

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## EAT SIKKIM AT RIDGE PARK

Sekuwa/barbeque, gyuma [sausages], locally made wine, tongba [fermented millet], toknay churpi [hardened cheese] are among the many Sikkimese flavors on offer at the Ridge Park as part of the Red Panda Winter Carnival.

## Agri Minister interacts with West Sikkim farmers

### ANNOUNCES CONSTRUCTION OF 2 VEGETABLE COLLECTION CENTRES AT THARPU

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN [IPR]:** In his ongoing interaction with farmers of West Sikkim, the Minister for Agriculture & Horticulture Department, Somnath Poudyal today announced that two collection centres for vegetables will be constructed at Tharpu and that milching cows will be provided to progressive farmers of the area.

The Minister interacted with farmers of Soreng-Chakung constituency today at the community hall at Tharpu in West Sikkim. He was accompanied by the area MLA and HRDD Minister, RB Subba.

In his address, Mr Poudyal stated that farmers play a big role in taking the State and nation ahead further adding that farmers should work hard on the policies of the state government for organic farming.

Stating that middlemen have been eating into the profits of farmers, he stated that the government has been trying to change this and provide full benefits to farmers.

Further, the Minister said that legal action will be taken against those using chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farming.

He added that farmers could



work with Patanjali for the marketing of turmeric, ginger and cardamom.

Mentioning the 25% subsidy on loans for farming he urged the youth to work in organic farming and assured to provide all required support from the government. Mr Poudyal suggested that young farmers could make use of technology and sell vegetables online.

He also directed departmental officials to provide seeds and facilities to farmers on time.

HRDD Minister, RB Subba

stated that organic produce of the State will fetch better prices in the market and encouraged farmers to increase their production.

He mentioned that the government has also provided vegetable collection vehicles for the convenience of farmers. He urged Panchayats and people to work together for further development of their respective areas.

In the interaction session, farmers placed the issues of water shortage and damages to

crop by wild animals and others. In response, Mr Poudyal informed that the CM has already directed the concerned department to address the issue of wild animals damaging crops. On water shortage, he assured to immediately work on finding solutions for the benefit of local people.

On the occasion, the Minister also distributed tokens of poultry to 10 beneficiaries, piglets to five beneficiaries, low cost green house to five beneficiaries and power tiller to one beneficiary.

## Aadhar-generated Virtual ID to address privacy concerns

**NEW DELHI, 10 JAN**

**(PTI):** In a bid to address privacy concerns, the UIDAI today introduced a new concept of 'Virtual ID' which Aadhaar-card holder can generate from its website and give for various purposes, including SIM verification, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric ID.

This will give the users the option of not sharing their Aadhaar number at the time of authentication.

The Virtual ID, which would be a random 16-digit number, together with biometrics of the user would give any authorised agency like a mobile company, limited details like name, address and photograph, which are enough for any verification.

Officials said a user can

generate as many Virtual IDs as he or she wants. The older ID gets automatically cancelled once a fresh one is generated.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has also introduced the concept of 'limited KYC' under which it will only provide need-based or limited details of a user to an authorised agency that is providing a particular service, say, a telco.

The Virtual ID will be a temporary and revocable 16 digit random number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number and the Aadhaar-issuing body will start accepting it from March 1, 2018.

From June 1, 2018 it will be compulsory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept the Virtual ID from their

users.

Agencies that do not migrate to the new system to offer this additional option to their users by the stipulated deadline will face financial disincentives.

"Aadhaar number holder can use Virtual ID in lieu of Aadhaar number whenever authentication or KYC services are performed. Authentication may be performed using the Virtual ID in a manner similar to using Aadhaar number," a UIDAI circular said.

The move aims to strengthen the privacy and security of Aadhaar data and comes amid heightened concerns around the collection and storage of personal and demographic data of individuals.

turn to pg02

## Supreme Court to form fresh SIT to monitor probe into 186 anti-Sikh riot cases

**NEW DELHI, JAN 10**

**(PTI):** The Supreme Court today said it would constitute a fresh three-member SIT, to be headed by a former high court judge, to monitor probe into 186 anti-Sikh riot cases that followed the assassination of the then prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, in which investigations were closed.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra asked the Centre to suggest names today itself for its consideration and appointment in the proposed Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The bench, also comprising justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, said the proposed committee will be headed by a former high court judge and consist of one retired and one serving police officer.

It also made it clear the retired police officer shall not be below the rank of DIG at the time of superannuation.

The apex court said

a supervisory body, appointed by it has found that out of 241 cases, 186 cases were closed without investigation.

The apex court today perused the report of the supervisory body which was submitted before it in a leather box with number-lock system.

The supervisory body, which had submitted the final report, comprised former apex court judges Justice J M Panchal and Justice K S P Radhakrishnan.

On August 16, last year, the apex court had appointed the supervisory panel to examine the SIT's decision to close 241 cases in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots matter and asked it to submit report in three months.

The Centre had earlier said that out of the 250 cases which were investigated by the SIT, closure reports were filed in 241.

It had said that nine cases were still being investigated by the SIT, while two are being

probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The apex court had on March 24, 2018, asked the Centre to place before it the files pertaining to the 199 cases of the anti-Sikh riots which the special investigation team (SIT) set up by the Home Ministry had decided to "close".

The SIT is headed by Pramod Asthana, an IPS officer of 1986 batch, and has Rakesh Kapoor, a retired district and sessions judge, and Kumar Gyanesh, an additional deputy commissioner of Delhi Police, as its members.

The anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of the then prime minister Indira Gandhi claimed 2,733 lives in Delhi alone.

The government had earlier filed a status report on the probe conducted by the SIT in the cases.

Kahlon, a member of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, had sought the court's direction for setting up an SIT to ensure speedy justice to riots victims.

### CBSE Class X, XII examinations from March 5

**NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI):** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct its annual examinations of Classes X and XII from March 5.

The CBSE class X examinations, in which 16,38,552 students are expected to appear, would end on April 4.

Class XII annual examinations, for which turn to pg03



**SAURABH RAI SILIGURI, 10 JAN:**

Debbed to be the next big thing in Indian Football due to his impressive performances at junior level, Uttam Rai from Sikkim could not live up to that billing after he graduated to senior level football but this tough lad is still undeterred and wants to prove his mettle once again.

"Competing in the junior level for my country was one of my best memories in football till now. My club performances have not been good enough due to many major injuries for

the last 2-3 years. I am determined to focus on my fitness and play as many matches as possible," said Uttam.

Uttam Rai born in Chumbung, West Sikkim quickly moved up the ladder of junior football after joining Namchi Sports Hostel in 2007. He played in Subroto Cup and in one of the matches playing for Namchi Sports Hostel he scored four goals in 35 minutes. After the impressive performance in the tournament he got a scholarship with Air Force Academy. Uttam played three seasons in Subroto Cup scoring 32 goals.

In 2010 he got scholarship to train at the IMG Soccer Academy in Florida, United States along with 14 other players from India Under-16 team. He played in Dallas Cup but got injured. A year later he scored six goals in 4 matches in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers, 2012.

In the Under-16 level Uttam scored five goals in a match against Kyrgyzstan in the AFC U-16 Championship qualifiers. Then he moved to the Under-19 India and made three appearances. He is yet to get a senior team call up.

Uttam made his professional debut with Dempo Sports Club, Goa in 2015. Then he played for Chennaiyin FC in the Indian Super League after which he moved to Minerva Punjab FC on loan then he signed for Mohun Bagan AC. In all these clubs he could not perform to the best of his ability.

Currently he is playing for Churchill Brothers in the I-League and has started a lot of games for them upfront though Churchill sits at the bottom of the table with just one point.

"I have been hearing about

Churchill Brothers since I was young so I'm very happy that I'm playing here this season. We didn't start very well in I-League but we are getting better match after match," said Uttam about his experience so far with Churchill Brothers, the only Goa based Club in the I-League this season.

Footballers like Uttam prove what an injury can do to young players but this boy from Sikkim comes across as a strong individual and we should not doubt his ability to once again set Indian Football on fire.



## Two POCSO cases registered in South on Tuesday

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

Two men, a 50-year-old from Melli, South Sikkim and a 27-year-old resident of Turuk, South Sikkim were arrested and booked by Melli Police on 09 Jan under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl. The accused persons were reported to the police by the victim's aunt who said that her niece confessed that both the accused persons sexually assaulted her many months back resulting in a pregnancy. The minor girl has been sent to hospital for medical examination while the accused persons have been formally arrested by the police.

On the same day at Namchi, South Sikkim, a 51-year-old man was arrested under POCSO Act, 2012 for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl on 09 Jan. The victim was rescued by the Child Line Namchi on 05 Jan from a hotel in Namchi. The victim further revealed that she was also sexually assaulted by her own father when she was 12 years old. The victim has been sent to a medical center for medical examination while the accused has been arrested by the police.

## Aadhar-generated Virtual ID to address...

*contd from pg01*

Users can go to the UIDAI website to generate their virtual ID which will be valid for a defined period of time, or till the user decides to change it.

They can give this Virtual ID to service agencies along with the fingerprint at the time of authentication. Since the system generated Virtual ID will be mapped to an individual's Aadhaar number itself at the back end, it will do away with the need for the user to share Aadhaar number for authentication.

It will also reduce the collection of Aadhaar numbers by various agencies.

As per the UIDAI, agencies that undertake authentication would not be allowed to generate the Virtual ID on behalf of Aadhaar holder.

The UIDAI is instructing all agencies using its authentication and eKYC services to ensure Aadhaar holders can provide the 16-digit Virtual ID instead of Aadhaar number within their application.

As many as 119 crore biometric identifiers have been issued so far and Aadhaar is required as an identity proof of residents by various government and non-government entities.

For instance, the government has made it mandatory for verifying bank account and PAN to weed out black money and bring unaccounted wealth to book. The same for SIM has been mandated to establish the identity of mobile phone users.

## Phensong NGO conducts health & legal awareness

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

**MANGAN, 10 JAN:**

Kyong Ong Shezum, a Non Governmental Organization based in Phensong, North Sikkim conducted a health and legal awareness programme here at Labi under Phensong Gram Panchayat Unit today.

Sponsored by State Welfare & Women Commission, the programme was chaired by Zilla Adhakshya [North], Namday Lepcha with Social Welfare Board chairperson, Phurmit Lepcha and Social Welfare Board secretary, Yousa Lachenpa in attendance along with Panchayat members and local residents.

Social Welfare Board chairperson, Phurmit Lepcha highlighted the motive behind organising the awareness camp and said that it is very crucial for everyone to know about several health and legal schemes of the government.

Ms Lepcha further encouraged the farmers



to take up organic farming for healthy living and also informed the gathering about old age and widow pension.

Ward Panchayat, Chewang Doma Lepcha underlined about regular health checkups and the improvement of Labi road.

Resource person of

the function, Dr Chungden Lepcha [Gynaecologist STNM] highlighted the precautions to be taken during pregnancy.

Likewise, Women Commission chairperson, Rehana Rai informed about the facilities provided to women by the Sikkim Democratic Front government. She further

stated that legal action would be taken against those marrying underage girls.

Resource person, Yousa Lachenpa talked about the ill effects of substance abuse and also about the pros and cons of social media.

The Zilla Adhakshya, in her address, urged all

the farmers to coordinate in promoting organic farming and further added that senior citizens should avail old age pension benefits. She also informed that the government has provided different schemes for the welfare of women in Sikkim and urged people to make use of the benefits.

## Agri Minister inaugurates VLW centre in Daramdin

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN [IPR]:** Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Somnath Poudyal inaugurated a VLW Centre at Lungchok-Salangdang GPU in Daramdin constituency, West Sikkim on Wednesday. The inaugural function was also attended by the area MLA, DN Sherpa as the guest of honour.

In his address, the Minister stressed upon the need to fulfill all demands of the people at the right time and said that all works should be completed within the scheduled time for the benefit of the general public.

He added that this VLW centre has fulfilled the long pending need of the people of the area.

The Minister directed



the departmental officials to work responsibly and sincerely on the field for the welfare of the people. He also urged the people and departmental officials to take advantage

of the newly inaugurated VLW centre in the area.

Area MLA, DN Sherpa thanked the government for providing the required facilities in his constituency and ap-

pealed to the people to be positive and work towards promoting organic farming. He also urged the Minister to provide all facilities of the department in the VLW centre

for the benefit of the local people. He also urged local people and panchayats to properly use the newly inaugurated facility in the area.

It is informed that the work order of the centre was taken out on 12 April in 2012 and construction was completed on 20 November 2013. An amount of Rs 30.38 lakh was allocated for the construction of the centre and work was provided to a local labour cooperative society but when the society left the work for some reason then the land donor himself completed the construction. This two-storied building has facilities of dining hall, two bedrooms, one godown, a toilet and can accommodate around 150 people.

## Independent panchayat complains against SDF party worker

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN:** An independent panchayat, Nar Maya Gurung, elected from ward No 5 of Buriakhop GPU in West Sikkim, has alleged that SDF party functionaries have been obstructing her from delivering on her duties and responsibilities.

She has further accused SDF CLC joint secretary, Ran Bahadur Gurung, of boorish conduct on 09 January during a meeting called by the Panchayat president at Angden, Sombaria.

On the same, she has filed an FIR at Sombaria Police Station alleging that Mr Gurung snatched away SDF 2018 calendars given to her at the meeting to distribute in her ward.

She alleged that she was also threatened not to interfere in any official of panchayat-related works in the area as the concerned MLA has given the charge to him.



## Singtam Bihari Manch distributes packed lunch at Singtam Hospital

**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 10 JAN:**

A team from Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch Singtam branch distributed packed lunch to pregnant women at Singtam Hospital on 09 Jan.

Branch president, Dilip Prasad accompanied by manch members distributed 70 boxes of

packed lunch with the message 'Happy New Year 2018'.

Mr Prasad informed that the programme was scheduled to be held earlier but was postponed due to some unavoidable circumstances.

The team was assisted by manch members distributed 70 boxes of



## SDF trying to distract people with festivals: SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a constituency-level coordination meeting of active youth of Rinchenpong constituency at Kalbung in West Sikkim today. The meeting was attended by secretary general, Arun Uprety and other senior leaders and workers of SKM.

An SKM press release informs that Mr Uprety stated that SKM has been working towards

maintaining unity and harmony amongst the people. He alleged that the SDF government is trying to divert people's mind from serious issues by spending lots of money on festivals and entertainment programmes.

Various ongoing programmes and activities of the party in the constituency were discussed in the interaction session. It was also decided to further strengthen the party in the area.



## All Sikkim Magar Association celebrates 2nd Foundation Day

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

All Sikkim Magar Association celebrated its second foundation day today at Kerabari in Melli South Sikkim, a press release informs.

Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Tulshi Devi Rai was the chief guest of the

event which was also attended by Zilla Adhakshya [South], Farwanti Tamang, Chairperson Manita Manger and the Panchayats of Melli Constituency.

A blood donation camp was also organized on the occasion by the association in collaboration with Voluntary Blood Donors' Association. More

than 50 donors registered themselves for the blood donation.

Senior Blood Bank Officer, Dr Anju Rai along with a team of technicians attended the camp.

South/West District coordinator for Voluntary Blood Donors' Association, Kishore Baniya coordinated the camp today, reads the release.

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### Gangtok on Thursday, 11 Jan

**Temp:** 18°C / 04°C  
**Forecast:** Partly clear to partly cloudy and chilly.  
**Sunrise:** 06:27 AM  
**Sunset:** 5:00 PM

## Cold wave claims 6 more lives in Nepal; toll reaches 30

**KATHMANDU, JAN 10 (PTI):** Intense cold weather in Nepal has claimed six more lives, taking to 30 the death toll due to severe winter conditions over the past week across the country, according to a media report.

Two persons each died in Rautahat, Parsa and Banke districts over the past 48 hours, according to the police.

Over the week, nearly 14 people were killed from Saptari district while five each in Rautahat and Siraha districts in the Tarai region, it said.

In Saptari district, seven persons, including a 7-month-old child, were killed due to excessive cold in various municipalities.

Life has been severely affected by the cold waves that hit mainly southern Nepal districts over the past one week. In Kathmandu the mercury fell to minimum zero degree Celsius in the past two days.

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## ASSAMESE RIDERS TO TAKE PART IN HARLEY DAVIDSON RIDE

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

Four riders from Brahmaputra Bikers Club, Assam are scheduled to take part in a unique Harley Davidson ride on 11 Jan from Ridge Park here in Gangtok to

Buddha Park, Ravangla.

The four riders will be joined by eight other riders from the State on Harley Davidson bikes. The riders will halt for the night at Tinkitam, South Sikkim and will make their exit the follow-

ing day.

The bikers from Assam rode to Sikkim all the way from Guwahati. They reached Gangtok today. They were given a warm welcome at the border town of Rangpo.

Assistant Manager [Rang-

po Tourism], Sushma Pradhan along with the locals welcomed the bikers.

Upon reaching Gangtok the bikers from Assam called on Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia.

# Religion is personal, not a tool to mobilise: Dalai Lama

**PUNE, JAN 10 (PTI):** Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today said that religion is a "personal business" and should not be used to "mobilise" people on religious lines.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of inauguration of National Teachers Congress, organised by MAEERs MIT World Peace University and MIT School of Government here.

Replying to a question on what message he wants to give in the wake of violence at Koregaon Bhima in Pune district on January 1, the spiritual leader said, "Religion is a personal business. Whether you follow this religion or that religion, it is personal matter. We should not mobilise...as we Buddhist, we Hindus, we Muslims. That is not good."

Dalits visiting a war memorial at Koregaon Bhima were attacked here on January 1 that led to a state-wide shutdown in Maharashtra two days later.



In his speech at the conference, the Dalai Lama hailed the Indian society for accommodating diverse religious faiths.

"The largest democracy in the world, India is young and yet a complicated nation. The country has remarkable tolerance when it comes to safeguarding religious faiths of different religions," he said.

He also said that In-

dians should preserve their ancient knowledge and traditions. "We kept the Nalanda tradition...but you Indians forgot. Indians should pay more attention to this Indian ancient knowledge and through rigorous study, they should revive these things," he said.

Addressing the teachers community, he said the present educational system gives more importance to material

values and not "inner values".

"Today, the world is facing emotional problem and it can be only tackled by education and not religious faiths," he said.

"The 21st century should be the century of dialogue...."

For building a better world, one needs to think about oneness of human beings," said the spiritual leader.

## CBSE Class X, XII examinations from March 5

contd from pg01

11,86,144 students are expected to appear, would go on till April 12.

While the first exam in class X is of the subject Information and Communication Technology, class XII students will be appearing for the English paper.

As per the CBSE guidelines, the CBSE affiliated schools will be conducting the practical exams from mid-January and complete it by January 31.

This will be the first batch to appear for Class X board examination after the board decided to junk the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and reintroduce the board exams.

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## 45th Day Kriya



The 45 days Kriya of Late Dil Maya Pariyar, who passed away on 30th November, 2017 falls on 15th January 2018. All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at Marut Bhawan, Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

**Prava Pariyar, Ashok Pariyar [daughters], Bishal Pariyar, Ashok Pariyar [brothers]- 9609856318, Man Maya Pariyar, Bishnu Maya Pariyar [sisters], 8670625231, 9733187168, 8768264739**

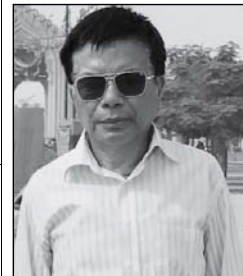
## Kutse Shegu

The 49 days Kutse Shegu of our beloved father, Special DGP, Late Mr. T. Norbu, IPS (retd.), who passed away on 24th November, 2017 falls on 11th January 2018.

All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at Dallam/ Sombaria Kothi, West Sikkim.

We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

**Tashi Choyam (daughter) 8436000805 Rigzing Chopel & Sangay Tupden (sons) 9609860216 Sonam L. Kaleon (son-in-law) Sonam Sarita & Tenzing Pema (daughters-in-law)**



**Sonam Dadul Bhutia**  
 18/11/1951 to 22/11/2017

"We begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived. And that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget"



**KUTSE SHEGU**

Shri Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Joint Director (Rd) HRDD left for his heavenly abode on 29th November 2017. The Kutse Shegu falls on 16th January 2018.

All relatives, friends, well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Bon Farmhouse, Kewzing, South Sikkim.

We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.

Mrs Nim Diki Bhutia (Wife), Karma R Bonpo , Bhumika Pradhan Bonpo & Chulim Chelsea Bhutia  
 Sonam R Bonpo, Tashi Dorjee Bhutia, Chewing R Bonpo, Nima R. Bhutia and All Relatives.

# Internet speed far below what service providers claim: study

**NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI):** A study conducted by a voluntary action group working for consumer rights has found that the internet speed provided to users in the country is far below what is claimed by the service providers, and is amongst the lowest internationally.

The study, conducted by the 'Consumer Voice', has also concluded that consumers are not able to distinguish among poor, average and good quality

of service.

"A striking finding was that the internet speed the service providers are giving to the users are far below what they claim and amongst the lowest internationally," the group said in a release.

The study has found out that it is not just the provision of service that will help the country become 'Digital India' rather quality of internet service that determines the sustainability of this vision.

"It is for this (reason) that the stakeholders are urged to take corrective and timely measures that ensure promising future for internet service by serving the mutual interest of all," it said.

The audit of wireless internet speed was also conducted in eight states across four telecom circles and it was found that users get much lower speed than what is claimed through this mode also.

The study also shows a wide

gap between 3G and 4G speed claims of internet service providers and their actual performance.

"The poor level of internet speed requires the government and the telecom regulator to devise mechanism to improve internet speed in one way or another," the study said.

'Consumer Voice' is a voluntary action group of academicians, professionals and volunteers who work on consumer issues.

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Branding Identity

*Work on image, not on slights*

Identity, as in the perception others hold of us, has always been a touchy issue among communities inhabiting the margins. The margins in this case, as much geographic as social and class/caste defined. People of the Northeast, those from South India and the Kashmiris, as also the Dalits all over the country and the tribals of Central India who find themselves surrounded by the “civilized”, all have many experiences to share of how stereotyped prejudices hound them whenever they are away from home.

The ill-informed clichés, the pedantic, and thus offensive, generalizations remain sore points for the offended communities and we live in a region that has lived with such broad-brush impoliteness for ever since we started interacting with the mainstream. While it is easy to take affront and tempting to draft fresh introductions to correct the perceptions, it is definitely not okay to allow the ignorance of others to become chips on our shoulders... that becomes a burden heavier than is healthy. But too many of us lug it around. The more perceived slights are allowed to fester, the more they divert energy from pursuits that take us forward. One refers to a “perceived slight” here because the clichés that hurt are a product of ignorance [theirs, not ours] and one should not really allow ignorance in others to convince us to withdraw into cocoons. And defensive shells are not the best habitations to plan forward from because they keep thoughts and ideas rooted in a past that has lost its relevance for everyone except those who obsess in its fermented confusion. Also, while so enclosed, one fails to recognize changes elsewhere. The more a community jumps at every instance of prejudice, the more it tires itself from other, more consequential pursuits. The angrier it gets, the more it allows its leaders to grow lazy and mouth platitudes to identity and pride while burning bridges to ensure their own relevance by feeding off the paranoia of a people kept fearful because they have been shut in.

When we mistake ignorance for conscious offensiveness, we end being so on guard that we see only slights and boorishness and not the changes in perception which are evolving slowly and rendering issues which offered umbrage earlier, obsolete. The lazy radio jockey who many years offended all hill people with a joke that was too many decades stale is actually a rarity, the mainstream sees the hill folk in a new avatar. To get a grip on this metamorphosis, a visit to the metros can be very illuminating. Hill kids, who would be heckled with calls of “kancha or bahadur” [nothing demeaning in the words, but irritatingly offensive in how they are used elsewhere], are now called out as “Aye Bhaichung!” The branding is already changing, and with it the nuances of how the people, that’s us, are seen. Sure, an anecdote enjoyed in passing is hardly the yardstick by which one can measure changes in attitude, but they are still reasonably reliably representations of how the majority responds and pigeon-holes identities. For those to whom such branding, and thus enhancements to it, are important, the lesson here is that exporting achievers who stun all with their brilliance is more important than claiming and announcing introductions in their own backyards. We need to groom stronger contenders for universal glory, because apart from inspiring the young among us, they also burnish the image we project.

# China steps into soft power vacuum as the US retreats under Trump

ASIT K. BISWAS & CECILIA TORTAJADA  
*theconversation.com*

Soft power is the ability of a country to shape other countries’ views, attitudes, perceptions and actions without force or coercion. Its importance has been acknowledged for centuries, though the term was only coined by American political scientist and author Joseph Nye in the late 1980s.

A country’s soft power depends on many factors, including its performance, global image and international reputation. A state can use soft power to attract supporters and partners towards its policies, views and actions.

Take, for instance, the case of China’s giant pandas.

In 685 AD Empress Wu Zetian of the Tang Dynasty presented two giant pandas to the Japanese emperor. More than a millennium later, in 1941, Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek gifted another pair to the Bronx Zoo in appreciation of the US’s war-time help. Pandas remain a hallmark of Chinese soft power even today.

These animals have become symbols of China’s efforts in wildlife preservation and environmental protection. They are a way for China to communicate a caring and genial approach and culture.

And soft power will remain a key strategy for China into the coming decades. In October 2017, at the governing party’s national congress, President Xi Jinping outlined steps to enhance China’s soft power and make its culture more globally appealing:

“We will improve our capacity for engaging in international communication so as to tell China’s stories well, present a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic view of China, and enhance our country’s soft power.”

China is stepping into a soft power vacuum created by the US’s new administration. Since Donald Trump was elected president, the US has eschewed soft power. It’s withdrawn from a global climate change agreement; renegotiating a number of bilateral treaties and taken an openly “America first”, and somewhat isolationist stance. Its cordial relations with many traditional allies have become strained.

China has spotted the gap and is attempting to woo many countries whose US relations are wavering. One of China’s key weapons is the “One Belt, One Road” programme, a USD\$900 billion initiative that aims to strengthen land and sea transportation links through major investments in transport infrastructure in Asia, Europe and Africa.

This is the equivalent of the US’s Marshall plan, which significantly improved West European countries’ economies after World War II. This help was not altruistic; nor is China’s “One Belt, One Road” programme. Assisting other nations through economic growth is a way of wielding soft power and advancing a country’s global standing. This will be important for China, which needs to counter its reputation as a one party state with hegemonic intentions.

### HOW SOFT POWER HAS FEATURED

China’s economic success, massive infrastructural development, academic and research progress, cultural heritage and success in sports will continue to increase its soft power in the future.

Culture and tourism are always important aspects of soft power. Some 138 million tourists visited China in 2016, a growth of 3.5% over 2015. Similarly, 122 million Chinese visitors went abroad



in 2016, a growth of 4.3% over 2015. This increasing interchange of the visitors will give foreigners an insight into Chinese culture, history and its economic might – all of which will further enhance China’s soft power.

China is also emerging as a global leader in terms of academic and research progress. High income countries’ share of global research and development (R&D) expenditure fell from 88% to 69.3% between 1996 and 2013.

China alone filled this gap. It increased its share from a paltry 2.5% to 19.6% in 17 years. Recently, China’s average annual R&D expenditure growth has been 18.3%, compared to an anaemic growth rate in upper and middle income countries of 1.4%.

Increased educational and research activities have ensured that the number of foreign students in China is increasing rapidly. China now ranks third in attracting foreign students, after the US and UK. Its universities are climbing the global rankings. This, along with rapid internationalisation, policies that support foreign students, and affordability of study and living costs compared to the West, means China could soon become the top destination for international students.

And the reverse is also true. Of some 5 million international students pursuing higher education outside their countries, nearly 25% are Chinese. It’s another form of cultural interchange that will contribute to China’s soft power, as are the many Confucius Institutes set up around the world to showcase China’s culture, history, language, economic and social development. The idea is somewhat similar to the UK’s British Councils, Germany’s Goethe Institutes and France’s Alliance Fran-

caise.

### CHINA FILLS GAP LEFT BY US

American soft power, on the other hand, is now in retreat.

The asymmetry of views between leaders of the world’s two soft powers has made Xi the poster child for globalisation, free trade and international cooperation.

During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in November 2017, in Vietnam, Trump reconfirmed his “America first” policy. This approach will further decrease America’s soft power.

Meanwhile, Xi is singing from a different hymn sheet. Also in Vietnam, he noted in his speech that globalisation is an “irreversible historical trend” and championed multilateral trading regimes.

He presented a vision of the future that is interconnected and invited “more countries to ride the fast train of Chinese development.”

China’s rise as the world’s leading soft power will not be without hurdles. It must tackle border issues with its neighbours; navigate the current South China Sea disputes and find solutions to its extensive environmental pollution problems, among other things.

Despite these challenges, the US’s many missteps and China’s demonstrated social and economic success – as well as its increasing use of soft power – mean that the Asian giant is on the rise.

*[Asit K. Biswas is Distinguished Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; Cecilia Tortajada is Senior Research Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore]*

# Iran’s reformists have sided with the hardliners – and doomed their cause

OMID SHAMS  
*theconversation.com*

For a few days at the start of 2018, nationwide protests hit the streets of several Iranian cities, blindsiding the government and briefly drawing the world’s attention. The government sponsored counter-protests in support of the status quo, but anti-government protests continued. It all signals that the arrangement of Iranian politics has radically changed – and in particular that the mainstream political project known as reformism is no longer the decisive force it was.

Until now, the only visible protests on the streets of Iran since 2013 revolved around economic issues. They have mostly been organised by Iranians lower down the social ladder; the bus drivers’ union, teachers, and those who lost their savings to fraud and embezzlement by top officials or financial institutions affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard.

The largest demonstrations since the 2009 Green Movement came in November 2016 and were held by workers against the government’s bill to reform labour laws. In May 2017, hundreds who lost their deposits to Caspian financial institutions protested in front of the Iranian parliament wearing white shrouds – implying they were ready to die for their cause. Union leaders, meanwhile, have made enough political trouble to become the largest group of political prisoners during Rouhani’s presidency. In January 2015, 17 gold miners from Agh Darreh were arrested and lashed on orders of the judiciary for protesting the firing of 326 miners.

The signals of discontent these protests sent were completely ignored by the government and the pro-government elite, who forgot that Rouhani’s first campaign revolved around the idea that economic hardship could be ended through the nuclear negotiations. But even though he was re-elected president



in 2017, he has ultimately never lived up to his initial promise.

### STATE OF DENIAL

He offered a last slap in the face for Iran’s lower middle and working classes with his 2018 budget bill. With workers in state-owned factories and pensioners facing months of delayed wages and the victims of recent earthquakes still sleeping in tents during western Iran’s deadly winter, the bill allocated billions of dollars to numerous religious institutions owned by high-ranking clerics, mostly focused on missionary activities abroad.

In one case, the government channelled IRR280 billion (about US\$7.8m) to a religious institution owned by Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi, a radical cleric who was allegedly behind murders committed by Islamist fanatics in Kerman. This institution has been receiving annual allocations since the second term of the last reformist president, Mohammad Khatami.

Ayatollah Khomeini called the 1979 Islamic Revolution a “revolution of the barefooted”, a powerful

image that helped the regime establish its hegemony and eradicate leftists from Iran’s official political spectrum. But three decades later, pro-government reformists too are using the epithet “barefooted masses” in quite a different way: to denigrate and scorn anyone who protests against the established order.

In total denial about their economic and political failures, the majority of reformists tried at first to blame the most recent protests on their conservative rivals. This was not true. From the beginning, the most recent protests were aimed not just at economic problems, but at the very foundations of the Islamic Regime and its religious leaders.

A week before the main wave of the current protests, pensioners in the pro-Rouhani city of Isfahan gathered in front of the office of the governorate chanting “pensioners’ wages are under the mullahs’ cloak” and “revolution, our mistake”. Then came the protests in Mashhad, Iran’s second-largest and most religious city; in less than a day, the protests flared up and spread to 14 cities across the country. On the sixth day, at least 21 people were killed on the streets.

The reformists’ response was all too predictable.

### DECLINE AND DECAY

Mohajerani, a former minister of culture and a pro-government reformist living in exile, has called the protests a rootless movement, attributed them to Israel, and reproached the media for covering them. Reformist journalist Ebrahim Nabavi, meanwhile, mocked the protesters as “beetroot sellers and cherry pickers”.

Once a democratic and civil movement, reformism

in Iran has now been totally absorbed into the hardliners’ authoritarianism. Confronted with an apparent third force in Iran’s bipolar political spectrum, they chose to become one with their former adversaries on the hardline religious front. Once outraged when former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called the Green Movement protesters “dust and dirt”, they are borrowing the same rhetoric to describe the new movement – right down to the shop-worn cliché of tying them to the hostile US.

In the last several elections, reformists successfully mobilised dissident middle and upper middle-class Iranians. This they did mainly through fearmongering; the fear of hardliners and of war got many, even among the most radical opposition of the regime, to the ballot box.

But the truth is that since Khatami’s second term, Iranian reformism has been constantly backing away from its own principled demands to the point that it is now almost unrecognisable. In a same way, the apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran has now lost any legitimacy as a “revolution of the barefooted”. The regime, as professor of political science Fatemeh Sadeghi puts it, “is no longer a system, but a pure reign without any justification”.

The diversity of today’s protesters looks set to become a pattern for the reconstruction of the opposition, whose prominent figures and leaders have been systematically assassinated over the last four decades. For the first time in the history of post-revolution Iran, an opposition is at the verge of forming a real and functional coalition of all the country’s secular forces, from socialists to liberals and all the factions in between. As the reformists’ agenda shrivels into cynicism, that opposition’s time may just be coming.

*[the writer is PhD Candidate, School of Law, University of Portsmouth]*



Women outnumber men on final voters' list of Meghalaya

SHILLONG, JAN 10 (PTI): Women have outnumbered men, making up for 50.4 per cent of the registered voters in the final electoral rolls of the state. The voters' list, published yesterday, has names of 18, 30, 104 voters, of which 9, 23,848 are women, chief electoral officer (CEO) FR Kharkongor said. The final list was released after looking into the claims and objections filed from different quarters of Meghalaya, where assembly elections are due in the first half of this year, he said.

Meghalaya, with a population of 3.2 million people, has a literacy rate of 74.4 %, according to the official records of the state government.

The tenure of the current assembly expires on March 6 and the Election Commission is making last-minute preparations before announcing the poll date, the CEO said.

During the course of electoral rolls revision, the names of 3, 27,595 voters, including 42,843 first-timers in age group of 18 to 19 years, were added to the list. A total of 8,276 names were deleted from the roll and 6,645 applications were rejected, Kharkongor said.

Unlike Tripura, no one in Meghalaya registered for the third gender option in the final rolls.

The number of polling stations has been increased from 2,485 in 2013 to 3,082 this year, an increase of about 24 per cent, he said.

Printed book won't lose its relevance: Ruskin Bond

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 10 (PTI): Eminent children's author Ruskin Bond has said printed books would continue to be in demand despite the advent of digital literature.

Quoting the findings of a recent survey, the Sahitya Akademi Award winning writer said paperbacks are way ahead of e-books in terms of popularity.

"People are reading printed books in lakhs. The paperbacks have not been replaced as yet," Bond, who is here to attend a literary meet, said during an interaction with the faculty members and officers of a private university here.

Asked about the inspiration for his works,



the octogenarian author said some of his books were based on real people, some on fictional ones and others contain a mixture of the two. "When I run out of people, I go to ghosts, most of it is invented," he said. Bond said he had started writing when he was barely 17. His first

book "The Room on the Roof" was published in 1956. "I still cherish the memories of my childhood, boyhood and school days in Shimla,"

he said. Recalling the turmoil before and after India's independence in 1947, the author said he was in a boarding school at that time. "I heard many things without experiencing it. They were about the communal violence in the wake of the country's partition... it was traumatic." The author said he visualises the beginning, middle and end of a story in his mind before sitting down to write. "Many of my stories are invented, but the characters are real. I usually write in the morning, the earlier the better. Visitors start dropping by as the day progresses," he said.

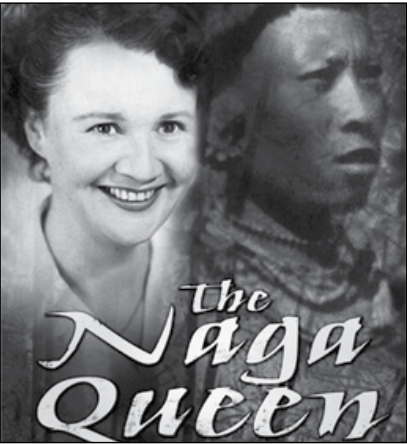
Play relives story of 'Naga Queen' Ursula Bower

NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI): A play revisits the incredible story of anthropology enthusiast Ursula Graham Bower, who lived among the Zeme Nagas in the Northeast, stood with them against the Japanese forces during World War II and went on to attain a goddess-like status.

"Ursula: Queen of The Jungle" by Chris Eldon Lee saw a remarkable solo performance by Joanna Purslow, who played more than 10 characters including Bower's daughter Catriona Child and Naga revolutionary Rani Gaidinliu who took on the British.

The 90-minute play was enacted in the national capital this Monday at the India Habitat Centre.

Bower, the aunt of veteran journalist Mark Tully, landed in Laisong village in Assam in 1939. A native Naga named



Namkia went on to become her interpreter and guide. Namkia addresses Bower as Saipui or female warrior. She became the favourite of the villagers with her personality and also with her occasional doctor-like service, thanks to

her picnic basket of medicines. When the Japanese forces advanced towards India in 1944, she led the Army's V Force, a group of scouts comprising local youths, and carried out ambushes. Bower also found

her life partner during the turmoil. She married young British intelligence officer Lieutenant Colonel Tim Betts.

After the war ended, she and her husband settled in Scotland. Bower died in 1988.

According to Child, Lee made a remarkable effort to bring the story of her mother on stage.

The play was first written for a Shrewsbury school.

Purslow comes up with a spirited performance. If at one moment, she is doing a Namkia, the next second she is an American journalist and the very next a British officer fighting against the Japanese.

She says playing the part of Namkia was the toughest.

The play was also staged at Laisong village in Dima Hasao district of Assam on December 30.

Arunachal Dy CM seeks suggestions for doubling farmer's income

ITANAGAR, JAN 10 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has invited suggestions from state government officials to achieve the target of doubling farmer's income by 2022.

Chairing a pre-budget meeting with the secretaries and directors of agriculture and allied departments yesterday, Mein said the Centre's objective of doubling farmers' income can only be achieved through farming-related activities.

He asked the officials to submit the proposals with five years perspective planning so that the objective can be achieved by 2022, an official release said here today.

Mein said that in addition to supply of quality planting materials to farmers, the feasibility of drip and sprinkler irrigation to cash and plantation crops should be looked into. He asked the officials

to make optimum use of farmers' e-marketing portals for marketing local produce outside the state, which would help fetch better prices.

The deputy chief minister also called on veterinary and fishery departments to increase their activities, and propose schemes that can supplement the agriculture and horticulture income of the farmers.

"Dairy and poultry farming will give double benefit to the farmer in terms of milk production, as well as in achieving the objective of organic farming," Mein said.

He asked the departments to go for large scale fish cultivation and make all defunct fish farms of the state government functional.

The minister added that fishery tourism is another potential of the state, where educated youths and established fishermen can be engaged.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD  
GANGTOK-737101

REF. NO: 28/SSTRB

DATE: 10/01/2018

NOTICE

On the basis of the written examination the candidates bearing following Roll Nos. are provisional-ly declared qualified for viva-voce (interview) for selection to the post of Graduate Teacher (Science/ Maths) under Human Resource Development Department.

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Sl. No.	Roll No.	Sl. No.	Roll No.	Sl. No.	Roll No.
1	20190001	29	20190033	57	20190061	85	20190089
2	20190002	30	20190034	58	20190062	86	20190090
3	20190003	31	20190035	59	20190063	87	20190091
4	20190004	32	20190036	60	20190064	88	20190092
5	20190006	33	20190037	61	20190065	89	20190093
6	20190007	34	20190038	62	20190066	90	20190094
7	20190008	35	20190039	63	20190067	91	20190095
8	20190011	36	20190040	64	20190068	92	20190096
9	20190012	37	20190041	65	20190069	93	20190097
10	20190013	38	20190042	66	20190070	94	20190098
11	20190015	39	20190043	67	20190071	95	20190099
12	20190016	40	20190044	68	20190072	96	20190101
13	20190017	41	20190045	69	20190073	97	20190102
14	20190018	42	20190046	70	20190074	98	20190103
15	20190019	43	20190047	71	20190075	99	20190104
16	20190020	44	20190048	72	20190076	100	20190106
17	20190021	45	20190049	73	20190077	101	20190114
18	20190022	46	20190050	74	20190078	102	20190118
19	20190023	47	20190051	75	20190079	103	20190135
20	20190024	48	20190052	76	20190080	104	20190136
21	20190025	49	20190053	77	20190081	105	20190137
22	20190026	50	20190054	78	20190082	106	20190157
23	20190027	51	20190055	79	20190083	107	20190159
24	20190028	52	20190056	80	20190084	108	20190160
25	20190029	53	20190057	81	20190085	109	20190164
26	20190030	54	20190058	82	20190086	110	20190165
27	20190031	55	20190059	83	20190087	111	20190167
28	20190032	56	20190060	84	20190088	112	20190170

The interview (viva-voce) will be held in the Conference Hall of SSTRB Building, Upper Syari from 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2018 to 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2018. The qualified candidates are advised to bring with them the following original documents for verification at the time of attending the interview.

1. Mark sheets and Certificates of Class X, XII, Graduation, B.Ed and TET Certificate.
2. COI/SSC of self in case of male candidates.
3. COI/SSC husbandand Unmarried Certificate in case of female unmarried candidates.
4. COI/SSC of husband and Marriage Certificate on case of female married candidates.
5. Caste/Category Certificates.
5. Renewed Local Employment Card.

The candidates from Sl. No. 01-38 are requested to appear for the viva-voce (interview) on 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2018.

The candidates from Sl. No. 39-76 are requested to appear for the viva-voce (interview) on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2018.

The candidates from Sl. No. 77-112 are requested to appear for the viva-voce (interview) on 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2018.

The selected candidates are requested to report in the office of SSTRB, Syari by 9:00 A.M.

Sd/-  
CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS  
SSTRB, SYARI, GANGTOK

R.O. No: 501/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Date: 10/01/2018

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# Aanchal hopes ski medal ends govt apathy for winter sports

**BHARAT SHARMA**

**NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI):** Aanchal Thakur has just one wish after becoming the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing -- an end to the government's apathetic attitude towards winter sports.

The response to her bronze medal winning performance in Turkey has been overwhelming to say the least. She still can't believe that none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated her on the achievement in a sport that usually begs for attention.

"I never thought the Prime Minister would tweet for me.

It is unreal. I just hope we are finally treated at par with athletes of popular sports. As of now, there has been no support whatsoever from the government," Aanchal told PTI from Turkey where she secured the bronze in Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organised by the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS).

"I just want to say that we too are fighting, working hard day in and day out for India," she said.

Skiing runs in her blood but it has not been an easy ride thus far for the 21-year-old, who is a student of DAV College in Chandigarh.

Her father Roshan Thakur, who happens to be the secretary at the Winter Games Federation of India, always loved skiing and therefore it was natural for his children, Aanchal and Himan-



shu, to pick up the sport at an early age.

While Aanchal has grabbed attention now, brother Himanshu, also an alpine skier, competed in the Sochi Winter Olympics alongside luger Shiva Keshavan.

Aanchal says if it was not for the efforts of her father, there was no way she could have pursued skiing.

"I have been skiing in Europe since I was in seventh grade. Papa always wanted me to ski and he has been spending out of his pocket all this while.

Without any government help, you can imagine how much he has spent on me

and my brother.

"What makes it more challenging for us is that it doesn't snow in India for the major part of the year, so we have to go out and train," she says.

Her father Roshan adds that existing skiing venues in India, at Gulmarg and Auli, are the only world-class during competitions and are not looked after well otherwise.

"The Europeans get to train 10 months in a year where our athletes can do two months at the max, considering the huge cost involved in training overseas," says Roshan, who owns ap-

ple orchards in Manali.

The equipment, comprising ski, boots and clothing too is expensive and costs around Rs 4-5 lakh, says Aanchal.

With a historic medal in the bag, the next target for this wushu player-turned skier is the qualification mark for the Winter Olympics to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea next month.

While her brother Himanshu is closer to the qualification mark, making the Winter Games cut seems unlikely for Aanchal.

"To qualify, we need to score less than 140 points in five races and I have not been able to that even in one race.

Yesterday was a very challenging course and even the gold winner could not qualify for Olympics with her score being more than 140."

With the cut-off date being January 21, Aanchal is racing against time.

"My brother is in Iceland for an event and I am going to go there as well. Then there is a race in Iran and Pakistan. I have to see if I can get the visa for that. So, the this Winter Games looks unlikely for me but I have already set my sight on 2022.

"We need to start preparing for that now and hopefully we will get the much needed government support," says Aanchal. The fact that Winter Games Federation of India is not recognised by the Sports Ministry also doesn't help their case.



## Sarita elected women boxers' representative in BFI EC

**NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI):**

Former world and Asian champion L Sarita Devi was today elected representative of women boxers in the national federation's Executive Council.

Sarita, who won a bronze medal at the Asian Championships last year, was voted in by 22 of the 31 team captains at the election conducted during the ongoing National Championships in Rohtak.

She beat Railways Sports Promotion Board's Seema Punia, the lone candidate up against her in the polls.

"I would be aiming to raise the problems faced by women boxers because I have practical experience of how things work," the Manipuri,

who is a four-time Asian champion, told PTI.

"I decided to contest the polls two days ago because as a senior boxer, I thought it is important that I give voice to girls and their issues," she added.

Sarita joins former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Manoj Kumar as a boxers' representative in the executive council. Manoj was elected to the position in 2016 during the national championships in Guwahati.

"I am thankful to the fellow boxers who have voted for me and I would try to ensure that their issues are addressed in the best way possible," she said.



## Maruti, Honda hike vehicle prices by up to Rs 32,000

**NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI):** Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) and Honda Cars India today said they have hiked prices of their vehicles across models by up to Rs 32,000 to partially offset rise in input costs.

MSI said in a statement that the increase in prices of its vehicles will range from Rs 1,700 to Rs 17,000 depending on models.

The price hike is owing to increase in commodity and other administrative and distribution costs and the new rates will be effective today, it added.

MSI sells a range of models starting with hatchback Alto 800 to premium crossover S-Cross, priced between Rs 2.45 lakh and Rs 11.29 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

Similarly, a spokesperson of Honda Cars India confirmed that the company has hiked prices

from January 8 for all models made in India.

The increase in prices will range from Rs 6,000 to Rs 32,000 depending on models, the spokesperson said, adding however that Accord Hybrid model is not affected.

HCIL sells models ranging from hatchback Brio to Accord Hybrid, which were earlier priced from Rs 4.66 lakh to Rs 43.21 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

Tata Motors has already increased prices of its vehicles by up to Rs 25,000 from January 1.

Ford India also said that prices of its vehicles have been raised by up to 4 per cent.

Various automakers including, Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Skoda, Isuzu and Renault have also said they would increase prices from this month but are yet to announce price increase for their respective vehicles.

## Odisha man moves mountains to send children to school

**PHULBANI (ODISHA), JAN 10 (PTI):**

Eight hours of gruelling work every day for two years, Jalandhar Nayak has been single-handedly moving mountains to construct a 15-kilometre road, connecting his village Gumsahi to the main road in Phulbani town of Kandhamal.

The district administration has now decided to honour and support Nayak's efforts by paying him under the MGNREGS scheme.

"I am overwhelmed with Nayak's effort and determination to cut mountains to build a road. He will be paid under MGNREGS scheme for all the days he has worked," Brunda D told reporters yesterday.

Much like Bihar's 'mountain man' Dasrath Manjhi, who has spent 22 years of his life to build a 360-foot road, Nayak, with his steely resolve, has carved out an 8-km-long stretch through hillocks in two years and plans to extend it by another 7 km in the next three years.

The 45-year-old tribal man, who has never had access to education, said the problems faced by his three sons in crossing the hillocks to



reach school in the town prompted him to take up hammer and chisel.

Nayak's efforts went largely unnoticed until yesterday when the collector invited him to her office, having read reports about him in a local newspaper.

The collector offered him financial support and directed the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Phulbani to engage labourers and complete the road construction work.

Interestingly, Nayak and his family are the only residents of the village. Others have left Gumsahi long ago owing to lack of proper road and essential facilities.

Armed with a hammer, digging bar and chisel, Nayak, who earns his livelihood by selling vegetables, wants to make life easier for his sons.

He thanked the district administration for recognising his efforts.

"The district collector

has assured me to complete the construction of the road to my village," Nayak said.

The collector said they are planning to felicitate Nayak for his determination and hard work during the Kandhamal Utsav.

"We are thinking of felicitating Jalandhar Nayak during the Kandhamal Utsav for his strong determination to construct a road in this remote part of the state," she said.

# Rooney Rule adopted by England soccer teams in diversity bid

**LONDON, JAN 10 (AP):** Since the job was created 72 years ago, every manager of the England men's football team has been white.

When a successor to Gareth Southgate is eventually required, at least one black or ethnic minority candidate is set to be interviewed.

Drawing inspiration from the NFL, the English Football Association announced yesterday it had adopted its version of the Rooney Rule, which requires teams to interview a diverse pool of candidates for coaching and management positions.

"It is the right thing to do but there is also a business case for it," FA chief executive Martin Glenn said while overlooking the pitch at Wembley Stadium.

"If your management team reflects more the people that you are serving then you're going to make correct decisions."

The FA's Rooney Rule covers jobs across all 28 national teams organized under the England flag, including youth and disability squads for men and women. Currently, only one manager is black: Kevin Betsy, who runs the men's under-15s.

The women's team was led into the



2007 and 2011 World Cups by Hope Powell, who is black. The team currently requires a new coach.

The FA's push to foster greater diversity follows a damaging row last year around the women's team involving alle-

gations of racism and sex discrimination by striker Eni Aluko, which led to a parliamentary hearing.

Former manager Mark Sampson was found to have racially discriminated against two of his players, while goalkeep-

ing coach Lee Kendall left his role after addressing Aluko using a mock Caribbean accent.

"I think culturally what women will be prepared to put up with has been a bit different from guys," Glenn said. "I guess banter would be a case in point."

After becoming embroiled in a public row with Aluko, the FA has sought to heal the rifts by consulting the Chelsea player particularly about new whistleblowing procedures.

The FA hopes black and minority ethnic (BAME) players would feel more comfortable reporting grievances if the staff on England teams was more diverse.

"It's all about improving performance by making the England players feel like the setup is more inclusive," Glenn said.

At least one BAME candidate will be interviewed for all future jobs around the national teams if they have the right qualifications and experience.

"What we're seeing now is more BAME players," Glenn said, "and what we want to do is make sure that post their playing career there's an opportunity for them to

carry on contributing, and that they feel the FA is also for them."

English football's anti-discrimination group, Kick It Out, praised the FA for delivering a "watershed moment" it hopes will spur a wider push to promote BAME coaches. Chris Hughton at Brighton is the only black manager in the 20-team Premier League.

The Sports People's Think Tank reported in November that 22 of 482 coaching roles across 92 clubs in the top four professional leagues in England were held by BAME coaches.

"We look forward to working with the FA and the other authorities to bring about the changes necessary to make the game inclusive for all," Kick It Out chairman Herman Ouseley said.

The Rooney Rule was named after campaigning Pittsburgh Steelers chairman Dan Rooney, who died last year.

"The Rooney Rule on its own isn't enough," Glenn said.

"All the other programs about building the pipeline of talented young BAME coaches is also important at the same time.



# Assist in fight against terrorism: US to Pak

LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, JAN 10 (PTI):** The US today expressed hope that Pakistan would “come to the table” and demonstrate willingness to “aggressively” confront terrorist groups that operate from its territory, amid reports that Islamabad has suspended its military and intelligence cooperation with America.

According to media reports, Pakistan’s decision to suspend military and intelligence co-operation with America came after President Donald Trump accused Islamabad of giving nothing to the US but “lies and deceit” and suspended about USD 2 billion in security aid to it.

When asked to comment on Pakistan’s reported move, US Under Secretary of State Steve Goldstein said: “We’re



hopeful for future cooperation from Pakistan.”

“We stand ready to work with Pakistan in combating all terrorists without distinction, and we hope to be able to re-new and deepen our bilateral security relationship when Pakistan demonstrates its willingness to aggressively con-

front the Taliban network, the Haqqani Network, and other terrorist and militant groups that operate from its territory,” he said.

The US has been clear on this issue to Pakistan, Goldstein said.

“We would like Pakistan to come to the table and assist us

in this effort,” he said adding that the suspension of security aid is not a cutoff and no funds have been reprogrammed.

The US announced on Thursday that it would not deliver military equipment or transfer security-related funds to Pakistan.

On Monday, a Pentagon spokesman said the US had conveyed to Pakistan to take “concrete steps” against ter-ror groups to earn hundreds of millions of dollars in aid.

Referring to his conversa-tion with the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Goldstein hoped that Pakistan will join the US in its effort with regard to fight against terrorism.

“The Pakistani people have suffered greatly from terror-ism, and its security forces have been effective in com-

bating the groups that target Pakistan’s interest. So, it s to their benefit to join with us in helping resolve this matter,” Goldstein said.

“We always look at that; but again, it’s a suspension and not a cutoff. We haven’t reprogrammed the funds. We re hopeful that Pakistan will come back to the table and do what they told us that they would do,” he said.

The US and others have long complained that Pakistan offered safe haven to the Af-ghan Taliban and their allies, the Haqqani Network, allowing them to carry out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies allegations but President Trump has esca-lated the criticism against the country since he took office last January.

## S Korea’s Moon willing to hold summit with Kim Jong-Un

SEOUL, JAN 10 (AFP):

South Korean President Moon Jae-In said today he would be willing to sit down with the nuclear- armed North’s leader Kim Jong-Un, as the international community welcomed an agreement for Pyongyang to send its athletes to the Winter Olympics in the South.

The Games in Py-eonchang next month have long been over-shadowed by geopoliti-cal tensions, with the North launching missiles capable of reaching the US mainland in recent months and detonating by far its most powerful nuclear device to date.

But Pyongyang - which boycotted the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul - yesterday agreed to send athletes and officials to the event as North and South held their first formal talks for two years at Panmunjom in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ).

“It is only the beginning,” Moon told a press conference today. “Yes-terday was the first step and I think we had a good start.”

“Bringing North Ko-rea to talks for denucle-ari-sation is the next step we must take.”

He was willing to hold a summit “at any time”, he said, as long as it was “under the right conditions”.

“But it cannot be a meeting for meeting’s sake. To hold a summit, the right conditions must be creat-ed and certain outcomes must be guaranteed.”

Moon has long sup-ported engagement with the North to bring it to the negotiating table over banned weapons programmes that have alarmed the US and the global community, and have seen Pyongyang subjected to multiple sets of United Nations sanctions.

But the US has said the regime must stop nuclear tests for negotia-tions with Washington to take place.

“We have no differ-ence in opinion with the US,” Moon insisted, saying they shared an understanding about security, were work-ing together and were both threatened by the North’s nuclear weapons and missiles.



Devastating mudslides have killed at least 13 people in California, with local officials likening the scene to a “World War One battlefield”. Heavy downpours in communities along the US state’s scenic coastline sent mud, boulders and tons of debris rolling down hills - destroying dozens of homes, demolishing cars and toppling trees. The flash flooding began in the Santa Ynez Mountains, which was badly hit by gigantic wildfires last month. Officials are warning that the death toll is likely to rise, with an unknown number of people unaccounted for, and the search for survivors continues

## World Bank projects 7.3 per cent growth for India in 2018

**WASHINGTON, JAN 10 (PTI):** India’s growth rate in 2018 is projected to hit 7.3 per cent and 7.5 per cent in the next two years, according to the World Bank, which said the country has “enormous growth potential” compared to other emerging economies with the imple-mentation of comprehensive reforms.

India is estimated to have grown at 6.7 per cent in 2017 despite initial setbacks from demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax (GST), according to the 2018 Global Economics Prospect released by the World Bank here yesterday.

“In all likelihood India is going to reg-ister higher growth rate than other major emerging market economies in the next de-cade. So, I wouldn’t focus on the short-term numbers. I would look at the big picture for India and big picture is telling us that it has enormous potential,” Ayhan Kose, Director, Development Prospects Group at the World Bank, told PTI in an interview.

He said in comparison with China, which is slowing, the World Bank is expecting India to gradually accelerate.

“The growth numbers of the past three years were very healthy,” Kose, author of the report, said.

India’s economy is likely to grow 7.3 per cent in 2018 and then accelerate to 7.5 per cent in the next two years, the bank said.

China grew at 6.8 per cent in 2017, 0.1 per cent more than that of India, while in 2018, its growth rate is projected at 6.4 per cent. And in the next two years, the coun-

try’s growth rate will drop marginally to 6.3 and 6.2 per cent, respectively.

To materialise its potential, India, Kose said, needs to take steps to boost investment prospects.

There are measures underway to do in terms of non- performing loans and produc-tivity, he said.

“On the productivity side, India has enormous potential with respect to sec-ondary education completion rate. All in all, improved labour market reforms, education and health reforms as well as relaxing in-vestment bottleneck will help improve In-dia’s prospects,” Kose said.

India has a favourable demographic pro-file which is rarely seen in other economies, he said.

“In that context, improving female labour force participation rate is going to be im-portant. Female labour force participation still remains low relative to other emerging market economies,” he said.

Reducing youth unemployment is crit-ical, and pushing for private investment, where problems are already well-known like bank assets quality issues...If these are done, India can reach its potential easily and exceed, Kose asserted.

“In fact, we expect India to do better than its potential in 2018 and move forward,” he said.

India’s growth potential, he said, would be around 7 per cent for the next 10 years.

The Indian government is “very serious”

with the GST being a major turning point and banking recapitalisation programme is really important, Kose said.

“The Indian government has already re-cognised some of these problems and under-taking measures and willing to see the out-comes of these measures,” he said.

“India is a very large economy. It has a huge potential.

At the same time, it has its own challeng-es. This government is very much aware of these challenges and is showing just doing its best in terms of dealing with them,” the World Bank official said.

The latest World Bank growth estimate for 2017 is 0.5 per cent, less than the pre-vious projection, and 0.2 per cent less in the next two years.

“It is slightly lower than its previous forecast, primarily because India is under-taking major reforms,” Kose said.

These reforms, of course, will bring cer-tain policy uncertainty, he said, “but the big issue about India, when you look at India’s growth potential and our numbers down the road 2019 and 2020, is that it is going to be the fastest growing large emerging market.”

“India has an ambitious government un-dertaking comprehensive reforms. The GST is a major reform to have harmonised taxes, is one nation one market one tax concept.

Then, of course, the late 2016 demone-tisation reform was there. The government is well aware of these short-term implica-tions,” Kose said.

## US revokes citizenship of Indian native; faces deportation

WASHINGTON, JAN 10

**(PTI):** The US has re-voked the American citi-zenship of an Indian-ori-gin man who reportedly defrauded the authori-ties, making it the first denaturalisation case under a government ini-tiative designed to clamp down on fraudulent im-migration, the Justice De-partment said.

Baljinder Singh alias Davinder Singh, 43, who married a US citizen, has now been reverted to the Green Card status which leaves him poten-tially subject to removal proceedings at the De-partment of Homeland Security’s discretion, the Justice Department said.

The Department of Justice, which moved a petition in this regard be-fore a US court last Sep-tember, said that Singh in his citizenship appli-cation concealed prior orders of exclusion and his deportation under different identities than the identity under which they naturalised.

“Singh’s denaturali-sation is the first arising out of a growing body of

cases referred to the De-partment of Justice by United States Citizenship and Immigration Ser-vices (USCIS) as part of Operation Janus,” the De-partment of Justice said in a statement.

The action against Singh was filed contem-poraneously with two other Operation Janus cases, as announced by the Justice Department on September 19, 2017.

A US District Court in New Jersey on January 5 had entered an order revoking his naturalised US citizenship and can-celling his Certificate of Naturalisation.

Under Operation Janus, the Department of Homeland Securi-ty has identified about 315,000 cases where some fingerprint data was missing from the centralised digital fin-gerprint repository.

Among those cases, some may have sought to circumvent criminal record and other back-ground checks in the naturalisation process, said the Department of Homeland Security.

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## ANUSHKA SHARMA'S PARI TEASER: GET SET FOR 'NOT A FAIRY TALE' THIS HOLI

Teaser of Anushka Sharma's *Pari* is out, and it will give you goosebumps.

Anushka Sharma's upcoming film *Pari* is unlike any of her previous films. Because this *Pari* is not your quintessential angel. The haunting eyes and gruesome scars have a different story to tell, which will be unveiled on March 2.

Anushka, who has been a part of films like *NH 10* and *Phillaari* under her home production, has yet again experimented with her next.

And this time, the actor is ready to send chill down your spine with *Pari*. Directed by Prosit Roy, the film has Anushka in a never-seen-before avatar. The film, which was supposed to release on February 9, has been pushed to Holi now.

*Pari* will be Anushka's first release after her marriage to cricketer Virat Kohli.

### REVIEW



**HAPPY HAND-HOLDING:** Angelina Jolie with kids Zahara and Shiloh Jolie-Pitt attend the 2018 National Board of Review Awards Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street.

## TAYLOR SWIFT'S 'REPUTATION' WAS THE ONLY ALBUM IN 2017 TO SELL 1 MILLION PHYSICAL COPIES

Last week, Taylor Swift's *Reputation* was revealed to be the bestselling album of 2017 (though not the biggest), and while it moved hundreds of thousands of digital copies, it's really in the record shops and big-box retailers that she and her electroclash collection shined.

According to Nielsen's year-end report that looks at how well the biggest songs and albums did in 2017, *Reputation* ended up as the only title that sold at least one million physical copies. The



album, which immediately became her fifth consecutive

leader on the Billboard in November, just barely passed

that important milestone, as it sold 1,035,000 physical copies in the U.S. That's an impressive showing for two reasons, and both highlight just how powerful Swift remains.

The majority of those physical copies of *Reputation* that were sold in 2017 were CDs, as the title doesn't appear on the list of the biggest vinyl releases of 2017. Swift's accomplishment is noteworthy, and in both 2015 and 2016, there was also only one title that managed sales of one million physical units, though it was the same both years—Adele's 25.

### PADMAVAT CONTINUES TO STAY BANNED IN RAJASTHAN

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's much awaited period drama *Padmavat* starring Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor in the lead role has finally got its release date. The magnum opus that had its title changed from *Padmavati* to *Padmavat* will now have its release on January 25 all across the nation except Rajasthan. As per the Rajasthan government, the state's sentiments cannot be hurt hence the film will remain banned in all parts.

A statement from the Chief Minister was quoted as, "Queen Padmini's sacrifice is deeply linked to the state's glory and honour, she is not just a figure in history for us but a symbol of our pride. We will not let her dignity be tarnished at any cost." CM Vasundhara Raje further added, "Rani Padmini is our self-respect and we will not let it hurt in any case. Directions in this regard have been given to Rajasthan Home minister."

## GWYNETH PALTROW CONFIRMS ENGAGEMENT WITH 'GOOP' MAGAZINE COVER

Gwyneth Paltrow confirmed her engagement to Glee co-creator Brad Falchuk in the Goop-iest way possible: The actress-turned-wellness guru and her betrothed covered the second-ever print issue of Goop magazine, which is published by Conde Nast. Their engagement had been rumored but unconfirmed for a year.

Paltrow, 45, captioned the black-and-white, Steven Pan-lensed cover of the Sex & Love-themed issue, which sees the happy couple in matchy-matchy white T-shirts and jeans, with a ring emoji.

Within the issue -- on newsstands Jan. 9 -- Paltrow revealed why she decided to tie the knot again. "Personally, at midlife, I have tried to accept how complex romantic love can be," she said. "I have decided to give it a go again, not only because I believe I have found the man I was meant to be with, but because I have accepted the soul-stretching, pattern-breaking opportunities that (terrifyingly) are made possible by intimacy." Paltrow officially announced her split with ex-husband, Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, in 2014, simultaneously bringing "consciously uncoupling" into the public lexicon. The couple



ple has two children together, Apple, 14, and Moses, 12. In November, Paltrow posted a photo of Falchuk and Martin together, using the hashtag, "#modernfamily" in the caption. Said the actress of being divorced, "This used to feel like a failure; it took me a while to reframe that divorce isn't a failure."

As for moving forward with Falchuk, Paltrow added, "For the first time, I feel like I'm in an adult relationship that is sometimes very uncomfortable — because he sort of demands a certain level of intimacy and communication that I haven't been held to before. What came up in the first couple of years of our relationship was how incapable I was in this realm — how I feared intimacy and communication."

**ARIES:** The opportunity to take a trip by air, perhaps at someone else's expense, could come to you today, Aries. This might be business related or it could be educational in some way. This is a good day to travel or make the arrangements for it. The journey promises to be an exciting one that you'll remember for a long time. Do what you have to in order to get it all together and then go for it! Enjoy your day.

**TAURUS:** Some rather bizarre dreams could come to you tonight, Taurus. The symbols may include people or objects that you would never have thought of consciously in a hundred years. Nonetheless, they do have meaning for you right now. Sit down and make a list of the symbols and events in the dream, then try to analyze what

they mean to you. Your dream is trying to tell you something important. Make the most of it.

**GEMINI:** Do you have plans to go to a party tonight, Gemini? Don't cancel them. If you're single, an exciting new potential love partner might be introduced to you, and you could spend the entire evening together. If you're already involved, someone could come on the scene who could prove a valuable business contact and might even form a partnership with you. Unless you're too tired to move, get up and go! You won't regret it!

**CANCER:** Some unexpected changes could happen today, Cancer. You could find yourself confronting the prospect of having to get used to some new and totally state-of-the-art equipment that

you've never used before. Don't panic. You'll do fine, you'll be a real whiz once you get used to it. Try to focus your mind on this for now and learn as much as you can. You can do it!

**LEO:** Are you flying today, Leo, or perhaps going somewhere by train? If so, you might meet someone fascinating on the trip. Don't be shy, and don't let pride or propriety stand in the way of striking up a conversation with this person. It will pass the time, you might learn something, and there is always the chance that you really could become friends. Relax, smile your most charming smile, and enjoy the trip.

**VIRGO:** Have you just bought some new equipment for your home, Virgo? This could be a new

computer, a state-of-the-art entertainment system, or perhaps a new appliance. You and the other members of your household might spend much of the day trying to learn how to use it, although it could seem rather difficult. Take heart! It looks more complicated than it is. Keep trying, and don't forget to have fun!

**LIBRA:** An unexpected phone call, perhaps from an old friend, could come your way today, Libra. This person is apt to have good news for you, although he or she may be in a rather melancholy mood. A long conversation could result, the outcome of which is going to change your life, albeit in a subtle way. Nonetheless, this is apt to be a day full of pleasant surprises. Enjoy it!

**SCORPIO:** A financial wind-

fall might be in the stars for you, Scorpio. This isn't anything you would have expected. Perhaps it's a bonus, repayment of a loan you'd long since forgotten, or a settlement of some kind. Whatever it is, it will definitely be a pleasant surprise. Don't, however, spend it all in one place. Wait a few days and then consult a professional about your financial future. This could make a big difference to you. Don't throw it away.

**SAGITTARIUS:** An exciting group activity, perhaps one involving a number of your friends, could take place today, Sagittarius. Your mind may be going a thousand miles an hour throughout the day. Ideas will be exchanged, stimulating conversations should take place, and you could meet some

interesting new people. Someone you meet, however, has an agenda too. Be discriminating about whom you agree to meet with later.

**CAPRICORN:** Surprising and very fortunate events could take place today, Capricorn. This could be an advancement that you weren't expecting. The introduction of an interesting new person or the beginning of an exciting new project could raise your pulse. The day should therefore pass by very quickly. Tonight you may want to share your excitement with your partner or another family member.

**AQUARIUS:** Are you in an especially adventurous mood, Aquarius? This is the sort of day when you can try just about anything new and still come out in one piece. Why not enroll in a marathon, take

rock-climbing lessons, or drive to a place you've never been to before? Wherever you end up, you should find peace and a heightened state of awareness. Don't hesitate. If what you have in mind involves minimal risk, go for it!

**PISCES:** Study of the occult sciences, whether historical or hands-on experiments, should prove fascinating and enlightening for you today, Pisces. Astrology, alchemy, numerology, or herbalism are all intriguing fields, and your mind should be especially attuned to them. One warning: beware of unethical teachers. You may or may not read the works of one, but nonetheless hang on to a little skepticism. Even on days like this, don't believe everything you read or hear.

### LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"THE ONLY WAY I'D DO TRUST FALLS WITH LEROY IS IN ZERO GRAVITY."

### ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



### BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

