included defeats at Southampton, Liverpool, West Ham and Manchester City in the

league and embarrassing Europa League losses to BATE Borisov and Rennes. Even an encouraging 1-1 draw at Tottenham last month could have been better had Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang not missed a last-minute penalty.

"The last matches in the Premier League - Tottenham and Huddersfield - we've had good performances and results, and were competitive," Emery said.

"We are getting better and being competitive at home. We want to be the same away but we know that the difficulty is that in each match at home, they (the other team) can feel better.

"Everton won against Chelsea and drew against Liverpool in their last matches at home."

Arsenal could also be without experienced trio of Laurent Koscielny, Granit Xhaka and Aaron Ramsey through injury, while Lucas Torreira is suspended.

## Kohli's RCB eye fresh start against Delhi Capitals

**BD NARAYANKAR BENGALURU, APR 6 (PTI):** In charge of a house in complete disorder, Virat Kohli will hope that Royal Challengers Bangalore play in the manner that defines his cricket, when they meet Delhi Capitals in the IPL Sunday.

RCB have suffered five straight losses in this edition, while the visitors are coming into the game with two wins and three reverses.

After losing the last match against Kolkata Knight Riders Friday, RCB's position has become precarious, and they have to win almost all their remaining games to keep their chances alive.

Despite AB de Villiers and Kohli striking form by scoring 63 and 84 respectively, RCB bowlers failed to restrict KKR, who was powered by Andre Russell's explosive knock.

The defeat left Kohli frustrated, and the batting mainstay called it "unacceptable". The Jamaican walloped 29 runs in the penultimate over, which helped the visitors pull off a sensational victory.

Apart from Yuzvendra Chahal and Pawan Negi, all other RCB bowlers have not been among



the wickets and conceded far too many runs, which Kohli admitted in the post-match presentation ceremony. Against KKR, they leaked 66 runs in the last four overs.

RCB's batting has also been dismal.

In their first match against Chennai Super Kings, RCB were bowled out for a paltry 70 in 17.1 overs after their top-order crumbled against Harbhajan Singh and Imran Tahir.

Against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the RCB bowlers allowed SRH to post a mammoth 232 with centuries from Jonny Bairstow and David Warner. RCB then collapsed to an embarrassing 35 for six by the eighth over, with Kohli and de Villiers contributing just four runs between them. In

the end, they were skittled out for 113 to lose the match by a massive 118 runs.

Against Rajasthan Royals too, the RCB top-order failed. The RCB think-tank would now be hoping that their top-order batsmen come out good against DC.

Delhi also have their fair share of worries, having lost three matches. After making a positive start with a win against three-time champions Mumbai Indians, their journey has been uncomfortable.

Rishabh Pant, who played a superb knock of 78 against Mumbai in their first match, has been the highest scorer for Delhi, while the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Iyer and Colin Ingram, too, have

been among the runs.

The bowling department has been spearheaded by Kagiso Rabada, and they also have Trent Boult and Ishant Sharma in their ranks.

Young leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane has also performed well so far for Delhi.

**TEAMS (FROM):**

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli (capt), Parthiv Patel, AB de Villiers, Colin de Grandhomme, Umesh Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Moeen Ali, Shimron Hetmyer, Shivam Dube, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini, Devdutt Padikkal, Himmat Singh, Milind Kumar, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Heinrich Klaasen, Pawan Negi, Washington Sundar, Akshdeep Nath, Prayas Barman, Kulwant Khejroliya, Tim Southee.

Delhi Capitals: Shreyas Iyer (capt), Colin Munro, Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Hanuma Vihari, Colin Ingram, Manjot Kalra, Chris Morris, Sherfane Rutherford, Keemo Paul, Axar Patel, Jalaj Saxena, Rahul Tewatia, Rishabh Pant, Ankush Bains, Sandeep Lamichhane, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel, Trent Boult, Amit Mishra, Kagiso Rabada, Ishant Sharma, Nathu Singh and Bandaru Ayyappa.

## Praful Patel elected as FIFA Council member, first from India

Kuala Lumpur, Apr 6 (PTI): All India Football Federation president Praful Patel was Saturday elected as a FIFA Council member, becoming the first Indian to enter the prestigious panel in a landmark development. Patel got 38 out of 46 votes.

The AIFF chief was one of the eight candidates vying for the spot in the election which was held during the 29th AFC (Asian Football Confederations) Congress in the Malaysian capital.

A total of five candidates, including Patel, was elected in addition to the AFC president, and one female member for the term 2019-2023.

"I am extremely humbled. I express my gratitude to all the members of the AFC who felt me suitable for the post. The responsibility as a FIFA Council member is huge. I would not only be representing my own country but the entire continent. Thank you all for your confidence for rapid progress of football in Asia," Patel stated.

Patel was accompanied by AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and senior vice-president Subrata Datta.

"Mr. Patel's victory is a 'landmark for Indian football'. Congratulations to Mr. Patel. He fully deserves this honour. His leadership has taken Indian football to greater heights.

Asian football will immensely benefit from his presence as a FIFA Council member," Datta told PTI.

The AFC Electoral committee and the FIFA Review Committee conducted the eligibility review of the candidates.

Das said, "We at AIFF are extremely proud of him. This is a major development for India's football fraternity. Best wishes on his new endeavour."

Under Patel's leadership, AIFF has been awarded with the AFC's President Recognition award for grassroots at the AFC Annual Awards in 2014 in Manila, and was given an award for the AFC Best Developing

Member Association at the in 2016.

The successful hosting of the FIFA U-17 World Cup drew lavish praise from all quarters, and India have also won the bid to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020. The Indian Club Licensing system has also been dubbed as one of the best in Asia.

A Al-Mohannadi (Qatar), Khalid Awad A. Althebity (Saudi Arabia), Mariano V. Araneta, Jr. (Philippines), Chung Mong Gyu (Korea Republic), Du Zhaoai (China PR), Mehdi Taj (IR Iran) and Kohzo Tashima (Japan) were the others who contested for the five available spots in the council.

Earlier in the day, the con-

gress re-elected Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa by acclamation as AFC president for a second four-year term until 2023.

Shaikh Salman, whose presidency began in May 2013, was the only candidate for the position.

There were initially three candidates confirmed by the AFC Electoral Committee following the completion of the eligibility checks on March 1. The number was reduced following the withdrawals of Mohamed Khalafan Matar Saeed Al-Romaithi (UAE) and Saoud A. Aziz M A Al-Mohannadi (Qatar) both of whom threw their full support behind Shaikh Salman.



# Maldives ex-leader makes comeback in landmark vote

**MALE, APR 6 (AFP):** The Maldives on Saturday held its first parliamentary election since former strongman leader Abdulla Yameen was forced to stand down, with his arch-rival expected to make a big comeback in the vote.

Mohamed Nasheed, another former president, is the highest profile candidate up for election for the 87-member People's Majlis, or parliament.

He returned from an enforced exile abroad after Yameen lost an election in September to Nasheed's deputy, Mohamed Ibrahim Solih.

Solih said he expected Saturday's poll to return a strong legislature led by his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP).

"I want to stress that I would like the next parliament to be made up of members who are familiar with our policies, and fully support it," Solih told a campaign rally on Thursday night.

Nasheed is widely expected to play a key role in the new legislature.



He was jailed for 13 years on a controversial terrorism charge when Yameen was in power. However, the conviction was overturned last year after the presidency changed.

The opposition coalition that helped Solih win has come apart, with constituent parties going their separate ways for Saturday's election.

Election commissioner Ahmed Shareef told reporters preparations had been completed for Saturday's vote and there had been no complaints of irregularities.

Voting will take place for overseas Maldivians in neighbouring India and Sri Lanka, as well as London.

Former president Yameen is not a candidate,

but his Progressive Party of Maldives is seen as the main challenger to the MDP. Last week, the High Court ordered authorities to lift a freeze on Yameen's bank accounts holding about 6.5 million. But it said a money laundering case against him would proceed.

Yameen received the payments just before he lost his re-election bid.

Since then, all dissidents have returned to the Indian Ocean archipelago and most have had their convictions quashed.

The Maldives was on the verge of being slapped with Western-led sanctions before Solih won the presidential election on a pledge to end corruption in the country best known for its luxury tourism.

## UN expert to visit Assange, assess violation of privacy claims

**GENEVA, APR 5 (AFP):** An independent rights expert will visit WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange at the Ecuadoran embassy in London to assess whether privacy violation claims involving him merit investigation, the UN rights office said Thursday. "The Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, Joe Cannataci, plans to meet WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on 25 April," the UN office said in a statement.

The meeting will take place at the Ecuadoran embassy in London, where Assange has been living for more than six years, and would be facilitated by the Ecuadoran government, it said.

The announcement came after Quito filed a formal complaint to Cannataci accusing WikiLeaks of spreading private information linked to President Lenin Moreno. Photos, videos and private conversations appeared on

portals such as Twitter and Facebook. Moreno was also forced to deny allegations of corruption which surfaced on the website in papers. org, with the president claiming he knew who was responsible for the accusations. An informed source said the special rapporteur would also investigate allegations made by Assange that his privacy had been violated during his time holed up in the embassy.

"The UN expert said the meeting would help determine if there exists a prima facie case of violation of privacy that warrants further investigation," the UN statement said. In an interview broadcast by several Ecuadoran radio stations this week, Moreno said:

"Assange has too often repeatedly violated the agreement we have with him and his legal team," without saying whether Ecuador would withdraw asylum.

## 1 hostage escapes, another drowns and 3rd shot

**MANILA, APR 6 (AP):** An Indonesian hostage held by Muslim militants in the southern Philippines swam his way to freedom but another drowned while a Malaysian was shot in the back while escaping, officials said Saturday.

The two Indonesians and the Malaysian separately escaped while Philippine marines were attempting to rescue them on Simusa Island in southern Sulu province in the last two days, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Gerry Besana said.

The dramatic escapes leave at least three more hostages in the custody of the Abu Sayyaf, which is blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization due to its brutal history of bombings, ransom kidnappings, extortion and beheadings.

The remaining captives include a Dutch bird watcher, Elwold Horn, who was kidnapped by

the militants in 2012, and two Filipinos.

One of the Indonesians, Heri Ardiansyah, was plucked from the waters by marines on board a gunboat while they recovered the body of his companion, Hariadin, who drowned.

The marines gunned down three Abu Sayyaf captors who were trying to chase the two Indonesians at sea, military officials said. The Malaysian, who was identified by the military as Jari Bin Abudullah, was shot by the militants when he ran away Thursday as marines tried to rescue him and engaged his captors in a gunbattle.

Government forces surrounded Simusa island, where a small community thrives near mangroves, to hunt down the remaining Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

The Malaysian was airlifted to Zamboanga city, where he was in critical condition in a hospital, military officials said.

The three hostages were kidnapped off Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island in December last year and taken by speedboat to Sulu, the predominantly Muslim and poverty-wracked province where a few hundred Abu Sayyaf have survived in the jungles despite frequent military offensives. Army troops on Friday clashed with about 80 Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Sulu's mountainous Patikul town in a fierce but brief gunbattle that left three soldiers and four militants dead and several wounded on both sides, the military said.

The rebels belong to an Abu Sayyaf faction led by commander

Hajan Sawadjaan and aligned with the Islamic State group. Sawadjaan is the main suspect in the bombing of a Roman Catholic cathedral during a Mass that killed 23 mostly churchgoers and two suspected suicide attackers on Jan. 27 in Sulu's capital town of Jolo.

# Trump at Mexico border: the US is 'full'

**CALEXICO (US), APR 6 (AFP):** President Donald Trump went Friday to the Mexican border to deliver a message to would be illegal immigrants: the United States has no room left to take them. Trump sees his campaign against a "crisis" on the border as key to his 2020 reelection bid, and his trip to Calexico in California was meant to keep that message in the headlines.

Numbers of migrants and asylum seekers fleeing violence in Central America have risen sharply, although there are enormous political divides on whether this constitutes the "national emergency" that Trump has declared. At a meeting with border patrol agents and other officials in Calexico, he said "it's overwhelming our immigration system and we can't let that happen."

Then in a message to those heading for the United States, he said: "The system is full and we can't take you anymore... Our country is full." "So turn around, that's the way it is," he said.

Around 200 protesters, accompanied by a giant inflatable balloon depicting Trump as a baby, were waiting for the president in Mexicali, the town on the Mexican side of the frontier.

Waving US and Mexican flags, the protesters carried signs with messages such as "Stop separating families" and "If you build the wall, my generation will tear it down."

On the US side, dozens of people lined the road that Trump's motorcade took from the airport, demonstrating support for his policies. "Build the wall," said one placard. Trump is determined to pursue a hard line.

Before leaving Washington earlier, Trump said that his previous threats to shut down the border had been successful in persuading Mexican authorities to clamp down by stopping mi-



grants on their journey north. "Mexico, I have to say, has been very, very good... over the last four days since I talked about shutting down the border," he said.

Trump indicated again that closing the border is no longer on the cards at present, but reiterated a warning that he will impose 25 per cent tariffs on auto imports from Mexico if illegal migration and drug smuggling are not controlled. Trump said he could still order the border closed later. "I may shut it down at some point but I'd rather do tariffs," he said.

While sounding tough, Trump's surprise shift to tariffs from the previous threat to close the border is a major retreat. Until Thursday, the White House had been signalling that Trump could imminently order a full or partial closure of the huge border in response to what Trump says is a "crisis" and "national emergency."

There had even been speculation that he might announce such a move during his visit to Calexico, an area where new high fencing has been erected as part of Trump's plan for expanding border walls.

The idea caused alarm among economists and Congress, including in Trump's Republican Party. Mexico is the third largest US trading partner and any hold ups at the border crossings would

have an immediate impact on trade. Although a border closing has been pushed back, the tariffs idea is causing confusion.

On Thursday, Trump indicated there would be a one-year deadline for Mexico to improve the situation before tariffs kicked in. However it was not clear if he meant that both for the drug smuggling and migration, or whether he wanted the migration issue resolved immediately.

On Friday, he tweeted that tariffs would be slapped on Mexican-built cars "if for any reason Mexico stops apprehending and bringing the illegals back to where they came from." It was unclear how such tariffs would fit into the countries' deeply intertwined trading relationship, which is governed by NAFTA, a free trade accord also including Canada that is due to be replaced by an updated version called the USMCA.

Leaders of the three countries signed the USMCA in November after more than a year of negotiations.

Trump said Friday that his tariffs would "supersede USMCA. It's a great deal, and it's very good for Mexico. But this will supersede USMCA."

In Mexico City, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador urged investors to "stay calm." "Our relationship with the government of the United States is very good," he said.

## Pompeo says Trump resort arrest shows China's threat

**WASHINGTON, APR 6 (AFP):** The arrest of a Chinese woman who allegedly brought malicious software to President Donald Trump's Florida resort shows that Beijing poses a threat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday.

Zhang Yujing was arrested last week at Mar-a-Lago, where Trump was on one of his frequent visits, after attempting to enter while carrying multiple mobile phones and a thumb drive containing malware, according to court documents. "I think this tells the American people the threat that China poses, the efforts that they're making here inside the United States not only against government officials, but more broadly," Pompeo said in an interview with CBS News.



"The theft of American intellectual property is a big business to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars, and President Trump is determined to push back against it," he said.

He was referring to ongoing trade talks in which the United States is

pressing China to take action to protect intellectual property. Pompeo said the administration was looking closely at the arrest but declined further comment, saying the investigation was ongoing.

There has been no evidence presented publicly that Zhang was

sent by the Chinese government, although Beijing says it is providing consular assistance.

Zhang was accused of making false statements to federal officers after first claiming to be a member who wanted to use the pool, and then saying she was attend-

ing a non-existent Chinese-American friendship event.

The security of Mar-a-Lago itself has drawn scrutiny in light of the unusual situation of a president who frequently hobnobs with members who pay to be part of his club.





# Christopher Nolan's new film is unreal: Robert Pattinson

LOS ANGELES, APR 5 (PTI): Actor Robert Pattinson, who is set to work with Christopher Nolan in the director's next venture, has described the script of the project as "unreal".

The 32-year-old actor will star alongside Elizabeth Debicki of "Widows" fame and "BlackKkklansman" breakout John David Washington in the highly anticipated film from the critically-acclaimed director.

In an interview with USA Today, Pattinson said he locked himself in a room to read the script.

"I've been a little wary of doing big



very personal, independent movie that has huge scale. I read the script and it's unreal," the actor said.

Pattinson currently stars in French director Claire Denis' sci-fi drama "High Life". He also has two other projects -- horror film "The Lighthouse" and Netflix's "The King", in which he stars alongside

Timothee Chalamet.

Nolan's project, described as an "event film", will open in IMAX on July 17, 2020.



**CAST OF AVENGERS: ENDGAME: Paul Rudd, Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr, Brie Larson, Chris Hemsworth, and Jeremy Renner greet young fans during a charity event at Disney California Adventure Park.**

## Adam Sandler to host 'Saturday Night Live'

LOS ANGELES, APR 6 (PTI): Actor Adam Sandler is set to make his hosting debut at "Saturday Night Live", the show that turned him into a household name in the '90s.

Sandler will return to "SNL" on May 4 alongside musical guest Shawn Mendes, reported Variety.

"We are happy to welcome Adam back to 'SNL' in what is sure to be a special night," said executive producer Lorne Michaels.

Sandler joined "SNL" as a writer in 1990 and was in part of the cast from 1991 to 1995.

Some of his most memorable characters include Opera Man and Hank Gelfand. One his most famous musical moments on the show was "The Chanukah Song".



## Everyone got emotional when Irrfan gave first shot: Dinesh Vijan

MUMBAI, APR 6 (PTI): Producer Dinesh Vijan says the entire team of "Angrezi Medium" got emotional when Irrfan Khan gave his first shot for the film.

The 52-year-old actor recently returned to the country and started the shoot of his comeback project "Angrezi Medium", a year after he was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour and was being treated abroad.

"Irrfan is undoubtedly one of the best actors in the country. When he gave his first shot everyone around got emotional. For me it was one of those life-defining moments working with him again after 'Hindi Medium'. Having him and Homi together was something all three of us have always wanted," Dinesh said in a statement.

The producer said Irrfan was not emotional and remained his "usual self".

"Wry humour, cracking one-liners and back on his own turf. Deepak (Dobri-



yal) and his improvisations brought the house down. It was like the first day of 'Hindi Medium,'" he added.

While Irrfan's character in "Hindi Medium" was Raj Batra, a Delhi based businessman with a sari showroom, he plays Champak from Udaipur who is in the sweet business.

According to the synopsis, Irrfan and Deepak will play brothers in the film who have inherited a 100-year-old sweet business and are also rivals. A distant cousin, played by Manu Rishi, who owns the biggest sweet shop, also adds to the rivalry within the family.

The film features Radhika Madan as Irrfan's daughter and talks are on for another leading lady.

The crew will be shooting in Rajasthan till April end after which they move to London as in the film Irrfan's daughter has aspirations of studying abroad.

"Angrezi Medium" is directed by Homi Adjanina.



ELECTION SYMBOL



**Shri D.B. Chauhan**  
BJP-Sikkim President  
and Arithang Candidate



**Shri Rajnish Kumar**  
National Secretary and  
Sikkim In-Charge, BJP



**Shri Nitin Navin**  
Election In-Charge, Sikkim



**Shri Ram Madhav**  
National General  
Secretary and North-  
East In-Charge, Sikkim



**Shri Amit Shah**  
National President, BJP

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**Laten Tshering Sherpa**  
Lok Sabha



**Vinod Paurali**  
West Pendum



**Bhola Chauhan**  
Melli



**Jigdel Bhutia**  
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**Sancho Lepcha**  
Rinchenpong

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