



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## AR RAHMAN ARRIVES

**GANGTOK, 07 JAN:** Celebrated music director, AR Rahman, arrived in the state late in the evening today. He is here to attend the Red Panda Winter Carnival which is scheduled to begin on Monday when he also scheduled to be officially announced as the brand ambassador of Sikkim tourism. The maestro's felicitation is scheduled for Monday as part of the opening ceremony of the Red Panda Winter Carnival. Mr Rahman was welcomed by Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, accompanied by IPR Minister AK Ghatani and Gangtok Mayor Shakti Singh Choudhary. Meanwhile in the capital, the MG Marg stretch and Paljor Stadium today witnessed finishing touches being applied in preparation for the grand fest. The Tourism Minister also inspected the preparations.

## Nitish calls on Dalai Lama at Bodh Gaya

**GAYA (BIHAR), JAN 7 (PTI):** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today called on Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at Bodh Gaya near here and also released a book with him.

The Dalai Lama, who has been at Bodh Gaya since January 2, received the Chief Minister at the Kalachakra Maidan and presented him with a picture of the Buddha and an "Angavastram" (traditional men's attire) as tokens of blessing.

Later, they jointly released "Science and Philosophy in the Indian Buddhist Classics" - the first part of a multi-volume edition which explores scientific observations about the material world and the mind found in classical Buddhist treatise.

Speaking on the occasion, Nitish lauded the spiritual leader for "introducing Indian youth to the Buddha's scientific thoughts" and said it is a matter of pride for every resident of Bihar that they belong to the land



where the Buddha, whose thought has inspired people across the world, had attained enlightenment.

Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya more than 2,000 years ago.

"I feel delighted whenever the Dalai Lama visits Bodh Gaya. His discourses have inspired and transformed countless number of people. I am hopeful that this new book, which has been compiled un-

der his supervision, will serve as an inspiration for promoting peace in the world," Nitish said.

The Bihar chief minister also said his government's motto of "nyay ka saath vikas" (progress with justice) was a development model in which equal attention was paid to the needs of humans as well as the ecosystem.

Later, Kumar visited the Maha Bodhi temple, built at the very spot where the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment, and inaugurated a newly-constructed boundary wall of the complex.

Nitish also prayed at the temple and the Bodhi tree, where Buddha is said to have meditated.

He also asked the district administration and the Maha Bodhi Temple Management Committee to take steps for beautification of the surrounding area.

## PM holds 'focussed' discussions with DGPs on security

**TEKANPUR (MP), JAN 7 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held "focused discussions" with top police officers on the security situation in the country and how to further tighten the security apparatus.

Modi had daylong deliberations with the top security brass of the country at the annual DGPs and IGPs conference being held here at the BSF Academy.

"Had focussed discussions with groups of officers on specific areas of policing and security," he tweeted.

The prime minister said that at the conference, there were "insightful presentations and fruitful discussions on aspects relating to our security apparatus".

"There was also a presentation on the implementation status of decisions taken during the last



three years," he tweeted.

Officials privy to the closed-door meeting said the prime minister stressed the need for further tightening country's security apparatus, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and the

Naxal-affected areas.

Around 250 top officers from the state police forces and central police organisations are taking part in the three-day meet.

Yesterday, Home Minister Ra-  
turn to pg02

## Delhi Police registers FIR over Aadhaar data breach, names scribe

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** The Delhi Police has registered an FIR on a complaint by a deputy director of the Unique Identification Authority of India in connection with a newspaper report on the breach of details of the over one billion Aadhaar cards, naming the journalist behind the story.

UIDAI Deputy Director BM Patnaik informed the police that an input was received from The Tribune that the newspaper purchased a service being offered by anonymous sellers over WhatsApp that provided unrestricted access to details of any of the more than 1 billion Aadhaar numbers created in India, the police said today.

On January 5, a complaint was received from Patnaik and the FIR was registered the same day, they said.



The police was informed by the UIDAI official that the correspondent of The Tribune, posing as a buyer, had purchased the details.

The FIR mentions the names of the journalist and the people the

reporter reached out to purchase the Aadhaar data, but they have not been shown as accused, the police said.

The police said that they will be questioned.

Under fire for filing the FIR, the UIDAI said it respects free speech, including freedom of the press, and its police complaint should not be viewed as "shooting the messenger".

In a statement, it said that its act should not be viewed as one targeting the media or a whistleblower.

Justifying its stance, the UIDAI said criminal proceedings have been initiated as it was an act of unauthorized access.

Reacting to the development, the Congress attacked the Centre over the UIDAI registering the FIR.

The opposition party accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of shooting the messenger instead of probing the matter.

The Congress also raised questions over the "intentions" of the government on privacy issues.

"Intent, & 'Intentions' of Modi Govt on Privacy were thoroughly exposed when it had proclaimed that 'no citizen can have an absolute right over his/her body,' Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted.

"In SC, Modi Govt had accepted Aadhaar data leak! Now instead of investigating, an evasive Modi ji shoots the messenger!" he said.

The Editors Guild Of India sought government intervention for the withdrawal of the case and called for an "impartial" investigation into the matter.

Criticising the lodging of the FIR, the guild said it was "deeply concerned" over reports that the UIDAI deputy director had registered a complaint in which the reporter of The Tribune has been named.

**BJP**  
'saddened'  
by health  
management  
of State Govt

**SUMMIT REPORT****GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

Barati Janta Party's Sikkim Pradesh unit, in a press release issued today, has expressed its sadness over the 'declining health management of the State'. The party has alleged that hospitals and health centers of the State have failed to provide proper treatment to the patients.

A BJP press release states that the government hospitals have been lacking modern facilities, sufficient doctors and nurses, beds for patients and other facilities.

The release further adds that government hospitals have been referring patients even for simple ailments.

On the same, the party alleged that the State Government has failed in the health sector in the State. The party further alleged that the State Government has been trying to divert the attention of the people from such important issues through festivals and carnivals.

**PM holds**  
'focussed'  
discussions  
with DGPs  
on security

*contd from pg 01*

Jnath Singh had said terror infrastructure in Pakistan continues to exist and the neighbouring country was leaving no stone unturned to instigate the youths of Jammu and Kashmir against India.

Singh had also asked the police officers to take strong action against rioters and desecration of religious places.

The conference of the DGPs and IGP is an annual affair, where senior police officers of the states and Centre meet and discuss issues.

Following a directive of Modi, the home ministry has been organising the conference outside the national capital since it came to power in 2014.

The last three conferences were held in Guwahati, Rann of Kutch and Hyderabad.

During the last meeting in Hyderabad, issues such as cross-border terrorism and radicalisation were discussed in detail.

As desired by the prime minister, the home ministry this year announced the names of 10 best-performing police stations in the country.

While addressing the DGPs conference in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch, Modi had said the police officers should devise a parameter to identify the best police stations in the country.

Accordingly, RS Puzhal police station in Coimbatore followed by Hyderabad's Panjagutta were named as the top two best-performing police stations in the country in different parameters, including crime control and serving the people.



## Follow up review meet held for Jorethang Maghey Mela preparations

**JORETHANG, 07 JAN [IPR]:** A review meeting for the upcoming Jorethang Maghey Sakranti Mela 2018 was held at Jorethang today. Chaired by Sikkim Legislative Assembly Speaker, K.N Rai who is also the Chief Advisor of the mela committee the meeting was attended by area MLA and Chief Patron of the mela committee, A.K Ghatani alongside Nayabazar Jorethang Municipal Council Chairman, Tika Gurung, MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, Vice Chairperson, Pema Tamang, councilors, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang],

B.C. Rai, officials from various line departments and representatives from civil society.

Addressing the meeting Mr Ghatani said that Jorethang Maghey Sakranti Mela is one of the oldest festivals in Sikkim and is observed with much fanfare. Mr Ghatani updated that this year the mela has been institutionalized as one of the State level festivals and emphasized the concerned line departments to work diligently to make the mela a successful one.

Additionally, he elucidat-

ed that during the mela, a mélange of activities like Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Check-up for Healthy Sikkim (CATCH), AROGYA, job mela, adventure sports, organic vegetables and flower show exhibition cum sale, rural sports, art exhibition cum sale, photo exhibition and many more will be held throughout the festival and advocated the visiting patrons to utilize these activities to its fullest. He also underlined that during the mela special focus should be laid on promoting

'Organic Farming' and the various schemes and policies conceptualized by the State Government for the betterment of the State and its citizens.

Chief Advisor, K.N. Rai released the promo video of the mela. During the review meeting progress report for the ensuing mela was also presented by the officials from the various line departments.

It may be mentioned here that the Jorethang Maghey Mela 2018 is a three day long event and is scheduled to kick off from 14-16 Jan.

**'China could convince Pak for dismantling terror safe havens'**

**WASHINGTON, JAN 7 (PTI):** With the Trump administration determined to eliminate terror safe havens in Pakistan, the US is hoping that China will play a helpful role in convincing its close ally that it is in its national interest to crackdown on these sanctuaries, a senior White House official has said.

"So, I would disagree with the assertion that China will not play a helpful role in convincing Pakistan it is in its own interest to crack down on the terror sanctuaries," the official told a group of reporters on Friday.

"Ultimately, China is also working towards a stable Afghanistan. That's going to take them back to the same issue which are the sanctuaries in Pakistan," the official said.

China-Pakistan relationship is already very strong and appeared unconcerned over reports that the US' decision to freeze approximately USD 2 billion in security assistance to Pakistan would push Islamabad towards Beijing, the official added.

"That relationship is already very very strong. But what we have seen is an interest by Pakistan in having a strong relationship with both the US and China. So that's one issue.

The official was quick

## SKM releases its 2018 calendar



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha released its year 2018 calendar here at Deorali today. The calendar was released at a party meeting

held under the chairmanship of the SKM acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha.

The meeting was attended by chief coordinator, Sonam Lama, secretary general, Arun Uperty and

other senior leaders of SKM party.

An SKM press release states that the calendar conveys the party's message on communal harmony and highlights the party's position against corruption.



## SINGTAM'S MAGHEY MELA KICKS OFF

**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 07 JAN:**

Singtam kicked off its annual Maghey Mela to mark Makar Sangkranti at Lal Bazaar and Golitar ground from today. The mela is scheduled to continue till 05 Feb.

Since Singtam is a gateway connecting other three major districts, people are expected to attend in large numbers.

"With new items and different games featured this year, people will be

enjoying a lot," informs mela coordinator, Bhanu Lepcha.

Police personnel have been directed to help the organizing committee conduct the fair peacefully.

Every year the mela committee donates 20 to 30% of the proceeds to develop the cremation ghat and shopkeepers sheds in Lal Bazaar. However, the committee has decided that this year the proceeds will be donated towards developing the cremation shed at Tamang Monastery at Shanti Nagar.

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Gangtok on Monday,  
08 Jan  
Temp: 15°C /01°C  
Forecast: Partly sunny, partly cloudy and cold.  
Sunrise: 06:27 AM  
Sunset: 4:58 PM

## WB reels under cold spell

KOLKATA, JAN 7 (PTI): Icy winds walloped most areas in West Bengal intensifying the prevailing cold conditions even as the Met office today forecast similar conditions for the next few days.

While the western districts of the state experienced cold wave conditions, there was abnormal drop in day temperatures in some sub-Himalayan districts.

Sriniketan in Birbhum district was the coldest in the plains with minimum temperature of 5.8 degrees Celsius at 5.30 am this morning, the Met department said.

In North Bengal, Jalpaiguri recorded the day's maximum temperature at 13.5 degrees Celsius, 10 notches below normal, while in Coochbehar the mercury rose to 15.4 degrees Celsius, eight notches below normal.

Minimum temperatures dipped below the 10 degrees mark in most places of the state, with Asansol recording a low of 7.1 degrees Celsius, followed by Coochbehar 7.6 degrees Celsius, Burdwan 7.6 degrees Celsius and Bankura 8.4 degrees Celsius.

Kolkatans experienced a chilly Sunday with a minimum temperature of 10.6 degrees Celsius, which is three notches below normal, the Met department said.

The weatherman has forecast cold spell to continue for the next few days and night temperatures may fall further in some areas, both in Gangetic plains and sub-Himalayan parts of West Bengal.

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## SCA begins prep camp for U-23 men's team

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JAN:

Sikkim Cricket Association has kicked off its conditioning camp for members of the U-23 Men's team here at SCA ground at Rangpo, East Sikkim, on Sunday. The State's U-23 team will be participating in the one-day matches to be played from 21 Jan in Patna.

The association has appointed Amosh Rai as coach, Binod Gupta as team manager, Subash Tamang as trainer and Karma Wangdu as physiotherapist of the team, informs a SCA press release.

The release informs that a team from North East Cricket Development Committee [NECDC] has also arrived in Gangtok today on the directions of the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI].

It is informed that the committee will hold meetings and discussions to make calendar of events for cricket in North East states. The BCCI has agreed in-principle to fund coaching camps and other activities and also support financial help to give salaries to coaches, support staff etc, it is informed.

The release informed that NECDC was formed in a meeting at Gangtok in 2016 for discussions on various issues relating to development of Cricket-

etc in the region.

The NECDC is the highest cricketing body in the North East and comprises of the presidents and general secretaries of the Cricket Associations of the North East States of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya. Tripura and Assam are already full members of the BCCI and Mizoram has applied for its affiliation to the BCCI and

BCCI has been considering the request.

The committee is headed by former Chief Minister and current Member of Parliament of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio. The co-ordinator of the committee is Honorary Secretary of Meghalaya Cricket Association, Naba Bhattacharya.

Another official of BCCI, Ashish Bhaumick shall be visiting Rangpo Mining Ground on 27 Jan, it is informed.



## Sanjay Chettri leads fitness run in Rangpo

### SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 07 JAN:

Former Mr Ultimate Sikkim, Sanjay Chettri, today organised a four kilometer run in Rangpo to encourage the people

to stay healthy and fit.

The short distance run was followed by endurance exercises for participants led by Mr Chettri at Rangpo Mining Ground.

Mr Chettri is also the president of Bodybuilding & Power Lifting Association of Sikkim and owner of Bodyvide Gym at Rangpo.

He stated that the initiative

was to encourage youth to live healthy lives by engaging in productive and physical activities. He also assured to continuously organise such initiatives in the days to come.

## SP-East visits students undergoing winter coaching at TNSS



### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JAN:

Superintendent of Police [East], Tenzing Loden Lepcha, on 06 Jan paid a visit to students undergoing winter coaching class at Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School in the capital.

that Mr Lepcha, during his interaction with the students, spoke to the students and with his words inspired and motivated them to work hard and prepare well for the upcoming board examinations.

Conducted by Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association, the win-

ter coaching has students take mock tests and pre-board examinations as preparation for the board examination.

During the interactive session, the students also asked the visiting officer about various competitive examinations like the Union Public Service Commission [UPSC] and Civil Ser-

vices exam and he encouraged the students to start preparing for the competitive examinations from now itself, informs the release.

The officer asked the students to approach him for any kind of assistance regarding career counseling or coaching, the release adds.

## College community radio embarks on Indo-Nepal friendship tour

### DARJEELING (WB), JAN 7 (PTI)

Officials of a college community radio in Darjeeling today set out on an 'Indo-Nepal Friendship Tour', with a team of radio jockeys visiting seven institutions in the Himalayan nation.

Chhetri added, "We will also make radio programmes on 25 years of Nepal Don Bosco Society and interact with community radio stations, especially in Dharan - the cradle of Don Bosco Society in Nepal."

The event also marks the first anniversary of 'Radio Salesian' - considered to be the first college radio in Bengal and the entire North East India.

The journey began this morning from Sonada, passing through the Indo-Nepal Kukrabbitt border near Siliguri and proceeded to Dharan from where the Don Bosco Centre, Nepal, took over and reached Kathmandu in West Nepal.

The team members include station director and SCS vice-principal Prof CM Paul, along with programme coordinator and radio jockey Samir Chhetri, senior radio jockey Sagar Rai and driver Kabi Rai.

"The programme will consist of visiting Don Bosco institutions, as well as plus-two (se-

nior secondary) schools along the way (Kakrabbitt, Birtamod, Dharan, Biratnagar, Ithari and Kathmandu) to promote higher education in Salesian College, Darjeeling and the Siliguri campus," said Paul.

Chhetri added, "We will also make radio programmes on 25 years of Nepal Don Bosco Society and interact with community radio stations, especially in Dharan - the cradle of Don Bosco Society in Nepal."

The Nepal Don Bosco Society began in 1992 with the Dharan centre, in eastern Nepal, initiated by the late Fr George Alakulam, who ventured out from Don Bosco School, Mirik.

The Salesians then reached Sirsia (1996), followed by the capital, Kathmandu, with two centres - in Lubhu, established in 1996, and Thecho in 2001 after which came Baroul and Chakkarghatta (2014) in East Nepal.

This was followed by Biratnagar in 2017, and the total of seven houses are managed by 18 Salesians from various states across India.

The Society is engaged in a variety of ministries (activities) dedicated to the country's young people.

### Anthyesthi Kriya



We are deeply overwhelmed and indebted to all our dear friends and well wishers who have been so supportive and forth coming in our time of bereavement; the sad demise of our beloved father late, Nageshwar Singh who left for his heavenly abode on 26 December. Once again in all humility we request for your benign presence in offering prayer for the departed soul (the 13 day Anthyesthi Kriya) scheduled to be held on 8 January at our residence at Singh Bhawan, Dikchu Bazar East Sikkim.

Family members:

Pankaj Singh, Abhay Singh, Raj Singh, Pritam Singh, Amant Singh  
Contact: 7407812240, 9593781730, 9733052560, 779785264, 7797582013

### Kutse Shegu

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

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

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

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

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JAN:

Conducted by Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association, the win-

ter coaching has students take mock tests and pre-board examinations as preparation for the board examination.

During the interactive session, the students also asked the visiting officer about various competitive examinations like the Union Public Service Commission [UPSC] and Civil Ser-

vices exam and he encouraged the students to start preparing for the competitive examinations from now itself, informs the release.

The officer asked the students to approach him for any kind of assistance regarding career counseling or coaching, the release adds.

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Respond Responsibly

*Take note, discuss trends and prepare better*

In the present times where "news travels at the speed of thought," it becomes necessary not to distil the news, put it in perspective and get the context right. Unfortunately, the preferred mediums/ platforms of the current times do not lend themselves too easily to such pause. But it is not impossible to ruminate on things once in a while and learn from trends developing elsewhere in the world and around us and start building defences adequately in advance. It is in fact the responsibility of the society at large to notice and learn instead of just getting flustered into hyperventilation and distraction until some new piece of news scandalises them. Incidents and dramatic events can evoke emotional responses, but these should be received more as triggers to invest deeper thought instead of the episodic rituals of only getting agitated. If the people and the state were to pause more often, they will learn quicker and adapt fast.

To share some instances that Sikkim should start counter-balancing [even though these "problems" have not come visiting yet] - and here we pull references from national and international news that made headlines in the recent weeks - are better safeguards and oversight of public spaces for personal and public safety. The recent inferno in a popular pub in Mumbai was not the only blaze experienced in a public space in the country. There have been fires in factories and workshops which have also claimed lives, but this one rang closer to those who decide what makes big news in TV studios so it hogged the headlines and caught public attention. Governments in Delhi and Haryana and other metros started revisiting safety regulations and their implementation and people also became more conscious. It would have been welcome if similar attention was also paid in Sikkim where an increasing number of residential properties are being converted into hotels and restaurants and it is not always that properties safe for small families are also adequately safe for larger gatherings. Yes, there are NOCs and safety regulations in place in Sikkim. But they existed in Mumbai as well and still tragedy struck. If people had paused and wondered about how safe from fires or earthquakes the commercial establishments one frequents in Sikkim are, a review by the concerned authorities would have followed. Consuming news of the fire in isolation as a Mumbai tragedy, however, does not allow for such responsible follow-up. In fact, if we paused on news a little longer, one would also have asked why accidents in factories and workplaces do not invoke the same wall-to-wall coverage and then wonder how safe workplaces in Sikkim are.

New Year news reports from the country were also noticeably absent of the horrors of mass molestation that haunt just about every revelry. Was this because these incidents did not transpire? Or were they just not reported this time around? Because, let's accept it, our country has not become any safer for women. Sexual assaults continue to occur just as brazenly and these are not just problems of our rape capitals, but shame the nation as a whole because they emerge from a collective society that allows its women to face indignities which begin as minor annoyances and then explode as mob molestations. Cases of violent crimes by juveniles have also been in the news. These are not caste or class limited incidents and Sikkim too should consider effective counselling in schools because the young are getting increasingly inured to violence, and this coupled with the growing frustration of boredom, could lead to disastrous situations. There was a disturbingly violent assault reported in Gangtok around a month ago, but beyond some gossip whispers, did not see any engagement seeking to address the root problem of privileged muscle flexing. Sikkim should learn in advance and a responsible society would recognize these trends and start discussing initiatives which would keep the young here safe, more soundly groomed and more responsible.

Too much to ask for?

Perhaps it is. Hopefully, it is not.

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## The internet is giving a voice to those on the margins - losing net neutrality will take it away

HARRY T DYER  
*theconversation.com*

It's easy to argue that the internet as it exists now is not "neutral", with some companies and websites creating tech empires and online monopolies. But the decision of US telecoms watchdog, the Federal Communications Commission, to remove regulations that overtly guarantee net neutrality - the basic principle that all information on the internet should be treated equally and should be equally accessible - will certainly not improve matters.

By removing the net neutrality regulations passed in the US in 2015, the balance is tipped in favour of those companies who are able to pay internet service providers and telecoms companies to prioritise the transfer of their data. This is not just a hypothetical position experts theorise might happen: it is already happening in countries such as Guatemala where net neutrality norms have been undermined, with internet access provided in tiers that offer different speed of access for a different monthly fee.

The economic implications of this and what it means for smaller or innovative companies in a competitive marketplace are clear. But there are other hidden victims of a failure to protect net neutrality and deter the monopolisation of the internet. To find them, we must make a short detour into media theory.

### THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

In 1970 Philip Tichenor, George Donohue, and Clarence Olien proposed the influential Knowledge Gap Hypothesis, which in essence suggests that as the amount of mass media grows, consumers from a higher socio-economic background tend to acquire this information at a faster rate than those from a lower socio-economic background, and so benefit more from it. They suggested this happens for various reasons, including often being the target of this media, and having easier access to it. This means that, despite the apparently egalitarian potential of access to information enjoyed by people from across the socio-economic spectrum, in fact access to knowledge alone may not address socio-economic disparities - and may even exacerbate them further.

Five years later the same authors refined these ideas, suggesting ways to reduce this potential knowledge gap: media focused on events and issues that directly affect local communities, for example, or media that addressed forms of social conflict, and that dealt with shared issues and concerns.

Other factors have since helped close the knowledge gap - most notably access to the in-

ternet, described as a "tool for creating a more informed citizenry" by US academics Elizabeth Corley and Dietram Scheufele, and the rise of social media. At the same time, disparity of internet access based on income is quickly shrinking: recent data shows internet use among those earning under US\$30,000 a year increased from 54% in 2008 to 79% in 2016, catching up those earning over US\$75,000, who have stayed at a steady 95-97% over the same period.

In many ways, the internet fulfils the aim of

wedge into and reopen any remaining knowledge gap, undoing some of the benefits achieved so far.

### WHICH VOICES ARE AMPLIFIED ONLINE?

The internet has, to an extent, amplified voices from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, and it's vital that rolling back net neutrality doesn't erode what inroads these less-heard voices have made against the socio-cultural norm. Knowledge on the internet is already problematic. For example, much of Wikipedia is written by white males from the global north, despite being seen as a repository of "the world's knowledge".

Spaces for a greater range of voices to take a role in shaping the knowledge available online must be created - not reduce access to only those who can afford it on platforms that pay for quicker access. A tiered internet that is tied to the ability to pay will likely further minimise the diversity of voices online.

There is every chance, looking at the examples of countries that have already removed net neutrality, that websites given faster and easier access will be sites from

tech giants such as Facebook and Twitter - companies that have the commercial clout to achieve preferential arrangements with internet providers and telecoms firms, but which often do not reflect or protect disenfranchised communities. Facebook, for example, has nominally added more than two options for gender classification, yet research suggests the platform still classifies all users by a gender binary. Similarly, Twitter's continued failure to effectively deal with abuse including, but not limited to, racism and misogyny means the site, by design, does not afford the same voice, freedom, or protection to all users.

These popular platforms have a long history of ignoring, mistreating or misrepresenting at-risk communities. Given that they already account for a huge proportion of internet use, it is likely that with the removal of net neutrality, mistreated communities will continue to be marginalised. Similarly, if we slow down, target and punish local blogs and sites aimed at local news and specific communities we potentially undo the conditions through which the internet has lessened knowledge gaps.

There is a long way to go in order to ensure the internet is a space where people from diverse backgrounds are able to access and contribute to knowledge. But removing net neutrality is a step backwards, and will only serve to further silence disenfranchised communities, and reverse the positive steps so far taken to close the knowledge gap.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Education, University of East Anglia]*



## Study habits for success: tips for students

PANKAJ SAH  
*theconversation.com*

Right now, thousands of Australian school children and university students are taking a well-earned break from the classroom. Long breaks like this help us clear our minds, but they can also provide an opportunity to prepare for the learning year ahead.

If you're a student, this might mean thinking about your study habits. Here are some suggestions to help you learn as efficiently as possible.

**FOCUS! AND DON'T MULTI-TASK**  
Our brains are impressive machines, but they can't handle everything at once. There is simply too much going on in our sensory environment for us to digest. To be effective, we need to direct our attention to just one or two tasks at a time. That generally means no background music - it won't help you learn.

Don't be tempted to multi-task while you learn. When you do, your brain is actually trying its hardest to switch rapidly between tasks. But whenever you get distracted and switch focus, it takes minutes to settle back into the groove of studying. Minimise your distractions and focus your attention on the task at hand.

**SLEEP WELL, LEARN WELL**  
Learning isn't easy, and being able to focus is important for digesting new information and understanding concepts. When you get a good night's sleep, you feel fresh and attentive the next day.

Sleep is also critical for what happened the previous day. Extensive work in both animals and humans shows a crucial function of sleep is to re-process and consolidate what happened during the day.

For example, scientists have recorded brain activity patterns first while an animal learns a task, and again when the animal next sleeps.



Remarkably, the patterns in sleep are strikingly similar to what is seen when the animal learns.

This replay of activity patterns during sleep happens in your brain too, hundreds of times each night. As a result, the connections between our neurons change, helping the patterns become embedded in the brain. In other words, sleep plays an indispensable role in storing our memories for the long-term.

### TEST YOURSELF

The "testing effect" is a well-established phenomenon in learning. Essentially, we learn much better by testing our own knowledge than by re-studying material. So if you've got an exam coming up, don't just re-read a textbook and highlight important passages.

Instead, test yourself by doing practice exams. The process of actively recalling information helps deeper learning take place, and it works even better if you can check whether your answer is correct.

You don't have to wait until exam time to capitalise on the testing effect. As you read through a textbook you can give yourself mini-tests, trying to recall the major points of each chapter you finish.

Although researchers are still trying to figure out the brain mechanisms behind the effect, there is plenty of evidence for its effectiveness. When combined with spacing (below), practising recall is an efficient way to commit information to your long-term memory.

### SPACE OUT (YOUR LEARNING)

Teachers and parents are always telling us cramming is the wrong way to learn, and for good reason. It just isn't as effective as spacing your learning over days, weeks and months. This is known as the "spacing effect".

Whenever you practise something, you give your brain the opportunity to strengthen the connections between neurons. The strengthening process is similar to how hikers tramping through a forest create worn paths over time. The more distinct the path, just like repeated practice helps lay down strong neural pathways to store memories.

Although the best spacing strategy isn't known, we do know an expanding schedule is better than a contracting schedule. In other words, it's better to review your course material after a day, then a week, then a month, rather than the other way around.

### USE MEMORY AIDS

If you learned music as a child, you probably remember one of the mnemonics for notes on a scale - for example "Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit" (E-G-B-D-F). Mnemonics like this make difficult things easier to remember. You can make up your own mnemonics for classroom concepts.

For example, maybe you need to memorise the noble gases in the periodic table (He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, Rn). Just make a crazy sentence out of it and you'll find it much easier (for example, "he never argues, Krusty, xenophobic runt." This one might only make sense if you watched The Simpsons).

Another approach, and one frequently used by people in the World Memory Championships, is the memory palace technique (also called the "method of loci").

Your "memory palace" is a place you know well, like your house, or the route you take to the bus stop. You fill this palace with the things you need to remember, and then you re-create a path that takes you past all of those items.

This technique relies partly on the fact that our hippocampus - the part of the brain where many memories are formed - is also crucial for navigation. Both anecdotal and scientific evidence show anybody can improve their memory using this approach.

Finally, analogies and metaphors can be great tools for learning. For example, I hope that by comparing memory formation to hikers on a forest path, you'll be more likely to remember a bit about how our brains lay down strong memories.

You can create similar analogies in your own study, and if you combine it with good sleep, spaced practice, self-testing and undivided attention, you can take your learning to another level.

*[the writer is Director - Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland]*



## Mamata remembers Netai victims

**KOLKATA, JAN 7 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today paid homage to those gunned down in Netai village in West Midnapore district on this day in 2011.

"On this day in 2011, innocent villagers in Netai were killed by indiscriminate firing," Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle this morning.

The firing allegedly carried out by CPI(M) workers in Netai had killed nine villagers, including women, and injuring as many as 28 people, on January 7, 2011.

"My homage to the lives lost on that day," Banerjee added.

The CBI is currently investigating the case.

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## NE states urged to speed up implementing central schemes

**SHILLONG, JAN 7 (PTI):** Union Minister Radha Mohan Singh has urged the North Eastern states to accelerate implementing schemes for farmers where the Centre is providing 90 per cent funds to help double their income by 2022.

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare lambasted the Meghalaya government which has allegedly failed to implement the schemes properly and did not submit Utilisation Certificates in Central programmes.

"Ninety per cent assis-



tance is being given to North-East states and they, including Meghalaya, should accelerate implementation of these schemes," Singh said addressing a farmers' fair at Umiam near here yesterday.

He said the government

has initiated various programmes for the welfare of the people living in rural areas, especially the farmers, by improving the current farming process and thereby doubling their income from agriculture and allied sectors by 2022.

"The state governments should act to ensure that employment generation in farming sector is continued to retain the youth in agriculture," he said.

On Meghalaya, Singh said the state government should utilise the amount allocated under Pradhan Mantri Krishi

Sinchayee Yojana.

"The state has failed to spend the funds amounting to over Rs 50 lakh allotted for micro-irrigation under Per Drop More Crop scheme and was lying unused for four years," he alleged.

During 2015-16, Rs 1.44 crore was given to Meghalaya for water management and water harvesting and the government could not spend the amount in that year, he claimed.

In the following year, the state was unable to spend Rs 32 lakh and for 2017-18, the state has Rs 2.2 crore and ex-

pendediture report has not been submitted to the Centre, the minister said.

During 2015-17, he said, Rs 4 lakh was allocated to the state for Soil Health Card and 2.09 lakh Cards have been distributed. This year another Rs 53 lakh has been allocated.

Expressing regret, the union minister said expenditure certificate of the Rs 1.59 crore allocated under Mission Organic during 2016-17 was yet to be submitted.

Funds allocated under Oilseeds and Oil Palm Mission for 2014-16 was lying unutilised, he said.

## 'Captive breeding of Tibetan Antelope will not be helpful'

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** Captive breeding of the Tibetan Antelope - hunted for their underfur - will neither serve the purpose of conservation nor provide raw material for weavers as they have to be killed to collect wool for making shahtoosh shawls, the Environment ministry has told a parliamentary panel.

The ministry's assertion came after the panel recommended that Tibetan Antelope or chiru goats should be conserved and bred and vast tract of land should be utilised for it to provide sustainable livelihood for people of Jammu and Kashmir, which has been a "conflict region for long".

The ministry noted that China failed to keep Chiru in captivity due to its poor survival rates after the department related parliamentary standing committee on science and technology, environment and forest mentioned that China and Mongolia were breeding the goats.

The animal has long been hunted for their underfur shahtoosh, which is renowned for its quality and has traditionally been transported to Srinagar, where it is woven into an extremely fine fabric used to make shawls.

However, it takes 3-5 hides to make a single shawl, and the wool cannot be sheared or combed, so to collect the fur the animals have to be killed.

"Captive rearing of Chiru or Tibetan antelope will neither serve the purpose of conservation nor can provide raw material for weavers as these animals cannot be bred in captivity and animals have to be killed to collect their wool to make the shawls," the Ministry said in its action taken report to the panel chaired by Congress leader Anand Sharma.

Trade in shahtoosh shawl is banned.

The Ministry said chiru is



assessed as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN 2017), because the current status can only be maintained with continued high levels of protection in its natural range and strict controls on trade and manufacture of the shawls made from its underfur.

Any relaxation in the protection regime is predicted to result in a rapid population decline due to commercial poaching.

The Ministry said there have been representations from weavers and traders in J&K for the removal of ban on trade in shahtoosh through amendments in the Wildlife Act of India, J&K State, China, and the CITES in order to benefit Shahtoosh weaving industry in Kashmir.

Chiru inhabits high altitude Tibetan Plateau and requires large expanse of land for its movement and ranging patterns to fulfil its feeding and breeding requirements and therefore rearing in captivity is extremely difficult, it said.

The quality of wool depends

on the cold and harsh climatic factors operating at high altitudes (3,800 m up to 5,500 m) where this animal occurs in nature.

"It therefore, may not serve the purpose, if it is kept in captivity below this altitude. As per unconfirmed reports, the Chinese failed to keep Chiru in captivity due to its poor survival rates.

"Any attempt to do conservation breeding of chiru at very high altitude regions of Ladakh (> 3800m) may neither be economical nor feasible as humans cannot be posted there continuously for more than 2-3 months to manage the resources due to high rate of casualties," the ministry said.

Prior to the assessment of the technical feasibility and economic viability of captive rearing or farming of Chiru by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the issues dealing with the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 will have to be examined first as Chiru is listed under Schedule-I.

The panel in one of its reports earlier had recommended that the ministry should conserve and breed the chiru goat and vast tract of land should be utilized for conserving them.

"These goats can then be given to shawl makers for collecting hair. This would not only increase the number of these goats but would also add to the sustainable livelihood opportunities of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are a lot dependent on the handicraft of embroidered shawls," the committee had earlier said.

The committee had said it understands that China and Mongolia are breeding chiru goats and Mongolia is known for its finest wool.

"The Committee feels that livelihood opportunities are very low for the people of Jammu and Kashmir because of the extreme climatic conditions there and shawl-making contributes a lot towards sustainable livelihoods of these people," it had said.

ministers are involved in the chit fund scams and they will be sent to jail," he added.

The BJP chief is on a visit to Tripura, where the Assembly polls are due as the term of the current House is scheduled to come to an end on March 6.

Shah warned the ruling CPI(M) that any attempt by them to trigger violence in the run-up to the polls would not be spared.

The BJP president said the Communists were rejected everywhere in the country but Tripura and claimed that a similar fate awaited the Congress as well.

"Now is the time for the lotus to bloom. Wherever you look, you will only see the lotus. It will bloom in Tripura also," he added.

## Don't privatise Air India, give it 5 years to revive: Par panel

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** This is not an appropriate time to divest government stake in Air India, which should be given at least five years to revive and its debt written off, a parliamentary panel is likely to tell the government.

The panel is also understood to have concluded that the equity infusion in the national carrier, as part of the turnaround plan (TAP), was made on a "piece meal basis", adversely affecting its financial and operational performance and "forcing" the airline to take loans "at a higher interest rate to meet the shortfall".

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture concluded that the government should review its decision to privatise or disinvest Air India and explore the possibility of "an alternative to disinvestment of our national carrier which is our national pride".

Observing that Air India has always "risen to the occasion" at times of need like calamities, social or political unrest in India or abroad, the Committee said "it would be lopsided to assess and evaluate the functioning of Air India solely from business point of view, as has been done



In its revised draft report on the airline's proposed disinvestment, the panel noted that the TAP and financial restructuring plan (FRP) was for a period of 10 years from 2012 to 2022 and Air India has shown "an overall improvement in various parameters and every indication is that it is coming out of the red".

"At the end of TAP period, government

may evaluate the financial and performance status of Air India and take a decision accordingly," the panel said.

The parliamentary committee, after hearing the views of all stakeholders, "strongly feels that it will not be appropriate at this stage to disinvest when Air India has started earning profit from its operations."

It also said that as some of its subsid-

iaries Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL), Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS), Alliance Air and Air India Express were making profits, these units should "not be disinvested."

Strongly recommending that the airline's debt "should be written off by the government", the revised draft report said, "Air India should be given a chance for at least five years to revive themselves". The tenure of five years indicates the end of the TAP and FRP period in 2022.

It said the airline's debt was "due to policy directions of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Air India may be permitted to function as a government PSU with less government control."

The Committee also expressed apprehension that Air India's strategic disinvestment "would result in job loss of many people" and asked the government to "make an assessment" of the job loss before deciding on stake sale.

If the disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries is inevitable, the Committee emphatically recommends that the interests of employees should be protected," the revised draft report said.

It asked the Ministries of Finance and Civil Aviation to "develop a strategic package to protect the rights and interests of officers and staff of Air India and its subsidiaries in respect of their pension, gratuity and VRS and also the wages of contractual workers engaged by government from time to time in case the disinvestment of Air India is inevitable."

The panel found merit in the views of some of its members that if Air India is withdrawn from the aviation scene, "private airlines would indulge in gouging and that (will not be) in the interest of the consumers."

Air India has a total debt of about Rs 48,877 crore at the end of March 2017, of which about Rs 17,360 crore were aircraft loans and Rs 31,517 crore were working capital loans.

The airline is expected to report a net loss of Rs 3,579 crore for 2017-18, as per budget estimates projected for 2017-18 from a provisional net loss of Rs 3,643 crore for 2016-17.

The airline is projected to increase its operating profit to Rs 531 crore (BE projected) for 2017-18 from a provisional operating profit of Rs 215 crore for 2016-17, as per latest figures tabled in Parliament.



## From touchline to sand dunes, Ex-Chelsea boss follows passion

**PISCO (PERU), JAN 7 (PTI):** Former Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas admits that driving in the grueling Dakar Rally is an altogether different ball game than executing the tactics in a football match from the touchline but says team work and passion remains the same.

Villas-Boas, who has coached top English Premier League sides like Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur before helming the affairs of wealthy Chinese Super League side Shanghai SIPG, made his debut in the motor-sport's most grueling endurance event behind the wheel of a Toyota Overdrive car yesterday.

The Portuguese was celebrating his 40th birthday and also carrying a family tradition (his uncle Pedro Villas-Boas competed in the Dakar Rally in 1982 and 1984) by taking part in the 9,000km rally through Peru, Bolivia and Argentina.

"It (this rally) is a bit different (from football). Of course, there is a lot of teamwork (in both) that has to be done, with the mechanics, with the team management and the logistics and in the car also with the driver and co-driver and the car," he said.

"You know these machines are strong but we need to take care of these machines to hold on for 15 days. My car has the Portuguese flag and I have no sponsorship but I want to raise awareness about my charity foundation," said Villas-Boas, who left his last coaching job at China's Shanghai SIPG in November. Villas-Boas is involved with charity projects in football through Laureus which is also being written on his car.



### 22 KARATEKAS FROM DARJ TO PARTICIPATE IN KPG SPORTS FEST

**GANGTOK, 07 JAN:** Twenty-two Karatekas from Lingsey Pithamchin, Darjeeling, are all set to participate in the Kalimpong Himal Tarai Dooars sports festival scheduled to be held from 08 to 10 Jan. The team, along with its chief coach Sihan Kul Hari Rai, team manager Binod Rai, and team coach Pritam Rai, will represent Darjeeling Martial Art Karate Do Association in the sports fest, a press release informs.

## Churchill Brothers look for first win

**VASCO, JAN 7 (PTI):** Enduring a difficult season, Churchill Brothers would hope for a change in fortune in the new year when they face table-toppers East Bengal in the Hero I-League match at Tilak Stadium here tomorrow.

Two-time champions, Churchill Brothers have lost all their five matches and are languishing at the bottom of the table and they would hope for a new beginning in the New Year.

Nothing has worked for Churchill Brothers, who sacked their coach Mykola Shevchenko after losing their first three matches.

The decision, however, did not change their fortune as they kept on losing but assistant coach Alfred Fernandes is determined that his team will do well in the New Year.

"Last season too we were in similar position but things changed after Derrick Pereira took over the reign as we kept on winning to finish sixth," Alfred said.

"Last time in the away match we played against



East Bengal we put up a good performance and lost narrowly 2-3 but we want to erase that defeat tomorrow with a win," he added.

Churchill have signed three Indian players -- two from Pune FC (Wayne Vaz, Pawan Kumar) and one from FC Goa (Jovel Martins) besides roping in striker from Ivory Coast Koffi

Mechac.

Mechac is likely to play tomorrow along with Wayne Vaz and Jovel Martins.

"We just need a win and things will fall in line.

Tomorrow is a big challenge for us as we take on confident looking East Bengal who are at the top of the table and are looking to consolidate their position," Al-

fred said.

"We have worked out strategy to halt their winning run and hopefully it works as we play for our first win in front of our home crowd," said Alfred.

East Bengal is sitting pretty at the top of the table with 16 points and coach Khalid Jamil said his team will look for their sixth win tomorrow. "Every team in this

tournament is good and we cannot underestimate Churchill Brothers even though they are at the bottom of the table without a point," Jamil said.

"They gave us tough

fight for us at home and it's always tough to beat them on their home ground. It's going to be a close fight and whichever team make less mistakes will win."

## Miss Malini comes out with first book



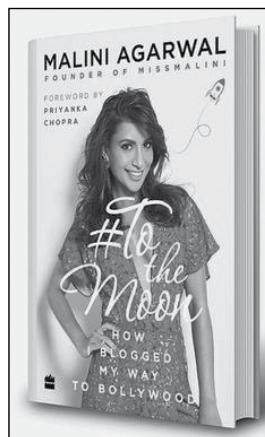
**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** Malini Agarwal, creator of brand Miss-Malini, has come out with her first book in which she describes her journey and how she took blogging and entertainment journalism to new heights.

"#To The Moon" is Malini's mantra and her story. Full of wit, she tells the readers how to get to the top and stay there.

When she first moved to Mumbai nearly two decades ago, she had two suitcases, one friend, and lived in an apartment with six girls and a pigeon.

"And every single night this suicidal bird would fly around the living room, where I slept on the floor, threatening to impale itself on the ceiling fan as I cowered under a bed sheet. My rent was Rs 625 and Facebook hadn't been invented yet," says Malini.

"All I had was an alpha numeric pager and a headful of dreams. But I wanted my life to be extraordinary and something told me that Mumbai city, with all its kitschy



neon lights and leopard print taxis, was where that was going to happen," she adds.

The book, published by HarperCollins India, is receiving endorsements on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram from celebrities like Deepika Padukone, Hrithik Roshan,

Mika Singh, Diana Penty, Soha Ali Khan, Swara Bhasker, Neha Dhupia, Aditi Rao Hydari and many others.

The book has a foreword by Priyanka Chopra.

"I connect with Malini because carving your own path is one of my strongest beliefs," she writes in the foreword.

At the end of each chapter, MissMalini provides tips like "Giving up on one dream doesn't make you a quitter. Quitting dreaming does", "be kind, even to your competition and many more".

There is also a section titled 'The A-Z of Digital Entrepreneurship' - from WordPress to Facebook, from Twitter to Instagram, from hashtags to emoji - on how to make one's presence felt on the Internet.

"I believe that everyone has a book in them, but finding the words to tell the story is always the hardest part."

"People ask me why I say #tothemoon all the time. It's because I loved how it was used frequently in the Leonardo DiCaprio film 'Catch Me If You Can' and in the song 'Fly me to the moon' by Frank Sinatra, and of course in every other Bollywood love song," she says.

## Now saffron colour decorates Lucknow police station

**LUCKNOW, JAN 7 (PTI):** The colour saffron appears to be gradually spreading across Uttar Pradesh, with parts of a nearly 80-year-old police station in the state capital being given a splash of the colour, days after the Haj office here was painted orange.

Adityanath loves to see a saffron towel on his seat in his office. Recently, the chief minister flagged off a fleet of 50 saffron-coloured buses.

Besides, the education department had distributed saffron-coloured school bags in government primary schools, replacing the ones that featured former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav's picture.

Official booklets that were distributed to mark 100 days and then six months of the Adityanath government had saffron covers and the information diary of the state government, which contains the contacts and designations of various officials, is also saffron.

Interestingly, after the bright saffron shade on the Haj office boundary wall attracted criticism from the Opposition and flak from Muslim bodies, it was given a cream coat by the Estates department recently. The boundary wall originally was green and white.

The Haj office colour prompted opposition Samajwadi Party to accuse the government of "blatant saffronisation" after a series of steps were perceived by it as "anti-minority".

## New collection of Ismat Chughtai stories in English



ISMAT CHUGHTAI  
1915-1991

puppets create a black and white dappled concoction that is a real eyesore. And sitting beside them, their unsophisticated sethanis and disorderly children only heighten the effect," Chughtai writes in "Fragile Threads" (Kacche Dhaage).

Wealth has overtaken them with no fuss at all. It looks like what they are wearing are not clothes at all; rather that someone has stuffed their cars with many unwieldy bales of cloth, and all the trappings, the powder and make-up, have jumped off dressing tables and landed on them..." she goes on to write.

In the story "Quit India", Chughtai tells about the 1942 movement at its height.

"Travel from Grant Road to Dadar provided a brief but vivid example of the country's restlessness. At the corner of Lamington Road, a huge bonfire had been lit into which ties and hats were being thrown, and when someone wanted to, pants would also be taken off and burned. The scene was somewhat naive but interesting, nonetheless."



**Imran  
denies third  
marriage  
reports, says  
only proposed**

**ISLAMABAD, JAN 7 (PTI):** Pakistan's opposition leader and cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan today said that he has proposed marriage to a woman believed to be a faith healer but denied reports that he had secretly wed her.

Khan's spokesman in a statement said that he had proposed marriage to Bushra Maneka, who has "asked for time to make a final decision after consulting her family, including her children".

"It is indeed sad to see this extremely private and sensitive matter be made the subject of erroneous story leading to all manner of public conjecture," the notification said, adding that it was "regrettable" that story was reported as it involves "a very private lady who is not in public life."

"This has put an acceptable burden especially on the children of Maneka and Khan who have had to learn of such a private and intimate issue from media," he said.

"If and when the proposal is accepted by Maneka for the marriage, Khan will announce it publicly in the proper manner.

Till then we request the media to give the two families, especially the children, their privacy," he added.

Khan, 66, however, denied the media reports that he had already contracted marriage with Maneka, a day after a Pakistani daily reported that he married her on January 1 in Lahore.

Maneka, who is in her 40s, was married to Khawar Farid Maneka, a senior customs official in Islamabad.

Yesterday, The News reported that PTI chairman started 2018 by tying the knot on the night of January 1 in Lahore and next day went straight from there to appear before the anti-terrorism court in Islamabad that granted him bail.

The nikah was performed by Mufti Saeed, a member of PTI core committee, who was also the nikah khawan when Imran publicly entered into marriage with Reham Khan on January 8, 2015 amid reports of secret nikah in November 2014.

Khan came in touch with Maneka for spiritual guidance, a couple of years ago that eventually culminated in the marriage. This would be Imran's third marriage.

He had first tied the knot with Jemima Khan on May 16, 1995 that ended in divorce after nine years on June 22, 2004.

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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news@summittimes.com

# Hindu refugees eagerly await return to Myanmar

**COX'S BAZAR, JAN 7 (AFP):** Hindu farmer Sudron Pal has packed his bags, eager to return to Myanmar after fleeing for Bangladesh during a wave of violence last year, but he is in a tiny minority -- most of the refugees are terrified of going home.

Bangladesh wants the more than 655,000 refugees who have flooded into the country since late August to start returning to Myanmar by the end of this month under a controversial agreement between the two nations.

The vast majority are Rohingya Muslims who have faced decades of persecution in Myanmar, which sees them as illegal immigrants, even



though many have lived there for generations.

They say they would rather stay in the squalid camps in Bangladesh than return to the scene of violence the US and

the United Nations have said amounts to ethnic cleansing.

But a small community of Hindus who lived alongside the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine

state and were caught up in the turmoil say they do want to return.

"We want security and we want food. If the authorities can give us those assurances we'll

happily go back," Pal, 55, told AFP.

"The Bangladeshi government and the UN looked after us well, but now we have prepared our bags and are ready to return to our country."

Last month Dhaka sent a list of 100,000 refugees to Myanmar authorities for repatriation after the two governments signed an agreement in November for the process to begin on January 23.

But rights groups and the United Nations say no one should be repatriated against their will and so far only around 500 Hindu refugees have expressed willingness to go.

Modhuram Pal, a 35-year-old community

leader, said some 50 Hindus had already returned to Rakhine where they were welcomed by Myanmar security forces.

Hindus who fled the area have told AFP that masked men stormed into their community and hacked victims to death with machetes before dumping them into freshly-dug pits.

Myanmar's military alleges the Arakan Rohingya Solidarity Army (ARSA) carried out the massacre on August 25, the same day the rebel group staged deadly raids on police posts that sparked a military backlash. At least 45 bodies have been found in mass graves.

The ARSA has denied

the allegations, saying it does not target civilians.

But Pal and his fellow Hindu refugees say they will only go back if they are rehoused away from their former villages in Rakhine.

Monubala, a Hindu woman who like many of the refugees goes by one name, told AFP masked men dressed in black had attacked her village near Kha Maung Seik, where the massacre occurred.

"I left my home, including my chickens, ducks, goats and all property, and came to Bangladesh to save my life," she said.

Doctors without Borders estimates that thousands were killed in the violence that hit Rakhine in late August.

## 32 missing as oil tanker collides with vessel off China coast

**BEIJING, JAN 7 (PTI):**

Thirty-two crew members, mostly Iranians, have gone missing after a tanker carrying oil from Iran to South Korea collided with a cargo ship and caught fire off the coast of east China

The ministry said oil spilled into the sea, but did not specify the area of contamination.

The Panama-registered oil tanker, carrying 136,000 tonnes of oil condensate, was ablaze after it collided with a Hong Kong-registered bulk freighter at around 8 pm yesterday, leaving its crew of 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis missing, China's transport ministry said in a statement.

The accident happened about 160 nautical miles east of Shanghai.

All 21 Chinese crew members on the bulk freighter have been rescued. The 274-meter-long oil tanker SAN-CHI, owned by an Iranian shipping company, was heading to South Korea with its cargo.

Chinese maritime authorities have sent eight ships for the search and rescue operation and South Korea has sent a plane and a 3,000-tonne coastguard ship to help.



**G**erman Chancellor Angela Merkel has launched a new round of coalition talks in a bid to end the country's political stalemate. More than three months after its election, Germany is still without a new government. The five-day talks will include Mrs Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), its sister party the Christian Social Union (CSU), and the Social Democrats (SPD).

## Sonowal asks ASEAN countries & NRIs to invest in Assam

**SINGAPORE, JAN 7 (PTI):** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today asked ASEAN countries and NRIs to explore investment opportunities in his state and join its development process by setting up industries there.

Addressing the 'Pravasi Bhartiya Divas' here, Sonowal said the Assam government has been putting great emphasis on creating a business-friendly environment and bringing investments to the state.

"Assam has very fertile land, abundant rainfall and produces significant quantity of fruits and spices. Assam has a tremendous potential for agro processing industry," he said in the presence of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Sonowal said the state ranks 3rd amongst the raw silk producing states in India and has the highest concentration of bamboo resources.

The chief minister said Assam Tea is famous throughout the world and the state has around 850 tea gardens and 1,30,000 small tea growers.

"You will be amazed to know that there are 20 golf courses and heritage clubs embedded in the scenic tea gardens.

The Petroleum industry in India started at Digboi in Assam and we have today four refineries and significant petroleum as well as natural gas reserves," he said.

Sonowal also highlighted Assam's 20 mil-



lion people in the working age group who can herald a new era for youth led development.

"The state has a large pool of skilled workforce, adept in IT, English language and communication skills. Assam intends to make over 1 million people job ready with advanced skills," he said.

Referring to the forthcoming Republic Day which will be attended by heads of 10 ASEAN countries, the chief minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put India's Northeast at the heart of 'Act East Policy'.

"We have been inspired by his visionary leadership and have stepped up our efforts in increasing interaction with ASEAN countries with the support of our External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj," he said.

Sonowal said Assam and the Northeast

are close to ASEAN nations and the region had land borders with Myanmar.

"Many of ASEAN capitals are within 2,000 kilometre flying distance from Guwahati which is comparable to flying distance of Guwahati to many Indian cities. We

are keen to start flights between Guwahati and ASEAN capitals. There is a motorable road link, the ASEAN trilateral highway connecting North East and ASEAN. The Government of India is working to improve this land route," he said.

The chief minister highlighted Assam's strong historical and cultural relations with South East Asia saying Choulung Sukapha, the founder of the Ahom dynasty, which ruled Assam for 600 years, came to Assam from South East Asia in the 13th century and laid the foundation of modern day Assam.

Sonowal also invited the industrialists and NRIs from the South East Asian nations to participate in the global investors summit 'Advantage Assam' to be held in Guwahati on February 3-4.

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## NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

### DEAR HAWK EVENING

Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:23 DrawDate on:07/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 738 0781

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 08645 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.900/-

04943 05224 15235 2045 25109

32991 42447 52905 78909 97750

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1458 2175 2913 582 5411 5454 7354 7530 8021 9108

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0452 251 292 518 3 711 7664 807 8799 9784

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0027 02872 3067 3898 60144

67765 77464 9614 98199 98216

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0767 1631 5182 6098 6287 7390 7521 9441 9434 9659

4th Prize Rs.250/- 1064 1554 1921 2304 299 2729 4257 4777 5054 6215

0311 032 0592 0625 0771 0774 0825 0517 1036

1249 1471 1318 1682 2016 2433 2525 2532 2750 2765

2809 2901 3005 1108 3283 3289 3422 3480 3693 3876

9883 4017 4094 4350 4556 4624 4841 4857 4767 4798

507 5102 5203 5220 5330 5530 5585 5757 5609 5851

5945 6149 6358 6505 6522 6803 6817 7082 7220

7237 7264 7694 7311 7780 7854 7985 8004

8250 8320 8349 8415 8458 8492 8578 8596 8686

8733 8893 8919 8956 8985 9007 9011 9069 9141 9289

9379 9426 9445 9602 9603 9639 9690 9748 9753 9948

Issued by:

The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

For details, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
LAKHLAXMI LIBRA	MUMBILAXMI RANI
Draw No:5 DrawDate on:07/01/18	Draw No:5 DrawDate on:07/01/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2126	1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3007 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3772
2nd Prize Rs.2,221 2221 2047 1404 1475 1476 1482	2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3007 4th Prize Rs.500/- 3045
3rd Prize Rs.2,000/- 2020 2nd Pch Prize Rs. 206/- 3049	3rd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3007 5th Prize Rs.100/- 3046
4th Prize Rs.100/-	4th Prize Rs.100/-
1009 1548 1059 1062 1079 1080 1107 1183 1216 1246	1239 1241 1244 1259 1273 1283 1341 1389 1437 1453
1305 1313 1327 1338 1363 1364 1404 1475 1476 1482	1456 1468 1495 1510 1556 1560 1565 1595 1617
1504 1513 1513 1553 1553 1560 1562 1668 1669 1670	1619 1648 1651 1654 1660 1664 1672 1675 1678 1685
1842 1927 1970 1972 1990 2002 2101 2115 2201 2207	2177 2182 1782 1804 1824 1860 1878 1885 1923 1971
2202 2315 2324 2336 2386 2394 2414 2458 2499 2500	2397 1983 1984 2004 2018 2095 2136 2399 2401 2474
2638 2726 2742 2774 2791 2830 2859 2930 2959 2960	2978 2005 2024 2040 2071 2091 2109 2139 2159 2160
3025 3035 3045 3055 3065 3075 3085 3095 3105 3106	3107 3126 3136 3146 3156 3166 3176 3186 3196 3197
3123 3133 3143 3153 3163 3173 3183 3193 3203 3204	3197 3206 3216 3226 3236 3246 3256 3266 3276 3277
3492 3496 3507 3512 3515 3516 3584 3594 3610 3612	3517 3268 3273 3274 3320 3340 3346 3351 3352 3353
3715 3736 3750 3762 3774 3778 3800 3823 3843 3857	3860 3410 3439 3479 3484 3495 3513 3548 3557 3580
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4059 4089 4110 4122 4128 4132 4213 4234 4238 4239	3975 4019 4037 4050 4056 4059 4120 4130 4190 4224
4419 4429 4452 4453 4468 4490 4523 4531 4540 4540	4236 4263 4264 4301 4303 4315 4315 4373 4402 4407
4652 4679 4681 4701 4716 4720 4731 4749 4754 4764	4426 4473 4474 4548 4545 4559 4559 4674 4699 4719
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5009 5075 5076 5086 5087 5091 5092 5093 5094 5095	4922 5030 5035 5036 5037 5038 5039 5040 5041 5042
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## TIGER ZINDA HAI CROSSES RS 300 CRORES: SALMAN KHAN FILM BECOMES FIFTH HIGHEST BOLLYWOOD GROSSER

Tiger Zinda Hai, which has Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in lead roles, has crossed the Rs 300 crore mark at the box office and broken multiple records in the process.

The movie, which released on 22 December, has finally broken the spree of failure for Bollywood's big-budget movies starring prominent stars; for example last year's Tubelight and Jab Harry Met Sejal.



Tiger Zinda Hai was expected to cross the Rs 300

crore mark soon. According to trade analyst Taran 300 crore mark. It is also Sal-

man Khan's third movie, after Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Sultan, to cross the prestigious Rs 300 crore mark. The other two movies in the list are Aamir Khan's PK and Dangal.

Tiger Zinda Hai, produced by Aditya Chopra under the Yash Raj Films banner, has also become the highest grossing Yash Raj movie of all time. It has overtaken Sultan, Dhoom 3, Ek Tha Tiger and Jab Tak Hai Jaan.



## SANJAY LEELA BHANSALI'S PADMAVAT TO RELEASE ON JAN 25

Bhansali's historical drama has been cleared by the CBFC with a U/A certification and will face off with Akshay Kumar's Pad Man.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's historical drama, Padmavat, which has been mired in controversy, is set to release on January 25. The movie, which was retitled on the directions of the CBFC about a week ago, has finally received a nod from the censors. On the day of its release, it will clash with R Balki's Akshay Kumar-starred Pad Man.

Meanwhile, the release of Neeraj Pandey's action-thriller Aiyaari, featuring Manoj Bajpayee and Sidharth Malhotra, has been postponed from January 26 to February 9, as the producers wanted to avoid the mammoth box-office clash.

"On Friday, the Central Bureau of Film Certification (CBFC) granted Padmavat a U/A certification. The certified runtime of the Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone and Shahid Kapoor starrer is 2 hours and 43 minutes (163 minutes)," source close to the development told a leading daily.

Bhansali is not new to box-office clashes. In 2015, his previous release — the period-action romance Bajirao Mastani — had clashed with Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Dilwale and the box office numbers clearly suggest that

the Ranveer Singh-starrer historical managed to impress audiences.

It even swept the National Awards and won several Filmfare Awards. But this time around, the competition will be stiff. Akshay Kumar has historically ruled the Republic Day weekend with patriotic-action thrillers such as Baby (2015) and Airlift (2016) which were both received favorably by audiences.

Padmavat's fate seemed to be sealed right from the time the film went on the floors when members of the Shri Rajput Karni Sena had attacked the crew and vandalised the sets. Following several rounds of deliberations, the CBFC had invited Rajasthan-based professors to review the film but later, CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi had clarified that the role of the special panel was for "advisory purpose only".

"In the decision of the CBFC, some parts of advice do find reflection, but as iterated, the final decision for certification is with the CBFC committee which has taken a pragmatic and balanced view. Unnecessary controversy should not be made out of it," Joshi had said.

Padmavat has been mounted on a Rs 190-crore budget, while Pad Man marks the production debut of Twinkle Khanna.

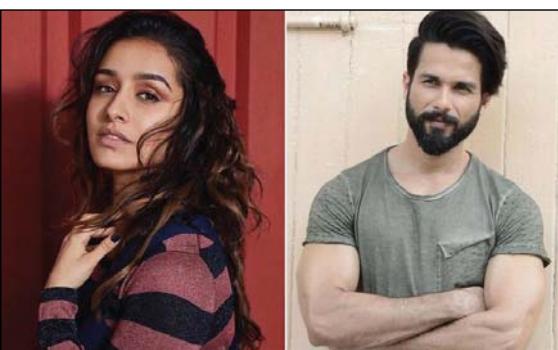


**SMILEY JOLIE:** Angelina Jolie speaks at the Golden Globe Foreign Language Nominees Series Symposium in Hollywood.

## SHARDDHA KAPOOR TO STAR OPPOSITE SHAHID KAPOOR IN BATTI GUL METER CHALU

Word of Shraddha Kapoor being approached for Batti Gul Meter Chalu had been going around, but the actress was still to sign the film. Speculations suggested that Katrina Kaif and Vaani Kapoor were also approached for the role but no confirmation on anything was given out.

A report in Mumbai Mirror finally broke the news of the actress signing on the dotted line for the film. Confirming all earlier speculation, She has come on board for Shree Narayan Singh's Batti



Gul Meter Chalu with Shahid Kapoor. Shahid and Shraddha were earlier seen together in Vishal Bharadwaj's Haider

and the two looked amazing on screen.

Batti Gul Meter Chalu is

Shre Narayan Singh's venture after his blockbuster hit Toilet: Ek Prem Katha and is about the problems of electricity storage in small towns. Earlier reports suggest that Shraddha will be playing a lawyer but the new development is that her role is that of a small town girl who plays a major catalyst in the turn of events in the story.

The film will go on floors in February, but for now, Shraddha is busy with her next film with Prabhas, titled Saaho and Shahid Kapoor is still waiting for his film Padmavati to see the light of the day.

fueled with water could help burn off any toxins or extra calories, and a nap just might complete the process so you're feeling like your old self again. Get going!

**GEMINI:** Right now you might be in the process of moving from one job to another, Gemini. This might even be a total change in career. Your hard work is paying off, though it may not show up in your bank account for a while yet. There might be contracts to be executed first. Your social life may be put on hold until all facets of this transition are worked out. Don't be intimidated, however. You've made the right choice!

**TAUROS:** Too much food and drink could have you feeling a little out of sorts today, Taurus. Some friends might have taken you out and exposed you to the most tempting of food and drink. This is always fun, but today you have to face the consequences! A workout

sibilities toward your job. As a result, you may be feeling tense and stressed out, and wondering if the situation will ever be resolved. Don't panic. It will, and you'll be none the worse for it. The keyword is balance, and the solution lies in finding it. Get to it! You'll want to put this behind you.

**LEO:** A close relative may be ill or otherwise troubled, Leo, and you might worry a bit too much today because of a lack of communication from this person. Attempts to phone might result in no answer or repeated voicemail messages. However, take care to stay focused and objective. Your relative is probably recovering from whatever he or she has been bothering him or her. Remember, no news is good news. Hang in there.

**VIRGO:** This is not the day to make financial investments of any kind. Virgo, although someone may present you with some possible opportunities. They may sound good, but caution is called for. If the information appeals to you, look into it and try to learn the facts, but make no commitment today. If it's truly a good opportunity, it won't disappear within a few days. If it isn't, you'll want to know. Wait!

**LIBRA:** You should be looking especially attractive today, Libra, but you may feel that it's wasted because your beloved isn't around to appreciate it. Cheer up! It will only be for a few days, and you'll still look pretty good by then. Try to keep yourself busy, preferably doing something you love to do, so your enthusiasm

will enhance your good looks. Your friend won't be away forever. It only seems that way.

**SCORPIO:** Your ingenuity and imagination may seem to have deserted you today, Scorpio, and this isn't making it easy for you to produce the high level of quality you're used to at work. Perhaps it might be best to busy yourself with routine tasks you can do automatically and, if you can, put off the more creative endeavors until your brain gets back in gear. Don't be too proud or too shy to ask for help. Hang in there.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Money matters might require your attention today, Sagittarius. Unusual expenses have depleted your reserves, so you might have to cut a few corners. Your income, however, is proba-

bly the same if not slightly higher. This is, therefore, only a temporary situation, and your accounts should be back to normal in time, although some caution with regard to spending may need to be observed for a while. Work creatively on your budget and try to relax.

**CAPRICORN:** A lack of contact with a romantic partner could have you feeling a little down right now, Capricorn. You may be wondering if you've said or done anything that offended your beloved one in some way. Your friend, however, is apt to be totally oblivious to the idea that you're upset. Your partner is probably taking care of some family obligations and may have lost track of time. Hang in there! Your honey should get in touch with you soon.

**AQUARIUS:** Excesses in food and drink yesterday may force you to cancel a social engagement today, Aquarius. You probably aren't feeling up to it. This might be a bit irritating, and somewhat embarrassing as well. However, you just might have needed the rest even if you hadn't eaten too much. Make the most of your evening alone. Soak in a tub and go to bed early. In the morning, you'll be glad you did.

**PISCES:** Tension between a married couple who are both your friends could have you situated in the most uncomfortable place of all, Pisces: right smack in the middle. Both may want to recruit you to their side, but you'll want to avoid allying yourself with either party. The best you can do is mediate by trying to get each of them to see the other's point of view.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

08th January

**1935- Elvis Presley:** Elvis Presley, the man who received the title "The King of Rock N' Roll" while he was still alive, was born on this day.

**1961- Algeria**

**Independence:** Following seven years of guerrilla warfare against French colonists by the FLN in Algeria, French voters including those in Algeria have voted to give Algeria its independence. Algeria gained its independence on July 1962.

**1963- The Mona Lisa:**

**1963:** For the first time in history Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece The Mona Lisa is exhibited at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The loan of painting was made by the government of the French Republic from 8th to February 3rd at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and from

February 7th to March 4th at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. During its brief time in the US over 1 million people viewed the painting in Washington and New York.

**1973- Soviet Union Luna**

**21:** Luna 21, a space probe that was not operated by humans, was sent out on this day. Eight days later it was reported and confirmed that this object did land on the moon. Television pictures were received on Earth as proof of this occurrence.

**2002-No Child Left Behind**

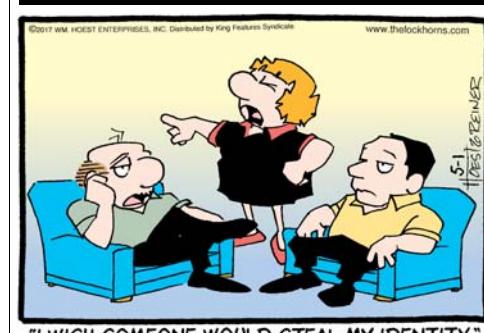
**Act:** President George W. Bush signs into law the No Child Left Behind Act.

**2011- Decapitated**

**Bodies Found Dumped in Acapulco:** Fifteen young men were found decapitated in Acapulco, Mexico, a popular tourist destination. The incident was one of many related to violence between drug cartels that has plagued Mexico since President Calderon decided to actively fight drug trafficking in the country.

## LOCKHORNS

-HOEST & REINER



"I WISH SOMEONE WOULD STEAL MY IDENTITY."



-HALLATT



-KIRKMAN & SCOTT