



**'SOORYAVANSHI' TO RELEASE
ON MARCH 24, TO BE SCREENED
24X7 IN MUMBAI THEATRES**
pg 08

**COULD WE LIVE IN A WORLD
WITHOUT RULES?**

04

**HAVEN'T LOST FAITH: KARISHMA
TANNA ON HER FILM CAREER**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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First phase of Kyongsa stadium nearing completion

**RUDRA KAUSHIK
GYALSHING, 23 FEB:**

West district will have its own sports stadium very soon as the first phase of the construction work of the Kyongsa Sports Stadium project near Gyalshing under Yangthang constituency is nearing completion.

The stadium's construction project was in limbo for many years and had drawn sharp criticism from the people of West district.

It may be mentioned here that the tender for Kyongsa Sports Stadium Project was passed by the previous SDF government through Sports and Youth Affairs department in 2011 with the stipulated date of completion as 2013.

However, soon after it began the project came to a halt after the sudden demise of the concerned contractor Late Ratan Mundra who was overseeing the project. Later, the project was



handed over to contractors Anand Agarwal and Pema Bhutia in May 2018 by the concerned department. Since then the construction work took off and the first phase of the construction work is expected to be over by June this year. Rs 15.12 crore is the revised construction cost of the project.

The first phase of

the project includes construction of sports infrastructures such as parking lot, girls and boys sports hostel, conference hall, waiting hall, office space, gymnasium, etc.

Contractor, Pema Bhutia informed over the phone that the set target for completion of first phase of the construction

work is June this year.

Tapan Burman, a junior engineer working in the project, informed that everything is going as planned and the construction work is going on at the required pace to complete the project within the set target.

Archer Dawdey Bhutia expressed that Kyongsa Sports Stadium

was a dream project for the people of West Sikkim and coming up of the stadium in the district would help sportspersons in many ways. "Sports infrastructures aid sports persons in many ways. They get the facilities necessary for development and improvement of their sporting skills," she added.

CM attends Sustainable Development Goals meet



GUWAHATI, 24 FEB [IPR]: Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang attended the meeting on Sustainable Development Goals chaired by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Development of North-East Region and Minister of State for

Prime Minister's Office, Jitender Singh at Assam Administrative Centre at Guwahati today.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Chief Minister also held a brief meeting with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Tripura, Bi-

plab Kumar Deb, Chief Minister of Mizoram, Pu Zoramthanga and Minister of Planning & Coordination and Land Revenue of Nagaland, Neiba Kronu.

During the meeting they briefly discussed the developmental strategies being adopted by the north-eastern states.

Sikkim Karatekas bag 7 medals in Kalimpong C'ship



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

A seven-member Sikkim Karate team has returned with seven medals from the 1st Kalimpong Open Karate Championship 2020 held on 22 and 23 February at Rockvale Academy, Kalimpong. The championship was organized by Kalimpong District Karate-Do Association.

The state team

bagged four gold medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals in kumite event of the championship.

Gold medalists are Nishesh Karki, Abinay Tamang, Rezina Chettri and Mahima Sharma, while a lone silver medal was bagged by Shradha Sharma. Likewise, bronze medalists are Anirudh Chettri and Nishesh Bista.

The team was accompanied by Taraman Gurung as the coach, while national referees Bijoy Gurung and Bhim Bahadur Subba from Sikkim also served the championship as officials. Sikkim State Karate-Do Association chief technical director, Bidhan Ballav Subba was invited as a special guest in the championship.

Seven from Sikkim in Zonal Cricket Academy camp



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

The Under-16 team of Sikkim had a successful season in Vijay Merchant Trophy 2019-20, where they won all the matches in the league round and became the first team from Sikkim to qualify for the knock-out round of the tournament, a press release from Sikkim Cricket Association [SICA] informs.

Six players from the same team have been selected to attend the Zonal Cricket Academy Camp for North-east Zone to be held in the coming month. Adarsh Pandey, Adiv Tamang, Mohammad Arif, Mohammad Sharim Iqbal, Tarun Sharma, and Obedonyx Subba have been selected for this camp from Sikkim. Out of 25 players in the camp 6 players are from Sikkim, 2 from Arunachal Pradesh, 5 from Manipur, 4 from Meghalaya, 3 from Mizoram and 5 from Nagaland. Zonal Cricket Academy Camp (ZCA) is a camp that is organised every year by the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in all the six zones of India in which they look for cricketers who have potential and get them trained under the best coaches and support staffs of NCA. The meeting for the Under-16 ZCA Camp was held in Aizawl, Mizoram, on 17 Feb which was attended by representatives from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

The meeting was chaired by Amit Sharma – BCCI Junior National Selector and Mamon Majumdar – Secretary of Mizoram Cricket Association & Member of IPL Governing Council. Gyaphel Tshering Bhutia, one of the selectors of Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) attended the meeting. The meeting was held to discuss and finalize the list of 25 players that will be attending the ZCA Camp, based on their performance this domestic season.

turn to pg 02

Head constable killed, DCP injured in fresh clashes over CAA in northeast Delhi

NEW DELHI, FEB 24 (PTI): A Delhi Police head constable was killed and a deputy commissioner of police injured as clashes over the amended citizenship law broke out again in northeast Delhi's Jaffrabad and Maujpur on Monday, with protesters torching houses, shops and vehicles, and hurling stones at each other. Violence between groups supporting and opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was also reported in the Chandbagh and Bhajanpura areas.

This is the second day of clashes in the city where US President Donald Trump will arrive on Monday evening.

Police fired tear gas shells and also resorted to lathicharge to disperse the violent crowd of protesters.

Ratan Lal, a head constable attached to the office of the ACP Gokalpuri, was killed. Several police personnel, including Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Shahdara, Amit Sharma, were injured while trying to quell the protests.

The police also imposed section 144 of the CrPC, which prohibits assembly of four or more people, in areas affected by violence in northeast Delhi.

There was heavy stone pelting in Maujpur, while police baton-charged to disperse protesters in Jaffrabad. Shops and houses were vandalised and set on fire in Maujpur and Bhajanpura.

A protestor was also seen moving towards a Delhi Police personnel with a gun in his hand. He shot a few rounds in the air.

According to officials, a fire tender was damaged by the protesters after it responded to a fire call in the area.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged the Centre to restore law and order in the national capital. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal has instructed Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik to ensure the situation is brought under control.

"Very distressing news regarding

disturbance of peace and harmony in parts of Delhi coming in. I sincerely urge Hon'ble LG n Hon'ble Union Home Minister to restore law and order n ensure that peace and harmony is maintained. Nobody should be allowed to orchestrate flagrant (sic)," Kejriwal tweeted.

Taking to Twitter, Bajjal said, "Instructed @DelhiPolice and @CPDelhi to ensure that law and order is maintained in North East Delhi. The situation is being closely monitored. I urge everyone to exercise restraint for maintenance of peace and harmony."

Delhi minister and Babarpur MLA Gopal Rai also urged the people in the area to maintain peace in the wake of the clashes over the citizenship law, saying some people were purposely trying to disturb the atmosphere.

On Saturday night, a group of women blocked a carriageway outside the Jaffrabad Metro station against the CAA.

Clashes broke out on Sunday evening between pro and anti-CAA groups near Jaffrabad over blocking of the road, while similar sit-ins were launched in several other parts of the national capital including Hauz Rani.

The situation escalated after BJP leader Kapil Mishra called a gathering on Sunday. Mishra demanded that police remove the anti-CAA protestors within three days.

Since then northeast Delhi has been on the boil. It has also been witnessing spurts of violence.

The Delhi Metro has closed entry and exit at the Jaffrabad and Maujpur-Babarpur stations as an uneasy calm prevailed in the area.

"Entry & exit of Jaffrabad and Maujpur-Babarpur are closed. Trains will not be halting at these stations," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said in a tweet.

Entry and exit were closed at the Jaffrabad metro station for over 24 hours.

**LAND FOR
SALE
(URGENT SALE)**

BL land for sale. Road site 100ft by 50ft at Lower Syari. Enroute Ranipool to Deorali via Syari. 10 Minutes Drive from Ranipool. Serious Buyer may contact : **83720-77482/ 94341-36989/ 98320-82664**

Puja held on 20th death anniversary of Late Sangay Lama

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:

The puja ceremony on the 20th Death Anniversary of Sangay Lama (Ahaley Geshey-la Meh-mey) at Namchi concluded on 23 Feb. The prayers had started from 21 Feb, a press release informs.

The third day ended with the purification of Stupa, children speech competition, felicitation of Gompa committee Ex-presidents, BR Tamang, Taramani Moktan, BK Tamang, Palden Tamang, speech by BT Tamang on the life history of Ahaley Geshey-la Meh-mey and finally with wang ceremony.

The puja was attended by Chhoktrul Wangdo Rinpoche popularly known as Moktan Tulku-



la of Deorali Chorten monastery, Gangtok, Melong Mehemey of Mirik, Lakpa Bomzon Mehmey of Kalimpong, Gurme Mehmey of Sichey, Sherab Chundi Menmey of Gangtok, Yonten Mehmey of Melli head lama Nima

Dorjee Mehmey, senior lamas of gompa including all lamas and disciplines of Ahaley Geshey-la Meh-mey from Sikkim and West Bengal.

The puja ceremony was organized by lamas, Committee and Manipa

Sangh of Ahaley Dichhen Chholing Gompa. The programme was coordinated by Lama Sherab Mehmey, Mandeep Tamang and Anjali Sherpa Tamang. Committee president, MB Tamang and general

secretary, S Theengh, on behalf of the organizing team thanks to all the members, participants and followers for their unconditional support for making three days puja ceremony a huge success.

MP attends inaugural National Integration Camp

NAMCHI, 24 FEB (IPR):

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Indra Hang Subba attended the inaugural ceremony of National Integration Camp at Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco Tourism Institute (IHCAE) at Chemchey today.

He was accompanied by board of Governor, Madhavi Agarwal, Member of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Sangathan alongside Director, Shivashish Bannerjee, Sikkim Nehru Yuva Kendra, ADC (South), Satyan Kr Pradhan, District Co-ordinator, Muskan Rai, NYK Namchi, Officials, local gentry and children from various participating States.

Addressing the gathering, Indra Hang Subba expressed his delight on being part of this camp.

He also spoke in brief about the theme of this program which is 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' and urged the participants to follow this theme to its core.

He spoke about the rich performance that the children showcased during the course of the program and said that India is endowed with abundant culture and tradition which should be kept intact. He encouraged the children to strive for integration, despite the different backgrounds that they come from.

Additionally, he also touched upon the historical background of Sikkim and spoke about the state's natural beauty, the essence of secularism and many welfare schemes that the Sikkim State Gov-



ernment has framed.

Madhavi Agarwal talked about how this camp will try and build a connection between youths belonging to different part of the country.

Shivashish Bannerjee mentioned that this

integration camp is five days long and more than 250 children from 16 states are taking part in this camp. This camp is part of the 23rd National Integration Camp which is being organized across the country.

The objective of

the camp is to create a mini-India, where youth interact in formal and informal settings and exchange their social and cultural uniqueness.

After the program, the MP along with dignitaries visited the adventure course of (IHCAE).

Mizoram asks Centre to review Mizoram-Assam border

AIZAWL, FEB 24 (PTI): The Mizoram government has been making efforts to resolve the long-pending boundary dispute with Assam and has asked the Centre to review the inter-state border, the Assembly was informed on Monday.

In reply to a query of Congress legislature party leader Zodintluanga

Ralte, Home Minister Lalchamlia said the state government had sent a letter to the Union Home Ministry praying for a review of the border on December 15 last year.

He said the government is making efforts to resolve the dispute at Zophai area near Bairabi town along the state border with Assam.

The last border stand-off between the two states had taken place at Zophai in March 2018 when members of a students' body of Mizoram attempted to construct a wooden resting shed there. The Assam Policemen had resisted their bid and many students were allegedly injured.

Lalchamlia said a core committee constituted by the state government in May 2018 to study the boundary issue has collected some important documents related to the border.

In July last year, Chief Minister Zoramthanga had said, without elaborating, that his government evolved a strategy

to resolve the border dispute.

On that strategy, the home minister said in the Assembly on Monday that it was not made public as that would not be "convenient".

Several dialogues held between the two states since 1995 to resolve the border dispute have yielded little result.

HC sets aside reservation of seats in South Dumdum Municipality

Kolkata, Feb 24 (PTI): The Calcutta High Court on Monday set aside reservation of seats in the South Dumdum Municipality and ordered that it be prepared afresh.

The order came on a petition claiming that the list of reserved wards was prepared in contravention to West Bengal municipal laws.

Setting aside the reservation list of seats in South Dumdum Municipality, Justice Arindam Sinha directed the State Election Commission to prepare a fresh list as per the municipal laws.

With the South Dumdum Municipality set to go for elections this year along with many other civic bodies in the state, the commission had prepared a list of reserved seats.

Finding that ward number 29, which was

reserved for women in the last election, having been in the same category this year also, a resident of the ward moved the high court.

Petitioner Arup Dey claimed that he intends to fight the elections this year, but the reservation prevents him from doing so.

His lawyer Anindya Lahiri told the high court that according to the municipal laws, a ward cannot be reserved for women for two consecutive terms.

The commission's lawyer claimed that the reservation was done in accordance with the law.

Hearing both the parties, the court set aside the prepared list and directed the West Bengal State Election Commission, which holds the elections to the civic bodies, to prepare the list afresh.

2 officials of Kota school sans CBSE affiliation arrested

KOCHI, FEB 24 (PTI): Two officials of a city school have been arrested after Class X students could not write their Board exams on Monday since the institution allegedly lacked CBSE affiliation.

Police said the manager of Arooja Little Star School at Thoppumpady area and her husband have been arrested and booked under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and launched an investigation.

They said 29 class X students came to know only last week that they could not write the exam as their school was not

affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education.

The school officials allegedly did not inform the students and parents about the non-recognition.

Police said the school in earlier years used to register class X students in other CBSE-recognised schools in the neighbourhood, but it did not materialise this year due to some reasons.

Anxious parents then approached the authorities, seeking their help in getting their children registered for the Class X examinations, but they were helpless, sources said.

This morning, the parents reached the

Odisha govt stops pension of 6 officials for corruption

BHUBANESWAR, FEB 24 (PTI): Odisha government on Monday stopped pension of six retired officers and asked two other officials to take voluntary retirement from service after they were convicted in different corrup-

tion cases.

The government in its order said that the service of two officials were no more required for their alleged involvement in corrupt practices, an official statement said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has issued such a direction as part of the state government's "Zero Tolerance" policy towards corruption, an official statement issued by the CMO said.

With the action

Lions Club of Sikkim team attends 20th District Conf



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:

A 30-member delegation from four Lions Clubs of Sikkim namely Lions Club of Rangpo, Singtam, Ranipool and Gangtok Hills participated in the two-day 20th District Conference of Lions Club International 322 F held at Siliguri on 22 and 23 Feb.

Wandering Souls of Sikkim to organise NEEV Fest



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:

Wandering Souls of Sikkim [WSOS] is gearing up for its first event of the year, NEEV: A Foundation for Better Future, an inter school festival scheduled to be held at Rongli Community Hall on 28 Feb, 2020.

BAC Regu & BAC Rhenock are supporting the festival in which more than 100 students from

15 Secondary & Senior Secondary Schools of Rhenock & Rongli area are expected to participate, a press release from WSOS informs.

Various scholastic competitions like quiz, poetry recitation, essay writing, elocution in various categories will be held on the day.

Special Secretary cum Mission Director, SBM(G), Rural Develop-

ment Department, Anil Raj Rai, has consented to attend the daylong festival as the chief guest.

"NEEV, like in its previous editions, is our humble attempt to provide a platform to young minds in rural Sikkim to foster their creative genius. We thank BDOs of Regu & Rhenock for supporting us in organising this edition of NEEV," the release states.

Left bodies hold anti-Trump rallies in city

KOLKATA, FEB 24 (PTI): Leftist organisations on Monday held rallies and burnt effigy of US President Donald Trump here against his India visit, but the police stopped the protestors before they reach the United States Information Service (USIS) office here.

Members of Leftist trade unions and student bodies marched towards the office of the USIS from Esplanade at the heart of the city.

Police stopped the rally, led by CPI(M) leaders Surjya Kanta Mishra and Mohammed Salim, in front of the Indian Museum, a few hundred metres from the USIS office.

An effigy of Trump was burnt and anti-US

slogans, terming the US president as an imperialist, were raised by those who participated in the rally.

Leftist student unions also held a procession towards the USIS from Lenin statue at Esplanade in the afternoon.

Police stopped the rally in front of the Gov-

ernment Art College before it reached the Park Street crossing.

A Kolkata Police official said there was no untoward incident during the protest rallies.

Members of Leftist party SUCI also burnt a cut out of Trump at Esplanade to protest his visit.

Seven from Sikkim...

"It is a big achievement for SICA and the state, and as a selector, it is always a proud moment for us when our players perform well in the National level tournaments and are being picked by the national selectors for such camp where our players will learn from the best. I am thankful to SICA for working tirelessly and promoting cricket in the region where such talented players are coming up and doing well," said SICA selector, Gyaphel Tshering Bhutia, as per the release.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).
Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501, 62970-03235, 98320-48410

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
email us: news@summittimes.Com

Garudas outshoot TAC in CM's Gold Cup Archery

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Garuda, Gangtok has entered the next round of the ongoing 19th Chief Minister's Gold Cup Archery Tournament [Compound] here at Archery Shooting Range in Tenzing Namgyal Memorial Ground, Tathangchen.

In the second match of the tournament on Monday, Garuda, Gangtok defeated TAC Namchi by 43-18 points. Chewang Namgyal Bhutia

of Garuda team hit the first bull's eye of the tournament in today's match. Martam-Rumtek MLA, Sonam Venchungpa was present as the chief guest of the match.

Dorokha Friends Bhutan will take on Bhutan Youths, Kalimpong in the third match of the tournament on Tuesday. Tadong MLA, GT Dhungal is scheduled to present as the chief guest of the match.



Sikkim Tourism participates in 5th Bengal Travel Mart



GANGTOK, 24 FEB (IPR): The 5th edition of Bengal Travel Mart (BTM) organized by the Eastern Himalaya Travel and Tour

Operators Association (EHTTOA), the largest travel trade association in Eastern India was held at Montana Vista, Uttorayan Complex, Siliguri (West Bengal) from 22 to 24 Feb, 2020.

Over the years, Bengal Travel Mart has been a platform to bring together business fraternity and service providers from the region under one roof. Through BTM, EHTTOA is striving to promote tourism in North Bengal, Sikkim, DOOARS and North East India extensively thereby opening plethora of opportunities and boosting tourism at the same time. The Eastern Himalaya Travel and Tour Operators Association (EHTTOA) is promoting and encouraging various destinations and experiences of the region and also the tourism infrastructure facilities to national and global audience.

The Bengal Travel Mart (BTM) saw the participation of renowned domestic and international tour operators, hoteliers, State Tourism Board, Airlines, Cruise lines, Hospitality service providers and other tourism related stakeholders.

Sikkim Tourism also participated in the event as an "Associate Partner" of the event. The Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim was represented by Additional Director (HQ), Madan Kumar Pradhan, Deputy Director (TIC-Siliguri), Sonam Pegila, Assistant Director (HQ), Manoj Chettri, departmental staff and active stakeholders from TAAS, SAATO, SUTO and SHRA.

The inaugural day of the event was attended by Minister (In-charge) for Tourism, Government of West Bengal, Gautam Deb as the chief guest. Mr Deb was accorded warm reception with the offering of traditional khadas and brochures by the Officers and stakeholders from Sikkim.

The Minister in his speech applauded Sikkim as a successful tourism destination in the North-Eastern region. He assured to take up all constructive avenues to promote tourism between Sikkim and North Bengal.

President, EHTTOA in his inaugural speech extended his gratitude towards the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tanang (Golay) for showing

keen interest and enthusiasm in participating at this event which has created opportunities for the aspiring tourism entrepreneurs of Sikkim to market their products and gain exposure through this platform.

Some of the noted personalities present during the inauguration ceremony included Regional Director (North-East), Sagnik Chowdhury, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India accompanied by Director - Orissa Tourism, Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav (IAS), President of Nepal Tourism Board, Acharya Guregain, President of Bangladesh Tourism Board and Chairman, Md Rafenzzaman, Temi Tea Board of Sikkim.

The President of Nepal Tourism Board and Bangladesh Tourism Board during the interactive session with Sikkim Tourism expressed their desire to partake and promote the upcoming Red Panda Winter Carnival 2020 scheduled to be held in the month of April this year at Soreng Chakung in West Sikkim.

They will be soon escorting a team of potential and resourceful stakeholders from their country to Sikkim on a Familiarization trip so as to facilitate exchange of tourism businesses between Sikkim and Bangladesh as well as Nepal. Sikkim Tourism received approximately 1000 visitors on the opening day whereas the second day saw more than 1500 visitors to the stall. The final day of the event will also involve B2B & B2C interactions between prospective buyers and sellers from across the country and abroad.

Muk Zek Ding Rum Faat celebrated at Pangthang

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association celebrated Muk Zek Ding Rum Faat (worship of Mother Nature), at Pangthang, near Pangthang Government Junior High School on 23 Feb, 2020, a press release informs. The ritual festival which is an age old cultural heritage of the Lepcha community where prayers are offered to Mother Nature.

The prayers were performed by three Bongthings, Sangay Lepcha from Labi, North Sikkim, Dup Tshering Lepcha from Tathangchen, and Dukda Rongkup from Rey.

The programme started with the installation of Lungchok (stone pillar) and was followed with invocation of prayer offerings by Bongthings (Lepcha Shaman) to Mother Nature to bless all with bountiful nature, clean environment and disease and disaster free world. Devotees, who



had gathered to witness the auspicious occasion, queued up to seek blessings from the Bongthings for their better future.

The programme also saw the recitation on significance of Muk Zek Ding Rum Faat and poems by the students from Lepcha Department of Sikkim University, who were later felicitated with gifts for their participation.

Special guest of the day, T N Densapa [prior

priest Denzong Regency], in his address congratulated the organisers and assured support in the future for such endeavours. He also urged the gathering comprising mostly students of colleges and university to learn more about the lost culture and heritage of the Lepchas and work towards its preservation and promotion.

Similarly, Sonam Dubden Lepcha (Former

Chairperson, Lepcha Primitive Tribe Board) while addressing the gathering also extended his deep appreciation towards the organisation for successfully conducting the ritual festival and further stressed the importance of observing such ritual in preserving and promoting one's own rich culture and heritage.

President of the organization, in his vote of thanks, expressed grati-

tude to all the special guests, Lepcha dignitaries, different Lepcha organisations, students of Colleges and Sikkim University for their presence and support in successfully conducting this programme.

In his special note of gratitude he deeply thanked the Pachey Kyong (Village) branch of Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association, who were given the responsibility of organising the event.

India rolls out cultural extravaganza to welcome Trump

AHMEDABAD, FEB 24 (PTI): Donald Trump landed here on Monday for his first visit to India as US President to a grand welcome by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and thousands of people who lined the streets and packed into the Motera stadium to say "Namaste Trump".

There were tableaux, folk dancers and musicians rolling out the cultural tapestry that is India, at the airport, on the way and at the spanking new cricket stadium where about 100,000 people waited patiently since early in the morning to hear the two leaders speak.

Air Force One carrying Trump, his wife Melania, daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner landed at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel international airport here at 11.37 am, officials said. It was scheduled to land at 11.40 am.

Trump stepped out wearing a black suit and a buttercup yellow tie while the first lady was in a white jumpsuit by French-American costume designer Herve Pierre. In a hat tip to Indian textiles, the jumpsuit was paired with a green silk with gold thread embroidery discovered by the designer in an early 20th century Indian textile documents given to him by his friends.

Modi, who reached Ahmedabad about an hour before Trump did, welcomed Trump and the US first lady at the airport, hugging the president and warmly shaking hands with Melania.

The first stop in the Trump visit was the Sabarmati Ashram, home to Mahatma Gandhi between 1917 and 1930 during India's freedom struggle.

The 22-km 'India roadshow' began as the cavalcade, with the US president's gleaming black car that has earned the moniker 'The Beast', moved out of the airport towards the Ashram and then to stadium. About 50 stages were set up on the way, showcasing dance groups and singers from different parts of the country.

Over 10,000 police personnel, besides officials of the United States Secret Service, and personnel of the National Security Guards (NSG) and the Special Protection Group (SPG) were deployed for the high profile visit.

From colour and pageantry to quieter and reflective, the mood shifted somewhat at the Sabarmati Ashram where the US president and the first lady spent about 15 minutes.

Modi, who reached the Ashram a few min-

utes before the visiting dignitaries, showed the Trumps 'Hriday Kunj', a room inside the Ashram where Gandhi and his wife Kasturba lived.

Modi explained the importance of the place in India's freedom

struggle.

Trump and Melania tried their hands on the khadi spinning wheel, also known as the 'charkha'.

"To my great friend Prime Minister Modi - Thank you for this wonderful visit,"

Trump wrote in the visitors book. It was also signed by Melania.

Modi presented the "Three Wise Monkeys", signifying Gandhi's three maxims of 'see no evil', 'hear no evil' and 'speak no evil', as a memento to the US president.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM NORTH SIKKIM, MANGAN

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Applications from interested and eligible candidates are invited for filling up the following posts purely on Ad-hoc basis on consolidated pay, under Education Department, North District, The term of appointment will be for the current academic session., i.e.; till the end of academic session 2020 for PRTs and GTs, whereas for PGTs the term will end on 31st March 2021.

A panel list will be prepared on the basis of merit and the vacancies that may arise during the session on account of retirement/transfer/ long leave etc. will also be filled from the merit list.

The candidate who qualifies should work anywhere in North District. The appointments are made purely based on the need of a particular school. And hence, **once appointed no transfer requests will be entertained.**

If any person on the merit list denies to accept the posting given to any school, he/she has to give the denial in writing, immediately, and the next person in the list will be eligible for the appointment.

Having denied the acceptance of the posting order, the candidate will lose his merit seniority and will reach to the bottom of the list and has to wait for his next chance.

Candidates having degrees from universities outside Sikkim must get copies of their testimonials attested from Examination Cell, Education Department Gangtok. No copies without attestation will be considered.

Interested Candidates may submit their applications with relevant documents including CoI and Employment Card to the District Education Office on or before 26th February 2020. (No Applications will be accepted after 4.00 p.m. 26/02/2020)

For Further details contact: Exam Cell, District Education Office, Mangan : 9083484256, 9775979007, 9775449079

Walk-in - Interview Dates:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. PGTs & GTs: | 02/03/2020 | 10.00 a.m onwards |
| 2. PRTs : | 03/03/2020 | 10.00 a.m onwards |

Venue : Conference Hall , District Education Office, Mangan.

Deputy Director
District Education Office
Mangan, North Sikkim

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What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV

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

Treatment

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

If you seek help, you may call :

-Toll free no. 104
District surveillance Officer
EAST : 7029372100
WEST : 9593297809
NORTH : 9641957468
SOUTH : 7407691463
New STNM
AMS : 9434711402

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

Still Children

Know history to understand the present and plan for the future

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?

-Cicero, Orator [46 BC]

What Cicero knew in 46 BC, Sikkim continues to ignore in 2017 AD. At a time when the world is no longer even talking about studying history and has moved on to historical enquiry, the Hidden Valley of Rice remains oblivious to not only where it comes from, but also to more current developments which would get slotted as modern history.

An education in history is not simply to learn facts. In fact it only begins there and then starts the real education - one in which we search for an interpretation of the past, understand why things happened the way they did and why we remember certain things in a certain way. It is this enquiry that gives a people their mooring. This is essential, because only after people learn where they have come from, can they decide where they should be headed. This progression is made easier when guided by the knowledge of mistakes made in the past. Because an informed pursuit of history emphasises historical perspective and context, a society also understands the context behind any historical phenomenon -an event, an idea, a law, or a dogma for example. Every historical event is a result of interrelated institutions, values, and beliefs that define a particular culture and era. How much these interrelated institutions have changed in their influence over the years and what part needs to be reworked and refined, we learn only through history. What a serious study of history also develops in a society is an analytical mind, the ability to put things in perspective and understand the cause and effect of any change or development. This attribute is especially necessary in the present times when too many communities, their leaders and the masses in general think and act in isolation.

As a people, the Sikkimese have to realize that the State is too small to afford fragmented memories, actions and aspirations. No one denies anyone their identity, but what is paramount, if real progress is to be achieved, is for each subgroup of the Sikkimese society to understand where it fits into the Sikkimese collective. That is possible only if people know the past and how they and their stories took root. This knowledge, only history can offer.

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Could We Live in a World Without Rules?

NICK CHATER

THECONVERSATION.COM

We all feel the oppressive presence of rules, both written and unwritten – it's practically a rule of life. Public spaces, organisations, dinner parties, even relationships and casual conversations are rife with regulations and red tape that seemingly are there to dictate our every move. We rail against rules being an affront to our freedom, and argue that they're "there to be broken".

But as a behavioural scientist I believe that it is not really rules, norms and customs in general that are the problem – but the unjustified ones. The tricky and important bit, perhaps, is establishing the difference between the two.

A good place to start is to imagine life in a world without rules. Apart from our bodies following some very strict and complex biological laws, without which we'd all be doomed, the very words I'm writing now follow the rules of English. In Byronic moments of artistic individualism, I might dreamily think of liberating myself from them. But would this new linguistic freedom really do me any good or set my thoughts free?

Some – Lewis Carroll in his poem Jabberwocky, for example – have made a success of a degree of literary anarchy. But on the whole, breaking away from the rules of my language makes me not so much unchained as incoherent.

Byron was a notorious rule breaker in his personal life, but he was also a stickler for rhyme and meter. In his poem, When We Two Parted, for example, Byron writes about forbidden love, a love that broke the rules, but does do so by precisely following some well-established poetic laws. And many would argue it is all the more powerful for it:

In secret we met
In silence I grieve,
That thy heart could forget,
Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee?—
With silence and tears.

Consider, too, how rules are the essence of sport, games and puzzles – even when their entire purpose is supposedly fun. The rules of chess, say, can trigger a tantrum if I want to "castle" to get out of check, but find that they say I can't; or if I find your pawn getting to my side of the board and turning into a queen, rook, knight or bishop. Similarly, find me a football fan who hasn't at least once raged

against the offside rule.

But chess or football without rules wouldn't be chess or football – they would be entirely formless and meaningless activities. Indeed, a game with no rules is no game at all.

Lots of the norms of everyday life perform precisely the same function as the rules of games – telling us what "moves" we can, and can't, make. The conventions of "pleases" and "thank yous" that seem so irksome to young children are indeed arbitrary – but the fact that we have some such conventions, and perhaps critically that we agree what they are, is part of what makes our social interactions run smoothly.

And rules about driving on the left or the right, stopping at red lights, queuing, not littering, picking up our dog's deposits and so on fall into the same category. They are the building blocks of a harmonious society.

THE CALL OF CHAOS

Of course, there has long been an appetite among some people for a less formalised society, a society without government, a world where individual freedom takes precedence: an anarchy.

The trouble with anarchy, though, is that it is inherently unstable – humans continually, and spontaneously, generate new rules governing behaviour, communication and economic exchange, and they do so as rapidly as old rules are dismantled.

A few decades ago, the generic pronoun in written language was widely assumed to be male: he/him/his. That rule has, quite rightly, largely been overturned. Yet it has also been replaced – not by an absence of rules, but by a different and broader set of rules governing our use of pronouns. Or let's return to the case of sport.

A game may start by kicking a pig's bladder from one end of a village to another, with ill-defined teams, and potentially riotous violence. But it ends up, after a few centuries, with a hugely complex rule book dictating every detail of the game. We even create international governing bodies to oversee them.

The political economist Elinor Ostrom (who shared the Noble Prize for economics in 2009) observed the same phenomenon of spontaneous rule construction when people had collectively to manage common resources such as common land, fisheries, or water for irrigation.

She found that people collectively construct rules about, say, how many cattle a person can graze, where, and when; who gets how much water,

and what should be done when the resource is limited; who monitors whom, and which rules resolve disputes. These rules aren't just invented by rulers and imposed from the top down – instead, they often arise, unbidden, from the needs of mutually agreeable social and economic interactions.

The urge to overturn stifling, unjust or simply downright pointless rules is entirely justified. But without some rules – and some tendency for us to stick to them – society would slide rapidly into pandemonium. Indeed, many social scientists would see our tendency to create, stick to, and enforce rules as the very foundation of social and economic life.

Our relationship with rules does seem to be unique to humans. Of course, many animals behave in highly ritualistic ways – for example, the bizarre and complex courtship dances of different species of bird of paradise – but these patterns are wired into their genes, not invented by past generations of birds. And, while humans establish and maintain rules by punishing rule violations, chimpanzees – our closest relatives – do not. Chimps may retaliate when their food is stolen but, crucially, they don't punish food stealing in general – even if the victim is a close relative.

In humans, rules also take hold early. Experiments show that children, by the age of three, can be taught entirely arbitrary rules for playing a game. Not only that, when a "puppet" (controlled by an experimenter) arrives on the scene and begins to violate the rules, children will criticise the puppet, protesting with comments such as "You are doing that wrong!" They will even attempt to teach the puppet to do better.

Indeed, despite our protests to the contrary, rules seem hardwired into our DNA. In fact, our species' ability to latch onto, and enforce, arbitrary rules is crucial to our success as a species. If each of us had to justify each rule from scratch (why we drive on the left in some countries, and on the right in others; why we say please and thank you), our minds would grind to a halt. Instead, we are able to learn the hugely complex systems of linguistic and social norms without asking too many questions – we simply absorb "the way we do things round here".

INSTRUMENTS OF TYRANNY

But we must be careful – for this way tyranny also lies. Humans have a powerful sense of wanting to enforce, sometimes oppressive, patterns

of behaviour – correct spelling, no stranded prepositions, no split infinitives, hats off in church, standing for the national anthem – irrespective of their justification. And while the shift from "This is what we all do" to "This is what we all ought to do" is a well-known ethical fallacy, it is deeply embedded in human psychology.

One danger is that rules can develop their own momentum: people can become so fervent about arbitrary rules of dress, dietary restrictions or the proper treatment of the sacred that they may exact the most extreme punishments to maintain them.

Political ideologues and religious fanatics often mete out such retribution – but so do repressive states, bullying bosses and coercive partners: the rules must be obeyed, just because they are the rules.

Not only that, but criticising rules or failing to enforce them (not to draw attention to a person wearing inappropriate dress, for example) becomes a transgression requiring punishment itself.

And then there's "rule-creep": rules just keep being added and extended, so that our individual liberty is increasingly curtailed. Planning restrictions, safety regulations and risk assessments can seem to accumulate endlessly and may extend their reach far beyond any initial intention.

Restrictions on renovating ancient buildings can be so stringent that no renovation is feasible and the buildings collapse; environmental assessments for new woodlands can be so severe that tree planting becomes almost impossible; regulations on drug discovery can be so arduous that a potentially valuable medicine is abandoned. The road to hell is not merely paved with good intentions, but edged with rules enforcing those good intentions, whatever the consequences.

Individuals, and societies, face a continual battle over rules – and we must be cautious about their purpose. So, yes, "standing on the right" on an escalator may speed up everyone's commute to work – but be careful of conventions that have no obvious benefit to all, and especially those that discriminate, punish and condemn. The latter can become the instruments of tyranny

Rules, like good policing, should rely on our consent. So perhaps the best advice is mostly to follow rules, but always to ask why.

[the writer is Professor of Behavioural Science, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick]

What we don't understand about young people's motivations

HEATHER LAWFORD & HEATHER L. RAMEY
theconversation.com

Young people are demanding change. In the last few days, young Indigenous activists and their supporters blocked parliamentarians in Victoria, B.C., from accessing the provincial legislature and led waves of protest across the country.

For some young people, climate change is urgent. For others, gun violence is a crisis. From truth and reconciliation to inclusion and diversity and mental health, young people are bringing awareness to societal crises and making headlines along the way.

Historically, this is really nothing new. Young people have long been leaders and catalysts of important movements. Unfortunately, these change-makers are often thought to be outside of what is considered typical of this age group.

Young people are often labelled problematic, selfish or not yet ready to lead. This negative view of young people aligns with the multitude of research studies that frame their questions within a deficit model.

In a deficit model, the standard for healthy development is preventing behavioural or emotional problems. In both cases, there is a failure to acknowledge youth's capacity or motivation to contribute to something larger. Underestimating youth is a mistake. Of course it is important to acknowledge and study the risks and barriers faced by this age group, but if we do not balance this view with understanding their capacities and contribution, it can lead to some faulty assumptions.

WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

In our Community and Youth (CandY) research lab, we use a positive psychology approach. As such, we examine the positive motivations and capacities of youth. We are especially interested in the role young people play in improving our society, as well as the role communities can play to offer young people contexts that allow them to thrive.

Our research is rooted in the psychosocial model of Erik Erikson developed in the 1950s and 1960s. When boiled down to its simplest form, Erikson's theory states that we all face a series of crises across our lifespan. How we resolve these crises helps determine our developmental success.

For example, in adolescence we face the crisis of identity versus identity diffusion; in midlife we face generativity versus stagnation. That is, when we're young, we're trying to figure out who we are and what matters to us, and as we age, we become more concerned with what we're leaving behind.

Generativity — defined as concern for future generations as a legacy of the self — is well-studied. Most studies on generativity only consider people in middle age, even though there is evidence to suggest that this concern for the future and one's own legacy is important earlier in the lifespan.

In fact, young people do share a concern for the future and their contribution to it. Our research shows that young people between the ages of 14 and 29 show levels of generative motivation that are as high or even higher

than adults. Early generativity is also associated with caring friendships, community involvement and healthy identity development in adolescence and young adulthood. So not only are young people interested and capable of caring for future generations, but doing so is likely good for them.

Beyond the research, Autumn Peltier, a young activist advocating for clean water, has said, "We are the keepers of the generations yet to come." She leaves little room for doubt that young people can be motivated by generativity.

CHANGING HOW WE WORK WITH YOUTH

Our team has seen first hand the generativity of youth at the Students Commission of Canada (SCC), a not-for-profit organization that is working towards a world "where all young people transition successfully into adulthood."

At their "Canada We Want" conferences, we have witnessed early generativity in action. Young people from across Canada with a diversity of experience, expertise and identities work together to develop a plan to create the change that they want to see in their community, tackling issues such as poverty, employment, prejudice and substance abuse. This work is then presented to politicians, policy-makers and other leaders and has helped inform Canada's first national youth policy.

Taking IT Global is another organization that capitalizes on young people's generativity. It works to "empower young people to become agents of positive

change in their local and global communities." It has given out more than 2,500 grants to youth, and also provides education and online resources for adults. The grants have helped youth educate boys about mental health, and prompted a \$15-million cleanup of a river in Nova Scotia.

So how can we incorporate these ideas in our everyday interactions with young people? Whether we are parents, teachers, coaches or community leaders, it is worth reflecting on whether our assumptions of youth stem solely from a deficit model, or whether we account for the capacities and motivations of young people. Rather than focusing on what they lack, much more focus can be placed on their capacity and desire to have a positive and lasting impact. At the same time that we are asking young people who they want to be, we should be asking young people what kind of world they want to leave behind.

Greater awareness of the importance of generativity in youth will contribute to a more pervasive narrative of young people as capable, and motivated to contribute, thus combating some useless and inaccurate stereotypes about youth.

So the next time you see a young person in the news, or in your community, making the world a bit better for the next generation, you might smile to yourself and think, "Typical."

[Heather Lawford is Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Bishop's University; Heather L. Ramey is Adjunct Professor, Child & Youth Studies, Brock University]

Centre appeals WB govt to join PM-Kisan scheme

NEW DELHI, FEB 24 (PTI): The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Monday asked the West Bengal government to join the ambitious central scheme, PM-Kisan, which completed one year of operation without the state on board.

Barring West Bengal, all other states and union territories are implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) which has benefited 8.45 crore farmers so far in the country, against the target of 14 crore farmers.

The minister also launched PM-Kisan mobile App on completion of one year of the implementation of the scheme.

Tomar said: West



Bengal has not yet joined the scheme. There are 70 lakh farmers in the state. Benefits worth about Rs 4,000 crore will reach to these farmers if implemented.

Of the 70 lakh farmers from the state, about 10 lakh farmers have already self-registered

for the scheme via the online portal of PM-Kisan, he said and added the cash benefit to these farmers will reach once the state government verifies the data.

Stating that the cash benefit under the scheme will not only help farmers but also

boost the state economy, Tomar said: Our officials have approached the state government in this regard many times. I have also written twice to the chief minister urging to join the scheme. But no reply has come yet from the CM.

Tomar said some states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Sikkim are slow in authenticating their farmers' data and the central government is pursuing with them seriously.

The aim is to achieve the target of 14 crore farmers by next year. On PM-Kisan portal, the centre has received data of total 9.74 crore farmers. Already, payment has been made to 8.45 crore farmers, he said.

About 85 per cent of the farmers data registered under the scheme has been Aadhar verified, the rest will be completed soon, he added.

Under the scheme, the centre is paying Rs 6,000 annually in three equal installments to eligible farmers.

MeT forecasts rain in West Bengal till Thursday

KOLKATA, FEB 24 (PTI): The MeT department on Monday forecast light to moderate rain in West Bengal for the next two to three days.

A western disturbance that is moving towards West Bengal will cause a change in weather, leading to rainfall in several parts of the state, the MeT department said.

Kolkata is likely to

experience rain from Monday night and it is expected to continue till Tuesday, the weatherman said.

Most of the south Bengal districts are "very likely" to receive light to moderate rain for the next two days, it said.

Rainfall is also likely to occur in the north Bengal districts till Thursday morning, the

MeT department said.

Mercury is expected to be two to four notches below normal on Tuesday and Wednesday, it said.

The minimum temperatures are likely to dip from Wednesday, the weatherman said.

Shallow to moderate fog is likely to prevail over Gangetic West Bengal from February 26 to 28, it added.

10,054 posts in Odisha Police vacant: Minister

BHUBANESWAR, FEB 24 (PTI): The Odisha government on Monday told the Assembly that 10,054 posts in different categories in the state police were lying vacant.

As many as 78 IPS posts of Odisha cadre were also vacant for a long time, Minister of State for Home, DS Mishra said, adding that the sanctioned strength of the state IPS cadre is 195.

Replying to questions the minister said 10,054 posts in differ-

ent categories in Odisha Police were lying vacant till December 2019.

He said 29 state cadre IPS officers were on central deputation. "Of the 29 IPS officers in the central deputation, three officers are working outside Odisha for more than 12 years," Mishra said.

The minister claimed that the state government has made several moves seeking more number of officers to fill up vacancies in the IPS cadre but it has not been ad-

dressed.

Giving details on the 10,054 vacancies, the minister said while 501 posts remain vacant in Group A, 1,823 in Group B, 6,487 in Group C and 1,243 in Group D posts.

The Odisha Police has a sanctioned strength of 72,119 while the present staff strength of the police force is 62,065, he said.

He said efforts are on to fill up the vacant posts through a recruitment drive and also through promotions and transfers.

One arrested for question paper leak in Manipur

IMPHAL, FEB 24 (PTI): Days after Class 11 final exams were called off in Manipur government schools after purported question papers of at least five subjects surfaced on social media, a management staff at a higher secondary school was arrested here in connection with the case.

M Sunderchand was

apprehended on Saturday by the cyber crime unit of the Manipur Police, based on a complaint filed by the secretary of the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM), a senior officer said.

"There is an indication that English question paper might have been leaked as well,

along with those of five other subjects -- Manipuri, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology," he said.

Preliminary investigation also revealed that the accused not just "cut open the seal of the question papers" but also took photographs for circulation, the officer said.

"Sunderchand has been remanded in police custody for seven days, and more details will be available in the case after a thorough investigation," he added.

The council, on its part, has asked all affiliated schools to return the papers "in their original forms".

It has also set up a three-member committee, headed by the Director of Education (Schools), to find out the facts and circumstances that led to the leakage of question papers.

COHSEM, however, was yet to announce fresh dates for the examination.

Sunni Board to build mosque, hospital on five-acre site

LUCKNOW, FEB 24 (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board on Monday said it will build a mosque as well as an Indo-Islamic research centre, a hospital and a library on the five-acre plot allotted to it following the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict.

The decision to accept the land was taken at a board meeting here.

"It has been decided at a meeting of the board to take the five-acre land given to us by the UP government," board chairman Zufar Farooqui told reporters.

He said the board will set up a trust soon for the construction of the mosque.

Asked if whether the planned mosque would be named after the demolished Babri Masjid, Farooqui said, "It will be decided by the trust. The board has nothing to do with it."

"Besides the mosque, there will be an Indo-Islamic research centre, a public library, a chari-

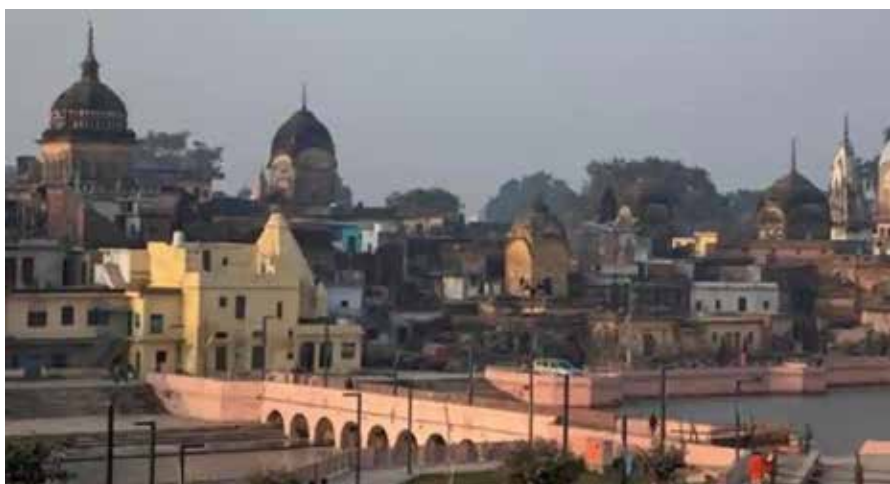


table hospital and other useful facilities on the land", he said.

He said the size of the mosque will be decided keeping in mind local needs.

In a historic verdict in November on the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of construction of a temple.

It also ordered that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque within Ayodhya.

The 16th-century Babri mosque that stood on the disputed site in

Ayodhya was demolished in 1992 by karsevaks, claiming that originally there was a Ram temple at the same spot.

Soon after last year's verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute, there were suggestions that the Sunni board should not accept an alternative plot.

There were also suggestions that instead of a mosque to replace the demolished Babri Masjid, the Muslim community should build a public facility, like a hospital, there.

The Sunni Waqf Board, however, made it

clear that rejecting the site was not an option.

"Following the Supreme Court verdict, the Sunni Waqf Board does not have the choice of rejecting the five-acre alternative land for the construction of a mosque in Ayodhya as it would amount to contempt of court," Farooqui had said earlier.

Including Farooqui, the Sunni Waqf Board has eight members. Six of them attended the meeting.

Based on the SC verdict, the Centre had asked the Uttar Pradesh government to allot five acres of land to the Sunni Waqf Board. The UP Cabinet made the allotment after its meeting of February 5.

The allotment letter is for a plot at Dhannipur village in Ayodhya's Sohawal area, about 20 km from the district headquarters on the Ayodhya-Lucknow highway.

Local TMC leader

JALPAIGURI (WB), FEB 24 (PTI): Seven houses, alleged to be of BJP supporters, have been vandalised and set on fire in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, police said on Monday.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames, a police officer said.

The incident was sparked after the body of a local TMC leader reached Husrurdanga village in Mainaguri area on Sunday, he

said.

The BJP has alleged that TMC activists were behind the incident while the ruling party in West Bengal has dismissed the charge.

TMC's Mallick Haat booth president Bhombol Ghosh was attacked with sharp weapons at Husrurdanga market on February 14 and he succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Siliguri on Saturday, party sources said.

Local TMC leader

Manoj Roy alleged that BJP activists were behind the fatal assault.

BJP district president Bapi Goswami said after Ghosh's body was brought to Husrurdanga on Sunday, TMC activists vandalised the seven houses of BJP supporters and set them on fire.

A large contingent led by Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Dhendhup Sherpa has been deployed in the area.

Reed comes through for WGC Mexico Championship win

MEXICO CITY, FEB 24 (AFP): Patrick Reed came through in the clutch, firing three late birdies in a four-under par 67 for a one-shot victory over Bryson DeChambeau in the WGC Mexico Championship.

Former Masters champion Reed stayed patient through a frustrating front nine at Chapultepec Golf Club on Sunday, and as a string of leaders fell away powered to the victory with an 18-under par total of 266.

Birdies at the 15th, 16th and 17th pushed him to 19-under for the tournament, giving him a two-stroke lead.

The cushion proved enough after he pushed

his tee shot at 18 well right, Reed limiting the damage to a bogey for the narrow win.

"It's very rewarding," said Reed, whose only other WGC title came in the same event in 2014, when it was played at Doral in Florida.

"To come back and win my second World Golf Championship -- especially with how I had to finish on basically 15 onwards. The last hole was ugly, but it was what I needed to get the job done."

DeChambeau appeared to take control with four birdies in a five-hole stretch, his 14-footer at 14 putting him atop the leaderboard at 18-under.

But a three-putt bogey at the par-three 17th proved too much to overcome as he settled for a six-under par 65 and a 17-under total of 267.

Justin Thomas, who took a one-shot lead into the final round, faded early on the way to a two-over par 73 that left him tied for sixth.

Spain's Jon Rahm, who could have become number one in the world with a victory, briefly seized a share of the lead thanks to birdies at four of his first five holes.

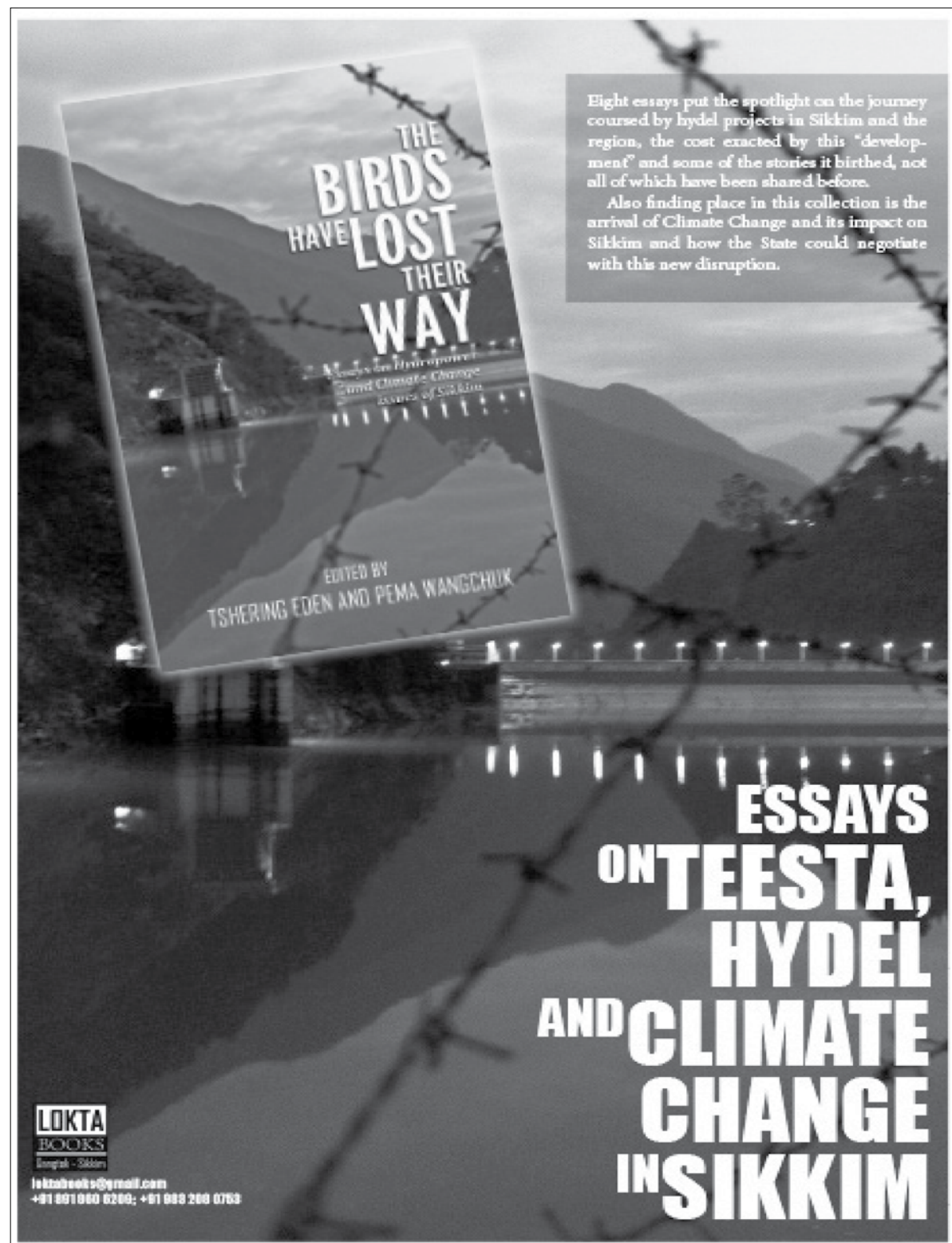
But two birdies and two bogeys coming in weren't enough for the Spaniard, who shared third on 269 with South Africa's Erik van Rooyen, who carded a one-under

70.

World number one Rory McIlroy closed with a 68 to finish alone in fifth on 270.

The satisfying victory capped a week in which Reed again found himself criticized -- this time by compatriot Brooks Koepka -- for an incident at the Hero World Challenge in December when video showed him moving sand behind his ball in a waste area.

He accepted a two-stroke penalty and although he denied intentionally trying to improve his lie Reed hasn't been dogged by the affair all year. "If you play the game, you understand the rules," Koepka told a radio interviewer on Monday when asked about it.



Haynes saves
Australia blushes
against Sri Lanka
in T20 WC

PERTH, FEB 24 (PTI): Rachael Haynes hit a classy fifty to help defending champions Australia overcome a fighting Sri Lanka by five wickets in their second Group A match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Chamari Athapaththu (50 off 38 balls) struck a quick half-century but Nicola Carey (2/18), who missed the India game, and Molly Strano (2/23) helped Australia restrict Sri Lanka to a modest 122 for six.

Chasing the target, the Australian hearts were racing when Alyssa Healy, Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney -- all fell within four overs before Haynes and captain Meg Lanning (41 not out) stitched a 95-run fourth-wicket stand to take the hosts out of trouble.

Australia didn't hesitate in showing their intent as Megan Schutt struck early with her third ball, handing Mooney with an easy catch at point to remove Hasini Perera for a duck. After the powerplay, Umesha Thimeshani was removed by Carey for 20. It was yet another impressive outing for Athapaththu against the Australians, her 38-ball half-century taking Sri Lanka to 91 but the hosts finally took their third wicket when the captain blasted the ball straight to her opposite number Lanning.

Anushka Sanjeevani's 25 helped Sri Lanka inch to three figures but she was soon caught by Delissa Kimmince off Strano's bowling, while Ama Kanchana perished for a duck two balls later.

Two boundaries from Nilakshi de Silva in her late cameo helped Sri Lanka get to 120 but she was stumped by Healy in Jonassen's final over.

Australia witnessed a horrible start to their chase with Udeshika Prabodani bowling Healy for a duck in the second ball.

And Prabodani's second over started just as brightly as her first as she produced another stunning in-swing delivery to remove Gardner for two.

The hosts, who knew the importance of a win at the WACA after losing to India in Sydney, soon found themselves in deep trouble when Sanjeevani stumped Mooney to leave them tottering at 10 for three after 20 balls.

But Haynes came to Australia's rescue and in the company Lanning took Australia home.

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Children under age of 12 banned from heading footballs in training

PAUL MACINNES
THEGUARDIAN

The Football Association, alongside its Scottish and Irish counterparts, has taken steps to curtail heading in youth football following research that showed former professionals were more than three times likely than non-players to die from brain disease.

The "updated Heading Guidance", drawn up in conjunction with Uefa's medical committee, states that children between the ages of 6 and 11 should no longer be allowed to head the ball during training sessions. A "graduated approach" will be taken to children between the ages of 12 and 16, but there will be no limit applied to heading in matches for any age group.

Mark Bullingham,



the FA's new chief executive, said: "This updated heading guidance is an evolution of our current guidelines and will help coaches and teachers to reduce and remove repetitive and unnecessary heading from youth football."

The new guidelines have been released following the landmark

FIELD study into footballers and brain disease, conducted by the University of Glasgow last year. Based on the health records of 7,676 former players and 23,000 members of the public, it was the largest study of its kind and found shocking conclusions.

According to the report, former profes-

sionals were 3.5 times as likely as a member of the general public to die from brain disease and, more specifically, five times more likely to die of Alzheimer's, four times more likely to die of motor neurone disease and twice as likely to die of Parkinson's.

The report was co-funded by the FA and

the Professional Footballers Association and immediately sparked concerns over heading in contemporary youth football. This in turn has brought about the new guidance, which will be implemented immediately.

The governing bodies were keen to stress that the results of the FIELD

study did not prove that heading had caused the conditions experienced by former professionals. There is also an acknowledgement that heading is not currently a significant feature of competitive youth football, meaning the ban will not be applied to matches.

Ian Maxwell, chief executive of the Scottish FA, said: "While it is important to re-emphasise there is no research to suggest that heading in younger age groups was a contributory factor in the findings of the FIELD study into professional footballers, nevertheless Scottish football has a duty of care to young people, their parents and those responsible for their wellbeing throughout youth football.

"It is important to reassure that heading is rare in youth football matches, but we are clear that the guidelines

should mitigate any potential risks."

While brain injury charities welcomed the new guidance, there were calls for more action to be taken and quickly. "It seems entirely sensible to limit the number of times children are allowed to head footballs," said Peter McCabe, chief executive of Headway, the brain injury association. "The question is, is this enough? Should it be limited to children?

"We cannot allow for key questions to remain unanswered, such as at what age is it safe to head a modern football – if at all? Neither can we afford to wait 30 years for the results of a longitudinal study to reveal the answers or hesitate to introduce other common sense measures that protect players – such as concussion substitutes."

Chennaiyin look to dislodge Bengaluru FC from third spot

GUWAHATI, FEB 24 (PTI): Former champions Chennaiyin FC will look to notch up a win and finish third in the Indian Super League standing when they face NorthEast United FC here on Tuesday.

Chennaiyin are currently fourth on the table with 28 points, two shy of third-placed Bengaluru FC. A draw or a defeat for Chennaiyin in the final game of the league

phase of this ISL would mean that they would face toppers FC Goa in the play-offs.

Should they pick up a win over NorthEast at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here, a battle with second-placed ATK awaits them in the two-legged semi-finals.

A lot would depend on Owen Coyle's plans and whether he would look to hand an opportunity to his fringe players.

Lucian Goian, Rafael Crivellaro and Nerijus Valskis have picked up three yellow cards this season and one more in the final league game would mean that they miss the first leg of the play-offs. It is highly unlikely that Coyle will take that risk by fielding them on Tuesday.

"First of all, we want to win the game. We have three boys on three yellow cards. It will be really naive to put them on and take a risk. So those players will be rested. Ultimately, you have to beat the best teams to win. Be it FC Goa or ATK. They are very good teams with perfect coaches. So when that comes,

we will think about it. But still, we want to win tomorrow's game," said Coyle.

Expect the likes of Rahim Ali, Karanjit Singh, Deepak Tangri and Aimol Reamsochung to be named in the starting XI. Should any of the above-mentioned players perform exceptionally well, it would pose a selection headache for Coyle ahead of the play-offs.

NorthEast United have their own battles to face. They suffered a humiliating 5-1 loss to Hyderabad FC last week and the Highlanders would be desperate to make amends in front of their home supporters and finish their season on a good note.

It has been a disappointing campaign for NorthEast as they failed to get going after a good start. Injuries to key players like Asamoah Gyan, Kai Heerings did not help as they struggled to find the back of the net.

They could only manage 14 goals from 17 outings, which means averaging less than a goal per match. Khalid Jamil has the unenviable task of ensuring that the spirit within the squad remains high as they play their final fixture of the season.

"This is the last match. Everybody will give their best and we will try to finish on a winning note. Chennaiyin have a good team. They did not start well but they played really well later. But I would like to give chances to the players who have not played many times this season," said Jamil.

Bruno Fernandes vows to get United into Champions League

**JAMIE JACKSON
MANCHESTER, 24 FEB [THEGUARDIAN]:** Bruno Fernandes vowed to help Manchester United "conquer" the race for a Champions League place following his impressive display in Sunday's 3-0 victory over Watford at Old Trafford.

The midfielder scored his first goal for the club – a 42nd-minute penalty – and also created second-half strikes for Anthony Martial, whose finish particularly impressed, and Mason Greenwood as United moved to within three points of Chelsea in fourth.

"This is what I want to do and what I need to do," said Fernandes, who signed for an initial £46m last month from Sporting. "Everyone knows



we want to get into the Champions League places. I am here to help the team conquer this and keep winning games.

"This is the day every player wants to have. I feel lucky to score, I feel lucky to win the game. We all gave our best and we all deserved the win. I just need to help the

team [and] I hope Martial scores more goals too like he did."

Fernandes's spot-kick featured him jumping in the air before he stroked it home. "It's the way I shoot a penalty, it's where I feel confident," said the 25-year-old. "I do not shoot only that way but it felt the

best way today."

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was asked if Fernandes's fee looks a bargain. "In today's market I think we got a good deal," the manager said. "He has come in and done really well and given everyone a boost. It means more than just getting a

Can't help if people make big deal out of one loss: Kohli

**KUSHAN SARKAR
WELLINGTON, FEB 24 (PTI):** Captain Virat Kohli had no qualms in admitting that India were outplayed by New Zealand in the opening Test but said they "can't help it" if a few want to make a "big deal" out of one loss.

Hosts New Zealand thrashed India by 10 wickets at the Basin Reserve on Monday to go 1-0 ahead in the two-match series.

"We know we haven't played well, but if people want to make a big deal out of it, make a mountain out of it, we can't help it as we don't think like that," the India skipper said at the post-match media interaction.

This was India's first defeat in the World Test Championship, coming after two inept batting efforts.

"Some people might want it to be the end of the world but it's not. For us, it's a game of cricket we lost and we move on and keep our heads high," Kohli said.

It is the acceptance of defeat that defines the character of a side, the world's premier batsman said.

"We understand that we need to play well to



win, also at home. There's no cakewalk at international level as teams will come and beat you. You accept it and that defines our character as a side."

If he had given credence to the "outside chatter", he said the team wouldn't have been where it is now.

"That's why we have been able to play this kind of cricket. If we would have paid attention to the outside chatter, we would again be at No. 7 or 8 in the rankings. We don't really bother about what people are saying on the outside," the skipper said.

One defeat can't make a team, which has been

winning games of Test cricket, "bad overnight".

"If we have lost then we have no shame in accepting that. It means we didn't play this game well. It doesn't mean that we have become a bad team overnight. People might want to change our thoughts, but it doesn't work like that."

The self-belief is intact and Kohli was confident the team would come back stronger in the second Test, to be held in Christchurch in four days time.

"We will work hard, and after four days play just like we have played all these years. Just because we have lost one

match in between all wins, doesn't mean that the belief is gone. The dressing room thinks differently and team atmosphere is different."

Kohli felt that there is a very thin line between being ultra-defensive and over-attacking, something that his team didn't get it right in this Test match.

"New Zealand got into the mind of the batsmen and make the batsmen do something that they don't want to.

think that's a very thin line and a very delicate balance of when to attack and when to put bowlers under pressure which we failed to do

in this match and there is no harm in accepting that."

According to Kohli, it was a combination of both good bowling from the Kiwis and Indian batsmen not putting the pressure back on bowlers, which led to the drubbing.

"That has got to do with partly good bowling from New Zealand and partly us not pressing that momentum on to them when required.

"It was perfect for them because they bowled well and we allowed them to bowl well for longer periods rather than doing something about it in a partnership.

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US urges Iraq PM-designate to protect its troops ahead of vote

WASHINGTON, FEB 24 (AFP): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday urged Iraq's designated prime minister to protect US troops and meet grievances of a months-long protest movement ahead of a parliamentary confidence vote.

In the first substantive US comment on Mohammad Allawi since he was named on February 1 as a consensus candidate, Pompeo said he told him by telephone that the United States backed a "strong, sovereign and prosperous" Iraq.

Pompeo "stressed Iraq's obligation to protect US and coalition diplomats, forces and facilities," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement.

Pompeo spoke to Allawi about "the urgency with which Iraq's next government must put an end to the killing of protesters, seek justice for those killed and wounded, and address their legitimate grievances," she said.

Allawi has called a vote of confidence in parliament on Monday ahead of a deadline, after earlier skepticism that he could form and win approval for a government.

The United States last month outraged Iraqi leaders by carrying out a drone strike at Baghdad's airport that killed a top general from neighboring Iran, Qassem Soleimani.

Tensions had soared after Iranian-linked Iraqi Shiite militias fired rockets on bases that are home to US bases, with fresh attacks reported in recent weeks.

US leaders scoffed at the Iraqi objections to the killing of Soleimani on its soil, with President Donald Trump threatening economic sanctions if Baghdad evicted the 5,200 troops in the country, which was thrown into chaos by the 2003 US invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein.

Pompeo refused a request by the outgoing prime minister, Adel Abdel Mahdi, to send a delegation to discuss a troop withdrawal and said publicly that many Iraqi leaders privately wanted US forces to stay.

Abdel Mahdi stepped down in December in the face of the unprecedented anti-government protests demanding an end to corruption, an independent prime minister and a total government overhaul.

But protesters have slammed the choice of Allawi as his successor, saying the two-time former communications minister is too close to the elite they have railed against for months.

The Iraqi prime minister's office described the conversation with Pompeo as a congratulatory call. The State Department did not explicitly offer congratulations but described Allawi as the "new prime minister."

India requests UK museum for ancient idol 'stolen' from Tamil Nadu temple

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, FEB 24 (PTI): India has made a formal request for a 15th century bronze idol believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu and found its way to a UK museum through auction.

The statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford from Sotheby's auction house in 1967 from the collection of a collector named J R Belmont (1886-1981).

The museum says that it was alerted to the origins of the ancient statue by an independent researcher in November last year, following which it alerted the Indian High Commission.

"Research in the photo archives of the IFP-EFEO (Institut Francais de Pondichery and the Ecole francaise d'Extreme-Orient) appears to show the same bronze in the temple of Shri Soundarrajarperumal Kovil in Tamil Nadu in 1957," a



statement from the Ashmolean Museum said on Monday.

"The Ashmolean was informed that the bronze is one of a number of bronzes in collections in Europe and the United States identified by this researcher through the IFP-EFEO archive," the statement said.

Although there was no claim against the object, the museum officially brought the matter to the attention of the Indian High Commission on December 16 last year,

requesting further information, including possible police records, that would help them establish the work's provenance.

"We were open to holding further discussions around the possible repatriation of the sculpture," the museum said.

Indian High Commissioner in the UK Ruchi Ghanashyam acknowledged the "proactive" move of the museum soon after and the matter was forwarded

to the Indian authorities for follow up, with a formal request for the restitution of the idol sent to the museum earlier this month.

"In our request, we have stated that the police report furnished by the idol wing unambiguously shows that the original idol as is found in the IFP archives has been stolen and replaced with a fake one and that the stolen idol is the same one that is presently with the Ashmolean," said Rahul Nangare, First Secretary (Trade) at the Indian High Commission in London.

"After we provided them the police report along with the formal request for restitution, Ashmolean have informed that they are now carrying out further due diligence with an official from Ashmolean also scheduled to visit India shortly. We have requested them to expedite the same so that the final decision is

taken at the earliest," he said.

The museum, which holds some of the world's most famous art and archaeology artefacts, says it acquired the statue in "good faith" in 1967.

"We currently have no indication of how the bronze entered his [Belmont] collection and we are continuing to investigate with the support of the Indian High Commission," the museum said.

There have been a number of instances of stolen Indian artefacts being restored from the UK to India, most recently in August last year when a limestone carved relief sculpture, originating from Andhra Pradesh, and a "Nava-neetha Krishna" bronze sculpture originating from 17th century Tamil Nadu, were handed over to the Indian High Commissioner to the UK following a joint US-UK investigation involving Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Unit.

Sanders would 'absolutely' use military if needed

WASHINGTON, FEB 24 (AFP): Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders has said that if elected president he would "absolutely" use the military if warranted, both to protect US interests and to support its allies.

He also said he would be willing to meet with the North Korean dictator, Kim Jong Un, as President Donald Trump has done.

Sanders has emerged with an early lead in the Democratic nominating process, and as a self-declared democratic socialist his foreign and security policies are starting to draw closer scrutiny. But he has denied being a pacifist.

In an interview airing Sunday on CBS's "60 Minutes," the Vermont senator was asked in what circumstances he, as commander-in-chief, would deploy US military forces. He listed these criteria: "Threats against the American people, to be sure. Threats against our allies. I believe in NATO."

"I believe that the United States, everything being equal, should be working with other countries in alliance, not doing it alone." - "We will not sit by"

When the interviewer asked whether he would order military action if Taiwan came under attack from China, Sanders replied: "Yeah. I mean, I think we have got to make it clear to countries around the world that we will not sit by and allow invasions to take place, absolutely."

The senator, who scored a resounding victory Saturday in the Nevada presidential caucuses, was asked if he would follow Trump's example and meet with the North Korean leader.

"Yeah, I mean I've criticised Trump for everything..." he said. "But meeting with people who are antagonistic is, to me, not a bad thing." Sanders added that he believed Trump was "unprepared" when he met with Kim -- their meeting last

year in Hanoi collapsed in disagreement.

"But I do not have a problem with sitting down with adversaries all over the world." In a recent New York Times survey of the Democratic candidates, Sanders and fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren said they would continue Trump's personal diplomacy with Kim, but former vice president Joe Biden, former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg and Senator Amy Klobuchar said they would not.

Sanders, along with Biden and Bloomberg, also said he would consider using force to preempt an Iranian or North Korean nuclear or missile test.

Sanders is known best for his positions on economic justice -- particularly the yawning gap in the US between the wealthiest Americans and those much less well-to-do.

But as his chances of winning the Democratic nomination rise, scrutiny is bound to intensify on other issues.

As a student at the University of Chicago during the turmoil of the 1960s and 1970s, Sanders belonged to several leftist and anti-war groups, including the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

In 2015, when a Politico interviewer questioned him about his decision to register as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, he replied: "I am not a pacifist." "I supported the war in Afghanistan," in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, he noted.

In 1991, however, he had opposed the first Gulf War.

Sanders told Politico that he had backed the Clinton administration's military actions in Kosovo and President Barack Obama's air strikes in Syria.

But he then added, "I happen to believe from the bottom of my heart that war should be the last resort."

Iraq confirms first novel coronavirus case

NAJAF (IRAQ), FEB 24 (AFP): Iraq on Monday confirmed its first novel coronavirus case in an elderly Iranian national in the southern shrine city of Najaf, according to health officials.

Iraq, a country with a dilapidated healthcare system, often hosts pilgrims and religious students from Iran, where 12 people have died of the novel coronavirus since an outbreak there was first reported last week.

Iraq had blocked travel to and from the Islamic republic days before announcing a seminary student in Najaf was the country's first confirmed case.

Najaf's provincial health authority said the Iranian national had entered "before the ban



was declared" in a statement on Monday.

The deaths from the COVID-19 virus in Iran were the first in the Middle East and the country's toll is now the

highest outside mainland China, the epidemic's epicentre.

Chinese nationals have been barred from entering Iraq, despite it hosting several Chinese

oil companies.

Iraq also closed the only border crossing with Kuwait at Safwan, south of Basra, late Sunday evening, after Kuwait confirmed multiple

COVID-19 cases.

Concern has spread over social media networks in Iraq, with users expressing fears that the country cannot accommodate a coronavirus outbreak.

Many hospitals in the country are poorly equipped or in disrepair and there are less than 10 doctors for every 10,000 people, the World Health Organisation says.

The novel coronavirus has spread to more than 25 countries since it emerged in December and is causing mounting alarm due to new outbreaks in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

This week it reached Iran, Lebanon, Israel, Bahrain and Kuwait in the Middle East, with cases previously confirmed in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

Israel claims air strikes on Damascus airport area



JERUSALEM, FEB 24 (AFP): Israel said Sunday it struck bases of the Islamic Jihad militant group near Damascus, while Syria claimed that its air defences shot down "enemy missiles".

The Israeli army said in a statement that fighter jets "struck Islamic Jihad terror targets south of Damascus," following rocket fire from the Gaza Strip.

"In the Adeliyah region, outside of Damascus, an Islamic Jihad compound was struck, used as a hub of Islamic Jihad's activity in Syria," it added, while confirming a number of other strikes in Gaza.

Islamic Jihad operates in both the Palestinian territories and Syria and fired more than 20 rockets from Gaza throughout Sunday.

An AFP correspondent in Damascus heard several strong explosions shortly before midnight (2200 GMT).

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attacks were "near the Damascus international airport".

The Syrian state news agency Sana said "most of the enemy missiles were shot down before reaching their targets," stressing that "no airport" was struck.

Earlier Sana said the anti-air defences were activated against attacks "in the Damascus area".

Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria, mainly targeting government forces as well as allied Iranian forces and Hezbollah fighters.

It is rare for them to claim such strikes directly.

A missile attack blamed on Israel in mid-February killed three Syrian and four Iranian fighters in the Damascus airport area, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

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Bachchan sir and I are at loggerheads in 'Gulabo Sitabo': Ayushmann

MUMBAI, FEB 24 (PTI): Actor Ayushmann Khurrana describes his upcoming "Gulabo Sitabo" as a sweet, simple film about the banter between a tenant and a landlord.

The film reunites Ayushmann with director Shoojit Sircar, eighth years after their hit, "Vicky Donor" and also features megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

"Gulabo Sitabo" is an extremely simple film. It's a sweet film about the banter between a landlord and a tenant. I'm the tenant, Bachchan sir is the landlord and we are always at loggerheads. It's as simple as that.

"The magic is, sometimes you find simplicity most exciting in life and that's what the film is about," Ayushmann told PTI.

Set in Lucknow, "Gulabo Sitabo" is billed as a quirky family comedy, penned by Sircar's longtime collaborator Juhi Chaturvedi. They have worked together on "Vicky Donor", "Piku" and his last directorial venture "October".

Ayushmann, who teams up with Bachchan for the first time, says working with the 77-year-old actor was a learning experience.

"Bachchan sir is amazing. What I marvel about him is that he's so well prepared always. He will know your lines also. It is not easy to act in front of him. You have to be on your toes as a co-actor."

Ayushmann has, over the years, build an

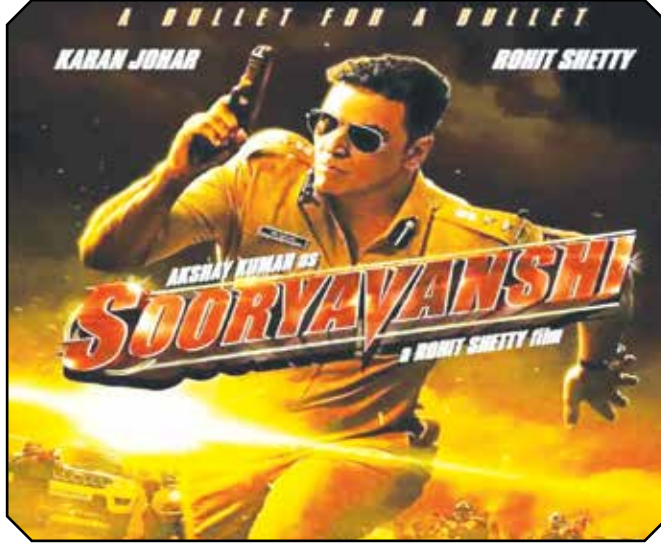


on screen image of doing socially relevant films, touching on topics ranging from balding to homosexuality.

The actor says he's "full of gratitude" for the work and love coming his way and feels for one to continue doing relatable films, it's important to keep an ear to the ground.

"It's important to know what's going around. I dwell on relatable subjects. If you are un-approachable with the common folk, then where will you get your fodder from? It becomes difficult but now I do it with an agenda. To look for good stories," he adds.

'Sooryavanshi' to release on March 24, to be screened 24x7 in Mumbai theatres



MUMBAI, FEB 24 (PTI): Filmmaker Rohit Shetty has advanced the release of his film "Sooryavanshi", featuring Akshay Kumar, by three days to March 24 following the Maharashtra government's decision to allow theatres to operate round-the-clock

Not going to make Indiana Jones unless we're in a position to kill it: Harrison Ford

LOS ANGELES, FEB 24 (PTI): Veteran Hollywood actor Harrison Ford says the team of his iconic franchise "Indiana Jones", will not start working on the much-awaited installment unless they have something new to offer.

The 77-year-old actor, who will reprise his role as the iconic adventurer in the new movie, said the team is currently facing some scheduling conflicts and is also finalising the script.

"We've got some scheduling issues, a few script things still to do but we're determined to get it right before we get it made. I don't really want to give them what they wanna see, I want to give them something they didn't anticipate seeing. "The Marvel movies are a spectacular example of a success that worked the other way round - they killed it. We're not going to make another Indiana Jones unless we're in a position to kill it. We want it to be the best," Ford told HeyUGuys.com.

"Indiana Jones 5" to be directed by Steven Spielberg, was originally announced three years ago and has gone through various delays since then.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull", released in 2008, was the last film from the beloved franchise.

Ford first played the part in 1981's "Raiders of the Lost Ark", which he followed up with "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (1984) and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" (1989).

Haven't lost faith: Karishma Tanna on her film career

MUMBAI, FEB 24 (PTI): Karishma Tanna says she hasn't lost hope for her movie career as the actor is confident that her hard work will pay off one day.

The actor, who started her journey as a TV star, has been trying to make her mark in movies but her efforts are yet to yield results.

"I want to do films. I know that has gone a little slow. But I haven't lost faith and I know there is room for everybody. Maybe my journey will start a little slower than other TV actors, who have gone into films. One day I am sure my hard work will pay off," Karishma told PTI.

The actor, who had supporting role in Ranbir Kapoor-starrer "Sanju", said the film had a positive impact on her career.

"Sanju" really changed things in a big way. I was happy as I was recognised in the film. A lot of directors and producers called me. People remember me for 'Sanju' and what I have done before that in films I want to wash out that," Karishma said.

The actor said she is looking out for one good role and film that, she believes, will forever change her career.

"The kind of positioning I want in films, I think god is still creating that, it is in the process. A good role, a good film, recognition and acknowledgement is what I am looking for in films. I want



to do more of acting oriented roles."

Like many before her, Karishma said she too has been typecast in movies and she is trying to break away from that image. "I have been on a constant point that I don't want to be typecast as a hot or good girl. I have tried to do different things and be an all-rounder. I consciously try to make that effort as people tend to see you in a particular way only. You have to push yourself," the actor said.

Karishma currently features in ac-

tion-adventure reality show "Khatron Ke Khiladi" and she said the aim behind her participation is to come face-to-face with her fears.

"I wanted to discover what my fears are, what I like and what I don't. I discovered that I am calm, I thought I am hyper and that can spoil the game but it didn't. Having done a show like this, I would love to do an action film."

Hosted by Rohit Shetty, the season ten of "Khatron Ke Khiladi" started airing on Colors Channel from February 22.



FURRY FASHION WEEK! The actors, Cara Delevingne and Orlando Bloom pose with Orlando's dog Mighty at the Hugo Boss Fashion Show.

Aries:

Wise words by Josh Kaufman, "For everything we don't like to do, there is someone out there who is really good, wants to do it, and will enjoy it." Aren't you tired of carrying the weight of the world around? It's time to change the game a little. In true Aries-style, hire and fire the right people. Think employees who are dedicated to your cause and will execute the task to perfection. A brilliant leader is one who is aware of their team's strengths.

Taurus:

The Divine order might seem chaotic and ever changing, but know that all things are planned to the minutest detail. Life has been designed as a never ending circle, with each ending giving rise to a new beginning, essentially making the concept of endings and beginnings redundant. Taurus, when you learn and accept this secret, you will be able to twirl freely in this dance of the Universe, enjoying the present moment instead of going back and forth between the past or future.

Gemini:

The reward has to be fair, not more. Gemini, the cause of the current conflict is that all parties involved are only looking out for themselves. The only way out is to drop your personal agendas and work towards the greater good. Take the lead by showing others what is more important in the long run. When everybody surrenders to the wisdom of the whole, disputes will become redundant. Know that each of you will deserve

a fair and equal share of the profits.

Cancer:

The new moon sis a time of intention setting. You are being provided with an opportunity to review your dreams and desires; to look at them in a brand new light. Today, as the moon disappears from sight, retreat into your own to have a conversation with the Universe. Set the tone of a new beginning. PS: The abundance and prosperity you have been working towards are on their way to you.

Leo:

It's funny how they refer to the intuition as the 6th sense when it is in fact our primary sense. Ever walked into a room and felt like something is just off? Or listened to a story somebody is narrating and instantly knew that it is out of alignment with the truth? Not everything can be explained by the rational mind. Sometimes the 'illogical' needs to be taken into consideration. Listening to your inner wisdom will prove to be the game changer.

Virgo:

When we refuse to acknowledge the troubles of the mind, the body decides to act up in unpleasant ways. If you find yourself falling sick too often, riddled with aches and pains, know that there is something deep within your psyche asking for help. Virgo, before you face the struggles of the coming week, take some time to listen to the wisdom in your bones.

Libra:

Monday blues, what? You wake up feeling like the most optimistic version of yourself. There is a deep inner knowing that the Universe is working overtime to help you manifest your best life. With additional support of your soul circle, there is nothing you cannot get through. But does that mean you have a roadmap or you know exactly what the next chapter of your life is going to look like? Anything but. Embrace the beauty of becoming. Revel in the magic that is the present.

Scorpio:

Aren't you tired of playing out multiple scenarios in your head? The Universal forces are by your side, helping you work through the obstacles and manifest your best life. Trust that the outcome will be in your favour. Chances are, the divine plan will surprise you by giving you more than you hoped for. Remember, commitment is the key here. Hold a steady vision of the destination and keep working diligently on your craft.

Sagittarius:

Life is not a big piece of pie, Sagittarius, with only a limited portion for everyone. If you continue to think that a bigger piece for someone else means a smaller one for you, you will forever be stuck with a sense of resentment and unhealthy competition. The Universe thrives on abundance and there is more than enough to go around. So part ways with the limited mentality that's blocking the flow and allow yourself to receive.

Capricorn:

Yes, we know there is no one quite like you and that

you have particularly high standards. But should that be the reason you take on all the responsibility on your shoulders or push yourself until you reach breaking point? Check yourself before you wreck yourself, Capricorn. Once again you're being asked to hire the right people and learn to delegate what's on your plate. Don't trust them enough to do their job? Share vision with the collective and see how you can empower them to work towards the common goals.

Aquarius:

Before you retaliate, take a minute to think about the source of this attack. Worrying about not receiving your fair share often makes us do things we would not be proud of. Rise above the ego space, Aquarius. Focus on the collective goals. As long as you are doing your bit, you will be taken care of. PS: The Universe has a plan for you and everything is unfolding in divine order.

Pisces:

If you took last week's Horoscope seriously, chances are you're reading this one somewhere in the hills with a cup of ginger-lemon tea by your side and a pop spirituality book for company. Didn't get the chance to escape the 'mundane world'? Head to the nearest park and spend some time connecting with Mother Nature. Practicing gentle movements inspired by yoga or Tai Chi will not only get oxygen to circulate freely through your body but also activate the release of those feel-good hormones.