

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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JAIVIK KRISHI PARYATAN MELA GETS UNDERWAY IN YANGANG

## Will develop 1000 tourist destinations across state: Chamling

**YANGANG, 23 JAN (IPR):** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling inaugurated the two-day Jaivik Krishi Paryatan Mela (JKPM) organised by Yangang Tourism Development Committee (YTDC) at Yangang Helipad Complex today.

Mr Chamling was accompanied by Holiday IQ Founder, Hari Nair, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chairpersons, Advisors, Head of Departments, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayat members and public.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister spoke about the significance of the mela. He talked about the government's decision of developing a total number of one thousand tourist destinations located all over the state and urged the youth to take keen



interest in diverse and thriving sectors of tourism namely environment, pilgrimage, adventure, culture, village and home-stay tourism. He announced that the state government will soon be releasing an achievement report detailing the various endeavors of the govern-

ment undertaken till date.

The Chief Minister spoke in brief about the Skywalk Project at Bhaleydhunga which will be developed soon and how the project will assist in boosting tourism in Yangang. He also asserted that the project will open up various avenues of employment for locals of the area.

Mr Chamling encouraged the progressive farmers to tap benefits from the Sikkim Organic Mission and aim to yield high quality produce. He called upon the farmers to diligently practise the concept of mixed agriculture. The Chief Minister updated that the state government will be providing every constituency with a vehicle so that the fresh organic produce

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## Sikkim and Chamling have always supported us say Kalimpong leaders

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**KALIMPONG, 23 JAN:**

A number of major political parties of Kalimpong have condemned the recent statement of Chairman, Board of Administrators, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), Binay Tamang, where he had warned Sikkim against interfering in Darjeeling politics. Mr Tamang had said this during a public meeting held in Sukuna on Sunday.

Talking to media persons here, Dr. HB Chettri, the president of Jan Andolan Party said that Binay Tamang's statement on Sikkim was unnecessary.

"Sikkim is a state, if situation demands the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is the sole person who can take any message to the Prime Minister and each time we stand for the demand of Gorkhaland, Sikkim supports us," Dr Chettri said.

He also mentioned that it was Gorkha Janmukti Morcha who had acknowledged and felicitated the Chief Minister of Sikkim for having a discussion about Gorkhaland in Sikkim.

"We have not seen Sikkim interfering in Darjeeling politics, the people apparently running GTA are also not to be blamed as they are just following the state government's orders," added Dr. Chettri.

Meanwhile, Reseeka

Chettri, the organizing secretary of the new party Gorkha United Liberation Front (GULF) also reacted to Mr Tamang's statement.

"Pawan Kumar Chamling has been supporting us even at the Ministry level. We are really thankful to him for having a word with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Gorkhaland during the recent agitation," said Ms Chettri adding that the relationship with Sikkim is very good while certain leaders are trying to ruin it.

Pratap Khati, the spokesperson of All India Gorkha League also spoke on this matter.

"Ever since Nar Bahadur Bhandari, Sikkim has been there in our fight for existence. The statement that Binay Tamang gave was totally uncalled for, it was unwanted. Pawan Chamling is a Minister who has spent 25 years serving the constitution and the person who gave such statement is just a watchman of the Bengal government. Such statements will also destroy the relationship we have with Sikkim. We just want to remind Binay Tamang that he is just a chaukidar of Bengal government and Pawan Chamling is the Chief Minister of a state," he stated.

Meanwhile Kalimpong Krishak Kalyan Sangathan too condemned Binay Tamang's statement.

## 12 tolas of gold jewelry stolen from Ranipool home

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:** More than 12 tolas of gold jewelry was stolen from a house at Ranipool on 22 Jan, according to a police report.

The list of missing items includes a gold necklace with earring set, gold chain with Laxmi Goddess pendant, two gold rings, three sets of gold ear tops, three sets of gold earrings, gold mangalsutra, gold bangle, gold bracelet, mooga bangle and red colored pearl necklace.

The couple was reportedly at work when the robbery happened. Efforts are being made to trace the robbers.

## Forest fire damages cardamom fields in North



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**MANGAN, 23 JAN:**

A forest fire was reported at Lingding-Ringdang area of Singhik-Sentam GPU, Lachen-Mangan constituency in North Sikkim today at around 2.15 p.m.

Upon receiving the information at Mangan Police Station, the Fire Service Department led by Assistant Sub Inspector, DT Bhutia, and staff along with fire tender and Police personnel led by Assistant Superintendent-cum-Sub Division Po-

lice Officer, Mangan, Eden Bhutia, Deputy Superintendent of Police [Headquarter], Ringzing Palzor, staff, local youth and all Ward Panchayats and Zilla Panchayats reached the spot.

The fire was brought under control before it dam-

aged any private property. It, however, has destroyed some portions of cardamom fields belonging to local farmers, Gyaltsen Lepcha, Lendup Lepcha, Nakkid Lepcha and Koko Lepcha. No casualty has been reported.

## Governor Patil lauds Sikkim's dedication towards empowering women

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

"THIS HIMALAYAN STATE of Sikkim is the best place for women to work in the country. Sikkim has shown that there is no discrimination against girl child and other bigger States of our country should learn from Sikkim, how the State is moving towards empowering women in every sector. Women of Sikkim must be able to dispense their role and responsibilities and inspire other states to bring social reforms," said



Governor Shrinivas Patil while addressing a cultural programme on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' here at Manan

Kendra this evening.

The programme was organized by Song and Drama Division under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, North East Region, Guwahati in collaboration with the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare.

A press release informs that Governor Shrinivas Patil attended the occasion as chief guest accompanied by Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Sonam G Lepcha, Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Chaudhary, Chief Secretary, AK Srivastava, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarala Rai, Cultural Secretary, Yashoda Bhandari, Councilors of GMC, officials from SJE&WD, officials from Song and Drama Division, New Delhi and other invitees.

The Governor mentioned that the state government has given equal status to women with 50% reservation which helps in elevating the role of women in society.

Cultural troupes from Song and Drama Division, New Delhi, North Calcutta Prayasi, Kolkata and from Cultural Department, Government of Sikkim presented a cultural programme based on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, patriotism and traditions.

Earlier, the Governor read out the New India pledge.

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### Three suicides in one day

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:** Three suicide cases were reported on 22 Jan from East and South Sikkim. One 55-year-old man from Ranipool, a 46-year-old man from Ravangla and an 18-year-old boy of Singtam committed suicide by hanging.

### Two SADA cases in one day

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:** Rangpo Police on 22 Jan arrested a 24-year-old man from Gangtok, East Sikkim under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006. During routine checking of incoming vehicles at Rangpo check post on the accused was found in possession of 50 bottles of illegal cough syrup, 288 loose capsules of Spasmoxyvon and 100 N-10 tablets hidden inside his backpack. The accused was reportedly traveling to Gangtok from Siliguri in a cab.

On the same day in Jorethang, South Sikkim, police arrested a man for allegedly selling heroin and contraband substances from his house located at Daragaon in Jorethang. Police arrested the 35-year-old man from his home, where they found six pouches of heroin weighing 0.354 grams each and 134 Spasmoxyvon capsules hidden in different places in the house. The accused was formally arrested and booked under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 and was forwarded to a hospital for medical examination.

## SDF Panchayat cell organizes training for its elected representatives

**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

The inaugural programme of the three days long residential training for elected representatives of local self government of Sikkim Democratic Front under Yangthang constituency, organised by SDF Panchayat cell, was held today at Assam Lingzey in East Sikkim.

Former Speaker and SDF spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, attended the programme as chief guest along with area MLA, Yangthang, Chandra Maya Subba, and member of SDF Panchayat cell, Manita Mangar.

Delivering the welcome note, Ms Mangar informed that the programme aims at training all SDF Panchayats. She added that imparting such knowledge and training to local body members will strengthen the party's organizational strength.

Area MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, expressed that she is here as a stu-



dent and is looking forward to learning further about Panchayati Raj practices.

Stating that the vision of the leader of SDF and party's ideology is important for Panchayats, she said that "balance" is the key and training will help Panchayats to know and learn more.

Chief speaker of the programme who is also the legal advisor to the Chief Minister, KT Gyaltsen, held that knowledge is the most import-

ant aspect for all Panchayat members and the big responsibility and respect vested by the constitution to Panchayat members have to be understood by all elected Panchayats.

He further stressed that democracy is respected and practiced by the party and those talking against the party and leadership now are doing so for their own selfish motives.

Urging all the Panchayats to be disciplined and to serve the people, he

asked them to stay in touch with the grassroots and keep a constant connect.

"New ones should learn from the old ones and old ones should show respect to new ones," he said.

He urged the Panchayats to do their needful duty without any nepotism and participate actively in the State's ongoing Organic Mission which is in its second phase.

Praising the Chief Minister who is the party president for exemplary

leadership in the State, Mr Gyaltsen requested the Panchayats to connect with voters through the party's ideology and not to forget the party through which they have been elected.

In the remaining days of the programme, many speakers are slated to speak and train the Panchayats in various aspects related to Panchayati Raj and roles and responsibilities of a Panchayat towards village, party, society and governance.



## Agriculture Minister attends Saraswati Puja

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

Agriculture Minister-cum-Area MLA, Somnath Poudyal, visited Saraswati Puja programme held at Chisopani in Singtam on 22 Jan. The daylong programme conducted by Topa-Chisopani Jan Kalyan Sangha included a musical extravaganza and poetry recitation session, a press release informs.

Also present on the occasion were Upadhakshya, Sharmila Chettri, Panchayat members from Chisopani GPU, former Panchayats, and members of TC Jan Kalyan Sangha.

Prayers were offered to Goddess Saraswati at the onset of the event. Young boys and girls presented song and dance performances along with special performance by State Awardee Singer, Geeta Sharma.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Poudyal appreciated the efforts of the members of TC Jan Kalyan Sangha in organising the event.

"Spiritual habits lead to a healthy life and our younger generation needs to be aware of it," he added.

The programme concluded with presentation of mementos to all the performers.



### 3-DAY AYURVEDIC HEALTH CAMP KICKS OFF AT DIKCHU

**MANGAN, 23 JAN:** Three-day free homeopathy and ayurvedic health camp organized by Ministry of Ayurveda and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy [AYUSH] Health Society, Sikkim in collaboration with Dikchu Primary Health Center kicked off today at Dikchu PHC. The inaugural event was attended by Mission Director, National Health Mission, Dr Bimal Rai, Additional Director cum State programme officer, Dr Keshari Rai, Chief Medical Officer [North], Dr Baroon Subba, Tanek ward Panchayat, Gyan Tshering Lepcha, AYUSH staff members, local Panchayats and residents. The health camp will wrap up on 25 Jan.



### New Axis Bank branch with ATM facility opens at Mangan

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

**MANGAN, 23 JAN:**

Mangan district welcomed new Axis Bank branch at Mangan Nagar Panchayat office building at Rinzing Namgyal Marg in North Sikkim on 22 Jan.

The branch was inaugurated by Forest Minister, TW Lepcha, who attended the programme as chief guest accompanied by Additional District Collector, North, ADC Development [Rural Management & Development Department], Branch Manager, Axis

Bank, MNP President, MNP Councilors along with staff of Axis Branch and the general public.

Mr Lepcha urged the branch head and staff to provide positive and quick services to the people and customers so that the public is not harassed in official delivery system.

The branch head assured that the bank will provide fast and good services to all its customers. The Axis Bank ATM set was inaugurated by MNP President, Zangmoo Bhutia.

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## Will develop 1000 tourist destinations...

contd from pg01

duce from rural areas can reach the marketplace.

He added that Sikkim will soon be declared a "Total Literate State" and encouraged the youth to utilize the various pro-student education schemes formulated by the state government. He also spoke in brief about the establishment of Sikkim University in Yangang so as to facilitate better delivery of education system.

Likewise, the CM underlined

the importance of skill based education and urged the youth and students to imbibe a competitive nature therefore doing away with the notion of certificate based education.

Speaking, during the occasion guest of honor, Hari Nair expressed his delight on being a part of JKPM, 2018 and spoke in brief about the huge tourism potential that the State possesses.

During the course of the program the Chief Minister was felicitated by the organizing committee for his efforts in augmenting and bringing about expansive development in Sikkim. The organizing committee also felicitated Hari Nair for his valuable inputs in highlighting Sikkim as one of the must-visit destinations in domestic and global arena.

At the outset, the CM along with the dignitaries inaugurated Nature Interpretation Centre under Tourism & Civil Aviation Department at Yangang Helipad Complex.

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## To contact

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 Sunrise: 06:25AM  
 Sunset: 5:10 PM



**Netaji's birth anniversary celebrated in Siliguri**

**SMRITA KHAWAS SILIGURI, 23 JAN:**  
 The 122nd birth anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose was celebrated at Subashpally More, Siliguri today.

Netaji was born on 23 Jan 1897 and revived the Indian National Army better known as the Azad Hind Fauj. He was a brave leader whose death till death remains a mystery.

Today's function was attended by West Bengal Tourism Minister, Gautama Dev along with many dignitaries from in and around Siliguri who paid their respects to the great leader.

Minister Mr Dev said, "Today we are celebrating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. We believe his dream to see a better, developed and modern India has come true and we will do our best to develop our country more than what it is today."

**CONTACT**  
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**SSA organizes cultural exchange with Delhi students**

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN [IPR]:** A cultural exchange programme under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' organised by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with the Delhi Government was conducted at the conference hall of Janta Bhawan today.

The programme had the presence of Director, Primary Education [PE, SSA], Bhim Thatal, as chief guest along with Joint Director, SSA, Sonam Doma Topden, JD, PE, Radha Poudyal, Deputy Director, PE, PR Dulal, Yoga Coordinator, PE, Laxman Adhikari, students

and faculty from Aditi Mahavidhyalaya namely Dr Ritu Sharma, head of cultural committee, Dr Baldev Gulati, Assistant Professors, Social Work, Dr Mali Devi Sawaria and IK Mishra, Finance Officer, Ashok Wadhwa, Senior PA to Principal and other officials from HRDD Department.

The event started with the offering of khadas and mementos to the officials from Delhi and participants from Aditi Mahavidhyalaya, Delhi by the chief guest. Overall 20 female students and 05 faculty members from Aditi Mahavidhyalaya, Delhi participated in the daylong cultural exchange programme.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest Mr Thatal highlighted on the importance of organising such a cultural exchange programme for students from various parts of the country. He also highlighted on the success of Sikkim Organic movement.

"Sikkim is the only organic State in the world and this has been possible not by choice but through diligent efforts," stated Mr Thatal.

He also mentioned about the various past and upcoming cultural exchange programmes initiated by the department. He further urged the visiting students from Aditi Mahavid-

hyalaya, Delhi to enjoy the local cuisines, culture and the natural beauty of Sikkim and take back good memories from their visit to Sikkim.

The programme also featured recitation of poems and songs from the participants from Aditi Mahavidhyalaya, enthralling folk dance performances from Syari Royal Crew, Haryanvi Folk Dance performance by the participant from Aditi Mahavidhyalaya and a live band performance by the band Ethnic Statement.

Head of Cultural Committee of Aditi Mahavidhyalaya, Dr Sharma, mentioned that the programme has been conduct-

ed with an aim to promote cultural exchange and strengthen the bond of unity among the students from different States in the country. She added that such programmes provide platform for rural and underprivileged students to orient and sensitize themselves with the cultures and traditions of the country.

Mr Thatal and the officials from the HRDD were duly felicitated by the faculty of Aditi Mahavidhyalaya, Delhi by presenting them with shawls.

The programme ended with the offering of vote of thanks by Deputy Director, PE, PR Dulal.

**South begins work on Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

District Collector [South] chaired a meeting with the Regional Head of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India [ALIMCO], Guwahati regarding the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana which was launched in April 2017 to provide physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to BPL category and persons with disability.

The meeting was attended by the AMIMCO representatives, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], SDM [HQ], Municipal Executive Officer [Namchi Municipal Corporation], Block Development Officers along with Chief Medical Officer, South Sikkim and other officials from various departments, a press release from District Collector [South] informs.

The ALIMCO members informed the house that ALIMCO is a public sector undertaking under

turn to pg05



**Chung Ching Bhutia 'happy' with Tata Mumbai Marathon run**

**SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**  
 Marathoner, Chung Ching Bhutia has expressed immense happiness and satisfaction over his performance in the recently held Tata Mumbai Marathon 2018 on 21 Jan.

He finished the full marathon of 42,195 KMs in 04 hours and 05 minutes in his debut appearance at the Mumbai Marathon.

"It was my dream to participate in the internationally known Mumbai Marathon. I was fully prepped and I am fully

satisfied and happy with my performance in the marathon," Mr Bhutia said.

He assured to prepare even harder to perform better next year in the marathon.

He thanked Member of Parliament [Rajya Sabha], Hishey Lachungpa for his constant support and encouragement to do well in the marathon. He also thanked the Directorate of Panchayati Raj of Rural Management & Development Department for its support in the marathon.

**HRDD Minister proposes renaming Soreng SSS after Lt NB Bhandari**

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

Government Senior Secondary School, Soreng organized its Alumni Association meeting today at the school premises with regard to the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the school this year. The programme was attended by Area MLA-cum-HRDD Minister, RB Subba [alumni] as patron-in-chief, a press release informs.

Principal, Narayan Basnet, highlighted the long achievement of the school from the date of its establishment in Dec 1942.

"The year 1943 was the most memorable year of the school as United Soreng Committee was formed. In the year 1947, Scottish Missionary School which was established in Soreng in 1894



was merged with Soreng School giving it a new name, Middle Soreng School. In 1954, the school was recognized as Junior High School and later in 1979 upgraded as Secondary School. The school was finally upgraded to Senior Secondary in 1981," said Mr Basnet.

He further informed that the school has produced prominent personalities like Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari [former Chief Minister of Sikkim] and renowned teachers. In the year 1956, 25kg

school bell was donated by Late Phal Man Limboo who also formed the Alumni Association.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Subba highlighted on the contribution of the school towards society and the State. He also proposed to the committee that the school be renamed in memory of Late NB Bhandari.

Voluntary Adhoc Committee comprising of 26 members was also formed at Soreng SSS for organizing the Platinum Jubilee celebration.



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**Kutse Shegu**

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

Lhakit Lepcha (wife)  
 Ph.No. 8371051201



**Anthyesthi Kriya**

The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Bijay Kumar Prasad** who passed away on 10th Jan 2018, falls on **26 Jan 2018 [Friday]**. On behalf of the Rameshwari 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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Pehle Aap

*The messaging in the AAP disqualifications is scary*

On surface, this appears a by-the-book procedure. MLAs are appointed as legislative secretaries without the posts having first been designated as being outside the definition of offices of profit. The amendments and notifications which would have averted disqualifications are easily arranged, but since this was in AAP-governed Delhi which had served the Centre its bloodiest electoral nose, the amendments were stalled and refused. The drama has now reached a stage where public representatives elected for five years have been disqualified for positions they held for mere months and were appointed to by an elected government. Their disqualification, meanwhile, has been facilitated by agencies and offices which answer to or are appointed by the Central government even as they sit on judgment on state affairs. Of course, the quasi-state status of Delhi is another complication that has hobbled the Aam Aadmi Party and its government there.

Let's not get into too much into whether the disqualifications are justified or not or whether the disqualified MLAs received due process or not or whether the agencies and offices which led to the disqualification acted in a fair and unbiased manner or not or whether it was the letter or the spirit of the law that was prioritized to achieve a desired end. These matters are in the realm of speculation and each person will have a different take on things. What has much more far-reaching consequences in the more immediate future is the message that gets reinforced with this latest incident. The non-NDA segment of political parties in India is in noticeable disarray and fence-sitters abound; unsure if they want to go alt-Right all the way or hedge their bets and see if detached nonalignment was even an option in the latest return of Big Brother Delhi. Irrespective of what the ground realities or facts on hand might be, those covering in the corners see the effortlessness with which until recently vexed situations have come apart at the seams to the benefit of the new mighty Leaders and how the screws have tightened for other camps, all apparently without any obvious exertion of influence but obviously within the realm of doubt. This perception strengthens the required hands when it comes to negotiations and coming so close to the next elections and so conveniently when bigger questions are being asked, such developments require more public discussions and wider perspectives. But that is unlikely to happen in the present context because at the receiving end is AAP, the outlier of the Indian politics whose approach and ideology scare the regulars across the board. But remember what was said about detachment and holding your silence when the first signs of authoritarianism are displayed?

Does no one realize the irony of everything conspiring to remove representatives elected in one of the most dramatic electoral waves ever seen in the country even as we are required to continue suffering a Minister of State for Human Resource Development who believes at rapes have increased in our country every since sex education was introduced in schools. Yes, Dr, yes he is a Doctor, Satya Pal Singh, the junior minister for education who recently challenged Darwin's theory of evolution evolved to his present level of dangerous ignorance on the shoulders of many howlers in the past. He, by the way, is also part of that parivar which has problems with girls wearing jeans. So the 20 MLAs from AAP have to go while we wait, bated breaths, for what horror drops from our MoS for Education's mouth next. And no one sees a problem with this reality?

**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

# What might explain the unhappiness epidemic?

JEAN TWENGE  
theconversation.com

We'd all like to be a little happier. The problem is that much of what determines happiness is outside of our control. Some of us are genetically predisposed to see the world through rose-colored glasses, while others have a generally negative outlook. Bad things happen, to us and in the world. People can be unkind, and jobs can be tedious.

But we do have some control over how we spend our leisure time. That's one reason why it's worth asking which leisure time activities are linked to happiness, and which aren't.

In a new analysis of 1 million U.S. teens, my co-authors and I looked at how teens were spending their free time and which activities correlated with happiness, and which didn't.

We wanted to see if changes in the way teens spend their free time might partially explain a startling drop in teens' happiness after 2012 – and perhaps the decline in adults' happiness since 2000 as well.

**A POSSIBLE CULPRIT EMERGES**  
In our study, we analyzed data from a nationally representative survey of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders that's been conducted annually since 1991.

Every year, teens are asked about their general happiness, in addition to how they spend their time. We found that teens who spent more time seeing their friends in person, exercising, playing sports, attending religious services, reading or even doing homework were happier. However, teens who spent more time on the internet, playing computer games, on social media, texting, using video chat or watching TV were less happy.

In other words, every activity that didn't involve a screen was linked to more happiness, and every activity that involved a screen was linked to less happiness. The differences were considerable: Teens who spent more than five hours a day online were twice as likely to be unhappy as those who spent less than an hour a day.

Of course, it might be that unhappy people seek out screen activities. However, a growing number of studies show that most of the causation



goes from screen use to unhappiness, not the other way around.

In one experiment, people who were randomly assigned to give up Facebook for a week ended that time happier, less lonely and less depressed than those who continued to use Facebook. In another study, young adults required to give up Facebook for their jobs were happier than those who kept their accounts. In addition, several longitudinal studies show that screen time leads to unhappiness but unhappiness doesn't lead to more screen time.

If you wanted to give advice based on this research, it would be very simple: Put down your phone or tablet and go do something – just about anything – else.

## IT'S NOT JUST TEENS

These links between happiness and time use are worrying news, as the current generation of teens (whom I call "iGen" in my book of the same name) spends more time with screens than any previous generation. Time spent online doubled between 2006 and 2016, and 82 percent of 12th-graders now use social media every day (up from 51 percent in 2008).

Sure enough, teens' happiness suddenly plummeted after 2012 (the year when the majority of Americans owned smartphones). So did

teens' self-esteem and their satisfaction with their lives, especially their satisfaction with their friends, the amount of fun they were having, and their lives as a whole. These declines in well-being mirror other studies finding sharp increases in mental health issues among iGen, including in depressive symptoms, major depression, self-harm and suicide. Especially compared to the optimistic and almost relentlessly positive millennials, iGen is markedly less self-assured, and more are depressed.

A similar trend might be occurring for adults: My co-authors and I previously found that adults over age 30 were less happy than they were 15 years ago, and that adults were having sex less frequently. There may be many reasons for these trends, but adults are also spending more time with screens than they used to. That might mean less face-to-face time with other people, including with their sexual partners. The result: less sex and less happiness.

Although both teen and adult happiness dropped during the years of high unemployment amid the Great Recession (2008-2010), happiness didn't rebound in the years after 2012 when the economy was doing progressively better. Instead, happiness continued to decline as the

economy improved, making it unlikely that economic cycles were to blame for lower happiness after 2012.

Growing income inequality could play a role, especially for adults. But if so, one would expect that happiness would have been dropping continuously since the 1980s, when income inequality began to grow. Instead, happiness began to decline around 2000 for adults and around 2012 for teens. Nevertheless, it's possible that concerns about the job market and income inequality reached a tipping point in the early 2000s.

Somewhat surprisingly, we found that teens who didn't use digital media at all were actually a little less happy than those who used digital media a little bit (less than an hour a day). Happiness was then steadily lower with more hours of use. Thus, the happiest teens were those who used digital media, but for a limited amount of time.

The answer, then, is not to give up technology entirely. Instead, the solution is a familiar adage: everything in moderation. Use your phone for all the cool things it's good for. And then set it down and go do something else. You might be happier for it.

*[the writer is Professor of Psychology, San Diego State University]*

## A LESSON FROM TANZANIA

# Punishment won't stop teenage pregnancies because 'bad behaviour' isn't the cause

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In Tanzania, if you're a schoolgirl and fall pregnant, it could mean the end of your education. Even though successive governments have made a push for girls education, those that fall pregnant are routinely expelled from school, and prevented from returning. Most recently this punitive approach was taken to the extreme when school girls were arrested and may now be forced to testify in court as to who got them pregnant.

These harsh reactions are as a result of dated laws which bar teenage mothers from schooling. They are a drastic attempt to prevent pregnancy in a society where engaging in sex before marriage is seen as shameful, reckless and immoral. In 2002, these laws were updated to not only exclude girls for becoming pregnant, but barred them from re-entering school once they become mothers.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Kenya has taken the opposite approach. Girls are actively encouraged to stay in school for as long as possible and steps are taken to support their re-entry after they give birth.

Tanzania's approach isn't working. According to government data, the number of pregnancies in girls aged between 15 - 19 continues to rise - increasing from 23% in 2010 to 27% in 2015. This is higher than it was 20 years ago. Neighbouring Kenya has not seen such rises, and teenage pregnancy rates have stayed at around 18% for the last five years.

Despite the failures of the current approach, Tanzania hasn't reviewed its effectiveness or considered replacing it.

International condemnation over the arrests also misses the real issues involved. These tend to present the pregnant teenagers as victims of sexual violence, obscuring the possibility of girls having any agency over their sexuality.

But teenage pregnancy in Tanzania cannot be reduced to either "bad behaviour" or "exploitation". As my research shows it can also be an understandable response to poverty and restricted options.

## NOT THE FULL STORY

My research with Tanzanian schoolgirls explored

their experiences of sexuality, romance and schooling. Their stories were in sharp contrast to the dominant representation of girls' sexuality as problematic and victimised. Girls spoke about sex and relationships not in terms of fear or passivity, but in relation to other hurdles and opportunities they faced. Poverty, male teachers, issues of respectability and community all shaped their experiences of sexuality.

Schooling in Tanzania, as in other parts of the world, is viewed as a way to secure a better future. Girls are acutely aware of poverty and the challenges they must contend with in a patriarchal society. They feel family pressure to succeed from families that must cover the expense of uniforms, books, examination charges and tutoring. But poor quality teaching makes academic success extremely difficult.

Girls reported various accounts of predatory male teachers who request sex in return for good grades. They declared their distaste of this practice, but for some this assured continuity in school meant the risk of pregnancy is viewed as a price worth paying. Given the odds stacked against them, pregnancy might be as much of a gamble as any.

Outside the classroom, girls also sought boyfriends who would pay for school supplies and food in return for their affections. The important thing was that this happened in secret and therefore did not affect girls' reputations. But the clandestine nature of the arrangements means that there are no real opportunities for girls to seek information about preventing pregnancy. Using contraceptives or even talking about sex was seen as "bad behaviour".

## RESPECTABILITY

It's important to recognise the power of the norm of respectability. In Tanzania my research shows that it governs all social interactions, especially between younger and older people. Young people are expected to refrain from asking questions or speaking out of turn, and must defer to adults. In school, the girls I met were expected to be simultaneously hard working and ambitious; but not overly self-assured, as this could also be interpreted as disrespectful.

But these social rules makes it difficult for adults and authority figures, who might be well placed to provide guidance to girls, to develop the kinds of relationships that foster honest discussions about sex. On top of this, being a schoolgirl is seen as being at odds with being sexually active because when one is still at school, one is still socially a child, regardless of biological age.

Instead, often with the best of intentions about protecting girls' status in their communities, authority figures (such as parents and teachers) reinforce social norms about respect, deference and "goodness" which can make it difficult for girls to assert themselves in relationships.

Respectability is a particularly important form of social capital for girls. Communities are vital resources for social protection, work opportunities and emotional support, and without respect and status, women become even more vulnerable to marginalisation and poverty. Protecting ones' status can therefore be a matter of life and death.

## CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE

The idea that girls who get pregnant have broken unwritten social rules about respectability, and therefore must be wilful and badly behaved, provides authorities with a rationale for punishing girls and their families for pregnancies. This narrative must be challenged.

But veering in the other direction by describing girls as "victims" ignores that there may be reasons why they engage in risky relationships. It fails to acknowledge and address structural forces with which girls must contend. Girls already find ways to navigate repressive norms about their sexuality. With the right support and knowledge, they may be able to push back against them.

This means support and training for those working with girls to de-stigmatise conversations about sexuality. It means encouraging parents to reflect on how they relate to their children and what lessons they learn from them about relationships. And most importantly, it means finding ways to affirm girls so that they can pursue pleasurable, respectful and safe relationships.

*[the writer is Research Officer, University of Oxford]*



# Rally demands solution to Naga political issue before election

**KOHIMA, JAN 23 (PTI):** The Naga Students' Association along with apex tribal bodies and civil societies today staged a rally here demanding solution to the Naga political issue before the Nagaland Assembly election on February 27.

The rally was spearheaded by Naga Students' Association, apex students body in the state. The Naga Hoho and Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) also participated in the rally.

On January 18, the Election Commission had announced

that election to the 60-member Nagaland Assembly would be held on February 27.

Speaking in the rally, NSF president Kesosul Christopher Ltu said "the Naga peace process vis-a-vis political dialogue is an issue which is going to determine our future and if I and you do not have our say on this matter who else will?".

He claimed that all mass based Naga organisations had appealed to the Centre for solution and not election.

"Prior to the Election Com-

mission declaring the election to the state Assembly, all the mass based Naga organisations voiced out in unison appealing upon the Centre for solution and not election. However, it all fell to deaf ears and creating room to seriously doubt the sincerity of the Centre," he said.

NMA secretary Lochumbeni Humtsoe said every Naga wants peace through solution of the Naga issue.

The aspiration of the Naga mothers is for permanent peace that will bring change

and unity, she said.

She said "Today, Naga people is against the holding of election in Nagaland, NMA has also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister to postpone the electoral process for sometime till the peace talks is resolved".

Naga public wants solution and not election and it is imperative for all Nagas to resolve the issue as Naga issue is more important than election, she said.

The NMA secretary urged upon the political parties and as-

piring candidates to refrain from contesting the elections by not filing the nominations to demonstrate that Nagas are serious and we want solution not election.

Naga Hoho general secretary Mutsikhoyo Yhobu said "20 years of peace process is very long, but Nagas have been patiently waiting for a settlement, which will be honourable and acceptable to both the Naga people and the Centre".

"Let us stand up to strengthen our movement showing our resentment," he appealed.

## Demands to carve out Buddha land from UP arise

**GORAKHPUR, JAN 23 (PTI):** After demands for carving out Harit Pradesh, Poorvanchal, Bundelkhand and Awadh, a demand for a separate 'Buddha land' is in discussion in Uttar Pradesh of late.

The Poorvanchal Sena, a Dalit-majority organisation, is creating awareness among people for a separate Buddha land with 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Shravasti, Gonda, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Maharajganj, Bahraich, Chandouli, Siddharthnagar, Faizabad, Balia, Mau and Varanasi.

The sena started a campaign on January 1 and held demonstrations in support of their demand in Gorakhpur.

On January 20, they took out processions in 19 blocks of the district, Poorvanchal sena president Dharendra Pratap said.

"Now we are planning to stage demonstrations in the villages of Gorakhpur



next month," he said.

Asked about the reason behind the demand for a separate Buddha land, Pratap said, "The population of Uttar Pradesh is 18 crore, which is more than the population of many countries, and due to its vast area and heavy population it becomes difficult to manage and govern the state."

Pratap further said people of the state face difficulties owing to its vastness and development work is hindered too.

"We want to connect the state with Gautam Buddha as a large num-

ber of international tourists come here for Lord Buddha and if the state will be developed keeping this in mind, the place will become tourist hub and the development of the state will take place fast and youth will get employment too," he said.

The demand for a separate state by the Poorvanchal Sena began 20 years ago and BSP supremo Mayawati in 2011 also advocated splitting of the state into Bundelkhand, Paschim Pradesh, Awadh Pradesh and Poorvanchal.

Though there were

demands from different quarters, it was the BSP which had taken a concrete step by passing a resolution for division of UP when she was in power.

Mayawati had also used it to corner the Samajwadi Party on development, and law and order issues, maintaining that smaller states could be governed better.

Dalit icon B R Ambedkar, had recommended the division of Uttar Pradesh in his book "Bhashayi Rajya". Both the BJP and the Congress had supported the resolution brought by Mayawati in the House. But, Mayawati lost power in 2012 and her demand lost steam.

As the BJP-led NDA had carved out Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh from UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, it was believed that further division of UP might find favour with it but the party has been silent on the issue.



## Noted philanthropist Honsen Lyngdoh passes away

**SHILLONG, JAN 23 (PTI):** Meghalaya's noted philanthropist Honsen Lyngdoh died today at his home here. He was 83. Lyngdoh was suffering from age-related ailments, a family member said. A self-taught man, he had funded several road construction projects in the rural areas, much before the central government's Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana came into existence. He was honoured with The National Citizens Award in 1992 for his contribution to the development of the northeastern state. Lyngdoh also owned several vintage cars. His 1904 Model-T Ford was featured in Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning film 'Gandhi'.

## South begins work on Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

contd from pg03

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India which is nominated by Nodal Ministry as sole implementing agency for the scheme across the country.

Government of India started Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) scheme for providing physical aids to senior citizens under BPL categories. For the pilot project, 182 districts have been selected for implementation of the scheme. In Sikkim North, East and South Districts have been selected as pilot districts.

The scheme is mainly to facilitate infirmity

caused by old age.

The eligible persons for this scheme are senior citizens from BPL category, suffering from any of the age related disability / infirmity such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disability. Such persons would be provided assisted-living devices. The scheme includes assisted living devices like walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers / crutches, tripods / quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchair, artificial dentures and spectacles.

The above devices will be distributed free of cost. More than five lakh senior

citizens are expected to be benefited under this scheme. As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries will be women. The devices will be provided with free one year maintenance by ALIMCO.

To become a beneficiary the candidates must have a disability certificate, must have an Aadhaar Card and should have an income certificate of less than Rs 15,000 per month.

During the discussion hour the District Collector informed ALIMCO officers that South District will be covering all the GPUs falling under eight BACs and facilitat-

ing more than 2,000 beneficiaries for which an advance fund of at least Rs 01 lakh would be required for the transportation, light refreshment and other miscellaneous expenditure for the beneficiaries.

As per guidelines and discussed in the meeting, District Level Committee has been constituted consisting of various officers to coordinate in the implementation of the scheme led by DC as the chairperson.

A BAC-wise venue for conducting identification camps in various BACs by 10 Feb was decided in the meeting, reads the release.

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# Klopp says Liverpool dragged into a fight

SWANSEA, JAN 23 (AFP): Jurgen Klopp blamed his players for becoming embroiled in a fight at Swansea City as they lost their unbeaten 18-match run to the Premier League's bottom club.

Liverpool failed to grab a late draw to extend their lead over fifth-placed Tottenham as they lost to a single goal from Alfie Mawson -- and Klopp himself clashed verbally with a home supporter.

It was Liverpool's first defeat since October, but the points were priceless for Swansea, who cut the gap between themselves and those above the relegation places to just three points.

He said: "I am more frustrated about the performance than the result."

"We were just not good enough, especially in the first half. We didn't play how we wanted to play."

"We didn't keep the right positions we needed to, to cause them problems and didn't stretch them."

"We gave them the oppor-



tunity to score and then we did exactly what Swansea wanted.

"They didn't need to play, they needed to fight and we did exactly what they wanted and their confidence grew."

Liverpool missed plenty of opportunities for their normally clinical strikers Sadio Mane, Mo Salah and Roberto Firmino.

They also came up against a goalkeeper at the top of his game in Swansea's Polish num-

ber one Lukasz Fabianski.

The only goal came against the run of play in the 41st minute when Mawson swept the ball in at corner and Virgil van Dijk had misplaced a header as he tried to clear.

It summed up an awkward league debut for Van Dijk, who had previously only played in one FA Cup tie since his record 75 million move from Southampton.

The frustrations provoked Klopp into his argument with a Swansea supporter around the hour mark and he admitted: "He was shouting at me all the time but I reacted. I am a human being, not just a professional manager."

"I am sure I am not the first manager who has a problem."

He probably has a season ticket."

Klopp added: "Swansea

knew that to win today they needed our help and unfortunately we gave it to them.

"They did the right things to deserve to win a game like this tonight and we didn't deserve it. "We could have equalised at the end, but didn't have that luck."

For new Swans manager Carlos Carvalhal, this was a tactical triumph as he used a five-man defence to deny Liverpool space and then hit them on the break.

The Portuguese likes to use seafood metaphors to describe players as either lobsters or sardines, but this time he was borrowing motor racing analogies as he left Liverpool on the hard shoulder.

Carvalhal said: "I talked with my players and said this (Liverpool) is a really strong team. "They are like a Formula One car. But at 4:00pm in London it will be difficult to speed, they would be a car like any other."

"We needed to make sure there was traffic, we could not let them have open roads to drive in."



## Not sure if Kohli can be a long-term captaincy option: Smith

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 23 (PTI): South Africa's most successful Test captain Graeme Smith is not sure if Virat Kohli can be a long-term leader for India and feels the star batsman's leadership skills are not challenged enough by the team management.

"I don't know, when I look at him, if he is a long-term captaincy option for India," Smith said at a breakfast event organised by South African television network SuperSport.

"At the end of this year, he'd have been away from home for a while, the pressure he'll face, the scrutiny from the press - I know he only gets that in India - but if you're away from home and you're struggling for form as a team, I don't know if I'd want to burden Virat Kohli with that... Or if India have a better leader in that environment," said the former opening batsman.

Kohli has been in the line of fire for India's selection choices in the first two Tests in South Africa that the team lost to lose the series.

Smith feels Kohli needs a person around him who can challenge his decisions in a constructive way.

"When I look at Virat, I think he needs someone in the support staff who can constructively challenge him and help him grow," said Smith, a veteran of 117 Tests and 197 ODIs.

"He has all the capabilities tactically, he knows his own game, he sets the standard in the field for everyone else."

"I think if he had a really constructive person in his environment, who could talk to him, make him think, maybe even challenge him with some different ideas, in a constructive way, not an angry or aggressive way, but make him think, open his eyes to other possibilities, that would make him a really good leader."

Kohli is aggressive and expressive on the field and that can affect his teammates either way, feels Smith.

"We all know he's an outstanding player, his intensity really benefits his own personal game, he loves that confrontation, that intensity brings the best out of him," Smith said.

"But sometimes as a leader you've got to consider how you impact the others in the environment, that's an area of his leadership that he needs to grow. You can see, he's often at his players. He's very aware, he's focus on the game is on, sweeping or mid-on."

Smith says Kohli needs to connect more with his teammates.

"But often his reaction to situations... I think that can sometimes impact on your team negatively. We all know how powerful Virat Kohli is in world cricket, in Indian cricket."

"For him, he's built this aura and for him maybe to find a level where he can connect with all his players, to get to a level where can get the Indian team to be as successful as he is, that's something that he, when I watch him, is grappling with," added Smith.

## 8.2 magnitude quake hits off Alaska

WASHINGTON, JAN 23 (AFP): A powerful earthquake of magnitude 8.2 struck off the southern coast of Alaska today, the USGS said. Tsunami warnings were issued for Alaska and the west coast of Canada, the National Tsunami Warning Center said.

The quake struck at 9:31 am (local time) in the Gulf of Alaska, 280 kilometers southeast of the town of Kodiak, the US Geological Survey said. The epicenter was 10 kilometers under the seabed. Less-ominous tsunami watches were issued for the US west coast -- the entire coasts of California and Oregon and part of Washington state.

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## India open against New Zealand in 2nd leg of 4-nation hockey

HAMILTON (NEW ZEALAND), JAN 23 (PTI): India would be aiming to put behind the disappointment of a first-leg final loss when they open their campaign against hosts New Zealand in the second leg of the Four Nations Invitational Hockey Tournament, here tomorrow.

In the first leg of the tournament, India got off to a good start with 6-0 win against Japan but lost 0-2 to Belgium in the following match.

Winning 3-1 against hosts New Zealand, who had beaten Belgium 5-4 in their first match, put the Manpreet Singh-led Indian team in the final.

India topped the pool table with a total of nine goals, having conceded only three in the pool stage while Belgium scored ten goals but conceded six.

"As a team we have made progress match after match. We had four young players make their debut and even scored in matches which is good," said chief coach Sjoerd Marijne about the team's performance in the first leg.

"We came close to beating Olympic Silver Medallist Belgium which gives us a lot of confidence going into an important calendar year for hockey," he added.

Though his team lost a closely-contested final 1-2 to Belgium, Marijne feels the result was a positive.

"You must understand that Belgium is here with their complete squad and they are one of the best teams in the world. Competing with them with the team we have here is still a huge step forward," he said.

"The fact that the youngsters have shown



confidence in playing the world No.3 ranked side gives me more options as a coach and it is this competition within the team which will help us grow," he added.

Though there are positives Marijne derives from the team's outing in Tauranga, he pointed out that missed opportunities continue to dent his side's chances.

"For me, most important is converting the chances into goals. We create enough opportunities but that's not enough. We must score more goals," he asserted on the eve of their opening match in Hamilton.

Skipper Manpreet Singh stated that the team is eager to put up an improved performance here.

"Doing well against a team like Belgium will no doubt give us the confidence for future matches but winning against them will be a big boost to young players."

"To be able to do that, there are areas that require improvement and we need to ensure we don't repeat the mistakes we did in the previous matches," he said.

"While doing well against a higher ranked team like Belgium, who we will play in upcoming major tournaments like FIH Champions Trophy and the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, is a priority, winning against Japan and New Zealand has also been a plus point for this young squad," he added.

## West Indies to host 2018 Women's World T20

DUBAI, JAN 23 (PTI): The 2018 edition of the Women's World T20 will be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and St Lucia from November 9-24, the ICC has announced.

Hosts Windies will defend the title they won with an eight-wicket victory over Australia in Kolkata in 2016.

Stafanie Taylor, who was named as captain of the ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2017, won the player of the series award in India and is expected to once again lead the Windies in front of a passionate home crowd.

The three venues were selected by Cricket West Indies through a bidding process and have been ratified by the ICC.

The preliminary round matches will be held at the Guyana National Stadium and Daren Sammy Stadium in St Lucia, while Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua and Barbuda will stage the two semi-finals and the final.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said: "Windies women are the reigning champions and I've no doubt they'll be looking to defend their title on home soil."

"We are keen to build on the momentum from this summer's Women's World Cup and I'm sure the players can rely on a warm welcome from the legendary cricket fans in the West Indies and we're all in for a great experience

in the Caribbean," he said.

Windies captain Stafanie Taylor added: "As captain of the defending champions, we are keen on defending our title and since we know we will be at home, we want to use this as an opportunity to welcome the world to the region for top-class competitive Women's cricket."

The hosts will be joined by Australia, world champions England, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka who have all achieved qualification.

The remaining two spots will be taken by Bangladesh, Holland, Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, Thailand, Uganda or United Arab Emirates, all of

whom will compete in the ICC Women's World Twenty20 Qualifier in the Netherlands from 3-14 July. The November event in the Caribbean will be the first stand-alone ICC Women's World Twenty20 after the past five events were played alongside the men's event.

The Caribbean hosted the World Cup in 2007 and then staged the World T20 in 2010 when the league matches of the women's tournament were played in St Kitts, while St Lucia hosted the two semi-finals.

The final in Barbados was played after the men's final and was won by Australia when they beat New Zealand by three runs.

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## Politics robbing current gen of Indo-Pak rivalry: Akhtar



NEW DELHI, JAN 23 (PTI): Former pacer Shoaib Akhtar feels cricketers in India and Pakistan are being denied a chance to experience the historic cross-border sporting rivalry between the two countries due to politics.

India and Pakistan have not played a full bilateral series since 2007 in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. A short series was played in India in 2012 but considering the current hostility in diplomatic ties, resumption of full cricketing ties between the two nations seems highly unlikely anytime soon.

"It is terribly sad that cricketers from either side of the border are not often getting to experience the In-

do-Pak rivalry. Along with the Ashes, it is the biggest series in the game," Akhtar told PTI.

"The cricketers are not getting a chance to become overnight heroes for their respective countries. Pakistan cricketers are adored in India, I myself have got so much love from India."

"I really wanted the current Pakistani crop to experience the same kind of love we received in India back in the day and showcase their talent," said the flamboyant fast bowler, who considers himself fortunate to have been a part of many Indo-Pak battles.

He too made the most of his opportunities and became an overnight

sensation in Pakistan by casting Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar off successive balls during the Asian Test Championship at Kolkata in 1999.

"Indo-Pak cricket should happen but if it is not happening, one should move on and avoid making statements," said the 'Rawalpindi Express'.

As things stand now, the two teams meet only in ICC events. They clashed twice in the Champions Trophy in England last year with Pakistan taking sweet revenge of their league stage loss in the final.

Refusing to blame anyone stakeholder for the long halt in cricketing ties, Akhtar feels it will be status quo until the countries start talking again at

the diplomatic level.

"I feel bilateral series won't happen until bilateral talks resume between the two countries. And in the current scenario, one doesn't know if cricket diplomacy will work or not," he explained.

"It is a bit strange and sad that it will be decided at the diplomatic level when it is often said the sports should be left aside from politics," he added.

Akhtar felt neither of the two boards are to be blamed for the current situation.

"Having said that, it is not anyone's fault (the BCCI or PCB). Both boards want the series to take place. It is in their interest if the series happens," Akhtar said.

# Modi meets Swiss President Alain Berset

**DAVOS, JAN 22 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today met Swiss President Alain Berset here and discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit.

"On reaching Davos, held talks with the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr @alain\_beret. We reviewed the scope of our bilateral cooperation and discussed ways to deepen it even further," Modi said in a tweet.

Berset said the discussions marked the meeting of the biggest and the oldest democracies in the world.

Thanking Modi, the Swiss President said he would continue to strengthen "our relations"



with India.

"First engagement in snowing #Davos, PM @narendramodi met with Swiss President @alain\_beret. Two leaders had productive discussions on steps

to further deepen our bilateral cooperation built upon our shared values of democracy and diversity. #IndiaMeansBusiness," an external affairs ministry spokesperson said in a tweet.

Sources said the two leaders are also believed to have discussed the progress on automatic exchange of tax information. A legislation in this regard was passed by the Swiss Parliament, following which banks and financial institutions have begun collecting data for the first exchange that is to begin from next year.

Negotiations on EFTA (European Free Trade Association) trade pact and the bilateral investment protection agreement were also discussed, among various business and trade matters, they added.

Modi, who arrived at the ski-resort today, would be delivering the keynote address at the summit's plenary session tomorrow.



## US asks Pak to expel Taliban leaders after Kabul terror attack

**WASHINGTON, JAN 23 (PTI):** The US has asked Pakistan to immediately arrest or expel Taliban leaders who are carrying out terror attacks across the border in Afghanistan, days after the militant group attacked a landmark hotel in Kabul that left 22 people dead.

The terse White House statement came after the Taliban claimed responsibility for a major terror attack at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul on Saturday that killed at least 22 people, including 14 foreigners and eight Afghans.

"We call on Pakistan to immediately arrest or expel the Taliban's leaders and prevent the group from using Pakistani territory to support its operations," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters.

"In Afghanistan, where terrorists attacked a hotel in Kabul, such attacks on civilians only strengthen our resolve to support our Afghan partners," Sanders said.

"We commend the swift and effective response of the Afghan security forces. Afghan forces, with our support, will continue to relentlessly pursue the enemies of Afghanistan, who also seek to export terror around the world," she said.

Pakistan is facing mounting pressure from the US to take action against terror groups and dismantle their safe havens.

President Donald Trump has said that Pakistan has given nothing to the US but "lies and deceit" and suspended about USD 2 billion in security aid to the country.

A spokesman for the Afghan interior ministry said yesterday that after the deadly siege ended on Sunday, security forces also defused a vehicle full of explosives near the site of the attack.

Afghan security forces said they had killed the last of six Taliban militants who stormed the hilltop hotel.

More than 150 people were rescued or managed to escape, including 41 foreigners, reports said.



The repatriation of tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees to Myanmar has been postponed just hours before it was due to begin. Bangladeshi officials said a "rigorous process" was required before repatriation could begin, including building transit centres and compiling a list of potential returnees for verification by Myanmar. Many of the 688,000 who fled since last August witnessed unimaginable violence by Myanmar troops and pro-government vigilante groups. Rohingya leader, Abdul Rahim, told that they won't return to Myanmar unless their safety is guaranteed. "If they try to force us to go back without meeting our demands we will refuse," he said. "We would rather die here than die in Burma. If they say they will shoot us, at least we will die here in a Muslim land." The UN agrees Rohingya must know their rights before they return.

# Trump signs funding bill, ending 3-day government shutdown

**WASHINGTON, JAN 23 (PTI):** Claiming victory, President Donald Trump has signed a short-term government funding bill ending a three-day shutdown as Democrats voted to reopen the government after a deal with ruling Republicans to hold a debate on the future of young undocumented immigrants.

The stop-gap funding, which expires on February 8, passed both the Senate and House by large margins last night after opposition Democrats received a commitment from Republicans toward securing the fate of hundreds of thousands of so-called "Dreamers" illegally brought to America as children.

The spending bill passed the Senate by 81-18 and the House of Representatives by 266-150.

The measure funds the government till February 8, before which the Democrats and Republicans need to agree to a long-term solution to the government funding and on issues related to illegal immigration.

Claiming victory in his standoff with Democrats, Trump signed the measure into law and government operations would return to normal today.

Thousands of federal employees who had been placed on temporary, unpaid leave since Saturday breathed a sigh of relief.

"I am pleased that Democrats in Congress have come to their senses and are now



willing to fund our great military, border patrol, first responders, and insurance for vulnerable children, Trump said in a statement.

He said he will make a long-term deal on immigration only if it is good for the country and will work towards solving the problem, once the government is funded.

"As I have always said, once the government is funded, my administration will work toward solving the problem of very unfair illegal immigration. We will make a long-term deal on immigration if, and only if, it is good for our country, he said.

The White House said it is ready to negotiate with the Democrats even if there is differences between the two.

"We've been very clear about what we want to see in any legislation, and I don't

think that there's a whole lot of daylight between where we are and where the Democrats are. We certainly want to negotiate and get to a place, and we're hopeful that we can do that over the next couple weeks, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters at her daily news conference.

Following Democrats vote in the Senate to end the government shutdown, Sanders said the Democrats realise the position that they had taken, frankly, was indefensible, and that they had to focus on first funding the military, protecting Border Patrol agents, funding vulnerable children through the CHIP program.

Sanders indicated that there is no changes in the position of the Trump Administration on this.

If people are unwilling to secure our borders, that they're unwilling to end chain migration, unwilling to end the visa lottery system, unwilling to fix all of the problems that we have in our immigration system, and aren't willing to negotiate and actually do things that fix that system, that we know to be problematic, then, yes, that would be a problem and certainly allow for future incidents to take place, she said.

There have been four government shutdowns since 1990. In the last one, in 2013, more than 800,000 government workers were put on temporary leave.

# China to build intelligent 'super expressway'

**BEIJING, JAN 23 (PTI):** China is planning to build a 161-km-long, six-lane intelligent expressway by 2022 in Zhejiang Province in the east, local authorities said today.

The freeway, linking Hangzhou with Ningbo, is expected to increase the average traffic speed by 20 to 30 per cent, slashing the travel time between the two cities from two hours to just one, they said.

China's expressways have the speed limits of between 100 kmph and 120 kmph, with the average traffic speed estimated at 90 kmph.

The new intelligent expressway system will incorporate a monitoring system as well as a warning system to maintain the safety of vehicles while increasing the average traffic speed, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

"It will also include Internet of Vehicles technology, supporting au-

tonomous driving in the future," said Ren Zhong, deputy director of the provincial department of transportation.

"We will make mobile charging for electric vehicles possible on the super highway in the future," he added.

China had opened one-km section of its first solar expressway for testing last month.

According to the project developer Qilu Transportation Development Group, solar panels, covering 5,875 square metres, have been laid beneath a part of ring road surrounding Jinan, capital city of Shandong Province in east China.

The road surface has been made of a transparent, weight-bearing material that allows sunlight to penetrate.

The panels can generate 1 million KWH of power in a year, enough to meet the everyday demand of around 800 households, the developer said.

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<b>DEAR AFFECTIONATE MORNING</b> 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)	<b>DEAR RESPECT</b> 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)
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<b>DEAR HAWK EVENING</b> 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)	<b>DEAR HAWK EVENING</b> Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:25 DrawDate on:21/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 88H 24891 (Including Super Prize Amt)
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**DISNEY DYNAMIC:** Singer Katy Perry seen with the famous characters during Minnie's star unveiling on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in L.A.

## CAMILA CABELLO BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO REACH NO. 1 WITH DEBUT ALBUM IN 3 YEARS

The singer's single "Havana" also reached the top spot on Billboard's Hot 100 for the first time this week.

Camila Cabello is not just flying solo, she's soaring.

The former Fifth Harmony singer released her first album, "Camila," on Jan. 12, and it debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's 200 Albums Chart. The feat makes Cabello the first woman in three years to reach the chart's top spot with a full-length debut album.

On Monday, Cabello's hit single "Havana," featuring Young Thug, also made the jump to the No. 1 spot, topping Billboard's Hot 100 chart after spending seven non-consecutive weeks at No. 2 and a total of 23 weeks on the chart. It's the first time in the top spot on the chart for both Cabello and Young Thug.

The Cuban-born singer parted ways with Fifth Harmony in December 2016. Cabello opened up about leaving the pop group earlier this month in an interview with The New York Times.

Cabello explained that issues began within the group after she collaborated as a solo artist on Shawn Mendes' 2015 song "I Know What You Did Last Summer." When the artist showed interest in becoming in-



involved in writing music for Fifth Harmony, the disharmony intensified.

"I was just curious and I wanted to learn and I saw all these people around me making music, writing songs and being so free," Cabello told the Times. "I just wanted to do that and it did not work."

The artist said she attempted to work on her solo album and remain within the group, but "the other members shut her out instead."

"It became clear that it was not possible to do solo stuff and be in the group at the same time," she added.

Cabello is the first woman to reach No. 1 on the Billboard 200 with her debut full-length album in three years — since Meghan Trainor's Title (also on Epic) opened atop

the list. (Trainor had a previous EP, also named Title, which reached No. 15.) If we count all initial chart appearances by women (including EPs), Cabello is the first woman to top the list with her first overall charting effort since Ariana Grande bowed at No. 1 with her first full-length album — and chart debut — Yours Truly in 2013.

Cabello also joins an exclusive club of female performers who initially reached the Billboard 200 as part of a group, and then later hit No. 1 with a solo album. Cabello was formerly a member of the all-female vocal group Fifth Harmony, which claimed three top 10s while Cabello was in the group. Cabello departed Fifth Harmony in December of 2016.

Cabello follows Gwen Stefani (No Doubt), Beyoncé and LeToya (both of Destiny's Child), Lauryn Hill (Fugees), Patti LaBelle (Labelle), Stevie Nicks (Fleetwood Mac), Linda Ronstadt (The Stone Poneys), Diana Ross (The Supremes) and Janis Joplin (Big Brother and the Holding Company). (Honorary mention goes to Selena Gomez, who notched three albums first with Selena Gomez & The Scene, before going totally solo with the No. 1 album Stars Dance in 2013.)

## THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100:



1. Camila Cabello Featuring Young Thug- Havana
2. Ed Sheeran Duet With Beyoncé- Perfect
3. Post Malone Featuring 21 Savage- Rockstar
4. Bruno Mars and Cardi B- Finesse [remix]
5. Halsey- Bad At Love
6. Imagine Dragons- Thunder
7. G-Eazy Featuring A\$AP Rocky and Cardi B- No Limit
8. Dua Lipa- New Rules
9. Sam Smith- Too Good At Goodbyes
10. Migos, Nicki Minaj and Cardi B- MotorSport

**ARIES:** Don't fritter away your time with a person who isn't going to change his or her mind about something, Aries. This is one of those days in which you may end up wasting your time and everyone else's by continuing to insist that things be done a certain way. If you want to do something your way, then do it. If someone else wants to do something his or her way, then let that person do it.

**TAURUS:** More than likely there is a person in your world who desperately wants to get closer to you, Taurus. Conflict is apt to arise tonight if you don't open up and let this person in a bit closer. It could be that you're quick to snap back with a forceful opinion, but be careful that you don't scare them away entirely. This person

wants to share more of an intimate space with you, but perhaps they just don't know how.

**GEMINI:** It may be easy for you to show up at a party or answer the phone when you know that it's your best friend calling with good news, but where are you when the going gets rough, Gemini? Make sure you show your support to people in all situations. Don't be just a fair-weather friend. Your loyalty to others may be tested today when conflict arises and tempers get high.

**CANCER:** Realize that your inner state of mind is quite apparent to people just by the look on your face, Cancer. Don't think you can hide things from others, especially today. You're better off just saying how you feel even if

you think someone may be put off by it. Your emotional state should be strong, so use this to your advantage.

**LEO:** Your opinions are apt to be strong today and you may feel on top of the world, Leo. Remember, however, that there are other people who share the world with you, so don't disregard them as you plow through the day. Expressing your thoughts should be no problem, but expressing your emotions could be a whole different matter. Don't push it if it doesn't feel right to share them with others at this time.

**VIRGO:** Realize that you may be controlling other people's actions without even consciously knowing it, Virgo. This is one of those days in which emotional outbursts

could explode in your face as a result of other people's reactions to your pressure. Don't feel like you need to take on the responsibility of everyone else's actions. You may be having a hard enough time dealing with your own personal issues.

**LIBRA:** Beware of unexpected circumstances today, Libra. The good news is that your flexible attitude is perfectly suited to deal with the twists and turns that this day is likely to offer. While other people may get upset when their plans go awry, you'll find that you can surf the waves easily and turn any situation into a positive one, regardless of the way in which you planned things to work out originally.

**SCORPIO:** Come out of your

shell today and try not to be so aloof, Scorpio. You will never find the exact path you want to be on until you explore the different options. The good news is that you should be feeling quite strong emotionally, giving you the confidence to approach people with authority, thereby earning their respect and faith in whatever project you're involved with now.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may be wondering why everyone is getting so touchy when you see this as being just a normal day, Sagittarius. Cut other people some slack when you think they aren't wearing as big a smile as you are. If you want people to trust you, you need to prove that you can bring yourself to the same level

that they're on. Show a greater understanding of other people's needs.

**CAPRICORN:** It could be that you don't feel as if you can begin your day until you've made it clear to someone that you have an issue that needs to be dealt with, Capricorn. You have a greater amount of emotional strength than usual, and you'll find that it's important that you hold on to this feeling against all odds. Other people may try to strike you down with their words, but pay attention to what they're saying. Are they really focusing on the facts or just blasting you with their opinions?

**AQUARIUS:** Don't let another person's small, thoughtless comment ruin your entire day, Aquar-

ius. People may be a bit stingy with everything from money to emotions to time spent with loved ones. The more you tell someone else that they're wrong, the more that person is going to reject your advice. In general, this is a good time to simply stay out of other people's way.

**PISCES:** You may be feeling a bit tired and worn out lately, Pisces. Don't push yourself to do things when you know that your body needs rest. It could be extremely tempting to roll with the crowd and participate in all the fun. You don't want to miss out on a single thing going on around you. Resist the temptation to disregard the important messages that are coming from your body. Slow down.



## AAMIR KHAN'S SECRET SUPERSTAR MINTS RS 174 CRORE IN 3 DAYS

Following the league of Dangal, Aamir Khan's latest release Secret Superstar starring Zaira Wasim has successfully broken all box-office records in China. Looking at the history, it looks like Aamir Khan is all set to impress the international audiences now. Mr. Perfectionist's film Secret Superstar has crossed its lifetime business of India in just two days with a record-breaking opening. The movie has already entered the 100 crore club and minted solid Rs 174 crore in just three days at the box-office. Just like Dangal, Aamir's Secret Superstar has also managed to win the audiences overseas and is expected to gross incredibly in the coming week. Dangal in total made a business of Rs 1459 crore in China, making it's total earning Rs 2000 crore across the globe. The big numbers even gave Dangal a position in the top 5 highest grossing non-English language films till date. It would be interesting to see if just like Dangal, Secret Superstar also manages to become one of the most successful films in the history of cinema ever. Aamir Khan quite clearly has become a household name in China.

It's interesting to note that at Rs43.35 crore, Secret Superstar beat the first day collections of Khan's sports drama blockbuster Dangal (Rs14.67 crore), which is currently the highest-grossing Indian film in China. The Nitesh Tiwari-directed film had made close to Rs 2,000 crore in China.

Most importantly, though, Indian film stories resonate with local Chinese audience. Earlier used to Hollywood spectacles and local mythological and costume dramas, the emotional connect of a Hindi film is often great.



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

**1989- Ted Bundy:** The serial killer Ted Bundy was electrocuted for murdering a 12-year-old girl.

**1935- First Canned Beer Sold:** The first canned beer goes on sale "Krueger Cream Ale," sold by Krueger Brewing Co. of Richmond, Va. to the general public. Pabst was the second brewer in the same year to sell beer in cans and the cans came with a picture of a can opener on the side, with opening instructions.

**1939- Chile Earthquake:** 30,000 people are killed by a magnitude 8.3 devastating earthquake in Chillan , Chile.

**1961- Marilyn Monroe:** The divorce of Marilyn Monroe to playwright Arthur Miller is granted in Mexico, where a judge signed the decree. The grounds of divorce were listed as "incompatibility". This was her third divorce 1st from childhood sweetheart Jimmy Dougherty, 2nd from

legendary Baseball Star Joe DiMaggio.

**1965- Winston Churchill:** Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, died aged 90 years old he was best known as leading his country through World War II as a great speaker and raising morale of his countrymen.

**1966- India Plane Crash:** An Air India Boeing 707 crashed into Mount Blanc, the highest peak of the Alps with the loss of life for 117 passengers.

**1995- O.J. Simpson:** The trial started of O.J. Simpson for the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman

**2011- Suicide Bombing at Russian Airport:** An explosion caused by a suicide bomber at the Domodedovo Airport in Moscow kills over thirty people and injures over one-hundred people.

**2013- US Ends Ban on Women in Combat:** The US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that the military would end its ban on women in combat roles in the US Armed Forces. The decision overturned a rule instated in 1994 that banned women from small ground combat units.

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"SORRY, MAAM, BUT I'LL NEED SOMETHING MORE SPECIFIC ON YOUR AGE THAN 'THIRTYSOMETHING.'"

ARCTIC CIRCLE

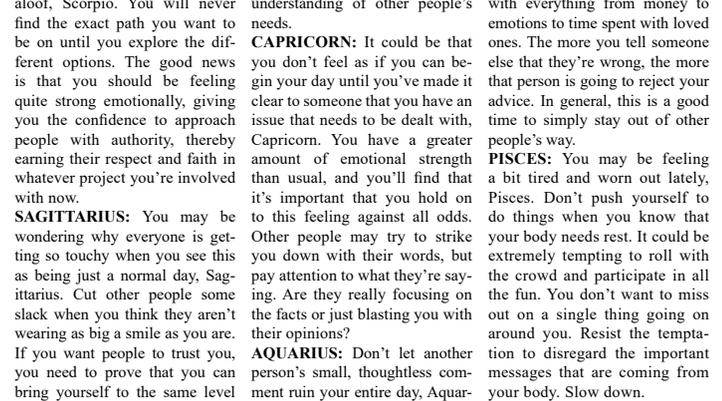
- HALLATT



WHY DO FLAMINGOS STAND ON ONE LEG?  
200



YOU'RE MISSING THE GAME, ZOE.  
UM-HMM.  
PING!  
HAMMIE GOT A HIT!  
I KNOW.  
BUT YOU WEREN'T EVEN WATCHING!  
THE CATCHER POSTED IT ON INSTAGRAM.



BABY BLUES  
- KIRKMAN & SCOTT