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Summit **TIMES**

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Vice President to visit Sikkim in March

NEW DELHI, 30 JAN [IPR]: Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang called on the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu at his official residence 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi, this morning.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, Secretary to the Chief Minister, S.D Dhakal and Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, New Delhi, A. K Chand.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister extended an invitation to the Vice President to visit Sikkim during the month of March 2020, which the Vice President gracefully accepted and said that he will be visiting Sikkim from 14 to 15 of March this year.

The Vice President will be inaugurating



the newly constructed Thakurbari Temple in Gangtok and will also be attending the 2nd Convocation of SRM University as the Chief Guest, during his visit to Sikkim.

The Vice President was all praise for the effort with which the Chief

Minister has taken the state forward with zeal and vigor after forming the Government last year.

He was also vocal about how Sikkim has been exemplary in working towards safeguarding ecological balance and environment protection

without compromising on overall development.

The Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the Vice President and also informed him about the award won by Sikkim recently in the field of tourism.

He also informed

how the footfall of tourists in Sikkim, both domestic and international has shot up in the last one year.

Further, the Chief Minister also discussed in detail about various issues of Sikkim with the Vice President.

BJP-Sikkim condemns Binay Tamang's allegations and threats

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit has strongly criticized and condemned the recent statement of Gorkha Janukti Morcha-2 leader, Binay Tamang, against two BJP leaders of Sikkim. Mr Tamang, in a public address delivered on 28 Jan, had railed against "two BJP leaders," alleging that they were camped in Darjeeling and interfering in local politics there.

BJP-Sikkim has countered that the GJM-2 leader was targeting Sikkim leaders to "save" his own political existence.

A BJP press release issued by the BJP-Sikkim

president, DB Chauhan, states that it has not sent any leader to Darjeeling [for the extension of BJP organization, as alleged] and that if anyone was in Darjeeling, it must be for personal work.

Mr Chauhan adds that local BJP leaders of Darjeeling were capable of handling affairs there and have proven their worth at every election.

"BJP Sikkim strongly condemns the undemocratic and threatening language used by Binay Tamang and he will be held responsible in case any harm comes to the two BJP leaders from Sikkim he has targeted in his speech," the release adds.

The release further

states that India was a democratic nation and its citizens were free to travel wherever they wished without having to take the permission of local leaders and that Sikkim and Darjeeling have enjoyed a friendly relationship hence movement of people between these two regions was normal.

BJP Sikkim has warned Mr Tamang not to try and vitiate the peaceful relations.

"We do politics in Sikkim and have no intentions of interfering in Darjeeling politics so we strongly condemn all allegations leveled on BJP-Sikkim by Binay Tamang," the release reiterates.

Hope Indian govt will address concerns on CAA: UK

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI):

Amid anti-CAA protests in India, the UK on Thursday said it hopes that the Indian government will address concerns of the people over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as its manifesto commitment is "with all, development for all and trust of all".

Outgoing British High Commissioner to India Dominic Asquith also said the British side is "very interested" in a visit to the Kashmir Valley and has a standing request for it.

He also said the British side had not received any request from the Indian side to visit Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

At an interaction with journalists here, the British envoy also expressed "regret" over violent protests on the premises of the Indian mission in London last year.

Asked about the protests in India over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Asquith said, "We have noted what the government and Mr. Modi say about together with all, development for all, and trust of all (reference to sabka saath, sab-

ka vikas, sabka vishvas) and I believe that is the manifesto commitment of this government."

"There is protest in every single democracy...I refer back to the 'with all, development for all, and trust of all' as the objective set by this government and I am sure that in that 'trust of all' (is) the trust that it will be addressing the concerns that have been expressed about the CAA. But that is for the Indian government to deal with," Asquith said.

On the anti-CAA resolutions in the European Parliament, he said parliaments as key democratic institutions have the habit to debate a variety of subjects.

On the eve of Britain's historic departure from the European Union, Asquith stressed that the UK will remain the most important European partner of India.

There will be an expansion of diplomatic and trade activity, he said.

Asquith also expressed support for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for India. Asked when

will British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visit India, the envoy said he would visit some time this year.

"He (Johnson) said he wants to come. I would be very surprised if you don't see him or meet him sometime this year," Asquith told reporters.

Talking about the issue of security of the Indian High Commission in London, he reiterated the UK's commitment to the obligations to make sure that diplomatic premises and staff are not threatened.

He also expressed regret over "any threat the Indian diplomats may have felt as a result of protests in August and September".

"I am glad to note that the last two protests have passed off without any serious concern. That balance between the right to protest which in a democratic society is very important and ensuring that protests don't cross the line to illegality is a balance that is always difficult to maintain," he said, adding that the Metropolitan Police has the responsibility to do.

Sikkim observes Martyrs' Day



GANGTOK, 30 JAN (IPR): Martyrs' Day was observed throughout the State of Sikkim, with two minutes silence in memory of those who gave their lives in the struggle of India's freedom at Tashiling Secretariat today.

Chief Secretary, SC Gupta observed Martyrs Day along with the officers and staff assembled in front of Tashiling Secretariat. The participants observed 2 minutes si-

lence as a mark of respect to the Father of the Nation and all the freedom fighter.

On this day every year we celebrate Martyrs' Day to honour the sacrifices made by countless brave Indians who sacrificed their lives for the nation. It is a day ripe to remember the ideals that these valiant souls sacrificed their lives for-Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Agri Minister on study tour of TN, visits farms in Vellore

VELLORE, 30 JAN [IPR]: Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma, who is on a study tour to Tamil Nadu, visited two farms in Vellore district today.

The Minister visited the Integrated Farming Centre at Virinjipuram to understand how the different components of farming can be adopted within a farm to maximise production through optimal use of local resources, recycling of farm waste for productive purposes and develop a judicious mix of income-generating activities including dairy, vermicomposting etc.

He was impressed by the scientific method of preparing organic cattle feed locally called "Sailesh" and said that it could be adopted by Sikkim in the near future.

He was informed that cattle raised on 'Sailesh' produces 50 litres of milk per day.

He toured the premises watching and learning how seeds are propagated and new techniques



and approaches adopted for better output.

He also visited the Coconut Farm at Nawlakhe and planted a coconut sapling there.

He was accompanied by the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Joint Director, Agriculture, and officials from Government of Tamil Nadu.

Later in the evening,

the Minister called on the Minister for Commercial Taxes and Land Revenue, Government of Tamil Nadu, KC Veeramani, at Circuit House, Vellore. Minister Sharma discussed the importance of agriculture and techniques and approaches refined in Tamil Nadu which can be adopted in Sikkim.

Positive case of Novel Coronavirus detected in Kerala's Thrissur district

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 30 (PTI): A positive case of Novel coronavirus has been detected in Kerala's Thrissur district and the patient kept in an isolation ward, State health minister K K Shylaja said, as the state government scrambled to tackle the emergency.

The condition of the patient, a student from Wuhan university, was stable, Shylaja told reporters here.

The patient was in isolation ward at the general hospital in Thrissur.

Health officials were awaiting a result of one more test-- Gene sequencing-- only after which it can be conclusively stated that the patient was affected with the virus, the minister said.

Three others, who had returned from China, are also in isolation wards in Thrissur, she said.

The union Health Ministry had earlier in the day said a positive case of Novel coronavirus has been reported from Kerala and confirmed that the patient is a student of Wuhan University.

"Of the four students who returned from China, one of them has been tested positive. A total of 20 samples were sent for testing at National Institute of Virology in Pune, of which 10 were found negative. But one has been found positive," Shylaja told reporters here.

The other results are awaited.

Asserting that the state health network was capable of handling any emergency, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said: "We have initiated a series of measures to tackle the emergency; contact tracing, case isolation, quality care and community engagement are being done diligently.

Care must be taken to not spread rumours over social media," Vijayan tweeted.

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Massive protests in Jamia after student injured by armed man

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI): Tension spiralled in Jamia Nagar on Thursday after a man fired a pistol at a group of anti-CAA protesters, injuring a Jamia Millia Islamia student before walking away while waving the firearm above his head and shouting "Yeh lo aazadi" amid heavy police presence in the area.

Massive protests erupted in the area after the incident with hundreds of agitated people gathering near the university, breaking barricades and clashing with police personnel.

The man, who identified himself as "Rambhakt Gopal", was subsequently overpowered by police and detained. He was taken into custody and was being interrogated, police said.

The entire drama, which triggered panic in the area, was captured by television cameras that showed the man in light coloured pants and a dark jacket, walking away on an empty road barricaded by police, turning around and



shouting at the protesters in Hindi, "Here, take this freedom."

The gunman went live on Facebook before the brandishing the gun. Police

said they were verifying whether it is his real name.

Before the attack, the man also put out messages on Facebook stating

"Shaheen Bhag Khel Khatam" (Run Shaheen, the game is over). Another message stated, "Please wrap me in saffron in my last journey with slogans of Jai Shri Ram". His Facebook profile was deleted after screenshots of his posts were circulated widely on social media platforms.

Several students recapped how their peaceful march on Gandhi's death anniversary became violent.

"We were moving towards the Holy Family Hospital where the police had raised barricades. Suddenly, a gun-wielding man came out and opened fire. One bullet hit my friend's hand," Aamna Asif, a student of economics at the university, told PTI.

She said her friend, Shadab Farooq, a mass communication student, was trying to calm the attacker but he shot at him injuring his left hand.

Farooq, who belongs to Kashmir, was taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

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Rani Rampal wins 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI): Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal on Thursday became the first-ever hockey player world-wide to win the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award.

The World Games announced the winner on Thursday after 20 days of polling by sports fans world-wide.

"Indian hockey superstar Rani is The World Games Athlete of the Year 2019! Huge congratulations!", the World Games said in a statement.

"With an impressive number of votes, 199,477, Rani is the clear winner of the Athlete of the Year race, where sports fans all over the world have voted for their favourite during 20 days of polling in January. All in all, over 705,610 votes were cast during the poll," it added.

Last year, India won the FIH Series Finals, and Rani was named Player of the Tournament. Under Rani's leadership, the Indian women's team qualified for just the third Olympic Games in its history.

"I dedicate this award to the entire hockey fraternity, my team and my country. This success has only become possible with the love and support from hockey lovers, fans, my team, coaches, Hockey India, my government, friends from Bollywood, fellow sportspersons and my countrymen who have continuously voted for me," said Rani, who was recently named among the Padma Shri awardees.

"Special thanks to FIH for nominating me for this prestigious award. Thank you to The World Games Federation for this recognition," she added.

"Rani is an inspirational athlete, and a role model for many in India. It was amazing to see the support the Indians, even as high up as Mr Rijju, the Minister of State, Youth Affairs and Sports, gave to her in this vote together with the Hockey fans all around the world. This is what sport is about uniting people from different backgrounds and different countries," said International World Games Association President Jose Perurena.

The International Hockey Federation also congratulated Rani on being named for the award.

"Congratulations @imranirampal for becoming the first ever Hockey athlete to win the prestigious @TheWorldGames Athlete of the Year award!" the FIH, who nominated Rani for the award, said in its twitter handle.

"On behalf of FIH and the global hockey community, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Rani for having been voted The World Games Athlete of the Year 2019. This is an acknowledgement of her outstanding performances - together with her team-mates - and her dedication to hockey and her leadership," FIH CEO Thierry Weil said.

"This prestigious Award is also a great recognition for hockey globally. Furthermore, we are working hard for and looking forward to having Hockey 5s as a demonstration sport at The World Games 2021."

Amarathon Academy team leaves for Kolkata Full Marathon

RUDRA KAUSHIK GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Twenty-one marathoners from Amarathon Academy of Sikkim (AAS), founded by ultra marathoner, Amar Subba, left for Kolkata today to participate in the Kolkata Full Marathon to be held at Rangers Maidan Red Road, Kolkata, on 02 Feb.

The team comprises of 16 male and 05 female marathoners from Sikkim and Darjeeling.

The marathon is being organized in three different categories viz 42 kilometres (full marathon), 21kilometres (half marathon) and 10 km run. The marathon is being organized by IDBI Federal Life Insurance Corporation Ltd in



collaboration with NEB Sports of Kolkata.

Ultra marathoner, Amar Subba, founder of AAS is leading the team of marathoners.

In a press conference held today here at Gyalshing, Amar Subba informed that some new

faces from Sikkim will also take part in the marathon along with experienced marathoners such as Shiva Hang Limboo and others.

Amar Subba shared that the entry is free for his team due to special consideration

made by the organizing committee.

Mr Subba is also participating in the marathon in 42k category

The emerging long distance runner from Sikkim, Shiva Hang Limboo who is participating in 42 km cate-

gory expressed that he is optimistic about his improved performance in the championship. Another participant, Sonam Sherpa who is participating in the international marathon for the first time said that he will be giving his best in the championship.

Amar Subba extended his gratitude to the chairman of NEB Sports, Nagraj Adiga and Managing Director, Sunil Shetti for free entry for his team in the marathon.

"I am also thankful to DC (West) Karma R. Bonpo and president of All Sikkim Arm Wrestling Federation, Lhendup Dorjee Bhutia for the necessary support rendered to my team," he said.

ITBP holds medical camp at Lachen



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

11th Bn of Indo Tibetan Border Police has organized a medical camp and medicine distribution program under Civic Action Programme 2019-20 at Lachen in North Sikkim on Thursday. An

ITBP press release informs that MO of 11th Bn ITBP, Assistant Commandant Dr Sambhaji Shindey treated patients and also counselled them about healthy lifestyle. It is added that a total of 108 civilians were treated during this camp.

Saraswati Puja at Lingi Payong School



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

On the occasion of Vasant Panchami, Saraswati Puja was celebrated at Lingi Payong School, South Sikkim on Thursday, a press release informs.

The puja was organized by village members, parents, SMCs and school family. Students and teachers along with others offered prayers and sought blessings

from Goddess Saraswati who is worshipped as the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom.

Ceremonial offerings were given and puja was conducted by a local priest.

Kheer and 'prasad' was distributed to the gathering at the end of the ceremony. Headmaster of the school thanked the parents, guardians and SMC members for organising the programme.

Global Cinema Fest press meet held at Mumbai



NITESH R PRADHAN MUMBAI, 30 JAN:

The Government of Sikkim and the Film Federation of India held a joint press meet at the Club Mumbai today.

The press conference was dedicated to the Global Cinema Festival 2020 slated to be held in Gangtok from 28 Feb to 01 March.

Sikkim Film Cooperative represented by Dr Rahul Banerjee made

a presentation to the press, while Secretary IPR, Namrata Thapa represented the government and talked about film policy and other components of the film making ecosystem.

Merchandise of the festival was also launched during the conference.

It may be noted that the Sikkim Film Cooperative Society is affiliated to the Film Federation of India.

Awareness on Corona virus at Mangan

MANGAN, 30 JAN (IPR):

Mangan Nagar Panchayat conducted an awareness-cum-sensitization meeting with stakeholders of shops, business communities and local Taxi Driver Association under Mangan Nagar Panchayat on Preventive and Precautionary Measures on Corona virus. The meeting was also attended by Councilors of Mangan Nagar Panchayat.

The resource person of the meeting was Sr Specialist of District Hospital Mangan, Dr Tenzing Choden.

During the meeting, MEO, Tempo Tashi Bhutia, MNP gave general information about Corona virus.

Sr specialist of Dis-



trict Hospital Mangan, Dr Tenzing Choden explained in detail about Corona virus and the precautionary measures on the dos and don'ts as preventive measures and the details of the steps taken by District Hospital and Government.

She further added that this measure is taken as extra precaution after the information

received stating that the neighboring country Nepal has seen confirmed Corona virus cases.

Dr Tenzing stressed that there was no need to panic as the virus has not entered Sikkim. She said any symptom of Corona virus, such as running nose, severe cold and cough should be immediately reported to the nearest health facility.

Seminar on doubling farmers' income at Deythang



GANGTOK, 30 JAN (PIB):

Indian Cardamom Research Institute, RRS, Spices Board Tadong conducted one day seminar on "Doubling the Farmer's Income through Organic Practices in Large Cardamom" at Panchayat Hall, Deythang GPU, West Sikkim on 29 Jan, 2020, in close coordination of Panchayat President, Gita Chhetri and a progressive farmer of Sri Badam, Jomeyang Bhutia, West district of Sikkim.

There were 52 participants in the program which includes the farmers, government officials, SHGs and students of Central University of Sikkim. Program was coordinated by Miss Rayel Chhetri, Senior Research Fellow, AICRPS.

Technical session of program started with the address by Deputy Director (Research), Dr TN Deka, ICRI, RRS, Spices Board, Tadong; who had a detailed discussion on production of large cardamom under organic system, climatic changes and impact on crop, export and licensing, trademark, branding, packaging, price fluctuation, and wholesome betterment

of farming community. He also explained about pests and disease of large cardamom and their management; different kind of farmers' welfare schemes of Spices Board.

Panchayat President, Gita Chhetri expressed her opinion on holistic approach in agriculture and requested the participants to adopt the scientific approach in farming and take it as a business and get better income using scientific approaches in cultivation. At the end of her speech Smt Chhetri appreciated the ICRI, RRS, Spices Board for close coordination and organizing the program.

In the next session of program Scientist-C, BA Gudade, ICRI, RRS, Tadong explained about the present scenario of cardamom production in the state and India, export and domestic consumption, cultivation aspects of large cardamom in organic way, characteristics of different cultivars, their growing habit and adaptation to different altitude, establishment of nursery and pre-requisite of quality produce.

Scientist-B, Ashutosh Gautam, ICRI, RRS presented the postharvest

management in large cardamom, quality attributes, scientific curing for quality produce, processing and value addition, market potential for value added products from cardamom, long term storage, entrepreneurship and sources of funding for start ups, centers and institutes for skill development in spice processing and packaging.

Asst. Director (Dev), PT Lepcha, Divisional Office, Spices Board, Jorethang in his speech explained about different developmental schemes of Spices Board for the development of large cardamom in Sikkim region and urged the farming community to take the benefits of schemes.

Program also had an open discussion session which received the overwhelming response and interaction from the participants especially on the installation of ICRI Modified bharti, electric drier, value addition in spices and sources of financing.

At the end of program PP Sharma expressed his gratitude to the participants and Spices Board for organizing the program in successful manner.

DAC observes Martyrs' Day



MANGAN, 30 JAN (IPR):

District Administrative Centre, Mangan North Sikkim observed Martyrs' Day also known as 'Shaheed Diwas' 2020 with due solemnity at DAC complex on Thursday in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

Similarly, the Sub-Di-

visional Administrations of the district were also observed the Martyrs' Day 2020 in their respective offices.

Two minutes silence led by the District Magistrate, Tenzing T Kaleon was observed from 11 to 11:02am in memory of those who gave their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

Positive case...

It was unfortunate that there was a confirmation of coronavirus in the state, but the state had earlier faced similar situations and has the experience to deal with it, he told reporters.

"We have that experience and well equipped to face this issue. Now one case has been confirmed. We are taking further steps. Its seems like one more test needs to be done.

There is no need to panic but we need to stay vigilant," Vijayan added.

Shylaja even though the state has been vigilant since the past two weeks and has made necessary arrangements to deal with the situation, there is need to exercise utmost caution.

"We need to be very cautious as our neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal have confirmed cases of coronavirus," the minister said.

She urged those who have returned from China to approach the health ministry or hospitals and get themselves checked.

Massive protests...

Ragibh Naushad, an LLB student at the university, said, "The Jamia Coordination Committee organised a march to pay homage to Gandhi ji on his death anniversary. It started at 12 noon from Gate number 7, but police denied the permission and stopped the march near the Holy Family hospital.

"A man named Gopal, came there and started brandishing a weapon and later shot a round. He was also chanting pro-CAA slogans."

The incident led to panic in the area.

Khalid Hassan, a JMI alumnus, said initially many were not sure whether it was a gunshot or a tyre burst.

There was heavy police and media presence when the incident took place.

The students were heading from Jamia to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat. The march was stopped at the Holy Family Hospital near the university.

Chinmoy Biswal, DCP (southeast), said the students wanted to take out a march from Jamia to Rajghat but were denied permission.

"They were being repeatedly told that the protest should be carried out peacefully. We had barricaded the road just before the Holy Family hospital. Meanwhile, a person was seen in the crowd who waved something which appeared to be a weapon."

"We have detained him and are interrogating him. One person has also been injured," Biswal said.

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NERES 1.0 awareness workshop hosted by AIC-SMUTBI

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in collaboration with Federation of Industries and Commerce of North East Region (FINER) is organizing NER Entrepreneurs and Startup Summit "NERES 1.0" in March 2020 sponsored by North Eastern Council, a press release informs.

In this regard, IIE organised an awareness workshop for Sikkim today with Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Sikkim as Joint Organizer and AIC-SMUTBI as Event Partner.

Welcoming the participants, Additional Director, Department of Commerce & Industries, Government of Sikkim, N Jaswant,



briefed about the Startup ecosystem in the State and the government initiatives for promotion of startup culture in the state.

CEO, Dr Tejbanta S Chingtham, AIC-SMUTBI spoke about various aspects of entrepreneurship and business opportunities in Sikkim. A number of startup found-

ers from the state shared their experiences of their entrepreneurial journey.

Project Head, Amitav Dutta, IIE spoke about the objective of the summit. He further mentioned that NERES 1.0 summit has received a very positive response from the start-ups and other entrepreneurial forums as

this is the first time that a big amount is being given as a grant to the start-ups without any equity.

The event ended with a Q&A sessions and a Vote of Thanks by Incubation Manager, Yangtso-la Lama, AIC-SMUTBI

NERES 1.0 is aimed at stirring up entrepreneurial minds across the

NER states and promote start-up entrepreneurs by offering them with a platform to pitch their business ideas and finally the winners - 20 best ideas across NER will be rewarded with a start-up grant of rupees five lakhs each. Details of the summit are available at www.neres.org

Tobacco control training for health professionals

GANGTOK, 30 JAN [IPR]:

A one day Orientation Training programme of various stakeholders/Health Professionals was organised by the State Tobacco Control Cell, Department of Health & Family Welfare at the auditorium, New STNM Multi-Specialty Hospital Sochakgang, Today.

Principal Director/Mission Director Health service, Dr. P.M Pradhan was present as the chief guest along with ADHS/Nodal Officer NCPT, Dr. Baroon Subba who was the guest of honour.

Nodal officers from 52 line departments and members of the health service (NTCP) were invited for this programme.

Dr. Baroon Subba inaugurated this function with a welcome speech and stated that this was not just an Orientation Programme but an Empowerment Training for the nodal officers present here.

He spoke about the Wellness Centres for Tobacco Control which is an initiative taken by the

Government of India and mentioned that it was under process especially in the rural sub centres of the state. Further, he emphasized on all departments putting in efforts to bring about change and to make the state of Sikkim a Tobacco free state in the near future.

The keynote address was given by the chief guest Dr. P.M Pradhan who spoke about Tobacco Control, TFR (Total Fertility Rate) and elaborated on how important it is to minimise the use of Tobacco. He mentioned that there should be a total understanding of Tobacco and its harmful effects especially towards the younger generation.

Further, he stressed that departments should work in tandem to spread this awareness. The inaugural function for this programme concluded with a vote of thanks given on behalf of the health service department.

Deputy Director NTCP, Rinzing Bhutia was the coordinator for this programme.

Governor meets SLYA coaching students



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Governor, Ganga Prasad granted audience to representatives and students of Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association (SLYA) at Raj Bhavan today, a press release informs.

Governor interacted with school students of Lepcha and other communities of class X and XII who are undergoing winter coaching camp organized by SLYA in collaboration with the State Education Department for final year students of Class X & XII. The association has been encourag-

ing such coaching camps since 1997.

Encouraging the young minds, in his speech, the Governor urged students to inculcate the competitive spirit as several institutions provide wide range of opportunities.

The Governor also handed over cheque of Rs. 51,000 to the association as discretionary grant from Raj Bhavan. He further announced to sponsor students of Lepcha community who excel in the board exams.

The Governor expressed his gratitude to association for their ini-

tiative and encouraged them to organize more coaching camps across the State in near future.

During the programme, the Governor also felicitated teachers and members of the association and students of coaching camp who shared their experiences.

As a token of gratitude, SLYA offered Lepcha musical instrument 'Tungbuk' to the Governor.

The function also witnessed participation of Addl. Secretary, Thakur Thapa, Officials of Raj Bhavan and representatives of association

Saraswati Puja Talent Show held in Thakurbari



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

More than thirty children showcased their talents during a Talent Show held on the occasion of Basant Panchami Utsav 2020 here at Thakurbari complex on Thursday. The event was jointly organized by Vivid Kala Academy [VKA] and Journalists Union of Sikkim [JUS]. The day-long event witnessed Sit and Draw competition and Solo Dance competition for children.

In Sit and Draw competition, Sakcham Chettri of St Xavier's School, Pakyong stood in the first position followed by Ankita Kumari of Deorali Girls senior secondary school in second position and Esha Tiwari of Neil Tara Academy in third position. Likewise, con-

solation prizes were provided to 10 participants in this category.

Likewise, Upendra Neopaney of Prashanti Vidya Mandir emerged as the winner in solo dance competition, while Karma Doma Sherpa from Gangtok stood in the second position and Nyati Gazmer of St Thomas School received the third prize. Consolation prizes were provided to two other participants in solo dance competition.

The event started with offering of prayers on the occasion of Saraswati Puja at Thakurbari complex.

VKA president, Kiran Rasaily mentioned that the organization has been organizing Basant Panchami Utsav since 2012 at Thakurbari premises with various

events for children.

"Basant Panchami is also an occasion to worship Goddess Saraswati who is the Goddess of sound, knowledge and art which makes the world beautiful. So, we have been celebrating the day with events in the field of arts and music for children," he said.

He mentioned that the main objective of the talent show was to motivate and encourage children in their respective skill and talent.

Mr Rasaily mentioned that VKA is now preparing to observe World Sparrow Day and International Day of Happiness with school students on 20 March. He added that the organization has been celebrating this day in different schools since the last five years.

ICAR organizes R-Day lecture series

GANGTOK, 30 JAN (PIB): ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong, on 28 Jan, organized a lecture series as part of its Republic Day celebrations.

In his address, Joint Director, Dr RK Avasthe, revealed that Constitution Day is celebrated in India every year on 26 November as the constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 Nov, 1949 and came into force on 26 Nov, 1950.

He also highlighted the contribution of Dr BR Ambedkar, as the Chairman of Constitution Drafting Committee and known as father of the Constitution of India. Further, he informed that Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi has issued programmes/events to be organized throughout the year by all ICAR Institutes across the country.

Sr Technical Officer, Surendra Mohan Kand-

wal explained about the fundamental duties provided in the Constitution of India and its applicability in every sphere of life and that everyone should learn about the Constitution of our Country.

Keeping this in view ICAR is organizing various programmes/events across the period from 26 Nov, 2019 to 26 Nov, 2020 and subsequent activities will culminate on "Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti" on 14 Apr, 2020.

Sikkim thrashes Manipur in Ranji Trophy

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

The first win of the season in Ranji Trophy came along the way of Sikkim in a match against Manipur at Vikash Cricket Ground, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 29 January, a press release informs. Sikkim won the match by 232 runs, earning 6 Point(s) for the win.

With this win, Sikkim has 10 Point(s) in the team standing table with one win and two draws.

The match was started on 27 January with Manipur winning the toss and choosing to field first. Sikkim scored 169 runs in the first innings of which highest run was scored by Lee Yong Lepcha (45), as the Manipur had a good bowling line-up with Rex Singh taking 4 wickets, Thomas 3 wickets, Bishworjit 2 wickets and Priyojit 1 wicket.

It was the vital partnership between Palzor and Lee Yong of 69 runs that helped Sikkim to a decent total. Though Sikkim had low total on the board but the bowlers showed a good game by restricting the opponent to just 91 runs and maintaining the lead of 78 runs in the first innings.

Ishwar Chaudhary took a brilliant 6 wickets and well supported



by Iqbal Abdullah who took 3 wickets. This was Ishwar's 4th five wickets haul of the season and he is standing in 8th position of most wickets list of Ranji Trophy season 2019-20.

In the second innings Sikkim made 266 runs, where Iqbal Abdullah scored 71 runs, Palzor Tamang (50), Ashish Thapa and Lee Yong Lepcha (25 each), Yashpal Singh (23), Padam Limboo (20), Bibek Diyali (16), Chitiz Tamang (9), Puran Giri (7) and Ishwar (4). Lee Yong remained not-out on 25 runs.

The partnership of 105 runs between the skipper Palzor and Vice-Captain Iqbal was the turning point of the match where they took a good lead. Sikkim gave the target of 345 runs to Manipur with two days in hand but once again Sikkim bowlers bowled brilliantly.

This time it was Captain Palzor Tamang who showed a great show by taking 6 wickets and be-

coming the first player from Sikkim to get a 5 wickets haul in the most prestigious trophy of India. He took 6 wickets in 13 overs. Ishwar and Iqbal took 2 wickets each and gave a reason to celebrate by winning the match with a huge margin. Ishwar Chaudhary was announced The Man of The Match for his 8 wickets in the match and playing a vital role in the first innings and giving the team a lead.

"There is ability in the players from Sikkim to win the match with both bat and ball and it is a different feeling when the locals perform well and win the match. I am happy and honored to claim a 5 wickets haul and become the first player from Sikkim to do so in first-class cricket. Cricket is a team game and it would not have been possible for me to achieve this without the support of all my teammates, coach, trainer and support staff," said Captain Palzor Tamang.

Arunachal farmers learn cardamom farming in Sikkim

GANGTOK, 30 JAN (PIB):

Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Tadong, the research wing of Spices Board has conducted one-day training program for the farmers of Ziro, Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. The team of 32 farmers, led by DHO, Tasso Yallu, Department of Horticulture, Government of Arunachal Pradesh is on an exposure tour of Sikkim; the program was coordinated by Miss Rayel Chhetri, Senior Research Fellow, AICRPS.

During the technical session of program Scientist-C, BA Gudade explained about production practices in large cardamom following organic approaches. He also discussed about the nutrition management, various agricultural operation in large cardamom and their relevance with to production, organic approaches in cultivation, in-situ moisture conservation practices

and market potential and market trends.

Discussing about the technical side of large cardamom cultivation, Scientist (Crop Improvement), Ashutosh Gautam explained about the crop biology of large cardamom, characteristics of different cultivars and their suitability to different altitudes, production of quality planting material and nursery establishment. In the later phase of program, Scientist-B (Entomology), SS Bora discussed about the insect, pests and diseases of large cardamom and their management. He also explained about the symptoms of physiological disorders and symptoms of pests and diseases and differentiation between them.

At the end of program DHO, Tasso Yallu expressed her thank to ICRI, Spices Board for the training program and collaboration at local level and expressed hope to receive the same in future.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK, SIKKIM

No: 240/PMGSY/RDD

Date: 27/01/2020

PRESS NOTE

"HIRING OF GIS ANALYST"

The State Rural Roads Development Agency, Rural Development Department seeks application for hiring of a GIS Analyst (GA) on contract basis for use of GIS in day to day functioning of SRRDA especially for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Details are as given under:

Name of post	: GIS Analyst (GA).
Number of post	: 1(one)
Qualification	: M.Sc/ M. Tech./M.Sc(Tech) in Geo-Science/ Geo-Informatics/Remote Sensing and GIS/GIS Geography/Earth Science.
Salary	: Rs. 30,000/- to Rs.45,000/-per month depending on skill and experience in GIS.

Eligibility criteria:

- The GA should have basic knowledge of GIS, be able to operate QGIS/ArcGIS and prepare/modify/update shapefiles as and when required and compile from various sources such as satellite imagery/ toposheet, reports, etc.
- The GA should know operations such as buffer, spatial join and conducting geometry/ topology checks.
- The GA should be able to operate Google Earth and prepare KML files as when required.
- Experience in AutoCAD and database management is a plus.
- The GA should have relevant knowledge of IT systems and Excel.
- Should have 3+years of professional experience in GIS.

The local desirous candidates having requisite qualifications and fulfilling the above criteria's may come for appearing in walk-in-interview along with an application and all the certificates in original in support of their qualification, experience as well as no objection certificate from the present employer, if any, in the Conference Hall of Rural Management Department on 25th February, 2020 from 11 am onwards.

Sd/-

R.O.No.338/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Chief Engineer cum Empowered Officer
Date: 27.01.2020 Rural Development Department.

Viva Suffragettes!

Nothing will be "given." It will have to be "won"

A build-up will begin soon to remind consumers of news-cycles that 07 February 2020 marks a centenary plus two of that moment in history when women in England were given the right to vote. A correction is perhaps required here – a hundred and one years ago today, women won the right to vote in England.

A British Parliamentarian recently underlined that the movement for the right to vote was so viciously challenged by men in the late 19th and early 20th Century that to do justice to the memory and significance of the Suffragette movement, it is important to define the moment as one when women "won" the right to vote as against the more often used term "were given" or "received".

Women in England won the right to adult suffrage on 07 Feb a hundred and two years ago, so what is the big deal one may ask? Well, for one, it is a big deal because a century on, we are still some distance away from equality even in something as basic as equal pay for equal work. The obnoxious, regressive, but extensively widespread, disturbingly stereotyped and immersively internalized, gender roles compound the problem and continue manifesting patriarchy despite its destructive track-record. But, like always, we digress.

A quick Google-search will reveal that limited voting rights were gained by women in Finland, Iceland, Sweden and some Australian colonies and some states of USA in the late 19th century. Much like the prevailing mindsets, even a century ago, men were convinced that they knew better and could decide what was best for women and that women were somehow not be trusted with serious decision-making. Understandably, the women disagreed even as many among them had also internalized the manufactured stereotypes and subscribed to what the male-dominated governments and lobbies proclaimed. But there were still women were galvanizing into action and in 1904 former the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to campaign for voting rights at par with men and for equal civil rights for women. Here, one may add, that even countries which had extended women the right to vote laid more conditions on them than on men – while men could vote at 21, for women it was only they were 30-31 years old and in many instances, while they could vote for state-level elections, they could not for national elections. In most cases, they also had to own property to be able to become electors, a condition not required of men. This segregation reinforced the misogyny that a section of women had serious issues with and one of the more dramatic protests was seen in Britain starting 1903 when activists of the Women's Social and Political Union, led by Emmeline Pankhurst, began advocating for the extension of the "franchise" to women. They were the Suffragettes. The movement had a radical slant and the women damaged property during their marches and sat on hunger strikes. The State responded even more viciously with violent crackdowns which included baton charges and even rape. The movement was bitter and long and was suspended in 1914 due to the outbreak of World War I. Eventually, in 1918 women in Britain over the age of 30, meeting certain property qualifications, were given the right to vote. There were no such criteria for men. The Suffragettes persisted, writing representations, lobbying support and campaigning hard and in 1928 suffrage was extended to all women over the age of 21 in England.

This was a major breakthrough because it demolished several prejudices and stereotypes even as it reinforced the fact that women will have to fight for equality – it is not going to "given" to them. And they will have to fight hard because they are up against generations of wrong grooming and centuries of privilege that men have enjoyed as a result. They will not relinquish things easily. The #MeToo campaign in USA is one such example. Even in the world of artists and performers, people one expects to have more empathy, sexual abuse and harassment was commonplace and would have continued as normal had some brave women not called out their pigs. Now, mighty heads have rolled. That said, USA is also the country with a President who has been accused, officially, of sexual assault by nine women, but he is still maintained in office by a mix of pliant and rabid core. So we should probably look at our own country, right? But clearly not for inspiration. There is a lot that needs to be corrected here... at every level. And Sikkim? There is a lot that it needs to deliver on ensuring genuine equality. And for all of this, the women will have to militate, step out, demand and wrest their rights for themselves. The Suffragettes established as much a 101 years ago, and because the struggle continues, fight on...



Fear spreads easily. That's what gives the Wuhan coronavirus economic impact

ILAN NOY
theconversation.com

One way to count the cost of the Wuhan coronavirus is by how many people catch it, and then how many die. Another is the direct financial costs of public health measures to treat those infected and contain its spread.

Yet another is the wider economic cost. But how to calculate this?

Some suggest a negligible impact on the global economy if the death toll is less or similar to the SARS outbreak in 2002-03.

But the economic impact is not directly tied to the number of people who get sick (morbidity) or die (mortality). It almost wholly depends on the indirect effects of the decisions that many millions of individuals make to minimise their chance of catching the virus, and the decision of governments on how to react to the threat.

This means the Wuhan outbreak could directly affect relatively few people, compared to past pandemics, yet still pack an intense punch in a more interconnected global economy.

LEARNING FROM SARS

We can draw lessons from the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) experience, the first epidemic of the 21st century.

SARS was another coronavirus. As the Wuhan virus emerged in late December from an animal market, SARS originated from animal markets in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong in November 2002.

Zoonotic epidemics – diseases emerging from animal hosts – are not new. But they are becoming more common with closer proximity between wild animals, domesticated animals and people; and they spread more rapidly due to increased movements of people within and between countries. Their economic risk is also likely to increase.

SARS spread to infect individuals across 26 countries in a matter of weeks. Fortunately it was then contained relatively rapidly. Ultimately about 8,500 people caught it. The mortality rate was about 11% with fewer than a thousand deaths.

The SARS outbreak was, of course, devastating to its victims and their families. But its public-health impacts were relatively limited and short-lived. It nonetheless had significant economic impacts. Though fewer than 10,000 people were directly infected, tens of millions of individuals changed their behaviour out of fear of catching the virus.

OVERESTIMATING RISKS

These behavioural changes were partly driven by government directives, but more importantly by personal judgments about risks.

Behavioural studies suggest individuals typically overestimate the risks that are memorable, vivid or generate fear, while underestimating more common risks. Thus shark attacks are feared more than traffic accidents.

In a survey of 705 people in Hong Kong at the height of the SARS epidemic, 23% of respondents feared they were likely to become infected with SARS. The actual infection rate was only 0.0026%. In the US, where 29 people were infected and no one died, 16% of survey respondents felt they or their family were likely to get infected with SARS.

Such fears led to observed economic effects. Disproportionately affected were leisure venues (restaurants, cinemas, bars and clubs) and businesses associated with domestic and international tourism.

The economies of China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan were hardest hit. At the height of the epidemic, international visitor arrivals fell dramatically in these four countries. According to World Bank research, GDP losses to these countries amounted to US\$13 billion

In Beijing, the losses to the tourism sector were estimated to be 300 times the direct cost of medical

treatment for SARS in the city.

PANIC IS EASY TO SPREAD

A complete tally of the cost of SARS has never been undertaken, but what we do know about the SARS experience is most likely a good guide to what the costs of the Wuhan outbreak might be. It will be the reactions of governments and individuals to the perceived threat of the virus, and not the virus itself, that will have the biggest economic costs.

The Chinese government has imposed a mandatory curfew on more than 30 million people. It's possible hundreds of millions more are changing their plans willingly or because they are being instructed to do so.

Examples include Hong Kong and other countries now hesitating to allow in Chinese tourists, and citizens of other nations being advised to avoid travelling to China. The US Centers for Disease Control, for example, has recommended against all non-essential travel to China, including areas far from Wuhan.

We do not yet know enough about the virulence of this coronavirus, though the preliminary evidence suggests its mortality rate is much lower than that of SARS.

But with social media, panics can also spread more rapidly and further. All signs point to a global overreaction to this crisis, and therefore to an amplified economic impact. Even highly reputable media outlets such as The New York Times have not proven immune to sensationalism, promoting stories with dramatic headlines such as "Alarm Grows as Markets Tumble and Death Toll Rises".

We should all, therefore, rely as much as possible on verifiable information. Preventing the contagious spread of inaccurate and exaggerated information comes a close second to our responsibilities to prevent the spread of the virus itself.

[The writer is Professor and Chair in the Economics of Disasters, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington]

Redesigning social media platforms to reduce 'FoMO'

RAIAN ALI & JOHN MCALANEY
theconversation.com

Fear of missing out, or FoMO, is commonly described as that anxious feeling you get when you think other people might be having a good time without you. Excessive FoMO is closely related to symptoms of behavioural addiction. It often leads to undesirable behaviour such as the constant checking of social media, even in an inappropriate context, like while driving, and becoming overly preoccupied with reactions to online posts and messages.

Our new research has identified the main triggers of this psychological phenomenon, the contexts in which it happens and the types of fears involved in it. We have also suggested new design features which social media platforms could introduce to minimise this most modern form of social anxiety.

Humans are fundamentally social creatures. Our identity, beliefs and behaviours come from and are shaped by our interactions with others. From those we know well, to fleeting moments of eye contact with the strangers we walk past on the street. Previous generations may have had periods of respite from the social world. But the emergence of social media platforms and smartphones means access to social information and interaction, 24 hours a day, has never been easier.

This constant flow of interaction has an effect, and despite the adage that nothing on the internet ever goes away, social information can expire and become less meaningful after time. For example, ongoing group chats, live streaming and direct messages which expect an immediate answer. When people fail to keep up with all these battling messages and

streams, FoMO rears its ugly head.

FOMO SUB-CATEGORIES

In our research, we looked at the situations and contexts in which FoMO may be triggered and what fears are encountered.

FoMO as a singular concept is an oversimplification. In contrast to the common idea of FoMO happening due to disconnection from the internet and social media (like losing signal or a dead battery), we found that it often happens when people are indeed connected. For example, when people have multiple devices and social media accounts and have little time or desire to check them all, they may fear missing important messages and events.

FoMO can also happen when people get frustrated by others not responding, despite receiving and reading messages. They may fear that they have missed out on previous interactions and missed out on the chance to show empathy. In addition to these, we discovered a number of sub-fears, such as:

- fear of missing the opportunity to gain popularity. This happens if one is late in responding to others and in expressing empathy when needed
- fear of missing valuable information
- fear of being excluded from social groups due to lack of timely engagement
- fear of inciting negative reactions

FoMO has been associated with feelings of stress and anxiety and concerns around how we relate to each other online and what our expectations are. This is why social networks in their current designs are seen by many as antisocial tools, aiming mainly to attract people's attention but focusing less on a healthy and humanised interaction.

FoMO also leads to questions about the role of technology in harming people's wellbeing and the limited availability of tools and design features to help them regulate and shape their online social presence and identity. The Google Digital Wellbeing initiative is an example of efforts in that direction, with a focus on screen time awareness and management and novel ways for managing notifications and cool-off times.

In our assessment of social media platforms we noted how design features may trigger FoMO in users. For example, the basic feature of showing how many likes a post has received may create a fear that the user is missing out on indicators of social approval – something that has been demonstrated to be linked to emotional wellbeing.

Other features, such as the double tick delivery and notification feature in WhatsApp, may create a preoccupation with social relationships. So FoMO can be triggered when a user begins wondering why friends are not responding, despite reading the message. This can be a risk since, as demonstrated within social psychological research, people often make mistakes in their explanation and interpretation of the behaviour of others.

A message left on "unread" or unanswered, for instance, may be interpreted by the sender as a snub, when in reality the recipient could have intended to do so but then lost their wifi connection or entered a meeting.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Technology can enhance existing problems, but it can also be used to bring about positive change. It can do so in an intelligent and interactive way. From the discussions we have had with people experiencing FoMO,

we have identified a number of possible designs that could be implemented in a way that cross cut all their social media accounts, including:

- Setting priority lists so that a person receives messages and notifications only for important events and topics and from selected sources, groups and contacts that they care about.
- Allowing easy filtering, event recording and recapping so that a person can come back to social media in their own time without missing the temporarily available information and – at the same time – without being overwhelmed with pending notifications, content and interactions.
- Enabling people to specify their social interaction protocol. For example, similar to setting privacy settings, users can specify that they do not always respond to comments and their presence online is sporadic so that others should not expect them to be fully engaged all the time.

Tech companies are conflicted between their goal of having as many users as possible on the one hand and their need to balance that with user wellbeing on the other. As an alternative, we propose a liberal and open model that allows applications and services – developed by third parties that are trusted and authorised by the user – to access their social media accounts and online usage data with the aim of helping them to regulate FoMO and the problematic attachment to digital media in general.

[Raian Ali is Professor, College of Science and Engineering, Hamad Bin Khalifa University; John McAlaney is Associate Professor in Psychology, Bournemouth University]

Odisha hammer Assam by innings and 3 runs

CUTTACK, JAN 30 (PTI): Odisha thrashed Assam by an innings and three runs on the fourth and final day of a Ranji Trophy Group 'C' match here on Thursday, after the visitors suffered a dramatic batting collapse.

Resuming at the overnight score of 102 for no loss, Assam crumbled like a pack of cards to be bundled out for 195 in the space of 24 overs.

The home team picked up seven points for the win and took its tally to 35 points from seven games at the top of Group C.

Overnight Assam batsmen Subham Mandal (74) and wicket-keeper Kunal Saikia (72) added 22 more runs before the latter fell to Debabrata Pradhan. Saikia's exit gave Odisha the breakthrough it was looking for as from there on they picked up wickets at regular intervals.

Right-arm medium-pacer Rajesh Mohanty was the wrecking-in-chief, picking up four wickets including that of top-scorer Mandal.



Barring the top two, none of the other Assam batsmen got into double figures.

In another Group C match, Maharashtra eased to a five-wicket win over Tripura in Agartala to improve its tally to 21 points.

At the Air Force Complex ground, Palam in New Delhi, Services outplayed Jharkhand by 118 runs, thanks to Pulkit Narang's 6 for 58.

Brief scores (at end of final day): Odisha 436 all out in 136.3 overs (Debabrata Pradhan 79, Abhishek Raut 71, Shantanu Mishra 66, Anurag

Sarangi 58, Govinda Poddar 58; Arup Das 4/101, Ranjeet Mali 4/113) beat Assam 238 all out in 82.2 overs (Ranjeet Mali 59, Kunal Saikia 53, Riyan Parag 43, Rishav Das 37; Deabrata Pradhan 4/37) and 195 all out in 65.4 overs (Subham Mandal 74, Kunal Saikia 72; Rajesh Mohanty 4/30, Suryakant Pradhan 3/53, Debabrata Pradhan 3/53) by an innings and 3 runs. Odisha: 7 points, Assam: 0.

At Jammu: Chhattisgarh 270 for 4 in 90 overs (Harpreet Singh Bhatia 116, Abhimanyu Chauhan 51) vs Jammu

& Kashmir 168 all out in 32.1 overs (Abdul Samad 33, Abid Mushtaq 31; Sumit Ruikar 4/82, Veer Pratap Singh 3/22). Chhattisgarh: 3 points, J&K: 1.

At Dehradun: Uttarakhand 109 all out in 42 overs (Tinu Kundu 3/49) and 109 for 3 in 32 overs (Saurabh Rawat 3/0) drew with Haryana 142 all out in 43.2 overs (Harshal Patel 50; Agrim Tiwari 6/47). Haryana: 3 points, Uttarakhand: 1.

At Agartala: Tripura 121 all out in 38 overs (M B Muresingh 24; Manoj Ingale 6/34) and 290 all out in 90 overs

(Pallab Das 77, Milind Kumar 67, Harmmeet Singh 46, M B Mura Sinh 37; A Palkar 5/62, M G Choudhary 3/77) lost to Maharashtra 208 all out in 64.2 overs (Vishant More 78 not out, Ankit Bawane 62, SM Gugale 34, VV More 30 batting; Mura Singh 3/246, AS Sarkar 3/59) and 205 for 5 in 55.5 overs (Ankit Bawane 61 not out, SM Gugale 57, AN Kazi 31; Rana Dutta 3/38) by five wickets. Maharashtra: 6 points, Tripura: 0.

At Delhi: Services 279 all out in 83.1 overs (Raushan Raj 79, Mohit Ahlawat 69, Pulkit Narang 38, Rajat Paliwal 38; Rahul Shukla 7/106) and 259 for 8 declared in 73 overs (Rahul Singh Gahlaut 82, Devender Lohchab 43) vs Jharkhand 153 all out in 53 overs (Sumit Kumar 38, Md Nazim 28; Diwesh Pathania 4/51, Raushan Raj 3/40) and 267 all out in 87.2 overs (Kumar Suraj 103, Uttarkarsh Singh 63, Saurabh Tiwary 29; Pulkit Narang 6/58). Services: 6 points, Jharkhand: 0.

MYM Dalkhola installs 7th Amritdhara



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JAN:

Marwari Yuva Manch Dalkhola Branch under Paschim Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwari Yuva Manch has installed 7th Amritdhara in the area today, a press release informs.

MLA Islampur, Kanhayalal Agarwal was present as the chief guest in the inauguration program of 7th Amritdhara. President, West Bengal Sikkim State Marwari Yuva Manch, Vipul Sharma and National Convener for Amritdhara of All India Marwari Yuva

Manch, Nitin Goyal were present as special guests.

Jain Secretary of PBSPMYM, Amit Kumar mentioned that according to the needs of the area the Amritdhara was installed today.

State general secretary for PBSPMYM, Dheeraj Nahar informed that 6th Amritdhara is working well and today the inauguration of the 7th Amritdhara is an important milestone for the team of MYM Team Dalkolha.

State president for PBSPMYM, Vipul Sharma in his address high-

lighted the different types of social work done by the different branches of the state. Regarding Amritdhara, he mentioned that it's a national project and is successfully running in West Bengal and Sikkim.

MLA, Kanhayalal Agarwal, in his speech appreciated the initiative of Marwari Yuva Manch and assured to extend all possible support. Members from MYM Dalkolkha, members from different other organisations, local bodies were especially present in the program.

BJP mocks TMC for supporting AAP in Delhi polls

KOLKATA, JAN 30 (PTI): Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya Thursday mocked TMC for extending support to Aam Aadmi Party in the February Delhi Assembly polls and said it is on the verge of losing power in Bengal and is backing parties in places where it hardly has any existence.

The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress has thrown its weight behind AAP for the February 8 Delhi polls and its national spokesperson Derek O'Brien on Thursday uploaded a video endorsing not just Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal but all AAP candidates.

"The TMC is fast losing its ground in Bengal and is extending support to AAP in Delhi, where it doesn't have any existence. The less we speak

on such issues, the better. The TMC should stop making fun of themselves," Vijayvargiya said.

Banerjee and Kejriwal have shared a cordial relationship over the years. The Delhi chief minister came out in support of his West Bengal counterpart during the general elections in 2019 and also during her face-off with the Centre over the erstwhile Kolkata police chief Rajeev Kumar.

Banerjee on her part had condemned attacks on Kejriwal during the general elections and lashed out at BJP over the issue.

"Vote for @AamAadmiParty, Vote for the candidate from Rajendra Nagar constituency @raghav_chadha, Vote for @ArvindKejriwal and all AAP candidates in Delhi," O'Brien tweeted.

Gayle to play in Everest Premier League of Nepal



NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI): Swashbuckling West Indian batsman Chris Gayle will play for Pokhara Rhinos team in Nepal's domestic T20 tournament, 'Everest Premier League', which begins from February 29 in Kathmandu.

The 40-year-old Gayle, who is nicknamed 'Universe Boss' and has now become a freelance T20 player, announced his decision in a twitter message.

"I will be visiting Nepal for the biggest sporting event, the Everest Premier League. Come and support my team Pokhara Rhinos and be part of a magnificent cricket fiesta. Nepal, get ready for the Gayle storm," he said in his inimitable style in a twitter post of the league organisers. The organisers of the league also confirmed the development

in a post on its official twitter handle.

"Nepal, the forecast for March is Stormy! @henrygayle has confirmed to play in the @epl20official for @pokhararhinos! Are you ready for the Gayle Storm?" the post read.

Gayle is yet to officially announce his retirement from international cricket. He last played for West Indies in what was expected to be his "farewell" game in the third ODI in Port-of-Spain against India in August last year.

His last T20I was in March 2019 against England in Basseterre. He has not played a Test since 2014.

Gayle's last action in a franchise-based cricket was in Bangladesh Premier League for Chattogram Challengers early this month.

1,615 NDFB cadres lay down arms in Assam

GUWAHATI, JAN 30 (PTI): Altogether 1,615 cadres of three NDFB factions on Thursday laid down arms here before Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and state Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The move comes three days after the Centre and the Assam government signed a peace accord with Bodo organisations - NDFB and All Bodo Students' Union - with Union Home Minister Amit Shah stating that the agreement will usher in a "golden future" for the state and its people.

Welcoming the cadres -- 836 of the NDFB-Progressive, 579 of

the NDFB-Ranjan Daimary faction and 200 of the NDFB(S) led by B Saoraigwra -- to join mainstream, Sonowal said he was confident that the move will inspire others, who were yet to give up arms, to come together and work for "Team Assam".

Over 4,800 weapons, including AK rifles, light-machine guns and sten guns, were laid down by the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) members on the occasion.

"We will have to work together for Team Assam to make it a front-runner state in India and the whole of South East Asia. By giving up the path of

violence you have come forward to walk on the road of development," Sonowal said.

He insisted that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and our Assam government, along with you, will ensure peace and development in Bodo areas".

If the Bodo society progresses, Assam will also progress, the chief minister claimed.

Asserting that the cadres laying down arms on Martyrs' Day "proves that they want peace in Assam", he said, "We are one. 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' should be our slogan now on. If the Bodo society progresses, Assam also progresses.

Odisha to include road safety in school curriculum

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 30 (PTI): The Odisha government has decided to include road safety in the school curriculum from the academic session 2020-21 for class 10 students, an official said.

Odisha is among the top four states in the country where the maximum road accident deaths take place due to drunken driving.

"The students of class 10 will be imparted education on road safety. It is up to the experts in the education department

as to how they incorporate it in the syllabus - in the form of a subject or a special chapter," Transport Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said.

The School and Mass Education department will prepare the syllabus.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said the syllabus for class 10 students for the 2020-21 academic year has already been prepared.

"We will find out on how to incorporate the road safety subject in it,"

Dash said on Thursday. The transport commissioner said education on road safety will help students know and follow traffic rules. It would also create a culture among them with good attitudes and skills, Panda said.

Students will be educated on traffic signals, administering first aid after accidents, rules to be followed while riding a motorcycle and crossing a road, the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts and road safety laws.

Canada's Christine Sinclair makes soccer history

LOS ANGELES, JAN 30 (AFP): Canada's Christine Sinclair became the all-time leading scorer in international soccer history as Canada crushed St. Kitts and Nevis 11-0 at the CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament in Brownsville, Texas.

Sinclair scored her 185th career goal on Wednesday to surpass American Abby Wambach's previous record for men or women.

"Christine has been amongst the upper echelon of Canadian athletes," said Sinclair's former women's national teammate Carmelina Moscato.

"What she has done to sports for Canadians is

given us memories that we'll never ever forget. "The Olympics stand out, but just her consistency over the years -- a top goal scorer, always comes through for the team."

Sinclair scored two goals on six shots as Canada outshot the tiny island nation with a population of just 50,000 people 31-2. The now retired Wambach finished her stellar career with 184 goals, a mark she reached in 2015.

Since bursting onto the international scene as a 16-year-old for Canada, Sinclair has been one of the most consistent goal scorers in women's soccer.

She scored 11 goals in the Olympics and is one of just two players to score in five different World Cups. Sinclair still holds the collegiate record in the NCAA for the most goals in a single season with 39 in 2005.

She has won two Olympic bronze medals, a Pan American gold medal and four club championships. She was awarded an Officer of the Order of Canada, and in 2012, she won the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year.

Sinclair is Canada's second most well-known female athlete behind hockey player Hayley Wickenheiser.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Pep Guardiola condemn taunts and fan trouble



DAVID HYTNER
MANCHESTER, 30 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: Manchester City plotted a nervy course into the Carabao Cup final against Aston Villa after losing 1-0 on the night to Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium for a 3-2 aggregate victory, although the occasion was marred by trouble in the stands.

Television footage showed a couple of City fans making aeroplane gestures at their United counterparts - a reference to the Munich air disaster - while seats were ripped up and thrown in the away enclosure after the full-time whistle. City said they would look at the CCTV footage to identify the supporters guilty of the Munich taunts and the managers of both clubs condemned the incidents.

They came 24 hours after the house of the United executive chairman, Ed Woodward, was

attacked by hooligans with flares and fireworks. "I didn't know it but if that happened tonight, it's not nice," Pep Guardiola, the City manager, said. "I don't like it. I didn't like what happened with Ed Woodward [on Tuesday]. I'm sure you see the United team is really good. That's not the way to do it."

The United manager, Ole Gunnar Solskjær, said: "I've just got to stand behind Pep [and agree]. Football is a game we should all enjoy - spectators, the ones playing. We want rivalry but keep it at a sane level. Let's make sure we eradicate this now. We want to make this a nice game."

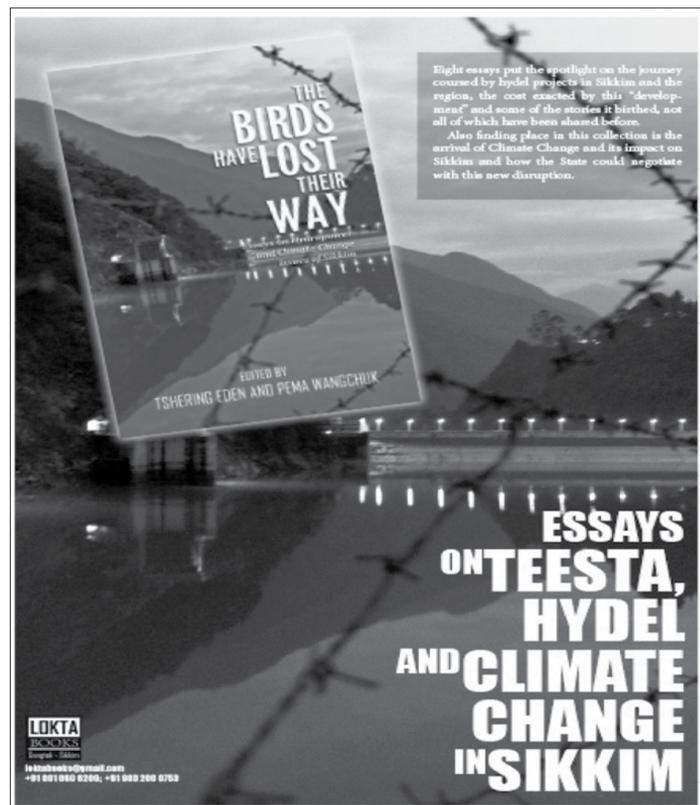
On the attack on Woodward's house, Solskjær added: "I've got to say that everyone at the club is disgusted with what happened. Our fans are passionate but opinions can be voiced in

different ways. I've said it before - we have to stick together and stay united."

City hogged 61% of the ball and had the vast majority of the chances but they could not kill off their rivals, who had Nemanja Matic, the goalscorer, sent off in the 76th minute for a second bookable offence. Solskjær, who complained that City had made tactical fouls to stop his team from breaking, described the decision as a "joke".

He added: "It's ironic, really, that he gets a yellow card for his first foul and almost gets a yellow on his second, which isn't even a foul. Yes, the last one was a yellow but how many times did they foul us?"

The City midfielder, Kevin De Bruyne, said: "I can't really comprehend how we lost this game. For me, Manchester United didn't have one chance today. In the end, it's good we go through."



No fairytale comeback but Solskjær's tactics prove testing for Guardiola

JAMIE JACKSON
MANCHESTER, 30 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: In this second leg a place in the Carabao Cup final beckoned for the team whose manager plotted the better gameplan. Whether Manchester United's Ole Gunnar Solskjær possesses the tactical vision to outmanoeuvre a coach of Pep Guardiola's ilk has become a prevailing debate regarding the Norwegian. The argument goes that a man who failed badly at Cardiff City and whose two titles as a No 1 "only" came with Molde in Norway's top flight is a babe in a land of managerial giants embodied by the Spaniard who leads Manchester City.

After his year-plus in charge the Solskjær blueprint is familiar: soak up pressure, break with pace and hope a front-line marksman – Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial or Mason Greenwood – can finish. Rashford is injured so United came into the contest missing the 19-goal threat of their top scorer. It meant that on to Martial, who had 12, and Greenwood (10) fell the burden as strikes from midfield and defence in this team are a collectors' item.

Perhaps in recognition of this their manager fielded them as twin forwards at the tip of a 3-4-1-2. If a common criticism of the Solskjær system is that it is one-dimensional, then the manner of City's start illuminated this. Guardiola chose a 3-2-4-1 that intrigued as the sight of him deploying two holding players – in Rodri and Ilkay Gündogan – is a rarity.

Yet it pinned United back as Sergio Agüero, Raheem Sterling, Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva and Riyad Mahrez led the charge against opponents who were overrun in central areas.

Conversely, it also allowed the chance of a quick United counter if the ball was stolen and City were turned quickly – precisely in keeping with the Solskjær way. So it was that this mode of attack raised Guardiola's fury when, from deep inside United's half, Aaron Wan-Bissaka skated forward, and suddenly a blur of red shirts appeared which was reminiscent of how City conceded twice before the break in this stadium last month.

That display had a surreal feel as Solskjær's fragile team morphed into a vibrant force that made City appear a little too old, a little too slow.

Fast-forward to the semi-final first leg three weeks ago and that 2-1 league win felt even stranger as Guardiola's side handed United a severe hounding that could have made it 8-0 at the interval rather than 3-0.

Asked in the buildup to this return how United could offer such contrasting displays, Guardiola spoke of their "weapons". The prime ones are pace and youth and a confusing ability often to match the level of loftier opponents – as they did again here.

Liverpool 19 points clear after Salah and Oxlade-Chamberlain sink West Ham

NICK AMES
LONDON, 30 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: The day is nearing when, if he were so minded, Jürgen Klopp could copy his strategy for FA Cup replays and hand the rest of Liverpool's league season to their second string. Games in hand are only an advantage if you win them and this one was ultimately negotiated in comfort, confirming a 19-point lead that only a wild-eyed fantasist would deem surmountable.

Nineteen points ahead; 23 wins from 24; all 19 Premier League teams defeated at least once. They are statistics that will swirl around for the rest of this week but they should not dull in the telling, even if the figures are likely to grow yet more jawdropping in the months to come. Liverpool did not please Klopp with this display and they certainly laboured in the 35 minutes before Mohamed Salah put them ahead from the penalty spot. The number of mistakes that crept in, even once Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain had doubled the lead, was enough to afford Alisson the platform to remind everyone that his excellence underpins the imperturbable machine that ploughs on in front of him. But none of it mattered too much: West Ham were allowed their moments, but this is emphatically Liverpool's season.

"I'm only happy about the three points," Klopp said. "We could have done a lot of things better. We could have passed better and defended better.



These boys have played outstanding football throughout the season. Tonight was a normal performance."

Liverpool's version of normal tends to be enough. They took time to find their bearings, with Klopp admitting that West Ham's 5-4-1 setup made life awkward. "A very important element of football is countering the counter but for that you need the other team to have counterattacks," was how he put it. They had come particularly close only through Andy Robertson, whose clipped effort was chaperoned away from goal by Issa Diop, in the opening half-hour but then Salah was granted the chance to hold his

nerve. The opportunity arose when Roberto Firmino, finding the elements of time and space that had hitherto been lacking, did admirably to keep Trent Alexander-Arnold's near-post cross alive. He duly threaded the ball across to Divock Origi, who had come in for the injured Sadio Mané, but the forward still had plenty to do given Diop and the 19-year-old debutant, Jeremy Ngakia, both stood in his way.

Origi attempted to wriggle between them and was stopped when Diop, wafting out a leg, tripped him on the six-yard line. It seemed needless in such a tight area but Jonathan Moss's award of a penalty was confirmed at

length by VAR, which decided Firmino should not be penalised for what appeared to be a touch with his hand in the buildup. Salah sent Lukasz Fabianski the wrong way and the die was cast.

Seven minutes after half-time, Salah delightfully assisted Oxlade-Chamberlain. Much to David Moyes's frustration, the move came about when a West Ham corner landed straight on to the head of Virgil van Dijk.

They were unable to deal with the second ball in midfield and this time Liverpool had their counter. The home side were caught ahead of the play and Salah, weighting a sublime pass with the outside

of his left foot, sent his teammate bursting through. Oxlade-Chamberlain shrugged off the attentions of Manuel Lanzini and finished slickly.

It was a particularly grim night for Lanzini, who should have equalised several minutes earlier but instead scuffed Robert Snodgrass's cross weakly at Alisson. The Argentinian's substitution, in the 69th minute, was cheered. Dispiriting moments like that have become this stadium's stock in trade but Moyes knows West Ham, who face a potentially far more telling assignment against Brighton here on Saturday, need all the help they can get at this point. "[Lanzini] is arguably one

of our best players, if not our best player," he said. "He has had a bad injury and what I need is for the supporters to be right behind him because we need him. At the moment he is our flair, he is our person that might make the difference."

Even if Lanzini could not extend Alisson, a first-time effort from Snodgrass drew a fine one-handed stop and, towards the end, a tip-over from Declan Rice's header was genuinely breathtaking. There was also a moment of slapstick when Alexander-Arnold hammered against his own upright; fortunately for Liverpool, they could afford to get those moments out of their system.

"These boys I rely on," Klopp said. "I would give them my kids to take care of them, so I trust them 100% in these situations. They still make these ridiculous mistakes. It's nothing to do with motivation, it's staying concentrated when you are constantly in charge. That is so difficult."

Salah clipped the woodwork himself in those dying moments; one of the night's more obscure statistics was that he had not scored in his previous nine games in London, but he grew stronger as this one progressed. Those who had travelled in support are well used, by now, to success in the capital and virtually everywhere else. "We're going to win the league, and now you're going to believe us," they sang, but any moment of epiphany came long ago.

Have gone through a tough phase in last six months: Srikanth

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI): Ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth on Thursday said he would strive to regain his form and fitness ahead of the Tokyo Olympics after enduring a "tough last six months" owing to injuries and a stunning dip in form.

During the difficult phase, the former world number slipped to 26th in the BWF Race to Tokyo rankings.

As per the BWF's qualification system, a country may have a maximum of two athletes in each event, provided both are ranked in the top 16 (as of April 28, 2020).

The 26-year-old shuttler, however, seemed determined to qualify for the Olympics.

"I really want to participate in the Olympics and do well. I know I have gone through a tough phase in the last six months, but I am looking forward to regaining my full fitness and doing well," Srikanth said. "I think the Indian badminton contingent definitely has a very good chance of doing extremely well at the Olympics if we are consistent in the tournament."

He credited Pulella Gopichand for badminton's rise and said the national coach is solely responsible for unearthing "so many champions".

It was under Gopichand's tutelage that India produced Olympic medal winners Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu and Srikanth, who

himself is a prodigy of the former All England champion, couldn't hide his appreciation for his mentor. "I would like to credit Gopichand sir for the growth of badminton in India. He has created so many champions from his academy. He has built such a good infrastructure when there was nothing at one point," the current world number 15 Srikanth said.

The Commonwealth Games gold medallist also lavished praise on the Government of India's flagship Khelo India programme.

"I think it's very important for youngsters to have financial support. It lifts the burden off the parents and also helps athletes attain their targets. The Khelo India scheme will take care of all expenses once the athlete is included in the program. So, we can definitely see a lot of kids becoming Olympic medallists in the future," Srikanth said. Asked about the upcoming Khelo India University Games, Srikanth said it will start a new sporting culture in India. The first edition of the Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar from February 22 to March 1.

"The Khelo India University Games is going to start a new culture where the colleges and universities will adapt sports into their study system. Ultimately, this will help more people take up sports," he said.

Djokovic eases past Federer in straight sets to make Australian Open final

KEVIN MITCHELL
MELBOURNE, 30 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: The longer they linger, the bigger the gap between Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, and it has grown to the point where they might never again converge at a point of comparable greatness.

The 38-year-old Swiss has done it all, and stands alone for now with a record 20 slams, but losing to Djokovic, six years his junior, in straight sets in the semi-finals of the Australian Open on Thursday night – having shared Centre Court at Wimbledon with him over five sets in one of the great finals only last summer – has pushed the door wide open for the Serb.

If Djokovic wins his eighth title here on Sunday, he moves to within three career majors of Federer, whose prospects of adding to his tally are not as strong as they were, and two behind Rafael Nadal, whose castle remains in Paris.

Just as the younger Dominic Thiem was too strong for Nadal on Wednesday, so Djokovic's stamina and strength were always going to stretch Federer, who had already played 12 hours and 28 minutes to win five matches, two of them five-setters, both of which he could have lost.

When he saved seven match points in his quarter-final against Tennys Sandgren, he needed a medical timeout for a groin strain. He had that leg strapped for the semi-final and there were moments in some of the longer rallies in the two hours and 18 minutes in which he and Djokovic traded quality shots when his movement



looked limited. Djokovic was pulling away at the end, to win 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-3 and rarely has a scoreline been such an accurate barometer of the facts.

The first set was a microcosm of their rivalry. Federer blazed early – three aces in five minutes; after half an hour he held to love for 5-2 – before Djokovic worked his way into the story, and then they battled on level terms for awhile before Federer's resistance waned. Even on two good legs, he would have done well to break down Djokovic's defence once the fire went out.

For nearly 40 minutes, Federer was in near-total control. He'd struck 20 clean winners, eight of them aces. Then he briefly went missing and Djokovic, still fighting his own game, broke him to love. That was the turning point. He gave up only one game in the shootout and set about systematically hurting his stricken rival.

Federer had a medical timeout. He was not the same when he came back. As Mats Wilander observed on Eurosport, "It

seemed like Novak could feel that Roger couldn't move in to the corners, so he was trying to extend the rallies to get Federer wide on the backhand, or wide on the forehand and Roger was working against that.

"Roger did not serve very well in the tie-breaker in the first set, that was the first time I realised something was slightly wrong. Clearly Roger was OK to put up a great fight. The first two sets were close. If I didn't think he was injured before I would have never noticed."

Djokovic explained how he fashioned his 27th win over Federer in their 50th match. "With Roger, you're going to expect a high level of tennis," he said. "He will always be aggressive, [apply] constant pressure, serve and volley. I'm not as natural as he is but I tried to stay with him in the rally, move him around, and not make too many unforced errors."

In fact he kept them down to 18, about half Federer's count. After the initial blitz, he soaked up 15 aces and fashioned 11

of his own. The second set was competitive but an air of inevitability entered the equation in the third. Djokovic put six aces past Federer and struck 12 of his 31 winners in the home stretch.

As for their mutual bond, Djokovic said, "I hope I made him a 20 per cent better player than what he did to me. He's one of my biggest two rivals in slams, Roger and Rafa. They made a considerable difference in my mind and how I play. It took a lot of thinking, belief and work to perfect the game and challenge those guys on the bigger stage."

A more youthful challenge awaits him on Sunday – against Alexander Zverev or Dominic Thiem – and he said, "When you're young you want everything right away. There's no waiting. They are among the best young players, and have the potential to be there. One thing I lacked when I was younger was patient and trusting the process a little bit more. But that's how you learn."

These two fine champions have learned so much from each other, sharing the same tenacity and drive, but going about their business on court in such contrasting styles. Like Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier were, they are almost a perfect fit.

But their statistics tell the story. Federer won seven of their first 10 matches, between 2006 and 2009; he was 6-4 in front between then and 2011; Novak burst into greatness that year and won seven of their next 10 matches; between 2013 and 2015, he led 5-4, plus a walk-over; up until last night, he was 7-3 ahead. That is a trend that is unlikely to change.

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Asian markets fall on fears over economic impact of virus

HONG KONG, JAN 30 (AFP): Asian markets fell on Thursday with investors concerned about the economic impact from the spread of the new coronavirus as China reported more than 1,700 new infections.

Airlines around the world are either suspending or paring back services in and out of China following cases of human-to-human transmission outside the country and manufacturers have also been cutting their Chinese operations.

The World Health Organisation, which initially downplayed the severity of the disease, warned all governments to be "on alert" as it weighs whether to declare a global health emergency.

US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the coronavirus posed a new risk to growth in China and elsewhere.

In Asian stock markets, Hong Kong was down 1.4 per cent and Tokyo dropped 1.6 per cent.

Japanese automaker Toyota said it would keep its plants in China closed until at least February 9 over concerns about the



outbreak of the SARS-like virus which has killed 170 people and infected more than 7,700.

Taipei fell 4.9 per cent, with shares in Apple supplier Hon Hai Precision Industry plunging more than nine per cent after it said most of its manufacturing plants in China would remain closed until February 10.

The tech giant, better known as Foxconn, is the world's biggest contract electronics maker and assembles Apple's iPhones as well

as gadgets for other international brands.

The move will likely impact global supply chains for tech companies that rely on the Taiwan firm to manufacture everything from iPhones to flat-screen TVs and laptops.

Foxconn, which employs more than one million workers in China, accounts for the most US-bound exports by volume from Hubei province which is at the epicentre of the virus outbreak.

Among other mar-

kets, Seoul slipped 1.3 per cent and Sydney was down 0.5 per cent.

"Equity markets remain acutely vulnerable to adverse developments in the Wuhan virus situation," said OANDA analyst Jeffrey Halley.

The Fed held its policy interest rate steady on Wednesday but was on alert for possible contagion to the domestic and global economies.

"There will clearly be implications at least in the near term for Chinese output and I would guess

for some of their close neighbours," Powell told reporters following the Fed's policy meeting.

However, "the situation is really in its early stages and it's very uncertain about how far it will spread and what the macro-economic effects will be," he said. "We are very carefully monitoring the situation."

Oil fell following a higher-than-expected jump in US inventory, with the Brent and WTI contracts both down one per cent.

Justice Dept won't oppose probation for ex-Trump aide Flynn

WASHINGTON, JAN 30 (AP): The Justice Department has said that it would not oppose probation for former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn a more lenient stance than prosecutors took earlier this month, when they said he deserved prison time.

The latest sentencing filing still seeks a sentence of up to six months, but unlike before, prosecutors explicitly state that probation would be a reasonable punishment and that they would not oppose it.

It was not clear why the Justice Department appeared to soften its position, though prosecutors did suggest Flynn deserves credit for his decades-long military service. "There is no dispute that the defendant has an unusually strong record of public service," the prosecutors wrote on Wednesday.

As part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, Flynn pleaded guilty in December 2017 to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the then-Russian ambassador to the United States during the presidential transition period.

He cooperated extensively, leading prosecutors to initially support a sentence of probation.

He was to have been sentenced the following year, but after he was sharply rebuked by the judge during the sentencing hearing, he abruptly asked that it be postponed so that he could continue cooperating with the government in hopes of getting additional credit for his behaviour and avoiding any prison time.

Three Japanese evacuated from Wuhan have new coronavirus



TOKYO, JAN 30 (AFP): Three Japanese evacuated from the epicentre of a deadly new coronavirus outbreak have tested positive for the illness, the government said on Thursday as it faced criticism for the country's minimal quarantine measures.

The new cases were announced as a second evacuation flight from Wuhan landed in Tokyo, and the government confirmed a second case of apparent person-to-person transmission of the virus in Japan.

More than 400 people have now been repatriated to Japan from Wuhan, the centre of the outbreak that has killed 170 people and infected thousands. But while returnees praised the government's effort to bring them home quickly, there has been criticism of Japan's decision to allow the arrivals to "self-quarantine," with two people on the first flight even refusing to be tested for the virus.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said there were now 11 confirmed cases in Japan.

"In addition to the eight (previously known)

cases, among the people who returned from Wuhan yesterday, infection has been confirmed in one person with symptoms and two other people who have no symptoms," he told Parliament.

On Wednesday, authorities reported a second case involving someone who had not recently travelled to China.

The woman was a tour guide who worked on the same bus as a driver who also contracted the virus without travelling to China.

"The eighth case is the second suspected incident of human-to-human transmission in Japan," Kato said.

"We are in a truly new situation."

Earlier on Thursday, 210 Japanese arrived on a second flight from Wuhan, with a third trip expected to collect remaining citizens.

Medical professionals monitored those on board the planes, and 15 people from the first flight have been hospitalised with varying symptoms.

Another 13 on the second flight reported feeling unwell, but it was

not clear if any had been hospitalised.

Japan is not forcibly quarantining arrivals, saying they lack the legal basis to confine people who have not tested positive for the virus. Instead, returnees have been asked to stay at home until they test negative for the virus.

But Kato revealed that two people on the first flight had refused the test.

"This test is not mandatory and we ask for it on a voluntary basis," he told lawmakers. "We don't have the legal basis to force them so we let them go home." The two were asked to avoid public transport and quarantine officers will follow up on their health.

Japan's approach sits in stark contrast with other countries that are isolating repatriated nationals for between 72 hours and 14 days.

But regulations in Japan make similar measures difficult, and the law allows people to refuse testing, said Kazuo Kobayashi, head of the public hygiene department at the Osaka Institute of Public Health. "(The authorities) can

only make a request but it doesn't have binding power," he told AFP, declining to comment on the public safety implications. The government has decided to classify the new virus a "designated infectious disease", meaning it will be able to forcibly hospitalise those who test positive from February 7.

But the rules on testing people with no symptoms will not be affected.

Online there has been fierce criticism, with one Twitter user dubbing returnees who refused testing "terrorists".

"People talk about human rights, but how is quarantine discrimination?" asked another, adding: "Becoming the source of a pandemic would definitely be negative for a person who was released instead of quarantined."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told parliament that the first flight was "arranged in extreme chaos" but that efforts were made to convince all those on the second flight to be tested for the virus.

It was not yet clear, however, how many of them had agreed.

G20 funds fossil fuels \$30 bn a year under the radar: analysis

PARIS, JAN 30 (AFP): Rich nations are funnelling cash through government-backed financial institutions to provide 30 billion to fossil fuel projects each year that "run counter to the Paris Agreement", a new analysis showed Thursday.

The export credit agencies (ECAs) of G20 countries currently provide more than 10 times more state-backed finance to oil, gas and coal projects abroad than they do to renewable energy schemes, the analysis said.

Under the Paris Agreement, emissions from these projects do not count as part of donor nations' carbon footprint. ECAs are public entities that provide government-backed loans and insurance to overseas businesses.

Market monitor Oil Change International and Friends of the Earth America showed that G20 financing for coal delivered via ECAs under the Paris radar had increased as a percentage of energy project financing since the 2015 Paris treaty.

That translates to 7.1 billion annually in the years since the signing

of the landmark accord that enjoins nations to slash carbon emissions. "It's reckless and reprehensible for any government to still be providing billions in public finance for oil, gas and coal," said Bronwen Tucker, an analyst at Oil Change. "It's even more offensive when these fossil fuel handouts come from the governments who are most historically responsible for the climate crisis."

The analysis singled out China, Japan, South Korea and Canada as among the worst offenders, accounting for 78 percent of G20 fossil fuel support from 2016-2018. "Despite the climate emergency, ECAs are doubling down on fossil fuels," it said.

"Japan's ECAs continue to support new coal projects; Canada's ECA is pouring money into tar sands, and many ECAs are jumping at the chance to support LNG in northern Mozambique and elsewhere."

The United Nations says carbon emissions must decline 7.6 per cent annually by 2030 in order to put the world on track to meet the 1.5C temperature rise cap called for

under Paris. Instead, fossil fuel emissions are rising annually as energy demand surges.

"ECAs are something almost no one has heard of but, as public finance institutions, they help governments pursue trade strategies and individual countries are able to shroud their investments around them," Tucker told AFP.

She said that most ECA funding comes from public coffers.

"But they play a different role to private enterprise in terms of their creditworthiness." They are "backed by a government and their credit rating is much higher so the value of that guarantee is higher," Tucker added.

AFP asked all export credit agencies named in the analysis for comment. The watchdogs highlighted the announcement last week from Britain that it was ending funding for overseas coal.

Its ECA, UK Export Finance, has not funded a coal-fired power plant since 2002, but a separate analysis showed it is financing millions of tonnes worth of overseas emissions through continued oil and gas funding.



What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

Symptoms of nCoV

- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now.
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected.

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome, and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.



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I don't like when people say 'woh zamaana achha tha': Pandit Jasraj

BY KOMAL PANCHAMATIA

Quite like music, legendary Classical music vocalist Pandit Jasraj is in sync with time. The Padma Vibhushan recipient, who turned 90 on Tuesday, is not the one to look back on the years gone-by and even uses the Internet to impart his extensive knowledge on music to the young generation.

"I teach through Skype.

I suggest everyone to do it.

I am walking with time and

that's what one should do. I

don't like when people say

'Woh zamaana achha tha'

(Those were the good times).

"I believe the current phase

is good. One should not com-

pare it with the past -- good or

bad. One has to walk with time

and only then you will like the

current time," Pandit Jasraj told

PTI in an interview.

As someone who has

spent his life dedicated to In-

dian music, Pandit Jasraj said

it is not a matter of pride for

him and he constantly feels

the need to improve. "I am critical

of myself. I never think I have done

something great. I don't think too much

about myself or my achievements. Whatever

I have received is as per God's will. I am

grateful to God for that."

Birthdays are not a grand affair, the

musician said, adding that the responsi-

bility of the celebration this year is on

his grandchildren.

Recalling his first ever concert, Pan-

dit Jasraj said, he performed in front of

Nepal King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah

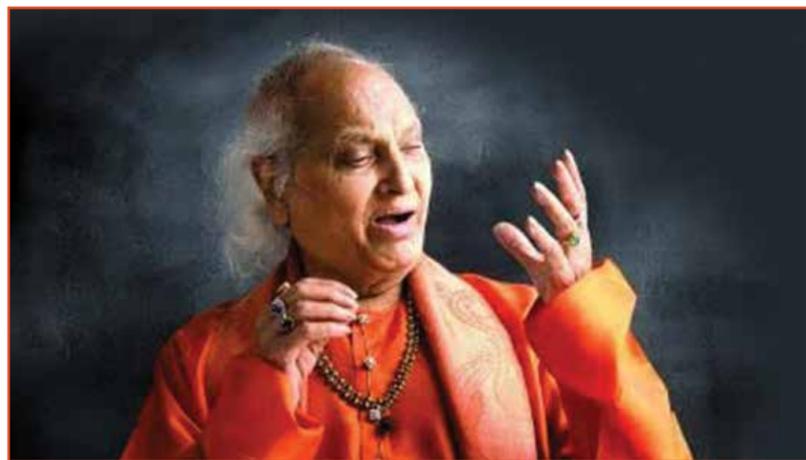
in 1952. "The king told his men to announce

that he has awarded me 5,000 gold coins. I was shocked, I couldn't believe it. I was sweating and I almost fainted, I was maybe 22-year-old then," he said.

Indian Classical music is unaffected by trends but has always found patronage whether with the monarchy or now with people.

her. I often talk to her. I watch movies, I catch up on films on OTT platforms. Whatever my granddaughter plays it, I see it," he added.

True to his philosophy of walking on the beats of time, Pandit Jasraj doesn't believe in the notion that Classical music doesn't find an audience in the younger



"Classical music has never seen a downfall. Earlier it was under the patronage of kings. After they went away, people took care of us."

The musician said he still does 'riyaaz' (practice) every day but due to age, it is no longer possible to sit for hours at a stretch.

He often spends his leisure time playing cards, talking to people and listening to all kind of music. "I listen to western music, African music and also cinema music. My all-time favourite is Lata Mangeshkar, there is no one like

generations.

"It is just a perception. In western music, you may groove listening to it but in Indian classical music, you become calm, you listen to it peacefully. In every other form of music, your body, mind and everything moves but Indian classical music calms you down," he said.

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SUPER COZY! The fashion icon, Blake Lively wore a yellow ensemble outside of Good Morning America in New York City.

Actor Karanvir Bohra Not Allowed To Fly To Nepal For Lack Of Valid Travel Document



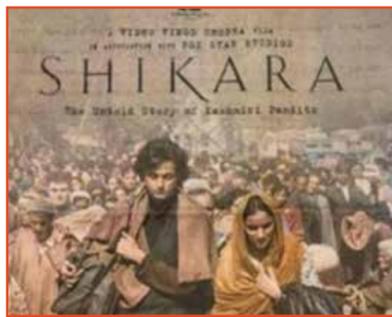
TV actor Karanvir Bohra revealed in an agitated tweet on Thursday that he was not allowed to board his flight from New Delhi to Nepal because he didn't have the correct travel documents. The actor was flying Air India. Mr Bohra was attempting to travel with his Aadhar card as proof of identity which, he didn't know, is not accepted as a valid travel document while flying into Nepal, which Indians don't require visas to visit. In an outraged tweet, Karanvir Bohra wanted to know why Air India had allowed him to fly Mumbai to New Delhi without a valid document and only stopped him when he attempted to take his onward flight to Nepal. He also wrongly used the term 'deported' in his tweet, which has been pointed out to him in some responses in the comments thread.

Karanvir Bohra's tweet reads: "Deported

at Delhi airport on my way to Nepal. Traveling with Aadhaar card. Not allowed. Nepal government allows (PP, voters ID and Aadhaar by road, by air only PP and VI). Then why did Air India in Mumbai let me fly with my Aadhaar? Why didn't they stop me there?" He tagged both the airline and Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar.

Air India responded in the comments thread by posting a link to the list of documents allowed. It came too late for Karanvir Bohra who tweeted back, "Thank you for this link and I believe not only for the passengers, it's for the officials too. How could they allow me to travel on an invalid document? If I was told in Mumbai itself, I would have arranged it immediately and not make my guy fly down to Delhi to hand me the passport."

Kashmiri Pandits not beggars, we stood on our feet: Vidhu Vinod Chopra



MUMBAI, JAN 30 (PTI): Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra has said the aim behind his upcoming movie "Shikara", about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir, is not to make anyone feel sorry for the community but to present how these people stood tall in the face of tragedy.

At the special 30-minute screening of the movie on Wednesday, the filmmaker said the film showcases how Kashmiri Pandits rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the tragic event.

"All of our homes were snatched. It's quite something that we stood strong on our feet... it took courage to tell this story. And tell it in such a way that people come to watch it. We didn't want to make a film where two people watch and say 'oh look how bad happened to them.'"

"We wanted to make a film where you see what happened to us, and despite that we are standing tall, with hope in our lives, we are settled here. We aren't beggars, we didn't open our hands in front of the government, we stood on our feet. It's a big deal, not a small feat," Chopra told reporters.

Chopra said the team has made sure that "Shikara" is an entertaining film, but one

which does not sell its soul to lure people into the theatres.

"It was tough to write this because I always thought I'll write in a way where people go and watch it in theatres. Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman had said, 'you shall entertain. You shall entertain without selling your soul.'"

"This is very difficult, to make a film which people watch without selling your conscience. I'm proud that all of us here, my entire crew, didn't sell our conscience. We have shown what has happened," he added.

The filmmaker said he dedicates his movie to his mother who passed away in 2007.

"My mother came here for the premiere of 'Parinda' with one suitcase but could not return. She came for a week and couldn't go to Kashmir for ten years. When I was making 'Mission Kashmir', I took her along because I had security. It was then she visited our house, which was by then ruined.

"I've made this film for my mother, and for all the mothers and people whose lives turned upside down in a month, in a day."

Featuring Aadil Khan and Sadia, "Shikara" is slated to be released on February 7.

Jodie Foster to direct movie about Mona Lisa theft

LOS ANGELES, JAN 30 (PTI): Actor-director Jodie Foster has lined up her next directorial with an untitled film about the 1911 theft of the Mona Lisa. Bill Wheeler is adapting the script from Seymour Reit's book "The Day They Stole the Mona Lisa", which narrated the story of the famous robbery at the Louvre Museum, reported Deadline.

The crime was committed by Vincenzo Peruggia, an employee at the museum, who believed that the painting from noted painter Leonardo da Vinci should have been displayed in Italy.

Peruggia kept the painting for two years and was caught when he attempted to sell it to the director of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. It was returned to the Louvre in 1914.

The project is being backed by Jeffrey Soros and Simon Horsman's Los Angeles Media Fund. Foster, who has films such as "Little Man Tate", "Home for the Holidays", "The Beaver" and "Money Monster", also has another project in her kitty.

The 57-year-old Oscar winner is set to direct and star in the English-language remake of Icelandic-Ukrainian thriller "Woman at War".

ARIES: Where is your need to say yes to everything stemming from? Do you fear being rejected because you are unable to meet the expectations of others? Could your low self esteem be the reason you are unable to stand up for yourself? Raise your vibrations, Aries. As you do, call your power back to yourself.

Tip: Call your power back to you.

TAURUS: The cards are bringing with them the message that you are playing it too small by thinking you can do everything by yourself. Spirit wants to co-create with you, Taurus. Your teammates want to make magic with you, if only you would allow them. Get rid of the limiting beliefs that others will take away what is rightfully yours. Tip: Allow Spirit to co-create with you.

GEMINI: Just because you have been doing things a certain way does not mean you have to continue to. Embrace the magic of transformation, Gemini. Become the person you were always meant to. And if this means letting go of dated beliefs then so

be it. Some of you will be looking at your friendships in a brand new light. Celebrate the people who stood by you through thick and thin; the sacred bonds that only got better with the passage of time.

Tip: You are undergoing a process of transformation.

CANCER: The trouble is, you think you have to figure out everything on your own. Cancer, be aware of how you are operating from your small, three dimensional self. The drama playing out in your head is keeping you from opening up to the blessings and the support that is being offered to you right now and in this moment. Turn to a wise mentor for advice.

Tip: Open yourself up to help, support, and guidance.

LEO: Limitations versus possibilities. Where are you operating from? What are the ways in which you are holding yourself back? Leo, be aware how you are being your own worst enemy right now by playing it small and bringing the energy of self-

doubt into the game. You are enough and you have the resources required to triumph over the given challenges.

Tip: Tap into your hidden potential.

VIRGO: Hiring and training people is merely the first step. How you nurture your talent will make all the difference here, Virgo. As human beings, we all crave connection. So create an environment that propagates unity and fosters growth and learning. The crew looks up to you for a reason. Freelancers stay open to new ideas and interactions.

Tip: Nurture the talent at hand.

LIBRA: The trouble is, you think you need to do everything on your own. It is this burden that is making you feel limited. Take a deep breath and step back. Let go of your need to control everything and let Spirit work it's magic. You will be led to the right people and circumstances that will assist growth and take your work to the next level. Remember, the future is collaboration.

Tip: The future is collaboration.

SCORPIO: Oh, to be a flag-bearer of originality in a world that prides itself on replicas! Not everybody is going to appreciate your courage (it makes them uncomfortable!). Don't waste your breath thinking about the opinions of the muggles. Baby, you were born this way. Some of you may feel inspired to take the freelance route or strike out on your own.

Tip: Remember, you were born this way.

SAGITTARIUS: What a long way you've come, Sagittarius! But you didn't get here by following all the rules and adhering to societal standards. A certain degree of rebellion is integral to the creative process. Keep this in mind as you move to the next stage, which requires you to put that larger-than-life vision into action.

Tip: Rebel with a cause.

CAPRICORN: When someone deceives you or disrespects your boundaries in any way, it says little about you and everything about them. Don't take this person-

ally, Capricorn. Focus your energy not on what's gone but what you want to create instead. This will help you vibrate higher and fulfil your sacred purpose.

Tip: Focus on your sacred purpose.

AQUARIUS: Statutory warning: you will be triggered. Before you react, ask yourself if it is the lack of inner balance that's causing havoc on an external level. See how and where you need to realign. You have the strength required to deal with the crises in a calm and composed manner.

Tip: Make your mental health a priority.

PISCES: To quote Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself. Everybody is already taken." Pisces, your relationship with yourself is undergoing a major transformation. Accepting yourself, flaws and all, is the key to your empowerment—it will change in the way you interact with the world. Practice being your most authentic self in your interpersonal relationships as well.

Tip: Gift yourself the acceptance you seek from others.