



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Assembly winter session on 29-30 Jan

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

The Governor of Sikkim Shrinivas Patil has called two days long winter session of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly from 29 and 30 January. During the two-day winter session, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is expected to place the Supplementary Demands for Grants for financial year 2017-18 along with other legislative business, informed SLA sources.

Yangang all set to host 4th Jaivik Krishi Paryatan Mela

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Yangang is all set to host the fourth edition of Jaivik Krishi Paryatan Mela on 23 and 24 Jan at Yangang helipad premises in South Sikkim. Yangang Tourism Development Committee [YTDC] had started the annual organic festival in 2015 to create mass awareness on the importance of organic farming and tourism and to encourage local people of the area in these sectors, informs a YTDC press release issued by its publicity secretary, Hem Gurung.

The release adds that the festival is an important annual event of the committee to develop organic farming and tourism in the area.

The two-day festival is scheduled to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and will also have HolidayIQ founder, Hari Nair as the special guest. The inaugural day will also have a performance from popular comedian, Wil-

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Sikkim's first woman kickboxing referee debuts at Wako Federation Cup

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Phurba Sherpa, the first international woman kickboxing ring judge and referee from Sikkim made her debut

appearance as the ring judge and referee in the Wako India Kickboxing Federation Cup 2017-18 held from 16 to 21 Jan at New Delhi.

Phurba got her in-

ternational referee and judge certificates by passing an examination in the WAKO International Kickboxing Referee Seminar held in September last year at Lonawala,

Pune.

Phurba is an international kick boxer from Sikkim presently working as a teacher at Ahopul Kisan Secondary School in East Sikkim.

She expressed her happiness on serving the national championship as the referee and judge for the first time. She also expressed

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ANNUAL CONGREGATION AT BODHGAYA MEANS BRISK BUSINESS FOR LOCALS

The Nyingma Monlam Chenmo is underway at Bodhgaya [until 26 Jan] where around 10,000 devotees from all over the world are gathered seeking blessings from the Dalai Lama and just by being at the holy site where Lord Buddha gained enlightenment. Such a huge gathering also means brisk business for locals and some visitors. Outside the Mahabodhi temple, one hawker sells 'sungdi' [religious threads to be tied around the neck or wrist after being blessed by a high ranking Buddhist priest or Rinpoche], pendants with the Dalai Lama or Mahabodhi temple imprinted on them, prayers beads, etc while in the background are some hawkers selling momo, thukpa, shya phaley, etc for the hungry. This photo was taken on Thursday, a day before a low intensity explosion close to this spot caused some panic and the administration to tighten security in the area. [Pic: Tshering Eden]

Sikkim Govt should stay out of Darj matters: Binay



SMRITA KHAWAS

SILIGURI, 21 JAN:

Chairman of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) Board of Administrators, Binoy Tamang while addressing his first public meeting in seven months at Sukuna in Siliguri today asked the Sikkim Government 'not to interfere' in matters of the Hills from now onwards. He added that he respects the Sikkim Government but it should stay away from matters related to the Hills.

Amidst a bevy of supporters, Mr Tamang also declared the quickest route from Siliguri to Darjeeling 'Rohini Road' to be renamed as Subhash Ghising Road in honor of the Late Gorkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] leader, Subhash Ghising.

The meet was also attended by Mr Tamang's close aide and GTA vice chairman, Anit Thapa. Both the leaders accused Bimal Gurung of misleading people under the tag of Gorkhaland movement.

The meeting is significant for Mr Tamang because this is his first public meeting after he and Anit Thapa were expelled from GJM following which the state government appointed him

as Chairman of the caretaker board of the GTA. In most previous meetings it has been Anit Thapa who has addressed the public.

Speaking today, he underlined that most of the funds intended for public benefits were diverted by Mr Gurung and his associates for vested interests.

Expressing his confidence, the GTA chief said that if the State Government wants them to take part in the upcoming election then they are ready.

He added that the party is disheartened by the Central Government ignoring their promises to the people of the Hills like the promises to establish universities in the Hills and declaration to accord tribal status to 11 communities.

On 20 Jan, Mr Tamang distributed approval letters to 429 teachers who had been given appointment in various hill schools in 2010 by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

With approval coming only through the DGHC education secretary and not the district inspector of schools, the teachers' post retirement benefits were in doubt, the approval letters put such doubts to rest.

Mahatma Gandhi assassination case records part of Indian heritage: HC

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 (PTI):

Terming the records pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination as part of India's "cultural heritage", the Delhi High Court has asked the Centre how it intends to collect and maintain the entire case information as was directed by transparency panel CIC.

The poser by Justice Vibhu Bakhu came while hearing a plea by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) challenging an order of the Central Information Commission (CIC) which had directed it to provide the police investigation's original records including the case diaries and final charge sheet to an RTI applicant.

The CIC had also directed Delhi Police to provide information about efforts made by it to arrest three absconders-Gangadhar Dahawate, Surya Dev Sharma and Gangadhar Yadav.

The home ministry told the court that it was not the authority which had all the information and it would probably be available with the Ministry of Culture, the National Archives or Delhi Police.

It also told the court that the Ministry of Culture was working on collecting and preserving the information pertaining to the case as the directions were also issued to it by the CIC.

The court, however, said if

the records were not available with the home ministry, it can access or call for the same from other authorities.

It asked the home ministry how it intended to ensure maximum implementation of the objective of the CIC order.

"Tell us how you are going to do it," it queried and the ministry's lawyer said he will have to seek instructions.

The court, thereafter, listed the matter for further hearing on February 12.

The CIC order had come on a plea by Odisha-based RTI applicant Hemant Panda who had told the commission that he was a researcher and interested in studying the records pertaining to the assassination

of Mahatma Gandhi who was shot dead on January 30, 1948 by Nathuram Godse, a right-wing activist.

Panda had claimed that he had studied the records, including those in the repository of the National Archives of India (NAI), but could not find two important documents--the final charge sheet by Delhi Police and order of execution of Godse.

In his RTI application, Panda had raised three queries on which he needed clarity -- the efforts made to arrest the absconders in the case, the reasons for acquitting other two accused and whether a copy of final charge sheet and order of execution of Godse are missing

from the records.

The CIC had directed Delhi Police to transfer its original records, which show its efforts to trace the absconders in the case, to the NAI for preservation.

The commission had also noted that there was "no official compilation of records at one place about his death".

"The police have a duty to explain what efforts were taken to arrest three absconding accused or why they could not be traced. The Ministry of Home Affairs has an onerous responsibility to take up this task and place all of those records with the NAI for general access of the public," the CIC had said.

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Sikh man asked to remove turban in Canada

OTTAWA, JAN 21 (PTI):

A Sikh man was asked to remove his turban by a woman in a Canadian club who threatened to "rip" off the head covering and heckled him with racist remarks, according to a media report.

Jaswinder Singh Dhaliwal was playing pool with friends at the Royal Canadian Legion, a Canadian ex-service organisation that includes people who have served in military, when the management approached the group and asked him to remove his patka as it was its policy to remove any headgear out of respect for the veterans, CBC News reported.

However, religious garments are exempted from the legion's policy banning head coverings.

The incident took place on Wednesday at Tignish town in Canada's Prince Edward Island.

Yangang all set to host 4th Jaivik Krishi...

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son Bikram Rai [Tokmey Buro] from Nepal, Himalayan queen of melody, Mona along with singers Roshna Sawaden and Shanti Rai and Sanskriti Band from Namchi will and a series of cultural and folk presentations.

The festival also includes stalls for organic produce, visits to organic fields, traditional food stalls, stalls for handicrafts and handloom and flowers, paragliding, rock climbing, boating, mountain biking, health camp, Kisaan Bazaar and other attractions.

The organising committee has invited all to be a part of this two-day festival.

Sikkim's first woman kickboxing referee debuts at Wako...

contd from pg01

mense happiness on being the first international woman kickboxing ring judge and referee from Sikkim.

"It was a happy and proud moment for me to serve such a prestigious national championship alongside some of the senior and experienced international referees and judges of the country. This championship was also a learning experience for my career," Phurba shared over the phone from New Delhi.

She added that it was a big responsibility and tough job that has taught her a lot.

"This is just the start and I will continue to work hard with full dedication. I would like to motivate and encourage young women of Sikkim to take up kickboxing and other sports as a profession," she said.

Phurba expressed her gratitude to chief coach, Bidhan Ballav Subba and to her family members and well wishers.



SMTA Singtam celebrates 44th Foundation Day

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Motor Transport Association, Singtam Branch celebrated its 44th foundation day here at Singtam today. The celebration took place in front of the association's oldest ticket counter in

the bazaar.

Senior drivers and association members were felicitated with appreciation letter and shawl by the SMTA.

Senior Driver, Lakpa Tamang, main line taxi driver, Dhan Bahadur Pradhan and office assistant, Bhaichung Bhutia were

some of the members felicitated on the occasion.

SMTA president, Tinku Adhikari talking about the occasion said that this year's foundation day was dedicated to the 'honest and hardworking members' who have served the association with immense honor and

discipline.

He further urged the association members to work diligently in the coming days and make the association respectable. He strictly instructed the drivers to cooperate with the police department.

'Connecting Champions' initiative to take students to Karnataka



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and First Lady Rajanidevi Patil granted audience to 20 students under the banner 'Connecting Champions' in a special function held at Ashirvaad Bhavan today, a press communiqué from Raj Bhawan informs.

The students are the third batch of Connecting Champions, a student exchange programme conceptualised by 24Hrs Inspired Chief Learning Officer, Dewaker Basnet. Students under the

exchange programme have been to Pune in January, 2015 and Baramati in January, 2017.

The batch of 20 students escorted by four teacher escorts will now travel to Mangalore, Karnataka from 22 Jan to 01 Feb to exchange learning skills and showcase the cultural diversity of Sikkim.

Mr Basnet presented a brief insight on Connecting Champions 2018 edition followed by a cultural programme by the participating students.

The Governor while turn to pg03

Focused steps required to provide agro-based job opportunities for youth in Sikkim: ASSOCHAM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

"THERE IS A need for multi-dimensional support and nurturing entrepreneurship skills by helping farmers, startups and SMEs in food processing sector in Sikkim," said Principal Secretary-Department of Commerce & Industry, Government of Sikkim, Arvind Kumar, at Associated Chambers of Commerce of India [ASSOCHAM] event held in Gangtok on 18 Jan, a press release informs.

While addressing the conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets" in collaboration with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, he expressed the need to promote co-operative system and contract farming so as to enable aggregation of holding, production, technology etc. for economic prosperity.

He also emphasized on the need for partnerships for training and competence building, marketing, processing, projects and infrastructure development to accelerate growth and development to Food processing sector in this region leading to more jobs, incomes and opportunities for



the people of this region.

He further suggested diversifying agriculture in Sikkim via Organic Farming, veterinary, poultry, floriculture etc. He also gave a holistic picture of the Indian Food industry as well as scope of sikkim to get itself in the forefront.

"Market linkage is the major problem faced by Sikkim farmers; hence industry associations like ASSOCHAM should focus on building external market linkage for food processing units in Sikkim," Mr Ku-

mar added.

Dr Jyoti Prakash Tamang stating north eastern region with agro friendly climate and agrarian roots has potential to be sunrise zone for food processing and other agro business industry. He further added that the geo-climatic situation of Sikkim offers an excellent scope for growing different varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants of high economic value.

"There is a need to diagnose the

problems in the region for providing an improved production and marketing environment and value added economic benefit to farmers through appropriate science and technological policies for various post harvest functions in food processing industry," Dr Tamang expressed.

Senior Director-ASSOCHAM, Dr Om S Tyagi, in his opening remarks, shared that the food processing industry has made some significant progress in North Eastern region of India. Areas like - Agro & Horticulture Processing, Processing of Plantation Crops, Animal Husbandry and Meat Processing Industries have been declared as potential area in the promotion of industrial activities in the state of Sikkim.

He further said that focus for development should be on horticulture which is one of the major sector which holds unexplored scope to strengthen the economy of the state of Sikkim. Government of India is promoting the food processing sector in the region to utilize its vast potential of raw horticultural produce through its various financial assistance schemes primarily by Ministry of Food Processing Industries

through State Government of Sikkim and agencies like MSME, NHB, APE-DA, NABARD, QCI, NHM, NERAMAC, Public and Private sector Banks and other financial institutions, he added.

Senior Director-Global Government Affairs, South Asia, Abbott Healthcare Pvt Ltd, Mr Chitkara, extended warm welcome to dignitaries on the dais, delegates, press and media. In his welcome address he highlighted that Government of India is promoting the food processing sector in the region to utilize its vast potential of raw horticultural produce. He recognized a number of constraints both in forward & backward linkages and called upon small entrepreneurs to think big and make global brands. The startups and SMEs in food processing sector can play a vital role in doubling farmer's income, he added.

He mentioned about the various government programme and schemes which need to be utilized by the farming community. He compared Gangtok with many Hill stations and tourist places in Europe and suggested that there is need to create infrastructure for supporting tourist activities.

Sudunglakha GPU holds annual Gram Sabha

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Sudunglakha Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) under Chujachen Constituency held its annual Gram Sabha on 20 Jan at Village Administrative Center in Sudunglakha, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

GPU president, Tila Rupa Powrel Sharma chaired the Gram Sabha with Zilla Adhyaksha [East], Samsher Rai Bokhim as the guest of honor.

Ward Panchayats, Zilla territorial members, former Panchayats, line department officials and Self Help Group members were also present in the meeting.

The meeting started with the national anthem followed by a string of announcements by GPU president, Tila



Rupa Powrel Sharma like formation of Disaster Management Center, Vigilance Committee and Standing Committee of GPU.

Ward Panchayats placed their demands for their respective wards along with the resolutions for 2018.

Senior Village Administrative Assistant, Purna Prasad Rai and Panchayat Development Assistant, Anita Regmi read the annual report of 2017, the release informs.

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Temp: 19°C / 06°C
Forecast: Sunny
to partly cloudy.
Sunrise: 06:26 AM
Sunset: 5:09 PM

Tripura: Class XII exams rescheduled for assembly elections

AGARTALA, JAN 21 (PTI): The Tripura Board of Secondary Education (TBSE) has rescheduled Class XII examinations to avoid a clash with the ensuing assembly elections.

The state goes to polls on February 18 and the results for the sixty constituencies will be declared on March 3.

Official sources have said the entire election process is likely to continue till March 5.

"The Class XII examinations, which were scheduled to begin on March 5, will now commence on March 8 in view of the upcoming elections," TBSE president Mihir Kanti Deb told reporters here today.

The schedule for Class X exams remains unchanged.

This year, around 27,000 candidates will be appearing for Class XII examinations and nearly 55,000 students will sit for Class X examinations, Deb added.

IMA Sikkim Branch condemns National Medical Commission Bill

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

The Indian Medical Association (registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860), Sikkim State Branch in a meeting held in Gangtok on 20 Jan had a deliberation on the proposed National Medical Commission Bill that is slated to be discussed in the Parliament.

A press release issued by the State Branch has voiced its support on the nationwide opposition of the bill.

"The bill is against the interest of the doctor community and the welfare of the patient," reads the release.

The Association has also condemned the specific provisions of the act which allows non-allopathic practitioners to take a bridge course and prepare non-qualified practitioners putting risk to healthcare delivery system in the country.

In a letter addressed to Member of Parliament and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare, Professor Ram Gopal Yadav the State Branch president, Dr SK Dewan and honorary secretary, Dr DP Rai have requested the committee to reconsider the bill and include more representations of modern medical professionals in the system to safeguard the nobility of



modern medicine.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, 2017, seeks to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI) with a new body. Around 2.9 lakh doctors had come onto the streets in protest on 02 Jan. NMC Bill 2017 was presented in the Lok Sabha on 29 Dec 2017 and was scheduled to be discussed on 02 Jan, however, the government referred the controversial National Medical Commission Bill, to a Stand-

ing Committee which has been asked to give its recommendation prior to the Budget session.

The Bill proposes a government-nominated chairman and members, who will be selected by a committee under the Cabinet Secretary. The medical fraternity is opposing the clause, fearing that the body would effectively be run by the government. The Bill also allows practitioners of Ayurveda and other tra-

ditional Indian systems of medicine the licence to prescribe allopathic drugs after they have passed a 'bridge course.'

In its current form, the Bill does away with the MCI and brings in a national licentiate examination.

The government claims that the Bill will ease the processes for colleges to manage undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Earlier, the MCI's approval was needed for establishing,

renewing, recognising and increasing seats in an undergraduate course. Under the new proposal, permission needs to be sought only for establishment and recognition.

The IMA said that the NMC would not be "national" as it did not represent all States. In its merging of Ayush with modern medicine, it posed a potential threat to patients and was as risky as an untested medical "trial."



Nar Bahadur Limboo aka Jaributtiwala decodes Ayurvedic knowledge for treating people

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 20 JAN:

64-year-old Nar Bahadur Limboo hailing from Gumpadara at Uttaray in Manebyong Denam is commonly known as Jaributtiwala and has been treating people with his self-gained knowledge in Ayurvedic medication. He is a certified practitioner-baidya.

He was spotted selling Ayurvedic medicines from a stall at MG Marg during the Red Panda Winter Carnival Festival.

Jaributtiwala, while speaking to Summit-times, says that healing people's wounds, from basic to intense, gives him a satisfying feeling.

"I have been collecting jaributti herbs for the past 30 years from the jungles of local areas. I started putting them up for sale 26 years ago. I basically sell these homemade Ayurvedic medicines from my home itself. If any department invites me to hold a stall for sale of these medicines, I willingly do the same for the betterment of the people. I have treated many untreatable diseases of people through my medicines. If people find it inconvenient to visit my place to fetch medicines, I send

them through vehicles. I am overwhelmed by the good response from the people who have tested my medicines. I collect these jaributtis from local surrounding jungles, from my own paddy where I have planted the medicines and also from Nepal. I treat people with disease like diabetes mellitus, piles hemorrhoids, urinary disorders, asthma, stones, tooth pain, gastritis, hypertension, etc., with locally available herbs. I treat snake bites as well," says Jaributtiwala.

Inheriting the knowledge of the medicinal usage of locally available herbs from his grandfather, Jaributtiwala gradually started expanding his knowledge with his own effort and has today mastered it.

"I may look old from my appearance but my soul is still young and energy still vibrant. I feel very happy serving people and helping them regain energy and a new life," expresses Jaributtiwala.

Nar Bahadur Limboo aka Jaributtiwala has received various awards along with commendation certificates from various Ayurvedic boards and institutions.

Workshop on Child Rights and POCSO held at Gorubathan PS

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 21 JAN:

Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society conducted a workshop on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at Gorubathan Police Station today.

Sub Divisional Police Officer [Gorubathan], M Rehman, Circle Inspector, Gopal Chakraborty, Officer in-charge [Gorubathan], Prajwal Pradhan and other police personnel from Gorubathan and Jaldhaka Police Station under Kalimpong district attended the event.

Programme Manager of Child Rights Project delivered the welcome speech and shared that the main objective of the workshop was to enhance knowledge, ways and means in case intervention of POCSO cases, child protection laws as



well as the processes while dealing with cases of children in a child friendly environment.

Senior Advocate and Public Prosecutor of Darjeeling District Court, Pranay Rai gave an orientation on United Nations Convention on Rights of the Children (UNCRC), POCSO Act to make the case stronger. Mr Rai was recognized by Kolkata High Court for hav-

ing the maximum number of conviction in POCSO cases and a national record of conviction for life within 23 days of Teesta Child Sexual Abuse.

He stressed that the victim should be handled with utmost precaution and care. He also shared that many of the POCSO cases in the Hills are not strong because the investigation officer is over-

burdened with cases thus he/she cannot concentrate wholly on the POCSO case. He thus suggested enriching the POCSO cases by segregating cases at each police station.

SDPO, M Rehman congratulated Mr Rai for enlightening the police officers on POCSO. He urged the police officers to take the POCSO cases very seriously.

'Connecting Champions'...

contd from pg03

addressing the students urged them to take advantage of the opportunity and learn from the exposure trip.

"Students and youth of Sikkim must inculcate the spirit of competition in order to be successful in life and exposure trips like this will certainly benefit students in terms of competitiveness," Mr Patil added.

He also urged the students to be the ambassadors of Sikkimese ethos and values and exemplify Sikkimese identity throughout their journey with discipline, honesty and integrity, reads the release.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NO: 142/ RM&DD/SE(S/W)- TEN

Dated: 16/01/2018

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites percentage rate tender under single cover system from the eligible class of contractors enlisted with the SPWD for execution of work as detailed below.

Sl. No	Name of work	Cost of Bidding documents	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value	Bid value
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of ADC (Development) Office at Namchi in South Sikkim.	Rs.50,000.00	Rs.11,62,973.00	Rs.4,65,18,934.00

The date and time of tender and submission of completed bid document are as under:-

- Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal by the Department: 20/01/2018.
- Last date for submission of bids online by the Bidders : 20/02/2018, 1400 hours.
- Last Date for submission of hard copy of bid security: 21/02/2018, 1400 Hours at Circle Office, Jorethang.
- Date of opening of bids: 22/02/2018 10:30 AM onwards at Head Office, Gangtok.

Eligible Contractors having experience in the construction of building works and consider themselves capable to undertake execution of the project may download the details and bidding documents from the e-procurement portal i.e. www.sikkimtender.gov.in w.e.f. 20.02.2018.

The completed tender documents must be uploaded in the e-procurement portal on or before 21/02/2018, 1400 hours. All the relevant papers as per the bidding documents except financial bid must be submitted in hard copy along with the cost of standard bidding document (SBD) in the form of challan/demand draft drawn in favour of Accounts Officer(Circle Office, Jorethang), Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Jorethang before opening of the bids. If the hard copy of the relevant document i/c the cost of tender document and Earnest Money (EMD) are not received on 21.02.2018, before 16.00 hours, the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered non-responsive and shall not be opened.

The department reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (S/W)
RM&DD**

R.O. No. 512/IPR/Class./17-18 dt. 18.1.18



Antyesthi Kriya

The Antyesthi Kriya of Late Bijay Kumar Prasad who passed away on 10th Jan 2018, falls on **26 Jan 2018 [Friday]**. On behalf of the Rameshwar family all relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us to offer prayers for the departed soul at our residence located nearby the **Union Bank of India, Singtam, East Sikkim**. We offer our sincere gratitude towards all those who stood by us in this time of bereavement.

Family members:
Sanjay Prasad: 9733050000, **Ajay Prasad:** 9434152958 [brothers], **Rajala Devi (Mother):** 9733012000, **Avinash Prasad:** 9733014000



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No: 04/SPSC/EXAM/2018

Date: 16/01/2018

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Online Applications are invited from the eligible local candidates for filling up of 47 (forty seven) posts of General Duty Medical Officer (Junior Grade) on temporary regular basis in PB-2 of Rs.9300-34800 plus Grade Pay of Rs.5000/- under the Sikkim State Health Service, through Direct Recruitment.

The candidates are advised to visit the Sikkim Public Service Commission website for detail Advertisement, eligibility conditions, and Scheme of Examination etc. from official Website i.e. www.spscskm.gov.in.

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R.O. No. 513/IPR/PUB/Class./17-18 dt. 18.1.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Doklam's Back in the News

...and so is the hyperventilation and lack of context

So, the Doklam area, that “plateau” contested between China and Bhutan - at least that is how we in India would have the world believe - is back in the news.

Its return to the headlines followed a leaking route similar to how the issue had first made news - an obvious nudge towards the story from army/ defence “sources”. In the present instance, news reports speak of satellite images revealing Chinese army build-up and construction in the area. It is unlikely that TV channel, even the desh-bhakt types, have satellites keeping watch over our borders. That info was obviously “shared” by defence or intelligence agencies. Although the images are obviously of the Doklam area, it is also unlikely that this was verified by our news channels before they broadcast it. Earlier, during its “sensational” debut on national news about a year or so back, TV news anchors dubbed running commentaries on a video of Indian and Chinese soldiers in a shoving match in the Doklam area. These were not captured by an embedded journalist but fell on their laps through WhatsApp groups but no mention was made of the source. This smartphone video was not much different from other videos of similar jostling matches between Indian and Chinese soldiers in this sector. Journalists in these parts have been privy to such visuals for a while now and anyone who knows the borders here, should also know that such confrontations are common at least in the Doklam sector and have been the routine for the past nearly four and a half decades. In their own way, the nature of the stand-offs are also reassuring because, irrespective of what the breathless TV anchors would want you to see, the confrontations are actually quite civil - they shove a bit and hold their line, but never exchange blows and “never, ever” even point guns at each other. If, the “situation” was really as grim as the commentators speculate it to be, don't you think at least a bloody nose would have been caught in those videos?

Interestingly, when the news first broke, most nationalist, oops, national, journalists could not even be bothered by geography and for several weeks led viewers to believe that Doklam was part of India or danced around the suggestion that it was contested between India, China and Bhutan. But that is not the case. As far as India and Bhutan are concerned, it is settled that Doklam belongs to Bhutan. When it comes to Bhutan and China though, it is not very clear what the two have settled upon, and therein lies the rub - why is it always India that screams Doklam while not even a reflex whimper of protest has come out of Bhutan unless goaded by India? Why do the experts not question the obvious hilarity of Doklam somehow making the chicken's neck corridor within tactical “stone's throw” reach of the Chinese? And how come the so-called Defence experts not know of army reports dating back to the late Sixties that the Chinese were taking undue interest in the Doklam area and that India should head them off in collaboration with Bhutan. The top-brass ignored these warnings for four and a half decades and is now hyperventilating and misinforming. They need to be called out. We also need to know Bhutan's thoughts and position on the issue - their actual position and not those they are nudged towards by us. Any long-term solution for the Doklam sector will require Bhutan's interests to be prioritised, understood and respected. One does not see any of that happening.

And what about Sikkim? The actors in play do realise that this entire drama is playing out in the Sikkim sector, don't they? And since it does, does Sikkim not deserve some explanations and reassurances? But none have been forthcoming. And still Sikkim is expected to pay the price. The State and its stakeholders lost an entire Kailash Mansarovar Yatra season to the Doklam stand-off and months of border trade and weeks of tourism in the area were also suspended due to this situation. Rumours were allowed to run around unchallenged and movement of people restricted and monitored without enough explanations. If the drama is to play out from Sikkim's soil, the State needs to be provided more than a mute bystander's role.

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

Guide to the Classics: Anna Karenina

JUDITH ARMSTRONG
theconversation.com

“IN ORDER FOR A BOOK TO BE GOOD,” said Leo Tolstoy to his wife Sonya on March 2 1877, “one has to love its basic, fundamental idea. Thus, in Anna Karenina, I loved the idea of the family.” These words Sonya copied into her diary on March 3.

This “idea” plays out through the plot of Anna Karenina, published between 1874 and 1876, and often acclaimed as the best novel ever written. It begins with one of the most famous first lines in fiction:

“Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.”

The first of the novel's two major plot lines relates to the irresistible Anna, who “had not known family life”, being brought up by an aunt and married off to the considerably older Alexei Karenin. The second depicts the landowner Konstantin Levin (a frontman for the novel's estate-owning author) who loves, loses but ultimately marries Kitty Shcherbatsky, the youngest daughter of parents devoted to their children and each other.

The two strands are linked by the lovable womaniser Stiva Oblonsky, who is Anna's brother, Levin's best friend, and Kitty's brother-in-law. Anna travels from St Petersburg to Moscow to patch up a hiccup in Stiva's marriage to Dolly (Kitty's older sister).

At the station she finds herself instantly and mutually attracted to the dashing army officer Alexei Vronsky, who is collecting his mother from the same train. The enthralling narrative follows all three couples and finally results in one happy marriage (Levin and Kitty), one that just jogs along (Stiva and Dolly), and the infamous relationship that ends in the titular character's suicide (Anna and Vronsky).

Tolstoy, the youngest of four brothers, was always going to be a writer, but having inherited a large family estate, became a landowner as well. He was crankily opposed to romantic love and conflicted about sex. Only after much procrastination, at the age of 34, would he marry 18-year-old Sonya Behrs and see her raise eight children - though she endured 16 pregnancies.

His sometimes tortured personal views - the 1889 novella The Kreuzer Sonata is little more than a diatribe against sex, love and marriage - provide the unifying context for Anna Karenina.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Yet “family” is far from the only theme



An illustration from a 1914 edition of Anna Karenina

in the novel. Both Tolstoy and his writing are striking for their preoccupation with significant issues affecting humanity, then and now: nationalism (which Tolstoy foregrounded in War and Peace), spirituality, pacifism, brotherhood, agriculture and modernisation (read: technology).

In Anna Karenina, Tolstoy's lifelong concern with spirituality is at the heart of Levin's struggle with the church's requirements for confession before marriage. Levin, like Tolstoy himself, objects to the Russian Orthodox Church both in principle (its hypocrisy, wealth, authoritarianism, nationalism) and in practice.

The author's opposition to industrialisation is also recognisable in the narrative. The fact that Anna meets her lover Vronsky on a train platform, and ultimately dies under the wheel of a train, reflects this opposition.

Tolstoy struggled with these themes on a daily basis and explored them in both his long and shorter writings, embodying their effects in characters we feel we know intimately - certainly enough to love or loathe them.

That we do react with such a sense of total immersion is due to Tolstoy's deep understanding of human nature and his ability to draw us into any one of an infinitude of emotions. He admitted that when he “wrote” a character, no matter how antithetical to himself they might be, he felt convinced that for those moments he was that person. The result then reads as if he had actually lived every one of their desires, aspirations and faults before laying them before us.

A CONFLICTED MORALIST

The term ‘LGBTI’ confuses desire, behaviour and identity – it’s time for a rethink

DENNIS ALTMAN
theconversation.com

The rise of sexually transmissible diseases made front-page news in The Age (Australia), which tried to make sense of the rise among “gay men” and “heterosexual people”.

This illustrates the increasingly common confusion between behaviour and identity. What is involved is sexual contact, or to use the expression common in the early days of the AIDS epidemic, “the exchange of bodily fluids”. Whether people involved have a particular identity, as the words used in the report suggest, is irrelevant.

Desire, behaviour and identity are distinct, and they do not always overlap. Someone who is celibate may also have strong sexual desires or even a particular sexual identity; someone may identify as heterosexual but have homosexual experiences; most people will have sexual desires that are not necessarily acted out in practice.

Freud knew this, even as he constructed elaborate explanations for how our sexual beings are created. Alfred Kinsey shocked Americans 60 years ago when he revealed the extent of homosexual behaviour among men who would have denied any homosexual identity.

Contemporary research - for example, the Australian Study of Health and Relationships - suggests that behaviour, desire and identity overlap in complex ways.

Yet contemporary usage, with its emphasis on identities, ignores these complexities. The term “LGBTI” combines sexuality (lesbian, gay, bisexual) with gender identity (trans) and gender characteristics (intersex).

At a recent conference, one speaker declared himself “a proud LGBTI person”. A moment's reflection suggests this is very unlikely.

Being trans - that is, to question whether one's biological characteristics determine one's sense of gender - implies neither heterosexual nor homosexual desires. Indeed, if we accept that gender is fluid,



it makes nonsense of a binary division between heterosexual and homosexual. This may be why social conservatives feel so threatened by “gender ideology”.

Sexual and gender fluidity are common themes in most cultures, and novels, opera and film are rich in their exploration of this fluidity. As Patrick White wrote in his memoir Flaws in the Glass: “Ambivalence has given me insights into human nature, denied, I believe, to those who are unequivocally male or female.”

The recent film Call Me By Your Name tells the story of two young men who have a brief relationship one summer in Italy. Neither identifies as “gay”, and the elder seems largely heterosexual in his subsequent life. Yet some critics complained at the absence of identity politics - one even complained that openly gay men had not played the leading roles - ignoring the basic premise that desire does not equal identity.

The use of the acronym “LGBTI”, sometimes with added letters to indicate “queer”, “asexuals” or “allies”, is a direct product of American identity politics, and one increasingly used in debates about human rights. But there is a far neater alternative language, which is the term “SOGI”: sexual orientation and gender identity, the preferred usage in international human rights discourses.

There are three good reasons to prefer this term. First, it avoids the neat categorisation of people according to assumptions about fixed identities, allowing for the realities that how people experience

sexuality and gender is often messy and changes over a lifetime.

It is also less linked to liberal Western notions of identity politics, and therefore less likely to be attacked as part of neo-imperial attempts to destroy traditional cultures. This week saw a film festival in Tunisia addressing “issues of gender identity and non-normative sexualities” - a deliberate choice of terminology in a deeply hostile environment.

But perhaps most important, everyone has some sense of their experience of sexuality and gender, and the term serves to remind us that we are not speaking of discrete minorities, rather of the complexities of human experience.

Yes, there are times when particular identities are important. Same-sex marriage was only an issue precisely because lesbian and gay relations lacked full legal and social acceptance without it. People who feel discordance between their bodies and their gender expression need recognition and protection from widespread discrimination.

But there is an equal danger in assuming that everyone will be comfortably with labels that define them through increasingly arcane acronyms. In his recent memoir, the British scholar Jonathan Dollimore wrote:

“It's one of the delusions of identity politics to think that our desire comfortably coexists with our identity, a belief which has more to do with consumerism than desire. I've come to feel that sexuality might at different times express different aspects of one's self, a situation further complicated by the fact that the self changes.”

The current Melbourne Midsumma Festival program refers to “LGBTQIA+” in an attempt to incorporate everyone with “diverse gender and sexuality”. But there is a risk of becoming so inclusive that the term loses all meaning. Adding letters to the acronym simply hides the complex interconnections of desire, behaviour and identity in everyday life.

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cluding two by the BBC. In Australia we had a television version loosely based on the novel, The Beautiful Lie (2015), which was set in the present day.

New translations of the novel are steadily brought out, but no final agreement on “the best” can ever be arrived at. Opinions differ as to how far the translator should divert from fidelity to the text's language in order to achieve greater closeness to the “spirit” or “intention” of the author.

Some critics still champion Constance Garnett's dubious translation of 1901, despite mistakes made in the text (many of these were corrected in a revised edition by Leonard Kent and Nina Berberova in 1965). Others prefer that of Louise and Aylmer Maude (1918) who, living in Russia, were able to go over each line with the author.

Both translations are still available, but many contemporary critics prefer newer ventures that aim for a more “with it” vocabulary or a trendier style. Fortunately, Tolstoy's waiving of his translation rights ensures that a stream of forever-new versions will always reflect inevitable changes in language usage and social perceptions.

This superb novel will never gather dust because, while mores and attitudes - like translations - change with the times, desire in its various manifestations will always be with us, as will the conscience that must decide whether any of them ought to be reined in.

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'Dabbawalas' take part in Mumbai Marathon

MUMBAI, JAN 21 (PTI): The city's famed 'dabbawalas' today participated in the Mumbai Marathon to promote their recently launched 'Roti Bank' initiative.

"Roti Bank" is an initiative by the dabbawalas to avoid food wastage.

Under it, the dabbawalas have set up a dedicated call centre where people can inform if they have excess food. It would be collected and distributed to homeless people who otherwise would have starved on that day.

Members of the Mumbai Dabbawala Association (MDA) took part in the marathon to sensitise people about the initiative.

"We want to sensitise people about this Roti Bank concept and as a part of it, the association participated in the marathon," said Subhash Talekar, spokesperson of the association.

The association, whose members deliver around two lakh 'dabbas' (tiffins) across the metropolis, collected the unused food packets distributed during the marathon to be given to the needy people, he added.

The association also claimed to have cleaned the marathon route where participants threw used water bottles.

India beat Pakistan to retain Blind Cricket World Cup title

SHARJAH, JAN 21 (PTI): Sunil Ramesh slammed a superb 93 as India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by two wickets in a thrilling summit clash to retain the Blind Cricket World Cup title in Sharjah on Saturday.

Batting first, Pakistan amassed 307 for eight in 40 overs, courtesy some useful contribution by Badar Munir (57), Risayat Khan (48) and captain Nisar Ali (47).

For India, Deepak Malik and Rambir took two wickets, while Sunil Ramesh snapped one.

Ramesh then blasted a scintillating 93 runs in 67 balls and skipper Ajay Reddy scored 62 in 60 balls as India overhauled the target with an over to spare to retain the trophy that they had won in 2014 after beating the same opponents at Cape Town, South Africa.

Chasing the target, Prakash and Venkatesh opened in grand style and gave a flying start. They managed the scoring rate at 10 per over. Venkatesh scored 35 in 32 balls, while Prakash scored 44 in 42 balls.

India struggled in the final stages of their run chase as Pakistan claimed three successive



wickets to gain an upper hand over their arch-rivals.

However, a wide delivery rolled on to the boundary and the pendulum swung back in India's favour.

India had beaten Pakistan on January 13 in the group stage. The defending champions had beaten Bangladesh by seven wickets in the semi-final.

Accolades poured in for the

Indian team with Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulating the team for their achievement.

"Congratulations to our cricket team for winning the 2018 Blind Cricket World Cup! They make the nation proud and inspire every Indian with their game as well as phenomenal attitude. True champions!," Modi wrote on his twitter handle.

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh also heaped praise on the team.

"What a win by #TeamIndia. Congratulations on winning #BlindCricketWorldCup," he wrote.

Former stylish batsman VVS Laxman wrote: "Congratulations to each and every member of the Indian team for winning the #BlindCricketWorldCup."

Federer not keen on his kids following in footsteps

MELBOURNE, JAN 21 (AFP): Roger Federer says he's a big believer in kids playing sport, but he's not keen on his own children following in his footsteps.

The Swiss great and wife Mirka had identical twins Myla Rose and Charlene Riva in 2009 and another set came along five years later, Leo and Lenny.

They are occasionally seen watching their dad ply his trade, but after years travelling the world on the tennis tour, the 36-year-old would prefer not to have to do it all over again.



"I mean, I hope they don't just because we don't need another 25 years on tour," he said at the Australian Open when asked if he would encourage them to be professional players.

But he added: "No, I'm just a supportive parent. I can't tell which direction they're going to go.

"If there's going to be anything in sports or

somewhere in finance or business, I have no idea where they're going to go. All I know is I'll be incredibly supportive of them."

He did reveal they already play tennis, not because he has been encouraging them, but because their friends all do and he doesn't want them to feel left out.

"I'm happy they all do play tennis a little bit be-

cause basically literally all our friends who have kids as well, they all play tennis," he said.

"I wouldn't want my kids to be the only ones who don't play tennis, so with my wife we have sort of a little requirement on things they have to do in their life, and tennis is unfortunately one of them.

"It's not because we want them to. It's because I think it would be a pity if they played no tennis at all."

Despite the reluctance for his children to follow in his footsteps, Federer, who is chas-

ing a 20th Grand Slam in Melbourne, is a great believer in kids playing sport more generally, believing it can teach them a lot.

"I think it's great for them to do sports early on in their life. I think it's good for them," he said.

"Winning, losing, that comes a little bit later, but you learn a lot from that. I did anyway. I think also you make a lot of friends through sports.

"You get to know yourself a bit better. It's healthy. You move around. You go outside. I'm a big believer in these things.

North Korea to send 22 athletes to Olympics in South

LAUSANNE, JAN 21 (AFP): North Korea will send 22 athletes to next month's Winter Games in the South, the International Olympic Committee said yesterday, approving a landmark deal between two nations still officially at war.

South Korea had hoped that the Games which begin in Pyeongchang on February 9 could help ease the crisis on the peninsula plagued by months of rising tensions over the North's nuclear and missile and programme.

In a surprise New Year's announcement, the leader of Stalinist North Korea Kim Jong-un said he was open to sending a delegation to Pyeongchang.

Before this week's meeting at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, the two Koreas had already agreed on a set of momentous compromises, including delegations from both countries marching together at the opening ceremony and the formation of a unified women's hockey team.

But the two Koreas still needed approval from the IOC, as the pact required the suspension of some basic Olympic rules.

IOC president Thomas Bach gave that approval Saturday, announcing that 22 athletes had been cleared to compete in three sports and a total



of five disciplines.

Those included figure skating, short-track speed skating, cross-country skiing and Alpine skiing, as well as hockey, with the IOC having approved the entry of the joint team, despite concerns voiced by some hockey federations over fairness.

At the opening ceremony, the joint delegation "will be led into the Olympic stadium by the Korean unification flag" carried together by athlete from each country, the IOC said.

A special unity uniform will be created for the event.

No North Korean athlete had technically qualified for Pyeongchang,

so Saturday's announcement required extending qualification deadlines in the sports concerned.

"Today marks a milestone on a long journey," Bach said after the closed-door meeting with the leaders of the Olympic committees

from both Koreas as well Pyeongchang 2018 organisers, and senior government officials from the two countries.

"The Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang are hopefully opening the door to a brighter future on the Korean peninsula,

and inviting the world to join in a celebration of hope," Bach said.

North Korea has taken part in seven of the last 12 Winter Olympics, most recently in Vancouver 2010.

But its presence in Pyeongchang -- just 80

kilometres (50 miles) south of the demilitarised zone that divides the Koreas -- is a significant diplomatic coup.

North and South Korea remain technically at war since the Korean war ended with armistice, not a peace treaty, in 1953.

North Korea will also send 24 officials and 21 media representatives to Pyeongchang, Bach said.

Seoul and the IOC will have to ensure that while accommodating the North and ensuring that the so-called "peace Olympics" pass off smoothly, they do not violate United Nations sanctions.

Security Council measures currently prohibit cash transfers to the North, while the UN has also drawn up a blacklist of officials tied to the Stalinist Pyongyang regime, individuals whose presence at the Games will create potential stumbling blocks.

Paes and Raja lose in pre-quarters of Aus Open

MELBOURNE, JAN 21 (PTI): Veteran Leander Paes and Purav Raja today suffered a straight-set defeat at the hands of the Colombian pair of Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah in the pre-quarterfinals to bow out of the Australian Open here.

The unseeded Indians were beaten 1-6 2-6 by their 11th seeded opponents in a contest that lasted one hour and nine minutes at the Melbourne Park here.

Paes and Raja failed to capitalise on any one of the five break points -- two in the first set and three in the second -- they got in the match while the Cabal-Farah duo converted four out the 10 they had.

The Colombian duo broke the Indians twice

in both the sets to easily grab the match and make it to the quarterfinals.

The Indian pair had shocked the formidable fifth seeds Bruno Soares and Jamie Murray in the second round but their game were not up to the mark today.

Paes and Raja, who won two Challenger level titles to close the 2017 season, were playing in their second Grand Slam together.

At the 2017 US Open, they fell in the second round.

Paes has not featured in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam event for more than a year. The last time 44-year-old Paes played a quarterfinal at a Grand Slam was in 2016 at French Open where he and Marcin Matkowski had lost to Mike and Bob Bryan.

We didn't gain anything playing Sri Lanka: Harbhajan

KOLKATA, JAN 21 (PTI): Senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is of the opinion that India's home series against Sri Lanka served little purpose ahead of the gruelling tour of South Africa.

India have already lost the series and are staring at a whitewash against the Proteas. Questions have been raised about India's preparation for the tour and Harbhajan gave his perspective.

"Look I believe the last Sri Lanka series at home served little purpose. We hardly gained anything out of it. Rather a few players could

have gone to South Africa early. If not Dharamsala could have been a great place for preparation," Harbhajan told PTI on the sidelines of the Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

"Its high altitude, cooler weather, seam movement along with bounce would have given them ideal preparation before a tough assignment like South Africa."

There has been a raging debate about Ajinkya Rahane's omission from the first two Tests but Harbhajan feels that there is no guarantee that things would have been different had Rahane played.

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At least 6 dead in 12-hour Taliban siege at luxury Kabul hotel

KABUL, JAN 21 (AFP): Gunmen stormed a luxury hotel in Kabul and killed at least six people including a foreigner, sparking a 12-hour battle that left terrified guests scrambling to escape and parts of the building ablaze.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on the six-storey Intercontinental Hotel on a hilltop overlooking the Afghan capital. People trapped at the top of the building tied bedsheets together and climbed over balconies to escape the overnight assault.

One lost his grip and fell in dramatic television footage by Afghanistan's Tolo News station, which also showed black smoke and flames billowing from the top of the hotel.

Special forces were lowered by helicopters during the night onto the roof of the landmark 1960s building, with Afghan security forces killing four attackers in the hours- long assault, the interior ministry said.

"Five Afghans and one foreigner have been killed," interior ministry deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told AFP today, adding around 150 people were rescued including more than 40 foreigners.

"The body of the foreigner, a woman, was recovered from the sixth floor as the last attacker was being killed," he



added. An official with Afghanistan's spy agency put the number of wounded at eight, while the interior ministry said six.

Officials said four gunmen burst into the hotel, which is not part of the global InterContinental chain, last night, opening fire on guests and staff and taking dozens of people hostage.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the latest assault in the war-torn capital via an email from spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid. The interior ministry had earlier blamed the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network.

It followed security warnings in recent days to avoid hotels and other locations frequented by foreigners. Kabul has become one of the deadliest places

in Afghanistan for civilians, with the Taliban and the Islamic State group both stepping up attacks.

It was not clear how many people had been inside the hotel.

During the siege, a guest hiding in a room said he could hear gunfire inside the building, where dozens of people attending an information technology conference on Sunday were staying.

"I don't know if the attackers are inside the hotel but I can hear gunfire from somewhere near the first floor," the man, who did not want to be named, told AFP by telephone.

"We are hiding in our rooms. I beg the security forces to rescue us as soon as possible before they reach and kill us."

His phone has been switched off since then.

Afghan Telecom regional director Aziz Tayeb, who was attending the IT conference, said he saw the attackers enter the hotel.

"Everything became chaotic in a moment. I hid behind a pillar and I saw people who were enjoying themselves a second ago screaming and fleeing like crazy, and some of them falling down, hit by bullets," Tayeb told AFP.

Local resident Abdul Sattar said he had spoken by phone to friends who are hotel staff and had been trapped inside.

"Suddenly [militants] attacked the dinner gathering... (then) they broke into the rooms, took some people hostage and

they opened fire on some of them," he told AFP.

Rahimi said the attackers were armed with light weapons and rocket-propelled grenades when they stormed the hotel, a popular venue for weddings, conferences and political gatherings.

Security in Kabul has been ramped up since May 31 when a massive truck bomb killed some 150 people and wounded around 400 -- mostly civilians.

But the resurgent Taliban and Islamic State are both scaling up their assaults on the city, with multiple devastating attacks in recent weeks.

The attack on the Intercontinental was just one of several bloody assaults today.

In a village in the northern province of

Balkh, Taliban militants went from house to house in the middle of the night, pulling police from their homes and shooting them dead.

At least 18 officers were killed, deputy police chief Abdul Raziq Qaderi told AFP.

In Herat in the west at least eight civilians were killed when a car hit a Taliban-planted roadside mine, officials there said.

The last major attack on a high-end hotel in Kabul was in March 2014 when four teenage gunmen raided the Serena, killing nine people including AFP journalist Sardar Ahmad.

The overnight siege is not the first time the Intercontinental has been targeted: in 2011 a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban killed 21 people there, including 10 civilians.

Even before the attack was over today, authorities were questioning how the attackers got past the hotel's security, which was taken over by a private company three weeks ago, said Najib Danish, another interior ministry spokesman.

"We will investigate it," he said.

A hotel employee told AFP that as he fled the staff living quarters in a building next to the hotel he saw the new security guards running for their lives.

Pak summons Indian diplomat over 'unprovoked firing'

ISLAMABAD, JAN 21 (PTI): Pakistan summoned India's deputy high commissioner here for the fourth consecutive day today over the alleged "unprovoked firing" by Indian troops across the Line of Control which resulted in the death of two people.

The tensions have increased between the two sides due to ongoing skirmishes and Pakistan has summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh five times since Monday.

Director General (South Asia and SAARC) Mohammad Faisal summoned Singh and "condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations" by Indian forces, the Foreign Office said.

In a statement, it claimed that the latest violation by Indian forces occurred on January 20-21, when 18 Indian posts resorted to "unprovoked firing" with mortars and heavy weapons in the Nikaial sector at the LoC.

The firing killed two civilians - a 33-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman - and injured another woman and a girl, the Foreign Office said.

Faisal said the deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and against the human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The repeated ceasefire violations by India "are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation," he asserted.

He urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 ceasefire arrangement and investigate the repeated incidents of ceasefire violations, the statement said.

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Pak calls for cooperation for combating terrorism

ISLAMABAD, JAN 21 (PTI): Pakistan today strongly condemned a deadly terror attack at a luxury hotel in Kabul and called for cooperation among countries for effectively combating and eliminating the scourge of terrorism.

Gunmen stormed the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul killing at least six people, sparking a twelve hour fight with security forces.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the brutal terrorist attack at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul last evening, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"In our view, cooperation among the states is important for effectively combating and eliminating the scourge of terrorism," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of providing safe havens to militants who carry out terror attacks in Afghanistan.

UNSC sanctions monitoring team to visit Pak this week

ISLAMABAD, JAN 21 (PTI): Amid mounting global pressure on Pakistan to act against Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed and entities linked to him, a UN Security Council team will visit the country this week for an assessment of Islamabad's compliance with the world body's sanctions regime.

The two-day visit of the UN Security Council's sanctions monitoring team will begin on Thursday.

"The monitoring team of the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee will be here on January 25 and 26," a senior Pakistani official was quoted as saying by Dawn.

The UN monitoring team's visit is taking place amid increasing pressure on Pakistan from the US and India with respect to the inadequate implementation of the sanctions on Saeed and entities linked to him.

However, Pakistani officials, insist that the trip is a routine visit.

Saeed was listed under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December 2008.

On Friday, the US State Department said it has told clearly to Islamabad that Saeed is a "terrorist" and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, reacting strongly to Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's remarks that there was no case against the Mumbai attack mastermind.

State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said:



"He is listed by the UNSC 1267, the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee for targeted sanctions due to his affiliation with Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is a designated foreign terror organisation."

"We believe that he should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Nauert had said.

Saeed, the chief of the Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), was released from house arrest in Pakistan in November.

The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the LeT which is responsible for carrying out the Mumbai attack that killed 166 people. It has been declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014.

"The terms of reference of the monitoring team for Pakistan visit are not publicly known, but as per its general mandate it assists the 1267 Committee in keeping an eye

on the freezing of the financial assets of listed persons and entities and checking provision of training and other material to them and their travel," the paper said.

The UNSC monitoring team intimates instances of non-compliance to the committee through its reports. At the same time it also advises and assists member states on implementation of the regime.

Pakistan has remained under the Financial Action Task Force scanner over allegations by the US and India about the UNSC sanctions not being fully implemented, the paper said.

The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the US, since 2012, has offered a USD 10 million reward for information that brings Saeed to justice.

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LABHLAXMI LIBRA Draw No:7 DrawDate: on 21/01/18 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3096 2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5520 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 4896 4th Prize Rs.300/- 4097 5th Prize Rs. 206/- 3691 6th Prize Rs.100/- 1008 1115 1122 1143 1165 1822 1191 1209 1236 1236 1335 1342 1387 1390 1399 1444 1461 1463 1464 1511 1533 1591 1595 1645 1658 1697 1757 1767 1785 1789 1819 1848 1891 1907 1914 1939 1955 2004 2007 2032 2036 2052 2053 2080 2104 2125 2217 2269 2340 2365 2390 2391 2403 2409 2498 2512 2554 2587 2594 2672 2673 2677 2695 2754 2801 2827 2852 2876 2984 2991 2999 3006 3008 3009 3010 3041 3069 3090 3113 3116 3122 3159 3184 3187 3197 3198 3200 3230 3244 3264 3270 3285 3397 3404 3443 3448 3449 3500 3509 3511 3514 3525 3536 3579 3593 3619 3685 3688 3713 3737 3767 3804 3805 3820 3863 3867 3891 3896 3907 3916 3932 3946 3966 3970 3995 4006 4033 4055 4064 4074 4140 4155 4160 4212 4234 4245 4281 4285 4292 4306 4312 4447 4465 4495 4502 4531 4534 4553 4597 4647 4648 4685 4692 4705 4721 4802 4814 4818 4835 4868 4877 4888 4895 4901 4925 4935 4977 4983 5037 5062 5064 5073 5079 5082 5119 5138 5142 5175 5184 5306 5320 5325 5337 5384 5346 5351 5360 5371 5390 5472 5504 5566 5576 5584 5597 5616 5626 5637 5638 5677 5685 5702 5744 5747 5775 5820 5836 5844 5936 6022 6088 4888 4895 4901 4925 4935 4977 4983 5037 5062 5064 5073 5079 5082 5119 5138 5142 5175 5184 5306 5320 5325 5337 5384 5346 5351 5360 5371 5390 5472 5504 5566 5576 5584 5597 5616 5626 5637 5638 5677 5685 5702 5744 5747 5775 5820 5836 5844 5936 6022 6088 6069 6152 6157 6176 6206 6232 6274 6299 6314 6337 6377 6386 6401 6406 6561 6563 6568 6617 6625 6725 6736 6777 6806 6816 6840 6843 6849 6901 6966 6968
MUMBALAXMI RANI Draw No:7 DrawDate: on 21/01/18 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3496 2nd Prize Rs.2000/- 2325 3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3524 4th Prize Rs.500/- 2285 5th Prize Rs.220/- 1005 1008 1025 1079 1090 1096 1099 1145 1148 1182 1263 1289 1305 1370 1396 1406 1421 1447 1461 1468 1512 1534 1550 1563 1581 1622 1633 1664 1762 1794 1862 1897 1929 1955 1956 1974 1975 1979 1992 2088 2115 2149 2168 2194 2224 2240 2245 2273 2275 2293 2318 2328 2364 2385 2392 2395 2436 2453 2460 2469 2527 2528 2549 2558 2566 2579 2582 2618 2634 2638 2667 2736 2748 2751 2753 2795 2799 2833 2840 2859 2889 2891 2982 3008 3048 3082 3086 3095 3102 3110 3114 3233 3153 3173 3219 3240 3252 3254 3295 3320 3323 3472 3475 3573 3597 3714 3755 3778 3809 3838 3840 3842 3857 3942 3955 3970 4043 4080 4093 4146 4169 4208 4214 4226 4239 4249 4251 4259 4260 4282 4377 4386 4396 4399 4443 4449 4468 4491 4516 4539 4549 4560 4600 4609 4651 4656 4716 4721 4739 4745 4771 4776 4797 4804 4816 4835 4865 4940 4983 5015 5022 5046 5148 5164 5191 5207 5213 5230 5244 5274 5383 5442 5464 5506 5523 5536 5614 5625 5636 5660 5665 5676 5684 5695 5702 5703 5744 5751 5752 5781 5815 5819 5839 5878 5897 5902 5909 5919 5938 5942
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DEAR AFFECTIONATE MORNING Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:7 DrawDate: on 21/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 91H 036 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 03622 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 02502 20216 21606 30536 38452 51297 69728 80931 95034 97656 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0110 0673 2007 2132 2624 3470 6298 7197 9143 9632 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0481 1657 6713 8228 8253 8543 9243 9348 9641 9855 5th Prize Rs.120/- 8038 0050 0055 0058 0231 0297 0300 0353 0766 0903 1056 1285 1326 1370 1407 1778 1835 1970 2005 2135 2287 2371 2612 2854 2905 3029 3058 3085 3086 3163 3207 3293 3387 3703 3949 4098 4120 4179 4300 4375 4461 4508 4516 4659 4680 4683 4704 4782 4801 4803 4861 4887 5041 5056 5198 5471 5522 5607 5639 5659 5681 5980 6051 6096 6132 6299 6333 6564 6783 6834 6841 7025 7052 7169 7207 7355 7503 7550 7628 7678 7712 7805 7852 7984 8152 8178 8308 8359 8450 8485 8628 8687 8706 9000 9386 9441 9503 9646 9777 9857
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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR RESPECT Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:7 DrawDate: on 21/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 88H 24891 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 24891 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 23983 29395 31140 33160 46336 50255 58524 80745 89807 92172 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0946 4407 5250 5683 6711 6904 7820 8591 9945 9998 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0358 4808 5196 5223 5405 5588 7530 8521 8611 9129 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0050 0264 0292 0352 0377 0483 0492 0623 0629 0713 0831 0840 0930 0932 0969 1060 1211 1291 1429 1519 1626 1663 1668 1682 1730 1739 1930 2151 2374 2454 2484 2504 2641 2813 2955 3095 3151 3257 3306 3335 3500 3519 3680 3742 3765 4028 4055 4120 4124 4138 4238 4434 4602 4605 4825 4991 5268 5269 5294 5357 5457 5543 5673 5719 6480 6558 6563 6650 6692 6781 6866 7131 7175 7416 7508 7562 7724 7802 7842 7899 7937 8118 8227 8310 8729 8811 8903 8914 8991 9051 9083 9106 9206 9255 9281 9380 9415 9589 9600 9810
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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR HAWK EVENING Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:25 DrawDate: on 21/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 87C 55574 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 55574 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 05523 12810 47453 47629 49751 71928 80357 89824 91520 92346 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0043 0343 1986 2819 3818 5031 5538 6210 6300 8731 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0401 1852 2244 2747 4379 5231 8590 9097 9651 9733 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0071 0132 0227 0259 0609 0633 0742 0775 0787 0820 0954 0964 0989 1203 1261 1598 1782 1810 1828 1866 1918 1977 2000 2178 2254 2287 2408 2429 2453 2511 2633 2673 3295 3370 3656 3671 3788 3819 3987 4060 4089 4124 4166 4232 4325 4380 4382 4506 4560 4635 4653 4787 4829 5265 5281 5305 5312 5324 5418 5473 5609 5634 5664 6447 6610 6639 6766 6826 6908 7041 7054 7076 7188 7272 7322 7334 7406 7496 7600 7651 7733 7764 7774 7839 7870 8009 8140 8158 8201 8309 8569 8823 9074 9398 9450 9454 9479 9523 9710 9816
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ROBERT PATTINSON and **BELLA HADID** cross paths at the Dior Homme Menswear show in Paris.

ED SHEERAN ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT TO GIRLFRIEND CHERRY SEABORN IN INSTAGRAM

Ed Sheeran is engaged!

The 26-year-old singer announced on his Instagram page on Saturday that he is engaged to his longtime girlfriend Cherry Seaborn. The proposal took place last month.

"Got myself a fiancé just before new year," Sheeran said in the caption, alongside a photo of him kissing Seaborn. "We are very happy and in love, and our cats are chuffed as well xx."

Sheeran and Seaborn, 24, met in high school in their native U.K. and have been dating for about three years. She attended Duke University in North Carolina, where she also played hockey. She later helped England's U21 team win a bronze medal at the 2012 European Championships, according to the BBC.

Sheeran wrote his 2017 song "Perfect," a ballad, about her. He released a remix of the song, featuring Beyoncé, in December. Sample lyrics include, "Well I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know / She shares my dreams, I hope that someday



I'll share her home / I found a love, to carry more than just my secrets / To carry love, to carry children of our own / We are still kids, but we're so in love / Fighting against all odds I know we'll be alright this time / Darling, just hold my hand / Be my girl, I'll be your man I see my future in your eyes."

Last October, when asked if Seaborn could be "the one," Sheeran told Radio.com, "Undoubtedly, undoubtedly," he said. "But I think if you ever enter into a long-term relationship and you have a doubt, then you shouldn't be in the long-term relationship."

"I actually always thought

I'd end up dating like an actress or something, someone in the industry," he added. "But I don't think I'm that kind of person. I'm a hometown boy."

Posting on Instagram he said they are both "very happy and in love", joking that their cats are happy for them too.

The couple met in school although they only got together in 2015, spending most of 2016 travelling the world during his year off from music.

Cherry is a hockey star and helped England U21's win the bronze medal at the 2012 European Championships.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON CALLS OUT JAMES FRANCO AFTER BEING ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY FIVE DIFFERENT WOMEN



Scarlett Johansson delivered a powerful speech on Saturday at the Women's March in Los Angeles, calling out James Franco for claiming to support the Time's Up Movement.

"How could a person publicly stand by an organization that helps to provide support for victims of sexual assault while privately preying on people who have no power?" the Avengers star asked, in front of the massive crowd.

Johansson didn't refer to Franco by name while on the microphone, but one of her representatives later confirmed that she was talking directly to the Disaster Artist actor, who has been publicly accused of sexual misconduct by five women.

"I want my pin back, by the way," she said, referencing the Time's Up pin Franco wore at the Golden Globe Awards on January 7, an act of expression which inspired his accusers to come forward.

Franco has denied all of the allegations lodged against him, saying he supports the women's rights to tell their stories.

The Time's Up movement was created by leaders in politics and the entertainment industry to support and help fund legal defense for people who have experienced inequity in the work place, across all industries.

Johansson is one of the original founders, and a major supporter to the cause.

The movement came about as a direct result of the #MeToo social media campaign, which was kicked off in October by reports of rampant sexual misconduct by entertainment mogul Harvey Weinstein.

#MeToo, which was first started offline more than a decade ago by Tarana Burke, inspired women from all walks of life across the US to share stories of sexual harassment, assault and abuses of power they experienced at the hands of men who had power over them.

A total of five women have accused Franco of sexual misconduct or abuse of power, sharing their stories as part of the movement, including four student-actors he worked with at Studio 4 and Playhouse West.

Four of the accusers are former acting students of 39-year-old Franco, and claim the Oscar nominee pressured women both on set and in class to perform topless or even completely nude. The fifth woman said Franco was a mentor to her.

The accusations include Franco's alleged removal of plastic guards covering female actors' genitalia during simulated sex scenes and his becoming 'visibly angry' when females would not appear nude or topless.

The allegations first started coming out on social media, after Franco wore a 'Time's Up' pin at Sunday's Golden Globe Awards.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

22ND JANUARY

1973- Roe Vs. Wade:

The legalization of abortion within the first three months of pregnancy was allowed as of this day. This decision was based on a ruling by the Supreme Court upon adjournment of the Roe Vs. Wade Case that women had a constitutional right to obtain an abortion.

1930- Empire State Building:

Excavation for the Empire State Building began. When completed only 410 days after the construction began, it stood as the world's tallest building.

1984- Apple Macintosh:

A new Apple Computer was introduced. The ad for the new Macintosh computer was first displayed during the Super Bowl.

1901- Queen Victoria:

Queen Victoria passed away in the Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. She had become queen when she was 18 and had ruled for nearly 64 years of her life. She was succeeded by Prince Edward VII, her oldest son, who was 59 years old at the time, and reigned for nine years until his death.

2009- Barack Obama orders the closure of the Guantanamo prison camp:

One of President Barack Obama orders is to close the Guantanamo prison camp with 12 months and suspended several of the trials of suspects at Guantanamo so that the legal process can be reviewed. (Update nearly 18 months later June 2010 the camp is still open with closing date set).

2013- UN Extends North Korea Sanctions:

The United Nations Security Council approved the tightening of sanctions after North Korea test launched a long-range missile. The approval was unanimous and included China, North Korea's closest ally.

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ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: If you've been thinking about starting a garden, this is a great day to do it, since anything relating to the land you begin today is likely to thrive. Doubts about your financial security might be on your mind, Aries. They're probably misplaced, because you should continue to do well. However, your doubts can serve a purpose in that they could inspire you to take steps to ensure that your situation continues. Go to it!

TAURUS: Family and friends may gather for an intimate get-together at your home or perhaps at the home of a neighbor. At some point, expect an exciting phone call. You should be feeling pretty secure in relationships of all kinds, Taurus, from business partnerships to close friends to love partners.

Information provided by someone else could give you some ideas as to how to fix up your house in a new and different way.

GEMINI: A close friend or lover could share a secret with you today, Gemini. An older person could be in the news, perhaps an author or politician you particularly admire. You, yourself, could feel inspired to work on a creative project of some kind, although the downside might be that you keep working at it for too long and could well exhaust yourself. Remember to take breaks. You need to relax a little and remember to take time out to eat.

CANCER: Someone you've known for a long time but haven't seen for a while could suddenly come back into the picture, Cancer. He or she could attend a social event of some

kind or actually drop in to visit your family. Friendships and group affiliations could prove supportive and satisfying right now and you should feel pretty secure with them. This is a great time to sign up for classes, particularly those involving the arts.

LEO: Today you and your family or a group of friends might spend most of the day out and about, Leo. You might spend the day outdoors, or possibly attend a concert or festival of some kind. This should be a very happy day for you, as you're likely to be feeling especially close to those around you. Your relationships appear to be quite secure, as does your career and financial situation. Enjoy your day.

VIRGO: A class, lecture, or workshop could prove fascinating and stimulating for you today, Virgo.

Plans for travel to a distant state or foreign country, perhaps in the company of friends or family members, could be confirmed, which should make you feel really good! Your relationships seem warm, supportive, and stable, even those with people who live far away from you. Have fun!

LIBRA: If you've been thinking of buying a home or otherwise purchasing real estate, Libra, this is the day to start the ball rolling or finalize the deal, depending on your situation. Investments in property planned at this time should continue to increase steadily in value. However, make sure this is the right investment for you before committing to anything. Otherwise, you might be stuck with something you don't like for a long time.

SCORPIO: A festive social event could either start or consolidate a love relationship, which could last for a long time. New and interesting people could come into your life, Scorpio, bringing stimulating conversation and useful information. Someone you haven't seen for a while could also appear on the scene, making for a joyful reunion. A project you've been working on, either job related or personal, could finally be completed. Enjoy your day.

SAGITTARIUS: Today you should be experiencing a strong feeling of satisfaction and contentment with your life, Sagittarius. Business and financial matters continue to go well, and your home life especially appears to be secure and stable. You might be considering investing some of your resources in

your home. Any new romantic relationships begun at this time could well last for a long time, so make sure you really like the person before committing!

CAPRICORN: Business transactions taking place in your neighborhood should prove sensible and satisfying today, Capricorn. You should be feeling pretty financially secure right now, as career and money matters continue to go well for you. Contact with friends, neighbors, and relatives should be open, congenial, and honest. Relationships of all kinds are apt to be pretty stable. In the evening, take a brisk walk near your home.

AQUARIUS: If you're into gardening or in any way working with the land, you're likely to spend a lot of time doing it today, Aquarius. A

friend or family member could help. Anything planted today is likely to grow and thrive, so don't worry about seeds that don't sprout. You might spend a bit too much time doing it, however. Work only until you're pleasantly tired, then quit for the day; otherwise, you might burn yourself out.

PISCES: A warm and loving communication could come today from a longtime friend or romantic partner. This could be the high point of your day, Pisces, especially since a letter or delivery you've been waiting on for a while still might not come. An older relative or neighbor might come to your door wanting advice about something. Children could prove particularly inspiring at this time, as you're especially attuned to them now. Enjoy!