

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Two-day
Kisaan
Sammelan
to be held in
Jorethang
& Gangtok**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 NOV:**

The state government has decided to convene a two-day long Kisaan Sammelan at Jorethang and Gangtok to kick off the second leg of organic farming mission in the state.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, while addressing the National Press Day function, said that the youth of the state should come forward as responsible citizens in changing mindsets towards farming.

He said that with rapid increase in world population, it has been estimated that the world may face acute food scarcity by 2050, food grains cannot be manufactured in factories and industries unlike machine made commodities.

Emphasising on the importance of food security as a priority sector of the SDF government, Mr Chamling said that it is the farmer who tills the land who ensures that these food grains reach the plates of the people, both rich and poor alike.

Gramin Patrakarita Puraskar conferred on OP Chettri

**CM ANNOUNCES
LATE KASHIRAJ
PRADHAN LIFETIME
JOURNALISM AWARD**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 NOV:**

Press Club of Sikkim conferred the Gramin Patrakarita Puraskar on Om Prakash Chettri of Namchi today on the occasion of National Press Day. Based out of Namchi, Mr Chettri's byline features often on important reports from the district and its more remote areas. He has been in journalism since 2008.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling presented the award consisting of cash award, citation and shawl to Mr. Chettri for his untiring efforts in reporting on various social issues of rural Sikkim.

While presenting the award the CM urged Mr Chettri to work hard and point out deficiencies where required.

The CM also handed over positive journalism grants to five journalists, Hem Subba, Pradeep Mizar, Yanchen Lepcha, Kunal Rai and Urgen Tamang.

While addressing the function, the Chief Minister also announced the introduction of two new awards. The first award has been instituted in the name of Late Kashiraj Pradhan who published the first newspaper in Sikkim called 'Kanchenjunga'.

Late Kashiraj Pradhan Lifetime Journalism Award for veter-



eran journalists of the state will and will be awarded every 2 carry cash award of Rs. 5 lakh years.



Centre to soon enhance Sikkim Assembly strength to 38: CM

**VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 16 NOV:**

The Centre has agreed to enhance the strength of Sikkim Legislative Assembly from 32 seats to 38 said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling while addressing the National Press Day function at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok today.

The Centre has given the green signal to enhance the strength of Sikkim Legislative Assembly to 38 to accommodate reserved seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities, stated the CM further expressing hope that the seat reservation pattern and enhancement of Assembly seats would materialize as early as by March next year.

The Limboo and Tamang communities were included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in 2003 by the Parliament. They have, however, still not received the ST reserved seats in Sikkim.

Countering the opposition parties on the

issue of corruption, Mr Chamling said that development and corruption cannot run concurrently as the pace of development in Sikkim is high.

He also urged the media to point out any discrepancies and lacunas in the implementation of various schemes across the state.

He also questioned the sincerity of some government officials working on the field and urged the public to be more vigilant on the same.

"The members of the fourth estate can act as overseers on behalf of the citizens and report appropriately in case of any irregularities in execution of Government works or any public matter. The current social and political issues like corruption, unemployment, communalism, etc should be dealt without any bias and correct and factual information should be disseminated to the readers," the CM said.

Smog-filled Indian, Pak cities could turn into dangerously unhealthy 'snow globes': NOAA

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, NOV 16 (PTI):

Smog-filled cities in north India and Pakistan will continue to experience dangerous level of air quality over the next several months, a top American atmospheric organisation has said, warning that these cities could turn into dangerously unhealthy "snow globes".

New Delhi and several other North Indian states have been enveloped with toxic smog for over a week, forcing authorities to enforce emergency measures such as banning construction activities and brick kilns.

Several cities in neighbouring Pakistan have also been experiencing bad weather conditions due to smog that have disrupted over 600 flights this month.

"This is just the start to the smog season in northern India and Pakistan, as the monsoon will last for much of the upcoming winter. That means there are plenty of more opportunities for cold, stagnant air to fill with pollution, turning cities into dangerously unhealthy snow globes," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in a statement yesterday.

NOAA released satellite pictures and explained the reasons behind such a polluting atmosphere in major parts of north India and Pakistan.

Widespread smog caused by the combustion of fuels, and the burning of crops and fires made it dangerous to be outside in cities in northern India and Pakistan, it said.



For air to get this polluted, in addition to needing a good amount of human help from the combustion of fuels and burning of crops and garbage, there needs to be specific atmospheric conditions that let the air remain still enough for pollution accumulate, it said.

"This stagnation occurs when there is an inversion layer in the atmosphere," NOAA said.

An inversion layer refers to instances where the air does not cool as one moves up in the atmosphere, it explained.

"Instead, warmer air sits on top of denser, colder air near the ground. Since that cold air has no place to go thanks to the warm lid placed atop it, it just sits there gathering pollution like a hazy snow-globe," NOAA said.

So, in late fall across the Indian Sub continent, the Northeast Monsoon is beginning to take hold, it said, adding that, the Northeast monsoon is driven by temperature differences between the land

and surrounding waters.

At this time of year, the large landmass to the north begins to cool down considerably forming a dense, cold air mass known as the Siberia high pressure system.

Meanwhile, the waters off of India remain warm. This contrast draws northerly winds across northern India, bringing cold air down off the Tibetan Plateau. The cold air settles into the valleys, creating inversions, NOAA said.

Referring to satellite images, NOAA said the widespread burning of crop fields in northern India contributed to dangerous levels of air pollution in cities across northern India and Pakistan.

At the US Embassy in New Delhi, hourly AQI values for PM2.5 taken on November 7 through 10 exceeded 500 with an astounding recording of 1010 at 4PM local time on November 8.

Hourly readings still peaked in the Hazardous category (301-500 AQI) through November 14.



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CABIN CREW / AIRHOSTESS / FLIGHT STEWARD	
DURATION	: 6 MONTHS
QUALIFICATION	: 12 TH PASS
FEES	: 1,45,000
PLACEMENT ASSIST	: MALE/ FEMALE



COURSE NAME : FLIGHT RADIO OFFICER	
DURATION	: 2 MONTHS
QUALIFICATION	: 10 TH / 10+2
FEES	: 60,000.00
STUDENT	: MALE/FEMALE



COURSE NAME : GROUND STAFF	
DURATION	: 6 MONTHS
QUALIFICATION	: GRADUATION
FEES	: 79000.00
STUDENT	: MALE/FEMALE



COURSE NAME : PROFESSIONAL MARINE COURSE	
DURATION	: 3 MONTHS
QUALIFICATION	: 10 TH / 12 TH
FEES	: 1,20,000.00
STUDENT	: MALE



UNDER MANAGEMENT OF
SAANVI ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

SKM alleges misuse of AMRUT Mission funds by State Govt

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 Nov:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has submitted a letter to the Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Department demanding the details of year-wise allocation of funds and detailed budget allocation in all the four districts under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation [AMRUT] Mission of Government of India, informs a press release issued by SKM press & publicity vice president, Birendra Tamling.

It may be mentioned here, AMRUT Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015 with the focus on urban renewal projects to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation.

The release adds that SKM suspects massive misuse of funds by the state government in the implementation of this mission. In order to know detailed data of funds and budgeting, the party has sought information from the concerned department.

Greetings from Sikkim BJP on National Press Day

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 Nov:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has expressed its best wishes to journalists and members of press and media of the State on the occasion of National Press Day. In a press release, the party has stated that the efforts, dedication and hardwork of media persons even in difficult situations has been appreciable. The party has assured to stand for the rights and interests of media persons and thanked them for their contribution towards the State and the nation.

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South Dist Officers Club celebrates first foundation day

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 16 Nov:

South District Officers Club, Namchi celebrated its first anniversary on Wednesday with a series of events to commemorate the club's foundation day, a press release informs.

The day kicked off with a lunch sponsored by the club for the monks of Dechen Choling Monastery.

The main event of the day was attended by Roads and Bridges Minister, GM Gurung

as the chief guest along with Namchi Municipal Corporation chairperson, Uday Rai, Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Corporation chairperson, Tika Gurung and the councilors of both the corporations.

A cake was cut to commemorate the day followed by a series of musical performances by the club members and the guest DJ.

The chief guest in his address appreciated the effort of District Collector [South], Raj Yadav for his initiative to bond

the officers and motivate them by founding the club. He went on to add that South District is the best performing district in Sikkim in all aspects.

He also proposed to introduce such initiatives in block level through respective Block Development Officers with involvement from the Panchayats to boost the spirit and performance from the grass root level.

General secretary Jigmey Namgyal presented the annual report of the club through an au-

dio visual multi-media presentation highlighting the events of the year.

The newly transferred Superintendent of Police [South], Shiva Prasad Rao and Assistant Superintendent of Police, Linda Palmo were welcomed by the club president, Raj Yadav in the club.

The programme also witnessed the distribution of awards to the best performing officers during the recently held Panchayat Elections, reads the release.



UDHD conducts workshop on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 16 Nov:

Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim under National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) conducted a daylong workshop and interaction session on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana for local bodies regarding loans and opportunities for the educated unemployed youth here at Singtam,

East Sikkim today.

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana or DAY is a Government of India scheme for helping the poor by providing skill training. Services like Self Help Group promotion, training centres, vendor markets, and permanent shelters for homeless will be provided under the scheme. The aim of the scheme is skill development of both rural and urban India as per requisite international standards.

Applicants who had applied for the scheme last year complained of rejection from the banks listed under the scheme.

The resource persons of the events explained that the banks listed under the scheme will provide funds under two categories - individual and SHGs. Individual applicants eligible for the scheme will receive credit up to Rs 01 lakh while SHGs will receive up to Rs 10 lakh with in-

terest of 7% per annum for both categories.

The applicants have to present the purpose and details of their project/organization after which the Urban Local Bodies and councillors will decide on whether the loan can be granted.

President and councillors from Rangpo Nagar Panchayat along with the councillors of Singtam Nagar Panchayat attended the workshop.

Mangan to shut down today in protest

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 16 Nov:

The entire town of Mangan will be shutting down on Friday in protest against work of constructing the new district hospital being awarded to a local contractor. The public have decided to take out a protest rally while taxis of Mangan Bazaar will also stay off the roads.

People of the North district headquarter want the hospital's construction to be undertaken by private companies as they are wary of local contractors given their bad track record in delivering quality work on time in the area.

The existing major building of the district hospital was declared unsafe after sustaining damages in the 2011 earthquake.



Legal awareness week observed in North

SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, NOV 16:

Legal Awareness week was observed by the District Legal Services Authority North. Bike Rally along with procession was carried out from District Courts Complex

to Mangan Bazaar, pamphlets and brochures were distributed. The general public of Mangan Bazaar was made aware of various legal rights by the panel advocates. The rally was flagged off by SP North, KL Tenzing.

ECI initiates special drive to enrol left out electors in WB

KOLKATA, NOV 16 (PTI): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a special drive in West Bengal to maximise enrolment of left out electors.

The drive, which began yesterday, will continue till November 30.

"Those who have attained at least 18 years of age or will attain 18 years as on January 1, 2018 and are otherwise eligible for enrolment, and yet have not applied during the special summary revision programme of electoral rolls recently, will be able to enrol themselves," ECI officials said here today.

As part of the special drive, the booth level officers (BLOs) would visit households, distribute and collect claim forms for enrolment during this period.

November 19 and November 26, both Sundays, would be observed as special campaign days.

On these dates, the booth level officers would remain present at all polling stations and receive filed up forms from the left out electors.

The toll free numbers at state and district call centres will be operational on all working and special campaign days to facilitate citizens about the special drive.

Forms will be available from the BLOs and also from the website of the state's chief electoral officer (CEO), an official said.

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ICAR-NOFRI empowers women farmers of Ladakh on organic crop production

GANGTOK, 16 Nov [PIB]: ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute [NOFRI], Tadong in collaboration with Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission, Rural Management & Development Department [Government of Sikkim] organized a training programme on organic crop production on 15 Nov in order to strengthen the basics of organic crop production system to 16 progressive women farmers of Leh-Ladakh.

Joint Director-ICAR NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, in his address, emphasized the need of good soil health in organic production system. He said that soil is the most important factor for balanced nu-



trition of plants and there is need to conserve the soil for sustaining productivity. He stressed upon the need for maximizing land use efficiency to get maximum benefit per unit area. He detailed on the 'concept of physico-chemical and microbiological properties of soil in relation to soil health' to the

progressive farmers.

Senior Scientist-Horticulture, Dr Ashish Yadav, coordinated the programme and detailed about the 'Organic management of fruits and vegetables'. He highlighted the importance of trench and double wall polynch for year round Organic vegetable production especially

at high altitudes. He also talked about the importance of seabuckthorn for sustaining livelihood at high altitudes.

Likewise, Senior Scientist-Agronomy, Dr Raghavendra Singh, emphasized on the need for proper maintenance of all cropped area by keeping them weed-free and crop rotation

with leguminous crops. He asked the farmers to grow vegetable pea/rajmash after maize harvest and mulch with locally available biomass in between the rows of crops.

Senior Scientist-Animal Reproduction, Dr Rafiqul Islam, discussed in detail about the backyard poultry and goat management techniques. He emphasized on the importance of Vanaraja birds which has gained popularity in Sikkim as backyard poultry. He also briefed about the disease management in backyard poultry.

Similarly, Scientist-Soil Science, Shaon K Das, briefed about the integrated Organic nutrient management in Organic crop produc-

tion system. He informed that soil pH plays significant role in proper uptake of nutrients. He also discussed about the different Organic sources of nutrients.

Scientist-Plant Pathology, Dr Shweta Singh, informed about the use of different Organic based formulations for managing the pests and diseases in crops. She also stressed on the importance of Trichoderma viride and Pseudomonas fluorescens for organic disease management in farmer's field.

During the training programme, all the members also visited the ICAR-NOFRI research farm and were briefed about the ongoing research and development activities.

**Gangtok on
Friday,
17 Nov**

Temp: 23°C /10°C
Forecast: Cloudy
and not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:57 AM
Sunset: 4:44 PM

Government approves continuation of four ICDS programmes

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (PTI): The government today approved the continuation of four programmes under its Integrated Child Development Scheme until November 2018.

The four schemes include anganwadi services, the programme for adolescent girls called Sabla, Child Protection Services and the National Creche Scheme.

As per a statement, the approval for the National Nutrition Mission, will be obtained separately.

The National Nutrition Mission, along with four schemes under the ICDS, is estimated to cost the government Rs 41,000 crores until November 2018.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also approved phased expansion of the scheme for out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years.

The Cabinet also decided to convert the National Creche Scheme from a programme implemented and entirely funded by the central government to a centrally-sponsored scheme with 60:40 cost sharing with states, 90:10 with north-eastern region and the Himalayan states and 100 per cent with the Union Territories.

WB State coordination committee members clash with police

KOLKATA, Nov 16 (PTI): Some members of the state coordination committee, an organisation of state government employees clashed with police at Salt Lake area here today when the cops stopped them near the Bikash Bhavan.

The incident happened this afternoon when a group of protesters led by state co-ordination committee, an organisation of state government employees affiliated to the CPI(M) marched to Bikash Bhavan in Salt lake area to submit a deputation demanding hike in salaries and pensions.

The activists were stopped by the police near Bikas Bhavan following which a scuffle broke out. The police has to use force to control the crowd during which some activists and police personnel were injured.

"Few police personnel were injured during the incident. Later on the situation was brought under control," a senior police official of Bidhanagar police commissionerate said.

Assembly of God & Wok XI in semis of Inter Church Football Tourney

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 16 Nov:**

Assembly of God, Gangtok and Wok XI have also secured their berth in the semi-final round of the ongoing 6th Sikkim Inter-Church Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium.

In the second quarter-final match played today, Assembly of God has outplayed Canaan Christian Fellowship, Deorali 3-0. Ashish Subba of Canaan Christian Fellowship has been awarded the title of Man of the Match.

In the third quarter-final match, Wok XI thrashed Himalayan Free Church, Ranka 11-2. Juha Yuwa of HFC Ranka has been ad-



judged as the Man of the Match. The last quarter-final match will be played between defending champion, Regu Horeb and EPCS Sang at 1 p.m. on 17 Nov.

Sikkim to participate in National Vijay Merchant Trophy for first time



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 Nov:**

A 15-member State team will be representing Sikkim in the upcoming BCCI National Vijay Merchant Trophy scheduled to commence on 01 Dec. The team

members are undergoing a two-week long training camp of Sikkim Cricket Association [SCA] at Mining cricket ground in Rangpo. The training camp has qualified coaches of SCA, Bikash Pradhan and Som Tsher-

ing Lepcha.

An SCA press release informs that the Sikkim team will be participating for the first time in Vijay Merchant Trophy. Till last year Sikkim was a part of the combined team of Bihar & North

East States. It is informed that last year Anwesh Kumar Sharma from Sikkim also played in the combined team.

The association has expressed its best wishes to the State team and support staff.

Bill Gates meets Rajnath

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (PTI): Microsoft founder Bill Gates today met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and discussed with him various welfare initiatives of the American philanthropies in India.

The meeting assumes significance as registration of one of the Indian NGOs, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), which has been working in the field of public health, was cancelled by the home ministry in April.

The Gates Foundation was one of the donors to this NGO.

The home minister met Gates, co-chair and trustee of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, here, an official statement said.

Singh appreciated the various welfare works being undertaken by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in India and he requested Gates to initiate health awareness programmes in India.

The home minister also suggested that the foundation should concentrate on developing villages and make them "model villages" so that the local people get inspired, the statement said.

Assuring constructive support to India, Gates also explained about the various technologies being adopted by them in the field of agriculture and sanitation, it said.

Asked whether the issue related to cancellation of licence to the PHFI came up during the discussion, a spokesperson of the Gates Foundation said in reply to a text message that "nothing of that sort



was discussed".

In an email statement, the spokesperson said Gates' meeting with the home minister focused on the progress made in the partnership with the government across the foundation's priority focus areas health, urban sanitation, digital financial inclusion and agricultural development.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to working collaboratively with the government of India in providing global and local technical expertise to advance the country's ambitious development goals, the statement said.

After the cancellation of the FCRA registration in April, the NGO was barred from receiving foreign funds.

As per the government rules, an organisation that intends to receive foreign funds must have registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act.

The action against the PHFI was taken after the home ministry

found that the NGO was allegedly violating provisions of the FCRA by "diverting" foreign funds for purposes other than intended for, another official said.

The PHFI claims it is a non-profit, public-private initiative working in the field of public health in India.

According to the PHFI website, the NGO was launched by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2006.

The NGO claimed that the governments of Gujarat, Telangana, Odisha, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Delhi are its supporters, besides Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other such bodies.

According to the PHFI website, they include Infosys Foundation, HT Parekh Foundation, HCL Corporation, Rohini Nilekani, Reliance Industries, GMR Projects Pvt. Ltd.

The PHFI claimed that the chairman of the executive committee of its governing body is Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy.



SCA members complete Cricket Umpire level 1 course

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 Nov:

Five members of Sikkim Cricket Association [SCA] have completed the Umpire level 1 course held from 13-16 Nov at Imphal in Manipur. The four-day course was organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] for North-Eastern States.

An SCA press release informs that the course was conducted by retired BCCI qualified international umpires

and BCCI umpire educators, Bhupinder Singh Bhati and Vilas Bandiwedkar. The course was attended by Karma Namgyal Bhutia, Sumit Shrestha, Gopal Prasad Gupta, Lhakmit Lepcha and Topden Wangchuk Lachungpa from Sikkim.

"Sikkim Cricket Association has now been equipped with qualified umpires to conduct matches in Sikkim. It's worth mentioning here that Sikkim is the only state having a lady member for the course," the release adds.

Conspiracy to murder left alliance candidates: Oli

KATHMANDU, Nov 16 (PTI): Nepal's former prime minister K P Oli today accused "some forces" of hatching conspiracies to assassinate the left alliance candidates in the country, hours after a Maoist Centre candidate was attacked.

Oli, 65, said the "forces" were panicked over the rising popularity of the left alliance.

The CPN-UML and the CPN-Maoist have forged electoral alliance for both the provincial and parliamentary elections to give a tough fight to ruling Nepali Congress, which emerged as the largest party in the last parliamentary elections.

Oli's remarks came after unidentified men hurled a bomb at Narayan Kaji Shrestha, CPN-Mao-

ist Centre leader and the leftist alliance's candidate for Parliamentary elections in Gorkha-2. Shrestha escaped unhurt in the attack.

Speaking at a programme in Bhaktapur district near here, Oli said some "some forces" were hatching conspiracies against the left alliance and suspected the government's involvement in the attack. He questioned as to why only left alliance candidates were being targeted.

Last week, unidentified men hurled two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at CPN (Maoist-Centre) leader and minister in Nepal's Deuba government Jannardan Sharma's vehicle while he was on his way for election campaigning

in Rukum district.

Oli also expressed concern over the alleged arbitrary distribution of Rs 230 million to the ruling party cadres from the state coffers.

"Is there any connection between these two?" Oli asked.

The general and parliamentary elections in Nepal - scheduled for November 26 and December 7 - are seen as the final step in Nepal's post-war transition to a federal democracy.

The Maoists have dominated Nepal's politics for more than 20 years after waging a decade-long insurgency against the government forces that claimed more than 16,000 lives.

The civil war in Nepal came to an end in 2006.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

This Winter, Work on the Schools

Prioritise repair & renovation to prove to children that we care

The final examinations will soon begin in schools across the State. The end of the year exams come with their attendant features of reduced attendance in government offices [with parents keeping busy preparing their wards], but that is not what we are getting into here. This is that time of the year when the School Management Committees and the Human Resource Development Department should be at their busiest. If they are not, then parents with children who will be returning to poorly provided for schools next year should start exerting some pressure.

Schools will be closed for more than two months shortly and the dry winter months are a good time for repairs and renovation. It is no secret that there are many government schools which could do with some repairs and renovation. What every school management committee should do now is take stock and submit a wish-list with the Department which controls the purse-strings. It is possible that this [tabling of requirements] is a routine that is played out every year before the winter vacations, it is after all a logical thing to do, but this year, for a change, maybe it should rise above such annual tokenism. SMCs should make the concerned school heads forward a precise enumeration of what is required at their institution by way of infrastructure for the next academic session to begin on a brighter note. Probably the pressure of arranging for the advance salaries keeps the Department busy at this time of the year and by the time this ritual is taken care of, the holiday mood has kicked in and the concerns mentioned earlier get carried forward to the next session.

It would, however, be a good idea to prioritise upkeep of the schools this year. The Department should organise meetings at the district level to discuss the requirements, budget provisions and priority lists in consultation with the in-charge of schools and the management committees; even set up a monitoring committee and announce another meeting for the week before the schools reopen to take stock of progress made. If things go well, students might actually enjoy the first day in school next year, as definitely would the teachers and the staff if they arrived at schools which have been considerably appointed to facilitate learning in comfortable environs. Worth giving it a shot, isn't it?

Need For Pedestrian Bridge near Holy Cross School

Dear Editor,
"LONDON BRIDGE is falling down, falling down, falling down. London Bridge is falling down, my fair lady..." Thankfully some things only happen in nursery rhymes, for if the London bridge were to actually fall down, it would bring about 68,000 people who cross that bridge every day to a grinding halt. Or at least make life very inconvenient for them! That's how important pedestrian bridges can be!

Traffic in Gangtok is well-maintained and the praise goes to the Traffic Department of Sikkim Police, headed by Mrs. Ongmu. However, it is a matter of great concern and apprehension for the students of Holy Cross School, Tadong and some schools in and around Gangtok for the need of Pedestrian bridges. Being a student of Holy Cross School, Tadong I would like to pen down some points on the exigency of Foot Bridge near our school.

More than 1800 students study in Holy Cross School,

Tadong and we need to cross from one side of a busy road to the other. Yes, there is a traffic personnel appointed by the school but there is a fine chance of a mishap. If there was a Pedestrian Bridge, the fear of an accident would not have been there. Back in 2015, when there were the Municipal Elections for Ward Councilors, the party currently

in power had evidently mentioned in their election manifestos about the building of Pedestrian bridges near Holy Cross School and Tadong SSS. Yes, the work is going on at Tadong SSS but the same cannot be seen at our school. Traffic of the town would also be maintained if a Pedestrian bridge was constructed. Even if some fraction of funds spent in the beautification of the 'Butterfly Flyover' will be spent then we would be very much gratified towards the Government of Sikkim.

Yours etc,

**Rishal Chettri and
Aditya Chettri
Class 9, Holy Cross School.**



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Opinion

After coup, will Zimbabwe see democracy or dictatorship?

STEVEN FELDSTEIN
theconversation.com

For decades, Robert Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe in a ruthless, even reckless manner. Over nearly 40 years, he turned the "jewel of Africa" into an economic basket case that's seen inflation of up to 800 percent.

Then, late in the night of Nov. 14, the country's security services detained and put Zimbabwe's 93-year-old president under house arrest in what appeared to be a military coup. The whereabouts of his powerful wife, Grace, are unconfirmed.

Much remains unclear at this early stage. Will violence erupt? Is this really the end of the Mugabe era?

I don't know the answers to those questions yet. I'm not sure even Vice President Emerson Mnangagwa, who appears to have orchestrated Mugabe's overthrow, knows how his gambit will turn out.

But with each passing hour, it is increasingly evident that Zimbabwe – a country whose politics I spent uncountable hours grappling with as a State Department official – is poised to see its first real leadership transition since 1980.

SETTING THE STAGE FOR ZIMBABWE'S COUP
For decades, Mugabe's grip on Zimbabwe was iron-clad. Even when challenged by an invigorated opposition in 2008, he kept the presidency by entering into a nominal power-sharing agreement. After a decisive electoral victory in 2013, though, he cast the coalition aside.

But as the elderly president grew increasingly frail this year, the power struggle to succeed him became frenzied. Two major camps were vying for power.

Vice President Emerson Mnangagwa, who as a soldier fighting for Zimbabwe's liberation earned the nickname "the crocodile," represented the old guard. The 75-year-old enjoyed strong military backing, particularly from the veterans' association, a powerful coalition of former combatants from Zimbabwe's independence struggle which began in 1964 and ended in 1979.

Last year, the group broke with Mugabe in a public letter, declaring that he had "presided over unbridled corruption and downright mismanagement of the economy, leading to national economic ruin." Many believed that Vice President Mnangagwa orchestrated the group's letter as a shot across the bow to warn would-be rivals.

The second camp jockeying to control Zimbabwe before the coup was led by Mugabe's current wife, Grace Mugabe. At a relatively spry 53, she represented the younger generation, drawing significant support from the ruling party's loyalist Youth League and from an informal grouping of emerging leaders known as "Generation 40."

But Grace Mugabe was deeply unpopular



among ordinary Zimbabweans, who called her "Gucci Grace" because of her extravagant spending. Plus, she had a reputation for cruelty. Earlier this year, the president's wife faced accusations of beating a 20-year old South African model with an electric cable.

In September, after Vice President Mnangagwa was emergency airlifted to South Africa due to a strange illness, Grace Mugabe had to publicly deny, on state TV, that she had poisoned her rival.

As recently as early November, it appeared that Grace's camp had prevailed. President Mugabe sacked Mnangagwa, who fled to South Africa. Mnangagwa, it seems, had a different plan. While in exile, he stayed in touch with his military allies.

On Nov. 14, Mnangagwa's camp struck back. By the next morning, Mugabe was under house arrest, his wife had reportedly fled to Namibia seeking asylum and Mnangagwa's cohort appeared to control the country.

DEMOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP?

At least, that's the picture right now. Events have moved swiftly in the last 24 hours, and some big questions remain unanswered.

If Mnangagwa officially takes power, the first unknown is whether he will rule by fiat or cobble together a transitional government. It's unclear whether Mnangagwa and his allies have any real interest in introducing democracy to Zimbabwe. To do so, they would need to hold an election within a reasonable period of time, say six months.

Military coups don't have a promising track record of ushering in democracy. Recent scholarship finds that while "democratization coups" have become more frequent worldwide, their most common outcome is to replace an incumbent dictatorship with a "different group of autocrats."

Signals in Zimbabwe are mixed so far. Experts generally describe the latest developments as "an

internecine fight" among inner-circle elites and ask two key questions: Which side will prevail, and will violence break out?

In my assessment, the answers hinge on Mnangagwa, a hard-nosed realist and survivor who was critical in securing Mugabe's four-decade rule. Mnangagwa has an appalling human rights record. Many consider him responsible for overseeing a series of massacres between 1982 and 1986 known as the "Gukurahundi," in which an estimated 20,000 civilians from the Ndebele ethnic group perished.

More recently, in 2008, civil society groups accused Mnangagwa of orchestrating electoral violence against the political opposition and rigging polls in Mugabe's favor.

It is also true that Mnangagwa is massively invested in ensuring his continued and unfettered access to power, which has proven highly lucrative for him. The vice president is "reputed" to be one of Zimbabwe's richest people. All of this suggests he might become yet another dictator.

'UNITY' FOR ZIMBABWE?

Nonetheless, reports indicate that Mnangagwa is currently talking to several opposition parties about potentially forming a transitional government.

A key stakeholder in any such arrangement would be Morgan Tsvangirai of the Movement for Democratic Change, who served as prime minister to Mugabe as part of the 2009 power-sharing agreement.

That coalition achieved some success on economic matters, but Mugabe's party never relinquished any real authority. Mnangagwa was among those who clung to power back then, but I believe he might play things differently now. Mnangagwa is no reformer, but he does need to find ways to bolster his legitimacy. Not to mention he will quickly need to confront Zimbabwe's massive economic woes.

The choices that Zimbabwe's political leadership makes in the coming weeks will have immense consequences for the future of a country whose development has stagnated under 40 years of authoritarian rule.

Real transitions in Zimbabwe are all too rare. Mugabe led the country to independence in March 1980, assumed the presidency and never left. His demise represents a chance for a political reset.

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Colombia: how universities can help to build lasting peace

JOSE MANUEL RESTREPO
ABONDANO & RAJANI NAIDOO
theconversation.com

After more than 50 years of conflict, the recent peace agreement in Colombia marks a historic ceasefire between the government and rebel groups. It also poses great challenges, as the various parts of Colombian society learn to adjust.

The country's universities have their own special role to play in the transition. This includes admitting former guerrillas into higher education and proving real support to victims of violence. Universities can provide opportunities for reconciliation between former enemies.

According to a non-official source from the Agencia para la Reinserción y la Normalización (Colombian agency for reincorporation and standardisation), around 500 former combatants from armed groups have enrolled in Colombian universities.

There is a great deal of diversity within their ranks – particularly from former members of FARC, the largest guerrilla group. Now students, they are, for the most part, men and women from poor rural communities. Many of them were recruited at a very young age, sometimes before turning 15. And after 50 years of warfare, some have spent most of their adult life in guerrilla organisations.

Given this diversity, some will need literacy and basic education in order to move on to technical and professional education. Others will need to enrol in educational programs to acquire technical skills, which will allow them to apply for jobs and join the formal economy. A smaller group of ex-combatants, who may have had a stronger academic background when they joined the armed groups, will enrol directly into universities.



Former members of FARC receive diplomas from Javeriana University of Cali in July 2017.

Whichever part of the education system the FARC ex-combatants join, the main challenge will be supporting them as they develop cognitive, practical and subject specific skills – as well as social skills linked to democratic citizenship.

Universities need to adapt the traditional model of university education to incorporate the experiences of these people. Previous worldwide experiences of working with the marginalised young has shown the importance of acknowledging the social, political and cultural identities of such students – and also taking seriously the knowledge and skills they bring to enrich the university community.

But the universities cannot do this alone. A successful process will require the collaboration of national and local governments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector to ensure education leads to real opportunities and rebuilding lives.

Nor can universities blindly accept ex-combatants without think-

ing carefully about the wider impact on the university community. The blurred line between victims and perpetrators requires careful thought about communal spaces and possible scenarios of segregation, which could generate new tensions.

The overall aim is to move away from simplistic understandings of "good" and "bad" people and to recognise the complexity of the post-conflict era. In recognising the humanity of the "other", we can make the university community grow among all the differences.

NEW SKILLS

Universities have the power not only to educate, but also to help transform an unequal social system. This will require training teachers to adopt a more inclusive approach to education, promoting moral reflection and allowing for participation, criticism, creativity – and even protest – as ways to promote innovation and change.

There is no doubt that academic institutions can be a point of conver-

gence between former rebels and society, and assist in the successful reintegration of former guerrillas into civil and political life. The details of a renewed relationship between universities and former rebels are yet to be fully determined – and many questions need to be asked.

Should former combatants be given open admission to universities and be allowed to merge within the student bodies? Should there be preferential treatment or tailored programs to satisfy ex-combatants' specific demands from academic institutions? Rather than simply incorporating ex-combatants, should universities enter into dialogue with ex-combatants as a specific interest group in society?

These debates are just getting started.

While Colombia appears to be a special case, many other countries face the problem of growing numbers of disaffected young men and women who need to be given hope and real opportunities to play a positive role in society. England for example has rising numbers of young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training while poverty, lack of jobs, poor education and family breakdown lead in countries like South Africa to violent youth gangs.

The innovations happening in Colombian universities offer important insights into how universities can transform themselves – and take greater responsibility for educating and reintegrating those who are currently excluded and overlooked.

[Jose Manuel Restrepo Abondano is President and Rector, Universidad de Rosario; Rajani Naidoo is Professor and Director, International Centre for Higher Education Management, School of Management, University of Bath]

Nagaland launches PoS for electricity bill payments

KOHIMA, Nov 16 (PTI): Nagaland today became the first among the North Eastern states to launch Point of Sale (PoS) for electricity bill payment.

The PoS facility was formally launched by State Chief Secretary, Pankaj Kumar, at Kohima Electrical Sub-division-1 here this morning.

Through the PoS, a consumer can make cashless payment of the electricity bills, which is in line with the country's digitisation drive, said Nagaland's Commissioner and Secretary of Power Department, K D Vizo.

In his address, Chief Secretary Kumar said "The PoS will be advantageous for both the consumer and power department as it will help consumers make cashless payments and ensure cash accountability for the department."

Lamenting that the department has been losing around Rs 150 crore annually due to non-payment of bills by consumers, he appealed to the citizens to pay sincerely.

He also urged the department to make efforts towards improving the billing and collection efficiency. On high electricity charges, the Chief Secretary expressed hope that once collection improves, the government will cut down the present tariff.

Chief Engineer of Power Department, Khose Sale said that PoS services will be extended to other major cities and districts of the state.

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Assam's JAA and NUJI demands Journalists Protection Act

GUWAHATI, Nov 16 (PTI): The Journalist Association of Assam (JAA) and the National Union of Journalists India (NUJI) today demanded a Journalist Protection Act to ensure safety of journalists.

JAA president Dharendra Nath Chakravatty and its working president Dalim Phukan along with NUJI East Zone secretary-cum-general secretary of JAA Bhupen Goswami made this demand while conveying their greetings and wishes to the media fraternity of the state on National Press Day being celebrated across the country today.

A statement from the two unions said, "In the last 12 years

seven media houses and 837 journalists have been attacked as reported by IFJ. So we need a protection act immediately. It is urgent that we create this legislation if we want to maintain our position as a world leader on press freedom".

"Law enforcement agencies and our government are failing to protect the ability of journalists to do their job", they asserted.

"The media is now the nerve centre of our society" and that it plays a vital role in disseminating information to the people. With its commitment to uphold truth, probity, and objectivity, media is helping in building up

a just and corruption-free society," they said.

NUJI and JAA also issued a statement calling for the state's media fraternity to showcase and promote the rich cultural, religious, adventure and natural potentials of the state and its unique identity of unity in diversity.

Stating media is responsible for upholding the right to freedom of speech, they stressed on self-regulation by the Fourth Estate.

"Freedom of expression is a universal human right.

It is not the prerogative of the politician. Nor is it the privilege of the journalist. In their day-to-

day work, journalists are simply exercising every citizen's right to free speech", they pointed out.

"A free press is fundamental to a democratic society.

It seeks out and circulates news, information, ideas, comment and opinion and holds those in authority to account.

The press provides the platform for a multiplicity of voices to be heard", they said.

"There is a need to enhance the punishment, as presently the accused in such cases can get bail easily.

The need of the hour is to ensure that honest officials work efficiently," they added.



Footfall triples at Meghalaya's cherry blossom festival

SHILLONG, Nov 16 (PTI): Footfall at this year's India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Meghalaya has tripled compared to last year's count, making it one of the most popular events for tourists in the state, officials said.

The festival was held during November 8-11 at the scenic Wards Lake, dotted with pink and white cherry blossoms, and at the Polo Grounds where tourists watched shows depicting local culture, and tasted food and brew of the region.

"There were 35,556 adults and 1,343 children who visited the Wards Lake during the four-day festival period, and a total of Rs 3.74 lakh was collected as entry fees," state Forest and Environment Secretary A Mawlong told PTI.

The footfall during the festival period has "tripled" as compared to 2016, the first year of the event, he said.

The fee collection amount at the venue, too, more than doubled from Rs 1.4 lakh last year, the official said.

The number of visitors at Polo Grounds was nearly 60,000 on all the four days, as against about 20,000 a year ago, an official of the Institute of Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) said.

The festival is an initiative of the Imphal-based IBSD, and is jointly organised with the Forest and Environment Department of the state.

In countries like Japan, US, Switzerland and Korea, such events are usually organised in spring.

Administration biased against us alleges ABGL

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, Nov 16:

Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League's newly appointed president SK Pradhan visited the residence of founder of ABGL Late Dambar Singh Gurung at 11th Mile today. A meeting was also called with the party leaders at the same

venue.

This was SK Pradhan's first visit to Kalimpong after being chosen as the president of ABGL. He spoke to reporters wherein he made the party's stand clear regarding the issue of Gorkhaland.

The president of the party also informed that ABGL will be participat-

ing in the march to be held on 24 Nov in Delhi which will be organised by the Gorkhaland Sangkutta Sangharsa Samati (GSSS).

Meanwhile, Mr Pradhan, speaking on the present scenario of the hills rued that they have not been able to hold public meetings in the

hills because of the administration's biases.

Later, Pratap Khati, the general secretary of ABGL, alleged that the parties affiliated to Mamta Banerjee get permissions easily but not parties like the Gorkha League.

"Binay, Anit and GNLF get to hold public meet-

ings but permission to Gorkha League is often denied, why?" questioned Mr Khati accusing the administration of partiality.

It was informed that thrice they have asked for permission to hold a meeting in Darjeeling and have been denied.



Prachanda slams Nepal govt for scrapping Budhi Gandaki project

KATHMANDU, Nov 16 (PTI): Nepal's former prime minister and CPN (Maoist Center) chief Prachanda today criticised the government's move to scrap a deal with China's state-owned Gezhouba Group Co Ltd (CGGC) company regarding the 1200 MW Budhi Gandaki Hydroelectricity Project.

Speaking at a function in Bharatpur of Chitawan district in southern Nepal, he said Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's government has committed a "mistake" by revoking the deal.

The deal for the USD 2.5 billion Budhi Gandaki Hydroelectric Project in Gorkha and Dhading districts, the biggest hydropower project in the landlocked country facing acute energy crisis, was signed in June.

The project was touted as a key project to resolve the perennial power crisis in the country.

On Monday, a cabinet meeting decided to revoke the decision taken by the erstwhile Prachanda-led government.

"This is a testimony that the government is not working for the country's economic development and prosperity, but for its parochial political interests," Prachanda said.

He said it was wrong to revoke the de-

cision taken by the former government as it was done in the presence of the Chinese company and the representatives of the government of China as well.

"In the context of Nepal, Budhi Gandaki, which has been recognised as a national pride project, is an extremely ambitious project. The success of this project could have heralded economic revolution in the country," Prachanda said.

He also said that his party was not consulted before the decision, though they are also in the cabinet.

Nepal's hydropower potential has been estimated to be around 84,000 MW, of which 43,000 MW has been identified as economically viable. Currently, Nepal's installed hydropower capacity is just 753 MW, according to the International Hydropower Association (IHA).

In February 2016, the Nepal government had declared 2016-26 as the 'national energy crisis reduction and electricity development decade' with ambitious targets to end the current power shortages within three years and to spearhead further development in the hydropower sector, the UK-based IHA said. At present the total supply of electricity to Nepal from India is about 400 MW.

High Powered Committee of Meghalaya Assembly scraps tender for new building

SHILLONG, Nov 16 (PTI): The High Powered Committee (HPC) of the Meghalaya Assembly has today scrapped the tender for construction of the new Assembly building.

The HPC has asked the Public Works Department (PWD) to go for fresh tenders at the earliest after scrapping the tender.

"The HPC had decided to scrap the tender as one of the bidders quoted a rate too low and over 15 per cent lower than the bid value. After analysing we felt it would not be possible for the firm to do justice with the project keeping in view quality control and other related issues," Assembly Speaker A T Mondal told PTI.

He said the PWD recently opened the price bid after three firms - Simplex Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, Gautam construction Pvt Ltd and Shapoorji Pallonji Co & Ltd - qualified in the technical bidding.

Mondal who chaired the HPC said that the bid value was Rs 105 crore

and Gautam Constructions quoted 15.01 per cent less than the bid value whereas Shapoorji Pallonji Co & Ltd quoted 29.92 per cent more than bid value and even Simplex Infrastructure quoted 21.90 per cent more of the bid value.

The PWD department asked the lowest bidding firm to justify its quoted price and after analysing the PWD suggested that the bid value was too low to complete the building considering the cost escalation in the present market and the impact of new taxes.

The HPC has now asked PWD to go for fresh tenders at the earliest.

The HPC has already approved the building design and an 80 acre plot was allocated at the New Shillong Township in Mawdiangdiang, about 12 km from here.

The new assembly building was necessitated after the heritage Assembly building at Khynchaidlad area was gutted in an inferno in 2001.

Rohingya can return only if Myanmar's "real citizens" accept: army

YANGON, Nov 16 (AFP): Rohingya refugees cannot return to Rakhine state until "real Myanmar citizens" are ready to accept them, the country's army chief said today, casting doubt over government pledges to begin repatriating the persecuted Muslim minority.

More than 600,000 Rohingyas are languishing in Bangladeshi refugee camps after fleeing a brutal Myanmar army campaign launched in late August.

The UN says the scorched-earth operation, which has left hundreds of villages burned to ash in northern Rakhine state, amounts to ethnic cleansing of the state-



less minority.

But Myanmar's hardline army chief Min Aung Hlaing has steadfastly denied all allegations of abuse, insisting troops only targeted Rohingya insurgents.

He has also taken to Facebook throughout the crisis to fan anti-Rohingya sentiment among the Buddhist public, branding the Muslims as foreign interlopers from Bangladesh despite many having

lived in Rakhine for generations.

Today he signalled repatriation of the Rohingyas was a long way off, saying their return must first be accepted by ethnic Rakhine Buddhists

-- many of whom loathe the Muslim minority and are accused of aiding soldiers in torching their homes.

"Emphasis must be placed on wish of local Rakhine ethnic people who are real Myanmar citizens. Only when local Rakhine ethnic people accept it, will all the people satisfy it (sic)," the statement, written in English, said on his Facebook page.

The army commander also said Myanmar would not allow the return of all Rohingyas in Bangladesh, a country that was already hosting hundreds of thousands of the minority from previous waves of persecution.

"It is impossible to accept the number of persons proposed by Bangladesh," the army statement said, after branding the refugees as "terrorists" who fled with their families.

The general's comments came a day after he met with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who yesterday called on the army to support efforts to return "all refugees", adding that the reports of widespread atrocities by Myanmar's soldiers were "credible".

Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed in principle to begin repatriation but are still tussling over the details. Questions are mounting

over how many Rohingyas will be allowed to return, where they will live after they homes have been burned down and how they will coexist peacefully among ethnic Rakhine neighbours.

Tensions between the two groups have simmered for years, erupting into bouts of bloodshed in 2012 that pushed more than 100,000 Rohingyas into grim displacement camps.

The Muslim minority has for years suffered under discrimination from a government that denies them citizenship and severely restricts their access to work, healthcare and education.

NPS organizes Swachh Bharat & Swachh Sikkim Cross Country Race

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 Nov:

National Service Scheme Club of Namchi Public School organized a Cross Country Race with the theme 'Make a difference with Your Run' in Namchi today as a part of Swachh Bharat & Swachh Sikkim Mission, a press release informs.

The cross country race was organized in three categories for girls and boys namely sub juniors, juniors and seniors category. The starting point for the sub junior girls and boys was Bhaichung Stadium, Allay with Chaar Dhaam Phatak being the starting point for juniors and Helipad in Namchi for seniors. The finishing point for all three races was Central Park, Namchi.

Large number of school students took part in the race and the first, second and third in all three categories were awarded with medals.

Superintendent of Police-South, Y Shiv Prasad, president-Sikkim Football Association, Binod Rai, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Namchi, Sunil Mothey, Divisional Engineer-Water Resource & Research Department, Rinzing D Gyaltsen Bhutia, Municipal Executive Officer-Namchi, Rajiv Rai, District Sports Officer-South, Basant Pradhan, attended the event as guests of honour.



Principal of NPS, Fr George A D'Souza, on behalf of the school, has extended gratitude to Chief Medical Officer-Namchi District Hospital, Dr Sharda Rai, for providing logistical help and for arranging medical fitness test for the students,

Police Inspector-Namchi Police Station, Kesang Bhutia, for providing vehicle and Police personnel for smooth conduct of the event, Sikkim Nationalised Transport for providing the bus service, parents and others who helped in suc-

cessfully organizing the event.

It is further informed in the release that NPS plans to organize similar events in large scale in the near future to make Sikkim a model State not only in India but outside as well.

Oxford launches first-ever Hindi word of the year

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (PTI): Oxford Dictionaries will have a Hindi word of the year for 2017.

The Hindi word of the year will be a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of interest this year. The chosen word should reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the year. It is not necessarily a new word, but should be one that is strongly linked somehow to 2017.

This word of the year will be announced in January 2018.

Oxford Dictionaries has called on Hindi speakers across the country to help choose the word. Submissions need to be made before November 29.

Following the public suggestions, the word will be chosen by the Hindi Dictionaries team at Oxford University Press (OUP) along with an advisory panel of language experts who each bring a unique perspective.

The panel includes writer-publisher Namita Gokhle, Indian language expert Kritika Agrawal, journalist Saurabh Dwivedi, senior editorial manager at OUP India

Malika Ghosh, and Ranchi University associate professor Poonam Nigam Sahay.

Kritika Agrawal, language champion for Oxford's Hindi Living Dictionary, says that the Hindi word of the year is a big leap forward for the Hindi language as it aims to highlight the social and cultural relevance of Hindi in the current context.

"It is the campaign's endeavour to alter perceptions about languages being a living intangible heritage and not merely a static tool of communication. I am delighted to be a part of, and to promote, a wonderful initiative as this," she says.

Oxford says it has been creating dictionaries for over 150 years and its dictionary editors in India and around the world have developed expertise in monitoring how language is used by real people.

"To further supplement our research we're both calling on Hindi speakers across India to send us their word of the year suggestions and consulting with a panel of experts from a range of backgrounds," it says.

Revamped ISL set for kick off, look to sustain momentum

KOCHI, Nov 16 (PTI): Optimism will mingle with curiosity when the revamped Indian Super League's fourth season kicks off in Kochi, in southern India's state of Kerala, on Friday, with more teams and home-grown players seeking to cash in on the euphoria generated by the country's maiden FIFA event.

The ISL will now be a four-month drill -- double the length of the previous three editions.

Defending champions ATK and Kerala Blasters, who lost to the rechristened unit from the eastern Indian in last year's summit showdown, will start the proceedings at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the venue for the 2016 final.

Now considered the country's top-tier league, the winner of which will get a direct spot in the AFC Cup (Asia's equivalent of Europe's Europa League), it remains to be seen if it is able to sustain the interest and momentum generated by the U-17 World Cup last month.

Two more teams have been added this season -- the brand new Jamshedpur FC, backed by the Tata group, and the highly professional Bengaluru FC, making the switch from the I-League.

With the league, which was conceptualised with an aim to make the global sport more popular in the cricket-mad nation, getting recognition from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), it was logical on the part of Bengaluru FC to make the switch.



Often cited as an example of professionalism in Indian football, Bengaluru FC have been the most successful I-League club in recent years, winning it twice and finishing runner-up once.

More Indian players, more teams, more matches and more months - this is already being touted an ISL with a difference.

Another change in the league is that it has done away with the requirement of mandatory signing of a marquee player, the rule due to which India has been graced by the likes of World Cup winning stars such as Alessandro Del Piero, Marco Materazzi and Roberto Carlos.

Though the ISL has slashed the number of highly-paid foreign recruits, teams like ATK still have on board former Manchester United star Dimitar

Berbatov and Robbie Keane, an ex-Tottenham Hotspur forward. As the focus has now shifted to nurturing home-grown players, teams are now required to have at least six Indians on the field.

While more Indian players will get more playing-time now, off it the number of foreign coaches will still dominate.

Prominent among them are Teddy Sherringham, who has won three Premier League titles and scored the equaliser in Manchester United's famous 2-1 Champions League victory over Bayern Munich in 1999, and former Real Madrid midfielder Miguel Angel Portugal.

The 51-year-old Sherringham joined reigning champions ATK in July, while Portugal is helming Delhi Dynamos.

The move to field more Indian players in the playing XI is a wise one, reckoned Sherringham and Chennaiyin coach

John Gregory.

"I think it's a good decision to have six Indians on the pitch at all times and it means Indians getting more chances to play and show their skills," the former Manchester United legend had said.

Gregory added, "We don't have a marquee signing this year but you will see that we have invested our money in young Indians who will not just come on for 10 minutes, but will form an integral part of my squad this season."

NorthEast United's coach Jo Carlos Pires de Deus was surprised by the quality of Indian footballers.

"You ask me if the Brazilians in my team will produce magic... but what is magic? It's not limited to Brazilians. Even the Indian players in our team are very skillful and can produce a lot of magic," Deus said.

As far as the opening game is concerned, ATK's rivalry with Kerala Blasters has grown over the past few seasons.

Sherringham described the Blasters as the biggest threat to ATK's ambitions.

ATK will be without their star signing Keane, who is nursing an Achilles injury and will not be part of the opening game.

Chennaiyin FC, Mumbai City FC, FC Pune City, NorthEast United FC and FC Goa complete the line-up.

The final is slated for March 17 in Kolkata.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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Happy to play on a testing wicket, says Bangar after tough day

KOLKATA, Nov 16 (PTI): India assistant coach Sanjay Bangar today said the team looks forward to playing in challenging conditions like it experienced today at the Eden Gardens, ending at 17 for three on a rain-hit day one of the first Test against Sri Lanka.

Recalling their Test win against New Zealand here last year, Bangar said the current Indian side thrives on challenges. "We are happy to play on wickets like this. A team doesn't really want to play on easy conditions. We challenge ourselves and most players are open to such challenges. We want to continue improving as a team," said Bangar after the day's play in which just 11.5 overs could be bowled due to wet conditions.

"It was a similar wicket last year, after it was relaxed.

We played the Test really well and applied ourselves. We are ready for the challenge."

Bangar rued that rain interruptions did not help them to consolidate their innings after a bad start.

Only one-hours' play was possible in two curtailed sessions and Sri Lanka made the most of it with Suranga Lakmal striking thrice without conceding a run in six overs.

"The conditions were pretty tough for batting and what didn't really help

us was we did not get an extended passage for play wherein you had 15-20 overs bowled at a batsman in a particular fashion. It didn't allow our batsmen to get into a rhythm," felt Bangar.

Bangar hoped they would bounce back as the match progresses.

"We have got all bases covered as the game goes into fourth and fifth day. There would be dents in the wicket because of the dampness. There will be variable bounce which may come into play. Both spinners are really vital to us. We have got swing and seam and the pace that is required."

Both the teams also agreed to make use of the floodlights to get maximum out of the day

"It was similar to a day-night Test. It didn't seem to be a day Test. At times under such circumstances, playing with a red ball becomes pretty tough. It's more difficult to pick the red balls," Bangar said it's about grinding out of the situation and respecting the condition.

"The amount of times you are going to get beaten plays on your mind. The best approach is to forget the previous ball and accept that you got beaten on a number of occasions. You may not really play elegantly but you will have to grind it out as those are equally important runs."

Nandan Nilekani, Bill Gates announce formation of 'Co-Impact'

BENGALURU, Nov 15 (PTI): A group of the world's leading philanthropists, including Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani today announced formation of 'Co-Impact', a new global model for collaborative philanthropy and social change at scale.

It will invest USD 500 million in three critical areas health, education, and economic opportunity to improve the lives of underserved populations across the developing world, according to a statement released by Co-Impact.

The EkStep Foundation, co-founded by Rohini Nilekani and Nandan Nilekani, will serve as Co-Impact's technical partner by supporting a number of its programmes with their open knowledge and societal platform assets as well as capacity building, the statement said.

"At EkStep Foundation, we are investing in creating open digital public goods. Our intent is for it to benefit an ecosystem of innovators who can create contextual solutions for the development sector through the Societal Platforms approach. We support Co-Impact's visionary efforts of driving large-scale systemic development, and are glad to be their Technical Partner in this endeavour," Rohini and Nandan Nilekani said in a statement.



Co-Impact's initial core partners are Richard Chandler, Bill and Melinda Gates, Jeff Skoll, Dr Romesh and Kathy Wadhvani, and

The Rockefeller Foundation, the statement said.

In addition to its role as a core partner, The Rockefeller Foundation has incubated Co-Impact and will provide staff, significant operating funds, and ongoing strategic

support, it said.

Olivia Leland, Managing Director at The Rockefeller Foundation and founding director of the Giving Pledge, is the founder of Co-Impact and will be Co-Impact's CEO, the statement said.

"We believe that collaboration is critical to solving some of the world's most daunting social challenges," said Leland. "Our goal is to build a community where philanthropists can work and learn together along with successful social change leaders to drive extraordinary results. Our hope is that over time more philanthropists will come together to pool resources and expertise to support great social change approaches and drive results at scale."

Co-Impact expects to add additional core partners as well as co-investors interested in specific initiatives or geographic areas, the statement said.

"In addition, a Co-Impact network will provide a broader group

of philanthropists from around the world with an opportunity to contribute, exchange, and learn from Co-Impact's model," it added.

Co-Impact's goal is to improve the lives of millions by advancing education, improving people's health, and providing economic opportunity so that all families, no matter where they live, have a more hopeful future, the statement said.

Co-Impact will make its first system change grants in the first half of 2018, it said.

"These grants will be informed by more than a year's worth of due diligence and field research. Systems change grants will be up to US \$50 million, flexibly structured, and will go to initiatives with proven leadership and results that are poised to scale even further. Co-Impact will also seek to unlock additional participation by governments and the private sector," the statement said.

Child rights remains ignored: 9-yr-old activist

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (PTI): Child rights remains ignored as there are none to promote them and the children themselves are not given much attention, a nine-year-old activist today said.

In a media interaction, child rights activists Simran (16) and Ram (9), who worked with the 'NINEISMINE' campaign, shared their experiences.

"There are 45 exclusive child rights. They are very much there, but they need to be worked on. We are not heard as we are children," Ram said.

Referring to a survey on 5,000 children under the campaign that advocates for six and three per cent budget allocation for education and health, the two activists shared issues related to child rights.

They said that a large number of children face abuse not only outside, but also inside their homes. "There have been cases where children left home or committed suicide due to their own family members," Ram said.

Simran suggested sensitisation of various agencies on dealing with children who approach them for help.

"The police should treat children in a friendly manner and there should be counsellors at police stations to help them," the activist said.

Providing access to children at different forums, including the media, and giving them a platform to express their views is very important, UNICEF communication officer Sonia Sarkar said.

US, China agree not to accept ‘freeze for freeze’ agreement on N Korea

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, Nov 16 (PTI): The US and China have agreed not to accept "freeze for freeze" agreement on North Korea, President Donald Trump has said as he pledged a global campaign of "maximum pressure" to denuclearise Pyongyang.

During his recent trip to China, Trump said Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to faithfully implement United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea and to use his great economic influence over the regime to achieve their common goal of a denuclearised Korean Peninsula.

"President Xi recognises that a nuclear North Korea is a grave threat to China, and we agreed that we would not accept a so-called "freeze for freeze" agreement like those that have consistently failed in the past. We made that time is running out and we made it clear, and all options remain on the table," Trump said.

In a televised address to



the nation after his 12-day trip to Asia, Trump said North Korea was on the top of his priority list.

Trump travelled to Japan, South Korea and Japan for bilateral visits. He visited Vietnam and Philippines to attend the APEC and East Asia Summits respectively.

In Japan, Trump said he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed on their absolute determination to remain united to achieve the goal of denuclearised North Korea.

Shortly following his visit, Japan announced additional sanctions on 35 North Korean

entities and individuals.

Japan also committed to shouldering more of the burden of our common defence by reimbursing costs borne by American taxpayers, as well as by making deep investments in Japan's own military, he said.

This will include purchases of US advanced capabilities -- from jet fighters to missile defence systems worth many, many billions of dollars -- and jobs for the American worker, he added.

Trump said addressing the national assembly of South Korea, he made clear he will not allow "this twisted dictatorship" to hold the world hostage to nuclear blackmail.

"I called on every nation, including China and Russia, to unite in isolating the North Korean regime -- cutting off all ties of trade and commerce -- until it stops its dangerous provocation on -- and this is the whole key to what we're doing -- on denuclearisation. We have to denuclearise North Korea," he said.

"We have ended the failed strategy of strategic patience, and, as a result, we have already seen important progress -- including tough new sanctions from the UN council -- we have a Security Council that has been with us and just about with us from the beginning," he said.

South Korea agreed to harmonise sanctions and joined the US in sanctioning additional rogue actors whose fund and funds have helped North Korea and North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes," he said.

"It's unacceptable to us," he added.

The US welcomed the decision of President Moon Jae-in to remove the payload restrictions on missiles to combat the North Korean threat.

"And together we reaffirmed our commitment to a campaign of maximum pressure," he said.

Trump said at all the summits and throughout the trip, he asked all nations to support his campaign of "maximum pressure" for North Korean denuclearization.

"They are responding by cutting trade with North Korea, restricting financial ties to the regime, and expelling North Korean diplomats and workers, he said.

Indian student shot dead by robbers at grocery store in US

WASHINGTON, Nov 16 (PTI): A 21-year-old Indian student has been shot dead allegedly by four armed robbers, including an Indian-origin man, at a grocery store in the US state of California, according to a media report.

Dharampreet Singh Jasser was on duty at a grocery store next to a gas station in Fresno city in California on Tuesday night when four armed robbers, including an Indian-origin man, barged in to loot the store, local daily Fresnobee reported.

Jasser reportedly hid behind the cash counter but was shot by one of the four robbers while they were leaving the service station after looting cash and goods, the report said.

The incident was reported to the police yesterday when a customer who had stopped by to buy some goods, discovered Jasser's body on the floor.

Originally from Punjab, Jasser was a student of accounting and had gone to the US around three years ago on a student visa. Police has arrested 22-year-old Athwal, an Indian-origin man, who is believed to be one of the four suspects who looted the gas station and fired multiple shots one of which hit Jasser.

Police said a Fresno County Sheriff's deputy saw media coverage of the incident on Tuesday and recognised some similarities between the suspects from the incident and Athwal, the Madera County Sheriff's Office said.

Met leaders of Asia to discuss shared commitment to free and open Indo-Pacific: Trump

WASHINGTON, Nov 16 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has said that he met prime ministers of India, Japan and Australia during his Asia trip to discuss their shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

In a televised live address to the nation, a day after he returned from a nearly two-week Asia trip with stops in Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and Philippines, Trump said momentum from the trip will launch the US on its continued effort to accomplish the three core objectives.

"Unite the world against North Korean nuclear threat, to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and to

advance fair and reciprocal economic relations with our trading partners and allies in the region," Trump said in the 25-minute address.

"We have established a new framework for trade that will ensure reciprocity through enforcement actions, reform of international organisations and new fair-trade deals that benefit the US and our partners," he said.

"This journey took us to five nations, to meet with dozens of foreign leaders, participate in three formal state visits and attend three key regional summits," he said, adding that, it was the longest visit to the region by an American president in more than a quarter of a century.

Trump met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Philippines on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. This was the second bilateral meeting between the two leaders.

The US president also met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, which assumes significance in view of the launch of quadrilateral dialogue between the US, Australia, Japan and India.

"At ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, we made it clear that no one owns the ocean. Freedom of navigation and overflight are critical to the security and prosperity of all nations," he said.

"I also met with the Prime Ministers

of India, Australia, and Japan to discuss our shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," Trump said.

At the East Asia Summit, he said, the US negotiated and signed four important leader statements on the use of chemical weapons, money laundering, poverty alleviation and countering terrorist propaganda and financing.

Before Philippines, Trump travelled to Vietnam where he attended the APEC Summit meeting.

"Crucially, at both summits and throughout the trip, we asked all nations to support our campaign of maximum pressure for North Korean denuclearisation," he said.

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0083 0309 0413 0566 0587 0698 0740 0825 1100 1105
1119 1187 1363 1416 1584 1872 1958 2007 2239 2393
2529 2536 2699 2844 2874 2935 2955 3037 3061 3094
3517 3531 3592 3631 3775 3777 3798 4010 4231 4494
4526 4662 4799 4931 4972 5005 5081 5121 5131 5134
5334 5384 5472 5551 5662 5848 5968 6321 6351 6358
6362 6367 6394 6448 6879 6974 7110 7185 7291 7328
7392 7434 7440 7486 7542 7672 7803 7810 7849 7911
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3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0572 0775 0813 1619 1940 6063 6753 7699 9128 9841
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5th Prize Rs.120/-
0066 0102 0265 0383 0668 0760 0996 1126 1134 1313
1321 1359 1435 1508 1510 1811 1961 2040 2102 2213
2223 2264 2270 2472 2486 2510 2533 2602 2634 2903
2941 3037 3065 3068 3173 3212 3240 3412 3493 3852
3917 4033 4034 4171 4309 4409 4627 4766 4805 4844
4910 4967 5114 5150 5429 5433 5462 5469 5663 5788
6050 6057 6243 6370 6435 6492 6515 6969 7260 7491
7499 7507 7606 7735 7747 7830 7840 7853 7893 7903
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BUNDLE UP: Quantico stars Russell Tovey and Priyanka Chopra tried to keep warm on the set in New York City. The actors are filming season three of the popular FBI drama.

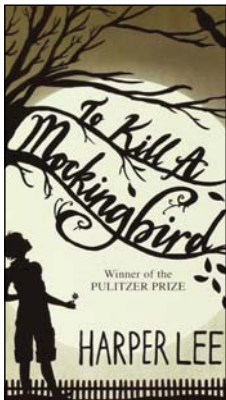
BOOK OF THE DAY

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD BY HARPER LEE

Considered an American classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee follows the story of the Finch family over the course of three years in their small town in Alabama during The Great Depression. Caught in a moral tornado of innocence and social inequality, the story is narrated through the perspective of Scout, a little girl, beginning from the age of six to nine.

The first half of the novel depicts the Finch's home and life in their quaint town. Scout lives with her brother, Jem, who is four years older, her father, Atticus, a widower and a lawyer, and their housekeeper, Calpurnia, a black woman, who is their connection to the black community. As the story unfolds, you are introduced to the grit that glues every character: the fight between justice and antiquated values of inequality. After a black man, Tom Robinson, has been accused of rape by a white woman in the 1930s South, Atticus is asked to take Tom's case. Atticus firmly believes in Tom's innocence. He exposes his family to criticism and the outrage of the white community. Atticus is the voice of reason, empathy and moral justice. His children are deeply affected by their father's conviction.

Consequently, for the latter reason, Lee's novel is an American masterpiece. She has beautifully crafted a foil to the evil, unjust dogmas per-



petuated by white America. *To Kill a Mockingbird*'s beauty lies in its simplicity. Lee is a fantastic story-teller. This is a straight-forward world filled with complex themes of innocence, race, prejudice and justice. Her characters are the most significant device in unfolding its themes.

You quickly learn that Scout is intelligent, bright and considered a tomboy by the norms of her town and the epoch. The most significant trait displayed by Scout is her inherent belief that people are good, which is nurtured by her father. Her father behaves as the backbone of the plot. He is an honorable man with stern principles. While compelling us with vivid and charming characters, Lee, craftily eases you into the second half of the novel, where you learned why Scout's and Jem's personality traits are essential in

telling the story.

In addition to the foundation of characters Lee has fabricated the coexistence of good and evil in an authentic historical setting, which functions as Lee's most efficient tool in drawing us in. Through the course of three years, Jem and Scout's transition from innocence to the introduction of adult themes is the most dramatic interpretation. The title of the book holds the most literal definition of the annihilation of innocence. *To Kill a Mockingbird* constitutes to destroy innocence. "Mockingbirds" are the symbol of innocence; Tom Robinson is the key mockingbird here. The latter theme is the defining point in Scout's world.

You don't simply read the story, you experience it through Scout's eyes. Her age and perspective are, ironically, a highly reliable source in the world she lives in. She is observant, wise and understanding. Her father's execution of educating her mind without social restrictions is the most delightful and touching quality found in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Therefore the most critical question that remains is: will Scout's innocence be stripped by evil turning her into a jaded human being or will her faith in goodness reinforce the values that were implemented from a young age?

Your artistic instincts could also be inspired by geniuses from other cultures.

GEMINI: A number of interesting visitors could show up today. Perhaps you're having a party or hosting an activity. These callers could include people in the sciences, or people who deal with money, such as bankers, investment counselors, or real estate brokers. Listen to what they have to say. You could learn something that boosts your financial standing.

CANCER: Publications could bring some fascinating new knowledge your way. You'll want to discuss it with friends. Conversations

about any subject should be informative and beneficial since your mind is so perceptive and retentive. Affection for friends, relatives, and your special someone should fill your heart today. An intimate evening with your partner will be especially fulfilling.

LEO: Valuable tips to increase your income could come your way today, possibly from a close friend or colleague. You should feel well and look particularly attractive. Your approach to others may be more outgoing than usual. Pets could be a source of joy. Enjoy it while you can! In the evening, indulge your artistic streak.

VIRGO: Romance and art are the keys today. You could feel spiritually inspired by great music, paintings, poetry, or drama. You might want to share these feelings with a special someone. Children could also be a source of pleasure. Their innocence make you feel young again. In the evening, write your impressions of the day.

LIBRA: Today you won't be indifferent to anything. Good news could elevate you to near ecstasy. Bad news could send you to the depths of despair. Visitors provide a welcome distraction, while spiritual pursuits may be your favorite topic of conversation. This isn't going to be a predictable day, but it

will be wonderful.

SCORPIO: A desire to learn through a group activity - a lecture or workshop, perhaps - might put you in the middle of a crowd. You'll find it exhilarating. If you're planning to attend such an event, don't go alone. Your enjoyment will be heightened by the presence of a close friend or your partner.

SAGITTARIUS: You've had recent success in your profession. You've worked hard and learned things, and this hasn't been lost on those above you in the hierarchy. You have earned new respect for yourself and your skills. You might want to put one of your gifts to

work. This could be an artistic talent or the gift of healing. Make the most of it!

CAPRICORN: Today should be very fortunate, particularly where love is concerned. Relations with your special someone could be closer than ever. You might even feel warm and loving toward everyone, even strangers. Your spiritual beliefs could have as much to do with this as anything else. You should feel especially intuitive. Optimism and enthusiasm rule, but don't forget to be realistic!

AQUARIUS: You should feel especially romantic and sexy today. Tonight should be wonderful if

you can spend it in the company of your significant other. Some vivid dreams could haunt your sleep tonight, almost to the point where you don't want to wake up. Write them down and try to figure out what they mean later.

PISCES: Social events could take up a lot of your time tonight, and you may enjoy being in contact with friends you haven't seen for a while. Conversations should be fascinating. You may even discover a new interest. An encounter with your partner could prove more passionate than usual. This should be a thoroughly enjoyable day as long as you conserve your energy.

BTS HITS UP 'JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE!' AHEAD OF AMAS PERFORMANCE

In Los Angeles to perform at the American Music Awards on Sunday (Nov. 19), Korean boy band BTS stopped by Jimmy Kimmel Live! to surprise some fans -- and their mothers.

In a short segment on his late night show, Kimmel introduced BTS to his audience by drawing attention to their passionate fan ARMY, and then introduced some of those fans' mothers to the band members.

The septet's American ARMY came out in droves to support the band as they hosted a mini-concert that will be aired on Jimmy Kimmel Live! later this month. Pulling aside two mothers who accompanied their daughters to the performance, the showrunners had the moms video call their daughters, surprising them with the members of BTS standing right.

After the episode was aired, the hashtag "BTSx-JimmyKimmel" trended worldwide for several hours. The show's official account shared several tweets about the taping, including a video



showing Kimmel meeting the band.

The first Korean act to rank in the Billboard 200 with a Top 10 album and the highest-charting K-pop group to appear on the Hot 100, BTS has risen to global attention over the past few months as the most popular boy band of 2017. The Jimmy Kimmel Live! appearance marks the K-pop act's first U.S. late night show appearance, and precedes upcoming segments featuring the group on The Late Late Show with James Corden, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, and the AMAs.

what's TRENDING

FIRST LOOK

JANHVI KAPOOR AND ISHAAN KHATTER LOOK MAGICAL TOGETHER IN THE DHADAK POSTERS



Filmmaker Karan Johar took to his social media handle to make the big announcement of Dharma Productions launching two young actors. Later, Karan took to his social media handle to announce his next project Dhadak which will mark the debut of ever lovely Sridevi's daughter Janhvi Kapoor and Shahid Kapoor's younger brother Ishaan Khatter.

It was also the moment social media had been waiting for to resurrect the nepotism debate. Soon after the posters of Jhanvi's debut film went crazy viral, Twitter users showered comments like, "Hope they have at least acted well, to justify your love for #Nepotism KJo" or "How long will you promote these star kids?"

Karan revealed the first look posters of the film in which both Janhvi and Ishaan are seen looking every bit mesmerizing. Dhadak is an official remake of 2016 Marathi blockbuster Sairat. The film is known as one of the biggest Marathi hits ever with a business of over Rs 100 crore. The film followed

the story of two star crossed lovers from different sections of society. It went on to garner great amount of love from the audiences as well.

Dhadak will be presented by Zee Studios and Dharma Productions, directed by Shaashank Khaitan and is slated for release on July 6, 2018.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

17TH NOVEMBER

1931: Depression Starts To Bite: Following the Stock Market crash in 1929 and the start of the Great Depression Studies revealed that prices of consumer goods had dropped an estimated 17 percent from the previous year. Studies were conducted for the previous year from October to October. This study was done by the Department of Labor.

1950: Dalai Lama: 15-year-old Tenzin Gyatso, is enthroned as the 14th Dalai Lama at age 15.

1997: Tourist Killed: A tourist bus visiting the temple of Hatshepsut in Luxor has been fired on by an Islamic extremist group leaving 60 Swiss and Japanese tourists dead. Following the attack there was a two hour gun battle with police where 6 gunmen were killed.

2000: Kmart / Sears: Kmart Holdings corporation announced its intention to purchase Sears, Roebuck and Co. the merger of the two companies was completed in March, 2005 and the new company is named "The Sears Holdings Corporation"

2002: Hijacker: A hijacker was seized while he tried to hijack a plane headed from Tel Aviv, Israel



to Istanbul, Turkey. The terrorist was armed with a pen-knife, reported revealed. Fortunately, this terrorist incident had more of a victorious ending than others. All 170 passengers were saved, and the plane was landed safely.

2003: Arnold Schwarzenegger: Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger is sworn in as the governor of California.

2009: Four men killed by bomb left over from Vietnamese War: Police say that four men were killed when a bomb left over from the Vietnam War blew up when they tried to open it. The dead were in their Twenties and were two pairs of brothers. The event took place in Tay Ninh province. "They were killed on the spot," police said, "and we are investigating what sort of bomb it was." "The accident area was a target of US attacks in the war," said an official from the Don Thuan commune. Over 10,500 people have been killed in Vietnam's central provinces by bombs left over from the war.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Work and career matters could finally bring you the success and good fortune you've been hoping for. This may be acknowledgment for effort and dedication as well as hard work. Expect a raise, and increased respect and status among friends and co-workers. Don't celebrate so much that you suffer the effects of overindulging!

TAURUS: Love of someone from far away could be very much on your mind today, and perhaps love for the place where the person lives. You may be bored with your routine and anxious to embrace adventure. This is a good time to plan a vacation, particularly if accompanied by a partner or close friend.