

# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 157 | Gangtok | Saturday | 16 June 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

*Greetings  
from Governor  
& CM on  
Id-ul-Fitr*

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

Governor Shrinivas Patil and First Lady Rajanidevi Patil have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Id-ul-Fitr.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "May the month long reverence of faith culminating with the celebration of Id promote universal brotherhood and give us strength and courage to set aside the ideological differences and conflicts arising thereof. Let the ideals enshrined in the Quran inspire and prepare everyone to work collectively for the ultimate good of mankind."

On this joyous occasion let us reaffirm our commitment to work towards strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and love amongst all fellow beings."

Likewise, in another press release, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim, particularly Muslim brethren, on the auspicious occasion of Id-ul-Fitr.

In his message, the CM has said, "I wish all my Sikkimese people, a blessed and happy Id-ul-Fitr and I would like to take a quote from the holy book of Quran, as a message of peace in greeting and in sharing the wisdom of Allah: 'And let there be from you a nation inviting to good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful!'"

## 981 students graduate from ICFAI University

**GOVERNOR AND  
CM CONFERRED  
HONORARY  
DOCTORATE  
DEGREES**

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

The convocation ceremony of 981 graduating students of various disciplines of ICFAI University, Sikkim was held at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok today.

During the function, Governor Shrinivas Patil was conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Science [Honoris Causa] in recognition of his immense contributions to the society while Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Literature [Honoris Causa] by ICFAI University in recognition of the transformational initiatives taken for the State



in key development areas for the past 24 years.

It may be mentioned here, Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, was slated to preside over the function but due to inclement weather conditions, his visit was cancelled.

In his acceptance speech, Governor Patil

thanked ICFAI University for bestowing such honour on him.

With his tenure as Governor of Sikkim nearing its end, he also expressed his gratitude and love to the State and dedicated his degree to the "wonderful State of Sikkim".

He added that he and

his wife, First Lady Rajini Devi Patil, have loved every moment spent here in Sikkim.

Similarly, expressing pleasure at the recognition received, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling dedicated the award to the people of Sikkim.

He stated that in a fast

changing world of education, there is a need to adapt to new technologies since traditional knowledge has become outdated.

Elucidating the challenges of the education system, he stated that maintaining sanctity of education is a significant

**turn to pg02**

## In conversation with LGBT+ icon Tenzin Mariko at Rachna Books

**YOUGAN TAMANG  
GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

An enthralling session with Tenzin Mariko, the first openly transgender Tibetan woman and a LGBT+ community icon, was held at Rachna Books, Gangtok today. The session 'In conversation with Tenzin Mariko' was moderated by Vishaka Diyali, guest faculty, Sikkim University.

This is not the first such event organised by Rachna Books. The popular book store has already organised similar events on LGBT+ in the past as well.



Tenzin Mariko is an aspiring makeup artist and dancer

and perhaps the biggest star in a community that, until her ar-

rival, had been bereft of LGBT idols.

Mariko formerly Tashi was a monk learning the higher philosophy of Buddhism at Dharmasala, Darjeeling and later in Nepal. She made her first public appearance as a performer at the 2015 Miss Tibet pageant in Dharmasala. Later, she gave up monkhood to become the first openly transgender woman in the Tibetan community.

The session ended with a captivating discussion and answers by Mariko to questions put forward by the participants of the event.



## Kejriwal's dharna continues for fifth day with no side relenting

**NEW DELHI, JUN 15 (PTI):**

The tug of war between the Lieutenant Governor and the AAP government showed no signs of easing as Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his cabinet colleagues today continued their sit-in at the L-G office for the fifth day, amid intensified protests by the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP which blamed each other for the impasse.

Kejriwal, who along with his three cabinet colleagues have been staging a sit-in at the L-G office since Monday evening, wrote a second letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in as many days on the issue of alleged "strike" by IAS workers and challenged him to work without the officers attending his meetings.

"How do we work like this? Can Modi ji try working like this even for a day? Can our critics kindly tell us how do we function like this? (sic)," Kejriwal tweeted after Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain alleged that environment secretary did not attend a meeting on pollution in the evening.

In his fresh letter to Modi, Kejriwal urged him to end IAS officers' strike so that he can attend a meeting of NITI Aayog on Sunday.

Kejriwal accompanied by his deputy Manish Sisodia and ministers Satyendar Jain and Gopal Rai started an indefinite sit-in at the office of Lt Governor Anil Bajjal demanding that he direct IAS officers to end their "strike" and approve doorstep ration delivery scheme.

However, the IAS officers' association has maintained that no officer is on "strike".

A team of 20 doctors reached the Lt Governor Secretariat this morning to conduct health check up of Jain and Sisodia, who have been on hunger strike on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively, after which Kejriwal expressed apprehension that the two ministers may be forced out of there.

"Why r they planning to take them forcefully? It is just 4 days. Both of them r fit. They r fighting for the people of Delhi (sic)," Kejriwal tweeted.

Also, Sisodia released a video warning that if they are forcibly removed from the L-G Secretariat, they will stop drinking water too.

Sources said that the L-G, who has been working from his residence after the sit-in by AAP ministers, has constituted three teams of doctors to examine the health of ministers.



## Its Dzongri FC vs Young Orchid for SFA C-Div finals

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

Young Orchid will take on Dzongri Football Club in the finals of the Sikkim Football Association 'C' Division Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on Sunday.

In a contesting semi-final match

played this afternoon, Dzongri FC edged past Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 03-02.

Young Orchid secured its berth in the finals of the league by defeating Chujachen FC 4-2 in the first semi-final match played yesterday.

**NOW OUT ON THE BOOKSTANDS!**

**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

**The SummitTimes Spotlight series now in a book!**

**AVAILABLE IN GANGTOK AT  
RACHNA BOOKS, Development Area; KANDOIKA, New Market;  
JAINGO, Metro Point; GOOD BOOKS, MG Marg**

**LOKTA  
BOOKS**  
Gangtok - Sikkim

**For trade and other enquiries,  
contact Lokta Books at [loktabooks@gmail.com](mailto:loktabooks@gmail.com)  
or call us at +91 891 860 6209; +91 983 208 0753**





CM using communal politics to divide Sikkimese: BJP

#### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has criticized Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for leveling various allegations against BJP during his ongoing 32-day State-wide tour.

Condemning the statements made by the CM, BJP has said that it is not appropriate for the CM to label various allegations after holding such dignified post.

A BJP press release states that it is very irresponsible on the CM's part to make 'communal allegations' against BJP.

The release has further alleged the CM of communal politics to divide different Sikkimese communities.

## 981 students graduate from...

contd from pg01

challenge and there is a need to do much more than just get degrees.

"It has been a constant effort of the State Government to transform the State into an education hub," he expressed.

Thanking ICFAI University, he dedicated the honour to the people of Sikkim and thanked the people for consistently reposing faith in him.

This was followed by the presentation of awards of gold and silver medals to the students.

Message of the Vice President was also read out during the event wherein he congratulated the graduating students and also congratulated the ICFAI team "for opening the door of higher learning to the remote and resourceful region of North East".

The message further added, "Your contribution to the emotional integration of the North-east with the larger union will indeed go a long way for this great country."

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

# SDF confirms new members for frontal organizations in Namchi-Singithang

BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 15 JUN:

Sikkim Democratic Front today handed over official conformations to the newly appointed party workers under different frontal organizations of Namchi-Singithang constituency.

The programme, organized by the party's South district working committee, was chaired by party vice-president, Girish Chandra Rai, SDF frontal organizations vice-president, Gagan Rai and other senior leaders and party workers.

Addressing the programme, Mr Gagan Rai congratulated all the committee members from different organizations and said that the party has now forwarded the responsibility to strengthen the party's hold to the new members.

"The party hopes that the new members will work honestly and for the benefit of the people," he said, adding that the State was preparing for the upcoming general elections and highlighted that there are challenges



facing the party with 'outside forces' working actively in Sikkim's political affairs.

He said that party workers should work hard to prevent the 'outside forces' from taking over Sikkim and

reducing it to a district. He urged the party workers to be active in their area and bring wide

awareness about party policies, programmes and developmental projects helmed by the SDF Government in the State.

Party VP, Girish Chandra Rai, also congratulated the new members and held them up as the main base of the party.

He advised the new members to be clear about SDF policies and programmes and work for the benefit of the people and not to fulfill individual needs.

The programme was also addressed by SDF Youth Wing vice-president, Binod Rai, Namchi Municipal Committee Chairman, Uday Chandra Rai, and secretary, women's wing, Bandhana Rai.

During the programme it was also informed that the party will soon be organizing a Chata Mela.

The programme was also attended by senior leaders of the party, panchayats, NMC councilors, party DWC members, CLC, WLC, BLC members and party workers of Namchi Singithang constituency.

## Three offices inaugurated at Pakyong SDM complex

Rebyna Rana

GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Minister for Building & Housing Department cum Gnathang Machong MLA, DT Lepcha, today inaugurated three important offices namely the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer, State Bank of Sikkim revenue collection counter and office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner at the Sub Divisional Magistrate complex in Pakyong, East Sikkim.

The office of Assistant Transport Officer will be issuing licenses and documents related to motor vehicles for the people of Pakyong sub division and surrounding areas.

Speaking to the media, Mr Lepcha said it was a his-



toric day for the people of Pakyong sub division with the opening of these im-

portant offices in Pakyong. He added that these offices will serve the peo-

ple of five constituencies [Gnathang-Machong, Chujachen, West Pendum,

Namcheybong and Rhenock], and three subdivisions [Pakyong, Rongli

and half of Rangpo].

"People from these constituencies will now be spared the trouble of travelling all the way to Gangtok through heavy traffic of the capital for various official purposes. And I thank Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for providing these facilities which will be hugely benefit the local people," said Mr Lepcha.

He further added, "The CM had assured before the Assembly elections in 2014 to establish an East DC office in Pakyong with Gangtok as its headquarter. It, however, could not be done due to lack of proper infrastructure. Since there is sufficient space at the Pakyong SDM complex, it might as well be able to

function as an East DC office. We are hopeful that the CM will announce it when he comes to address the public here on 20 Jun as part of his 32-day Jan Sampark Abhiyaan."

The function had the presence of MLA Rhenock Constituency, Hemendra Adhikari, Chairperson, Commerce and Industries, Choppel Dzangpo Bhutia, Secretary, Transport Department, SBS Bhaduria, Managing Director, SBS, Hem K Chettri, other officials, Panchayats and the general public.

On the occasion, the Minister also handed over one Swatch Bharat Mission garbage collection vehicle to Pachey Samsing GPU.

## BAMOS-NCS is now a registered NGO

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim- Nature Conservation Society is now a registered Non Governmental Organization under Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Association and other Voluntary Organization Act, 2008, a press release from the organization informs.

The organization was first started in 2011 by a group of butterfly enthusiasts with a Facebook page titled 'BAMOS' documenting the discovery and research on rich varieties of butterflies found in Sikkim.

BAMOS-NCS has been photographically docu-



menting Sikkim's butterflies and building a checklist, to rule out rare species, rediscovered species and new species.

BAMOS-NCS currently consists of Butterfly-man of Sikkim who

holds the Limca Book of Records for attracting the most number of butterfly species on his body, Nawang Gyatso Bhutia as president.

Other executive members of the organi-

zation are Dorjee Chawang Bhutia, Dr Karma Dorjee Bhutia, Kavita Rai, Lakpa Tenzing Sherpa, Matrika Sharma, Sanjyog Rai, Tenzing Wangdub Bhutia, Prem Chettri and Sailendra Dewan.

## SKM slams SDF, calls it Maacha Chor party

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has slammed horns with the ruling front hitting back at Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for his remarks on opposition parties as 'Jail party', 'Goonda Party' and 'Gai Chor Party', in return terming Sikkim Democratic Front as 'Maacha Chor' party.

These past few days have witnessed SDF, SKM and newly formed Hamro Sikkim Party engaged in a war of words.

SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, in a press conference on 14 Jun termed SDF as 'Maacha Chor' par-

ty alleging that SDF leader, Pawan Chamling, had been entrusted the duty of safeguarding a lake when he was working as a Police Constable, but was caught stealing fish and his services were terminated.

"Pawan Chamling during his Jan Sewa Abhiyan slammed the opposition parties using unparliamentary words crossing all limits," said Mr Khaling adding that Mr Chamling has forced them to use similar language in response.

"When a person crosses all his limits, it shows his loss of moral responsibility to be able to rule the State," Mr Khaling said.

Suggesting that the CM do some introspection, Mr Khaling said, "It is a shame that a person who has been ruling the State for 24 years is using such words which does not reflect his stature of being the longest serving CM."

"We do respect the chair of the CM but the way he has been accusing the opposition parties is not right," said Mr Khaling reminding the CM to uphold the dignity of the chair and stature he holds.

He further added, "We are here to fight against the hypocrisy of Chamling and his government to provide justice to the masses."



## Free eye screening camp conducted in Jorethang

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JUN:

Two-day free eye screening and awareness camp organised by Marwari Yuva Manch, Jorethang, in association with Sumbuk Lungchok Development Association, Saddam High School [Batch '97], Rotary Club of Birtamode Midtown

[Jhapa, Nepal] and Birtamode Eye Hospital [Jhapa] concluded today at Jorethang in South Sikkim, a press release informs.

A team of doctors from Nepal screened 608 patients during the camp. Patients diagnosed with cataract will be operated at Birtamode Eye Hospi-

tal in Jhapa at subsidised rate.

Paschim Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwadi Yuva Manch's State general secretary, Sanjay Agarwal, in the release, has congratulated the entire team for undertaking the initiative and for successfully executing the programme.

Now you can whatsapp Summit TIMES @ 7001622863 or write us at letters@gmail.com



**Gangtok on Saturday, 16 June**

**Temp:** 25°C/16°C  
**Forecast:** Variable cloudiness, thunder showers; not as warm; watch for flooding.  
**Sunrise:** 04:40 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:32 PM



### Soybean mini-kits distributed to West Sikkim farmers

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

Agriculture Department, West Sikkim distributed mini-kits soybean variety JS-95-60 under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan at four different villages of West Sikkim on 14 and 15 June at Omchung, Linchom, Martam and Bermiok village, informs a press release.

The distribution programme was attended by 80 farmers who were provided with 8kg each of soybean mini-kits along with bio-fertilizer.

**to book advertisements in SummitTimes call**  
**03592-208698,**  
**9734152541**  
**9647102692**



### SKM's Nari Ekikaran Yatra tours Gyalshing-Bermiok

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

In continuation of its Nari Ekikaran Yatra, a team of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's women's wing led by Mingma Lhamu Bhutia toured Gyalshing-Bermiok constituency today.

## Regular blood donors felicitated by Governor on World Blood Donor Day

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

Sikkim State Blood Transfusion Council and Sikkim State AIDS Control Society in collaboration with Voluntary Blood Donors Association observed the World Blood Donor Day with the theme "Be there for someone else, Give Blood, Share Life" at the premises of Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School in Gangtok on 14 Jun, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, World Blood Donor Day is also commemorated as the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, a scientist who won the Nobel Prize for his great discovery of the ABO blood group. The day is also an opportunity to make people aware about the need of safe blood transfusion as well as importance of blood donation throughout the world.

Governor Shrinivas Patil attended the function as chief guest along with Commissioner cum



Secretary, Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Vishal Chauhan, as guest of honour.

During the programme, the Governor felicitated nine individuals and four organisations as a token of appreciation for regularly donating blood voluntarily, the release adds.

Among the individuals felicitated were Dr Chintamani Sharma [Consultant, Central Blood Bank, STNM Hospital], Dr Anju Rai [Senior Blood Bank Officer, District Hospital Nam-

chij], Subash Koirala, Jikmee Norbu Bhutia, Manisha Rai, Ramesh Gazmer, Suraj Rai, Binod Chettri and Shyam Chettri.

Nehru Yuva Kendra [Namchi Branch], Awaken Youth Association of Chumbung [West Sikkim], Marwari Yuva Manch [Gangtok] and Interact Club of West Point Senior Secondary School [Gangtok] were the associations that were felicitated.

The Governor, in his address, emphasised that blood donation is the most significant contribution a person can make to the society.

"It is not harmful as the blood you give is regenerated in your body within few days, it does not affect your metabolism," he added.

He further urged the youth of Sikkim to make the noble act of voluntary blood donation a habit.

Commissioner cum Secretary, Mr Chauhan, also stressed on voluntary blood donation and emphasised that in the year 2017-2018, the total collection of blood was 6301 units of which 4935 units [78%] were collected from voluntary donors and hence stressed

that 100% is achieved only through voluntary blood donation.

Earlier, Director [Health Services] cum Director [SSBTC], Dr Uttam Pradhan, in his welcome address, enlightened the gathering on the importance of the day and also informed that the day is marked as a celebration to thank and encourage regular voluntary blood donors.

Consultant, Central Blood Bank, STNM Hospital, Dr Sharma, shared his experience as a blood donor motivator and a donor and informed that people were more motivated to donate blood as compared to 10 years ago.

He said that he was motivated to be a donor after seeing poor patients facing hardships when their loved ones needed blood during emergencies. The Blood Banks now do not face problems in supplying tested blood units during emergencies, he said. He also thanked the innumerable donors who come forward and donate blood.



### South Dist Admn holds coordination meeting at Namchi

**NAMCHI, 15 JUN [IPR]:** A high level District Coordination meeting organised by South District Administration chaired by District Collector [South], Prabhakar Verma was held today at DAC in Namchi, South Sikkim today.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Collector [South], Satyen Pradhan, Senior Superintendent of Police [South], Shammi Rai, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Namchi], Hemant Rai, Additional District Collector (Dev), Milan Subba alongside various department officials.

Addressing the meeting, the DC discussed and detailed out the agenda of the meeting which he stated was to take stock of the initiatives and programmes being implemented by various departments in South District.

The DC also enquired about the status report on 36 announcements made by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on 04 Mar at Mining Ground.

Thereafter, matters related to various ongoing and impending

programmes such as International Yoga Day, Smart City Project, Swachh Bharat Mission, election related matters, regulation and scrutiny of non-organic produce banned within the State, registration of UID, various adventure projects under Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and forest clearances were discussed in the meeting.

During the course of the programme, officials and department representatives presented a detailed status report of various ongoing activities under their respective departments and also cited problems and difficulties arising during the implementation. Propositions were sought and presented to curb problems and ensure productivity at every possible level during the programme.

The DC directed the concerned officials and field staff to expedite all pending works under each department and administered task force committees under different departments wherever necessary.

**visit us at**  
**www.summit-**  
**times.com**

## Daylong farmers training on plant nutrients management held at Ramidham

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

Mevedir, a service provider for Internal Control System for Organic Certification organized a daylong ward level farmers' training on Thursday at Ramidham under Bara Samdong Gram Panchayat Unit in West Sikkim, a press release informs.

Mevedir master trainer, Ran Maya Rai outlined the objective of the training and talked about the importance of panchagavya, a plant nutrient supplement and how it is prepared and used in field crops.

Ms Rai explained with an illustrative chart how panchagavya has growth promoting potential immunity enhancers necessary for plants.

Panchagavya is made from cow dung, cow



urine, milk, curd, jaggery and ghee.

She explained the preparation and usage of panchagavya.

Ms Rai further informed that inputs pre-

pared and applied in the field crops have to be entered in the farm diary and proper records of usage and application have to be maintained.

In the concluding ses-

sion, Ward Panchayat, Chandra Subba shared her views and assured the farmers of support for the promotion of organic farming in the ward.



### GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TASHILING, GANGTOK – 737103

**No: GOS/DTE/2018/296**

**Dated: 14.6.2018**

#### NOTICE

RIPANS, Mizoram has allotted State quota seats for the courses B. Pharmacy, B.Sc Nursing and Paramedical with the stipulation that the last date of admission in the college is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. In order to ensure that there is no inconvenience caused to the students for reaching the institute within the last date of admission, the counselling of these courses have been fixed for 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Therefore, the Directorate is constraint to pre-pone the date of submission of documents for the above courses as under:-

B. Pharmacy, D. Pharmacy- **20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018.**  
Paramedical - **20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018.**  
B. Sc, Nursing - **20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

*Sd/-*

**D.K. PRADHAN, SCS.**  
**DIRECTOR**

**HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

*R.O. No. 143/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 15.06.2018*



### DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK – 737101

Sealed Tenders is invited from the local contractor for the work "Upgradation of Chungthang public stadium under Chungthang GPU, North Sikkim". Interested firms may apply in writing to obtain the Tender form from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Whitehall, Gangtok.

Application should be accompanied with the following documents.

- Valid contractor enlistment.
- Tax clearance certificates.

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	TOTAL COST	TDR (SECURITY DEPOSIT)	COST OF TENDER FORM
1.	Upgradation of Chungthang public stadium under Chungthang GPU, North Sikkim.	Rs.92,20,800/-	Rs.2,30,520/-	Rs.5000/-

#### Time Schedule:

- Sale of Tender form 28/06/2018 to 30/06/2018 during office hours.
- Receipt of Tender form along with the relevant documents on 06/07/2018 till 12:00 noon at the office of the Assistant Engineer, SYA, Whitehall, Gangtok.
- Opening of the Tender Documents on 06/07/2018 from 2.30 pm in the office of the Assistant Engineer, SYA, Whitehall, Gangtok.

The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

**NOTE: Competitive bidders within technical jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat unit where the work is to execute.**

*R.O. No. 141/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 15.6.2018*



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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

# Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom where new dinosaurs emerge but who are the real monsters?

JOHN LONG & HEATHER L. ROBINSON  
*theconversation.com*

In Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom the lines between human and monster are not clear-cut. Much of the film, the fifth instalment of the Universal franchise, is driven by both human and dinosaur capacity for empathy, extinction and reinvention.

Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) and Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) return in another swinging tale of unpredictable and unreasoning monsters, brought back from extinction and on the rampage, leaving a trail of mindless destruction across an island on the brink of natural disaster.

But this is a more thoughtful ride through the well-crafted Spielbergian universe, founded on a solid (and enjoyably false) premise, populated with spectacular creatures and flawed humans battling it out for survival, with the predictably plucky clever kid thrown in to make sense of it all.

Claire Dearing has seen the error of her cold corporate ways from the previous Jurassic World (2015). She has invested in a pair of sensible outdoor shoes and relaunched herself as a dinosaur conservationist, living and breathing the ethical conundrum of attempting to preserve a genetically resurrected species.

Owen Grady has retreated to the woods to build a log cabin, and is still determined to win Claire over. He remains the simple but handy muscle to balance Claire's passionate intellect, though his research into the creatures proves to be of value to commercial interests.

Jeff Goldblum's character Ian Malcolm makes all too brief an appearance, providing an authoritative philosophical take on the role these creatures play in our world, against the backdrop of commercialisation, senate enquiries, and unbridled consumerism.

"These creatures were here before us. And if we're not careful, they're gonna be here after us," Malcolm says.

And come after us they do, as Claire and Owen are enlisted to save the species from "re-extinction".

Remember Malcolm's sage pronouncements from the original Jurassic Park (1993): "Life cannot be contained", "Life breaks free", and the now totemic "Life finds a way". These three environmentally sensitive catchphrases provide hope for survival, but for whom or what? If the Jurassic films show us anything, it is that life ultimately just wants to be left alone and not turned into an elite tourist commodity or set of biopharmaceutical experiments.

Claire and Owen are brought back together by an imminent volcanic eruption on Isla Nublar. As a born-again conservationist, Claire needs Owen to help rescue a Velociraptor he trained and named Blue.

Claire believes she is doing the right thing as a (presumably left-leaning) conservator of rare and endangered species. She can save a select few, but not all. This has caused at least one reviewer to tear up



over the fate of a particularly vulnerable herbivore.

### THE RIGHT KIND OF LIFE FINDS A WAY

If only a few could be saved, surely a Brontosaurus would be high on the list? But then, this manifest for a new-age ark has been strategically compiled.

We preserve and save what we value, whether it is species, money or collections. In this instance though, value is determined by strictly capitalist motivations: the black market for endangered species, part of which wishes to monetise the monsters as frontline soldiers in a (vestigial) arms race.

Wheeler-dealers (one with a rather Trumpian coiffure) are gleefully hatching plans to further modify and weaponise the creatures. Meat-eating theropods as natural born killers are their favourites, with herbivores like Ankylosaurus promoted for sale as nature's "tanks".

This is no longer humans versus nature. This is nature versus human consumer culture, and we already know who is probably going to win that fight. And the real monsters are much closer to home. They are us, the humans.

### BUT ARE THE DINOSAURS WELL-DEPICTED?

Dinosaurs have always been the stars of these movies. They are the reason we all go to see these films, and old favourites steal the limelight – the Tyrannosaurus and so-called Velociraptors.

As in the previous outings, the movie variety are much bigger than real Velociraptor (c. 1.5m) and lack feathers that are a feature of most well-preserved members of their family (the dromaeosaurids).

We also get to relish once again the sight of living Ankylosaurus, Gallimimus, Compsognathus, Stegosaurus, Brachiosaurus, Apatosaurus and Triceratops.

Making their first appearance in this movie are Sinoceratops, Carnotaurus, Baryonyx, Allosaurus, Stygimoloch and the manmade hybrid "Indoraptor".

In the water we see a much overblown, chunky mosasaur with a forked tail, as recently reported in the scientific literature (if you watch very closely).

In the air we again find beefed-up pterosaurs such as Pteranodon, capable of lifting humans off the ground - pretty amazing for a beast that in life weighed up to 20kg. The real Pteranodon also did not have teeth.

The horned theropod Carnotaurus, has well-preserved skin impressions associated with the almost complete fossil skeleton, so we note that the skin texture of the movie beast is accurately depicted according to the scientific evidence.

Sinoceratops, a run-of-the-mill horned herbivore (ceratopsian), is seen briefly, as is Baryonyx, a close relative of the terrifying Spinosaurus that starred in Jurassic Park III.

A feisty little Stygimoloch, a dome-headed pachycephalosaur that loves to headbutt things (as fossil evidence supports), really steals the show in one hilarious scene.

Allosaurus is a very well-known late Jurassic dinosaur from North America, whose complete skeletons are seen in many fine museum displays

around that country.

It had its moment in Australian scientific history when an anklebone thought to belong to Allosaurus was found at a site on the eastern Victorian coastline near Inverloch in 1981.

This caused great controversy as the beast was thought to be restricted to North America. Later it was shown that the anklebone likely belonged to a newly discovered Queensland Cretaceous theropod dinosaur called Australovenator.

While "Indoraptor" is supposed to be a genetic concoction, it is actually reminiscent of a small Madagascan theropod called Masiakasaurus. This also had a very peculiar set of teeth protruding from its lower jaws, but was much smaller in life (about 2m).

We do see some straight, hairlike feathers on the head of "Indoraptor", bringing it more into line with what we actually know of the skin covering of these kind of dinosaurs. The film-makers have done their homework.

### SCIENCE IS THE BIG LOSER

Once again scientists are no longer seen as heroes or even used as major players in the narrative. They too succumb to the dominant market forces.

The loss of real palaeontologists – Sam Neil's Alan Grant and Laura Dern's Ellie Sattler, who had leading roles in the early movies – is a real shame, especially for kids looking for intelligent role models and exciting careers in science.

There is no clear resolution to this story, not with so much invested in the gaming spin-offs, high box office expectations, and a pending final instalment.

The show, and the cute merchandising, will go on. It helps us to switch off from the somewhat pressing problem of extinction facing not just our own kind, but the thousands of other life forms on the brink of catastrophe caused by unbridled human consumption. We are after all in the midst of the sixth great mass extinction event.

This is a mess that humans have created, and where science provides clear solutions to how we can in future act to avoid catastrophe, yet politicians with their eyes fixed only on immediate economic benefit routinely ignore such advice.

In the end, it's left up to us to "find a way".

*[John Long is Strategic Professor in Palaeontology, Flinders University; Heather L. Robinson is Research Associate & PhD Candidate, College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, Flinders University]*

# 'Stay safe': why women are enraged by advice to steer clear of violent men

BIANCA FILEBORN  
*THECONVERSATION.COM*

This week, a man allegedly raped and murdered a young woman – emerging comedian Eurydice Dixon – as she walked home from a comedy gig. 19-year-old Jaymes Todd has since been charged with one count of murder and one count of rape.

In the wake of yet another tragic – but, importantly, not unavoidable – loss of a woman's life, police predictably advised people to "stay safe" by engaging in a range of "protective" strategies.

The social media response was swift, with the police comments quickly denounced as yet another example of the ways in which we deflect the blame for men's violence back onto women.

So why do we keep telling women to "stay safe", and why is it such a problem?

### WOMEN'S 'SAFEKEEPING' STRATEGIES

Walk with your keys between your knuckles; text a friend when you arrive home safely; don't drink too much; keep an eye on your drinks; be aware of your surroundings; don't have headphones in; there's safety in numbers; don't go out after dark; don't dress too "provocatively"...

As decades of feminist research has documented, women, for the most part, already engage in these extensive "safekeeping" routines. Many women have been taught from



The murder of 22-year-old Melbourne Eurydice Dixon has provoked outrage and grief on social media, following police advice to "stay safe".

a young age that they are responsible for avoiding the violence that men perpetrate against us. At best, this makes safety "advice" redundant.

When women don't use these routines, it's often because they are with people they trust or in familiar places making the use of such routines seem unnecessary.

But unfortunately, as the statistics on violence against women show all too clearly, those we trust are among the most likely to hurt us – feeling safe is unfortunately not the same as being safe. Some women also reject or challenge such "advice" on the basis

that it is ineffective and burdensome.

Women also routinely experience harassment and threats in public space that remind us of the possibilities of what could happen – and cases such as the recent incident in Melbourne confirm these.

Indeed, as I walked home that night, I found myself questioning whether I should take my usual route home through the park as the twilight dissipated into darkness, and the usual crowd of joggers slowly thinned out, my world instantly becoming a little smaller:

What if this happens to me? Am I being reckless? If something does happen, will it be my fault?

This highlights the impossible double-bind women face in engaging in "safety" routines: if we use them, we restrict our worlds and possibilities. Often, women are positioned as "overreacting" and "hysterical" in relation to their wariness and hyper-vigilance in public places.

Yet, if we don't engage in these routines, we are positioned as being to blame for what happens to us. Fiona Vera-Gray refers to this delicate

turn to 05



## Biharis in US' California raise USD 15,000 for eye care project in Bihar

**WASHINGTON, JUN 14 (PTI):** The Indian community from Bihar living in America's California have raised USD 15,000 for a health project aimed at providing needy people in their home state free eye care treatments, including operations.

The fundraiser was held during the annual gala of Bihar Foundation of USA (BFOUSA) wherein Bay Area Bihari community celebrated the 'Bihar Divas' in California.

"Our objective is to raise funds towards eradication of blindness in Bihar," BFOUSA vice-chairman Rajiv Sinha said.

The foundation has started collaborating with various eye care hospitals in Bihar to sponsor free eye surgery for the poor and needy.

"This is commendable," Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said in a message to the foundation, which celebrated its annual gala on June 9.

The central theme of this year's function was branding, bonding, and business development among North American Bihari community and people of Bihar.

BFOUSA has signed its first memorandum of understanding with Sri Sai Lions Netralaya in Patna. Dr Jayant Kumar, director of BFOUSA, said that in 2018 their target is free 2,000 cataract surgeries to the needy, followed by 5,000 in 2019.

The foundation has taken eye care as its top priority because of an estimated 4.3 million visually-impaired population in Bihar with more than 650,000 blind people, said Shyam Chaudhary, its project director.

# Assam flood situation turns critical, 3.87 lakh affected

**GUWAHATI, JUN 15 (PTI):** The flood situation in Assam deteriorated drastically today with nearly four lakh people affected across seven districts of the state.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 3.87 lakh people have been affected in Hojai, Karbi Anglong East, Karbi Anglong West, Golaghat, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar districts in the first wave of floods to have hit the state this year.

Till yesterday, the number of flood-hit people stood at 1.67 lakh in seven districts.



So far, three persons have lost their lives in landslides and flood-related incidents in different parts of the state.

According to the report issued today, Hailakandi has

been the worst-hit with nearly 2.06 lakh people affected, followed by Karimganj with almost 1.33 lakh people.

Currently, 668 villages are under water and 1,912 hect-

ares of crop area has been damaged, the ASDMA said.

Landslides have occurred at four locations in Guwahati city, but no casualty has been reported so far.

Due to fresh landslips between the Bandarkhal and Damchara stations, rail movement continues to remain suspended on the Lumding-Badarpur section.

"Work is in progress at the affected locations and as per preliminary estimates, complete restoration is likely to take 2-3 days time. Landslips have also occurred at several places in the Dharmanagar

area," Northeast Frontier Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Pranav Jyoti Sharma said.

The ASDMA said authorities are running 178 relief camps and distribution centres in five districts, where 67,175 people have taken shelter.

Nearly 500 people have been evacuated to safer places during the last 24 hours by SDRF, NDRF and Assam Rifles personnel from Karimganj, Hailakandi, Cachar and Golaghat.

The devastating floods have damaged embank-

ments, roads, bridges and other infrastructures in Hojai, Karimganj, Karbi Anglong East, Karbi Anglong West, Dima Hasao, Cachar, Hailakandi, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Golaghat and Jorhat districts.

Currently, Dhansiri river at Numaligarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at NT Road crossing in Sonitpur, Kopili at Kampur in Nagaon, Barak at AP Ghat in Cachar and Badarpurghat in Karimganj, Katakhal at Matizuri in Hailakandi and Kushiara at Karimganj town are flowing above the danger mark.

## Debabrata Saikia seeks judicial probe into Assam lynching

**GUWAHATI, JUN 15 (PTI):** The Leader of the Opposition in Assam Legislative Assembly Debabrata Saikia yesterday demanded a judicial probe into the lynching of two youths in Karbi Anglong district last week.

In a statement, senior Congress leader Saikia urged Assam Chief Minister to "institute a judicial enquiry" to get to the root of the motive behind spreading fake news across social media for such as WhatsApp and Facebook, which resulted in the lynching of the two youths.

He said that it was essential for the government to ascertain whether the fell victims to a nation-wide conspiracy of creating an atmosphere of fear and doubt via social media.

Saikia referred to similar rumours about the presence of child-lifters being spread in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, while pointing out that already several people have been lynched as a result.

"The opposition leader said that there was ample scope to suspect that the well-



coordinated spreading of fake news might be a ploy to divert people's attention from issues of actual importance.

"In view of increasing doubts about a section of supporters of a particular political ideology being the masterminds behind such fear and hate-mongering, Saikia said that the Chief Minister should take it upon himself to order a thorough probe to unearth the truth and consequently prevent more damage being caused in Assam by such poisonous propaganda," the statement said.

The two youths, Nilotpal Das and Abhijeet Nath, had gone to the picnic spot of Kangthilangso waterfalls under Dokmoka police station in Kar-

bi Anglong on Friday. While returning, their vehicle was stopped at Panjuri Kachari by a group of irate villagers, who pulled them out and killed them for being child-lifters.

Altogether 63 persons have been arrested from different parts of Assam for killing the youths and spreading rumours and hate messages on social media.

While 28 persons were held for killing the duo, the rest 35 were arrested for posting hate messages and rumours on social media.

The main accused Alfajoz Timung, who was out on bail in an old murder case and was arrested yesterday for the lynching, had asked the villagers over telephone to stop the duo's vehicle and spread rumours of them being child-lifters.



## Meghalaya to implement Ayushman Bharat Health scheme: Minister

**SHILLONG, JUN 15 (PTI):** Meghalaya government will implement the Centre's Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), state Health Minister A L Hek has said.

Hek made this announcement at the Health Ministers conclave held in New Delhi yesterday, according to an official statement issued here. The state government also signed an MoU with Union Health Ministry yesterday and agreed to implement the AB-NHPM in Meghalaya, the statement said.

Hek said the state would merge its own Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) with the AB-NHPM.

Under MHIS the existing health insurance cover is Rs 2,80,000 while the AB-NHPM will provide a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually, Hek said.

Meghalaya and seven more states yesterday signed MoUs with the Union Health Ministry, taking to 20, the number of states which have agreed to implement the Centre's ambitious national health protection mission.

## Kolkata Press Club condemns Bukhari's killing

**KOLKATA, JUN 15 (PTI):** Press Club Kolkata today condemned the brutal killing of renowned journalist Shujaat Bukhari, who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen outside his office at Lal Chawk in Srinagar yesterday.

Joining the media fraternity across the country in protesting against the killing of Bukhari, club President Snehasis Sur and Secretary Kingshuk Pramanik in a joint statement demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Bukhari was shot at while disembarking from his car near the 'Rising Kashmir' newspaper office yesterday.

Bukhari, apart from being the editor-in-chief of Rising Kashmir, was a veteran journalist and contributed to various newspapers and magazines across the country.

His independent views were highly visible in social media also. Bukhari was respected as a courageous journalist propagating his independent views from the disturbed areas of the valley.

## 'Stay safe': why women are enraged by...

contd from pg04

cate balancing act as having "the right amount of panic".

While "safety" routines limit women's lives, they are also paradoxical. For example, using these routines made women in my own research feel safe, enabling them to access spaces and engage in activities they perhaps otherwise would not have. They simultaneously contract and expand our possibilities for being. This presents a more complex picture – although ultimately these routines are an imposition, offering women an impoverished or partial freedom at best.

### A SENSE OF CONTROL

So, why do women use these routines, and why is this type of "advice" trotted out in the aftermath of such incidents? One potential answer lies in the fact that using these strategies often fosters a sense of (mostly) false control over our worlds. This is referred to as a "belief in a just world" – that if we do all of the "right" things, bad things won't happen to us (and, if they do, we did not deserve them and were not to blame).

It's also very difficult to know to what extent such routines are effective. Some feminist researchers have argued that "random" acts of violence perpetrated by strangers against women in public places may be comparatively rare, precisely because women are so adept at using safety strategies and avoidance routines. This argument is almost impossible to verify. After all, how do you measure something that hasn't happened?

In other research, women encour-

tered various forms of sexual harassment and violence regardless of whether they had used different safety strategies or not. Sadly, this was also illustrated in Eurydice Dixon's case. While police encouraged citizens to have a phone on them at all times, Eurydice had herself used this strategy, texting a friend to say that she was almost home safely. This suggests such strategies are limited in effectiveness.

### PREVENTION OR AVOIDANCE?

Even if some women are able to effectively harness "safety" strategies in some situations, this is not effective as a prevention tool. At best, it could be thought of as victimisation avoidance.

Teaching women to enact safety strategies relies on the inevitable possibility that there is a willing perpetrator out there whom we need to avoid. While safety strategies may allow individuals to avoid or deflect a perpetrator, this may simply displace harm onto a more vulnerable target.

Ultimately, the focus on safekeeping routines are problematic in that they shift responsibility for men's violence back on to women, and distract us from the difficult and long-term conversations and deep-seated cultural, social, and structural changes that need to happen to truly prevent this violence from occurring in the first place.

For what it's worth, I did walk home through the park alone in the end: a small act of feminist resistance in honour of all the women who should have made it home safely.

[the writer is Lecturer in Criminology, UNSW]





# AIFF 'D' license certificate course for football coaches wraps up

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 15 JUN:**

Twenty-four footballers have successfully completed the six days long All India Football Federation [AIFF] 'D' license certificate course for football coaches held from 10 to 15 June here at Paljor Stadium.

The course was organized by Sikkim Football Association [SFA] in close coordination with Federation of Football Coaches in India [FFCI] and All India Football Federation.

The course was conducted by the Asian Football Confederation [AFC] 'A' License Certificate holder coach, Suren Chettri.

The six-day course for 'D' license coach was also attended by international footballers, Sanju Pradhan and Bikash Jairu among others from Sikkim as well as footballers from Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Kalimpong and Darjeeling.

On successfully completing the course, SFA presented certificates of participation to all the participants here at Paljor Stadium today.

The course was successfully completed by Sanju Pradhan, Bikash Jairu, Klip Namgyal Barfungpa, Rabten Phuntshok Bhutia, Kamal Bagdas, Ramjay Rai, Bikram Chettri, Bir Hang Limbu, Dorjee Tamang, Ar-



pan Gurung, Sidhant Chettri, Bipen Thapa, Kiran Tamang, Pranim Dewan, Tsang Dorjee Sherpa, Gyalon Lepcha, Deepak Pant, Subhara Ghosh, Papu Moni Saikia, Habibur Rahman, Himangshu Deka, Beikhokhei Beingaichho, L Angam and R Khashi.

On the occasion, SFA president, Menla Ethenpa mentioned that AIFF 'D' license course for coaches was held for the first time in Sikkim. He expressed his happiness on the seriousness and dedication shown by the participants during the course.

He stated that the main idea of the course was to train the coaches to provide better coaching to grassroot players

and to produce more talents. Mr Ethenpa informed that the final result will be announced by AIFF, New Delhi within the next 25 days. He also assured that SFA will conduct such courses including Referee's Clinic in the near future.

FFCI joint secretary, Sanjay Sribastav mentioned that FFCI has been working for the development of football coaches and for the education of coaches. He added that the organisation has also been working to generate employment for footballers as after completing license courses they can work for different institutions as certified coaches.

Another 'D' license course and 'C' license course for

coaches will be conducted in the near future in Sikkim, he informed.

Mr Sribastav thanked SFA and Sports & Youth Affairs Department for all the assistance provided during the course.

Likewise, the course instructor, Suren Chettri mentioned that this 'D' License Certificate Course was the foundation course for football coaches and provides the basics of coaching. He added that the course has been designed for coaches to work on the grassroot level.

The successful candidates of 'D' License Certificate Course will be then eligible for C license course for coaches, he informed. Mr Chettri thanked

all participants for their co-operation as well as FFCI and SFA for providing all facilities during the course.

Speaking to media persons, international footballer, Bikash Jairu mentioned that the course was a wonderful opportunity to learn basics of football coaching.

"The course was a good learning experience during our off-season and very useful to work among young footballers at the grassroot level," he said.

Another international footballer, Sanju Pradhan said, "Apart from getting the basic knowledge in coaching, the experience we gained during this course is also very useful for professional footballers like us."



## Sharmila Tied 2nd after first round despite injury in Prague

**PRAGUE, JUN 15 (PTI):** Sharmila Nicollet overcame a troublesome ankle to card four-under 68 in the first round of the AXA Czech Ladies Challenge on the LET Access Series, the second rung of the Ladies European Tour.

Sharmila, who is dividing her time between China LPGA and Ladies European Tour, has also been playing on the LET Series whenever possible.

She had six birdies against two bogeys and was Tied-second with Swaziland's Nobuhle Dlamini and France's Emilie Piquot.

The Indian is just one shot behind the leader, young amateur Tereza Melecka (67).

Another Indian player, Vani Kapoor (69) shot a bogey-free round to share the Tied-fifth spot with six others.

Sharmila needed medical treatment few holes into the round

as she injured herself while hitting a shot. She managed to complete 18 holes and headed straight to the physio-therapist.

The course is really good. I think it suits my game with the wide fairways and the short approaches to the pin. I think the putting is the tough part and if you can figure that out, it's a good course to score," said Sharmila, who birdied first, second, fourth, ninth, 12th and 18th but dropped shots at 11th and 17th.

"I really enjoyed playing as much as being in a different zone today, I think that really helped me take the pressure off my golf. I was focusing on the pain and hoping the pain would get better, I think that helped.

Melecka, 19, produced an impressive bogey free round, recording birdies on the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th and 14th holes.

## Croatia take on Nigeria in Russia's European bolt hole

**KALININGRAD, JUN 15 (AFP):** Former World Cup semi-finalists Croatia take on African powerhouses Nigeria in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad tomorrow in their opening Group D match that may prove a test of the organisers' anti-racism drive.

It is 20 years since Croatia surged to the final four at France '98 with a resounding quarter-final win over favourites Germany, and fans will be buoyed by a squad brimming with attacking talent.

Nigeria, long one of African football's underachievers, boast several players with English Premier League pedigree, and will hope they can secure only their second win in their last 12 World Cup matches.

The stage for Saturday's clash is Kaliningrad, a thickly forested outpost of Russia wedged between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea -- a potentially challenging location for some fans to reach.

FIFA's official site showed tickets



still available 24 hours before kick-off.

Saturday will also prove a crucial test for FIFA's anti-discrimination drive, with tension running high in the build-up to the tournament over a spate of recent incidents.

Racism has plagued Russian football since clubs began purchasing foreign players after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Russia's football federation was last month slapped with a 25,000-euro fine after racist chants from supporters during a friendly against France.

FIFA has instituted a three-strikes policy against any racist abuse from fans across the tournament, threatening to abandon matches if supporters ignore a stadium speaker announcement and then a pause in play.

Nigeria's Dutch-born defender Will Troost-Ekong told Britain's The Guardian newspaper last month that the players would react as one to any abuse.

Croatia, appearing at their fifth World Cup, boast a host of world-class talent, including Real Madrid's Luka Modric, Barcelona's Ivan Rakitic and Mario Mandzukic of Juventus.

The Balkan nation lost 2-0 to Brazil in a friendly in the run-up to the tournament that marked Neymar's return to international football, before a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Senegal on June 9.

Nigeria lost 2-1 to England at Wembley and fell to a turgid 1-0 defeat by the Czech Republic to leave their German coach Gernot Rohr plenty of selection headaches, particularly in attack.

The Super Eagles are this World Cup's youngest squad, and several Premier League regulars, including Arsenal's Alex Iwobi, Leicester's Wilfried Ndidi and Victor Moses of Chelsea will be crucial.

## Nervy Argentina seek Messi magic against Iceland

**MOSCOW, JUN 15 (AFP):** Lionel Messi's Argentina aim to put a shambolic World Cup build-up behind them and make a statement in their opening match against tournament debutants Iceland today.

The two-time champions arrived in Russia dogged by poor form, injuries and controversy.

But Messi is a man on a mission as he chases his first World Cup winner's medal and will not tolerate complacency against the minnows at Moscow's Spartak stadium.

"Iceland showed they could compete with anyone at the last Euros," he said, referring to their giant-killing run at the 2016 European Championship in France.

Messi was devastated by Argentina's loss to Germany in the 2014 World Cup final, with the agony compounded by back-to-back Copa America defeats to Chile in 2015 and 2016.

Despite his achievements with Barcelona, the five-time world player of the year is yet to win a major international tournament and time is running out as his 31st birthday looms.

He briefly retired from international football after the 2016 Copa America and has hinted he will do so permanently if the campaign in Russia ends in failure.

The Group D clash pits an Argentine side that critics say is too focused on superstar Messi against a band of grafters who pride themselves on teamwork.

On paper, the South Americans



should have little trouble disposing of Iceland, an island nation of 330,000 that is the smallest country to ever reach the finals.

But the Icelanders revel in their underdog status and showed at Euro 2016 they will not be cowed on the big stage.

Spurred on by their fans' thunderous "Viking clap", they earned a 1-1 draw with

Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal then famously dumped out England to reach the quarter-finals.

"We kept Ronaldo quite quiet so hopefully we can do the same against Messi," said Burnley winger Johann Berg Gudmundsson.

"We know we're probably going to be defending for a lot of the time and obvi-

ously he's one of the best players in the world and he can turn it on."

Iceland, ranked 17 places behind Argentina at 22nd in the world, topped their group in European qualifying with comfortable wins over Croatia, Ukraine and Turkey.

Argentina reserve goalkeeper Nahuel Guzman said the squad would do every-

thing in their power to give Messi the success he craves but they are expecting a tight match against Iceland.

"We must show patience and move the ball around to try and find space, and look to get in behind with speed," said Guzman, who plays for Mexican club Tigres.

"It will be a very tight game in which we'll also have to control our nerves." Argentina only made it to the finals courtesy of a Messi hat-trick in their final qualifier against Ecuador.

Subsequent friendlies have given cause for concern -- there was a 4-2 loss to Nigeria in November and a 6-1 humiliation by Spain in March, although Messi did not play in either match.

Argentina's final warm-up against Israel in Jerusalem was cancelled after protests from Palestinians, miring the team in controversy and leaving players short of match practice.

To further compound their problems, goalkeeper Sergio Romero and midfielder Manuel Lanzini both fell victim to late injuries.

Accusing Argentina of over-reliance on Messi may seem unfair to a team boasting the sharp attacking talents of Sergio Aguerro, Paulo Dybala and Gonzalo Higuain but it is a view coach Jorge Sampaoli himself has expressed.

"He can carry the team on his shoulders," Sampaoli said of the player who scored 45 goals in 54 games for Barcelona this season.



# Trump approves tariffs on USD 50 billion worth of Chinese goods, Beijing vows to retaliate

**WASHINGTON/BEIJING, JUN 15 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has approved levying of new tariffs worth USD 50 billion on Chinese exports and China today vowed to quickly retaliate, raising the possibility of a trade war between the world's two largest economies and trading partners.

The US says its tariffs on Chinese goods are in response to what it categorises as theft of intellectual property.

A formal announcement is expected to be made by the US Trade Representative later today.

Trump's approval to impose tariffs on Chinese exports followed a 90-minute meeting he had with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer yesterday.

Reacting to Trump's latest move, China vowed to immediately retaliate.

"If the US side adopts unilateral protectionist measures and damages China's interests, we will immediately react and take necessary measures to



firmly safeguard our legitimate rights and interests," said China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang during a regular news briefing in Beijing.

China had previously said it would respond to American tariffs on USD 50 billion worth of Chinese exports with retaliatory tariffs on USD 50 billion of US products such as cars,

aircraft and soybeans.

Trump's first announced that the US would impose trade penalties on about USD 50 billion of Chinese goods in March.

After China warned it would retaliate, Trump threatened tariffs on a further USD 100 billion of Chinese products.

In mid-May, both sides announced a cease-fire after two

rounds of trade negotiations. The countries said in a joint statement that China would "significantly increase" purchases of US agricultural and energy products to reduce the trade imbalance, a top Trump administration demand.

Ten days later, the White House abruptly said it would proceed with the tariffs.

A further round of trade talks in Beijing earlier this month failed to yield any breakthroughs.

President Trump's decision to impose fresh tariffs on China follows his recent imposition of steep tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union on national security grounds. Those penalties have been met with consternation by world leaders, and led to a fraught G7 meeting with Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom last weekend.

The European Union and Canada have said they will enact retaliatory tariffs starting in July. Mexico has already retaliated with its own tariffs on US goods.

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde yesterday warned that the Trump administration's trade policies were likely to hurt the US economy and undermine the world's trade system.

She said a trade war would lead to "losers on both sides" and could have a "serious" impact.



## Postcard signed by Mahatma Gandhi auctioned for USD 20,000 in US

**WASHINGTON, JUN 15 (PTI):** A 1924 postcard signed by Mahatma Gandhi has been sold for USD 20,233 in an auction in the United States.

The postal card penned on both sides and signed "M. K. Gandhi," dated November 30, 1924 was written to Annie Besant, a woman of Irish-origin who became a leader of the Indian freedom movement.

The bidding for the postcard ended on June 13.

"I thank you for your letter. My son Devdas leaves tonight. Pray do not worry about his expenses. He will deem it an honour to be your

guest. Jamnadas gave me the Khadar towel sent by you. I shall treasure the gift: spinning is exceedingly good," Gandhi wrote in the postcard.

"I have already discussed with the secretary the arrangements abt your board + lodging in Belgium. The secretary's name is Gangadharrao Deshpande Belgaum so please let me know your special requirements. I know that Mr Gangadharrao Deshpande is most anxious to make you comfortable. The account of spinning + weaving organised by Mme de Mangiardi is most interesting," he wrote.

## Swedish court finds man guilty of spying for China

**COPENHAGEN, JUN 15 (AP):** A Swedish court has found a man guilty of spying for China by gathering information on Tibetans who had fled to Sweden, and sentenced him to 22 months in jail.

The Sodertorn District Court near Stockholm found Dorjee Gyantsan, a 49-year old Tibetan who worked for a pro-Tibetan radio station, guilty of "gross illegal intelligence activity" from July 2015 to February 2017.

Judge Daniel Eriksson said Friday the Swedish intelligence service's investigation had proven that Gyantsan "several times traveled to Poland to meet a Chinese intelligence officer" and that those meetings were "part of a comprehensive intelligence campaign aimed at people of Tibetan descent."

Eriksson added the information "may have caused great damage to Tibetans both in Sweden and abroad." Gyantsan was arrested Feb. 26, 2017, in Sweden.



Children as young as 12 have been physically abused, detained and forcibly returned to Italy by French border guards in a breach of international standards, Oxfam has claimed. A report from the charity says children complained about being "physically and verbally abused, and detained overnight in cells without food, water or blankets and with no access to an official guardian" - all contrary to French and EU law. It says French police routinely stop unaccompanied children and put them on trains back to Italy after altering their paperwork to make them appear older, or to make it appear that they want to be sent back. They claim around 16,500 refugees and migrants, a quarter of them unaccompanied children, passed through Ventimiglia, a small town about 7km (four miles) from the French border, in the nine months to April.

## China, Pakistan to jointly produce film on CPEC

**BEIJING, JUN 15 (PTI):** For the first time, filmmakers from China and Pakistan will jointly produce a movie showcasing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to highlight the "intimate friendship" of the people from the two countries, according to a media report.

The USD 50 billion CPEC, a flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has become a major issue as it traversed through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), prompting strong



protests from India.

India has refused to endorse the BRI at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held this month in

Qingdao in China.

The movie named "The Journey" will tell stories of Chinese businesses participating in the construction of the

corridor in response to the BRI, Wang Haiping, director of the scriptwriting committee of the China Television Artists Association was quoted

as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

"The intimate friendship of the people from the two countries will be highlighted in the movie," he said at the ongoing first SCO film festival in Qingdao.

Wang, also the scriptwriter of the film, said the movie will be based on real life stories.

Chinese and Pakistani parties will cooperate in scriptwriting, shooting, post-production, and screening of the movie, he said, adding that shooting for the film is likely to start in early 2019.



presidential official said today that Washington and Seoul have begun discussions on temporarily suspending massive "Ulchi Freedom Guardian" exercises that usually take place in August and possibly other joint drills while nuclear

diplomacy with North Korea continues.

Seoul's Defense Ministry says Defense Minister Song Young-moo held "deep" discussions about the drills with U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis in a telephone conversation

Thursday evening.

Experts are split on whether Washington and Seoul are making the right move in suspending the exercises, which North Korea has long condemned as rehearsals for an invasion.



## Filipino Muslims mark Eid amid ruins of war-torn Marawi

**MARAWI, JUN 15 (AP):** Muslim residents of a southern Philippine city devastated by last year's bloody militant siege are celebrating the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr in gunfire-riddled mosques while many whose homes were leveled by the fighting prayed in tent shelters.

A few thousand people walked past burned homes Friday to the city landmark, the pockmarked Golden Mosque, to celebrate the holiday

marking the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. In an evacuation center elsewhere in the lakeside city, homeless residents prayed in the open for an end to their misery.

The holiday is a reminder of how life has crept back to normalcy for thousands who have returned home, but also of uncertainties for many others months after troops quelled the five-month insurrection by Islamic State group-aligned fighters.

## Zipchu Shegu



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

**Family members:- Phum Chung Doma Lharipa(wife), Sonam Lend-up Lharipa(son), Rinzing Choden(daughter), Karma Chopel Lharipa(grandson), Pema Wangdi Lharipa & Norzang Lharipa.**  
Ph no. 8670409110, 8170028292, 7797885087.

## MISSING



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

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

Contact  
Summit  
TIMES at

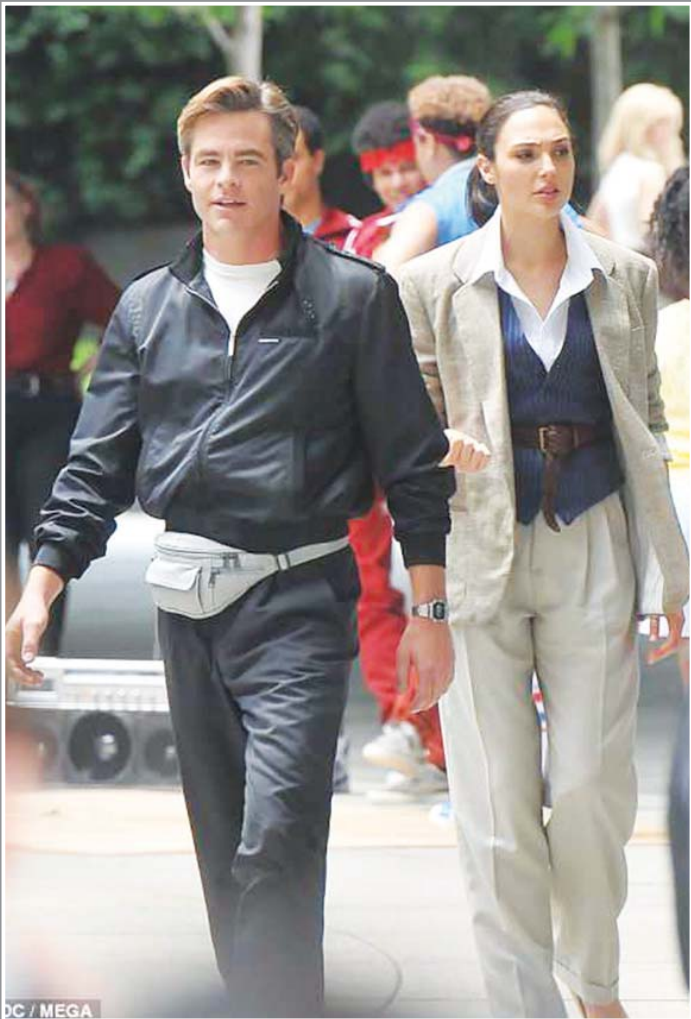
9832556698,  
9832369520  
news@summit-  
times.com  
advertise@sum-  
mittimes.com  
summittimes16@  
gmail.com

## Looming war games suspension raises concern in Seoul

**SEOUL, JUN 15 (AP):** After being blindsided by President Donald Trump's decision to shelve major US military exercises in South Korea, Seoul appears to be going along with it.

A senior South Korean





DC / MEGA

**HE'S BACK!** Chris Pine gets to work with Gal Gadot on the set of Wonder Woman sequel as his character is brought back to life after being killed off.

## Miley Cyrus defends Selena Gomez after Stefano Gabbana diss!

Miley Cyrus is standing up for fellow starlet Selena Gomez after fashion designer Stefano Gabbana rudely called the Kill Em With Kindness singer "ugly" earlier this week.

The Malibu songstress shared her opinion in the comments section of one fan account, where she called the Dolce & Gabbana figure a "d\*\*\* head" whose comments were "total bull s\*\*\*".

This isn't the Hannah Montana star's first bout with the brand, who she previously called out for their stances on IVF and gay parenting.

Miley made her comments on a photo from a fan account which showed the ladies back during their early Disney days.

Underneath the photo, the pop star voiced her support for the singer, writing: "Well what that d\*\*\* head said (if it's true) is f\*\*\*ing false and total bull s\*\*\*".

She also commented: "She's fine as f\*\*\*".

Miley first faced off with the Italian designer last year, telling the brand "D&G, I STRONGLY disagree with



your politics", at the end of a post congratulating model brother Braison for making his runway debut at their fashion show.

In 2015 Gabbana and his design partner Domenico Dolce (who are both openly gay) voiced strong opposition for IVF, calling it "unnatural", as well as the idea of LGBTQ people parenting in general.

Dolce also spoke out against gay families, telling an Italian magazine: "We oppose gay adoptions. The only family is the traditional one ... No chemical offsprings and rented uterus; Life has a natural flow, there are things that should not be changed".

Star Jaime King also had strong words for Gabbana regarding his rude remarks about Gomez.

She retweeted a shocked response from InStyle magazine that read: "Wait, what? Dolce & Gabbana's co-founder literally just called Selena Gomez ugly..."

King added her own two cents, saying: "Because they are ugly humans who cannot handle the beauty of S that radiates from her Soul and her physical being. #boy-cottdolceandgabbana."

It seems that few people share Gabbana's opinion, as Gomez was just named one of Maxim's 100 Hottest stars Thursday.

## I LEARNED MY OWN STRENGTH PLAYING 'CAPTAIN MARVEL' ROLE: BRIE LARSON

Actress Brie Larson wouldn't say too much about her highly anticipated "Captain Marvel" film, but she did reveal that she discovered her inner and outer strength through her portrayal of the titular character at the Crystal + Lucy Awards.

"I will say that I learned that I'm much stronger than I realize in playing her," she told Variety on the carpet at the Beverly Hilton.

For Larson, playing "Captain Marvel" is unquestionably a surreal moment of her career. "A lot of my life recently has felt like it's happening to somebody else," she explained. "I think part of it is a defense mechanism. It feels better to kind of continue to have my own understanding of myself, rather than one that was put on me by the outside world."

According to Larson, she trained extensively for nine months in order to build her physical strength prior to production. "My highest right now is 215 lbs. in dead-lifts. 400 lb. hip thrusts," she shared, while stating, "being able to lift weight like that re-



ally changed my perspective and understanding of myself."

Development for "Captain Marvel" began in 2013, and production itself has been an extensive process, having begun earlier this year. "Going through a movie that requires so much and takes this long, I'm realizing I'm way stronger than I knew," she said.

Victoria Alonso, Marvel Production EVP and fellow honoree couldn't help but to acknowledge Larson during her acceptance speech. "My

7-year-old daughter picked out this dress," she said. "I asked her 'why pink?' and she said 'Mommy, because Captain Marvel will be there.'"

With the resurgence of women empowerment, "Captain Marvel" certainly has the added pressure of making a statement on behalf of young women in particular, but Larson doesn't see it that way. "I never make stuff with an expectation. I've learned a lot about myself and I feel super inspired by her," she explained. "It's only my hope

that it'll be that for others."

While Larson said she doesn't feel any added pressure, she surely recognizes her influence and hopes to utilize it to create more inclusion within Hollywood, including among the press. "All of this, boils down to more women with keys to power," she stated "I want to be able to share it with others and make sure that as we move forward, there is inclusivity at the top."

"Captain Marvel" is scheduled to release in March 2019.

## Benedict Cumberbatch is "a mean one" as he gives voice to The Grinch!



A second trailer for a new animated version of Dr. Seuss's beloved tale How The Grinch Stole Christmas dropped Thursday.

And the clip reveals that this version will feature an origin story about how The Grinch ended up becoming such a Scrooge.

Benedict Cumberbatch gives voice to the green creature who is determined to prevent the residents of Whoville from enjoying the festive season in the movie The Grinch from Illumination, the creators of the Minions.

The trailer opens with The Grinch's dog Max flying through the air wearing a helicopter-type contraption to the sound of the March of The Valkyries.

He has a camera attached to his head and has been sent to spy on the people of Whoville as they get ready for Christmas.

It then flashes back to the sight of a tiny Grinch growing up in an orphanage without any of the trappings of the holiday.

The film clearly will posit that it is his unhappy and lonely childhood that has caused him to grow up to be such a curmudgeon.

The song You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch, originally written for the 1966 cartoon special How

the Grinch Stole Christmas!, is also featured in the trailer.

There are scenes of The Grinch's life in his cave on Mt. Crumpet with Max. He's seen taking a shower and playing chess with Max and cheating. Then the two set off across the snowy landscape towards Whoville.

"Today we will do mean things and we will do them in style," the Grinch tells Max.

He is then seen stealing a jar of pickles, opening it up in the supermarket aisle and popping a pickle into his mouth. He then spits it out in disgust and puts it back in the jar

Then he announces: "I know what I am going to do. I am going to steal their Christmas!"

He sets out to nab himself a reindeer so he can disguise himself as Santa Claus but fails, after a small mountain goat scares of a pack of reindeer with an unearthly shriek.

He then corrals a buffalo called Fred as a substitute, roping him in to help him in his cunning plan.

The Grinch is slated to premiere in theatres on 09 Nov.

The last time the Dr. Seuss character appeared in theatres was in 2000 when Jim Carrey starred in a live action version directed by Ron Howard.

## Ranbir Kapoor credits girlfriend Alia Bhatt for bringing positivity in his life

Falling in love and falling in love with the right person are two different things. Guess Ranbir Kapoor has finally reached at that point in his life where he can safely say he has found the right person to spend his rest of the life with. We are talking about who else than the woman who's won over Ranbir's heart, Alia Bhatt. There was a time when Alia wouldn't stop talking about Ranbir, her childhood crush and now we have Ranbir going all out to let the world know what Alia means to him and how she's bringing the best of the best influence in his life.

While he recently confirmed he's dating Alia in his recent interview with GQ. He also didn't hesitate from mentioning about their relationship in his interview with Rajeev Masand that has just hit the web.

Accepting this new phase in his life with much love and hope, Ranbir spoke about his "too new" relationship with Alia by saying, "I think every human being does extraordinary things only when they are in love. So I believe that love is something which is a privilege if it comes in your life and to be in happy, beautiful positive place a relationship with it could be with a girl a guy, with a friend your



mother your father or anybody but when there is some genuine love, it's really beautiful."

When asked what is the influence that Alia has on him, he added, "It's only positive and more so because we are working in a film together and I really admire her as an actor. To see her have so much of colour, so much of spontaneity, so much of hardwork, so much of discipline (extremely disciplined) is quite rare. It's amazing. It's been 10 years for me in this industry, little lethargy, a little chalta hai type attitude comes in. So it's rejuvenating for me as an actor to be with Alia."

Interestingly, back in 2016, soon after his break-up with ex Katrina Kaif, Ranbir had mentioned how he's hoping to fall in love again.

He had said, "I want to get married, I want to have children and I will do it in the right way. I will meet a light minded person and fall madly, truly and deeply in love and just take it from there."

**ARIES:** Today you should be feeling especially intuitive, particularly where family members are concerned, Aries. It certainly won't be easy for anyone to lie to you. You might also think about making some repairs to your home, which you may have been putting off. You might spend at least part of the day alone meditating or contemplating your future. Your mind is clear and active, so this is a good time to do it.

**TAURUS:** A group you're affiliated with could meet today, perhaps in your neighborhood, Taurus. You should focus more on listening to what they have to say than on actively participating in discussions. You'll have to absorb every idea that comes up and seriously mull it over before expressing yourself. When you communicate, you should do it freely and openly. Your mind is both intuitive and logical, so expect to learn a lot.

**GEMINI:** A small gathering, perhaps in your home, could bring up the subject of the world economy and what it's going to mean to individuals. You could be contemplating and maybe even discussing your financial future. This is a good time to make such plans, Gemini, as your mind is logical and intuitive today. Write down any ideas or insights that come your way. You'll want to remember them later.

**CANCER:** Today you might receive a visit or phone call from a friend you haven't seen for a while. An intense and emotional conversation could follow, Cancer. Stimulating news could have you preoccupied for a while. Spiritual activities could also take up much of your time. Listening to someone speak might cause you to feel more insightful than usual. This will enable you to apply good common sense to abstract concepts.

**LEO:** You generally enjoy philosophy, metaphysics, and other forms of higher thought, Leo, but today you could find yourself almost obsessive about them. You might decide to sequester yourself and concentrate on these concepts. This is a great day to do this, because intellect combines with intuition to enable you to understand and make sense of abstract ideas. You can apply them to your everyday life. Go to it.

**VIRGO:** Social events, perhaps involving a group you're affiliated with, could involve discussions of some deep subjects, such as philosophy, metaphysics, science - or all three. Your mind should be quick and sharp today, Virgo, on both a logical and an intuitive level. You'll probably soak up just about everything you hear. You could give it a lot of thought, and yes, you should be able to make sense of it all.

**LIBRA:** Today you might decide to

help someone with repairs or decorating in their home or perhaps a church or school. You'll have a lot of good ideas welling up from deep within you, Libra, and be astute enough to put them to work in the real world. You might not feel much like talking, however. Therefore don't be surprised if communication is more subtle than overt today.

**SCORPIO:** An engagement with a current or potential romantic partner could involve a lot of communication on a subtle level, enjoying each other's company while not saying much. You're likely to feel especially passionate today, Scorpio. Buy yourself some new clothes and look your best. Your aesthetic sense is especially high right now. You could also give some thought to artistic projects. Inspiration could be all around you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** An increased psychological awareness and heightened

intuition could have you tuning in to the thoughts and feelings of family members before they even know what they want, Sagittarius. You might be able to pick up the thoughts of strangers. This is the day to trust your inner voice, especially when it comes to making plans with others. While this atmosphere lasts, they might not be too communicative or inclined to say what they want.

**CAPRICORN:** Social events in your neighborhood could focus on families, with everyone bringing their children. You might spend time telling stories today. Someone with whom you're in contact could be dealing with some powerful emotional issues and not want company. There isn't much you can do, Capricorn. Let the person know you're there and then leave them alone. In the meantime, others are in a festive mood. Have fun.

**AQUARIUS:** Others, particularly

family members, might be rather quiet today. It could seem as if everyone is running around like crazy but not sharing what's on their minds. You'll have to trust your intuition when you need to know what they're up to, Aquarius. Writing could come from deep within, whether through letters, poetry, or novels, allowing you to express a facet you don't often see. Use this spiritual gift and dig deeper.

**PISCES:** Communication, particularly with family members and romantic partners, could take place more subtly than verbally today. Nonetheless, Pisces, you'll sense strong love and support from e one. Romance, especially, should be intense and sensual, so this is a great day to schedule an evening alone with a lover. Inspiration for creative projects, particularly in the home, could well up from deep inside. Don't suppress it - let it flow.