



**GET SCARED WHEN CRITICS  
GIVE GOOD REVIEWS TO MY  
FILMS, SAYS SALMAN KHAN**

pg 08

**WHAT ORWELL'S '1984' TELLS US  
ABOUT TODAY'S WORLD, 70 YEARS  
AFTER IT WAS PUBLISHED**

pg 04

**SHAH RUKH KHAN TO BE CHIEF  
GUEST AT 10TH INDIAN FILM  
FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE**

pg 08



# SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 159 | Gangtok | Friday | 14 June 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## Proposal to formalize 60% reservation for Sikkimese in SU



**GANGTOK, 13 JUN [IPR]:** A meeting was held in the chamber of the Minister HRDD, Kunga Nima Lepcha to discuss issues related to Sikkim University on 11 Jun, 2019. The meeting was also attended by MP Lok Sabha, Indra Hang Subba, ACS

HRDD, GP Upadhyaya and his team along with representatives of the Students wing.

During the meeting it was informed that there is an unwritten convention to provide reservation upto 60% of the total intake ca-

capacity to Sikkimese students in different Undergraduate and Post Graduate Courses under Sikkim University.

In this matter, the Vice Chancellor informed that he would submit a proposal to the Ministry of Human Resource

Development, Government of India, to officially make 60% reservation for Sikkimese students in SU.

The Vice Chancellor also offered to discuss the matter with the University Grants Commission. It was also decided that the MP,

Lok Sabha would accompany the Vice Chancellor for the same.

In the meeting it was informed that the intake in PG Courses of Sikkim University in extension centre at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong is inadequate. Thus, a request was made to explore the possibility to increase the number of seats in these PG courses. With regard to this, it was decided that an inspection team would be sent by SU to assess the possibility of increasing the number of seats and all possible support from their end was assured.

It was also informed that there are few courses which after completion have ample employment opportunities, however, it was mentioned

turn to pg02

## GOI keen to fund skill centre for handloom & handicrafts in Sikkim



**NEW DELHI, 13 JUN [IPR]:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] met Minister of Textiles, Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, here today.

The CM was accompanied by RMDD Minister Sonam Lama, Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava and Secretary to the Chief Minister, SD Dhakal.

After exchange of pleasantries, Ms Irani recalled her visit to Sikkim as Union HRDD Minister in 2017-18.

She said that a spe-

cialized fund for handloom & handicrafts sector could be considered for the state in view of its vast potential and booming tourism.

She suggested that the State Government organize a conference in Gangtok to discuss all the issues concerning her departments so that not only could the stakeholders be heard but also requisite guidelines could be given by the Centre.

It was also informed that one of the handloom & handicrafts cen-

tre in the district was ready for inauguration.

R Singh, Secretary, Textile Department, suggested that the State develop a skill centre which will be fully funded by the Government of India.

The Chief Secretary in turn indicated that all issues concerning women and children were fully under control in the state. All Government of India schemes were being implemented well and that empowerment of women in Sikkim was on a higher pedestal.

## Sikh settlers in Shillong's Punjabi Lane are safe, says Akali Dal quoting Meghalaya govt report

**NEW DELHI, JUN 13 (PTI):** After the Shiromani Akali Dal's intervention, the Meghalaya government Thursday submitted its report to the Ministry of Home Affairs "assuring the safety" of Punjabi settlers in Shillong, party leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday held a meeting on the issues related to settlers of Punjabi Lane in the capital of Meghalaya, which was attended by the state Chief Secretary PS Thangkiew and leaders of Akali Dal.

"The report submitted to the Home Ministry by the Meghalaya Government assured the safety and security of Sikhs and Punjabis especially those living in Punjabi Lane area of Shillong," Sirsa said.

Punjabi Lane is inhabited by people from Punjab, who were brought to Shillong around 200 years ago by the British to work as cleaners and sweepers. An incident of assault in the area in May last year had resulted in group clashes following which it was put under curfew for over a month.

The authorities have served notices to the residents of Punjabi Lane directing them to furnish documents by July 3 to prove that they had settled in the area legally. There was a demand from various quarters to relocate the Punjabis from the area.

After Sirsa, a SAD leader from Delhi, sought the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah following a threat by banned militant organisation Hynniewtre National Liberation Council (HNLC) to the "illegal" settlers at Punjabi Lane, the MHA issued summons to the Meghalaya government.

The state police, however, has downplayed the threat. Meanwhile, the HNLC expressed its support to the state government for its move to identify illegal settlers in the area, also known as Thew Lew Mawlong.

Of the hundreds of people at Punjabi Lane, 184 are employees of the Shillong Municipal Board and other government departments. Their families have earlier been identified as legal settlers, official sources said. The Harijan Panchayat Committee, an organisation of the settlers, has sought protection from Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma. On May 29, 2018, clashes erupted when a bus driver and his friend were allegedly attacked and injured at the Punjabi Lane area.

As rumours of the assaulted victims dying in hospital spread on social media, people attacked the Punjabi settlers, following which the entire area was put under curfew for over a month. Following this, a delegation of the Punjab government visited the city and interacted with the settlers. The delegation members also met Sangma.

The Meghalaya administration expressed unhappiness over the Punjab government sanctioning Rs 60 lakh as compensation to the community members who were affected by the violence.

The matter was then referred to the government constituted high-level committee which has lately directed the municipal board to issue notices to the settlers to verify if they are legal settlers.

## Darj MP visits Kalimpong, assures to work diligently for the Hills

**SUMMIT REPORT  
KALIMPONG, 13 JUN:**

Darjeeling MP Raju Bisth arrived in Kalimpong today to thank voters here for electing him to the Lok Sabha.

Upon his arrival, Mr Bisth attended an all-party meeting attended among others by representatives from CPRM, GNLF, GJMM Bimal Faction, KKS etc.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr Bisth expressed gratitude towards all the voters of Kalimpong.

He further informed that at today's all-party meeting, two members were selected from each party to constitute a steering committee which will decide the is-



sue and agenda for the next 5 years.

He said that this was evidence that BJP had not crafted this alliance just to win the elections and that it was a coali-

tion that will continue for five years.

He assured that every promise made in the elections will be delivered over the next five years.

turn to pg02

## Golay raises Pakyong airport issue with MoS Civil Aviation



**NEW DELHI, 13 JUN [IPR]:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] called on Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri today.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister, RMDD, Sonam Lama, Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava and Secretary to the Chief Minister,

SD Dhakal.

Two crucial issues were raised in the meeting. The first was concerning the ongoing problem at Pakyong Airport, wherein flights have been stopped for four months by Spicejet due to visibility issues.

It was also brought to the notice of Minister Civil Aviation that in addition to providing extra

land for lengthening of the runway on approach side, the airport needed instrument landing system and instrument flight rules.

It was decided that no fresh payment would be admissible by the Government of India and that the State Claims Commissioner should call the land owners and

turn to pg02

## 11-year-old girl saves minor from kidnapper in Mizoram

**AIZAWL, JUN 13 (PTI):**

An 11-year-old girl has showed exemplary courage and alertness to save another minor, who had been kidnapped for trafficking by a woman, in Mizoram, a police officer said Thursday. The woman was arrested and the kidnapped seven-year-old girl reunited with her parents on Wednesday night, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Northern Range) Lalbiakthanga Khiantge said here.

Caroline Malsawmtluangi, the 11-year-old, was playing with her friends near her home in Zuangtui locality in eastern Aizawl on Monday when an unknown girl joined them. She did not give it much of a thought at that time but police-

men in plainclothes visited the area the next day in search of a girl who had gone missing from a village in Lunglei district.

Khiantge said the policemen showed Caroline the photograph of the missing girl and she informed them that she had seen her. After being advised by the policemen to inform them if she saw the minor girl again, Caroline went to search for her in the neighbourhood on her own.

She finally found her and the alleged abductor, later identified as 31-year-old Zonunsangin Fanai, at a house, Khiantge said, adding that Fanai tried to send her away but Caroline waited. Sensing an opportunity, Caroline lifted

the girl on her back and started running towards her home, the DIG said.

When the woman saw them, she ordered Caroline to stop and even threatened to harm her by pelting stones. Caroline, however, continued running and after reaching home, told everything to her parents, the DIG added.

Her parents informed the police and the seven-year-old was rescued and Fanai arrested. Khiantge said Fanai had kidnapped the girl from Thualtu village in southern Mizoram's Lunglei district on Sunday and brought her to Aizawl.

Fanai was in Thualtu with her husband but left the village after he allegedly assaulted her, the police officer said.

## PM-Kisan Pension: Farmers' contribution to be Rs 100/month

**NEW DELHI, JUN 13**

**(PTI):** Farmers will have to contribute Rs 100 per month under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana that seeks to provide minimum fixed monthly pension of Rs 3,000 on attainment of 60 years, according to the government. The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund to be managed by the LIC, which will be responsible for the pension payout, it said.

The Modi 2.0 government in its first cabinet meeting had approved a separate pension scheme for farmers with an aim to cover 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years, which would

cost the exchequer Rs 10,774.5 crore per annum. Discussing the new scheme with state agriculture ministers through a video conference, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar urged all states and union territories to roll out the programme at the earliest.

Tomar urged the states to start enrolling farmers in the age group of 18-40 years besides taking measures to create awareness about the scheme, an official statement said.

Under the PM-Kisan Pension, the minister said, "The beneficiary would be required to contribute Rs 100 per month at median entry

age of 29 years."

The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund to be managed by the LIC, which will be responsible for the pension payout.

Under this scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs 3,000 per month will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers subject to certain exclusion causes on attaining the age of 60 years.

Farmers can also opt to allow contribution to be made directly from the benefits drawn from the PM-Kisan scheme. There will also be an online grievance redressal system for complete transparency.



# SKM convenes constituency-level meet for Martam-Rumtek

## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 JUN:

A constituency-level meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha for Martam-Rumtek was held at Rey Khola playground in East Sikkim on Thursday. The meeting had SKM acting president, Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by working president, MP Subba, general secretary and Minister Arun Uprety, senior vice-president TN Dhakal, advisor Sonam Kaleon and former MP, Nakul Das Rai, along with other leaders, workers and supporters of the party.

An SKM press release informs that 145 families aligned to the SDF



from different wards of Martam-Rumtek along with Beyoung ward pan-chayat, Basant Dhakal, joined SKM during the meeting.

The release adds that the SKM working pres-

ident, Mr Subba stated that the party was in government with new thoughts and assured that the SKM Government would deliver on every need for the Sikkimese to develop intel-

lectually and also ensure the physical development of the State.

He said that SKM party has been providing opportunities to the youth of the State. He urged the party workers to work

earnestly for the by-elections in the constituency.

The SKM senior vice-president, in turn, accused the SDF president of having failed to maintain discipline in the assembly. Comment-

ing on SDF's announcement to stay away from Assembly proceedings till PS Tamang [Golay] was the Chief Minister, he questioned how SDF plans to play the role of the Opposition without coming to the assembly.

The meeting started with a welcome address by SKM Martam-Rumtek candidate of the recent election, Sonam Ven-chungpa and was also addressed by youth general secretary, Sahdeo Sharma, Minister Mr Uprety and other leaders. The meeting, which was conducted by SKM's women's wing state convener Ganga Parsai, concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by East District convener Deepak Dahal.

## Govt reduces ESI contribution rate to 4pc, industry to save Rs 5K Cr annually

### NEW DELHI, JUN 13 (PTI):

The government Thursday announced a cut in contributions made by employers and employees toward the health insurance scheme of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to 4 per cent from the existing 6.5 per cent, a move which would lead to an estimated annual saving of around Rs 5,000 crore for firms.

The reduced rates will be effective from July 1, 2019, the Labour Ministry said in a release. This would benefit 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh employers.

"The government has taken a historic decision to reduce the rate of contribution under the Employees' State Insurance Act from 6.5 per cent to 4 per cent (employers' contribution being reduced from 4.75 per cent to 3.25 per cent and employees' contribution being reduced from 1.75 per cent to 0.75 per cent)," the ministry said.

As many as 12.85 lakh employers and 3.6 crore employees contributed Rs 22,279 crore towards the ESI scheme in 2018-19.

Back of the envelop calculations suggest that reduction in the contribution rate for employers would result in annual savings of over Rs 5,000 crore to these firms.

The ministry said that the reduced rate of contribution will bring about a substantial relief to workers and facilitate further enrolment of workers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESIC) scheme and bring more and more workforce

into the formal sector.

Similarly, reduction in the share of contribution of employers will reduce the financial liability of the establishments leading to improved viability of these establishments. This shall also lead to enhanced Ease of Doing Business.

It is also expected that reduction in rate of ESI contribution shall lead to improved compliance of law. The Employees' State Insurance Act 1948 (the ESI Act) provides for medical, cash, maternity, disability and dependent benefits to the Insured Persons under the Act.

The ESI Act is administered by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Benefits provided under the ESI Act are funded by the contributions made by the employers and the employees.

Under the ESI Act, employers and employees both contribute their shares respectively. The Government of India through Ministry of Labour and Employment decides the rate of contribution under the ESI Act.

The government in its pursuit of expanding the social security coverage to more and more people started a programme of special registration of employers and employees from December, 2016 to June, 2017 and also decided to extend the coverage of the scheme to all the districts in the country in a phased manner.

The wage ceiling of coverage was also enhanced from Rs 15,000 per month to Rs 21,000 from January 1, 2017.

### Darj MP visits...

The solution for Darjeeling's problem is BJP and Narendra Modi, he claimed.

"In the election manifesto, we have written about a permanent political solution to the problem of the Hills and Scheduled Tribe status for the 11 left-out communities. GTA is not an issue for us. GTA has not fulfilled our dream. We want GTA to be dissolved," he said while highlighting that TMC lost in the election not because of complacency, but as punishment for its atrocities.

He also clarified today that the central university for Darjeeling will come up in the Hills and not in Siliguri and informed that he has also written to the Union HRDD Ministry regarding the same.

### Golay raises...

listen to their grievances afresh. Also the Airport Director was to be directed to meet the concerned members of public soon.

Recalling his 2018 visit to Sikkim, he termed it as one of the most amazing places to visit in the world. Therefore, with a view to immediately improve and strengthen the NH10, he stated that he had written effectively to the Prime Minister, which was appreciated by the Chief Minister.

## AP assembly elects new Speaker, witnesses uproar over political defections

Amaravati (AP), June 13 (PTI): Verbal volleys flew thick and fast in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly Thursday as the issue of political defections and conduct of the previous Speaker dominated the discourse soon after the House elected the new Speaker Tammineni Sitaram.

Beginning with the Leader of the House, Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, members of the ruling YSR Congress recalled how the previous Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao conducted the House in a "totally biased and arbitrary" manner, in utter disregard to laws and rules.

The House witnessed a heated debate when members were supposed to speak, congratulating the new Speaker.

At the end of it, the Speaker wanted the AP Assembly to become a trendsetter in effectively enforcing the Anti-Defection Law, but hoped he would not get to apply it in the current House.

"Do we need a legislature that cannot enforce the Anti-Defection Law? Legislature should respect the constitutional principles, constitutional laws.

AP should be the trendsetter in effectively enforcing the Anti-Defection Law. Hope I will not get to apply the law in the current House," Sitaram said, in his thanks-giving address.

The Speaker said the people "elected us all" with a lot of faith and asked the members not to betray it.

Earlier, congratulating Sitaram on his election as Speaker, the Chief Minister made a mention of the defection of YSRC legislators into the TDP in the last House.

"Seeing the previous House, everybody understood how a Leader of the House and the Speaker should not be.

Now, we are determined to show how a Leader of the House and the Speaker should be," Jagan said amid thunderous applause.

The previous TDP government turned the Assembly into a House, where the Constitution or laws did not matter, the Chief Minister alleged.

He then referred to the defection of 23 YSRC MLAs into the then ruling Telugu Desam Party and how four of them were even made ministers in the Chandrababu Naidu Cabinet.

"The previous government purchased 23 of our MLAs like cattle. Four of them were made ministers. We sought their disqualification under Anti-Defection Law but they didn't care," Jagan pointed out.

## Delhi govt notifies draft parking policy, allows free parking in residential areas

NEW DELHI, JUN 13 (PTI): The Delhi government has notified its draft parking policy discouraging on-street and banning footpath parking while allowing free parking in residential areas.

The government had come out with the draft parking policy in June last year which said that "parking may be allowed in residential areas on payment of (parking) charges and higher charges may be levied for parking in those areas during the day-time".

The notified draft of the parking policy lacks this provision.

The draft policy titled "Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules 2019" was notified on Wednesday after approval of the Transport minister, a senior government official said.

The rules provide for two times higher parking fee for on-street parking vis a vis off-street parking. Also, on-street parking fee will increase exponentially with time to discourage long duration of on-street parking, according to the rules.

"Dynamic pricing mechanism such as peak and off-peak fees and

exponential increase per hour of use would be used to moderate parking demand. On-street parking will not be allowed at least up to 25 metre from intersections on each arm of road," it stated. The area parking plans will include parking arrangements within residential areas.

The civic agencies will consider developing open areas, excluding green patches and parks, near the colonies as parking lots on payment basis. Also, the owners of vacant plots in residential colonies and commercial areas could be authorised to allow parking on such land for parking against a fee. Parking on footpaths will be strictly prohibited and such vehicles will be towed away by civic agencies. The policy provides for electric vehicle charging and battery swapping facility in each parking lot.

The Rules will be taken into consideration 30 days after publication of the notification. Stakeholders may give suggestions on it to the principal secretary cum transport commissioner of Delhi, the official said. The policy calls for constitution of an Apex Monitoring Committee (AMC) headed by the

"People have disqualified that government which refused to disqualify the defectors. We have seen it in the recent elections," he added.

In a mock observation, Jagan remarked that "God had written such a beautiful script" that the TDP was left with only 23 MLAs and three MPs now (the exact number of MPs it took away from YSRC in the last term).

"That is the beauty of democracy and beauty of God's grace. We are seeing that in the House today," he said.

Jagan also said someone suggested that he lure five or six TDP MLAs into the YSRC fold to deprive Naidu of his opposition status.

"I replied that there will be no difference between me and Chandrababu Naidu if I do that," he added.

The YSRC president claimed that some of the newly-elected TDP MLAs were ready to jump the ship.

"I don't want to reveal how many TDP MLAs are in touch with me. If I start luring MLAs, the TDP will not even have opposition status. But I will not do that.

If someone wants to come and join us, they have to first resign from their post," Jagan maintained.

He requested the Speaker to disqualify such legislators even if they defect by mistake.

Leader of Opposition N Chandrababu Naidu, who initially refused to be drawn into the duel, later sought to hit back at Jagan, recalling that the latter's late father Y S Rajasekhara Reddy defected to Indira Congress in 1978, days after getting elected as the then Reddy Congress MLA.

"You claim to be his heir but first know your father's history and how his defection was widely criticized by stalwarts of those times," Naidu pointed out.

He asked Jagan to admit what his father did was wrong. Members on either side then continued the slanging match and at one point the House was caught in a din when YSRC MLA Chevreddy Bhaskar Reddy made a certain remark at the TDP MLAs.

TDP deputy leader K Atchannaidu took strong exception to Bhaskar Reddy's remark and demanded an apology.

Speaker Sitaram intervened and said he would examine the records and expunge such remarks found objectionable. The House was subsequently adjourned for the day.

Governor ESL Narasimhan would address a joint session of the Legislative Council and the Assembly on Friday.

### Proposal to...

that these courses (Chinese, Hindi, Peace and Conflict Management, Psychology, Anthropology, International Relations etc) are not being chosen by Sikkimese students. Therefore, an urgent need for creating awareness among students who have passed out of Class XII was felt.

For this purpose it was decided that HRDD would conduct awareness during its counselling session to students during admission time and also during allocation of state quota seats.

At the end, the Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha said that this is the first meeting of its kind with Sikkim University and there will be more regular meetings and interactions in the future as well.

**to book  
advertisements  
in SummitTIMES  
call  
03592-208698  
9734152541,  
9647102692  
advertise@  
summittimes.  
com**

### KUTSE SHEGU

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of Late Doma Bhutia w/o Lakpa Thendup Bhutia who left for her heavenly abode on 01.05.2019 falls on 18.6.2019 (Tuesday). All relatives, friends & well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Below Law College, Helipad, Lower Burtuk, Gangtok, East Sikkim.



**Lakpa Thendup Bhutia (Husband), Kesseng Norbu Bhutia (son) & all family members.**  
**Mob: 9800655921 / 6294186876.**

### ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

#### URGENTLY REQUIRED:

**Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444**

#### PLOT FOR SALE:

**Vacant plot measuring 0.38 Acres for sale at Amdo Golai, Deorali. Contact: 09717191985/097474651223**

#### INTERESTED TO BECOME A YOGA TEACHER?

**CRITERIA** - Academic qualification of minimum higher secondary pass

Complete yoga syllabus will be provided by SYVC Gangtok absolutely free of cost. After one year of basic training and service (karma yoga)/ volunteering in the Centre, the candidate would be sent for Yoga Teacher Training Course at Shivananda Yoga Ashram. After TTC, the candidate would be appointed on part time basis at the Yoga Centre in Gangtok. College students can also apply. If required, food and accommodation would be provided.

**Interested candidates may contact**

**: Deepa Yoga Centre at**

**Mob: +91 7432043719/ +91 8170953919.**

#### LAND FOR SALE

A vacant plot measuring 0.38 Ha. (16552.80 sq - ft) is for sale at Amdo Golai (above the main road), Gangtok. For more information please contact - 9717191985/9474651223.

#### WANTED

**HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER.**

**Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.**

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

**Mr. Subash Lama  
Proprietor**

**Hotel Parasol Residency,  
Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim**

#### BUILDING FOR SALE

A 5 storied building with 3 floor completed having a land area of 30x70 at DABUWA, Melli road (2km from Namchi) is for sale. Rate reasonable. Interested party please contact: **6296370905, 9733284142, 8597088755.**



SU holds second Court Meeting

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN (PIB):** The second Court Meeting of Sikkim University was held on 10 Jun, 2019. The Court members of Sikkim University comprises of the Chancellor Lt Gen (Retd), Dattatray B Shekhatkar, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Avinash Khare, Registrar, TK Kaul and other luminaries from different walks of life from Sikkim and outside Sikkim.

This was the first visit of the Chancellor Lt Gen (Retd) after being appointed as the third Chancellor of the University in March 2019 by the President of India in his capacity as the Visitor of the University.

The meeting of the Court was chaired by the Chancellor. Various issues pertaining to the developmental activities and the overall growth and progress of the University were discussed. Other Statutory Officers and Deans of Schools of Studies also attended the meeting.

After Rahul, Sonia slams BJP for ‘crossing limits of dignity’

**RAEBARELI (UP), JUN 13 (PTI):** Days after Congress president Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of spreading “hatred and intolerance”, his mother Sonia Gandhi on a thanksgiving visit to her constituency charged the ruling party of “crossing all limits of dignity” to stick to power. “Various tactics were adopted to woo voters. Everyone in this country knows whether what happened in the elections was moral or immoral,” the UPA chairperson said at her first public address after the Lok Sabha poll results.

“I know that nothing could have been more unfortunate for India than the ruling party crossing all limits of dignity to retain power,” she told a gathering of party workers on Wednesday night. Daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is Congress general secretary in charge of eastern UP, was by her side at the thanksgiving event.

Apparently hinting at electronic voting machines (EVMs), she claimed “many types of doubts” have emerged in the past few years over the country’s electoral processes. “There is a saying that there is no smoke without fire,” Sonia Gandhi said.

Opposition parties have alleged that EVMs can be tampered with, giving the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party the advantage in an election.

On a three-day visit last week to Kerala’s Wayanad, from where he won the Lok Sabha polls, Rahul Gandhi had accused Narendra Modi and the BJP of spreading “hatred and intolerance”.

“Modi might have so much money. He might have media by his side... He might have rich friends with him but the Congress party will continue to fight against the intolerance created by the BJP,” he had said in Malappuram. “The hatred and intolerance created by the BJP and Modi will be dealt by the Congress party with love and affection,” he said at his first public function after the drubbing the Congress got in the Lok Sabha polls.

CM meets Union Ministers for Power and Health



**NEW DELHI, 13 JUN (IPR):** Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) who is in Delhi to attend the meeting of NITI Aayog met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of New & Renewable Energy, Power, Raj Kumar Singh in his office and congratulated him on assuming the charge of the Ministry.

The Union Minister expressed that mini hydropower projects can play a critical role in the development of the Na-

tion in general and Sikkim in particular. However, he expressed his concern about the non-existence of Mini Hydro Project Policy of Sikkim State and thus he urged the Chief Minister to expedite the process and bring the policy in place.

He also expressed his concern over the implementation of the Teesta Stage IV Hydel Project and urged the State Government to hold public meetings and facilitate the entire process.

Mr Tamang also called on the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan on 12 Jun, 2019 at New Delhi.

The Chief Minister congratulated him on assuming the office of the Union Minister for the second term. On the other hand the Union Minister congratulated the Chief Minister and the people of Sikkim.

The Chief Minister highlighted some of the important issues related to the New STNM Hospital.

Purano Namchi’s Krishna Kailash Rai clinches boxing bronze at national tourney



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 JUN:** Krishna Kailash Rai, 17, hailing from Purano Namchi, South Sikkim, clinched a bronze medal at the 3rd Youth Men’s and Women’s National Boxing Championship at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, today. The championship was organised by the Boxing Federation of India.

He was in the 49 kg category which had eight boxers - four boys and four girls - from Sikkim competing.

Son of Santa Bahadur Rai and Maisury Rai, he studies in Boys Senior Secondary School, Namchi.

Kailash played four matches - winning against Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh and West Bengal while losing to Services Sports Control Board of the Army in the semi finals.

Team Coach Mukesh Rai of Namchi has expressed happiness with how the young boxers representing Sikkim performed in the na-

tional arena.

Team Manager Pravin Limboo stressed that Sikkim has many talented boxers who need to be honed further.

Having won the bronze medal, Kailash has earned himself an entry into the National Boxing camp.

Kailash thanked his parents, coach and all loved ones for their support and guidance. He hopes to represent Sikkim in the seniors category and the country in the future.

Rachna Books  
invites you to

Emergence of Darjeeling as a Hill Station

a talk by  
Prof. Queeny Pradhan

We will look at the story of Darjeeling from the time the English officials first visited these hills. The topic will discuss the English imagination of Darjeeling: picturesque, commercial, strategic, etc. It will then examine the perception of the local people to the English presence, their stories of marginalisation and resistance.

Queeny Pradhan is Professor of History at GGS Indraprastha University. She teaches Indian History, Legal History and Women in History. She was awarded the Nehru Memorial Fund Scholarship for the years 1997-1999 for doctoral research. She did her doctoral research from Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Her book *Empire in the Hills: Simla, Darjeeling, Ootacamund and Mount Abu, 1820-1920* (OUP, India) was released in 2017. She was an ICCR Professor (India Chair) at the University of Vienna, to teach Modern Indian History and Colonial Law and Indian Society in Modern India in 2018.

13 June 2019    Thursday    6:00pm    entry free

National anthem recital stopped midway at BJP-controlled IMC meet

**INDORE, JUN 12 (PTI):** Confusion prevailed at the BJP-controlled Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) when the recital of the national anthem ‘Jana gana mana’ was abruptly stopped by its members on Wednesday for singing of ‘Vande Mataram’. A video clip of the incident has gone viral on social media here, in which Mayor Malini Gaud, who is also a local BJP MLA, is also visible.

According to the eye-witnesses, the elected representatives and others present at the civic body’s budget session the national anthem was being sung at the outset of the . However, after a few seconds some of the members abruptly stopped singing the national anthem and instead started singing ‘Vande mataram’, which they sang it till the end.

Corporators belonging to the opposition parties sought action against members for “insulting” the national anthem. When contacted, IMC chairman Ajay Singh Naruka said, “The mistake was possibly committed following a corporator’s slip of the tongue.



Passion for compassion

**REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 13 JUN:** Gangtok resident, Srijana Thapa Chettri, loves helping those in need. From feeding the poor to donating blood, she does whatever she can to offer some respite to those who are suffering.

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

No: 35/ETENDER/BHD/2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (N&E), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentages rate tenders' from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the East District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) for the work as listed below:

Sl.No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1.	Construction of 2 nos of 6 unit & 1 no. of 10 units grade D Police quarter below Palzor Stadium at Sichey, East Sikkim.	9.57	382.91	0.30	24 months.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

I)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale state date and time	:	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 11:00am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer (N&E)  
Buildings & Housing Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

Name of Work		:	Construction of 2 nos of 6 unit & 1 no. of 10 units grade D Police quarter below Palzor Stadium at Sichey, East Sikkim.
Amount put to tender (Rupees in Lakhs)		:	382.91 lakhs.
Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal		:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
Document download /sale start date and time		:	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 1500 Hrs onwards.
Last date & time for seeking clarification regarding bills		:	18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
Last date for online submission of completed bids		:	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
Date of opening of tender bids		:	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.
Place of opening of tender bids		:	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Building & Housing Department Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan.

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

No: 37/ETENDER/BHD/2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (N&E), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentages rate tenders' from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the East District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) for the work as listed below:

Sl.No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1.	Construction of two storied of male barrack and single storey female barrack at state jail, Rongyek, East Sikkim.	5.15	205.91	0.30	24 months.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

I)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	: <th>10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019</th>	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale state date and time	: <th>11<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 11:00 am onwards.</th>	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 11:00 am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	: <th>18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.</th>	18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	: <th>15<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.</th>	15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	: <th>16<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.</th>	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer (N&E)  
Buildings & Housing Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

Name of Work		:	Construction of two storied of male barrack and single storey female barrack at state jail, Rongyek, East Sikkim.
Amount put to tender (Rupees in Lakhs)		:	205.91 lakhs.
Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal		:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
Document download /sale start date and time		:	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 1100 am onwards.
Last date & time for seeking clarification regarding bills		:	18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
Last date for online submission of completed bids		:	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
Date of opening of tender bids		:	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.
Place of opening of tender bids		:	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Building & Housing Department Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan.

R.O. No. 46/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date: 13.6.19



## Work Harder at Inspiring Excellence

***More attention should be diverted to stem the regression from privileges to entitlement***

A recent discussion on ideas of identity teased out something which should have been obvious all along – a lot of the passion behind reinforcing and reasserting identities, as much as they may be about ideas of self and of belonging, are also about privileges which accrue when such claims fructify. Privileges, however, are only one step away from ingraining a sense of entitlement even instilling sloth, and that is where futures can get compromised.

Maybe the minds that should be applying themselves to finding solutions are too occupied with other pursuits or maybe because the fire in the belly is just not burning strongly enough, whatever the reason, measures aimed at securing the futures for the present and coming generations remain perennially short-term in Sikkim. We speak of employment here. Quotas, reservation and guaranteed employment are short-term measures; options put in place till such time that the 'local' workforce acquires the skills and training required for the wider opportunities available. Make these protections permanent and the policy ends up rewarding mediocrity because it stops placing a premium on excellence. Why, after all, will a 'local' work hard at becoming employable when the carrot of guaranteed placement keeps dancing in front of him/ her? In fact, to do so [work hard at becoming employable] would be seen as a waste of energy by many. But this approach is self-defeating. Sikkim is growing, both, in census figures and aspirations, and the job opportunities here will never be able to keep pace. Every job opportunity that opens in Sikkim in the next five years, once it is filled, will remain occupied on an average for the next thirty years. Even if all these job openings are made available only to locals, one still looks at an increasing number of job seekers entering the job market every year. School enrolments are up and the number of graduates has been consistently rising in the State, why, despite the density of "universities" here and one proper Central University, the State is in the process of establishing a state university as well because of the overflow. Given how young the pursuit of education is in Sikkim and the manner in which the population is growing, the number of job-seekers will keep multiplying every year. The State, even after 100% reservation, will soon run out of job opportunities.

The policy makers in government and noise makers outside have to realise that the solution is not in reserving jobs in Sikkim, but grooming generations to become employable anywhere in the world. Once that happens, jobs in Sikkim will automatically go to locals and this will come bundled with pride because they would have been earned on merit and not recommendations or old laws. This cannot happen though if people are spoilt for doles. It is not suggested that jobs in Sikkim should not be reserved for locals; what is being suggested is that celebrating protectionism only grooms mediocrity. Protections exist and should be maintained as a safety net, but aspirations have to be set much higher. One way to do this would be by fixing accountability not just on those who organise skill development programmes [by checking up on how many self-employed youth emerged from the training], but also following up on the funds the government invests on students by way of free education, text books, scholarships and other aids. It would not be a bad idea to release figures on how much the State spends on an average on its youth since the time they join school to the time they graduate. When the figure stares them in the face in black & white, maybe more of the youth will be inspired to put their education to better use than demanding a job from the government. If this happens, they will inspire more to follow in their footsteps. That is the chain reaction of achievers that the State has to aim at setting off, not pampering the youth with a policy that makes them lazy.

### 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: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

# What Orwell's '1984' tells us about today's world, 70 years after it was published

STEPHEN GROENING  
*theconversation.com*

Seventy years ago, Eric Blair, writing under a pseudonym George Orwell, published "1984," now generally considered a classic of dystopian fiction.

The novel tells the story of Winston Smith, a hapless middle-aged bureaucrat who lives in Oceania, where he is governed by constant surveillance. Even though there are no laws, there is a police force, the "Thought Police," and the constant reminders, on posters, that "Big Brother Is Watching You."

Smith works at the Ministry of Truth, and his job is to rewrite the reports in newspapers of the past to conform with the present reality. Smith lives in a constant state of uncertainty; he is not sure the year is in fact 1984.

Although the official account is that Oceania has always been at war with Eurasia, Smith is quite sure he remembers that just a few years ago they had been at war with Eastasia, who has now been proclaimed their constant and loyal ally. The society portrayed in "1984" is one in which social control is exercised through disinformation and surveillance.

As a scholar of television and screen culture, I argue that the techniques and technologies described in the novel are very much present in today's world. **'1984' AS HISTORY**

One of the key technologies of surveillance in the novel is the "telescreen," a device very much like our own television.

The telescreen displays a single channel of news, propaganda and wellness programming. It differs from our own television in two crucial respects: It is impossible to turn off and the screen also watches its viewers.

The telescreen is television and surveillance camera in one. In the novel, the character Smith is never sure if he is being actively monitored through the telescreen.

Orwell's telescreen was based in the technologies of television pioneered prior to World War II and could hardly be seen as science fiction. In the 1930s Germany had a working videophone system in place, and television programs were already being broadcast in parts of the United States, Great Britain and France.

### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The dominant reading of "1984" has been that it was a dire prediction of what could be. In the words of Italian essayist Umberto Eco, "at least three-quarters of what Orwell narrates is not negative utopia, but history."

Additionally, scholars have also remarked how clearly "1984" describes the present.

In 1949, when the novel was written, Americans watched on average four and a half hours

of television a day; in 2009, almost twice that. In 2017, television watching was slightly down, to eight hours, more time than we spent asleep.

In the U.S. the information transmitted over television screens came to constitute a dominant portion of people's social and psychological lives.

### '1984' AS PRESENT DAY

In the year 1984, however, there was much self-congratulatory coverage in the U.S. that the dystopia of the novel had not been realized. But media studies scholar Mark Miller argued how the famous slogan from the book, "Big Brother Is Watching You" had been turned to "Big Brother is you, watching" television.

Miller argued that television in the United States teaches a different kind of conformity than that portrayed in the novel. In the novel, the telescreen is used to produce conformity to the Party. In Miller's argument, television produces conformity to a system of rapacious consumption – through advertising as well as a focus on the rich and famous. It also promotes endless productivity, through messages regarding the meaning of success and the virtues of hard work.

Many viewers conform by measuring themselves against what they see on television, such as dress, relationships and conduct. In Miller's words, television has "set the standard of habitual self-scrutiny."

The kind of paranoid worry possessed by Smith in the novel – that any false move or false thought will bring the thought police – instead manifests in television viewers that Miller describes as an "inert watchfulness." In other words, viewers watch themselves to make sure they conform to those others they see on the screen.

This inert watchfulness can exist because television allows viewers to watch strangers without being seen. Scholar Joshua Meyrowitz has shown that the kinds of programming which dominate U.S. television – news, sitcoms, dramas – have normalized looking into the private lives of others.

### CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR

Alongside the steady rise of "reality TV," beginning in the '60s with "Candid Camera," "An American Family," "Real People," "Cops" and "The Real World," television has also contributed to the acceptance of a kind of video surveillance.

For example, it might seem just clever marketing that one of the longest-running and most popular reality television shows in the world is entitled "Big Brother." The show's nod to the novel invokes the kind of benevolent surveillance that "Big Brother" was meant to signify: "We are watching you and we will take care of you."

But Big Brother, as a reality show, is also an experiment in controlling and modifying behavior. By ask-

## Lions sometimes suffer if they attack a porcupine. So why do they do it?

JULIAN KERBIS PETERHANS  
& GASTONE CELESIA  
*theconversation.com*

Not much can mess with a lion. They're powerful top predators that can bring down large prey like wildebeest, zebra, and even buffalo.

But they're not invincible, as our new study into the interactions between lions and porcupines show. In the battle between these two very different beasts, the spiked rodents can come out ahead.

We examined historical records of lions that have been injured by porcupines, which allowed us to develop a better picture of the conditions that lead lions to try and hunt porcupines – and what happens to the lions who get impaled by the porcupines' quills.

There are stories and records of lions getting injured by porcupines going back hundreds of years. In many of these cases the lions' injuries made it harder for them to hunt or eat. They sometimes turned to easier prey like livestock, including cattle – or eventually humans.

The clashes between porcupines and lions are common knowledge. But before our study, no one had systematically reviewed all the records of lions injured by porcupines to better understand the two species' relationship. Our team scoured scientific literature, stories in the popular press, and even YouTube videos looking for evidence of lion-porcupine interactions. We also used CT scans to assess the effects porcupine quills had on individual lions by reviewing museum specimens. Our research was drawn from different parts of the continent, including Kenya, Namibia and South Africa.

The team found evidence of about 50 lions that had been injured or killed by porcupines since the 17th

century. By exploring these cases, we were able to identify why lions sometimes hunt porcupines. One reason appears to be prey deficient landscapes, given that lions prefer to hunt larger hooved animals. This insight has broader ecological significance – knowing this may help local authorities to put better strategies in place and treat lions that are wounded by porcupines before they become incapacitated and desperate.

### HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

African porcupines are large ro-

wrote about three different lions that had been stuck with porcupine quills.

Overall, we found evidence of about 50 lions that had been injured or killed by porcupines. Several trends appeared to emerge from this data.

First, we found that lions living on harsher, drier terrain with limited numbers of large herbivores (normally the lions' preferred prey), such as the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in Botswana and South Africa, seemed to rely more on porcupines for food, at least periodically. This was perhaps be-

cause other prey weren't available. Second, it emerged that young male lions were more likely to try to hunt porcupines than older lions or lionesses. There was a tendency for these males to be wounded or killed by porcupines more often – a sort of "young foolish male syndrome". To compound matters, young males weren't just taking part in risky behaviour: they tended to be alone when they did so. This made them more vulnerable when hurt. In social contexts, a lion can remove porcupine quills with the help of another lion.

cause other prey weren't available. Second, it emerged that young male lions were more likely to try to hunt porcupines than older lions or lionesses. There was a tendency for these males to be wounded or killed by porcupines more often – a sort of "young foolish male syndrome". To compound matters, young males weren't just taking part in risky behaviour: they tended to be alone when they did so. This made them more vulnerable when hurt. In social contexts, a lion can remove porcupine quills with the help of another lion.

cause other prey weren't available. Second, it emerged that young male lions were more likely to try to hunt porcupines than older lions or lionesses. There was a tendency for these males to be wounded or killed by porcupines more often – a sort of "young foolish male syndrome". To compound matters, young males weren't just taking part in risky behaviour: they tended to be alone when they did so. This made them more vulnerable when hurt. In social contexts, a lion can remove porcupine quills with the help of another lion.

### CT SCANS

It wasn't just historical content that helped us conduct this study. We also used CT scans to carefully examine the effects that porcupine quills have had

ing participants to put their private lives on display, shows such as "Big Brother" encourage self-scrutiny and behaving according to perceived social norms or roles that challenge those perceived norms.

The stress of performing 24/7 on "Big Brother" has led the show to employ a team of psychologists.

Television scholar Anna McCarthy and others have shown that the origins of reality television can be traced back to social psychology and behavioral experiments in the aftermath of World War II, which were designed to better control people.

Yale University psychologist Stanley Milgram, for example, was influenced by "Candid Camera."

In the "Candid Camera" show, cameras were concealed in places where they could film people in unusual situations. Milgram was fascinated with "Candid Camera," and he used a similar model for his experiments – his participants were not aware that they were being watched or that it was part of an experiment.

Like many others in the aftermath of World War II, Milgram was interested in what could compel large numbers of people to "follow orders" and participate in genocidal acts. His "obedience experiments" found that a high proportion of participants obeyed instructions from an established authority figure to harm another person, even if reluctantly.

While contemporary reality TV shows do not order participants to directly harm each other, they are often set up as a small-scale social experiment that often involves intense competition or even cruelty.

### SURVEILLANCE IN DAILY LIFE

And, just like in the novel, ubiquitous video surveillance is already here.

Closed-circuit television exist in virtually every area of American life, from transportation hubs and networks, to schools, supermarkets, hospitals and public sidewalks, not to mention law enforcement officers and their vehicles.

Surveillance footage from these cameras is repurposed as the raw material of television, mostly in the news but also in shows like "America's Most Wanted," "Right This Minute" and others. Many viewers unquestioningly accept this practice as legitimate.

### THE FRIENDLY FACE OF SURVEILLANCE

Reality television is the friendly face of surveillance. It helps viewers think that surveillance happens only to those who choose it or to those who are criminals. In fact, it is part of a culture of widespread television use, which has brought about what Norwegian criminologist Thomas Mathiesen called the "viewer society" – in which the many watch the few.

For Mathiesen, the viewer society is merely the other side of the surveillance society – described so aptly in Orwell's novel – where a few watch the many.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Cinema and Media Studies, University of Washington]



through its nose, to smell its prey).

We have evidence that some lions had attacked humans because of their injuries which made it difficult for them to take down their usual prey. This is useful information to help understand what can lead lions to harm people. From a conservation perspective it is crucial for lions with embedded porcupine quills, especially in the paws or face, to be treated before they become problem animals. This is already happening in some places, like in Kenya through the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's Mobile Veterinary Unit.

And the study has broader ecological significance, too. The data we've collected suggests that by the time the lions are relegated to eating porcupines rather than the big meaty, hooved animals they prefer, there's already a problem with the local food supply. Historic records tell us that when environmental conditions deteriorate, particularly in areas where lions and their preferred prey are already living on the edge, they often find themselves in serious trouble with nearby humans or their livestock.

[Julian Kerbis Peterhans is Professor, Roosevelt University; Gastone Celsia is Professor Emeritus, Neurology and Volunteer at the Field Museum, Loyola University Chicago]



## Bengal will amend laws to bring more local students in medical stream: Mamata

**KOLKATA, JUN 13 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said her government will make amendments to laws to make room for more local students in the medical stream.

Banerjee said a large number of students are working as interns in medical colleges and hospitals, who are not well versed in the local language.

"I think this system should change. Earlier, we used to have more locals studying, but now, there are more students from outside the state, who do not have much idea about the language and cannot communicate with the patients," she told



reporters at the state-run SSKM hospital here.

The chief minister said the proposed

amendments will allow the entry of 20 per cent more local students in the medical stream.

"... We will do that and I have given such instructions," Banerjee said. She was at the SSKM

hospital to take stock of the situation at the facility, as regular services have been disrupted following agitation by junior doctors.

"The state government spends Rs 25 lakh on every student to make him/her a doctor.. And, then after becoming a doctor, they sign a bond for two to three years and leave the state once that period is complete," Banerjee added.

Medical services have been affected in the state since Saturday's attack on two junior doctors by relatives of a patient, who had died at Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and hospital. One of the junior doctors was grievously injured in the incident.

## NRC officials arrested for accepting bribe to enter name in Citizenship list

**GUWAHATI, JUN 13 (PTI):** Two NRC officials were arrested here Thursday for allegedly accepting bribe from a woman to enter her name in the citizenship list, police said.

Field Level Officer of Dispur, National Register of Citizens Sewa Kendra, Syed Shahjahan was caught red handed by a team of Anti-Corruption Bureau while accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a woman, identified as Kajari Ghosh Dutta, the police said.

Dutta, a resident of Ananda Nagar area of the city, had filed another FIR against the Assistant Local Registrar of Citizen Registration (LRCR) Rahul Parashar of the same NRC Sewa Kendra who was also arrested for his alleged complicity with

the other official, they said. Both the accused had highlighted some technical defects in Dutta's application and demanded bribe from her to correct it and to enter her name thereafter in the final NRC list.

Dutta had filed a complaint with the Anti Corruption Bureau under the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Assam and a trap was laid down as per standard procedure to nab the duo when she came to pay the bribe on Thursday.

Today (Thursday) the complainant was to pay the bribe amount. The bribe money has been seized from the possession of the accused. The duo will be produced before the Special Court on Friday, police said.

## US runner Grunewald dies at 32 after cancer battle



**LOS ANGELES, JUNE 13 (AFP):** US distance runner Gabriele Grunewald, who became an inspirational figure to thousands of fans after continuing to compete at a high level despite a decade-long battle with cancer, has died. She was 32. Grunewald's husband Justin confirmed the news of his wife's death in a post on Instagram on Tuesday, two days after revealing her condition had deteriorated and she had entered end-of-life care.

"At 7:52 I said 'I can't wait until I get to see you again' to my hero, my best friend, my inspiration, my wife," Justin Grunewald wrote in the post, beneath a photo of the couple running.

"...I know I will never be able to fill this gaping hole in my heart or fill the shoes you have left behind," he added. "Your family loves you dearly as do your friends." Gabriele Grunewald was first diagnosed with a rare salivary gland cancer in 2009, a year before she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

However she continued to run between

bouts of surgery and treatment, and narrowly missed out on a place at the 2012 Olympics after finishing fourth at the US trials in the 1,500m.

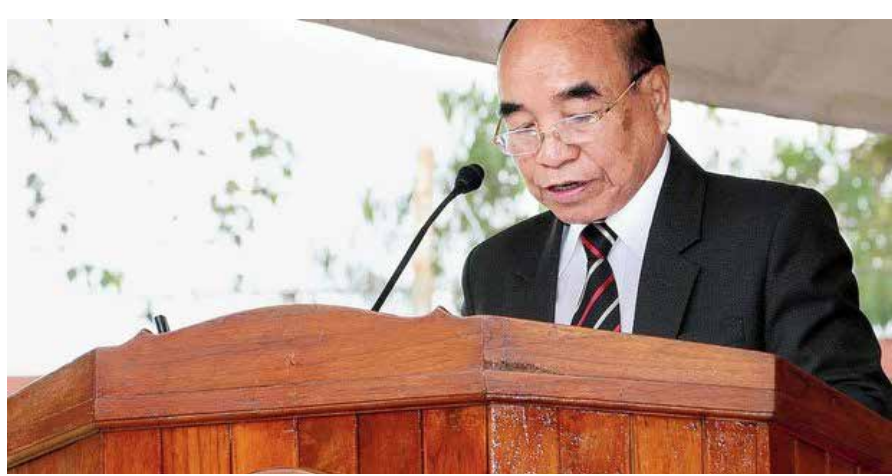
She won the 2014 USA Indoor championship gold for 3,000m.

In 2016, she finished in 12th place in the 1,500m finals at the US Olympic trials in Eugene, Oregon, just weeks before undergoing surgery in August of that year to remove a large tumour from her liver. Britain's world marathon record-holder Paula Radcliffe was among those who paid tribute to Grunewald on Wednesday.

"The bravery, heart and smile of (Gabriele Grunewald) will always shine brightly and inspire so many," Radcliffe wrote. "Thinking of you and of @JustinGrunewald and all those whose lives were enriched by your courage and love." USA Track & Field said Grunewald "will be remembered as one of the bravest athletes we knew."

"Her legacy lives on as she inspired a world of people," the organisation added.

## CM presents tax-free Mizoram budget



**AIZAWL, JUN 13 (PTI):** Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Thursday presented a tax-free budget for 2019-20, laying emphasis on implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) and creation of three new districts.

Presenting the Rs 10,692.30 crore budget in Mizo language, Zoramthanga, who also holds the finance portfolio, allocated a token provision of Rs 750 crore for the SEDP.

The SEDP, a flagship programme of the Mizo National Front (MNF) government, aims at accelerating progress in key sectors and transforming Mizoram into a welfare state.

The chief minister allocated Rs 50 crore under the SEDP for recruitment of doctors and nurses in the health department to ease an acute manpower shortage.

Implementation of the MNF's 2008 announcement of the creation of Hnahthial, Khawzawl and Saitual

districts was another top priority of his government, he said.

Zoramthanga said the Congress, during its 10-year-long rule, had not implemented the decision of the MNF government in 2008.

"I allocated Rs 450 lakh for construction of deputy commissioners' offices in the three districts and Rs 195 lakh each for construction of district superintendents of police offices," he said.

An additional Rs 855 lakh was allotted for the initial establishment expenses of the new districts, Zoramthanga said.

An amount of Rs 50 crore was allocated as a health care corpus fund for implementation of improved healthcare scheme as formulated by the MNF government earlier.

He also said Rs 30 crore was allocated for recruitment of teachers at the elementary education level to solve the shortage of manpower.

"Rs 159.34 crore was also allocated for establishment of Lok Ayukta

which was increased this fiscal and I allocated Rs 371.06 crore for the expenses on the Lok Ayukta," he said.

He said the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was projected to be Rs 25,869.14 crore at current price at a growth rate of 16.15 per cent.

"The projected growth rate is considered remarkable as compared to the national growth rate of 12.33 per cent in 2018-19," Zoramthanga said.

The chief minister said the total liabilities (debt) of the state was estimated at Rs 8,447.92 crore which is 32.66 per cent of the projected GSDP.

The state government's targets would be privatisation, mechanisation and large-scale production to boost the economy, he told reporters after presenting the budget.

He added that the state government would make detailed project reports to avail huge financial assistance from the Centre under the SEDP.

## Manipur CM takes charge of Power, Works and Finance dept

**IMPHAL, JUN 13 (PTI):** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Thursday took charge of key departments of Finance, Power and Public Works department, an official said.

Earlier Deputy Chief Minister Joykumar Singh was in charge of the Finance department while the Power and Public Works department were with Th Biswajit Singh.

A Cabinet meeting was held on Wednesday to discuss the financial crisis in the state as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a ban on all transaction of funds from the account of Manipur government with effect from June for having

overdrawn in excess of arrangements agreed upon with the bank.

The Cabinet has authorised the chief minister to take all necessary disciplinary actions to imbibe a culture of financial prudence and propriety in key state government departments, a release issued by the Chief Minister's secretariat said on Thursday.

A thorough investigation of the sanction procedures and financial management would be conducted for all key departments. The government is committed to bringing a new phase wherein financial discipline will be the hallmark of governance. The gov-

ernment also assures its employees that timely disbursement of salaries and benefits will not be impact, the release said.

The chief minister's secretariat issued an order stating that it was noted that huge amounts were withdrawn by Public Works and Power department during the period of March to May, 2019 while the Model Code of Conduct was in force.

The order said that a three-committee comprising Principal secretary V Vumlungmang, commissioner-cum-secretary Nidhi Kesarwani and deputy secretary W Ajit Singh would examine the large withdrawals by other departments.

## All 13 people on board AN-32 crash dead: IAF



**NEW DELHI, JUN 13 (PTI):** All 13 people on board the AN-32 aircraft which crashed in Arunachal Pradesh are dead, the IAF said after a team of rescuers searched the wreckage of the plane in a heavily forested mountainous terrain on Thursday.

An IAF official said there were no survivors from the crash of the AN-32 aircraft.

"IAF Pays tribute to the brave Air-warriors who lost their life during the #An32 crash on 03 Jun 2019 and stands by with the families of the victims. May their soul rest in peace," an Indian

Air Force (IAF) spokesperson said.

Those who died in the crash are Wing Commander GM Charles, Squadron Leader H Vinod, Flight Lieutenants LR Thapa, MK Garg, Ashish Tanwar and Sumit Mohanty, Warrant officer KK Mishra, Sergeant Anoop Kumar, Corporal Sherin, LAC (leading aircraft man) SK Singh, LAC Pankaj, and non combatants Rajesh Kumar and Putali.

The Russian-origin AN-32 aircraft was going from Jorhat in Assam to Mechuka advanced landing ground near the border with China on

June 3 when it lost contact around half-an-hour after taking off.

The wreckage of the plane was spotted by an IAF chopper on Tuesday at a height of 12,000 ft near Gatte village on the border of Siang and Shi-Yomi districts, after eight days of a massive search operation involving a fleet of aircraft and choppers as well as ground forces.

A 15-member team of rescuers were sent look for survivors in the accident Wednesday and eight of them reached the crash site on Thursday morning, an IAF official said.

## All-party meet called by WB Guv inconclusive



**KOLKATA, JUN 13 (PTI):** An all-party meeting convened by Governor K N Tripathi was held on Thursday to discuss steps to end political violence in the state.

After the meeting, BJP state vice president Jay Prakash Majumdar said the governor gave some suggestions, but the TMC's representative said he needs to consult the party.

The TMC was represented in the meeting by its Secretary General and state minister Par-

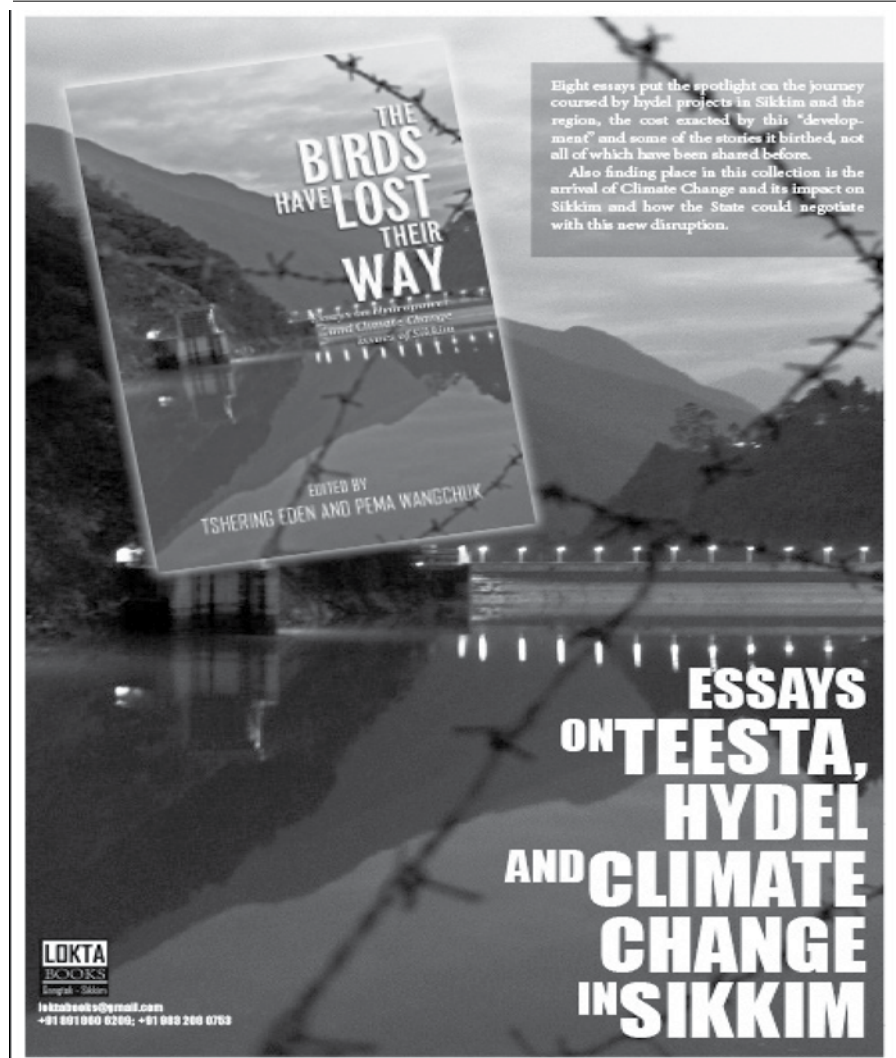
tha Chatterjee.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee questioned the Governor's decision to call a meeting on the law and order issue and declined to attend it.

She alleged that the meeting was called at the behest of the BJP. "The governor could call people for a cup of tea or a peace meeting," the TMC supreme said, adding, "So I am sending a party representative there. He will go there, have a cup of tea and come back."

Majumdar said the meeting proves that law and order situation has completely failed in the state. "The governor during the meeting gave few suggestions. We said we are ready to follow those suggestions. But, the friend from TMC said he needs to consult with the leadership," he told reporters.

CPI(M) leader Mohammed Salim alleged that both the BJP and the TMC were trying to vitiate the atmosphere of the state.





# Tears as badminton star Lee quits after cancer battle

**PUTRAJAYA (MALAYSIA), JUN 13 (AFP):** Cancer-hit badminton star Lee Chong Wei announced his retirement Thursday, ending a brilliant career in which he collected a swathe of honours but never won a world or Olympic title.

Lee, who spent a total of 348 weeks as world number one but lost six world and Olympic finals, wept as he called it quits months after suffering a cancer scare.

“My decision to retire is a heavy one. I really love this sport. But it is a demanding sport. I thank all Malaysians for the past 19 years,” a tearful Lee, 36, told a news conference.

Lee, a father of two, was diagnosed with early-stage nose cancer last year and after intensive treatment in Taiwan, said he was keen to play again.

But he hasn't trained since April and after missing a series of self-imposed deadlines to return to competition, his hopes of being eligible for next year's Tokyo Olympics were remote.

The three-time Olympic silver medallist said he now wanted to rest



and spend time with his family, and even take his wife on a “honeymoon”, a trip that has been delayed since their marriage in 2012. Lee’s unsuccessful attempts to capture Malaysia’s first ever Olympic gold medal, reaching three consecutive finals, were followed avidly by his fans, as was his long-running rivalry with Chinese superstar Lin Dan.

His last shot at the Olympic title at Rio 2016 ended in crushing disappointment when the Malay-

sian lost out to China’s Chen Long in a nail-biting final. - ‘SAD DAY’ -

Cancer proved the career-ending blow but it wasn't the only low for Lee, who was banned after testing positive for a banned anti-inflammatory at the 2014 world championships.

The long-time former world number one returned to the sport in 2015, after authorities accepted he took the drug inadvertently.

“I have no regrets. More important is my

health, the decision to retire is very tough,” said Lee, adding that his cancer treatment was now over. “My plan to retire was originally after the Olympic Games. I made this decision due to my health.

“You know I got married in 2012. But we (have) never gone for a honeymoon. I owe this promise (to my wife), now I have to please her.”

As he began announcing his retirement, Lee paused for almost a minute as tears rolled down

his cheeks. Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) president Norza Zakaria, who was at the news conference, described Lee as a “legend”.

“It is a sad day. Lee is a legend and very dependable. We accept his decision,” Norza said.

Lee has slipped to 191 in the Badminton World rankings.

“I fought for my country all the way,” he said, at one point, his voice choking.

“It’s my retirement day.

## Israel strikes Gaza after first rocket since early May

**JERUSALEM, JUN 13 (AFP):** Israeli warplanes bombed bunkers at a Hamas base in Gaza early Thursday following the first rocket fire from the territory since early May, the military said.

Israeli aircraft targeted “underground infrastructure” at the base in the southern Gaza Strip, it said in a statement.

The strike came after Israeli air defences intercepted a rocket launched from the territory, the first since hundreds were fired in early May in a two-day flare-up which killed four Israelis and 25 Palestinians.

On Wednesday evening, Israel announced it had banned all fishing off Gaza in retaliation for the launch of more incendiary balloons from the enclave.

“Due to the continuous launching of incendiary balloons and kites from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, it has been decided tonight (Wednesday) not to allow access to Gaza’s maritime space until further notice,” the Israeli defence ministry department responsible for Palestinian civil affairs, COGAT, said.

The move came after COGAT said on Tuesday it had reduced the extent of the fishing zone to six nautical miles offshore from 10 nautical miles, having downscaled it from 15 nautical miles a week ago.

A spokesman for the Israeli fire service said incendiary balloons from Gaza caused seven fires on Tuesday alone.

In the past year, Palestinians have succeeded in setting fire to large areas of farmland in southern Israel.

Israel had only restored the fishing limit to 15 miles on June 4, after a previous cut in response to fire balloons.

Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza, run by Islamist movement Hamas, have fought three wars since 2008.

## India eyeing perfect game against Japan in semifinal of FIH Series Finals



**SAUMOJYOTI S CHOUDHURY BHUBANESWAR, JUN 13 (PTI):** A tricky opponent in Asian Games champion Japan is sure to test India but home advantage gives Manpreet Singh and his men the upper-hand in the semifinal of the FIH Series Finals hockey tournament here Friday.

Even though they registered some big wins in the preliminary stages against lower-ranked opponents, the Indians, under new chief coach Graham Reid, are yet to showcase their perfect game on the turf. The finalists will qualify for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers to be held in October-November this year.

India notched up 10-0 wins over Russia and Uzbekistan and scraped past Poland 3-1 in the pool stages.

The performance of the Manpreet Singh-led side is far from impressive. While the midfield has done well under Manpreet, it is the finishing which is a cause of

concern for the Indians.

In all the three matches, India created innumerable scoring chances, but the strike force lacked the finishing touch. Barring Akashdeep Singh, no other striker has looked threatening in the tournament so far.

While Mandeep Singh and young Gursahibjit Singh played well in patches, Ramandeep Singh, who returned to the side after nearly a one-year injury lay-off, looked a pale shadow of his past self.

“I am happy that we created plenty of chances but we need to work on our basic skills like finishing. It is an area where we need improvement,” India’s chief coach Graham Reid had said. The Indian defence too has hardly been tested in the tournament so far with Poland being the only team to cause some trouble.

Both the goalkeepers -- PR Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak -- were mostly spectators in the pool matches but the scenario would

be different Friday as the Japanese are expected to trouble the hosts.

The Asian Games champions gave India a tough fight even though they lost in the past two encounters. While India beat Japan 3-2 in the semifinal of the Asian Champions Trophy in Doha last year, in their last meeting in the Azlan Shah Cup earlier this year, Manpreet and Co. eked out a 2-0 win.

Japan, on the other hand, have nothing to lose as they are already assured of an Olympic berth by virtue of being the hosts as well as continental champions.

Japan are taking this tournament as a preparation for the Games to be held in Tokyo.

Siegfried Aikman and his men would be desperate to prove a point that their Asian Games gold was not a fluke.

After a below-par pool round where they finished second behind lower-ranked USA, world no.18 Japan thrashed Poland 6-2 in the cross-overs on Wednesday.

## Olympic quota already booked, Indian men’s recurve team reaches World Archery C’ships final

**DEN BOSCH (THE NETHERLANDS), JUN 13 (PTI):** The Olympic quota already booked, the Indian men’s recurve team reached the final of the World Archery Championships for the first time since 2005 after it shocked a formidable Netherlands here Thursday.

The Indian team will be seeking its maiden title as it faces China in the summit clash on Sunday. China ousted top seed Korea 6-2 in the other semifinal Thursday.

A day after securing the 2020 Tokyo Olympics three-man quota by making the quarterfinals, the India trio of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin Jadhav held their nerves to come from behind and win 29-28 in the shoot-off for an overall score of 5-4. This is the second time ever when the men’s recurve team reached the World Championships final. At Madrid 2005, the Indian team comprising Rai, Jayanta Talukdar and Gautam Singh had lost to Korea 232-244 in the summit clash.

India also remained in the medal contention in the women’s compound team event as it faces Turkey in the

bronze medal playoff Saturday.

Having thrashed Chinese Taipei 6-0 in the quarter, the Indian men’s recurve team found a strong challenge from the second seeded home team led by world number two Steve Wijler, a bronze medallist two years ago in Mexico City.

The other two players of Netherlands were 2016 Rio Olympics semifinalist Sjef van den Berg and London 2012 semifinalist Rick.

The Indians twice trailed in the match but spearheaded by Rai, who was a member of the silver winning team at the Madrid World Championship 14 years ago, the trio showed character to bounce back each time and forced the match to the shoot-off.

Using the conditions better than the home team, the Indians shot a near-perfect 29 out of 30 to edge out the Netherlands by one point.

This was also for the first time since 2014 the Indian men’s team reached the final of a world event. India had ended up with a silver at the Wroclaw Stage IV World Cup in 2014 with Rai, Das and Jayanta Talukdar in the team.

## India’s tour of WI begins with two T20s in Florida



**ST. JOHN’S (ANTIGUA), JUN 13 (PTI):** India will begin their World Test Championship campaign against the West Indies in a two-match series starting here on August 22 while the tour begins with a couple of T20 Internationals in Florida from August 3.

The tour of West Indies will be India’s sole away Test assignment in 2019. Besides two Tests and three T20s, both teams will also play a three-match ODI series during the five-week tour.

The first Test, from August 22 to 26, will be played at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground here and the second one starts on August 30 at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

The Tests open the new ICC World Test Championship which will be played over the next two years and has been introduced to give greater context and competition in the “Ultimate Test” of the game.

“The West Indies and India have a long and colourful rivalry, and the MyTeam11 Series will bring more thrilling competition across every format of the game,” said Cricket West Indies (CWI) Chief Executive Officer Johnny Grave on Wednesday.

The series starts with the T20Is, with the first two matches being contested back-to-back on the weekend of August 3 and 4 at the Broward County Stadium in Lauderdalehill in the American state of Florida.

Only one of the two T20Is produced a result when the two sides

played at this American venue three years ago before sell-out crowds. The second match ended in a no-result, due to a rain and technical delay. In the first match of the series, K L Rahul scored the second-fastest T20I century off only 46 balls, eventually finishing on 110 not out for the highest international score in the venue’s history.

The two teams also posted the highest international innings totals in the venue’s history for a world record of 489 runs, with the West Indies winning by one run, thanks to a hundred off 49 balls from left-handed opener Evin Lewis.

“We’re excited to bring two more T20Is to Florida, giving the West Indies diaspora in North America the opportunity to watch the team play ‘live’ and in person,” said CWI Commercial, Marketing and Communications Director, Dominic Warne.

The last of the three T20Is will be played on August 6 at the National Stadium in Guyana, where the series also transitions to the 50 overs-a-side format. The first ODI will be taking place on August 8, the first time in three decades the two sides will contest an ODI in the South American nation.

The ODI series concludes with matches on August 11 and 14 at the Queen’s Park Oval in Trinidad.

India were originally supposed to tour West Indies right after the World Cup, which ends on July 14, but CWI pushed it back after BCCI’s request.

## It’s Archer versus Gayle as England and West Indies renew rivalry



**SOUTHAMPTON, JUNE 13 (PTI):** England and West Indies will carry their intense rivalry from the Caribbean into the Rose Bowl here Friday with Barbados-born pace sensation Jofra Archer adding spice to the World Cup contest.

Both teams ended at 2-2 in their high-scoring five-match ODI series in February with one game being a washout. The series, which took place in the Caribbean islands, saw sensational performances from Chris Gayle, who smashed as many 39 sixes and amassed 424 runs in four innings.

The ‘Universe Boss’ will be backing himself for an encore against England whose bowling attack has become more potent with Archer’s addition. He has bowled with fire and venom so far in the competition and his face-off with Gayle is the one to watch out for.

Archer, who has played his junior cricket in the Caribbean and qualified to play for England only in April, is a

familiar figure for the West Indies camp and it knows what the 24-year-old is capable of.

“To be honest, we knew Jofra for a long time. He is from Barbados, where we are from. We knew him from the U15s, U17s, U19s so he is not new to us. Yes, he’s bowling quickly, but there’s nothing that we are not accustomed to. We are looking forward to the challenge. So we will see how it goes on Friday,” said West Indies coach Floyd Reifer ahead of the game.

West Indies too boast of express pace in their arsenal, adding to the excitement of what promises to be a mouthwatering battle.

The Jason Holder-led side would be itching to take the field after a washout against South Africa at the same venue on Monday. All-rounder Andre Russell, who has had chronic knee issues, was not named in the playing eleven against the Proteas. It remains to be seen if he regains full fitness for the En-

gland clash.

England too had their fitness issues with key player Jos Buttler hurting his right hip against Bangladesh but coach Trevor Bayliss said he is expected to be fit for Friday’s game.

The fickle English weather has been a constant concern in this World Cup but rain is predicted to stay away for the majority of the game.

Squads: England: Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes,James Vince, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

West Indies: Jason Holder (captain), Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Shannon Gabriel, Chris Gayle,Shimron Hetmyer,Shai Hope,Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Nicholas Pooran, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Oshane Thomas.

Match starts 3 PM IST.

to book advertisements in SummitTimes  
call  
03592-208698, 9734152541, 9647102692  
advertise@summittimes.com



# Congestion alone did not kill climbers on Mt Everest: Nepal govt

**KATHMANDU, JUN 13 (PTI):** The large number of deaths of climbers on the Mount Everest this season is not solely due to the “traffic jam” on the world’s highest peak, the Nepal government claimed Thursday, citing factors like high altitude sickness, other health reasons and adverse weather.

The number of deaths on Mt Everest was put at 11 by the international media, making it the deadliest season since 2015. However, the Nepal tourism ministry maintained the death toll at 9.

Four Indians died on the 8,848-metres high Mt Everest and two each died on Mt. Kangchenjunga and Mt. Makalu, bringing the total death toll of Indian climbers in the Himalayas to 8.

“Our attention has been drawn to the wrong information about deaths on Mt Everest conveyed by national and international media,” said Dandu Raj Ghimire, Director General of the Department of Tourism (DoT), adding that “traffic jam” did not cause the deaths.

A ‘Traffic jam’ occurs when many climbers vie for the summit at the same time, and can be es-



pecially dangerous above 8,000 metres known as the ‘death zone’

The DoT’s statement has come at a time when it is facing immense criticism for issuing too many permits to scale the world’s tallest peak while disregarding the safety of the climbers, reports The Himalayan Times.

According to Ghimire, the post-mortem reports of the deceased climbers have shown that they died due to high altitude sickness, weakness or adverse weather conditions.

In the statement, the

DoT has stated that it had issued 366 expedition permits in 2017 and 346 expedition permits in 2018 - not a huge difference compared to 381 permits issued this year for the highest peak.

“Hence, it untrue that congestion killed climbers on Mt Everest and we urge everyone not to be swayed by false information,” the statement added.

Ghimire also expressed his dissatisfaction at the dissemination of such “wrong” information in the international media.

“Such false news tar-

nishes our image and affects our mountaineering sector. Therefore, everyone should think twice before passing such misleading messages in international platform,” he added.

More than 200 mountaineers have died on the peak since 1922, when the first climbers’ deaths on Mt Everest were recorded.

The majority of bodies are believed to have remained buried under glaciers or snow.

Five people died on Mt Everest in 2018.

In 2016 and 2017, the world’s tallest peak

claimed lives of six and five climbers respectively. In 2015, quake-triggered avalanches killed 20 climbers.

Hundreds of climbers flock each year to Nepal - home to several of the world’s highest mountains, to scale Himalayan peaks during the spring season that begins around March and ends in June.

According to Nepal Department of Tourism, more than 4,400 people have scaled the summit since Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay first conquered the mountain in 1953.

## US Navy assisting 2 tankers targeted in Gulf of Oman

**DUBAI, JUN 13 (AP):** Two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz were reportedly attacked on Thursday, an assault that left one ablaze and adrift as sailors were evacuated from both vessels and the US Navy rushed to assist amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran. Japan’s Trade Ministry said the two vessels had “Japan-related cargo” as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was wrapping up a high-stakes visit in Tehran that sought to ease tensions between Iran and the United States. Benchmark Brent crude spiked at one point by as much 4 per cent in trading following the reported attack, to over USD 62 a barrel, highlighting how crucial the area remains to global energy supplies.

A third of all oil traded by sea passes through the strait, which is the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.

The latest incident comes after the US alleged that Iran used mines to attack four oil tankers off the nearby Emirate port of Fujairah last month. Iran has denied being involved, but it comes as Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen also have launched missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Cmdr. Joshua Frey, a 5th Fleet spokesman, said the U.S. Navy was assisting the two vessels that he described as being hit in a “reported attack.” He did not say how the ships were attacked or who was suspected of being behind the assault. Dryad Global, a maritime intelligence firm, preliminarily identified one of the vessels involved as the MT Front Altair, a Marshall Islands-flagged crude oil tanker. The vessel was “on fire and adrift,” Dryad added. It did not offer a cause for the incident or mention the second ship.

The firm that operates the Front Altair told The Associated Press that an explosion was the cause of the fire onboard. International Tanker Management declined to comment further saying they are still investigating what caused the explosion. Its crew of 23 is safe after being evacuated by the nearby Hyundai Dubai vessel, it said.

The second vessel was identified as the Kokuka Courageous. BSM Ship Management said it sustained hull damage and 21 sailors had been evacuated, with one suffering minor injuries.

Iranian state television said 44 sailors from the two tankers have been transferred to an Iranian port in the southern province of Hormozgan. The timing of Thursday’s reported attack

was especially sensitive as Abe’s high-stakes diplomacy mission was underway in Iran.

On Wednesday, after talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Abe warned that any “accidental conflict” that could be sparked amid the heightened US-Iran tensions must be avoided.

His message came just hours after Yemen’s Iranian-backed Houthi rebels attacked a Saudi airport, striking its arrivals hall before dawn and wounding 26 people Wednesday.

Abe met with Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday, the second and final day of his visit. There were no immediate details about what they discussed.

Meanwhile, in Tokyo, Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, a top government spokesman, told reporters that Abe’s trip was intended to help de-escalate tensions in the Mideast but not specifically mediate between Tehran and Washington. His remarks were apparently meant to downplay and lower expectations amid uncertain prospects for Abe’s mission.

Tensions have escalated in the Mideast as Iran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, an accord that the Trump administration pulled out of last year: Iran’s nuclear deal, reached in 2015 by China, Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the US, saw Tehran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions.

Western powers feared Iran’s atomic program could allow it to build nuclear weapons, although Iran long has insisted its program was for peaceful purposes.

In withdrawing from the deal last year, Trump pointed to the accord not limiting Iran’s ballistic missile program and not addressing what American officials describe as Tehran’s malign influence across the wider Middle East.

Those who struck the deal at the time described it as a building block toward further negotiations with Iran, whose Islamic government has had a tense relationship with America since the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran and subsequent hostage crisis.

Already, Iran says it quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium. Meanwhile, US sanctions have cut off opportunities for Iran to trade its excess uranium and heavy water abroad, putting Tehran on course to violate terms of the nuclear deal regardless.

## Let’s tree again: Macron offers Trump replacement ‘friendship’ oak

**PARIS, JUN 13 (AFP):** French president Emmanuel Macron will send a replacement oak tree to US President Donald Trump after the original was dug up from the White House garden and died.

The French leader offered the young oak to Trump during a state visit to Washington in 2018, and the two shovelled dirt around it under the watchful eyes of their wives -- and cameras from around the world.

It was a symbolic gesture: the tree came from a northern French forest where 2,000 US Marines died during World War I.

But after the cameras left, the young oak was dug up and placed in quarantine -- where it died soon after, with many seeing it as symbol of US-France ties, which have since frayed over issues ranging from Iran to trade.

“The poor thing did not survive,” Macron said Tuesday, when he also

asked reporters not to “look for meaning where there is none”.

“I will send another.” The two leaders recently marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day together, with Macron -- who has been an outspoken critic of Trump’s nationalism and isolationist tendencies -- using the occasion to send a message to his American visitor. “America is never as big as when it is fighting for the freedom of others,” he said.

## No debate set for Hong Kong bill after protests



**HONG KONG, JUN 13 (AP):** A Hong Kong Legislative Council official says no time has been set aside for debate on a highly controversial extradition law that has drawn large-scale protests.

The announcement Thursday from council official Cicely Wong appeared to show the impact of Wednesday’s street demonstrations, along with statements of concern from foreign governments, business associations and the legal profession. Those voices have joined with human rights and supporters of the free press who have long warned of growing restrictions on civil rights in the former British colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Traffic was restored in the city the day after the clashes between police and protesters who

were hurt.

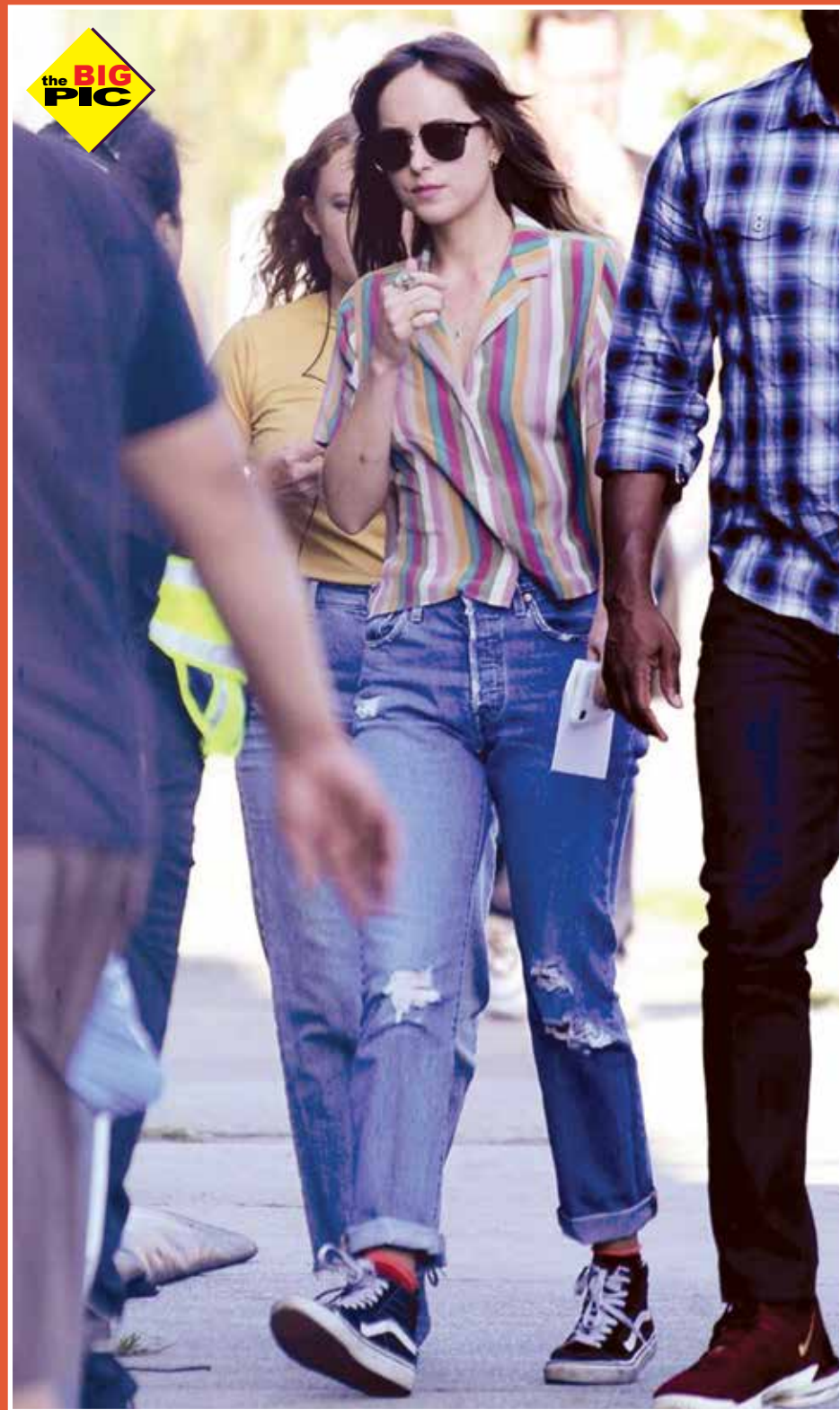
Traffic has been restored in the heart of Hong Kong a day after clashes between police and protesters who oppose legislation that would allow criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Heavy rain Thursday morning kept fresh protests from following those Wednesday by thousands of activists who shut down government headquarters and the Legislative Council on the day it was to debate the extradition bill. More than 70 people were hurt.

Police fired tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets after well-organized protesters breached their cordon, forcing the assembly to postpone the debate. Protesters said they were seeking to block the passage of the legislation they see as part of Beijing’s moves to tighten its grip over the former British colony.

Police officers fired tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets at demonstrators Wednesday. About 70 people







The actress, Dakota Johnson was spotted wearing a grunge look while on set for her new movie Covers in Los Angeles.

## 'Capernaum' to hit Indian theatres on June 21

**MUMBAI, JUN 13 (PTI):** Nadine Labaki's Oscar-nominated feature "Capernaum" will be releasing in India on June 21.

The Lebanese film, which was nominated at 91st Academy Awards in the category of Best Foreign Language Film, now called Best International Feature Film, has been brought to India by film-maker-distributor Ashwani Sharma through his Production House Impact Films.

The film follows Zain, a 12-year-old boy, who files a lawsuit against his parents for giving him birth when they can't raise him properly.

It stars child actor Zain Al Rafeea, a Syrian refugee, as Zain.

"Even a cursory look at the film's images will give you a feeling that though the

film had been shot in Beirut but it looks like any big city in India and even the faces resemble our countrymen.

bag the Jury Prize. Labaki, who has critically-acclaimed features such as "Caramel" and "Where Do We Go Now?"



It looks like any street in Mumbai or Delhi," Sharma said in a statement.

"Capernaum" had its world premiere at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, where it received a 15-minute standing ovation from the audience.

It competed for prestigious Palme d'Or award at the festival and managed to

to her credits, had recently served as the jury head of Un Certain Regard category at the 2019 Cannes festival.

Sharma previously distributed Oscar-winning Argentine feature "A Fantastic Woman", Keira Knightley-starrer "Colette" and Australian-French psychological thriller "Berlin Syndrome" in the country.

## I get scared when critics give good reviews to my films, says Salman Khan

**MUMBAI, JUN 13 (PTI):** Salman Khan says his validation of doing a good film comes solely from the box office collections but when critics praise his movies, he feels "scared".

The actor, who had a major career turnaround with "Wanted" in 2009 which was followed by "Dabangg", said public acceptance is the ultimate verdict for him.

"My validation comes from the box office collections... that the people have liked or not liked a film. It doesn't make a difference if someone (a critic) has given it so many stars (ratings) or ridiculed the film.

"It's their bread and butter. God bless them, give them two more (slices of) bread," Salman said in a group interview.

Asked how he feels when the critics give glorious reviews to his films, the actor said he is unable to wrap his head around it.

"I get scared. That why did they give (those star ratings) because their thinking never matches with the audience. Then I wonder 'oh what if this doesn't do well'. But the reason I do the kind of movies I do is because I loved the scripts.

"I want people to come inside the theatre and forget about their life. Enjoy the film. Take away the heroism or leave the theatre becoming a good person. These are the things I follow while

doing a film," he said. Salman is currently elated with the response to his latest, "Bharat" which released last week on Eid. Directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, the film also features Katrina Kaif and Sunil Grover.

Salman said the emotions in a scene must speak to him in order for him to be able to make the audience believe in it.

"There are lots of times when a scene is written, I don't feel it. Then I sit with the writer, director and work on



The 53-year-old actor said it is the "best Eidi" his fans have given him.

"I am very happy with the film doing really well and everyone's work is being appreciated... Success of every film is very important. 'Bharat' is a film that we have given our lives for, like every other film." The film, a remake of the 2014 Korean drama "An Ode To My Father", is set against the backdrop of Partition 1947.

the scene till I don't feel it. This is the quality of a bad actor," he said.

"If you give Mr (Amitabh) Bachchan, Yusuf sahab (Dilip Kumar) any scene, may be the most ridiculous scene, they'll own their scenes, make them believable. They will get that amount of heroism, emotion or comedy from a bad scene. For me, I really have to work on these things," he added.

## Shah Rukh Khan to be chief guest at 10th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne



**MELBOURNE, JUN 13 (PTI):** Superstar Shah Rukh Khan will be the chief guest at this year's Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, the festival organisers announced Thursday.

Helmed by the Victorian government, Australia, the IFFM is back for its 10th edition in the cultural city and will celebrate "courage" as its central theme.

Khan said he is honoured and delighted to accept the invitation.

"An industry of our magnitude and diversity deserves to be celebrated with great passion and fervour, which is what the festival embodies.

"I'm particularly pleased with the theme of the festival this year which is courage, an emotion that resonates with storytellers who really have the might to change the society and the world. I have had great memories of shooting for 'Chak De! India' in Melbourne and look forward to being back again, this time to celebrate Indian cinema," the actor said in a statement.

Khan will open the IFFM on August 8 along with the other festival guests and in the company of Victorian Pre-

mier Daniel Andrews and festival director Mitu Bhowmick Lange.

Andrews said he is looking forward to having the Indian actor as part of the festival.

"This event has grown significantly over the past decade and with the extraordinary Shah Rukh Khan here, this year's festival is shaping up to be the biggest and most exciting yet," he said.

"The Bollywood and Indian film industry is the biggest in the world and in addition to supporting this festival, we've announced a new Bollywood and Indian Cinema Attraction Fund to bring more film productions from India and the subcontinent to Victoria. Perhaps we'll even lure Shah Rukh back to our shores again," Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley added.

Lange said the team is excited to host Khan in the city.

"He's truly an icon of Indian cinema internationally, a person millions and millions follow and look up to. We are looking forward to hosting Mr Khan in Melbourne," she said.

The festival will run through August 17.

## Social media has become unhealthy: Selena Gomez



**LOS ANGELES, JUN 13 (PTI):** Selena Gomez says she has put a cap on spending time on social media as the singer believes the obsession with apps has gone out of control. The 26-year-old said she used to regularly engage with her fans on Twitter and Instagram but has pulled back because they started to "depressed".

"... I think it's just become really unhealthy, I think, personally, for young people, including myself, to spend all of their time fixating on all these comments and letting this stuff in. It was affecting me. "It would make me depressed. It would make me feel not good about myself and look at my body differently and all kinds of stuff," Gomez said during an appearance on "Live! With Kelly and Ryan".

There was a time when Gomez used to be the most followed person on Instagram but she said today she does not have the app on her phone.

"I have it on someone else's phone. And when I feel like I want to share something with my fans or just mess around with it, I do it then," she added.

Gomez's comments come almost a month after she said social media has been "terrible" for her generation and it was "impossible" at this point to make it safe for users whilst speaking at a press conference at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

**ARIES:** Feelings are flowing! Today's heart-opening trine between go-getter Mars and dreamy Neptune turns up your emotional dial. Your trademark Aries passion can be powerfully healing. It's a little-known fact that Rams can be some of the world's best listeners. Give people your full, undivided attention and don't tamp down your enthusiasm!

**TAURUS:** Feel no guilt today for making a few power moves and befriending influential people. A helpful trine between ambitious Mars and magnetic Neptune lights up your social sectors and makes you especially charismatic today. Use it to your advantage! Make a bold pitch or message someone you admire on social media. No need to hard-sell yourself, Bull.

**GEMINI:** Time to make a big ask? Gutsy Mars in your work and money house forms an opportune trine to magnetic Neptune, heating up career prospects. Be bold but not forceful, Gemini. The stars are working on your behalf and you don't need to over-explain yourself today. Just lay out the facts or make your request.

With karmic Neptune here, you might donate a few dollars to a cause you care about or mentor a person coming up through the ranks.

**CANCER:** Today, people's expectations (and soon, their demands!) might balloon out of proportion. Here's the rub: This whole situation might be your "fault." With the Sun and supersizer Jupiter working at cross-purposes, your ego could be out to prove something, leading you to take on responsibilities that are above your pay grade. Don't get swept up in the competitive vibes: As it's been said, pride goeth before a fall.

**LEO:** The world's your oyster as quicksilver Mercury makes a global entry into your ninth house of travel and adventure until May 6, sparking your wanderlust. Grab your car keys—or passport—and enjoy a spur-of-the-moment getaway. If you can't get out of Dodge on such short notice, consider this your long-lead nudge to start planning your late-spring or summer vacay NOW.

**LIBRA:** Body language isn't just a dialect spoken by a few—it's the universal language of love! And today, your cosmic ruler, sil-

ver-tongued Mercury, flits into your sultry, seductive erotic eighth house until May 6, inviting you to flirt with abandon. It's a time to let your desires be known, directly or with more secretive subtlety.

**VIRGO:** Even someone with superhuman powers couldn't keep up with everything you've got piled on your plate, Virgo. Compromise is mandatory if you hope to maintain some semblance of sanity, so find ways to scale back and streamline. In order to accomplish your most important work mission today, you'll need to backburner each and every nonessential to-do on your list. Tune out those around you, and you'll cross the finish line before the end of the day, PheW.

**SCORPIO:** Today's emo moon brings out your empathetic side. Don't fight those feelings, Scorpio! If you feel a surge of sadness or anger in response to a friend's plight, express it! Let the tears flow and open your heart to those who mean the most to you. Go out of your way to let them know how important they are in your world. When you need a steady shoulder

and a compassionate ear, they'll be there for you with bells on.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Pull off that oversized cashmere sweater and slip into something more glamorous—or better yet, sexier. Today, messenger Mercury wings into your amorous, glamorous fifth house until May 6, turning you into an unabashed flirtatious. Harboring a secret crush? It's time to act on it, Archer. Plan more playful dates over the next few weeks, whether you're single or spoken for. Think: private whisky tasting or an adventurous road trip to see Hamilton on tour. You'll be a magnet for magnates, so don't be shy about approaching the power players in any room!

**CAPRICORN:** Trying to make everyone happy, Capricorn? Today's stars turn that into an exercise in futility. If you've piled one too many obligations on your plate, your stress levels are liable to peak. Your best bet is to graciously bow out of a few responsibilities in the name of preserving your peace of mind. Don't worry—the people who really count will understand.

And if anyone tries to send you on a guilt trip, remember that their emotions are not your responsibility!

**AQUARIUS:** Unleash your trademark generosity today, Aquarius. Energizer Mars in your benevolent sixth house forms an auspicious angle to charitable Neptune in your finance sector. Put your money where your morals are, and "tithe" with your time. Sign up to volunteer or make a donation to a cause close to your heart. Little things count: You might offer career advice to a less experienced friend or pitch in on a project even though you won't get credit or glory!

**PISCES:** Today, your ruling planet Neptune syncs up with sizzling Mars in your passionate fifth house. The line between love and hate is practically transparent, so if the energy shifts from hotheaded to hot-blooded, don't be surprised. You could find creative ways to channel these lusty vibes, and at least one willing participant! Enjoy the dance of seduction but DO make your desires known. The right balance between coy and courageous will make you irresistible.