



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linkage extended till March 31

NEW DELHI, DEC 8 (PTI): The government today extended the deadline for mandatory linking of PAN with Aadhaar by three months to March 31, 2018.

This is the third extension given by the government to individuals to link the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with the biometric ID.

The Centre had already informed the Supreme Court that it is willing to extend till March 31 the deadline fixed for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail various services and welfare schemes.

"It has come to notice that some of the taxpayers have not yet completed the linking of PAN with Aadhaar."

"Therefore, to facilitate the process of linking, it has been decided to further extend the time for linking of Aadhaar with PAN till March 31, 2018," the finance ministry said.

As of November, 13.28 crore out of 33 crore PANs have been linked to the 12-digit biometric identifier Aadhaar.

This year, the government made quoting of Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns (ITRs) as well as obtaining a new PAN.

Section 139 AA (2) of the Income Tax Act says that every person having PAN as on July 1, 2017, and eligible to obtain Aadhaar, must intimate his Aadhaar number to the tax authorities.

The government had in August extended by four months the deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar till December 31, pending the Supreme Court verdict.

The Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the government's decision on Aadhaar.

The apex court has said it may consider setting up of a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the Centre's move to make Aadhaar card mandatory for availing various services and benefits of welfare schemes.

The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar previously was July 31 but was extended to August 31 and later to December 31, 2017.

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Justice Kurian inaugurates High Court Museum



Museum "reflects the rich cultural history of Sikkim along with the legal history"

GANGTOK, 08 DEC [IPR]: Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Kurian Joseph, inaugurated the High Court of Sikkim Museum today in the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri, former Judge, High Court of Sikkim Justice, AP Subba, who is also the Chairperson of High Court of Sikkim Museum

Committee, and Judges, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi M Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, here at Forest Colony today.

The programme also had the presence of Chief Justices of the High Courts of Meghalaya, Madras, Guwahati, Kolkata, Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand, former Chief Justice of Sikkim and Chairman, Assam Human Rights Commission, Justice AH Saikia, former Judge of the High Court of Sikkim, Justice SP Wangdi, Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava, senior officers of the State Government, Advocate General of Sikkim, Judges, and

Advocates.

After the welcome address by Justice Pradhan, the plaque of the Museum was unveiled by the chief guest, which was followed by the lighting of ceremonial lamp by Ruby Kurian, Tika Maya Chamling and Yogmaya Agnihotri.

Justice Joseph, in his inaugural address, lauded the effort of the Museum Committee and all the contributors for bringing together rare artefacts, documents and photographs and establishing the monumental museum.

He stated that the event was not just a significant achievement in the history of the High



Court of Sikkim but a historic achievement for the State as a whole.

"In fact, the inauguration of this one-of-a-kind Museum is a moment of great pride for the State of Sikkim as well as the entire country. It reflects the rich cultural history of Sikkim along with the legal history," he stated.

Chief Minister Mr Chamling informed that the museum will help assimilate the past with the present and also help in preserving the histor-

ical bungalow built in the year 1910 for housing British civil servants posted in Sikkim.

"With the inauguration of this museum, we are creating history by achieving the process involved in the establishment and extension of legal institutions and services in Sikkim as the 22nd State of the Indian Union," he stated.

Mr Chamling extended gratitude to Justice Joseph for inaugurating the landmark museum in

Sikkim.

Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Agnihotri, highlighted the importance of the museum in preserving and protecting the history of Sikkim in its entirety while Justice AP Subba recounted the contributions from individuals and institutions towards making the museum a reality.

The High Court of Sikkim Museum Compendium was also released on the occasion by Justice Joseph. The Compendium

has been compiled by Advocate Yangchen Doma Gyatso on the instructions of the High Court of Sikkim Museum Committee.

Justice Joseph also handed over Certificates of Appreciation to all the contributors which were received by the Chairperson of the Museum Committee on their behalf.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim, NG Sherpa.

Justice Joseph commends Sikkim as "true model of secular India"

GANGTOK, 08 DEC (IPR): "I congratulate Sikkim for being a true model of secular India," said Justice Kurian Joseph of the Supreme Court of India while addressing an august gathering at the Samman Bhawan this evening where luminaries from all the three pillars of democracy - the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary met today.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, along with the Speaker of the Sikkim State Legislative Assembly

turn to pg03



Miss Kalimpong pageant makes a comeback after four decades

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 08 DEC:** Beauty pageant, Miss Kalimpong 2017, will be making a comeback this year after a gap of more than 40 years with 15 participants from Kalimpong district.

Organised by a group of fashion enthusiasts from Kalimpong - "Spot the Trend" - the finale of the pageant is scheduled to be held on 20 Dec at the Centenary Hall in Kalimpong.

With NGO Mani Trust as the main sponsor of the event, the theme of Miss Kalimpong 2017 is "Beauty with a Purpose". Chief Executive Of-

ficer of Spot the Trend, Gyalshen Lha, informs that Miss Kalimpong 2017 is the official beauty pageant of Kalimpong. "Everyone is excited and the whole town is looking forward to the event," he shared.

He further informed that the contestants are undergoing grooming sessions and promotional activities at present.

"The contestants will be making an appearance tomorrow at a café in Kalimpong town for a promotional event. It will be the first look of the contestants for people here. Miss Kalimpong 2017 is being organised

to promote new talents, our rich heritage, history and culture and to celebrate the spirit of feminism and women's power," Gyalshen added.

He stressed that the pageant is not just about a beautiful face, but a hunt for someone who can carry the title with elegance and respect.

It may be mentioned here, that Gyalshen Lha has had modeling experience in Kolkata and has organized many professional fashion shows in Kalimpong. The contestants for Miss Kalimpong 2017 are being groomed by Gyalshen and his team.



Young Indians should pay more attention to ancient Indian knowledge: Dalai Lama

MUMBAI, DEC 8 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama today said the younger generation needs to focus and learn more about the ancient knowledge of the country in order to move forward.

He was addressing a gathering of students at the Somaiya School here.

"You are the younger generation, you are the future of India. Please pay more attention to ancient Indian knowledge.

External things - modern science, modern edu-

cation (is) wonderful, very useful. But as far as the inner world is concerned, modern education, modern knowledge I think still is very primitive...

"India's future can do a lot of contribution, regarding promotion of knowledge of inner world and with that, inner peace," he said.

The Dalai Lama also said his life has been full of struggles but he realised the only way to overcome the difficulties was by being mentally strong.

"My whole life has been quite difficult. Lot of problems, but I realised training of our mind is very helpful.

It helps in keeping things clear and achieve peace of mind.

Peace of mind is very important, even for physical health," he added.

The Dalai Lama further said the country's rich knowledge of truth and philosophy was distinct from that of the world.

"You are the younger generation of this great nation.

Why I used great nation? Of course it's a democratic country and economy, but when I say great nation I mean it over 3,000 years.

"While the rest of the world still remained dark, ignorant, this country over 3,000 years was trying to find out the reality, deeper meanings of truth," he signed off.

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Sikkim Rajya Manch party's only agenda is to criticize the ruling party: SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 DEC:

Sikkim Democratic Front has countered that the new political party, Sikkim Rajya Manch, which was formed yesterday, does not have any pro-people programmes, announcements or even a clear political stand except the sole agenda to criticise the SDF.

The party has strongly refuted and condemned the statements made during the formation of the party on the development, communal harmony and brotherhood of the State.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity secretary, Chudamani Mishra, stresses that SDF has been dedicated towards the people with its policies and principles with sincerity.

Political parties need to come up with a strong programme for strengthening the democracy in the State, the release adds.

It is further reiterated in the release that the SDF Government has received many national and international recognitions for its works in Sikkim which is why it is presently celebrating its silver jubilee year.

Many other parties were formed after SDF but have lost because of their failure to establish pro-people credentials. There isn't any trace of any other political party in Sikkim at present that has consistently complied with its principles and programmes, the release adds.

SKM VP congratulates party on completion of Jatiya Ekta Ani Sadhbhawna Yatra

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 DEC:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha vice president in-charge East Sikkim [Zone-1], Bishnu Khatiwada, has thanked and congratulated the people of Sikkim and workers of the party for the success of the first phase of the recently organised "Jatiya Ekta Ani Sadhbhawna Yatra" in all four districts.

The party, led by its president PS Golay, has been working to unite all communities of Sikkim, the release contends. The main objective of the yatra was to reinforce peace, harmony, unity and security in the State, the release adds.

Mr Khatiwada has also extended gratitude to the party chief coordinator and MLA, Sonam Lama, for leading the party delegation on the 11-day yatra and also other leaders, well-wishers and independent Panchayats for their support to the yatra.

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Sensitization workshop held on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act

GANGTOK, 08 DEC [IPR]: The National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai, in collaboration with Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, organized a daylong sensitization workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 at the conference hall of Samaj Kalyan Bhawan in Tadong today with Chairperson of State Welfare Commission, Indra Pradhan, as chief guest.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, it may be recalled, replaces the Persons with Disabilities [Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation] Act, 1995. It aims to fulfill the country's obligation to the United Nations Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UNCPRD] to which India is a signatory. The Act came into force from Dec 2016.

Addressing the inaugural session, Ms Pradhan thanked the organizers for conducting the sensitization workshop.

"We should always be compassionate towards people with disabilities and not marginalize them. We have to help them get into the mainstream of our society. They are no less than anyone of us. All they require is little encouragement and love from us," Ms Pradhan added.

She also expressed that many changes are still required to support such individuals by making all

public and government establishments, educational institutions, etc., disabilities-friendly.

The inaugural session also had Head of Department-National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai, R Bhattacharyya, addressing the gathering wherein he highlighted about "the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016".

During the technical session, resource persons for the event spoke about understanding the Act and its proper implementation.

The nodal officers from the line departments, stakeholders and representatives of various NGOs attended the workshop and also participated in an open discussion.



NLA felicitates teacher for 25 years of service to the school



NAMCHI, 08 DEC [IPR]:

The 26th annual day celebration of New Light Academy [NLA] was held in a grand manner at the Community Hall in Namchi today with Advisor, Power & Energy Department, Gagan Rai, as chief guest accompanied by Namchi Municipal Councillors, Principal-NLA, Dr Lopsong Lama, parents, teachers and students at large.

During the function, the chief guest and other dignitaries felicitated Assistant Primary Teacher, Rosa Chettri, for her 25

years of altruistic service to the school. A newsletter was also released on the day.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Mr Rai extended hearty congratulations to the NLA fraternity on completing 26 years in the field of education.

He highlighted that education was one of most important fundamental rights and underlined that it was important for the children of Sikkim to utilize this right.

Mr Rai urged the students to aim for higher

studies as it will assist them in becoming correct decision-makers and aid in the development and the progress of the society.

Additionally, he detailed the various student-oriented schemes conceptualized by the State government to facilitate better delivery of education in the State.

Furthermore, he called on the students to tap the maximum potential of the pro-student schemes in order to excel in their lives.

Principal Dr Lama

presented the annual report of NLA and also spoke in brief about the growth that the educational institute has achieved in uplifting the society in the past years.

The Principal assured that NLA will continue to consistently and selflessly work towards elevating human minds along with that of the society.

The annual day celebration featured cultural, traditional and fusion dances, songs and fashion show put up by the students of NLA.

Suppression of local workers by pvt companies and hydel projects will not be tolerated: BJP

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 DEC:

A meeting of the Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit was held at Singtam Bazaar today in the presence of Sikkim BJP president, DB Chauhan, senior leaders and workers of the party and the general public.

A BJP press release informs that the party president alleged that private companies and hydel projects in the State have been suppressing local workers.

He further alleged that these companies have been doing so under the protection of the State government.

Mr Chauhan stated that BJP will not tolerate such acts and injustices



and went on to allege that due to the "sad" policies and programmes of the present government, the

State has been witnessing an increase in suicides.

Mr Chauhan, in the release, has lashed out

on the State government on lapses of the government in education and other sectors.

NYK organizes declamation contest in Gyalshing



Gyalshing, 08 Dec [IPR]: A declamation contest on "Patriotism and Nation Building" was held at the Nehru Yuva Kendra office in Gyalshing today.

From among 15 participants, Pasang T Bhutia from Yuksam stood first while Devidas Basnet from Soreng and Babita Sharma from Tashiding

took the second and third positions, respectively.

The winners were awarded with cash prizes and certificates. District Youth Coordinator, NYK Gyalshing, OP Ghatani, and president of West District NGOs Federation, Dr DK Gurung, were the judges for the event.

Barshik Utsav at Sisney JHS



GANGTOK, 08 DEC (IPR): Health & IPR Minister, AK Ghatani, attended the second annual function 'Sisney Barshik Utsav' of Sisney Junior High School at Kamal Tar in West Sikkim today.

Mr Ghatani felicitated noted individuals and senior citizens of the area for their contributions towards the development of the area and the school.

In his address, Mr

Ghatani congratulated the Head Master, teachers, School Management Committee, staff and students for successfully organizing the annual function in a grand manner.

He highlighted the student-centric initiatives and policies of the Government and stated that education has always been the top priority of the State Government.

He appreciated the

progress made by the school over the years and urged the students to make the most of the facilities offered by the Government.

The programme also featured colourful cultural presentations and sports activities.

The programme was also addressed by Chairperson, NJMC, Tika Gurung, and the SMC president, Kamal Rai.

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Gangtok on Saturday, 09 Dec

Temp: 21°C / 06°C

Forecast: Mostly sunny with a shower or thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon

Sunrise: 06:16 AM

Sunset: 4:42 PM

Woman's body found on the banks of Teesta

GANGTOK, 08 DEC: The dead body of a woman hailing from Singtam was found lying on the banks of the Teesta near the cremation ghat in Singtam on 07 Dec. Investigation revealed that the deceased had been undergoing treatment for Tuberculosis of the bone for the past two years and as per her relatives, was in depression due to her illness. She had been married for the past three years. Case is under investigation.

I&B Ministry merges 3 departments

NEW DELHI, DEC 8 (PTI): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has integrated its three departments -- Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), Song and Drama Division (S&DD) and Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), according to an order today.

All regional offices and field units of S&DD and DAVP will be subsumed in the 22 regional offices and 147 field units of DFP, the order said. The integrated regional units will be re-named as Regional Outreach Bureaus (ROBs) and the additional director general (region) will be the controlling officer for all administrative and financial matters, it added.

Similarly, all the 147 field units will be re-named as Field Outreach Bureaus (FOBs). The additional director general (region) concerned will be empowered to designate the heads of respective FOBs.

Post integration, all the three media units -- DFP, S&DD and DAVP -- headquartered in Delhi will be re-named as Bureau of Outreach & Communication (BOC).

A committee comprising an additional secretary, the DG (DAVP) and a joint secretary has been formed to oversee the process of integration within a period of six months.

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Cops win Inter Departmental Football tourney in Soreng

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 DEC:

Sikkim Police, West Sikkim, defeated Roads & Bridges Department 02-01 to emerge champions of the Inter-Departmental Football Tournament Soreng Sub Division held in Soreng today.

The tournament, held on the theme, "Swachh Soreng Swachh Sikkim", was organised by Rural Management & Development Department, Soreng, in collaboration with Sports & Youth Affairs Department, a press release informs.

Nima Tamang of Road & Bridges Department emerged the highest scorer of the tournament while Birbal Subba of the same department was awarded with

the title of "Man of the Tournament".

The best player of the final match was Janga B Rai of Sikkim Police.

Likewise, a Girls' Football Exhibition match was played between United Departments and IDCS wherein United Departments registered a 01-0 victory.

The concluding ceremony of the tournament also featured a cultural programme along with a Zumba display.

The event had Sub Divisional Magistrate, Soreng, ADC (Development), Sub Divisional Police Officer, Head of Departments from various departments, Block Development Officers, government officials and the general public.

Nithari Killings: CBI Court awards Death sentence to Pandher, Koli

GHAZIABAD, DEC 8 (PTI):

A special CBI court today awarded death sentence to Chandigarh businessman Moninder Singh Pandher and his servant Surender Koli for rape and murder of a 24-year-old maid in the Nithari killings case that rocked the country.

The court has also slapped a fine of Rs 35,000 on Koli and Rs 25,000 on Pandher, CBI Spokesperson Abhishek Dayal said here.

The woman's body was among those of 19 victims found from the backyard of Pandher's house in Nithari village in Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

This was the ninth among the 16 cases in which Koli was convicted by the court. This was also the third case in which both Pandher and Koli were convicted.

"It was alleged that Surender Koli committed the rape and murder of the victim at D-5, Sector 3, Noida in (Pandher's house) on November 12, 2006," Dayal said.

He said it was alleged in the FIR that the victim had gone to Pandher's house for work and never came back.

The family of the victim had filed a missing complaint after she did

not return home on October 12, 2006.

During a search in the area behind Pandher's house, the Noida Police had recovered skeletal remains. It was DNA testing of one of the remains that matched with the mother and brother of the victim. Her clothes from the skeletal remains were also identified by her relatives.

A charge sheet was filed by the CBI on June 22, 2007.

Calling the killings the "rarest of the rare" cases, CBI Special Judge Pawan Kumar Tiwari had yesterday convicted the two for murder, kidnapping to murder, rape and destruction of evidence and reserved its order on sentencing for today.

In his order on the quantum of sentence, he said they be "hanged till death".

Special Public Prosecutor Jai Prakash Sharma said that the Noida Police had found skeletal remains of 19 persons, mostly children, from the backyard of Pandher's house.

A total 19 cases were lodged but in three cases the CBI had filed closure reports due to lack of evidence, he said.

"The CBI had filed

charge sheets in 16 cases out of which in 10 cases (including the present one) sentence has been pronounced while six are still under trial," the CBI spokesperson said.

Among the 10 cases, both Koli and Pandher were convicted by the special court in three cases while in remaining cases Koli alone was awarded death sentence.

Pandher was acquitted by the Allahabad High Court in one of the cases in which he was convicted by the special court.

In one of the cases, his death sentence was commuted to life term by the high court in 2015.

The sensational killings came to light with the discovery of eight skeletal remains of children from the drain behind Pandher's house on December 29, 2006.

Pandher and Koli were subsequently arrested by the Noida Police.

With further digging and searching of drains and the area around Pandher's house, more skeletal remains were found. Most of these remains proved to be that of poor children and young women who had gone missing from the area.

Sikkim Newar Guthi Youth Affairs promotes 'Euta Kura' and docu on bungee jumping

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 DEC:

A short film on Swachh Bharat-Swachh Sikkim, "Euta Kura", and a documentary based on bungee jumping, "A New Tourism Destination in Sikkim", will be screened at Manan Kendra in Gangtok on 17 Dec in an event organized by Sikkim Newar Guthi Youth Affairs, a press release informs.

"Euta Kura - Sikkim Pledge for Swachh Bharat Mission", directed by Praja Pradhan, is shot at different locations in Sikkim with performances from local artists as well as popular personalities of Sikkim including Chunilal Ghimirey, Kishor Dungmali, Gopal Baraily [MLA] and Timothy Rai to name a few.

The short film pledges an effort from Sikkim to make the State 'Clean and Green' which is also a vision of Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling. While "Euta Kura"



focuses on spreading Swachh Sikkim messages to the society, the other documentary, "A New Tourism Destination in Sikkim", introduces bungee jumping as a new

tourism activity around Sang-Nazim, the release adds.

Sikkim Newar Guthi Youth Affairs is a youth wing of Sikkim Newar Guthi set-up at Gangtok

earlier this year and has been working for the development of its society in the State. The Voice of Sikkim is the official digital media partner for the screening event.

66 boats yet to be traced; 713 fishermen still to be rescued

KANYAKUMARI (TN) DEC 8 (PTI): Sixty six boats from this district were yet to be traced, while 713 fishermen were still to be rescued, in the aftermath of cyclone Ockhi, a top district official said today.

"As per the latest data 66 boats are yet to be traced.

Besides 713 fishermen from the district have to be rescued," Kanyakumari District Collector Sajjan Singh Chavan said today.

Steps were being taken to bring back to the state 2,478 fishermen, who were now staying in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Kerala and Gujarat, he said.

He said the monitoring committee officials, who were estimating the damage caused by the cyclone in the district, had put the loss at Rs 170 crore so far.

"The estimate is not yet over and the full es-

timate of loss would be known by tomorrow," he said.


A total of 4,495 houses had been damaged and Rs 93 lakh had been given as relief. Relief was due for 537 more houses.

Steps were being

taken to provide diesel to fishermen who had strayed into Kasargode in Kerala and also Mangalore and Lakshadweep, while power supply had been restored in 642 of the 1150 villages, he said.

Water supply had also been restored in villages, he said.

While providing relief, priority was given to restoration of water-power supply, assessment of damage to crops and houses and restoring them, he said.



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NOTICE

The Sikkim Public Service Commission announces the list of selected candidates for Viva-Voce (interview) for the post of Assistant Engineer (Electrical) under Sikkim State Engineering (Electrical) Service, Government of Sikkim. The candidates bearing following Roll Nos. have been short listed for appearing for the Viva-Voce (interview) on the basis of their performance in the Written Examination.

ROLL NUMBER IN ASCENDING ORDER	Date of Scrutiny	Date and time of viva-voce/ Interview
17570007, 17570011, 17570015, 17570016, 17570017, 17570027, 17570031, 17570032, 17570038, 17570042, 17570043, 17570051, 17570068, 17570072, 17570081, 17570087, 17570091, 17570092.	13/12/2017 10:00 am onwards	27/12/2017 08:00 am
17570117, 17570119, 17570130, 17570132, 17570133, 17570145, 17570147, 17570148, 17570163, 17570176, 17570188, 17570190, 17570200, 17570201, 17570202, 17570203, 17570226, 17570243.	14/12/2017 10:00 am onwards	28/12/2017 08:00 am

The venue and time of the Viva Voce/ Interview will be intimated on the day of scrutiny. Candidates whose roll numbers are mentioned above are hereby advised to report in the Examination Section, Sikkim Public Service Commission Office, Old Tourism Complex, M.G. Marg, Gangtok during office hours along with original & attested copies of all the required documents mentioned below for purpose of scrutiny & verification:

All Documents Required are to be Attested by the Competent Authorities	
Certificate of Identification, Valid Category Certificate.	District Collector/ Addl. District Collector/ SDM/Revenue Officer/BDO.
Local valid employment card	Concerned authorised officers.
Class X passed mark sheet & certificate.	
Class XII passed mark sheet & certificate.	
Degree Certificate & mark sheet	
NOC in case of government servant	

The candidates must bring a Self Resume for the interview.

Admission to all the stages of examination for which candidates are admitted by the Commission viz, Preliminary Examination, Written Examination and Viva-voce/ Interview will be purely provisional, subject to the satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria. If on verification at any stage before or after the main (written) examination and viva-voce, if it is found that they do not fulfil any of the prescribed eligibility criteria, their candidature will be rejected without any further notice.

Sd/-
(Bimla Rai. Smt)
Controller of Examinations
Sikkim Public Service Commission

R.O. NO. : 457/1pr/ipr/class/17-18 dt. 08.12.2017

Justice Joseph commends Sikkim as "true model of secular India"

Contd from pg01

bly, KN Rai, Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim Justice SK Agnihotri, Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha and Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Pradhan, were present on the dais along with the Judge of the Supreme Court.

Justice Kurian Joseph addressed an assemblage that comprised of Cabinet Ministers, Members of Sikkim Legislative Assembly, former MLAs, Advisors, Chairpersons, Chief Secretary of Sikkim, DGP, Additional Chief Secretaries and Heads of the different departments.

The Chief Minister expressed extreme pleasure and said that it was a great honor for him to have received this opportunity to address a gathering where all the three organs of democracy are meeting.

He said that the State was blessed by the presence of Justice

Joseph and extended his gratitude towards the Supreme Court Judge for the same.

The CM shared that it was a matter of pride for him and the State of Sikkim to be blessed by the presence of a luminary of the Indian judiciary who has been a part of many landmark judgements in the country.

He added that this was a rare occasion for the State and expressed confidence that the legislators and the Parliamentarians would greatly benefit from the words and wisdom of Justice Kurian.

Justice Kurian Joseph, while addressing the gathering, said that he is privileged to address the assembly and thanked the CM for inviting him to be a part of the meeting.

He went on to speak about the various components of the Constitution of India and how they can be put into practice in the executive and the legislature.

He went on to state that "we are all governed by the law and that there is a law in place for everything".

In conclusion, the Judge of the Supreme Court of India recorded his appreciation of the harmony in the Sikkim. He recognised the prudence of the CM in inviting a Judge of the Supreme Court to address the local legislators and parliamentarians.

The meeting was followed by an interactive session during which Justice Kurian took questions and queries from the members of the assembly.

Earlier, the Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly and the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim also addressed the convention.

The meeting ended with the customary offering of silk scarves and traditional gifts to Justice Kurian by the Chief Minister.

SummitTIMES

Reservations – Promoting Lethargy or Improving Access

Before the bouquet is expanded, revisit why quotas were needed

This section has discussed the issue of quotas and reservations often, but given the near obsessive pursuit with which such “protection” is chased after, talking on this theme is perhaps never too much. So here goes one more. But a qualifier first – this publication believes that protection by way of reservations is still required in our country where gross inequality forced by accidents of birth and offensive prejudice directed against communities and regions still prevail. If anything, such extreme and irrationally hostile mind-sets have seen a resurgence in recent years, reinforcing stereotypes and foisting easy partisanship. That is the reality we live with, but occasionally, as citizens of a free and secular nation, we can occasionally also aspire for more ideal scenarios to eventually arrive into.

This then, is as good a time as ever to delve into the near passionate ambition of all communities to get included in some category or the other. We have in our country, quite a wide range of categories to choose from – there is the Scheduled Tribes list, the Schedule Caste recognition, the OBC, now even MBC and some years ago, Bihar introduced us to the EBC grouping – and one can rest assured that more such segregations will be dreamed up in the coming years as privileged communities which still dominate have someone made political currency out of their imagined persecution. It is that situation where the traditionally privileged, get frightened and feel threatened as more of the underdogs rise above the conditions of their birth through hard work and some hand-holding. To them, growing equality feels like oppression. Unfortunately, no one tells them otherwise because “reservation” has now become an aspiration that every citizen feels a right to aspire towards and has become an easy springboard to launch political careers from.

So, why the categorizations?

Given the history that India had emerged from in 1947, where caste alienation was extreme and tribals genuinely under-privileged and oppressed, a policy was required to overcome a legacy of injustice and to provide everyone in this country with a broad measure of equal opportunities. Since equal opportunities would not have been willingly granted and communities with centuries of oppression behind them could not be expected to benefit from an equal footing, reservations were eked out. Over the years, the reservations were extended to include more communities and even women. The idea was to provide these communities with the first stepping stone to equality – access. Access to education, to jobs, to positions of power and access to exposure. This target has been met relatively well and as far as access is concerned, a wide sweep has been achieved.

The obvious next step would have been to pull communities which have benefited enough out of the reserved categories and make more room for those communities which still lag behind. This is easier said than done. For one, there is no easily quantifiable way to decide when a community has “developed” enough to make it on its own steam sans reservation, and for the other, there is the vote-bank politics in which saner decisions in genuine public good would be political hara-kiri. So, the nation is left with an ever overflowing baggage of reserved sections and shrinking opportunities.

This is where the whole policy has failed. Instead of making people competitive with improved access, it has made them lazy with increased quotas. Little wonder then that more and more communities want to fit into some category or the other. In fact, in the present times, when jobs are rare and competition even for education tough, it would be foolish for community leaders not to work for a quota for their people. And so the demands keep pouring in.

This is not to belittle the aspirations of any community to find a new grouping for itself, but just a suggestion that maybe it is time the country and Sikkim paused to re-read the principles why reservations and special categories were first drafted, whether its expressed aims are being met or not, and also whether the people who genuinely deserve reservations are actually getting it or not in the first place.

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.

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What Migingo, the world’s tiniest disputed island, tells us about international law

CHRISTOPHER R. ROSSI
theconversation.com

For as far back as anyone could remember, Migingo was nothing more than an uninhabited pinprick on Lake Victoria. One of three small islands in the eastern waters that make up an island chain, Migingo is barely the size of half a football pitch. It measures about one-half acre or about two thousand square metres.

In 2001 resourceful fishermen began using Migingo as an offshore weigh station. The islet just happened to be more habitable than the steeply sloped adjoining islets. And because the fishermen earned three to four times in a day what shore-based fishermen could earn in a month, word soon spread that Migingo’s geographic location made it ideally suitable to hunt the Nile perch.

The Nile perch, locally known as mbuta, is one of the most invasive and best studied species in history. This devastating piscivore, probably introduced by Uganda in the 1950s, is rapidly turning Lake Victoria into an Anthropogenic problem. But there is no doubting the economic value it generates as a much sought-after dinner item in European restaurants and in expanding worldwide markets.

The islet quickly became a micro slum, housing hundreds of people, including pirates and smugglers. It also sparked for the first time competing claims by Uganda and Kenya over who owns Migingo. Both countries claim it is theirs.

The debate about Migingo’s fate has been fuelled by the perceived imbalance in the Nile perch trade – Kenya owns 6% of Lake Victoria but dominates the perch trade while Uganda owns 43% but harvests less than half of Kenya’s catch. An added complication was the 2006 discovery of commercially viable oil deposits across the East African Rift System. An oil find could potentially straddle the disputed demarcation line.

The dispute has become intractable, despite bilateral and multilateral discussions. A series of aggressive encounters between Ugandan marines and Kenyan police have brought the parties to the brink of violence while eight years ago Kenyan rioters uprooted landlocked Uganda’s rail link to the Kenyan port of Mombasa. This disruption in turn affected the commercial interests of, among others, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Characterisations of the dispute as small do no justice to the importance of the international legal issues at play. Migingo intertwines issues of ethnicity, nationality, and politics around the competing temptations of a resource. But it also serves as an

example of the lingering effects of *uti possidetis*, “a principle of international law, which provides that newly formed sovereign states should have the same borders that their preceding dependent area had before their independence.”

This principle reinforced the work of British imperial line drawers who reshaped the landscape of this region through cartographic shortcuts and a 1926 British Order in Council.

A BRUTAL PRINCIPLE

Uti possidetis has been described as an important building block of the state system. This is because it emphasises stability, finality, and respect for territorial borders. The World Court places it among the most important legal principles.

But it is a brutal principle. It requires that states



Ugandan fishermen pull in their nets at dawn in Lake Victoria, which is shared between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

emerging from decolonisation essentially inherit the borders they received at the time of independence. The presumption is that territorial title freezes, like a photographic snapshot, at the moment of independence, regardless of how arbitrary the borders may be.

Migingo’s problem boils down to a difference of opinion between Uganda and Kenya about the ‘snap shot’ used to draw the line demarcating the border. Add to this the fact that the British took the photo a long time ago, and its camera may have been out of focus.

Out of focus or not, the international doctrine aided the project of African statecraft by settling, or at least forestalling, disputes over porous borders. It allowed African elites to consolidate power. Indeed it has informed the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity, the African Union’s Constitutive Act, and the 1964 OAU Cairo Declaration.

But the costs associated with this blunt instrument of international law remain substantial. It leaves Africa with a forced coincidence of borders among many states. Africa’s tiniest border dispute

of Migingo is a metaphor for the pressures now associated with areas of conflict affecting Africa’s great hydrographic catchments.

Colonial cartography, like the entire nineteenth century Scramble for Africa begun at the Berlin Conference, was done with little regard for human geographies or the overlapping realities.

Even more problematic was the decision taken later by the British to remove the Eastern Province of the Ugandan Protectorate to the East African Protectorate. This placed a huge portion of the Rift Valley in what would become Kenya. The rationale for this line drawing was to keep within one administrative jurisdiction the 960km railway connecting Mombasa on the Indian Ocean to the northeast corner of Lake Victoria. But inserting a geographic line of convenience to accommodate railroad administration created a human geographic chaos of its own.

WHERE THE LINE FALLS

Some evidence suggests that Migingo was the generic name of the undifferentiated island chain which only later differentiated the two other islets. These are Ugingo, which lies 660 feet east of Migingo, and Pyramid Island, 2km south of Migingo. Ugandan surveyors claim that Ugingo is actually Pyramid Island, because it is shaped like a pyramid. This finding would put Migingo inside Uganda by a matter of meters.

Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni was said to have suggested that Migingo was located in Kenya’s water but he claims he was misquoted. Even if this were indisputably so, much of the Kenyan catch of Nile perch may derive from

illegal fishing activity in Ugandan waters.

Evidence suggests the perch breed off Kenya’s shallow littoral and migrate into deeper waters around Migingo. Where the line falls between Uganda and Kenya in Lake Victoria will have little effect on the need for a managed solution. This would necessarily also involve Tanzania, and require cooperation, which is lacking.

Problems facing the Lake Victoria catchment directly affect the livelihood of 30 million people. Efforts to promote the sustainable development of the lake now involve an array of international organisations, specialised institutions of the East African Community, and Rwanda and Burundi as part of a more sensitive environmental understanding of the lake catchment region.

The small geographic size of the Migingo dispute belies the grave political consequences of inaction, making Migingo a metaphor for African resolve in the Anthropocene.

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Why Governments Must Not Block Social Media Criticism

JUSTIN SAFAYENI & ANDREA GONSALVES
theconversation.com

In the digital era, politicians and government agencies frequently find themselves the target of criticism on social media.

There have been some startling news stories this year of public authorities blocking users or deleting unwelcome posts on social media sites, effectively silencing dissenting views in popular online forums.

The CBC recently reported that Canadian government departments have blocked nearly 22,000 Facebook and Twitter users, and nearly 1,500 posts, including comments from readers, have been deleted over the past year. Global Affairs Canada reportedly accounts for most of the blocked accounts at nearly 20,000.

In the United States, Georgetown Law’s Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) recently filed a brief on behalf of a group of legal scholars arguing that President Donald Trump’s practice of blocking critics on Twitter violates the First Amendment.

Indeed, this troubling trend has serious implications for freedom of expression.

Citizens should be free to criticize government authorities on social media platforms. Government conduct that muzzles such criticism

may well be unconstitutional.

The right to free expression is a foundational one in any liberal democracy. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the universal right to freedom of opinion and expression, which “includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

In Canada, thanks to the protection of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canadians are free to peacefully express ideas and opinions that challenge government, subject only to such reasonable limits as may be justified in a free and democratic society.

FREE EXPRESSION HAS LONG HISTORY

Over the course of history, the public’s right to free expression has been exercised in many different media and forums, from the salons of Eu-

rope to print journalism, pamphlets, public protests, coffee-house gatherings and broadcast media.

Social media is just the latest platform where people can exchange ideas, debate pressing social and political issues and criticize the government. It is — or, at least, can be — a place for the exchange of ideas, a forum for debate on pressing social and political issues, and an outlet for political dissent and government criticism.

But unlike protest marches or pamphlets, political dissent on social media can be silenced in an instant. No need for riot police or bookstore raids. All you need is the click of a button by a website administrator or Twitter account holder.

This is the paradox of social media as a tool for political dissent: Exercising freedom of expression is easier than ever before, but so is censorship.



There have been several examples of such censorship recently. South of the border, previous lawsuits have already been filed against Trump and two Republican governors, claiming they violated the First Amendment rights of the individuals they blocked from accessing their official social media accounts.

Here in Canada, there is a growing list of informal complaints by individuals who have been blocked from seeing or communicating on politicians’ official social media accounts — including the official account of at least one federal cabinet minister, Public Security Minister Ralph Goodale.

The Canadian Transportation Agency repeatedly removed a negative comment posted on the agency’s Facebook page over the summer by an airline passenger rights activist.

The activist re-posted the comment more than 250 times, and each time it was removed. The agency defended the removals by calling the comments “repetitive or spam” that alleged “serious, unproven or inaccurate accusations against individuals or organizations.”

Online censorship of this nature may violate the right to free expression under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Charter guarantee of freedom of expression protects virtually all activity that conveys meaning. Picketing, leafleting, ob-

turn to pg05

5.2 intensity quake hits North-east Nepal

KATHMANDU, 08 DEC [PTI]: A moderate intensity earthquake, measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale, today hit Nepal's Dolakha district, which seismologists said was an aftershock sequence of 2015 Gorkha earthquake.

The tremor was felt at 8.36 am (local time) and its epicentre was about 10 km below the surface and located around 160 km North-East from Kathmandu, the country's seismological department said.

The tremors were also felt in adjoining districts and Kathmandu Valley. There were no immediate reports of any damage or casualty.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that rocked Nepal in April 2015 is also known as the Gorkha earthquake. About 9,000 people lost their lives while nearly 22,000 were injured in the tremor.

So far, 487 aftershocks of magnitude 4 or more have been experienced since Nepal was hit by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in April 2015.

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Centre committed to fulfil aspirations of Nagas: Rajnath

ACHINTA BORAH KISAMA (NAGALAND), DEC 8 (PTI): Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today said the central government is committed to do its best to fulfil the aspirations of the Naga people for a brighter tomorrow.

The minister did not elaborate further or mention the ongoing peace talks between the Central government and the NSCN-IM leadership for a permanent solution to the insurgency problem.

"The central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to do its best to fulfil the aspirations of the Naga people for a brighter tomorrow with all the honour which they richly deserve," Singh said at the Hornbill festival here.

The home minister's comment at this Naga heritage village, about 12 km from the state capital



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at the Hornbill festival, at Kisama Village, Kohima, in Nagaland on December 08, 2017. [foto: PIB]

Kohima, comes days after President Ram Nath Kovind said Nagaland was at the threshold of making history as a final agreement on the Naga political issue would soon be reached and lasting peace achieved.

On September 19, Nagaland Governor P B Acharya said the vexed Naga issue would be solved within the next one or two months.

Expectations for lasting peace have gone up in Nagaland, which has

been hit by decades of insurgency, after the Centre and the NSCN-IM signed a framework agreement in 2015.

Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang told the gathering that time was ripe to bring a permanent solution to the seven-decade Naga political issue.

The coming together of all Naga insurgent groups was also a good opportunity for a permanent solution, Zeliang said.

Addressing the Naga people at the annu-

al tourism festival, the home minister said the Central government is in the process of finalising a revamped free movement regime on the India-Myanmar border to ensure that people living in border areas face no hardships.

"While doing so, steps are also being taken to promote border trade by establishing land custom stations. This would also ensure that illicit trafficking and other illegal activities are curbed at the border," he said.

Nagaland shares a border with Myanmar. Under the free movement regime, people living along the border of India and Myanmar are allowed to visit each other's places without any travel document.

Singh said Nagaland has the opportunity to lead Northeastern states to the path of peace, stability, prosperity and growth. He expressed the hope for a peaceful, vibrant, colourful and energetic Nagaland that is an example for other states to emulate.

The home minister added that Nagaland should look ahead to the future.

"Nagaland, with its rich natural resources and talented people, has limitless possibilities. Ensuring peace can help realise the immense potential for economic gains, jobs and prosperity," he said.

Stressing that tourism can be a major driver for growth, Singh also focused on the need for infrastructure development as the key for Nagaland to catch up with other states in terms of economic development.

Overall connectivity can create opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses and also make Nagaland the gateway to South East Asia, the minister said.

HC slaps Rs 1 lakh fine on 4 for blocking cremation as per Khasi faith

SHILLONG, DEC 8 (PTI): The Meghalaya High Court has slapped a Rs 1 lakh fine on four persons for not allowing members of the indigenous Khasi faith to cremate their dead as per their religion, observing that they had disrespected the Constitution.

The four persons include a 'minister' of 'Hima Mylliem' in East Khasi Hills district, one

of the local chiefdoms accorded sanctity by tribal autonomous district councils under the sixth schedule of the Constitution.

The Seng Khasi Mylliem, an organisation of the believers of Khasi faith, had filed a case alleging that the four accused were thwarting the believers from practising their religion by disallowing them to cremate

Nepal polls: Left alliance wins three parliamentary seats

KATHMANDU, 08 DEC [PTI]: The Left alliance has won three parliamentary seats for which votes were cast in the first phase of Nepal's parliamentary and provincial assembly elections, officials said today.

The opposition CPN-UML won two seats while the candidate of its ally CPN-Maoist Centre defeated its main rival Nepali Congress (NC) nominee.

CPN-UML candidate from Manang district in North-West Nepal Polden Chhophang Gurung won the election by defeating his nearest rival Tek Bahadur Gurung of the Nepali Congress, officials said.

CPN-UML candidate Prem Prasad Tulachan was declared victorious from mountainous Mustang district, trouncing his Nepali Congress rival Romi Gauchan, they said.

Kamala Rokka of the CPN-Maoist Centre won the election from Rukum district in western Nepal, defeating his nearest



rival Hari Shanker Garti of the NC.

A total of 1,663 candidates contested for parliamentary seats while 2,819 were in the fray for the provincial assembly seats in the historic elections that many hope will bring the much-needed political stability to the Himalayan nation.

The polls will elect 128 members of parliament and 256 members of provincial assemblies.

The house of representatives consists of 275 members, of which 165 would be elected directly under the first-past-the-post system while the remaining 110 will come through the proportional representation system.

Voting on the parliamentary and provincial assembly seats of 32 districts, mostly situated in the hilly and mountainous region, were held on November 26 in the first phase of the elections, in which 65 per cent of voters had exercised their franchise.

The Left alliance is leading in most of the seats where elections were held in the first phase, officials added.

The counting of votes for parliamentary and assembly seats in 45 districts where polling was held yesterday is expected to take place today. In this phase, 67 per cent voter turnout was registered.

Kin of labourer killed in Rajasthan to get job, Rs 3L: Mamata

KOLKATA, DEC 8 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said her government would provide Rs 3 lakh and a job to the family of Mohammand Afrazul, a labourer from the state who was brutally killed in Rajasthan.

Afrazul was hacked and burnt to death at Rajsamand in Rajasthan by a man who, raving against "love jihad", also filmed the entire incident and uploaded it on social media.

"As a small help to the bereaved family, our government has decided to provide Rs 3 lakh to the family and also a job to an eligible person of the victim's family," Banerjee said in a statement.

She said that the labourer's family was "totally helpless" and "other help from the government will also be provided."

"I am sending our team of ministers and MPs to visit the family," Banerjee said.

State Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Firad Hakim and Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikary would visit Afrazul's house in Malda district tomorrow, a senior state government official said.

The ministers would be accompanied by Trinamool Congress MPs Saugata Ray, Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, while Krishnen-

du Narayan Chowdhury, a senior TMC leader from Malda, would visit Afrazul's home during the day.

The chief minister yesterday condemned the killing describing it as "inhuman".

The accused Shambu Lal Raigar is seen in the video ranting against "love jihad", a term used by sections of Hindu activists to describe marriages between Hindu women and Muslim men.

Afrazul's family members, who described him as the family's sole earning member, yesterday demanded strict action against Raigar who was arrested.

Tripura trying to save jobs of 10,323 teachers: Edu minister

AGARTALA, DEC 8 (PTI): Tripura Education Minister Tapan Chakraborty today said the government is trying to save jobs of 10,323 teachers, facing termination after Dec 31, as per a Supreme Court verdict.

A division bench of the Tripura High Court comprising Chief Justice Deepak Gupta and Justice Swapan Chandra Das in May, 2014 had passed the verdict of terminating 10,323 teachers due to faulty appointment system.

The Supreme Court had upheld the High Court judgement in March, 2017.

A delegation of the 'All Tripura 10,323 teachers Association' met the education minister yesterday demanding job security.

"We have told the teachers that we are earnestly trying to save their jobs," Chakraborty told reporters.

The state government has filed a special petition in the Supreme Court, which is likely to come up for hearing, on Dec 11, he said.

The state government will stand by the teachers, he said.

"We have full faith on the state government that it would stand by our side to protect our jobs," the spokesperson of the association, Jakir Hossain, said.

Around 50,000 people are in tension as their bread earners are facing livelihood problems, another leader of the association, Uttam Kumar Dey, said.

Why Governments Must Not Block Social Media Criticism

Contd from pg04

scene material, commercial and election advertising – these are just some examples of the broad range of activity that Canadian courts have said constitutes "expression" under the Charter, regardless of how distasteful the content.

Canadian law is equally clear that political expression – particularly on government property – lies at the heart of the right to free expression and is deserving of the utmost protection, not censorship.

GOVERNMENTS CANNOT IMPOSE BARRIERS

As former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé once wrote: "The liberty to comment on and criticize existing institutions and structures is an indispensable component of a 'free and democratic society.' It is imperative for such societies to benefit from a multiplicity of viewpoints which can find fertile sustenance through various media of communication."

Government agencies that remove neg-

ative Facebook comments or parliamentarians who block critical Twitter followers on their official accounts are state actors interfering with the constitutionally protected right of constituents to voice opinions on social and political issues in the online equivalent of government property.

Under the conventional analysis that courts have developed to scrutinize government conduct for conformity with the right to free expression, it doesn't matter that individuals might have other media through which to express themselves.

The government has no obligation to provide a particular platform for expression, but it cannot impose barriers to platforms of expression that already exist.

Of course, no right is absolute. The Charter accepts reasonable limits on the freedom of expression.

Before the digital era, such limits were recognized where necessary to maintain law and order; combat hate speech, preserve an individual's reputation against defamation or

for other pressing and substantial concerns.

These same concerns may be legitimate reasons for a government agency or politician to suppress criticism online.

Social media can certainly be a breeding ground for racism, harassment, defamation and other vile speech that does little to contribute to the marketplace of ideas. And so elected officials or government agencies might properly block such communications without breaching the Charter.

But let's be clear: It is the Charter, and the framework developed by courts to interpret and apply the Charter must take precedence.

The internet is not a Charter-free zone where elected officials and government agencies are free to stifle critical or unpopular speech simply because they have readily available tools to do so.

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ICC likely to incorporate pollution in its playing conditions

NEW DELHI, DEC 8 (PTI): The ICC might incorporate air pollution in its 'Playing Conditions' clause, having taken a serious note of the plight of Sri Lankan cricketers during the recently-concluded Test match against India in the national capital.

The Sri Lankan players were seen fielding while wearing anti-pollution masks during India's batting with most of their players complaining of breathlessness. Their pace bowlers Suranga Lakmal and Lahiru Gamage also threw up due to uneasiness.

The ICC has now decided to refer the matter to its medical committee, which has been provided the relevant reports as well as data of the prevailing air quality in Delhi.

"The ICC has noted the conditions in which Delhi Test was played and has already requested that the issue is considered by the medical committee for guidance should the situation arise in future. The matter is likely to be discussed in February's ICC Meetings," an ICC spokesperson told PTI today.

As a result, there could be a slight alteration in the clauses of the Playing Conditions, where the health hazard of players related to severe air pollution can be incorporated.

"In ICC's 'Playing Conditions', there is a separate sub-clause for weather. Since this is a first instance in the game's 140-year history that a Test match has been halted for 26 minutes due to air-pollution. The situation as we all know is very unique in nature," a BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

Since the Playing Conditions never had any specific mention of air-pollution, it is expected that permissible AQI (Air Quality Index) limit to play competitive cricket will be inserted.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA)'s president Dr KK Aggarwal in a letter to BCCI has also urged the cricket's governing body to include a clause on atmospheric pollution.

Dr Aggarwal on his part also provided data as to how it was a serious health issue for players that the match was not stopped.

"The safe levels of atmospheric particulate matter, according to World Health Organisation air-quality guidelines, are 20g/cu mm (annual mean) for PM10 and 10g/cu mm (annual mean) for PM2.5," he said.

PARIS, DEC 8 (AFP): Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo won a record-equalling fifth Ballon d'Or award for the year's best player.

The Real Madrid forward's second successive win drew him level alongside Barcelona rival Lionel Messi on five Ballons d'Or, after the Argentinian took second in the vote, with Brazilian Neymar third.

The 32-year-old was the top-scorer in last season's Champions League as Real successfully defended the trophy with victory over Juventus in June, and also led the Spanish giants to their first La Liga title in five years.

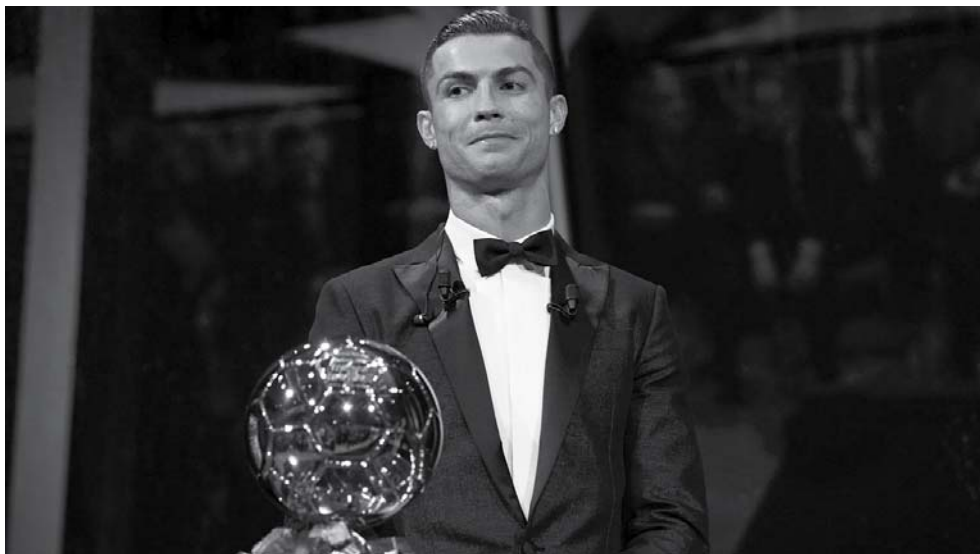
"Of course I feel happy. This is something I look forward to every year," Ronaldo said at the ceremony at the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

"The trophies won last year helped to win this award.

Thanks to my Real Madrid team-mates. And I want to thank the rest of the people who helped me reach this level."

Ronaldo, who also won the FIFA Men's Player of the Year award in October, added the 2017 Ballon d'Or to his previous wins in 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2016.

He scored 42 goals in all competitions for Real last season, and also netted 15 times



in European World Cup qualifying.

Ronaldo will lead Portugal at next year's World Cup in Russia as he looks to add football's greatest title to the 2016 European Championship win, when the Portuguese beat hosts France in the final.

Messi and Ronaldo have now shared the last 10 Ballons d'Or since the latter's first win after leading Manchester United to the 2007-08

Champions League title.

"I hope to play at this level for a few more years, I hope the battle with Messi continues, things happen for a reason," he added.

"I feel good this season and we'll see what we win at the end of the year."

When asked if he would like to finish his career at the Santiago Bernabeu, Ronaldo said: "I'm happy at Real Madrid, I want to stay there... If

possible."

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez would have been pleased to hear Ronaldo's intention to stay, and he compared his current star to Alfredo Di Stefano, the only other player to win multiple Ballons d'Or while with Real.

"For me, he's the most complete player after Alfredo Di Stefano, he's Alfredo's heir," said Perez.

"He embodies all the val-

ues of Real -- effort, respect, teamwork and solidarity."

NEYMAR SETTLES FOR THIRD AGAIN

The prestigious France Football magazine award, which was first won by Englishman Stanley Matthews in 1956, is decided upon by a journalists' ballot, with each naming a top five from a list of 30.

It was a replica first two from 2016, which was the first year after FIFA ended its asso-

ciation with the Ballon d'Or and restarted its own Player of the Year award.

Neymar will be hoping to take over the mantle of 32-year-old Ronaldo and Messi, 30, in the coming years after coming third for the second time, having finished fifth last year.

The 25-year-old left Messi's Barcelona during the close season in a world-record transfer to Paris Saint-Germain, where he has already scored 15 goals this season.

"Neymar has a lot of talent, a lot of potential, and I'm sure he'll have some chance to win in the future," Ronaldo said.

Veteran Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon finished fourth after helping Juventus to the Champions League final, while Real's Croatian midfielder Luka Modric rounded out the top five.

Centre-back Sergio Ramos was the highest-ranked Spaniard and the third Real player in the top 10, one ahead of French rising star Kylian Mbappe in seventh.

Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante was the highest Premier League representative, with Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski and England's Harry Kane completing the top 10.

Former Liverpool players walk down memory lane

MUMBAI, DEC 7 (PTI):

Former Liverpool players Sami Hyypia, Robbie Fowler, Luis Garcia and Vladimir Smicer today walked down the memory lane and recalled some of the finest moments associated with the club.

The four former stars kicked off the 'LFC World Presented by Standard Chartered' at High Street Phoenix here where they reminisced about the greatest night in Liverpool history, that miraculous comeback from 0-3 down against Italian giants AC Milan in the Champions League final in 2005 in Istanbul.

The Reds scored thrice in six minutes during the second half before wrapping up the Champions League final via penalty-shootout.

"We were 3-0 down in the final. We gave every-



thing in the second half, recalled towering former centre-back Hyypia.

Smicer, who scored the second goal, added: "Once Stevie G (Steven Gerrard) scored we were confident. After I scored we felt we had a chance. We started feeling the

momentum.

"It was a miracle. In six minutes we scored three goals.

And then the penalties. We deserved to win. No other team could come back and score thrice against AC Milan," Smicer was quoted as

saying in a media release issued here.

Smicer's last kick of the ball in a Liverpool jersey turned out to be the winning penalty in that match.

They said the current squad can add more European silverware to the

Liverpool trophy cabinet soon.

Their optimism was clearly stoked by Liverpool's 7-0 thrashing of Spartak Moscow in Wednesday's Champions League group stage fixture.

Fowler, who was not part of the 2005 Liverpool squad, waxed eloquent about Jurgen Klopp's free-scoring Reds.

"It is an exciting time to be a Liverpool fan at the moment. We are scoring a lot. Defensively we look okay. Lads upfront are scoring at will," Fowler said.

Former midfield dynamo Smicer added: "We are very good offensively. We have a lot of power upfront. We can beat anybody. We have a good chance to win the trophy again.

5 medals for India on day 1 of Asian Airgun C'ships

NEW DELHI, DEC 8 (PTI):

India started with a bang at the 10th Asian Airgun Shooting Championships, collecting five medals on the event's opening day but Olympic bronze-medallist Gagan Narang missed out on an individual podium finish in Wako City, Japan.

Ravi Kumar won an individual bronze in the men's 10m air rifle while Arjun Babuta won individual silver in the corresponding junior men's event. India also bagged three team silver medals in each of the three air rifle events.

India had seven individual finalists across the three events held today.

This will be the same range where the shooting competitions for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will be hosted.

Deepak Kumar led the Indian charge into the finals of the Men's 10m air rifle, shooting 627.5 after the regulation 60 shots, to qualify fourth out of eight finalists.

Ravi Kumar, with 624.6 finished sixth, while former Olympic-Bronze medalist Gagan Narang, making a return into the event after a break, shot 624.5 to qualify in seventh place.

The top three slots went to the Chinese with Cao Yifei recording the highest score of 629.2.

In the finals, Ravi started strong along with Chinese Song Buhan, while Deepak, after an initial flurry, faded away to finish fifth on a score of 185.

From the 10th shot onwards of the 24-shot final, Song led the field along with countryman Cao Yifei in second and Ravi in third and it stayed that way till the end.

Song ended with 250.2 to win gold, Cao with 248.6 for silver and Ravi, after making three international ISSF finals in the year without a medal, finally secured one finishing with 225.7

for Bronze.

Narang was consistent throughout the final and finished fourth with 205.6. The trio also combined for the team silver medal with a total of 1876.6, ahead of Japan (1866.7) and behind China (1885.9)

Arjun Babuta, an ISSF junior world cup bronze-medallist last year, also had an excellent day in the junior men's 10m air rifle event. He shot consistently to win a silver behind rising Chinese star Yukun Liu, a reigning junior world champion and a winner of two ISSF World Cup stage medals this year in the senior category. Arjun finished just 0.1 point behind Liu in the final.

The other Indian in the final Tejas Krishna Prasad was eliminated in seventh position. However, the duo combined with Sunmoon Singh Brar to bag the Team Silver medal with a combined score of 1867.5.

In the women's 10m air rifle, Anjum Moudgil and Meghana Sajjanar made it to the finals, shooting scores of 417.5 and 415.9 to qualify in second and fourth positions respectively.

Pooja Ghatkar, the third Indian in the fray, shot 413.6 to finish 11th. Anjum thereafter missed a medal by a whisker, getting beaten in a shoot-off to Singapore's Tan Qian Xiu Adele.

Anjum shot 207.6 in the final, while Meghana Sajjanar finished sixth shooting 163.4. Both won the Team Silver in the event along with Pooja, logging a combined total of 1247 to finish behind China.

Another rising Chinese star Shi Mengyao, who has two ISSF World Cup stage Golds this year and a Silver, won the individual event with a score of 251 from teammate Ruozhu Zao who shot 250.2.

SC seeks comprehensive report for long-term protection of Taj

NEW DELHI, DEC 8 (PTI): The Supreme Court today sought a detailed and comprehensive document to protect the medieval era monument Taj Mahal for at least the next 100 years.

Terming as "ad hoc", the measures enumerated by the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) authority in its affidavit, a bench headed by Justice M B Lokur said the document submitted was interim in nature and some long-term plan was needed for protection and preservation of the historical Mughal-era mausoleum.

TTZ is an area of about 10,400 sq kms spread over the districts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah in Uttar Pradesh and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

"What you (ASG) have submitted are ad hoc steps. What is required is a larger and broader perspective of the whole scenario. Everybody needs to sit together and come out with ways as to how the monument should be protected for the next generation," the bench observed.

The apex court said the members from the civil society including experts should be involved in devising a strategy to protect the Taj Mahal.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Tushar Mehta placed an affidavit stating the measures to be taken for

the protection and preservation of the Taj.

He said a number of measures have been proposed including ban on construction activities within 500 metres from the monument, plying of only CNG vehicles near Taj, sufficient supply of electricity to discourage use of generator sets and complete prohibi-



tion of burning of waste and garbage.

The top court posted the matter for hearing after eight weeks.

On November 20, the apex court had rapped the Uttar Pradesh government for not coming out with a comprehensive policy to protect and preserve the beauty of Taj Mahal, saying "we need sustainable development."

The bench had also asked TTZ authority

to explain why it was not holding meetings every two months as was expected.

On November 15, the apex court had directed the state to file a comprehensive policy with regard to pollution in TTZ and nearby areas to preserve the monument.

It had taken strong exception to the state not filing a comprehensive policy before it despite assurances. The state had said that a policy has been prepared by the TTZ, which was an independent authority.

It had earlier stayed its order directing demolition of a multi-level car parking being built near the Taj Mahal and asked the authorities to maintain status quo there.

Environmentalist M C Mehta, who had filed a plea seeking protection of the Taj from the ill-effects of polluting gases and deforestation in and around the area, had earlier told the bench that the TTZ was an "ecologically sensitive area" and the government should have come out with a comprehensive policy for preservation and protection of the Taj.

The apex court, which is dealing with Mehta's petition, has been monitoring development in the area to protect the Taj Mahal, built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal in 1631. The mausoleum is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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Two Indian-Americans in race for CNN Hero of the Year award

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, DEC 8 (PTI):

Two Indian Americans Samir Lakhani from Pittsburg and Mona Patel from Texas are among the 10 finalists for the prestigious CNN Heroes of the Year award.

Lakhani and Patel are among the finalists for the annual award to be given on December 17.

Lakhani's non-profit recycles discarded bars of soap from hotels across Cambodia and distributes it to villages in need, CNN reported.

It all started in 2014 when as a college student, Lakhani traveled to Cambodia where he experienced first-hand that for many in Cambodia a bar of soap is a luxury they cannot afford.

"I remember quite vividly a mother bathing her newborn in a basin filled with laundry powder and water. It is an image I'll never get out of my mind," Lakhani told the channel.

While still attending the University of Pittsburgh, Lakhani started the Eco-Soap Bank, the report said.

The organisation now has four recycling centres across the country, providing jobs to 35 local women. The used bars are sanitised and remolded into new bars or melted down into liquid soap.

According to Lakhani so far, more than 650,000 people have benefited from the group's soap and hygiene education.

"What I love most is that we are killing three birds with one stone," Lakhani said. "We are keeping waste out of landfills, employing locals and spreading soap all over the country," he added.

Mona Patel's non-profit aims to help amputees rebuild their lives by offering peer support, resources and recreational activities.

The San Antonio Amputee Foundation, aims to help amputees rebuild their lives. The group offers peer support, education and recreation opportunities, as well as financial assistance for basic home and car modifications and prosthetic limbs, it said.

Every month, 30 to 60 amputees get together to shares stories and testimonies of strength and resilience, the report said.

"When somebody becomes an amputee, manoeuvring through the system is sometimes just scary," Patel, a below-knee amputee, said.

"I think the big catalyst of me doing what I do to help the amputee community is because I lived it," she added.

In 1990, she walking to class at Cal Poly University when a drunken driver slammed into her. She was 17.

"I flew up about 12 feet," Patel told CNN. "And then he pinned me between his car and a metal railing, and that's what smashed my leg and my foot." Patel's body, and future, were forever altered.

People can vote for "CNN Hero of the Year" online and the winner will receive USD 100,000 for their cause.

Macron appeals for calm over US Jerusalem embassy move



PARIS, 08 DEC [AFP]: French President Emmanuel Macron appealed for calm today after US President Donald Trump's widely-criticised recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Speaking at a meeting to discuss Lebanon, Macron said the decision should not "add to the instability of the region. I'm issuing a call for calm and responsibility by everyone which is essential for the efforts we are undertaking here."

His concern was echoed by Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who said the decision "will complicate the peace process even more", adding it posed yet another challenge to the tense Middle East.

"I can only repeat our rejection of this decision and our commitment to the Arab initiative for a solution based on two states," Hariri said.

The French president's comments come as tensions soar in the Middle East over Trump's decision, with Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas calling for a "day of rage" on Friday.

The disputed city of Jerusalem lies at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with both sides

seeing it as their capital. Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian had earlier expressed concern over the situation, saying there was a risk of a new intifada, or Palestinian uprising.

"The United States, which until now has been able to play a mediation role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, have now excluded themselves from that a little," he told

France Inter radio.

Washington is "isolated in this affair", he added. Ahead of a trip to France on Sunday by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Le Drian said "France can act, but it cannot act alone."

"We must pursue the necessary mediation to allow calm to return, so that we can commit to a negotiation process," he said.



French President Emmanuel Macron walks between Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri, left, and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed before a meeting in Paris today. It is the first major gathering of key nations to discuss Lebanon's future since a crisis erupted following Hariri's shock resignation last month while in Saudi Arabia. Hariri has since rescinded his resignation.

Pak allows Jadhav to meet wife, mother on X'mas

ISLAMABAD, 08 DEC [PTI]: Pakistan on Friday said it will allow convicted Indian death row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav to meet his wife and mother on December 25.

Jadhav, 47, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court in April on charges of espionage and terrorism.

The International Court of Justice in May had halted his execution on India's appeal.

Jadhav has been allowed to meet his wife and mother on December 25, Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said.

During his weekly news briefing, the spokesman said a staff member from the Indian High Commission will also be present during the meeting.

Earlier on November 10, Pakistan had agreed to allow his wife to meet him. India has been pressing Pakistan to grant a visa to Jadhav's mother, Avantika, on humanitarian grounds.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had recently discussed Jadhav's case with Pakistani High Commissioner to New Delhi Sohail Mahmood.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied India consular access to Jadhav on the ground that it was not applicable in cases related to spies.

Jadhav had filed an appeal with Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa to seek clemency, which is still pending.

In October, the Pakistan Army had said it is close to a decision on the mercy petition of Jadhav.

Pakistan claims its security forces arrested him from restive Balochistan province on March 3 last year after he reportedly entered from Iran. However, In-

dia maintains that Jadhav was kidnapped from Iran where he had business interests after retreating from the Indian Navy.

Jadhav's sentencing had evoked a sharp reaction in India.

After India approached the International Court of Justice, a 10-member bench on May 18 restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav till adjudication of the case.

The ICJ has asked Pakistan to submit its response or memorial by December 13 before the court could start further proceedings in the case.

Britain and EU reach historic deal on Brexit divorce terms

BRUSSELS, 08 DEC [AFP]: Britain and the EU reached a historic deal today on the terms of the Brexit divorce after Prime Minister Theresa May rushed to Brussels for early morning talks.

The European Commission said it "recommends sufficient progress" had been made by Britain on separation issues including the Irish border, Britain's divorce bill, and citizens rights.

The agreement paves the way for EU leaders at a summit on December 14-15 to open the second phase of Brexit negotiations, covering trade talks and a transition period.

Britain voted in June

2016 to become the first state to leave the EU, after more than four decades of membership, but the talks have been slow moving and often acrimonious so far.

"The Commission is satisfied that sufficient progress has been achieved in each of the three priority areas," the European Commission said in a statement.

Negotiators worked during the night to seal an agreement on the terms of Britain's departure from the bloc.

The EU had set a deadline of Sunday after the last talks on Monday broke down when May's Northern Irish allies objected to terms for future arrange-

ments for the Irish border.

Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker's chief of staff Martin Selmayr tweeted a picture of white smoke -- the sign used by the Vatican to signify the election of a new pope -- shortly after May's arrival.

Juncker spoke first with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar then with May on Thursday night in a bid to break a deadlock over the wording of a deal on future arrangements for the Irish border.

Britain agreed to pay a divorce settlement amounting to between 45 and 55 billion euros and to protect the rights of some three million European citizens living there after

Brexit as part of the deal.

But Ireland's demands that Brexit should not lead to the return of checkpoints on the border with Northern Ireland, which it said could jeopardise the peace process in the north, proved the biggest stumbling block at the end.

"In Northern Ireland we guarantee there will be no hard border," May told a press conference with Juncker.

The pro-British DUP party which props up May's government refused Monday's draft deal over a phrase suggesting there would be "regulatory alignment" with the EU after Brexit -- effectively putting Northern Ireland

under EU law.

DUP leader Arlene Foster told Sky News there had now been changes following talks with May.

"We're pleased to see those changes because for me it means there's no red line down the Irish Sea and we have the very clear confirmation that the entirety of the United Kingdom is leaving the European union, leaving the single market, leaving the customs union," she said.

On Thursday, EU Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas had dismissed British newspaper reports that the Sunday deadline could be extended into next week as "not correct".

Bitcoin soars then falls back; banks raise risk concerns

NEW YORK, DEC 7 (AP): The price of bitcoin swung wildly today, rising to more than USD 19,000 only to fall sharply within minutes, as the frenzy surrounding the virtual currency escalated just days before it starts trading on a major US exchange.

The frenzy even has parts of Wall Street concerned. A group of banks came out and complained that federal regulators approved bitcoin futures, which begin trading on Sunday, too quickly and without properly considering the inherent risks in the virtual currency.

At 1:05 p.m. EST, Bitcoin was valued at USD 16,825, according to Coinbase, after briefly surging above USD 19,000 this morning.

At the start of the year, one bitcoin was worth less than USD 1,000.

Coinbase, the largest bitcoin exchange, at one point tweeted that record-high traffic had caused interruptions to its service.

The swings in price occurred just as the trading community prepares for bitcoin to start trading on two established U.S. exchanges. Futures for bitcoin will start trading on the Chicago Board Options Exchange on Sunday evening and on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange a week later.

The Futures Industry Association, which represents Wall Street's biggest banks and clearing houses, sent a letter to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, saying that as the guarantors of customers trades, they should have been consulted before trading in bitcoin futures was approved.

They expressed concern that the extreme volatility tied into bitcoin could leave banks exposed when the futures move too violently.

Bitcoin is the world's most popular virtual currency.

SummitTIMES CLASSIFIEDS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial Service of late Sonam Ongain Karthak (54 yrs.), who left for heavenly abode on 06th December, 2017, falls on 11th December, 2017.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Behind Marygold School, Upper Sichey, D.C. Court, Link Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

RSVP: Mr. R.T. Karthak (brother): 9734955207, Mr. Sonam Raleon Karthak (youngest son): 9593371551, Mr. Binod Kr. Chettri (brother-in-law): 9933462560.

RAFFLE RESULT

The raffle result drawn by Namchi Girs Senior Secondary School during the celebration of School Fest "SPECTRUM" 2017 are as follows:

1st prize - B 3494
2nd prize - A 3664
3rd prize - C 8507

CONSOLATION PRIZES: B 5863, C 1200, A 8070, B 1220, A 7018.

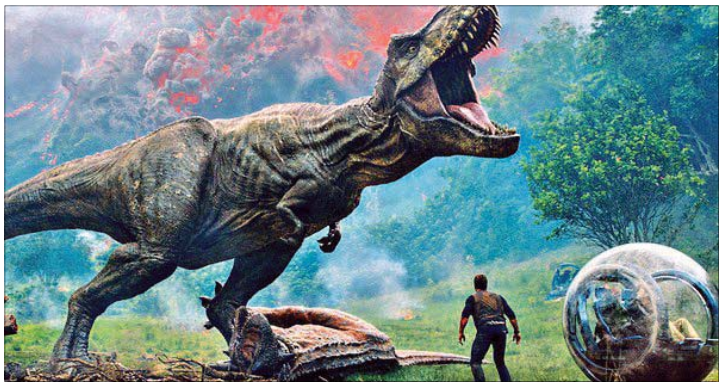
To claim for the individual prizes are request to claim within the 15 days of this advertisement or may can contact organising committee of the school fest.

CONTACT: 98361-54694

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Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/12/17		Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/12/17		Draw No:19 DrawDate on:07/12/17	
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 876 19261		1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 731 89403		1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 861 35955	
(Including Super Prize Amt)		(Including Super Prize Amt)		(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 19261 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)		Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 89403 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)		Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 35955 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-		2nd Prize Rs.9000/-		2nd Prize Rs.9000/-	
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THE FIRST FULL TRAILER FOR JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM IS HERE!



Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard are back on Isla Nublar in the action-packed sequel, which hits theaters in June 2018. In the trailer we see Chris return as Owen Grady, velociraptor trainer and researcher who we met in Jurassic World in 2015. Bryce also appears in the trailer as Claire Dearing, the former operations manager at Jurassic World.

The duo is also joined in the sequel by B.D. Wong, who plays Dr. Henry Wu.

And fans of the Jurassic Park movies will be excited to see that Jeff Goldblum is back in his role as Dr. Ian Malcolm in Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom.

The Jurassic World Twitter account had been teasing its followers in the days leading up to the release of the trailer. On 03 Dec, the account shared a teaser of Chris running for his life.

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom hits theaters on June 22, 2018.

Calvin Harris could be one step closer to spicing up our lives!

After Australia's Parliament voted overwhelmingly to legalize same-sex marriage today, the Internet is being reminded of a reported promise Calvin made to one fan.

According to Filip Odzak, he met the famous DJ during the 2012 Stereosonic Tour in Australia where a possible remix was brought up.

"During your appearance at Marquee in Sydney...we made a deal—sealed with a hand shake—that you would remix Spice Girls '2 Become 1' when marriage equality was finally legalized in Australia," his reported text message stated.

"Well it just happened today. For five years I've been waiting for this!" the text continued. "A deal is a deal."

While Calvin hasn't publicly commented on the possibility, it certainly received excitement from music fans.

"This needs to happen," one fan wrote on Twitter. Another music lover added, "It will be a hit for sure."

Another user was a bit more skeptical.

"He didn't give no random Sydney dude his phone number to text him in damn 2012," a follower stated.

Whatever happens, many celebrities couldn't help but send love and congratulations to Australia when the Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull announced that 61.6 percent of people who responded to a voluntary survey voted in favor of same-sex marriage.

"Today is a great day for human rights. #Australia says YES to marriage equality. BRAVO!" Ricky Martin shared online. "This makes me so happy."

Kylie Minogue added, " #Australia ... #MarriageEquality Love is love, always was love, always will be love."



WONDER WOMEN! Pregnant Chrissy Teigen covers her growing bump in pink velour while Gal Gadot shines in fiery red dress for GQ dinner in LA.

Ranveer and Arjun ready to battle it out as cops of 2018!

Ranveer Singh's first poster as the notorious cop Sangram Bhalerao in Rohit Shetty's Simmba is out and it's nothing less than a treat for all the actor's fans. It would be for the first time when Ranveer will play a cop in a movie and going by his look, we are sure the ride will be entertaining.

The poster also shows Ranveer wearing glares, a ganjee and a chain, symbolising that he will be rowdy in the movie. Now Ranveer is definitely one actor in the industry who can pull off any characters and versatility is his forte. From being a badass guy in 'Gunday' to a corrupt cop in 'Simmba', Ranveer's journey has been remarkable and far away from being a disappointment.

While Ranveer Singh is gearing up to play a rowdy corrupt cop with a pinch of humour to him in Rohit Shetty's Simmba, there's another actor who's ready to play a very similar character next year.

Yes, the actor in question here is Ranveer's co-star from Gunday - Arjun Kapoor.

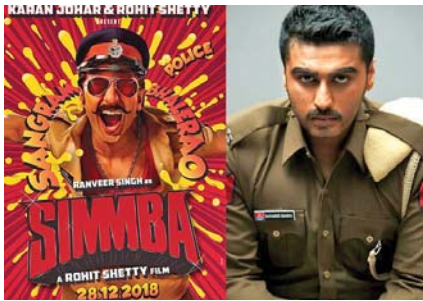
Arjun's look did intrigue us and we are curious to see this side of him, Ranveer is more fun and his usual self which can never go wrong on screen.

For the ones who don't know, Ranveer's Simmba is the Hindi remake of Jr NTR's South film - Temple. It follows the tale of a corrupt cop, who changes his ways after falling in love with a beautiful yet simple girl.

Coming to Sandeep Aur Pinki Faraar, there are reports that Arjun plays a fierce cop in the movie who's on the lookout for Sandeep and Pinky. From playing 'Gunday' on screen to cops - Ranveer and Arjun definitely seem to have a lot in common.

The Mubarakan actor too, will be seen essaying the role of a cop in Dibakar

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ARIES: Once you have your feelings under control, you can be more expansive in other parts of your life. You can branch out, reach toward others, and make important connections that will help move you toward success and good fortune. There's opportunity available to you today, so don't blow it by letting your emotions get the better of you!

TAURUS: Instead of directing all your energy outward and dominating the conversation with your ideas, consider listening. Let ideas flow your way. Be receptive to opinions and ideas. A wonderful mental and emotional expansion occurs when you receive instead of being so concerned about

projecting out. Be more focused on what's happening on the inside instead of so worried about events on the outside.

GEMINI: Things will be moving more in your favor as the day wears on. An easygoing, sensitive energy dominates the atmosphere. It will be easier for you to be yourself. Your loving, nurturing qualities are accentuated. You may have the urge to buy groceries and cook a wonderful meal for yourself and others. You're happy to open up your home and offer your hospitality.

CANCER: You may feel like you're spinning your wheels today, especially as the end of the day draws near. Nothing seems to

be going your way. Things aren't really as bad as you think. Most likely, part of your uneasiness has to do with anticipation of upcoming events. Difficult tensions can result when you get irritable for no reason. Don't make the situation any worse than it needs to be.

LEO: You're in a good position to make a major breakthrough. Your sensitivity works to your advantage. It gives you insight into things that others miss. The good news is that this comes with an extra grounding force that helps you be more practical in your decisions and rational in your actions. This wonderful combination helps you attain the success and good fortune you deserve.

VIRGO: Don't get too hooked on the free spirit that may dominate the morning hours. Have your fun at that time, but all good things must come to an end at some point. You may be called on for a more serious job when evening rolls around. Instead of plowing ahead and working to get things done the way you want, be more sensitive to others and more grounded in your approach.

LIBRA: You may feel you're coming to a dramatic emotional climax regarding an issue that you take personally. There's a strong force stirring up your feelings, but that doesn't mean you have to spin out of control. While this emotion builds within you, there's

a solid, stable force helping you keep your feet on the ground. This lifeline is always there when you need it, so trust in it.

SCORPIO: Be careful of letting your erratic, willful nature dominate the scene. Go with the flow and be more sensitive to the people around you. Stay grounded, focused, and aware of your emotions. This may be easier said than done, but this kind of behavior is key to making the most of today. There's opportunity in doing things in a slightly different way than you have been.

SAGITTARIUS: You may be scolded for something you failed to take care of properly. There's a wonderfully expansive feeling to

the day that you should capitalize on. Don't get too bogged down with the little things. Don't get overwhelmed with what you did wrong. There are so many more wonderful things to celebrate. Why spoil them with nitpicky details?

CAPRICORN: The beginning of the day may start out boisterous and easygoing. The object of the game for you will be to have some fun. As the day wears on, you'll feel like you need to get more organized. You have to start planning ahead and getting focused in terms of what tasks you need to take care of when.

AQUARIUS: You may experience a bit of tension and resistance with someone during the

early part of the day, but things will ease as evening draws near. People will be more flexible as the day wears on, and be more receptive to your perspective. The more organized and grounded you are, the more room there is for expansion and growth in all the different parts of your world.

PISCES: You may be caught in a difficult quandary. Your attention to other people's needs may draw you into dramas that you don't want to be part of. As a result, you may be indecisive and unsure of how to proceed. You must find the balance between taking care of your needs and being considerate of others. You'll be confident of your decision once you've made it.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

09 December

WORLD HISTORY

1917: Jerusalem surrenders to British troops.

1950: Harry Gold is sentenced to 30 years in jail for helping Klaus Fuchs pass information about the Manhattan Project to the Soviet Union during the cold war.

1967: The Beatles reach No 1 with Hello, Goodbye.

1973: The Sunningdale Agreement is signed, which sets up a Council of Ireland.

1975: New York City avoids bankruptcy when President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan authorization to prevent the City from having to default, and debt restructuring by the Municipal Assistance Corporation.

1982: Steven Spielberg's

record breaking sci-fi film E.T. premiers in Britain.

1987: The England cricket tour hangs in the balance as a row erupts between England captain Mike Gatting and the umpire Shakoor Rana.

1992: American marines land in Somalia to begin a humanitarian operation in the famine-stricken country.

1992: Prince Charles and Princess Diana announce a formal separation.

1993: A record-breaking mission to repair the faulty Hubble telescope in outer space is declared an unqualified success.

INDIAN HISTORY

1945: Shatrughan Sinha, Hindi film actor and politician, was born.

1946: The Constituent Assembly of India met for the first time to write the Constitution of India.

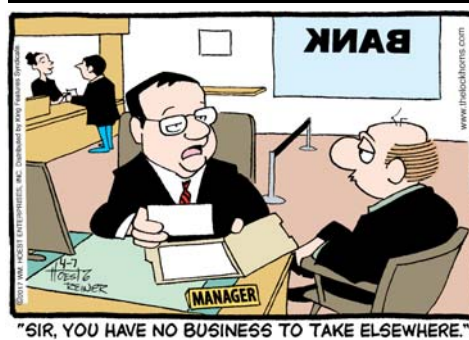
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BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

