

Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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HRDD MODIFIES ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Winter vacation shortened, summer holidays extended

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

The Human Resource Development Department (HRDD) has modified the annual school calendar and rescheduled the summer and winter vacations from this academic session i.e. 2018-19. The new annual school calendar has shortened down the winter vacation from two months to one month and has increased the summer vacation duration to one month.

Addressing a press conference today where the announcement was made, Additional Chief Secretary, Mr Upadhyaya, said, "This does not mean that the number of hol-



idays is reduced, it remains the same. The reason behind this decision was that during summer season, monsoon causes a lot of rain and road blockage because of which the scheduled school days go unutilized. As a consequence,

students and teachers both have difficulty in completing the syllabi on prescribed time. Winters nowadays are not as harsh as it used to be and the department can utilize more days of the winter vacation as working days thereby facilitat-

ing the schools in minimizing the learning gap." One of the major reasons for this decision has been the situation of Class XI students, who have till now had classes starting only from July following the results of the Class X board ex-

amination with their final exams being held in December giving them only about 5-6 months of study time.

"It is pertinent to note that the question papers for entrance tests for higher studies like medical, engineering and other technical courses have been found prepared mostly from the texts of Class 11. Hence, children have not been able to score as expected due to less coverage of syllabi in Class 11, he added," said Mr Upadhyaya.

With the change in the school calendar, the examination will be held in February giving students one full month of study in December and winter va-

cation in January to prepare for the exams.

Mr Upadhyaya adds, "This will also align our academic calendar with that of CBSE and NCERT to a great extent which will help our students in taking part in various All India activities as well as in getting the revised NCERT and CBSE text books in time for our students. Winter coaching in January will greatly help class X and XII students in maintaining continuity."

For the Academic Session 2018, the schools will reopen on 12 Feb, 2018; however, for the Academic Session 2019, the schools will reopen on 01 Feb, 2019.

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Is Sikkim looking at mid-term Assembly elections?

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

Sikkim could be looking at mid-term Assembly elections given the possibility of 14 Sikkim Democratic Front legislators' disqualification if the Election Commission of India so recommends.

Highly placed sources inform that an SDF legislators meet held on Tuesday evening also discussed the possibility of mid-term elections in the event of disqualification of its 14 legislators whose case is pending with the Election Commission of India.

Mid-term elections are a possibility if the 14 legislators get disqualified and by-polls have to be held for these constituencies. It would be wiser, both financially and politically, if the entire state went to polls at that time since nearly half the constituencies would be having bye-elections.

During the legisla-

tors' meet, SDF chief, Pawan Chamling directed his deputies to strengthen the party at booth and constituency levels in case mid-term elections happen, sources inform.

Of course, all of these speculations hinge on what the ECI recommends to the Governor.

Last week, Governor Shrinivas Patil had sought the Election Commission of India's counsel on a petition seeking the disqualification of 14 legislators on charges of them holding offices of profit to the.

In January, the ECI had recommended the disqualification of 20 Aam Aadmi Party legislators and the President of India had also given his assent to the same. This has spread some amount uncertainty on what recommendation would come from ECI on the Sikkim Governor's communication on the matter.

Dalai Lama's March visit to Sikkim cancelled

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

The Dalai Lama's visit to Sikkim has been cancelled on account of ill health according to a letter from the Office of the Dalai Lama to the Ecclesiastical Affairs Department dated 01 Feb. He was scheduled to visit Sikkim from 20-29 March to give religious sermon at Tathagata Tsal in Ravangla, South Sikkim and interact with the public as well.

The letter states that the Dalai Lama returned to Dharamsala on Wednesday after an extended two-month visit within India taking him to 8 different towns and cities.

"In circumspect, the visit was much too long for His Holiness and he has been showing signs of exhaustion," the letter mentions.

Further stating that a thorough medical check-up in Delhi two days ago has shown that his overall health is excellent, his physicians have recommended that he cut down on his travels and not exert himself, the letter reads.

"Unfortunately, we have therefore decided to cancel the visit to Sikkim. We understand all the concerted efforts you and your colleagues have been making to ensure a successful visit and would wholeheartedly like to apologize for the inconveniences caused by this decision," it states.

The letter also conveys the Dalai Lama's apologies to the Chief Minister.

Residents block Rey-Sajong road, Deptt gives written assurance

VISHNU NEOPANEY

GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

The public of seven villages from Ranka Zero Point to Sajong today blocked the Rey-Ranka-Sajong road and did not allow vehicular movement on this road from 6.30 a.m. in the morning.

People's Forum of Rey-Rumtek had on 30 Jan announced that it will shut down the road indefinitely from 01 Feb onwards to protest the delay in completion of road widening work which has left the road in a pathetic condition.

The road was initially under the Roads and Bridges department but was transferred to Tourism and Civil Aviation department for a tourism project under the South Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development project funded by Asian Development Bank in 2013. Under the Tourism department, work to complete the road construction within 30 months had been awarded to Thukchuk La-chungpa.

The contractor did not complete the work within the prescribed time and was given a second chance to complete the 8.5 kms stretch in another 23 months which lapsed in September last year.

In the afternoon the Tourism Department gave a written assurance that the work will be



completed by end of May following discussion between the people's representatives and department officials mediated by the SDM Gangtok. The protesting residents are expected to take a call after discussing the matter with other residents of the area but there is a sense that they will cooperate with the department if work on the road resumes soon.

Despite repeated representations to the Tourism and Civil Aviation department by the public, the concerned department failed to address the issue which

has forced people to take such action, informed Ms Deepa Khatri, a local resident of Lingdum.

Today the public blocked the road from both the ends at Sajong and Ranka Zero Point, not allowing even ITBP vehicles on the road. ITBP, Sector Headquarters is also situated at Sama Lingdum, some 12 kms away from Gangtok.

Another resident, Sonam Tshering Bhutia said that the work was allocated way back in May 2013 but the road, which connects popular tourist destinations of Rumtek Monas-

tery and Lingdum Monastery to Gangtok, is such that no one [even the tourists] wants to travel on it.

Local people said that the Tourism department being the concerned department did not give any response to their requests leaving them with no option but to protest.

Project Director, Nerash Pradhan, who visited the spot today requested the people to have a dialogue with the department. Alleging that the contractor was at fault he said that

turn to pg03

Budget wrong-foots mkt; investors rattled by tax, deficit woes

MUMBAI, FEB 1 (PTI):

Stocks went into a tailspin today after the government imposed capital gains tax on equities and said it will overshoot its fiscal deficit target, but clawed back most of the lost ground after domestic institutions stepped up buying.

The 30-share Sensex plunged over 460 points in afternoon trade after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced long-term capital gains tax of

10 per cent on stock market gains exceeding Rs 1 lakh.

It finally ended lower by 58.36 points at 35,906.66, while the broader Nifty shed 10.80 points to 11,016.90.

Sentiment also took a hit after the Budget raised the fiscal deficit target for 2017-18 to 3.5 per cent of GDP as against 3.2 per cent earlier.

The target for 2018-19 has been fixed at 3.3

turn to pg02

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Training on storage of grains using super grain bags

GANGTOK, 01 FEB: A training programme on Front Line Demonstration on "Hermetic Storage of Grains by Using Super Grain Bags" was conducted on 31 Jan at Sindrang Village in West Sikkim. The programme, chaired by Panchayat, Sindrang, Kinzang Phuti Lepcha, was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim and was attended by 31 farmers, a press release informs.

During the programme, Subject Matter Specialist [Plant Protection], Rohini Silwal, explained in detail about the amount of grains that gets damaged during storage in Sikkim's conditions.

"In our organic system, managing this loss is very challenging so in order to curb that problem KVK West Sikkim has taken up this trial on hermetic storage of grains using Super Grain Bags. These bags are manufactured by Pest Control India Pvt Ltd. These bags manage the stored grain pest by not allowing the entry of insect pest from outside and if there are any insect pests already present in the grains it gets killed as the bags provides an airtight condition inside which is not congenial for pests," she added.

Susakurtot Organic Festival concludes

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 01 FEB: The valedictory function of the Susakurtot Organic Festival today at Lum was attended by Minister of Roads & Bridges Department, Garjama Gurung, as chief guest in the presence of Deputy Speaker SLA cum area MLA, Dzongu, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha.

The organizing committee felicitated area MLA, Mr Lepcha and other dedicated officers of North Sikkim namely Station House Officer, Mangan Police Station, Karma Tshering Denzongpa, Senior Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mangan, Tshering Thendup Bhutia, and Child Development Project Officer, Dzongu, Netuk Lepcha.



Addressing the function, chief guest Mr Gurung informed that Lum has set an example in promoting organic farming

in the area and urged all to continue the initiative.

A cultural programme was also presented by different cultural troupes.

The function ended with the distribution of prizes.

The organizing committee extended its gratitude to all for

making the festival a grand success. Singer Melina Rai dazzled the evening programme with her performance.

HNHC and VBDAS working towards connecting people through blood donation camp

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

A blood donation camp on the theme, "Blood Connects Us All," was organized at Namthang Primary Health Centre in South Sikkim on 31 Jan.

A press release informs that the camp was organized by Hamro Namthang Hamro Chinari [HNHC] of Namthang-Rateypani, South Sikkim in collaboration with Voluntary Blood Donors' Association of Sikkim [VBDAS] and supported by Blood Bank Unit, District Hospital,



Namchi.

The programme started with the welcome of doctors and sup-

port staffs and VBDAS by team HNHC at the Free People's Library in Namthang Bazaar.

41 volunteers - 15 female and 26 male - donated blood on the day.

The blood donation camp was also visited by MLA Namthang-Rateypani, Tilu Gurung, who congratulated and thanked all the blood donors for their noble gesture. Further, Ms Gurung was also gifted the VBDAS calendar by Kishore Baniya and team

The day ended with the presentation of certificates of appreciation to HNHC by the VBDAS and Dr Anju Rai from District Hospital Namchi.

Budget wrong-foots mkt; investors rattled...

contd from pg01

per cent as against the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act target of 3 per cent.

Markets reeled under heavy selling pressure during Jaitley's Budget speech in the Lok Sabha, but large-scale buying by domestic institutional investors towards the later part of the session cushioned the fall.

The BSE Sensex started on an optimistic note at 36,048.99 and advanced to 36,256.83 points during the presentation of the Budget but turned negative after Jaitley announced long term capital gains tax, hitting a low of 35,501.74.

However, it bounced back to close at 35,906.66, still down by 58.36 points, or 0.16 per cent.

The NSE Nifty too saw volatility and ended at 11,016.90, down 10.80 points, or 0.10 per cent. It hovered between 11,117.35 and 10,878.80 during the day.

On the Budget day in 2017, the Sensex had gained 485.68 points,

while Nifty had rallied 155.10 points.

The Sensex and Nifty have risen by 7,765.02 points, or 27.59 per cent and 2,300.50 points, or 26.39 per cent, respectively since the last Budget.

"Market saw volatility after the announcement of 10 pc long term capital gains tax and breach in fiscal deficit target.

"Spiking government 10 year bond yield to 7.5 pc is also creating some caution among investors. Better forecasts for tax collection, rural spend, GDP growth and job creation are the positives of this budget which is expected to retain the sentiment in the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Higher infra spending and lowering of corporate tax rate to 25 per cent for businesses with a turnover of up to Rs 250 crore bolstered investor sentiment.

Shares of food processing companies were in demand after the Bud-

get proposed doubling the allocation for the sector to Rs 1,400 crore for the next fiscal.

Major gainers were Sheetal Cool, Avanti Feeds, Godrej Agrovet and Freshrop Fruits, rising up to 10 per cent.

Agriculture-related stocks such as NACL Industries, PI Industries, Action Construction Equipment and Monsanto India also caught buyers' fancy following the Budget's focus on the rural economy.

Meanwhile, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold shares worth Rs 136.63 crore on net basis while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) also bought equities to the tune of Rs 1,294.66 crore yesterday, provisional data showed.

Losers in the Sensex pack included ONGC, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, SBI, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki, Coal India, Tata Motors, Wipro, Axis Bank, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Infosys and Bharti Airtel, declin-

ing up to 4.06 per cent.

However, M&M, L&T, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Auto, Asian Paints, ITC Ltd, Yes Bank, Hero MotoCorp, Kotak Bank, TCS, Power Grid, HDFC Ltd, Adani Ports and HUL finished with gains.

Among BSE sectoral indices, consumer durables fell the most by 1.78 per cent, followed by healthcare 1.38 per cent, oil & gas 1.28 per cent, PSU 1.24 per cent, realty 0.89 per cent, bankex 0.64 per cent, teck 0.20 per cent and IT 0.09 per cent.

Infrastructure, capital goods, auto, FMCG, metal and power ended in the positive zone.

In the broader markets, mid-cap index fell 0.54 per cent, while the small-cap index finished flat.

Coming to global markets, other Asian bourses ended mixed, tracking overnight losses on the Wall Street after the US Federal Reserve decided to keep interest rates unchanged.

European shares, however, were higher in their early deals.



Employees meet for All Sikkim Christian Summit

GANGTOK, 01 FEB: An employees' meeting for the upcoming All Sikkim Christian Summit with the theme "Each One Bring One" was conducted today at Omega Church in Gangtok today.

A press release issued by ASCS publicity secretary, East, Bhupal Basnet, informs that the meet was organized for employees of different departments to encourage them for the ASCS '18 scheduled to be held at Jorethang Khel Maidan, South Sikkim on 07 Feb.

Chief Patron, GT Dhungel, briefed on the purpose of the Summit to all the participants. Treasurer, Suman Rai, who chaired the meeting, motivated all employees to focus on the theme of the event.

The programme concluded with closing prayer by prayer coordinator, Pastor Amos Bhutia.

Winter vacation shortened, summer holidays extended

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"This is a timely reform to bring quality in schooling which will help in learning retention and will check dropouts. Students appearing for Board Exams will be getting one month of quality learning in the month of February, which will help them for better academic output," said Director, Primary and SPD [SSA], Bhim Thatal.

Retired vice principal

of Modern Senior Secondary School, Tshering Choezam is of the opinion that the new calendar is beneficial only for Class XI students.

"I don't know how this is going to work. Teachers can manage in the cold weather but how will the students study in the cold? February is also mostly cold. School infrastructure is not equipped to handle the cold. For Class XI

students, there are other methods that can be used. There are special classes and already there are some community based organizations providing coaches classes," she states.

On revised NCERT and CBSE text books reaching the students on time with the new schedule, Ms Choezam opines that that may be the case for higher classes but for students of classes upto

VIIIth standard, the text books are printed locally.

It may also be mentioned that the kindergarten classes will start in all government schools in Sikkim from this session-2018 as announced by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling. Earlier, HRDD had introduced KG system of school in the year 2016 with 32 pilot schools which was further introduced in 235 schools in the year 2017.



Mini Resham Krishi Mela 2018

JORETHANG, 01 FEB [IPR]: A daylong Mini Resham Krishi Mela 2018 organised by Research Extension Centre [REC], Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textile, Mamring, South Sikkim was held at the conference hall of State Institute of Rural Development [SIRD], Karfectar today.

Area MLA cum Minister for Health & IPR, AK Ghatani, attended the programme as chief guest accompanied by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests cum Principal Secretary, Forest Department, Dr Chandy, also interacted with the gathering wherein he informed them about how the state government and Central Silk Board are jointly working to make sericulture flourish in non-traditional zone of Sikkim.

He also spoke about how IBSDP is limited to eight North Eastern states including Sikkim and is aimed at holistic development of sericulture in all its spheres from plantation development to production of fabrics with value addition at every stage of production chain.

REC Scientist, ST Lepcha, presented a technical presentation on sericulture with regard to Sikkim and its importance. The programme also featured the release of Sericulture booklet. Mr Ghatani also presented certificate of appreciation to various farmers and SHGs who have given outstanding performance in various categories of sericulture in their respective areas.

The latter half of the event was marked by the inauguration of Forest Guest House located at Nayabazar by Mr Ghatani.

Also present were Consultant of Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project [IBSDP] and Former Principal Director, DR Sharma, along with scientists from Central Sericulture Research & Training Institute [CSRTI], Bhamphore, Dr Ranjit Kaur and Dr V Laxman, representatives from Regional Sericulture Research Station [RSRs], Kalimpong, officials of Forest Department, silk farmers and Self Help Groups from West and South districts.

Mr Ghatani also assured all help from the state government concerning recruitment of technical support staff specialized in the field of sericulture to be deployed under Sericulture Directorate for smooth functioning of the directorate. He also put forth suggestions of mobilizing officials by conducting surveys during Gram

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Sunrise: 06:22AM
Sunset: 5:17 PM

For every Re in govt kitty, 19 paise to come from borrowing

NEW DELHI, FEB 1 (PTI): For every rupee in the government coffers, 19 paise will come from market borrowing and other liabilities in 2018-19, even as it will spend 18 paise towards interest payment.

According to the Budget 2018-19 presented in Parliament today by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, 70 paise will come from direct and indirect taxes for the every rupee earned.

On the expenditure side, the biggest component is states' share of taxes and duties at 24 paise and interest payment of 18 paise.

Allocation towards defence has been kept unchanged 9 paise. As the single largest source of revenue, the collection from Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been pegged at 23 paise as a percentage of every rupee earned.

Similarly, tax mobilisation from corporation tax has been fixed at 19 paise. Income tax mobilisation for the next fiscal has been kept at 16 paise. The government will earn 4 paise from custom in the next fiscal. The government intends to earn 8 paise from non-tax revenue like disinvestment, while it plans to mobilise 3 paise from non-debt capital receipts.

Residents block Rey-Sajong road, Deptt gives written...

contd from pg01 the road will be handed back to the Roads and Bridges department. He informed that the handing over of the road to the Roads and Bridges Department and termination of the contract with the contractor T Lachungpa is in process.

However, he did not say how much time that would take, what action would be taken against the contractor and when work on the road would resume.

Meanwhile, Tourism Secretary, Punit Kansal called a meeting with the Area MLA today and discussed the transfer of the road to the Roads and Bridges department, it is informed.

The South Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development project has already released more than Rs. 5 crore to the contractor who has undertaken only 50 percent of earthwork, widening and drainage part, informed senior Consultant of the ADB project, LR Dua. On the other hand, the local people alleged that only 20-30 percent of work has been done.

Dismantling of Mangan District Hospital building begins

HOSPITAL TO FUNCTION FROM TB HOSPITAL BUILDING FOR NOW

MANGAN, 01 FEB (IPR): Secretary, Department Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Vishal Chauhan along with a team of doctors and engineers visited the Mangan District Hospital today. He was also joined by the District Collector North, Karma R Bonpo during the visit.

A new District Hospital has been sanctioned by the state government and work for the dismantling of the old structure has just started. As an interim measure, Mangan District Hospital will now function from the newly constructed TB Hospital and four unit staff quarters. The OPD and the administrative blocks of the hospital have currently been shifted to the staff quarters. The various



wards and other blocks will be shifted to the TB Hospital once it is fully completed and handed over.

While taking stock of the current situation at the District Hospital, the Secretary directed his engineering team and the concerned contractor to get the TB Hospital ready by 07 Feb and the CMO was directed to shift from 08 Feb onwards. He directed that all the ma-

chinery and equipments be shifted from the old hospital and made operational as soon as possible.

The Digital X-ray equipment and Operation theatre will be made functional from the new TB hospital. The team also took stock of the ongoing construction of the Trauma centre which is expected to be completed by March end. The Secretary said the equipment of the

Trauma centre will be procured immediately and the centre will be made operational by March. A Blood Bank is also being constructed above the trauma centre which is expected to take several months to complete.

The Secretary said that the new hospital will be ready in two years time and the engineering team will be stationed in the Hospital premises

to monitor the progress of the work. He sought the support of the District Collector to monitor the work and ensure its timely completion.

The Secretary also inspected the medical stores and took stock of essential medicines available. He stated that the goal of the state government is to ensure that all patients get the medicines from the store and out-of-store purchases should be minimal. The state government had recently purchased about Rs 10 crore worth of medicines and directed the CMO to report any shortage in medicines in the district.

Later in the day the Secretary interacted with the departmental personnel posted in the district and heard their grievances and problems. The details of the manpower posted in the district and shortage of specialists in the district was put forth by the CMO North.



Holy Cross students win zonal finals of PCRA quiz

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

Two students from Holy Cross School representing Sikkim scored a win at the zonal finals of Saksham National Quiz Competition organized by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, in New Delhi and will move forward to participate as the winners of Eastern Zone at the national finals at New Delhi on 12 Feb, a press release informs.

Rishal Pandey Chettri [Standard IX] and Saurav Kumar [Standard X] defeated 12 States of Eastern Zone to clinch the title. The finals of the competition will be aired on DD National.

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

Deshbandhu Para resident impersonating as a banker dupes money from locals

SMRITA KHAWAS SILIGURI, 01 FEB:

A resident of Deshbandhu Para here, Abhijeet Chakravarty, has been accused of pilfering money from locals of the area on the pretext of providing them a job.

He allegedly lied

about being a staff of a bank and assured them of landing them a job at the bank he worked at for a prescribed bribe. He has pocketed these bribes by way of advance from at least 10 people till date, it is being alleged.

Addressing the media

today, one of the affected locals said, "Abhijeet Chakravarty told everyone that he works in a bank and that he can recruit them in his place of work. In return, he used to ask them some amount of money. After the payment was done,

he used to reject their calls and did not respond to any messages. Today we made a plan and called him to one place. We then dragged him to Siliguri Police Station where he has assured to return our money by 20 Feb."

Tadong Government College students take part in National Tribal Dance Fest

GYALSHING, 01 FEB (IPR):

Students representing Bhutia Department of Sikkim Government College, Tadong accompanied by Research Officer, Tribal Research Institute, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Ongdup Lepcha, is participating in the three-day National Tribal Dance Festival being held at

Bhubaneswar in Odisha from 31 Jan to 02 Feb. The festival is being organized by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute [SCSTR], Government of Odisha.

Students of Bhutia Department, Sikkim Government College, Tadong representing Sikkim presented a performance of 'Beyul

Mecha' on the opening day which was highly appreciated by the gathering.

They were further invited by Governor of Odisha, Dr SC Jamir, today at Raj Bhawan to perform where they gave a presentation of 'Tashi Tashi'. The Governor praised these young talents and resources of future India while addressing the gathering.

Organic produce outlet established in Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 01 FEB:

A spanning new organic produce outlet at Mandi Bazaar in Singtam will be officially opened for business from 02 Feb and is scheduled to be inaugurated by area MLA, Somnath Poudyal, who also the Agriculture Minister.

This new outlet has been established under the guide-

lines of Food Security & Agriculture Department in collaboration with Horticulture & Cash Crop Department with the aim to promote organic produce of the State.

"Organic and local produce will be supervised by Field Officers of the concerned department. Vegetables will be sold at reasonable prices," informed Joint Director, BL Dahal.



Bike-lifting gang busted in NJP

SILIGURI, 01 FEB:

Ten stolen bikes were recovered by New Jalpaiguri Police today from the NJP area in Siliguri. Along with the bikes, one Abhijit Bhattacharya has also been arrested. Police sources inform that they are resolved to investigate the case rigorously so that all culprits involved in this racket are brought to justice.

MUSS winter youth camp concludes in Jorethang

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 FEB:

A three-day long winter youth camp organized by the youth wing of Manav Uthan Sewa Samiti [MUSS], Sikkim, concluded at Manav Uthan Dharma Ashram in Jorethang on 31 Jan, a press release informs.

The camp was attended by MUSS youth members from all four districts of the State and had resource persons from Bhutan and Darjeeling Hills along with MUSS Mahatmas.

The valedictory function was attended by MUSS North East Incharges Sadhvi Akhilesh Baiji, Sadhvi Gyan Baiji and Dr Jayprakash Agarwal. Dr Agarwal, in his address, said that the below-20 was an appropriate age to receive spiritual knowledge since it grounds the youth more firmly. He pointed out that material acquisitions cannot ensure peace and that it was only through spirituality that people could find true bliss and happiness.

Similarly, Sadhvi Akhilesh Baiji spoke on the importance of practicing spirituality from a young age and added that the ultimate goal of human life should be spiritual attainment.

The closing ceremony also featured musical performances by the participants.

Earlier, a rally was also taken out around Jorethang Bazaar in South Sikkim.



SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
DEVELOPMENT AREA, GANGTOK: SIKKIM
PHONE: 03592-207753, FAX : 03592-207753

"MESSAGE"

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority is organizing National Lok Adalat on Saturday the 10th February, 2018 for the following types of pre-litigation and pending cases viz:

Pre-Litigation

- (i) N.I Act cases under Section 138;
- (ii) Bank Recovery cases;
- (iii) Labour disputes cases;
- (iv) Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- (v) Other (Criminal Compoundable).

Pending in the Courts.

- (i) Criminal Compoundable Offences;
- (ii) N.I. Act cases under Section 138;
- (iii) Bank Recover cases;
- (iv) MACT cases;
- (v) Labour disputes cases;
- (vi) Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- (vii) Matrimonial disputes;
- (viii) Land Acquisition cases;
- (ix) Service matters relating to pay and allowances and retiral benefits;
- (x) Revenue cases (pending in District Courts and High Courts only);
- (xi) Other civil cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.

Any individual or any department having such matters either pending in Courts/Tribunals/Departments or in pre-litigation stage may approach directly before the Sikkim SLSA, District Lok Adalats or Taluk Lok Adalats for settlement on or before **03.02.2018** at the following address:

1. Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. E-mail: sikkim_slsa@live.com Phone No.03592-207753.
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3. District Legal Services Authority (East) District Court's Complex, Sichey Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284462.
4. Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131.
5. District Legal Services Authority (North) District Court Complex, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234502.
6. Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone no.03592 234383/234514.
7. District Legal Services Authority (South) District Court Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 264356.
8. Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, District Courts Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone no.03595 263145.
9. District Legal Services Authority (West) District Court Complex, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.
10. Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone no.03595 250061.
11. Taluk Legal Services Committee, Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim.
12. Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Soreng, Sub-Division, West Sikkim.

(Published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority).

R.O. No. 524/ipl/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 24.1.18

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Study and Nurture the EMRS Model

Share the story of the Girls from Gangyap to inspire Sikkim

Basketball has traditionally not been big in Sikkim; hill-people physiques, one was constantly told, were better suited for football or the martial arts. And although sportspersons from Sikkim have performed consistently well in the latter two disciplines, the phenomenal Girls from Gangyap have proven that no stereotype can hold out against passion and commitment supported by the right belief and faith. Basketball at EMRS-Gangyap started on a rough mud-court [which was not even regulation size] in remote West Sikkim, without even a proper hoop, and in the latest instance, five girls from the school team were invited to be part of the Madhya Pradesh and Assam teams at the 68th National Basketball Championship held in Chennai. One of the girls, Nima Doma Bhutia, was even appointed captain on the MP state team. This was a substantial achievement for the basketball players from EMRS, who, one may add here, are not new to breaking new ground. The girls' basketball team of Eklavya Model Residential School has also conclusively demolished the myth that basketball was an elite sport of tall kids sporting branded sneakers and having access to state-of-the-art facilities. There is no denying the fact that these stereotypes held strong in Sikkim as well, because just about every "private" school here had a basketball court, but none had really invested time, belief or training which would have inspired their teams to aim for glory beyond Sikkim. Such support was however extended to the EMRS squad and the girls have reciprocated exceptionally well, turning all stereotypes on the head and blazing a triumphant path which has no equals. Their journey from remote Gangyap to glory as national champs needs to be celebrated by everyone in Sikkim, and their story shared widely... to inspire, motivate and reflect pride.

The Eklavya Model Residential School at Gangyap is one which few in Sikkim would have heard of until EMRS started grabbing headlines thanks to its girls' basketball team. Until the EMRS girls discovered the sport of basketball and excelled, few would even have heard of Gangyap. Most people in Sikkim will still not be able to find Gangyap on the map, but most would know that it is where EMRS is based. To give such recall-value to a village of much greater antiquity than the school it hosts is a rich endorsement of what the school has achieved despite infrastructural and other handicaps. For those interested to know where Gangyap is - it is 19 kilometres north of Tashiding, en route to (officially) the remotest village of Sikkim, Karjee. It can be safely said that unless one is a student at EMRS or has friends there, there are very few reasons to head that way. And yet, the school has consistently produced basketball players of exceptional skill and resolve. Some years ago, the school management's persistence with the sport achieved its stars legendary status as the first school from the entire North-east region to have won the CBSE under-19 Basketball Championship. The model school's model to inspire its students to aim big needs to be studied, appreciated, understood and replicated across the State because what Sikkim students lack are not opportunities, but conviction and confidence. Who better to learn that from than the girls enrolled in a school which still does not have a proper campus, but does not allow conditions which would spread hopelessness among most to curtail their dreams?

It is important to bear in mind that the EMRS success is neither a flash in the pan nor is it born from the coincidence of a group of exceptionally gifted girls coming together by chance. The EMRS squad sees new players almost every year, but has still consistently grown in strength. Despite many of its students having never seen a basketball until they enrolled here, the school boasts an exceptional bench-strength with even its 'B' and 'C' teams strong enough to beat any other team in the State. It has obviously taken years of hard work, consistent commitment and rare optimism to craft together the skills and confidence which led to EMRS standing tall as national champs and as belonging to a tribe of players who command respect with mere introductions. And to think that the school was only established in 2007! The credit must largely go to the school management which believed in its students, worked with them, groomed their skills and ended up reflecting such pride on Sikkim. The school's administrators and its students should be contracted as resource persons and escorted to schools across the State to share their experience to inspire and motivate more among the young to believe in themselves and convince the elders to invest respect, belief, time and support in the young to deliver Sikkim the achievers it deserves.

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Why ignoring mental health needs of young Syrian refugees could harm us all

M. ZAHER SAHLOUL
theconversation.com

When a seven-year-old student in eastern Aleppo was asked at the peak of the bombardment campaign by the Assad regime in 2015 to draw a picture, he did not draw children playing, nor did he draw a blue sky or a smiling sun.

Instead, Ahmad drew helicopters dropping barrel bombs, houses blazing in fire and mutilated dead children in blood. In his drawing, the dead children had smiles on their faces, while those alive were in tears.

For this little boy, a pen and a paper were the only tools that enabled him to express his traumatic recollections of a childhood lost.

In Syria, its neighboring countries and all the way to Europe, there are millions of Syrian refugees and displaced individuals like Ahmad who have cried and will continue to cry without any opportunity to express their trauma, let alone receive any support and therapy to overcome the nightmares of war, loss and forced displacement.

The near-disappearance of Syria from the news does not mean that the war has ended. In just the first few months of 2017, more than 250,000 Syrians registered as refugees, bringing the number of Syrian refugees to more than 5.1 million. Fifteen Syrian refugees, including three children, have been found frozen to death in northern Lebanon. They lost their lives as they attempted to cross into Lebanon from neighboring Syria. All countries bordering on Syria have limited immigration, essentially closing their borders to refugees.

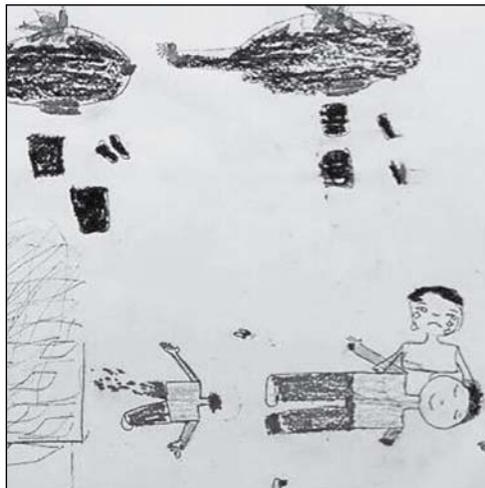
Now, seven years into the brutal Syrian crisis, the exact scale and impact of psychological trauma, mental health challenges and PTSD on both children and adults are not well-known, nor are they prioritized by local and international aid agencies, relief organizations and governments. But we know the psychological toll of the conflict is significant.

According to Ana Moughrabieh, a Syrian-American critical care specialist who continues to help fellow colleagues in Syria's Idlib province via telemedicine, a new trend has emerged among women and teenagers. Every few days, one or two women and teens are admitted to the local hospital after a suicide attempt by ingesting insecticides. The insecticide is known locally as "gas pill" and leads to multiple organ failures, causing a painful and slow death. As a doctor who spent the last six years providing medical relief in Syria, I believe that the world should pay attention to the future of Syria by lending a healing hand to its traumatized children. If we don't, we will have to face the ugly and unpredictable consequences in the years ahead.

MENTAL HEALTH NOT A PRIORITY

In the north, more than 220,000 civilians have become displaced in Idlib province in the past few weeks after an orchestrated campaign by Assad troops and Russian jets. There are 2.5 million people in Idlib, half of them internally displaced from other cities.

In the south, 17 patients, children among them, died while awaiting evacuation from besieged Ghouta. More than 400,000 civilians are still under siege by their own government for the sixth con-



A Syrian child drew a picture of helicopters dropping bombs and children dying as a result. The surviving children are crying, while the deceased ones have smiles on their faces. The regime continued to bomb civilian areas with conventional and sometimes chlorine bombs. Every day there is a new list of dead civilians and children that no one pays attention to except for the local activists. To many Syrians, there is a sense that the world has deserted Syrians.

The resulting depression, PTSD, suicidal tendencies, severe aggression and other mental illnesses that result from these horrors are invisible wounds that are not being detected early enough, let alone treated efficiently, in Syria and beyond. The longer they go untreated, the more amplified are the impacts.

Mental illness remains a taboo across the world, especially in Syria and the Middle East where patients and their families are afraid to seek treatment fearing that they will be labeled as crazy, or "Majnoon" in Arabic.

Often these people are shunned by their communities and spend their lives struggling with minimal support. There is only one operating mental health hospital in Syria where people with acute psychiatric conditions are treated.

Even before the crisis, mental hospitals were more like prisons than real hospitals. There were only two public psychiatric hospitals. One is located in a rural area outside Damascus but now operates with limited capacity because of security concerns. The second one, in Aleppo, has closed.

In the neighboring countries of Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon that are host to over five million Syrian refugees, psychosocial support and psychiatric care are predominantly privatized. The situation is compounded by a severe shortage of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers.

M.K. Hamza, a Syrian-American psychiatrist who volunteered in multiple medical missions to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Greece, described a new syndrome to illustrate the extreme psychological trauma that affects Syrian children. In 2016, he called this human devastation syndrome. According to the same report, more than 45 percent

of Syrian children refugees suffer from PTSD, and many suffer from other mental health problems like depression and anxiety.

OTHER ASPECTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA

Many of these young people are at high risk of becoming drug addicts, prostitutes and extremists themselves. There are even reports of criminal organ trafficking and illegal adoptions run by international gangs preying on vulnerable Syrian children.

In Lebanon, a small country of five million that's now home to over 1.5 million Syrian refugees, 16-year-old Abed is among the very few Syrians who receive therapy and counseling from a local nongovernmental organization called Art of Hope that helps alleviate PTSD and trauma through art therapy and vocational training. Art of Hope tries to bring some level of normalcy, dignity and belonging to Syrian children by engaging them in activities like art and craft workshops and addressing their emotional trauma.

According to Tara Kangarou, the founder of the organization, the teenager was forced to witness beheadings in his hometown of Raqqa, where ISIS also amputated his hand. Abed currently suffers from depression, guilt and aggressive tendencies. During one of the therapy sessions, Abed told his counselor that it may be better if he returns home to join ISIS - expressing remorse that perhaps it was his fault that ISIS amputated his hand.

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH IN AGE OF IS

As the number of out-of-school children looms both inside Syria and in host countries, these invisible wounds won't be healed unless large humanitarian groups and U.N. agencies team up with local and grassroots organizations inside Syria and out. They need to address the mental health and public health challenges in parallel with educational programming.

In the absence of adequate leadership and security, I believe terrorist groups will fill gaps and prey on vulnerable recruits. They do so by providing these children and teens with basic necessities, but most importantly a sense of dignity, belonging and purpose.

I believe that treating these wounds would be an investment that will pay in the form of counter-extremism and reduction of conflict and hostility. An absence of treatment is damaging to the children and also to society.

Nations could also develop telemedicine counseling to fill the gap. On a grassroots level, host countries should engage in training of local trainers and empowering Syrians to detect early signs of depression, anxiety and suicidal tendencies.

In spite of the overwhelming trauma, Syrian children are so resilient. They smile, play and adapt quickly in the refugee camps and even under siege. The same child who drew a picture of death and bombs will be drawing flowers, rivers, butterflies and happy faces after a few sessions of art therapy. He can grow up to become a doctor, a teacher, an engineer or even a president. It is incumbent on us to provide him with that chance.

[The writer is Associate Clinical Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago]

Low carb, Paleo or fasting - which diet is best?

DUANE MELLOR & PAUL D MCARDLE
theconversation.com

At this time of year, we are bombarded with books and TV shows telling us what we should be eating and how best to lose weight. Particularly in vogue are low-carb diets, Paleo diets and intermittent fasting diets. But which diet is the most effective for sustained weight loss - not to mention good health?

First, let's look at low-carb diets, which include Atkins, Dukan and, more recently, the Pioppi diet. The argument behind these diets is that carbohydrates are bad for us because they are broken down into glucose, which stimulates the release of insulin, and insulin helps the body store the energy from food as fat - especially around our middles.

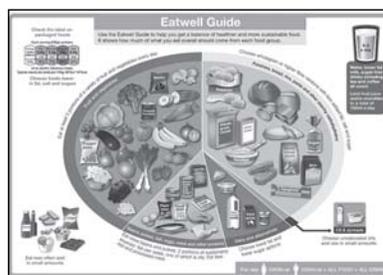
What is missed in this argument is that it is not only carbohydrates that encourage us to make insulin. Foods high in protein and fat do this, too. Beef, for example, increases insulin to a similar level as breakfast cereals.

Related to low-carb diets are the evolutionary-type approaches, such as the caveman diet and the Paleo diet. These diets recommend shunning processed foods and following a diet similar to that of our ancestors in the Paleolithic period - a period that began about 2.6m years ago and ended about 12,000 years ago.

Definitions of this diet vary, but they tend to exclude grains, which often results in a low-carbohydrate diet. Dairy products are also avoided. Both low-carb and Paleo diets encourage eating plenty of fresh food, including vegetables, and little or no highly processed food.

Evidence suggests that low-carb diets can help you lose weight, reduce your risk of type 2 diabetes and, perhaps, your risk of heart disease. However, these three potential benefits are largely linked to the energy restriction they cause and are not directly related to avoiding carbohydrates.

The reason for the drop in energy (calorie)



intake is that carbohydrates normally make up a large part of the Western diet. Banishing carbs makes it difficult to make up for the lost energy intake because the food industry is geared to providing plenty of carbohydrate-rich foods.

Other studies suggest that eating protein and fat keep you feeling full for longer, and may suppress appetite that way. However, more research is needed to prove this theory.

There is some evidence that a low-carb diet can help you lose weight, for up to six months. And a study of people with type 2 diabetes suggests that it can help reduce the need for diabetes medication, even after two years.

The news is not all positive, though. Paleo diets, in particular, can cause side effects, such as diarrhoea, headaches and weakness. And both Paleo and low-carb diets tend to be more expensive than a regular healthy diet (as per government guidelines), and require careful planning to meet nutritional needs.

FASTING

Intermittent fasting diets, such as the 5:2 diet and the warrior diet, are another recent fad. They usually involve going for 14 to 36 hours with few or no calories.

The 5:2 diet involves eating a normal amount of calories for five days of the week and eating reduced calories (25% of normal calorie intake) on two non-consecutive days. The warrior diet in-

volves eating just one large meal a day.

These types of diets have been shown to result in weight loss. In a study published in the International Journal of Obesity, the 5:2 diet not only resulted in a loss of over 6kg, on average, in overweight and obese women, over a six-month period, it also improved several important markers of health, including LDL cholesterol, triglycerides and blood pressure.

The important thing for people embarking on fasting diets to remember is: you need to meet all of your nutritional needs, as per the UK government's Eatwell guide.

The diets we've discussed almost all recommend eating more vegetables and less sugar, refined carbohydrates and highly processed foods. The advocates of these diets differ on the role of fats and carbohydrates, but they all encourage people to think more about food and take control of the food they eat.

RECLAIMING THE WORD 'DIET'

The evidence seems clear, most diets are equally effective when it comes to weight loss. The important thing is to find a diet that works for you - one you can enjoy in the long term.

Perhaps we need to remember the origins of the word diet, coming from the Greek "diata", meaning way of life. This meaning has been adapted over time to mean a restriction. It's time we reclaim the word diet for its true meaning, and look to find ways of eating that are both enjoyable and improve health.

What we have learned from countries where people live long and healthy lives is that they tend not to focus on specific diets - counting calories, fussing about carbs - instead they eat local produce that is affordable and enjoyable.

[Duane Mellor is Senior Lecturer, Coventry University; Paul D McArdle is Clinical Doctoral Research Fellow & Lead Clinical Dietitian, University of Birmingham]

Swaraj says 'no fixed agenda' for talks with top Nepal leaders

SHRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, FEB 1 (PTI): External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today said her visit to Nepal was to meet friends and there was "no fixed agenda" for discussion, ahead of her meeting with the Left alliance leader and CPN-UML chairman K P Sharma Oli, who is likely to be the next prime minister.

Swaraj, who arrived here on a two-day goodwill visit, was received by Deputy Finance Minister Udaya Shumsher Rana and Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi at the airport.

"I have come to meet friends here and there is no fixed agenda for discussion," Swaraj told reporters at the airport.

She will meet Oli and senior leaders of Rastriya Janata Party Nepal later today. Oli will host a dinner in her honour.

Her visit is being considered significant in the



political spectrum here.

Swaraj is the first senior Indian minister to visit Nepal after the conclusion of elections to local bodies, provincial assemblies and federal Parliament.

Nepal successfully concluded three phases of provincial, local and parliamentary elections as part of its efforts to implement the new Constitution that was promulgated in September 2015.

Nepal's Left alliance is preparing to form a new government which is expected to be headed by Oli.

Oli, through a letter, had congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 69th Republic Day of India.

Swaraj will call on President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba tomorrow.

She will also meet CPN-Maoist Centre

Chairman and former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

The clear victory to the Left alliance -- CPN-UML led by Oli and the CPN-Maoist led by Prachanda -- was not seen as a positive development for India given that Oli had publicly criticised New Delhi for interfering in Nepal's internal matters and accused it of toppling his government last year.

NESDP MLA resigns from Meghalaya Assembly

Shillong, Feb 1 (PTI): North East Social Democratic Party (NESDP) sitting legislator from Jirang constituency Lamboklang Mylliem today resigned as member of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

Mylliem submitted his resignation letter to Speaker A T Mondal, Assembly's Commissioner and secretary Andrew Simons said here.

Meghalaya Assembly elections will be held on February 27 and the counting of votes will be held on March 3. The tenure of the current House will expire on March 6.

Earlier, Independent MLA from Mawrykneng David A Nongrum, Independent legislator from Rongara-Siju Rophul S Marak and Congress legislator from Chokpot Bluebell R Sangma also resigned members of the Assembly.

NCP MLA Marthon Sangma and Independent MLA Brigaddy Marak also resigned from their elected posts and joined the Congress party.

Altogether, a total of 21 of 60 sitting legislators have resigned so far as members of the ninth Meghalaya Legislative Assembly to seek re-election from other political parties in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Rijju appeals to people of Nagaland to participate in polls

NEW DELHI, FEB 1 (PTI): Union minister Kiren Rijju today appealed to the people of Nagaland to participate in the forthcoming Assembly elections, saying the central government was committed to an early solution to the decades-old insurgency problem.

In a statement, Rijju appealed to the political and civil society groups of Nagaland to participate in the February 27 polls in the state and to withdraw their declaration to boycott the democratic process.

"The union government is sensitive to the popular sentiment of Naga people and is committed to an early solution to their issue," he said.

Rijju, who is also BJP's election in-charge for Nagaland, assured the people of Nagaland that the government will implement the solution as soon as it is finalised.

The minister of state for home earlier had said that the elections are a constitutional process and the central government is bound by the Constitution.

His comments come after several parties in Nagaland decided not to contest the elections, agreeing to the demand of tribal bodies and civil society groups that the Naga political problem be resolved first.

Under the aegis of the Core Committee of the Nagaland Tribal Hohos and Civil Organisations



(CCNTHCO), several political parties in Nagaland decided not to contest the February 27 polls.

Civil society groups in Nagaland have also launched a campaign 'Solution before Election'.

Expectations for lasting peace soared in Nagaland, which had been hit by insurgency for decades, after the Centre and the NSCN-IM signed a framework agreement in 2015.

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) has been engaged in peace talks with the interlocutor of the central government since 1997, when it announced a ceasefire agreement after a bloody insurgency movement which started in Nagaland soon following the country's independence.

During a visit to the state in November 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind had said the state was at the threshold of making history as a final agreement on the Naga political issue would soon be arrived at and lasting peace achieved.

Stone tools found in India push back human migration timeline

MELBOURNE, FEB 1 (PTI): Archaeologists have discovered a haul of stone tools in India dating back about 385,000 years ago, which suggest that early humans may have left Africa much earlier than previously believed.

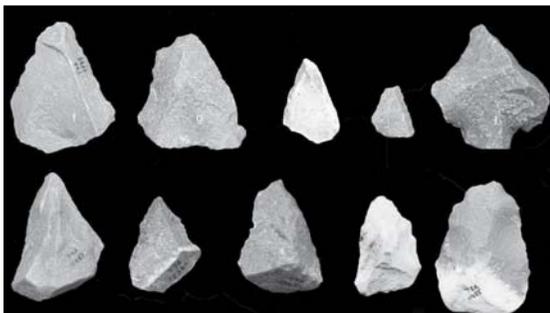
Researchers found over 7,000 stone tools showing a distinct upgrade in stone-shaping techniques, including advanced blades, points and scrapers.

The findings, published in the journal Nature, suggest that modern stone tools were being made in India 250,000 years earlier than previously thought.

The tools may have been made by an archaic species of hominin, rather than modern humans, researchers said.

According to Chris Clarkson from the University of Queensland in Australia, the earliest evidence for modern humans was found in Morocco and dated between 281,000 and 349,000 years old.

"The date of modern human migration from Africa is always being pushed back," Clarkson said.



In 1999, archaeologists Kumar Akhilesh and Shanti Pappu from the Sharma Centre for Heritage Education in Tamil Nadu began excavating the Attirampakkam archaeological site.

They uncovered more than 7,000 stone tools along the way, 'ABC News' reported.

The haul contained tools produced by a more advanced method typical of Middle Stone Age culture, known as the Levallois technique, Pappu said.

The researchers said that the newly discovered stone tools are

the oldest Middle Stone Age artifacts known from India by far.

Previously discovered Indian Middle Stone Age artifacts have been dated to about 140,000 to 46,000 years ago.

A revised date of 385,000 years suggests a Middle Stone Age culture emerged in India about the same time it developed in Europe and Africa, Pappu said.

Outside Africa, the oldest modern human fossil was a partial jaw bone found in Israel. It was dated to about 185,000 years old, according to researchers.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GANGTOK, SIKKIM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work:- **"Construction of 2 Lane Bridge over river Kanaka at Kayam Dzongu in North Sikkim"**

- Offers are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim from bonafide firms specialized in Conceptualising, preparation of drawing, design and executing the under-mentioned project on turnkey contract basis:

NAME OF THE WORK	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENT (NON REFUNDABLE)	EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	COMPLETION TIME
Conceptualizing drawing, designing and executing "2 Lane Bridge over river Kanaka at Kayam Dzongu in North Sikkim".	Rs.2,00,000.00(Rupees Two Lakhs only) (Non Refundable) in favour of Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Govt. of Sikkim.	Rs.75,00,000.00(Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs only in favour of Chief Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Govt. of Sikkim.	24 (twenty – four) months from the date of issue of the formal work order.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Shortlisted of Firms based on Expression of Interest (EOI).

2.1 The intending firms should have successfully executed at least one Government Project of similar nature works costing not less than Rs.50 Crores in the last 5 (five) financial years ending on the last day of the month previous the one in which the tender is invited.

2.2 The intending firms should have successfully executed at least one Government Project in the last 5 (five) years in seismically active hilly regions of North East India.

2.3 The Credentials of items 2.1 and 2.2 should be supported by appropriate certificates issued by the competent authority for verification.

2.4 The average yearly total income of the firm should not be less than Rs. 15 crores during the past 3 (three) financial years (2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16) and should be duly certified by a Chartered Accountant AND SUPPORTED BY Audited Balance Sheet.

3. The calendar of tender activities are as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| i] Publication of Expression of Interest (EOI) | - | 02/02/2018. |
| ii] Submission of hard copy of tender documents (upto 4:00 PM) | - | 03/03/2018 |
| iii] Opening of Eligibility Criteria (12:00 PM) | - | 05/03/2018. |
| iv] Opening of Technical Bid | - | 07/03/2018. |
| v] Opening of Financial Bid | - | 10/03/2018. |

The intending firms, fulfilling above eligibility criteria at clause 2 may purchase the Tender documents from the office of the Chief Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim as per schedule given in Clause 3 during office hours on payment of Rs. 2,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Only) (Non-Refundable) in the form of Account Payee Demand Draft of any Scheduled Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.

4. Evaluation Criteria for Selection of Firm

4.1 The selection of the firm will be Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and the evaluation will be made in three stages as under.

4.2 Stage-I (Evaluation of EOI)

The Expression of Interest (EOI) of all the intending firms will be evaluated for short-listing by the Department, based on above mentioned eligibility criteria and as per the formats duly filled provided in Appendix I.

4.3 State-II (Evaluation of Technical Bid)

Technical bids of shortlisted firms only, who qualify in Stage-I, will be evaluated by the Department, based on criteria as mentioned in the Bid document. Each technical bid will receive a technical score. A proposal shall be rejected, if it does not achieve the minimum technical score of 75 out of the maximum of 100 points. The weightage of the Technical Bid (T) shall be 80 percent.

4.4 Stage-III (Evaluation of Financial Bid)

Financial Bids of those firms who qualify in Technical Evaluation in Stage-II will be evaluated as under:

4.4.1 The proposal with lowest financial bid will be awarded a financial score of 100 points. Financial score of other proposals shall be inversely proportional to their quoted price, as indicated in the tender document. The weightage of the Financial Bid shall be 20 percent.

5. Successful firms who will meet the minimum qualifying marks in the selection process will be intimated and financial bids of only qualified firms will be opened.

6. The tenderers are requested to go through the offer documents and visit the location and apprise themselves of the site conditions fully before submission of offer.

7. The Earnest Money amount of Rs. 75 Lakhs (Rupees Seventy five lakhs Only) should be submitted along with the offer documents in the form of Demand Draft of any Scheduled Nationalized Bank in favour of Chief Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Govt. of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.

8. Application from Joint Venture/Association of Firm is not accepted.

9. For any queries of clarifications, the following officers of the Department may be contacted:

- The Additional Chief Engineer (N/E), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan Gangtok.
- The Superintending Engineer (P/M), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan Gangtok.

10. The Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

11. The interested parties may visit the websites:-

11.1 www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

12. The intending bidders must upload their offers along with scanned copy of tender form cost and EMD in the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in along with submission of hard copies of the complete offer in separate envelopes as mentioned. The hard copies of all the documents must be handed over to the Office of the Chief Engineer in person on the above mentioned scheduled date i/e on 13/02/2018 upto 1600hrs.

Sd/-

**CHIEF ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVT. OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK 737101, SIKKIM.**

Salaries of Prez, VP, Governors hiked

NEW DELHI, FEB 1 (PTI): The salaries of the President and the Vice President have been increased to Rs 5 lakh and Rs 4 lakh per month respectively, in a rectification of an anomaly.

Announcing the hike in their salaries in his Budget speech, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the emoluments of the President, the Vice President and the Governors were last revised with effect from January 1, 2006.

"These emoluments are proposed to be revised to Rs 5 lakh for the President, Rs 4 lakh for the Vice President and to Rs 3.5 lakh per month for the Governors," he said, amidst thumping of desk by the members in the Lok Sabha.

As of now, the President gets Rs 1.50 lakh per month, the Vice President Rs 1.25 lakh and a Governor of a state Rs 1.10 lakh.

Till now, the President, the Vice President and the Governors continued to get less salary as compared to the top bureaucrats and service chiefs since the laws were not amended to rectify an anomaly with the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission's recommendations two years ago.

After the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission's awards on January 1, 2016, the Cabinet Secretary, who is the top-most bureaucrat in the country, gets Rs 2.5 lakh per month and a Secretary in the Union government draws Rs 2.25 lakh per month.

The President is also the supreme commander of all the three armed forces -- the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

However, the President's current salary was less than the chiefs of the three armed forces, who draw a salary equivalent to the cabinet secretary.

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No let-up as Barca target cup final, says Valverde

BARCELONA, FEB 1 (AFP): Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde insists the Copa del Rey holders won't overlook a Valencia side weakened by injuries ahead of Thursday's semi-final first leg at the Camp Nou.

"When you get to the semi-final you have to make the most of your luck," Valverde told a news conference on Wednesday.

"A semi-final, it's the chance to play a final and we must give everything to get there.

"Valencia will do the same thing. Reaching a final doesn't happen every day," added Valverde, whose side have already beaten Celta Vigo and local rivals Espanyol in the cup this month.

Barcelona, the record 29-time champions, are attempting to become the first team to lift the cup four years in a row since Athletic Bilbao in the 1930s.

They will be strong favour-



ites to reach a fifth successive final, with Valencia missing a trio of key players -- Goncalo Guedes, Geoffrey Kondogbia and Ezequiel Garay -- through injury.

"They're feeling the effects of lots of matches this January," said Valverde, who spent six months in charge of Valencia between 2012 and 2013.

Barcelona thrashed Valencia

8-1 on aggregate -- following a 7-0 win in the first leg -- at the same stage of the competition two years ago, but Valverde acknowledged a repeat scoreline is unlikely.

"It won't be like the last time, a 7-0 is not normal for a first game. Valencia were in a delicate position then, but now they have a team that is good enough to

win any match."

In Wednesday's first semi-final, little Leganes, who stunned mighty Real Madrid in the quarter-finals, battled back from a goal down to draw 1-1 with Sevilla in the opening leg.

Colombian international Luis Muriel gave Sevilla the lead after 21 minutes, scoring with the aid of a deflection off the post.

But Leganes levelled on the night when Sevilla goalkeeper Sergio Rico blundered trying to keep out a header from Greek defender Dimitrios Siovas.

Leganes, who were playing in the third division five years ago and are in the Copa del Rey semi-finals for the first time in their 90-year history, remain the outsiders against Sevilla, at least on financial terms.

Their annual budget of 45 million euros is four times less than that of Sevilla.

Beckham most fashionable person in the world: Baichung Bhutia



MUMBAI, FEB 1 (PTI): Former Indian football captain Baichung Bhutia says Manchester United alumn David Beckham is the "most fashionable person" in the world.

According to the 41-year-old football veteran, the English forward player beats all icons from sports and even Hindi and international cinema when it comes to style.

"David Beckham... Not just in football, but in the entire world from Bollywood to Hollywood, he is the most fashionable person ever," Baichung told PTI on the sidelines of the ongoing Lakme Fashion Week Summer/Resort 2018.

The retired striker today turned showstopper for label Kuzu by designer Karma Sonam, who hails from his state,



Sikkim. He described his personal style statement as "being comfortable and confident in what I wear".

Earlier, Baichung said he is proud to represent Sikkim at the 13th edition of Sustainable Fashion Day.

"I think there's huge potential that has not been tapped yet from the area. Today, we see some of the best designers from there and with what they presented today it just shows the kind of level they stand at," he said.

The day two at the LFW began with the platform promoting #NORTHEASTMOJO, with IMG Reliance.

It was a curated showcase of six designers from the region who have developed collections with artisan textiles.

HC asks govt to examine new Rs 50, Rs 200 notes

NEW DELHI, JAN 31 (PTI): The Delhi High Court today asked the Centre and the RBI to examine the new currency notes and coins, saying the visually-impaired were facing hardship in identifying and using them.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar told the Centre and the RBI that they should examine the new currency notes of Rs 200 and Rs 50 denominations as the visually-impaired people were finding it difficult to

use them due to their size and the tactile marks.

"This issue is something which needs to be resolved among yourselves. You (government, RBI and the petitioner here) sit together and sort it out," the bench said, adding that it is difficult for the visually-impaired to identify them, also due to the change of size of these notes.

The bench observed that the authorities should have consulted some visually impaired experts and others who have worked in this field.

It asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, who was representing the Centre, why cannot they make the size of the currency as it used to be earlier.

The ASG told the court that they had designed the currency after considering every aspect.

The court asked the Centre to place its view before it on the next date of hearing on February 16.

The court had earlier refused to stay the printing and circulation of the new Rs 50 notes, issued

on August 18, 2017.

The court was hearing PILs filed by three advocates, a company secretary and NGO, All India Confederation of Blind, who had sought a change in the new currency notes to make them easily identifiable and differentiable for the visually impaired.

The PIL by advocate Rohit Dandriyal sought directions to the authorities to withdraw the Rs 50 notes which do not have any identification marks and stop printing them.

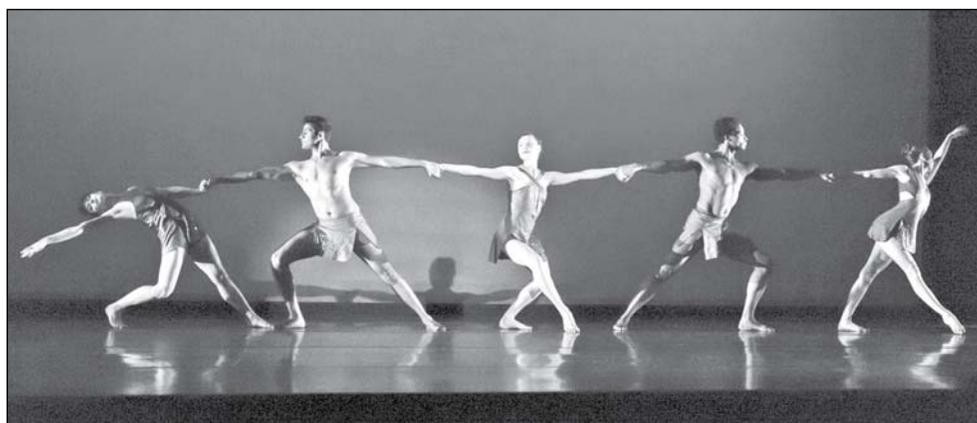
He said that, according to the RBI, a special feature has been introduced on the left of the watermark window on all notes, except the Rs 10 denomination ones. "This feature is in different shapes for various denominations. For example, a vertical rectangle denotes a Rs 20 note, a square means Rs 50 (in older notes), triangle and circle for Rs 100, a diamond denoted the Rs 1,000 currency which is not a legal tender now," the advocate's PIL said.

NY group fuses contemporary dance with Indian classical music

NEW DELHI, FEB 1 (PTI): Wrapping up its high-octane India tour, a New York-based dance troupe enthralled the audience in New Delhi with a western contemporary performance infused with Indian classical themes, which its director described as a "wild experiment".

Five members of Battery Dance group, along with an Indian dancer, performed 'Shakti: A Return to the Source' to the accompaniment of 'Raag Durga', rendered by musicians Rajan Mishra and Sajjan Mishra, to a packed house last evening at the Kamani Auditorium.

Jonathan Hollander, president and artistic director of the company, said the performance was by nature "organic" and it came "out of a seed". "The whole act is a layered experience and mixing the two art schools - Indian Classical and American Contemporary - was a wild experiment. But, there is that element of inevitability



which makes the experience unique," he told PTI.

"I just gave a broad thematic ambit to my troupe, rest I let my dancers do their own body inflexes," he said.

The performance, which included a few pure contemporary acts by the US-based troupe, was organised by the Indian Council for Cultural

Relations (ICCR).

It was attended by US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster, Director General of ICCR Riva Ganguly Das, the Mishra brothers, and a number of other personalities and art lovers.

Juster said he was raised in New York and so it felt special to attend the performance

as his country's ambassador in India.

An Indian dancer, who trained with the group in New York, joined the five performers from the US for 'Shakti'.

"The blend of one art form with another was done very gracefully by all artistes. They performed to the chantings of Raag Durga, which was very

difficult, but they did it with ease. The artistes were performing contemporary dance, which involved a lot of body movements and contacts, but it was done with grace," Sajjan Mishra told PTI.

Noted dancer Geeta Chandran, who attended the event, said their dance vocabulary is very different from classical

Indian school, but "they did a very good job".

Battery Dance launched its India tour with a performance at St. Andrew's Auditorium in Mumbai, followed by performances in Kolkata and Bengaluru.

The company has performed in 70 countries until now.

Robin Cantrell shared the challenges the troupe faced in executing the performance.

"The duet in the middle of the 'Shakti' performance was a bit challenging. Also, the transfer of weight while holding on to the body parts of a fellow dancer, in synchrony with the Indian classical music was difficult but we enjoyed learning it all," Robin said.

Artistic director Hollander said he had first heard Raag Durga in 1992, when "I was in Ahmedabad after arriving in India as a Fulbrighter. That sound left an imprint on me and essentially the seeds of 'Shakti' were sown".

It takes luck to win Nobel Prize: Richard Roberts

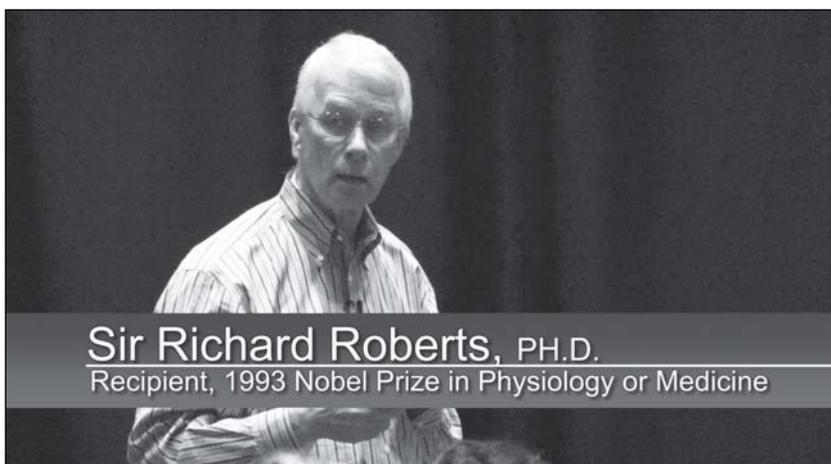
PANAJI, FEB 1 (PTI): UK-based researcher Richard J Roberts, who won the Nobel Prize in the field of physiology or medicine in 1993, feels that luck plays a significant role in winning the award.

Roberts is in Goa to participate in the three-day-long Nobel Prize Series organised by Nobel Media, a wing of Nobel Foundation, which bestows the coveted award.

"During my interaction with the students, I have a standard lecture which I call as a path to the Nobel prize.

But the most important part of my talk, from my perspective, is that I emphasise the importance of luck. When something lucky happens, you need to take advantage of it," Roberts told PTI.

"You are working in some ar-



Sir Richard Roberts, Ph.D.
Recipient, 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

reas, you are asking some questions and maybe the answers might turn out to be very important. Or maybe it might be of less importance and yet another piece of knowledge, but very often when you ask these questions

something happens.

"You might get into something. New phenomenon comes up (that) you did not know before and you follow that," the Nobel prize winner said.

"If you ask most of the Nobel

laureates they will say the same thing that they were working in an area and they discovered something that they were not expecting," Roberts said.

Speaking about the life after winning the Nobel prize, Roberts

said, "The main thing that changed is that I get invited to go and talk to people and visit exotic places.

That's the principal change that took place."

"Still, I am a normal scientist (after winning Nobel).

But I believe that science should be pushing to try to make difference in the world, because people do listen to us," he said.

Roberts was critical of the fact that some of the discoveries are not helping the mankind because of certain factors related to the corporates.

Referring to the pharmaceutical companies, he said the companies are not interested in providing the cure.

"That is the worst thing that can happen. If you (researcher) have a very good drug on something and you find it as a way to cure the disease then you can't sell the drug (to the company) anymore," he added.

"That's okay. But I am objecting when pharmaceutical companies

say that they are interested to find something that is going to cure, but I feel that they are not (interested)," he added.

"It is disheartening when a researcher sees that his research is not benefiting the mankind. I feel whatever you discover should help the people," he said.

When asked about the Nobel prize event which is currently held in India, he said the Nobel Media events which are put up are like dialogues.

"Mostly, when I travel, I just give talks, so people listen. Nice thing about this is that there are interactions between speakers, we can talk about the things that we know about. We can ask one another questions, and then we can respond to questions from the audience when they come in," he said.

"That's nice, because I like being asked questions that I don't know the answers to, sometimes that makes you to think about the different things," he added.

N Korean athletes to fly South for Winter Olympics

SEOUL, FEB 1 (AFP): North Korean skiers and skaters were due to arrive in the South today to take part in the Pyeongchang Winter Games, setting the stage for a "peace Olympics" after a year of high tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Eight days before the opening ceremony, 10 North Korean skiers and skaters were to fly in on a chartered Asiana Airlines plane, in a rare direct flight between the two halves of the divided peninsula -- for which a special exemption had to be sought from US sanctions.

The three cross-country skiers, three alpine skiers, two short-track speed skaters and two figure skaters will accompany a South Korean delegation who held joint ski training at the North's Masikryong ski resort -- a pet project of leader Kim Jong-Un -- in the latest in a flurry of cross-border trips in the run-up to the Games.

The Pyeongchang Winter Olympics are being held in a hitherto little-known part of the South, but have triggered a sudden apparent rapprochement between the two Koreas.

In the past year tensions reached fever pitch as Pyongyang carried out a series of weapons tests -- including intercontinental ballistic missiles that brought the US mainland into range, and its most powerful nuclear blast to date -- while Kim and US President Donald Trump traded personal insults and threats of war.

For months, the North ignored repeated entreaties from Seoul for it to take part in a "peace Olympics", letting deadlines for registration slip by. But in his New Year speech Kim finally expressed a willingness to send a delegation to Pyeongchang, triggering a rapid series of events.

UN official says Rohingya crisis has 'hallmarks of genocide'



SEOUL, FEB 1 (AP): The UN special envoy on human rights in Myanmar said today that the Myanmar military's violent operations against Rohingya Muslims bear "the hallmarks of a genocide."

Yanghee Lee told reporters in Seoul, where she is based, that she couldn't make a definitive declaration about genocide until a credible international tribunal or court had weighed the evidence, but "we are seeing signs and it is building up to that."

Her briefing described her recent visit to refugee camps in Bangladesh and other areas in the region to discuss the Rohingya, a persecuted Muslim minority in Myanmar.

Nearly 700,000 Rohingya have fled their villages into Bangladesh since the Myanmar military's crackdown following Aug 25 attacks by Rohingya insurgents. The government of Myanmar has refused her entrance to the country.



Responding to a question about an Associated Press report Thursday that details a massacre and at least five mass graves in the Myanmar village of Gu Dar Pyin, Lee said that while she didn't have specific details on the village, "you can see it's a pattern" that has emerged with the Rohingya.

She said such reports must be investigated, "and this is why we've called for a fact finding mission ... and access for international media to" the areas in northern Rakhine state where the

Rohingya live. Lee said that Myanmar's actions were "amounting to crimes against humanity."

"These are part of the hallmarks of a genocide," she said.

"I think Myanmar needs to get rid of this baggage of 'did you or did you not,' and if proven that they did, then there has to be responsibility and accountability. No stones must be left unturned because the people, the victims, the families of the victims definitely deserve an answer," she said.

Sky is the limit for India-US relationship: Nikki Haley

LALIT KJHA WASHINGTON, FEB 1 (PTI): Sky is the limit for the US-India relationship and President Donald Trump is keen to see the two countries doing more together, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said.

Haley's remarks came during her luncheon meeting with the Indian Ambassador to the US, Navtej Singh Sarna, at his residence on Tuesday.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for being aggressive in pursuing economic and administrative reforms, Haley told a select gathering of Indian-Americans that the Trump administration has also undertaken a similar operation.

"It makes sense for the two democracies, having so much in common values to work together," the Indian-American diplomat said.

Haley, 46, is the first ever Cabinet-ranking Indian-American in any US presidential administration.

Haley said when she entered the Trump administration, she desperately wanted to see the US-India relations to be very strong "which wasn't the case during the last two presidencies".

"It didn't make sense to me because when you look at the values, they're the same. When you look at



the work ethics and what they believe from a corporate standpoint -- the same.

When you look at the research and all the things that we do, these two democracies have so much in common," she said.

"We're seeing a growing interest, and a growing relationship and seeing that happen. The president is very very fond of what is happening with India, growing that relationship trying to make sure that we do more with India," Haley said.

"I think that sky's the limit now. We are going to continue to try and show the values of India to the United States and continue trying to show the values of the US to India," she said.

Haley said Modi was aggressively pursuing reforms and changes in India.

"He very much wants to streamline and do all of these reforms, that are very true for this (Trump) administration too. So I think it's a good combination to have them (Trump-Modi) together," Haley said.

In his remarks, Sarna described Haley as the "star" of the Trump administration.

"It is always a delight to see the sense of pride that Ambassador Haley has in her Indian roots, and the high value she attaches to the India-US relationship even as she plays such a prominent role in the American political sphere," Sarna told PTI.

Sarna said Haley's story really showed that "can't is not an option".

"Coming from a family of immigrants, coming from a relatively small rural town and moving so quickly to hold the post of governor was in itself a huge achievement," said Sarna.

Haley before her posting at the UN had served as the governor of South Carolina.

"From there to here when over the last one year we have seen you become, if I may say so, the star of this administration," he said.

Pakistan extends Afghan refugees' repatriation deadline

ISLAMABAD, FEB 1 (PTI): Pakistan has extended by two months the deadline for repatriation of Afghan refugees, giving a temporary relief to them amid a spike in violence in Afghanistan.

About 3 million Afghans have been living in Pakistan for decades. Nearly half of them are unregistered and staying in the country illegally.

The decision to extend the deadline for their return was taken by federal cabinet yesterday. "The cabinet approved grant of 60 days extension in the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards for Afghan refugees," said the statement.

The validity of legal refugee status for many Afghan refugees expired on January 31. This threw into doubt the future of these refugees.

Pakistan has extended the validity of PoR for the refugees at least six times in the past.

The Pakistani government says the country's economy "has carried the burden of hosting Afghan refugees since long and in the present circumstances cannot sustain it further."

The 60-day extension came as Afghan Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak and National Directorate of Security chief Mohamed Masoom Stanekzai visited Pakistan to discuss bilateral ties.

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 1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- 78A 4233
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 3rd Prize Rs.2000/-
 0306 0335 1347 1844 3594 4318 5537 6166 7141 8172
 4th Prize Rs.1000/-
 0958 2230 3301 3371 3769 5838 7222 7825 8114 9909
 5th Prize Rs.500/-
 1039 2344 2460 5957 6017 6091 6134 9353 9354 9440
 6th Prize Rs.100/-
 0003 0005 0028 0050 0062 0075 0119 0122 0143 0145
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Many old Albanian Orthodox churches and the art they contain lie in ruins due to decades of neglect but they could attract tourists if they are repaired, according to experts. The government and the Orthodox Church itself have started restoring some of the structures that date from the Byzantine period or later in the south of the country. The churches are often in picturesque locations and their fortunes reflect the twists of Albanian politics over the last century. Albania became a functioning state after World War One after domination under the Ottoman Empire. It became communist after World War Two but embraced democracy in 1990 and aspires to join the European Union. The post-Byzantine Saint Athanasius church in Leshnica is one example. Its frescoes have stared at the stars since last May when the roof caved in and its southern wall fell down.

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 4th Prize Rs.30,000/- 6359 5th Prize Rs. 20,000/- 1279
 6th Prize Rs.10,000/-
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 1208 1210 1218 1228 1288 1324 1325 1350 1354 1362
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DEAR KIND MORNING
 Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
 Draw No:9 DrawDate on:01/02/18
 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 93D 74381
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 2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
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 57335 60203 61446 65527 82888
 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0668 1919 2479 4088 5951 6838 7207 7696 7814 9468
 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0797 0852 2065 2488 5988 6190 6990 7652 8130 9221
 5th Prize Rs.120/-
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 2680 2706 2853 2879 3007 3068 3098 3348 3373 3377
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 4520 4648 4650 4838 4842 5403 5404 5503 5506 5586
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 7843 8185 8210 8341 8381 8412 8448 8510 8511 8576
 8642 8710 8800 8843 8944 8954 9234 9250 9325 9375
 9384 9490 9501 9606 9741 9791 9798 9800 9837 9899
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 2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
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 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0121 0729 1650 1972 2421 3067 4804 9228 9472 9997
 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0328 1097 1200 2373 2697 3874 5712 6604 8239 9710
 5th Prize Rs.120/-
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 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0524 1460 2614 2782 2984 4483 5726 6824 7430 8361
 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0610 1237 2002 2432 4281 4547 5901 6271 7003 8179
 5th Prize Rs.120/-
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THE MINEFIELD GIRL! Hailee Steinfeld dons an all-black theme, sporting an over-sized coat with large silver embellishments as she attends 'The Minefield Girl' Audio Visual Book Launch at Lightbox in New York City. Nice!

SAMUEL L JACKSON IS BACK!

Samuel Jackson is back in action as Shaft with co-star Jessie Usher while filming in Atlanta.

The 69-year-old actor was reprising his role as private detective John Shaft II for the next installment of the franchise titled Son of Shaft.

Jackson was dressed in 1970s garb and sported a blue skull cap, brown leather jacket with wide lapels, maroon turtleneck and brown plaid pants.

He was filming outside a mosque in Atlanta alongside co-star Jessie Usher, 25.

Usher wore a blue and white striped sweater under a grey jacket along with blue jeans.

Jackson last played the character in the 2000 movie Shaft that was a sequel to the three 1970s Shaft blaxploitation films. His character



is a nephew of the original John Shaft played by Richard Roundtree, 75.

Roundtree - who starred in the 1971 original Shaft,

Shaft's Big Score in 1972 and Shaft In Africa in 1973 - also was featured in the 2000 sequel and will be back for Son Of Shaft.

The 2000 movie Shaft was directed by John Singleton and also starred Christian Bale, Vanessa Williams, Jeffrey Wright and Busta Rhymes.

Shaft opened at the top spot in the weekend box office when it debuted in June 2000 with \$21.7 million. The film went on to make \$107 million worldwide with a budget of \$46 million.

Usher made his acting debut in a 2005 episode of the CBS police drama Without A Trace and previously was seen in the 2016 film Independence Day: Resurgence. He also played the leading role of Cam Calloway on the Starz sitcom Survivor's Remorse from 2014 to 2017.

Jackson has been married to his actress wife LaTanya Richardson, 68, since 1980, and they have a 35-year-old daughter Zoe together.

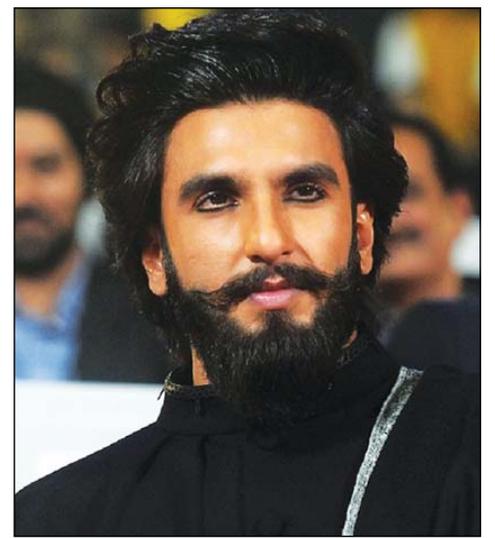
Ranveer Singh on being Alauddin Khilji: Kids used to look at me and start crying!

Ranveer Singh took a huge risk to play an out and out evil guy in Padmaavat. Thanks to his conviction to the art, he managed to deliver a superlative performance. But it could have gone the other way round too. It could have backfired as well because Ranveer has mostly played likeable characters till now. Padmaavat was his breakthrough performance. He even got into the character by trying to look like the dreaded Sultan. But it did come for a price. Ranveer revealed in his interview with senior journalist Rajeev Masand for News18.com that his Khilji look scared of kids.

Speaking to Masand, Ranveer revealed, "It used to freak me out when in my Alauddin Khilji look... and I

love children, I love playing with children. They used to look at me and start crying because of beard and stuff, they used to start bawling. I was like what am I doing." Aww... this is such a cute revelation. People around him were reacting to his Khilji look in their own ways and that was affecting him too. There are stories of the actor playing cricket with the kids of her society a lot of time. So it's true that Ranveer adores kid and thus their reaction might have shaken him a bit.

That's also a form of appreciation for his role. It is said that if you are playing a vile character, the audience has to feel hatred for you. Only then the character has made a mark. Ranveer has proved this belief to be true.



Katherine Heigl joins cast of Suits!

Katherine Heigl is joining USA Network's Suits as a series regular in the upcoming eighth season following departure of Meghan Markle and Patrick J Adams.

Heigl will play Samantha Wheeler in the popular legal drama, a talented new partner at Pearson Specter Litt opposite Gabriel Macht [Harvey Specter].

The 39-year-old Knocked Up star revealed her delight at the new role, saying in a statement: 'Joining Suits was the perfect organic way to not only collaborate with an EP I admire deeply, but to also become part of a show and cast that I am an immense fan of.'

'I have watched Suits from the very beginning and feel incredibly lucky to be the newest member of the Pearson Specter Litt family,' the former Grey's Anatomy star said.

Production will begin in Toronto in April with the series premiering later in the year.

Heigl's character is expected to shake things up at Pearson Specter Litt, with USA revealing in a press release that Wheeler 'will challenge the status quo and either become the firm's 'greatest ally...or most powerful enemy'.

Aaron Korsh, creator and executive producer of



Suits said: 'On behalf of the entire Suits team, I am extraordinarily excited to welcome Katherine Heigl into our family - I have always been a big fan of her work and was delighted to discover she was an avid Suits fan herself.'

brought to Suits season after season. We wish each of them nothing but the very best.'

Suits season seven continues March 28 at 9pm on USA.

'I cannot wait to have her come play with our entire cast and crew. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Harvey, Louis, Donna and Alex as the mysterious Samantha Wheeler is a direct threat to their status quo. One thing is for sure - Samantha's wit, charm, loyalty, strength and vulnerability will all be put to the test as she muscles her way into the firm currently known as Pearson Specter Litt.'

It was announced Tuesday that USA Network and Universal Cable Productions had renewed Suits for an eighth season.

Markle's departure from the show was announced last year ahead of her engagement to Prince Harry. And Adams' - who played her onscreen love interest - announced he was exiting the show this week.

President of NBC Universal Chris McCumber commented on the departures: 'While we're excited for Season 8, everyone at USA will deeply miss Patrick and Meghan, and are grateful for the talent and commitment they brought to Suits season after season. We wish each of them nothing but the very best.'

CHEERLEADERS PERFORM ON 'GHOOMAR' DURING NBA MATCH

MUMBAI, FEB 1 (PTI): Deepika Padukone's "Padmaavat" had a great opening in the US and now the film's song "Ghoomar" has also become a rage.

A group of cheerleaders performed on the song during a NBA match between the teams Charlotte Hornets and Miami Heat on January 28.

The video of the dance sequence was posted by the NBA on Facebook and its viewership has clocked closed to 2 million. It has been shared 6,600 times on the social networking site.

In the video, cheerleaders, in traditional Indian dresses, can be seen dancing on the popular song much to



the delight of fans, who can be heard whistling and applauding in the stadium.

The "Ghoomar" song, featuring actor Deepika Padukone and Shahid Kapoor, is part of "Padmaavat", which was released in India on January 25.

The song had its own share of controversy, with many expressing outrage over Deepika's bare midriff in the sequence, which was later covered with the help of CGI.

ARIES: Go for the gusto today. Aries. Nothing can stop you. You've got a tremendous amount of power at your disposal, so use it wisely. You can accomplish a great deal and make extremely positive transformations in your life. Your physical vitality is especially strong and your sex life may be especially active. Make sure to share with others the enthusiasm you exude. You aren't the only person alive on this planet, so spread some of that love around.

TAURUS: You may have the sense that something is going on around you that you just can't seem to grab hold of, Taurus. Your mind is bouncing this way and that as if you're watching a ball in a tennis match. Things may be changing rapidly around you. You could feel like it's time to jump on the bandwagon. Look before you leap, and

go with the flow. Remember that the best decisions aren't always made with the brain; sometimes they're made with the heart.

GEMINI: An opposing person or situation may rear its head today, Gemini. Realize that you can draw on the same energy that's causing them to act and state your point of view for the record. Stand up against this force and let your viewpoint be heard. Sometimes it's necessary to be a bit rough and outspoken in order to bring peace and balance to an unstable situation.

CANCER: Today is a great day for transformation, Cancer, and your actions have deeper than usual inner meaning. Be careful where you aim your arrow, because the tip of it has extra sting today. People might be rubbing you the wrong way,

making you feel like you're a pot of water on a hot plate. The heat is turned up and the cover is about to blow. Make sure you don't hit anyone when the lid flies off.

LEO: Use today's powerful energy to cut to the heart of the matter and strip away the façade that's currently doing more harm than good. Open yourself up to the world, Leo, and show the people around you that you have a great deal more to offer than you've been revealing. Take a controlling role in the situation at hand and let your needs be known. You'll find that your daily life will improve tremendously when you communicate your needs.

VIRGO: Try not to get blown off course by the fire that seems to be raging around you, Virgo. Ultimately, you know what's right and

what's wrong, so don't compromise yourself or your sense of pride. Keep an eye open to what is going on in your circle, but don't feel like you need to chime in with a certain course of action that doesn't ring true with your inner self. Control what you can, but don't worry about the other situations.

LIBRA: Pick yourself up by your bootstraps and go in for the kill today, Libra. You're in a terrific position to make some strong and lasting impressions on others. Any sort of group work is especially favored. There's a powerful boost behind your actions, so be careful where you aim your weapons. Initiate action in the places where issues seem to be stagnating. Transformation is a key aspect to healthy growth. Today is an excellent day

to pursue such important goals.

SCORPIO: Your emotional nature may seem revved up for action today, Scorpio, although it could be that you don't know what direction to drive in. The engine is running, but for some reason the windshield looks a bit cloudy. Try to key into the areas in your life that need a major overhaul. Look to transform them for the better. Once your windshield is clear, kick your motor into gear and go for it. Initiate the action or else you may find yourself being acted upon.

SAGITTARIUS: There is a tremendous amount of power at your disposal today, Sagittarius, and you should take care and use it wisely. This is quite a transformative period for you, and your body may

be going through many changes. You have the ability to make an extremely strong impression on people today, so think before you act. This energy can manifest as an accident or something unhealthy if not used properly.

CAPRICORN: There may be a big conflict in your life that you seem almost powerless to control at this time, Capricorn. It could feel like a war is raging around you and all you want is for it to stop. Whether you realize it or not, you do have a part to play in this situation and you certainly do have the power to affect the outcome of this quarrel. Take responsibility for your actions and step up to the plate.

AQUARIUS: There is a powerful force that seems to be working against you today, Aquarius, but

realize that you do have the power to produce a positive outcome. Use this conflict to find balance in an unstable situation and try not to rock the boat too much with your superiors. You have a great deal of fire under your belt today and your actions are especially powerful. Consider enrolling in a class or seeking a path of spirituality.

PISCES: People may seem especially insensitive to your feelings today, Pisces, but try not to get down on them about it. You may feel a sudden urge to act out in a physical manner, and you should do it, but in a constructive way. Get out of the house and take a walk or jog by a lake or river. Open your mind from the cage it's been sitting in and get some perspective on your life.