



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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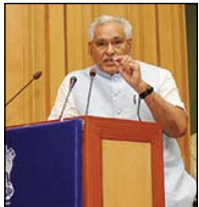
Village Administrative Assistants appointed as Panchayat Sachivas

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 NOV: A notification issued by Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim today informs that the state government has appointed Senior Village Administrative Assistant, Village Administrative Assistant and Junior Village Administrative Assistant as Panchayat Sachivas of respective Gram Panchayat Units with immediate effect.

The duties and responsibilities of the Panchayat Sachivas include overseeing administration of GPU along with providing assistance to Sabhapati, Up-Sabhapati & Panchayat members in the conduct of smooth business of the GPU. The Panchayat Sachivas will also be operating the Gram Panchayat fund, prepare and implement Gram Panchayat Development Plan [GPDP] and

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Sikkim, Chhattisgarh adopt direct selling guidelines: Centre

NEW DELHI, NOV 22 (PTI): Sikkim and Chhattisgarh have adopted model guidelines on direct selling while Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are in the process of implementing the same, Union Consumer Affairs minister C R Chaudhary said today.

He said the government will consider the industry's proposal to frame a separate law to regulate the direct selling sector, which industry body Assocham expects to hit Rs 45,000 crore by 2025, from the current Rs 7,770 crore.

The sector needs to be developed further as it has high potential to generate jobs in the country, he added.

"We had come out with model guidelines on direct selling in September 2016. So far, Sikkim and Chhattisgarh have adopted (them)," Chaudhary said at an Assocham event.

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CM announces a stop to import of vegetables from March 2018

PANCHAYATS URGED TO DELIVER NOT JUST ON THEIR DUTIES, BUT ALSO ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 22 NOV: Addressing the newly elected Panchayat members at the State Level Panchayat Sammelan in the capital today, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling announced the doubling of salaries of the Panchayats in tune with the pay commission revision.



Among other big announcements was a complete stop on import of vegetables from outside the State starting from

31 Mar, 2018.

The Chief Minister stated that food items imported from outside the State contains high

usage of chemical fertilizers which according to him is 'slow poison' that accumulates inside the human body. He further asked the Panchayat members to promote organic products in their respective areas.

He also stressed on occupying barren and vacant lands with as much crops as possible.

He added that no facilities from the state government shall be provided to those land owners who have barren fields.

Terming organic farming as a sustainable and life saving occupa-

tion he urged all to work towards making Sikkim a self sustaining State in food grains by 2020.

While congratulating the elected members the Chief Minister also urged the Panchayats to do more than their obligation and assigned duties for not just materialistic growth but also the dreams and aspirations of Sikkimese people.

Calling the Panchayats "PM, CM" of villages he asked them to forget the election rhetoric and campaign and work for the entire village.

He also instructed the Panchayats to give ben-

efits to poor on a need based criteria.

Tearing into parties and individuals, the Chief Minister strongly advocated and spoke on the secular ethos of the state.

"Panchayats should not look at people through the prism of religion and caste," he stated.

He also stressed that he leads a secular government and belongs to a secular party.

Stating that safeguarding the rights of all communities with inclusive development as a policy, he held that equal rights for all Sikkimese is the agenda of the government.

He also added that the 12 Bhutia-Lepcha seats in the state will not decrease in future compositions of the State Assembly.

On the functioning of Panchayat units, he has appealed to the elected members to make the units self sustaining and result oriented with the chief aim of empowering the poor.

The Chief Minister also announced a Panchayat Standing Committee and District Panchayat Standing Committee which will comprise of SDF Panchayat candidates who lost in the recent elections, for-

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Intl seminar on Eco Criticism begins at SGC

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 NOV: The three-day International Seminar on Eco Criticism titled 'Why Ecocriticism?' organized by the Department of English, Sikkim Government College, and FSLE, Foundation for the Study of Literature and Environment was inaugurated at the College Auditorium on Tuesday, as per a press release.

Present as chief guest was Minister for Forests & Environment, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha who was accompanied by CCE, CS Rao. The guest of honour at the event was Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Incharge HRDD, GP Upadhyaya who was accompanied by Director Higher and Technical Education, HRDD, Deepak Pradhan.

Also in attendance was the Principal of the College, Dr. Lily Alley along with a host of luminaries from the field of Literature and Eco Criticism, both from the rest of India and abroad.

The resource speakers for the seminar are founding president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Prof Murali Sivaramakrishnan, Prof. Melissa Studdard from Texas, Prof. Monica Weiss from New York, Prof.



Sherry Duggal from Vancouver, Canada, Prof. Ron Paul Salutsky from Atlanta, USA, Prof. S.D. Baral from Mizoram University and Prof. Irshad Ghulam Ahmed from Sikkim University, the release informs.

Over the next three days, the resource speakers will discuss

and deliberate on more than 80 papers that will be presented simultaneously at four venues on campus. The paper presenters have congregated from all corners of the country, ranging from the Northeastern states to Udhampur and Kerala.

According to the convenor of

the seminar, Dr. Shobha Sharma and the co-convenor, Dr. Rishikesh Singh of FSLE-India, this is the first time that an International Academic Seminar of this magnitude on Eco Criticism, which in itself is a fairly new emerging genre in Literature, is being organized in Sikkim.

Union Cabinet approves setting up of 15th Finance Commission

NEW DELHI, NOV 22

(PTI): The Cabinet today approved the setting up of the 15th Finance Commission which will assess the tax resources of the nation and suggest a formula for their devolution among states.

The members of the Commission and its terms of reference will be notified in the due course of time, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said after the Union Cabinet meeting.

Its recommendations will have to be in place before April 1, 2020, he said. "Normally, it takes 2 years for Finance Commission to give its recommendations."

As per Article 280 of the Constitution, the Commission is required to make recommendations on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and the states.

The Commission also suggests the principles which should govern the grants in aid of the reve-

nues of the states out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

This time it will have to take into account the impact of the Goods and Services Tax, which kicked in from July, on the resources of the central as well state governments.

On who will head the 15th Finance Commission, Jaitley said: "The members of Finance Commission will be appointed very soon."

When asked whether the 15th Commission will also allocate more resources to the states, he said: "I think let us not pre judge the situation. India is a Union of states, the Union also has to survive."

The 14th Finance Commission was set up on January 2, 2013. Its recommendations cover the period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2020.

Butcher of Bosnia found guilty of genocide

THE HAGUE, NOV 22 (AFP): UN judges today sentenced former Bosnian Serbian commander Ratko Mladic to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of genocide and war crimes in the brutal Balkans conflicts over two decades ago.

The trial of the man dubbed "The Butcher of Bosnia" was the last before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and comes as the court prepares to close its doors next month.

The court found him guilty on 10 counts including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the 1992-1995 war that killed 100,000 people and displaced 2.2 million as ethnic rivalries tore apart Yugoslavia. But they found him not guilty of genocide in the municipalities.

"For having committed

these crimes, the chamber sentences Ratko Mladic to life imprisonment," presiding judge Alphons Orie said, adding the crimes were "amongst the most heinous known to human kind".

After rumours he would not attend the hearing, the former general, 74, who once cut a swathe of fear against Bosnia, gave a thumbs-up as he entered the courtroom in The Hague.

But in extraordinary scenes he was ordered to be dragged from the court, when in an outburst he accused the judges of lying, after they refused to adjourn because he had high-blood pressure.

"The circumstances were brutal. Those who tried to defend their homes were met with ruthless force. Mass executions occurred and some victims succumbed after being beaten," Orie said, outlining the facts of the case against Mladic.



"Many of the perpetrators who had captured Bosnian Muslims showed little or no respect for human life, or dignity."

Today's verdict has been long awaited by tens of thousands of victims across the bitterly-divided region, and dozens gathered early outside the courtroom in The Hague, many clutching photos of loved ones who died or are

among the 7,000 still missing.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina: No impunity for war criminals!" read one banner, while another had a picture of Mladic with a human skull saying: "Guilty of all!"

"We will see today. Will he be found guilty or will he be seen as a hero?" Munira Subasic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica, told AFP before

the verdict.

Prosecutors said Mladic and his political counterpart Radovan Karadzic sought through ethnic cleansing to "permanently remove" Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats from areas claimed by Bosnian Serbs.

Caught after 16 years on the run, Mladic was found guilty of the 1995 massacre in northeastern Srebrenica, where troops under his command slaughtered almost 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

The killings, in which the victims were marched away, shot in the back and dumped in mass graves, was one of the darkest episodes in the conflict, and has been called the worst atrocity on European soil since World War II.

Once a brutish military commander who strode around in combat fatigues, Mladic was also found guilty of "personally directing" a

44-month campaign of sniping and shelling to terrorise citizens in Bosnia's capital Sarajevo, which left about 10,000 dead.

Mladic was also found guilty of taking hostage more than 200 NATO military personnel and keeping them as human shields to prevent NATO air strikes against the Bosnian Serb army.

Prosecutors had called for a life sentence, after a five-year trial in which almost 600 witnesses testified and more than 10,000 exhibits were presented.

But defence lawyers -- who in the past few days filed a flurry of requests to have their ailing client's health assessed -- have slammed his trial as "political", had called for an acquittal.

After suffering at least three strokes, Mladic has been left with "part paralysis of the entire right side of his body," lawyer Dragan Ivetic said.

CM should investigate allegations against RB Subba: BJP Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 Nov:**

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has expressed concern over the audio clip of an alleged phone conversation between Human Resource Minister, RB Subba and an SDF party functionary that has gone viral in the social media.

The state party president, DB Chauhan has demanded that the Chief Minister investigate the matter to maintain the peace and brotherhood in the State.

SKM accuses RB Subba of 'lying'

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 Nov:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that instead of apologizing to the Bahun-Chettri communities, Minister RB Subba has now lied to the people by claiming that the audio clip was false and doctored.

Minister Mr Subba has been accused of making derogatory comments against the two communities in a phone conversation with an SDF party functionary, an audio clip of which has been circulating on social media. On Tuesday, the Minister had refuted the allegations and said that he had never had such a conversation and that the audio clip is fake and doctored.

Food Deptt conducts inspection in Mangan Bazaar

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 22 Nov:**

An inspection of the shops at Mangan Bazaar was conducted today by Deputy Controller-Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Jigmi Kazi, along with District Civil Supplies Officer-cum-District Consumer Protection Officer, North, Palden N Lachungpa, Police Inspector Karma Euden Kaleon and Sub Inspector, Gaurav.

The inspection was aimed at creating awareness among the shopkeepers and their responsibilities towards customers in particular and society



in general.

During the inspection, the expiry dates, batch numbers, rates and other details of all the eatables and other products kept

for sale were thoroughly checked. The shopkeepers have been directed to be more vigilant while bringing supplies for sale from outside the State by

thoroughly checking the details lot wise.

The team also inspected the weighing scales and other licenses and directed shopkeepers

to display the rate board of the commodities along with the daily stock at a prominent place easily noticeable by the customers.

Coffee table book on Sikkim launched at Singapore

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:**

'SIKKIM: FROM A TRAVELER'S EYE', a coffee table book highlighting the various facets of Sikkim through photography was released today at the Nikon Asia Pacific Headquarters in Singapore, a press release informs.

The book with photography inputs of National Geographic photographer Mohsin Abrar and text by Chief Learning Officer, 24Hours Inspired, Dewaker Basnet was launched by General Manager, International Customer Support Division, Imaging Group, Nikon and Xavier Chan, Executive (Nikon School) William Lee.

Speaking about the book, William Lee said, "The book is a great window to highlight Sikkim and also would give the viewers an idea of the enchanting place that Sikkim is. We are sure that the reach of the book



would provide people across the world a larger perspective of Sikkim as a land of beauty."

Adding on to the launch, Xavier Chan said, "We are delighted to see the pictures of Sikkim and are inspired to get a bunch of photographers from Singapore to Sikkim and explore the beauty of the place. We shall work our dates for the trip and we are sure

it will be a great experience for Nikon photographers."

Speaking about his experience, photographer Mohsin Abrar said, "Sikkim was a great experience and I am glad that we could collaborate on this book and bring out some part of the beautiful place in front of the world. The geography of the place is fascinating and so are

the people. I am sure, through this book, we shall have more people visiting Sikkim and experiencing the splendour."

Dewaker Basnet, Chief Learning Officer of 24Hours Inspired said, "We were thrilled to collaborate with an ace Natgeo photographer in this project and happy that the book has been really appreciated by the team at Nikon. This book would endeavour to showcase some aspects of Sikkim and we are positive that this will go a long way in promoting the beauty of Sikkim. The book is also going to reach out to High Commissions and Embassies across India and will be placed in select boutiques across cities of India. We are also happy that after going through the book, a group of Nikon photographers will visit Sikkim the coming year for landscape photography."

Mangan protestors plan campaign against Health Department

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 Nov:**

The core group that organised the rally on 17 Nov, protesting against the engineering cell of Health Department for granting the Rs 14.09 crore contract of the upcoming district hospital to a local contractor, met at the Mangan Nagar Panchayat Office today to discuss ways to ensure that the demands of the people are met. They have chalked out the protest campaign and have started the background work for the campaign, a press release informs.

It may be recalled that on 17 Nov, the people of Mangan walked to the District Secretariat demanding that the proposed new district hospital be given to a professionally run private company with the capability to construct the structure on a turnkey basis.

In the memorandum submitted to the office of the District Collector [North] and the press release accompanying it, it was clearly stated that the public was dissatisfied with the way the old hospital building [abandoned within ten years of commissioning] was de-

signed, constructed and monitored.

The concerned people of North Sikkim therefore demanded that the recent tender notice stipulating that only local contractors are eligible be cancelled. It was demanded that another tender be floated on a turnkey basis with stipulation that only technically competent professionally run construction companies with a proven record in designing and constructing such structures be eligible for consideration.

The release adds that the people of North Sikkim are still awaiting a response to the memorandum which encapsulates the genuine demands of the long suffering "common man" of North Sikkim.

It is further informed that the public of North Sikkim will initiate a protest campaign which will include relay hunger strike and mass mobilisation campaign and that they are also exploring legal and other avenues if there is no response from the concerned department by 05 Dec in order to ensure that their voice is heard.

Singtam residents concerned over delay in repairing electric pole

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 22 Nov:**

Residents of Ward No. R05, Singtam have expressed concern over a damaged electric pole in the area which has been left unattended by the concerned authorities since it was damaged by a vehicle a few months back.

The supporting plate and the base of the pole are heavily damaged according to the residents.

Currently, the pole is supported temporarily with a 10 KG stone while the residents are waiting for a response from the authorities to their letter asking for repairs.

The residents had reportedly submitted a letter to the Superintendent Engineer of Power Department, Topa Khaney stating the urgency for the repair work on 09 Nov.

Dalai Lama receives KISS Humanitarian Award 2017

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 Nov:**

The KISS Humanitarian Award 2017 was presented to the 14th Dalai Lama at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar on 21 Nov. President, KIIT & KISS, Saswati Bal and founder, Prof. Achyuta Samanta presented the award before an audience of 27,000 indigenous students of the institute and a host of dignitaries, a press release informs.

The award citation recognized his "concern for the oppressed human beings from all over the world in need of compassion". He is a beacon of hope, aspiration and inspiration for the millions of people across the world, it mentioned, while noting his struggles and sacrifices for the people and universal compassion.

In his acceptance speech, the Dalai Lama



called for making this century a century of compassion and peace.

"Previous century was marred by violence - There were world wars in which atom bombs were also used. Brains of brilliant scientists were utilized for destruction. Let the 21st century be the century of compassion and peace. Peace does not come from outside, rather it comes from inside. We need to destroy our anger, aggression

and jealousy. Anger and violence always bring disaster and creates a fearful atmosphere. World peace can be achieved only by inner peace," the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner said.

"Past is past, but future is in our hand. Your generation is the custodian of 21st century. You are the people who can create new shape of future. You have the opportunity and responsibility to create a new world,"

he told the students.

"Compassion is intrinsic in human nature. All seven billion people of the world have come from mothers. Our lives start with mothers' love. So we all must share love. All human beings are same - mentally, physically and emotionally. Division of people on the basis of caste, colour, etc. is totally wrong. Underprivileged people should not have inferiority complex. You should be

self confident and work hard," the Dalai Lama said.

Deliberating on the role of education, he stated, "Existing modern education is inadequate as it focuses on material value and fame. Secular education should include moral education. Research is now going on to figure out how best to do it." He suggested KISS to carry out experiments to include moral education.

"India is the most populated democratic country and an ancient civilization. This country has produced most brilliant people, including Buddhist masters. Buddhism has come from India. Modern world lacks moral principles and knowledge to tackle our destructive emotions. Ancient Indian psychology was very advanced and still very relevant to deal with this problem. You should feel proud of your rich history, heritage and traditions," he told the students.

The literal meaning of the title Dalai Lama is 'ocean monk' and he is regarded as 'the ocean of compassion', said Prof. Achyuta Samanta introducing the recipient in his presentation speech. "We feel fortunate to get

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CM announces a stop to import of vegetables...

contd from pg01

mer Panchayats, members of SDF youth and women's wings and retired government officials of the area which will help the Panchayat in carrying out various developmental activities in the rural areas.

He also instructed the Panchayats to guide the youngsters into capacity building in collaboration with experts.

Further asking the newly elected Pancha-

yats to work on the vision of the government he asked them to work towards making the state fully literate state by 2018, a poverty free state, unemployment free state and kutcha house free state.

He added that by 2020, Sikkim aims to be self reliant in animal husbandry and in meat and dairy products in which Panchayats can play a big role.

"We have to be a pro-

ducer now," said the CM.

Adding that dignity of labor is of prime value he asked all the stakeholders to join the organic movement which is also "earth saving".

Extending an olive branch to all the elected independent candidates he has asked them to work together for the villages and the State.

In the welcome address, Secretary [Rural Management & Develop-

ment Department], DR Nepal, said that Gram Sabha Development plan includes sustainable development and Panchayats can be a game changer in this direction.

RMDD Minister, SB Subedi also addressed the gathering and stressed on quality work and financial transparency.

He also urged the Panchayats to take into account all the people, primarily the poor.

**HAVE A STORY
TO
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**Gangtok on
Thursday,
23 Nov**

Temp: 21°C / 06°C
Forecast: Periods of clouds and sun with a shower in places in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 06:02 AM
Sunset: 4:42 PM

SMIMS organises its first Alumni Meet

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

Following the recent formation of the first alumni association of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences [SMIMS] with Assistant Professor-Department of Orthopaedics, SMIMS, Dr Ujjawal Pradhan, as president and Head of Department-Physiology Department, Professor DK Jha as its chief advisor, the 1st SMIMS Alumni Meet was organised on 18 Nov at the SMIMS college auditorium.

The meet was attended by students of the 1st batch of 2001 MBBS along with members from the subsequent batches, a press release received from Sikkim Manipal University informs.

Dean-SMIMS, Dr GS Joneja, Medical Superintendent-Central Referral Hospital, Dr Gautam Dey, faculty members were also present during the meet.

It may be mentioned here, SMIMS, which is a constituent college of SMU, was established in the year 2001. The first batch of MBBS students were enrolled in the same year.

Village Administrative Assistants...

contd from pg01

conduct Gram Sabhas.

Further the Panchayat Sachivas will have the responsibilities of implementing budget and account manual, maintaining books and accounts and other records of GPU while overseeing the implementation of digital transaction, Public Finance Management System [PFMS] and GST.

He/she will also be assisting in auditing of GPs account [LFA, CAG, CA] and will be responsible for preparation of annual budget of GPU, disbursement and maintenance of records in respect of teacher salary, timely submission of utilization certificate and other reports and implementation of e-Panchayat works.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

write to Summit TIMES at
news@summittimes.com

SAATHI organises NGOs meet on substance abuse

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

Sikkim against Addiction towards Healthy India [SAATHI] organized a meet of all the Non Governmental Organisations of Sikkim working on substance abuse at the Lemon Tree Hotel in Gangtok on 21 Nov.

A SAATHI press release informs that the meet was part of the ongoing consultations with various interest groups being coordinated by a core group under the office of the Member of Parliament [Lok Sabha], Prem Das Rai.

Representatives and



counsellors from rehabilitation centres from all over Sikkim gathered for a consultation on

how they can play a role in achieving an impactful community outreach.

A presentation on

the SAATHI module and interventions was made by a board member of SAATHI, Dr Satyadeep

Singh Chettri.

The discussion held after the presentation brought up some perti-

nent issues and suggestions. One of these was the need to provide better infrastructure and recreational spaces for children and youth. The lack of such spaces was identified as one of the reasons students end up indulging in substance use.

Further, suggestions on introducing drug use related information in school curriculum, allocating resources for health policies, work on new strategies on capacity building, involving the local stakeholders etc., came up through the course of the discussions. Prashant Sharma

from HepCoS stressed on focusing on the upliftment of the young school drop outs.

Likewise, Uday Rai from Serenity Rehabilitation Centre, Gangtok stated the importance of recognizing drug usage as a medical concern and not a criminal offence. Only when drug problem is decriminalized, it shall help change the normative understanding of the society towards the drug user community. If young children are made to see substance abuse as a criminal issue, more crimes will arise in the near future, he added.

State U-16 boys cricket team gets set for Vijay Merchant Trophy

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

The coaching camp for the State Under-16 Boys team for upcoming Vijay Merchant Trophy concluded here at the Sikkim Cricket Association cricket ground in Mining, Rangpo today.

A 15-member team will be representing Sikkim in the new zone of Bihar & North Eastern States approved by the BCCI in Vijay Merchant Trophy to be held from 01 Dec.

On the last day of the camp, SCA president, Lobsang Tenzing, congratulated and expressed best wishes to the State team members.

An SCA press release informs that the team members were selected by



coach Som Tshering Lepcha and other members of the selection committee. The team will be led by Robin Limboo as captain while Bikash Pradhan will also accompany the team as the manager.

The release adds that Sikkim Cricket Association has been working actively to support emerging young cricketers from Sikkim.

"Sikkim has already played in the women's

Under-19 Tournament and one Sikkimese boy, Anwesh Karan Sharma, is playing for A & A Team [A combined team of Bihar and North East states] in the Cooch Bihar Trophy," the release adds.

Losoong celebration begins in Ralong with archery tourney

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

The Denzong Losoong Celebration Committee Ralong, South Sikkim, organizes various events and competitions on the occasion of Losoong every year. The main attraction of the celebration is the archery tournament which began today.

This year's Losoong celebration kicked off today at the Karma Rabtenling Community Ground, Ralong, South Sikkim. Divisional Engineer, Building and Housing Department, Government of Sikkim, Sonam Pintso Bhutia attended the function as the chief guest along with other dignitaries.

The first match of the archery tournament was held between KRG Heruka and ITI Rangpo with KRG winning the match within the provided time limit.

This is the 10th



edition of the Denzong Losoong Celebration being organised by the committee in Ralong. The area falls under Ralong

Namlung GPU, South Sikkim.

The event saw various other colourful programmes and will contin-

ue till Losoong which officially begins on 19 Dec.

Dalai Lama receives KISS...

contd from pg02

the blessings of His Holiness and his acceptance of the award has enhanced its stature," Prof. Samanta added.

KISS Humanitarian Award is a prestigious international award given to someone who has made exceptional contribution to the society in various fields relating to social issues and who has distinguished himself or herself as a true humanitarian. Instituted by Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar in 2008, the award is presented annually and its recipient is chosen by a high-level jury. The 14th Dalai Lama is the tenth KISS Humanitarian Laureate.

The Dalai Lama also delivered a talk at 'KIIT Knowledge Tree' Lecture Series at KIIT University and addressed thousands of Tibetan settlers from Chandragiri who had come to KIIT to seek his blessings.

Road towards District Court at Sichey tri-junction to remain closed from 23 Nov



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

A general information notice has been released by Urban Development & Housing Department today informing the general public that the road towards

District Court will be closed at Sichey tri-junction above Old Tibetan School as the Department is undertaking the restoration of the road surface. The road will be closed from 23 Nov till the work is complete.

Sikkim, Chhattisgarh adopt direct selling guidelines: Centre

contd from pg01

Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are in the process of implementing the norms. "We cannot force states to adopt the guidelines. However, we hope more states will implement it," he added.

The guidelines, which offer clarity on the direct selling sector, has prohibited pyramid as well as money circulation schemes in the garb of direct selling business.

On industry's demand to frame a separate law, the minister, on the sidelines of the event, said: "We

are going slow on this. We will do it gradually. First, we have issued guidelines and the next step is framing a law. We will certainly think on these lines."

Earlier addressing the event, the minister said a progressive legislation is required as there is still some "drawback" in the system.

Any business can grow if the regulatory systems are in place to facilitate production to marketing of products, he added, highlighting the government schemes, including Start-Up India launched to en-

courage entrepreneurs.

Assocham Consumer Affairs Council Chairman Vijay Sardana said, "Enterprise spirit has been evoked by the government by launching schemes like Start-Up India and Stand-Up India.

These schemes will not be successful unless direct selling industry is strengthened and promoted."

Much of the focus of these schemes is on boosting production and there is no policy to facilitate marketing, he observed.

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & TRAINING IN INFORMATICS
(AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM,
NEAR POWER SECRETARIAT, ANNEX - I BUILDING, TOP FLOOR,
KAZI ROAD, GANGTOK - 737101, PH: 03592-207426

Ref no: 190/CRTI/DIT/2017

Date: 17/11/17

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Centre For Research & Training In Informatics (CRTI), an autonomous body under the Department of Information Technology, Government of Sikkim is conducting a Walk in Interview on 5th December 2017 to fill up the under mentioned positions for the operation of State Data Centre.

SL.NO.	JOB DISCRPTION	REQUIREMENT	SALARY/MONTH
1.	Data Engineer	1 no	Rs.20,000/-
2	BMS, NOC, Helpdesk Engineer	5 nos	Rs. 15,000/-

For further details applicants may kindly visit www.sikkim.gov.in

R.O. No. 421/ivr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 21.11.17

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE

So, the Suicide Rate is still high in Sikkim

And there are still no real initiatives to arrest the development

The latest data of the National Crime Records Bureau is of year 2015 vintage. Those stats have been spoken about earlier as well, but given that suicides continue to remain a largely unaddressed and disturbingly regular occurrence, the problem requires to figure routinely in our conversations as well.

With 241 lives lost to suicides in the year 2015, Sikkim posted a suicide rate of 37.5 suicides per one lakh population, worryingly more than three times the national suicide rate of 10.5. It continues to hold the ignominy of being the State with the highest suicide rate. The only other place with a higher suicide rate being the Union Territory of Puducherry with a suicide rate of 43.5%. For those looking for any consolation in the statistics, the only glimmer comes when 2015 is compared against year 2010 when Sikkim recorded 280 suicides - astounding 45.9 suicides per lakh of population. What needs to be borne in mind is that the ignominy of being the suicide capital of the country comes Sikkim's way even with the official records. Everyone who has suffered a loss to suicide in the family or among friends will know that not all suicides end up getting recorded as such. Given the low numbers [in absolute terms] one is dealing with here, it becomes obvious that should every suicide get recorded as such, the suicide rate [worked per lakh of population] would spike substantially, making the numbers even more distressing.

Such distress should not be necessary any more to invite the attention of everyone concerned, should it?

It is unanimously accepted that the Sikkimese society faces a major challenge in the growing tendency among its people to take their own lives, so rankings [in suicide rate lists] and statistics should not be required any more to shock people and their representatives into action. What should be making headlines and feeding public discourse should be the corrective action that is being planned and not just how Sikkim is scoring when it comes to suicides. The public domain should not still be discussing the high incidence of suicides in Sikkim because that has been an established fact for a while now and the outcry should instead be directed at building pressure on policy makers and people's organisations to do something about it. That, unfortunately, is still not happening. By now, the State should have set up a task force to study suicides and inform the next course of action on how to arrest the situation.

It should also be recognised that suicides are a social challenge, and state intervention alone will not suffice and a solution will require extensive collaboration of the community and its representative organisations. Also, in the absence of adequate public pressure, the State intervention will end up being typically token and expectedly superficial. Given the nature of the challenge, what could prove to be even more effective is initiative. Should a group of professionals with adequate expertise agree to collaborate on assisting Sikkim in addressing the challenge of suicides, State support would obviously follow. These experts need not necessarily be from Sikkim and could be contacted and approached by NGOs and other civil society organisations based here which could play the role of the facilitators. Should a group here take up the issue in the right earnest, finding the experts will not be difficult, and should State endorsement and funding be committed, Sikkim could finally begin the process of addressing the issue in earnest. One must bear in mind that while the NCRB might have placed Sikkim in the top position in as much as suicides are concerned, it is not an issue which will attract the Centre's attention because when it looks at the figures, it will not be unduly disturbed by the numbers - 241 deaths by suicide in Sikkim (in 2015) against the 16,970 suicides in Maharashtra.

So, when it comes to tackling suicides, it will have to be Sikkim and its people who will have to take the initiative.

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

From Ayurveda to biomedicine: understanding the human body

SUZANNE NEWCOMBE
theconversation.com

What is a human body? This may seem a facetious question, but the answer will be very different according to which medical tradition you consult. Take Ayurveda, a traditional system of medical knowledge from India which has enjoyed a renaissance of popularity in the West since the 1980s - and is the subject of a new exhibition at London's Wellcome Collection.

Walking round the show, one is encouraged to explore different ways of understanding and visualising the human body. The Ayurvedic body differs significantly from that of European biomedicine, which is based on dissection. The Ayurvedic body is a body of systems. It is conceptualised as being composed of five constituent parts (mahābūta), seven body substances (dhātu) and three regulating qualities (doṣa). According to Ayurvedic theory, by attending to imbalances between these principles in a body, health might be promoted and illness avoided. The Ayurvedic concepts of the doṣas - vata, pitta and kapha can be seen in the West today promoting teas, soaps and massages.

But of course, there are many other different conceptions of the human body. There is the tantric understanding, often conflated with that of Ayurveda. Tantra focuses on the concept of energy channels (nāḍīs) which have particular centres of concentration along a line in the centre of the body (chakras). The traditional Chinese model, on the other hand, emphasises the dynamic principles of ying and yang as being paramount for ensuring health. Meanwhile, indigenous healing in many traditional cultures identifies problems between the individual and the greater social and metaphysical context as the cause of illness.

COMPETING MEDICAL SYSTEMS

So what, then, has determined the dominance of one medical system of thought over another? The answer is far more complex than the "correct" or "most accurate" one.

This complexity is epitomised by the central piece of the exhibition, one of very few illustrations of the classical Ayurvedic systemic descriptions of the human body. This 16th-century drawing, as Dominik Wujastyk's research has shown, was probably produced at the request of a rich, Nepalese patron by a scholar-physician, a scribe and a painter; none of whom were fluent with the original Sanskrit source. The Nepalese artist was clearly influenced by Tibetan medical illustrations.

We don't know how this image was originally used or how influential it was, but its creation was dependent upon patronage and intercultural ex-

change of food and other resources away from local Indian populations, to serve what were considered to be the greater needs of the British Empire.

As I have argued elsewhere, reactions to the tragic deaths of millions of Indians transformed yoga. Swami Vivekananda was inspired by the effects of famine and plague to refine Karma Yoga as a social-service mission. Many leaders of the Indian independence movement, including Mahatmas Gandhi and Mohan Malaviya, promoted Indian approaches to medicine and health.

And so the establishment of the modern Indian nation was closely linked with the health of millions of

yoga, Ayurvedic medicine and Indian longevity practices (rasāyana) over the past 1000 years. Our research emphasises a plurality of understandings through time. Both yoga and Ayurveda are characterised by a diversity of practices, as well as by internal conceptual coherency. Millennia of intercultural exchange has created problems for asserting national ownership of traditional medical knowledge.

All medical systems have shared interests in promoting human health and longevity. But it is important to understand the differences as well as the similarities. As early as 1923, Indian commentators were expressing concern about the potential biomedical "mining" of traditional remedies for single active ingredients. One commentator in the Usman Report, a pan-Indian survey of over 200 indigenous medical practitioners, asks: "Does this amount to quackery" by biomedical physicians?

Today, our mental image of our bodies is largely picture built up from dissection and, more recently, x-rays and various other scans. Yet in practice, we understand our bodies as a changing system. We monitor our energy levels. We adjust how we feel with food, drink, sleep, exercise and drugs. The Ayurvedic, system-oriented body, then, is perhaps not that far from most people's daily experience. So how might we better visualise our bodies based on our lived, somatic understandings?

Ayurveda is a rich and complex tradition that has always encompassed influences from a variety of cultures as well as retaining very specific, local applications. Ayurveda cannot be reduced to a simple definition, marketing slogan or quantifiable national export. The Wellcome's new show explores these complicated relationships and raises important questions. If we are not to become "quacks" ourselves, we must continue to resist reductions of the human body into a single visual model.

[the writer is Lecturer in Religious Studies, The Open University]



change. It was out of this mix of cultures, then, that came one of the most iconic visual presentations of the "Indian" Ayurvedic body.

Economic and political powers are strong influences on the shape and popularity of Indian concepts of the body today. Yoga is currently the most widespread Indian approach to promoting the health of the body. It is flourishing globally. Millions attest that yoga makes them feel better and Ayurvedic concepts are often presented as integral to yoga practices.

But it is not well known that the contemporary global interest in Ayurveda and yoga is partially a result of colonial mismanagement of India. This point is creatively illustrated in the Wellcome's new show through an interactive commission by the artist Ranjit Kandalgaonkar. Millions of lives were lost throughout the colonial period due to forcible redistribu-

individual Indian bodies through "Indian" systems of healing. This continues today as the prime minister Narendra Modi demonstrates through his association with India's popular "yoga-televangelist" Swami Ramdev and the elevation of traditional medicine to that of an independent government department.

The promotion and preservation of Indian medicinal knowledge is laudable. But it is important not to oversimplify complex and sophisticated descriptions rooted in different worldviews. Economic imperatives often flatten traditions into marketable exports - and intercultural exchanges both enrich and confuse our models of understanding.

MANY UNDERSTANDINGS

So should there be one answer, one dominant understanding of the body? I'm currently part of a team researching the overlaps between

Kazakhstan is changing its alphabet - here's why

ANDREW LINN
theconversation.com

Kazakhstan is to adopt a new alphabet, replacing the Russian Cyrillic script with the alphabet you are reading at the moment. This was announced in October by the Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, who signed decree Number 569, which also sets out an expanded version of the Roman alphabet - to be introduced in schools in 2018. The aim is for full transition by 2025.

The Cyrillic script currently used for Kazakh has 42 symbols (33 derived from the Russian alphabet plus nine for additional Kazakh sounds). Because the Roman alphabet contains just 26 letters, additional provision has had to be made. The new Kazakh script will use the apostrophe to extend the number of letters to 32. According to The Guardian the official name of the country, Қазақстан Республикасы, will henceforth be rendered Qazaqstan Respy'blıkasy.

The proposed switch of alphabets has been in the pipeline at least since 2006, so this pronouncement should have caused little surprise. The plan was announced in April, building on proposals put forward in December 2012 as part of the president's Kazakhstan-2050 strategy, where the political rationale comes across unequivocally: "For the sake of the future of our children we should make this decision [adopt the Roman alphabet] and create it as a condition of entry for our wider global integration."

Another reason why Nazarbayev's decree should have come as no surprise is that periodic language reform is very much part of the landscape in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan, which has a population of 18.2m people, is a multilingual country with 117 spoken languages. Russian remains the dominant language of communication - but the prestige of Kazakh is increasing. The official policy is one of societal trilingualism (Kazakh-Russian-English), with particular support for "the state language" - what the Kazakhstan-2050 strategy calls "the spiritual pivot".

Kazakhstan occupies a strategic position in Central Asia and shifting allegiances can be clearly charted in the history of script reform. Early Runic scripts were gradually replaced by the Arabic

script following the introduction of Islam in the 8th century. In 1924, the inherited Arabic script was modified to better reflect the sounds of Kazakh, which gave way to a Roman-based script in 1929. This, in turn, was replaced by Cyrillic in 1940, under the Soviet-era policy of russification.

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, neighbouring Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan quickly adopted the Roman script. Kazakhstan, the last of the former Soviet republics to declare independence, was politically more cautious. The economic situation in the early 1990s didn't permit the luxury of alphabet reform, but a rapid upturn in the economic fortunes of the nation since 2000 has meant an increasing commitment to Western ideals, to communication with the West, to learning English and to adopting its script.

TONGUE-TIED

The English-speaking world is not used to state-level intervention in the language, meddling in how it should be structured and how it will be used. Proposals for an official language body have come and gone over the centuries, but English - unusually in the international context - is relatively unplanned.

Language planning (sometimes referred to as language management or cultivation) - and the associated development of language policies - is not just a state-level matter but also characterises how relationships play out at other levels: in education, in religious groups, in business, even within families. Wherever language practices are controlled or modified by those in authority (parents, teachers, religious or business leaders) we have language planning.

Sticking to state-level planning for now, there are plenty of examples: German was subject to orthographic reform in 1998 including limiting the use of the ß symbol and relaxing its rules about the use of commas. Meanwhile, Icelandic vocabulary is closely scrutinised and monitored to keep it free from foreign borrowings. The role of the Académie française in moderating the French language is well known.

Is the direction in language planning always and inevitably top-down? Is it always the ideology of the dominant party (government, teacher, parent)

which dictates language practices and prevails?

The term "language planning" was coined in the 1960s to describe the ongoing process of state-level intervention in Norway. Successive reforms in the spelling and structure of both standard forms of Norwegian - the "Bokmål" (book language) and "Nynorsk" (New Norwegian) - were introduced as part of a process which would ultimately lead them to converge into a single standard variety of the language ("Samnorsk", or Common Norwegian).

Generations of Norwegians objected to the constant changes but seemed powerless to prevent further reform coming down from Norway's Language Council. However, it appears now that the will of the people has prevailed in Norway and the official policy has shifted from direct engineering of the written forms of Norwegian to leaving them alone to develop organically. Norway will continue to write the two forms of the language into the foreseeable future. The "success" of language policies depends crucially on their political context.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

In Kazakhstan, it is unlikely that the direction of influence in language planning will change very soon. Language policy will continue to be pursued in the post-Soviet regions "as a central vector for change in the reconfiguring sociopolitical constellations for some time to come". In other words, it's more about politics than language.

Despite the enormous practical challenges inherent in the wholesale replacement of one script with another in a country of massive linguistic variety, we can be sure that Decree 569 will be made to work, heedless of "a swell of indignant reactions among nationalistically inclined commentators in Russia".

While such top-down intervention in language practices may stick in the craw of monolingual English speakers, used to a decidedly bottom-up approach to managing the national language, the Kazakh policy of trilingualism (the "three-language policy") is one we should respect. As Britain prepares to leave the EU, like Kazakhstan, Britain will have cause to reconsider its international political relations.

In pursuit of "wider global integration" Britain would do well to cling to the official EU language policy of multilingualism and the recommendation that "every European citizen should master two other languages in addition to their mother tongue".

[the writer is Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Westminster]



Manipur scribes condemn killing of Tripura journalist

IMPHAL, Nov 22 (PTI): The All Manipur Working Journalist Union (AMWJU) today condemned the killing of a journalist in Tripura and urged the Manik Sarkar government to ensure safety of scribes in the state.

The AMWJU staged a sit-in protest here to condemn the killing of Sudip Datta Bhaumik, a journalist working with a Bengali newspaper in Tripura.

Secretary General of AMWJU, Sukham Nanda told PTI over phone that the media fraternity of Manipur mourns the loss of one of their colleagues.

Nanda urged the Tripura government to ensure safety of scribes in the state.

The Editors Guild of Manipur in a statement also condemned the killing of Bhaumik.

Bhaumik was shot dead yesterday allegedly by a constable of the Tripura State Rifles (TSR) following an altercation.

Bhaumik was gunned down inside the headquarters of the 2nd battalion of TSR at R K Nagar near Agartala, West Tripura, Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhijit Saptarshi said.

The killing comes just two months after a TV journalist was killed in West Tripura district.

On September 20, the journalist of a local television channel, Santanu Bhowmick, was killed at Mandai in West Tripura district when he went to cover an agitation by the Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT).

Mizoram capital to be on railway map in 3 years

AIZAWL, Nov 22 (PTI): The Mizoram state capital will be on the railway map in the next three years with the construction of a railroad between Sairang and Bairabi likely to be completed in 2020, a senior Railway official said.

The 51-km broad-gauge line between Sairang near here and Bairabi bordering Assam, that will include seven bridges and 23 tunnels, would be completed in December 2020, General Manager (Construction), North East Frontier Railway N K Prasad said.

Twenty-two of the 23 tunnels have been drilled, Prasad said.

A survey on the proposed 272 km-long railroad from Sairang to Bangladesh border trade centre Kawrpuchhuah has also been completed, he said.

Infighting continues in All India Gorkha League



SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 22 Nov:

The conflict going on between the two factions of All India Gorkha League (ABGL) has escalated with Pratap Khati, the self-proclaimed general secretary, condemning president, Bharati Tamang's participation in the bipartite meeting held at Pintail Village on Tuesday.

Mr Khati said that they have expelled their president

Bharati Tamang after she attended the meeting with the state government.

On the other hand, the general secretary and his faction were also expelled by the Bharati Tamang faction for sacking them unconstitutionally.

"Bharati Tamang is not the president of ABGL. She has been expelled for extending the hand of friendship to the Chief Minister. She has trampled on the aspirations

of Gorkhas by teaming up with Mamta Banerjee. Now, Bharati Tamang is part of the B-Team of Bengal-TMC, hence the memorandum submitted by her is just an eye-wash," said Mr Khati.

Pratap Khati also said that the memorandum is not for a separate state and Mamata Banerjee is also not a person who can provide Gorkhaland.

He later said that the faction under SK Pradhan's lead-

ership is the group that can fight for a separate state as the entire structure and central committee is with them. Ms Tamang's group consists of only four people, therefore her activities are considered void, he claimed.

She has been expelled from the party and she has no authority to use the party's letter-pads and flags said Mr Khati further adding that if she does so they will take the matter to court.

Nepal prepares for 1st phase of provincial,parliamentary polls

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, Nov 22 (PTI): Nepal today geared up for the first round of provincial and parliamentary polls seen as the last step in the country's transition to a federal democracy, with all the parties making all-out efforts to convince voters by holding rallies and door-to-door campaigning.

Nepal is holding provincial and parliamentary elections in two phases on November 26 and December 7.

The elections are being seen as the final step in Nepal's transition to a federal democracy following a decade-long civil war till 2006 that claimed more than 16,000 lives.

General Secretary of the ruling Nepali Congress, Shashank Koirala has said that people should vote for his party to safeguard democracy.

He said that the Nepali Congress will emerge victorious in the elections despite an alliance forged among the CPN-UML, CPN-Maoist Centre and other fringe leftist groups.

Speaking at an election rally in Solukhumbu district, he said that

the Left alliance was born out of selfish interest, and it would collapse soon after the elections.

"The leftist electoral alliance would endanger democracy in the country," he claimed.

Meanwhile, CPN-UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli has said the upcoming elections are vital for the economic prosperity and political stability in the country and the alliance between his party and CPN (Maoist Center) is essential.

Speaking at another programme in Nawalparasi district, Oli alleged that the Nepali Congress leadership could not bail the country out of the current political crisis.

With stiff competition expected from the UML-Maoist alliance in the polls, the Nepali Congress and Madhes-based parties are under pressure to forge electoral alliances across the Madhes districts neighbouring India even at the eleventh hour, according to political observers.

Party insiders said there was mounting pressure from local level leaders and cadres in various districts to work further on the elec-

toral alliance.

Earlier, the NC and the two Madhes-based parties had been engaged in negotiations, but could not forge an electoral alliance.

Meanwhile, police arrested five cadres of Netra Bikram Chand led Nepal Communist Party (NCP) from Syangja district in western Nepal and three from Ilam district in eastern Nepal today.

The police said that the NCP cadres were arrested for carrying out anti-poll activities.

Around half a dozen small bombs were exploded in various parts of the country over the weekend targeting candidates, in which at least a dozen people were injured. The role of the NCP is suspected in some of these incidents.

Election campaign will end on Friday mid-night, 48 hours ahead of the polls.

The polls are taking place under a new Constitution passed by lawmakers in September 2015 as part of a peace process that began with the end of a decade-long civil war. The polls are a major step toward implementing the new Constitution.

92 new flight routes in Northeast under Udaan-2: Jayant Sinha

IMPHAL, Nov 22 (PTI):

To provide a major boost to air connectivity in the Northeast, 92 new routes will be opened in the region in the second round of the government's 'Udaan' scheme, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said here.

Sinha also announced a direct bi-weekly Air India flight from Delhi to Imphal from January next year, which he said would be made a daily service when the demand picks up.

No-frills private airlines Indigo will soon start services from Guwahati to Silchar and Aizawl, he said yesterday.

He also announced that Spicejet will be procuring seaplanes that could seat 9-10 passengers and land on smaller airstrips.

"The carrier is buying a large number of these seaplanes and is looking to operate in the Northeast, connecting smaller airstrips. These planes will accommodate about 9-10 people.

This will also improve connectivity in the Northeast," Sinha said.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the 'North East Development Summit', a two-day event organised by India Foundation, a think tank with links to the BJP, and the Government of Manipur.

Sinha also informed that the construction of the Pakyong airport in Sikkim was complete and it will make reaching the northern part of the state, especially tourist attractions such as Nathu La Pass, easier.

The second round of bidding for Udaan scheme was in its final stages, he said.



"With this bidding round, we have 92 new routes that are going to be started in the Northeast," Sinha said.

Udaan is a regional connectivity scheme under which the government plans to provide connectivity to remote areas and enhance access in under-served regions. The scheme has enabled the government to add 30 new airports on the aviation map in tier-2 and tier-3 cities under the first round.

The second round of bidding commenced in August. The civil aviation ministry has received as many as 141 initial proposals for operating flight and helicopter services on 502 routes, connecting 126 airports and helipads.

He said that there are 19 "new airports or underserved airports", and among these airports such as More in Manipur, Rupsi in Assam, and Tura in Meghalaya were going to get air services.

"Nineteen new airports and seven heliports are going to be added to the aviation network ... through Udaan round 2.

The bidding processes are underway," he said.

NPF Liezietsu group holds general convention, Rio camp absent

KOHIMA, Nov 22 (PTI):

Complying with the directive of the Election Commission, the ruling Naga People's Front (NPF) today held a general convention to decide which of its two factions has majority support.

The EC on October 17 directed the two factions led by former chief minister Shurhozelie Liezietsu and Lok Sabha MP Neiphiu Rio to settle their dispute over the party's election symbol 'cock' through a general convention within two months.

"Today, we have fulfilled the directive of the Election Commission and also the provisions of the NPF Constitution," party Spokespersons Achumbemo Kikon told PTI.

The proceedings would be sent by next week to the EC which would take the final de-



cision on the issue, Kikon added.

The Rio faction having 36 MLAs did not attend today's event saying that it has already held the general convention on September 20 in Dimapur.

The Assembly election in Nagaland is scheduled to be held by February next year.

The tussle between the camps has been going on since July and the EC direction came after Rio, in an application on August 17, had claimed to have been elected as the president of the party

and sought control of its poll symbol.

In the directive, the EC had said the NPF Constitution emphasizes that such matters will be decided by two-third majority of active party members in a general convention.

During the general convention, NPF secretary general K G Kenye made public the list of office bearers including the president for nomination and objection.

As nobody objected to the list led by president Dr Shurhozelie Liezietsu, Kenye announced he would complete his 5-year term to be ended in January 2020. He was made president in 2015.

"Today, over 22,000 active members approve and resolve to stand firm behind him and work tirelessly for the greater glory of the party," it was resolved in the convention.

Anthyesti Kriya



The Anthyesti Kriya of **late Jaga Maya Rai**, wife of Late RD Rai, resident of Nayaghar, Okherbotey, Zoom Basti, falls on the **24th of Nov 2017, Friday**. We request all friends, family and well-wishers to join us at our residence at Okherbotey on the said date to offer prayers for the departed soul. We also take this opportunity to thank all who stood by us in our hour of bereavement and regret our inability to do so individually.

Dr. Kanu Priya (9007270319)

Aparajita Rai (IPS) (9830726117)

Pawan Wanz Rai (7797278550)

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Govt to bring in ordinance for changes in insolvency law

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (PTI): The government will come out with an ordinance to make certain amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley said today.

The Code, which became operational in December last year, provides for a market-determined and time-bound insolvency resolution process. It is implemented by the corporate affairs ministry.

The Cabinet today approved bringing in an ordinance to make "some changes" in the Code, Jaitley told reporters here.

Details about the proposed changes could not be immediately ascertained.

The move also comes at a time when there are concerns in certain quarters about various aspects of the law, including the possibility of promoters wresting back control of a company under the insolvency process.

The ministry has already set up a 14-member committee to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in implementation of the law.

The Insolvency Law Committee, chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, will take stock of the implementation of the Code.

More than 300 cases have been admitted for resolution under the Code by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

A case is taken up for resolution under the Code only after receiving approval of the NCLT for the same.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim. Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.



FIFA bans three disgraced officials for life

GENEVA, Nov 21 (AFP): FIFA's ethics committee today slapped lifetime bans on three former world football executives who have all pleaded guilty to corruption charges in US courts.

Rafael Esquivel, a former head of the Venezuelan Football Association, Nicaragua's Julio Rocha, a former FIFA development officer, and Richard Lai of Guam, who served on FIFA's auditing body, have all been

barred from any further involvement in the sport.

"The adjudicatory chamber found Mr. Lai, Mr. Rocha and Mr. Esquivel guilty of having violated article 21 (bribery and corruption) of the FIFA Code of Ethics," said a statement from the ethics watchdog of world football's governing body.

"The officials are banned for life from all football-related activities...

at national and international level," it added.

The three are among the 42 officials and marketing executives who have been indicted by the United States justice department as part of its sprawling probe into football corruption.

Esquivel, who also served as the vice president of South American governing body CONMEBOL, pleaded guilty to racketeering and wire

fraud in November of last year.

He admitted to taking bribes in exchange for the awarding of football media and marketing rights.

Rocha, who once headed Nicaragua's football association, pleaded guilty to similar offences in December 2016.

Lai, in addition to his FIFA role, also led the football association in his native Guam.

He pleaded guilty in April to a va-

riety of corruption-related offences including selling his vote ahead FIFA elections.

The US investigation, which came to light in May 2015, uncorked the largest scandal in the history of world football.

The first trial in the case began last week in New York, where three South American former officials are accused of graft worth million of dollars.

United Sikkim FC returns after two-week NE tour

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 22 Nov:

After completing a two-week tour of the North East, United Sikkim FC squad returned to Gangtok today.

Led by team owner/coach, Bhaichung Bhutia, United Sikkim FC played five friendly matches against I-League clubs and local teams in Meghalaya and Manipur. The team won two matches,

lost two and ended one match in a draw.

The last friendly match was played on Tuesday evening against I-League club, Shillong Lajong FC, under floodlights at JN Stadium in Shillong. The game ended 4-2 in favour of the home team.

United Sikkim FC had taken an 8-hour journey to reach Shillong from Tura after playing two

matches against local teams there on invitation of Meghalaya Chief Minister, Mukul Sangma.

"Our players were tired after the long journey and could not get time to recover. We were tied at 2-2 till the 80th minute of the match against Shillong Lajong. However, our boys could not physically hold up in the final 10 minutes and conceded two goals in set

pieces," said United Sikkim FC senior manager, Arjun Rai.

Bhaichung Bhutia was also present to witness the match.

United Sikkim FC started its Northeast tour with a friendly against I-League club Neroca FC on 12 Nov at Imphal.

"All the players are happy. The club management organised the Northeast tour for the

players as we had mostly junior players and wanted to give them exposure. The players came to know about the difference in playing in Sikkim and outside," said Mr Rai.

He added that some players of United Sikkim FC could be picked up by local clubs of Shillong.

"I feel that some of the players from Sikkim will receive offers from Shillong-based clubs



whose owners came to see our two matches at Shillong. Talks are taking place," added Mr Rai.

United Sikkim FC had also played two friendly matches at Tura and then at Ampati, the home constituency of Chief Minister

Mukul Sangma on 18 Nov.

"The Meghalaya Chief Minister was also happy to see United Sikkim FC playing in his home State. He has shown interest to send his team to Sikkim to play friendly matches," stated Mr Rai.

KOWLOON, Nov 22 (PTI): Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal, P V Sindhu and H S Prannoy made positive starts to their campaign, progressing to the second round of USD 400,000 Hong Kong Super Series here today.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina staved off a spirited challenge from World No. 44 Mette Poulsen of Denmark before emerging 21-19 23-21 winner in a 46-minute match.

World No. 11 Saina, who won the bronze at the World Championship, will next face a tough opponent in eighth seeded Chinese Chen Yufei, who had clinched the other bronze at the Glasgow Worlds in August.

Olympic silver medallist Sindhu, seeded second, disposed off Hong Kong's Leung Yuet Yee 21-18 21-10 to set up a clash with either Japan's Aya Ohori or Russia's Evgeniya Kosetskaya in the next round.

In men's singles competition, Prannoy survived a scare against Hong Kong's Hu Yun to win 19-21 21-17 21-15 in a match that lasted a little over an hour.

The World No. 10 Indian will face Japan's Kazumasa Sakai,



who had defeated the Indian in the semifinals of Indonesia Open Super Series Premier.

However, Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap squandered an opening game advantage to go down narrowly 21-15 9-21 20-22 to Korean Lee Dong Keun, while Sourabh Verma failed to put up a fight against Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto, losing 15-21 8-21 to bow out of the competition.

Women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Red-

dy played their hearts out before going down 11-21 21-19 19-21 against the Chinese combo of Huang Dongping and Li Wenmei in a hard-fought contest.

Prannoy lagged behind for most part of the opening game even though he did manage to turn the tables a few times, taking slender leads at 9-8, 13-12 and 16-15. But Hu Yun managed to keep his nose ahead to pocket the first game.

The Indian, however, produced a better performance in

the second as he fought back from 0-5 down to lead 11-8 at the break and then surged ahead, despite some tough fight from the local hero.

In the decider, Hu Yun once again jumped to a 5-0 lead but Prannoy narrowed the deficit to 10-11 at the breath. Hu managed to grab a 14-12 advantage but the Indian reeled off eight straight points to move to the match point. Hu saved one before Prannoy sealed it without much ado.

Govt approves wage policy framework for CPSE workmen

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (PTI): The government today approved a policy framework for central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to negotiate the next round of wage revision with their workmen.

The move is likely to impact 9.35 lakh unionised workmen in central public sector enterprises.

The decision to clear the 'Wage Policy for the 8th Round of Wage negotiations for workmen in central public sector enterprises (CPSEs)' was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

There are nearly 12.34 lakh employees of 320 CPSEs in the country, of whom some 2.99 lakh employees are board level and below-board level executives and



non-unionised supervisors.

The remaining 9.35 lakh belong to the unionised workmen category. Wage revision in respect of unionised workmen is decided by trade unions and managements of

CPSEs in terms of guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for wage negotiations.

"The wage revision shall be subject to the condition that there shall be no increase in labour cost

per physical unit of output. In exceptional cases, where CPSEs are already working at optimum capacity, the administrative ministry/departments may consult the Department of Public Enterprises considering industry norms," an official statement said.

According to the decision taken, the management of CPSEs would be "free" to negotiate wage revision for workmen where the periodicity of wage settlement for 5 years or 10 years "expired generally" on December 31, 2016, keeping in view the affordability and financial sustainability of such wage revision for the CPSEs concerned.

"No budgetary support for any wage increase shall be provided by the government. The entire finan-

cial implication would be borne by the respective CPSEs from the internal sources.

"In those CPSEs in which the government has approved restructuring or revival plan, the wage revision will be done as per the provisions of the approved restructuring or revival plan only," the statement said.

Besides, CPSEs must ensure that any increase in wages after negotiations does not result in increase in administered prices of their goods and services.

"The management of the CPSEs concerned has to ensure that negotiated scales of pay do not exceed the existing scales of pay of executives/officers and non-unionised supervisors of respective CPSEs.

"To avoid conflict of pay scales of executives/non-unionised supervisors with that of workmen, CPSEs may consider adoption of graded DA neutralisation and/or graded figment during the wage negotiations," said the statement.

The validity period of wage settlement will be for a minimum 5 years for those who opted for a 5-year periodicity and a maximum 10 years for those who have gone in for a 10-year periodicity of wage negotiation with effect from January 1, 2017.

CPSEs will implement the negotiated wages after confirming with their administrative ministry or department that the wage settlement is in conformity with approved parameters.

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2 Indian-origin men killed in UK air collision

LONDON, Nov 22 (PTI): An 18-year-old Indian-origin trainee pilot and his compatriot instructor were among four persons killed in a mid-air collision between a light aircraft and a helicopter in south-east England, police confirmed today.

Savaan Munda, aeronautics student from Buckinghamshire New University who was training to be a commercial pilot, died with his instructor Jaspal Bahl in the Cessna 152 on November 17.

Both Munda and 27-year-old Bahl were British citizens.

The two others killed in the crash in a field in Buckinghamshire was another British flight trainer, 74-year-old Michael Green and his 32-year-old Vietnamese trainee pilot Thanh Nguyen, who were in the helicopter on a training session.

"The air accident is being investigated by the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB). Our thoughts remain with the families of those involved in the accident. Our family liaison officers continue to offer support the victim's families," Thames Valley Police said in a statement following formal identification of the victims.

Both aircraft came from Wycombe Air Park, also known as Booker Airfield, near High Wycombe, which offers flight training.

They crashed shortly after takeoff in woodlands in Upper Winchendon in the village of Waddesdon.

"These amazing people lost their lives but they both died doing what they love and what they believe in... I fly with these guys and being a pilot is what I've wanted to do since I was very young, but it's hit me hard," Benjamin Hant, who studied air transport with commercial pilot training along with Munda, said in a social media tribute.

Air accident experts are still investigating the cause behind the collision. Both aircraft disintegrated on impact and plummeted to the ground.

The wreckage from both aircraft have now been taken to the AAIB headquarters in Hampshire while it continues its investigation.

Bangladesh sentences to death six 1971 war crimes accused

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, Nov 22 (PTI): A special Bangladeshi tribunal today sentenced to death six hardline Islamists, including a former lawmaker, for committing crimes against humanity and siding with the Pakistani troops in carrying out the genocide in 1971.

A three-judge panel of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) handed down the capital punishment to the six members of the Jamaat-e-Islami saying, the charges against them were "proved beyond doubt."

"They be convicted accordingly and sentenced there under to death under section 20(2) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973," pronounced chair of the panel Justice Shahinur Islam.

The verdict came as Bangladesh nearly completed the long-delayed trial of 1971 war crimes since the high-powered tribunal was established in 2010.

The tribunal is charged with the task to try persons responsible for committing genocide, crimes against humanity, war

crimes and other crimes under international law committed during the country's 1971 Liberation War.

The six men sentenced to death hail from northwestern Gaibandha and belong to fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, the party which was opposed to Bangladesh's 1971 independence and joined hands with Pakistani troops in carrying out the genocide.

But only one of the six convicts faced the trial in person while the rest, including former

Jamaat lawmaker Abu Saleh Mohammad Abdul Aziz Mia, were tried in absentia as they were on the run.

Under a special law, the convicts, however, could challenge the judgement before the apex Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Bangladesh has so far executed six 1971 war crimes convicts, five of them Jamaat leaders and one Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader, the main Opposition since the trial process began in 2010.



The US Navy has said a C-2 'Greyhound' aircraft carrying 11 crew and passengers has crashed into the Pacific Ocean. A search and rescue operation has found eight of those who were on board, the 7th fleet said. But the condition of the eight found is not known. "A United States Navy aircraft carrying 11 crew and passengers crashed into the ocean southeast of Okinawa," a statement from the Navy said. "The aircraft was en route to the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, which is currently operating in the Philippine Sea." USS Ronald Reagan is conducting search and rescue operations. The cause of the crash is not known at this time.

US opposes expansion of veto power, supports modest reform of UNSC: official

WASHINGTON, Nov 22 (PTI): The US is opposed to any alteration or expansion of the veto power enjoyed by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, but supports a modest expansion of the 15-member apex wing of the world body, a top official has said. The State Department spokesperson said a reformed council must reflect the realities of the 21st century and be able to meet the challenges of this century.

The US remains open in principle to the idea of UN Security Council reform, including a modest expansion of the Security Council, the official said.

"We believe a reformed council must reflect the realities of the 21st century and be able to meet the challenges of this century with enhanced - and not diminished - effectiveness and efficiency," the spokesperson told PTI yesterday.

The official added that the



US remained opposed to any alteration or expansion of the veto power enjoyed by the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The spokesperson was asked about reform of the UNSC in view of the differences that emerged between the General Assembly and the Security Council during the just concluded election to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

India's Dalveer Bhandari was overwhelmingly backed by

the UN members for his re-election to the ICJ yesterday. 70-year-old Bhandari received 183 of the 193 votes in the General Assembly and secured all 15 votes in the Security Council to fill the final vacancy on the Hague-based ICJ.

In the fourth round, Bhandari had received a majority - 115 votes - in the General Assembly, while Greenwood received 76 votes. However, in the Security Council Greenwood got majority (nine) of the votes as

against six votes by Bhandari, resulting in another round of votes scheduled for yesterday.

India has repeatedly called for the UNSC reforms.

Last year, while addressing the 71st UN General Assembly (UNGA) session, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had said there was a need for a reformed Security Council that continues to reflect the world order of an earlier era.

"The vast majority of nations share the belief that the UN should not remain frozen in 1945, just to serve the interests of a few. Whether it is institutions or issues, we must come to terms with present day realities and the challenges that confront us," she had said.

Swaraj had added that an expansion in the Permanent and non-Permanent membership of the Council to reflect contemporary realities was an urgent necessity.

Skype joins list of apps on China blacklist

SHANGHAI, Nov 22 (AFP): Skype has apparently joined the lengthening list of internet tools on China's blacklist, disappearing from download stores with Apple saying today it was ordered by the government to remove certain apps.

Skype is no longer available for download from the Chinese Apple Store or popular Android sites, with Chinese web-users saying it had been gone for weeks.

"We have been notified by the Ministry of Public Security that a number of VoIP (voice over internet protocol) apps do not comply with local law, therefore these apps have been removed from the App Store in China," Apple said in an emailed statement.

"These apps remain available in all other markets where they do business."

The company did not specify which laws such apps were found to have violated.

China has tightened its already stringent online policing this year, including enacting new rules that require tech companies to store user data inside the country as well as imposing fresh restrictions on what is permissible content.

Chinese authorities appeared to severely disrupt the WhatsApp messaging app as they ratcheted up security ahead of a Communist Party congress in October that saw President Xi Jinping consolidate his hold on the country.

The moves have prompted speculation on the Chinese internet that authorities were moving against services with effective encryption, like

WhatsApp and Skype, that make them less vulnerable to government monitoring. The change does not seem to have affected use of previously downloaded versions of Skype, which appeared to work normally.

Also, Skype Business, a separate app tailored for corporate use, was still available for download in China.

Skype's removal follows Apple's August decision to strike out so-called VPN apps, or virtual private networks, which allow users to skirt the so-called "Great Firewall of China" system of online censorship.

Both cases underscored the dilemma faced by US tech companies seeking to uphold principles of web freedom while holding on to their Chinese market shares.

"We would rather not remove the apps, but like in other countries, we obey the laws where we do business," Apple chief Tim Cook said after the VPN move.

China has for years blocked leading foreign websites or services including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and a number of news organisations, largely to prevent content that could challenge party rule.

Slamming the door on foreign tech leaders has allowed Chinese champions like Tencent to prosper in the vacuum.

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3676 3883 3953 3983 4088 4111 4244 4535 4564 4849
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VARUN DHAWAN IN REMO D'SOUZA'S NEXT AFTER SALMAN KHAN OPTS OUT



Varun Dhawan has been receiving a lot of praise after the success of Judwaa 2 and the energetic star is being flooded with good offers. A leading daily reported that Varun Dhawan has been roped in for Remo D'Souza's next. The film is apparently about a single father who learns to dance for his nine-year-old daughter so that they

can compete in a dance competition.

Remo D'Souza had written the role keeping Salman Khan in mind, however, Salman was reportedly sceptical about being a part of a dance film from the start. Salman Khan thought that Varun Dhawan would be the right choice and therefore even told Remo about it. Salman opted out of the movie just

a few months back and now it has been reported that Varun will be seen playing the role that Salman was first offered.

The film has been tentatively titled Dancing Dad. Varun who recently wrapped up the Delhi schedule of Shoojit Sircar's October seems to be all set to start working on a dance film with Remo D'Souza soon after.



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

1. Post Malone featuring 21 Savage- Rockstar
2. Camila Cabello featuring Young Thung- Havana
3. Lil Pump- Gucci Gang
4. Imagine Dragons- Thunder
5. Cardi B- Bodak Yellow [Money Moves]
6. Sam Smith- Too Good At Goodbyes
7. Ed Sheeran- Perfect
8. Logic featuring Alessia Cara & Khalid- 1-800-273-8255
9. Portugal. The Man- Feel It Still
10. J Balvin & Willy William Featuring Beyonce- Mi Gente



AIRPORT CASUAL: Singer Nick Jonas spotted jetting off at LAX.

IRANIAN HACKER CHARGED FOR LEAKING GAME OF THRONES SEASON 07

Remember the 'Game of Thrones' leak? An Iranian hacker was charged with stealing HBO scripts to raise bitcoin.

The HBO hack that gave 'Game of Thrones' fans a tantalizing taste of unaired Season 7 episodes has a culprit: A former Iranian military hacker who was in it for the money.

U.S. prosecutors charged Behzad Mesri with stealing material including scripts to 'Game Of Thrones' this summer, saying he demanded \$6 billion in untraceable digital currency as extortion.

Mesri is believed to still be in Iran but the charges should send a message to everyone who attacks U.S. targets, said officials.

"He will forever be looking over his shoulder and if he isn't, he should be," said U.S. Attorney Joon Kim in a press conference Tuesday in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York in New York City.

Mesri once worked for the Iranian government as a hacker, where he attacked nuclear software systems and Israeli infrastructure, according to the grand jury indictment released Tuesday. In this attack, however, it appeared he was only hoping for an enormous payout for his hacking, paid in untraceable bitcoin. When HBO didn't pay, Mesri began leaking the shows on July 30.

According to emails released in July, HBO offered to make a good faith payment of \$250,00 as part of the negotiations. HBO would not



comment on whether that payment was ever made.

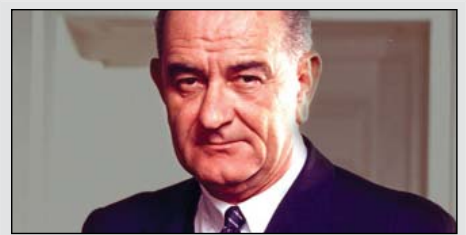
Mesri had conducted reconnaissance on HBO's computer network and employees, looking for vulnerabilities, said the indictment.

He was able to compromise multiple accounts and used them to obtain unauthorized access to the company's network. He then stole confidential and proprietary data from HBO that included unaired episodes of HBO shows including 'Ballers', 'Barry', 'Room 104', 'Curb Your Enthusiasm', and 'The Deuce'.

He also was able to obtain full scripts and cast lists for 'Game of Thrones,' only two episodes of which had been released at that point.

On July 23, Mesri sent an email to HBO executives that read, "Hi to all Losers! Yes it's true! HBO is hacked! ... Beware of heart attack!!!" A week later he sent information on where to send ransom payments. The next day, he began leaking videos of the shows.

Some of the material Mesri is alleged to have leaked included the HBO logo with an image of Game of Thrones Winter King superimposed over it, with the words "Winter is Coming. HBO is Falling," added in.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

23RD NOVEMBER

1963: Following the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, becomes the new president of the United States.

1935: Italy has made an unconfirmed announcement that they will declare war on France if France cuts them off from oil. This action did not seem to make much sense, however, considering that France was not a primary exporter of this particular commodity. Nevertheless, Great Britain vowed to protect France at this time.

1985: Terrorists belonging to the Abu Nidal Palestinian terrorist Organization hijack EgyptAir Flight 648 shortly after takeoff from Athens. The pilot is forced to land the aircraft at Luqa Airport in Malta. After some negotiation

some of the passengers were allowed off but as the terrorists became more desperate they began shooting passengers one every 15 minutes. As the situation worsened an Egyptian Combat Unit is bought in and on the 25th they attack the aircraft with explosives and stormed the aircraft. The commando raid ended in disaster leaving 56 (out of the remaining 88) passengers, two crew members, and one terrorist dead.

2002: The Miss World contest is forced to relocate to London from Abuja after riots by Muslim youths opposed to the show left more than 100 people dead and 500 injured in the city of Kaduna.

2005: Johnson Sirleaf is elected as the first woman President of an African country when she wins the Liberian Presidential elections. Her inauguration took place on January 16, 2006 with a number of international politicians attending and Condoleezza Rice, Laura Bush from the United States.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



Right to express as fundamental as right to protest: Mishra

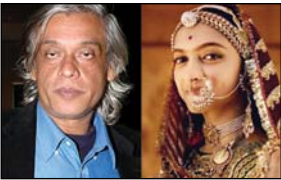
PANAJI, NOV 22 (PTI): Amid the row over Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed "Padmavati", director Sudhir Mishra on Tuesday said a filmmaker's right to express is as fundamental as a person's right to protest.

Mishra said that people have a right to express their anguish with anything they might find offensive as India is a democracy.

"As an industry we stand by each other defending our right to make films. And if any one has any problem with the film they are free to express as we live in a democracy. But you can't take away my right to express as a film-

maker as well. It is as fundamental as expressing protest and that's all we are saying," Mishra said on the sidelines of IFFI Panorama Section inauguration.

Batting for Bhansali and his film, which has been postponed amid protests by various Rajput groups and political leaders, Mishra said the "Ram-Leela" director is a



responsible person and will not hurt the sentiments of

the people.

"Nobody has seen the film and I am sure Bhansali has not done anything which will hurt anyone's sentiments. I wish the film was released as Bhansali is a very responsible mainstream filmmaker. He will not do anything to hurt the value system of masses," Mishra said.

"We all came together for 'Padmavati' because we believe whatever the film may be, it should first be seen. Tomorrow I may not like the film. But we are fighting for Bhansali just as Bhansali should fight for me. And I hope he does. For me 'Dhara' was taken out in 1991 from theatres and nobody fought. I was alone and my

career went back five years," he added.

Mishra, who headed the jury for the non-feature film category of the Indian Panorama section of the International Film Festival of India 2017, said the festival was a place of pilgrimage to him as he started his career from IFFI.

"We are here to celebrate cinema. IFFI is the platform where I started my journey as a filmmaker. I was born as a filmmaker here. IFFI is responsible for who I am and it is kind a pilgrimage for me. And I will come here whatever the problem is, because I think young deserve this," Mishra said.

THE DAY AHEAD
ARIES: Your association with a group could enable your spiritual progress today. Past emotional issues could come up, but don't despair. Look at it as an opportunity to release old traumas that have limited you. Transcending limitations of any kind - emotional, spiritual, or physical - is an especially productive approach. You'll release a lot and come out of the experience with new focus.
TAURUS: Money or other resources could be made available to you today so you can increase your career prospects or advance in your occupation. You'll find this very encouraging, as you'll throw a lot of energy into this interest. This is

the time to be ambitious. You have what it takes to push forward with just about anything you want to do.

GEMINI: Doubts about a romantic or business partnership could have an energizing effect on you today. You're determined to resolve any problems or disagreements you may have with your partner. You'll probably do it, as success through determination and hard work is strongly indicated. You might also make an advantageous new friend.

CANCER: Uncertainty about your financial future might have you developing some sort of savings or investment plan to give you

more security. You'll probably find the help you need, as today's planets show that you should succeed at anything you try. A slight malaise could cause you to turn to vitamins, herbs, yoga, or some other sort of healing method that can put you back on your feet.

LEO: A joint endeavor with a partner could lead to imaginative and creative opportunities. You feel energized and ready to take on just about anything. Whatever you start today, especially creative projects, should succeed in spite of any obstacles that come up. Relations with partners and others should be recharged by the day's activities.

VIRGO: Today, you might have an irresistible impulse to put your home in order. You want to give it a thorough cleaning, do a little decorating, or perhaps make some minor but necessary repairs. A new object, either a sculpture or painting, might inspire this desire. Your place should look fabulous by the time you're done. Go for it!
LIBRA: A specific task or goal could have you making a lot of calls, writing a lot of letters, or doing a lot of running around in the car. You're feeling especially determined. You'll succeed at this or anything else you try today. Conversations will be productive and could spur you on to new projects.

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



SCORPIO: If you've been thinking about working out of your home, this is the time to put your plans into action. Anything regarding money or the home could succeed now. All signs indicate that your hard work and determination will bring the results you want. An older visitor might drop by, perhaps with advice or ideas you'll want to consider.

SAGITTARIUS: Although you occasionally want to spend a whole day alone, this isn't the time. You have a lot of specific goals in mind that you want to take care of today, perhaps involving writing or speaking. There won't be any question of putting them off. This

is a great time to start almost any kind of project. The planets indicate success at whatever you try.

CAPRICORN: Unknown skills or talents that you didn't know you had might set you on a course that leads to increased income, if you're willing to put in some hard work. This will undoubtedly lead to heightened self-image and self-confidence, setting off a domino effect that makes your future brighter. Whatever comes up today, strange as it may seem, go with the flow!

AQUARIUS: An unwitting communication from a friend could set you off on a path that changes

your life. This could involve business opportunities, or you could discover a new interest or group you'd like to join. Whatever it is, it may capture your attention and keep your energies focused for a long time. This should be a positive development.

PISCES: Whatever difficulties may have arisen over the past few days, you have the power to overcome them, gain new strength, and move on. Your physical energy is good - you won't wear out. You'll probably push on and take care of each chore as it comes up. If you've been thinking of starting a new project, this is the day to do it. Obstacles won't stop you.