



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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*Rising
Kashmir
editor Shujaat
Bukhari
shot dead in
Srinagar*

SRINAGAR, JUN 14 (PTI): Veteran journalist and Rising Kashmir editor Shujaat Bukhari and his PSO were shot dead by unidentified gunmen outside the newspaper's office in the heart of this Jammu and Kashmir summer capital, police officials said today.

Bukhari, who was in his 50s, was leaving his office in Press Enclave in the city centre Lal Chowk for an iftar party when he was shot, officials said.

While one of the personal security officers (PSO) guarding him was killed, another policeman and a civilian were injured, they added.

The condition of the two injured in the shooting, which comes a day

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Will cancel Golden Gaming's license if locals play: Chamling

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 14 JUN:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today spoke out strongly against locals entering casinos. Particularly in reference to Golden Gaming, an online gaming company, he stated that he will bring a law that will prohibit locals from entering such gambling dens.

Adding further the CM said that after the implementation of such a rule, if any local is found in a Golden Gaming outlet, his government will cancel the license of the company.

"Casinos are here to generate revenue as we are a tourist destination and we wanted to have some five star hotels coming up in our State. Locals are already prohibited from entering



casinos," he said.

Mr Chamling was addressing the public of Rumtek at Maha-

rani Taar as a part of his 32-day public outreach tour 'Jan Sewa - Jan Samman'.

While addressing the concerns of the constituency

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UN releases first of its kind report on rights status in Kashmir, PoK, India reacts sharply

GENEVA/NEW DELHI, JUN 14 (PTI): The UN today released the first-ever report on alleged human rights violation in Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and demanded an international probe into it, evoking a sharp reaction from India which termed the document as "fallacious and motivated".

New Delhi also lodged a strong protest with the United Nations, saying the government is "deeply concerned that individual prejudices are being

allowed to undermine the credibility of a UN institution."

"The report violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the Indian state through aggression," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a strongly-worded statement.

In its 49-page report, the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights fo-

cused on both Jammu and Kashmir (consisting of the Kashmir Valley, the Jammu and Ladakh regions) and Pakistan-Administered Kashmir (Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan).

Taking objection to the UN using terms like "Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan" for PoK, the MEA said "The incorrect description of Indian territory in the report is mischievous, misleading and unacceptable. There are no entities such as 'Azad Jammu and Kash-

mir' and 'Gilgit-Baltistan'."

"We are deeply concerned that individual prejudices are being allowed to undermine the credibility of a UN institution," the ministry added.

The UN also asked Pakistan to end its "misuse" of anti-terror legislation to persecute peaceful activists and quash dissent.

"Impunity for human rights violations and lack of access to justice are key human rights challenges in the Indian state of

turn to pg02



Ghatani demands allotment of central pool MBBS seats at Health Ministers' Conclave

NEW DELHI, 14 JUN [IPR]: Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, addressed Health Ministers' Conclave 2018 presided by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, JP Nadda, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi today.

On the occasion, Mr Ghatani submitted demands for allotment of central pool MBBS seats for 2018-19 academic session.

It may be mentioned here, the MBBS seats were abruptly reduced to three seats from six seats

in 2017 and later an additional seat was allotted to Sikkim State on special request by the concerned Minister. So the demand was placed to urge the Ministry to avoid any reduction from six MBBS seats in 2018-19 academic session.

In the context of DPR submitted for the establishment of new medical college in Sikkim, Mr Ghatani urged the Union Health Minister to sanction proposal of DPR to begin the construction of the Medical College at the earliest.

The conclave was

turn to pg02

Gangtok ready for Vice President's visit

NIRMAL MANGAR

GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu is scheduled to ar-

rive in Sikkim on 15 Jun. He is likely to arrive in an IAF chopper and land at Libing Helipad.

Gangtok Traffic Police has informed that traffic from Deorali to Chintan Bhawan would be halt for a brief period of time.

The Vice President will address the event at Chintan Bhawan and then proceed

towards Pakyong to inspect the newly constructed airport via chopper.

He will be returning in the morning of 16 Jun.

"We request people to cooperate with us. A special card will be issued to vehicles carrying patients to the hospital," said Assistant Superintendent of Police [Traffic], Ongmu Bhutia.



Young Orchid in the finals of SFA C-Div football tournament

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

Young Orchid has reached the finals of the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium.

In the first semi-final match played on Thursday, Young Orchid outplayed Chujachen Foot-

ball Club 0-2.

Young Orchid finished the first half with a 1-0 lead with the help of a goal by Lache Tshering Lepcha in the 17th minute.

Soon in the second half, Manoj Tamang scored the equaliser for Chujachen FC in the 53rd minute, but two consecutive goals by Bhaichung Bhutia in the 54th

minute and Ongchuk Sherpa in 56th extended the lead of Young Orchid to an unassailable 3-1.

While, Chujachen players were playing their hearts out to bounce back into the match, Pahalman Rai further took the lead of Young Orchid to 4-1 with his goal in the 78th minute. However, a goal by Michael Pradhan for

Chujachen FC in the 79th minute gave some hope to the team but it was not enough to stop Young Orchid players to enter into the finals of the league.

The second semi-final match will be played between Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club and Dzongri Football Club on Friday.

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Free FIFA World Cup screening at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 14 JUN:

Singtam-based JVC Football Club has announced to host a month-long screening of FIFA World Cup 2018 at Singtam Nagar Panchayat Community Hall from today.

JCV FC founder, Sanggay Bhutia said that the main aim to organize the event is to publicise the sport in the area and encourage players to come out and showcase their talent in various local tournaments.

The screening will be held free of cost, he further informed.

Binay Limboo's Hamro Sapana screened at Lingi Paiyong SS

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

A social documentary directed by Binay Limboo, "Hamro Sapana", was screened today at Lingi Paiyong Secondary School in South Sikkim. The film is based on hardships faced by students due to prevalence of substance abuse in the society and showcases their journey to overcome the situation and emerge successful, a press release informs.

"Hamro Sapana" is produced by M/s Phamrong Pictures Pvt Ltd - a social organisation based in Yuksom, West Sikkim.

The school family of Lingi Paiyong SS contributed Rs 4500 to the producers and also presented a letter of appreciation.

Social Welfare Secy directed by MoTA to take action on land protection of L-T's

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs [MoTA] has directed the Commissioner/ Secretary of Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, to take appropriate action regarding land protection of the Limboo and Tamang communities in the State. This by virtue of their being Scheduled Tribes now and coming under the protection accorded to STs against alienation of their land.

A press release issued by Limboo-Tamang Vol-

untary Committee [LTVC] informs that this was notified in a MoTA letter dated 06 June received by LTVC president, Yehang Tshong. This was in reply to the follow-up letter of LTVC dated 01 May, 2018 submitted to MSJ&E, Union Minister, Thhawarchand Gehlot, by LTVC team at his office in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

The release adds that an LTVC team had visited New Delhi last month and visited various Central Ministries, Union Ministers and bureaucrats with regard to L-T seat reservation issue in Sikkim.

The LTVC had also highlighted issues for protection of L-T land in Sikkim and had also submitted a 3-point agenda memorandum seeking Indigenous Primitive Status for Limbu community under historical background.

The LTVC has alleged Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's decision to raise L-Ts' land issue after 16 years to be "hasty and aimed" at gaining credit as the State Government knew that LTVC had raised the L-T land protection issue at Centre soon and that orders would come from the

Centre to the State Government to implement land protection law for LT communities in Sikkim.

"If State Government was sincere towards L-T communities then they would have implemented L-T lands' protection law in Sikkim in 2003 itself when LT were declared ST as this falls under State subject and would not have kept it pending like L-T seat reservation in Sikkim Legislative Assembly for 16 years. Till now none had raised or even had thought of this LT land protection and now everyone seems to

be busy giving the credit to someone who had never initiated it," the release adds.

The LTVC has extended gratitude to MoTA and MSJ&E for taking positive steps for the welfare of L-T communities in Sikkim.

It is further informs that the LTVC will soon visit the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, State SJE&WD and submit a letter requesting him to follow MOTA's directions and take necessary steps and issue a new notification proclaiming protection of LT lands in Sikkim at the earliest.



Daylong farmers training prog held in West

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

Mevedir, organized a daylong training for the farmers of Jhushingthang Gram Panchayat Unit under Soreng sub-division and Chingthang Gram Panchayat Unit covering Yangsum, Chingthang, Barfok and Najur Barfok ward today, a press release informs.

Key officials present in the programme were Panchayat

vice-presidents, Phurba Tashi Bhutia and Raj Bahadur Chettri, Panchayat Development Assistant, Suk Rani Tamang, Mevedir master trainer Til Bahadur Chettri, Jason Nim Sherpa and Mission Officer, Bibek Sharma.

Resource persons educated the gathered farmers on Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) and fruit flies control management.

A new method of controlling fruit flies by using fruit juice and gur

(jaggery) was explained and demonstrated by the resource persons.

Mr Bhutia in his address spoke on the importance of organic farming and appealed to the farmers to adopt local technologies like natural pesticides and soil health enhancers.

The resource persons also educated farmers on the importance of soil management and the components necessary to maintain good soil health.

You can contact Summit TIMES @ 03592-208698



Bee boxes and hives distributed in Sumbuk

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

Khadri & Village Industries Commission [KVIC], Gangtok, under Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises,

Government of India, conducted awareness cum distribution programme of bee boxes under Honey Mission at the BAC Hall in Sumbuk, South Sikkim, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by Panchayat president, Sumbuk Kartikey GPU, Radha Sharma, as chief guest.

Also present were

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Ghatani demands allotment of central pool...

contd from pg01

focused on implementation of Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission [AB-NHPM] across the country.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Ghatani informed that the State of Sikkim is fully committed to implement AB-NHPM and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has already written a letter to the Prime Minister of India in this regard. He also underlined the action plan of the State

Government and said AB-NHPM will be implemented soon after signing of MoU between National Health Agency and State Health Agency.

Speaking on the responsibilities of ASHAs in collection of data of the beneficiaries, he informed that the State Government has recently enhanced their monthly honorarium from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000.

On referral provision of Ayush-

man Bharat, he underlined implementation of Mukhya Mantri Jiwan Raksha Kosh [MMJRK] in Sikkim that was conceptualised by the CM many years before. He also shared initiatives like Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Check-up for Healthy Sikkim [CATCH], Proud Mother Scheme and Mukhyamantri Sishu Suraksha Yojana Avam Sutkeri Sahyog Yojana as envisioned by the CM.

Will cancel Golden Gaming's license...

contd from pg01

the CM stated that the rise in the value of land prices in Rumtek is nothing but a testimony of his good governance.

He also added that those citizens who work hard will tap the potential of immense opportunities that the State is now offering.

"Now there is a need to know how to reap those benefits," said the CM.

The Chief Minister stated that organic farming will not just make Sikkim self sufficient but also sustainable.

He also announced the government's plans to ban non-organic food items including rice after five years.

The Chief Minister while addressing the youth stated, "There are reservations for every section of Sikkimese, now one must sit in competitive exams."

He appealed to the youth to concentrate on skill development and look towards private jobs which offer more pay and salary than government sectors.

The Chief Minister while mentioning his longest reign in the country as the CM further asked the Sikkimese to use his leadership for furthering the development of Sikkim.

"It will be another fifty years, till there is another leader like me," he said.

Adding more he stated that even in the national capital his image is of repute and they listen to him having had such a long innings as CM.

Further, he also asked his party members to remain united with no individual interest or groupism.

"Sikkim will be like how its government is," he said.

In the program, the CM elucidated and particularly stressed on social justice policies of the government including protection of rights of BL community and LT communities, all sections of the Sikkimese population being covered under SC, ST, OBC central and OBC categories to safeguard and secure their rights.

He also slammed the opposition, SKM as "jail party" and said that their leader is now shouting from jail as a convicted criminal.

Further he brushed off Bhaichung Bhutia and his party Hamro Sikkim Party as "Delhi's middleman (Dalai)".

During the programme, the Chief Minister granted in-principle approval and sanction to the following demands, Rs. 50 lakh for the construction of the Guru-

kool at Rawtey, Rumtek, construction of footpaths, Phoolbari park at Sang monastery, two storied Mani Lakhang at Marchak, Martam school to be upgraded from Secondary to Senior Secondary school, crematorium at Adampool, protective walls, facilities for drinking water, approach road at Chuja village, RCC bridge at Chuba etc.

The CM was also felicitated by Rumtek Martam Constituency Cheli Morcha, ASHA Workers, Agandwadi Workers, Makhim Yargay (SHG) and Malam SHG. He also released an album composed by two local youths during the occasion.

Earlier, the CM made a brief stop at an upcoming Gurukool initiated by Swami Dharmnidhar Acharya from Rawtey, Rumtek.

Mr Chamling was accompanied by MLA Martam Rumtek Constituency, Mechung Bhutia along with his Cabinet Ministers, Chairpersons, Panchayat Level Functionaries, HODs and Officials of the State Government.

The programme began with the welcome address by the MLA Mr Bhutia who expressed his gratitude towards the CM on behalf of the public from the Constituency.

UN releases first of its kind...

contd from pg01

Jammu and Kashmir," the report said.

It said special laws which are in force in the state, such as the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 (AFSPA) and the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 (PSA), have created structures that obstruct the normal course of law, impede accountability and jeopardize the right to remedy for victims of human rights violations.

"Impunity for enforced or involuntary disappearances in Kashmir continues as there has been little movement towards credibly investigating complaints including into alleged sites of mass graves in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu region," it said.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said he will urge the UN Human Rights Council to consider establishing a commission of inquiry to conduct a "comprehensive independent international investigation" into allegations of human rights vio-

lations in Kashmir.

The report has given a detailed account of protests and incidents of alleged excesses by the security forces since 2016.

The UN body said based on the findings in its report, a commission of inquiry should be established to conduct a comprehensive independent international investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir.

It also asked India to set up an "independent, impartial and credible investigations to probe all civilian killings which have occurred since July 2016 and incidents of excessive use of force by security forces including serious injuries caused by the use of the pellet-firing shotguns".

The UN body asked Pakistan to fully respect international human rights law obligations in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir.

It also asked Islamabad to end the misuse of anti-terror legislation to persecute those engaging in peaceful political and civil activities and

expressions of dissent, and amend the anti-terrorism act to bring it in line with international human rights standards.

The External Affairs Ministry called the report a selective compilation of largely unverified information and that it is "overtly prejudiced" and seeks to build a false narrative.

The MEA said terrorism was the most "egregious violation" of human rights and yet the authors of the report have conveniently ignored the pattern of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and territories under its illegal control.

"Cross-border terror and incitement is aimed at suppressing the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, disrupting its political and social fabric and undermining India's integrity," it said.

The MEA said it was disturbing that those behind the report have chosen to describe internationally designated and UN-proscribed terrorist entities as "armed groups" and terrorists as "leaders".

"This undermines the UN-led consensus on zero tolerance to terrorism.

"The motivated report deliberately ignores that fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution to every Indian citizen, including in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, are protected also by an independent judiciary, human rights commissions, free and vibrant media and an active civil society," it said.

The MEA said India's protest and views in the matter have been conveyed unequivocally to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Hussein said the political dimensions of the "dispute" between India and Pakistan have long been centre-stage, but this is not a "conflict frozen in time".

"Any resolution of the political situation in Kashmir must entail a commitment to end the cycles of violence and ensure accountability for past and current violations and abuses by all parties," Hussein added.

Rising Kashmir editor Shujaat Bukhari shot dead...

contd from pg01

ahead of Eid, is critical, they said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said in a message that she was shocked and saddened by Bukhari's "sudden demise".

"The scourge of terror has reared its ugly head on the eve of Eid. I strongly condemn this act of mindless violence & pray for

his soul to rest in peace. My deepest condolences to his family," the chief minister said on Twitter.

Terrorism, she said, has hit a new low with Bukhari's killing, "that too on the eve of Eid".

"We must unite against forces seeking to undermine our attempts to restore peace. Justice will be done," Mehbooba said.

It was not immediately clear how many gunmen attacked Bukhari, who earlier worked with The Hindu newspaper as its Kashmir correspondent.

Bukhari was instrumental in organising several conferences for peace in the Kashmir Valley. He was also part of the Track II process with Pakistan.

Gangtok on Friday, 15 June

Temp: 25°C/16°C
Forecast: Cloudy, a couple of showers and a heavy thunderstorm; watch for flooding.
Sunrise: 04:40 AM
Sunset: 6:32 PM

Petrol, diesel price hit pause button

NEW DELHI, JUN 14 (PTI): After declining for a fortnight, petrol and diesel prices have hit a pause button with rates remaining unchanged for the second consecutive day today.

Petrol and diesel price were last revised on June 12 when they were cut by 15 paise and 10 paise a litre, respectively. Rates have remained unchanged since then, according to a review of price notifications issued by state fuel retailers.

Petrol costs Rs 76.43 per litre in Delhi and diesel is priced at Rs 67.85 a litre. Prices in Delhi are the lowest among all metro cities and most state capitals due to lower sales tax or VAT.

After hitting an all-time high of Rs 78.43 a litre for petrol and Rs 69.31 for diesel on May 29, rates have been cut on 14 occasions thereafter as international oil prices softened and the rupee strengthened against the US dollar.

Petrol price has dropped by Rs 2 a litre and diesel by Rs 1.46. This compares to Rs 3.8 a litre hike in petrol and Rs 3.38 a litre hike in diesel rates in Delhi in the fortnight beginning May 14 when state-owned oil firms ended a 19-day pre-Karnataka poll hiatus to resume daily price revision.

Retail prices are still higher than the peak touched during the previous UPA regime. Petrol had touched Rs 76.06 on September 14, 2013. The peak price for diesel during previous UPA government was hit on May 13, 2014, when rates touched Rs 56.71 a litre. Since January 1, 2018, petrol prices have risen by Rs 6.46 a litre and diesel by Rs 8.21. Petrol price in Delhi was Rs 71.41 a litre and diesel was priced at Rs 56.71 when the present BJP-government took office.

The government had deregulated or freed petrol pricing from its control in June 2010 and diesel in October 2014. It allowed revision of prices on a daily basis since mid-June last year to reflect changes in cost instantly.

The government at the centre had raised excise duty on petrol by Rs 11.77 a litre and that on diesel by Rs 13.47 a litre in nine instalments between November 2014 and January 2016 to shore up finances as global oil prices fell, but then cut the tax just once in October last year by Rs 2 a litre.

Only four states -- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh -- reduced VAT following the October 3, 2017 cut in excise duty. This month, Kerala cut VAT by Re 1 a litre.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

Ekta Self Help Group of Khamdong Block, East Sikkim has been conferred with National Award under the Best Performing SHGs and Village Organisations [Federation] category for the year 2017-18 under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission [DAY-NRLM].

Union Minister of Rural Department, Narendra Singh Tomar, presented a cash award of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate on 11 Jun at Delhi in recognition of the outstanding performance of Ekta SHG, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, DAY-NRLM was launched in 2011 and has been implemented for the last seven years by all States and UTs with financial assistance and technical support of the Ministry of Rural Development [MoRD]. Promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor is the top priority of the Mission. In Sikkim, the



mission was implemented in 2015-16. The mission seeks to organize all the rural women into SHGs and their federations

which in turn are expected to facilitate institutional credit and services for diversifying the livelihoods of the poor.

The DAY-NRLM has insti-

tuted a sub-scheme of "National awards to Best Performing SHGs and Village Organisations [Federation]" to encourage and motivate SHGs to improve their performance. The awards are conferred on outstanding SHGs and Village Organisations annually. The SHGs are selected on the basis of key performance indicators.

For the year 2017-18, 34 outstanding SHGs were selected from 20 states with Ekta SHG from Sikkim securing the National Award for the Best Performing SHGs and Village Organisations [Federation].

It is to be informed that the mission is being implemented in North and East Districts of Sikkim by State Rural Livelihood Mission [SRLM], under Rural Management Development Department [RMDD] in a phased manner since 2015-

16 and up to 2017-18, all the 14 blocks have been covered for implementation.

The total number of SHGs in these 14 blocks organised under SRLM stands at 1675 SHGs as of now out of which 525 SHGs have been formed in 07 new blocks and the process of formation is still in progress. SHGs in the old 07 blocks have been supported with Revolving Fund at Rs 15,000 per SHG and Community Fund at Rs 50,000 per SHG for taking up various livelihoods initiatives.

The various thematic training and capacity training programmes that SRLM continues to give by engaging resource persons from both within and outside have also helped them understand how to build a strong institution for themselves, earning them a National Award, the release mentions.



SSC vice-convenor releases book on fuel price hike

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

Sikkim Subject Committee convenor and former MP, Pahalman Subba today released a book written by SSC vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan titled 'I Can't Bear the Cost of Petrol: Common Man'.

Mr Pradhan while introducing the book said that the book is dedicated to the people of Sikkim and the nation. He further informed that the

book is based on the recent hike in the price of petrol and diesel.

He also mentioned that the book is the voice of people terrorized by the rise of fuel prices in the nation.

It is not a thesis but has basic information for people on petroleum, its demand and oil pricing mechanism in the world and in the country, he added.

"The present Sikkim Sales Tax is 25% of the

base price for petrol and 12.5% of base price for diesel. In 2013, SST for petrol was 20% and 10% for diesel. Subsequently, it was 25% and 15% in 2015 and it was 27% and 17.5% in 2016 for petrol and diesel. However, due to sales drop, the SST structure was changed to 25% for petrol and 12.5% for diesel in year 2015, which has been continued since then," he said.

Mr Pradhan stated

that it is very unfortunate for the common man to pay high price for fuel due to high taxes.

Further, he shared his plans to post the book to all political parties in the State and the Central Government. The book will be available for sale in the market from Friday at the cost of Rs 30.

SSC also plans to hold a bicycle rally from Rangpo to Ranipool to highlight the issue of high fuel prices, he informed.

Mass yoga demonstrations across State to mark Intl Yoga Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 JUN:

On the occasion of International Yoga Day, Art of Living, Sikkim Chapter in association with Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation will be conducting yoga class for officials of Tourism & Civil Aviation Department and tourism stakeholders from 7 a.m to 8 a.m at the conference hall of Paryatan Bhavan in Tadong on 21 Jun, a press release informs.

Similarly, AYUSH, Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department as the nodal department with support from other line departments will be holding

ing mass yoga at Paljor Stadium to be attended by around 2000 participants from National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme, Sashasthra Seema Bal, Indo Tibetan Border Police and students from various schools, colleges and universities in the scheduled time and date to mark the celebration of International Yoga Day.

It may be mentioned here, the aforementioned events are being organized in sync with the United Nations' declaration of 21 Jun as the International day of yoga - an occasion to propagate yoga on a large scale considering the health bene-

fits attached with yoga.

This year, the centre-piece will be the mass yoga demonstration wherein participants will pursue the drill of common Yoga protocol in harmony. Yoga demonstrations will be held from 7 a.m to 8 a.m on 21 Jun at all places.

As part of the programme, Art of Living, Sikkim Chapter will also be organising a foundation course on yoga from 17-21 Jun at the conference hall of Paryatan Bhavan from 5 p.m to 7 p.m to inculcate an interest in yoga thereby encouraging wellness tourism in Sikkim. The course will give an insight to the basics of yoga.

19 killed in weather-related incidents; floods render several homeless in NE India

NEW DELHI, JUN 14 (PTI): Nineteen people were killed in weather-related incidents while torrential rains in northeast states rendered thousands homeless, even as a cloud of dust hung over vast areas of north India today, bringing down the air quality in Delhi to "severe" level.

Fifteen people were killed in dust storms in Uttar Pradesh and four in rain-related incidents in Tripura and Manipur.

Dusty winds continued to sweep the national capital and its adjoining area as the maximum temperature settled at 40.5 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average.

Delhi's air quality remained "severe" for the third day due to dust storms in Rajasthan, prompting authorities to issue warning to people to avoid staying outdoors for long and suspend construction activities, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In the northeast torrential rain for

the past three days has wreaked havoc in the region, with floods leaving thousands homeless in Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Assam.

Two people were swept away by strong river currents in Tripura yesterday, while over 14,000 families lost their homes as heavy downpour submerged parts of the state, officials said.

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who visited the flood-hit areas, has briefed Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh about the "critical situation" in the state. In neighbouring Manipur, the state government has declared "holiday" till Friday at all educational and government establishments in Imphal and its adjoining districts in view of the flood situation. Two people drowned in swollen rivers in separate incidents yesterday, according to police.

The water level in major rivers of Manipur receded this morning, but the situation continues to remain "vulnerable", officials said.

Electrocution death at Teesta Bazar

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 14 JUN:

A fatal electrocution was reported from Teesta Bazar here this morning. Jiwan Chhetri lost his life due to a current leak in the water pipes at around 7 a.m. today.

Sheela Chhetri, his aunt, was the first one who got electrocuted due

to the power leakage into the water pipes following which, Renu Chhetri, his sister, rushed in to help and she too got electrocuted. Somehow, they managed to free themselves.

Their neighbor, Hem Kumar Pradhan, hearing them holler rushed to help them, while Jiwan Chhetri, who had just taken a shower and

was getting dressed and rushed out as well. Even as he was being warned to stay away, seeing is family in distress, he rushed, which is when he slipped into the area where the electric current was the strongest.

He succumbed to the electrocution.

His brother, Jiten Chhetri, has alleged that the fatality occurred because of the "carelessness of the electricity department". Proper investiga-

tion should be done by the Police and the Electricity Department, the family has demanded by residents of the area have demanded adequate compensation for the bereaved family.

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Bee boxes and hives...

contd from pg02

Director, KVIC Gangtok, Sidarth Roy, Assistant Director, KVIC, BN Roy, Assistant Director, Rural Management & Development Department, Ganga Prasad Dahal, Ward Panchayat, Parlad Rai, and the general public.

Each of the five participants from Sumbuk and Turuk villages received 10 bee boxes with hives, tool kit and training certificates under Major Honey Mission 2018 from KVIC. The participants were trained by master trainer from KVIC Guwahati, Chandan Haloi, during a five-day training programme held earlier.

Panchayat president, Ms Sharma encouraged the participants to be en-

trepreneurs while adding that bee keeping is a small investment business with high income. She extended gratitude to KVIC Gangtok and National Youth Volunteer, Suyog Pradhan, for organizing the programme and assured full support in the coming days.

It may be mentioned here, under KVIC's Honey Mission, 3.5 lakh people will be trained on bee keeping and will be provided with facilities related to it. In Sikkim, only 3,000 bee boxes will be distributed under the programme. In Sumbuk, it is on a trial basis wherein Apis Mellifera [Italian Bee] supplied from Kolkata were distributed to five participants from the area.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAMAJ KALYAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department invites e-tender from Class – II B Enlisted Contractors (SPWD) for participating in the tender for "Construction of Old Age Home (Jyestha Nagrik Sewa Samman Kendra) at Mangan, North Sikkim". For further details, kindly visit the website www.sikkim-tenders.gov.in. Date of uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal will be on **18.06.2018**.

Sd/- ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT
& WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

R.O. No. 136/jpr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 12.6.2018

AFFADAVIT

I, **DILIP KUMAR CHETTRI**, S/O Shree Birkha Bahadur Chhetri resident of Yuksom Ting-Ting West Sikkim, P/O & P/S Yuksom, West Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that in my Certificate of Identification, Caste Certificate, Academic Certificate & Mark Sheet and other relevant documents my name is **DILIP KUMAR CHETTRI**, that in my Birth Certificate my name had been recorded as **DILIP KUMAR CHHETTRI** and in my Aadhar card my name has been executed as **DILIP KUMAR CHHETRI**. That **DILIP KUMAR CHETTRI**, **DILIP KUMAR CHHETTRI** & **DILIP KUMAR CHHETRI** is one and same identical person i.e. myself vide affidavit 34978 on date 13.06.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Passenger Safety

Look under the bonnet also, and also check the tyres and brakes

A person driving to Siliguri recently was flagged down by road labourers to stop while the dozers cleared monsoon debris from NH10. As the person waited, a mainline taxi bumped into his vehicle from behind. When the person got out to check the damage and find the cause, the apologetic taxi driver explained that his vehicle's brakes were not in top shape. The vehicle had bumped itself to a stop! The damage was not much, but the real worry was the utter disregard for human lives.

The taxi-jeep was loaded to full capacity with 10 passengers on board. And no brakes! It soon transpired that all that the driver could present by way of documents was a year-old General Diary police complaint recording that the documents of the vehicle were lost. As for a driving licence, the driver claimed that he had applied for one in Siliguri and was yet to receive it. What is more, he was not even the actual driver of the said vehicle and was filling in for the regular driver who had decided to take a day off and requisitioned his services for the day! Just about every prescribed rule for passenger vehicles was being flouted in this case. What is frightening is that it was not even a rare aberration as is being discovered by the ongoing checking by the Motor Vehicles Division of the Transport Department.

Little surprise then that in the past year, 2017, there were 198 accidents reported on Sikkim's roads which claimed 68 lives and left 471 injured. This number is lower than the number of accidents reported in 2016, but only marginally so and given the comparatively small pool of vehicles and limited road length, even one accident less can reflect high percentage differential.

Suffice to say that it is time that more earnest efforts to be initiated to address road safety - the pointlessness of the road safety week tokenism [observed in the first week of May] will just not do any more.

It is important to bear in mind that very few of the 198 accidents last year can be attributed to bad roads or landslides. All the remaining accidents and fatalities were caused by driver error. Here, one may add that the blame for even mechanical failures leading to accidents has to rest with the drivers for having ignored the warning signs or delayed servicing and repairs. One should not be surprised if it transpires that most of the accidents involved vehicles which were not road-worthy, either because of faulty brakes or ineffectually traction due to bald tyres or inept hands on the wheels [a poor driver, after all, makes even the best maintained rides dangerous]. The reason why the opening anecdote was shared is because it is a copy-book illustration of all that is wrong with passenger/road safety in Sikkim. Unfortunately, none of real reasons which are making travelling unsafe for people who opt for jeeps and taxis is being addressed.

This section has often spoken of the need for traffic regulators to focus more on the road worthiness and driving skills than documents and licences. But this aspect continues to remain ignored. Here is a checklist of what could be considered. For one, the State Government needs to ensure that the "T" [Taxi] driving licenses are issued only after proper verification of the applicant's driving skills. If this is done conscientiously, then the government can return more strictly to its policy decision of allowing on people with taxi driving licences issued in Sikkim to drive passenger vehicles here. Each time Motor Vehicle Inspectors or Traffic personnel stop a vehicle for 'document check' they should also inspect the road worthiness of the vehicle [at least the tyres and brakes] and pull the vehicles off the roads until the vehicles in question are brought back to health. A rule, mandatory in all metros now, that all passenger vehicles prominently display the ownership and driver details for all passengers to see clearly should also be considered [This board should also include contact details of agencies to contact in case of rash driving or rude behaviour by drivers]. This will ensure that the regular drivers do not play truant and put the lives of passengers in the hands of unauthorised and potentially unsafe drivers and will also encourage more passengers to complain against dangerous driving. This is important because with the increase in the number of passenger vehicles, too many people with scant respect for traffic rules or human lives are being let loose on the highways.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Antarctica has lost 3 trillion tonnes of ice in 25 years. Time is running out for the frozen continent

STEVE RINTOUL & STEVEN CHOWN

theconversation.com

Antarctica lost 3 trillion tonnes of ice between 1992 and 2017, according to a new analysis of satellite observations. In vulnerable West Antarctica, the annual rate of ice loss has tripled during that period, reaching 159 billion tonnes a year. Overall, enough ice has been lost from Antarctica over the past quarter-century to raise global seas by 8 millimetres.

What will Antarctica look like in the year 2070, and how will changes in Antarctica impact the rest of the globe? The answer to these questions depends on choices we make in the next decade, as outlined in our accompanying paper, also published today in *Nature*.

Our research contrasts two potential narratives for Antarctica over the coming half-century - a story that will play out within the lifetimes of today's children and young adults.

While the two scenarios are necessarily speculative, two things are certain. The first is that once significant changes occur in Antarctica, we are committed to centuries of further, irreversible change on global scales. The second is that we don't have much time - the narrative that eventually plays out will depend on choices made in the coming decade.

CHANGE IN ANTARCTICA HAS GLOBAL IMPACTS

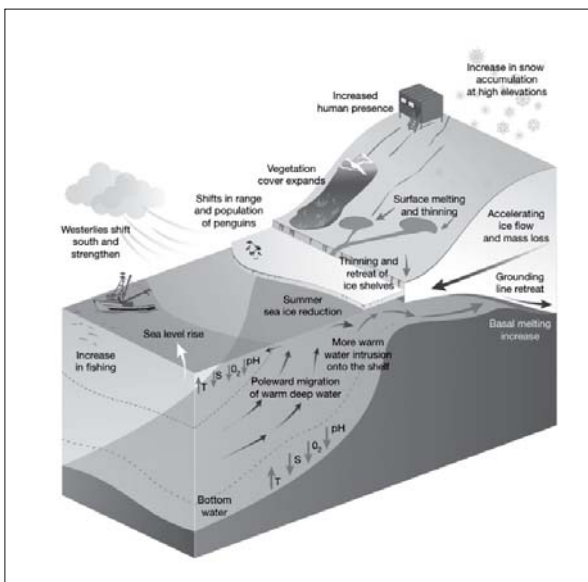
Despite being the most remote region on Earth, changes in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean will have global consequences for the planet and humanity.

For example, the rate of sea-level rise depends on the response of the Antarctic ice sheet to warming of the atmosphere and ocean, while the speed of climate change depends on how much heat and carbon dioxide is taken up by the Southern Ocean. What's more, marine ecosystems all over the world are sustained by the nutrients exported from the Southern Ocean to lower latitudes.

From a political perspective, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are among the largest shared spaces on Earth, regulated by a unique governance regime known as the Antarctic Treaty System. So far this regime has been successful at managing the environment and avoiding discord. However, just as the physical and biological systems of Antarctica face challenges from rapid environmental change driven by human activities, so too does the management of the continent.

ANTARCTICA IN 2070

We considered two narratives of the next 50 years for Antarctica, each describing a plausible future based on



the latest science.

In the first scenario, global greenhouse gas emissions remain unchecked, the climate continues to warm, and little policy action is taken to respond to environmental factors and human activities that affect the Antarctic.

Under this scenario, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean undergo widespread and rapid change, with global consequences. Warming of the ocean and atmosphere result in dramatic loss of major ice shelves. This causes increased loss of ice from the Antarctic ice sheet and acceleration of sea-level rise to rates not seen since the end of the last glacial period more than 10,000 years ago.

Warming, sea-ice retreat and ocean acidification significantly change marine ecosystems. And un-

restricted growth in human use of Antarctica degrades the environment and results in the establishment of invasive species.

In the second scenario, ambitious action is taken to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to establish policies that reduce human pressure on Antarctica's environment.

Under this scenario, Antarctica in 2070 looks much like it does today. The ice shelves remain largely intact, reducing loss of ice from the Antarctic ice sheet and therefore limiting sea-level rise.

An increasingly collaborative and effective governance regime helps to alleviate human pressures on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Marine ecosystems remain largely intact as warming and acidification are held in check. On land, biological invasions

remain rare. Antarctica's unique invertebrates and microbes continue to flourish.

THE CHOICE IS OURS

We can choose which of these trajectories we follow over the coming half-century. But the window of opportunity is closing fast.

Global warming is determined by global greenhouse emissions, which continue to grow. This will commit us to further unavoidable climate impacts, some of which will take decades or centuries to play out. Greenhouse gas emissions must peak and start falling within the coming decade if our second narrative is to stand a chance of coming true.

If our more optimistic scenario for Antarctica plays out, there is a good chance that the continent's buttressing ice shelves will survive and that Antarctica's contribution to sea-level rise will remain below 1 metre. A rise of 1m or more would displace millions of people and cause substantial economic hardship.

Under the more damaging of our potential scenarios, many Antarctic ice shelves will likely be lost and the Antarctic ice sheet will contribute as much as 3m of sea level rise by 2300, with an irreversible commitment of 5-15m in the coming millennia.

While challenging, we can take action now to prevent Antarctica and the world from suffering out-of-control climate consequences. Success will demonstrate the power of peaceful international collaboration and show that, when it comes to the crunch, we can use scientific evidence to take decisions that are in our long-term best interest.

[Steve Rintoul is Research Team Leader, Marine & Atmospheric Research, CSIRO; Steven Chown is Professor of Biological Sciences, Monash University]

From outsized dinosaurs to outrunning hot lava in Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

MICHAEL MILFORD & PETER STRATTON

theconversation.com

What happens when you combine genetically engineered dinosaurs, greedy capitalists, and an erupting volcano? A lot of thrills, as experienced in the most recent dinosaur movie Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom. It's a different tale to the Jurassic movies we've been used to: a little darker, and updated for a modern world.

Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard are back as Owen (the velociraptor-taming rogue) and a wiser Claire, alongside faces from the original Jurassic Park movie in Dr Henry Wu (B.D. Wong) and Dr Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum).

But bringing back dinosaurs from the dead and then genetically engineering them necessarily involves a serve of scientific magic. In this review, we dive into the scientific concepts behind some of the scenes to check whether they are dinosaur dung or movie magic.

Be warned: some modest spoilers lie ahead!

TESTING T-REX'S TALLNESS

Monster and dinosaur movies are notorious for getting the size of (real) creatures wrong, having inconsistent sizes throughout the movie, or even defying the laws of mass conservation.

So how does the T-Rex portrayal in Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom stack up? Well, the largest T-Rex skeleton found to date is named "Sue" (although we don't know if it was a male or female dinosaur).

Sue measures 3.66 metres tall at the hips.

We have Chris Pratt for scale, whose height estimates vary but is around 1.88 metres tall (he's a bit closer to the camera than Rexy but let's assume they're the same distance for simplicity).

T-rex hip height = screen height ratio × Chris Pratt Height
= (10.55cm / 4.88cm) × 1.88m
= 4.06m

So that's about 10% oversized. Factoring in the likelihood of there being T-Rexes larger than Sue (we have only found a small number of T-Rex skeletons, so it's unlikely we've found the largest ones), and the extra skin and muscle, this looks like the film-makers have got the size spot on.

Verdict: Rexy is right.

The giant prehistoric aquatic lizard Mosasaurus is also back, mixing it up with surfers this time.

Mosasaurus length = screen length ratio × human height
= 28.08cm / 2.36cm × 1.8m
= 21.4m

The largest species of Mosasaurus reached lengths of 17m: so this is pushing the limits a bit more, at 25% oversized, but acceptable I think for

storytelling purposes. I guess prehistoric creatures were sufficiently huge and crazy that even Hollywood didn't feel the need to make them "larger than life".

Verdict: Mosasaurus is on the money.

PTERANODON PORTAGE?

In one scene, a Pteranodon flies in, picks up a fully armed man, and flies off fairly effortlessly.

Now, we don't have them around anymore, but we do have large birds of flight such as the bald eagle. The best estimates and observations of a bald eagle put its lifting power at around one-third to one-half of its body weight.

Pteranodon weight is apparently very difficult to estimate, with a range of 25-50kg: making it unlikely they could lift a 90kg male.

But the largest pterosaurs (bigger than in this movie scene) may have weighed as much as 180-250kg - making it plausible that they could, in full flight, pick up and carry an adult man.

Verdict: Struggling to fly.

MOSASAURUS MANEUVERS?

Mosasaurus jumps well out the water as well in this memorable scene. This might seem an incredible feat, but modern humpback whales are only a little bit smaller and can get much of their body out of the water.

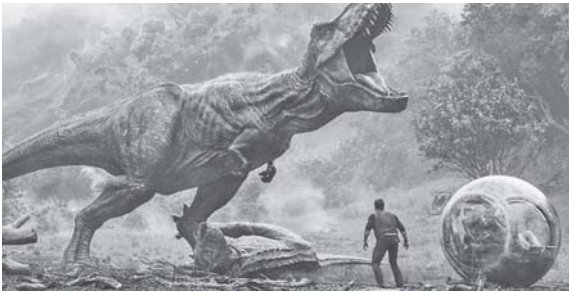
Verdict: Plausible.


CRACKING CHAINS

When the T-Rex wakes up, it snaps a chain connector rather effortlessly. Now the Rex is a massive (around 8 tonnes), powerful creature, but is this realistic, assuming the connector isn't faulty?


It looks like the connector is held in place by a threaded screw - in which case we can examine the "thread stripping strength" of screws at which point the thread shears off and the connector fails.

turn to 05





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Ref. No: 253 / (N)/2017-18

Dated: 11.06.2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the state government had notified the SIA unit to carry out the social impact assessment (SIA) study for the proposed acquisition of land by NHPC Limited for the purpose of construction of Teesta IV (520 MW) Power Project vide Gazette Notification no 654 dt. 15th Dec. 2017.

Whereas now U/S 5 of RFCTLARR Act 2013 a public hearing is to be held in the affected area to ascertain the views of affected families to be recorded and included in the SIA report.

Now therefore, the State Government is pleased to conduct the public hearing in affected areas in following venues, dates and time.

Sl. No.	Date	Time	Venue	Affected area Revenue Block wise
1	30-06-2018	10.00 AM	Zilla Bhawan, Hall Mangan	All affected families of Left Bank
2.	02-07-2018	2.00 PM	Hee Gyathang GPK	All affected families of Passingdong, Lingdong, Borfok, Heegyathang
1.	03-07-2018	10 AM	Lum Gor Ssangtok GPK	All affected families of Gor Tarayang, Gnon Sangdong

The affected families may attend the public hearing as per the schedule above and record their views.

BY ORDER

Sd/-
 District Collector
 Mangan, North Sikkim



Amar Subba set to compete in 24-hour stadium run at Mumbai

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 JUN:**

Sikkim's Marathon Man, Amar Subba is all set to compete in the 24 Hours Stadium Run scheduled to be held on 16 and 17 June at University Stadium, Marine Drive in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The 24-hour stadium run will start on 16 June at 06 p.m. and will wrap up at 06 p.m on 17 June.

The 50-year-old runner will leave on Friday for the event.

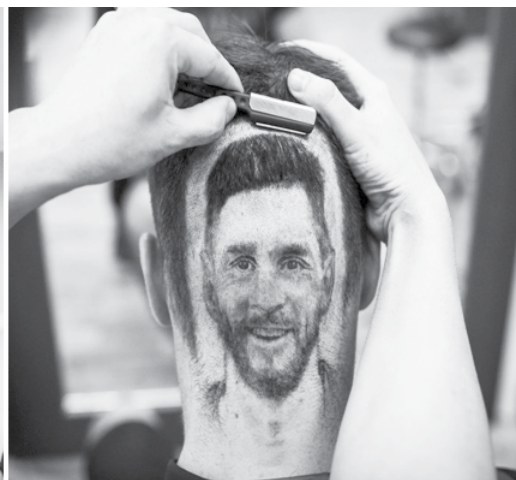
Mr Subba has been selected on the basis of his performance at the recently held 12-Hour [Night] Stadium Run held on 26-27 May at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad where he covered 87.2 KMs in 12 hours and finished on the tenth position.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Subba mentioned about his injuries after running 75 KMs in his debut appearance at 24 Hours Stadium Run last year in Bangalore.

"I have learnt from my mistakes. This time I am prepared and ready for anything. The event is also a big opportunity for me to run along with some of the best ultra runners of the country," he said.

Mr Subba plans to cover at least 160 KMs in the 24 hours run.

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Football fans looking to show their support during the World Cup can now sport their favourite player in their haircut. Mario Hvala, a barber in Serbia, is offering fans a "hair tattoo", shaving the likeness of players including Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo into the backs of their heads. He's previously shaved the likes of Novak Djokovic, and even Kim Jong Un into people's hair. The 35-year-old charges €150 (£132) for one of the tattoos, compared with €8 (1,000 dinars/£7) for a standard cut.

India need to play top-10 teams in Asia before Asian Cup: Chhetri

NEW DELHI, JUN 14 (PTI): Talismanic national football team captain Sunil Chhetri feels India should play against top-10 ranked sides of the continent in the next few months if the country desires to do well in next year's Asian Cup.

Chhetri said it would be difficult to play against the top-five countries -- Australia, Iran, Korea, Japan and Saudi Arabia -- which are playing in the World Cup starting tomorrow in Russia but they can for other teams which are above India.

"I definitely feel so (play against top-10 ranked teams in Asia). It will be difficult to play against the top five as they are playing in the World Cup. But we need to play against teams better than us and that also away matches," Chhetri told PTI in an interaction.

"At home we are doing better but in away matches, if I may say so, our record is poor," said Chhetri, who is a brand ambassador of online fantasy sports platform StarPick which yesterday announced the launch of the football World Cup 2018 platform offering prizes worth Rs 20 crores.

Chhetri, who turns 34 in August, said the team should not get carried away with the triumph in the Intercontinental Cup and it should continue to work hard to perform well in Asian Cup.

"We don't get to play against New Zealand and Kenya everyday but the teams we are going to play in Asian Cup (in January 2019) like Thailand and Bahrain are two to three levels higher than us. We should be happy with what we have done but not get carried away. We have to improve a lot," he said.

"UAE, Thailand and Bahrain



(which are in India's group) are miles better than us and we have to put our heads down and keep working hard," said Chhetri, who played his 100th international match during the four-nation tournament in Mumbai.

Chhetri struck eight out of the 11 goals India scored in the Intercontinental Cup to become the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine great Lionel Messi.

During that tournament, just before his 100th match, Chhetri made an appeal to fans to throng the stadium and watch the Indian football team play, which was an unprecedented act for a national team captain.

He said it was not a planned appeal but came out spontaneously after India played in front of an empty stadium in the first match against Chinese Taipei. The appeal via a Twitter video post got support from the likes of Virat Kohli and Sania Mirza.

"Had it been planned I would not have been allowed to do that. It was something which did

not run through my PR team, it was very random. I had no clue it will have that kind of traction. I really appreciate all the eminent persons coming in and supporting me. It worked as you saw a jam-packed stadium in the next match," Chhetri said.

"Usually we enjoy jam-packed stadium in the ISL in Kerala, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Northeast and Chennai but on the first match (against Chinese Taipei) the stadium was empty and it was a bit disappointing and probably that was why I made the video."

Asked if he has personal acquaintance with Kohli, he said, "Virat generally loves football. We talk on regular basis, not on twitter though. He likes football and probably that is why he came to my support. He is a part of FC Goa team and comes to watch ISL matches.

"He is knowledgeable about football and that is why he wants to encourage fans to watch football matches and that is great. I did not ask him personally though."

Meanwhile, StarPick will

engage football fans to enable them to use their skills to build and own their teams on the platform and be a part of the excitement associated with the football World Cup in Russia. The top five football fans on the platform will also have the opportunity to travel to United Kingdom and witness the 2018 English Premier League live.

Starpick.in was launched in March with the start of IPL XI and has successfully concluded this engagement with users winning prizes up to Rs 10 crores. The platform offers the widest game portfolio from across the world including cricket, kabaddi, European football, hockey, basketball, formula 1, golf, bicycle racing to name a few.

Trigam Mukherjee, Co-Founder and CEO of StarPick, said, "It is significant because India is predominantly a cricket crazy country but what we have seen in the last five years is a latent demand for football, and fantasy sports will power non-cricket fans like in football, which will help in growing the fan base of these sports.

Dhawan first Indian to hit ton before lunch, joins list of greats



BENGALURU, JUN 14 (PTI): Shikhar Dhawan today became the first Indian player to score a century in Test cricket before lunch, joining an esteemed list of former cricketers, including the legendary Don Bradman.

The explosive Indian opener hammered 19 fours and 3 sixes as he reached his century in 91 balls on the opening day of the historic India-Afghanistan test match at Chinnaswamy stadium here. He became the sixth player in the world to score a century before lunch.

Last year, Australia's dashing opener David Warner scored 100 not out before lunch against Pakistan.

Other five players who achieved this milestone in the past are Vic-

tor Trumper (103 not out before lunch) against England in 1902, Charlie Macartney (112 not out) against England in 1926, Bradman (105 not out) against England in 1930, Majid Khan (108 not out) against New Zealand in 1976.

Before Dhawan, the previous record for best score for India in the first session was held by Virender Sehwag, who had scored 99 runs in St Lucia against West Indies in 2006.

It was Dhawan's 7th Test century in 30 matches. India are playing the historic match without the services of skipper Virat Kohli.

Afghanistan was granted Test status in June last year along with Ireland.



Jayaram enters US Open second round

FULLERTON (US), JUN 14 (PTI): On a comeback trail after recovering from injury, Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram notched up a gritty three-game win over Korea's Yun Kyu Lee to reach the second round of the US Open World Tour Super 300 tournament here.

Jayaram, who had unfortunately pulled his hamstring at the Senior National Championship last year and had to skip many tournaments, saw off Lee 26-24 17-21 21-13 in a thrilling opening

round contest at the Fullerton Titan Gym.

The former world no 13 will next face Brazil's Ygor Coelho, seeded eighth.

In women's singles, young Anura Prabhudesai, however, couldn't get across Canada's Rachel Honderich, losing 9-21 17-21 in a lop-sided contest.

Men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumee Reddy gave a walkover to Indonesia duo of Rahmat Adianto and Rangga Yave Riano.

Dhawan, Vijay take India to 248/1 as rain stops play

BENGALURU, JUN 14 (PTI): Shikhar Dhawan gave Afghanistan a rude reality check on what longest format is all about with a first session hundred as ruthless India reached 248 for 1 before heavens opened up forcing an early tea on the opening day of the one-off Test.

Dhawan bludgeoned the rookie Afghan bowlers into submission with a power-packed 96-ball-107 while Murali Vijay grinded the opposition with a solid unbeaten 94 off 128 as the duo set the platform for a mammoth first innings total with a stand of 168 in only 28.4 overs.

Incidentally Dhawan became the first ever Indian batsman to score a century in the first session of a Test match joining the illustrious ranks of Sir Don Bradman, Victor Trumper, Majid Khan, David Warner.

The third specialist opener in the side KL Rahul (33 off 48 balls) played some attractive strokes before the stoppage of play.

Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons' statement about not knowing what it's all about till you get there seemed prophetic as the talented bunch of cricketers got their introductory lessons in red ball cricket from two openers, who have played 85 Test matches between themselves.

Rashid Khan (14-0-89-0), the reigning crown prince of 24-ball spells, received a harsh treatment from Dhawan, who smacked him for three boundaries to complete a half-century in 47 balls.

Dhawan also hit a flowing cover drive off Rashid to complete his hundred as Vijay also frustrated the minnows with his watertight technique.



Call it irony, Dhawan stepped out to hit straight sixes off Afghanistan's three IPL participants Rashid, Mohammed Nabi and Mujeeb ur Rahaman with effortless ease.

In all Dhawan hit 19 boundaries and three huge sixes before Yamin Ahmedzai picked him with a perfectly pitched delivery

that moved a shade away after pitching and Mohammed Nabi in the slips pounced it after his skipper Ashgar Stanikzai fumbled on first attempt.

The 37 boundaries and four sixes hit in 45 odd overs was a testimony that there is a long road that Afghanistan need to travel.

The hapless bowlers

struggled with the Test match length', especially the spinners who are used to ball flat and quick.

The moment Rashid or Mujeeb (0/46 in 7 overs) tried to flight, Dhawan would step out, if they upped the pace of the deliveries, they were cut forcefully.

At the onset, opening bowler Yamin Ahmadzai (8-2-28-1) bowled a few sharp outswingers before leaving the field with a muscle pull. He did comeback at the stroke of lunch but again after another four-over spell -- in which he got Dhawan's wicket -- he left the field.

The other new ball bowler Wafadar was angling it across the left-hander and Vijay faced him more to wear him out and take advantage of the spinners.

While Dhawan was more forceful in his strokeplay, Vijay was more silken in his

drives. The shot of the day would certainly be a back-foot square drive off Wafadar. Vijay's innings so far has 14 boundaries and a six.

While watching Rashid bowl, it seemed as if Kevin Pietersen's Pataudi Memorial lecture kept playing in the background.

T20 offers cricketing buzz without the full sting. Wickets are less precious. Risks are taken without same downside. There is less character and technique required.

It couldn't have been more true as Rashid and Mujeeb the darling of the T20 generation were playing their first ever game with SG Test ball. They have played all their first class games with red kookaburra.

Anyone who has played a bit of cricket knows that SG Test isn't a ball to bowl with if it's the first time.

Rashid understood it the

hard way. He was relying too much on flipper and the googly but missing the length meant that he was carted on all sides of the wicket.

There weren't too many traditional leg-breaks (he calls himself an off-spinner with a leg-break action). Call it the bad habit of T20 cricket, both Rashid and Mujeeb stopped fighting the deliveries once Dhawan started dancing down the track.

There was too much width on offer and the Delhi left-hander on Indian pitches was always going to be a big bully as the Afghans found out.

ICC Chief Executive Dave Richardson was in there to witness the 12th nation make its Test debut and would certainly acknowledge that it's just a nascent beginning.

But Afghanistan found on the first day Test cricket is indeed the Test'.

India among over 90 nations without paid paternity leave for new dads: UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS, JUN 14 (PTI): India is among almost 90 countries in the world which do not have national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies, according to a new UNICEF analysis.

Almost two-thirds of the world's children under one-year old nearly 90 million live in countries where their fathers are not entitled by law to a single day of paid paternity leave, the UN agency said.

India and Nigeria, which have high infant populations, are among the 92 countries which do not have national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies.

The UN agency noted that around the world, momentum for family-friendly policies was growing. It cited the example of India, where officials are proposing a Paternity Benefit Bill for consideration in the next session of Parliament which would allow fathers up to three months of paid paternity leave.

Noting that much work remains to be done, UNICEF said in eight countries across the world, including the United States which is home to nearly four million infants, there was no paid maternity or paternity leave policy.

Other countries with high infant populations, including Brazil and Congo, all have national paid paternity leave pol-

icies, although offering relatively short-term entitlements.

"Positive and meaningful interaction with mothers and fathers from the very beginning helps shape children's brain growth and development for life, making them healthier and happier, and increasing their ability to learn. It's all of our responsibility to enable them to fill this role," UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said.

Evidence suggests that when fathers bond with their babies from the beginning of life, they are more likely to play a more active role in the child's development.

The research also suggests that when children positively interact with their fathers,

they have better psychological health, self-esteem and life-satisfaction in the long-term, UNICEF said.

UNICEF urged governments to implement national family-friendly policies that support early childhood development, including paid paternity leave, to help provide parents with the time, resources and information they need to care for their children.

Earlier this year, UNICEF modernised its approach to parental leave provisions, with up to 16 weeks of paid leave for paternity across all of its offices worldwide the first United Nations agency to extend such leave beyond the standard four weeks.

"We cannot be 'For Every Child', if we are not also 'For

Every Parent'. We have to ask more of governments and more of employers if we're going to give fathers and mothers the time and resources they need to nurture their children, particularly during the earliest years of a child's life," Fore said.

The new analysis forms part of UNICEF's 'Super Dads' campaign, now in its second year, which aims to break down barriers preventing fathers from playing an active role in their young children's development.

The campaign celebrates Father's Day recognised in more than 80 countries in June and focuses on the importance of love, play, protection and good nutrition for the healthy development of young children's brains.



Pak rejects Indian opposition to 'AJK Constitution'

ISLAMABAD, JUN 14 (PTI): Pakistan today rejected India's protest against its move to alter the status of territories occupied by Islamabad in Kashmir, saying New Delhi's claim over the region has no legal basis.

India this week had lodged strong protest with Pakistan over the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution (13th Amendment) Act, 2018, which abolished occupied Kashmir's Councils' administrative and financial powers, reducing it to an advisory body.

The Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement that Pakistan categorically rejects India's protest and its "fallacious and baseless claim" over Kashmir as an integral part of India.

The Indian claim has no legal basis and continues to be contradicted by the situation on ground since the last seven decades. The entire state of Jammu & Kashmir is

a 'disputed' territory, it said.

The FO said that the disputed status of Kashmir was enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, which stipulated that the final status of Jammu and Kashmir will be determined through the democratic method of a transparent, free and fair plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmiris.

These resolutions, pledging the right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir, are accepted by India, Pakistan and the international community, it said.

"Instead of making frivolous protests and issuing legally untenable and uncalled for statements, India should take steps to fulfil its international obligations and expedite resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions," said the FO.

120 countries at UN condemn Israel over Gaza violence

UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 14 (AFP): The UN General Assembly has adopted by a strong majority of 120 countries an Arab-backed resolution condemning Israel for Palestinian deaths in Gaza and rejected a US bid to put the blame on Hamas.

At least 129 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire during protests near the border with Gaza that began at the end of March. No Israelis have died.

The resolution put forward by Algeria and Turkey on behalf of Arab and Muslim countries won 120 votes in the 193-member assembly yesterday, with 8 votes against and 45 abstentions.

An amendment presented by the United States condemning Hamas for "inciting violence" along the border with Gaza failed to garner the two-third majority needed for adoption.

Addressing the assembly, US Ambassador Nikki Haley dismissed the resolution as biased against Israel and accused Arab countries of trying to score political points at home by seeking to condemn Israel at the United Nations.

"For some, attacking Israel is their favorite political sport. That's why we are here today," said Haley.

"I wish everyone supporting this one-sided resolution would put as much energy into encouraging President Abbas to the negotiating table," she said.

The resolution deplored Israel's use of "excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force" against Palestinian civilians and called for protection measures for Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.



Donald Trump has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by two Norwegian politicians after his historic meeting with Kim Jong Un. Christian Tybring-Gjedde, an MP, and former justice minister Per-Willy Amundsen said Mr Trump "had taken a huge and important step in the direction of the disarmament, peace and reconciliation between North and South Korea". Both men are politicians with the anti-establishment Progress Party. A group of US Republican politicians nominated Mr Trump for the prize in May. The process of considering candidates for the honour is carried out in Norway, and nominations must be sent to the Nobel committee before February. Mr Trump's recent backing from Norwegian and US politicians therefore serve as nominations for the 2019 prize. Each year the winner is announced on the Friday of the first full week of October.

North Korea's Kim knows denuclearisation must be 'quick': Pompeo

SEOUL, JUN 14 (AFP): Kim Jong Un understands that denuclearisation must happen "quickly", US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said today, warning there will be no sanctions relief for Pyongyang until the process is complete.

Washington remained committed to the "complete, verifiable and irreversible" denuclearisation of North Korea, Pompeo added, after the historic US-North Korea summit in Singapore drew criticism for its vague wording on plans for Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons.

"We believe that Kim Jong Un understands the urgency... that we must do this quickly," he said of the effort to have North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons.

Washington's top diplomat was in Seoul to brief his South Korean and Japanese counterparts after President Donald Trump's post-summit comments sparked confusion and concern in Tokyo and Seoul.

But Pompeo insisted at a joint press conference with the two countries' foreign ministers that there was no daylight among the allies on how to achieve the denuclearisation of North Korea.

Contrasting the Trump policy with previous US administrations, Pompeo said: "In the past, they were providing economic and financial relief before... complete denuclearisation had taken place."

"That is not going to happen, President Trump made that clear." Pompeo's comments came after North Korean state media reported Wednesday that Trump had not only offered to stop military exercises during dialogue, but also lift sanctions imposed on Pyongyang.

Trump said after his meeting with Kim -- the first between sitting US and North Korean leaders -- that Washington would halt its joint military exercises with South Korea, an announcement that caught Seoul -- and apparently the Pentagon -- by surprise.

The US and South Korea conduct several large drills every year to maintain readiness



for operations on the peninsula, a source of irritation for Pyongyang, which considers them preparations for an invasion.

Kang Kyung-wha, the South Korean foreign minister appeared to sidestep the issue at the joint press conference, saying the matter would be left to military authorities to discuss, and that the US-South Korea alliance remained "as robust as ever".

Earlier, South Korean President Moon Jae-in acknowledged that "there may be very conflicting views" about the summit, but it had still helped mitigate fears of a nuclear war.

"So in this way I believe it was very successful." While it is not directly involved, Japan also considers the drills vital.

The "deterrence based on them (plays) an essential role for security in northeast Asia", Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said after the "frank" trilateral talks today.

"The US will advance the discussion on provision of security guarantees while carefully monitoring whether North Korea takes concrete steps to fulfil its commitment to denuclearisation," Kono added.

"No security guarantees have been given yet." Pompeo said the suspension of the drills depended on productive negotiations in "good faith".

Trump had raised eyebrows on Tuesday by describing his own country's drills on the Korean peninsula as "provocative", a term

used by the North for the exercises.

Pyongyang describes its nuclear weapons and long-range missiles as a shield against US aggression, and has in the past linked denuclearisation to the removal of US forces from the peninsula.

After his meetings in Seoul, Pompeo left for Beijing, where he was expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Despite some concerns among allies and analysts, the Trump administration continues to tout the summit as a success, and Pompeo said earlier that he hopes to see "major disarmament" of North Korea by 2020.

A bullish Trump declared the nuclear threat from North Korea no longer exists, and tweeted Wednesday that people "can now feel much safer than the day I took office" and can "sleep well tonight".

The US leader also defended his decision on the military drills with South Korea: "We save a fortune by not doing war games, as long as we are negotiating in good faith -- which both sides are!" The president's latest comments are in stark contrast to his threats to unleash "fire and fury" last year in response to Pyongyang's nuclear and long-range missile tests.

The North retaliated by boasting it could annihilate the US.

After months of tensions which saw Trump and Kim trade personal insults, whirlwind diplomatic efforts were launched earlier this year, catalysed by the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The remarkable de-escalation saw Kim reach out to Trump, conduct a historic summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and visit Xi in Beijing -- his first trip abroad as leader of the North.

The reclusive regime in Pyongyang has long craved international legitimacy, and has played up the summit as a major victory for Kim, with state media calling it the "meeting of the century".

Zipchu Shegu



The 49 days Zipchu Shegu of **Late Lham Dupla Singhi Lama** son of Late Kam Chezung Lama who left for his heavenly abode on **3rd May 2018 falls on 19th - 20th June 2018 (Tuesday - Wednesday)**. All families, relatives and friends are requested to join us in offering prayers for departed soul at our residence at **Sang Phelong, East Sikkim**. We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Family members:- Phum Chung Doma Lharipa(wife), Sonam Lendup Lharipa(son), Rinzing Choden(daughter), Karma Chopel Lharipa(grandson), Pema Wangdi Lharipa & Norzang Lharipa.

Ph no. 8670409110, 8170028292, 7797885087.

MISSING



Name: **Munni**
Age: **19 years (aprox.)**
Complexion: **Fair**
Missing from: **Kazitar, Namchi, South Sikkim since 6th June 2018 (Wednesday)**

If seen please contact: **9647854249** or nearest police station.

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THE ROYALS! The Queen shows the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, the royal ropes as they arrive in Cheshire on their first joint public engagement after an overnight trip on the Royal Train.

Does Sophie Turner's new tattoo hint a major 'GoT' spoiler?

She plays the role of Sansa Stark in HBO's beloved fantasy drama Game Of Thrones.

And Sophie Turner has showcased her devotion for the daredevil character with a new arm tattoo earlier this week, which features an intricate drawing of a dire wolf and the words "the pack survives".

The 22-year-old actress' fresh inking - which was posted to tattoo artist Lauren Winzer's Instagram account - has left fans convinced that the star is hinting at what is to come in the eighth and final series of the show.

Paying homage to Sansa's late father Ned Stark, the memorable phrase "the lone wolf dies but the pack survives" was coined by the head of House Stark in the first series.

The Barely Lethal star's detailed tattoo caused specu-



lation amongst keen viewers, who believed the piece represented her family's longevity as well as their successful fate for the new series - set to premiere in 2019.

Clearly in shock, fans flocked to the image, with one penning: "omg is this a spoiler?", while another wrote: "That's a spoiler I think, it means all the rest of the Starks will survive."

However, other viewers weren't as convinced, as a fan



noted the inking was merely a reference to the previous series: "Just bec a tattoo said 'the pack survives' doesn't mean it's a spoiler and the starks survived. The phrase came from her monologue back in S7! Why aren't people thinking about that?"

On season seven's finale, viewers were left on knife's edge after the Night King finally made his move to wipe out the people of Westeros and Jon Snow's parentage

was finally confirmed.

Meanwhile, Sophie has happily settled into life in Bondi with her fiancé Joe Jonas, 28, where they are renting a house while Joe films The Voice Australia.

They have been inseparable as a couple since they announced their engagement in October last year.

Despite keeping their wedding plans under wraps, it has previously been reported they won't tie the knot until Sophie finishing filming Game of Thrones season eight.

Joe told TV WEEK magazine that he and Sophie are yet to plan their wedding, although it is a priority. He added: "We knew it would get out if she was walking around with the ring on her finger so we tried to be timely about it, but the emotions took over."

Zero teaser: Dwarf SRK, Sallu Bhai bring the biggest film of the year!

Shah Rukh Khan has finally shared a second good look at his upcoming film, Zero. The new Zero teaser, which has Salman Khan dancing with SRK, will be attached with his Eid release, Race 3. It seems to be a special gift from Shah Rukh and Salman on Eid.

It begins with a voice over from Javed Jaffery at a dance competition. A nervous, dwarf Shah Rukh approaches the stage, followed by Salman Khan in what we assume will be a guest appearance. Salman makes him feel comfortable and the two dance together as the crowd around him breaks into an applause. A Zero teaser had released earlier.



The film is directed by Anand L Rai of Tanu Weds Manu and Tanu Weds Manu Returns. It also stars Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma and R Madhavan, who

had worked with him in both these films.

Zero is Shah Rukh's second film with both Katrina and Anushka. He previously worked with them in Yash Chopra's last film, Jab Tak Hai Jaan.

Shah Rukh shared a selfie with Anand on Thursday morning as they waited to share the teaser. "Waiting for the link to reach us so that we can put the Zero Teaser out. @aanandlrai & me waiting on the streets of America to wish Eid to everyone. Just a few moments more!!! #ZeroCelebratesEid," he wrote in the tweet.

The film releases on December 21.

McGregor to star in The Shining sequel!

Ewan McGregor is set to star in Stephen King's The Shining sequel, Doctor Sleep.

According to Variety, the Scottish actor, 47, will be taking on the role of Dan Torrance, who is know all grown up following his horrifying ordeal at the Overhook Hotel 38 years ago.

Cementing its place as a horror classic, 1980's The Shining, which was directed by Stanley Kubrick, starred Jack Nicholson as Jack Torrance with six-year-old Danny Lloyd as his young son.

The original movie was based on the best-selling horror story published in 1977 by Stephen King. In The Shining, Jack Torrance went on a murderous rampage after being holed up with his wife (Shelley Duvall) and his son, who had psychic powers, in a haunted and remote hotel.

It has been thrilling audiences to this very day with its famously terrifying scenes - including the creepy twins and Wendy Torrance's piercing screams as Jack hacked away at the door she was hiding behind.

The movie's only peaceful solace happened to be adorable youngster Danny, whose story will now be continued by Ewan in the eagerly anticipated sequel.

In the sequel - set for re-



lease in 2020 - the adult Dan Torrance is working in a hospice, helping dying patients and earning the nickname Dr. Sleep. He meets a little girl Abra Stone who also has psychic powers similar to his own and he gets caught up in a plot to kidnap her to gain control of her essence.

The story culminates with a fight on the site of the Overlook Hotel, the historic hotel that was the setting for The Shining.

According to Variety, Warner Bros. had been developing Doctor Sleep as well as The Shining's prequel Overlook Hotel for years but struggled to secure financing for either project.

But with the horror flick It earning more than \$700 million worldwide for New Line last year, Doctor Sleep is now being fast-tracked into pre-production. Doctor Sleep

will be directed by Mike Flanagan, who helmed the horror movies Oculus, Absentia and Ouija: Origin of Evil.

Stephen first touted the idea for The Shining sequel on his website, back in 2009, asking if they would prefer a sequel to his eponymous 1977 tome or another book in his Dark Tower franchise.

Fans gave the idea of a new Shining instalment a resounding thumbs up - leading to the popular 2013 follow-up book. Although the original flick initially had a slow start at the box office, it has since achieved cult status and is often rated in several 'Best Horror Film' lists.

The movie is also famous for its catchphrase 'Heeere's Johnny,' said by Nicholson's character who famously chops down a door and sticks his head through it manically towards the end of the film.

JAY-Z SUED OVER ROYALTIES FOR HIS 1996 DEBUT ALBUM REASONABLE DOUBT!

In 1996, his debut album Reasonable Doubt made him famous. But now, Jay-Z, 48, is being sued by Raynard Herbert who claims he helped land the rapper a distribution deal for the album in return for one percent of royalties.

TMZ is reporting that Herbert has filed suit in New York claiming he hasn't been paid in 10 years and seeking what he's owed with interest and damages.

In the lawsuit, he says he used his connections to get the deal for Roc-A-Fella as well as helping to master the album. But after getting regular payments from 1998 to 2008, he didn't receive any more during the past decade.

Herbert also says he reached out to Jay-Z's team in 2010 to ask about the royalty payments but didn't hear anything back.



Roc-A-Fella, Roc Nation, Damon Dash and Kareem Burke are also named in the legal filing.

Meanwhile, Jay-Z is currently on tour in the UK with wife Beyonce.

On Wednesday, the A-list couple were seen arriving in separate helicopters in Man-

chester, England, for their concert at the city's The Etihad Stadium.

Their On The Run II tour will go on to travel through The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain and France, before returning to the US and Canada from July to October.

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ARIES: Today you should have a lot of vitality, Aries. Recently, you may have decided to take more matters into your own hands. Your relationships will only benefit from this decision. The conflicts you've had to deal with were generally based on a lack of understanding. You sometimes have to make compromises. Try not to be too demanding.

TAURUS: Your generosity and altruism will be put to the test over the next few days, Taurus. You'll probably help the underprivileged. After all, you've always felt concerned about humanitarian projects but have never gotten involved. Today this attitude will enable you to understand who you really are. You'll be able to learn a lot about your motivations and the keys to your success.

GEMINI: Today's aspects will influence you to interact naturally with your circle of friends, Gemini. You're tired of hiding your feelings. You want to act in the way your instincts guide you. However, you're afraid of other people's reactions. Sometimes you don't express your emotions or opinions simply because you're afraid of what they might say or think. Try to gain more self-confidence.

CANCER: You're defining new strategies concerning your private life, Cancer. You could be feeling like a completely different person today. You're no longer afraid of society, and you enjoy meeting people. You'll probably sympathize with the goals of an individual or a group of people you have recently met. Try to fulfill your needs and forget any preconceived

ideas. **LEO:** Unfortunately, today's planetary energy will place you in a rather uncomfortable situation, Leo. You'll be the one having to smooth things over with your group of friends. Try not to impose your point of view. On the contrary, you should try to become more diplomatic and gentle with the people around you. You could also learn a lot by observing how people behave.

VIRGO: Even though the times are favorable for relaxation, you won't be able to fully enjoy this period, Virgo. You'll instead try to adjust your agenda so you can lead a more balanced life. The planetary aspects in play will incite you to change your attitude toward work. You should try to lighten your responsibilities to avoid stress at the office.

LIBRA: Today's celestial configuration will be favorable to changes in your relationships, Libra. Your professional and private lives will be influenced by how well you deal with these relationships. You may have decided that in one way or another your behavior needs to change. Now it's time for you to act. Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to see lasting improvement.

SCORPIO: You've felt the need to create over the past several days, Scorpio. This attitude is certainly due to the planetary positions, but it could also underlie your desire to change your professional and private lives. Therefore, you should let your creative mind come out. How about writing poetry or enrolling in a ceramics class? Don't refrain from showing this

secret part of your personality to those closest to you.

SAGITTARIUS: When you feel that your friends are trying to change your everyday life, you shouldn't try to resist it so stubbornly, Sagittarius. Open up your heart and let yourself be led. You'll be surprised at the feeling of freedom this brings. You'll probably have some interesting encounters today. They might change your life completely. Get ready for an exciting day!

CAPRICORN: Over the last few weeks you've been working hard so you don't have to worry about your finances, Capricorn. Try to forget your problems, and especially avoid focusing on and talking about money today. Do what you feel like doing. You're probably already aware that you need to take care of yourself from

time to time. Don't neglect your health. **AQUARIUS:** Today you're about to put your sense of humor to the test, Aquarius. You'll likely confront a few unexpected situations. Even if you're used to finding exciting things to do in an ordinary world, you'll be in for a big surprise or two. Today there will be a lot of excitement where you least expect it. Try to let the day's energy guide you. **PISCES:** Today you'll question yourself about your private life, Pisces. Indeed, you have to change your behavior. You're used to making decisions just for yourself. Now you'll realize that you need to think not only about yourself but also about your partner. This phase in your relationship is difficult and will lead to drastic measures. You now have to assume your responsibilities.