



LAYER UP: When the weather turns cold as it has over the past few days, it does not matter what the mercury reads because the bones are already feeling the chill. It is then time to layer up and get snug with the woollens, as this family caught outdoors at Tharo-Line, Gangtok, discovered and decided to layer better for the Gangtok winter. [foto: Nangkha Longkumer]

Job fair adds
another
dimension
to Jorethang
Maghey
Sankranti
Mela

JORETHANG, 15 JAN (IPR): It's not often that the oldest cultural and traditional Maghey Sankranti Mela is infused with the modern accoutrement of a job mela opening employment opportunities for thousands of aspirants.

This was one of those rare year, and a notable feature of Maghey Mela here is the job fair organized by the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), District Project Management, South Sikkim.

There are a total of six agencies participating in this job fair - Jet Wings, Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati, Central Institutes of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), State Institute of Capacity Building (SICB), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) and Ram Kali Devi Sewa Sansthan (RKD).

The aim of this job fair is to provide access

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UIDAI permits face recognition
for Aadhaar authentication

NEW DELHI, JAN 15 (PTI): Aadhaar will include face recognition alongside iris or fingerprint scan as a means of verifying users, helping those who face issues in biometric authentication or have worn-out fingerprints, the authority in charge of the national identity card system said today.

The face authentication will be enabled by July to help people facing difficulty in biometric authentication due to old age, hardwork or worn-out fingerprints, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) said in a statement.

The UIDAI said that face authentication would be allowed "only in fusion mode" meaning along with either fingerprint or iris or OTP to verify the details of Aadhaar holder.

Aadhaar, the 12 digit identifier, is being used for identity authentication across banks, telecom companies, public distribution system, income tax amongst others.

The extent of Aadhaar usage can well be gauged from the fact that an average of 4 crore authentications are being done on a daily basis.

Today's move to allow face authentication came within a week of UIDAI allowing residents to use a virtual ID to avoid sharing their unique identity numbers when accessing government and other services in a bid to protect privacy.

Face authentication would not require any new reference data as photos of citizens are already on the Aadhaar database.

"This facility is going to help in

inclusive authentication of those who are not able to biometrically authenticate due to their worn out fingerprints, old age or hard work conditions," a UIDAI statement said.

Citing the difficulties faced by some residents in using the existing biometric verification mode, UIDAI said that face authentication offers an additional option for all residents to have "inclusive authentication".

But it emphasised that the same will be allowed "only in fusion mode" along with one more authentication factor either fingerprint, iris or OTP for successful authentication of an Aadhaar holder.

The new method will also be allowed "on need basis".

To facilitate the new authentication service, the Aadhaar issuing body will work with biometric device providers to integrate face modality into the registered devices.

It will also line up Software Development Kits that will have the ability to capture face image, check liveness, and create digitally signed and encrypted authentication input.

The agencies which use Aadhaar verification will be "required to ensure inclusive authentication, when single modality is not working for specific residents..." it said.

"Face authentication as an additional modality to be used in fusion mode along with fingerprint/iris/OTP will be available in production...by July 1, 2018," it added.

As many as 119 crore biometric

turn to pg02

Sikkim Mathematical Society
born from energetic response to
pre-Olympiad workshop

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JAN:**

The energetic response and obvious hunger among students to delve deeper convinced the experts and students who met at the three-day Pre-Indian National Mathematical Olympiad [INMO] workshop sponsored by the National Board of Higher Mathematics here at Rangpo Senior Secondary School form the "Sikkim Mathematical Society" with the broad objective to promote mathematics and give a platform to budding mathematicians from Sikkim.

The workshop was organized by the INMO's Sikkim Chapter in collaboration with Dept. of Mathematics, Sikkim Government College, Tadong, from 10 to 12 January with financial support from NBHM and Kunza Mohan Talukdar, MD, Academy Brain Storm, Tadong, an official press communiqué received from Kshitiz Chettri, the Co-Ordinator,



INMO (Sikkim), informs. Mr Chettri is also Asst. Professor, Dept. of Mathematics at SGC-Tadong.

The workshop was specifically organized for the 22 students from Sikkim who have cleared the Regional Mathematical Olympiad (RMO). Topics like geometry, algebra, combinatorics and number theory were discussed during the workshop in tune with the Mathematical Olympiad syllabus. Each day had five sessions

beginning at 9 A.M.

Though the sessions were planned to last till 4:30 PM, the enthusiasm of the students was such that they had to be extended till 6 PM!

Keynote speaker, Dr. Biswajit Deb, Assoc. Professor, SMIT, addressed the inaugural session.

Other resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Debashish Sharma of Gurcharan College, Silchar, PC Medi of DPS, Guwahati, Rinkila Bhutia from Sikkim University,

Deepak Subedi, SRM, and Yogen Ghatani, SMIT.

Suman Tamang, Dilli Ram Chettri, Rohit Sharma, Bikash Thakuri and Sanjeev Subba from Sikkim handled tutorial sessions. Dr. Bina Pradhan, Principal SGC Tadong and Dr. Hannah Yonzon were the patrons while Suman Tamang and Dilli Ram Chettri were the Asst. Co-ordinators. Dr. Biswajit Deb, Yogen Ghatani, Dr. Yonzon and Shyam Kumar Pradhan (PGT, Rangpo) gave vital moral and logistics

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SC judges row has been resolved:
Bar Council of India

NEW DELHI, JAN 15 (PTI): The Bar Council of India (BCI) today said the crisis, which had erupted after four top Supreme Court judges came out openly against allocation of cases by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, has been resolved internally and the "story is over now".

BCI Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, who led a seven-member delegation and held hectic parleys with 15 judges including the CJI yesterday, said the controversial issues flagged by the four revolting judges were "internal issues of the family" which have been resolved internally.

"Kahani khatam ho gaya (the story is over now)", he said even as he cautioned political parties and their leaders not to take undue mileage from the January 12 press conference by the four judges to raise problems, including the



assigning of cases, saying the matter should not be politicised.

"We met around 15 judges yesterday and all of them said that BCI has done a very good job and this mediation was required. They have now resolved the issue.

"BCI has been successful in its effort. No outside interference was required

in the matter and even we will not impose any condition on them and they themselves would solve their differences over a cup of tea," he told reporters here.

At a press conference on January 12, the four judges -- Justices J Chelameswar, Ranjan

turn to pg02

Catching 'em for health at Maghey Mela

**CATCH PROGRAM
SHARES SPACE
WITH CULTURAL
AND TRADITIONAL
TREATS AT
JORETHANG MAGHEY
SANKRANTI MELA**

JORETHANG, 15 JAN (IPR): The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Check-up for Healthy Sikkim (CATCH) program which is being held at the Garib Uthan Bhawan here has added a special and unique touch to the Jorethang Maghey

Sankranti Mela which got underway here yesterday.

The CATCH program here, attended to by the District Hospital Namchi in coordination with Jorethang CHC, is providing a comprehensive check-up to the people of Zoom Salghari constituency as well as the public of the adjoining districts free of cost.

The CATCH camp at Garib Uthan Bhawan has so far had a footfall of approximately 55 patients from rural as well as urban areas, particularly from South and West districts on the

first and second day.

While a total of 50 OPD cases were reported on the first day, an enormous number of crowd were seen taking advantage of the overall physical examination conducted by a team of doctors and specialists from District Hospital and Jorethang CHC.

The CATCH program has also been catering the overall wellbeing of the public through provision of services such as screening for breast and oral cancer, screening for cervical cancer by VIA test, routine blood checkup which includes

determination of Hemoglobin and blood pressure as well.

The CATCH camp at Maghey Mela is also issuing health cards to patients flocking the site which allows them to avail cashless treatment in network hospitals.

The staff and doctors deployed at the CATCH camp are Dr Milan Pradhan, Dr Barkha Rai, Dr. SN Adhikari, Dr MK Subba, Dr Anu Gurung, Dr Raman Sharma, Vivek Bhattachari, Prashansa Gurung, Sonam Tsheden, Anu Gurung, Priyanka Lama, Leela Sharma and Prerna Chettri.

It may be recalled that the CATCH campaign, a first of its kind public healthcare initiative in the country, was launched by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on 26 August, 2010 and aims to make Sikkim the healthiest State in the country.

This initiative provides comprehensive care with focus on health promotions and prevention by conducting overall health checkup and engages people of all ages and categories especially the BPL families and senior citizens unable to travel long distances for healthcare facilities.

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Artisans draw handsome crowds at SARAS Fair

SUMMIT REPORT

JORETHANG, 15 JAN:

Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission of the Rural Management & Development Department is conducting the 9th State-Level SARAS Trade Fair at Jorethang from 14-23 January 2018.

This year, the SARAS (Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Societies) Fair is being alongside the Maghey Sankranti Mela here and was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on 14 January.

Artisans from more than 13 states, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, Jammu Kashmir, etc., are participating in the Fair



this year and space has also been allotted to 30 SHGs.

From Sikkim, about

120 SHGs from all four districts have taken up stalls facilitated by the SRLM and NERLP.

Various products of rural artisans, including handicrafts, handlooms, organic products etc., are

on exhibition and sale at the respective stalls.

The SARAS Trade Fair is organised to facilitate mass sale of products made by the Self Help Groups.

There was great enthusiasm and interest among the Fair/ Mela visitors to interact with the SHGs and the sale was significant on the day of inauguration, an official press communiqué informs.

Various dignitaries visiting the SARAS Fair have universally appreciated the effort and encouraged the SHGs to actively take forward their efforts in a sustainable manner, the release adds. The Fair is open for 10 days from 14 to 23 January.



Maghey Mela sustains grand momentum on Day-02

JORETHANG, 15 JAN

(IPR): The Jorethang Maghey Sankranti Mela 2018 continued full-swing today with a multitude of cultural presentations and entertainment events. People from different walks of life from far and wide have been flocking to the Maghey Mela which has been garnering a lot of attention for its unique mix of traditional and customary flavours of the various ethnic communities of Sikkim.

Today, the second day of Maghey Sankranti Mela had Advisor UD&HD Sher Hang Subba present as the chief guest accompanied by Advisor Health, Dr. AD Subba as guest of honor, chief patron, area MLA AK Ghatani, NJMC chairperson Tika

Gurung, SDM (Jorethang) BC Rai alongside officials, chairpersons, advisors, panchayats and the general public.

The official engagement began with the chief guest and other dignitaries attending the prayers at Trikaleshwar Temple and then proceeding to visit the various stalls at the mela ground premises.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest extended New Year greetings to the public and expressed his delight on seeing the grandeur of the Maghey Sankranti Mela undimmed.

He spoke about how the Maghey Mela acts as a unifying factor in binding the various communities of the state together.

Mr. Subba also shared that Jorethang's Maghey

Sankranti Mela has also traditionally offered a grand platform for traditional and cultural programs.

In his address, he also delved on the various developmental projects that the State Government has undertaken and credited the Chief Minister for opening innumerable opportunities for the unemployed youth of the state through the recently-launched Chief Minister's Start-Up scheme.

Thereafter, he underlined the need to protect the essence of Jorethang Maghey Mela and build on it so as to give it national and international visibility and urged the public and administrative bodies alike to work together in making the Mela an even grander success.

Job fair adds another dimension to Jorethang...

contd from pg01

to youth and job-seekers with the opportunity to acquire professional qualification for the competitive job market.

This fair also assists the various companies to interact with potential employees and give wings to the dreams of the youths.

On the inaugural day of Jorethang Maghey Sankranti, the job mela received visits by around 130 job aspirants from the south and west districts and the numbers are expected to go up during the ensuing days.

UIDAI permits face recognition for Aadhaar...

contd from pg01

identifiers have been issued so far, and Aadhaar is required as an identity proof of residents by various government and non-government entities.

For instance, the government has made it mandatory for verifying bank accounts and PANs to weed out black money and bring unaccounted wealth to book.

The same for cellphone SIMs has been mandated to establish the identity of mobile phone users.



MAKAR SANKRANTI IN SINGTAM

SINGTAM, 15 JAN: The Makar Sankranti Mela underway here drew handsome crowds today as people continued to troop to the venue where businesses are reporting brisk sales. Singtam is already a trading hub for the surrounding areas, but the crowds descending on the town now are quite unprecedented. The organisers are also paying special attention to traffic management and general safety of the people.

[Yogen Thatal]



SCA felicitates two cricketers who played for A&A Team

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JAN:

Sikkim Cricket Association [SCA] today felicitated the two players who played at the BCCI National Games for U-19.

Anwesh Karan Sharma and Dinesh Kumar Dhobi were selected to represent the A&A [Associate & Affiliate Team], a combined team of North East States and Bihar, and played in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy which is a 50-overs one-dayer tournament, informs an SCA press release.

The two were felicitated along with their parents with khadas and a plaque by the SCA.

Anwesh also played in the Cooch

Behar Trophy for the A&A Team and also served the team as the vice-captain. The Cooch Behar Trophy was played on a 4-day Test format. The A&A Team played against Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Hyderabad, Vidharba and Uttar Pradesh Cricket associations in the pool league games, the release informs.

SCA president, Lobzang Tenzing, expressed happiness over the success and achievements of the SCA and its players.

"It is indeed a matter of pride for all of us that the boys have been selected from among six teams to form a single team to represent in the BCCI tournament," he said.

SC judges row has been resolved...

contd from pg01

Gogoi, Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph -- had flagged some issues, including assigning of cases in the apex court and judicial appointments, and said there were certain problems afflicting the country's highest court.

"Everything will be sorted out and they have resolved whatever issues are there. We are expecting that everything will be settled and they will evolve an in-house mechanism," Mishra.

He also referred to Attorney General's K K Venugopal's statement in which he is reported to have said that the issue has been resolved.

"They have resolved the issue and you can see that the courts are functioning smoothly and they are discharging their duties. There is nothing left", Mishra said.

Responding to a question whether an investigation should be ordered on allegations of the

senior most judges, Mishra said the Bar body was not concerned with this and there is no question of any probe.

He also said the death of special CBI judge B H Loya, who was trying the Sohrabudin Sheikh fake encounter case, should not be raked up as his family members have made their stand clear and want no more harassment.

"There is no question of any probe (into points raised by four judges in the presser). If somebody tries to bring Justice Loya's issue then you can see their family members have already said there is no need for any investigation and they were being unnecessary harassed.

"We are only concerned with smooth functioning of this institution. We have no right to say and decide whether there should be a Code of Conduct," he said.

On the issue of bringing more clarity in the functioning of the top

court, the BCI Chairman said the system was working properly and "there was transparency".

"They have evolved a formula and while rejecting a name for elevation they are assigning the reason and it is there on the Supreme Court website. What more transparency do you want," he said.

He said all the four top judges have resolved the differences and were attending the court today.

To a question whether any action should be taken against them for criticising the Chief Justice of India, he said there is no need of any action and they "are all honest and men of integrity."

Yesterday, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra had met a seven-member delegation of the BCI and Supreme Court Bar Association President Vikas Singh and assured them that the crisis would be sorted out soon and congeniality would prevail.

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Gangtok on Tuesday, 16 Jan
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Sunrise: 06:27 AM
Sunset: 5:03 PM



SSB Siliguri Frontier Brass and Jazz bands perform at Red Panda carnival

GANGTOK, 15 JAN (PIB): SSB-Siliguri Frontier Brass Band gave its maiden performance of the ongoing Sikkim Red Panda Carnival here at Ridge Park yesterday, and today they performed at MG Marg.
Similarly the Jazz band of SSB-Siliguri Frontier was scheduled to perform at Ridge Park this evening.
On 14 January, the first performance of the SSB brass band was attended by CP Dhakal, Chairperson, Sikkim Red Panda Carnival, SSB 36th Battalion Commandant RN Mishra and many officers and officials of the State Govt and SSB.
People are applauding the performance and SSB Siliguri Frontier Bands have enhanced the festive color of the Red Panda Carnival.

Girish And The Chronicles excited to perform at home after such a long time



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JAN: Girish and the Chronicles (GATC), the Hard Rock/ Heavy Metal band from Sikkim, currently based out of Bangalore, is back for a homecoming gig in Gangtok. It has been a while since the fans have experience GATC live in Gangtok, and the wait is over now - the band will be headlining the second last day of the Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival when they rock Paljor Stadium on 17 January.
GATC was formed in 2009 and is the first Indian Rock Band to participate in the 'Suncane Skale International Music Festival, Montenegro, Europe, a feat they achieved in 2010.
GATC won the Silver Trophy

for their original composition, 'Yesteryears', aka 'Angel's Angel', at 'Suncane Skale' International Music Festival.
An official communiqué from the band conveys that GATC is very excited to perform in their hometown after a long time and they feel that performing at the Red Panda Winter Carnival is an amazing way to be back with a bang.
"The show is gonna be a total electrifying Rock n Roll party and it will be all about the exchange of energy between the people and the band. The band invites all of the music lovers and fans to be a part of this madness, on 17th of January!" they convey in their message to the fans.



SKM youth team tours Daramdin-Sombaria, questions developmental claims

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JAN: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's youth wing, following a tour of parts of Daramdin-Sombaria constituency in West Sikkim, has questioned the developmental claims of the State Government because they saw on ground was diametrically opposite to what has been projected about the State.
An SKM press release informs that its "Jan Yodha" team comprising of the youth wing members has been touring door-to-door through villages of West Sikkim interacting with the people and circulating the party's policies.
The team, on its fifth day on the road today, covered Ambotey ward of Lower Fambong under Daramdin Sombaria constituency.
Here, the team found that people are facing major drinking water scarcity, lack footpath access and no proper facilities for sanitation, etc, the press release claims.
With the poor lacking proper toilets, how has the State been declared Open Defecation Free, the release has questioned while suggesting that the State Government "go into depth and conduct survey of grassroots" instead of "misguiding the central government with unrealistic data".
The release adds that people in these villages were living in kutcha houses and goes on to wonder for whom the 7,000 houses to make Sikkim kutcha house free were constructed and for whom.

Sensitization progon issues relating to children



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JAN: A daylong sensitization program on "Issues Relating to Children," was held here today at the Tashi Namgyal Senior School by the Sikkim State Social Welfare Board.
Addressing children from underprivileged families studying in classes 10 and 12

across the State, Manita Mangar, who chaired the program as chief guest, stressed that one needs to be useful to the society through deeds and works.
The State Government, she said, has been giving top-priority to the health and education sectors and called on the students to leverage this special attention being paid to their needs to strive

for excellence. She also called on them not to wile-away their time on social media platforms when they could be pursuing academic and self growth instead.
Earlier, Gynecologist, STNM Hospital, Dr. Chumden Lepcha, spoke on health issues and personal hygiene matters.
Likewise, PHD scholar, Kabita Sharma, who is also

general secretary of the students' wings of State Sikkim Welfare Board, spoke on the education system.
Secretary/ Legal Officer, State Social Welfare Board, Women Commissioner, Yousa Lachenpa, spoke on the legal issues, while Chairperson, State Social Welfare Board, Gangtok, Phurmit Lepcha, also addressed the gathering.

Community Hall with haat stalls and parking bay inaugurated at Teesta Bazaar

SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 15 JAN: Teesta Bazaar today received a Community Hall, Haat-Ghar and Parking Shed, all appointed in one building constructed by the GTA.
The triple-treat was completed at the cost of Rs 2.94 crores, informed Binay Tamang, the GTA president, who was present as chief guest for the inauguration today.
Mr Tamang pointed out that Teesta had become a congested marketplace, to redress which the GTA took up this multipurpose building project.
He also announced today that the new facility will be dedicated to the memory of Puran Bomjan, the Gorkhland activist from Teesta Bazaar who



was martyred in the agitation of 1986 and whose memorial used to stand where the new building has come up.
Mr Tamang also directed party-workers to identify a site to establish a new memorial for the martyr.
Mr Tamang also announced

a new constructions for Teesta Bridge Higher Secondary School, the only HS school in the entire NH10 stretch and Teesta PHC.
He announced to set a Fire Station either in Teesta or Rambi for which permission has come from State.
He also announced

renovation of the Triveni Guest House and said that GTA will work to preserve the Golden Mahseer and Limbuni fish found in the Teesta and Rangit rivers.
He informed that GTA has also written to National Geographic Channel to carry out research on the Lumbini Fish.

Suspected bootlegger arrested at Teesta

KALIMPONG, 15 JAN: West Bengal Police today seized a vehicle near Teesta bazaar here ferrying a consignment of unauthorized liquor allegedly being brought in from Sikkim.
A Ford Fiesta car was intercepted at Rabi Jhora NH10 coming in from Melli and driving towards Siliguri, it is informed.
Acting on source information, the Teesta OC Saran Sarki had the vehicle checked and reported found different makes of Sikkim-manufactured liquor.
These were allegedly being transported for sale in Siliguri and the driver has been taken into custody and booked under the Bengal Excise Act.

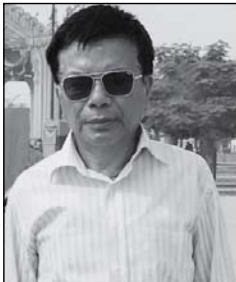
Sikkim Mathematical Society born from energetic...

contd from pg01
support, the release further details.
The advisory committee for the workshop comprised of faculty members from Sikkim and outside while the organizing committee comprised of faculty members, research scholars and students from various Universities, Institutes, Colleges and Schools from within and outside Sikkim.
The secondary objective of this workshop was to develop future resources for Olympiad activities, it is informed. A large number of teachers and scholars from various educational

institutes also attended this course.
The organisers have also thanked the Human Resource Development Department for wholeheartedly supporting the workshop, NBHM and Academy Brain Storm for financial support and Rangpo SSS fraternity for unconditional support to this workshop.
The release goes on to inform that during conversations over tea and lunch, a need was felt to have a forum where students of all standards from Sikkim could get their difficulties in mathematics addressed. To address this requirement,


students, research scholars and faculty members from various educational institutes decided to form the "Sikkim Mathematical Society" with the broad objective to promote mathematics and give a platform to budding mathematicians from Sikkim.
The members pledged to conduct mathematics popularity programs in various parts of Sikkim with a special focus on remote areas.
Further, the society also plans to organize talks, seminars, conferences, workshops and produce newsletters etc. to facilitate development of

mathematics in Sikkim.
The founding members are Kshittiz Chettri, Suman Tamang, Dilli Ram Chhetri, Yogen Ghatani, Ashish Pradhan, Sanjeev Subba, Punya Prasad Bhattarai, Rohit Sharma, Milan Sharma, Bikash Thakuri, Dr. Biswajit Deb and Rinkila Bhutia and Deepak Subedi.
Membership will be open to students, research scholars, faculty members from schools, colleges and Universities.
Further, all interested to contribute to this cause are welcome to join as members subject to approval of relevant authority, the release adds.



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

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



KUTSHE SHEGU

Shri Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Joint Director (Rtd) HRDD left for his heavenly abode on 29th November 2017. The Kutshe Shegu falls on 16th January 2018.

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

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

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

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Facilitate Reading Among the Young *Come together to put together more libraries*

The weather has packed up and the sales of room heaters have spiked. What the pall of winter weather has also achieved is that it has alleviated some of the guilt Gangtokians must collectively feel for not having factored in anything for the young when the crores were being apportioned for infrastructure development. With the stadium acquired for the tourist fest, the hordes of youngsters have lost the only proper ground they could play and train on. And Gangtok children already did not have much to choose from by way of safe and healthy outdoor spaces. But now that the children are forced indoors, another denial that the younger generation is suffering comes into focus – it is bad enough that Sikkim denies its young with safe outdoor spaces, but the situation only worsens in the face of the fact that they are even denied literary escapes.

Not only is there no presence of children's literature either in the local publishing scene or substantially enough in the book-stands, even access to a decent public library remains largely non-existent. The State Library is tucked into a corner of a Community space appropriated to accommodate the secretariat. It is not the easiest room to find at Mannan Bhawan and is not the most welcoming space either in its present address. Hopefully, the babus will evacuate eventually and allow Mannan Bhawan to become the Community Complex it was envisioned as. And that will be an exciting exercise because the handsome complex has tremendous potential as such a facility. Of course, the library is continuing with its task despite its cramped confines and recently hosted a storytelling session which must have been well received by its members. Here's to hoping that when Mannan Bhawan is reverted to its original role as a multipurpose cultural complex, and before the space is sliced up for the grown-ups, a considerably appointed section for young readers carved out.

The dearth of libraries is unfortunate because libraries, even though they are going-under the world over, remain the only window available to most children to access the world of words and inspire creative thinking. And before anyone suggests that internet essays that role now, please make a rough survey of where the young travel online and one will realize that the internet has become more about distractions and entertainment than reading and learning. Returning to libraries and books, their shortage, like with most things in Sikkim, is not so much a failing of the government as it is of the society at large. Libraries and reading rooms or even child-specific activities need not necessarily be bankrolled by the State exchequer. In fact the more successful endeavours have come from private initiative. It is apt here to cite the example of the Bakul Children's Library in Orrisa. This library in the Satya Nagar residential area of Bhubaneswar houses some 8,000 books, includes a multimedia section, has internet access and stocks substantial educational material. All of these have come from community partnership. Everything is donated, children are charged no membership fees and access is free for every child. It is managed by volunteers and children throng to it, as much to browse and borrow as to attend story-reading sessions, creative thinking workshops, staging of plays by other kids and everything else that children do. The library was born from a campaign in the year 2006 to collect books for free sharing with children. In its first attempt itself, the volunteers received pledges for book donations from 1,000 people! Not just books, people also pledged time and professional skills to set up the library and sustain it. The model works because the society got involved.

The desire to do something for the young exists in Sikkim as well, but like in Bhubaneswar, it requires a core group to take the initiative and harness it. What will a library achieve? It will open a window for the young in what is becoming an increasingly claustrophobic and consumerist environment. A children's library is not only about books, it is about sharing, learning and even escaping; experiences and options that every child should have access to.

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 fairgame), 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

Beyond #MeToo, Brazilian women rise up against racism and sexism

ALVARO JARRIN & KIA LILLY CALDWELL
theconversation.com

Women's empowerment recently got a big boost at the Golden Globes, but the United States isn't the only place having a feminist revival.

In 2015, two years before the #MeToo campaign got Americans talking about sexual harassment, Brazilian feminists launched #MeuPrimeiroAssedio, or #MyFirstHarassment. In its first five days, the hashtag racked up 82,000 tweets detailing the chronic sexual harassment of women in this South American nation. It soon spread across Latin America in Spanish translation as #MiPrimerAcoso.

The viral success of #MeuPrimeiroAssedio spurred a spate of social media activism in Brazil, where despite decades of feminist efforts gender inequality remains deeply entrenched.

With #MeuAmigoSecreto – #MyAnonymousFriend – women documented misogyny on the streets and at work. Tagging #MeuQueridoProfessor – #MyDearTeacher – university students outed sexism in the classroom.

And when the weekly news magazine *Veja* described the wife of Brazil's president, Michel Temer, as "beautiful, modest and a housewife" in April 2016, feminists transformed that stereotype into a meme showcasing empowered women.

Temer came to power following the impeachment of Brazil's first female president, Dilma Rousseff. Many saw Rousseff's ouster as misogynistic. Feminists were determined that Brazilian sexism would no longer go unchecked.

BLACK WOMEN'S BODIES

As race and gender researchers, we've been watching Brazil's feminist resurgence closely to see whether it reflects the needs of Afro-Brazilian women, who make up 25 percent of the population.

Though the country has long considered itself colorblind, black and indigenous Brazilians are poorer than white Brazilians. Women of color in Brazil also experience sexual violence at much higher rates than white women.

For example, domestic workers, who are predominantly Afro-Brazilian, have been systematically harassed by their male employers. This centuries-old power play dates back to slavery.

Since both of us have recently published books – "The Biopolitics of Beauty" and "Health Equity in Brazil" – examining the impact of Brazilian medical practices on black women, we are particularly interested to see if Brazilian feminists will tackle two issues that particularly affect black women: health care and plastic surgery.

These may seem unrelated to each other and to black women's rights, but in Brazil they are deeply intertwined. All Brazilian citizens get free medical care under the Sistema Único de Saúde, the national health care system.

Despite universal access to health services, black women do not always receive the best care. Though Brazil's colorblind approach to health has resulted in scant documentation of differential health outcomes by race, one study found that black women are two and a half times more likely to die from an unsafe abortion than white women.

The startling discrepancy probably reflects a lack of high-quality prenatal and obstetric care for black women, which is a problem in U.S. hospitals as well. Discriminatory treatment by medical professionals, which includes a lack of attention to the specific health needs of black Brazilians, also factors in.



Black activists have also pointed out for decades that Afro-Brazilian women have higher rates of sterilization and abortion, which in Brazil is mostly illegal – and thus very risky.

Overall maternal health is also markedly worse among black women. In Brazil's impoverished northeast, which has the country's highest concentration of African descendants, black women are 10 to 20 times more likely to die in childbirth than white women.

THE 'NEGROID NOSE'

Medical doctors may neglect black Brazilian women, but plastic surgeons pursue them. Since the 1960s, Brazilian cosmetic surgery has been included in Brazil's national health care system.

In Brazil, white beauty standards remain the cultural ideal. That means many Brazilian plastic surgeons operate on the basis that more European features – facial features in particular – are better.

Specifically, our research has found, they tend to target black women's noses, which they deem a "problem feature" in lectures, publications and websites.

In conversation, some doctors even expressed their belief that the "negroid nose" is a "mistake" caused by racial mixing. Fortunately, they would add, it's nothing a nose job can't fix.

This occurs within a broader culture, familiar to women worldwide, of bombarding all Brazilian women with opportunities to "improve" their imperfect bodies. Brazilians are among the top consumers of plastic surgery in the world. It is estimated that more than a million cosmetic procedures are carried out every year.

Some Brazilian plastic surgeons refer to their jobs as helping women achieve "the right to beauty." When, in 2016, a famous plastic surgeon who promoted this idea died, his obituary read like that of a national hero.

And since most plastic surgery is covered under Brazil's public health system, our research uncovered, surgeons have found it lucrative to develop procedures targeting the entire topography of the female body.

Treatments that aren't paid by insurance come with long-term payment plans. For the poorest patients, doctors have made plastic surgery accessible by exchanging their professional services for permission to use these operations as a teaching exercise for young medical residents.

TAKING ONLINE TO THE GROUND

Historically, feminist critiques of this industry were largely subdued. But plastic surgery is now in the

spotlight of Brazil's "Women's Spring."

In October 2017, one of Brazil's biggest newspapers, *Folha de São Paulo*, ran an article extolling the "ideal vulva" and describing the surgical interventions necessary to attain it. Women lambasted the piece on social media, calling it "absurd," "unacceptable" and "sad."

The assumption that some vaginas are more desirable than others, feminist commentators pointed out, imposes the male gaze on the female body. Additionally, they argued, the article's emphasis on "pink" vaginas and its suggested use of skin-whiteners was patently racist.

Black feminist bloggers likely started this particular line of critique. As early as 2014, they were denouncing Brazilian cosmetic surgery as "racism cloaked as science." Plastic surgeons, wrote Gabi Porfírio in a June 2014 post on *Blogueiras Negras*, have become "experts at using demeaning terminology for the noses of black people."

But in a country where only 63 percent of households have internet access, black feminists also have also used more traditional forms of protest to engage women of color.

A year before the the hashtag #MeuPrimeiroAssedio would go viral, black feminists began working across Brazil to organize women who don't generally participate in activism. Their efforts culminated in the Black Women's March Against Racism and Violence and in Favor of Living Well in Brasília, the capital.

There, 50,000 Afro-Brazilian women of all ages and backgrounds came together to denounce violence against black women – not just sexual violence but also deadly abortions, mass incarceration and medical neglect. It was the first ever national march of black Brazilian women.

In a country that has long ignored inequality, the protest put race squarely on the feminist agenda. By contrasting the diverse forms of violence black women face with the idea of "living well," the Black Women's March voiced an alternative vision of racial and gender justice for Brazil.

In doing so, they join #MeToo, #MeuPrimeiroAssedio and a whole chorus of female voices around the globe. Online and on the ground, Brazilian feminists demand equity from the surgeon's table to the office.

[Alvaro Jarrin is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of the Holy Cross; Kia Lilly Caldwell is Associate Professor, African, African American, and Diaspora Studies, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill]

This new year– rethinking gratitude

Jeremy David Engels
theconversation.com

It's a new year, which means that it's also time to imagine new beginnings and better futures. It's time, in short, for New Year's resolutions.

Gratitude, in particular, has become a popular resolution. For many of us, living gratefully seems to promise more happiness in our lives.

But what if we've got gratitude all wrong?

I began writing my book "The Art of Gratitude" because I too believed that gratitude might offer an antidote to the anger, fear and resentment that characterize contemporary life. But as I read one self-help book about gratitude after another, it had the opposite effect on me. The more I read, the less grateful I felt.

I came to ask, does the problem lie in how gratitude tends to be defined?

THE DEBT OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude is often defined as a feeling of obligation and indebtedness toward those who give us a gift or help us out in some way. Consider how often many of us use the phrase, "I owe you a debt of gratitude," or "One good turn deserves another."

The debt of gratitude idea dates back to the foundations of Western culture, to Aristotle, Cicero and the New Testament.

According to a leading

contemporary expert on gratitude, UC Davis psychology professor Robert Emmons, "To be grateful means to allow oneself to be placed in the position of recipient – to feel indebted and aware of one's dependence on others." Or, as Emmons argues elsewhere, gratitude is "an acknowledgement of debt" and ingratitude "the refusal to admit one's debt to others."

In this framework, people are debtors and the givers of debt. According to philosopher Shelly Kagan, "If someone does you a favor, you owe them something; you owe them a debt of gratitude." People judge the value of others based on what they can offer. Emmons writes:

"Gratitude requires that a giver give not only a gift but also a gift dear to himself – a 'pearl of great price,' as it were. ... The degree to which we feel gratitude always hinges on this internal, secret assessment of cost: It is intrinsic to the emotion, and perfectly logical, that we don't feel all that grateful for gifts that we receive that cost little or nothing to the giver."

In other words, gifts and kindnesses involve a calculation of "cost," which extends to repayment: Gifts are calculated gestures that must be repaid with an expression of thanks and, if possible, reciprocal gifts.

Thinking in such terms might

encourage people to see their relationships in economic terms – as transactions to be judged by market criteria of gain and loss.

To that end, the Christian radio show host Nancy Leigh DeMoss advises keeping a gratitude journal just like a bank statement or a checkbook registry, as a place to manage gratitude debts.

"I want to encourage you to think of gratitude as being a debt you owe, the same way you're called upon to pay your monthly bills."

THE ART OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude is about more than individual happiness. My happiness is bound with yours and with everyone else's.

Gratitude authors, who urge us to focus on the debts we owe to others, are reminding us of this fact. I, however, argue in "The Art of Gratitude" that the rhetoric of the debt of gratitude sets us down a dangerous road. The trouble is that the value of our relationships cannot be calculated with numbers on the page, and trying to do so might make us miss out on what is most important.

Take, for example, a recent gift I received – of a nice aluminum water bottle. A friend said that she saw it and thought of me. Of course, I thanked her. But rather than

immediately calculate the cost of the gift and determine how I would repay her, I asked: "Why did you choose a water bottle?"

She told me where she grew up in the United States, she did not have access to clean water. I travel a lot, and she wanted me to take clean water with me wherever I went. Moreover, she hoped that it would help to cut down on plastic bottle waste, because, she said, we all share this planet.

I might have missed all of this had I only pondered on how best to repay it. Instead, this gift prompted a conversation that reminded me of our fundamental interconnectedness. My actions, she was saying, impacted her life, just as her actions impacted my own.


THIS INTERCONNECTED WORLD

It is crucial to recognize that our daily practices of gratitude have broader social and political implications.

Say I feel gratitude for access to clean air in Central Pennsylvania. I feel this gratitude because I grew up with asthma, and I know how hard it can be to breathe polluted air. I need not feel indebted to anyone for this clean air. Clean air is not a gift. I am grateful because clean air is necessary for life.

Same is true for clean water.

turn to 06



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
URBAN DEVELOPEMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT
JORETHANG

NIT No: 24/E-Proc/UD&HD **Dated:13/1/18**

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer, South West Circle, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Sikkim, Jorethang invited percentage rate bids through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through website: www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

| SL. NO | NAME OF WORKS | BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS) | BID VALUE (RS.) | COST OF TENDER/ BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS) | COMPLETION PERIOD |
|--------|--|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Construction of Road to Ugen Choling Gumpa from Jorethang Bazaar and construction & upgradation of internal road of Gairi Goan at Jorethang, South Sikkim. | Rs.12,33,189.00 | Rs.4,93,27,573.36 | Rs.30,000.00 | 30 months |

The calendar of events is as under:-

| | | | |
|------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| i) | Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal | : | 15/1/2018 |
| ii) | Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids. | : | 31/1/2018 up to 1500 hrs. |
| iii) | Time & Date for issue Challan towards the Cost of Tender Document | : | 1/2/2018 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM. |
| iv) | Start Date for online submission of bids | : | 2/2/2018 |
| v) | Last Date for online submission of bids | : | 15/2/2018 upto 1600 hrs. |
| vi) | Submission of hard copy of the documents | : | 13/2/2018 upto 1500 hrs. |
| vii) | Date of opening of bids: | : | 17/2/2018 at 1100 Hrs. |

The standard Bidding Document, Bill of Quantities (BoQ) & Tender Notice may downloaded from www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Sd/-
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

R.O. No. 508/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 15.1.2018

Unbeaten India enter semifinal of Blind Cricket WC

DUBAI, JAN 14 (PTI): A dominant India continued their winning streak and defeated Nepal by eight wickets to storm into the semifinal of the fifth Blind Cricket World Cup at the Eden Garden Cricket Ground in Ajman, United Arab Emirates today.

Electing to bat, Nepal could muster only 156 in 37.5 overs for the loss of nine wickets as India dished out a fine bowling and fielding effort.

For India, Prakash Jayaramiah took two wickets conceding 22 runs while Skipper Ajay Reddy, Rambir, Prem Kumar and Jafar Iqbal picked up a wicket each.

India then chased down the target with consummate ease by losing just two wickets.

Man-of-the-match Ajay Gariya (B2) scored 54 of 29 balls and struck six fours. Mehender remained unbeaten on 40 off 30 deliveries while Rambir played an unconquered knock of 38 in 23 balls.

India will now play Bangladesh in the semi-finals on January 17 at the Ajman Ovals.

This new year—rethinking gratitude

contd from pg04

There is currently, however, a potentially grave challenge to clean water in Centre County, Pennsylvania, where I live.

Looking through grateful eyes, attuned to the support necessary to live and thrive, I can recognize a threat to clean water as a personal threat. Though it is personal, it cannot be remedied alone. I must reach out to others who will also be affected, so that we can act together to manage it.

The takeaway of my book is that indebtedness is not the only way to relate. Examples like these prove that all of us are deeply dependent upon the material support of the earth, and that also speaks to our interconnectedness.

My resolution this year is therefore to practice the art of gratitude by imagining my life, and the world in which I live, as an opportunity, not a debt. I resolve to focus on what is necessary, and to work together with others to make it possible for all to live and to live well, because we live together. I hope that you will join me.

[the writer is Sherwin Early Career Professor in the Rock Ethics Institute, and Associate Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Pennsylvania State University]

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Mourinho keen to tie up long-term De Gea deal

MANCHESTER, JAN 15 (AFP): Jose Mourinho has indicated that Manchester United will do all they can to extend David de Gea's contract.

The Spain goalkeeper, who almost joined Real Madrid in 2015 and continues to be linked with a move there, has a contract that expires in June 2019, although United have the option to extend it for a further year.

United manager Mourinho, though, says that the club are keen to negotiate a new contract soon, with British newspaper reports suggesting they would look to get him to commit to the club until 2023.

The 27-year-old, signed from Atletico Madrid for 18.9 million (29.8 million, 22.7 million euros) in June 2011, was United's players' player of the year in 2014 and 2015, and Mourinho sees him as a crucial part of the club's bid to return to the very top of the English and European game.

"We are not going to let the



option disappear," Mourinho said. "A goalkeeper like he is, obviously at a club that wants to get better and better, we are not going to let that year option go away."

"But obviously, we are going to try to give him a contract that keeps him here,

for much more than the length of that option."

Asked if contract negotiations with De Gea were under way, Mourinho said: "I don't know. I just trust the board and the work they do. I don't negotiate with players, I don't discuss

numbers in contracts, I just say what is obvious, and any of you could say the same, that he is to keep."

Mourinho, meanwhile, has suggested that he sometimes regrets the verbal confrontations he has with rival managers, while adding

that he does not believe that he is always at fault.

"I DON'T ENJOY IT"

United's manager has become involved in an increasingly bitter trading of insults with Chelsea head coach Antonio Conte over the past two weeks.

It culminated in Mourinho declaring that he had "contempt" for Conte on Friday, having earlier implied that he felt that the Italian was a "clown" because of the exuberant nature of his touchline celebrations.

Conte, for his part, accused the United manager of going senile, with Mourinho responding by referring to the four-month suspension that Chelsea's manager received in 2012 for failing to report match-fixing while at Siena. The Italian, who was cleared by a court of any wrongdoing in 2016, retorted by calling Mourinho a "little man".

Asked if he enjoyed these verbal battles, Mourinho said: "I don't enjoy it. I don't enjoy

it. "When I start (it), I take the responsibilities of that, and I've started many times. When I don't start (it), it's quite funny for me to see other people on the other side acting like victims when they are not the victims. But really, I don't enjoy it."

Mourinho pointed out that he apologised to Claudio Ranieri, his predecessor as Chelsea manager, after suggesting in 2008 that he had the mentality "of someone who doesn't need to win".

He said: "Sometimes, it's my fault. Sometimes, it's the other manager's fault."

"And in my case, when I think it's my fault and I realise that I should behave in a different way, I'm the first one to apologise, like I did with Ranieri when I had the chance."

"That's why our relationship went from bad to good, and from good to very good, because I was man enough to apologise."

India firm favourites against Papua New Guinea in U-19 WC



Susakurtut football tourney gets underway

**SUMMIT REPORT
DIKCHU, 15 JAN:**

The Sosakurtut Men's football tournament got underway here at Lum in Lower Dzongu today.

The final match of the tournament is scheduled to be played on 31 January.

The winning team will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 50,000 and

a trophy and a cash-kitty of Rs. 30,000 will go to the runners-up team.

The inaugural matches today were graced by Panchayat President, Lum-Gor-

Sangtok GPU, Phurmit Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Zilla Member Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU, Tshering Gyatso Lepcha as special guest.

In the first match, Sangdong defeated Hepu Boys 2-1, while in second match, Zaa Lum defeated Rongong Sangtok by 2 goals to nil.

Venus Williams, US champion Stephens out in 1st round

MELBOURNE, JAN 15 (AP): In her first match at the Australian Open since a Williams sister was guaranteed to win the title, Venus Williams lost in the first round to Belinda Bencic and ensured it cannot happen in 2018.

Venus lost last year's final at Melbourne Park to younger sibling Serena, who clinched an Open era-record 23rd major but hasn't played a Grand Slam tournament since because of her pregnancy and the birth of her first child.

The 6-3, 7-5 loss for Venus Williams was her first in five career meetings with Bencic, who lost to Serena Williams in the first round here last year.

It was a bleak opening day for American women, with U.S.

Open champion Sloane Stephens, No. 10-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe, a semifinalist here and at the U.S. Open last year, and CiCi Bellis, the WTA's



Newcomer of the Year, going out in the first round. The U.S. women were 0 for 7 in first-round singles by mid-afternoon.

U.S. Open finalist and No. 11-seeded Kevin Anderson was the highest-ranked man eliminated at that point, losing in five sets to Kyle Edmund -- the only British man in the draw after five-time finalist

Andy Murray withdrew. No. 16 John Isner lost in four sets to Australian Matt Edben.

The 20-year-old Bencic saved five break points in the eighth game before a rain delay caused an almost half-hour suspension of play as the roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena.

She returned on a roll, winning the next six points to hold serve and

then clinch the set.

Bencic teamed up with Roger Federer to win the Hopman Cup for Switzerland in the first week of the season, and had the 19-time major winner's parents in the crowd supporting her on today.

It must have helped, having overcome the surprise when the draw was made that she'd have to play another Williams

in the first round.

"Honestly, the first reaction of everyone was 'Oh, bad luck.' But of course, it would be nice to play somebody easier first round and get your rhythm a little bit," Bencic said.

"It's amazing, when I was a little girl, I was watching them on TV. I never thought I'd get a chance to play them." Williams' exit followed No. 13-seeded Stephens' 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2 loss to Zhang Shuai.

Stephens had a chance to serve for the match in the 10th game of the second set but dropped her serve. She was outplayed in the tiebreaker and in the third set.

It always shaped as a tough opener for Stephens, who hasn't won a tour-level match since her Grand Slam breakthrough triumph at the U.S. Open last year and facing a player ranked No. 34, two spots off being seeded for the first major of the season.

Mount Maunganui (New Zealand), Jan 15 (PTI): The odds will be stacked heavily in favour of India when the title contenders, with an eye on securing a knockout berth, meet minnows Papua New Guinea in the ICC U-19 World Cup here tomorrow.

Three-time winners India began the tournament on a rousing note, inflicting a 100-run defeat on a well-knit Australian team on Sunday.

With Zimbabwe being the other team in the group, India, with the kind of form they displayed in the sound thrashing of Australia, are expected to progress to knockouts without breaking a sweat.

From the moment India captain Prithvi Shaw won the toss and chose to bat, their opening game went almost exactly to plan, and the script is likely to remain the same at Bay Oval tomorrow.

The likes of Shaw, his opening partner Manjot Kalra, and Shubham Gill with the bat along with the pace duo of Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti could prove to be more than a handful for the Oceanian country.

Eager to prove themselves after their disastrous showing

in the Asia Cup, India signalled their intentions first up with a thumping win over a very strong Australian side.

Papua New Guinea have qualified for their eighth World Cup after remaining undefeated in the East Asia Pacific Qualifier in Samoa.

PNG's last appearance in the World Cup came in 2014 in the United Arab Emirates.

They would be keen to make an impression and show their fighting abilities.

India may be superior in all departments, but they are well aware of PNG's willingness to make the most of this appearance, and the Rahul Dravid-coached side would look to guard against complacency.

India have been one of the most successful teams through the history of U-19 World Cups, with three titles and two runner-up finishes.

The side finished runners-up in the previous edition in 2016, losing to the West Indies in the title clash, and while a final berth looks realistic enough, a stumble at the last hurdle is what they are looking to avoid this time around.

In another match in Whangrei, Pakistan will square off against Ireland in a Group D clash.

Danger of conflict between Pakistan, India growing: Pak daily

ISLAMABAD, JAN 15 (PTI): The danger of a conflict between Pakistan and India is growing, a leading Pakistani daily warned today after Indian Army chief said his force was ready to call Pakistan’s “nuclear bluff” and cross the border to carry out any operation if asked by the government.

General Bipin Rawat made these remarks while responding to a question during a press conference in New Delhi last week on possibility of Pakistan using its nuclear weapons in case the situation along the border deteriorates.

“If we will have to really confront the Pakistanis, and a

task is given to us, we are not going to say we cannot cross the border because they have nuclear weapons. We will have to call their nuclear bluff,” Rawat had said.

Dawn newspaper in its editorial said the very idea of calling a “nuclear bluff” ought to give all right-thinking and sensible people in South Asia pause.

“With the army chief appearing to suggest that the Cold Start doctrine has become a core part of Indian military strategy against Pakistan, the danger of a general conflict between Pakistan and India is growing. Crossing the

international border is an act of war, and Pakistan would simply have no option but to respond,” the daily said.

‘Cold Start doctrine’ was developed by the Indian Army for a possible war with Pakistan. This doctrine involves various branches of the Army conducting offensive operations as part of unified battle groups.

The doctrine intends to allow India’s conventional forces to perform holding attacks to prevent nuclear retaliation from Pakistan in case of a conflict.

“From the very beginning, the logic of Cold Start threatened

to elevate the risk of nuclear conflict between Pakistan and India, and yet India has pursued it while denying its existence for many years,” it said.

Gen Rawat s “disturbing” comments have also underlined the dire state of Pakistan-India relations, it added.

The paper said the the political climate in both countries suggested that bilateral relationship may at best stay frozen or could further deteriorate.

“These are certainly not hopeful times for those desiring the normalisation of ties between Pakistan and India ultimately,” it said.

The daily said the recent meeting in Bangkok between the national security advisers of Pakistan and India suggested that the two countries were aware that a total breakdown in communications was not desirable.

“But if hawks on both sides are to be prevented from dictating the tone and content of bilateral engagements, meetings held away from the media spotlight need to produce tangible results.

Meanwhile, India ought to consider why its military leadership is growing more important at the policymaking level,” it said.

Sri Lanka SC rules President’s term is five years

COLOMBO, JAN 15 (PTI): Sri Lanka’s Supreme Court has informed President Maithripala Sirisena that the duration of his term of office is five years after he sought the apex court’s opinion on whether he can continue in office until 2021.

Sirisena, 66, had requested the country’s apex court to determine whether his term is six years as stated by the 1978 Constitution when he was sworn in on January 9, 2015 or five years as mentioned by the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which was enacted on May 15, 2015.

President made the unusual request as different views were expressed in the legal, civil and political circles about the duration of the term of Presidency after the enactment of the 19th Amendment. The court ruled that Sirisena’s term in office is limited to five years from 2015 January, the Presidential media unit said today.

His term would now end in January 2020 and the next presidential

election would have to be announced in November of 2019.

Sirisena’s request to the apex court came as a surprise for many as he made arrangements in 2015 through the 19th Amendment to prune the presidential term from six to five years.

He had also backed the civil society’s demand to abolish the presidency when he was declared the Opposition’s common candidate in 2015. Sirisena had defeated Mahinda Rajapaksa in the 2015 election. Instead of abolishing the presidency, Sirisena introduced the 19A which reduced the presidential term for five years while taking away his absolute control over the dissolution of Parliament.

Sirisena’s request to the Supreme Court caused quite a stir when Rajapaksa declared that he could run for president again if the court ruled in favour of Sirisena.

The 19A has also barred two term presidents, including Rajapaksa, from running for a third time.

Myanmar says camps for Rohingya will be ready next week

BANGKOK, JAN 15 (AP): Myanmar officials say a camp to house Rohingya Muslim and Hindu refugees who return from Bangladesh will be ready by its promised deadline next week.

Myanmar and Bangladesh had agreed in November to repatriate Rohingya and had set up a working group last month to oversee the repatriation of people who had fled violence in western Myanmar.

Win Myat Aye, the minister of social welfare, relief and resettlement, said Myanmar and Bangladesh officials were meeting in the capital Naypyitaw to discuss the logistics of how many Rohingya will be allowed into Myanmar and how they will be scrutinised to be placed in the camps.

More than 650,000 ethnic Rohingya Muslims have fled a military crackdown.

The UN and rights groups have urged Myanmar to ensure their safe and voluntary return.



TOO OFF, TOO CLOSE: A Turkish passenger plane that plunged off a runway onto a cliff precariously close to the sea suddenly turned after a surge of power in one of its engines, pilots told investigators in comments published Monday. The Pegasus Airlines Boeing 737-800 plane had landed normally at Trabzon airport in Turkey late on Saturday on a flight from Ankara but then went off the runway just metres (feet) from the waters of the Black Sea with its wheels stuck in mud. All 162 passenger and six crew were safely evacuated but the plane remains stricken on the side of the muddy embankment, with the aircraft now secured with a cable to prevent it from slipping into the sea. It is still not clear what caused the sudden surge in power from the right engine. Images published by Dogan showed that one of the engines had fallen into the water.

Gen Rawat’s comments ‘unconstructive’: China

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JAN 15 (PTI): China today hit out at Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat for calling Dokalam a disputed territory and said that his “unconstructive” comments were not helpful for maintaining peace at the borders.

In an angry rebuttal to Gen Rawat’s comments, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said his comments went against the consensus reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at the BRICS summit last September to bring ties back on track and preserve peace on the border.

The Chinese reaction came following comments by Gen Rawat two days ago that India needs to shift focus from its border with Pakistan to that of China and spoke of pressure being exerted by Beijing along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

“Last year, India-China relations have witnessed some twists and turns,” Lu said and referred to Modi-Xi consensus

and the high-level talks since December to improve the ties.

“The dialogue and consultation have shown sound momentum of improvement and development,” he said.

“Under such background, the unconstructive remarks by the Indian senior official (Gen Rawat) not only go against the consensus reached by the two heads of state but also do not conform to the efforts made by the two sides to improve and develop bilateral relations,” Lu said.

The remarks “cannot help to preserve the tranquillity and peace at the border areas,” areas he said.

Asked what were Gen Rawat’s specific comments that China is taking exception to, Lu pointed to the Indian Army chief’s remarks on Doklam wherein he said it is a disputed territory between Bhutan and China.

“I have made myself clear, if the senior official agreeing to the report referred to the

Donglang - I think you are clear about our position - Donglang belongs to China and has always been in the effective jurisdiction of China,” Lu asserted.

He reiterated China’s stand that the Sikkim section of the India-China boundary has been delimited by the 1890 “historical convention” between the then British government and China, which Beijing claims settled the boundary in that particular section spanning to about 200 kms.

China wants India to settle the boundary in that particular section based on the treaty while the two sides negotiated for a settlement for the rest of the LAC which spans about 3,488 kms. So far the two sides have held 20 rounds of border talks to resolve the issue.

“Donglang is China’s territory. China will continue to exercise its sovereignty rights in accordance with the historical convention and steadfastly uphold its territorial sovereignty,” Lu said.

On its part, Bhutan had lodged a diplomatic protest with China when Chinese troops began building a road in the Dokalam area in June. Indian troops had objected to the construction of the road resulting in a 73-day standoff.

The standoff was resolved after Chinese troops stopped road building and India withdrew its troops from the area.

In an apparent reference to Gen Rawat’s comment that Dokalam is a disputed territory between Bhutan and China, Lu said, “the remarks of the Army chief mentioned by you once again showed that the illegal trespass of the Indian border troops is quite clear-cut in nature. Donglang belong to China.”

“We require the Indian military to learn lessons and abide by the historical convention and earnestly uphold the peace and tranquillity for the border areas and create sound atmosphere for the political development of bilateral relations,” he said.

CONTACT

Summit

TIMES

REPORTERS

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| SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES | |
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| DEAR LOVING MORNING | |
| Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:7 DrawDate on:15/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 81C 72090 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 72090 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 13962 16465 19135 31542 42349 54915 76683 86081 90823 90974 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0804 1276 1502 4287 5466 6128 6222 6741 7143 9039 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0244 0906 1470 1591 4670 6180 6870 7946 9354 9735 5th Prize Rs.120/- 8085 0153 0232 0310 0507 0670 0682 0903 1048 1086 1300 1368 1658 1731 1863 2048 2152 2220 2256 2262 2323 2422 2452 2462 2504 2509 2768 2890 2996 3033 3120 3269 3297 3360 3441 3450 3579 3703 3866 3919 4083 4103 4185 4329 4341 4673 4802 4856 4958 5123 5164 5184 5233 5312 5354 5451 5730 5755 5806 5818 6179 6280 6293 6384 6575 6638 6680 6882 6953 7136 7152 7480 7684 7686 7854 7968 8041 8210 8334 8466 8501 8569 8581 8755 8806 8822 9007 9031 9061 9131 9138 9180 9341 9349 9439 9536 9544 9737 9909 9977 | |
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| NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES | |
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| DEAR PRECIOUS | |
| Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:7 DrawDate on:15/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 92H 81965 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 81965 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 00593 03211 43629 45808 51037 53375 55276 69869 87671 89722 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0131 1809 3184 3927 4347 4662 4772 6859 7589 9991 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0318 0678 1433 4851 4909 5216 6007 6037 6361 9649 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0037 0096 0132 0379 0391 0530 0741 0961 1001 1175 1336 1364 1372 1380 1390 1431 1619 1745 1794 1897 2046 2151 2202 2472 2528 2624 2696 2728 2733 2784 2800 2828 2830 2894 3132 3141 3147 3191 3209 3222 3382 3528 3589 3765 3820 4018 4085 4151 4270 4351 4393 4640 4761 4844 4881 5080 5539 5599 5611 5734 5745 5748 6322 6466 6494 6524 6582 6733 6776 7015 7399 7650 7691 7698 7866 7891 7936 8012 8179 8269 8296 8329 8396 8691 8707 8887 8959 9010 9042 9158 9237 9282 9354 9425 9485 9503 9606 9773 9738 9954 | |
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| NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES | |
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| DEAR FLAMINGO EVENING | |
| Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:25 DrawDate on:15/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 96H 13942 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 13942 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 07154 08307 14437 19687 29159 32947 44701 53474 72728 75164 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0131 0296 1075 2711 4263 4398 4850 7084 8038 8588 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0277 0520 1155 2648 5394 5395 5636 5980 6973 9309 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0115 0124 0135 0319 0443 0467 0613 0636 0742 0883 0925 1040 1093 1228 1391 1527 1749 1759 1790 1945 1972 2205 2327 2329 2423 2476 2496 2505 2579 2615 2967 2969 3081 3114 3225 3237 3353 3675 3747 3833 3861 4017 4298 4501 4552 4585 4667 4837 5040 5102 5118 5230 5369 5373 5457 5742 5904 5914 6179 6396 6652 6752 6965 7020 7245 7250 7453 7465 7509 7585 7651 7678 7694 7719 7731 7773 7892 8140 8170 8226 8245 8316 8346 8393 8603 8684 8758 8899 9066 9183 9270 9321 9375 9426 9622 9711 9779 9819 9875 9959 | |
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Texas restaurant to offer traditional Indian food with a twist

SHILLONG, JAN 15 (PTI): 'Sesame pork' from the hills of Meghalaya and 'duck curry' from the backwaters of Alleppey will be among the many indigenous cuisines served with a twist at a new restaurant in Texas soon.

Two chefs - Mayank Istwal, alumni of IHM-Guwahati, and Shivek Suri of IHM Aurangabad (seen together in pic alongside) - have decided to open an eatery at Houston in Texas, where Indian food is largely unexplored.

"The restaurants in the US mostly dish up kebabs and butter chicken as Indian food. The traditional items from the North East or the western part of the country have barely found its way to menu cards here. So, we

thought it's time to serve tradition with a twist," Istwal explained.

The chefs left their high-profile jobs in Bangalore and Delhi and moved to Houston in Texas in 2016 after a friend gave them references of an NRI couple who was willing to collaborate with Indian chefs for their new restaurant.

"We got in touch with Shammi Malik and his wife, who were planning to start a high-end restaurant, 'The Spice Route Company', later this year. Together, we felt the need to visit the kitchens of India for recipes," Istwal said.

Soon after, in April last year, Mayank and Shivek embarked on a 100-day journey, covering the length and breadth of the country,

OUR GUEST CHEF MR MAYANK ISTWAL & CHEF MR SHIVEK SURI FROM (THE SPICE ROUTE COMPANY, HOUSTON TEXAS.)



to gather tips and secrets from the sculleries and kitchenettes.

"We tried to cover as many states as possible and collect recipes from the homemakers as we believe

they are the best cooks in the world. Their recipes are best kept secrets of a family," Mayank told PTI.

The items that immediately caught their fancies include 'Garlic locho'

from the kitchens of Gujarat, 'jadoh' from Meghalaya and the Wazwan food of the Kashmiris, the IHM-Guwahati alumni said.

By combining the traditional style of preparation with contemporary techniques, the dishes will be given an all new avatar, keeping the essence and the authenticity of the flavours intact, he said.

The Spice Route Company, scheduled to open in the second half of this year, will serve an 18 to 20-course meal, covering one dish each from almost all the states of India, Suri asserted.

The menu will keep evolving, depending on the seasonal availability of items, and the restaurant intends to collaborate with local

farmers to source ingredients and spices from India.

The non-veg pickles of Nagaland, the delicacies prepared from snail in Manipur and duck meat with Assamese spices are some of the lip-smacking items that will set the taste buds on fire, Mayank said.

The home-cooked seafoods from Malvan in Maharashtra and Goa, the

corn dishes from Rajasthan, the fish curries and crab dishes from far South are also to die for, he said.

"The whole idea is to give our guest an exclusive experience in dining. So basically we will not be selling food we would be selling experience and emotions. The whole experience would be a sensory," Mayank added.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

16 JAN, 1960: TWO AIRPLANES COLLIDE OVER NEW YORK CITY: On this day in 1960, two airplanes collide over New York City, killing 134 people on the planes and on the ground. The improbable mid-air collision is the only such accident to have occurred over a major city in U.S. history. It was a snowy morning in New York when a United DC-8 from Chicago was heading for Idlewild Airport (now John F. Kennedy International Airport) in southern Queens. At the same time, a TWA Super Constellation from Dayton, Ohio, was heading to LaGuardia Airport in northern Queens. Due to the weather, the United flight was put into a holding pattern. When the pilot miscalculated the location of the pattern, the plane came directly into the path of the TWA flight.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REIMER



"NOTHING GOOD ON TV?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



Shilpa Shinde open to working with Vikas Gupta in web series



LONAVLA (MAHA), JAN 15 (PTI): Shilpa Shinde, who had a fallout with TV producer Vikas Gupta over her show "Bhabhi Ji Ghar Pe Hai", is open to teaming up with him for a web series but not a daily soap.

Gupta, who was the programming head of &TV channel on which "Bhabhi Ji Ghar Pe Hai" was aired, was alleged to be one of the persons instrumental in Shinde's exit from the show.

The popular TV actor showed her anger towards Gupta in the initial days, which according to Gupta was "torturous".

Host Salman Khan pointed out that though the banter between them looked entertaining they have to let go off their past. Since then the two became cordial with each other.

During a task inside the "Bigg Boss" house, Shinde promised to work with Gupta.

"He had spoken to me about working with him and I told him I don't want to do a TV show, I told him I will work for two days or so. He is working on a web series so I was like ok, it was no joke, I will definitely work with him," Shinde told PTI.

She worked on quite a few daily soaps till "Bigg Boss" happened which according to her gave her the platform to show who she was in real life.

"I don't want to get into any character, I have come out of it. I have become Shilpa Shinde now," she added.

The finale saw a tough

fight between Shinde and Hina Khan, in which the former emerged as the winner.

"I had wished that Hina should be there with me for the finale and that I should win. I remember very clearly that she told me 'look at yourself first what you have done Shilpa Shinde... what drama you have done outside,'" she said.

"I don't want to say anything. Nothing was a drama in the house, everything was real. Even I was real in the show," Shinde said.

The winner of the controversial reality show is decided by the number of votes a contestant gets, but this season the makers went for live voting as well.



MICK JAGGER IN INDIA: Mick Jagger is in India and the veteran rockstar says he is enjoying the "vibrant sights and sounds" of the country. (seen here in the lawns of Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur). The 74-year-old singer-songwriter announced his visit on Instagram. "Enjoying the vibrant sights and sounds of India!" wrote Jagger alongside his photograph. The purpose and duration of Jagger's visit are yet to be known.

ARIES: You shouldn't make a tight schedule for today. Unexpected events may push you to change your schedule several times. You might have to run several errands and get home late, upsetting your loved one.

TAURUS: During the morning you could be in a bad mood, and the atmosphere at home might get tense. Your ideas might not be accepted by people in your circle, possibly because you can't be convincing enough. Avoid argu-

ments with your loved one and an older person in the family!

GEMINI: During the morning, your higher-ups might scold you because of your failure to complete a task on time. It's not actually your fault, and the real cause is faulty communication among team members. You should calmly explain this to your boss. An experienced person will help you solve the issue.

CANCER: You'll focus on a promising business project and tend to neglect your

love life. Your loved one will blame you for neglecting the family. On the other hand, you'll feel reluctant to go out with friends, because you'd rather dedicate yourself completely to the new project. You might want to spend more time with your close ones.

LEO: You may be facing emotional issues that could spoil your mood and discourage you. Don't give up! If you just talk to your loved one openly, you'll eventually manage to clear up all misunderstandings. You

might want to consider the advice of an experienced friend, which will help you solve a financial issue.

VIRGO: You could be upset because of some bad news from your loved one, and unable to control your temper. You tend to get into fights with everybody around. Keep your temper in check when dealing with friends and family, or you'll only stand to lose!

LIBRA: Your communicational skills may not be very good today, and you should avoid any meetings. You'd

be better off not dealing with important matters that require focus and a clear mind. You should pay more attention to your family's needs.

SCORPIO: Your loved one might not agree with you leaving on a business trip, pointing out that the timing is bad. You should sort out your priorities and consider a close relative's advice. During the evening you'll have guests over and have a great time in their company.

SAGITTARIUS: You might be unable to focus,

and this will affect your professional life. However, you'll manage to defuse a conflict at work. As for your love life, you should be more flexible and understanding. During the evening you might pay a visit to friends.

CAPRICORN: During the morning you'll feel rather enthusiastic and capable of initiating a new project. An old issue which you neglected a while ago will resurface. Today you can rely on your intuition.

AQUARIUS: You might

be facing communicational difficulties and feel unable to get your message across. You should postpone dealing with matters that require focus and patience. Your love life can be harmonious if you pay more attention to your loved one's needs.

PISCES: You shouldn't take on new responsibilities at work today. Looks like you won't be in the best shape. Consider your loved one's advice - it may prove to be very helpful! It's safer to stick to routine activities.