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# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 168 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 27 June 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## East District Task Force for proper implementation of ban on non-organic veggies constituted

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

The East District Collector has constituted a District Level Task Force, through an office order issued today, for effective implementation of the State Government's ban on sale and entry of non-organic vegetables in the State.

The Task Force is headed by the DC as the chairperson while other

members include, Superintendent of Police [East], Gangtok Municipal Corporation municipal commissioner, Additional District Collector [HQ], ADC [East], Sub Divisional Magistrates of HQ, Rangpo, Pakyong and Rongli, Joint-Director [Horticulture], Joint-Director [Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services], District Level Officer [Urban Development and Housing

Department], DCSO [East], Senior Official of SIMFED, MEO, Singtam and Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, Senior RTO [Motor Vehicle Department], All Block Development Officers and in-charge of Rangpo and Rhenock police check post.

The DLTF will be represented at the Sub-Divisional level under the leadership of concerned SDMs and will have suitable

representations from all mentioned government departments, the order reads.

The DLTF will carry out necessary functions to enforce all government notifications and orders in the field.

The DLTF is directed to inspect all bazaar areas and check the sale of non-organic vegetables. They are also authorized to seize unapproved vegetables by taking on the spot action against the defaulters.

Further, the DLTF has been directed to coordinate with the in-charge of two major police check posts in Rangpo and Rhenock to inspect any entry of vehicles commuting non-organic vegetables and take necessary actions.

The DLTF id also

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## Gangtok observes Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN [IPR]:** International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed in the capital today in a function organized at Chintan Bhawan under the joint aegis of Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department and Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI].

Minister for Roads and Bridges and Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department, Government of Sikkim, GM Gurung attended the function as the chief guest.

Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, AK Ghatani, Member of Parliament [Lok Sabha], PD Rai, Minister for Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department, Tulsi Devi, Area MLA, Pinto Chopel Lepcha, Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation [GMC], Shakti Singh Choudhary, Deputy Mayor [GMC], Lashey Doma Bhutia, OBC Board Commissioner, TN Sharma, Secretary [SJE&WD] Sarala

Rai, department officials, representatives from various NGOs and students were present at the event.

Mr Gurung in his address stated that drug/substance abuse is a serious and grave issue that we all need to deal with. He made light-hearted parallels to his childhood, giving the students examples from his early years but driving home the point that one should not waste away life on drugs and harmful substances because no matter where one comes from, he/she can always go to great heights if the mind and body is healthy.

He asked all the people gathered to value their lives and use their freedom with a good balance of authority and responsibility. He advised the students to work hard for perseverance is the key to success. He also spoke on the importance of personal and family relationships and the roles of parents in shaping a child's future. He ended

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**Basketball  
player Nima  
Doma Bhutia  
selected  
for Asian  
Games 2018**

### REBYNA RANA

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Sikkim born basketball player, Nima Doma Bhutia has been selected to train at Indian National

turn to pg02

## EPIC 17K Mountain Biking race kicks off, riders cover 51 KMs on first day



**MANGAN, 26 JUN [IPR]:** Minister for Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha today flagged off the EPIC 17K Mountain

Biking race from Mangan Bazaar.

There are 66 bikers from various parts of the country and Bhutan participating in the four-day race.

On the first-day, the riders were tasked to cover 51KMS from Mangan to Lachung in 07 hours.

Issac Rai covered the targeted

turn to pg02

## Ronaldo in need of Portugal supporting cast to perform

**MOSCOW, JUN 26 (AFP):** Cristiano Ronaldo's off-night against Iran nearly cost Portugal their World Cup dream and underlined the stark need for his team-mates to contribute more in support of the Real Madrid superstar.

Ronaldo carried Portugal through their first two group games, hitting a memorable hat-trick in a 3-3 draw with Spain before netting the winner in a gritty 1-0 victory over Morocco.

That left the European champions requiring just a point from their clash with Carlos Queiroz's Iran in Saransk, but an uncharacteristic display from Ronaldo had them sweating over a place in the last 16.

The five-time world player of the year missed a penalty that would have given Portugal a 2-0 lead, Ronaldo was then perhaps fortunate to receive just yellow after an elbow on Iran defender Morteza Pournajmian.

A disputed Iran penalty set up a tense final few minutes for Portugal, who only advanced to the knockout rounds after Mehdi Taremi fired a last-gasp chance into the side netting.

Qualification was at last assured, albeit with an upcoming tie against Uruguay rather than hosts Russia, but Ronaldo was far from impressed.

"I understand, it's normal. The best players in the world face that when there isn't an opportunity to really make it happen," said Portugal boss Fernando Santos.

"That hurts a lot more to them than to other players. They always want to win. They want to be the best and refuse to fail, and when they fail they get very upset."



Santos attempted to relieve some of the burden on Ronaldo by aligning Andre Silva alongside the Portugal captain in attack, with Ricardo Quaresma also handed his first World Cup start.

While Quaresma rewarded his coach with a stunning opening goal just before half-time, Silva offered little as Ronaldo found himself isolated and his opportunities limited.

Goncalo Guedes and Bernardo Silva were dropped after failing to shine in the opening two games, but yesterday's performance showed Portugal are still scrambling to find the dynamic that best supports Ronaldo.

"There were lots of misplaced passes, the tempo was slow after the first 15 minutes," Santos said in the wake of the Morocco match.

"Our team is strong but we must progress. We must do better than that." Next up for Portugal is a Uruguay team, marshalled by the rugged centre-back pairing of Diego Godin and Jose Maria Gimenez, that has yet to concede in Russia.

"We have our weapons and we must try to make the most of them," Santos said yesterday.

Gelson Martins, the talented young winger who made a 30-minute appearance off the bench against Morocco, is another option who could be called upon going forward.

The question is not if Portugal have the weapons but whether they can be assembled in a way that plays to Ronaldo's strengths at his fourth and likely final World Cup.

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## Chisopani JHS dedicates Ten Minutes to Earth

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 27 JUN:**

Chisopani Junior High School today observed "Ten Minutes to Earth" with a plantation drive at its school premises. 30 saplings provided by Singtam Forest Office were planted by the students and teachers in and around the school campus. Self Help Group members from the area also participated in the programme, a press release informs.



## Sikkim Police makes its presence felt, thrashes Howler FC 8-0 in first match

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Sikkim Police showcased its strong presence in its first match in the Sikkim Football Association Second Division Sikkim League 2018 here at Paljor Stadium today.

Sikkim Police dominated Howler Football Club 8-0 to

secure three full points based on their performance today.

With an attacking start, Bir Bahadur Pradhan scored an early lead for Sikkim Police in the 13th minute and soon completed his hat trick with goals in the 35th and 36th minute. With another goal by Sangay Bhutia in the 39th

minute, Sikkim Police ended the first half with 4-0 lead.

Sangay Bhutia soon completed his brace in the early 47th minute in the second half. Then Sikkim Police players became unstoppable and launched continuous attack on its opponents. Yougen Rai scored his brace in the 54th and

64th minute and another goal was scored by Bijay Subba in the 68th minute.

Howlers FC players also launched some good attacks but could not find the net.

Next, Dzongri Football Club will take on Renzong Football Club in the third match of the league on Wednesday.



## BJP observes 43 years of 1975 emergency

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh observed the 43rd anniversary of 1975 Emergency at its Singtam party office on Tuesday.

Speaking to party workers, state president, DB Chauhan mentioned that 26 June is observed as a black day in the

democratic history of the country and will never be forgotten, informs a BJP press release.

The release further mentions that he also highlighted about various historical incidents related to this day. He also urged the party workers to always stay alert and safeguard the democracy.

## Mamring SSS observes Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim observed International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the school premises with an awareness programme on drug abuse.

A press release from the school informs that Zilla Panchayat, Subhadra Dangal attended the function as the chief guest along with Assistant Professor, Sikkim University, Binod Bhattacharai as special guest.

School Principal, Prahlad Sharma, in his address spoke on the importance of moral values, yoga and its effects in maintaining mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health and discipline in life.



Student volunteers from National Service Scheme [NSS], Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI], Red Ribbon Club, National Cadet Corps [NCC] spoke on the importance of the day, drug abuse and its ill-effects, role of yoga and healthy living.

NCC cadet from Amba Secondary School, Deepa Sharma also participated

in the programme and delivered a speech on drug abuse and its harmful effects.

Painting competition, awareness rally and yoga demonstration were some of the activities held during the course of the day-long programme.

School toppers of Class X and XII board examinations were also felicitated by the school.

Special guest, Mr

Bhattacharai delivered a motivational speech on education and healthy living.

The chief guest asked the students to remember the efforts of their parents in raising them. She urged them to live healthy.

Later, the school also observed 10 minutes to earth by working in the garden along with the guests.

## Awareness prog on drug abuse held at Sakyong



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

36th Battalion of Sasashastra Seema Bal [SSB] and the local people of Sakyong conducted an awareness workshop on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking today at Sakyong Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim, a

press release informs.

The workshop was attended by SSB jawans, students and teaches of Sakyong SSS and local public.

An awareness rally was also conducted on the occasion.

The workshop was also addressed by Medical Officer [SSB], Dr Rakesh Kumar Ranjan.



## Awareness rally on drug abuse from Rangpo to Singtam

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Lions Club of Rangpo Lin association with Lions Club of Singtam and ALKEM Laboratories Limited, Kumrek organized an awareness rally on drug abuse from Rangpo Bazaar to Singtam today.

The rally was held as part of International Day Against Drug Abuse and

Illicit Trafficking.

The 12 KM rally was flagged off by Area MLA, Gopal Barailey from Rangpo.

Rangpo Nagar Panchayat members, NSS volunteers from ITI Rangpo, department officials, NGO members, Lions Club members and public participated in the rally, a press release informs.

## Gangtok observes Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**contd from pg01**

his note, urging the students to never hold back, work with determination and to sensibly be in control of their own lives.

Mr Ghatani spoke on the harmful effects of drugs and its direct impact on the abuser's family and the society at large. Keeping the theme in mind, he urged students to 'Listen First' to their own hearts and not to waste away by indulging in toxic substances. He also asked all the departments and NGOs to work collectively in curbing and fighting illicit trafficking of harmful substances.

Ms Rai provided information on the factors related to drug and substance abuse. Based on studies conducted by experts in the field, she enlightened the gathering that unemployment and poverty were actually not the reasons for depression leading to drug abuse, disturbed state of mind, and suicide.

She stated that we have to work on our coping skills with the help of family, friends and peers instead of looking to justify our behavioral disorder. She cited examples of America and its former President, Barack Obama explaining that he developed the country and took America to even greater

heights because of the support and involvement of the public, particularly the youth. She advised them to develop their personality with confidence and to never fear from dreaming big and achieving their goals.

Mr Rai kept his speech short, stating that addiction was a behavioral disorder and we need to correct our behaviour. He emphasized that every life is precious therefore losing even one child to drug abuse and suicide is a tragedy. He then informed all that a Centre for Addiction Medicine at Chuwatar, Singtam was inaugurated yesterday and stated with confidence that it would function with a proper ecosystem to meet the desired results in fighting addiction.

Principal Director [HC,HS&FW] gave a presentation on the Mental Health Program of the State and their achievements while Additional Superintendent of Police [East], Tshering Namgyal spoke on the police department's role in combating the drug problem in Sikkim and highlighted the important points of the Sikkim Anti Drugs Act [SADA]. He also spoke about cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Dr Satyadeep Chettri spoke on the Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India (SAATHI) programme, which was established in 2013. He cited the example of Iceland, explaining how a sparsely populated country could evolve excellently if the focus shifted from punishment to remedies. He invited all, especially the professionals and experts to come forward with their suggestions and solutions.

Udai C Rai from Serenity Home and M Lepcha from Ashi Foundation also addressed the audience on the work and survey done by their respective centers.

Later, an awareness rally was flagged off from Chintan Bhawan via Kazi Road to M.G Marg [Tourism Information Centre].

The programme ended with a cultural performance at M.G Marg where students from Tadong Senior Secondary School, Bojoghari Government Senior Secondary School and Rongyek Government Secondary School and members from Sikkim Rehabilitation & Detoxification Society, Nimtar 32 No, Freedom Facility, Serenity Home, Drishya, Jeewan Marg, Jagriti [Ashi Foundation] presented songs and dance as well as yoga demonstration.

## Basketball player Nima Doma Bhutia selected for Asian Games 2018

**contd from pg01**

al Camp for the upcoming 40th William Jones Cup and 18th Asian Games Jakarta 2018.

The camp is being held at Sree Kanterarava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru from 18 June to 23 July.

Siddharth Yonzone, mentor of Nima Doma confirmed her selection for the national camp.

She is currently in Bengaluru for the camp, he said.

Basketball Association of Sikkim general secretary, Jigmela Wazalingpa has congratulated Nima on behalf of the association.

23-year-old Nima Doma hails from Tashiding in West Sikkim. She has been a key member of the EMRS Gangap team, winning the CBSE North East Basketball Championships several times.

After completing her schooling, she joined Lakshmi Bai National

University of Physical Education, Gwalior to pursue a degree in Physical Education.

She has also represented Sikkim at State Women's Basketball team for Madhya Pradesh. The 2018 Asian Games is being held at Jakarta from 18 Aug to 02 Sept.

The William Jones Cup is annually held at Taipei, Taiwan and is scheduled to kick off next month.

## EPIC 17K Mountain Biking race kicks...

**contd from pg01**

distance in 2 hours 35 minutes and 30 seconds. Shiven came in second by covering the distance in 2 hours 42 minutes and 10 seconds while Innus Ali completed the race in 2 hours 45 minutes and 21 seconds.

The participants will halt at Lachung today where they will prepare for the next phase on Wednesday.

On the second day, the bikers will be given a time frame of 7.5 hours to cover 53 KMs from Lachung to Yumesamdong covering Yumthang.

The first two days are recreational leagues which will test the endurance level of the bikers for the next level, the organizers informed.

Only bikers who will complete the first two races will be eligible for the later league.

The third stage is the toughest stage and the bikers will have to start from Lachung and travel all the way to Thangu covering a distance of 83 KMs in 10 hours.

The third stage is called 'King of the Mountain' and the winner will be awarded with special prize of Rs 20,000.

The last stage of the race is called EPIC 17K where the riders will race up to an elevation of 17,800 ft at Gurudongmar.

The valedictory ceremony of the race will be held on 29 Jun at Lachen Dzumsa where the winners of the race will be felicitated.

The competition will be under

two categories which are Men's Elite and Men's Masters.

Cash prizes of Rs 70,000, 50,000 and 30,000 will be awarded to the first, second and third riders in the Men's Elite competition and Rs 30,000, Rs 20,000, Rs 10,000 will be awarded to the first three riders in Men's Master competitions respectively.

The EPIC 17K event is first of its kind in the State organized by North District Administration.

The event is being supported by Lachen Dzumsa and Lachung Dzumsa, Hub Outdoors and Mountain Goats. Indian Army and ITBPF and Himalayan Mountaineering Institute are also supporting the event by providing medical facilities and rescue operation for the riders.



**Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
27 June**

**Temp:** 26°C/17°C  
**Forecast:** Remaining  
cloudy, periods of rain  
and a thunderstorm  
in the a.m., then a  
shower or thun-  
derstorm around.  
**Sunrise:** 04:43 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:34 PM

## SKM playing with LT sentiments: SDF

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**  
Sikkim Democratic  
Front has alleged and  
criticized Sikkim Kranti-  
kari Morcha for politiciz-  
ing the Limboo-Tamang  
Assembly seat reserva-  
tion issue and playing  
with the sentiments of  
the two communities.

In a press release  
issued today, the party  
has condemned the  
statement made by SKM  
that the Centre is ready  
to provide Assembly seat  
reservation to Limboo  
and Tamang but the state  
government has not been  
showing any interest.

SKM is only playing  
with the emotions of  
the LT communities  
for political gains,  
SDF has said further  
adding that it was the  
SDF government that  
provided tribal status  
to the two communities  
and now it will also  
provide Assembly seat  
reservation to them.

## East District Task Force for...

*contd from pg01*

tasked to check uniform  
pricing of the vegetables  
in the market as per the  
rate fixed by the Horticul-  
ture Department and  
SIMFED and ensure  
proper display of rates  
through Municipal and  
Nagar Panchayat authori-  
ties.

The DLTF will ensure  
if suitable actions are  
taken against the default-  
ers as per the procedure  
mentioned in the notifi-  
cation in collaboration  
with Motor Vehicle De-  
partment.

All the SDMs and  
BDOs are further direct-  
ed to conduct at least two  
surprise inspections in a  
week. They are also di-  
rected to submit a week-  
ly report based on their  
findings.

Monthly review  
meeting of the DLTF will  
also be conducted on ev-  
ery fourth Friday of every  
month, the order reads.

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# MIM to conduct month-long Summer Dance Camp

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Gangtok-based dance acade-  
my, Music In Motion [MIM]  
is organising a month-long Sum-  
mer Dance Camp 2018 from 01  
to 28 July here at the academy  
dance studio below Hospital  
Dara. The dance camp will have  
experienced and professional  
dancers from in and outside the  
State as instructors.

Addressing a press conference  
here this afternoon, MIM advisor,  
Amir Gurung informed that the  
camp will provide training in  
different dance forms. He further  
informed that there is no age  
limit to apply for the camp.

The camp will have  
experienced and professional  
dancers with Sagar Croctopus  
for Urban Basics form, Ashis Das  
for Urban Hip-Hop, Abhinandan  
Moktan for Salsa and Yeshu  
Lama for Contemporary. The  
camp will be held under the  
supervision of Suraj Ido, a  
member of popular band Wild  
Ripperz Crew from Nepal which  
finished Dance Plus season 2 as  
the first runner-up.



He informed that the first 10  
days of the camp will be basic  
training in different dance forms  
for participants by MIM co-  
founders, Pravesh Tamang and  
Durga Subba and instructor, Mac  
Mamir.

"Only after providing basic  
training to participants for ten  
days, experts from outside will  
take classes in the camp," Mr  
Gurung said.

As a part of the camp, MIM

is also organizing a street battle  
for the first time in Sikkim on 22  
July at MG Marg.

The dance battle is open for  
all and has categories of all styles  
[One Vs One] and breaking [One  
Vs One], he informed.

MIM co-founder, Mr Tamang  
mentioned that the main  
objective of this dance battle  
was to promote street dance and  
hip hop culture.

"This dance battle is the first

of its kind in the State and will  
have the participation of dancers  
from Sikkim and outside. We  
hope that this dance battle will  
motivate our local dancers to  
represent Sikkim in the national  
and international level of dance  
battles in the near future," he  
expressed. He informed that top  
two dancers in the battle will  
be provided with cash prizes.  
Interested can contact MIM and  
its instructors for registration.



## Rotary Club installs hand washing station at Aho Kishan School

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Rotary Club of Gangtok South installed a hand  
washing station and handed over two water filters  
and one-year washing and cleaning supplies to Aho  
Kishan Secondary School, East Sikkim today, a press  
release informs.

The supplies were handed over in the presence of  
Human Resource Development Department officials,  
Rotary Club of Gangtok South members, teachers and  
students of the school.

The club members also handed over 14 benches  
for the students under the grant sponsored by Rotary  
Club District Governor, Sunil Saraf and Rotary Club of  
Gangtok South.



## Int'l Day against drug abuse at SMU

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Carrying forward the  
effort of the United  
Nations aimed at  
strengthening action  
and spreading aware-  
ness about drug abuse  
and illegal drug trade in  
the world, Sikkim Bhari  
Jagran Manch (SBJM) and

National Social Service,  
Sikkim Manipal Universi-  
ty jointly organised a pro-  
gramme on International  
Day Against Drug Abuse  
And Illicit Trafficking, a  
press release informs.

The programme,  
held at SMU, was  
attended by president,  
Vishva Nasha Unmulan

Mission, Madhepura,  
Bihas Baba Ganga Das  
as resource person.

President, Press  
Club of Sikkim, Joseph  
Lepcha in his address  
said, "Before reacting to  
the existing problems  
of drugs in society we  
should first remove  
the stigma or rather

stereotype we attach  
towards drug users. After  
removing that we will be  
able to help the society."

The programme was  
also attended by SMU,  
NSS chief coordinator,  
Madan Chettri, SBJM  
founder, Ram Pujan  
and publicity secretary,  
Bikash Prasad.

## Ongmit Abhilasha Memorial Debate Competition held

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:**

Heimakarna Sancha-  
rani Memorial Trust,  
Tharpu, West Sikkim in  
collaboration Tharpu  
Senior Secondary School  
conducted the 02nd Ong-  
mit Abhilasha Memorial  
Debate Competition cum  
Scholarship Commenda-  
tion programme today at  
Tharpu, a press release  
informs.

Minister for Human  
Resource Development  
Department, RB Subba  
who is also the chief  
patron of Heimakarna  
Sancharani Memorial  
Trust attended the  
function as the chief  
guest.



Advisor [Health  
Department], Dr AD  
Subba along with  
principals from different  
schools and colleges,  
teachers, department  
officials, local residents  
and panchayats attended

the programme.  
Principal, Tharpu  
SSS, Narandra Chettri  
in his address informed  
that the Trust aims  
to create a healthy  
competition in education  
**turn to pg05**



## LINGI PAIYONG SS ANNOUNCES HALF-YEARLY EXAM RESULTS

**GANGTOK, 26 JUN:** Lingi Paiyong Secondary School today declared the results of the half-yearly examination. School administration conducted an interaction session between the parents and teachers to highlight the performance of each student in the exam, a press release informs. The school also announced that it will remain closed from 28 Jun to 22 Jul for the summer vacation.

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT  
AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
SAMAJ KALYAN BHAWAN, 5<sup>TH</sup> MILE, LUMSAY, TADONG.  
GANGTOK - 737101 (SIKKIM)**

Dated: 23/6/18

### NOTICE

The Department has released the pensions for the months of April'18  
and May'18 of all beneficiaries drawing pensions/ allowances under the  
following schemes in the respective accounts in the Nationalised Banks/  
State Bank of Sikkim and Post Office

1. **INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION**
2. **INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL DISABILITY PENSION.**
3. **INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL WIDOW PENSION**
4. **UNMARRIED WOMEN PENSION**
5. **SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.**

The beneficiaries are advised to collect their pension / allowances  
from their respective accounts from the Nationalised Banks / State Bank  
of Sikkim/ Post Office duly producing the Pension Passbook in original  
issued by the Department along with the Bank/ Post Office Passbook. In  
case, the Pensioner(s) are differently abled and old aged, their legal heir  
may draw the pension from the Bank / Post Office by submitting the Au-  
thorization letter from the Pensioner duly certified by the Ward Panchayat  
and authenticated by the Sub-divisional Magistrate or the Gram Vikash  
Adhikari/ Block Development Officer as the case may be.

The Beneficiaries who have not yet enrolled for Aadhaar Number may  
be requested to do so at their nearest Aadhaar Enrolment Centre and  
submit their Aadhaar Number and Aadhaar Consent Form to the Depart-  
ment at the earliest duly linked with their bank accounts.

Further, all the Panchayat Members in the Rural Areas and Ward  
Councilors in Urban Areas including Aganwadi Workers and Aganwa-  
di Helpers are requested to report the death of beneficiaries along with  
their death certificates, if any under their respective Units/ Wards to the  
Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department on monthly basis to  
enable us to update the database.

Sd/-

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TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

R.O. No. 156/opr/pub/classi/18-19DT. 25.6.2018



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Still Only Contemplating

*Times that suicide prevention received wider collaborations*

Over the weekend, a family in East Sikkim woke up to an avoidable loss of life. The dead body of a member of the family was discovered, a life lost to apparent suicide. They had taken dinner together and no one suspected anything amiss, or maybe they did not recognize the signs. He was young enough to have a full life ahead of him. He condition was known since he was under medication for depression as well. And still his life could not be saved.

It is disturbing that lives continue to be lost to suicide in Sikkim and also disquieting to learn that most of the suicides are discovered by close family members. Sikkim talks a lot about the 'problem' of suicides and even though it has not collaborated yet on finding a defense against suicides, it should perhaps also start talking more about the trauma which must be haunting the families that suicide victims leave behind; the nightmares that family members who discover the body are doomed to suffer throughout their lives. Sikkim, unfortunately, continues to discuss suicides at a very superficial level and it is perhaps for this reason that suicides continue to remain only statistics and newspaper headlines, and not topics of engaged public deliberations.

Suicides continue haunting Sikkim and in a reality already compromised by the absence of any scientific study of the reasons behind it, the State grapples with the confusion of suicides here not following any pattern- teenagers are committing suicide, as are housewives, the elderly, the urban residents, the rural populace, the rich, and the underprivileged. Suicides have been recognised as cause for worry, but nothing substantial has shaken down yet. The thumb-rule for suicides that any psychology primer could provide is applied to Sikkim as well, and that, in itself, is worrisome. It is very possible that suicides have always been on the higher side for Sikkim, but it is only now that they are being reported and recorded as such. But this can be no excuse.

The reason why suicides are being reported is for the concerned agencies and the society at large, to take notice, and more importantly, do something to save lives. That does not appear to be happening.

The World Health Organisation's handbook for media-persons reporting on suicides advises that newspapers "avoid prominent placement and undue repetition of stories about suicides." Initially, this newspaper, when it started reporting on suicides, consciously ignored this suggestion, because we believed that unless stories about suicides are provided prominent placement, and every suicide recorded, the concern and involvement required to contain it will not manifest. Going by the poor level of community concern and involvement in suicide prevention initiatives, the stories appear to have had little impact beyond offering suicides as one more topic for conversation.

Suicide is among the three leading causes of death among those aged 15-44 years in Sikkim, as in the world over. The number of suicides reported from the small population pool is already shocking in itself and the worry gets multiplied when one considers the possible number of people contemplating suicide and the number of failed suicide attempts that are made [this figure is believed to be 20-times higher on average than the number of successful suicides!].

What the society at large needs to do first is wake up. An attempted suicide is not something that can be kept secret, at least not from the immediate family. At least for this section, there should be clear information available on available help, not just from the medical practitioners, but also from other avenues like suicide prevention support groups or NGOs engaged in such initiatives. Look around, can you find any in Sikkim?

Suicide is a complex problem and even though police records might offer black & white explanations like family discord or depression, these are only triggers that pushed the victims over the edge. Effective initiatives for prevention will need to focus more on factors that bring victims to the edge, the brink from where keeling over becomes only a matter of time. These interventions will have to begin at the school-level itself, not only through "awareness programmes", but more importantly through more subtle approaches which help enhance self-esteem, equip the young with faculties to cope with challenges and pressure, inculcates team spirit and convinces them to debate and reason. Think about it, these attributes if introduced effectively among the young, will definitely make them less susceptible to suicidal tendencies and also end up grooming them as better future citizens.

Now, look around again, how many schools appear to be doing this even though the interventions mentioned are the very basic tenets of education?

# Donald Trump's space force: the dangerous militarisation of outer space

GBENGA ODUNTAN  
*theconversation.com*

In a recent speech, President Donald Trump announced a new policy for the American space programme. It is time, he argued, for America to create a "Space Force". As ever, the policy announcement was full of glittering ideas but short on detail, largely unspecific and even inaccurate. What we do know is that this would be a new and separate military command, "equal" to the American Airforce. But like much of Trumpian vision, superlative expressions shroud reality and do great injustice to the serious issues at stake.

We should all be concerned by the prospect of the nuclearisation and militarisation of outer space. It is crucial for world, and perhaps even intergalactic, peace that the legality of his plans are subject to the fiercest domestic and international scrutiny. At the moment it is unclear how they could possibly fit in with existing international legal frameworks.

## MILITARISED SPACE

America has hardly ever disguised its view of space as an extension of military power. The US already has an Air Force Space Command, created by Ronald Reagan in 1982, which is dedicated to using space-based assets to aid its flights, fights, and to win in air, space and cyberspace. Reagan also introduced the "Star Wars" programme and George W. Bush unsuccessfully tried to resurrect it through the Son of Star Wars project. Both were touted as futuristic space-based ballistic missile interceptor programmes. But aside from the fact that they were technically impossible at the time, they also constituted a frontal assault on a previous anti-ballistic missile treaty between the US and the Soviet Union.

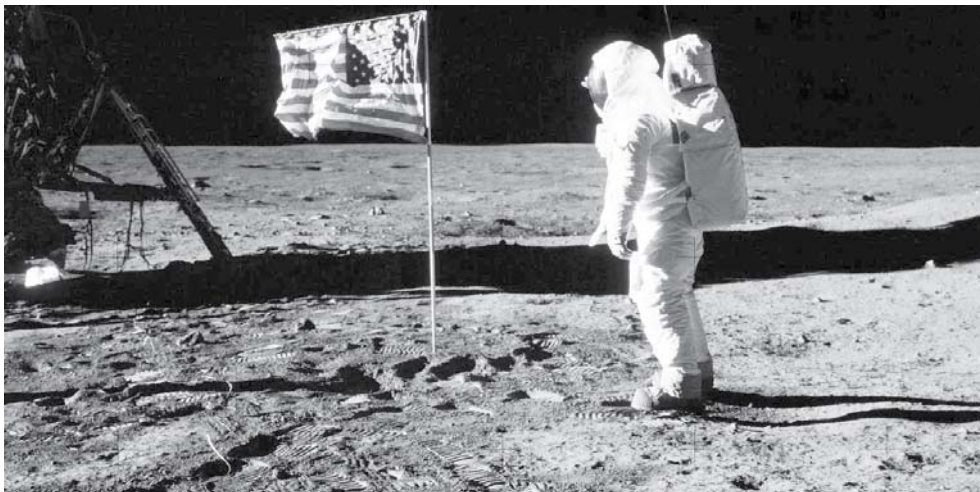
Trump's most recent vision is actually a rehash of existing programmes. The idea of creating a new branch of the military called the "Space Corp" was already in the 2017 National Defence Authorisation Act,

which emerged from discussions long predating the current administration. But in the end the plans were dropped because congressional negotiators refused to fund them.

And America is not alone in the quest for a military presence in space. All modern armies rely on space-based applications, such as satellites, and jostle for military advantages in space. Although, military uses of technologies in space may be more useful for domestic conflicts where large swathes of territory fall under terrorist control, such as the Sambisa forest in northern Nigeria, where Boko Haram operates.

China and Russia have space militarisation programmes of their own, much of which take place out of sight. Recently, China attracted suspicion by shooting down one of its own satellites.

But certain aspects of Trump's recent policy announcement should raise serious alarm. Trump said: "It is not enough to have American presence in space we must have American dominance." This deviates dangerously from the historical and legal norm. To ensure America's security interests is one thing. To dominate outer space is another. The former is a legitimate aspiration of any independent state. The latter has already elicited the promise of a "tough response" from Russia.



## THE RISK OF CONTAGION

The world accepts the military use of outer space. But it does not accept the unbridled militarisation of space. The moon and other celestial bodies, according to the 1967 UN Space Treaty, must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies including asteroids is forbidden. The UN demands that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries.

There is a complete ban on placing nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in outer space or around the atmosphere of the earth. Other leading space treaties ban the placement of alternative weapons of mass destruction in space. But there is a loophole in that they do not specifically prevent placement of other types of weapons in space.

Right now, a new treaty has been proposed to prevent an arms race in space. But the US, with its large missile defence programme and the technical advantages in potential space weaponry, has refused to enter into discussion over this new treaty. If a space arms race can't be prevented, there could be a total disruption of

the agreed law that outer space is the common heritage of all humankind.

## ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

Past stories of mankind's endeavours in outer space are centred on the theme of scientific brotherhood. In 1959, the UN General Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. By 1975, American and Soviet spacecraft docked together in orbit as part of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP), the world's first international crewed space mission. Since 2005 there has been a well-respected agreement of cooperation between China and the UK. China's technological co-operation with Europe puts "science and technology diplomacy" over traditional "economic diplomacy". China owns up to 5% investment in the European Galileo observation satellite network project. And Britain and African states such as Nigeria also cooperate in space.

We should try our utmost to make sure the future carries on this tradition. The cooperation of humankind in space exploration, which exists in every aspect of space science, space law, space economics and policy must not be sacrificed because of Trump's dangerous ideas.

*[the writer is Reader (Associate Professor) in International Commercial Law, University of Kent]*

# Turkey's snap election yields surprises on all sides- what next?

ALPASLAN OZERDEM  
*theconversation.com*

It was another surreal night in Turkish politics. That the elections were suddenly brought forward by more than a year was a surprise in itself – but the standout surprise of the campaign was the sudden rise of opposition candidate Muharrem Ince.

To everybody's amazement, during a campaign lasting only 50 days, Ince transformed himself from an also-ran into a serious contender. He managed to pull support from all sections of society to his large rallies with an election slogan of "we will make peace, we will grow and we will share".

While his supporters never thought a second round presidential vote would be anything but a foregone conclusion, they hoped Ince could capture enough of the vote to force one to happen – or even win the first round. But they were sorely disappointed. Instead, the sitting president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, pulled off a surprise of his own: he captured nearly 53% of the presidential vote, heading off a second round, while Ince garnered only 31%. While he accepted his defeat, he looks set to remain a significant opponent to Erdoğan, especially if he becomes the leader of his party, the CHP.

There were many other surprises besides. The HDP, the main pro-Kurdish party, managed to enter parliament even though its leader spent the campaign in prison. The nationalist MHP, the AKP's election ally, managed to get more than 11% even though its leader didn't organise a single rally. This will deprive the AKP of its outright parliamentary majority, meaning it will be more dependent than ever on the MHP.



At the same time, these results usher in a dramatic realignment of the political system. Turkey's president will now hold extensive executive powers, and parliament will be much less significant. There will be no prime ministry, and all ministers will be appointed from outside the parliament by the president.

For those who have been worrying about Erdoğan's increasingly autocratic rule until now, it seems their nightmare is about to enter a new phase. But Erdoğan isn't out of the woods either. Hard times

The country is facing one of its most serious economic crises of recent times, with the Turkish Lira worryingly weak and interest rates climbing. Turkey is hosting at least 3.5m Syrian refugees with no prospect of a peace settlement in the hellish conflict across the border. Erdoğan has only a few friends in the international arena besides Russia's Vladimir Putin. The prospect of EU membership

has evaporated, and the US is now far from a dependable ally.

The Kurdish crisis, too, is still waiting for a political settlement, but the AKP's increased dependency on the staunchly nationalist MHP will make a political resolution on that front even harder.

More importantly, these elections leave Turkish society all the more polarised and divided. For the 50% that voted for parties other than the AKP in the parliamentary polls, Turkey is a country of fear, mistrust and uncertainty. Erdoğan will need to work hard to win their hearts and minds, though in recent years he has seemed mainly interested in catering to his own 50% of the population.

With the promises made by opposition candidates

during the election campaign, Erdoğan has also promised a prosperous new Turkey, a high-quality democracy where the rule of law would be the norm. He promised to lift the state of emergency shortly after the elections, to build his controversial Istanbul Canal, to open public parks throughout the country, and give every neighbourhood its own state-run cafe where tea and cake would be free.

Given the state of the economy, these promises sound like a tall order. But having run the country for 16 years, one thing Erdoğan has on his side is experience. Indeed, that's why many of his supporters voted for him. But promises are all very well; the question now is whether Erdoğan will make good on them – and what will happen if he doesn't.

*[the writer is Professor of Peace-Building, Co-Director of Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University]*

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## WB govt takes steps to boost banking services in rural areas

**KOLKATA, JUN 26 (PTI):** With an aim to extend banking services in rural areas, the state government has decided to develop around 2600 deposit mobilising Primary Agriculture Cooperative Sector (PACS) as customer service points, based on the recommendations by a state-level monitoring panel.

A statement issued by the monitoring panel for cooperative sector has said the initiative to upgrade the PACS has to be taken up by the district or state cooperative banks by digitally connecting the customer service points with the core banking solution of cooperative banks.

The panel, formed this January under the chairmanship of chief secretary Malay Dey, has secretaries of finance cooperation, panchayats and rural development departments as members.

"Work has already been initiated in 1133 PACS. The entire project will be completed by the end of financial year 2019-20," the release said.

The district and state cooperative banks should open full-fledged bank branches wherever possible in the "unbanked" gram panchayat sectors, the panel recommended, adding that micro-ATMs are being installed in the PACS for the convenience of customers.

The panel also proposed the establishment of 2000 farm machinery hubs through the best-performing PACS.

"The project has been approved by the state government. In 2018-19, 1000 such (farm machinery) hubs will be established and the remaining will be taken up in the following financial year," the statement said.

In a relief to cooperative employees, the state government has also accepted the committee's suggestion to raise ad-hoc grant to Rs 2000 from Rs 1000, it stated.

The committee further recommended the inclusion of employees of cooperatives under the Swasthaya Sathi scheme. Referring to the periodic auditing of cooperative bodies, the panel said that corrective action, if any, should be taken promptly.

It also recommended routing salary and other government payments through District Cooperative Central Banks, Scheduled Commercial Bank or PACS only when the audit reports were up-to-date and there was no major discrepancy found in the details.

Citing the current practice of giving interest subsidy to farmers for short-term crop loans from cooperatives, the committee suggested that the same facility should be provided for long-term loans as well.

"The proposal might be examined by the finance department. The state government has already decided to accept the recommendation," the release added.

## Nepal does not play games with India, China for political gains: PM Oli

**SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JUN 26 (PTI):** Nepal wants a cordial relationship with India and China and does not believe in playing "games" with it neighbours for short-term political gains, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli told Parliament today.

Oli, who returned from his six-day visit to China on Sunday, was briefing Parliament about his recent "positive" visit to Beijing and highlighted the agreements and the two countries inked during the trip.

"The agreements we've reached show our commitment towards realising our common goal of development and prosperity," Oli said.

China had also expressed



its commitment to provide the necessary support, he added.

Oli said his government was keen on ensuring Nepal's development and prosperity and the only way to do so was by maintaining a cordial relationship with India and China.

"We do not play card

games with (China or India) for short political gains and we stand with our neighbours in good and bad times," Oli said.

"For this reason, our foreign and global policies are guided with honest intentions that will not hinge country's security, sovereignty and world peace," he said.

Oli said Nepal and China had agreed to resume Tatopani entry point by May 2019 while setting up better infrastructures at Rasuwagadi and Kerung.

"The railway connectivity is an important agreement as it will help to speed up development and increase economic activities," he said.

Both Nepali and Chinese sides have agreed to intensify implementation of the MoU on cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance connectivity, he said.

"The initiative encompasses vital components such as ports, roads, railways, aviation and communications within the overarching framework of trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity

Network," he said.

The two sides also agreed to take practical measures to promote cooperation in all fields mentioned in the MoU, according to the 14-point Nepal-China joint statement which was released on the conclusion of Oli's visit.

Oli had held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, following which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to build a strategic railway link connecting Tibet with Kathmandu through the arduous Himalayan terrain.

The new railway line will connect the Gyirong trading port in the city of Xigaze in Tibet with the Nepali capital Kathmandu.

During the visit, both sides agreed to implement the understandings and agreements reached between the two countries during Oli's visit to China in 2016.

China has also agreed to help build necessary infrastructure for storage of petroleum products in Nepal.

China has been building rail, road and air links in the remote Tibet spending billions of dollars. A railway line was put in operation in 2014, linking Tibet's provincial capital Lhasa with Xigaze.

Xigaze, also known as Shegatse, is the closest Tibetan city to Nepal. Earlier, there were reports in the Chinese official media that the railway line was to be extended till India.

## 10 women to be chosen from Nagaland, Meghalaya & Manipur to pilot NCW- Airbnb project

**NEW DELHI, JUN 26 (PTI):** Ten women would be chosen from three northeastern states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur to pilot a project with online accommodation platform Airbnb for generating technology-enabled livelihood opportunities in tourism and hospitality, according to the NCW chairperson.

The National Commission for Women and Airbnb will work towards expansion of homestay tourism facility in rural homes in the northeastern states through women commissions.

The 10 women would be chosen by the state commissions and be trained by Airbnb in the tourism and hospitality services.

"The aim of the partnership is to create women micro-entrepreneurs and help families supplement their income through home-sharing on a global platform," NCW Chairperson

Rekha Sharma said.

There was a meeting last week with the representatives from the three states and Airbnb for taking the project forward and within a week the state commissions would be sending names of the 10 women from Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur who would be piloting the project, Sharma said.

"We will gradually cover other states under the programme too," she said. The objective of the project is to enable financial empowerment of women who could contribute to the overall development of local communities in the region, the NCW chairperson added.

Earlier, Airbnb Global Head of Policy Chris Lehane had said in a statement that India's northeast, with its immense tourism potential, is a priority market for Airbnb and "we are very excited about the partnership with the National Commission for Women".

## Arunachal CM inaugurates power project

**ITANAGAR, JUN 26 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated the 6 MW Shaikangchu small hydro electric project at Gongkhar village.

The chief minister said yesterday that it was the biggest project undertaken by the department of hydropower in the state and congratulated the officials on successfully completing the project, an official statement said.

"The project will supply electricity to 27 villages around Mukto circle and the surplus power will be supplied to Tawang headquarters," Khandu said.

He said the completion of project was the culmination of an initiative that started in 2007 by former chief minister Dorjee Khandu to make Tawang a power



surplus district.

"Tawang today has 14 hydel stations with total installed capacity of 11.41 mw developed by hydropower department, he said.

Union Minister of

State for Home Kiren Rijiju was present.

The chief minister also inaugurated a 50 metre girder bridge over Tawang-Chu river that would provide alternative

connectivity between Tawang and Jang-Mukto constituencies.

The rural works department constructed the bridge at a cost of Rs 2.14 crore.

## Onghmit Abhilasha Memorial Debate Competition held

a c c o m p l i s h m e n t amongst the students. He also presented a brief report of Tharpu SSS.

Mr Subba, while addressing the gathering, said that the Trust aims to make a healthy society with healthy competition amongst the students. He further said that the Trust brings societies, schools and educators under one roof.

Talking about the development works at Soreng Chakung constituency he talked about the establishment of B.Ed College, Science College and the upcoming Veterinary College at Soreng Chakung constituency.

Informing the gathering about the achievements of Heimakarna Sancharani Memorial Trust, Mr Subba said that the toppers benefitted under the Trust have become engineers, doctors and

officers.

"The world today needs skilled and well-educated youth and Sikkim Government has done that for us," he added.

The Trust also felicitated school toppers of the constituency.

The Meritorious Award for Excellent Performance was awarded to Lalita Chettri from Soreng Senior Secondary School for excelling in the CBSE examination.

The Trust also awarded certificates to Binu Chettri and Patila Subba of Tharpu SSS.

Magazine on Late Hemakarna Sancharani and Subba Memorial Trust was also released on the occasion.

In the 02nd Onghmit Abhilasha Memorial Debate Competition, Tharpu SSS beat Sombaria SSS to clinch the trophy.

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# Iran coach blasts VAR as Ronaldo escapes sending off

**SARANSK (RUSSIA), JUN 26 (AFP):** Iran coach Carlos Queiroz said Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo was fortunate to escape a red card despite a VAR review following an elbow in Monday's 1-1 draw at the World Cup.

Portugal will face Uruguay in the last 16 after advancing as runners-up of Group B, but Queiroz insisted Ronaldo deserved to be sent off for catching Iran defender Morteza Pouraliganji with an elbow to the face.

"I don't want to talk too much, it's about my country and a player. I know it'll be a war against me," said Queiroz, who coached his native Portugal at the 2010 World Cup.

"But the reality is you stopped the game for

VAR, there is an elbow. An elbow is a red card in the rules. In the rules it doesn't say if it is (Lionel) Messi or Ronaldo..."

It was a busy evening for the video assistant referee in Saransk as two penalties were awarded upon review, on top of the Ronaldo altercation.

"We accepted human mistakes before, that was part of the game. Players make mistakes, coaches make mistakes and referees make mistakes," said Queiroz.

"But now you have one system that cost a fortune. It's high-tech with five, six people inside and what happens? Nobody takes responsibilities.

"We need to be like rugby. When there is a decision by VAR I need to know what the referee is saying to them, people



need to know what is going on."

"So in my opinion, Mr. Infantino and FIFA, everybody agreed that VAR is not going well," he added. "That's the reality, there's a lot of complaints."

Ricardo Quaresma struck a brilliant opening goal with a trademark curling effort using the

outside of his right foot on the stroke of half-time.

Ronaldo had the chance to double the lead with a penalty five minutes into the second half after he was upended by Saeid Ezatolahi, but his effort was save by Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand.

Portugal defender

fashion.

Ronaldo cut a frustrated figure after failing to add to his four-goal tally at the Mordovia Arena, suffering the same penalty misfortune as Lionel Messi earlier in the competition.

"I understand, it's normal. The best players in the world face that when there isn't an opportunity to really make it happen," said Portugal boss Fernando Santos.

"That hurts a lot more to them than to other players. They always want to win. They want to be the best and refuse to fail, and when they fail they get very upset."

Santos said he thought the referee made the right decision in terms of the Ronaldo flashpoint.

"No I wasn't



## Reus on a mission as Germany seek to complete escape act

**KAZAN (RUSSIA), JUN 26 (AFP):** Marco Reus has no intention of allowing South Korea to get in the way of Germany progressing to the last 16 tomorrow now that the World Cup holders have already saved their skins once.

Reus was a substitute in the 1-0 defeat to Mexico, but given a starting role against Sweden he bundled in a 48th-minute leveller to drag Germany back into the game.

With seconds on the clock in Sochi, Germany secured a vital 2-1 win thanks to Toni Kroos's superb curling shot, with Reus setting it up in a set-piece move.

# Federer eyes ninth Wimbledon title but wary of Nadal threat

**LONDON, JUN 26 (AFP):** Having seen longtime rival Rafael Nadal tighten his iron-grip on Roland Garros, Roger Federer aims to extend his personal dominance of Wimbledon by claiming a ninth title at the All England Club.

Despite his 37th birthday fast approaching, and having been stunned by Borna Coric in the Halle grasscourt final last weekend, Federer will still start Wimbledon as the overwhelming favourite to clinch a 21st major.

Federer set new records 12 months ago when he defeated a hobbling Marin Cilic in the final, becoming both the tournament's oldest champion and first to claim eight titles.

That victory came after he decided to skip the entire claycourt season, a strategy he repeated this year as the Swiss sit at home watching Nadal romp to an 11th French Open.

"I'm really going to love going to Wimbledon but being the defending champion always creates pressure," said Federer, who was quick to shrug off his loss to Coric which ended a 20-match win streak on grass.

A week earlier, he had been buoyed by capturing the grass court title at Stuttgart.

"Regardless of whether I won or lost in Halle I will be one of the favourites at Wimbledon."

Federer won his first Wimbledon -- and maiden Slam title -- in 2003.

Since that time he has added seven more at the All England Club with Nadal winning twice, Novak Djokovic three times and Andy Murray taking two Hewitt.

Lleyton Hewitt, back in 2002, was the last man outside the modern-day 'Big Four' to win the championship.



Hardly surprising then that Federer cannot see any great upheaval anytime soon, even tipping Nadal -- and his notoriously unreliable knees on a grass court -- to go deep in the tournament.

"I think Rafa is one of the big favourites," said Federer who famously lost the 2008 final to the Spaniard in what is widely regarded as one of the finest Slam showdowns of all time.

"When Rafa is healthy, anything is possible for him." Nadal's Grand Slam count now stands at 17, just three behind Federer with whom he has split the last six majors.

The world number one has endured a bittersweet relationship with Wimbledon despite being champion in 2008 and 2010.

He missed the 2009 tournament with

injury and since finishing runner-up to Djokovic in 2011, has gone out in the second round in 2012, first round in 2013 and last 16 in 2014.

In 2015, he was beaten in the second round, missed 2016 while, 12 months ago, lost 15-13 in the fifth set to Luxembourg journeyman Gilles Muller in the fourth round.

After winning Roland Garros this month, Nadal hinted he may skip Wimbledon and also sat out Queen's.

But the 32-year-old Spaniard has been practicing on grass in Mallorca and is cautiously optimistic.

"I had to spend time adapting physically and in my tennis to the surface," said Nadal.

"I will certainly arrive at Wimbledon with

less preparation, but I'm going with confidence high because I played very well through the whole claycourt season."

Djokovic, the 2011, 2014 and 2015 champion, retired with an elbow injury in the quarter-finals in 2017 as his form continued to sink after the emotional high of completing the career Grand Slam at Roland Garros 12 months earlier.

Like Nadal, Djokovic had hinted he may sit out Wimbledon after the indignity of losing to world number 72 Marco Cecchinato in the French Open quarter-finals.

But the rejuvenated 12-time major winner shook off the self-doubt and made the Queen's final at the weekend, losing to Cilic despite having had a match point.

Djokovic is at least back in the top 20 unlike 2013 and 2016 Wimbledon champion Murray who is ranked at 156.

Former number one Murray suffered a hip injury in a five-set loss to Sam Querrey in the quarter-finals in 2017 and underwent surgery in January.

The 31-year-old only returned at Queen's losing a tough three-setter to Nick Kyrgios in his opener.

Yesterday, however, he eased past fellow injury-plagued Slam winner Stan Wawrinka in straight sets in Eastbourne.

Elsewhere, a lot will be expected of world number three Alexander Zverev who made the fourth round last year.

However, the 21-year-old lost his only grass court match this summer to Coric in Halle.

It meant Germany avoided the ignominy of becoming the sixth team to crash out as World Cup holders, but they are not safe yet.

Four years after Spain became just the fifth champions sent packing after a disastrous group-stage campaign, Joachim Loew's pre-tournament favourites could still be stopped at the first round for the first time since 1938.

While the exuberant, post-match celebrations by Germany's coaching staff upset Sweden, they belied the champions' desire to show the rest of the world that their business in Russia is far from over.

However, the Germany team that won all 10 of their qualifiers with a whopping 39-plus goal difference has yet to convince many they deserve a place in the last 16, let alone the World Cup final.

# India looks to kick off English summer on winning note

**CHETAN NARULA**

**Dublin, Jun 26 (PTI):** It's the dress rehearsal before the actual test but India would do well not to let the guard down when they take on a lowly but effervescent Ireland in a two-match T20 rubber, starting tomorrow.

The games will mark the onset of a long summer for the Indian team, with sterner tests against England to follow this short series in Malahide on the outskirts of Dublin. England have just hammered Australia in an ODI series and most of their top players are in sublime form.

Perhaps it was a marker of this crucial impending assignment that India decided to stay on and practice in London on Monday.

While the contingent had arrived from Delhi on Saturday, this was a first training session on-tour, held at the Merchants Taylor School cricket ground.

Reportedly, the players were split into three groups while practicing all facets of the game.

Umesh Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar headed the pace group along with all-rounder Hardik Pandya, while a few others practised fielding drills. Among batsmen, openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan enjoyed a first stint together.

Skipper Virat Kohli and the in-form KL Rahul batted together in adjacent nets against spin and pace respectively.

While Rahul has been a constant part of the T20I squad, Ajinkya Rahane's omission from the ODI squad means that he is once again a contender for the number four spot when the three-match series against England begins on July 12.

Since the tour of South Africa, this is the first time a full-strength Indian team will be seen in action.

Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah and MS Dhoni were rested for the T20 tri-series in Sri Lanka in March. The former trio also missed the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Bengaluru recently.

With Rahul in contention for a starting spot in



the middle order, Manish Pandey, Suresh Raina and Dinesh Karthik will be left jostling for two spots.

As part of the full-strength Indian side, the three had featured in the T20 series against South Africa. Raina had been used as a pinch-hitting, aggressive number three option, but the current situation might warrant a re-think.

Nevertheless, Raina provides a sixth bowling option as well. India would also not want to drop Dinesh Karthik, who is in sizzling form since March.

It could mean that Pandey eventually warms the bench, despite scoring 255 runs in 8 T20Is this year against South Africa, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at an average of 85.

On the bowling front, Kohli will be tempted to field both leg-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, giving them an early taste of conditions here.

However, the pace department is an area of concern, as the second-choice fast bowlers have not enjoyed enough game time.

Since the 2017 Champions Trophy, India have played 32 ODIs and 18 T20Is, with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah handling the new ball in 26 ODIs and 9 T20Is, respectively.

Umesh Yadav last played an ODI in September 2017 against Australia at Bengaluru. Siddharth Kaul was in the Indian squad for the home ODIs against Sri Lanka in December, but was not picked ahead of

Kumar-Bumrah.

Kaul is also yet to make his T20I debut, while Yadav played his only T20I back in 2012. It remains to be seen if the think tank will bench either Kumar or Bumrah against Ireland to give other pacers some much needed overs.

India and Ireland do not have a rich playing history. Despite touring England in 2011 and 2014, this is the Men in Blue's first visit here since 2007 when they played a solitary ODI at Belfast.

Rohit, Dhoni and Karthik were part of that squad, albeit Karthik was picked ahead of Dhoni in the playing eleven for that one-off game.

Overall, India and Ireland have played only four times, in three ODIs (the other two during 2011 and 2015 ODI World Cups) and a T20I in 2009 during the World T20 in England.

India had won that game at Nottingham by eight wickets with Rohit scoring an unbeaten half-century. Dhoni and Raina are the other current' members from that playing eleven nine years ago.

For Ireland, skipper Gary Wilson, former captain William Porterfield and all-rounder Kevin O'Brien are the ones to have T20 experience against an Indian team.

Meanwhile, 31-year-old Punjab-born off-spinner Simranjit Singh will enjoy the spotlight of playing against his erstwhile nation.

Teams:

India: Virat Kohli (c), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey, Suresh Raina, Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Siddarth Kaul.

Ireland: Gary Wilson (c & wk), Andrew Balbirnie, Peter Chase, George Dockrell , Josh Little, Andy McBriene, Kevin O'Brien, William Porterfield, Stuart Poynter, Boyd Rankin, James Shannon, Simi Singh, Paul Stirling, Stuart Thompson.

Match starts at: 8.30 pm IST.



## China to cut import tariffs on soybean, other products from 5 Asian nations including India

**BEIJING, JUN 26 (PTI):** China will cut import tariffs on soybean and some other goods from India and four other Asian nations from July 1, China's Cabinet announced today, amidst a looming trade war with the US.

China will reduce tariffs on soybean imported from India, South Korea, Bangladesh, Laos, and Sri Lanka from the current three per cent to zero, official media quoted the decision by State Council, China's Cabinet.

Imported products such as chemicals, agricultural products, medical supplies, clothing, steel and aluminium products from these countries will also enjoy certain tariff reductions, the state-run China Daily website reported.

All imported products from the above five countries will adapt a tariff rate of the Second Amendment of The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, the State Council said.

The State Council's announcement came amidst tariff spat between world's two largest economies, China and the US, following pressure by US President Donald Trump to cut down USD 375 billion deficit in the bilateral trade.

The US is a major supplier of soybeans to China.

For its part, India has been pressuring China to open up more for Indian products, specially IT and Pharmaceutical, to reduce USD 51 billion in over USD 84 billion trade.

During the India-China strategic dialogue held here in April, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) Rajiv Kumar had pitched for export of soybean and sugar to China from India.

After the Wuhan informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, both the countries are holding talks to step up Indian exports of agricultural products like rice and sugar as well as pharmaceutical, specially the cancer curing drugs to China.



Turkey's main opposition candidate has conceded defeat to incumbent leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the country's presidential election. Mr Erdogan, 64, returns to power after gaining a comfortable 52.6% of the vote - but his ruling Justice and Development Party suffered losses as it polled 42.5% in a parliamentary ballot. This means his party is short of a parliamentary majority and will need to negotiate deals with allies in order to control the 600-seat house.

## US envoy to UN Nikki Haley travels to India on maiden visit

**YOSHITA SINGH**

**NEW YORK, JUN 26 (PTI):** Nikki Haley is traveling to India for the first time as the US Ambassador to the UN on a two-day visit during which she will meet senior Indian officials, business leaders and students, underscoring America's "strong alliance" with the country.

Talks between Haley, the highest ranking Indian-American in the Donald Trump administration, and Indian officials could include a host of topics including India-US strategic ties and significant global developments.

Haley will travel to New Delhi from June 26-28 during which she will meet with senior Indian government officials, NGO leaders, and the interfaith community "to underscore the United States' shared values and strong alliance with the people of India," a brief media advisory from the US Mission to the UN said here yesterday.

While the media advisory did not give further details of the 46-year-old diplomat's programme during her visit, she could call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is likely to meet senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs.

She will also deliver remarks to a group of business and government leaders, students, and civil society on advancing US-India relations.

The visit to India by one of the Republican party's rising stars comes just days before US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James Mattis will host External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and



Minister of Defense Nirmala Sitharaman in Washington for the inaugural US-India 2+2 Dialogue on July 6.

This meeting will focus on strengthening strategic, security, and defense cooperation as the United States and India jointly confront global challenges, the State Department has said.

Haley's visit assumes significance as the Trump administration walks away from key multi-lateral pacts, re-writing American engagement with its key western allies.

Haley's visit comes just days after she announced, along side Pompeo, that the US was withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council.

Under the Trump presidency, the US has pulled away from the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Climate agreement, where India

had played a leadership role in bringing the global pact to fruition.

Following Washington's withdrawal from the Iran deal and the re-imposition of sanctions, Swaraj had said at a press conference in New Delhi that India will comply with UN sanctions and not any country-specific sanctions.

Last month, she had also met Iran's visiting Foreign Minister Javad Zarif during which he sought India's support in salvaging Iran's nuclear deal with leading world powers in the wake of the US pull out from it.

Haley had visited India in late 2014 when she was the South Carolina Governor.

Haley, the daughter of Sikh immigrants from Punjab, is the first Indian-American to serve in a Cabinet-level position in any US presidential administration.

## India pledges USD 5 million for UN Palestinian aid agency

**UNITED NATIONS, JUN 26 (PTI):** India has pledged USD 5 million in assistance to the UN agency working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees to help bolster its "severe funding crisis" following US' cut in its annual aid to UNRWA.

A total of 20 countries, including India, announced contributions to the 2018 budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East during a meeting, as officials called for stable financing for the agency amid devastating conflicts and violence in the Middle East.

In March, India announced it will increase its annual contribution to the UNRWA from USD 1.5 million to USD 5 million from 2018-19 for a period of three years.

While India pledged USD 5 million, Sweden

will contribute USD 250 million over four years, the UK USD 51 million and the UAE USD 50 million among other donors, said a UN statement yesterday.

Pierre Krahenbuhl, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, said that in January, the agency's financial situation became catastrophic due to the sudden loss of USD 300 million in voluntary contributions.

"Facing the most severe funding crisis in our history, we had no time for pessimism or

indecision," he said.

"We cannot afford to allow UNRWA's vital efforts to falter. Failure to provide desperately needed resources comes with a price: more hardship for communities, more desperation for the region; more instability for our world," UN chief Antonio Guterres was quoted as saying in the statement.

UNRWA has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, to some 5.3 million Palestinian refugees across its five fields of operation Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for 65 years, it said.

The Trump administration in January US said it would withhold USD 65 million of USD 125 million it had planned to send to UNRWA.

UNRWA relies almost entirely on voluntary contributions from states and the US is the largest contributor.

Trump has questioned the value of such funding, and the US State Department said UNRWA needed to make unspecified reforms.

Over 120 countries defied Trump in December and voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution calling for the US to drop its recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

## No amount of empty rhetoric from Pak will change reality that Kashmir integral part of India: India

**UNITED NATIONS, JUN 26 (PTI):** India has told Pakistan that no amount of empty rhetoric by it will change the reality that Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable part of India after Islamabad's envoy to the UN made a reference to the Indian state at a UN General Assembly debate.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi's reference came during her remarks yesterday in the General Assembly debate on 'The Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes against Humanity'. Lodhi said people in Kashmir are among victims of egregious crimes such as killings and mass-blinding.

India exercised the Right of Reply, strongly rejecting Pakistan's reference to Kashmir in the 193-member UN body.

"While we are having this serious debate for the first time in a decade on an issue that is of importance to all of us, we have witnessed that one delegation has, yet again, misused this platform to make an unwarranted reference to the situation in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Sandeep Kumar Bayyapu said in India's Right of Reply.

Bayyapu said such cynical attempts by Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue in the UN have failed in the past and do not find any resonance in the UN body. I would like to place on record and reiterate that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India. No amount of empty rhetoric from Pakistan will change this reality, he said.

In her remarks earlier in the day, Lodhi had said if the international community is selective in its approach where it is expressing indignation at some transgressions while choosing to willfully ignore others, then any norm will be quickly turned into mere pretense.

## Immigration reform top on priority list: Trump

**LALIT K JHA**

**WASHINGTON, JUN 26 (PTI):** Describing immigration reform as his top priority, US President Donald Trump today renewed his push for an immigration system which prevents people from entering America illegally. "One of the highest on the list is immigration. And we have to change our laws. We have to make them sensible," Trump told reporters in a joint media appearance with King Abdullah II Bin al-Hussein of Jordan in the Oval Office of the White House.

Trump said he wants a system in place where the foregone conclusion for any illegal entrance is exit.

"We want a system where, when people come in illegally, they have to go out. A nice simple system that works. Mexico holds people for four hours, for five hours, for two hours, and they're gone. We have people for four, five, six years and they never leave. So we want to have a great immigration," Trump said in response to a question.

The US president also attacked the Democrats, who he said, are in favour of open borders and alleged that they "do not care about our military".

"What we have is very simple. We want strong borders and no crime ... The Democrats want open borders and they don't care about crime, and they don't care



about our military. I care about our military. That's what we want and that's what we're going to get. And we're going to get it sooner than people think," he said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders later told reporters that virtually all Americans agree that it makes no sense that an illegal alien sets one foot on American soil, and then they would go through a three-to-five-year judicial process to be removed from the country.

"Thousands of illegal aliens are removed every month, without seeing an immigration judge, as a result of procedures in current law, including voluntary removal and expedited removal. Just because you don't see a judge doesn't mean you aren't receiving due process," she said.

Sanders said the president is focused

on securing borders and reforming immigration system to prevent the crisis at the border from getting worse.

Trump, she said, likes to see people being stopped illegally from entering the country at all.

"We'd like to have secure borders. The Democrats are the ones that want open borders. The president would like us to secure the borders and have a very legal and easy immigration process so people can come here the right way, not the wrong way," she said. Responding to a question, she said Trump would

certainly like to see more expedited removal.

"Ultimately, the president would like to see our border secured so that we don't have all of these problems to begin with," she said.

"The president wants to fix our immigration system completely, not just tinker with it. He actually wants us to have a system that works, and he wants to have a secure border. He doesn't believe in the philosophy that Democrats to, that we should have open borders. He wants to stop that," Sanders said.

The White House spokesperson affirmed that Trump wants to stop the crime that comes into the US, and his administration hopes to do the same, adding they would like to see the Congress "step up and work with us".

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# KANYE WEST SAYS HE HAS CONSIDERED SUICIDE

Lyric on his new album about potentially taking his own life is an accurate reflection of his thoughts, the rapper says,

Kanye West says he has considered suicide in the past in an interview where he also talked about the backlash from his comments about slavery.

The US rapper said he had been concerned wife Kim Kardashian might leave him after he claimed slavery sounded "like a choice."

The opening track on West's new album, Ye, is called I Thought About Killing You.

It contains the lyrics: "Today I thought about killing you, premeditated murder/I think about killing myself/And I, I love myself way more than I love you."

Asked whether the lines were an accurate reflection of his thoughts, he told The New York Times: "Oh yeah, I've thought about killing myself all the time."

"It's always an option. Like Louis CK said, I flip through the manual. I weigh all the options."

He added: "I did think it all the way through. But if I didn't think it all the way through, then it's actually maybe more of a chance of it happening."

West's comments about slavery were made in an interview with celebrity news website TMZ.

"When you hear about slavery for 400 years... For 400 years? That sounds like a choice," he said.

After that appearance, his "energy levels were low", he explained.

"I called different family members and was asking, you know, 'Was Kim thinking about leaving me after TMZ?' So that was a real conversation."

Returning to what he said on the TV

show, he talked about the backlash from the slavery comments.

He said: "I learned so much. I learned about the context of the idea of the word slave. I didn't take it in that context," West told the newspaper, before insisting he "never" actually said slavery was "a choice".

West explained: "I said the idea of sitting in something for 400 years sounds - sounds - like a choice to me."

"I never said it's a choice. I never said slavery itself - like being shackled in chains - was a choice."

West also spoke about his support for Donald Trump, saying he felt celebrities

were "scared" to say they liked the president.

"I liked him, and I'm not scared to say what I like," he said.

He also felt pressured to support Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. "It was like an arranged marriage or something," he said.

"And I'm like, that's not who I want to marry. I don't feel that."

"I was living inside of some universe that was created by the mob-thought, and I had lost who I was, so that's when I was in the sunken place."

"You look in my eyes right now, you see no sunken place."



## RUSSELL CROWE TO STAR AS ROGER AILES IN SHOWTIME MINISERIES

**LOS ANGELES, JUN 26 (PTT):** Hollywood star Russell Crowe has been roped in to play Fox News founder and chairman Roger Ailes in a new miniseries for Showtime, the network has announced.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the series, which will run for eight episodes, is based the reporting by journalist and Ailes biographer Gabriel Sherman, who wrote, "The Loudest Voice in the Room: How the Brilliant, Bombastic Roger Ailes Built Fox News -- and Divided a Country."

Sherman, who interviewed more than 600 people for his book, co-wrote the pilot alongside Tom McCarthy.

The project is being executive produced by Emmy winner Jason Blum and is a co-production between Showtime and Blum's Blumhouse Television.

"In many ways, the collision between the media and politics has come to define the world we live in today. We've seen this phenomenon depicted on screen as far back as the story of Charles Foster Kane, and it finds contemporary embodiment in the rise and fall of Roger Ailes. With Russell Crowe in the lead role, this limited series promises to be a defining story for this era," Showtime CEO David Nevins said in a statement, comparing the series to Orson Welles' exploration of William Randolph Hearst in 1941's "Citizen Kane".

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- DUE TO THE BAN (EMBARGO), SAHARA IN ITS BUSINESSES OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS HAS LOST OPPORTUNITIES OF EARNING SEVERAL 10,000 CRORES OF RUPEES.**
- SAHARA GROUP'S MORE THAN ₹ 20,000 CRORES ARE LYING IDLE**  
MORE THAN ₹20,000 CRORES ARE LYING IDLE IN SAHARA-SEBI ACCOUNT WHEREAS SEBI HAS PAID ONLY AROUND ₹91 CRORES TO OUR ESTEEMED INVESTORS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS, THAT TOO AFTER ADVERTISING 4 TIMES, EACH TIME THROUGH AROUND 152 NEWSPAPERS ALL OVER INDIA.
- BECAUSE SAHARA HAS ALREADY REPAYED ITS ESTEEMED INVESTORS.**
- ALL MONIES IN THE SAHARA-SEBI ACCOUNT WILL COME BACK TO SAHARA AFTER DOCUMENT VERIFICATION AS PER THE ORDER OF HON'BLE COURT. SAHARA'S FUTURE INDEED IS BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS.**
- WE WERE COMPELLED BY THE SEBI/SAT (SECURITIES APPELLATE TRIBUNAL) ORDERS, TO REPAY MATURITY OF AROUND ₹22,000 CRORES IN JUST 6-7 MONTHS (IN THE YEAR 2012).**  
INSTEAD OF 6-7 MONTHS, AS PER SAHARA'S FINANCIAL SCHEME WE WOULD HAVE REPAYED IN SMALL-SMALL AMOUNTS EVERY MONTH, OVER 16-17 YEARS.  
BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE THERE HAS BEEN A VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR POSITIVE CASH FLOW BY AROUND ₹15,000 CRORES.  
ALL ABOVE HAVE HAD A VERY BAD AND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE GROUP.
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