

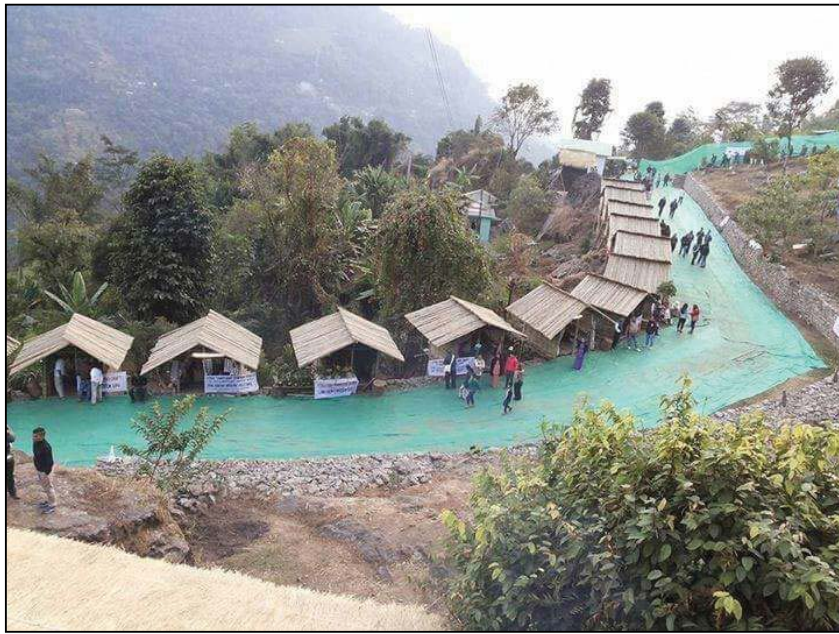
SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



State level 69th Republic Day celebration in Paljor Stadium

GANGTOK, 27 JAN [IPR]: Along with the rest of the nation, Sikkim also witnessed the state level 69th Republic Day celebration here at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok on 26 Jan.

The Governor reviewed the parade consisting of contingent from Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal, Sikkim Armed Police, India Reserve Battalions, Sikkim Police, Sikkim Police Mahila Platoon, Army Pipe Band, Sikkim Police Pipe Band and Sikkim Police Brass Band.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as special guest accompanied by the Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, Heads of Government Departments, Senior Government Officers, and the general public.

During the function, books which had been authored by notable writers from within and outside the State were released by the Governor.



nor. Book on social justice titled "Pawan Chamling - The Champion of Social Justice- a story of establishing a just society, New Sikkim- Happy Sikkim", and coffee table books titled "The Record Breaker" and "The Organic Leader" were among the books that were released.

The Governor also visited the display of Army equipment at the Parade Ground in Paljor Stadium. The Republic

Day celebration also featured Army Pipe Band Display, Band Music by Sikkim Police and cultural programme.

Like every year, law enforcement personnel were awarded the Police Medal in recognition of their gallantry. Three police personnel from the State were awarded the prestigious medal along with a citation. The Governor presented the Police Medal [National Award] to Laxman Prad-

han [Sub-inspector/ Retired, Sikkim Armed Police, Pangthang], Tshering Bhutia [Assistant Sub-Inspector/Retired, Sikkim Armed Police, Namchi] and Petap Bhutia [Assistant Sub-Inspector, Sikkim Armed Police, Pangthang].

The Governor also conferred the Sikkim State Meritorious Service Award to 13 government employees for their commendable service.

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LUM ALL SET TO HOST SUSAKURTOT ORGANIC FESTIVAL

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 27 JAN:**

Lum, Lower Dzongu is all set to host the Susakurtot Organic Festival 2018 from 29 Jan to 01 Feb.

The festival seeks to keep local traditions alive with a host of activities like display of traditional Lepcha equipments, traditional cultural extravaganza, local organic

products, traditional food stalls and many more. The festival is being organised to extend support towards the success of the Sikkim Organic Mission and will feature 100% or-

ganic products.

The festival is scheduled to be inaugurated by KT Gyaltsen on 29 Jan. The organizers have invited all to witness the festival.

Aadhaar' is Oxford dictionary's Hindi word of 2017

JAIPUR, JAN 27 (PTI): Oxford Dictionaries has chosen 'Aadhaar' as the Hindi word of 2017.

The word gained popularity due to Aadhaar card, which was in news last year and is likely to remain in highlight this year as well. The announcement was made at a session "Oxford Dictionaries' Hindi Word of the Year" during the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival here.

Other words such as 'Mitron', 'Notebandi', 'Gau-Rakshak' were also considered, but the widespread discussions and debates around 'Aadhaar' was reason it was selected as the word of the year, journalist Saurabh Dwivedi said during the discussion.

Writer Pankaj Dubey said new words like 'Sleepawastha' (state of sleeping), 'Maukatarian' (opportunistic) had been coined to express certain moods. Chitra Mudgal objected to the suggestion and instead advocated for correct use of languages.

"If a person with lack of proper knowledge coins and expresses such words then it can be understood but this is not acceptable when educated people do this," Mudgal, an author, said. Poet and writer Ashok Vajpeyi said politicians use Hindi word 'Mitron' (friends) which is not grammatically correct, when in fact the correct word is 'Mitro' -- an apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who uses the term often in his speeches.

SILTAC felicitates CM

**Our Govt class-based not caste-based: CM
VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 27 JAN:**

"OUR GOVERNMENT is not caste-based but class-based, not casteist but humanist," said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today during a function at Samman Bhawan where he was felicitated by Sikkim Limboo Tamang Apex Committee [SILTAC].

He further termed it 'unfortunate' that innocent people, especially youngsters are being misguided by elements who want to create fragments in society by politicizing sensitive issues of caste, creed, religion etc. "Therefore, it is imperative that every citizen should have true knowledge about their democratic rights. Only then will they be able to lead a life of dignity and respect, without oppression and exploitation by anyone," he added.

The state government had an opportunity for including all the communities of Sikkim in

the ST list in 1978 when the Union Government had granted the option but the then government did not exercise their discretion, said the CM further adding that the Union Government had considered granting ST status to the Limboo and Tamang communities in 1987 as well. However, the then dispensation did not pursue to matter for various reasons.

"I too was faced with a situation when I had to make a critical decision regarding this issue," he said.

On the current status of ST status for LT, the CM said, "I have been made to understand that five seats will be reserved and five new constituencies will be created based on the 2011 census. Approval of the Cabinet and then the Parliament would be the final steps."

The CM was felicitated by SILTAC as a mark of gratitude for the commendable work done by him towards the upliftment and the betterment of the Limboo-Tamang

community of the State.

The CM in his acceptance speech thanked SILTAC for believing in the efforts and vision of the state government towards elevating the LT community of Sikkim. He appreciated the honour bestowed upon him and urged all members of the LT community, especially the youth to refrain from believing in hearsay propagated to create a rift in the peace and harmony of the State.

He ended his acceptance speech with a re-assurance that the State Government is doing all that it can to ensure that the LT community of Sikkim stands tall on its own without feeling the need to be dependent on anyone.

A brief report of SILTAC was also presented by Chairperson, SILTAC, CB Subba. SILTAC also presented a list of demands whereby the CM has assured to look into all of them positively.

SILTAC also presented a memento to the CM for

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Bimal Gurung not in CID's first chargesheet on cop murder case



**SUMMIT REPORT
SILIGURI, 27 JAN:**

Bimal Gurung's name has not been included in CID's first chargesheet regarding SI Amitava Malik's murder. CID submit-

ted the chargesheet in Darjeeling Court where they have included the names of Morcha leaders, Suraj Pradhan, Shyam Kami, Deoraj Lepcha and Mahendra Kami ex-

cluding Bimal Gurung and Prakash Gurung. As per CID source, Bimal

Gurung's name will be added in a supplementary chargesheet.



SUSAKORTOT ORGANIC FESTIVAL - 2018

DATE: 29th January to 1st February' 2018

All are invited to the Susakortot organic festival at Lum, Dzongu, North Sikkim.

Which will feature 100% organic food and produce, traditional culture programmes and also entice with a special performance by singer **MELINA RAI** and comedy with **BHANU** and **PALA**.



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Jorethang celebrates Republic Day



JORETHANG, 27 JAN (IPR): Health Minister and MLA [Zoom Salghari Constituency], AK Ghatani along with officials of various departments, Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Committee members, civil society members and police officials attended the 69th Republic Day celebrations at Green Park in Jorethang, South Sikkim on 26 Jan.

Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], BC Rai welcomed the gathering at the onset of the programme followed by reading out the Governor's and Chief Minister's messages.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ghatani accorded his Republic Day greetings to the gathering present. Marking the significance of the day which on which the Constitution of India came into force in 1950, he cited the value of Republic Day as

a day imperative for each citizen of the nation to imbibe within them a feeling of unity and brotherhood. Tracing the historical richness of India, he paid tribute to the freedom fighters of the nation who liberated our country from British rule by sacrificing their lives for the cause of the nation.

Speaking about developments closer home, Mr Ghatani singled out the substantial progress and growth that Sikkim has witnessed in education, health care, agriculture, tourism, commerce & industry, social security, political justice, environment and women's empowerment during Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's governance.

Similarly, he added that due to the unrelenting efforts of the CM, Sikkim stands for secularism in the truest form. Addressing the

youth of the state, he urged them to make constructive choices and gain skills from the government enabled programmes. In addition, he also proposed varied ways and means for the youth to generate income for themselves in an attempt to make their skills commercially viable particularly through organic farming.

He also called for active partaking and sense of ownership from government officials and the Panchayats of the sub-division in order to uphold and maintain the dignity of Sikkim as an organic, dirt-free, and ecologically balanced and the most peaceful state in the country.

The chief guest in his speech also lauded the efforts and extended his gratitude towards all the individuals involved in the successful execution of the recently

concluded Jorethang Maghey Mela 2018.

The program also saw felicitations being accorded to State Police Medals for Meritorious Service awardee IRB Commandant, Pravin Gurung.

Similarly, Jorethang Senior Secondary School was also felicitated for their victory in National Level Kala Utsav held at Bhopal. Letters of appreciation were also presented to former Headmaster of Sisney Junior Secondary School for his overall contribution and dedication in various fields of school and school development followed by felicitations to the staff of Rural Management and Development Department, Jorethang for their tireless service towards the department.

SPCC slams SRP president's statement on Revenue Order No 1

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 JAN:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] has strongly condemned the statement of SRP president, KB Rai, made in a recent meeting of the party in South Sikkim wherein he had claimed that Revenue Order No 1 of Sikkim has been making refugees out of the Nepali community of the state. While strongly condemning the statement of the SRP president, SPCC has alleged that the party has been fooling people with meaningless speeches. SPCC has warned SRP to stop spreading rumours and indulging in petty politics on such baseless issues.

An SPCC press release issued by its vice-president, Mahila Congress, Sumitra Rai, had demanded a clarification from Mr Rai on how the Nepali community have become refugees in more than 120 years of Revenue Order No 1 in Sikkim. The release alleges that SRP is the B team of SDF.

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Republic Day celebrated at Namchi

NAMCHI, 27 JAN [IPR]: On the occasion of the 69th Republic Day, South District Administrative Centre in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra and District Level Cultural Show conducted a programme at the premises of District Administrative Center, South Sikkim on 26 Jan.

Minister for Roads and Bridges Department, GM Gurung attended the function as the chief guest along with District Collector [South], Raj Yadav, Sub Divisional Magistrate [HQ], Sunil Mothey, Superintendent of Police [South], Dr Y Shiv Prasad, Head Of Departments, officials and students.

DC and Senior Engineer (Roads and Bridges Department) read out the commemorative Republic Day messages from Governor Shrinivas Patil and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest extended his warm greetings on the glorious

69th Republic Day of the country. He spoke about how on this particular day the Constitution of India, came into force.

Mr. Gurung also updated the gathering about sacrifices of the great leaders and freedom fighters in order to establish our great nation and highlighted that the public should never disregard the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters.

He also briefed about the rich history of Sikkim and its merger with the Indian Union and how the State has brought advancements in the field of infrastructure, education, health care, industry, tourism and many more. Emphasizing on the importance of Organic Farming he underlined that Sikkim has commenced on the second phase of the Organic Mission and that major focus will be on increased production, value addition, marketing and exploring of organic products in order to

make Sikkim self-sufficient and self-reliant.

At the onset of the celebration the chief guest unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at DAC Complex.

During the course of the celebration, the annual progress report magazine and calendar of NYK was released by the chief guest. He also handed over awards for best Block Level Officers to Deepak Tiwari from Daragaon, Amar Raj from Temi Namphing, Madav Sharma from Mellidara, Sonam Pintso Bhutia from Legship, Sherap Lepcha from Tumin Lingi, Yug Bhusan Limboo from Yangang and Dawa Tshering Lepcha from Kamrang. The BLOs received citation and cash prize of Rs 2,100 each.

Also, Sub Inspector [Melli Police Station], Sitoshna Sharma, Head Constable [Namchi Police Station], Kewal Pradhan, Abhishek Kharel, Medical Officer [Jorethang], Dr SN Adhikari,

District Child Protection Officer [South], Roshnita Gurung and Gynecologist, Dr Rajesh Kharel were felicitated with the best employee award by the chief guest.

Lower Boomtar Primary School, Daragaon Primary School and Chittary Primary School were named the first, second and third best primary schools of the district respectively. Lower Boomtar Primary School received Rs 20,000, Daragaon Primary School received Rs 15,000 and Chittary Primary School received Rs 10,000 for their achievements.

The chief guest and DC (South) also distributed shoes and track suits to five students who are representing Sikkim for Khelo India School Games in New Delhi. Additionally, they also handed over certificates for five students who had participated in the winter coaching camp, 2018.

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0870 0876 0884 0902 0939 0963 0976 0995 1001 1038

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SKM invites people to its 6th foundation day celebration

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 27 JAN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha vice-president and South District In-charge, Bhoj Raj Rai, has urged different political parties and people of Sikkim to come together to make a better Sikkim. He has further requested people to attend the upcoming 6th foundation day of SKM scheduled to be held on 04 Feb at Legship in West Sikkim in order to learn about the party's future programmes and strategies for Sikkim and its people.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Rai stated that although SKM has been working hard to provide



justice to the people of Sikkim, the party will now work more rigorously by increasing its pace of work in the State. While mentioning that SKM is the only alternative to SDF in the State, he urged other political

parties in the State to work together with the party to make Sikkim better.

Sikkim should have been self-sufficient by now under this long rule of SDF, he stated and alleged that the

state is lagging behind in many sectors. He added that people of Sikkim have lost all their rights and powers and now they just have political power in their hands and it should be used properly.

"SKM is in favour of making a better Sikkim. So the people should give us a chance to see our work. If they do not like it, then they can reject us," he said.

He also hinted that the foundation day will witness huge number of people from different parts of the State joining the party. He added that some heavy weights will join the party in the near future at the right time.

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SILTAC felicitates CM

contd from pg01

his various national and international achievements due to his pursuits in the field of Organic Farming. Towards the end of the felicitation function, the CM was felicitated by the All Sikkim Independent Schools Society in recognition of his tireless efforts in converting Sikkim into one of the most progressive and modern States in the country.

The ASSS presented a citation to the CM and a souvenir was also presented by the ASSS honoring the CM for being conferred with the One World Award at Legau, Germany and the title of "Ambassador of Organic World" at New Delhi in 2017.

Also present at the felicitation function were Minister for HRDD, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, RB Subba, Minister for UD&HD, NK Subba, MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, Advisors, AD Subba and Sher Hang Subba, Legal Advisor, KT Gyaltsen, literary figures from the Limboo-Tamang community and various organisations and association members of the LT community from all over the State.

Republic Day celebrated at Kyongsa Ground in West Sikkim

GYALSHING, 27 JAN [IPR]: The 69th Republic Day was celebrated at Kyongsa Ground in Gyalshing organized under the Chairmanship of District Collector [West], Kapil Meena. MLA Yangthang Constituency, Chandra Maya Subba, attended the function as chief guest.

On the occasion, Ms Subba spoke on how the Constitution of India is an important and integral part of one of the largest democracies in the world. She acknowledged the presence and the pivotal role played by Dr BR Ambedkar in framing the constitution. She also acknowledged the fact that Sikkim being a small State of the larger Indian Union has received accolades and is distinguished as one of the major progressive state of India due to the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

She also appreciated the efforts of the DC and his able officers who have organized such an event on a large scale for the first time wherein every government employee is involved.

The function saw many new initiatives undertaken by District Administration wherein meritorious service awards were presented to the Best Government Employees of the District. Besides the employees, many other institutions including village level workers like ASHA, ANM and two best primary schools were given awards including citations, shawl and cash incentives. The disbursement of cheque to various institutions from the Award Money of PMs Award on Sanitation was also handed over by the chief guest along with the DC and other officials.



The DC West, in his address, explained the importance of this day and asked departments to be more proactive, transparent and responsible to fulfill the dreams of our freedom fighters. He also thanked all the departments for their contribution and their support to the new initiatives of District Administration in the last one year. He also added that full cooperation will be needed to make the initiative called "AAMA" successful in order to transform and improve the district's performance in health, nutrition and education sectors.

The DC and ADC read the message of the Governor and the CM respectively commemorating the Republic Day of 2018.

Cultural events also housed many ethnic dances along with sports activities for employees like the tug of war, archery and musical ball.

The final of the Inter Departmental Football Tournament was also played wherein Forest Department won against Police Department with the final score line of 4-1. Avinash Lamichaney of Police was adjudged Man of the Tournament while Norden T Lepcha was adjudged Man of the Match.



SSLSA celebrates Republic Day

GANGTOK, 27 JAN [IPR]: Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [SSLSA] celebrated the 69th Republic Day at SSLSA complex in Development Area on 26 Jan. Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson of SSLSA, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, unfurled the tri-color national flag.

The programme was attended by Finance Principal Secretary-cum-Development Commissioner, VB Phatak, Registrar of High Court of Sikkim and Member Secretary of SSLSA, KW Bhutia, Deputy Secretary of SSLSA, B Sharma, and other officials and staff of SSLSA.

Kutse Shegu

The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of my deloved husband **Late Takchung Lepcha** who passed away on 13th December 2017 falls on **30th January 2018**. All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at **Menrongong, North Sikkim**. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

Lhakit Lepcha (wife)
 Ph.No. 8371051201



2nd batch of trainees pass out from Bajra Security Service Agency

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 JAN:

The passing out ceremony of the second batch of trainees of Bajra Security Service Agency was held at Rorathang Bazaar in East Sikkim on 26 Jan. Twenty-three persons have

received the certificates from the agency on successful completion of their training.

It is informed that Bajra Security Service Agency is a registered agency and has been providing free accommodation,

food and training. The trainees who have passed out from the agency will now be deployed at various companies and organisations.

The passing out ceremony was attended by senior retired teacher, NT Bhutia, local

Panchayat of Rorathang, Anu Gazmer, Body Building & Power Lifting Association president, Sanjay Chettri, Bajra SSA vice president, Jeewan Lama, and members of Rorathang Self Help Group and Rorathang Youth Association.

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SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
 DEVELOPMENT AREA, GANGTOK: SIKKIM
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"MESSAGE"

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

Pre-Litigation

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

Pending in the Courts.

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

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

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

(Published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority).

R.O. No. 524/ipr/pub/class/17-18 dt. 24.1.18

State level 69th Republic Day celebration...

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The recipients were Dr S Anbalagan, IFS, [Executive Director, Sikkim Organic Mission], DK Bhandari [Director, Horticulture & Cash Crop Development Department], Cheden P Ladingpa [Additional Secretary, RMDD], Tshering Eden Bhutia [Joint Director, HRDD], Ongmu Bhutia [ASP, Traffic Police] Shova Chettri [Sr PS, DOPART], Deepa Basnet [Community Health Officer, Rhe-nock Community Health Center, Health Department], Bimal Rai [Block Development Officer, Namchi], Daisy Soma Bhutia [Graduate Teacher, Meli Senior Secondary School], Nanda Kumar Chettri [Assistant Sub Inspector, Traffic Police], Nima Tshering Tamang

[Head Constable, Police Training Center, Yangyang], Bhaichung Bhutia [Rural Development Assistant, RMDD], and Shiva Lal Nepal [Peon, Excise Department].

The function also saw the presentation of Gallantry Awards to Major Bishal Singh Thapa of Namchi and Honorary Captain, Subedar Kishor Rai of Lower Dethang Basti, Rabongla.

Certificate of Appreciation was presented to officials for Organic Mission namely Dikendra Bhujel [Deputy Director, South, H&CCD Department], Jharna Gurung [Village Level Worker, Pakyong, Horticulture], Pritica Rai [Village Level Worker, South].

Likewise, Certificate of Com-

mendation for Entrepreneurship was also presented to Karma Choden Bhutia of Pachak, East Sikkim.

The function also featured the felicitation of Veer Naris and World War II Veterans & Widows namely Rifleman Karna Bahadur Chettri of Pachey Samsung, Pakyong, Rifleman Man Bahadur Gurung of Burtuk Basti, Rifleman Shidhi Man Gurung of Nizraming Basti, Bermiok, Mangali Tamang of Mangsari, Soreng, Maya Lepcha of Dethang, Kaluk, Sanchalan Maya Limbu of Hee Tamabung, Hee Bazaar, Tek Maya Rai of Barging, Rabongla, Bishnu Maya Gurung of Phong Basti, Namthang, Padam Kumari Manger of Rautey Rumtek, Budha Rani Limbuni of Lingdum Basti, Geeta Gurung of

Ranipool Bazar, Man Maya Subba of Jubilee Line, Singtam, Ganga Maya Chettri of Bardang, Mon Maya Gurung of Nazi Namthang, and Choti Sherpa of Ben Peku, Thalabari.

Addressing the Republic Day celebration, the Governor extended his best wishes to the people of Sikkim and further applauded the visionaries who framed the Constitution whose ideals have brought us to where we stand today.

He also urged the public to join hands and work towards progress and prosperity.

"On this auspicious occasion, let us commit towards efficient governance, hard work and self reliance," he added.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Crying Wolf

The recourse when grasping at straws

The current dispensation nominated into office in Darjeeling trained its guns on Sikkim recently. While it is the occasional recourse of politicians in Sikkim to lash out at political players of the neighbouring hills and their involvement in Sikkim politics, the latest role-reversal is without precedence. And not without reason either, since Sikkim has never overtly involved itself in Darjeeling politics. It routinely plays the sidekick and is often at the receiving end of political expressions beyond Rangpo, but does not have a track-record of “involvement”. Yes, Sikkim has supported the movement for statehood there at levels some might consider beyond its jurisdiction, but one does not recall any episode when it has sought to influence or even advice the process. Even when the State Government here moved the Supreme Court in the face of frequent disruptions faced by it on the national highway due to the aandolan it the Hills, it was because Sikkim was suffering, not because it wanted to hamstring Darjeeling or West Bengal for that matter. It has always, since the first round of the Aandolan, provided a safe haven for people and leaders requiring a breather from the situation there. Several individuals and leaders here might have even extended monetary support, but even that came without any strings attached because the State or its people have never extracted their pound of flesh for all this sustained support. In fact, every time Darjeeling’s leaders have shot their people in the foot, Sikkim has been ready with the band-aids. Why not more by way of first-aid, you ask? Well, that repairing and healing only the people there can provide themselves and cannot be administered externally.

And this brings one back to wondering why or from where arrived this “warning” for Sikkim to stay out of Darjeeling’s affairs. May be Darjeeling is taking a leaf out of Sikkim’s playbook. Politics in Sikkim raises the Darjeeling involvement bogey every time the powers-that-be feel cornered into an indefensible position or need to deflect attention from something which threatens to grow into a situation. Giving the people an outsider to fear consolidates the ranks and provides just enough pause for a worrying moment to pass, for something to lose momentum. This trick has worked consistently well for Sikkim and maybe that is what inspired the loose-talk from a man in Sukna. It thus becomes important for the people who have no choice but to live with leaders making such statements to ponder over what they are being distracted from when Sikkim is painted as an agent provocateur. Because, let’s accept it, nobody even in Darjeeling is buying the meddling-Sikkim argument. In fact, that allegation has already played out even of the local news cycles since it did not have the traction to build into even a tu-tu, mein-mein argument. There is no denying the fact that Darj leaders have a lot to answer for and have been allowed to dodge accountability for far too long. Maybe they sensed that the people were losing patience and tiring of their overused ads-pitch and needed to rattle some cages to get them talking about something else until something else could be dangled to lead them away. Yes, that must be it.

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Unrest in Iran will continue until religious rule ends

HAIDAR KHEZRI
theconversation.com

The two-week protest movement that rocked cities across Iran earlier this year has largely subsided, but the fallout from the government’s harsh response has just begun.

More than 3,700 people were arrested and 23 were killed in sometimes violent nationwide marches that started on Dec. 28, 2017, in response to an austerity budget proposed by President Hasan Rouhani.

At first, the protests were a display of anger by working-class Iranians, in the city of Mashhad, who complained of poverty and inequality. But the unrest soon spread to more than 80 cities. And as thousands of disenchanted citizens widened the agenda to include corruption, human rights, foreign policy and women’s empowerment, police began to crack down.

By Jan. 4, riot police using tear gas, batons and bullets seemed to have quelled the protests. Then, on Jan. 14, two detained activists, Saro Ghahremani and Ali Poladi, died in prison, reportedly from torture.

Now, family members have begun gathering by the thousands outside Iranian jails. As an Iranian-born scholar, I see this vigil as a warning to the government: Violence against dissidents will not go unnoticed. It’s a sign that unrest in Iran is far from over.

CRIMINALIZING PROTEST

Though Iran’s Constitution enshrines the right to peaceful protest, dissent has historically been met with harsh reprisal.

In 2009, hundreds of people were arrested during the Green Movement, a mass uprising of the Iranian middle class. Many were allegedly later tortured and raped in jail.

The recent detainee deaths have again raised fears that more activists will suffer a similar fate – concerns heightened by the hard-line rhetoric of Iran’s supreme leader, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

On Jan. 2, Khamenei called the protesters – who across the country had taken the bold step of calling for his removal – enemies of Iran.

Two weeks later, after the protests had ended, the spokesman for the judicial system – which falls under Khamenei’s jurisdiction – denied any government responsibility for protester deaths. He said that the bullets used to kill marchers aren’t the type used by Iranian police.

Such statements have earned popular sympathy for the thousands of people now keeping daily watch at Iran’s jails. Many Iranians were outraged when the same government spokesman, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje’i, claimed that the two activists who died in jail “were drug addicts” who had “committed suicide.”

The victims’ families, relatives, and even celebrities familiar with the case have firmly denied this assertion.

Though President Rouhani has on several occasions defended Iranians’ right to protest, he seems unwilling to challenge the supreme leader on the brutality that lead to 25 protester deaths.

His silence has infuriated Iranians. A few days into the protests, demonstrators began accusing the self-declared reformist president of being no different than supreme leader, chanting, “Reformists, hardliners, your time is up.”

WHO IS IRAN’S SUPREME LEADER?

To understand Iranian voters’ frustration, it is key to understand just how powerful the Ayatollah Khamenei is in Iran.

Ever since the 1979 Iranian Revolution cre-



Iranian voters, fed up with politics as usual, have demanded the ouster of both Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani.

ated the Islamic Republic of Iran, replacing Iran’s 2,500-year-old monarchy with a clerical regime, the supreme leader has been both the head of state and the highest ranking religious authority in Iran.

The Constitution grants the supreme leader’s office almost unlimited power. Today, Khamenei – like his well-known predecessor Ayatollah Khomeini, whose reign ended when he died in 1989 – wields enormous control over Iran’s military, judiciary, treasury, media, foreign policy, presidential cabinet and legislative process.

The executive branch, in contrast, is rather weak. The president is limited to enforcing or changing the Constitution, meaning he can appoint ministers and ambassadors, for example – but he cannot, say, repeal laws that discriminate against women and ethnic minorities.

As a result, Rouhani, like other reform-minded presidents before him, have struggled to keep such campaign promises as modernizing Iran’s economy and improving human rights.

Khamenei’s power is also financial. A major portion of Iran’s national budget goes to the office of the supreme leader and its affiliated institutions. This funding is not subject to government oversight, and no one but Khamenei himself knows how much money he receives.

Nor does anyone control how he spends it. Since 1979 revolution, the office of the supreme leader has laid out billions of dollars to expand the influence of his faith, Shia Islam, across the Middle East.

War is a key part of that foreign policy. From 1980 to 1988, under the auspices of the Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran fought the Sunni-led government of Saddam Hussein, in Iraq. Since 2011, the current supreme leader has sent Iranian troops into Syria’s civil war to help keep its contested president, Bashar al-Assad, in power.

The supreme leader is also behind Iran’s controversial nuclear program. The country’s insistence on processing nuclear-grade uranium – ostensibly as a source of energy – has brought international sanctions, invasive inspections and global political criticism to Iran.

Finally, because it controls police and the judiciary, the supreme leader’s office sets the tone for government handling of protest. And, since 1979, it has appointed conservative leaders who criminalize dissent.

As a result, for nearly four decades, both citizen dissident and reform-minded leaders who oppose Iran’s Islamic regime have been harshly suppressed. The recent protests mark seven years since three Green Movement leaders were placed

under house arrest. They are still awaiting trial.

‘WE REGRET ROUHANI’

President Rouhani has twice won election handily by promising to resolve Iranian’s nuclear conflict, free the Green Movement leaders and ensure civil rights for all citizens.

All of these initiatives require him to go head to head with the supreme leader. In 2015, he succeeded in achieving a hard-fought nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers, a deal Khamenei ostensibly opposed.

But, in exchange, Rouhani has had to sacrifice other campaign promises like improving human rights, fighting corruption and addressing inequality. The mass discontent on display recently reflects voter frustration with the president’s lack of progress on these important issues.

One recent scandal has implicated two high-level officials – judiciary head Sadeq Larijani and his brother Ali Larijani, who is speaker of the parliament – for using their political connections for their family’s economic gain.

And last year, a January 2016 leak dubbed “Payslip-gate” revealed that the top brass at state-owned companies were earning extravagant salaries of up to 100 times the monthly wage of the lowest-paid government employees.

THE END OF THE SUPREME LEADER?

Between Rouhani’s ineffectiveness and Khamenei’s state-sanctioned violence, both leaders seem to have alienated Iranian voters.

The damage may be beyond repair. Protest slogans like “Overthrow the clerics’ regime” and “Death to Rouhani” suggest that for the first time since 1979, Iranians are demanding not incremental reform but a whole new era – one without an omnipotent, unaccountable supreme leader.

That puts President Rouhani in an uncomfortable position. I believe Iran’s president is loyal to the principle of an Islamic republic rooted in religious authority. After all, he is a cleric, too.

But Rouhani – who has a doctorate in constitutional law from a Scottish university – is also smart enough to observe that this medieval dual-government system is struggling to survive in modern, restive Iran.

Time may heal all. Khamenei is 78 years old and in poor health. In my assessment, it is conceivable that his death could actually mark the beginning of the end of supreme leadership in Iran.

And if it doesn’t, then Iran’s uprisings will go on.

[The writer is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS), Indiana University]

Is a unified Korea possible?

JI-YOUNG LEE
theconversation.com

North and South Korean athletes will march under one flag during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The “Korean Unification Flag” is both a highly symbolic marker of reconciliation and a reminder of a divided Korea, a condition that has lasted since 1945.

As a scholar of East Asian international relations, I’m fascinated by the question of reunification that has been a mainstay of reconciliation and dialogue between North and South Korea. Unfortunately, history suggests such efforts to reunite the peninsula as a single country often don’t go far.

WHAT KOREANS THINK

Most South Koreans are not optimistic about reunification. According to a 2017 Unification Perception Survey conducted by Seoul National University’s Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, 24.7 percent of South Koreans don’t think that unification is possible. Only 2.3 percent of South Korean respondents believe that unification is



A flag with Korean peninsula unification symbol at the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

possible “within 5 years,” while 13.6 percent responded “within 10 years.” However, the same survey indicates that 53.8 percent of South Koreans believe that reunification is necessary.

Beyond that, however, there is little consensus as to what kind of country a unified Korea should be. Nearly half of South Korean respondents

want to keep South Korea’s democratic political system, while 37.7 percent support some form of hybrid, a compromise between the South and North Korean systems. Still, 13.5 percent of South Koreans answered that they prefer the continued existence of two systems within one country.

THREE STRIKES

The first time North and South Korea held talks since the 1950-53 Korean War was in 1971. They agreed on basic principles of the reunification. According to the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué, reunification should be achieved through 1) independent efforts of the two Koreas, 2) peaceful means, and 3) the promotion of national unity transcending differences in ideologies and systems.

Despite its significance for later agreements, this détente soon collapsed due to the leaders’ lack of genuine intention to follow through. North Korea viewed the inter-Korean dialogue as a way to wean South Korea away from the U.S. and Japan. South Korean leader Park Chung-Hee saw it as a useful tool for consolidating his authoritarian rule.

In the late 1980s, tides shifted as the Cold War broke down and inter-Korean reconciliation once again seemed possible. The 1988 Seoul Olympics spurred South Korea to pursue improved relations with communist countries to ensure their participation. The Olympics hosted a record number of countries from both

turn to 05

'Atrocities against Lankan Tamils amounted to ethnic cleansing'

JAIPUR, JAN 27 (PTI): The atrocities committed against the Tamil during the three-decade long civil war in Sri Lanka amounted to ethnic cleansing and even today a huge drive is underway to change the demography of the Tamil-dominated region, noted photographer and former UN staffer Benjamin Dix said today.

Dix worked as communication manager for the United Nations in Sri Lanka and spent four years (from 2004-2008) to bring the human rights abuses in the island nation to a wider audience. He was based in LTTE-controlled Vanni in the northern region.

"The crimes in Sri Lanka were horrific from both sides.

The Sri Lankan Army is culpable of war crimes, but the Tamil leadership also failed the people in the last decade of the civil war," the noted photographer told PTI in an interview at the Jaipur Literature Festival here.

"The Sri Lankan Army does not believe that they committed atrocities. It is a propaganda that they liberated Tamils from the Tamil leadership. It was not a liberation, but destruction of the Tamil community," he said.

The noted photographer has co-authored with Lindsay Pollock the graphic novel titled 'The Vanni' that deals with the fortunes of a fictional Tamil family through war, displacement and its search for asylum.

Dix said the accusations levelled against the Lankan Army of committing genocide were a "very fair" assessment.

"It is very fair to say that the Army committed genocide.

The atrocities in Sri Lanka were definitely towards ethnic cleansing," he asserted. The former United Nations staffer alleged that the then Mahinda Rajapaksa regime did not want Tamils in Sri Lanka and went after them to have them removed from the nation.

SBI found guilty of deficiency in service by consumer court

MUMBAI, JAN 27 (PTI): A district consumer forum has held the SBI guilty of deficiency in service for debiting money from a bank account despite a failed ATM withdrawal and awarded a compensation of Rs 3,000 to the account holder.

Besides awarding the compensation, the consumer forum in Akola district also directed the bank to refund the wrongly debited amount of Rs 5,000 and pay Rs

2,000 towards legal cost to the account holder.

The complainant, Pradeep Shitre, had approached the forum in September 2017 saying the bank had wrongly debited Rs 5,000 from his account in January that year although he did not receive the cash from the ATM.

The forum, chaired by S M Untavle and comprising member Bharti Kethkar, earlier this week passed the order ex-par-

te observing that the SBI did not appear before it despite issuing notices.

Shitre (51), a farmer, said that he had gone to an ATM to withdraw Rs 5,000. When he failed to get the cash from one machine, he used another one, which dispensed the cash.

According to Shitre, he immediately received a text message saying that Rs 10,000 was withdrawn from his account. He told the forum

that when he followed up with the bank on the matter, it assured him that he would get the refund. However, this never happened, which prompted him to approach the forum.

In August, the bank wrote to him, saying both his transactions were successful.

The forum, however, noted that the bank neither appeared before it nor submitted the CCTV footage of the transac-

tion involving the complainant.

"The CCTV footage was an important evidence, but it was not submitted," observed the forum in Akola district in the Vidarbha region.

The forum then directed the bank to return Rs 5,000 wrongly debited from Shitre's bank account and also ordered it to pay Rs 3,000 as compensation and Rs 2,000 towards legal expenses.



Sukna Gold Cup to kick off from 29 Jan

**SAURABH RAI
SILIGURI, 27 JAN:**

One of the biggest tournaments of the region, Sukna Gold Cup is scheduled to kick off from 29 Jan. Sukna Games and Sports Association (SGSA) on Thursday released the fixture for the 13th Sukna Gold Cup 2018 at Siliguri Journalist Club, Kanchenjunga Stadium.

The final of the tournament will be played on 18 Feb. The winning team of the tournament will get cash prize of Rs 02 lakh while the runner up team will get cash prize of Rs 01 lakh.

The second and third runner up teams will also receive cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively, it was announced.

Former National level player, Rajen Goley, who is also the advisor of Sukna Games and Sports Association, released the fixture.

"We have contacted the clubs in Bhutan and Bangladesh but we were informed none of the national level clubs are free due to their commitment at the national league," said general secretary, (SGSA), Suren Pradhan.

Twenty top teams from in and around the region including two Army teams will be competing for the coveted title of the Sukna Gold Cup. All matches are scheduled to be played at Sukna High School Ground.

Preparations have already begun to improve the venue which should be ready by the time the tourney kicks off, it was informed.

Top biz leaders to attend Assam global investors summit

GUWAHATI, JAN 27 (PTI): Corporate honchos, including Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, Dilip Sanghvi and physician Naresh Trehan, will be part of over 4,800 delegates from across the world in first ever global investors summit in Assam.

The summit 'Advantage Assam', being organised on February 3-4 at a total expenditure of Rs 32 crore, will also witness participation of business leaders and ministers from as many as 20 countries such as the ASEAN nations, the US, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, UAE and Israel.

It "has a unique advantage of being at a strategic geographic location with a strong connectivity network, making it an ideal destination for business with the ASEAN countries.

That is why, the objective of the summit is to position Assam as India's expressway to ASEAN," Assam Commerce and Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said at

a press conference.

Advantage Assam will be the largest ever investment promotion and facilitation initiative by the state government and it will showcase the opportunities offered by the state in terms of export-oriented manufacturing and services to ASEAN and other countries, he added.

"A total of 14 international and domestic roadshows were organised as a part of the pre-summit preparations. High powered delegation of the state government, many of which were led by the Chief Minister, engaged in more than 200 one-on-one meetings with corporate houses in these roadshows. We have seen over 4,800 delegate registrations," Patowary said.

With these, the state government has been able to draw attention of industry leaders like Tata Group's Ratan Tata, Reliance's Mukesh Ambani, Dilip Sanghvi from Sun Pharmaceuticals, Dabur's Anand Burman and Harshavardhan Neo-



tia from Ambuja Neotia Cements, who have confirmed their presence in the summit, he added.

The minister also informed that Amar Abrol from Air Asia India, Welspun Group's Balakrishnan Goenka, Subhash Chandra of Essel Group, Emami's Sushil Goenka, Rashesh Shah of Edelweiss and Sanjiv Puri from ITC have also registered for the event.

"Besides, Naresh Trehan from Medanta - The Medicity - and filmmaker Subhash Ghai have confirmed to be a part of the summit deliberations, among others," he added.

Patowary also informed that the government has identified 12 focus sectors for the summit, including agricul-

ture and food processing, handloom-textile-handicrafts, logistics, river transport-port township, IT-ITeS, pharmaceutical-medical equipment, plastics-petrochemicals and power.

Tourism-hospitality-wellness, civil aviation, petroleum - natural gas and startups-innovation are the other focus areas for the business tycoons, he added.

Talking about incentives for investment, Patowary said the state government has come out with the Assam Industries (Tax Reimbursement for Eligible Units) Scheme, 2017, under which tax exemptions will be given up to 200 per cent on the fixed capital for the units set up

till December 31, 2022.

"Besides, to strengthen the investment scenario, the state has instituted some very attractive sectoral policies.

We will also introduce an overall state industrial policy. The central government policy for industrial development of North East is also coming soon," he added.

On the poor power scenario, Patowary accepted that Assam is an electricity-deficient state, but said it will source the same from the National Power Grid for upcoming industries.

"During the last one year, we could bring investment to the tune of Rs 6,500 crore in various sectors. It is a big achievement. Besides, we also got sanction for developing nine port townships across Assam for an investment of Rs 1,100 crore," he added.

These townships will come up at Bogibeel, Neamatighat, Kamalabari, Silghat, Pandu, Silchar, Karimganj, Joghicha and Dhubri, the minister informed.

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Is a unified Korea possible?

contd from pg4

blocs of the Cold War, including the Soviet Union and China. This, even in the face of North Korea's attempt to throw the games off by bombing a South Korean airliner killing 115 people in 1987. With the help of South Korea's rising international status and active diplomacy toward normalizing relations with the Soviet Union and China, Pyongyang agreed to talks with Seoul.

By 1991, North and South Koreans had once again come around to the idea of reconciliation and signed the Basic Agreement. In it, Koreans defined their relationship not as two separate states, but rather one going through a "special interim" - a process toward ultimate reunification. In 1992, they produced the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. However, by the end of 1992, inter-Korean relations grew seriously strained. North Korea refused to accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and objected to the resumption of a U.S.-South Korea joint military exercise.

Another milestone took place in 2000. North and South Ko-

rea held the first summit that amounted to the most substantial and frequent engagement between the two Koreas yet. South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and his successor Roh Moo-Hyun's Sunshine Policy meant to provide for a gradual change of North Korea toward the reunification through inter-Korean cooperation on humanitarian, economic, political, social and cultural issues. But in the face of Pyongyang's continued provocations and nuclear development program, this type of engagement-oriented policy had serious limits. Over time, it became less and less popular with the public.

The conservative governments that followed upheld the goal of the reunification, but made inter-Korean reconciliation conditions upon Pyongyang's behavior. North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, and provocations like a torpedo attack on a South Korean navy ship and the shelling of a South Korean island, backpedaled much of the progress made during the 2000 summit.

After three major attempts and failures, is reunification feasi-

ble in 2018?

What these past talks show is that reconciliation has not been sustainable without the tangible progress in eliminating North Korea's nuclear capabilities.

At the same time, the current South Korean President Moon Jae-In is more open to departing from the more conservative approach and pursuing engagement without such assurances. This may be a game changer. Without a doubt, he is much more proactive about creating opportunities for inter-Korean reconciliation.

President Moon faces the same harsh realities as his predecessors. With Pyongyang's increased threat, the South Korean government will have to work more closely with other countries currently implementing sanctions against Pyongyang. If Seoul works out a deal for inter-Korean exchanges and joint projects and North Korea continues to engage in a provocation, skeptical South Koreans will not likely support the government's engagement policy.

[the writer is Assistant Professor, American University School of International Service]

Big pay day for Indians and Stokes at IPL auctions

BENGALURU, JAN 27 (PTI): Indian players dominated the bidding wars as KL Rahul and Manish Pandey laughed their way to the bank with multi-million dollar deals but England all-rounder Ben Stokes once again emerged the costliest buy in the IPL auctions, here on Saturday.

Despite all the off-field controversies, Stokes was snapped up for a whopping INR 12.5 crore (USD 1.96 million) by Rajasthan Royals after Kings XI Punjab, Chennai Super Kings also engaged in a fierce bidding war.

The franchises were smart in their choices with most of the current India players attracting significant interest.

Stylish opener Rahul and middle-order batsman Pandey bagged deals worth INR 11 crore (USD 1.73 million) from Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad respectively.

With their prices sky-rocketing, the two players' original franchises RCB and KKR didn't use their Right To Match (RTM) cards.

The Karnataka players had a field day at the auctions with India discard Karun Nair also triggering a bidding war before Kings XI Punjab got him for INR 5.60 crore.

Kedar Jadhav, one of Mahendra Singh Dhoni 'Go To Man' during his last stint as India captain, also fetched a healthy price of INR 7.80 crore for his all-round qualities of batting, round-arm off-spin and back-up wicket-keeping. He was snapped by the Dhoni-led Chennai Su-



per Kings.

Chennai, however, didn't bid vigorously for Ravichandran Ashwin, who will now ply his trade for Kings XI Punjab at a salary of INR 7.60 crore.

Interestingly, Chennai Super Kings roped in Harbhajan Singh at his base price of INR 2 crore (USD 315,000).

But none came close to Stokes, who has been struck with controversies of late and was dropped from the England Ashes squad following a pub brawl. He has even been charged in the matter now.

Stokes was bought for INR 14.5 crore (USD 2.28 million) by Rising Pune Supergiants during the last auctions, and proved to be a worthy buy with his all-round performance taking the team to the final.

There were multiple bids from Kings XI Punjab, Chennai Super Kings but Steve Smith, Stokes' captain at the Pune franchise, wanted him desperately and thus his owners respected his wish.

"As far as we are concerned the ECB has cleared him for auction. We are prepared for legal consequenc-

es too. He will be a very important part of the team. We are like a start-up company. We are restarting, we needed an all-rounder and hence we picked up Stokes," Royals executive chairman Ranjit Borthakur said.

Another predictable aspect was Australian players getting premium bids with Mitchell Starc being picked by Kolkata Knight Riders for INR 9.60 crore (USD 1.5 million).

The other big buy among the 16 marquee players was Glenn Maxwell, who was back in the Delhi Daredevils fold after five years for a

record INR 9.40 crore after intense bidding. DD had the last laugh when KXIP refused to use their RTM card.

While KKR decided to let go Gautam Gambhir at INR 2.80 crore (USD 440,000) to Delhi Daredevils, they used their RTM to buy back Chris Lynn for INR 9.40 crore (USD 1.47 million).

"It is keeping in mind conditions in Kolkata. The playing conditions and wicket has changed quite drastically.

So if you see the two re-tentions which we have had -- Sunil Narine and Andre Russel -- and now you add

Mitchell Starc to that, I think that makes a good bunch of bowlers who can bat," KKR CEO Venky Mysore explained.

However, West Indian swashbuckler Chris Gayle surprisingly went unsold despite his well-established T20 batting credentials. England Test captain Joe Root also went unsold but his teammate, all-rounder Chris Woakes, was picked by RCB for INR 7.40 crore.

Daredevils, however, got their probable captain in Gautam Gambhir at a dirt cheap rate. Similarly, another veteran Yuvraj Singh got

an opening bid from Kings XI Punjab for INR 2 crore.

Dwayne Bravo was taken for INR 6.40 crore by CSK using the RTM card.

Kieron Pollard was predictably bought by Mumbai Indians, who used their Right To Match (RTM) card for INR 5.40 crore (USD 850,000), while Sunrisers Hyderabad bought back Shikhar Dhawan for INR 5.2 crore (USD 817,000) after heavy bidding from KXIP.

Faf du Plessis was retained by CSK for only INR 1.60 crore while Rajasthan Royals used RTM to retain Ajinkya Rahane for INR 4 crore (USD 630,000).

Kane Williamson was back at Sunrisers Hyderabad for INR 3 crore (USD 472,000).

Former CSK mentor Kris Srikkanth wasn't surprised that Gayle went unsold and CSK didn't go whole hog for Ashwin.

"Not at all surprised at Gayle being dropped, RCB's problem is stock heavy and they will use RTM card for KL Rahul as opening batsman and (Yuzvendra) Chahal, they are Indian cricketers and know the conditions well," Srikkanth said.

On Ashwin, he said: "I expected it, reason is that last year Washington Sundar played under (MS) Dhoni and Steve Smith for (Rising) Pune (Supergiant), and he was the most economical bowler. Now he is a T20 bowler for India, because they have an option in Washington Sunder."



India beat Bangladesh by 131 runs, enter U-19 World Cup semis

QUEENSTOWN, JAN 27 (PTI): Three-time champions India beat Bangladesh by a comfortable 131-run margin to enter the semi-final of the ICC U-19 World Cup, here today.

Batting first, India

scored 265 in 49.2 overs with Shubham Gill scoring 86 and Abhishek Sharma contributing 50.

Skipper Prithvi Shaw (40) and Harvik Desai (34) also chipped in with useful runs. In reply, Ban-

gladesh were all-out for 134 in 42.1 overs with Kamlesh Nagarkoti taking 3 for 18 in 7.1 overs. For Bangladesh only Pinak Ghosh top-scored with 43.

Brief Scores: India U-19 265 in 49.2 overs

(Shubham Gill 86, Abhishek Sharma 50, Prithvi Shaw 40) beat Bangladesh 134 in 42.1 overs (Pinak Ghosh 43, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 3/18 in 7.1 overs, Abhishek Sharma 2/11, Shivam Mavi 2/27).

Sensational Saina enters final of Indonesia Masters

JAKARTA, JAN 27 (PTI): Saina Nehwal made a perfect start to the new season, reaching the women's singles final of the USD 350,000 Indonesia Masters with a thrilling straight-game win over world no 4 Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand here today.

The former world no 1, who has won thrice in Indonesia, dished out a spirited performance to overcome a fighting Ratchanok 21-19 21-19 in the semifinal lasting 48 minutes.

Saina, who had a 8-5 head-to-head record against the 2013 World Champion Ratchanok, displayed tremendous fighting spirit as she erased a 6-10 deficit in the opening game and held on to the fort despite a late charge by the Thai shuttler in the second game.

The World No 12 Indian has reached the final of an international competition after a year following her title triumph at Malaysia Masters last year.

In the finals, the London Olympics bronze medalist will play world no 1 and top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, who saw off Chinese eighth seed He Bingjiao 19-21 21-15 21-15 in the other semifinals.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad has a 5-8 head-to-head record against Tai Tzu, who has defeated the Indian in all their last six meetings. The last time Saina won against Tai Tzu was at the 2013 Swiss Open.

Meanwhile, the sensational run of young Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty came to an end after they suffered a 14-21 11-21 loss to top seeded Indonesian pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.

In the opening game, Ratchanok opened up a 3-1 lead early on. Saina slowly tried to claw back and pro-



duced an excellent return from the back of the court which kissed the sideline to make it 5-5.

However, she erred in her serve and then committed a couple of errors to allow Ratchanok lead 8-5.

Saina won an exceptional rally next but Ratchanok produced a

brilliant straight smash and a cross court drop to move to 10-7. A net dribble gone wrong gave another point to Saina but she went long next as Ratchanok entered the break with a three-point cushion.

Saina committed another service error but rode on her drop and body line returns to keep within touching distance at 11-13.

She soon drew parity after Ratchanok went wide and then grabbed a 14-13 lead when the Thai player went long.

Ratchanok again turned the tables but Saina clawed back immediately with another body smash after sending a series of returns on her rivals backhand in a rally that had 32 shots.

The Indonesian next won a video referral to move to 16- 15. Saina unleashed another down the line smash to again level scores but a half smash on Saina's backhand kept Ratchanok ahead.

Saina's return went long but she managed to stay at 18-18 after Ratchanok faltered at the net. The Indian sent a cross court return wide but Ratchanok also hit the net. The Thai player however went wide again to hand over one game point opportunity to Saina.

With another smash from Ratchanok going to the net meant Saina had grabbed the opening game.

Elgar-Amla overcome pitch troubles to take SA to 69/1 at lunch

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 27 (PTI): Dean Elgar and Hashim Amla frustrated India with an unbeaten 64-run stand, taking South Africa to 69 for one at lunch on a pitch that appears to have become less threatening in the third and final Test here.

The hosts need another 172 runs to win.

At the break, Amla was batting on 27 runs (61 balls, 4 fours) while Elgar was unbeaten on 29 runs (100 balls, 3 fours).

This was after play was delayed due to heavy morning rains in Johannesburg. The team arrived on schedule at the Wanderers but had to wait for better conditions for play to resume.

The umpires Aleem Dar and

Ian Gould had two inspections at 10 am and 10.30 am (local time). After the second inspection, they were happy enough to allow play to resume 30 minutes later.

Finally the game began at 11 am local time, with all three sessions rescheduled, after an hour's delay. The morning session was 90 minutes long.

Starting from their overnight score of 17/1, South Africa made steady progress. Jasprit Bumrah (0-20) completed his over from last evening, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0-20) and Mohammed Shami (1-15) started off proceedings properly.

Elgar encountered a couple of hairy moments once again, against Bumrah in particular, but settled



down shortly enough.

He shrugged off whatever happened last evening and looked more confident as the session went on.

At the other end, Amla looked ever solid. He left the ball well and looked to score whenever the opportunity presented itself.

India gave away too many quick runs early on in the session, not helped by uneven bounce as they conceded 9 extras in the first hour of play. But later they tightened up the scoring.

Bumrah and Shami were guilty of getting carried away and bowling a tad shorter, even if they didn't

concede too many runs. They didn't hit the length enough, where the uneven bounce truly lies on this pitch, and didn't really attack the batsmen enough.

Kumar and Ishant Sharma (0-10) managed to keep things quiet though, even as Amla and Elgar built their gritty partnership.

South Africa crossed 50 in the 22nd over, while their 50-partnership came off 125 balls. They made good use of heavy roller in the morning, which might have sedated the pitch somewhat.

To their discredit, India didn't even create a single half-chance for getting a breakthrough this morning.

On day one, India were bowled out for 187 runs in their first in-

nings after opting to bat. Virat Kohli (54) and Cheteshwar Pujara (50) scored contrasting fifties while Kagiso Rabada finished with 3-39.

On day two, Jasprit Bumrah (5-54) picked up his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket as South Africa were bowled out for 194 in their first innings. Hashim Amla scored 61.

On day three, brave knocks from Virat Kohli (41) and Ajinkya Rahane (48) carried India to 247 in their second innings before play was halted early on account of dangerous pitch.

South Africa have already won the three-match series with a 2-0 lead after winning the first Test in Cape Town by 72 runs and the second Test in Centurion by 135 runs.

Pak again rakes up Kashmir during UNSC debate

UNITED NATIONS, JAN 27 (PTI): Days after UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres ruled out any mediation effort between India and Pakistan, Islamabad's top envoy to the world body raised the Kashmir issue during a UN Security Council debate on the Middle East.

As usual there were no takers for Maleeha Lodhi, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, during the debate on the current volatile situation in the Middle East.

"Pakistan will continue to support the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians, as indeed, people living under foreign occupation elsewhere as for example in Kashmir," Lodhi said while participating in the Security Council discussion on Thursday.

"This esteemed body must live up to its responsibilities and ensure the implementation of its own resolutions on Palestine and other longstanding disputes such as Kashmir so that people of the world do not lose entire faith in the United Nations," she said.

Earlier this week, the UN had ruled out any mediation effort on Kashmir and encouraged India and Pakistan to address all their outstanding issues through dialogue.

Relations between India and Pakistan have been strained recently following a series of attacks by Pakistan-based terror groups and incidents of ceasefire violations, causing casualties on both sides.

India is opposed to any third-party intervention in resolving the Kashmir issue while Pakistan has continuously sought mediation to sort out the differences.

Ambulance bomb kills 40, wounds 140 in Kabul attack: officials

KABUL, JAN 27 (AFP): An ambulance packed with explosives blew up in a crowded area of Kabul today, killing at least 40 people and wounding 140 others, officials said, in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

The explosion -- one of the biggest since a truck bomb ripped through the Afghan capital's diplomatic quarter on May 31 last year -- triggered chaotic scenes as terrified people fled the area where several high-profile organisations, including the European Union, have offices.

An AFP reporter saw "lots of dead and wounded" civilians in the nearby Jamuriate hospital where overwhelmed medical staff struggled to treat bloodied men, women and children lying in corridors.

"The latest toll from Kabul hospitals stands at 40 martyred and 140 wounded," health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh told AFP.

The force of the blast shook windows of buildings at least two kilometres away and shattered windows within hundreds of metres of the site.

Some low-rise structures in the vicinity of the explosion also collapsed.



"The suicide bomber used an ambulance to pass through the checkpoints. He passed through the first checkpoint saying he was taking a patient to Jamuriate hospital and at the second checkpoint he was recognised and blew his explosive-laden car," interior ministry deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told AFP.

The Taliban claimed re-

sponsibility for the attack on social media -- their second deadly assault in Kabul in the space of a week.

The Italian NGO Emergency said seven dead and 70 injured had been taken to its hospital, with its coordinator Dejan Panic tweeting that it had been a "massacre".

Outside civilians walked through debris-covered

streets carrying wounded people on their backs as others loaded several bodies at a time into ambulances and private cars to take them to medical facilities around the city.

Aminullah, whose stationery shop is a just metres from the site of the blast, said the force of the explosion shook the foundations of his building.

"The building shook. All our windows broke. The people are in shock in our market," he told AFP.

Photos shared on social media purportedly of the blast showed a huge plume of smoke rising into the sky.

A man told Tolo News he was passing the area when the explosion happened.

"I heard a big bang and I



Hundreds of people have been evacuated, tunnels and roads have been sealed off and the bottom floor of the Louvre has closed as Paris braces for more floods. The River Seine has swollen following days of heavy rain. The river, which burst its banks on Tuesday, reached 5.6m (18ft) high on Friday morning at the Austerlitz bridge in eastern Paris. Meteo France said rainfall was double the average for this time of year. And it is not expected to stop there, with predictions of 6m (20ft) for the weekend - just below the 6.2m it reached two years ago, which led to two people dying and several being injured. A total of 395 people were evacuated from their homes in the French capital and surrounding areas.

R-Day celebrated at UN, across US, South Africa

WASHINGTON, JAN 27 (PTI): Scores of diplomats including ambassadors of four of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - Russia, China, France and Britain attended one of the largest Republic Day receptions outside India at the UN headquarters, besides events across the US as well.

The US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, was the only P-5 country envoy not to attend the impressive Republic Day reception hosted jointly by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and the Indian consulate in New York.

Haley, who was not in town, sent one of her top diplomats to the event, which was attended by several hundred Indian Americans, officials of the UN and envoys of scores of countries at the UN.

Prominent among those were the President of the General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak, and the Deputy UN Secretary General Amina J Mohammed.

Maleeha Lodhi, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, surprised many by her presence at India's Repub-

lic Day celebrations at the UN, which was marked by an impressive dance performance at the UN Delegates Dining Room.

"Though far from India's shores, the young sing about the 'land that nourished and nurtured' as we celebrate India's #RepublicDay2018@IndiaUNNewYork," Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, said in a tweet.

"We are grateful this evening that several distinguished officials as well as representatives have joined us. I am grateful to the President of the

General Assembly who is here with us, also to the Lt Governor of New York, who is with us and the Deputy Secretary General, who is with us," Akbaruddin said as he was joined by other dignitaries in lighting the lamp.

For many UN observers, it was one of the largest gatherings of ambassadors at a public event at the UN.

Indian Ambassador to the US, Navtej Singh Sarna, paid floral tributes to statues of Mahatma Gandhi outside the Embassy in Washington before unfurling the nation-

al flag, in the presence of embassy staff and members of the Indian American community.

Akbaruddin unfurled the national flag at the UN mission in New York, with India's other diplomatic missions in the US - in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, and Atlanta - also hosting events.

Diego Gomez Pickering, the Consul General of Mexico in New York was the guest of honor at the Indian consulate celebrations in the city.

"Honored to participate in the celebrations of the 69th #Republic-

Day at @IndianNewYork along with Consul General Chakravorty and the vibrant Indian community of #NYC. #Mexico and #India partners, friends and allies," he tweeted. Sanjeev Tripathi from Boston wrote a special poem in Hindi on the occasion.

Illinois Lt Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti and joined the Republic Day celebrations in Chicago along with a large number of Indian Americans.

Officials of the Indian Consulate in Houston posted a special video on twitter "Jai Hind. Happy Republic Day".

Congressman Pete Olson appeared in a traditional kurta at the Consulate and joined Indian Americans in the Republic day celebrations in the Indian Consulate in Houston.

"Great to celebrate the 69th India Republic Day at the Consulate General of India this morning!" he said.

"#OTD in 1950, the largest democracy on earth was born when the Indian constitution was adopted. I look forward to many more years of friendship between our two great countries!" Olson tweeted.

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8070 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
0027 0032 0116 0156 0258 0352 0558 0568 0591 0602
0729 0790 0892 0902 0915 0946 1087 1118 1297 1343
1576 1585 1771 1858 1900 2122 2312 2313 2585 2665
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4769 4838 4855 4907 5004 5178 5256 5433 5462 5527
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3rd Prize Rs.5000/-
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4th Prize Rs.4000/-
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5th Prize Rs.2000/-
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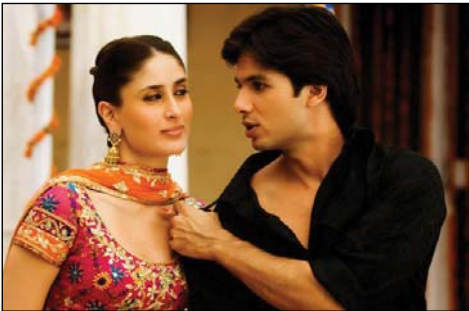
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FLOWER POWER: Singer Rita Ora steps out in a floral suit on the streets of New York City.

SHAHID KAPOOR AND KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN RUMORED TO BE REUNITING FOR JAB WE MET SEQUEL



One of the most loved romantic comedies of all time, Jab We Met starring Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor Khan is still loved a lot by the fans and audiences. The film is touted as one of the best performances of Shahid and Kareena's career till date and why not, weren't Geet and Aditya beyond amazing?! While most of us have waited with baited breath to have a sequel to the film, it sure looks like that it may happen soon. If the rumours around film are to be believed, makers are planning to make a sequel of the film and once again star Shahid and Bebo in lead roles. Pretty exciting.

The ex-lovers have been on cordial terms with each other and that has surely given some hopes to their fans out there. Not too long ago, director Imtiaz Ali talked

about it to a leading daily. He said, "Shahid and I wanted to do a film together. Hopefully we will. But these things are announced only when the fine print is done. Which is why we're not announcing anything. There's no secret. I cannot say anything till I finalise; we won't issue a statement."

Commenting on the same, when Bebo was recently asked if she's doing the film, her answer was, "That thought hasn't come to us yet. We've not come this far."

On the other hand, when Shahid was asked about Kareena doing a role in the film, he told a tabloid, "That you will have to ask Kareena."

Well, let's just hope that the sequel to the film happens really soon and we get to see these two stars sharing the screen once again.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

28TH JANUARY

1986 - Challenger Explodes:

The space shuttle Challenger explodes just after liftoff, killing the seven astronauts aboard, this was the 10th trip for Challenger and included a teacher from New Hampshire, Christa McAuliffe, among the astronauts, as part of a new Teacher in Space project. The launch was shown live on CNN and many schools set up televisions for children to watch due to the involvement of a teacher in the shuttle. Other crew members aboard the Challenger ship included Michael J. Smith, Dick Scobee, and Ronald McNair, as well as Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, and Judith Resnik. A warning was ignored that certain equipment on the ship was vulnerable at new

temperatures.

1937 - Rolls Royce: Testing of the Rolls Royce had begun on this day. The first model that appeared on the streets a few years after World War II ended was the Rolls Royce Silver Wraith.

1956- ELVIS PRESLEY:

The young country rock singer Elvis Presley makes his first ever television appearance on Television in the musical variety program Stage Show singing "Heartbreak Hotel" check out our 50s Music page for more information.

1932- JAPAN OCCUPIES SHANGHAI:

Japan began its bombing and reoccupation of Shanghai, China.

2014 CHICKENS KILLED TO STOP H7N9 SPREAD:

Hong Kong announced that it will kill 20,000 chickens in order to stop the spread of the H7N9 bird flu. The culling was announced after the virus had been found in chickens that had been sent to China. A three week ban on live chicken importation was also put in place.

JAMES FRANCO REMOVED FROM VANITY FAIR COVER OVER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

The magazine also gave Oprah Winfrey three hands in one photo and appeared to show Reese Witherspoon with a third leg.

Actor James Franco was originally set to feature in Vanity Fair's Hollywood cover, but was digitally removed following allegations of sexual misconduct.

The latest issue, which features stars including Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey, Nicole Kidman and Tom Hanks, has come under fire after an apparent Photoshop fail left Oprah with three hands in one picture.

It has emerged that Franco also took part in the shoot but was removed before publication, The Hollywood Reporter said.

The 39-year-old was interviewed and sat for photographer Annie Leibovitz for the star-studded cover, but the magazine decided to not include him after five women accused him of sexual misconduct in the Los Angeles Times.

"We made a decision not to include James Franco on the Hollywood cover once we learned of the misconduct allegations against him," a



Vanity Fair spokesman was quoted as saying.

The Disaster Artist actor has denied the allegations, saying they are "not accurate". The Vanity Fair edition has drawn much criticism since it was released on Thursday, with Oprah joking about her "three hands".

In one picture from the shoot, the chat show host is seen holding Witherspoon by the waist as the pair laugh with Tom Hanks.

She has two hands in front of her - and another around Witherspoon's waist. In the

cover picture, Witherspoon also appears to have three legs - however, the magazine said the extra 'limb' was just the lining of her dress.

Witherspoon took the mistake in her stride, asking fans to accept her as she is.

On Twitter, Witherspoon wrote: "Well...I guess everybody knows now...I have 3 legs. I hope you can still accept me for who I am. (and I will never apologize for snuggling @Oprah... if you get the opportunity, I highly recommend it)"

Oprah responded by saying: "I accept your 3d leg. As I

know you accept my 3d hand."

Addressing the error, Vanity Fair tweeted: "While we would have loved the exclusive on @RWitherspoon's three legs, unfortunately it's just the lining of her dress."

"As for @Oprah, how can we expect her to juggle it all with just two hands? (We are correcting this error online)."

YouTube Tyler Oakley tweeted: "oprah has three hands & reese has three legs, and we are here for accepting them for who they are!! 2018 is all about LOVING OUR BODIES!!"

DEAR READERS, IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT 7001622863 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REIMER



ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: An increased level of irritability and frustration could tempt you to take it out on friends, children, or your significant other. You're probably feeling especially energetic, with little if any outlet for that energy, Aries. On days like this you might want to consider jogging, going to the gym, or taking an aerobics class. This can both provide an outlet and produce some endorphins that override the stress and strain. Go to it!

TAURUS: A conflict between career obligations and home responsibilities could present itself today, Taurus. You're likely to feel totally powerless in the situation, so it could cause you to feel irritable and be more snappish than usual. Try to think clearly and find a solution for your conundrum, then act on it. Avoid the temptation to

quarrel with others. In the evening, go out dancing! Work off some of that frustrated energy.

GEMINI: Long-distance phone calls from people living in distant states could bring some rather disconcerting news your way. This might arouse some anger within you, and you might be tempted to take it out on the caller. Don't do this! The person is probably only the messenger. Some short trips in your neighborhood could find you confronted with impossible traffic. If you have to go out today, Gemini, you might get there more quickly by walking!

CANCER: Nightmares that come your way today are likely to cause you to wake up feeling extremely angry for no tangible reason. You might want to take a close look at your dreams and try to ana-

lyze them so that you'll learn the source of your ire and how best to expunge it. Disconcerting news about money is likely to prove groundless. Cancer, so don't fly off the handle and get all stressed out when you hear it.

LEO: A partner, either your life partner or a colleague, is likely to be in an irritable mood today, which you could find a bit upsetting. Bear in mind that this person's mood probably has little if anything to do with you, Leo, or anything you've said or done. Just stay out of their way until they're over it! This isn't a good day to give or attend social events or even accept invitations. Wait until tomorrow!

VIRGO: Too many unfinished tasks or chores today might have you feeling pressured to get them

done, creating unnecessary stress and strain. Pace yourself and don't panic if you have to let some of them go for today. You're probably feeling more sensitive than usual, Virgo, so you might also pick up some moods from the people around you. Take periodic breaks and go out for a walk. This should clear your head and make things easier for you.

LIBRA: Emotional levels run high among members of a group you're affiliated with as disagreements turn into quarrels. Stay out of this, Libra, it won't do you any good. Write down your impressions and share them with the others at another time when tempers have cooled down. You might find yourself wanting to make one final push toward attaining a personal goal of your own, but you could

be blocked by forces beyond your control. Try to remain patient!

SCORPIO: Pressures to get unfinished tasks completed and new ones begun cause emotions to run high. Everyone, yourself included, is likely to feel nervous and stressed out, and quarrels may break out. It might be best if you keep your eyes and mind focused on the tasks at hand and not on the petty squabbles that are going on around you, Scorpio. This keeps your blood pressure down and reassures those you want to impress.

SAGITTARIUS: Frustrated energy resulting from inability to put your plans into action could have your nerves on edge today, Sagittarius, and you might be tempted to get into petty quarrels with those around you. Try to find alternative outlets for your energy so as

to avoid this trap. There is also the danger that you might take impulsive actions without giving it any thought. Remember to stop and think before you act; otherwise, your efforts might be wasted.

CAPRICORN: Overwork and the resulting stress and nerve strain might result in fevers or headaches today, Capricorn. Therefore, it might be a good idea to start out the day pacing yourself and concentrating on whatever tasks are the most pressing. Don't worry if you have to leave some for later. There is a chance that others around you might get into some rather heated arguments. Stay out of it. This will only make you feel worse.

AQUARIUS: If you're involved in a class or if you find yourself in any kind of group activity or social

situation, be prepared for quarrels to break out among the people there. You could find this extremely useless and counterproductive, and you might be tempted to try to break in and put a stop to it. It's best to stay out of it, Aquarius. Get rid of your frustration by walking home! You'll feel better for it.

PISCES: Frustration and upset with others in your circle could tempt you to go out and get rid of that energy by spending a lot of money. You might overindulge in food or drink, or you could give in to impulse buying. Treat yourself a little, Pisces, but don't go overboard. You don't want to give yourself an upset stomach, and you won't want to take unwanted items back to the store. Instead, get some exercise or throw your passions into creative pursuits.