



PEOPLE WERE SHOCKED WITH MY CHOICE OF DOING FEMALE-FRONTED FILMS, SAYS ANIL KAPOOR

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WE'VE DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY – HERE'S WHAT UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME COULD DO TO HELP THE PLANET

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SummitTIMES

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Confident of 26 plus seats including Lok Sabha: SDF

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 20 MAY:**

Commenting on reports emerging of exit polls on what the EVMs hold for Sikkim, Sikkim Democratic Front spokesperson, PD Rai, underlined today that the party is confident of forming the government for a record sixth term and also winning the Lok Sabha elections.

"We are very confident that we are forming the government with a comfortable majority of 26-plus seats," Mr Rai said in a press conference today.

Exit polls are predicting a close contest in Sikkim with some even giving SKM the edge. However, Mr Rai, contended that almost all exit polls are leaning in favour of SDF returning to office.

While exit polls are predicting that SKM will win the Lok Sabha



elections here, Mr Rai said, "The Lok Sabha seat is firmly under our grasp."

He cautioned that exit polls and other surveys have repeatedly failed to get the numbers right.

He cited the example of the 2004 Lok Sabha election where the NDA led by former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee lost power. He also added that the recent Austra-

lian general elections also sprung a surprise irrespective of what polling surveys predicted.

Criticizing Sikkim Krantikari Morcha for allegedly manhandling surveyors when they were conducting a post poll survey, he stated that all have a right to conduct surveys but the result can be shared only after the stipulated

turn to pg02

Exit polls in our favour, will celebrate change on 23 May: SKM

**SHRAVAN CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 20 MAY:**

"The results of the exit polls are totally in our favour and on 23 May we will be celebrating the festival of change instead of revenge. Our government will not discriminate people on the basis of party affiliations," said Sikkim Krantikari Morcha [SKM] spokesperson, Jacob Khaling today.

Exuding confidence that SKM will form the government on its own when the results will be announced on 23 May, Mr Khaling added that until and unless the people want change, it cannot happen.

"So it's the people who have the sole right instead of politicians who make decisions," said Mr Khaling.

He reiterated the changes that SKM will bring about after it comes to power.



Terming Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling's statements made on State Day as "nonsensical", he said that Mr Chamling will be responsible for any untoward incident. He also requested SKM supporters and well-wishers to keep calm and spread peace.

He criticized the Shanti Suraksha Committee formed by SDF adding that it shows the lack of faith of

the SDF in the peace loving nature of Sikkimese people and the police.

SKM general secretary, Bikash Basnett, called the CM a "senior citizen" who does not know what he is talking about.

"This will be our last address as the opposition. Rather than embarking on a revenge spree we shall bring change with love and peace," concluded Mr Khaling.

NDA attacks Tejashwi for failing to vote

PATNA, MAY 20 (PTI):

The NDA on Monday taunted senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav over his failure to cast his vote here on Sunday though other members of his family like mother Rabri Devi, sister Misa Bharti, who is contesting from Pataliputra and brother Tej Pratap Yadav exercised their franchise.

BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand scoffed the RJD heir apparent saying he stayed away from voting since no member of family was in the race for the Prime Ministers post and claimed he does not actually accept the leadership of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

JD(U) MLC and spokesman Neeraj Kumar wondered why Yadav kept touring Bihar urging the people to vote in the name of his jailed father Lalu Prasad but himself failed to do the same.

RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary said as per my information, a wrong photograph had been printed against Tejashwi's name in the voters list which may have prevented him from voting.

Election Commission sources said while the mismatch would be corrected, it could not have prevented the RJD leader from voting had he arrived at the designated polling booth along with his voter ID card.

Sources in the RJD, however, claimed the young RJD leader had gone out of station after campaign came to an end on Friday evening and did not return on voting day.

India adopts new standards for measuring units kilogram, kelvin, mole & ampere

NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (PTI):

India on Monday adopted a global resolution to redefine four of the seven base units -- kilogramme, kelvin, mole and ampere, a move expected to have far-reaching effects, including changes in textbooks.

A resolution to redefine four of the seven base units was passed by representatives of 60 countries at the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), Paris on November 16 last year.

However, it has been implemented across the world on May 20 -- World Meteorology Day, Shekhar Mande, Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), said.

Over 100 countries have adopted the metric system of measurements, also known as the International System of Units

(SI), which has been in practice since 1889.

The other base units are --second, metre and candela.

"The fundamental constants are invariants of time and space and have successfully replaced the artifact based units, and aptly opened up the new era for quantum world by linking all seven base units to fundamental constants or quantum standards," said K Aswal, Director of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), one of the oldest scientific institutes in the country that also takes care of setting meteorology standards domestically.

The purpose of a system units is to enable worldwide coherence of measurements. The International System of Units (SI) was formalised in 1960 and has been updated several times to account for development in measurement technology.

turn to pg02

Animal Husbandry Dept clarification on Yak deaths in Muguthang

MANGAN, 20 MAY (IPR):

Additional Director, AHLF&VS Department, North District, Dr Karma T Bhutia, Mangan, has issued a press release regarding Yak deaths in Muguthang Valley and adjoining area of North Sikkim informs that on receipt of the first hand information from the Local Pিপন and Herder's representative, the Animal husbandry department in co-ordination with the LR & DM Department, North district and ITBP, immediately procured and arranged a buffer stock of dry fodder, wheat flour, mustard oil cake and local concentrate feed for distribution to the Yak herders of the entire region to tide over the imminent feed and fodder crisis.

While the relief package was handed over to the herders (Beneficiary list enclosed) in time (1st week of March 2019),



barring Lachung area, the relief items could not be reached to the destination as the area remained cut off for over the last four months and is still barely accessible even today. However, we remain content of the fact that the pre-emptive measures which we were able to deliver to the Yak farmers of Lachung vil-

lage in the nick of time, greatly helped in curtailing the losses of Yak lives to quite an extent.

The release further informs that an emergency meeting was convened in the chamber of the DC (North), with the officials of the concerned line departments on 11 May, 2019 for working out a task force to tack-

le the current situation in hand. Subsequently, a departmental team of 3 Veterinary Officers and Para-vets from the District accompanied by relief and damage assessment team deputed from the BAC & SDM Office, Chungthang were dispatched to the area on 12 May, 2019. The team could only gain access up



to Tso Lhamu and Gurudongmar area and the action taken up along with the preliminary report is recorded hereunder.

1. As per instructions of the DC, North, the AHLF&VS department made arrangements for all requisite logistic support in terms of feed supplements and medicines.

2. The surviving animals of the area were provided with health tonics and requisite treatments, namely- anti-stress medication, ecto and endo parasitocides along with some package of concentrate feed and wheat flour.

turn to pg02

Mobilisation of security personnel in 7-phase LS polls was bigger than Army's 'Op Brasstacks'

NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (PTI):

As many as 20 lakh security personnel were deployed in the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls, rendering the exercise bigger than India's well known 'Operation Brasstacks' in the 1980s, which was larger than any NATO exercise since World War-II, officials said Monday.

The 'Operation Brasstacks' was a major military exercise of the Indian Army in Rajasthan. It took place in 1986 until its execution in 1987.

The scale of the 2019 general election itself is massive and growing over time as between 1989 and 2019, the num-

ber of parties in the fray have increased over 20 times, the size of the electorate has increased by over 80 per cent, the number of polling stations has nearly doubled and the number of contesting candidates has increased by nearly 35 per cent.

"Effectively, nearly 20 lakh personnel of the police and central paramilitary personnel were involved during the elections. The mobilisation of such a large scale is rare anywhere in the world. In fact, India's best known Army exercise 'Operation Brasstacks' (1986-87), where nearly 6-8 lakh personnel were said to have been involved,



itself was bigger than any NATO exercise since World War-II," a Home Ministry official said.

The extent of mo-

bilisation of the security forces has also been massive with nearly 25 per cent of the overall strength of central para-

military forces being deployed for elections this year, indicating involvement of over three lakh paramilitary personnel.

However, since these officials are redeployed at various locations in different phases, the effective deployment is almost 2.35 times the number of troops actually involved.

Thus, if the elections in 2019 were to be conducted on a single day, the effective requirement would be for over 10 lakh personnel. Similarly, in the 2014 general election, the actual and effective deployments were of the order of 2.5 lakh and 6 lakh, respectively.

In addition to the paramilitary forces and state armed battalions, extensive participation of police personnel belonging to civil police and

district armed reserve, along with home guards and special police officers in various capacities, have also been seen.

Even if the participation is taken at 50 per cent of actual strength, this would mean the involvement of nearly 8-10 lakh additional personnel, the official said.

Apart from the mammoth size of election-related mobilisation, the duration is also considerable. This year's general elections were conducted over a period of nearly 40 days (April 11 to May 19) with counting of votes scheduled to take place on May 23.

Timely mobilisation turn to pg02

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Coordination meeting for counting day held in South

NAMCHI, 20 MAY (IPR):

A coordination meeting with all the contesting candidates and their election agents was held at DAC conference hall today. The meeting was chaired by DC (South), Ragul K and was attended by SP (South), Manish Verma, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, election officials and election agents.

At the onset, DC spoke in detail about the arrangements made for the counting day and counting centres which is located at Namchi Senior Secondary School. He also mentioned about the various instructions of Election Commission of India including timely completion and other important guidelines which the attendees need to follow during the process of counting. He added that the Strong room will be opened at 6:30am in presence of Observer, candidates and



their election agents.

While speaking further, the DC explained that mobile phones and electronic items will be prohibited inside the counting halls, however, a separate collection room has been identified at Old Primary school building for storing of the electron-

ic gadgets. Similarly, a particular room has also been identified for candidates and their election agents. The DC informed that the election agents will not be allowed to enter the counting halls without valid identity cards issued by the authority. He also appealed the attendees for

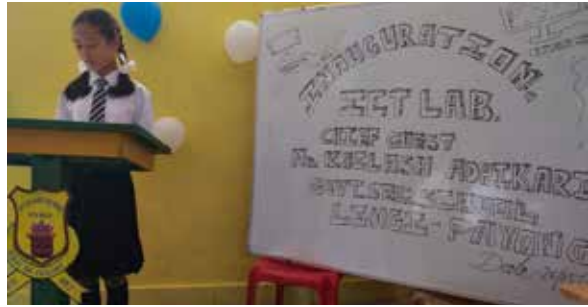
peaceful and smooth conduct of counting.

Moreover, DC added that the political party supporters will be kept at Alley and Singithang ground respectively. The round wise and final results announcement of the counting will be arranged at both the grounds. It was also in-

formed that the results will also be uploaded immediately at the website on result.eci.gov.in.

SP(South) in his address briefed about the security and traffic arrangements made in the counting day and urged everyone present to co-operate with the security personnels.

ICT lab inaugurated at Lingi Paiyong School



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 MAY:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) lab was inaugurated at Lingi Paiyong Senior Secondary School by SMC member and ward Panchayat, Kailash Kumar Adhikari in a small programme held today, a press release informs.

The inaugural programme was attended by Headmaster, Vocational Education staff, Teachers and ICT students of the school. The lab was furnished and developed by students and teachers.

Addressing the gathering, the Headmaster,

urged the students to make optimum use of the available resources. He also informed the students about career prospects through vocational subjects.

ICT faculty from SiB-in also addressed the gathering and presented the status report of the course in school. Student, Sneha Rai presented her views regarding ICT as a vocational subject.

The chief guest in his address thanked the department for providing the facility of ICT to students and offered his best wishes for future activities of the school.

Central Observers arrive in Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 20 MAY (IPR):

The Central Observers for Counting of the State Assembly namely IAS, Faisal Aftab for Assembly Constituencies 1 to 4 and IAS, Dr N Nagambika Devi for Assembly Constituencies 5 to 8 of West Sikkim have

arrived Gyalshing on 20 May, 2019 evening. They will be stay till 24 May, 2019 at Gyalshing for the counting process.

The Contact numbers of Faisal Aftab is (9733874950) and Dr Nagambika Devi is (9343310623).

Mobilisation of...

of nearly 20 lakh personnel within 40 to 45 days is a humongous task. A well thought planning with the Indian Railways, state and various forces play a crucial role in completing the requirement of the Election Commission, another official said.

More than 150 special trains were utilised for mobilisation of troops. These troops criss-cross length and breadth of the country to meet the requirement of respective state, the official said.

The core duties of the paramilitary personnel deployed for election duty include instilling a sense of confidence and security among people to exercise their franchise freely without any fear.

The additional responsibilities include maintaining law and order, preventing poll violence and guarding the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The Election Commission, in coordination with the Home Ministry, which has the administrative control over the central paramilitary forces, has made an assessment of all aspects having bearing on the election process, including the state-wise and phase-wise requirement of security forces, the official said.

The ministry prepared a deployment plan of various forces like the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB and the Assam Rifles keeping in view their role in border guarding, counter-insurgency operations and other commitments.

Final briefing for Counting officials held in North

MANGAN, 20 MAY [IPR]:

The final round of briefing on Counting of Votes to the Officers who have been entrusted with counting task was held at the chamber of District Magistrate, North today.

The District Election Officer (DEO)-cum-District Magistrate, Raj Yadav chaired the meeting and briefed the gathering about the counting process to the Officers and Staffs who are engaged with the duty on the counting day. The order was also handed over to the counting officers and staffs.

The final round of briefing was attended by Sr Superintendent of Police, Kunzang Dorjee Shangderpa, North, Sub-Divisional Magis-



trate, Samdup Bhutia, Mangan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mahesh Sharma, Kabi, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Subash Ghimire, Chungthang, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Norbu Tshering Bhutia, Dzongu, Under Secretary, Santosh Pradhan, Election Department, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Passang Tshering Lepcha, North and the officials and

staffs vested with the task of counting of vote.

Counting of votes pertaining to Assembly Constituencies of 29-Kabi-lungchok, 30-Dzongu, 31-Lachen-Mangan, 32-Sangha and one Sikkim Parliamentary constituency will take place from 8:00am on 23 May in hall no.1 and 2 at new conference hall of New DAC and in hall no.3 of conference hall of old DAC.

West Sikkim conducts Dry Run (Mock Counting)

GYALSHING, 20 MAY (IPR):

The final round of training for Counting Team and Micro Observers along with a Dry Run (Mock Counting) procedure for Counting of votes to make the counting team ready for the Counting Day was done at the Auditorium Hall, Kyongsa Girls Senior Secondary School. The Mock Counting Procedure was done in the presence of DC-cum-DEO, Karma R Bonpo, West along with AD, Karma Lodey Lepcha, West and other Officials.

DC West briefed the Counting team on the Counting Process and norms to be kept in mind. He further explained in depth the entire proce-



dures involved from the counting of votes to the declaration of results. Both Assembly Segments of Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Constituencies Counting teams were trained in 2 batches which started from 9:30am.

He also informed about the counting of

Postal Ballots, Counting of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots, Counting of Votes recorded in EVMs, Counting of VVPAT slips and Compilation of data. He also spoke in depth about the filling of different forms, compilation of data and other necessary procedures to be followed.

Assam: Congress says exit polls 'misleading', BJP hits back

GUWAHATI, MAY 20 (PTI):

The Congress's Assam unit Monday said the exit poll results were "imaginary and misleading", drawing sharp reactions from the BJP, which said the opposition party was making the allegations as it was going to "lose miserably".

The Congress said the exit poll results were a ploy by the BJP to divert attention of the people when it is actually faced by imminent defeat. "This has been completely pre-planned by

the BJP and the party has pressured a section of the media to carry out these polls based on false premises," Congress's state unit spokesman Durga Das Boro said.

"This has been primarily done to demoralise the opposition parties and also to ensure that the people and organisations who have helped them (BJP) financially are not demotivated while at the same time there is no negative impact on the share market," he added.

Boro said his party does not consider the exit polls of any value as the Congress is confident of its victory.

BJP's state unit chief Ranjit Dass dismissed the comments and said his party will be winning 10 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

"We campaigned to increase our tally from the seven seats we had won in 2014 and even before the exit polls came, we were confident of winning ten seats," he said.

Tribute to Gopal Yonzon on World Music Day

SHRAVAN CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 20 MAY:

Sikkim Pragya Prasthian is organizing a daylong cultural event on 21 June on the occasion of World Music Day which will also pay homage to prominent Nepali musician, Late Gopal Yonzon, informed SPP president, Anita Niroula in a press conference here at Press Club of Sikkim.

While addressing the conference she said, "This event has been cat-

egorised in two sections, International Nepali Kavi Sammelan which will feature poets like Saraswati Pratiksha, Manu Manjil, Madhu Kerong, Sandesh Subba from Nepal, Dr Rajendra Bhandari from Kalimpong, Man Prasad Subba from Darjeeling, Indu Prabha from Assam, Pravin Rai Jumeli, Sudha M Rai and Bhim Rawat from Sikkim."

In the second session 'Gopal Yonzon Smriti Saanjh' will be a tribute

to Late Yonzon's works featuring local artists from the state and prominent singer Ram Krishna Dhakal from Nepal.

"We have a lot of talented artists in our state but they do not get many opportunities to showcase their talent, we want to feature them in the programme," said Ms Niroula.

The venue for the event has not been finalized yet and will be announced soon.

Confident of...

time decided by the Election Commission.

"What SKM did was highly condemnable," he said.

Mr Rai stated that the party's internal survey gives the ruling front 26 plus seats alongside Sangha.

"We are more than confident about

India adopts...

"Since the 1960s, we have to rely ever more heavily on advanced science and engineering in our day-to-day lives, and also in manufacturing, healthcare and science. The proposed changes in the unit definition have been designed to have no immediate consequences," he said.

"The unit redefinitions represent a profound change of perspective and they are expected to form the foundations of improved measurements for decades to come as science and technology continues to develop in a way we cannot currently foresee," Aswal said, however, this "may not change anything drastically", but it will matter when it comes to measurements less

this," he said.

Citing a number of national pollsters that have predicted that SDF will win, he said that people will bring SDF led by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling back to power for a record sixth consecutive term.

than a kilogramme. For instance, measuring smaller diamonds.

The NPL has also sent recommendations on the proposed changes to be incorporated in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to implement them in contemporary education, he said.

Recommendations on the proposed changes have also been sent to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and other academic institutes to be incorporated in syllabi of metrology courses in graduate engineering and academic courses.

region rather than seeking easier and alternative means of livelihood in urban areas.

With the justifications furnished as above, Dr Bhutia would like to put forth the following suggestions/proposal, as a tentative and long-term solution to the concerned higher authorities for obtaining onward approval of the Government.

1. Create/Establish a wing for Highland Livestock Development- This will enable the Government to address burning issues pertaining to highland livestock which are most vulnerable to nature and nearing extinction today.

2. Build/Construct all weather roads in the Yak herding areas - This will render the area accessible to the tourists visiting the zone and thereby establish some mode of contact with the outside world as well as a fair bit of leisurely time and income to the herders. Moreover, it will also facilitate convenient and timely delivery of logistic support and relief items.

3. Package of Feed, Fodder & Medical Aid Assistance - Snowfall being a routine phenomenon in the region, it is proposed that these herders be provided with the above special package of assistance by the 2nd week of November of every calendar year. This will see them tide over the winter feed and fodder crisis and aid them to save the losses of Yak lives and sustain their herd.

4. Organize Highlander's Annual Yak Festival - the proposed festival envisages, showcasing Yak racing and yak riding through local competition events and exemplary farmers would be felicitated with Certificates and Cash awards from the Head of the State/ Government. This would inevitably go a long way in raising the morale of the herders and generating renewed zeal and enthusiasm amongst their new generation youths.

5. Organize Exposure & Pilgrimage Tour for Yak herding families - Yak herders constantly engage in nature worship and hold religion in its pristine form to ensure the household prosperity and safety of their animals in such a remote location where, availing basic medical aid is a distant reality. Organization of such trips within and outside the Country from time to time will also embark upon establishing a sustainable goodwill relation with the Government functionaries working in close association with the herders.

6. Allotment of Mobile Ambulance Vehicle - A mobile vehicle, preferably, a Bolero Camper if available at the disposal of the Sub-divisional Officer will greatly help the team in carrying out relief and rescue operations immediately. It will also enable the team to frequently make field visits and undertake timely pre-emptive measures.

C Division Sikkim League kicks off



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 20 MAY:

The C-Division Sikkim League organised by Sikkim Football Association (SFA) kicked off here at Paljor Stadium today. A total of 12 teams are taking part in the league.

The inaugural match was played between Red Panda FC of Namchi and

Manik FC of Dzongu and ended 03-02 in favor of the former team.

RPF's Kunzaman Thapa scored three goals for the team while for Manik FC, Rapgay and Sonam Lepcha, scored a goal each.

The second match of the day was played between Mustang FC, Sang,

and JVC-Singtam ended in a goal-less draw.

A two-minute silence was observed in the memory of SFA member, the late Bonamit Dong of the women's wing. Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, RK Tamang, was present as the chief guest for the inaugural function.

Lower Thambong farmers introduced to chaff cutter and power tiller tech



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 MAY:

Award-level training was organized by Mevedir in collaboration with Agriculture Department under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan at Lower Thambong GPU in West Sikkim.

Around 40 farmers

from the area attended the training which dealt with maintenance of the power operated chaff cutter used for chopping dry and green fodder into animal feed length.

A resource person also introduced the farmers to the power tiller machine.

The training program was also attended by Divisional Engineer, Jigme Lepcha, VLWs LB Gurung, Laxmi Khathi, and Punai Subba and FA, Radha Chettri along with Mevedir staff Ghanendra Sharma and Bhumika Chettri.

Pellet victims protest, demand ban on use of pellet guns

SRINAGAR, MAY 20 (PTI): A group of pellet victims, who were injured during law and order situations in the Kashmir Valley over the past few years, Monday held a protest here demanding complete ban on the use of pellet guns by security forces.

The protestors, under the banner of Pellet Victims Welfare Trust, held the protest at Press Enclave here against continuous use of pellet guns in the valley by police and paramilitary forces.

The protesters demanded ban on pellet guns, saying their continued use could render more people blind.

Among the protestors was the youngest pellet victim of Kashmir -- Hiba Nisar who was injured after getting hit by pellets inside her house in the Kapran area of Shopian district of south Kashmir in November last year.

The two-year-old Hiba was accompanied by her mother.

The trust appealed to the people of Kashmir to come in support of the pellet victims and contribute towards their medical needs.

Pellet guns are often used for crowd control during stone pelting incidents in the valley.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE OF Ms ISABELLE M. RITCHIE

Miss Isabelle M Ritchie, a Scottish Lady born on 18 Jan, 1931 at Dunfermline, Scotland, in a humble background, had a burning desire to work in the field of education. She worked for 10 years in Wilson College, Mumbai, before she was called upon to join as Principal of the Paljor Namgyal Girls' School by Scottish Mission after Miss Martha Hamilton retired as the Principal. She joined the School in 1966.

During her tenure of 30 years as Principal, she made tremendous contribution in many activities of the School, the noteworthy being opening of a special course for differently-abled children in 1981 for which she was awarded the Order of British Empire in 1982.

She is also credited with introducing Girls' Guide and NCC in the school. She left in the year 1996.

Even after she left for her country, she visited the school when she came to Sikkim from time to time.

She passed away on 14 May, 2019 at her native place Dunfermline, Scotland, UK. On receipt of her sad demise, immediately school flag was flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning and PNG Family assembled for special prayer assembly and followed by two-minute silence to pay homage to the departed soul. PNG Family observed a weeklong mourn and on 22 May, 2019 the memorial service will take place.

The MEMORIAL SERVICE of Late Ms Isabelle M Ritchie, (1966-1996) former Principal, PNG School, will be conducted on 22 May, 2019, Time: 10:30am at PNG Premises.

The PNG family requests all the ex-teachers, students and well-wishers to kindly attend the memorial service.



National level orientation programme on development of Sanskrit



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 MAY:

Ten-day national level orientation programme on development of Sanskrit language in India began here at Sikkim State Co-operative Union, Assam Linzey, today with a view to revitalize the vision and action plan for the development of Sanskrit in the next ten years. More than 80 scholars of the Sanskrit language from across the country are participating in the programme.

While inaugurating the ten-day orientation programme, chief guest Information Commissioner, CP Dhakal urged the scholars to take active participation in the orientation programme and work towards the development of Sanskrit.

The orientation programme is organized by Rastriy Sanskrit Sansathan, New Delhi, in collaboration with Sanskrit Division of Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim.

Mr Dhakal said that Sanskrit has remained as a beloved but ornamental language and not as the communicative language. It has not been given priority either in the policies of States or Center and this disconnect between Sanskrit education and main stream education has to be resolved by exploring all the possibilities, he added.

National Coordinator and key person of this orientation programme, Ratna Mohan Jha said

that the government will support the development of Sanskrit language reaching out to institutions and individuals who are concerned with Sanskrit education to elicit views for vision and road map for the development of Sanskrit in the next ten years.

Additional Director, HP Dhakal, State Human Resource Development Department Sanskrit Division stressed that Sanskrit language and literature is a vast repository of knowledge encompassing all spheres of life.

He further said that India needs Sanskrit more than ever before, to bridge the ancient and modern, to unravel the knowledge contained in the ancient texts, to protect our Intellectual

sure has been explored and applied to the extent it deserves, he said.

Additional Director [Text Books], Sonam Lepcha, highlighted various schemes initiated by the State Government in Sanskrit education in various Sanskrit Pathshalas and monastic schools. The programme was also assisted by Executive Officer of Cooperation Department, Thendup Bhutia, Assistant Director, GP Subba and Sanskrit Division, Laxmi Prasad Adhikari, HRDD.

Property Rights, to explore new avenues of innovations and to lead India into the forefront of this knowledge driven world. However, neither this language nor its trea-

NOTICE

In view of ensuing counting for Lok Sabha/Assembly Election 2019,

this is to inform to the General Public that all the public related official

work will be suspended from 13/5/2019 till 25/5/2019.

By Order.

DISTRICT COLLECTOR/EAST

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUJALA RAI, W/O SANTOSH KUMAR PRADHAN, R/O Pipalay, Gelling Samsing, P.O. Pipalay, P.S. Naya Bazar, West Sikkim solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded as "SUJALA PRADHAN" instead of "SUJALA RAI". I have changed my name "SUJALA PRADHAN" to "SUJALA RAI" for all purpose and farther records vide affidavit dated 26th March 2019. Sl. No- 054037 before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim Gangtok.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANTOSH KUMAR PRADHAN, S/O SHRI DURGA PRASAD PRADHAN, R/O Pipalay, Gelling Samsing, P.O. Pipalay, P.S. Naya Bazar, West Sikkim solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded as "SANTOSH KUMAR SHRESTHA" instead of "SANTOSH KUMAR PRADHAN". I have changed my name "SANTOSH KUMAR SHRESTHA" to "SANTOSH KUMAR PRADHAN" for all purpose and farther records vide affidavit dated 26th March 2019. Sl. No- 054038 before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim Gangtok.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

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Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department Integrated Child Protection Scheme Government of Sikkim Walk-In-Interview

No. 581/SJE&WD/ICPS/2019

Dated: 17/05/2019

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up of the following posts on contractual basis for a period of three years under Integrated Child Protection Scheme in the Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department sponsored by the Ministry of Women & Child Development. The details of posts and eligibility criteria are as under:-

S I . No.	Name of the post	No. of post	Educational Qualifications	Sitting Allowance
1	Member, Child Welfare Committee (05 posts)	02 (East District) 02 (North District) 01 (West District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should have a minimum of 07 (Seven) years of experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities. OR Should be a practicing professional with a degree in Child Psychology or Psychiatry or Social or Sociology of Human Development of in the field of Law. OR A retired judicial officer 	Rs. 1500/- per sitting
2	Member, Juvenile Justice Board (02 posts)	01 (East District) 01 (North District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should have atleast 07 (Seven) years of experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities. OR Should be a practicing professional with a degree in Child Psychology or Sociology or in the field of Law. 	Rs. 1500/- per sitting

Terms and Conditions:

- All the placement stated above under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme are purely on contractual basis.
- The above appointment shall not confer not any right for regularization in future.
- The candidate shall be selected through walk-in-interview.
- The candidate fulfilling above eligibility criteria as prescribed against each post shall apply.
- Candidate must be in good health and physically fit to discharge his/her duties.
- Application should have attained 35 (thirty five) years of age.

The interested candidate fulfilling the eligibility criteria must submit the RESUME addressed to the office as stated below on or before **19.06.2019 (WEDNESDAY) latest by 4 P.m.**

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Attested copy or requisite qualification from a recognized Board/University, form 10th Standard onwards.
- Attested copy of Sikkim Subject Certificate/Certificate of Identification from the Concerned Authority.
- Attested copy of valid Local Employment Card.
- No objection Certificate from the Secretary, Head of Department in the case of any temporary employee serving in Government Departments.
- Experience Certificate duly certified by the relevant Issuing Authority.

Application addressed to the Additional Secretary-cum-Director, ICPS, SJE&WD, along with the Under Secretary, ICPS, Social Justice empowerment & Welfare Department, 5th Mile, Lumsey, East Sikkim on or before 19.06.2019 (WEDNESDAY) latest by 4 p.m. Only applications with prescribed and attested documents received within the stipulated date and time shall be entertained.

Social Justice, Empowerment, & Welfare Department reserves the right to reject any application not found fulfilling the above terms and conditions. NO TA/DA shall be admissible for attending the interview.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Date of interview is on 27th June 2019.

Venue of the interview is in Conference Hall, SJE&WD.

Time of the interview will be from 10.30 a.m. onwards

Note: interested and eligible candidates may also visit www.sikkimsocialwelfare.gov.in

R.O. No.: 26/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20

Date: 17/05/2019

Sd/-
(K. Sreenivasulu), IAS

Principal Secretary

Social Justice, Emp. & Welfare Department

*[the writer is PhD Candidate,
University of Essex]*

2014 Exit polls: Pollsters got the trend right, but not the scale of NDA win

NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (PTI): As the country dissects the exit polls predicting that the NDA will come back to power, a look at the pollsters' 2014 prediction shows that they got the trend right, but not the scale of victory for the BJP-led alliance.

Out of the seven main pollsters in 2014, the News 24-Chanaky proved to be the most accurate, predicting 340 seats for the NDA which eventually won 336 seats.

The India TV-C Voter exit poll gave a simple majority to the NDA, predicting 289 seats, while ABP Nielson and CNN-IBN CSDS gave 281 and 280 seats respectively to the NDA.

Headlines Today Cicero predicted 272 seats for the NDA, NDTV predicted 279 and Times Now-ORG forecast 249 seats.

For the UPA, Chanakya predicted 70 seats which was the closest to the 59 seats that the Congress-led alliance got.

The India TV-C Voter



exit poll gave 101 to the UPA, while ABP Nielson and CNN-IBN CSDS gave 97 seats to the Congress-led alliance.

Headlines Today Cicero predicted 115 seats for the UPA, NDTV predicted 103, and Times Now-ORG forecast 148 seats.

The 2014 polls could not predict the scale of the NDA win, but nearly all of them had got

the trend right.

This time round as well, almost all exit polls have predicted a clear win for the NDA and the only variation between different pollsters is on the scale of NDA win.

Exit polls by News 18-Ipsos, India Today-Axis and News 24-Chanaky projected 336, 339-368 and 336-364 seats respectively for the NDA, with the

BJP tipped to cross the majority on its own for another term after the 2014 polls.

However, two exit polls -- one by ABP News-Nielsen and another by Neta-News X -- said the ruling alliance may fall short of a majority. ABP News forecast 267 and NewsX 242 seats for the ruling NDA.

Pollsters did not fare that well in 2004 and

2009 with a majority of them getting it wrong. How close they get to the actual figure will only become clear on May 23.

Elections to 542 seats of the 543-member Lok Sabha ended Sunday. The Election Commission has deferred election for Vellore in Tamil Nadu over allegations of misuse of money power.

The counting of votes is slated for May 23.

Naidu calls on Banerjee, discusses formation of non-BJP govt in case of hung verdict

KOLKATA, MAY 20 (PTI): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu held a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at her residence here Monday to decide on forming a non-BJP government at the Centre in case of a hung verdict, TMC sources said. Naidu, who reached here from Amravati, held a 45-minute-long meeting with Banerjee on the future strategies of the "Mahagathbandhan" (Grand Alliance), the highly-placed sources said.

The meeting also discussed possibilities of forming a non-BJP government including regional parties with the support of the Congress, they said.

"It was decided at today's meeting that a detailed discussion will be held among other political players of the Mahagathbandhan in the event of a hung verdict after the poll results are declared on May 23, the



sources said. The decision on Banerjee going to New Delhi would also be taken after May 23, the sources said. Naidu, who is making efforts to bring together opposition leaders against the BJP, left for New Delhi after the meeting.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav telephoned Banerjee during the day and discussed the proposed strategy of the "Mahagathbandhan", the sources said.

The TDP President had on Sunday called on National Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad

Pawar and had also met CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. On Saturday he had met BSP chief Mayawati and Yadav. During his meeting with Banerjee, the TDP chief spoke about the meetings, the TMC sources said.

The exit polls gave a clear verdict in favour of the BJP, which was promptly dubbed by Banerjee as "gossip".

The TMC supremo had said that she does not trust such surveys as the "game plan" is to use them for "manipulation" of EVMs.

TMC resorted to violence, want repoll in several booths: BJP



KOLKATA, MAY 19 (PTI): The BJP on Sunday accused the TMC of letting loose widespread violence in the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, and demanded repolling in several booths in eight out of the nine constituencies.

Over 72 per cent of voters of the over 1.49 crore electorate exercised their franchise till 5 pm in the nine constituencies of West Bengal during the seventh and final phase of polling.

"In Diamond Harbour, Kolkata North, Kolkata South, Jadavpur, Basirhat, Mathurapur and Joynagar, there has been rampant violence. The goons of TMC didn't allow elections in most of the booths. We would seek repoll in several booths," senior BJP leader Mukul Roy said.

"The TMC is afraid of defeat, that is why it is resorting to violence," BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said.

On Trinamool Congress's allegations that central forces were "brutally torturing" and "intimidating" voters in West Bengal, and acting on the direction of BJP leaders, the saffron party said TMC leaders had "lost their mental balance".

"Sensing defeat, the TMC leaders have lost

their mind. The central forces are here to conduct free and fair polls.

Why were goons of the TMC stopping people from casting their vote, if it is so confident of victory?" West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

The BJP leadership in Delhi earlier in the day urged the Election Commission to continue with the presence of central armed police forces in West Bengal till the model code of conduct period ends, as it expressed concern that the TMC may target a section of voters after polling is over.

Union minister Nirjala Sitharaman told reporters in the national capital that elections in six of the nine seats, which went to polls on Sunday, were marred by violence.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) state secretary Surya Kanta Mishra accused both the TMC and the BJP of indulging in violence.

"The impartial role of EC is questionable. We would seek repoll in several booths. The TMC and the BJP have indulged in violence and malpractices during the polls," Mishra said in a statement.

West Bengal Congress president Somen Mitra also alleged rigging in several booths of the nine constituencies.

Indian climber among 14 who scaled Mount Everest on Monday

SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, MAY 20 (PTI): An Indian mountaineer was among 14 climbers who successfully scaled the world's highest peak Mount Everest on Monday, officials said. Seven foreign mountaineers from China, Greece and India, and seven Nepalese Sherpas reached atop the 8848-metre peak on Monday morning, according to the Mountain Division of Ministry of Tourism.

Nepal opened the climbing route to the

world's highest peak on May 14, when a team of eight Sherpas successfully scaled the Mount Everest, becoming the first team to reach the summit. Among the seven climbers who scaled the summit, four are from China, two from Greece and one from India.

The Indian mountaineer was identified as Pranay Bandbuchi by the ministry.

Around 378 climbers, part of 41 different teams, have obtained climbing permits for the Mount Everest from the

department of tourism this spring season.

More than 200 climbers have already headed to the high camps to make their final summit pushes starting Tuesday.

"The summit window may last for the next four days," said Gyanendra Shrestha, a liaison officer from Ministry of Tourism.

Last week, two Indian mountaineers, including an Indian Army soldier, died while another went missing after one of them successfully scaled the world's highest peak.

IPFT MLA booked for raping, deceiving woman in West Tripura



AGARTALA, MAY 20 (PTI): An IPFT MLA has been booked here for allegedly raping and deceiving a woman with promise of marriage in West Tripura district, a police officer said.

The legislator, however, maintained that he was "wrongfully framed" in the case and opposition parties were trying to "malign his image".

In her complaint, the woman said she was "socially engaged" to the IPFT MLA from Rimavaley constituency, Dhananjay Tripura.

"The complainant stated she was engaged to the MLA.

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

The MLA has been booked for raping and deceiving the woman. We have forwarded the complaint to a women's police station in Agartala," the officer stated.

Inspector General of police (Law and Order) Puneet Rastogi said an investigation has been initiated in the case.

"We have received a complaint from a woman against MLA Dhananjay Tripura. The complaint was received at Mandai police station. As of now, we are carrying out a probe into the case and action will be taken based on the content of the complaint," he added.

Denying all charges, Tripura, on his part, said he would move the high court if necessary.

"This is a conspiracy

hatched by opposition parties to malign my image as well as that of my party. The allegations against me and wrong and baseless," he told reporters in Dhalai district, 100 km from here.

Mangal Debbarma, the spokesperson of Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), said he is yet to learn the details of the case.

"I have heard that a complaint has been lodged against one of our MLAs. But I do not have the details to make a comment on the issue," he told reporters here.

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

Together, they had secured 44 seats in the 60-member Assembly last year.

Singer Zuben writes to proscribed ULFA-I, calls for peace

GUWAHATI, MAY 20 (PTI): Assamese singer Zubeen Garg has written an open letter to proscribed outfit ULFA-I, calling for peace and asserting that killing of innocent people will not result in anything.

The singer-actor-film producer, known for speaking out on several social issues, in a Facebook post said fear cannot build a nation and only labour and hard work can.

"To ULFA, I need a revolution. I need a revolution of change. Killing innocent people will not result in anything fruitful. Fear cannot build a nation. Labour can. Hard work can," Zubeen said in the post that has been shared over 2,200 times.

He said terrorism can never give meaning to the rights that the outfit led by Paresh Baruah was fighting for.

"Education can. Development can. Progress can."

"Teach our kids how



to cultivate. Teach them how to grow seeds out of nothing. Teach them how to shape their dreams," the singer of many Bollywood hits wrote.

Zubeen said if the group wants to build something, they can build Majuli, the district affected by erosion, and if they want to destroy something, they can destroy the threats roaming over Kaziranga.

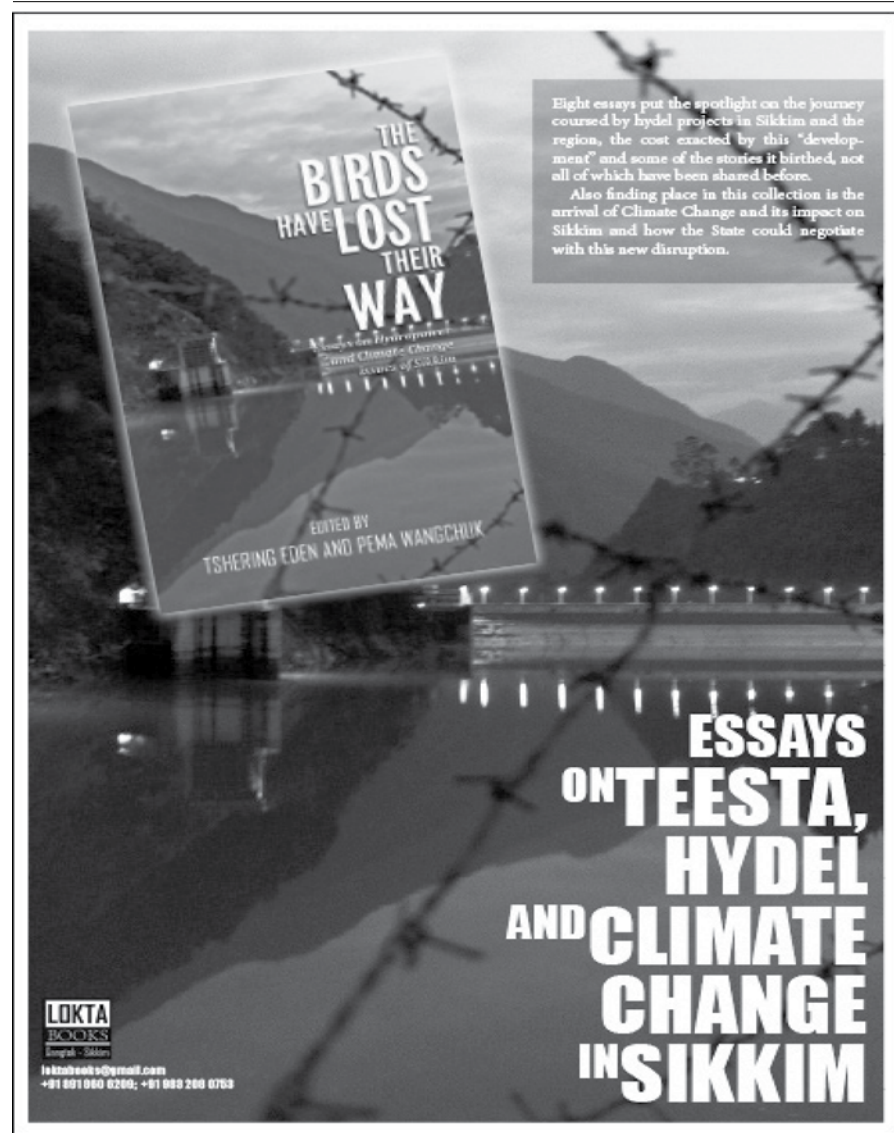
"I need a revolution to fight back against flood. I need a revolution that will make us part of the mainstream," he added.

Without referring to the ULFA's demand of "independence of Assam", Zubeen wrote, "Freedom

is all about standing on your own. You cannot be free in fear. Chaos can bring no change. We are a nation because of the people. If there is no one left alive, where do we stand?"

The Facebook post comes after the grenade blast that injured 12 persons on Zoo Road in Guwahati on May 15. Paresh Baruah had told local television channels that it was targeted at the security personnel who patrol the area.

Garg had written a similar letter, addressed to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.



Bumrah can burn opposition with pace: Jeff Thomson

KUSHAN SARKAR
NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (PTI): In his prime, his USP was raw pace that terrorised batsmen across the globe and no wonder Jeff Thomson is impressed with Jasprit Bumrah's ability to "burn opposition with raw pace".

Bumrah has been rated as the world's best bowler by Sachin Tendulkar and the legendary Dennis Lillee's former new ball partner's words only add to the Gujarat slinger's exponentially growing reputation.

"Bumrah is really good. He is someone, more that he has bowled, the better he has got. That's how it should work," Thomson, the world's fastest bowler in the 1970s alongside Malcolm Marshall, told PTI during an interaction.

"He has got raw pace to burn opposition as and when he wants to but he mixes it up. And he is awkward too to read. I haven't seen batsmen reading him well. He is unorthodox and that's what makes him different," said Thomson.

According to Thomson, Bumrah, along with Kagiso Rabada, will be the two bowlers to watch out for as they can put their hand up and respond to situations.

Talking about pace bowling, Thomson is a touch worried about Mitchell Starc's form but agreed that the left-arm quick would be a vital cog in Australia's wheel.

"I hope Mitchell Starc is on song during World Cup as of late he has been all over the shop like last summer," Thomson said about Australia's senior most pacer.

However, given his quality and ability to run through opposition sides, Thomson is confident that he will find form.

"Starc, if he can bowl well can be as good as anybody in the world. He is a precious man. He needs to bowl quick and at the same time be accurate. He gave too much away in the past," he added.

Thomson, however, is not happy that Josh Hazlewood is not in the bowling unit even though it seems quite decent.

"Pat Cummins is not a problem in my books. He has talent. We don't have Hazlewood but he could have been there. Still I would say our bowling attack is pretty good," he added.

Thomson's interaction was arranged by Powersportz, which launched its programming grid for the 2019 World Cup.

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Bowlers fuel 'choker' South Africa's World Cup ambitions

CHANDRABOLI MITRA
NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (PTI): Cricket's perennial chokers' World Cup ambitions would largely hinge on their potent attack, led by young Kagiso Rabada and veteran Imran Tahir, as South Africa make their eighth attempt to achieve sport's biggest prize.

The tag of under-achievers has not separated from South Africa since their heartbreaking loss to Australia in the semifinals of the 1999 World Cup.

The Proteas are yet to reach the summit clash of the World Cup, having been knocked out at the semifinal stage four times.

But they must not weigh themselves down by the chokers tag, instead accept it and go in as underdogs. This sentiment was expressed recently by Proteas' former Performance Director Paddy Upton.

"I think the 'chokers' label for South Africa is a little bit too exaggerated and it's also unfair. But I do realise that South Africa have struggled and could have performed better. They will, in



time, win one of these big trophies.

"But for the time being, they need to embrace and not run away from the 'chokers' label and also not be weighed down by it. They just need to focus on their game and the job at their hands," said Upton.

Considering the English conditions, South Africa's bowling attack has all bases covered with top quality pacers and spinners ready to be unleashed.

Veteran speedster Steyn, young pacer

Kagiso Rabada and leg-spinner Tahir hold the key to their ambitions. If fit, Steyn could be a potent weapon.

Rabada and Tahir, among the top five ODI bowlers in the world, have recently put up dominating performances for their respective IPL franchises.

In-form Rabada has the speed, variation, and can take the new ball as well as can bowl at the close with equal measure.

A quality wrist-spinner is a must for any

team fancying its chances at the World Cup and in Tahir, who has 162 wickets at an average of 24 in 98 ODIs, South Africa have that weapon.

Needing just four wickets to break the 200-barrier at the World Cup, Steyn, 35, would hope to stay injury free to provide crucial breakthroughs to the team, besides offering guidance to the likes of Rabada and Lungi Ngidi.

A fine attack can give the Portaes an option to go for a batting all-rounder at No.7. Andile Phe-

hlukwayo, who has been performing well since 2015 averaging 31.3 with the bat and 29.8 with the ball. The Proteas would largely depend on their attack in the absence of the proven match winner A B de Villiers, who is now retired.

They do not boast big match-winners like some of the other teams but there is no dearth of experience with captain Faf du Plessis, Hashim Amla, Quinton de Kock, J P Duminy forming the core of their batting.

Du Plessis, Amla,

Duminy, Tahir and Steyn will be playing their third World Cup, while de Kock and David Miller are making their second appearance at the mega event. A shrewd skipper, du Plessis, who has scored 2777 runs at 60.4 since the last World Cup, has managed to extract maximum output from his team by winning 11 of their last 13 series.

But past records have little relevance in quadrennial events like the World Cup.

Despite a poor run of form in recent times, the 36-year-old Amla was selected ahead of opening batsman Reeza Hendricks, who played 18 consecutive ODIs before being dropped for South Africa's recent match against Sri Lanka in March.

His record of 27 ODIs is hard to ignore but over the past year, Amla's form has been a cause of concern. South Africa can only hope that the veteran finds his touch when it matters the most.

Amla and de Kock's has been South Africa's most successful opening pair since the last World Cup, with 2442 runs and

four century stands at 51.96 in 49 matches.

Young Aiden Markram has been included on the basis of strong domestic form but he averages just 29 in 19 One-day Internationals. David Miller has five ODI centuries but enters the World Cup in good touch.

The decision to do away with the racial quotas at the World Cup is also expected to benefit the South Africans.

Cricket South Africa chief executive Thabang Moroe recently said that racial quotas, where the board has an official target of black players making up 55 percent of teams, would not apply in the World Cup.

South Africa's campaign at the 2015 World Cup ended in controversy over quotas when the team management was forced to pick Vernon Philander for the semi-final against New Zealand though it wanted to retain the winning combination.

Shedding the dark mist that surrounds South African cricket in knockout events will be their goal in the English summer.

Afghan coach Simmons to quit after World Cup



New Delhi, May 20 (PTI): Former West Indies all-rounder Phil Simmons will step down from his position as Afghanistan coach after the end of the ICC men's World Cup.

Simmons, who took over the position in December 2017, said he has achieved his target of taking Afghanistan to the World Cup and the time is ripe for him to leave.

"I have thought about it and I have actually given the ACB my notice that I will not be renewing my contract. I will move on to something different once my contract expires on July 15," Simmons told ESPNcricinfo.

Simmons' contract with Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) runs until the end of the World Cup and he might have been given an extension given Afghanistan's rise under his guidance.

"I signed up originally for 18 months and I think I have done a lot in this period. It is time for me to move on to something else now. To want to get to the World Cup - that was ACB's goal at the time they appointed me," Simmons said.

"My goal is always to leave things better than when I joined: the way we practice, the way we think about the game,

the way we assess other teams. I've tried to help the players in all those areas," added the 56-year-old, under whom Afghanistan won the World Cup Qualifier last March.

Last month, ACB had controversially appointed Gulbadin Naib as ODI captain in place of Asghar Afghan, who had a four-year captaincy stint across all formats.

The board also named Rahmat Shah and Rashid as skippers for the Test and T20I teams respectively.

Simmons said he had no clue about the decisions and he was not consulted before making those changes.

"No, I was not aware of it. I was not given any reasons. It was the decision of the Afghanistan Cricket Board and the selectors," Simmons said.

"How can I take it? I can't change it. So I have to just get on with what I have to do and make sure the squad is preparing in the same way I wanted them to prepare barring the (captaincy) change."

Afghanistan will open their World Cup campaign against five-time champions Australia on June 1.

Aamir, Wahab named in Pakistan's World Cup squad

KARACHI, MAY 20 (PTI): Experienced left-arm pace duo of Muhammad Aamir and Wahab Riaz were included in Pakistan's final 15-member World Cup squad following their 0-4 loss to England in the ODI series.

Both the bowlers were not included in the initial World Cup squad announced last month but Aamir, who is yet to recover from chickenpox, was named for the one-day series against England which Pakistan completed on Sunday.

The selectors have axed all-rounder Faheem Ashraf and left-arm pacer Junaid Khan from their initial World Cup squad to make way for the two senior players.

The selectors had discarded Wahab from the tour to England but after the thrashing given to the Pakistani pacers in the one-day series they apparently had a change of mind.

Wahab, who turns 34 next month, last played a one-day international for his country in the opening match of the 2017 Champions Trophy against India going for 87 runs without a wicket and than limping off with a injury.

Since then the selectors have ignored him for 50-overs cricket



while Aamir also didn't feature in the series against England after contracting chickenpox and his form remains a concern after he took just five wickets in his last 14 ODIs since the Champions Trophy.

According to the cricket board, Aamir has recovered from his chickenpox and he and Wahab will be available for the warm-up matches against Afghanistan and Bangladesh this week.

In another major decision, the selectors have dropped young batsman Abid Ali from their World Cup squad to make way for the hard-hitting Asif Ali.

Ali was initially not part of the World Cup squad and went

to England for the ODI series where he scored two half centuries. "The lack of potency of our frontline bowlers in the recent ODI series meant that a change was needed. In addition, we now know that we will encounter batting wickets throughout the World Cup campaign," Chief Selector, Inzamam-ul-Haq said.

"The combination of these elements, meant that we believed right now, utilising the World Cup experience and knowledge of Wahab was the correct choice," he said.

"Wahab has been training and playing club cricket, and the player of his calibre will not face much problem in adapting and adjusting to the gruelling

demands of the World Cup," Inzamam said. On the exclusion of Abid Ali, Inzamam said: "It was not an easy decision to leave him out particularly after he got only one opportunity on the tour. But, he was our third choice opener. After both struck early form, we preferred Asif Ali as he brings firepower to the team that can strengthen our chances in the tournament," the Chief Selector said.

Abid, despite being a member of the initial World Cup squad, was given just one opportunity on the entire tour.

Inzamam said the final 15-member squad was announced in consultation with the captain and head coach.

Wahab has been included in the squad in place of allrounder, Faheem Ashraf while the experienced left arm pacer, Junaid Khan has also been dropped after playing in just two ODI matches against England.

Pakistan World Cup squad: Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Asif Ali, Shoaib Malik, Muhammad Hafeez, Sarfaraz Ahmed (Capt), Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Wahab Riaz, Muhammad Aamir, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Muhammad Hasnain.

Mbappe wants responsibility, 'maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere'

PARIS, MAY 20 (AFP): Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe fuelled speculation surrounding his future on Sunday, saying that he wants "responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere".

The 20-year-old backed up his excellent 2018 World Cup, where he scored four times as France won the trophy, by netting 38 times for PSG this season.

He was named as the Ligue 1 player of the season on Sunday, but did not deny that a potential move away from France could be in the offing.

"It (the award) is an important moment for me, a turning point in my career... The moment of having more responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere," he told BeIn Sports.

Mbappe did not back down on his comments when asked about them



in the mixed zone a few minutes later.

"For me, it was the moment to say it... When I say something, I think about it," he said, reiterating his desire to have more "responsibilities".

"If it's at PSG, it's good, if it's elsewhere, it will be elsewhere for a new challenge."

Mbappe has been regularly linked with a potential move to Real Madrid since breaking through with Monaco's

2017 Ligue 1 title-winning team, but instead made the switch to PSG, initially on loan, and then for 180 million euros.

But since Zinedine Zidane's return to the Real dug-out earlier this year, rumours about Mbappe joining his fellow Frenchman at the Santiago Bernabeu have intensified.

This term, Mbappe has stepped up another gear with teammate Neymar -- the only player to

be sold for more money than him in history -- out injured for much of the campaign. Mbappe has followed in Neymar's footsteps by winning the player of the season accolade in France, although he needs to score five in the last league game of the season against Reims next weekend to snatch the European Golden Shoe from Lionel Messi.

"I tell myself that even if I lose, I lose to Messi, one of the great-

est players in history," he told AFP. "To think that maybe I kept up with him until the last game, that's a source of pride too, but it's not over."

Mbappe became only the second teenager in history last year, after Brazil legend Pele, to score in a World Cup final during France's 4-2 triumph over Croatia.

His global stardom -- surely eye-catching for the likes of Real -- was shown when he became only the fourth footballer to feature on the cover of Time magazine in October, after Messi, Neymar and Mario Balotelli.

An Mbappe exit would be a blow for PSG, although increased transfer funds may not be all bad for the French champions as they look to strengthen their squad ahead of their next bid for a first Champions League title.

Hundreds protest strict Alabama abortion law

MONTGOMERY (US), MAY 20 (AFP): Around 400 people took to the streets in the capital city of the southern US state of Alabama on Sunday to rally against the nation's most restrictive bans on abortions in decades.

Women's reproductive rights defenders gathered in Montgomery, as well as in Birmingham, Anniston and Huntsville where hundreds more were estimated to have joined in denouncing the "Alabama Human Life Protection Act," or HB314, which virtually outlaws terminations of pregnancy. Protesters in Montgomery held up signs reading "her body, her choice" and "we are not ovary-acting." There we no counter-demonstrators.

A woman wearing beige underwear that made her look naked had a drawing of her reproductive system attached to her abdomen and a banner reading: "More than an incubator." Several other women were dressed as characters forced to bear children in the dystopian novel and television series "The Handmaid's Tale." One of them, who gave her name only as Amanda, accused Alabama's legislators of "trying to imprison women and doctors." "Wearing the 'Handmaid's Tale' outfit is sending a message that you're trying to turn us into slaves, reproductive slaves," the 40-year-old-lawyer told AFP.

"They're trying to fill prisons, more private prisons so that women will do hard labor after they get convicted of



these 'crimes' of abortion." Last week, Alabama passed a law that prohibits all abortions -- even in cases of incest and rape -- unless there is a risk of death for the mother.

"Our call center's been getting hundreds and hundreds of phone calls from concerned citizens asking us what this means," said Barbara Ann Luttrell, director of communications and marketing for Planned Parenthood Southeast.

Planned Parenthood is not currently providing abortion services in Alabama. "We'll be having abortion services up and running again as soon as possible," she said.

There are only three clinics that perform the procedure. None of them responded requests of comments.

The Alabama law is likely to be blocked in state courts before its

November launch date but Republican Governor Kay Ivey acknowledged when she signed it that it was part of as a wider Republican offensive to get the issue relitigated on the national stage.

"We're going to return to the back alleys. We're going to return to where women will do abortions to themselves," 81-year-old Maralyn Mosley told the Montgomery Advertiser. She had an abortion at 13, after her uncle raped her.

"We will return to the coat hangers and perforated uteruses. We will return to where women will bleed to death," she warned.

Conservative activists hope to get a Supreme Court decision against the landmark 1973 ruling Roe v Wade that said unduly restrictive state regulation of abortion is

unconstitutional.

Conservatives are counting on support at the highest court in the land, where liberal justices are in a minority after the arrival of two conservative members appointed by President Donald Trump.

Trump appeared to suggest Alabama lawmakers had gone too far in a series of tweets late Saturday in which he described himself as "strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother." He urged the anti-abortion side to "stick together and Win for Life" when it comes to voting in 2020.

While the Alabama measure is seen as particularly draconian, at least 28 US states have introduced more than 300 texts since the start of the year limiting abor-

tion rights, according to activists. Kentucky and Mississippi have banned abortions as soon as a fetus's heartbeat is detectable, or around the sixth week of pregnancy. Similar measures are being adopted in Georgia, Ohio, Missouri and Tennessee.

A judge has blocked the implementation of the Kentucky law, while the Mississippi law is set to come into effect in July.

The country's largest human rights organization, ACLU, has said it will file suit against Alabama's law as unconstitutional. HB314 seeks jail terms of between 10 and 99 years for doctors performing terminations, which are counted as homicides. It stipulates no penalty for the mother.

Around two thirds of Americans say abortion should be legal, a Pew Center poll found last year.

Rocket attack hits near US Embassy in Baghdad's Green Zone

BAGHDAD, MAY 20 (AP): A rocket was fired into the Iraqi capital's heavily fortified Green Zone Sunday night, landing less than a mile from the sprawling US Embassy, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

The apparent attack, which Iraq's state-run news agency said did not cause any casualties, came amid heightened tensions across the Persian Gulf, after the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region earlier this month to counter an alleged, unexplained threat from Iran. The US also has ordered non-essential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq.

It was the first such attack since September, when three mortar shells landed in an abandoned lot inside the Green Zone.

There was no immediate comment from the State Department or the US Embassy in Iraq on Sunday's attack.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack that took place after sunset when many Baghdad residents were indoors breaking their fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Associated Press reporters on the east side of the Tigris River, opposite the Green Zone, heard an explosion, after which alert sirens sounded briefly in Baghdad.

Iraqi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Rasoul told The Associated Press that a Katyusha rocket fell near the statue of the Unknown Soldier, less than a mile from the US Embassy. He said the military is investigating the cause but that the rocket was believed to have been fired from east Baghdad. The area is home to Iran-backed Shiite militias.

Shortly afterward the rocket launcher was discovered by security forces in the eastern neighbourhood of Wihda, according to a security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The official also said the roads leading to the Green Zone were closed briefly for security reasons before they were reopened as normal.

Iraq's state-run news agency said a Katyusha rocket crashed inside the Green Zone without causing any casualties.

As tensions escalate between the US and Iran, there have been concerns that Baghdad could once again get caught in the middle, just as it is on the path to recovery. The country hosts more than 5,000 US troops, and is home to powerful Iranian-backed militias, some of whom want those US forces to leave.

American forces withdrew from Iraq in 2011 but returned in 2014 at the invitation of Iraq to help battle the Islamic State group after it seized vast areas in the north and west of the country, including Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. A US-led coalition provided crucial air support as Iraqi forces regrouped and drove IS out in a costly three-year campaign. Iranian-backed militias fought alongside US-backed Iraqi troops against IS, gaining outsized influence and power.

Now, amid an escalating conflict between the US and Iran, Iraq is once again vulnerable to becoming caught up in the power play. An attack targeting US interests in Iraq would be detrimental to the country's recent efforts at recovering and reclaiming its status in the Arab world.

On May 8, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a previously unannounced trip to the Iraqi capital following the abrupt cancellation of a visit to Germany, and told Iraqi intelligence that the United States had been picking up intelligence that Iran is threatening American interests in the Middle East, although he offered no details according to two Iraqi officials.

Japan's economy grew 0.5 per cent in first quarter: data

TOKYO, MAY 20 (AFP): Japanese GDP expanded 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year, official data showed Monday, in a better-than-expected result for the world's third-largest economy.

It was the second successive expansion for the Japanese economy after growth of 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year and defied gloomy expectations by analysts who predicted a small decline at the start of 2019.

The latest data was being closely watched amid speculation Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government could postpone a planned sales tax

hike for the third time if the GDP growth figure were very weak.

Net exports contributed strongly to the latest growth figures but only because the fall in imports outweighed a decline in exports, the Cabinet Office said.

Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute, said: "The headline figures were unexpectedly good but if you take a closer look, the data was not something we should be pleased about." "Rather, the data clearly showed weak points in the economy with poor consumption and corpo-

rate investment on plants and equipments," he told AFP. The latest indication of Japan's economic health comes amid uncertainty over the global economy, including US-led trade tensions, Brexit and other factors.

Last week, the cabinet office said its key economic indicator "composite index" shows the Japanese economy was "worsening" for the first time in more than six years.

The use of the expression, the weakest in the five-scale system for assessing the key index, suggests that Japan may have entered into a recession, analysts said.

Saudis say they will defend themselves, as Trump warns Iran

Dubai, May 20 (AP): Saudi Arabia does not want war but will not hesitate to defend itself against Iran, a top Saudi diplomat said Sunday after the kingdom's energy sector was targeted this past week amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf. US President Donald Trump, meanwhile, warned Iran that it will face destruction if it seeks a fight, while Iranian officials said their country isn't looking for war. Trump spoke after a rocket hit near the US Embassy in Baghdad.

Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs, spoke a week after four oil tankers two of them Saudi were targeted in an alleged act of sabotage off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and days after Iran-allied Yemeni rebels claimed a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not want war in the region and does not strive for that... but at the same time, if the other side chooses war, the kingdom will fight this with all force and determination and it will defend itself, its citizens and its interests," al-Jubeir told reporters. On Sunday night, the US military command that oversees the Mideast confirmed an explosion outside the US Embassy compound in Baghdad and said there were no U.S. or coalition casualties.

A State Department spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that "a low-grade rocket did land within the



International Zone near the US Embassy." The spokesman said that "attacks on US personnel and facilities will not be tolerated and will be responded to in a decisive manner" and added that the US will hold "Iran responsible if any such attacks are conducted by its proxy militia forces or elements of such forces." Earlier, after initial reports of the attack, Trump tweeted a warning to Iranian leaders: "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!" Trump tweeted.

A senior Iranian military commander was quoted as saying his country is not looking for war, in comments published in Iranian media on Sunday.

Fears of armed conflict were already running high after the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region earlier this month to counter an al-

leged, unexplained threat from Iran. The US also has ordered nonessential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq. Trump had appeared to soften his tone in recent days, saying he expected Iran to seek negotiations with his administration. Asked on Thursday if the US might be on a path to war with Iran, the president answered, "I hope not." Sunday night's apparent rocket attack was the first such incident since September, when three mortar shells landed in an abandoned lot inside the Green Zone.

Iraqi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Rasoul told The Associated Press that a Katyusha rocket fell near the statue of the Unknown Soldier, less than a mile from the US Embassy. He said that the military was investigating the cause but that the rocket was believed to have been fired from east Baghdad. The area is home to Iran-backed

Shiite militias. As tensions escalate between the US and Iran, there have been concerns that Baghdad could once again get caught in the middle, just as it is on the path to recovery. The country hosts more than 5,000 US troops, and is home to powerful Iranian-backed militias, some of whom want those US forces to leave.

The US Navy said Sunday it had conducted exercises in the Arabian Sea with the aircraft carrier strike group ordered to the region to counter the unspecified threat from Iran. The Navy said the exercises and training were conducted Friday and Saturday with the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group in coordination with the US Marine Corps, highlighting US "lethality and agility to respond to threat," as well as to deter conflict and preserve US strategic interests.



People were shocked with my choice of doing female-fronted films, says Anil Kapoor

BY KOMAL PANCHAMATIA
MUMBAI, MAY 19 (PTI): Anil Kapoor says it is always difficult to cast a big name as a male lead in a female-fronted project.

The 62-year-old actor, who has worked in films like “Beta”, “Judaai” and “Laadla”, which had stronger female characters, says early in his career he was advised by industry insiders to not take up movies in which the heroine had a “better or equal role”.

“When I did films like “Judaai” and few others a lot of industry people would wonder and get shocked at the same time that ‘why I am doing films in which the role of a heroine is better than mine or maybe equal?’. That was the mindset of a few people.

“But I would always go for films that either had good role for me or the story was nice. Like sometimes either Madhuri Dixit Nene or Sridevi would get best roles in the films that we acted in together. I did this for longevity,” Kapoor told PTI in an interview.

Citing example of his home production film “Khubsoorat”, the actor-producer says the problem still persists as they faced tough time scouting for the leading man opposite his daughter Sonam Kapoor.

“We faced a lot of problem while casting for the male lead for ‘Khubsoorat’. Nobody was ready to do it. All the leading men had refused to do the film. We still kept looking for an apt actor and

Rhea (Kapoor) told me about Fawad Khan and showed me some of his work.

Rhea, Kapoor’s younger daughter, who was also the producer of the film, asked Fawad to give audition and

because she loves it. I have always encouraged it. I think more producers should keep making films around women. And why do it with big stars only? Do it with every good actor,” he adds. The actor is

energy to do more films even now. I am ready to fail. At the most the film will flop. For me it’s ok. I will work hard for the next one and hope it will do better,” he adds.

Recently, filmmaker Shek-



they liked it.

Kapoor says as a producer he and Rhea believe in making films that centre around women.

“As far as our company is concerned, Rhea is doing a good job of making films around women and she is doing it intentionally also

currently working on “Palganti”. He also has Karan Johar’s “Takht”, “Malang” and biopic on Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra.

“I have three film releasing both this year and in 2020. I feel it is less. There should be at least four films a year. I have the strength and

har Kapur teased fans on social media about a collaboration with Kapoor hinting it might be “Mr India 2”.

“There are some discussions. But it is not Mr India sequel.”

He was talking on the sidelines of Ariel’s campaign Sons #ShareTheLoad.

Wanted to be a boy when I was younger: Phoebe Waller-Bridge



LOS ANGELES, MAY 20 (PTI): Writer-actor Phoebe Waller-Bridge says in her younger years, she “desperately” wanted to be a boy. The “Fleabag” creator said she even shaved off her hair, wore male clothing and demanded her parents call her ‘Alex’ when she was six.

Asked if she would have undergone gender reassignment had it been commonplace when she was a child, Waller-Bridge told NPR Radio, “I mean there’s the tomboy kind of thing... I was fervent about it when I was younger.

“I just desperately wanted to be a boy more than anything else. If it had been taken seriously by my school or those options had been given to me, I probably would’ve jumped at it.”

The writer said when she went to boarding school at the age of 11, she began asking people to call her with her real name again when she “discovered boys in a big way”.

“I went to a boarding school for a year and a half, two years. I wasn’t thinking about either being a boy or being a girl...”

“And one in particular -- I remember meeting a boy and then suddenly becoming really aware that I looked sort of boyish myself and that he probably didn’t like that. And that was the kind of crossover point.” Waller-Bridge said she still harbours “the same impulse” to be a male “all the time”.

“I still feel more comfortable in a hoodie and jeans than I ever do in little kitten heels and a flowy skirt,” she added.

Joe Jonas saved my life: Sophie Turner



LOS ANGELES, MAY 20 (PTI): “Game of Thrones” star Sophie Turner says her husband, singer Joe Jonas, saved her life following years of mental health and body image struggles.

In an interview with the Sunday Times, the actor said when she first met Jonas at the age of 20, she “was going through this phase of being very mentally unwell.”

“He was, like, ‘I can’t be with you until you love yourself, I can’t see you love me more than you love yourself. That was something, him doing that. I think he kind of saved my life, in a way,” Turner said.

She was 13 when she started working on “Game of Thrones”, her first acting project, and was 15 when the HBO show premiered in 2011.

Turner said there was too much exposure

on social media soon after her debut. The actor believes she would have been in a healthier space if her adolescent life was not “displayed in public”.

She said the scrutiny and criticism made her “desperately unhappy” and a “complete mess” and she even considered suicide. But at the age of 19 she went for therapy and things changed for better.

“Suddenly, everyone’s metabolism slows down at 17, 18 and then that’s documented. My skin and everything. People commenting on it. I was too aware of my body at a young age. And it just kind of took over my mind, it was all I would think about. Calorie counting, everything. ‘Oh, I’ll just eat nuts today.’

“I stopped having my period for a year—that’s when I decided to have

ARIES: If you choose to ignore every bleeping device and message thread for the next 48 hours, don’t apologize, Aries! This is a restful, “me first” kind of weekend. Taking care of yourself and enjoying a few scintillating one-on-ones is all you need to focus on! The moon is in private, internal Scorpio and your eighth house of strong emotions, intimacy and eroticism!

TAURUS: With a Scorpio moon activating your partnership realm all weekend, two heads (and hearts) are better than one! What you don’t want, however, is another half who can’t hold their own next to you. When you’re on, you’re a force of nature, Taurus, and anyone who’s going to team up with you needs to be an equal.

GEMINI: You might have to assume the mantle of authority today, Gemini, so be ready to step up to the plate. Someone is NOT carrying their weight, and if you don’t say something, nothing is going to change. Ack! Rather than pretending it’s not the case or tiptoeing around the issue, address it directly.

CANCER: Even if you’re just running out for coffee or a quick grab-and-go at the farmer’s market, spruce yourself up a little. With the moon in aesthetic Scorpio and your amorous, glamorous fifth house, you could be in for a weekend of surprises. You never know who you might run into at the beekeeper’s honey stall—or where a random conversation might lead.

LEO: Home is where your head, heart and hustling hands are all weekend, as the Scorpio moon hovers in your domestic fourth house. Don’t rush to do work that can hold till Monday—and don’t be too quick to tend to a friend who needs a pep talk. You’ve got a dozen household projects that have been in the pipeline for too long already, and now is the perfect time to put your desires front and center. Change that light fixture; put the new bedding on and maybe shop for your dream sofa.

VIRGO: Whatever was dragging you down last week, let it go, Virgo! The Scorpio moon is beaming down in your playful third house, beckoning you to get out and

interact with your favorite band of merry-makers. Link up with friends who have the pulse of the cultural scene and mix it up with some let-your-hair-down fun like karaoke or a burlesque show.

LIBRA: Are you waiting for this magic moment to arrive where your schedule just opens up? Reality is, you’re the one setting the pace for your life. If you keep go-go-going at breakneck speed, you’re going to burn out eventually. Preempt that from happening, asap. This weekend dangles the perfect carrot. The moon will be in introspective Scorpio both days, giving you a chance to hit reset on those wildly tipping scales.

SCORPIO: With la luna floating through your sign all weekend, you have planetary permission to take all the “Scorpio time” you need! Start by looking at your calendar. What do you wish you could magically erase? It’s okay that you’ve come down with a case of reverse-FOMO and want to sit everything out until next week. Anyone who adores you or cares about your wellbeing will understand!

SAGITTARIUS: Clear the excess from your calendar and plan to put your own needs and desires first this weekend, Sagittarius. The moon is hunkered down in introspective Scorpio and your internally focused twelfth house for the next two days, and anything too crowded or cacophonous will fry your circuits. Apologize to anyone you might disappoint—or ask if they’re open to shifting plans around!

CAPRICORN: Hole up at home base and unplug for the next two days? Sorry, Capricorn—not with the Scorpio moon lighting up your communal eleventh house. People are your priority this weekend, especially the ones whose sense of adventure is matched only by their amazing taste in food and bands! Take the reins and play social director or let your innermost circle know that the Sea Goat is down for whatever fun is in the offing.

AQUARIUS: With the moon beaming in your career zone on both Saturday and Sunday, you’ll find it hard to leave work at the office. Even if you’re physically engaged in

other activities, mentally you’ll still be mulling something you didn’t finish (or complete to your standards) when you logged out on Friday. So here’s a thought: Instead of being an apparition at brunch or your friend’s gallery opening, duck home and devote a finite amount of time to getting this done.

PISCES: Get up and get OUT! With the Scorpio moon jetting through your nomadic ninth house, the weekend is like a two-day treasure hunt for all the coolest hangouts. And guess what, Pisces? They might not be found in your zip code. Maybe it’s time to pack a bag for a quick road trip or perhaps a cheap, last-minute flight to a friend two states away. (Cough, cough: Do we feel a Monday sick day coming on?) Or just stay home and play tourist in your own town. Any change of scenery would be an instant mood booster. Check out a different live-music venue; eat at an authentic restaurant in another part of town. Are there any foreign films showing or outsider-art shows you could patronize? On Sunday, indulge your interest in the mystical side to life.