

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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RED PANDA WINTER CARNIVAL BEGINS WITH RAHMAN PRESENTED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF SIKKIM

## Sikkim visit an emotional experience: AR Rahman

NITESH PRADHAN/IPR  
GANGTOK, 08 JAN:

The third edition of the Red Panda Winter Carnival witnessed a grand opening ceremony today with music maestro AR Rahman being declared as the brand ambassador of the state.

While welcoming Mr Rahman in Sikkim, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling profusely thanked him for accepting to be the Brand Ambassador of Sikkim and for sparing his valuable time to associate with Sikkim.

"It could not have been a better moment to celebrate," said the Chief Minister.

Highlighting about the state, the Chief Minister said that the state celebrates harmony, mutual respect and co-existence and stressed that peace is the greatest resource of the Himalayan state.

While accepting his new role as the brand ambassador of Sikkim, AR Rahman termed his visit as an emotional experience and "something



I can cherish for life".

He also added that the visit to the state feels like meeting a long lost family.

Expressing deep pleasure on being the state brand ambassador he hailed the state as an example of authenticity,

integrity and peace.

"I am privileged and honoured to be the state's ambassador," he said.

He has also expressed deep satisfaction on his first ever visit to the Himalayan state.

After the official inau-

guration of the Carnival by the Chief Minister, the audience was treated to colourful cultural performances by artists from different communities of Sikkim and band performances by Sikkim Police Band and Sadam Secondary School Band. The

Martial Arts Demonstration also mesmerized the audience as much as the performance by a mass congregation of 100 guitarists.

Earlier the programme began with welcome address by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava.

## Would love to use talents of this region says AR Rahman

SAGAR CHHETRI/IPR  
GANGTOK, JAN 08:

Brand ambassador of Sikkim, AR Rahman today said that the people, natural beauty of the State and its attitude towards sustainable development are the reasons why he chose to be the brand ambassador for the state.

Speaking at a press conference today, Mr Rahman said that he has many ideas and plan for the state and added that the North-East has so much to offer and now it is time to get it more on the mainstream map. He also said that he was humbled by the hospitality shown by the people of the state and hoped that the journey together would be a beautiful one.

When asked about his plans to promote Sikkim, Mr Rahman stated that there are lots of ideas but it is too early to discuss. He is scheduled to visit different places of the State and to meet the people on Tuesday. He also appreciated the cultural presentations by groups of different communities during the opening session of the carnival.

"I would love to use the talents of the region," he said.

Mr Rahman was accompanied by MP, Lok Sabha, PD Rai, Minister for Information & Public Relations, AK Gha-

tani, Mayor GMC, Shakti Singh Chaudhary, Commissioner cum Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Puneet Kansal, Managing Director, Temi Tea Estate, Mrinalini Shrivastav and representatives of various media houses.

MP, Lok Sabha, PD Rai talked about the significance of being the Brand Ambassador of Sikkim and said that the state was honoured to have such a big international icon promote the Himalayan region. He said that Sikkim is ready to surge forward under the leadership of the Chief Minister and that we now have to make concrete plans and execute it.

Minister, Information and Public Relations, AK Ghatani gave the opening remarks where he congratulated the people of the state for cooperating in making the Red Panda festival a success. He also said that Sikkim is honored to host the musical maestro and hopes for a long partnership together.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Puneet Kansal introduced the musical legend and talked about the many roadmaps that the department has charted for further growth of the state.

The vote of thanks at the end was proposed by Managing Director, Temi Tea Estate, Mrinalini Shrivastav.

## Cold conditions to persist in Bengal for next few days: MeT

KOLKATA, JAN 8 (PTI):

With the north-westerly wind flowing unabated, biting cold conditions continued to affect normal life in West Bengal even as the Meteorological department today forecast that similar weather conditions would persist for the next few days.

Cold wave conditions would prevail over parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Gangetic turn to pg02

## Hishey Lachungpa bags second term in RS unopposed

ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 08 JAN:

Sikkim Democratic Front's Hishey Lachungpa was today officially declared as elected to the Rajya Sabha from Sikkim unopposed. Today was the last day for withdrawal of nomination papers. Since Mr Lachungpa did not withdraw his papers - no surprises there - and since no other independent or party candidate was fielded for the lone Rajya Sabha seat, Mr Lachungpa now begins a second term representing Sikkim in the Upper House of the Parliament.

His return to the Parliament was formalized here at the Sikkim Legislative Assembly today with the Returning Officer for the Rajya Sabha elections in Sikkim, LM Pradhan, handing him the election certificate.

The special function was also attended by Deputy Speaker, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, who was also nominated the special observer for



the RS elections in Sikkim the Election Commission of India and the State's Chief Electoral Officer Tenzing Golay. Also in attendance were GMC chairperson Ashish Rai, Gangtok Mayor Shakti Singh and officials engaged with the election process.

Speaking to SummitTimes as he received the congratulations of supporters and well-wishers, Mr Lachungpa reiterated that he was faithful party worker and hon-

oured by the responsibility shouldered on him a second time to represent Sikkim in the Rajya Sabha.

He thanked his party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, allowing him to continue serving Sikkim in Parliament and stated that he would continue to work in close coordination with his Lok Sabha colleague from Sikkim to pursue Sikkim's pending issues with the Centre and the Ministries there.



## 4 arrested with musk pods and live snake

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 08 JAN:

A team from the Forest Department and

Sashastra Seema Bal today arrested 04 persons who were in possession of musk pods and a live snake.

Following a tip off, the team raided the rented room at Tadong where the four were currently residing in. On searching, the team recovered 05 musk pods and a live snake kept inside a polythene bag.

DFO, N Jaswant informed that the musk pods recovered can fetch a price of Rs 25-30 lakh.

Bimal Subba and Krishnaman Chhetri of Chandey, North Sikkim along with Jordan Lepcha of Dzongu and a girl have been taken into custody under the Wildlife

Protection Act. Investigations are on to find out where and how the accused got hold of the musk pods and snake and what they were planning to do with them.

Musk deer is a protected animal under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act. Male musk deer have a scent sac or pod which becomes active when they are about two years old. This sac secretes a substance known as musk; the stag uses it to mark his territory and to attract females. Each musk pod weighs about 15 gm. For thousands of years this deer had been killed in small numbers for the scent and the medicine industry.

## Dance troupe from Jorethang Sr Secondary School bags 3rd position at national Kala Utsav

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 08 JAN:

The dance troupe from Jorethang Senior Secondary School which represented Sikkim at the Kala Utsav impressed judges enough to secure the third position at the national-level event held at the Regional Institute of Education (RIE) Complex, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 03-06 January.

The troupe comprised of eight students accompanied by Antim Biswakarma as the Escort Teacher. They had earned the privilege of representing Sikkim after having stood first at the state-level Kala Utsav competition organised by RMSA, Sikkim, on 28 October 2017, an official press communiqué informs.

Students from all over the country showcased their artistic talent at the national meet in the fields of music, theatre, dance and visual arts on the theme "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat".

The third prize carries a cash component of Rs. 2 lakh besides trophies and certificates.

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development Department (MHRD) under the RMSA scheme to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of students at the Secondary stage.

Kala Utsav was started in 2015 and is now being regularly organized every year as a celebration of art forms in the school system.

The event seeks to provide students the opportunity to understand and celebrate cultural diversity at school, district, state and national levels.

The Ministry has from this year initiated the concept of pairing of states to promote national integration and create awareness about the paired state. Sikkim was paired with Delhi and accordingly, Sikkim performed the Bhangra from Delhi.

The awards ceremony was held on 06 January and was attended by Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Upendra Kushwaha as the chief guest.



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## BJP questions Govt decision to ban vegetable imports

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 08 JAN:**

The Sikkim-unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party has questioned the logic and practicality of the State Government's decision to ban the import of vegetables from 31 March onwards.

Dismissing the decision as a "populist policy" aimed at self-aggrandizement, a BJP press release issued by the party's Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, apart from questioning the veracity of the organic certification, has raised four questions with the Horticulture Department related to the demand and supply Sikkim produce.

The list of questions begins with a query on the details of land available with rural people and productivity per acre of the same.

The party has asked whether Sikkim grows enough to meet the local demand and then seeks details of how the government proposes to ensure steady, affordable and sufficient supply after the ban.

## Yul Druk Sum Kiduk congratulates Hishey, thanks CM and SDF

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 08 JAN:**

Yul Druk Sum Kiduk, the association of people from Chungthang, Lachen and Lachung residing in Gangtok, has congratulated Hishey Lachungpa on being elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha for a second consecutive term.

In a press communiqué issued today by the YDSK president Tseten Lepcha, the Kiduk has thanked Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his Sikkim Democratic Front for re-electing Mr Lachungpa to the Rajya Sabha from Sikkim and also expressed its "sincerest appreciation" towards the CM for "maintaining the communally harmonious convention of sponsoring a member of Bhutia-Lepcha community" to the Upper House of Parliament from Sikkim.



# Beti Bachao campaign begins in West

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 08 JAN:**

A weeklong Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign along the theme 'Betiya' started in West Sikkim today. The programme started from Gyalshing Bazaar by 36th Bn Sashastra Seema Bal in coordination with Song & Drama Division, Eastern Region under the Ministry of Information

& Broadcasting (Govt. of India).

A press release informs that the awareness campaign will continue till 13 Jan at different venues/villages of West Sikkim. The Dhumketu Drama troupe led by Nikhilesh with his team members and magician, Ashok Biswas performed at 02 different venues today i.e. Gyalshing Bazaar

and Sakyong.

The programme at Gyalshing Bazaar was attended by Chairman, IK Newpaney and other Councillor of Gyalshing Municipal Council, West Sikkim. From the SSB side, Raj Narayan Mishra, Commandant, 36th Bn SSB, Joy Gopal Namudra, Dy. Commandant, SSB Jawans and a large number of locals were

present.

Firstly, Commandant, 36th Bn SSB highlighted about the objective of this campaign. SSB 36th Bn through such awareness programmes will meet the border people and try to spread awareness about the initiative of Govt. of India. Through this campaign, SSB in cooperation with Song & Drama Division, Eastern Region

hopes to spread awareness to bring women into mainstream society.

The Dhumketu Puppet Theatre troupe presented a beautiful Puppet Drama and Magic show on the theme of Beti bachao-Beti padhao. RDA, Yangtrey GPU, Laxman Sharma and a large number of people participated in the awareness programme at Sakyong.

## Singtam landslide site remains neglected

### YOGEN THATAL

**SINGTAM, 08 JAN:**

More than two months have passed since a landslide occurred in New Market, Ward No 02, Singtam and protection work to avoid further damage has not yet begun. Residents of the area worried that the delay could cause further damages.

The landslide occurred on 25 Oct last year below the Singtam Senior Secondary School and behind the new market. It also damaged a footpath with some buildings in the area getting partially damaged.

The residents have already informed the Councilor, Ram Naresh Prasad of Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

"The Nagar Panchayat has tried everything possible to begin construction work but the insufficient budget in the Municipality is causing the delay. The matter has been placed before the area MLA and the HRD department. As soon as the HRDD sanctions the budget to the DC East, work will commence but that has not happened so far," said Councilor, Ram Naresh Prasad.



## SKM tours West GPU, convenes zonal meet in East

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 08 JAN:**

A Sikkim Krantikari Morcha team, led by party vice-president Pema Kinzang Bhutia and comprising of party executives, toured Chaplate ward of Takuthang GPU under Rinchenpong constituency West Sikkim today, an SKM press release informs.

The visiting team briefed people there

about the party's agendas programmes and commitment to communal harmony and establishing a corruption-free and nepotism-free government, the release adds.

More than six families left SDF party and joined to SKM and were welcomed by Mr Bhutia, the release informs further.

Similarly, SKM also convened a zonal-level

executives' meet for East District Zone-1 at the party office here. The meet was chaired by Anand Lama and attended by Mingma Lhamu, Neelu Chettri, TD Kazi, Sanjay Regmi and others, the release informs.

The meet discussed plans for the upcoming party foundation day and various tasks were assigned to different members within the zone.



## Will return to Delhi for budget session: JAP

### SUMMIT REPORT

**KALIMPONG, 08 JAN:**

After the Jan Andolan Party team returned from Delhi recently, they have decided to return to Delhi on 29 Jan during the budget session of the Parliament once again.

They could not raise the demand of a separate state in the Parliament therefore they have decided to return during the budget session, the party informed.

The party supremo Dr Harka Bahadur Chettri today spoke to reporters regarding the experience of the parliamentary march in Delhi.

"Once the Business Advisory committee raises a certain topic, only then the issue will be introduced in the Parliament," said Dr. Chettri, adding that they missed it this time.

"We will reach Delhi at the earliest and request the MPs to raise our demand in the Parliament," added Dr. Chettri.

He also said that the situation in the hills worsened because of 104 days of the strike and that the main political parties of the hills are not allowed to do their campaigning by the police.

The Delhi visit was basically to request the Center to take an initiative for the demand of a separate state and for the deteriorating situation of the hills, he stated.

"The ones who go to Delhi should be able to convince the center about Gorkhaland. Most of the MPs are aware of the demand for a separate state. If we work sincerely, we will be able to reach our goal," said Dr Chettri.



## Himal Terai Dooars Sports Festival kicks off in Kalimpong

### SUMMIT REPORT

**KALIMPONG, 08 JAN:**

The Himal Terai Dooars Sports Festival 2018 started today at Kalimpong. It is the first festival to be organised in Kalimpong since it became a district.

The festival is being held in four sporting disciplines namely archery, football, karate and taekwondo. Kalimpong SP, Ajeet Singh Yadav inaugurated the festival at Rockvale Academy where the Karate championship started. Later he inaugurated the Taekwondo Championship at Sapta Shri Gyan Pith Hall.

The Archery Championship will be held from 15-16 Jan and Football league tournament will start from 10 Jan with

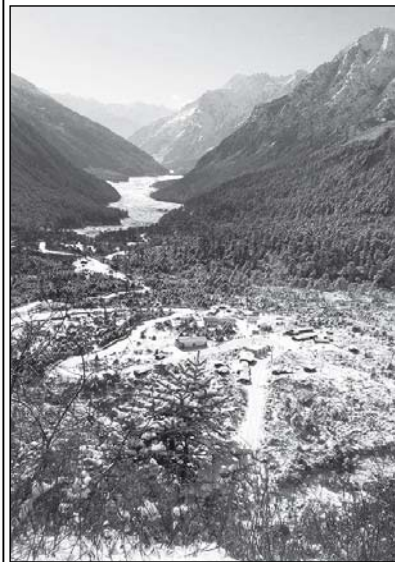
the finals to be held on 17 and 18 Jan.

"The festival is being organised in four districts of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Darjeeling and Kalimpong and Siliguri Police Commissionerate area," said Mr Yadav.

The festival is being organized here by Kalimpong District Police and is sponsored by West Bengal Youth Services and Sports Department.

He expressed happiness over the massive participation of players and thanked the parents for supporting their children.

The winner of each event will be getting prize from Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee when she next arrives in North Bengal area.



## NORTH RECEIVES WINTER'S FIRST SNOWFALL

**MANGAN, 08 JAN [IPR]:** As the mercury dips across the state, Lachung, Lachen and upper elevations of North Sikkim received the first snowfall of the season. The thick blanket of snow made these regions a sight to behold. It is also crucial for these regions to receive good snowfall for the sustainability of water in the rivers.

The Himalayan mountains contain important natural resources of frozen fresh water in the form of snow and glaciers. These glaciers are unique as they are located in tropics, high altitude regions, predominantly valley type and many are covered with debris. The great northern plains of India sustain on the perennial melt of snow and glaciers meeting the water requirements of agriculture, industries, domestic sector even in the months of summer when large tracts of the country go dry.

## SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

### DERBY DELUXE MONDAY

**Draw No:2 DrawDate on:08/01/18**

1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- G 62108

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

3052 4191 7167 8932 9542

3rd Prize Rs.5000/-

1853 2188 4289 4691 7943

4th Prize Rs.2000/-

0396 0941 2408 3968 6232

5th Prize Rs.1000/-

0423 0656 2667 5312 5356 5544 6365 6779 7086 7216

6th Prize Rs.500/-

0121 1379 3382 3725 4098 4885 6484 6819 7323 7572

7th Prize Rs.100/-

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0591 0606 0646 0688 0701 0712 0713 0716 0735 0782

0788 0804 0808 0820 0890 0913 0919 0939 1031 1032

1035 1056 1059 1080 1117 1123 1124 1136 1140 1184

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**Gangtok on Tuesday, 09 Jan**  
**Temp:** 15°C /01°C  
**Forecast:** Partly sunny, partly cloudy and cold.  
**Sunrise:** 06:27 AM  
**Sunset:** 4:57 PM

AAP to contest 35 seats in Meghalaya Assembly election

**SHILLONG, JAN 8 (PTI):** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today said it will contest at least 35 seats in the Meghalaya Assembly elections. Elections to the 60-member Meghalaya Assembly are due in the first half of this year as the term of the present Assembly expires on March 6. "We are hoping to field 35 candidates for the next election as we have good chance of winning," AAP state president Wanshwa Nongtdu told reporters here. He claimed the chances of the AAP is "good". The AAP leader also exuded confidence that the party will form the next government by fielding "common man" as its candidates. "We are Aam aadmi and we will have common man as candidates, we have few retired officers, few intellectuals who want to contest and we prefer our candidates be to be AAP candidates," he said.

Cold conditions to persist...

**contd from pg01**  
West Bengal for the next three days, the weather-man said. The maximum and minimum temperatures remained four to seven notches below normal at many places in the state. A dense fog, coupled with low temperatures, inconvenienced students as well as others who had to leave the comforts of their home early in the morning. Public transport vehicles were few and far between and even those available had to travel at slower speeds as the dense fog reduced visibility. Severe cold wave conditions prevailed over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal as Jalpaiguri recorded the lowest night temperature in the state's plains at 3.8 degrees Celsius at 5.30 am. Coochbehar followed closely at 3.9 degrees Celsius, according to the Met department. Sriniketan recorded 6.8 degrees Celsius, the lowest in Gangetic West Bengal, while Krishnagar's lowest temperature stood at 7.8 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature of Kolkata was recorded at 10.5 degrees Celsius, the city's lowest mercury count this season. Malda recorded a low of 5.7 degrees Celsius, Baharampur 7, Burdwan 8.4, Bankura 8.6, Digha 9.5 and Diamond Harbour registered a minimum temperature of 9.4 degrees Celsius.



3 Dzongu GPUs demand fresh Gram Sabha on Forest Rights Act for Teesta Stage-IV

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 08 JAN:**

The Panchayats of three Gram Panchayat Units of Dzongu Lum-Gor-Sangtok, Lingdong-Barfok and Hee-Gyathang have placed a memorandum to the District Collector [North] for again conducting the Gram Sabha on Forest Rights Act (FRA) for 520 MW Teesta Stage IV hydro electric project of Dzongu, North Sikkim.

A memorandum on halting the land acquisition process for the said project was also placed stating that the process be stopped immediately as three out of four GPUs on the right bank have rejected the project. The memorandum also alleges that documents were forged during the second Gram Sabha held for Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU. The document, which has

been the reference point for the environmental and social assessment (SIA) and planning of multiple hydro power projects, has been the carrying capacity study of Teesta basin completed in 2008. That study has already recommended that the 520MW Teesta IV should have no "pond-age" of any duration. Therefore it has said it should not have a reservoir. Teesta Stage-IV HEP,

however, has a bigger reservoir submerging over 4.3km of Teesta and 600 metres of Rongyong Chu. Therefore, the land sought to be acquired for the reservoir violates the recommendation of the carrying capacity study, it is being argued. The memorandum also demands that this stretch of the river between two mega projects, 1200 MW Teesta III and 510 MW Teesta V, should flow free.



**BANGA RATNA FOR KALIMPONG SON:** Kalimpong's Dr. PD Bhutia receiving the "Banga Ratna Award" from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Kanchanjunga Stadium on Monday, 08 Jan, during the inaugural function of the Uttar Banga Utsav 2018. Dr Bhutia is associated with Neotia Getwell and Vive Healthcare and is also an honorary Wildlife Warden of the Forest Department.

Give due seriousness to PIL for barring convicts from running parties: SC to Centre, EC

**NEW DELHI, JAN 8 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today asked the Centre and the Election Commission to consider with "due seriousness" a plea seeking that convicted persons be barred from forming political parties and becoming their office-bearers for the period they are disqualified under the election law. A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud directed the Centre and the poll panel to file their response. "Please take this matter with due seriousness," the bench observed while noting that the government and the Election Commission have not filed their reply despite notices being issued to them. The top court has posted the matter for further hearing on February 12. It had earlier agreed to examine the constitutional validity of Section 29A of the 1951 Representation of the People Act (RPA) which deals with the power of the poll panel to register a political party. The plea claimed that under the statutory schemes, the poll panel was empowered to register political parties, but it lacked the authority under the RPA to de-reg-

ister them. The petition, filed by a lawyer and Delhi BJP spokesperson Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, has said that if a person on conviction in a criminal case was barred from contesting elections, it would be incongruent to allow such person to form or head a political outfit. The plea said convicted politicians, who are barred from contesting elections, can still run political parties and hold posts in them, besides deciding as to who will become a lawmaker. It has sought a ban on convicted persons from forming a political party and becoming office bearers for the period they are disqualified under the election laws. It has sought a direction to declare Section 29A of the RPA as "arbitrary, irrational and ultra-vires" to the Constitution and to authorise the poll panel to register and de-register political. The plea has also sought a direction to the EC to frame guidelines to decriminalise the electoral system and ensure inner party democracy, as proposed by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC). The petition said that current-

ly, even a person who has been convicted for heinous crimes like murder, rape, smuggling, money laundering, loot, sedition, or dacoity, can form a political party and become its president or office bearers. The petition named several top political leaders who have been convicted or have charges framed against them and were holding top political posts and "wielding political power". It said the proliferation of political parties has become a major concern as Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, allows a small group of people to form a political party by making a very simple declaration. "Presently, about 20 per cent of registered political parties contest election and remaining 80 per cent parties create excessive load on electoral system and public money," the plea said and sought implementation of the 1990 Goswami Committee on Electoral Reform. The plea also claimed that in 2004, the poll panel had proposed amendment to Section 29A, authorising it to issue apt orders regulating the registration or de-registration of political parties.

NMA urges PM to reconsider extension of Disturbed Area Act in Nagaland

**KOHIMA, JAN 8 (PTI):** Naga Mothers Association, an apex body of tribal women in Nagaland, today urged the Centre to reconsider extension of Disturbed Area Act and also to postpone the state Assembly election due this year. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which was issued to the media here tonight, NMA president Abeiu Meru and joint secretary Sawmi Leyri urged him to reconsider this two things. "The aspirations of Naga women for peace and a solution to the prolonged Naga political issue lies at the heart and home of every Naga mother, wife, sister and daughter...", they said in the letter. "For years we have seen and followed the ongoing peace talks and at this stage in our political history it is imperative that due chance must be given for the ongoing peace dialogue with different political groups to take its course and the electoral process be postponed for sometime, till the peace talk is resolved", they maintained.

CBI's SIT not serious about Manipur fake encounters probe: SC

**NEW DELHI, JAN 8 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today said it appeared that the matter relating to probe into extra-judicial killings, alleged fake encounters by the Army, Assam Rifles and police in insurgency-hit Manipur was not being taken up seriously by a Special Investigation Team of the CBI. The apex court observed this after it was informed that despite its order in July last year, only 11 FIRs out of a total of 92 cases have been registered by the SIT in the matter. "It appears to us that the matter is not being taken up by the CBI and the SIT with the seriousness which it deserve," a bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and U U Lalit said and directed the CBI's DIG, who is in-charge of the SIT probe, to remain present before it on January 16. The bench also asked the DIG to file a status report of the progress made in the investigation in these cases. The top court had on July 14 last year set up an SIT comprising five CBI officers and ordered registration of FIRs and probe into the extra-judicial killings in Manipur. It had asked the CBI director to nominate a team of five officers for the SIT, who will lodge the necessary FIRs and complete the investigation into alleged fake encounters by December 31 last year. During the hearing, the lawyer appearing for petitioners, said that the court had ordered lodging of FIRs till December 31 but as per the office report, only 11 such FIRs have been registered in a total of 92 matters. "The SIT is dragging its feet," the counsel said after which the bench asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Maninder Singh about it. The court also asked Singh as to whether any one from the SIT was present in the courtroom for the hearing. "Our experience is that if an SIT has been set up, somebody from the SIT should be present in the court for two things. One to tell us what is going on and second is to instruct the lawyers. SIT cannot and should not say that our job is only to investigate," the court said.

Meanwhile, the ASG, who initially said that the matter was listed for only an application, told the bench the DIG would be present in the court on the next date of hearing. Senior lawyer Colin Gonsalves, who was appearing for the petitioners, said that former head constable of the Manipur police Herojit Singh, who was an eye witness to fake encounter cases, has filed an application in the court. He said that CBI team had raided Herojit's residence and in 2010 seized his three diaries, in which he had recorded details of such fake encounter cases. Gonsalves also said the SIT has not yet recorded the statements of witnesses. However, the ASG said that Herojit's case has nothing to do with the matter pending before the court and it was not maintainable. He contended that Herojit was an accused in one of these cases in which trial was going on and he should have moved the lower court or the high court on the issue of these diaries.Regarding the ASG's submissions, Gonsalves said Herojit was accused in a case in which he had allegedly shot at an unarmed man on the instructions of his senior officer. The apex court, which is hearing a PIL seeking probe into 1528 extra-judicial killings, had in July last year ordered registration of FIR in 81 cases including 32 probed by a Commission of Enquiry, 32 cases investigated by judicial enquiries and high courts, 11 cases in which compensation has been awarded by the NHRC and six cases probed by a commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Santosh Hegde.

### Kutse Shegu

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

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

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

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



**Sonam Dadul Bhutia**  
18/11/1951 to 29/11/2017

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



**KUTSHE SHEGU**

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

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

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

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



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Media Should Invite More Criticism

*There can, after all, be no improvement without analysis*

The news media is introduced as the fourth estate, the fourth pillar holding up the shelter of democracy.

Interestingly, while the other “estates” of democracy – the judiciary, the executive and the legislative – have a screening process to get where they do and are also occasionally held accountable for their actions in a formal way in the public domain, the news media is an equal opportunity sector where anyone can get in and appears to work unfettered and is technically answerable to no one. In a perfect world, this is how things should be with “open access” graduating to meritocracy and excellence in this estate. The watchdog in a true democratic system should not be subservient to anyone or anything if it is to deliver on its responsibilities properly. It is, however, not a perfect world that we live in, so checks and balances are required at every level. One could argue that the readers are the best agency to rein in the media when the power of the pen goes to their head. And, in a way they are. No matter how sensational its content, a newspaper, news channel or any other vehicle of information loses credibility in the reader’s mind if it keeps reporting rumours for facts and highlighting trivialities as issues. Readers might turn to them for entertainment, but will take the information with a pinch of salt. And, with so many other modes of entertainment available nowadays, even that USP becomes a liability very fast. So, yes, readership/ viewership (or followers if you are more SocialMedia inclined) is the one factor that fixes accountability on newspapers.

Obviously, sometimes, just this much is not enough. Readership is not respected to the extent it should be – neither in Sikkim nor in India as a whole. While simple numbers are enough to decide readership in Sikkim, at a national level it becomes slightly more complicated. The numbers game that media houses indulge in to inflate circulation is no secret and it is perhaps for this reason that an editorial post common in West is now being toyed by some newspapers in India too. The Hindu had started the ball rolling with the offer to appoint a Reader’s Editor, an Ombudsman of sorts. This was a brave decision as the Reader’s Editor, the in-house critic, is expected to be scathing in her/his analysis of the newspaper. That experiment has played out to mixed results, but is worth exploring on wider scale. A Reader’s/ Public Editor does not only question and challenge the veracity of news-reports, but also pulls up the intents and vested interests behind the highlighting, prominence and display of certain stories. That is not all, s/he is also allowed to question journalistic ethics of the newspaper and also air opinion when some stories are downplayed or dropped. S/he does all this not in internal memos, but in a space allotted in the newspaper. In the public domain. Reader’s Editors in the West have been known to be extremely sharp in their criticism. Their performance in India leaves a lot to be desired but is a necessary undertaking. It is also unlikely to happen with any significance because media criticism/ analysis is still a rare animal in media circles. Some online platforms are trying to correct this, but their reach is still limited.

The reason this is being shared here is to highlight the fact that there can be no improvement without criticism. And, there is no such thing as “positive criticism.” Criticism is criticism, its positivity or negativity depends on the target of the criticism and how it is used. Newspaper reports are not the final word. Everyone knows that, and since there is still a lot of room for improvement as far as our conduct is concerned, we, in the media, should invite more responses. To begin with, there will be crude and poorly informed outbursts, but if we give it time, discussions on newspapers in the public domain will soon become more coherent and, yes, “constructive”.

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

Mail us at: [letters@summittimes.com](mailto:letters@summittimes.com)

# Alternative currencies are the future: why it matters for development

LORENZO FIORAMONTI  
*theconversation.com*

When I began to teach in 2012, I decided to start my course with an analysis of how money affects social order. What my students found particularly fascinating was the then-nascent world of cryptocurrencies, which I described at length as a crucial feature in the future of money.

Some colleagues criticised my approach. They accused me of indirectly encouraging students to invest in what they saw as a shady, crime-ridden financial underworld. But I was simply exposing young minds to a fast-evolving, complex phenomenon that in my view would have a major impact on power distribution in the global economy.

Behind most cryptocurrencies is a simple technology known as “blockchain”, a system residing in multiple computers that allows for peer-to-peer financial ledger recording of all transactions occurring in a network.

This results in a transparent open-access registry of monetary flows which makes the intermediation of banking authorities unnecessary. Thus it challenges the conventional belief that money can only work through central planning.

As I explain in my book, *Wellbeing Economy: Success in a World Without Growth*, money systems are undergoing an unprecedented transition from centralised authority to decentralised networks.

Conventional money is managed by states and banks, with users on the receiving end of monetary policy decisions. By contrast, most alternative currencies are peer-to-peer. That means they are managed by users themselves and do not require intermediaries. Some of them have global outreach thanks to digital technology, while others are locally based.

Take Bitcoin, the most popular peer-to-peer currency in the world, with a market capitalisation above 40 billion US dollars. A person buying the equivalent of \$1 in Bitcoin in 2009 would now possess roughly \$25 million. One Bitcoin is currently equivalent in value to two ounces of gold. Other rising stars include Ethereum, Litecoin and Ripple.

### -taking the world by storm

Many of these currencies remain quite volatile in the short term. Their upward and downward swings reach over 10% of the value on a weekly basis. But the long-term trend is impressive. States are warming up to them.

In April 2017, Japan accepted Bitcoin as a legal payment method for retail markets. After threatening digital currencies last year, the Russian govern-

ment took a U-turn. President Vladimir Putin met the developers of Ethereum and committed to recognising cryptocurrencies in 2018.

Following an initial freeze, the People’s Bank of China readmitted withdrawals in Bitcoin in June 2017, catapulting the currency to new heights. In the US, cryptocurrencies are becoming increasingly accepted as both a method of payment and store of value.

The Australian government will soon make it easier for new innovative digital currency businesses to operate, exempting traders and investors from goods and services tax.

It’s clear that cryptocurrencies will in the near future become much more common as methods of payment for a wide range of purchases, from online shopping to the local supermarket.

**DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE LEAPFROGGING** Developing economies, too, are opening up to cryptocurrencies. In Venezuela, Bitcoin has become the leading parallel currency. It provides millions of citizens with an opportunity to perform transactions and generate livelihoods, including buying food and other basic necessities in a country where official money is worth almost zero. It also allows them to purchase goods from overseas, overcoming ever-stricter capital controls.

In East Africa, local innovators have introduced cryptocurrency systems to support cross-border transactions, as exemplified by initiatives like BitPesa.

In South Africa, cryptocurrencies are becoming particularly popular. In Nigeria, local traders and activists believe this new money presents an opportunity to democratise the economy. This is propelled by the fact that people in Nigeria have been failed by conventional money.

According to my colleague Verengai Mabika, founder of BitFinance in Zimbabwe, the collapse of his country’s formal financial system has made Bitcoin an attractive alternative. This is especially the case for online payments, which are restricted by banks, and for remittances, which constitute the

backbone of the economy.

A growing number of Zimbabweans are also using cryptocurrencies as a saving mechanism (37% of all Bitfinance customers use it for that purpose), Verengai tells me. This is after the massive loss of personal savings during the hyperinflation period of 2008, which led to the collapse of the country’s banks.

### Decentralisation and local economic development

The decentralisation of money is indeed at the core of this new trend, with potential re-

percussions in other fields. For instance, Ethereum is designed as a smart contract platform, that is a trading system completely based on peer-to-peer property rights. FairCoin was developed as the preferential currency for cooperatives, social economies and fair trade networks around the world.

Cryptocurrencies are just the tip of an iceberg. According to recent estimates, there are over 6,000 complementary currencies in the world, over 50 times the number of conventional money systems. Most of these are user-controlled and are interest-free. One cannot make money by simply trading in them.

Hoarding makes no sense in this new world. This is because value is not in the accumulation but in the exchange.

The scope is often limited to certain territories or types of transactions (for example, personal care, sustainable mobility and local trade). This creates an incentive to support local economic development and forms of exchange that are valued by communities of users.

Regiogeld, a network of local currencies which I studied when I was a researcher in Germany, has proliferated throughout the country. It has become the world’s largest system of local currencies, supporting small businesses and empowering communities.

In the near future, we will have a variety of money with different qualities and different purposes. This will make economies more resilient against shocks and will support more equitable and sustainable development, by putting users in the driver seat and reinforcing local economic development.

As my research demonstrates, a combination of regional, national and local currencies could also be the best way forward for the European Union, engulfed by its monolithic and unsustainable euro, and for any other process of regional integration, from Africa to other continents.

*[the writer is Full Professor of Political Economy, University of Pretoria]*

# Kim Jong-un is a gangster: Here’s how to sort him out

ROBERT HUISH  
*theconversation.com*

U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un should never talk to each other on the phone, or through Twitter. Two unpredictable, nuclear-armed egotists are a threat to themselves and to the world, regardless of the size of their buttons.

Fortunately, cooler heads are now communicating between North and South Korea. Still, this is no time for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, nor the international community, to get comfortable with Kim Jong-un.

North Korea flouts international agreements, bolsters its economy through sordid means and is responsible for ghastly human rights abuses.

As a researcher on social justice and human security in North Korea, I have a reminder for Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson as they prepare to meet in Vancouver next week to discuss North Korea: Kim Jong-un runs a feudal gangland, not a nation state. The rules of diplomacy do not apply to the Hermit Kingdom.

North Korea is isolated, hungry, without power and without allies. Yet Kim gathers resources for nuclear proliferation, missiles and prison camps. This is thanks to his business partners. The international community has mistakenly ignored them.

How to deal with Kim’s belligerence? View him as a thug. And like any gangster, understand how he makes money and what really scares him.

First, target those who profit with Kim. Second, empower defectors who can speak to North Korea’s grim reality. Their voices matter both within and outside of North Korea.

Kim acquires weapons by sea, he pays for them with narcotics, cyber-attacks and cryptocurrency. Masterful smugglers, North Korean ves-



sels run under flags of convenience, shell companies process the funds, and other vessels entering North Korean waters deceptively turn off their broadcast identifiers.

**‘PROTECTOR’ OF NORTH KOREANS** I interviewed numerous North Korean defectors for three years. I also tracked vessels doing business with Mr. Kim. From this work, I make two conclusions about how the international community should approach North Korea.

First, Kim holds power through a projected image of ordained invincibility. He is the protector of the North Korean people. He may not provide enough food, and he may send them to prison camps, but only he can protect against pending violence from the United States.

Missile launches and nuclear tests

pose little threat to the West. They are symbolic demonstrations of power for his compatriots.

Second, in order to prop up his image as the Great Marshal, Kim collects his military resources below the radar. Illegal smuggling, counterfeiting, insurance scams, weapons sales, cyber attacks, narcotics production and forced labour abroad bring in cash. And there are global markets for all, accessed through shady diplomats and shadowy shell companies. They skirt sanctions with impunity.

Formal diplomacy fails as North Korea relies more on the illicit, rather than the legitimate, international community. Until now.

Recent sanctions by the United States, the United Nations and the European Union are smarter. They target Kim’s financial environment. Instead of sanctioning the target, new sanctions attack the banks and maritime operators that help him.

Already, maritime traffic into North Korea has dropped significantly and the regime is taking to sea-to-sea transfers to acquire goods

— a high-risk, low-return operation. Kim’s options are getting fewer.

It’s a start, but not enough.

Targeting Kim’s markets for missile tests and nuclear proliferation is good policy. It is easier, and safer, to prevent missiles getting in to North Korea than it is to shoot them down once they’re flying out.

However, North Korea’s trading partners are widespread and include businesses around the world, notably in Europe, India, Africa and even New Zealand.

Recognize that Kim’s greatest fear is having his compatriots and the world know how weak he is. The missiles are more show than threat. It’s why Kim is not fazed by Donald Trump’s half-baked tweets.

### KIM NERVOUS ABOUT DEFECTOR’S STORIES

He is, however, deeply frightened of defectors telling their stories. Their testimony will shatter his reputation and possibly land him in the International Court of Justice.

North Koreans are unlikely to oust Kim themselves and rebel against Juche, the regime’s rigid social control system. China also fears the thought of any civil conflict in North Korea that could lead to a massive refugee crisis at its borders.

Strategic sanctions against North Korea are starting to put Kim in a bind. Winter is a hungry time in North Korea, and Kim will blame sanctions for upcoming food shortages.

Freeland, Tillerson and Moon must remain vigilant with smart sanctions and not trust Kim to make good on any agreement.

Instead, they must identify those who finance Kim, block their revenues and deal with him like an international criminal, not as a head of state.

*[the writer is Associate Professor in International Development Studies, Dalhousie University]*



## Cold wave claims 7 more lives in Nepal; toll reaches 24

**KATHMANDU, JAN 8 (PTI):** Intense cold weather in Nepal has claimed seven more lives, taking to 24 the death toll due to severe winter conditions over the past week in southern part of the country, according to a media report.

More than half of the them, 14, were reported from Saptari district while five each in Rautahat and Siraha districts in the Tarai region, it said.

Seven people, including a 7-month-old child, lost their lives due to excessive cold in various municipalities of Saptari district last night, the Himalayan Times quoted senior police officials as saying.

The locals of Saptari have sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, demanding relief materials for those vulnerable to cold.

In Rautahat, two people died due to freezing cold last night, Superintendent of Police Yagya Binod Pokhrel said.

Rautahat District Administration Office said warm clothes and blankets were being distributed to the poor and in Dalit settlements of the district.

In Siraha, a five-year-old child died due to excessive cold, taking the number of deaths due to cold wave in the district to five, according to the report.

## TMC leader organises Brahmin convention

**SURI (WB), JAN 8 (PTI):** A senior leader of Trinamool Congress today organised a massive "Brahmin and Purohit Sammelan" (a Brahmin convention) in Bolpur town of Birbhum district, a move seen by the opposition BJP to arrest consolidation of Hindu votes in favour of the party.

The day-long sammelan is organised by party's Birbhum district president, Anubrata Mondal in his home district.

Mondal said the convention aims to highlight "misinterpretation" of the hindu religion by the BJP and discuss what the Hindu religion stands for.

"The Hindu religion is being misinterpreted by the BJP. Today we will discuss the real meaning of Hindu religion," Mondal told reporters.

A source in the ruling party said around 12,000-14,000 Hindu priests are attending the meet that started around 12.30 pm today.

The priests will be felicitated with a copy of the Gita, shawl and pictures of Sarada Maa and Ramakrishna, he said.

The saffron party has accused the Trinamool Congress leadership of practicing "soft hindutva" to stop the Hindu voters from uniting under the BJP.

# Rail roko, fog disrupt train movement in West Bengal

**KOLKATA, JAN 8 (PTI):** A call to disrupt rail traffic by a Jharkhand-based party, coupled with dense fog disrupted train movement in various parts of West Bengal today, causing inconvenience to thousands of passengers.

A number of express and passenger trains were either cancelled or diverted, owing to the agitation by supporters of Jharkhand Dishom Party, which has a presence among tribals in various parts of West Bengal.

The party had called a strike opposing land acquisition in tribal areas and other issues, following which its supporters blocked railway tracks at Indrabil, Kantadih, Madhukunda and Maluka stations.

In South Eastern Railway (SER), the rail roko affected train movement from 6.05 am with blockades at various stations in Adra and Chakradharpur divisions, SER spokesperson Sanjoy Ghosh said.

The blockades were lifted at 1.20 pm, he said, adding 18183 Tata-nagar-Dhanbad Express, 58025 Kharagpur-Hatia passenger and seven MEMU passenger trains were cancelled.

Ghosh said two other



trains -- 22861/22862 Shalimar-Adra Raja Rani Express and 63595 Bokaro Steel City-Asansol Express were short terminated.

The 12801 Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express would run on diverted route via Chandil-Muri-Bokaro Steel City instead of Chandil-Purulia-Bokaro Steel City, while the 22811 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express would run on diverted route via Kharagpur-Tatanagar-Chandil-Muri-Bokaro Steel City instead of Kharagpur-Adra-Gomoh, the spokesperson said.

Supporters of the party also blocked railway tracks from 6.00 am at Adina, Dalkhola, Araria and Buniyadpur stations in Katihar division of North East Frontier Rail-

way, resulting in several mail and express trains being held up at different stations for several hours, railway sources said.

Among the trains held up in North Bengal stations were the 12343 Darjeeling Mail, 12377 Padatik Express, 12345 Saraighat Express, 12042 New Jalpaiguri-Howrah Shatabdi Express and 12346 Saraighat Express.

The agitators stopped train movement at Jhapandanga in Howrah-Bardhaman Chord line section of Eastern Railway from 6.30 am to 7.17 am, delaying movement of the Howrah-Ranchi Shatabdi Express and two EMU local trains by about 30 minutes, Eastern Railway spokesperson R N Mahapatra said.

Owing to dense fog in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and

parts of West Bengal, a number of trains to and from northern parts of the country were also delayed by an average of 10 hours, including the Howrah and Sealdah Rajdhani Express trains, he said.

"Due to delay in arrival of corresponding down trains, several trains have been rescheduled," Mahapatra said.

The 12311 up Howrah-Delhi Kalka Mail has been rescheduled and would leave Howrah at 5.00 am tomorrow, instead of 7.40 pm today.

The 13019 up Kathgodam Express will leave at 1.30 am tomorrow instead of 9.45 pm today, while the 13009 Howrah-Dehradun Express will leave Howrah at 2.00 am tomorrow, delaying its departure by over five and half hours.

## WB to install speed limiting devices in commercial vehilces

**KOLKATA, JAN 8 (PTI):** The West Bengal government will install speed-limiting devices in all commercial vehicles registered in the state to check accidents and to ensure that they maintain stipulated speed limits while moving through the national and state highways.

A senior official of the state transport department told PTI that the state transport department has also decided to install the speed-limit devices in all vehicles registered for use by the state government.

The decision is a part of the West Bengal government's 'Safe Drive, Save Life' campaign, he said adding the move would also increase safety on the roads and highways passing through West Bengal.

"The transport department has decided that speed-limiting

devices will be installed in all commercial vehicles registered in West Bengal. This device will ensure that stipulated speed limits are not violated on major thoroughfares here, including the national highways, state highways and on the local roads in urban areas," he said.

It has been decided that on certain stretches of national highways, the speed limit would not be more than 80 km per hour; 60 km per hour on the state highways and 40 km per hour on local urban roads.

"The department has also decided that the fitness certificates for a commercial vehicle will not be issued until the speed-limiting device is not installed in it, he said.

The transport department has also decided to set up signages specifying speed limits and other steps taken to ensure road safety.

"There will be signboards by

the side of the roads and highways to make drivers aware of the speed limit on a particular stretch. Signboards will also be put up to make restrictions for slow-moving vehicles on the highways and measures against illegal parking," the officer said.

"We are also designing fines likely to be imposed on vehicles flouting the norms. Strict actions will be initiated against them," he added.

A data released by the state transport department showed the number of road accidents in West Bengal in the last one year has gone down by 16.06 per cent while the number of deaths due to road accidents saw a fall of 13.34 per cent during the period.

The number of people injured in road accidents also went down by 12.10 per cent, the data said.

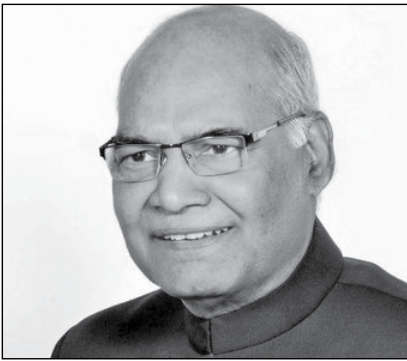
## Prez to inaugurate a three-day 4th Intl Dharma Dhamma Conf

**PATNA, JAN 8 (PTI):** President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate a three-day 'International Dharma Dhamma Conference' at Rajgir beginning on January 11.

The conference will be organised by Nalanda University in partnership with India Foundation, Ministry of External Affairs, ASEAN India.

The meet would deliberate on "State and Social Order in Dharma Dhamma Traditions."

Addressing the mediapersons, Nalanda University Vice Chancellor Sunaina Singh said that President Ram Nath Kovind will be the chief guest at the inaugural session of the fourth International Dharma Dhamma conference to be held at Rajgir International Convention Centre on January 11 next.



Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana, Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) Secretary (East) Preeti Saran would be among distinguished guests on the occasion.

Singh accompanied by Pankaj Mohan of the

University, India Foundation's Senior Research Fellow Guru Prakash said that "Unlike other international conferences where you have only scholars presenting papers...this particular conference is unique in terms of it has policy makers, Chief Minister, Minister, government people, monks, swamy-

jees, scholars... who have come on one side to give direction to the country.

Asked Nitish Kumar has a vision that Nalanda University should be developed/evolved as a centre for resolution of international conflict and whether the conference is a step in that direction, Singh said "precisely it is in that direction only...This is an international institution with a global mandate. How to build peace, how to build harmony. We planned this conference in that direction only."

"...When Chief Minister had said that this (centre for international conflict resolution) will be its (University's) international mandate, certainly this conference's focus is exactly the same as a global institution," Singh said.



## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT NAMCHI DIVISION SOUTH SIKKIM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**N.I.T No: 98/R&B/Nam-Div/2017**

**Dated: 04/01/2018**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Namchi Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 373/R&B/Secy. Dated: 1/5/2017, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban local bodies where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value put to tender (Rs)	Completion time (in months)	Amount of Bank Receipt for cost of tender documents (Rs)	Amount of Earnest Money @ 2.5% For issue of tender form (Rs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Upgradation and Carpeting of Sadam Dara to PMHSY road via Rameshwaram Mandir, Sadam in South Sikkim. Km. 1 <sup>st</sup>	91,57,962.00	18 months	15000	2,28,949.00
2	Upgradation and Carpeting of Sadam Dara to PMHSY road via Rameshwaram Mandir, Sadam in South Sikkim. Km. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	67,45,669.00	18 months	15000	1,68,642.00

### TIME SCHEDULE:-

1. Date of submission of application with bank Receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form) : 5<sup>th</sup> Feb' 2018 (From 10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
2. Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money) : 6<sup>th</sup> Feb' 2018 (From 10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
3. Last Date and Time of submission of Tender : 7<sup>th</sup> Feb' 2018 (From 10.00 am to 12.00 noon)
4. Date and Time of Opening of Bid : 7<sup>th</sup> Feb' 2018 (at 1.30 pm)

### 1. CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

1. Tender is open to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
2. The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work list above with all required documents.
3. The applicants should enclose attested copies of the [a] latest Value Added Tax Clearance Certificate [b] Latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate as per the Indian Income Tax Act and [c] Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate, and Professional Tax Clearance Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification.
4. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents [excluding the Tender Form] can be obtained during the period specified in [As above from the office of the Divisional Engineer, Road and Bridges Department, Namchi Division, on production of requisite Bank receipt of the state of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents [non-refundable] under the receipt Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form [Roads & Bridges].
5. Earnest Money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts to fixed deposits receipts in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges, Namchi. Tender form shall be issued only on production of the deposited receipts to that contractors/firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of toward deposit receipt of 2.5% earnest money.
6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents list at Sl. No. [a], [b] and [c] above should be enclosed with the offer.
7. Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box in the office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Namchi Division, on the date and within the time indicated above.
8. Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the Tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
9. The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the general Direction and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of Value Added Tax and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
10. In case of any discrepancy in rate[s] printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
11. The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
12. The Department reserves the rights to withhold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produce by the contractor when called upon to do so.
13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages [if any], including accidents to labourer at site.
14. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.
15. All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractors @ 5% of the value of work done.
16. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
17. The contractors are required to register themselves under the rule 39 or 40 (as the case may be) of the Sikkim Value Added Tax Rules 2005 with the Income and Commercial Tax Division of Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department and obtain the TIN number before the settlement o bill, or they must be registered Companies/Firms registered under the Companies Act. 1956, having valid PAN Card and Tan. The contractors are also required to submit PAN No. as per rates provision of Indian Income Tax Act, wherever applicable.
18. The recoveries of Income Tax, Value Added Tax and Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
19. In case of carriage of non-stock materials, if these materials are available at site or are actually transported from a lesser distance than indicated in the schedules, the department shall pay the carriage as per actual proof of carriage supported by permits issued by Forest Department indicating the quarries which is required to be submitted by contractor with bill, not exceeding the rates as incorporated in these schedules. The contractors are required to submit necessary documents to fulfil the claim of payment for carriage of non-stock materials.
20. Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
21. In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department. Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
22. The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
23. Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
  - a) Transportation, Handling, Storage and use of Explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities in the subject from time to time.
  - b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage, handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
24. The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period. i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
25. Quarrying of stones shall be allowed only from designated approved quarries. Where work of Water bound Macadam is involved, binding materials shall strictly be in accordance with the specifications, both in quality and quantity. Works such as compaction, consolidation and stabilization etc., will be required to be done on trail stretches to ensure that materials, procedure and equipment are producing the desired result.
26. Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
27. Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
28. It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bills. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
29. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notify by the State/Central Government. No claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
30. The cost of stock materials and bridges parts supplied from the department store will be deducted from the contractors bills as per rates.
31. Defect liability period for the pavements works shall for a period of five years which shall not cover the damages due to natural calamities, formation sinking, landslides etc.
32. The payments of the executed work shall be done only after obtaining financial sanctioned from NABARD-NIDA and no claim whatsoever shall be entertained prior to that.
33. The bidders shall produce a certificate of residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is executed.

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NAMCHI DIVISION  
SOUTH SIKKIM**

**R.O. No: 494/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Date: 08/01/2018**



## Beggars 'demonetise' one rupee coin in UP

**RAMPUR (UP), JAN 8 (PTI):** Unhappy with the small size of the one rupee coin, a group of beggars in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur has decided not to accept it anymore.

"Prime Minster Narendra Modi demonetised Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes, now we demonetise the one rupee coin as its size is similar to 50 paise coin," Shukra Mani, a beggar said.

The beggars have alleged that even the shopkeepers, rickshaw pullers do not accept these coins from them because of its smaller size.

## Indian wins dirham 21 million in UAE draw

**DUBAI, JAN 8 (PTI):** An Indian man in the UAE has hit a jackpot by winning a whopping dirham 12 million (USD 3.2 million) in the biggest-ever raffle prize money in Abu Dhabi.

Harikrishnan V Nair, 42, who works as a business development manager for a firm in Dubai and has been living in the UAE with his family since 2002, won the huge amount yesterday in 'Big Ticket' raffle draw.

"I still cannot believe it. Is it me? Is it really me?" an excited Nair, who is from Kerala, told Khaleej Times.

He said he had bought the tickets twice before, but had never won.

Nair said he had always wanted to travel the world with his family and the time for it has come.

"I think 2018 is the year for that. I will plan a world tour soon," said Nair, father of a seven-year old son.

"I would like to plan for my son's education and buy another house in India. I want to take good care of my mother and my wife's mother too, who are in India," he said.

Charity is also on top of Nair's agenda.

"I have always wanted to help people in need, and by God's grace I can do it now. That is something I will really do," he said.

His wife, a logistics support staff, said she could not believe the news.

"I was dump-founded when I got the call from my husband.

First I thought he was playing the same prank I had planned on him," she said.

"Now that he has won the jackpot, I will let him figure out what he wants to do with it. He is after all a business development manager and would know better how to manage his funds," she said.

Eight Indians were among 10 people who had won dirham 1 million (USD 2.7 lakh) each in a mega raffle draw in Abu Dhabi in October last year.

In August, an Indian man had won dirham 5 million (USD 1.3 million) in the draw in the UAE.



## Nirmal supports football coaching camp at home

**SAURABH RAI MELLI, 08 JAN:**

Footballer of national repute, Nirmal Chhetri, is supporting a winter football coaching camp in his hometown of Melli.

Many talented youngsters are taking part in the camp organised by the Melli Sports Academy to encourage and motivate the young-

sters and provide them a chance to play for Melli Sports Academy.

"I would like to thank Football Players Association of India (FPAI) for providing the football jerseys and footballs for the camp and am thankful to the staff for their continued support to the development of football at the grassroots level," said Nirmal.

He added that he would also like to extend his gratitude towards the constituency MLA, Minister Tulsi Devi Rai, and the people of Melli for their warm support and encouragement to the effort.

"I wish all the best to the coaches and support staff for the success of the camp," Nirmal, currently the North East United FC Defender, said.



## Sikkim's Santosh Trophy squad in training in Siliguri

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 08 JAN:**

Sikkim's Santosh Trophy squad today played a preparatory friendly match against Kanchenjunga FC at Milan More, Siliguri. The Sikkim team won 5-0.

The Sikkim squad, consisting of 27 players, is currently in Siliguri for a short preparatory camp, informs team

manager Arjun Rai. They were earlier training at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.

Bhaichung Bhutia, the SFA technical advisor, has initiated the camp at Siliguri for the Sikkim team. He is also bearing all expenses for the Siliguri camp, it is learnt.

Bhaichung, along with team coach Suren Chhetri and manager Ar-

jun Rai, is with the team in Siliguri.

The objective of the Siliguri camp is to play friendly matches for practice and also to acclimatize for the weather that awaits Sikkim players in Bihar where the Santosh Trophy is scheduled to be held later this month, Mr Rai adds.

He further informed that the Sikkim team

would be training tomorrow at the SSB Ground near Siliguri.

"We will play another friendly match on 10 January and then again on 12 Jan before returning to Gangtok," he said.

The final squad of 20 players to represent Sikkim in the Santosh Trophy will be announced on the squad's return to Gangtok.

## Sports coaching in Mangan



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 08 JAN:**

A winter coaching camp for football, Archery, taekwondo and table tennis is underway at various locations in Mangan, North Sikkim, organized by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department. The coaching camp was inaugurated on 05 January by SYA Deputy Director, Janim Lepcha.

Football coach Michael Lepcha informs that while football training is being held at the Tiger-5 Futsal Ground

and Mangan Public Ground, coaching sessions for Archery, Taekwondo and Table Tennis are being held at Mangan Senior Secondary School.

A total of 38 boys and girls are taking part in the football camp. They are in the age group of 8 to 16 years.

The football training is held every day from 7.30 to 9.30 a.m. at the futsal ground and from 2 to 4 pm at Mangan Public Ground. The coaching camp is scheduled to continue till 26 January.

## Meyers tears into Hollywood sex scandal in Golden Globes monologue



**LOS ANGELES, JAN 8**

**(PTI):** The host for Golden Globe Awards 2018, Seth Meyers, classily took on some of the most powerful and now disgraced men in Hollywood, Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey as he took the bull of sexual harassment by the horns in his opening monologue.

Dressed in black, sardonically supporting the fight against sexual abuse scandal that rocked the showbiz last year, the presenter welcomed the new year, saying, "It's 2018 and marijuana is finally allowed, and sexual harassment finally isn't."

Meyers addressed the audience with the quirky one-liner: "Good evening ladies and remaining gentlemen... There's a new era underway and I can tell because it's been years since a white man was this nervous in Hollywood."

He added, "This was the year of Big Little Lies and Get Out and also the television series Big Little Lies and the movie Get Out."

The host took potshots at Weinstein's infamous

modus operandi of sexually harassing women. He said the reason why he was chosen to present the awards is because he is "a man with completely no power in Hollywood".

Pointing at Seth Rogen, Meyers added, "I'm not even the most powerful Seth in the room tonight. Hey remember he was the guy making trouble with North Korea. Simpler times (referring to Rogen's movie 'The Interview')."

"They tried to get a woman to host the show which will be judged by some of the most powerful men in Hollywood and they were like 'hmm, well where is it?' They said it's in a hotel and long story short, I'm your host tonight," he said.

Meyers also took on Trump saying the organisers of the Globes, Hollywood Foreign Press, represent "a string of three words" that are just right to make the POTUS angry.

"Hollywood. Foreign. Press. The only name that could make him angrier is the Hillary Mexi-

co Salad Association."

Meyers referred to Weinstein as "the elephant not in the room" and the audience greeted him back with lots of groans.

He said, "Harvey Weinstein isn't here tonight because, well, I've heard he's crazy and difficult to work with. But don't worry, he'll be back in 20 years when he's the first person ever booed during the in memoriam. It'll sound like that."

The host also faux hoped if Christopher Plummer, who replaced Spacey as the lead in the Ridley Scott's film 'All The Money In The World' after he was accused of sexual abuse, would replace the actor in "House of Cards".

Spacey was also fired from the Netflix show, which he fronted.

"The show goes on. I was happy to hear they're going to do another season of House of Cards. Is Christopher Plummer available for that too? I hope he can do a southern accent because Kevin Spacey sure couldn't..."

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# 26/11 survivor Moshe Holtzberg emotional about visiting Mumbai



## Ansari first man of Asian descent to win Globe for Best Actor

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 8 (PTI):** Indian-origin star Aziz Ansari became the first man of Asian descent to bag the trophy in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series Musical/Comedy category for his role in “The Master Of None”.

It is also the first ever Golden Globe win for the 34-year-old actor.

“I genuinely didn’t think I would win as all the websites said I was gonna lose. Also, I am glad that we won this one.

To lose two of these in a row would have been a really sh\*\*\*y moment for me. But this is nice. The only reason my acting is good on the show is because everyone holds me up,” Ansari said in his acceptance speech.

“I want to thank Italy for all the amazing food we ate on season two,” he joked.

The actor also thanked his parents for their support.

Ansari was nominated in the same category for the Netflix show “The Master of None” in 2016.

He was up against Anthony Anderson of “Black-ish”, Kevin Bacon of “I Love Dick”, William H Macy of “Shameless” and “Will and Grace” star Eric McCormack.

## Safe havens to terrorists in Pak not acceptable to US: CIA

**WASHINGTON, JAN 8 (PTI):** CIA chief Mike Pompeo has said that Pakistan continues to provide safe havens to terrorists which is not acceptable to America.

US President Donald Trump has asked Pakistan to “cease” being a safe haven for terrorists that threaten the US, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director said yesterday.

The US has suspended about USD 2 billion in security aid to Pakistan for failing to clamp down on the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani terror network and dismantle their safe havens.

The freezing of all security assistance to Pakistan comes after President Donald Trump in a New Year’s day tweet accused Islamabad of giving nothing to the US but “lies and deceit” and providing “safe haven” to terrorists in return for USD 33 billion aid over the last 15 years.

“We see the Pakistanis continuing to provide safe harbour, havens inside of Pakistan for terrorists who present risks to the United States of America,” Pompeo was quoted as saying by the CBS news.

**HARINDER MISHRA**

**JERUSALEM, JAN 8 (PTI):** Moshe Holtzberg, the Israeli child who as a toddler survived the 2008 terror attack at a Jewish centre in Mumbai, is feeling “emotional and excited” as he prepares for his “homecoming” during the four day visit to India by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu next week.

Moshe, 11, was two when his parents were killed in the Mumbai attacks at Nariman House (also known as Chabad House) by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists.

The attack on the Nariman House and other locations like the Taj Hotel left 166 people dead.

The boy, standing and crying between his dead parents’ bodies, was saved in a daring move by his Indian nanny, Sandra Samuels, who was hiding in a room downstairs when the attack happened.

“Moshe is very excited and at the same time emotional as he gets ready to leave for Mumbai on January 15. He is returning to his birthplace and is waiting to see many things connected to his late parents that he has heard about from us and his nanny. There are lots of memories,” an overwhelmed Rabbi Shimon Rosenberg, Moshe’s grandfather, told PTI.

In an emotional meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 5 in Jerusalem, the young boy had expressed his wish to visit Mumbai.



Image courtesy: YouTube Screengrab

“I hope I will be able to visit Mumbai, and when I get older, live there. I will be the director of our Chabad House,” Moshe had told the Indian Prime Minister.

Modi had responded by saying, “Come and stay in India and Mumbai. You are most welcome. You and your family members will get long-term visas. So you can come anytime and go anywhere.”

Netanyahu then promptly asked Moshe to join him when he travels to India, a promise he did not forget

and has invited the family to join him in Mumbai during his forthcoming visit to India starting on January 14.

“Moshe says that he was touched by the warm embrace he received from Prime Minister Modi when he met him in Jeursalem during his July visit to Israel. He says that he felt like it was one of his own people giving him a warm hug,” Rosenberg said adding, “he is hoping to meet the Indian Prime Minister again during his India trip”.

“He is waiting to host Prime Minister Netanyahu and his wife Sara,

and hopefully PM Modi ‘at his home in Mumbai,” the grandfather said.

The young boy will be accompanied by his grandparents, Shimon and Yehudit Rosenberg, nanny Sandra and a psychologist during his trip to Mumbai.

“During a meeting with the psychologist, who has been mentally preparing him for the visit, Moshe gave him an account of places in Mumbai he would like to visit. He has done his homework and knows about not only the site seeing plac-



## Trump has to keep Kim ‘on his toes’: Haley on ‘nuclear button’ tweet

**LALIT K JHA**

**WASHINGTON, JAN 8 (PTI):** Nikki Haley has defended US President Donald Trump’s recent “nuclear button” tweet warning Kim Jong Un of America’s might, saying it was required to keep the North Korean leader “on his toes”.

Trump last week warned that his “nuclear button” is “much bigger and more powerful” than the one controlled by Kim, days after the North Korean leader said that Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons can reach anywhere in the US and threatened that he has a nuclear button on his desk.

Haley, the Indian-American US Ambassador to the UN said that the North Korean regime needs to take a series of steps for talks, a day after Trump said that he is open

to talks with the North Korean leader.

The steps include stop testing missiles and nuclear weapons and be willing to talk about banning their nuclear weapons, Haley was quoted as saying by ABC News yesterday.

Asked if the tweet was a good idea, she said: “I think that he (Trump) always has to keep Kim on his toes. It’s very important that we don’t ever let him get so arrogant that he doesn’t realise the reality of what would happen if he started a nuclear war”.

Asked if Trump’s statement at Camp David on Saturday meant any reversal of the stated US policy with regard to talks with North Korea, she said “There is no turnaround”.

“What he (Trump) has basically said is yes, there could be a time where we talk to

North Korea but a lot of things have to happen before that actually takes place,” Haley said.

They have to stop testing. They have to be willing to talk about banning their nuclear weapons. Those things have to happen, she said.

“What we’re trying to do is make sure we don’t repeat what’s happened in the last 25 years. Which is them start to act like they’re coming to the table, them ask for a lot of money and then them cheat their way through.

“We’re going to be smart this time. We’re going to make sure that whatever happens makes the United States safer and make sure that we denuclearise the (Korean) peninsula,” Haley said.

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DEAR PRECIOUS	
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:6 DrawDate: on 08/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 91H 84033 (Including Super Prize Amt)	
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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR FLAMINGO EVENING	
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# Golden Globes 2018: A night of many beginnings and first wins

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 8 (PTI):** Oprah Winfrey, Sterling K Brown, and Aziz Ansari were some of the first-timers who were honoured at the Golden Globe Awards 2018.

Celebrated host-media mogul, Winfrey, became the first African-American woman to be honoured with the annual Cecil B DeMille Award, named after the Hollywood producer-director behind "The Ten Commandments".

She gave a rousing address at the ceremony paying her tributes to the women who courageously spoke out against sexual abuse.

She used her acceptance speech to give a searing rebuke of racial injustice, sexual abuse, and attacks on the integrity of the press.

"I want all the girls watching here, now, to know that a new day is on the horizon!" Winfrey, who was introduced to the stage by Reese Witherspoon, said to a standing ovation. "And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'Me too' again."

In another first, "This Is Us" star, Brown created history as he became the first African-American to win a Golden Globe in the Best Actor in a TV Series, Drama category for his performance as Randall Pearson on the NBC hit series.

Ansari, the Indian-origin actor, finally bagged the trophy as he was named the winner in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series Musical/Comedy category for his role in "Master Of None". He was nominated in the same category for the Netflix show in 2016.

The 75th awards ceremony also ended the dry spell for many recognised names such as Gary Oldman and Frances McDormand at the event.

Oldman won his first Globe as the Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama for his portrayal of Winston



Churchill in "Darkest Hour". It was his first nod as well.

The veteran actor, interestingly, has been critical of the Globes in the past.

McDormand took home the trophy for Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama Golden Globe for her performance in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri".

The six-time lucky actor played Mildred, a grieving mother of a young woman whose rape-murder has gone unsolved in her small-town American community.

The actor has been nominated for a Globe in the past, including for her Oscar-winning role in " Fargo," but had never won an individual award.

Alison Janney was named the Best Supporting Actress in Motion Picture category for her role of LaVona Fay Golden, the mother of infamous figure skater Tonya Harding in "I, Tonya".

This was the actor's sixth Golden Globe nomina-

tion.

The Globe for the Best Actress in the Musical or Comedy category went to Saoirse Ronan for her role in "Lady Bird", both written and directed by Greta Gerwig. The actor earlier received nominations in 2008 and 2016.

While Ewan McGregor won his first Globe as Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television for his role in " Fargo".

This was his fourth nomination.

Guillermo del Toro, Martin McDonagh, Sam Rockwell, Rachel Brosnahan and Alexander Skarsgard struck gold in the first nod at the award ceremony.

While del Toro took home the Golden Globe for Best Director for Motion Picture ("The Shape of Water"), McDonagh scored a win in the category of Best Screenplay for "Three Billboards..." Both were nomi-

nated in these two segments.

Skarsgard, who plays Nicole Kidman's abusive husband in HBO's "Big Little Lies", won his first Globe as the Best Supporting Actor in Limited Series category.

Rockwell won the golden title for Best Supporting Act in Motion Picture for his role in "Three Billboards..."

Brosnahan emerged Best Actress in a Television Comedy Series for playing the protagonist, Miriam 'Midge' Maisel in "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel", who admitted backstage that she had blanked out after saying 'hi' to Winfrey in the middle of her acceptance speech.

As the first award show in the new year, Golden Globes 2018 set a precedent by addressing the sexual harassment scandal that rocked Hollywood late last year and the winners speeches reflected the shift in Hollywood.

## Sean Paul to headline Vh1 Supersonic

**PUNE, JAN 8 (PTI):** International rapper Sean Paul is all set to headline Vh1 Supersonic music festival in Pune next month.

The three-day festival will see performances by many international artistes and bands, a release said.

The 'Gimme The Light' hitmaker said he is excited about his India visit and looks forward to play in Pune.



"I am really looking for-

ward to going to India again, it's always a great vibe there and I know the fans will enjoy the vibe I am about to bring; it will be super-sonic," Paul said.

"I am ready to try some new cuisine there too, let's see how that goes," he added.

The festival will be held from February 9 to February 11 at Laxmi Lawns in Pune.



## Anamika Khanna is LFW Summer-Resort 2018 grand finale designer

**MUMBAI, JAN 8 (PTI):** Anamika Khanna will bring down the curtains at this year's summer resort edition of Lakme Fashion Week.

Known for designs with rich craftsmanship that blend Indian colours with global contours, Khanna will close the fashion week with her 'Reinventing Nudes' collection.

Laced with heritage of craft and texture, the clothing line will be a modern twist on unorthodox fashion. Her collection is being touted as a fusion of traditional Indian aesthetics with edgy cuts.

Talking about reuniting with Lakme for the closing, Anamika said the fashion week is a platform that gives designers the opportunity to push boundaries and reinvent themselves.

"The nude makeup trend has been the talk of the town for a while but to see it through Lakme's eyes is very different.

It's about identifying every Indian woman's nude palette.

"Our finale collection is fine-tuned to be in perfect

symmetry with the season's statement, and we hope to showcase how much variety nudes can bring when done right," the designer said in a statement.

Anamika will collaborate the Lakme makeup experts to create looks that promise to redefine nude trends.

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email:

news@summittimes.com

## Sridevi's 'Mom' to be screened in Armenia

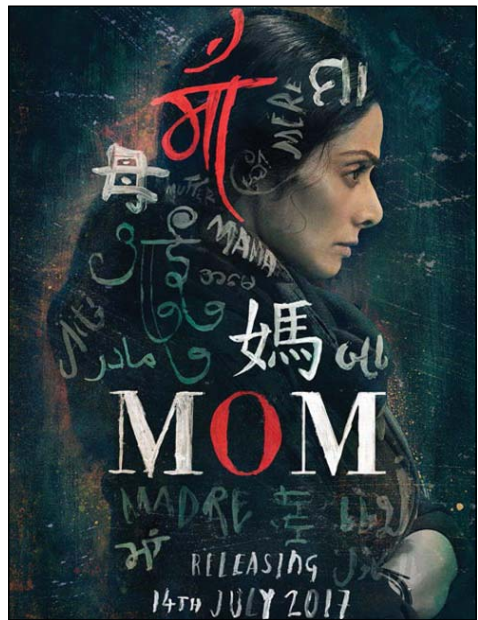
**MUMBAI, JAN 8 (PTI):** Noted actor Sridevi's film "Mom", the revenge drama which released last year, is set to be screened in Armenia this month.

According to a release, the movie will be screened at an annual festival of Indian films in Yerevan, Armenia.

The Embassy of India in Armenia organises an annual festival of Indian films. During the event, the most popular and award-winning movies of that year are screened in Armenia's popular cinema hall, Moscow Cinema.

This year, the Embassy was offered a list of films and "Mom" was chosen to be screened. The event is planned on the eve of the Republic Day of India.

"We knew the story of 'Mom' had the power to resonate with people across the globe. We are so very proud about how the movie continues to connect with the audience all over, especially Russia and now Armenia," the film's producer, Boney



Kapoor, said in a statement.

The intense drama thriller also featured Akshaye Khanna and Nawazuddin

Siddiqui.

It released on July 7 last year to a positive response from the audience.

### LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



### ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



### BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**ARIES:** An older relative could help you solve a matter of the heart. You should be confident and try not to be so stubborn. During the afternoon, news about a friend of yours having fallen seriously ill might make you change your schedule.

**TAURUS:** A business of yours may fail, or a partnership may break apart, and this could greatly upset you. For quite a while you might feel like nothing goes well and everything seems to be against you. Stop being so pessimistic!

You should find some time to relax.

**GEMINI:** You might've just completed a major task and may already be planning a new one. Think about your family too! It might be time to slow down. Tomorrow is another day. Pay more attention to your loved ones! You may also want to catch up on the sleep you've skipped lately.

**CANCER:** You might become rather impulsive after having missed an important objective. Don't take it out on your family!

You should try to uncover the real reason of your failure. Your loved one could help you and offer some sound advice.

**LEO:** You might have an argument with your loved one who resents your lack of tenderness and your working long hours. Should you attempt to obtain financial benefits by any means, you might find out that it also involves certain risks. You should pay your need for rest the due attention.

**VIRGO:** You might be in a

bad mood because you feel that one of your business partners is trying to cheat you. It might be time to talk it over and clear up any misunderstanding. A close friend could visit you during the evening and help improve your mood.

**LIBRA:** You seem to be facing emotional issues and need to make a major decision. Today is favorable for devising future plans. The results of your efforts as of late should start showing. The time has come for you to reap the benefits. Today you'd

better avoid speculations of any kind.

**SCORPIO:** You might have to go on a trip. You can be optimistic, for everything is likely to go as planned. Relationships with friends should be very good. Your loved one might insist that you accept the support offered by a relative.

**SAGITTARIUS:** The opportunity could arise for you to join a new business project, but you shouldn't make a hasty

decision. You might not be thinking clearly today, and your choices may not be the best ones. You have a good chance at succeeding today, provided you are patient and manage to control your agitation.

**CAPRICORN:** You may feel uneasy because of your financial difficulties. Avoid arguments – or they might easily turn into quarrels. You can rely on intuition.

**AQUARIUS:** You might have a quarrel with your loved one over your reluctance to pay a

visit to relatives. Looks like today is not a very good day for business, either. Under these rather unfavorable circumstances, you should keep calm and try to relax. Avoid financial speculations!

**PISCES:** It seems you're not exactly fond of the changes happening at work. Keep your temper in check – or you'd only make things worse. An older relative might try to impose his/her view upon you. It's up to you to avoid a fight. Try to rest more!